



**NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

**FINAL ASSESSMENT REPORT**

**SEPTEMBER 2011**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Final Playing Pitch Assessment Report for North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP). It focuses on reporting the findings of the extensive research, consultation, site assessment, data analysis and GIS mapping work to deliver:

- ◀ An analysis of qualitative site visits.
- ◀ A summary of consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) officers, governing bodies, league secretaries, clubs and schools.
- ◀ Supply and demand analysis using the Playing Pitch Methodology (PPM) as outlined in Towards a Level Playing Field.

The Strategy (which will ensue) is being led by a steering group made up of North East Lincolnshire Council (NELC) officers from a range of departments. This factual report provides an audit based assessment of the quantity and quality of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance Note 17 (PPG17) and its Companion Guide entitled “Assessing Needs and Opportunities” published in September 2002. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to provide:

- ◀ A comprehensive audit of existing provision of different types of outdoor facilities detailing quantity, quality, accessibility and wider value to the community.
- ◀ An accurate assessment of supply and demand for the facilities.
- ◀ A robust evidence base to enable NELC to develop planning policies as part of the Local Development Framework (LDF) and other local development documents.

This report incorporates an assessment of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in accordance with methodologies provided by Sport England. It provides a quantitative summary for the provision of outdoor sport and recreation facilities in North East Lincolnshire and as such is complimentary and adds value to other sports related plans such as the Sport Development Service Action Plan or the Local Development Framework (LDF). As recommended within PPG17 and Towards a Level Playing Field, the following types of facility are included:

- ◀ Football pitches.
- ◀ Cricket pitches.
- ◀ Rugby pitches.
- ◀ Hockey pitches i.e. AGPs.
- ◀ Rounders pitches.
- ◀ Bowling greens.
- ◀ Tennis courts.
- ◀ Athletics tracks.
- ◀ Netball courts.
- ◀ Other relevant sports pitches.

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Each section provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the details of the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans (where they exist). Local league details are provided, where possible, in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are also summarised.

It is important to note that this assessment report is the Playing Pitch Assessment covering outdoor sports facilities. It does not, at this stage, incorporate provision standards or site-specific recommendations (in relation to meeting deficiencies and dealing with surpluses). Once the facts outlined in this report (including site information, number of teams etc.) have been agreed, a strategy and action plan will be developed.

### **PART 2: CONTEXT**

Consideration of the national context is paramount. The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which are important in influencing the Strategy.

#### **2.1: National context**

##### ***Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17***

PPG17 defines outdoor sport and recreation facilities as those ‘with either natural or artificial surfaces’, and includes both public and privately owned facilities. It therefore includes:

- ◀ Sports pitches.
- ◀ Synthetic turf pitches (STPs).
- ◀ School and educational institution playing fields.

PPG17 recognises the value of outdoor sport and recreation facilities along with other open spaces in delivering government targets concerned with raising levels of physical activity through:

- ◀ Supporting an urban renaissance.
- ◀ Supporting rural renewal.
- ◀ Promotion of social inclusion and community cohesion.
- ◀ (Enhancing) health and well being.
- ◀ Promoting more sustainable development.

NELC has produced a Greenspace Strategy, however, the study requires the Sports Pitch Strategy work to ensure that the LDF is supported by the necessary evidence in terms of open space, sport and recreation.

##### ***Assessing Needs & Opportunities: A Companion Guide to PPG17***

The Companion Guide states that the long term outcomes of a PPG17 study include:

- ◀ Networks of accessible high quality open spaces, sport and recreation facilities, in both urban and rural areas, which meet the needs of residents and visitors and which are fit for purpose and economically and environmentally sustainable.
- ◀ An appropriate balance between new provision and the enhancement of existing provision.
- ◀ Clarity and reasonable certainty for developers and landowners in relation to the requirements and expectations of local planning authorities in respect of open space, sport and recreation provision.

In order to deliver these outcomes, a local authority needs to identify local needs and opportunities and develop and apply provision standards in a way, which is equitable to both developers and local communities.

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The Companion Guide recommends use of Sport England's 'Towards a Level Playing Field' methodology to produce an assessment of outdoor sports facilities but taking account of the PPG17 approach which includes a five-step approach:

- ✦ Step 1: Identifying local needs.
- ✦ Step 2: Auditing local provision.
- ✦ Step 3: Setting provision standards.
- ✦ Step 4: Applying provision standards.
- ✦ Step 5: Drafting policies.

However, this may change in the near future as a proposed new PPS17 which incorporates PPG 7, 9 and 17 will be published. This may also include a companion guide. Although given the recent government restructure it is difficult to suggest with certainty that this will be the case.

### ***Towards a Level Playing Field***

The aims and objectives outlined in PPG17 and its companion guide are reiterated in the Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (February 2003).

However, it should be noted that Sport England, in partnership with the Rugby Football Union, Rugby Football League, England & Wales Cricket Board, the Football Association and England Hockey, have commissioned Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) to produce an updated and improved methodology for developing playing pitch strategies (PPSs).

Towards a Level Playing Field only deals with the assessment of playing pitch provision and does not cover outdoor sports such as tennis courts and bowling greens. However, the principles and basic methodology are applied to the assessment of other sports.

Sport England strongly recommends that each local authority has an up to date playing pitch strategy. The benefits of having a playing pitch strategy are identified as follows:

| <b>Corporate and strategic</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| It ensures a strategic approach to playing pitch provision.<br>It provides robust evidence for capital funding for sports pitch improvement (to support applications to agencies such as the Football Foundation, Heritage Lottery Fund and Sport England).<br>It helps deliver Government policies.<br>It helps demonstrate the value of leisure services.<br>It improves understanding of the quality and standard of sports pitches and associated changing (and other ancillary) facilities and the extent to which they encourage and enable more people to take part and enjoy pitch sports.<br>It can assist in bringing specific sites back into active use and as a framework to assess sports club requests for improved sites and facilities.<br>It can guide sports pitch provision and improvements through the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Capital Programme and regeneration schemes. |
| <b>Operational</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| It can result in more efficient use of resources.<br>Quality of provision can be enhanced.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Sports development</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| It helps identify where community use of school sports pitches is most needed.<br>It provides better information to residents and other users of sports pitches.<br>It promotes sports development and can help unlock latent demand.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>Planning</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| It is one of the basic tools for implementing PPG17, particularly in relation to establishing a local standard for playing pitch provision.<br>It allows the presentation of a coherent, up to date assessment and strategy to Sport England in its role as statutory consultee – when the planning authority is faced with development proposals that affect sports pitches.<br>It provides a basis for establishing the requirement for new pitches or improvements to the quality of existing pitch sites that arise from new housing developments and the use of Section 106 Agreements.<br>It is one of the best tools to justify protection of pitches in the face of rising development pressure on pitch sites for alternative uses, particularly with respect to new housing in order to meet regional targets.<br>It provides an important evidence base, which is part of a holistic approach to open space improvement and protection to support the Local Development Framework including local authorities' emerging core strategies. It establishes a policy framework against which to justify existing or new recreation allocations for playing pitches/other leisure activities. |

The approach and guidance outlined in 'Towards a Level Playing Field' are fully endorsed by Sport England and the Central Council for Physical Recreation (CCPR) as the appropriate way of providing detailed local assessments of playing pitch requirements and, as such, have been used in this study. Detail of the methodology is outlined later in this document.

PPG17 now requires local authorities to undertake detailed local assessments to provide evidence as a basis for developing a local standard, taking into account the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of outdoor sport and recreation facilities.

'Towards a Level Playing Field' does not give definitive instruction on how to calculate local standards for sports pitches but advises that the following are taken into consideration:

- ✦ Only pitches available for community use are to be included in the 'supply' equation.
- ✦ Quality of pitches.
- ✦ Provision of changing facilities.
- ✦ Pitch capacity.
- ✦ Future population estimates.

### ***Sport England Strategy (2008-2011)***

Sport England has clarified its primary role; to grow, sustain and excel participation in community sport. Its ambition is to get more people playing and enjoying sport and to help those with talent get to the very top. It seeks to achieve this through working closely with national governing bodies of sport and building strong partnerships with local authorities.

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The strategy commits Sport England to deliver on a series of demanding targets by 2012/13:

- ◀ One million people doing more sport.
- ◀ A 25% reduction in the number of 16-18 year olds who drop out of five key sports.
- ◀ Improved talent development systems in at least 25 sports.
- ◀ A measurable increase in people's satisfaction with their experience.
- ◀ A major contribution to the delivery of the five hour sports offer for children and young people.

### ***Places People Play***

Places People Play is a £135m initiative that will bring the inspiration and magic of a home Olympic Games and Paralympic Games into the heart of local communities

It is being delivered by Sport England in partnership with the British Olympic Association, the British Paralympic Association and with the support of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games.

We will transform the places where people play sport, making the benefits of London 2012 visible in cities, towns and villages across the country through:

- ◀ Iconic facilities - investing in regionally-significant multi-sport facilities that will represent best practice for the sector.
- ◀ Inspired Facilities - modernising and extending clubs and opening up local facilities for community sport.
- ◀ Protecting Playing Fields - protecting and improving hundreds of playing fields across the country, preserving high-quality spaces for local people to play and enjoy sport.

We will inspire people to make sport happen at the local level, embedding the Olympic and Paralympic values in grassroots sport, through:

- ◀ Sport Makers - recruiting, training and deploying 40,000 Sport Makers as the next generation of sports volunteers to organise and lead grassroots sporting activities.

We will create the sporting opportunities and challenges that give everyone the chance to become part of the mass participation legacy, through:

- ◀ Gold Challenge - An independent initiative that is motivating over 100,000 adults to test themselves in multiple Olympic and Paralympic sports, and in doing so raise millions of pounds for charity.
- ◀ Sportivate - Providing opportunities for teenagers and young adults up to 25 years to receive six weeks of coaching in the sport of their choice and guiding them into regular participation.

### ***A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England***

It is Sport England's policy to object to any planning application, which will result in the loss of a playing field, unless it meets one of five exceptions as defined in A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England. Protection of playing fields was further enhanced in 1998 with Circular 9/98 (replaced in 2009 by Circular 02/09), which stipulates that

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where a local authority is minded to grant planning permission against Sport England's advice on land owned by a local authority or used for educational purposes, then the application should be referred to the relevant Government Office for possible 'call in'.

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2007-2012)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Game Strategy provides a strategic framework that sets out the key priorities, expenditure proposals and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a six year period. The main issues facing grassroots football are identified as:

- ◀ Growth and retention (young players).
- ◀ Growth and retention (adult players).
- ◀ Football for All.
- ◀ Raising standards and behaviour.
- ◀ Player development.
- ◀ Running the game.
- ◀ Football work force.
- ◀ Facilities.
- ◀ Partnerships and investment.
- ◀ Promotion.

The National Game Strategy reinforces the urgent need to provide affordable, new and improved facilities in schools, clubs and on local authority sites. Over 75% of football is played on public sector facilities. The leisure budgets of most local authorities have been reduced over recent years, resulting in decaying facilities that do not serve the community and act as a disincentive to play football. The loss of playing fields has also been well documented and adds to the pressure on the remaining facilities to cope with the demand, especially in inner city and urban areas.

The growth of the commercial sector in developing custom built five-a-side facilities has changed the overall environment. High quality, modern facilities provided by Powerleague, Goals, JJB (now DW) and playfootball.net for example, have added new opportunities to participate and prompted a significant growth in the number of five-a-side teams in recent years.

### ***Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)***

Grounds to Play continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the previous strategy: Building Partnerships. The pillars are:

- ◀ Energising people and partnerships to deliver national goals at local level:
  - ◀ Having streamlined the management of ECB and established the County Boards, where feasible, services currently provided from the centre will be transferred to County Boards;
  - ◀ Enhance asset growth through continuing interest free loans to community clubs, expanding NatWest Cricket Force, seeking to support corporate or public sector cricket grounds under threat of closure through the England and Wales Cricket Trust, and seeking to expand partnerships for Indoor Cricket.
- ◀ Vibrant domestic game.

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- ◀ Enhancing facilities, environments and participation:
  - ◀ The focus of this plan will be on providing facilities to sustain participation levels rather than a focus on a substantial increase in participation;
  - ◀ The Cricket Foundation's 'Chance to Shine' programme has been an outstanding success in reintroducing cricket into state schools. ECB will prioritise investment in the programme;
  - ◀ To further expand club/ school links and position the cricket club at the heart of the community, ECB will provide £1.5 million per annum capital improvement grants to local clubs that make their club facilities available to the local community and to local schools.
- ◀ Successful England teams.

The following actions executed during the duration of Building Partnerships provide a strong base for this new plan. Actions include:

- ◀ Streamlining ECB governance.
- ◀ Building participation by more than 20% per annum (as measured through ECB focus clubs and County Boards).
- ◀ Developing women's cricket.
- ◀ Attracting volunteers.
- ◀ Expanding cricket's spectator base.
- ◀ Introducing grants and loans to clubs.
- ◀ Developing disabilities cricket.

The theme of this plan therefore progresses to Grounds to Play and it is in the areas of facilities and coaches where ECB investment will be focussed. Partnership funding and support will play a key role in the delivery of actions and maintaining the strength of the pillars.

Partners particularly applicable to community cricket include:

- ◀ England and Wales Cricket Trust - to provide up to £5 million of interest free loans to member clubs for recreational projects and to work with grounds in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2013.
- ◀ Sport England - to enhance the Whole Sport Plan award of £38 million by obtaining a further £10 million of lottery aid support by 2013.

### ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2008)***

The Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England, at a national, regional and local level. The framework enables clubs, Constituent Bodies (CBs), the Rugby Football Union (RFU) and the Rugby Football Union for Women (RFUW) and other partners to:

- ◀ Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- ◀ Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.
- ◀ Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management/operational structures and potential financial viability, which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.

- ◀ Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- ◀ Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

The strategy shows clubs what facilities are needed to provide these different programmes, from grass roots through to the professional game.

### ***Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2005/06 - 2012/13)***

The RFU Management Board has set out eight key themes to be incorporated in the strategic plan review process. These eight themes are as follows:

1. The appropriateness of the 'seamless game'.
2. The development of English Qualified Players.
3. The roles and responsibilities of county boards and clubs in the game.
4. Development of unified structures and programmes for the game.
5. Develop IT systems to measure performance.
6. Maintain the ethos and culture of the game.
7. Ensure a 'growth game'.
8. Take a leading role in the development of the game worldwide.

Community Rugby's role is to promote and develop the game within the community by encouraging and supporting all those who want to participate by playing, coaching, refereeing, administering or spectating.

The RFU Strategic Plan seeks to ensure that priorities are focused upon what will enable the Community game to grow, generate lifelong participation and create sustainable rugby clubs.

## **2.2: Local Context**

### ***The Council Plan***

The four year council plan sets out the council's outcomes and priorities, which will contribute towards the council's vision of becoming a commissioning, enabling and facilitating organisation, focused on creating the right conditions for individuals, communities and businesses to prosper. The council focuses on four strategic aims:

- ✦ Increase jobs and strengthen the local economy.
- ✦ Enable children, young people and adults to learn and be ready for work.
- ✦ Improve the health and well-being of all, especially vulnerable people.
- ✦ Be an effective and efficient council.

### ***The Sustainable Community Strategy***

This sets out the vision for North East Lincolnshire: "To create the conditions where investment shapes ambition and where aspiration is reflected in the improved quality of life and place that makes us all proud to live, work and welcome visitors to North East Lincolnshire "

The Council has a statutory duty to develop and deliver a Sustainable Community Strategy. The refreshed strategy will be the key driver for improvements in North East Lincolnshire and identifies the strategic priorities for the Council, the community and key partners.

The main changes to the strategy include:

- ✦ a revised vision that expands on the original vision to provide more clarity around what the strategy is aiming to deliver
- ✦ a reduced number of priorities to provide a greater focus for joint working
- ✦ a more strategic focus, moving away from detail on individual issues to provide greater clarity on how issues inter relate and the dependencies that exist across issues such as safety, health and educational attainment.

The Strategy will be reviewed again by 2013.

### ***Living Space, North East Lincolnshire Green Space Strategy***

The Council's overall aims are to identify the current provision of facilities, to manage those facilities effectively and to seek to develop them in order to continue to meet the needs of the local community.

*"By 2022 North east Lincolnshire will have a diverse network of safe, accessible and attractive green spaces that are well managed and maintained, through community participation, to enhance the quality of life, sense of well-being, health and learning opportunities of all sections of the community."*

The playing pitch strategy will help inform future updates to this plan and will benefit from the management and maintenance recommendations.

## **PART 3: PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY METHODOLOGY**

This section of the report details the methodology which has been followed to deliver the findings. As stated above, the assessment and analysis in this report is based on the current Sport England (SE) playing pitch strategy methodology, 'Towards a Level Playing Field' (2003) although it is important to note that this is currently under review.

This current methodology outlines specific criteria for assessing the quantity, quality, capacity and accessibility of playing pitches and ancillary facilities. These criteria and principles have also been applied to other outdoor sport and recreation facilities in North East Lincolnshire such as tennis courts and bowling greens. It provides clear guidance on assessment of supply and demand for sports pitches and the types and levels of analysis required in order for the local authority to plan effectively to meet local needs. These include:

- ◀ The Playing Pitch Model (PPM).
- ◀ Team Generation Rates (TGRs).

### **3.1: Background information**

An extensive range of background information has been reviewed and incorporated into the assessment of key issues for each typology. Background documentation reviewed for the study is listed below:

- ◀ Places People Play.
- ◀ Sport England Strategy (2008 – 2011).
- ◀ Towards a Level Playing Field (February 2003).
- ◀ Planning Policy Guidance (PPG) 17.
- ◀ Assessing Needs and Opportunities: A companion guide to PPG17.
- ◀ FA National Game Strategy (2007-2012).
- ◀ Grounds to Play – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2010 – 2013)
- ◀ The National Facilities Strategy for rugby union in England (2008).
- ◀ The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2005/06 - 2012/13).
- ◀ A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England.
- ◀ The Sustainable Community Strategy.

### 3.2: Playing Pitch Model (PPM)

The PPM is a temporal supply and demand analysis and is largely applied as a numerical model. The model is used in three ways:

- ▶ To reflect the existing situation using data on existing teams and pitches.
- ▶ To test the adequacy of current provision by manipulating the variables in the model.
- ▶ To predict future requirements for pitches, by incorporating planned pitches and projected changes in population and participation.

An eight-stage process has been followed to produce the PPM:

*Table 3.1: PPM eight stage process*

| Stage | Process                                     |
|-------|---------------------------------------------|
| 1     | Identifying teams/team equivalents.         |
| 2     | Calculating home games per team per week.   |
| 3     | Assessing total home games per week.        |
| 4     | Establishing temporal demand for games.     |
| 5     | Defining pitches used/required on each day. |
| 6     | Establishing pitches available.             |
| 7     | Assessing the findings.                     |
| 8     | Identifying policy options and actions.     |

Stages one to seven of this process are covered in this report. Stage eight will be covered in the strategy document.

The 'electronic toolkit', which accompanies 'Towards a Level Playing Field', provides tools for collecting some of the information above.

'Team equivalents' refers to use of pitches by groups other than those playing formal matches. This includes school games lessons, club and school training sessions, sports development sessions etc. By including these in the 'demand equation' a more accurate picture is presented. Information from schools and clubs was collected using the electronic toolkit school and club questionnaires.

Team identification has been undertaken via consultation with leagues, as well as with governing bodies of sport and clubs.

The ownership and accessibility of sports pitches will also influence their actual availability for community use. The term 'secured community use' has been adopted to define this. This is likely to embrace:

- ▶ All local authority facilities.
- ▶ School facilities where they are subject to formal community use agreements.
- ▶ Other institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements.
- ▶ Any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public

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through membership of a club or through an admission fee. The cost of use must be considered reasonable and affordable by the majority of the community.

Auditing playing pitches and assessing the level of availability is largely achieved through site visits.

### ***Pitch quality information***

It should be noted that the club and school questionnaires and the non-technical pitch assessment sheet in the electronic toolkit all have different scales for rating the quality of pitches and ancillary facilities. On this basis, KKP uses the 'non-technical pitch assessment sheet' to assess *all* pitches in order that consistent information is presented. All information relating to sports pitches across North East Lincolnshire is collated in the project playing pitch and non pitch database (supplied as an electronic file). All sites included within the audit, as identified by NELC, supplemented by KKP and assessed by KKP are included within the KKP project database.

The pitch assessment sheet is a 'tick box' assessment, as provided in Towards a Level Playing Field toolkit, which rates various elements of pitch quality with a separate assessment sheet for changing accommodation. It should be noted that the pitch assessment also takes into account whether changing rooms and car parking exist on the site. However, the total pitch score is not significantly affected.

This information is scored, converted into a percentage (of the highest score possible) and also into a qualitative rating. The qualitative ratings for pitch quality are:

|               |                       |
|---------------|-----------------------|
| 90% +         | An excellent pitch    |
| 64-90%        | A good pitch          |
| 55-64%        | An average pitch      |
| 30-54%        | A below average pitch |
| Less than 30% | A poor pitch          |

For ease of analysis, KKP has combined this into a three-point scale. In this report pitches are rated as:

- ◀ An excellent pitch or good pitch = **good quality**.
- ◀ An average pitch = **adequate quality**.
- ◀ A below average pitch or poor pitch = **poor quality**.

The qualitative ratings for changing accommodation quality are listed as:

|               |           |
|---------------|-----------|
| 90% +         | Excellent |
| 60-89%        | Good      |
| 40-59%        | Average   |
| 30-39%        | Poor      |
| Less than 30% | Very poor |

Copies of the assessment sheets can be found in appendix two.

### **Capacity**

KKP has developed a capacity rating for football and rugby pitches based on the quality rating given to pitches and the number of teams currently playing at the site (identified through league handbooks, local authority booking sheets and consultation with clubs). These capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation and similar decision making processes.

A capacity rating (as per rugby and football) is not given for cricket pitches and non-pitch facilities as it is not possible to determine the number of matches that can be played on a particular pitch. This is due to the length of matches, which cannot always be determined and also differs between adult and junior matches, even though both are often played on the same pitch.

Play refers to temporal demand or when the teams play. A figure of 1.0 in this column for instance would be representative of two teams using that pitch on a home and away basis (every other week). This means that that pitch is carrying one game at that time every week.

Calculation of capacity is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines<sup>1</sup> on capacity, pitches have thus been identified to have the following capacity ratings:

- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.
- ◀ If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week.

These capacity ratings have also been re-affirmed through consultation with NELC Neighbourhood Operations Team.

School pitches have been issued with the same capacity rating and only community use of these pitches has been entered. It is possible to enter team equivalents into the database in order to calculate equivalent demand for school pitches. However, due to a lack of inconsistent information from schools it is not possible to be entirely accurate.

Using the pitch and non pitch database, it is possible to enter scenarios and alter the carrying capacity of school and council pitches. This means that it is possible to see how many, if any extra pitches become available.

A colour coded rating is then given by comparing the above information:

- ◀ Red - the pitch is being used over capacity.
- ◀ Amber - the pitch is played to capacity.
- ◀ Green - the pitch is being used under capacity.

Where it is indicated that the level of provision is 'sufficient', this indicates that none of the pitches in the area (for the particular sports), are rated as poor quality and/or played 'over capacity', nor has any latent demand been identified by users. This is not to say that improvements to sites are not required. Conversely, where an insufficient level of

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<sup>1</sup> Sport England – 'Towards a Level Playing Field'

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

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provision is identified, this is because one or more sites/pitches have been rated as poor quality and/or are being over-played and/or latent demand has been expressed.

Following consultation with league secretaries, it is noted that U15, U16 and U17 teams play on senior sized football pitches. The capacity rating does not take into account this type of play (i.e. juniors playing on senior pitches). Where a large number of junior/mini teams play on a site, particularly if they are playing on senior pitches this can result in those pitches being overplayed on the capacity rating. Many grounds are able to withstand more matches being played on by junior/mini teams than senior teams.

A number of provisos need to be taken into account as there may be discrepancies between the SE visual rating and the consultation comments. For instance, schools may have been rated as poor via the SE rating and acceptable/good through consultation. This may arise as the SE quality assessment increases rating if changing accommodation is available. A number of schools do not make changing accommodation available for community use.

### **Team Generation Rates (TGRs)**

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team based on current population and participation. TGRs for each pitch sport and each age group have been calculated. These have been used with the PPM for modelling purposes (e.g., by looking at population projections future TGRs can be estimated). These have been entered into the PPM to predict, where possible, whether current supply would meet future demand.

### **Consultation**

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. KKP also attended the Playing Pitch Steering Group meeting which is attended by local league representatives. These were generally as follows:

*Table 3.2: Consultation - methods and response rates*

| <b>Sport</b>   | <b>Methods of consultation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Football clubs | In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, the Lincolnshire County FA (LCFA), the FA and NELC Football Development Manager and Playing Pitch Steering Group a paper/electronic questionnaire was distributed to all football clubs playing in North East Lincolnshire.<br>We achieved a response rate of 53%.                                       |
| Cricket clubs  | In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, the Lincolnshire Cricket Board and the ECB Funding and Facilities Manager, a questionnaire was distributed to all cricket clubs competing in the John Pettit Cricket League.                                                                                                                             |
| Rugby clubs    | There are two clubs active in the area, playing on pitches at sports clubs. The clubs were consulted either face to face or through a telephone interview.<br>In addition, we also consulted with the RFU Regional Funding & Facilities Manager and the RFU Council member for Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Derbyshire.<br>We achieved a response rate of 100% |

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| Sport                                     | Methods of consultation                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hockey clubs                              | There are two active clubs in the area. KKP consulted with the England Hockey Relationship Manager.                                                                                                                         |
| Bowls clubs                               | A postal questionnaire was distributed to all bowling clubs playing in North East Lincolnshire. Key clubs were met face to face and key leagues took part in telephone consultation.<br>We achieved a response rate of 50%. |
| Tennis clubs                              | A postal questionnaire was sent to all clubs in the area and we achieved a 50% response rate. In additional, we also consulted the LTA.                                                                                     |
| Athletics clubs                           | There are two track and field athletic clubs in area. KKP consulted with England Athletics Club and Coach Support Officer.                                                                                                  |
| Other clubs                               | KKP also completed consultation with a range of other key stakeholders holders including town and parish council and other NGBs to ascertain demand for minority sports.                                                    |
| Secondary schools (including independent) | Face to face consultation was undertaken with eight secondary schools in the area. In addition, site audits were also completed during these visits.                                                                        |
| Primary schools                           | An electronic survey was distributed to all primary schools. We achieved a response rate of 66%.                                                                                                                            |

Local sports development officers, county associations and regional governing body officers advised which of the clubs to include in the face-to-face consultation. Sport England was also included within the consultation process prior to the project commencing. Issues identified by clubs returning questionnaires were followed up by telephone or face to face interviews.

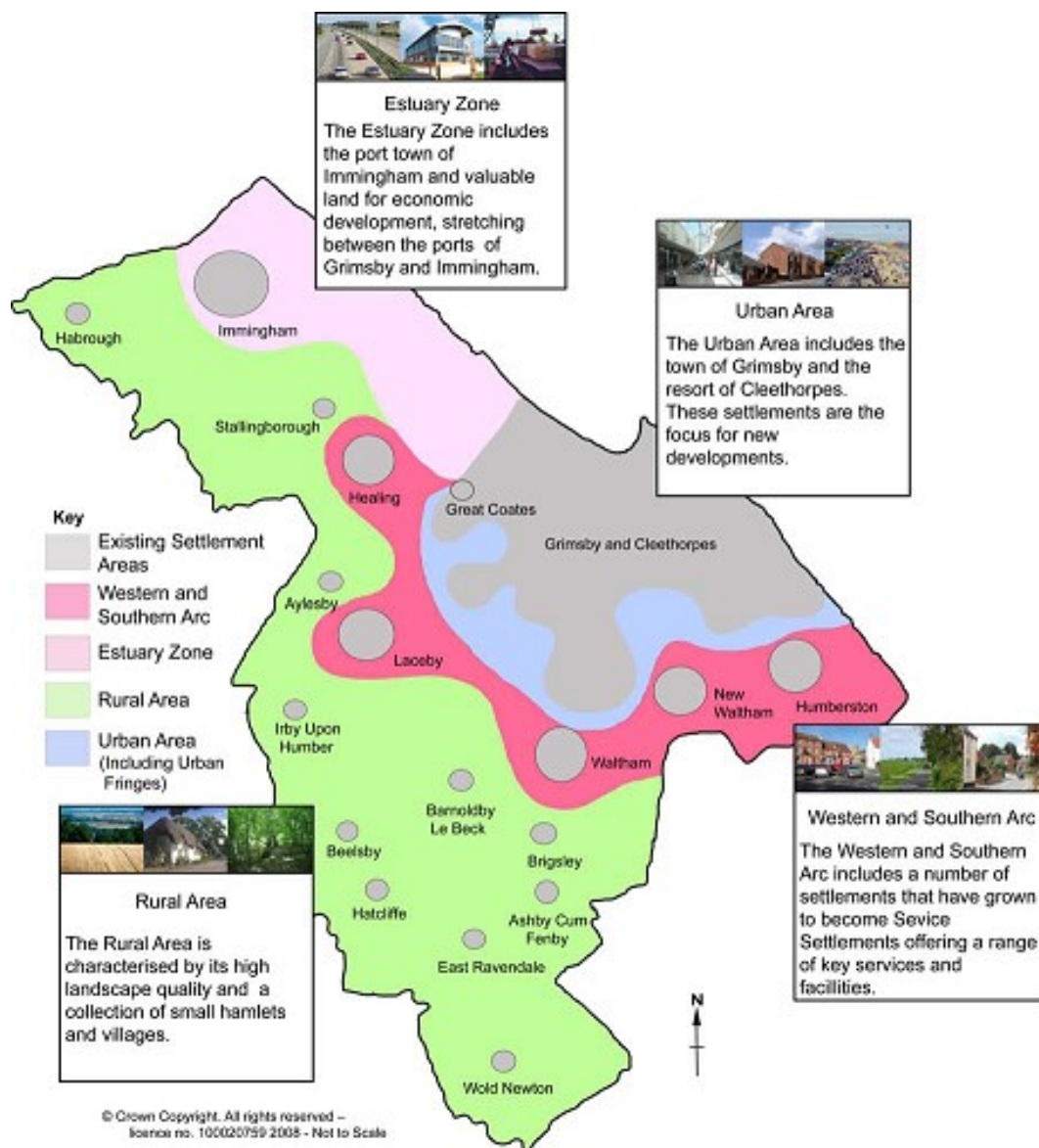
# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## Analysis areas

North East Lincolnshire has been divided into four analysis areas (shown below) according to the current formation of local area partnerships. Analysis areas allow a more localised assessment of provision and examination of facility surplus and deficiencies at a local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. Hence the analysis areas are as follows:

- ◆ Estuary Zone
- ◆ Rural Area
- ◆ Urban Area
- ◆ Western and Southern Arc

Figure 3.1: Analysis areas in North East Lincolnshire



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### ***Population growth***

The Office of National Statistics (ONS) has recently produced long term population projections. They project forward the midyear estimates of population for 2004 and give an indication of future trends by age and gender for the next 25 years. Current total Area population is 156,184 (ONS 2009 mid-year population estimates).

ONS population projections (2006 – 2031) show that by 2026 (to fit with the Core Strategy and the Regional Spatial Strategy) the Area population is projected to be 174,500. This equates to a total increase of 18,316 or 11.7%, which has been applied to each analysis area to reflect the population projections at a local level:

*Table 3.3: Population projections for North East Lincolnshire*

| Analysis area                  | Mid-2008 Population | 8.9% Increase  | 2026 Future Population |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|------------------------|
| Estuary Zone                   | 12,066              | 1,411          | 13,477                 |
| Rural Area                     | 9,504               | 1,111          | 10,615                 |
| Urban Area                     | 116,979             | 10,411         | 127,390                |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 17,635              | 20,632         | 38,267                 |
| <b>North East Lincolnshire</b> | <b>156,184</b>      | <b>182,735</b> | <b>174,500</b>         |

The projections are trend based projections and do not take in to account future local, regional or national policy and strategies.

### **3.3: Report structure**

The following sections summarise the local administration of the main grass pitch and non-pitch sports in the area.

Each provides a quantitative summary of provision and a map showing the distribution of facilities. It also provides information about the availability of facilities to/for the local community and, the governing body of each sport and regional strategic plans (where they exist). Local league details are provided in order to outline the competitive structure for each sport. The findings of club consultation and key issues for each sport are summarised.

KKP has covered all sports for which there is currently organised, structured play on outdoor playing pitches. It is recognised that there are additional outdoor sports that could also be developed using pitch facilities in North East Lincolnshire. The sports covered are as follows:

- ◆ Part 4: General sport issues.
- ◆ Part 7: Football.
- ◆ Part 8: Cricket.
- ◆ Part 9: Rugby.
- ◆ Part 10: Hockey.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ◀ Part 11: Bowls.
- ◀ Part 12: Tennis.
- ◀ Part 13: Athletics.
- ◀ Part 14: Netball.
- ◀ Part 15: Rounders.
- ◀ Part 16: Other minority sports
- ◀ Part 17: Education provision.

## PART 4: GENERAL SPORTS ISSUES

### 4.1: Introduction

Consultation with users and non-users of sports facilities across North East Lincolnshire covered many issues with regard to facilities in the area. Sport and facility specific issues are covered in the relevant sections of this report. This section sets out generic issues that cut across more than one sport/facility.

Consultation suggests that, for voluntary sector clubs in the area, the main issues which pertain to facility development are access to facilities and quality of facilities.

### 4.2: Clubmark

Clubmark is Sport England's national accreditation scheme for high quality junior sports clubs. It is managed by Knight, Kavanagh & Page on behalf of Sport England and sets the standard for all high quality sports clubs in England. North East Lincolnshire has a total of 38 Clubmark clubs and a further 11 'working towards' accreditation.

The following 18 clubs are Clubmark accredited with four clubs 'working towards' which use outdoor sport and recreation facilities in North East Lincolnshire:

*Table 4.1: Clubmark accredited or working towards clubs in North East Lincolnshire*

#### *Accredited*

| Sport type           | Club name                                    |
|----------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| Angling              | Immingham Pilgrims                           |
| Athletics            | Grimsby Harriers & AC                        |
| Cricket              | Cleethorpes CC                               |
| Cricket              | Grimsby Town CC                              |
| Football             | Breakaway J.F.C Sunday                       |
| Football             | Cleethorpes Town JFC (Sun)                   |
| Football             | Immingham Pilgrims JFC (Sun)                 |
| Football             | Healing Hotspurs JFC (Sunday)                |
| Football             | West Marsh Community Centre Mini Soccer F.C. |
| Football             | Solar JFC Girls                              |
| Golf                 | Cleethorpes Golf Club                        |
| Golf                 | Laceby Manor Golf Club                       |
| Rugby Football Union | Grimsby RUFC                                 |
| Rugby Football Union | Cleethorpes RFC                              |
| Tennis               | St James Tennis Club                         |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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## *Working towards*

| Sport type   | Club name                |
|--------------|--------------------------|
| Golf         | Immingham Golf Club      |
| Golf         | Grimsby Golf Club        |
| Netball      | Grimsby District Juniors |
| Rugby League | Sidney Sussex Sharks     |

NELC may wish to consider future prioritisation of facilities particularly as these clubs can support the complementary objectives and targets of partners in local authorities.

### **4.3: Active Clubs Association**

The Active Clubs Association is a club accreditation scheme set up by North East Lincolnshire Council Sports Development Unit.

It aims to set standards for local clubs to meet which will in turn lead to better quality sports provision for the community.

The Active Clubs Association has been introduced to:

- ◆ Promote and encourage good practice in sports clubs
- ◆ Aid parents in choosing a club for their children
- ◆ Improve the quality of organisation and resources at local clubs
- ◆ Ensure that clubs offer safe and organised access to sport
- ◆ Acknowledge that child protection, sports equity and club management guidelines are met.

### **4.4: NELSA**

The North East Lincolnshire Sports Association (NELSA) represents local sports clubs, leagues and organisations and works in partnership with key stakeholders such as North East Lincolnshire Council's Sports Development Unit, Sport & Leisure Management (SLM) and the School Sport Partnership.

NELSA also organise the annual North East Lincolnshire Sports Awards Presentation evening where individuals, teams, clubs and organisations can be nominated for sporting recognition in North East Lincolnshire.

## PART 5: PARTICIPATION TRENDS

It is important that participation trends are clearly understood and reflected upon particularly in the context of the development of the Strategy. The following section engages Sport England participation analysis tools to provide a detailed understanding of the key participation trends in the area.

### 5.1: Active People Survey

The Active People Survey is conducted across every local authority in England and is the largest ever survey of sport and active recreation to be undertaken in Europe. The first year of the survey, Active People Survey 1 (APS1), was conducted between October 2005 and October 2006. A total of 363,724 adults living in England took part in Active People Survey 1. Active People Survey 2 (APS2), the second year of the survey, was conducted between October 2007 and October 2008. A total of 191,325 adults living in England took part in the survey. The survey is now a continuous annual survey, with Active People Survey 3 completed in Oct 2009, Active People Survey 4 completed in October 2010, at which point Active People 5 commenced and will run until October 2011.

Each survey gathers data on the type, duration and intensity of people's participation in different types of sport and active recreation and now (as of APS2) cultural participation, as well as information about volunteering, club membership, tuition from an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and satisfaction with local sports provision.

Table 5.1 below shows the APS2, 3 and 4 survey results for North East Lincolnshire in comparison to the national and the Sport England Region of the Yorkshire & Humber; as well as those for the nearest neighbours.<sup>1</sup> The nearest neighbours are not geographic neighbours, but those which are the closest to North East Lincolnshire in terms of socio-demographics. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises, the models use a wide range of socio-economic indicators upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated. This is a different measure of participation than the NI 8 or KPI 1 participation indicators, which look at sport and active recreation (three days a week, moderate intensity, 30 minutes). APS2 found that 17.8% of those people surveyed in North East Lincolnshire participated in sport and active recreation at least three days a week for 30 minutes at a moderate level (KPI 1), which placed the local authority below the national average. This decreased to 15.9% following the AP3 survey but then increased marginally to 16.1% for APS4 which remains higher than two of its nearest neighbours; Redcar & Cleveland and Walsall but lower than regional and national averages.

Of those surveyed, almost three fifths (72.4%) of people from North East Lincolnshire were satisfied with local sports provision (APS2) which was above the national average (66.6%) and higher than its comparable neighbours; Redcar and Cleveland, Walsall and Wirral. APS3 found that the satisfaction levels increased further to 73.9% however, this decreased to its lowest at 69.2% by APS4 and remains and is marginally above the national (69.0%) but meets the regional averages (69.2%).

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<sup>1</sup> According to [www.cipfastats.net](http://www.cipfastats.net) North East Lincolnshire's top three nearest neighbours are Redcar & Cleveland, Walsall and Wirral.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Table 5.1: Summary of Active People Survey results by key performance indicator (KPI)

| KPI                                                                                 |      |   | National (NAT) | Yorkshire & Humber | North East Lincolnshire | Redcar & Cleveland | Walsall | Wirral |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------|---|----------------|--------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|---------|--------|
| KPI 1 - At least 3 days a week x 30 minutes moderate participation (all adults)     | APS2 | % | 21.3           | 22.4               | <b>17.8</b>             | 13.7               | 10.8    | 20.9   |
|                                                                                     | APS3 |   | 21.6           | 22.0               | <b>15.9</b>             | 14.5               | 14.7    | 19.3   |
|                                                                                     | APS4 |   | 21.8           | 22.2               | <b>16.1</b>             | 15.5               | 12.9    | 19.1   |
| KPI 2 - At least 1 hour a week volunteering to support sport (all adults)           | APS2 | % | 4.9            | 4.7                | <b>6.3</b>              | 3.5                | 3.1     | 4.0    |
|                                                                                     | APS3 |   | 4.7            | 4.8                | <b>4.8</b>              | 2.7                | 4.7     | 3.9    |
|                                                                                     | APS4 |   | 4.5            | 5.1                | <b>3.8</b>              | 3.0                | 2.3     | 5.7    |
| KPI 3 - Club member (all adults)                                                    | APS2 | % | 24.7           | 23.2               | <b>24.0</b>             | 20.3               | 20.8    | 24.5   |
|                                                                                     | APS3 |   | 24.1           | 21.9               | <b>23.5</b>             | 19.9               | 21.0    | 22.3   |
|                                                                                     | APS4 |   | 23.9           | 22.8               | <b>19.8</b>             | 17.5               | 18.1    | 28.5   |
| KPI 4 - Received tuition from an instructor or coach in last 12 months (all adults) | APS2 | % | 18.1           | 16.2               | <b>20.1</b>             | 16.5               | 9.9     | 18.3   |
|                                                                                     | APS3 |   | 17.5           | 15.1               | <b>16.2</b>             | 11.3               | 13.3    | 15.6   |
|                                                                                     | APS4 |   | 17.5           | 16.3               | <b>13.8</b>             | 10.9               | 13.5    | 18.3   |
| KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months (all adults)    | APS2 | % | 14.6           | 14.0               | <b>15.9</b>             | 14.6               | 9.3     | 16.2   |
|                                                                                     | APS3 |   | 14.4           | 14.4               | <b>13.5</b>             | 22.1               | 9.9     | 12.0   |
|                                                                                     | APS4 |   | 14.4           | 14.1               | <b>11.9</b>             | 15.2               | 8.7     | 14.2   |
| KPI 6 - Satisfaction with local sports provision (all adults)                       | APS2 | % | 66.6           | 65.8               | <b>72.4</b>             | 62.5               | 62.1    | 68.3   |
|                                                                                     | APS3 |   | 68.4           | 67.8               | <b>73.9</b>             | 67.2               | 64.2    | 67.1   |
|                                                                                     | APS4 |   | 69.0           | 69.2               | <b>69.2</b>             | 63.7               | 63.3    | 75.1   |

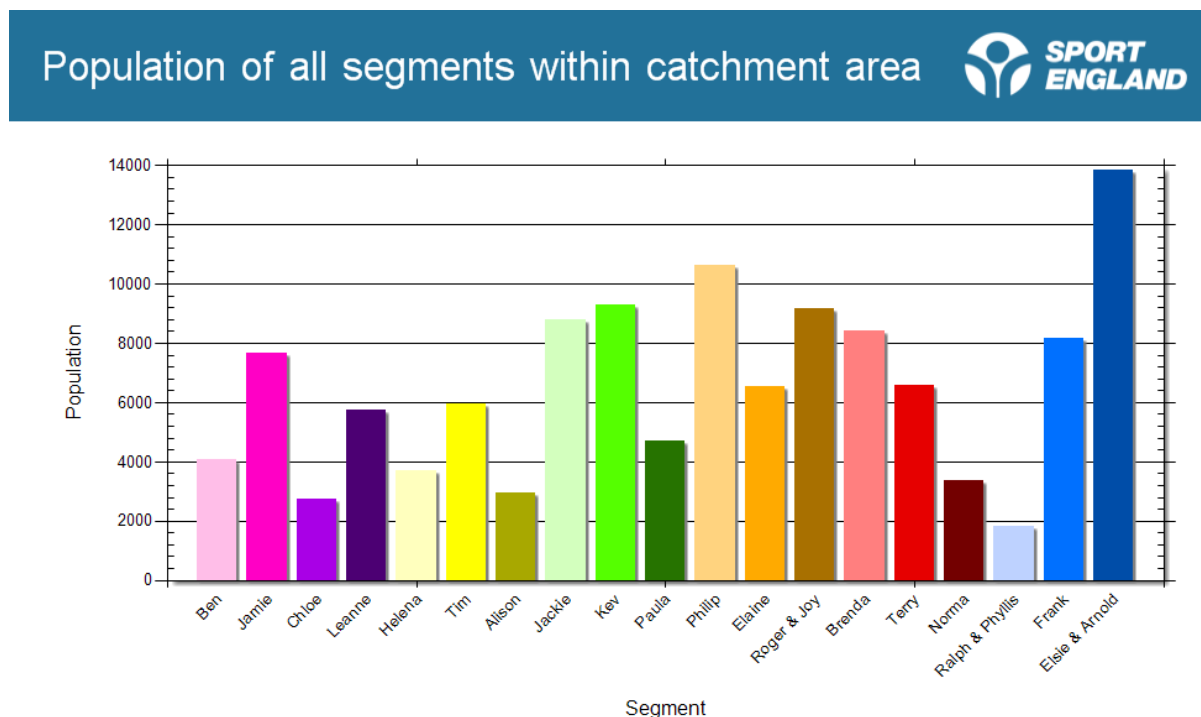
## 5.2: Market segmentation

Sport England has also developed a segmentation model with 19 'sporting' segments to help better understand attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to participation.

Knowing which segment is most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming for sport and recreation. For example, whilst the needs of the smaller segments should not be ignored, it may be useful for NELC to know the sports enjoyed by the largest proportion of the population. The segmentation may also be able to assist partners to make tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with target market(s) and to better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

Figure 5.1 below indicates that the market segment with the greatest proportion (11.2%) of the North East Lincolnshire population is 'Elsie and Arnold', retirement home singles. This means that the greatest proportion of residents would benefit from initiatives that appeal to 'Elsie and Arnold'; sports such as bowls, keepfit/gym, swimming and football.

Figure 5.1: Chart of all segments in North East Lincolnshire



## **PART 6: NEIGHBOURING AUTHORITIES**

Cross-boundary migration does occur within North East Lincolnshire given its close proximity to other authorities and around the rural settlements. A number of clubs from outlying rural towns and villages, such as Holton-le-Clay and Caistor compete in Grimsby based leagues and use facilities in the area.

The following sections take account of neighbouring and nearby local authority plans and proposals, which may impact upon the provision of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision in North East Lincolnshire. It summarises the findings of existing playing pitch strategies (where applicable).

### **6.1: North Lincolnshire Council**

The Play Pitch Strategy was adopted by the Council in 2006. It forms part of a wider Open Space Strategy and helps to develop the Council's Local Development Framework.

The assessment, carried out in 2005/6, identified surpluses of current provision and areas of improvement. The main surpluses set out in the Strategy found there to be, overall, a surplus of adult football pitches and a small surplus of adult rugby pitches. However, a small shortfall of mini soccer pitches, cricket pitches and junior rugby pitches was recorded. In light of this it was recommended that the deficiency in junior sports provision could be met by converting some existing adult pitches and/or increasing community use of school sites. Other recommendations in the Strategy included supporting the voluntary sector with grant aid and the need to improve management and booking arrangements.

In order to be used to gain developer contributions through Section 106 contributions, the Strategy sets a standard requirement of 0.94 hectares per 1000 population for the recreational needs of the area's residents.

### **6.2: West Lindsey Council**

Sport England identify that there is no playing pitch strategy in place for the District.

### **6.3: East Lindsey Council**

Sport England identify that there is no playing pitch strategy in place for the District.

### **6.4: Hull City Council**

Hull City Council Playing Pitch Strategy has a lifespan from 2011 to 2021. The Strategy is recognised as helping to inform the Council's decision making process for the enhancement and management of the Cities outdoor sports pitches.

It examines the quantity and quality of existing provision and details projections for future demand based on anticipated population growth. The Strategy set out recommendations such as the need for improvements in cricket provision, increased provision of mini and junior pitches with the appropriate changing facilities across the city and the need to accommodate the predicted increase in demand for rugby league and football over the next 10 years.

### **6.5: East Riding of Yorkshire Council**

The Playing Pitch Strategy for East Riding was adopted in 2009 by the Council. The Strategy along with the Open Space Review (2010) helped provide supporting evidence to the progress of the Local Development Framework. Audit information was collected during 2008 and identified that there is 413 hectares, an equivalent of 354 grass pitches, serving 1,004 football, rugby, cricket and hockey teams in East Riding.

Based on Sport England's National Playing Pitch Model 'Towards a Level Playing Field' the strategy recommended provision based on per 1,000 population. This standard was broken down into the four sub-areas in East Riding as; Northern (1.45 ha), Eastern (1.67 ha), Central (1.21 ha) and Western (1.52 ha).

## PART 7: FOOTBALL

### 7.1: Introduction

The Lincolnshire County Football Association (LCFA) is the primary organisation responsible for development of football in North East Lincolnshire. It is also responsible for controlling, managing, regulating and promoting the game both locally and across the County.

The LCFA has four strategic goals and three key enablers to achieve over the period 2008-2012. In line with the FA's national strategy the goals are:

1. *Growth and retention* – sustaining and increasing the number of players.
2. *Raising standards and addressing abusive behaviour* – creating a safe and positive environment.
3. *Developing better players* – focusing on the 5-11 age group.
4. *Running the game effectively* – leading and governing the game.

Its three key enablers: i.e. the infrastructure that must be in place to achieve the goals, are:

1. *A skilled workforce* – recruiting and developing a highly skilled, diverse, paid and voluntary workforce.
2. *Improved facilities* – improving the access and quality of training and playing facilities.
3. *Marketing and PR* – clear communications to everyone involved in the game.

### **FA Charter Standard**

In total, 10 football clubs in North East Lincolnshire have been awarded FA Charter Standard accreditation. Two clubs have achieved Community Club status (a higher accreditation); Cleethorpes Town FC and Immingham Pilgrims FC. The remaining eight clubs are:

- ◀ Breakaway JFC
- ◀ Grimsby Borough FC
- ◀ Grimsby Soccer Club
- ◀ Grimsby Town Ladies FC
- ◀ Healing Hotspurs
- ◀ Grimsby Mariners Ladies FC
- ◀ Solar JFC
- ◀ West Marsh JFC

A further two clubs have achieved Charter Standard status and include Caistor Crusaders and Keelby United JFC which are not fully based within the area but do contribute to the development of football across North East Lincolnshire.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 7.2: Current supply

Following extensive consultation via surveys and telephone interviews, KKP has identified a total of 228 teams playing in North East Lincolnshire. This includes youth and mini provision but excludes small sided games such as five aside, which is consistent with guidelines set out by Sport England in 'Towards a Level Playing Field'.

The audit identifies 42 sites currently in community use, providing a total of 128 pitches. In addition, there are 70 pitches, which are not currently accessible to the community. The majority of these are located on primary and secondary school sites.

The consequences of the pitch supply and the teams wanting to play on them are discussed later in this section.

*Table 7.2: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | No. of available pitches |           |           | No. of competitive teams |              |             |              |                          |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------|-----------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|--------------------------|
|                                | Senior                   | Junior    | Mini      | Senior men               | Senior women | Junior boys | Junior girls | Mini-soccer <sup>1</sup> |
| Estuary Zone                   | 5                        | 1         | 2         | 8                        | -            | 3           | -            | 6                        |
| Rural Area                     | 2                        | -         | 1         | 3                        | -            | 2           | -            | -                        |
| Urban Area                     | 63                       | 14        | 20        | 77                       | 3            | 50          | 6            | 31                       |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 14                       | 5         | 1         | 18                       | -            | 16          | 4            | 1                        |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>84</b>                | <b>20</b> | <b>24</b> | <b>106</b>               | <b>3</b>     | <b>71</b>   | <b>10</b>    | <b>38</b>                |

Towards a Level Playing Field identifies that a senior football pitch is defined as 90m x 46m (minimum size) with 1.4 hectares maximum safety boundary. The minimum size of a junior football pitch is 70m x 42m and a mini football pitch 46m x 27m.

There are a number of pitches, as summarised below (Table 7.3), which have been excluded from the supply and demand analysis because there are no teams currently playing on the site and/or because they are not available for community use (primarily school sites). These sites could offer potential capacity/additional pitches if the current supply does not meet expressed demand in the area. However, the quality of these sites varies and any necessary remedial work should be carried out before allowing teams to use these sites. Furthermore, at school sites, appropriate community use agreements should be developed to ensure that use is secured for clubs wishing to use such facilities on a regular basis.

<sup>1</sup> Girls and boys play alongside in mini soccer at U7s – U10s i.e. ages 6-9 years old.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

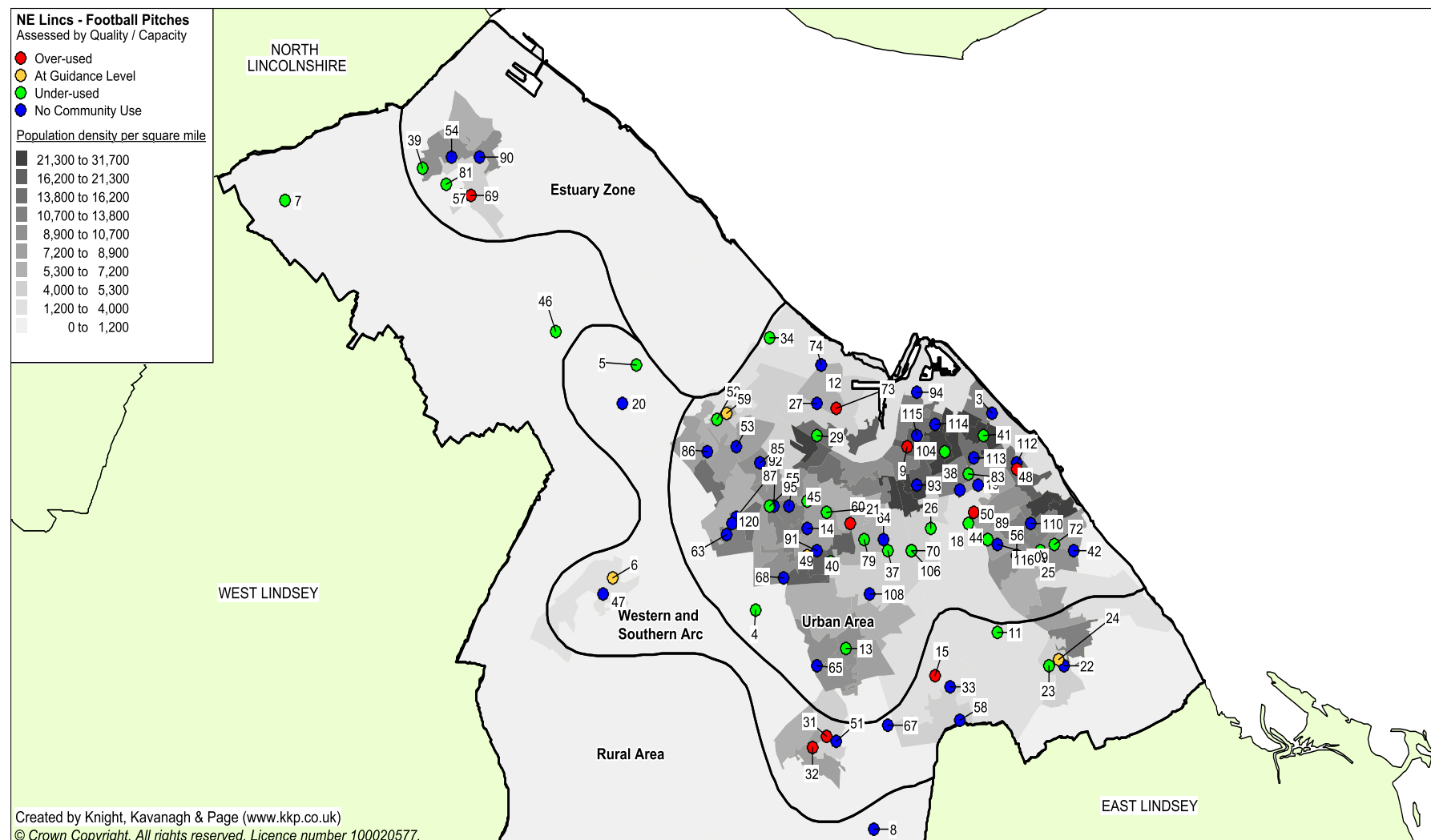
*Table 7.3: Summary of pitches not available for community use and teams by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | No. of pitches NOT available for community use |           |          |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|-----------|----------|
|                                | Senior                                         | Junior    | Mini     |
| Estuary Zone                   | 2                                              | 2         | -        |
| Rural Area                     | 2                                              | -         | -        |
| Urban Area                     | 20                                             | 23        | 6        |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 10                                             | 2         | 3        |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>34</b>                                      | <b>27</b> | <b>9</b> |

Of the pitches not currently available for community use, or without teams allocated to the site, the majority of senior pitches are located on secondary school sites or at professional/semi-professional clubs (including training grounds) and junior pitches on primary school sites. This indicates that there may be potential to increase community access to school sites to help alleviate overplay from the existing sites. It is positive that the majority of pitches within the Rural Area analysis area are being made available for community use.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 7.1: Location of football pitches in North East Lincolnshire



## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 7.1 indicates that there is a preponderance of football pitches in the Urban Area which corresponds with the levels of population density and hence the main settlement areas are generally well served by football pitches. Pitches in the Estuary Zone are clustered around the Immingham conurbation whilst the provision of sites in the Rural Area and Western and Southern Arcs reflect the pattern of settlements of towns and village.

Several sites have high levels of use and as such are overplayed (red dots on the map). This often impacts upon their quality, and subsequently playing capacity.

*Table 7.4: Key to map of football pitches*

| Site name                                     | KKP ref | Analysis area | Community use | Senior | Junior | Mini |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| ALLERTON PRIMARY SCHOOL                       | 54      | Estuary Zone  | No            | 1      | 1      |      |
| BLOSSOM WAY SPORTS CLUB (FOOTBALL)            | 81      | Estuary Zone  | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| CANON PETER HALL PRIMARY SCHOOL               | 90      | Estuary Zone  | No            |        | 1      |      |
| EASTFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL                      | 57      | Estuary Zone  | No            | 1      |        |      |
| IMMINGHAM RESOURCE CENTRE                     | 69      | Estuary Zone  | Yes           | 1      | 1      | 2    |
| ROVAL DRIVE PLAYING FIELD                     | 39      | Estuary Zone  | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELDS                    | 7       | Rural Area    | Yes           |        |        | 1    |
| CHEAPSIDE (GRIMSBY TOWN CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE) | 8       | Rural Area    | No            | 2      |        |      |
| STALLINGBOROUGH PLAYING FIELDS                | 46      | Rural Area    | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| BARRETT'S RECREATION GROUNDS (FOOTBALL)       | 79      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 4      |        | 1    |
| BLUNDELL PARK (GRIMSBY TOWN FC)               | 3       | Urban Area    | No            | 1      |        |      |
| BRADLEY RECREATION GROUND                     | 4       | Urban Area    | Yes           | 13     | 3      | 7    |
| CAMBRIDGE PARK SCHOOL                         | 55      | Urban Area    | No            |        | 1      |      |
| CARR LANE SOCIAL CLUB                         | 83      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      |        |      |
| CLEE FIELDS PLAYING FIELD                     | 9       | Urban Area    | Yes           | 3      |        |      |
| CLEETHORPES ACADEMY                           | 56      | Urban Area    | No            | 2      |        |      |
| DUNLOP OIL AND MARINE LTD                     | 12      | Urban Area    | Yes           |        |        | 2    |
| FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL                      | 13      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      | 2      |      |
| FRANKLIN COLLEGE                              | 14      | Urban Area    | No            | 2      |        |      |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

| Site name                                       | KKP ref | Analysis area | Community use | Senior | Junior | Mini |
|-------------------------------------------------|---------|---------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| GRANGE PRIMARY SCHOOL                           | 92      | Urban Area    | No            |        | 2      |      |
| GRANT THOROLD PARK                              | 104     | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      |        |      |
| GREAT COATES PRIMARY SCHOOL                     | 59      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      | 1      |      |
| GRIMSBY & CLEETHORPES YMCA                      | 106     | Urban Area    | No            | 1      |        |      |
| GRIMSBY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION | 60      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      |        |      |
| HARDYS RECREATION GROUND                        | 18      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| HAVELOCK ACADEMY                                | 19      | Urban Area    | No            | 5      | 1      |      |
| HAVERSTONE PARK                                 | 72      | Urban Area    | Yes           |        |        | 6    |
| HEREFORD TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL                      | 21      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 3      |        |      |
| KING GEORGE                                     | 25      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 5      |        |      |
| KING GEORGE V ATHLETICS STADIUM                 | 26      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      |        |      |
| LACEBY ACERS PRIMARY SCHOOL                     | 63      | Urban Area    | No            | 1      |        |      |
| LISLE MARSDEN C E PRIMARY SCHOOL                | 64      | Urban Area    | No            |        | 2      |      |
| LITTLECOATES PRIMARY SCHOOL                     | 27      | Urban Area    | No            |        | 2      |      |
| MACAULEY PRIMARY SCHOOL                         | 29      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      | 2      |      |
| MATTHEW HUMBERSTON LOWER                        | 89      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 3      |        |      |
| NOVARTIS GRIMSBY SPORT & SOCIAL CLUB            | 34      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      | 1      |      |
| NUNSTHORPE COMMUNITY SCHOOL                     | 91      | Urban Area    | No            |        |        | 1    |
| OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM                       | 37      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 3      |        |      |
| OLD CLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL                         | 38      | Urban Area    | No            |        |        | 2    |
| OLD LINDSEY SCHOOL SITE (CLOSED)                | 116     | Urban Area    | No            | 2      |        |      |
| REYNOLDS PRIMARY SCHOOL                         | 112     | Urban Area    | No            |        | 1      |      |
| ROSS SPORTS GROUND (PEAKS LANE)                 | 70      | Urban Area    | Yes           |        |        | 4    |
| SCARTHJUNIOR SCHOOL                             | 108     | Urban Area    | No            |        |        | 1    |
| SCARTHJUNIOR TOP                                | 40      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| SIDNEY PARK                                     | 41      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1      | 1      |      |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

| Site name                               | KKP ref | Analysis area            | Community use | Senior | Junior | Mini |
|-----------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| SIGNHILLS JUNIOR SCHOOL                 | 42      | Urban Area               | No            |        | 2      |      |
| SPRINGFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL              | 65      | Urban Area               | No            | 1      | 2      |      |
| ST ANDREWS COLLEGE                      | 44      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 6      |        |      |
| ST JAMES SCHOOL SPORTS FIELD & PAVILION | 45      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1      | 2      |      |
| ST JOSEPH'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL     | 109     | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| STMARY'S CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL        | 115     | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| STRAND COMMUNITY SCHOOL                 | 94      | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| SUSSEX RECREATION GROUND                | 48      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1      |        |      |
| SUTCLIFFE AVENUE PLAYING FIELDS         | 49      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1      |        |      |
| THE STAMFORD CLUB                       | 50      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| THRUNSCOE PRIMARY SCHOOL                | 110     | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| TIOXIDE SPORTS FIELD                    | 74      | Urban Area               | No            | 1      |        |      |
| WEELSBY PRIMARY SCHOOL                  | 114     | Urban Area               | No            |        |        | 1    |
| WELHOLME INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL         | 93      | Urban Area               | No            | 1      |        |      |
| WEST MARSH COMMUNITY CENTRE             | 73      | Urban Area               | Yes           |        | 1      |      |
| WESTERN CAMPUS                          | 95      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 3      |        |      |
| WESTERN PRIMARY SCHOOL                  | 87      | Urban Area               | No            | 1      | 1      |      |
| WESTWOOD HO ART AND DESIGN COLLEGE      | 120     | Urban Area               | No            | 1      |        | 1    |
| JOHN WHITGIFT ACADEMY                   | 52      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2      | 1      |      |
| WILLIAM BARCROFT PRIMARY SCHOOL         | 113     | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| WILLOWS PRIMARY SCHOOL                  | 53      | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| WOODLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL                | 68      | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| WYBERS WOOD JUNIOR                      | 86      | Urban Area               | No            | 1      | 1      |      |
| YARBOROUGH JUNIOR SCHOOL                | 85      | Urban Area               | No            |        | 1      |      |
| BRITISH LEGION SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB     | 5       | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 2      | 2      | 1    |
| BUTT LANE PLAYING FIELD                 | 6       | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1      |        |      |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

| Site name                              | KKP ref | Analysis area            | Community use | Senior | Junior | Mini |
|----------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|--------|--------|------|
| ENFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL                 | 58      | Western and Southern Arc | No            |        |        | 1    |
| GREENLANDS RECREATION FIELD            | 15      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| HEALING SCHOOL - SCIENCE ACADEMY       | 20      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 3      |        |      |
| HUMBERSTON CLOVERFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL | 22      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 1      | 1      | 1    |
| HUMBERSTON MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE | 23      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 3      | 2      |      |
| JUBILEE PARK (ST CHRISTOPHERS)         | 24      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| LUCARLYS (CLEETHORPES RFC)             | 11      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 2      |        |      |
| MOUNT PLEASANT PLAYING FIELD           | 31      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1      | 1      |      |
| NEVILLE TURNER WAY PLAYING FIELDS      | 32      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1      |        |      |
| NEW WALTHAM PRIMARY SCHOOL             | 33      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 1      |        |      |
| STANFORD JUNIOR & INFANTS SCHOOL       | 47      | Western and Southern Arc | No            |        |        | 1    |
| TOLLBAR ACADEMY                        | 67      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 4      |        |      |
| WALTHAM LEAS PRIMARY SCHOOL            | 51      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 1      | 1      |      |

### **Accessibility**

Whilst it is noted that at young age groups (i.e. mini levels), the majority of players tend to play for teams with home grounds close to where they live and will only travel locally, players aspiring to play at clubs that are perceived to offer a higher standard of experience are willing to travel further (i.e. up to and over five miles) to play. For girls wishing to compete at a high level this may be even further, for example, travelling to Lincoln.

The football club survey reveals that in general terms, players travel locally to compete; almost three-fifths (57%) of players travel between two and five miles, and just under one third (30%) travel less than two miles. Given the rural nature of North East Lincolnshire just over a tenth (13%) of players travel over five miles which is indicative of players migrating from rural villages and settlements to access provision.

However, anecdotally it is reported that teams will travel from Immingham, for example, to access the facilities at Bradley. This suggests that where good quality facilities are provided users are willing to travel further to access provision.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

## 7.3: Current demand

### *Local area data (LAD) changes in participation*

Conversion rates estimate the number of individuals playing football by multiplying the number of teams by the average number of players involved in the different forms of football. It assumes the numbers of players as follows:

- ✦ 18 players in an 11-a-side squad
- ✦ 10 players in a mini-soccer team squad
- ✦ 12 players in a 9v9 small-sided team squad
- ✦ 9 players in a 7v7 small-sided team squad
- ✦ 8 players in a 6v6 and 5v5 small-sided team squad
- ✦ 6 players in a 4v4 small-sided team squad

The following table summarises conversion rates for North East Lincolnshire from the last three seasons, compared with national and North West of England averages. The conversion rates provide a useful baseline for North East Lincolnshire.

*Table 7.5: Summary of participation trends 08/09-10/11 (conversion rates)*

|                                     | Adult male<br>(11v11) | Adult female<br>(11v11) | Youth male<br>(11v11) | Youth female<br>(11v11) | Mini soccer |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------|
| <b>NE Lincs 08/09</b>               | 5.8                   | 0.2                     | 13.2                  | 1.3                     | 7.7         |
| <b>NE Lincs 09/10</b>               | 6.4                   | 0.3                     | 18.3                  | 1.3                     | 9.2         |
| <b>NE Lincs 10/11</b>               | <b>8.5</b>            | <b>0.3</b>              | <b>23.0</b>           | <b>2.8</b>              | <b>11.9</b> |
| <b>Yorkshire &amp; Humber 08/09</b> | 5.2                   | 0.2                     | 20.8                  | 2.7                     | 8.8         |
| <b>Yorkshire &amp; Humber 09/10</b> | 4.9                   | 0.2                     | 19.7                  | 2.5                     | 7.3         |
| <b>Yorkshire &amp; Humber 10/11</b> | <b>5.5</b>            | <b>0.2</b>              | <b>19.0</b>           | <b>3.0</b>              | <b>9.0</b>  |
| <b>National Average 08/09</b>       | 5.0                   | 0.2                     | 23.9                  | 2.0                     | 8.9         |
| <b>National Average 09/10</b>       | 4.8                   | 0.2                     | 23.3                  | 2.0                     | 8.0         |
| <b>National Average 10/11</b>       | <b>5.4</b>            | <b>0.3</b>              | <b>21.4</b>           | <b>2.3</b>              | <b>9.1</b>  |

It is important to note that conversion rates for North East Lincolnshire are higher than regional (Yorkshire & Humber) and national averages across all categories except for youth female which falls slightly below. However, it is important to note that this has seen a significant increase in North East Lincolnshire since the 2009/10 season. Furthermore it is evident that there have been some significant increases across all categories and it will be important for NE Lincolnshire to maintain this growth.

Further analysis of the trends over the last four years illustrated by the LAD data, highlights a number of key trends, which should be considered in the context of this report and the subsequent strategy:

- ✦ Adult male conversion rates show an increase of 2.7% over the past three years.
- ✦ Adult female conversion rates show a small increase of 0.1% over the past three years.
- ✦ Youth male conversion rates show a significant increase of 9.8% over the past three years.

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## PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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- ▶ Youth female conversion rates also show an increase of 1.5% over the past three years.
- ▶ Mini soccer conversion rates have increased by 4.2% over the past three years.

### ***Senior football***

North East Lincolnshire is regarded as bucking national trends in that adult male football is actually increasing across the area. A number of reasons have been cited for this including the popularity of the sport locally, the strength of the Sunday League and the establishment of Bradley Football Development Centre, which has helped to further support retention and recruitment.

Consultation reports that three quarters of clubs have not seen a change in the number of senior teams whilst 14% have experienced an increase, including, Humberston FC, Laceby Arms FC, Cleethorpes Town FC and some new teams have established including, for example, Grimsby Fireplace FC, AFC Waltham and a senior team at Solar FC.

The remaining 11% of clubs report a decrease in the number of teams, as a consequence of which, some have folded for this season (i.e. 2011/12), including, Healing Hotspurs (senior team), Fairdeal Carpets FC and Mitchells FC (one of its three senior teams). The factors attributed to the demise of these teams includes, the increasing costs associated and the lack of personnel interested in running the clubs.

Notwithstanding the importance of teams folding, this will not be reflected in the analysis in this report, as demand relates to last season (2010/2011).

### ***Junior football and mini-soccer***

Junior football and mini-soccer appears to continue to grow, with increasing demand for pitches. There are a number of proactive development minded clubs in the area, which have achieved FA Charter Standard status and are recognised as supporting the development of the sport across the area. Some clubs report that these larger clubs tend to attract more players and that smaller clubs can struggle to attract and retain players to secure a full squad and as a consequence some fold.

As is the case for senior football, almost four fifths (79%) report that there has not been a change in the number of teams at the club, whilst 14% have seen an increase in the number of teams and just 7% have experienced a decline in the number of teams which is attributed to players moving elsewhere rather than ceasing to play entirely.

The KKP football survey asked clubs to detail issues relating to development and growth for both senior and junior clubs. The most common issues reported in North East Lincolnshire are:

- |                                                                                                |                    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| ▶ Lack of internal funding, such as subs and fundraising                                       | 36% of respondents |
| ▶ Lack of external funding, from agencies such as the FA or local organisations including NELC | 29% of respondents |
| ▶ Lack of voluntary assistance                                                                 | 26% of respondents |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

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Whilst funding is regularly cited as an issue it is interesting to note the high number of clubs reporting that the lack of voluntary assistance is an issue. NELC may wish to consider supporting clubs to secure volunteers in the future. This is also the main reason for teams folding as detailed earlier.

### ***Professional clubs and semi-professional clubs***

The senior non-league divisions in England administered by the FA are often known as football's 'Pyramid'. Promotion at all levels within the National League System is subject to FA ground grading requirements, as well as league specific rules and requirements.

Grimsby Town FC plays in the Blue Square Premier League which is Step One of the National League System. It plays its home matches at Blundell Park, which has a capacity of 9,546. The Club also accesses training pitches at Cheapside and occasionally uses facilities at Bradley Football Development Centre.

The Club has also recently entered into a partnership with Oasis Academy Wintringham to deliver the club's School of Excellence which will see the Academy become embedded over the next few years. The School is regarded to offer a high level of facilities which are required by the Club and the partnership is also regarded as beneficial from the Schools perspective in terms of the coaching and education support which the Club will provide for pupils. However as part of this arrangement the pitches are now protected for Grimsby Town use which has seen the exclusion of wider community use including teams from the Sunday League.

Grimsby Borough has an enclosed 'stadium' pitch at the Bradley Football Development Centre and fields a first team in the Northern Counties East League Division One (step six) and a reserve team in the Lincolnshire County Football league.

### ***Clubs***

In North East Lincolnshire, the club to team ratio is 1:2.1 (i.e. each club runs on average two teams). This compares to a national ratio of 1:2.9 and a regional ratio of 1:2.8. In general terms, the ratio in North East Lincolnshire is slightly lower.

Whilst there are a number of large entity clubs such as Solar JFC and Discoveries JFC there also remains a large number of traditional male single entity clubs across the area which attributes to the low ratio.

The FA's Local Area Data (LAD) reports that 53 of the youth clubs in North East Lincolnshire run youth 11-a-side teams only and do not have a mini-soccer team. It also reports that there is only one club fielding both youth and adult teams. However KKP believe this figure to be higher through the consultation which it has undertaken.

The LAD also indicates that a third of clubs (65.9%) in North East Lincolnshire have adult teams, compared to national and regional averages of 72.5% and 73.1% respectively which suggests that a slightly higher proportion of clubs in the area have youth teams.

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## Leagues

There are a number of leagues which service the area. Some leagues only service a small number of teams whilst others service the whole area such as the East Lincolnshire Combination League. In general terms, junior football is accommodated by the Gradley Sports Junior Football League and the Grimsby & District Intermediate Football League.

*Table 7.6: Senior leagues servicing North East Lincolnshire*

| League name                                  | League synopsis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|----------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grimsby & Cleethorpes District Sunday League | Regarded as bucking national trends, the League reports that there has been an increase in the number of teams competing over recent years. For the coming season 2011/12 the league will accommodate 81 teams. Notwithstanding the growth trends experienced, a number of clubs have folded mainly as a result of the lack of interest and personnel to run clubs. The League operates on a 25 mile radius of St James Church in Grimsby. It currently operates eight divisions of no more than 12 teams but has capacity to accommodate 130 teams. It states that teams wishing to join the league must have access to changing facilities with showers available. It is also currently working to achieve Charter Standard status for the League and is delivering 7-a-side tournaments to bridge the gap. Teams in the league tend to use Bradley, King Georges and Jubilee Park (St Christopher's). Outside these sites school facilities are used however the cost is noted to be prohibitive. |
| Grimsby Saturday League                      | In line with national trends, the Saturday League is declining. It currently accommodates 15 teams playing across two leagues but has capacity to accommodate 80 teams. The League has a kick off time of 2.30pm on a Saturday afternoon. It operates on a 25 miles radius of St James' Church, Grimsby. Clubs use a range of local authority sites including Barratts and Sussex Recreation Ground.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| The East Lincolnshire Combination League     | The League is Lincolnshire-wide. It accommodates 40 teams across the East Lincolnshire area with a maximum capacity of 44 teams. In general terms the league is experiencing an increase in the number of teams joining. In the main teams are from Mablethorpe, Skegness and Lincoln. The area is defined as that within a 30 mile radius of Louth. Clubs from the North East Lincolnshire area playing in this league use a variety of school and other pitches.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |

There is a significant trend towards junior football occurring on a Saturday. The North East Lincolnshire & Radcliffe Junior Football League, which currently competes on a Sunday, is struggling to attract teams from Saturday football.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY

*Table 7.7: Junior leagues servicing North East Lincolnshire*

| League name                                           | League synopsis                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grimsby & District Intermediate Football League       | The League provides Sunday afternoon youth football opportunities. It is recognised as having more Charter Standard clubs than any other league in North East Lincolnshire and Bolton and it is regarded as a good practice league model. Although it does not operate a waiting list, consultation suggests it is continuing to grow. It has recently applied for Sunday football to be sanctioned as it has reached saturation point on Saturday but this has been rejected by the LCFA Sanctions Committee and has gone to appeal. |
| Gradley Sports Junior and Mini-Soccer Football League | It currently accommodates 24 clubs playing in six age groups from U7s – U12s on a Sunday. The area covered is a 40 mile radius from Louth Parish Church although it is noted that the majority of clubs are from the Grimsby and Cleethorpes area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| South Humber Ladies League                            | The League accommodates much of the women and girls football from the area. It is working to achieve Charter Standard status.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |

## ***Women's and girls' football***

Mariners Ladies and Grimsby Town Ladies FC are the main clubs providing opportunities for women and girls in the area. Solar JFC and Healing Hotspurs FC also run a number of girl's teams which compete in the South Humber Ladies League, the Lincolnshire County Girls Football League and the Gradley League. Solar JFC currently operates five teams which have been developed through a partnership formed with Grimsby Institute which has directed girls attending the College's coaching programme into the Club. From Solar FC a number of the most talented girls then feed into Lincoln Ladies FC. Healing Hotspurs field four teams in the Gradley League.

However, NELC note that women and girls' football is declining in the area despite the presence of strong teams such as those referenced.

Cleethorpes Town FC has expressed interest in developing girls' football at the Club but note that there is insufficient competition locally to sustain a team and Solar JFC is also keen to establish a women's team for this season if sufficient interest could be generated.

## ***Disability football***

The Lincolnshire County Disability Football League was formed in 2009 by the Lincolnshire FA and the Lincoln City Football League Trust. The teams that compete in the League play at various venues throughout Lincolnshire and include teams from North East Lincolnshire:

- ✦ HASS FC
- ✦ West Marsh Tigers (Disability) FC
- ✦ Grimsby Town Disability Football Club FC
- ✦ Grimsby Town Mental Health FC

Grimsby Town Sports & Education Trust also delivers a weekly disability club at Oasis Academy Wintringham which provides activity including Powerchair football.

## **7.4: Key issues for football**

This section provides a summary of the key issues for football in the Borough. The summaries are based on:

- ✦ KKP qualitative site visits.
- ✦ Consultation with a variety of stakeholders, including the governing body and clubs.
- ✦ Supply and demand analysis using the Playing Pitch Methodology as outlined in Towards a Level Playing Field.

The report does not, at this juncture, include any strategic recommendations. The subsequent Strategy and Action Plan will incorporate plans for the future.

### ***Ownership and self-management agreements***

There is very little evidence of leasing in place in North East Lincolnshire and the neighbourhood operations team recognise that this requires a complete overhaul. Whilst some clubs feel that they have the appropriate structure in place and would be able to take on the management of sites for others clubs it would be regarded as a burden. Consultation acknowledges that there are specific sites which have potential to be leased to specific clubs but that this would have to be considered on an individual basis.

There are opportunities to support clubs through the Charter Standard status, in working with NELC Sports Development to build greater capacity within clubs. There is a general consensus that clubs operating self-management should have FA Charter Standard status and therefore would have multiple teams based at the site.

Furthermore, there is also a need to retain a balance of pitches, particularly at municipal sites for clubs to hire on a weekly basis without the need to take on a self-management agreement.

### ***Cleethorpes Town***

Cleethorpes Town has almost 30 teams including one girls' team and is primarily based at the Stamford Club in Cleethorpes. The Club is ambitious to develop. In the short term it cites aspirations to move up the non-league pyramid, whilst medium term aspirations note that the Club wishes to develop a floodlit ground within the Cleethorpes area to support its promotion ambitions.

Since Cleethorpes Town have taken on the lease of the Stamford Club a number of other clubs believe that this has created uncertainty over the future of the site and as a result have had to consider alternative locations.

### ***Pitch quality***

Site assessments suggest that the general quality of pitches in the area is good which is also reinforced by the consultation findings. The visits rate two-thirds of the pitches as good, one quarter as average and one tenth as poor quality. Users acknowledge the efforts of the Council and other pitch providers to improve pitch quality across the area and the investment into facilities. For many clubs, it is the poor quality of changing accommodation which is the main issue. Many clubs note a positive relationship with the

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Council which is fostered through league representatives' attendance at pitch steering group meetings.

The audit of pitches available for community use identifies seven senior pitches, two junior pitches and four mini pitches as poor quality as follows:

- |                                     |                                       |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| ◀ Clee Fields playing field         | ◀ Diana Princess of Wales             |
| ◀ Dunlop Oil and Marine Ltd         | ◀ West Marsh Community Centre         |
| ◀ Mount Pleasant playing field      | ◀ Tioxide sport field                 |
| ◀ Neville Turner Way playing fields | ◀ Scartho Junior School               |
| ◀ Signhills Junior School           | ◀ St Joseph's Catholic Primary School |
| ◀ Stanford Junior & Infants School  | ◀ Thrunscoe Primary School            |
| ◀ Sutcliffe Avenue playing fields   | ◀ Reynolds Primary School             |
| ◀ Willows Primary School            | ◀ William Barcroft Primary School     |
| ◀ Enfield Primary School            | ◀ Weelsby Primary School              |
| ◀ Lisle Marsden CE Primary School   | ◀ St Mary's Catholic Primary School   |
| ◀ Springfield Primary School        | ◀ Old Lindsey School site (closed)    |
| ◀ Oasis Academy Immingham           | ◀ Westwood Ho Art and Design College  |

It is also important to note that a significant proportion of the poor quality junior and mini pitches are not available for community use as they are located on school playing fields.

The remaining pitches are assessed to be good or average quality<sup>2</sup>. Tables 7.7 and 7.8 below summarise pitch quality, following site visits to all pitches (including those not available for community use).

The quality of pitches should not be considered in isolation as the level of play on a site can also affect the quality, Table 7.9 outlines current site capacity issues.

Furthermore it is also important to acknowledge that the site assessments were carried out at the end of the playing season and as the majority of these sites fall under NELC Grounds Maintenance management, some are likely to have been subject to reinstatements.

Despite being a relatively dry area of the Country, a number of pitches such as at Hardys Recreation Ground, are prone to waterlogging. This is due to the lack of long term on-going maintenance of pitch drainage systems as there is little evidence to suggest that systems have been maintained on a regular basis.

Public access to pitches is a problem which can impinge on the quality of sites. This is the case for a large number of sites in the area. It leads to corresponding problems with dog foul, litter and unofficial use. However, checking for dog fouling, broken glass etc. forms part of the attendant duties for each site before matches are played.

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<sup>2</sup> KKP site visits took place in June/July 2011. There is recognition that pitch quality deteriorates throughout the season. It should be noted that pitches were assessed at the end of the football playing season and therefore grounds maintenance regimes may not have been as frequent. Also, some football posts may have been removed.

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*Table 7.8: Pitch quality assessments following site visits (sites available for community use)*

| Senior pitches |         |      | Junior pitches |         |      | Mini pitches |         |      |
|----------------|---------|------|----------------|---------|------|--------------|---------|------|
| 84             |         |      | 20             |         |      | 24           |         |      |
| Good           | Average | Poor | Good           | Average | Poor | Good         | Average | Poor |
| 53             | 24      | 7    | 10             | 8       | 2    | 20           | -       | 4    |

*Table 7.9: Pitch quality assessments following site visits (sites not available for community use)*

| Senior pitches |         |      | Junior pitches |         |      | Mini pitches |         |      |
|----------------|---------|------|----------------|---------|------|--------------|---------|------|
| 34             |         |      | 27             |         |      | 9            |         |      |
| Good           | Average | Poor | Good           | Average | Poor | Good         | Average | Poor |
| 20             | 12      | 2    | 2              | 15      | 10   | -            | 4       | 5    |

Pitches which score as average quality, tend to be found on recreation grounds, which are often open to public access and can suffer from problems such as dog fouling and litter. Examples include Clee Field and Neville Turner Way playing fields. Whilst good quality pitches tend to be located at private sports clubs or self-managed sites. A full synopsis of site specific issues is cited in Table 7.9.

Overall it is evident that almost two-thirds (60%) of pitches are rated as good quality whilst just under two-fifths (16%) are rated as poor quality.

### *Maintenance regimes*

NELC pitches are mowed towards the close season and are marked out weekly during the season. Verti-draining occurs twice annually. During the time of the study NELC was undertaking end of season pitch renovation works and general maintenance such as painting the goalposts.

NELC acknowledged that the level of work which is carried out on pavilions is limited. In general terms, each facility is simply cleaned and re-stocked at the end of each match.

During the last 12-15 months, the maintenance budget has been transferred across to Balfour Beattie Facilities Management Team. NELC report that the process has become truncated and issues tend to be long term before they are remedied, for example, the burst pipes which occurred during the winter.

### *Cancellations*

Cancellations on NELC pitches are at the discretion of the NELC pitch attendant and the referee. This is considered to be a sensible approach as it accounts for the individual pitch conditions which can occur across the area. However, the Grimsby, Cleethorpes & District Sunday Football League, which works closely with NELC, seeks to make weather based decisions on a Thursday to prevent unnecessary travel being incurred by teams.

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### *User feedback*

NELC hosts regular playing pitch strategy meetings which are an opportunity for users to share views on the issues relating to playing pitches in the area. This is regarded by all parties as an efficient means of managing relationships with stakeholders in the area.

### *Club survey responses*

Analysis of the club survey responses found that:

- ✦ 11% of respondents consider quality to be 'much better' than in 2009/10 season.
- ✦ 21% of respondents consider quality to be 'slightly better' than in 2009/10 season
- ✦ Over half (55%) of respondents consider the quality to be no different than in the 2009/10 season.
- ✦ 8% of respondents consider quality to be slightly poorer than in 2009/10.
- ✦ 5% of respondents consider quality to be much poorer than in 2009/10.

Reasons identified for increases in quality to designated pitches include:

- ✦ Ground improvement works such as re-grassing (often by a designated groundsman) have improved pitch quality, for example at Mount Pleasant.
- ✦ The development of the Bradley Football Development Centre has relieved pressure on other key sites such as King George Playing Fields.

There is a perception that some key sites are overplayed and that pitches are not adequately rested. This, for example, includes pitch sites in the Western and Southern Arc such as Mount Pleasant and Neville Turner Way playing fields.

Unofficial use (i.e. teams/people using facilities without making the requisite booking or payment) of pitches is a problem across the area, even in parks and recreation grounds since the installation of removable goalposts. However, NELC has recognised this and has introduced two informal 'kickabout/training' pitches as a measure to deter young people playing on the main pitch. Such measures may need to be considered for sites including the Oasis Academy Immingham and Immingham Resource Centre.

Reasons identified by the surveys for decreases in quality to designated pitches since the season include:

- ✦ Perceived lack of regular maintenance throughout the season, for example rolling of the pitches.
- ✦ Also available as a public open space and the surface often gets trampled.
- ✦ Unofficial use of pitches causes overplay and deterioration in surface quality.
- ✦ Inclement weather conditions (and a particularly poor winter).
- ✦ Overplay.

There are a number of sites across the area which also have issues pertaining to the overall quality of the site.

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### ***Ancillary facilities***

Consultation suggests that improvements to changing accommodation have not kept pace with improvements to pitches and that there has been little/no investment in the facilities and hence the buildings have become dilapidated and poor quality. Whilst stakeholders recognise that pitch improvements are the main priority, wherever possible, this should be supported by improvements to the changing accommodation. There is a need to address poor changing facilities, in particular, to support the retention of adult players and also to recruit more women and girls for whom many sites are currently inaccessible because of the poor quality of facilities.

Clubs also stress the importance of offering good quality changing accommodation to support the recruitment and retention of players at both senior and junior levels. In particular, junior clubs wishing to introduce girls' teams highlight the need for better changing facilities. In particular, this relates to increasing quality, the need for segregated changing and larger changing rooms.

Full condition surveys have been completed for each pavilion. They highlight that the quality of this stock is regarded as poor. There is a £0.5 million backlog maintenance schedule for the pavilions.

| Premise name                                  | Condition | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------------------|-----------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barretts Recreation Ground                    | B         | Consultation highlights that the changing rooms are inadequate in size to accommodate senior teams and that the lack of toilet facilities is an issue.<br><br>Clubs comment that "changing rooms at Barretts are disgusting with tatty cramped changing rooms no water facilities like showers and when there is they are cold and dirty as well as falling apart. Need major facelift to even bring it up to an average standard." |
| Royal Drive Playing Fields/Sports Ground      | C         | The changing facilities are regarded amongst the worst across the area. This deters greater levels of use the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| King George V Playing Fields - Taylors Avenue | B         | Clubs report that the quality of facilities are poor and require investment.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Butt Lane Playing Fields                      | C         | NELC has recently approached Waltham Parish Council to take on the ownership of Butt Lane's changing pavilion.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| Mount Pleasant Playing Field                  | B         | Clubs note a need for better ancillary facilities at Mount Pleasant would be good. Showers and toilets are regarded as poor quality and car parking is difficult.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Greenlands Open Space                         | B         | Clubs report issues with the lack of ceiling present in the changing rooms for the season 2010/2011. However they note that security is good as the groundsman remains at the site for the duration of the game.                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| Chapel Lane Playing Fields                    | C         | The changing facilities are reported to receive little use due to the poor condition.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| Haverstone Park                               | B         | As a predominantly mini-soccer venue there is limited use of the changing accommodation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Jubilee Park                                  | B         | Whilst clubs suggest that the changing facilities adequate it is noted that there are no shower facilities available.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

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| Premise name                      | Condition | Comments                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Sussex Recreation Ground          | B         | User consultation reports that the changing accommodation is poor quality. During the time of the site assessments the building had been graffitied. |
| Hardys Recreation Ground          | C         | Users note that the quality of facilities at the site is poor.                                                                                       |
| Neville Turner Way Playing Fields | B         | No consultation comments were received about this site.                                                                                              |

User consultation also suggests the size of existing changing rooms are too small and do not cater for current team sizes. In general, KKP site assessments rated the quality of changing provision at NELC sites as average quality, with sites scoring between 49-59%. Only site Bradley Football Development Centre, received an excellent rating. However, this is a new site.

Under the Localism Bill the Council is keen to lease out pavilions to suitable organisations. However, it can be difficult for the organisations involved to see the benefits of lease arrangements without an opportunity to generate an income through, for example, the provision of small retail kiosk for teas and coffees to allow for the on-going management and maintenance of the structures.

Almost one third (28%) of the clubs consulted report that facilities have been vandalised including Butt Lane Playing Fields, Sussex Recreation Ground, Macauley Primary School, Mount Pleasant, King George playing fields, Greenlands Recreation Field, Hardy's Recreation Ground and Matthew Humberston Lower School. In the main these instances of vandalism are damage and break-ins caused to changing accommodation and broken glass left at the site.

Users suggest that as a minimum each site should offer toilet provision, running water and somewhere to shelter without this necessarily being provided in full changing accommodation structures where this is not necessary, for example at sites which are used by juniors.

### ***Demand***

Consultation suggests that the number of pitches in North East Lincolnshire is sufficient to meet demand. In the main clubs are able to access pitches at appropriate times. However, issues are noted in locating training facilities across the area. NELC neighbourhood operations teams believe that the current level of play is acceptable and that any significant increase in the number of teams would have a detrimental effect on the quality of the pitches across the area.

As noted previously, current demand expressed through conversion rates are strong in the area and clubs are generally sustaining the number of teams within their clubs. Indeed the fact that North East Lincolnshire is bucking national trends and that senior football is growing illustrates the demand for football in the area. However, a number of senior teams have folded at the end of the 2010/2011 season. It is recognised that this has tended to be a personnel issue rather than a facility issue.

Furthermore, a number of clubs (equating to 7%) also cite proposals to increase the number of teams further by a total of six senior men's, four junior boys and one junior girls' team.

As previously referenced, club consultation indicates that there has been little change in the number of senior teams provided at clubs, in the last three years. Three-quarters of clubs report that the number of senior teams has remained static. Almost a further four-fifths (79%) also report that the number of junior teams it operates has remained static over the previous three years.

A number of the largest clubs report that the lack of consistency in terms of home ground venues and the wide spread of facilities does inhibit club development particularly from a social aspect as teams are likely to be spread across a range of sites on match days.

### *Latent demand*

Although the majority of clubs report that membership levels have remained static over the previous five years, latent demand is expressed by almost a quarter (23%) of the clubs responding. Whilst for a small number of clubs the perceived lack of access to pitches is creating latent demand for the majority of clubs it is the perceived poor quality of ancillary facilities which is generating latent demand.

Therefore it is not recommended that new pitch provision is sought as an immediate priority but that issues around ancillary facilities is the main focus in the strategy.

### *Preferred demand*

A number of clubs report that their current home ground is not their preferred site. This view accounts for over one-tenth of the clubs surveyed and is attributed to the fact that these clubs are playing on grounds which are regarded as being of poor quality.

For example, AFC Waltham is based at Mount Pleasant. It notes that the facilities on site are poor quality, car parking is difficult and that the ground cannot be used for football matches until mid-September and as such the Club has to play its first fixtures away or midweek. The Club would prefer to be based at a location in Waltham or at Oasis Wintringham which are perceived to offer better quality facilities.

Interestingly two clubs which use St Christopher's and St James School also comment that they would prefer to move pitches to Humberston School. Furthermore, Spiders Web FC which had been based at Havelock Academy (prior to the redevelopments), reports that it is keen to return to the School having been accommodated at a range of other NELC owned facilities during the 2010/11 season.

### *FA Youth Development Review*

The FA's Youth Development Review will see an increased use of small-sided games for all age groups up to U12s. This will allow children to progress gradually through age-appropriate formats. The entry point for U7s and U8s will be the 5v5 game. U9s and U10s will then step up to 7v7, followed by a new 9v9 level for U11s and U12s.

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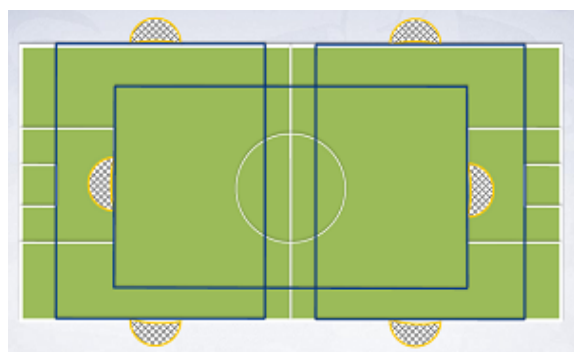
The table below provides a summary of each step and the appropriate pitch and goal sizes:

| Age   | Format  | Pitch size (m)     | Goal size              |
|-------|---------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 7-8   | 5 v 5   | 30 x 20 – 40 x 30  | Mini soccer (12'x6')   |
| 9-10  | 7 v 7   | 50 x 30 – 60 x 40  | Mini soccer (12'x6')   |
| 11-12 | 9 v 9   | 70 – 40 – 80 x 50  | New 9v9 goals (16'x7') |
| 13+   | 11 v 11 | 90 x 50 – 110 x 70 | Full size (24' x 8')   |

Playing smaller-sided games has been proved to give children an increased number of touches of the ball, while providing more goals and scoring attempts, more one-v-one encounters and more chance to attempt dribbling skills. It is this increased contact time with the ball that the FA believe will help children enjoy the game more while providing them with better preparation for the 11-a-side a game.

The introduction of 9v9 football, by the FA, is designed to help bridge the gap between mini soccer at U10s and 11 a-side at U11s and will see the introduction of a new intermediate sized pitch.

The FA reports the solution is to use existing 11 a side pitches and mark out two 9v9 pitches in blue lines, with either one pitch from box to box or two pitches across half a pitch (see diagram below):



Portable intermediate sized (16'x7') goalposts will be required, which the FA, in partnership with the Football Foundation, is making funding available as part of the Grow the Game scheme. Furthermore, Sport England can also provide 100% funding for 9v9 goalposts via the small grants scheme.

The proposals will not become mandatory until 2013/14 season.

### ***Facility development***

In terms of facility development, the FA reports that North East Lincolnshire has been proactive and successful in achieving Football Foundation funding for a number of key sites including Bradley Football Development Centre.

The FA recognises that there is still a need for money to be spent on some facilities in North East Lincolnshire, in the main to improve changing. It would be keen to see NELC work to secure partnership funding.

### *Multi-pitch sites*

Bradley Football Development Centre is widely recognised as a flagship site for the area. It has become the football development centre for North East Lincolnshire and surrounding areas and hosts a full complement of football development staff.

Demand exists for a second large multi-pitch site within the area (as a sister site to Bradley) to accommodate a number of the area's largest clubs. Whilst it is recognised that this maybe a challenge in the current climate, clubs believe that there are opportunities which should be explored regarding the re-development of former school sites such as Lindsay School. Aligned to this, there is also demand for at least one additional pitch to be provided which meets the requirements of the FA's pyramid system in order to accommodate clubs with ambitions to move up the system.

### *Peaks Lane/Gradley Sports*

The Peaks Lane development, which officially opened in August 2011 (funded through s106), includes pitches and changing accommodation for the Gradley Junior Football League and a cricket pitch for juniors in the John Pettit Cricket League.

The Ross Sports Ground shut down in 1993 for housing development. In July 2008 community members successfully obtained a 25 year lease on the land and following a period of clearing and preparation the pitches came into use again in September 2009. It is regarded as an innovative development for the area. The two partners (i.e. football and cricket) have come together to form a trust which has management responsibility for the site. Whilst it is regarded as a good trust model locally, it is recognised that it is not necessarily practical to replicate elsewhere.

The Trust reports a need to undertake further works to bring the quality of the site up to a good standard and to complete the initial renovation works which have been undertaken. It has previously received a quotation of £30,000 to skim, topsoil and re-seed the pitches in order to remedy the uneven playing surface.

Prior to the development of the Peaks Lane (Ross Sports Ground), Haverstone Park has been the recognised centre for mini-soccer. This was as result of mini-soccer fixtures being moved from King Georges following problems with parking and clashes with senior fixtures.

### *Training facilities*

Almost three-fifths of clubs (68%) surveyed train off-site using a range of facilities across the area including artificial pitches, sports halls and other grass fields. A further 23% of clubs use the home ground whilst 9% training elsewhere on the home ground.

The relatively high levels of clubs using their home grounds to train is an issue which must be considered in the context of the on-going damage and wear and tear caused to pitches in the area. It is evident that there are clubs who cannot access time on artificial turf pitches to support training. There is noted to be a lot of competition for use of the Bradley 3G pitch which is the favoured training facility for the majority of clubs. Furthermore, the AGP at Oasis Wintringham is largely booked out by Grimsby Town and for hockey which limits the availability of slots for other teams.

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Other facilities used include:

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| ◀ Oasis Wintringham           | Full size sand based floodlit |
| ◀ Hereford School             | Full size sand based floodlit |
| ◀ Immingham Leisure Centre    | 5-a-side sand based           |
| ◀ Play Sport                  | Various 3G 5-a-side           |
| ◀ West Marsh Community Centre | 3G 5-a-side floodlit          |

The AGP at Clee Fields is no longer used for training as it is regarded as being at the end of its current lifespan.

The facility at West Marsh, however, offers spare capacity. The Centre reports that local primary schools have shown limited interest in the use of the facility. It was developed during the summer of 2009 with £50,000 funding from WREN, £15,000 from the West Marsh Club and the remainder through the Football Foundation.

Clubs report that during the summer months training tends to be outdoors. However, during the winter months clubs require access to floodlit facilities or alternatively they move indoors and use sports halls at schools to accommodate training.

At the end of each season (i.e. May) NELC remove all goal posts immediately to begin the end of season renovation works. It is felt that this reduces the inclination for teams to continue using the pitches for training.

In the past NELC has marked out three-quarter sized pitches for training to reduce overplay at sites where training occurs on the pitch. Leagues suggest that this was a positive development and there is demand for this type of facility to be re-provided at certain locations.

### *Third generation turf pitches (3G)*

The FA provision standard is for there to be one 3G pitch per 55,000 population. With a population of around 159,000 it is likely that the FA would support the provision of a maximum of three 3G STPs.

Consultation reports that demand to use the pitch at Bradley far outstrips the availability of slots and many teams are turned away.

### 7.5: Provision of football pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

This section presents the current pitch stock available for football in the Borough. It illustrates the:

- ◆ Number of pitches rated as Good (G), Average (A) and Poor (P) on each site.
- ◆ Type of pitch(es) on each site (i.e., senior, junior, mini).

The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:

- ◆ The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
- ◆ The capacity of the pitches on each site.
- ◆ The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration Sport England guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

|                                                                                        |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week.       |  |
| If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.   |  |
| If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week. |  |

These capacity ratings have also been re-affirmed through consultation with NELC Neighbourhood Operations Team.

School pitches have been issued with the same capacity rating and only community use of these pitches has been entered. It is possible to enter team equivalents into the database in order to calculate equivalent demand for school pitches. However, due to a lack of inconsistent information from schools it is not possible to be entirely accurate.

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Table 7.10: Football provision (sites with community use) and level of community use

| KKP ref | Site name                          | Analysis area | Senior |   |   | Junior |   |   | Mini |   |   | Matches per week |      |        | Consultation comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
|---------|------------------------------------|---------------|--------|---|---|--------|---|---|------|---|---|------------------|------|--------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                    |               | G      | A | P | G      | A | P | G    | A | P | play             | cap  | rating |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 39      | ROVAL DRIVE PLAYING FIELD          | Estuary Zone  |        | 2 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 0.5              | 2.0  |        | This is the only local authority site in this area. It is regarded as poor quality as the facilities do not work and vandalism is an issue. This is considered to be an important site which should be maintained to a higher standard. |
| 69      | IMMINGHAM RESOURCE CENTRE          | Estuary Zone  |        |   | 1 |        |   | 1 |      |   | 2 | 6.0              | 2.0  |        | Overplayed due to poor quality pitches.<br>Litter and glass are a problem at the site which has open access.<br>Site is the home ground of Immingham Pilgrims.                                                                          |
| 81      | BLOSSOM WAY SPORTS CLUB (FOOTBALL) | Estuary Zone  | 2      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 4.0  |        | Good quality site with some spare capacity.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 7       | CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELDS         | Rural Area    |        |   |   |        |   |   | 1    |   |   | -                | 2.0  |        | Good quality site which although available, is not currently in use.                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 46      | STALLINGBOROUGH PLAYING FIELDS     | Rural Area    | 2      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 1.5              | 4.0  |        | Site offers spare capacity.                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 4       | BRADLEY RECREATION GROUND          | Urban Area    | 1<br>3 |   |   | 3      |   |   | 7    |   |   | 26.5             | 46.0 |        | A key strategic site for North East Lincolnshire which does offer capacity for additional play. However it is considered favourable to maintain a strategic reserve at the site to allow for rest and rotation.                         |

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| KKP ref | Site name                       | Analysis area | Senior |   |   | Junior |   |   | Mini |   |   | Matches per week |      |        | Consultation comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|---------|---------------------------------|---------------|--------|---|---|--------|---|---|------|---|---|------------------|------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                 |               | G      | A | P | G      | A | P | G    | A | P | play             | cap  | rating |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 9       | CLEE FIELDS PLAYING FIELD       | Urban Area    |        |   | 3 |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.5              | 1.5  |        | The site is currently overplayed due to poor quality pitches.                                                                                                                                                                               |
| 12      | DUNLOP OIL AND MARINE LTD       | Urban Area    |        |   |   |        |   |   |      |   | 2 | -                | 1.0  |        | There is capacity for play at this site.                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| 13      | FAIRFIELD PRIMARY SCHOOL        | Urban Area    |        | 1 |   |        | 2 |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 3.0  |        | Users regard the quality as poor. There are undulations on the playing field. The pitches are also heavily weather affected (i.e. boggy in wet conditions and hard in dry conditions). Toilet facilities are also limited and poor quality. |
| 18      | HARDYS RECREATION GROUND        | Urban Area    | 2      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 1.0              | 4.0  |        | There is space for three pitches to be marked but only two marked due to the poor ground conditions and heavy waterlogging.                                                                                                                 |
| 21      | HEREFORD TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL      | Urban Area    | 3      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 6.0  |        | Club surveys report that the site can become boggy. It is also considered a less favourable site due to the limited access offered for toilets and changing facilities.                                                                     |
| 25      | KING GEORGE                     | Urban Area    | 5      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 6.5              | 10.0 |        | Motorbikes have been a problem at the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| 26      | KING GEORGE V ATHLETICS STADIUM | Urban Area    | 1      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 1.0              | 2.0  |        | Use of the pitch limits the extent to which athletics clubs can practice field events.                                                                                                                                                      |
| 29      | MACAULEY PRIMARY SCHOOL         | Urban Area    |        | 1 |   |        | 2 |   |      |   |   | 1.0              | 3.0  |        | This is an extensive site. However, users note that parking is an issue.                                                                                                                                                                    |

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| KKP ref | Site name                               | Analysis area | Senior |   |   | Junior |   |   | Mini |   |   | Matches per week |      |        | Consultation comments                                                                                   |
|---------|-----------------------------------------|---------------|--------|---|---|--------|---|---|------|---|---|------------------|------|--------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                         |               | G      | A | P | G      | A | P | G    | A | P | play             | cap  | rating |                                                                                                         |
| 34      | NOVARTIS GRIMSBY SPORT & SOCIAL CLUB    | Urban Area    | 1      |   |   | 1      |   |   |      |   |   | 3.0              | 4.0  |        | The site is well maintained and is good quality.                                                        |
| 37      | OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM               | Urban Area    | 3      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | -                | 6.0  |        | Whilst Grimsby Academy is based at the site there is no extended community use.                         |
| 40      | SCARTHOTOP                              | Urban Area    |        | 2 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | -                | 2.0  |        | There are no teams currently recorded at the site.                                                      |
| 41      | SIDNEY PARK                             | Urban Area    |        | 1 |   |        | 1 |   |      |   |   | 1.0              | 2.0  |        | The facilities are regarded as poor quality.                                                            |
| 44      | ST ANDREWS COLLEGE                      | Urban Area    | 6      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 12.0 |        | There is spare capacity. However the site is also used to accommodate Grimsby Archery Club.             |
| 45      | ST JAMES SCHOOL SPORTS FIELD & PAVILION | Urban Area    | 1      |   |   | 2      |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 6.0  |        | This is a good quality site which offers spare capacity.                                                |
| 48      | SUSSEX RECREATION GROUND                | Urban Area    |        | 1 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 1.0  |        | The site is currently overplayed due to average quality pitches.                                        |
| 49      | SUTCLIFFE AVENUE PLAYING FIELDS         | Urban Area    |        |   | 1 |        |   |   |      |   |   | 0.5              | 0.5  |        | Site is played at capacity due to poor quality pitches.                                                 |
| 50      | THE STAMFORD CLUB                       | Urban Area    | 2      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 6.5              | 4.0  |        | Cleethorpes Town are keen to increase the number of pitches at the site to accommodate additional play. |
| 52      | JOHN WHITGIFT ACADEMY                   | Urban Area    |        | 2 |   |        | 1 |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 3.0  |        | There is some spare capacity at the site.                                                               |
| 59      | GREAT COATES PRIMARY SCHOOL             | Urban Area    |        | 1 |   |        | 1 |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 2.0  |        | Site is played at capacity due to poor average quality pitches.                                         |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| KKP ref | Site name                                       | Analysis area            | Senior |   |   | Junior |   |   | Mini |   |   | Matches per week |      |        | Consultation comments                                                                                                      |
|---------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------|---|---|------|---|---|------------------|------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                                 |                          | G      | A | P | G      | A | P | G    | A | P | play             | cap  | rating |                                                                                                                            |
| 60      | GRIMSBY INSTITUTE OF FURTHER & HIGHER EDUCATION | Urban Area               |        | 1 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 1.5              | 1.0  |        | The site is currently overplayed due to average quality pitches.                                                           |
| 70      | ROSS SPORTS GROUND (PEAKS LANE)                 | Urban Area               |        |   |   |        |   |   | 4    |   |   | 3.0              | 8.0  |        | Officially opened in August the site offers some capacity. There is demand to undertake further ground improvement works.  |
| 72      | HAVERSTONE PARK                                 | Urban Area               |        |   |   |        |   |   | 6    |   |   | 1.5              | 12.0 |        | This is a good quality site which offers spare capacity.                                                                   |
| 73      | WEST MARSH COMMUNITY CENTRE                     | Urban Area               |        |   |   |        |   | 1 |      |   |   | 1.5              | 0.5  |        | The site is overplayed. Levelling the pitch would increase the quality.                                                    |
| 79      | BARRETTS RECREATION GROUNDS (FOOTBALL)          | Urban Area               | 4      |   |   |        |   |   | 1    |   |   | 3.5              | 10.0 |        | The drainage at the site is poor and the pitches are regarded as being amongst the poorest quality in the area.            |
| 83      | CARR LANE SOCIAL CLUB                           | Urban Area               | 1      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | -                | 2.0  |        | Consultation suggests that this is a good quality site with no formal use currently identified.                            |
| 89      | MATTHEW HUMBERSTON LOWER                        | Urban Area               |        | 3 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 3.0  |        | There is minimal spare capacity.                                                                                           |
| 95      | WESTERN CAMPUS                                  | Urban Area               |        | 3 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 0.5              | 3.0  |        | The site offers spare capacity                                                                                             |
| 104     | GRANT THOROLD PARK                              | Urban Area               | 1      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 1.0              | 2.0  |        | There is minimal spare capacity.                                                                                           |
| 5       | BRITISH LEGION SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB             | Western and Southern Arc | 2      |   |   | 2      |   |   | 1    |   |   | 6.5              | 10.0 |        | The pitches are regarded as good quality. However, changing accommodation is poor but is being considered for replacement. |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| KKP ref | Site name                              | Analysis area            | Senior |   |   | Junior |   |   | Mini |   |   | Matches per week |      |        | Consultation comments                                                                                                |
|---------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|---|---|--------|---|---|------|---|---|------------------|------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                        |                          | G      | A | P | G      | A | P | G    | A | P | play             | cap  | rating |                                                                                                                      |
| 6       | BUTT LANE PLAYING FIELD                | Western and Southern Arc | 1      |   |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 2.0  |        | The site is currently operating at capacity.                                                                         |
| 11      | LUCARLYS (CLEETHORPES RUFC)            | Western and Southern Arc |        | 2 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 1.5              | 2.0  |        | Users report that the lack of verti-draining results in pitches becoming unplayable for the remainder of the season. |
| 15      | GREENLANDS RECREATION FIELD            | Western and Southern Arc |        | 2 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 3.5              | 2.0  |        | This is a popular site locally which is overplayed due to average quality pitches.                                   |
| 23      | HUMBERSTON MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE | Western and Southern Arc | 3      |   |   | 2      |   |   |      |   |   | 0.5              | 10.0 |        | There is potential to extend community use of the site.                                                              |
| 24      | JUBILEE PARK (ST CHRISTOPHERS)         | Western and Southern Arc |        | 2 |   |        |   |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 2.0  |        | The site is currently operating at capacity.                                                                         |
| 31      | MOUNT PLEASANT PLAYING FIELD           | Western and Southern Arc |        |   | 1 |        | 1 |   |      |   |   | 2.0              | 1.5  |        | The site is prone to flooding and has poor quality pitches which contributes to the overplay.                        |
| 32      | NEVILLE TURNER WAY PLAYING FIELDS      | Western and Southern Arc |        |   | 1 |        |   |   |      |   |   | 1.0              | 0.5  |        | The site is regarded as poor quality which contributes to the overplay.                                              |

### 7.6: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement'

#### *Summary of current demand*

Consultation suggests that there are generally sufficient numbers of pitches to accommodate play and that the main issues relating to demand are attributed to the perceived lack of dedicated training facilities and the poor quality of ancillary facilities within the area.

#### *Sites operating at capacity*

There are a number of sites which are currently operating at capacity which include:

- ◀ Sutcliffe Avenue Playing Fields
- ◀ Great Coates Primary School
- ◀ Butt Lane Playing Fields
- ◀ Jubilee Park (St Christopher's)

With the exception of Butt Lane Playing Fields these facilities are rated as average or poor quality. Improving the quality of these sites would increase the capacity for further play.

#### *Overplay*

There are, however, a number of key sites which are overplayed. Overplay occurs when there is more play than the site is able to sustain (which is dependent upon pitch quality). In summary, nine sites are overplayed by 12.5 matches each week. The greatest levels of overplay occur in the Urban Area (five matches) and Immingham (4 matches), which is indicative of the presence of large multi-team clubs in these areas.

Some overplay is attributed to junior and mini teams being assigned to a particular site and that particular site not containing formal marked out pitches of that size. So, for example, junior matches being played across senior sized pitches or mini pitches being informally marked out by cones across the site. An increase in formally marked out junior and mini pitches through creation of dedicated junior sites will help to reduce levels of overplay and reduce wear and tear of senior pitches.

The table below summarises the full extent of overplay expressed in North East Lincolnshire. This is based on the following assumptions:

- ◀ Good quality pitch – 2 matches per week.
- ◀ Average quality pitch – 1 match per week.
- ◀ Poor quality pitch – 0.5 matches per week.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 7.11: Summary of pitch overplay

| Site                                                | Analysis area          | Weekly overplay of matches | Site quality |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|--------------|
| Oasis Academy Immingham (Immingham Resource Centre) | Estuary Zone           | 4.0                        | Poor         |
| Clee Field Playing Fields                           | Urban Area             | 1.0                        | Poor         |
| Sussex Recreation Ground                            | Urban Area             | 1.0                        | Average      |
| The Stamford Club                                   | Urban Area             | 2.5                        | Good         |
| Grimsby Institute                                   | Urban Area             | 0.5                        | Average      |
| West Marsh Community Centre                         | Urban Area             | 1.0                        | Poor         |
| Greenlands                                          | Western & Southern Arc | 1.5                        | Average      |
| Mount Pleasant                                      | Western & Southern Arc | 0.5                        | Poor         |
| Neville Turner Way Playing Fields                   | Western & Southern Arc | 0.5                        | Poor         |
| <b>Total</b>                                        |                        | <b>12.5 matches</b>        |              |

Analysis of supply and demand has found that:

- Estuary Zone and Urban Area analysis areas have the greatest levels of overplay.
- Oasis Academy Immingham is the site with the highest level of overplay by 4.0 matches per week. It services a very specific catchment. However, other sites in these area show that a further 3.5 matches could be accommodated each week.

A number of sites are not currently played to capacity; where possible, it is recommended that overplay (as indicated above) is directed to these sites. These pitches represent an opportunity to reduce overplay on other sites in the area.

Whilst this is due to league structures, where possible, care should be taken to ensure the pitches are not overplayed, and therefore are not used on both Saturday and Sunday which is likely to be occurring given the preponderance of junior football on a Saturday and senior and mini football on a Sunday.

## **Temporal demand**

Temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day. It shows times of peak demand and use of pitches throughout the week. For senior, junior and mini football, the peak time use is Sunday.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

### Summary of future/latent demand

Latent demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if there was access to a sufficient number of pitches. Consultation identifies that there are several clubs that currently consider they have latent demand, which they cannot meet due to lack of access to facilities.

The table below summaries the latent demand identified by consultation.

*Table 7.12: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs (pitches)*

| Club                | Latent demand    | Analysis area            | Pitch requirement |        |
|---------------------|------------------|--------------------------|-------------------|--------|
|                     |                  |                          | Number            | Type   |
| Parity Young        | 1 Junior Team    | Out of the area          | 0.5               | Junior |
| Healing Hotspurs    | Not quantified   | Western and Southern Arc | -                 | -      |
| Cleethorpes Town    | Not quantified   | Urban Area               | -                 | -      |
| Trotters Traders FC | 2 senior teams   | Various                  | 1                 | Senior |
|                     | 1 junior teams   |                          | 0.5               | Junior |
| Solar JFC           | 4-6 Junior teams | Various                  | 2-3               | Junior |
|                     |                  |                          | 1                 | Senior |
|                     |                  |                          | 3-4               | Junior |

*Table 7.13: Summary of latent demand expressed by clubs (ancillary facilities)*

| Club              | Analysis area            | Facility requirement                  |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Humberston FC     | Western and southern arc | Better quality changing accommodation |
| Healing FC        | Western and southern arc | Toilets and showers in changing       |
| Laceby Arms FC    | Western and southern arc | Better quality changing accommodation |
| Healing Hotspurs  | Western and southern arc | Better quality changing accommodation |
| Cleethorpes Town  | Urban Area               | Greater security of tenure            |
| Number 1 Pub      | Urban Area               | Better quality changing accommodation |
| DMS Football Club | Estuary Zone             | Better quality changing accommodation |

The levels of latent demand are relatively low for pitch provision, which suggests that the majority of demand is accommodated by the current levels of provision. It is interesting to note the higher levels of latent demand cited for ancillary facility improvements. Although it is important to acknowledge that clubs struggled to quantify this in terms of numbers of teams.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

### **Football Team Generation Rates (TGRs)**

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables a comparison of participation to be made between different analysis areas and where similar studies have been undertaken. TGRs can help to quantify where and why to target sports development activities at a particular area, where participation may be low.

The following current TGRs have been calculated for each of the analysis areas based on the current supply and demand. Where no TGR is shown this indicates that no teams operate at that age group, for football, in that area.

*Table 7.14: Football TGRs*

| Analysis area                          | Senior (16-45) Men | Senior (16-45) Women | Junior (10-15) Boys | Junior (10-15) Girls | Mini-soccer (6-9) Mixed |
|----------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| Estuary Zone                           | 1:225              |                      | 1:155               |                      | 1:96                    |
| Rural Area                             | 1:263              |                      | 1:89                |                      |                         |
| Urban Area                             | 1:300              | 1:8,044              | 1:109               | 1:896                | 1:217                   |
| Western and Southern Arc               | 1:212              |                      | 1:55                | 1:216                | 1:1,020                 |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL</b> | 1:278              | 1:10,243             | 1:98                | 1:688                | 1:224                   |
|                                        |                    |                      |                     |                      |                         |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>                | <b>1:452</b>       | <b>1:19,647</b>      | <b>1:195</b>        | <b>1:4,038</b>       | <b>1:431</b>            |

Relative to national averages, participation rates in North East Lincolnshire are generally higher. For example, there are higher levels of senior men's and junior boy's football participation across all analysis areas. The Urban Area is the only analysis area to provide senior women's football whilst junior girl's football is played in both the Urban Area and Western and Southern Arc with participation rates which are well above average.

Mini-soccer TGRs show the strength of football in the Estuary Zone and Urban Area whilst in the Western and Southern Arc there is below national average levels of participation and no mini-soccer played in the Rural Area. However this is likely to be indicative of the preponderance of central venues for mini-soccer.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

### ***Future TGRs (2026)***

By applying current TGRs to the estimated population for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of new teams that could be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 7.13 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams by 2026. The greatest area of growth is likely to be in senior football. The need for additional pitches, based on TGRs and population growth will be discussed on an analysis area basis in the Strategy.

According to ONS statistics, there will be an 11.7% increase in the population in North East Lincolnshire over the next 15 years. This increase is applied below to give an indication as to how many additional football teams will be generated.

*Table 7.15: Future football TGRs (Number of additional teams)*

| Analysis areas                 | Senior men<br>(16-45) | Senior women<br>(16-45) | Junior boys<br>(10-15) | Junior girls<br>(10-15) | Mini soccer<br>(6-9) mixed |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| Estuary Zone                   | 0.9                   | -                       | 0.4                    | -                       | 0.7                        |
| Rural Area                     | 0.4                   | -                       | 0.2                    | -                       | -                          |
| Urban Area                     | 9.0                   | 0.4                     | 5.7                    | 0.7                     | 3.6                        |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 2.1                   | -                       | 2.0                    | 0.5                     | 0.1                        |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>12.6</b>           | <b>0.4</b>              | <b>8.4</b>             | <b>1.2</b>              | <b>4.4</b>                 |

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior for which there will be an anticipated further 13 teams by 2026. These teams are most likely to occur in the Urban Area. It is also anticipated that there will be an increase of nine junior and four mini-soccer teams. Growth in mini-soccer is predicted to be highest in the Urban Area and Estuary Zone.

### ***Surpluses and deficiencies***

The levels of spare capacity recorded on some senior football pitches does not necessarily equate to an oversupply of pitches. Spare capacity is most often recorded on school sites. It is also advisable to retain some spare capacity to account for training needs and to allow pitches to rest and rotate.

Where there is enough spare capacity senior pitches should be used to accommodate junior and mini play, for which, there is significant growing demand (including latent demand). In particular, demand for junior pitches is highest in the Urban Area, which reflects where play is centralised.

In summary, the current playing pitch stock should be protected and consideration should be given to changing the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior football as well as protecting spare capacity to help to improve the quality of pitches in the area.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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### Football summary

- ◆ KKP identified a total of 228 teams playing in North East Lincolnshire.
- ◆ FA demand trend analysis and team generation rates (TGRs) highlight that participation rates in North East Lincolnshire are significantly higher than national and regional averages.
- ◆ The audit identifies 128 pitches as available for community use. In addition, there are a further 70 pitches, which are not currently accessible to the community.
- ◆ Nine sites are overplayed by 12.5 matches each week. However, several sites offer spare capacity and should be considered as options for diverting play.
- ◆ A number of clubs in North East Lincolnshire report latent demand. In the main this relates to the provision of changing accommodation of a good quality.
- ◆ The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior men for which there will be an anticipated further 13 teams by 2026.
- ◆ The current playing pitch stock should be protected and consideration should be given to changing the designation of some senior pitches to cater for junior football as well as protecting spare capacity to help to improve the quality of pitches in the area.

## **PART 8: CRICKET**

### **8.1: Introduction**

Lincolnshire County Cricket Ltd (LCC) is the governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including North East Lincolnshire. Its role is to strategically manage the development of cricket in Greater Lincolnshire. This includes development of County teams, girls and boy's youth, as well as the County Cricket Club team, coach development, officials, volunteers and player pathways. Its main strategic vision is to provide a 'Cricket for All' culture through working with key partners across the County.

LCC has produced a Facilities Strategy (2009 – 2013) which provides a clear strategic vision of its facility needs to ensure it positions itself appropriately to access funding to support facility improvement. The Strategy focuses on supporting ECB focus clubs in relation to improving facilities for outdoor practice, access to good clubhouse amenities and sufficient good facilities with regards to sightscreens, covers and scoreboards.

The County is split into five district development groups; including one for North East Lincolnshire. It operates on a wider catchment than just the local authority boundary and includes settlements such as Louth and Caistor. The group acts as a local delivery arm for LCC.

Focus clubs have been identified strategically by the ECB as those committed to long-term junior development. This includes the adoption of a development plan (for the purposes of the development of the sport and facilities) and achieving (or working towards) Clubmark accreditation. In return, clubs receive support (both technical and financial) from the ECB. In total, there are two focus clubs in the area, Cleethorpes and Grimsby Town.

Two clubs in the area have achieved Clubmark status and as such are also ECB focus clubs; Cleethorpes and Grimsby Town. Each of these clubs has completed a Cricket Development Programme, which has been agreed by the LCC County Development Manager.

### **8.2: Current supply**

Clubs range from those with just one or two senior teams such as Scartho Rose & Crown and Waltham Millers, to the larger more established clubs such as Stamford Town, Cleethorpes and Grimsby Town which provide competitive opportunities for all age groups (the latter two are also Clubmark accredited).

Nine cricket pitches in the area are owned by North East Lincolnshire Council. One site; Stallingborough Playing Fields is managed by Stallingborough Parish Council and the remaining are managed by clubs on private sites. Whilst there is some variation in the overall standard and quality of pavilions, all clubs invest significant resource into the maintenance of their pitches.

The John Pettit Grimsby & District Cricket League is the main provider of competitive opportunity for senior cricket in the area. It operates a Saturday League fielding six teams (one division) and a mid week league (50 teams across seven divisions. For junior cricket, the John Pettit Grimsby & District Youth League is the main provider for opportunity operating divisions at U11, U13 and U15.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

*Table 8.1: Summary of pitches available for community use and teams by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | No. of pitches | No. of competitive teams |              |           |
|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------|-----------|
|                                |                | Senior men               | Senior women | Juniors   |
| Estuary Zone                   | 2              | 6                        | -            | -         |
| Rural Area                     | 1              | 1                        | -            | -         |
| Urban Area                     | 12             | 46                       | -            | 12        |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 2              | 5                        | -            | -         |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>17</b>      | <b>58</b>                | <b>-</b>     | <b>12</b> |

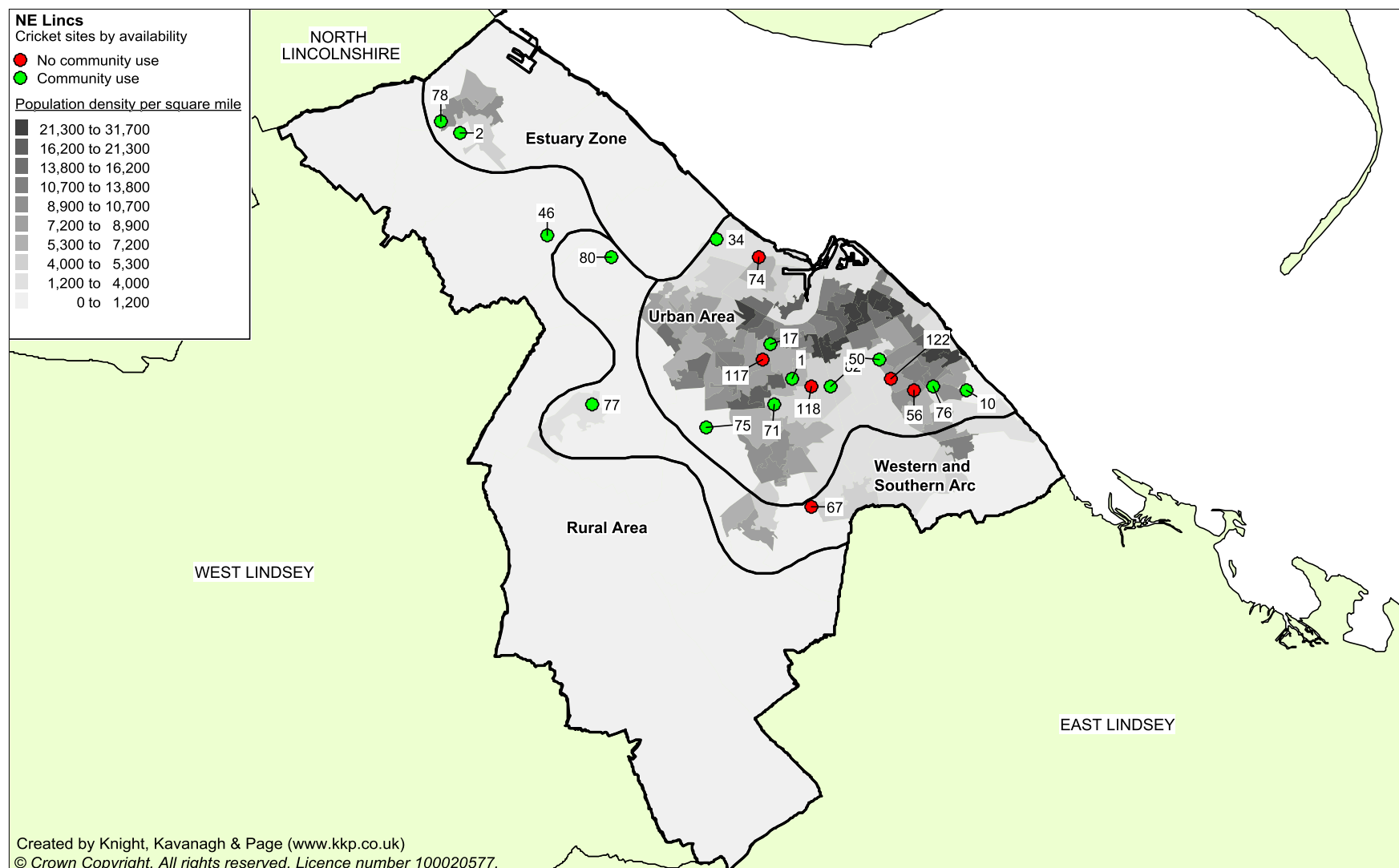
Towards a Level Playing Field identifies that a senior cricket pitch is defined as 46m x 46m (minimum size) with 1.6 – 2.0 hectares maximum safety. The minimum size of a junior cricket pitch is 37m x 37m.

With the exception of the main clubs (Cleethorpes and Grimsby Town), the large majority of cricket is played on artificial wickets at local authority sites; Bradley Recreation Ground, King Georges, Butt Lane and Barratts Recreation Ground. The sites are used by the John Pettit Grimsby Midweek Cricket League and Saturday League as central venues for its mid-week and Saturday leagues.

Figure 8.1 indicates that the large majority of cricket provision is located in the Urban Area providing 17 cricket pitches (across fourteen sites) available for community use. Furthermore, there are an additional five cricket pitches which are not available for community use located at education sites (with the exception of Tioxide Sports Field). The mapping indicates there are areas of high density in the Western and Southern Arc which have no access to cricket provision.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 8.1: Location of cricket pitches in North East Lincolnshire



# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 8.2: Key to map of cricket pitches

| Site name                                     | KKP reference | Analysis area            | Community use | Number of pitches |
|-----------------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| BLOSSOM WAY SPORTS CLUB (CRICKET)             | 2             | Estuary Zone             | Yes           | 1                 |
| ROVAL DRIVE (CRICKET)                         | 78            | Estuary Zone             | Yes           | 1                 |
| STALLINGBOROUGH PLAYING FIELDS                | 46            | Rural Area               | Yes           | 1                 |
| BARRETT'S RECREATION GROUNDS (CRICKET)        | 1             | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                 |
| BRADLEY RECREATION GROUND (CRICKET)           | 75            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                 |
| CLEETHORPES ACADEMY                           | 56            | Urban Area               | No            | 1                 |
| CLEETHORPES CRICKET CLUB                      | 10            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                 |
| DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES                       | 71            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                 |
| GRIMSBY TOWN CRICKET CLUB                     | 17            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                 |
| HEREFORD TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL CRICKET PITCH      | 117           | Urban Area               | No            | 1                 |
| KING GEORGE (CRICKET)                         | 76            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                 |
| NOVARTIS GRIMSBY SPORT & SOCIAL CLUB          | 34            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                 |
| OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM CRICKET PITCH       | 118           | Urban Area               | No            | 1                 |
| ROSS SPORTS GROUND (PEAKS LANE) (CRICKET)     | 82            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                 |
| ST ANDREWS COLLEGE (CRICKET)                  | 122           | Urban Area               | No            | 1                 |
| THE STAMFORD CLUB                             | 50            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                 |
| TIOXIDE SPORTS FIELD                          | 74            | Urban Area               | No            | 1                 |
| BRITISH LEGION SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB (CRICKET) | 80            | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                 |
| BUTT LANE PLAYING FIELD (CRICKET)             | 77            | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                 |
| TOLLBAR ACADEMY                               | 67            | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 2                 |

## 8.3: Current demand

### *Women's and girls' cricket*

Women and girls' cricket is at its infancy in the County, including the North East Lincolnshire area. LCC has recently launched five women's and girls' cricket hubs in and around the Lincolnshire area of which one; Cleethorpes CC is located in North East Lincolnshire. Clubs operating across the North East Lincolnshire area are encouraged to signpost girls' cricket to Cleethorpes CC.

# **NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY**

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## ***School cricket***

Chance to Shine is delivered through individual project working with County Cricket Boards. Each project provides a structured coaching and competition programme for a group of up to eight primary and secondary schools. The group of schools is supported by professional, qualified coaches engaged by one local cricket club. In North East Lincolnshire 'Chance to Shine' is delivered by the two ECB focus clubs, Cleethorpes and Grimsby Town. During the 2011 cricket season Grimsby Town CC delivered the scheme to 258 boys and girls and Cleethorpes CC to 2,758.

The ECB encourages links between clubs and schools through the development of ASDA Kwik Cricket festivals. However, links tend to be 'driven' by individual clubs, and are almost invariably underpinned by active club members and the Partnership Development Manager (PDM) at the SSP located at Oasis (Wintringham) across the Area. Kwik Cricket is focused around a small-sided game, which is delivered in playgrounds and/or generic halls.

## ***Disability cricket***

LCC has recently funded disability coaching sessions at special education needs school Cambridge Park with a view to creating a team to enter the Schools County Wide Special Schools Festival. The long term aspiration is to integrate this into Grimsby Town Cricket Club. However, disabled access to the facility will need to be considered to ensure the site can be accessed by participants.

## ***Club cricket***

There is high level senior and junior participation in the area, with the main clubs fielding at least six senior and four junior teams each and their home grounds operating at capacity. For example, Cleethorpes CC fourth team access The Stamford Club to accommodate senior activity at peak time (Saturday afternoon).

It is thought that a continued increase in club membership levels, particularly juniors, could have a significant impact on access and pitch quality.

Cleethorpes CC operates a strong and active membership with approximately 40 seniors and 100 juniors. Membership levels have increased over the previous three years and are operating at capacity at senior level. It reports that any increase in the number of senior teams it operates cannot be accommodated at the home ground.

Grimsby Town CC operates a strong and active membership. Since increases in membership in 2006/07, levels have remained static. It does not have any plans to increase the number of teams (at senior or junior level)

In addition to the large formal clubs, small clubs with one or two teams create high demand for mid-week cricket. These clubs tend to play on local authority pitches or school sites. Blossom Old Way Boys Cricket Club reports it receives more demand than it can accommodate for use of its cricket pitch for mid week cricket, due to a lack of access to cricket pitches in the area.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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Consultation and analysis of supply/demand suggests that the number of cricket pitches in the Area is not sufficient to meet levels of current demand, particularly for midweek teams.

Although demand is high across the area, senior men's participation has generally remained static over the previous three years. The ECB (which will be delivered through LCC) has plans to launch 'double dozen cricket' which aims to increase adult participation for 16–35 year olds. This will be a 'pay and play' cricket match lasting no longer than 90 minutes with free standing stumps. LCC has plans to deliver this initiative in North East Lincolnshire and believes its local authority sites would provide a good opportunity for this programme.

## *Peaks Lane/Gradley Sports*

The Peaks Lane development, funded through Section106, includes pitches and changing accommodation for the Gradley Junior Football League and the John Pettit Grimsby & District Youth League (JPGYL). A trust has been established (which is a combination of the football and cricket league) and has secured a 25 year lease on the site to ensure the long term sustainability of the site.

JPGYL recently secured funding from 'The Lord Taverners Fund' to resurrect the artificial wicket at the site, which also comprises four mini soccer pitches and a pavilion. It will be used as the central venue for JPGYL and will accommodate junior cricket divisions (U11, U13 and U15). It will be available for cricket community use from the cricket season 2012/13.

## ***Pitch quality***

Site assessments rate the large majority of pitches (75%) as good quality. Two sites received a poor score; Diane Princess of Wales and Tioxide Sport Field. Both sites are privately owned and are located in the Urban Area. Private sites are responsible for maintaining their own facilities and have designated groundsmen (often volunteers) to carry out cutting and maintenance.

Users of local authority site Barretts Recreation Ground rate the quality of the cricket pitch as poor. However, site assessments rate the overall quality of the pitch as good but noted there was a bare patch on the wicket.

NELC is responsible for maintaining local authority cricket pitches pre and post the cricket season. During the summer months it maintains a grass height of 12mm and 25mm in winter. Application of herbicide/fungicide and fertiliser is as and when required across pitches.

Maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. It is not possible to conduct a quality assessment of a cricket wicket within the methodology of this study. However, to obtain an accurate assessment, an ECB Performance Quality Standard (PQS) would need to be produced.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

The Lincolnshire Cricket Groundsmen Association (LCCA) is the body responsible for the continued professional development of groundsmen within the County. It also provides clubs with access to the most up to date machinery and techniques to enhance playing conditions. The majority of key clubs in the area are members.

Pitch advisors for the LCC are tasked to assess facilities in order to assess funding needs. Their role is to help and advise fellow groundsmen to improve playing surfaces and consistency in turf management practices.

## **Practice facilities**

Access to training nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. There is limited provision of suitable indoor practice facilities in the area and no designated indoor cricket net provision. Half of clubs currently use facilities in the area including Grimsby Leisure Centre, Cleethorpes Leisure Centre, Grimsby Institute or Oasis Academy (Winteringham). Consultation reports accessibility of indoor facilities in North East Lincolnshire is limited and often late bookings are only available which are not suitable for junior teams.

Cleethorpes CC has facility development plans to develop a designated indoor cricket facility on its site. Planning permission has not been sought for this proposal as of yet and external funding would be required. Given the locality of North East Lincolnshire in relation to the County, this facility development would not feature on LCC priority list. However, LCC would like to support the Club through improvement to its non fine turf pitch provision.

As part of the Club Development Plan (for focus clubs only), clubs are invited to record the quality and scope of facilities including square, outfield and practice facilities.

*Table 8.3: Square, outfield and practice facilities*

| Name of club | Square & outfield           |                 |                     | Square synthetic pitch          |                          | Practice facilities (off the playing area) |                          |
|--------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------------|--------------------------|
|              | No. of wickets (per square) | Quality pitches | Quality of outfield | No. of matches played on square | Quality of these pitches | No. of fine turf practice pitches          | Quality of these pitches |
| Cleethorpes  | 13                          | Good            | Good                | 1                               | Poor                     | 4                                          | Satisfactory             |
| Grimsby Town | 18                          | Good            | Good                | -                               | -                        | 3                                          | Good                     |

Grimsby Town has a large number of wickets available on its square, suggesting that its capacity to accommodate teams is highest. Cleethorpes has one synthetic pitch on its square, although it is rated as poor quality. Both clubs have access to practice facilities.

The quality of Cleethorpes fine turf pitches is rated as satisfactory (based on the 2009 Facility Strategy). However, consultation and site assessments identify the practice facilities have been extensively used by and the surface quality has further deteriorated and is now poor quality.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Consultation with Grimsby Town identifies that the quality of the outfield is poor due to undulated areas. The pitch is located on an old water meadow and as such the outfield suffers from poor drainage and moss. The Club highlights there are two water mains running under the pitch which have burst on five occasions over the previous 11 years flooding the pitch.

*Table 8.4: Changing and ancillary facilities*

| Name of club | Ancillary facilities |                     |                     |                |                      |               |                           |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|----------------------|---------------|---------------------------|
|              | No. team changing    | No. umpire changing | No. of shower heads | No. of toilets | No. of sight screens | No. of covers | Type of scoreboard or box |
| Cleethorpes  | 4                    | 1                   | 4                   | 7              | 5                    | 3             | Digital                   |
| Grimsby Town | 2                    | 1                   | 3                   | 2              | 4                    | 3             | Manual                    |

Each club has access to a minimum of two changing room and an umpires room. The changing facilities at Grimsby Town CC are old and small and do not cater peak time demand.

Natwest CricketForce<sup>3</sup> is an ECB volunteering initiative aimed at rejuvenating the nation's cricketing facilities. A number of clubs in the Borough have participated in the scheme, which has helped to increase the quality of existing clubhouse and ancillary facilities.

The ECB has also produced a series of technical guidance notes for cricket, including a document on pavilions and clubhouses. The aim of the guide is to provide practical advice for club officials and designers when planning pavilions and clubhouses. It applies to new buildings and alterations to existing facilities. The table below details the elements considered by ECB<sup>4</sup> to be essential/desirable for changing rooms.

*Table 8.5: ECB changing room standards*

| Changing rooms | Essential for each team changing room                                                                                                                                           | Desirable                                      |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Bench seating  | 12 spaces at 500mm wide x 450mm deep x 450mm high.                                                                                                                              | 600mm wide                                     |
| Kit bags       | 12 spaces at 1200mm long x 450mm deep x 400mm high.<br>The changing room layout should account for each player having their own kit bag or box, which can be as long as 1200mm. | 450mm high                                     |
| Changing       | Two rooms each with 20sqm for changing space, benches and bag storage with 1.8m between the front face of opposite benches.                                                     | 2m between the front face of opposite benches. |

<sup>3</sup> <http://www.ecb.co.uk/development/natwest-cricketforce/natwest-cricketforce-2009,1540,BP.html>

<sup>4</sup> TS5 document on Pavilions and Clubhouses – [www.ecb.co.uk](http://www.ecb.co.uk)

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| Changing rooms      | Essential for each team changing room                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Desirable                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Showers             | Three shower heads per changing room at 750mm centres with 450-500mm between showers fittings and the side walls. Showers on opposite walls should be at least 2.5m apart to allow circulation. A separate dry-off area should be provided.                                                                                             | Four shower heads. Always check the requirements of other sports governing bodies when designing mixed sports facilities. Consider privacy screens between showers or separate cubicles. |
| Changing rooms      | Essential for each team changing room.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | Desirable                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Toilets for players | Ideally provided with convenient access from the changing room, one WC and one wash-hand basin with mirrors above.<br><br>In pavilions with four or more team changing rooms, toilets for players must be integrated in the changing room and for the exclusive use of each team. This is not essential in two-changing room pavilions. | Two WCs and wash hand basins.<br><br>Note that providing urinals would make the changing rooms less flexible for female use.                                                             |

It is recognised that this guidance can be difficult to meet with limited space/funds available. However, any new developments should strive to meet these requirements.

Site assessments and consultation suggests the quality stock of ancillary facilities and pavilions in the Borough varies across the area. Vandalism is an issue at The Stamford Club and King George Playing Field with instances such as damage to sight screens, damage to the square and arson to changing rooms.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

### 8.4: Provision of cricket pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

A capacity rating (as per rugby and football) is not given for cricket pitches as it is not possible to determine the number of matches that can be played on a particular pitch. This is due to the length of matches, which cannot always be determined and also differs between adult and junior matches, even though both are often played on the same pitch.

Table 8.6: Cricket provision and level of community use

| KKP ref | Site name                             | Analysis area | Community Use | Number of senior pitches | Matches |        |        |        |       | Summary                                                                                            |
|---------|---------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                       |               |               |                          | Sat am  | Sat pm | Sun am | Sun pm | Other |                                                                                                    |
| 2       | BLOSSOM WAY SPORTS CLUB (CRICKET)     | Estuary Zone  | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 1     | The pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional play at the weekend.                        |
| 78      | ROVAL DRIVE (CRICKET)                 | Estuary Zone  | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 2     | The pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional play at the weekend.                        |
| 46      | STALLINGBOROUGH PLAYING FIELDS        | Rural Area    | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 0.5   | The pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional play at the weekend and mid-week.           |
| 1       | BARRETTS RECREATION GROUNDS (CRICKET) | Urban Area    | Yes           | 2                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 3.5   | The pitch is at capacity.                                                                          |
| 10      | CLEETHORPES CRICKET CLUB              | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1                        | 0.5     | 1      | 4.5    | 0.5    | 1.5   | The site is overplayed. Any additional play will result in a decrease in the quality of the pitch. |
| 17      | GRIMSBY TOWN CRICKET CLUB             | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1                        | -       | 1      | 0.5    | -      | 2.5   | The site is at capacity.                                                                           |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| KKP ref | Site name                                 | Analysis area | Community Use | Number of senior pitches | Matches |        |        |        |       | Summary                                                                                                                                   |
|---------|-------------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                           |               |               |                          | Sat am  | Sat pm | Sun am | Sun pm | Other |                                                                                                                                           |
| 34      | NOVARTIS GRIMSBY SPORT & SOCIAL CLUB      | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 1     | The pitch has the capacity to accommodate additional play at the weekend.                                                                 |
| 50      | THE STAMFORD CLUB                         | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1                        | -       | 1      | -      | -      | 1.5   | There is spare capacity to accommodate additional play on a Sunday.                                                                       |
| 71      | DIANA PRINCESS OF WALES                   | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 0.5   | The pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional play at the weekend. However, site assessments score the pitch as average quality. |
| 75      | BRADLEY RECREATION GROUND (CRICKET)       | Urban Area    | Yes           | 2                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 4     | The pitch is at capacity.                                                                                                                 |
| 76      | KING GEORGE (CRICKET)                     | Urban Area    | Yes           | 2                        | -       | -      | 0.5    | -      | 5     | The site is overplayed. Any additional play will result in a decrease in the quality of the pitch.                                        |
| 82      | ROSS SPORTS GROUND (PEAKS LANE) (CRICKET) | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | -     | The site will be available for community use as from the next cricket season 2012/13.                                                     |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| KKP ref | Site name                                     | Analysis area            | Community Use | Number of senior pitches | Matches |        |        |        |       | Summary                                                                     |
|---------|-----------------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|-------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                               |                          |               |                          | Sat am  | Sat pm | Sun am | Sun pm | Other |                                                                             |
| 77      | BUTT LANE PLAYING FIELD (CRICKET)             | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 1     | The pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional play at the weekend. |
| 80      | BRITISH LEGION SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB (CRICKET) | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                        | -       | -      | -      | -      | 1     | The pitch has spare capacity to accommodate additional play at the weekend. |

\*Usage for local authority sites has been estimated based on fixtures provided by the John Pettit Grimsby League (midweek and Saturday).

### **8.5: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement'**

#### ***Temporal demand***

The temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day on each pitch. Temporal demand identifies the time of peak demand and the percentage of matches played each day.

#### ***Current/future demand***

An analysis of match play identifies that current demand for cricket pitches is predominately midweek (88% of play) and is split evenly between midweek and Sundays for junior cricket. At times of peak demand, North East Lincolnshire is deficient in terms of the number of pitches to accommodate all playing commitments.

Although it is difficult to identify overplay by calculating the capacity of cricket pitches (as the length of a cricket match varies), it would appear that a handful of sites are operating over capacity i.e. Cleethorpes, Grimsby Town and King George Playing Fields. This is primarily due to the large number of teams playing on the pitches (senior and junior teams).

There are sites that are approaching capacity, for example, Roval Drive and Bradley Recreation Ground. However, the wickets provided at the sites are artificial and therefore can accommodate more matches than grass wickets. Stallingborough Playing Fields is the site least used and therefore has the capacity to accommodate additional play.

#### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded if there were access to sufficient pitches. Two clubs; Blossom Way Old Boys and Western Old Boys express latent demand (each for one mid-week team) for additional cricket pitches in North East Lincolnshire.

Furthermore, Cleethorpes CC is operating at capacity at its home ground. It already accesses The Stamford Club to accommodate its fourth team, which is also operating at close to peak time capacity.

#### ***Imported and exported demand***

It is highly probable that sites located on the perimeter of the Borough may import members living in neighbouring local authorities. For example, Keelby Cricket Club is located close to the boundary with North East Lincolnshire and reports the majority of its members travel two to five miles.

#### ***Cricket Team Generation Rates (TGRs)***

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. They are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables comparison of participation between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

The following current TGRs have been calculated for each analysis area. Where none is shown, no teams operate at that age group, for cricket, in that area.

*Table 8.10: Cricket TGRs*

| Analysis areas                 | Senior (18-55) men | Senior (18-55) women | Juniors (11-17) boys | Junior (11-17) girls |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Estuary Zone                   | 1:388              | -                    | -                    | -                    |
| Rural Area                     | 1:1,098            | -                    | -                    | -                    |
| Urban Area                     | 1:559              | -                    | 1:339                | -                    |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 1:515              | -                    | 1:993                | -                    |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>1:546</b>       | -                    | <b>1:413</b>         | -                    |
|                                |                    |                      |                      |                      |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>        | <b>1:1,415</b>     | <b>1:54,815</b>      | <b>1:1,480</b>       | -                    |

There is no national TGR for junior girls' cricket (11 – 17). Participation rates in North East Lincolnshire exceed national averages, given the large number of senior teams playing parks cricket. There are higher levels of junior boys' cricket participation in urban and Western and Southern Arc analysis areas. In some areas men's participation is relatively low, particularly in Estuary Zone.

### **Future TGRs (2026)**

By applying current TGRs to the estimated population for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of new teams that could be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 8.11 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams in 2026.

According to ONS statistics, there will be an 11.7% increase in the population in North East Lincolnshire over the next fifteen years. This increase is applied below to give an indication as to how many additional cricket teams will be generated.

*Table 8.12: Future cricket TGRs (Number of additional teams)*

| Analysis areas                 | Senior men (18-55) | Senior women (18-55) | Junior boys (11-17) | Junior girls (11-17) |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| Estuary Zone                   | 0.7                | -                    | -                   | -                    |
| Rural Area                     | 0.1                | -                    | -                   | -                    |
| Urban Area                     | 6.1                | -                    | 2.1                 | -                    |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 0.6                | -                    | -                   | -                    |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>7.4</b>         | -                    | <b>2.1</b>          | -                    |

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior men for which there will be an anticipated seven teams by 2026. These teams are most likely to occur in the Urban Area (where the large majority of cricket participation occurs). It is also anticipated that there will be an increase of two junior boys teams.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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As referenced earlier, women and girls' cricket is at its infancy in the County, including North East Lincolnshire. It is highly likely that the development of a women and girls' hub at Cleethorpes CC is likely to generate junior girls' teams which will operate at district level. Furthermore, ECB initiative 'double dozen' cricket which will be launched later this year may also increase adult participation in the area.

### ***Surpluses and deficiencies***

It is evident that there is a shortfall of cricket pitches in the Urban Area and a slight deficiency of pitches in the Estuary Zone. The Urban Area deficiency is attributed to the large number of senior teams in the area and overplay at sites such as Cleethorpes, Grimsby Town and King George Playing Fields.

In the future it is likely that the increase in population will create demand for additional pitches in the Urban Area.

There are five cricket pitches (primarily located at secondary school sites) in the Urban Area which do not currently have community use. Securing access to artificial wickets at school sites, for example, will help additional demand to be catered for. However, it is likely that investment will be needed to bring the wickets up to a standard suitable for competitive cricket.

As referenced earlier, Ross Sports Ground will provide an artificial cricket wicket and will be available from next season. However, this pitch will solely be used to accommodate junior fixtures whereas demand for pitches is needed in the Area to accommodate current and future senior play.

#### **Cricket summary**

- ◆ There are 17 cricket pitches available for community use in North East Lincolnshire, accommodating 70 teams (including senior and junior).
- ◆ Site assessments score the large majority (75%) of cricket pitch provision as good quality.
- ◆ There is a strong senior and junior league structure which supports high levels of participation.
- ◆ Partners should support clubs to develop women's and girl's teams and signpost this demand to Cleethorpes CC which has been designed as a hub.
- ◆ Although it is difficult to fully express overplay through calculating the capacity of cricket pitches, it would appear, through analysis of play that there are a number of pitches operating over capacity i.e. Cleethorpes CC, Grimsby Town and King George Playing Fields.
- ◆ Latent demand has not been reported by two clubs (each for one mid week team) which suggests that demand is not being met by existing provision.
- ◆ The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of senior mens (seven teams) and junior boys for which there will be an anticipated further two teams by 2026.
- ◆ An analysis of current and future demand identifies a shortfall of cricket pitches across the area. This is most pronounced in the Urban Area where there is also estimated to be an increase in teams by 2026. However, there are five cricket pitches in the Urban area which are not currently available for community use and could potentially help address the shortfall of provision.

## **PART 9: RUGBY**

### **9.1: Introduction**

Both codes of rugby, union and league are played in North East Lincolnshire. The rugby union season operates from September to April and the rugby league from February to September.

#### ***Rugby union***

The Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire & Derbyshire RFU is a constituent body of the RFU which is responsible for the management and development of rugby union throughout the three counties. Two clubs; Cleethorpes RFC and Grimsby RFC play on rugby pitches provided at privately owned sports clubs. Both clubs are Clubmark (Seal of Approval) accredited.

The RFU National Facilities Strategy provides a framework for the sustainable development of facilities for rugby union in England at a national, regional and local level. The framework will enable partners to:

- ✦ Identify priorities for facility developments to meet the various needs of the sport.
- ✦ Identify what facilities are required to meet the needs of the Government sports policy and the RFU's Strategic Plan.
- ✦ Support the prioritisation of investment and funding through a detailed set of developmental criteria, technical requirements, management / operational structures and potential financial viability which will be critical to the provision of quality rugby facilities.
- ✦ Prioritise future investment to ensure that the right facilities are provided in the right locations and for the right reasons.
- ✦ Identify and deliver a minimum standard for all facility provision.

Investment into facilities is targeted at priorities and areas of greatest need through county facilities plans.

#### ***Rugby league***

Rugby league for juniors and minis is developing around Sidney Park with the presence of Sidney Sussex Sharks ARLFC and more recently through the establishment of Immingham Wasps RLFC. Sidney Sussex Sharks ARLFC operates four mini teams from U8s to U11s whilst Immingham Wasps currently operates teams from U8s to U10s and trains at Eastfield Primary School. These clubs do not currently play within formal league structures but are using football pitches for training.

The Rugby Football League (RFL) is currently updating its facility strategy to further identify priorities. However, it is unlikely that North East Lincolnshire will feature as a key area.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## 9.2: Current provision

Table 9.1: Summary of rugby union pitches available for community use and teams

| Analysis area                  | No. of available pitches |          |          | No. of competitive teams |              |             |              |           |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|----------|----------|--------------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------|-----------|
|                                | Senior                   | Junior   | Mini     | Senior men               | Senior women | Junior boys | Junior girls | Mini      |
| Estuary Zone                   | -                        | -        | -        | -                        | -            | -           | -            | -         |
| Rural Area                     | -                        | -        | -        | -                        | -            | -           | -            | -         |
| Urban Area                     | 5                        | -        | -        | 3                        | -            | 6           | -            | 5         |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 2                        | -        | -        | 2                        | -            | 3           | -            | 6         |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>7</b>                 | <b>-</b> | <b>-</b> | <b>5</b>                 | <b>-</b>     | <b>9</b>    | <b>-</b>     | <b>11</b> |

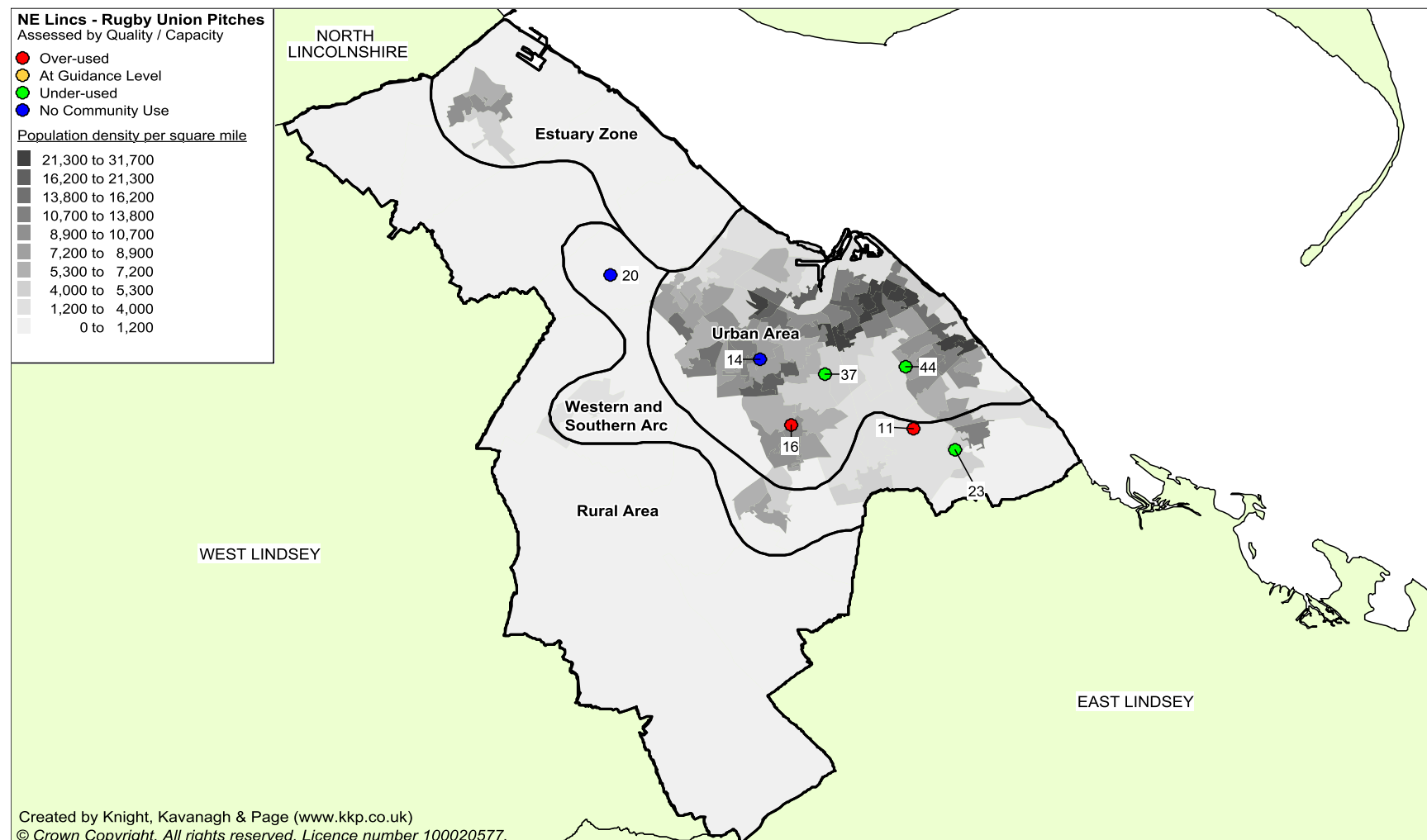
Towards a Level Playing Field identifies that a length of a senior rugby union pitch is 144m x 69m and a junior pitch is 70m x 43m. A size is not prescribed for mini rugby pitches. The audit only identifies dedicated, marked out pitches (i.e. with line markings).

All competitive senior rugby union is played on a Saturday and junior and mini rugby union is all played on a Sunday.

The audit identifies seven rugby union pitches available for community use in the area. This figure also includes rugby pitches located on secondary school sites (where there is other community use i.e. football pitches). The majority of secondary schools sites are used for curricular and extracurricular use only.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 9.1: Location of rugby pitches in North East Lincolnshire



## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

All rugby pitches are located in the Urban Area and Western and Southern Arc. Demand for dedicated rugby league pitches should be considered for the Urban Area and Estuary Zone in the context of the development of Sidney Sussex Sharks and Immingham Wasps.

Table 9.2: Key to map

| KKP ref | Site name (union)                      | Analysis area            | Community use | Pitches |
|---------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|---------|
| 14      | FRANKLIN COLLEGE                       | Urban Area               | No            | 1       |
| 16      | GRIMSBY RFC                            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 3       |
| 37      | OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM              | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1       |
| 44      | ST ANDREWS COLLEGE                     | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1       |
| 20      | HEALING SCHOOL - SCIENCE ACADEMY       | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 1       |
| 23      | HUMBERSTON MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1       |
| 11      | LUCARLYS (CLEETHORPES RFC)             | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1       |

### 9.3: Key issues for rugby

#### ***Rugby league***

There two rugby league clubs training in the area; Sidney Sussex Sharks and Immingham Wasps.

Sidney Sussex Sharks developed through offering 'Rugby in the Park' sessions for boys and girls in school years two to six. Given the lack of junior rugby league structures in the area the Club has affiliated to Hull & District Amateur Rugby League in order to provide an exit route for young people.

#### ***Rugby union***

##### *Cleethorpes RFC*

Cleethorpes RFC is based at Lucarlys which is a sports and social club. The site is privately owned and comprises of one senior rugby pitch, two football pitches and clubhouse. However, it is reported that the Club has to use porta cabin changing accommodation during times when the Club is not open.

Consultation with the RFU indicates that the Club is operating at capacity and will require access to a second pitch to continue its development work. The Club's junior and mini teams currently use the football pitches at the site. Furthermore, it reports plans to increase the number of junior boys and girls' teams by one each respectively. Within its club development plan the Club identifies year on year growth by one age group until U17.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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The Club has facility plans to place a storage container at the site to accommodate items of kit. The lease of the ground expires in 2015 which is likely to have a limiting effect on the scale of works which can be undertaken at the site. It reports that the quality of the ground has improved through a change in grounds staff. However, the level of grass cover at the site remains a concern for the Club.

As well as using areas of the home ground the Club also reports that a range of other facilities are used for training purposes.

### *Grimsby RFC*

Grimsby RFC owns its site located on Springfield Road which includes three pitches, clubhouse and changing accommodation. The site is owned by the Club. However, there is a covenant on the land which states that it must be used for sport and if the Club ever wished to sell it the Earl of Yarborough would have first refusal. There had previously been plans considered regarding the Club's relocation but these never materialised.

The Club fields three senior, and eleven junior and colts teams. It reports that whilst its senior teams have remained static over the previous three years, the junior section has increased. The first team competes in the Midlands 3 East (North) League.

The RFU regards the Club as very strong in terms of its development work but is inhibited by the quality of its facilities. The RFU has sought to work with the Club over a period of six years to remedy issues with the quality of clubhouse and changing facilities. It is noted that the Club's capital budget has been reduced by the on-going refurbishments and replacements to the current structure.

Partners including the RFU, NELC and the Club are keen to consider opportunities to secure funding through the Sport England 'Inspired Facilities' fund to ensure the on-going sustainability of the Club. It is felt that the Club should endeavour to secure £100,000, with additional monies potentially secured through other funding bodies such as WREN.

It is noted that the RFU no longer funds plans exceed more than £70-80,000 per constituent body, following the 40% cuts to the NGBs funding. However, the Rugby Football Foundation Interest Free Loan scheme provides up to £100,000 in an interest free loan to capital works to clubs at level 4 and below which contribute to the retention and recruitment of community rugby players. The Club has been advised that a maximum contribution of £250,000 could be secured to support its facility developments but that it would have to provide a clear rationale for the developments.

It is believed that the best option would be for the development of a new four team changing block at the end of the existing structure with the refurbishment of the clubhouse and existing two team changing accommodation.

The Club has three pitches and an area which is used for training. There are some drainage issues on the first pitch notwithstanding the excellent surface and a need to provide floodlighting to the first pitch at the site. There is also a need to drain the second pitch which is uneven in places and the third, which is slightly under-size. There are between 50-60 matches played across these pitches to accommodate senior matches with a further 80-100 sessions taking place which are a combination of junior and mini rugby and training.

Training facilities are limited to a small 60x40 metre area, which is poorly lit by training lights and which becomes waterlogged during inclement weather hence the need for the Club to go off-site for training facilities. It currently trains for four evenings each week during the season. During the four winter months the Club uses indoor facilities at Tollbar Academy and Oasis Academy Wintringham.

The Club would consider the clubhouse as a priority which could assist in providing a commercial gain to fund the development of the changing accommodation. However, the RFU advocates the benefits of developing the changing accommodation as the main priority given that it will support the development of the sport per se.

### ***Demand***

Junior membership levels at both Grimsby RFC and Cleethorpes have increased in the previous three years. Over the last three years Cleethorpes RFC has developed nine junior teams whilst Grimsby RFC continues to experience an increase in popularity across the clubs junior sections.

### ***Latent demand***

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded were access to a sufficient number of pitches available. Cleethorpes RFC report latent demand for pitches. It cites latent demand for two senior teams equating to one additional senior pitch.

### ***Education pitches***

Grimsby RFC accesses school pitches at Oasis Academy Wintringham and occasionally Tollbar but note that this can be costly and inhibits greater use. Furthermore, use of more than one site is also not conducive to the growth and sustainability of a club.

### 9.5: Provision of rugby pitch sites assessed by quality and capacity

Table 9.4 overleaf shows the ratings of each rugby pitch based on the non-technical quality assessment and the carrying capacity for each pitch. Calculation of *capacity* is based on the qualitative ratings. Taking into consideration SE guidelines on capacity the following was concluded:

|                                                                                       |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| If a pitch is rated as 'good' its capacity is specified as two matches per week       |  |
| If a pitch is rated as 'acceptable' its capacity is specified as one match per week.  |  |
| If a pitch is rated as 'poor' its capacity is specified as one match every other week |  |

The following section presents the current pitch stock available for rugby in the area. It illustrates:

- ◆ Number of pitches rated as good (G), average (A) and poor (P) on each site.
- ◆ The type of pitch(es) on the site (senior, junior, mini).
- ◆ The column entitled 'matches per week' is split into three sections – play, capacity and rating:
  - ◆ The current level of play per week (0.5 for each match played at the site, assuming half of matches will be played 'away').
  - ◆ The capacity of the pitches on each site.
  - ◆ The rating of the pitches, which indicates if pitches are played under capacity (green), played at capacity (amber) or played over-capacity (red).

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 9.3: Rugby provision and level of community use

| KKP ref | Site name                              | Analysis area            | Community use | Senior |   |   | Matches per week |          |        | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|---------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------|---------------|--------|---|---|------------------|----------|--------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                                        |                          |               | G      | A | P | Play             | Capacity | Rating |                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| 16      | GRIMSBY RFC                            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 3      |   |   | 11.5             | 6.0      |        | Overplay is attributed to the high number of teams using the site and the high levels of training which are factored into the analysis of play.                                                       |
| 37      | OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM              | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1      |   |   | -                | 2.0      |        | The site offers spare capacity and potential for further play. There is occasional use for training purposes by Grimsby RFC but this is noted to be on an ad hoc basis and hence is not recorded.     |
| 44      | ST ANDREWS COLLEGE                     | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1      |   |   | -                | 2.0      |        | The site offers spare capacity and potential for further play.                                                                                                                                        |
| 11      | LUCARLYS (CLEETHORPES RFC)             | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1      |   |   | 8.0              | 2.0      |        | Overplay is attributed to the high number of teams using the site and the high levels of training which are factored into the analysis of play.                                                       |
| 23      | HUMBERSTON MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1      |   |   | -                | 2.0      |        | The site offers spare capacity and potential for further play. There is occasional use for training purposes by Cleethorpes RFC but this is noted to be on an ad hoc basis and hence is not recorded. |

### 9.6: 'Shortfall, adequacy and requirement'

#### ***Summary of current demand***

The table below summaries the sites in each analysis area that are currently being played beyond capacity. The capacity of the site is calculated by applying a carrying capacity (i.e. the number of matches per week) that should be played on the pitch based on its current quality.

*Table 9.4: Summary of pitch overplay by analysis area*

| Site            | Analysis area            | Weekly overplay of matches |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| Grimsby RFC     | Urban Area               | 5.5                        |
| Cleethorpes RFC | Western and Southern Arc | 6.0                        |
| Total           |                          | 11.5                       |

As referenced previously the high levels of overplay are attributed to the large number of junior teams playing at both clubs

#### ***Temporal demand***

Temporal demand for games is the proportion of matches that are played each day. It shows times of peak demand and use of pitches throughout the week. For pitches across the area it is highest for senior games on a Saturday and junior games on a Sunday.

#### ***Summary of future/latent demand***

Latent demand is defined as the number of teams that could be fielded given access to sufficient pitches.

Cleethorpes RFC report latent demand for pitches. It cites latent demand for two senior teams equating to one additional senior pitch.

Furthermore, it is believed that additional teams could be accommodated at Grimsby RFC if a fourth pitch could be accommodated at the site and if better ancillary facilities were provided (i.e. more changing accommodation). However, it is difficult to quantify this at present as the Club is already regarded as operating above and beyond its capacity in terms of both pitches and ancillary facilities.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

### ***Rugby Team Generation Rates (TGRs)***

TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in an area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Calculating TGRs enables participation comparisons to be made between different areas where similar studies have been undertaken. The following current TGRs have been calculated on an area by area and North Lincolnshire wide basis.

*Table 9.5: Rugby union TGRs*

| <b>Analysis areas</b>          | <b>Senior<br/>(18-45)<br/>men</b> | <b>Senior<br/>(18-45)<br/>women</b> | <b>Junior<br/>(13-17)<br/>boys</b> | <b>Mini-rugby<br/>(8-12)<br/>mixed</b> |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Estuary Zone                   | -                                 | -                                   | -                                  | -                                      |
| Urban Area                     | 1:7,166                           | -                                   | 1:841                              | 1:2,115                                |
| Rural Area                     | -                                 | -                                   | -                                  | -                                      |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 1:1,783                           | -                                   | 1:273                              | 1:278                                  |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>1:5,490</b>                    | <b>-</b>                            | <b>1:722</b>                       | <b>1:1,224</b>                         |
|                                |                                   |                                     |                                    |                                        |
| <b>NATIONAL AVERAGE</b>        | <b>1:7,032</b>                    | <b>1:43,770</b>                     | <b>1:2,105</b>                     | <b>-</b>                               |

Relative to national averages, participation rates in North East Lincolnshire (attributed to participation in the Urban Area and Western and Southern Arc analysis areas) are generally higher except for senior women's rugby, for which there are currently no teams participating in the area.

In particular the levels of participation are above average in the Western and Southern Arc analysis area and are above national averages for junior boys in the Urban Area.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

### **Future TGRs (2021)**

By applying current TGRs to the estimated population for 2026, we can project the theoretical number of new teams that could be generated in the future, and therefore the expected demand on the facilities. Table 9.7 below provides details about potential increases in the number of teams in 2026.

According to ONS statistics, there will be an 11.7% increase in the population in North East Lincolnshire over the next eleven years. This increase is applied below to give an indication as to how many additional rugby teams will be generated.

*Table 9.6: Future rugby union TGRs (Number of additional teams)*

| Analysis areas                 | Senior (18-45) men | Senior (18-45) women | Junior (13-17) boys | Mini-rugby (8-12) mixed |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|
| Estuary Zone                   | -                  | -                    | -                   | -                       |
| Urban Area                     | 0.4                | -                    | 0.7                 | 0.6                     |
| Rural Area                     | -                  | -                    | -                   | -                       |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 0.2                | -                    | 0.3                 | 0.7                     |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>0.6</b>         | <b>-</b>             | <b>1.1</b>          | <b>1.3</b>              |

The most likely future increases in the number of teams are identified in the category of mini-rugby for which there will be an anticipated further 1.3 teams by 2026 and 1.1 junior boys' teams. These increases are most likely to occur in the Rural Area and Western and Southern Arc. It is also anticipated that there will be an increase of 0.6 senior teams. It is also likely that the number of women's and girls' teams will increase by 2021 given the

### **Surplus and deficiencies**

It is clear that both club sites are operating above their current capacity and together with latent demand this results in a current deficiency of senior pitches. Coupled with the proposed increases in teams, it is likely that both clubs will have to consider alternative measures for accommodating training to prevent further overplay.

#### **Rugby summary**

- ♦ There are seven rugby union pitches and one rugby league pitch in the Borough which accommodate 25 rugby union teams.
- ♦ A further development has arisen in the development of two rugby league clubs including Immingham Wasps and Sidney Sussex Sharks. At present these clubs are training on football pitches and not competing formally.
- ♦ The distribution of rugby pitches is concentrated in the Urban Area and Western & Southern Arc analysis areas.
- ♦ Grimsby RFC has a pressing need to re-develop its changing accommodation and clubhouse.
- ♦ There is a high level of overplay in the area attributed to the high levels of match play and training.
- ♦ Cleethorpes RFC also reports latent demand for access to an additional pitch.
- ♦ There is likely to be a future deficit of rugby pitches by 2026.

## **PART 10: HOCKEY**

### **10.1: Introduction**

Governance of the sport is devolved by England Hockey (EH) at a regional and local level to regional and county associations with North East Lincolnshire classified as the North. The game is played predominately on sand based/filled artificial grass pitches (AGPs). EH has also now sanctioned (in partnership with the Football Association) competitive use of 40mm pile third generation turf pitches. However, this is currently only for a low level standard i.e. training and junior competition. It is further recommended that for training and community facilities that the long pile surface (60mm) is not a preferred option for the teaching of hockey. It is noted that access to long pile surfaces for introducing the game to beginners would be preferable to a poor grass or tarmac surface.

### **10.2: Current provision**

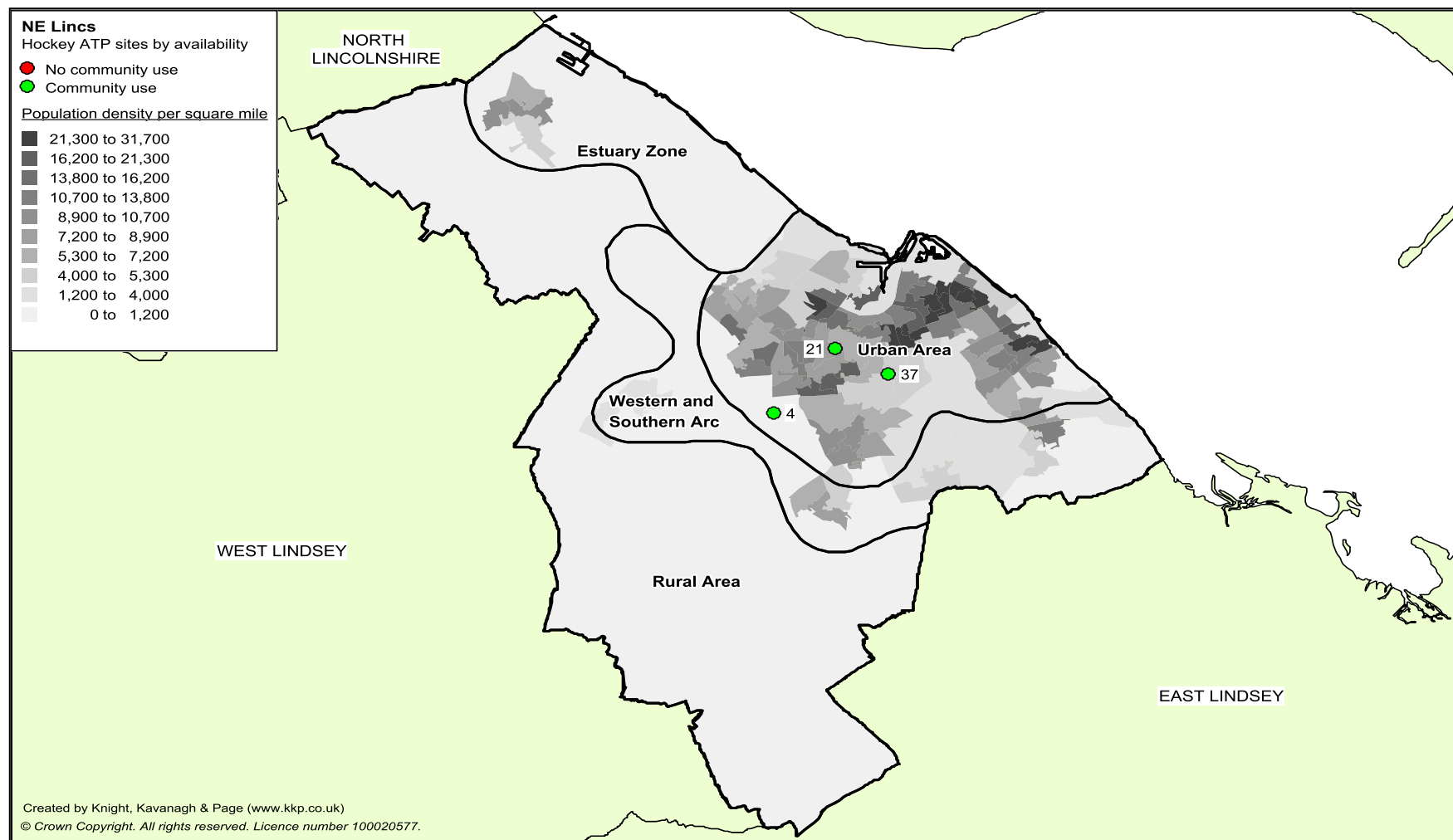
Grimsby Hockey Club, providing men's hockey and Wintringham Ladies Hockey Club, providing ladies hockey have recently come together to work in partnership as a mixed gender club under Grimsby Hockey Club and Grimsby Hockey Academy. The clubs are working together to deliver the Grimsby Hockey Academy for men, women, boys and girls which is regarded as the feeder organisation for the men's and ladies sections.

There are two, full sized, floodlit, sandbased AGPs, suitable for competitive hockey in North East Lincolnshire. They are provided at education sites and are all single pitch sites:

- ◀ Hereford Technology School
- ◀ Oasis Academy Wintringham

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 10.1: Location of AGPs in North East Lincolnshire



## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 10.1 indicates that the distribution of AGP facilities is focused in the Urban Area. Although there is no provision in the remaining analysis areas, it is considered that the majority of demand is catered for centrally through the Grimsby Hockey Academy.

*Table 10.1: Key to AGP location map*

| Site name                              | KKP reference | Analysis area | Community use | No of AGPs | Surface | Floodlit |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|------------|---------|----------|
| BRADLEY RECREATION GROUND <sup>5</sup> | 4             | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1          | Rubber  | Yes      |
| HEREFORD TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL             | 21            | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1          | Sand    | Yes      |
| OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM              | 37            | Urban Area    | Yes           | 1          | Sand    | Yes      |

### 10.3: Development

#### ***Demand***

The Grimsby Hockey Academy has been developed with the aim of rejuvenating interest in hockey after a decline in new players taking up the sport locally in recent years and recognising that there is no other club based provision in the area.

Grimsby Hockey Academy, through the merger, now caters for all players and competitive elements of the sport. The men's first team play in division three of the Yorkshire League whilst the ladies' first and second teams play in division one of the Humberside League.

Demand for the sport generated at the new Academy is reported to have resulted in the formation of the men's second team. This has been delivered through a range of initiatives including the 'Back to Hockey' programme. Furthermore, the junior section, through work with schools, has also grown from nil to around 50-60 juniors regularly attending training.

The Academy has also established links with local partners including schools, Leeds University and the regional Hockey Development Group and is working towards ClubsFirst (Clubmark) accreditation. It is hoped that this will contribute to the sustainability of participation in hockey in North East Lincolnshire.

Sport England awarded the Academy £9,750 to support its development. The funding has been used to provide training sessions and to purchase equipment such as free hockey sticks which have assisted in encouraging potential players to try the sport.

Consultation suggests that demand for hockey in the area is being met through provision at Grimsby Hockey Academy. Whilst it covers a large catchment area, the Club is able to accommodate demand at recreation and competitive levels. No further demand has been identified in other areas of North East Lincolnshire.

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<sup>5</sup> The site is listed as an AGP but is not suitable for hockey.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

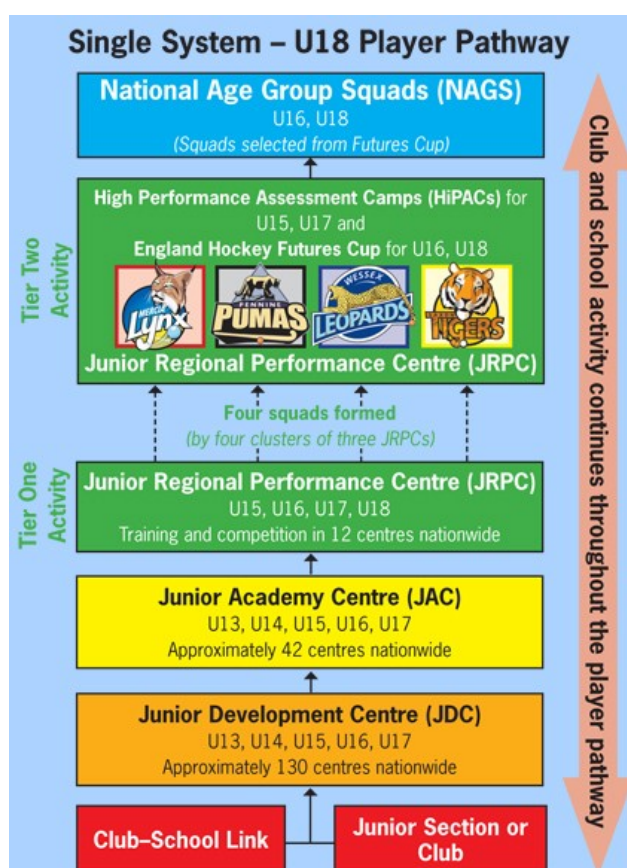
## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

England Hockey highlight that there is potential for Grimsby Hockey Club, as a Priority Club<sup>6</sup>, to grow exponentially over the next three to five years through the development of a further three teams and a similar level of growth in the junior section. It is noted that the Club is supported by a strong and proactive committee which will realise the ambitions of the Club to develop further.

### Single System Pathway

EH is currently working on its Facilities Strategy which is expected to be launched later this year (2011). However, this will be built around its strategic priority, the Single System Pathway.

Figure 10.2: England Hockey Single System Pathway



### Junior Development Centres (JDC)

A Junior Development Centre is a local training centre for the U13 to U17 age groups. Each centre is open to any hockey player who has been nominated by their club, school or coach. After playing for a club or school, attending a centre is the next step on the Player Pathway.

In order to become a JDC, the site must provide a full size (preferably floodlit) STP and be able to provide a minimum of 12 hours coaching per week from U13 through to U17s.

<sup>6</sup> As a Priority Club it receives additional support from the England Hockey Relationship Manager.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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### *Junior Academy Centres (JAC)*

A JAC is the next step on the Player Pathway. JACs are located in the majority of cases at same locations as JDCs.

Development of the game is increasing across the area particularly through the Grimsby Hockey Academy.

### ***Grass hockey pitches***

Nationally, in recent years, the number of grass hockey pitches has reduced significantly as EH does not sanction the use of grass pitches for competitive play. However, grass pitches are still important in terms of introducing the game to beginners and still make an important contribution to the stock of hockey pitches, particularly in terms of school facilities.

There are two grass hockey pitches at Healing School which are used only for the purposes of delivering PE lessons.

### **10.4: Key issues for hockey**

Hockey activity is split between Oasis Academy Wintringham and Hereford Technology School. The two men's teams play at Hereford Technology College and the ladies' teams play at Oasis Wintringham. The Academy trains on a weekly basis at Oasis Wintringham and accommodates a range of abilities.

*Table 10.2: Summary of quality*

| Site name                  | KKP ref | Quality rating | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------|---------|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HEREFORD TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL | 21      | Good           | Built in 2005. The facility is regarded as being in a good condition and still has several years before re-surfacing will be required. The School accommodates both hockey and football use on the facility and hence there is a relatively high level of wear and tear assumed at the site. Users note that access to school facilities and toilets is, however, limited.   |
| OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM  | 37      | Good           | Built in 2009. It is the newest in North East Lincolnshire and as such is in high demand. Coupled with good access to the sports centres facilities the AGP is a good base for club activity. The Academy and ladies teams are based at this site. In some respects use is limited by the presence of the Grimsby Town FC Academy which has a significant proportion of use. |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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### 10.5: Usage

Research conducted by Sport England into the use of AGPs suggests that provision plays two principal roles – midweek training for football and weekend matches for hockey. Often, the size of the pitch is divided up for training purposes. Junior football training tends to dominate the use of AGPs and can accounts for approximately 50-70% of the usage as there is only one third generation turf pitch in the area, catering for football.

*Table 10.3: Summary of usage*

| Site name                  | KKP ref | Teams                               | Usage                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| HEREFORD TECHNOLOGY SCHOOL | 21      | 2 senior teams                      | Used for club matches including Grimsby Hockey Club men's teams. Although the site has some spare capacity for hockey, pitch quality will deteriorate more quickly with likely increased use. |
| OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM  | 37      | 2 senior teams<br>Frequent training | This facility currently accommodates the bulk of hockey activity locally as well as being a primary venue for the Grimsby Town Hockey Academy.                                                |

The future growth of Grimsby Hockey Club and its Academy is likely to increase demand for access to pitches in the future. Future demand could be considered to equate to three additional teams and at least one additional junior training session.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 10.4: Supply and demand balance

| Supply/Demand Balance                                                                                                         | England total | Yorkshire region | North East Lincolnshire UA |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>Supply</b> - Pitch provision (pitches) scaled to take account of hours available for community use                         | 1329.4        | 112.83           | 4.1                        |
| <b>Demand</b> - Pitch provision (pitches)                                                                                     | 1653.98       | 175.11           | 4.9                        |
| <b>Supply / Demand balance</b> - Variation in pitches of provision available compared to the minimum required to meet demand. | -324.58       | -62.28           | -0.8                       |

The supply and demand balance identified in Sport England's Facility Planning Model (FPM) shows a slight deficiency of 0.8 pitch in the provision of pitches available compared to the requirement to meet demand.

Table 10.5: Satisfied demand

| Satisfied demand                                        | England total | Yorkshire region | North East Lincolnshire UA |
|---------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Total number of visits which are met                    | 924232        | 83939            | 2932                       |
| % of total demand satisfied                             | 75.5          | 64.8             | 80.9                       |
| % of demand satisfied who travelled by car              | 82.7          | 84.1             | 80.9                       |
| % of demand satisfied who travelled by foot             | 15            | 14.3             | 16.1                       |
| % of demand satisfied who travelled by public transport | 2.3           | 1.6              | 3.1                        |
| Demand Retained                                         | 0             | 80765            | 2883                       |
| Demand Retained -as a % of Satisfied Demand             | 0             | 96.2             | 98.3                       |
| Demand Exported                                         | 0             | 3174             | 49                         |
| Demand Exported -as a % of Satisfied Demand             | 0             | 3.8              | 1.7                        |

In terms of satisfied demand it is evident that North East Lincolnshire has a good level of demand satisfied. The levels of demand satisfied 'by foot' or 'by public transport' are slightly higher than national averages which suggest that there is a relatively high level of localised demand.

The low level of demand exported reflects rural nature of North East Lincolnshire. There is little provision to which demand could be exported.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 10.6: Unmet demand

| Unmet Demand                                                | England total | Yorkshire region | North East Lincolnshire UA |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|------------------|----------------------------|
| Total number of visits in the peak, not currently being met | 299714        | 45643            | 691                        |
| Unmet demand as a % of total demand                         | 24.5          | 35.2             | 19.1                       |
| Equivalent in pitches                                       | 405.02        | 61.68            | 0.93                       |
| % of Unmet Demand due to ;                                  |               |                  |                            |
| Lack of Capacity -                                          | 88.4          | 89.6             | 87.6                       |
| Outside Catchment -                                         | 11.6          | 10.4             | 12.4                       |
| Outside Catchment;                                          | 11.6          | 10.4             | 12.4                       |
| % Unmet demand who do not have access to a car              | 4.7           | 4.9              | 6.7                        |
| % of Unmet demand who have access to a car                  | 6.9           | 5.5              | 5.7                        |
| Lack of Capacity;                                           | 88.4          | 89.6             | 87.6                       |
| % Unmet demand who do not have access to a car              | 23.8          | 23.8             | 36.2                       |
| % of Unmet demand who have access to a car                  | 64.6          | 65.8             | 51.5                       |

Unmet demand as a percentage of total demand is below national (24.5%) and Yorkshire (35.2%) averages at 19.1%. Mapping of unmet demand shows pockets of unmet demand in Immingham, Cleethorpes and areas to the south of Grimsby town centre.

## Hockey summary

- ◀ There are two AGPs suitable for hockey and two grass hockey pitches in North East Lincolnshire.
- ◀ Grimsby Men's Hockey Club and Wintringham Ladies Hockey Club have recently formed a partnership to create Grimsby Hockey Club and Grimsby Hockey Academy as an initiative to increase demand for hockey locally. The formation of the Academy has resulted in the development of an additional men's team.
- ◀ Grimsby Hockey Club and the Academy are likely to maintain a strong period of growth which will require additional access to pitches for potentially an additional three teams and access for junior training.
- ◀ Towards a Level Playing Field suggests that an AGP should not accommodate more than four competitive matches on a peak day (normally a Saturday). Using this guidance it is recognised that the current patterns of play ensure that each site has capacity for additional play to be accommodated.
- ◀ The supply and demand balance for AGPs shows a slight deficiency of 0.8 of a pitch in the Borough.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## PART 11: BOWLS

### 11.1: Introduction

Bowls England is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring effective governance of flat green bowls. Locally, it is administered by the Lincolnshire County Bowling Association (LCBA). The bowling season runs from May to September.

### 11.2: Supply

There are 25 flat bowling greens in North East Lincolnshire located across 18 sites. The Urban Area provides the largest number of bowling greens (19 in total). There are no bowling greens located in the Rural Area. However, given the rural nature to some aspects of the area, greens in neighbouring areas are accessible.

*Table 11.1: Summary of bowling greens available for community use*

| Analysis area                  | No. of flat bowling greens |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Estuary Zone                   | 1                          |
| Rural Area                     | -                          |
| Urban Area                     | 19                         |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 5                          |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>25</b>                  |

There are two sites in the area which provide a large number of flat bowling greens; Sussex Recreation Ground (four greens) and Barretts Recreation Ground (five greens).

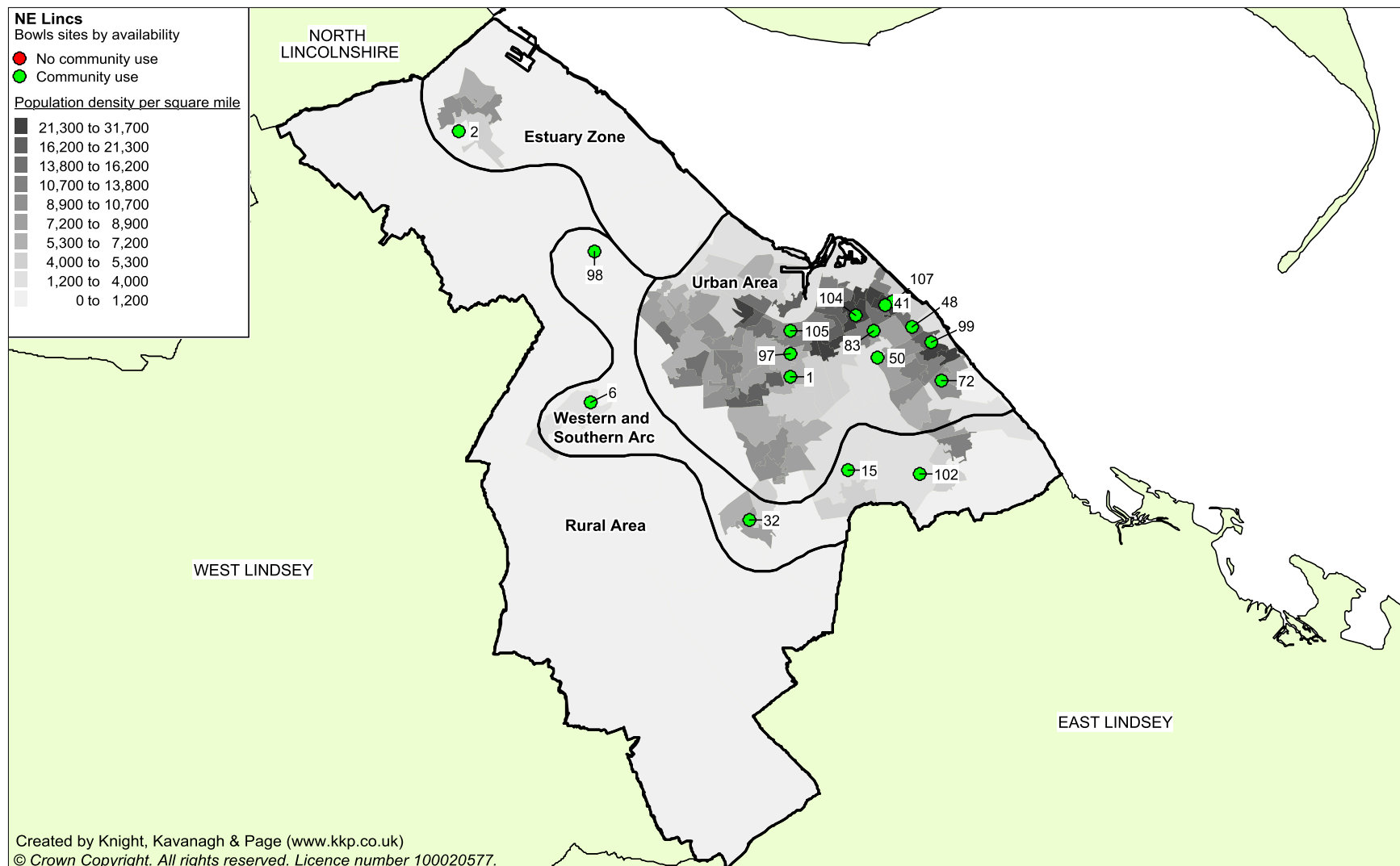
There are ten NELC owned sites with bowling greens:

- Barretts Recreation Ground
- Butt Lane Playing Fields
- Greenalnds Recreation Field
- Neville Turner Way Playing Fields
- Sidney Park
- Haverstone Park
- Peoples Park
- Poplar Road
- Grant Thorold Park
- Sussex Recreation Ground

Figure 11.1 below shows the large majority of bowling provision is concentrated on the Urban Area. With the exception of Rural Area, the remaining analysis areas appear to be well served by bowling provision.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 11.1: Location of bowling greens in North East Lincolnshire



# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 11.2: Key to map of bowling greens

| Site name                              | KKP reference | Analysis area            | Community use | Number of greens |
|----------------------------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| BLOSSOM WAY SPORTS CLUB (CRICKET)      | 2             | Estuary Zone             | Yes           | 1                |
| BARRETT'S RECREATION GROUNDS (CRICKET) | 1             | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                |
| CARR LANE SOCIAL CLUB                  | 83            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| CLEETHORPES BOWLING CLUB               | 99            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| CLEETHORPES CONSERVATIVE CLUB          | 107           | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| GRANT THOROLD PARK                     | 104           | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| GRIMSBY & WEST END BOWLING CLUB        | 105           | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| HAVERSTONE PARK                        | 72            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| PEOPLES PARK                           | 97            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                |
| SIDNEY PARK                            | 41            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| SUSSEX RECREATION GROUND               | 48            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 5                |
| THE STAMFORD CLUB                      | 50            | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| BUTT LANE PLAYING FIELD                | 6             | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                |
| ESPORTA (HUMBERSTON COUNTRY CLUB)      | 102           | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                |
| GREENLANDS RECREATION FIELD            | 15            | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                |
| NEVILLE TURNER WAY PLAYING FIELDS      | 32            | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                |
| POPLAR ROAD                            | 98            | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 1                |

### 11.3: Demand

Consultation generally shows that participation in bowls in North East Lincolnshire has decreased over the past three years. For example, Barretts Bowls Club reports a decrease of two teams due to its aging membership. One club; Grimsby Bowling and West End Social has increased its senior membership but reports that this is expected to decrease next season. Clubs suggest that any growth through recruitment of new members can be accommodated at existing provision.

Life expectancy in North East Lincolnshire is 76 years old for males and 81 for females. Based on the Census 2001, the highest rate of increase is predicted to be in the older age groups. The number of people aged 65 and over is projected to increase by 55% in North East Lincolnshire from 26,800 in 2004 to 41,500 by 2029. These figures reflect regional and national trends, with Yorkshire and the Humber and England as a whole projected to have around a 54% increase in the number of people over 65 by 2029.5. Therefore retention of existing provision in the area would help to sustain current levels of participation.

Until 2010, NELC Sports Development Team delivered the 'Grimsby and Cleethorpes Bowls Week' at Sussex Recreation Ground. This was a local competition which was well regarded by clubs in the area. Clubs express demand for this to be reinvigorated as this

could help to raise the profile of bowls within the local community and increase levels of participation.

Consultation highlights there has been less usage of greens located at local authority recreation grounds Barretts and Sussex due to a general decline in participation levels over recent years. As a result, some of the greens are maintained to a lower standard than those in use. For example, Barretts Recreation Ground provides five bowling greens, however, only two are in use for bowls.

### ***Juniors***

There is no junior bowling participation in the area. Waltham Park Bowling Club indicates a desire to encourage junior members through providing junior coaching opportunities. Pay and play is encouraged by NELC and is available across all local authority owned sites (discount is given to junior players).

### ***Leagues***

It is common for clubs to enter teams into a number of leagues. For example, Waltham Bowling Club competes in five different leagues. As a result, there are a large number of mens, ladies and vets bowling leagues servicing the area. This includes:

- ◀ Grimsby and Cleethorpes District Bowling Federation
- ◀ Grimsby, Cleethorpes and District English Bowling Association
- ◀ Roving Jack League
- ◀ Lincolnshire County Fours League
- ◀ Humberside County Bowling Association

## **10.4: Other key factors**

### ***Management***

The Neighbourhood Services Team at NELC is responsible for the upkeep and hire of all local authority bowling greens. Clubs accessing local authority bowling greens do not rent the green. Individuals obtain an annual season ticket from NELC which in return provides all inclusive access to all local authority greens.

NELC has aspirations to introduce long term lease agreements across its bowling green stock at sites such as Sussex Recreation Ground and Peoples Park. However, club's operating at these sites are reluctant to take on the management of a lease agreement as this would include the maintenance of greens which it couldn't afford or sustain.

### ***Quality***

Site assessments score over three quarters (76%) of the bowling green provision as good quality. One site; Sussex Recreation Ground was assessed as below quality scoring 54%. However, it should be noted the green is not used as a bowling green due to a lack of demand but is maintained to a lower standard. The remaining five greens were rated as average quality.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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Barretts Bowling Club report the quality of their designated green at Barretts Recreation Ground is slightly poorer compared to last season due to inadequate maintenance. It reports demand for more regular cutting particularly during dry months and also sanding in the ditched.

Vandalism can have a detrimental impact on the quality of greens and is more prone at sites where there is no perimeter fencing around the green, for example, Barrett Recreation Ground which is used for young people during the winter to play informal football. However, the site does accommodate a senior football pitch. Grimsby & West End Bowling Club reports it as recently installed CCTV to deter vandalism.

The quality of Poplar Park bowling green has recently improved as part of a £2m grant from the Heritage Lottery *Fund* (HLF). The site comprises two bowling greens and a croquet lawn. Improvements to the site included replacing of the old 1960 toilet block with a new pavilion with cafe and toilets, reinstatement of old planting schemes, pathways resurfaced and perimeter fencing around the bowling green.

### **Accessibility**

Consultation identifies that the majority of members travel two to five miles to play. This suggests that the distribution of greens across the area is adequate.

Pay and play usage of bowling greens is important as it can help to raise the profile of the sport, increase membership levels and revenue of sites. All local authority sites are available for pay and play. Grimsby and West End Bowling Club is not available for pay and play unless you as a guest of an existing member.

### **Ancillary facilities**

It is usual for bowling clubs to have access to associated ancillary facilities, such as changing rooms, toilets and social areas. The majority of sites in North East Lincolnshire offer ancillary facilities with access to running water and electricity. However, these vary in quality.

The following table summarises the key site specific issues raised by clubs during consultation:

*Table 11.3: Summary of site specific issues*

| Name of club/site                 | KKP reference | Comments                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Grimsby and West End Bowling Club | 105           | The Club has facility development plans to develop changing provision at the site.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| Carr Bowling Club                 | 83            | The away changing pavilion at the site is dated and of poor quality.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| Waltham Park Bowls Club           | 32            | Its homeground is located at Neville Turner Way and is leased to Waltham Parish Council. Both the Parish Council and Club have raised funds to develop a log cabin pavilion to service the bowling members. However, access to water, electricity, a kitchen and toilet facilities will be needed and funding is yet to be secured. |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| Name of club/site          | KKP reference | Comments                                                              |
|----------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Barretts Recreation Ground | 1             | The pavilion roof has recently been damaged and is in need of repair. |

### Bowls summary

- There are 25 bowling greens in the area, located across a range of sites including recreation grounds, parks and private social clubs.
- Participation in bowls in the area has decreased over the past three years.
- Given that the population over 65 is projected to increase by 2026, retention of existing provision in the area would help to sustain current levels of participation.
- Site assessments rate the large majority of bowling green provision as good quality. One site; Sussex Recreation Ground was assessed as below quality scoring 54%. However, it should be noted the green is not used as a bowling green due to a lack of demand but is maintained to a lower standard.
- Pay and play is available across all local authority managed sites but is more restricted at private sites. Pay and play is important as it can help to raise the profile of the game, increase levels of membership and revenue of sites.
- It is not thought likely that current and future demand for bowls will result in the need for new provision.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

### PART 12: TENNIS

#### 12.1: Introduction

Governance of the sport is nationally administered by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). Lincolnshire Lawn Tennis Association administers, and is responsible for, the development of tennis across the County. The LTA employ a county tennis development team, which operates across Lincolnshire.

North East Lincolnshire has a strong but compact tennis club structure which is largely focussed around St James Tennis Club, Grimsby Tennis Centre and Esporta Humberston.

There is also a strong league presence in the area; Lincolnshire Winter Team Mini Tennis League and the Lincolnshire Doubles League, Lincolnshire Veterans League and the AEGON Team Tennis Leagues (open and junior) which supports competitive structured tennis.

North East Lincolnshire also has a number of council owned publicly available tennis courts which the LTA is keen to see greater community use of under the AEGON Parks Tennis programme which seeks to offer affordable tennis for casual community use. As a key part of this it aims to offer grass-root support, helping to increase access to tennis for players of all levels.

#### 12.2: Current provision

There are 101 tennis courts of which 72 are available for community use. In total, 43 courts (which represent over two-fifths of the provision) are located at school sites, of which, 24 are regarded as being available for community use. However, in practice schools note that demand for access to these courts, which are also often used as playground area, is limited.

NELC's 32 courts are located across nine sites. Barretts Recreation Ground and Sussex Recreation Ground are the largest sites offering ten and eight courts respectively whilst the remaining sites tend to offer between one and three courts.

*Table 12.1: Summary of courts by analysis area*

| Analysis area                  | Tennis courts |          |           |
|--------------------------------|---------------|----------|-----------|
|                                | Good          | Average  | Poor      |
| Estuary Zone                   | -             | -        | -         |
| Rural Area                     | -             | 2        | -         |
| Urban Area                     | 44            | 4        | 21        |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 25            | 2        | 3         |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>69</b>     | <b>8</b> | <b>24</b> |

Figure 12.1: Location of tennis courts in North East Lincolnshire



## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 12.1 indicates that there is a generally a good supply of public and private courts across the most densely populated areas. However, there are no dedicated tennis courts in the Estuary Zone. Whilst there is a MUGA area at Immingham Leisure Centre, which can offer tennis, it is not regarded as dedicated provision.

*Table 12.2: Key to map of tennis courts in North East Lincolnshire*

| Site name                              | KKP ref | Analysis area            | Community use | Number of courts |
|----------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| CHAPEL LANE PLAYING FIELDS             | 7       | Rural Area               | Yes           | 2                |
| BARRETT'S RECREATION GROUNDS (CRICKET) | 1       | Urban Area               | Yes           | 10               |
| CLEETHORPES ACADEMY                    | 56      | Urban Area               | No            | 4                |
| DUKE OF YORK GARDENS                   | 103     | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| GRIMSBY TENNIS CENTRE                  | 101     | Urban Area               | Yes           | 6                |
| HAVELOCK ACADEMY                       | 19      | Urban Area               | No            | 4                |
| HAVERSTONE PARK                        | 72      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                |
| MACAULEY PRIMARY SCHOOL                | 29      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                |
| MATTHEW HUMBERSTON LOWER               | 89      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 4                |
| OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM              | 37      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 4                |
| ST JAMES TENNIS CLUB                   | 100     | Urban Area               | Yes           | 8                |
| SUSSEX RECREATION GROUND               | 48      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 8                |
| WESTERN CAMPUS                         | 95      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 6                |
| JOHN WHITGIFT ACADEMY                  | 52      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 10               |
| BUTT LANE PLAYING FIELD                | 6       | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 2                |
| ESPORTA (HUMBERSTON COUNTRY CLUB)      | 102     | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 4                |
| HEALING SCHOOL - SCIENCE ACADEMY       | 20      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 3                |
| HUMBERSTON MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE | 23      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 6                |
| MOUNT PLEASANT PLAYING FIELD           | 31      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 2                |
| NEVILLE TURNER WAY PLAYING FIELDS      | 32      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 3                |
| POPLAR ROAD                            | 98      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 2                |
| TOLLBAR ACADEMY                        | 67      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 8                |

Barretts Recreation Ground is regarded as a key venue for tennis in the area whilst St James Club is the largest club site in North East Lincolnshire.

### 12.3: Development

The LTA has recently launched its Places to Play Strategy<sup>7</sup>. Its overall aims are to:

- ✦ Increase the number of people participating.
- ✦ Increase the number of juniors competing.
- ✦ Increase the number of people accessing coaches.

To achieve this, delivery of the Strategy will prioritise funding available for building low cost, quality indoor structures, floodlighting outdoor courts and renovating park courts.

The Lincolnshire LTA has approached NELC with a view to introducing affordable parks tennis through this strategy. Consultation suggests that the Council has some concerns with relinquishing pay and play tennis as a means of funding on-going improvement works. Notwithstanding it is important to note that Place to Play does not necessitate tennis to be provided free of charge and the Council may actually see an increase in the use of pay and play if there was greater animation of parks courts. The key aspect of the LTA's strategy is to maximise the use of park courts.

The LTA believes that Barretts Recreation Ground offers excellent potential to be developed as a Beacon status site and given the location between both clubs home sites, opportunities exist for each to support the delivery of coaching. It is keen to work with NELC going forward to support the development of a Beacon status site.

#### ***High performance centres/satellite clubs***

In total, there are 19 High Performance Centres (HPC's) throughout England. These centres are designed to meet the needs of performance juniors providing high level coaching and fitness programmes and access to top facilities. The County of Lincolnshire does not have any HPC's.

Satellite clubs form part of the high performance network providing more localised provision. The role of a satellite club is to provide quality coaching and competitive opportunities for performance players, focusing on the development of players aged 12 and under.

Again, there is no designated satellite centre located in the North East Lincolnshire. As a result, performance players in the Borough are forced to travel to the nearest centre at Boston Tennis Club.

#### ***School courts/tennis***

Tennis activity in schools across the area is delivered by the North East Lincolnshire Schools Sports Partnership (NELSSP) which is the main driver of tennis participation in schools. Over the last year it has delivered a Mini Red Tennis Competition for primary schools at St James Tennis Club and delivered a Tennis Central Venue League hosted by Tollbar Academy.

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<sup>7</sup> <http://www.lta.org.uk/Articles/Clubs1/Places-to-Play-Strategy/What-is-the-Places-to-Play-Strategy/>

St James Tennis Club is the main partner engaged in supporting schools activity given its Clubmark accreditation. It also works closely with Grimsby College to support young coaches.

### **12.4: Key issues for tennis**

#### ***Quality***

Tennis provision in North East Lincolnshire is generally recognised as good quality, with over two-thirds (68%) of the courts rated as good quality. Conversely, almost a quarter (24%) of courts are rated as poor quality.

There is a good supply of public courts across North East Lincolnshire. The maintenance outcome specification for tennis courts states that the courts must be marked and markings clearly maintained throughout the year.

Grimsby Tennis Centre, which has courts rated as excellent, has plans to resurface the courts over the next two years. However, it has not yet identified funding to undertake the improvements. In previous years St James Tennis Club has also resurfaced three carpet courts at its site.

Tennis courts at Neville Turner Way are noted to be run down and are rated as poor quality, scoring 20%. The sites shows evidence of loose gravel, holes and rips in the surface with poor grip underfoot and poor line markings. There is also evidence of inappropriate use and glass, stones and litter.

Courts which are rated as below average quality are in the main located at school or former school sites including Havelock Academy, John Whitgift Academy and Western Campus, whilst the court at Duke of York Gardens is also rated as below average quality.

As noted the quality of local authority and education courts is generally lower than club courts. Private sites tend to invest in specialist maintenance and have dedicated staff responsible for maintenance. Education courts are often dual purpose areas which also serve as playgrounds and general recreation areas.

The local authority courts at Barratts Recreation Ground (which include two grass courts), Butt Lane Playing Fields and Haverstone Park are regarded as the best quality sites in terms of park provision, achieving a good rating through site assessments. However, consultation suggests that four of the courts (i.e. macadam courts) at Barratts Recreation Ground which achieve an average site assessment rating of 61% actually require resurfacing.

NELC remove the tennis nets in November and install them again in March which limits damage caused to the nets during the winter months when there is no use of the facilities.

### ***Demand***

#### *Parks tennis*

NELC report that the most popular park courts are provided at Sussex Recreation Ground, Haverstone Park and Barratts Recreation Ground. The use of these facilities is authorised through the purchase of a licence and use of the courts is monitored by site attendants who collect pay and play monies. Each site has a minimum of two full times attendants during the summer months. However, figures for pay and play use are not formally recorded which limits the extent to which the Council can record changes in demand. However, anecdotal evidence suggests that there has been a decline in demand for park courts over recent years whilst demand for club based facilities remains strong.

It is noted that the declining demand for pay and play opportunities in parks and the rising maintenance costs mean that the revenue generated through the collection of fees no longer meets the costs associated with the upkeep of these facilities. Whilst this is noted, NELC remains reticent to introduce free tennis as this would further reduce the revenue income achieved through pay and play.

#### *Club tennis*

Grimsby Tennis Centre report that senior and junior membership levels have increased in the previous three years and it has plans to increase the number of members further by 20 members in both the senior and junior sections. The Club's facility is land locked, having sold off a strip for housing some years ago to fund the upgrading of the facilities. As a consequence the Club would be unable to accommodate any further courts in the future. However, the current facilities are modern and fit for purpose and can accommodate current, and most likely, future demands.

There had previously been plans for St James Tennis Club to relocate to an indoor venue. These plans have been put on hold due to the lack of funding identified. The Club will consolidate facilities at its current site. However, it is believed that the relocation plans may have had a negative impact upon memberships at the Club. Nonetheless St James remains a very strong club with an active junior coaching programme and an exhaustive adult competition section. The levels of membership at the Club are fairly equally split between senior and junior and are thought to be in the region of 200+ based on LTA information.

Consultation suggests that there is also likely to be a future need for St James to consider the lifespan of its clubhouse and changing accommodation which is becoming dated.

There are no clubs currently using local authority courts. However, NELC report that it has previously approached St James Tennis Club to engage the Club in using the courts at Barretts Recreation Ground. This would add value to the site and is likely to in turn increase participation.

LTA guidelines state that club facilities should be able to accommodate 40 members per court and 60 members per floodlit court. Between November and April when daylight is shorter and indoor provision is not available, illuminating outdoor courts adds 35% more playing time. The following highlights current levels of capacity at the three main clubs in North East Lincolnshire.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 12.3: Club capacity

| Site                  | No. of courts | No. of floodlit courts | Capacity | Current membership |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| St James Tennis Club  | 8             | 3                      | 380      | Est. 220+          |
| Grimsby Tennis Centre | 6             | 6                      | 360      | 230                |
| Esporta Humberston    | 4             | 0                      | 160      | -                  |

All tennis clubs are currently operating under capacity. It should be noted that the membership levels are estimates only based on information ascertained through club surveys and LTA records. The above table does not take into account the number of attendees at coaching sessions and only official club members.

### Latent demand

Latent demand is expressed when additional courts are required to meet increases in playing membership. No latent demand has been identified for additional courts in North East Lincolnshire.

### Accessibility

The majority of schools across the area provide tennis courts (often over marked with netball courts), which also serve as playground areas. It appears there is no community use of education courts reportedly due to a lack of demand for the type of tennis courts offered at most school sites.

#### Tennis summary

- ◆ North East Lincolnshire provides 101 tennis courts. In total, there are three tennis clubs in the area. Consultation reports membership levels remained static and that it appears that current levels of demand can be met at present.
- ◆ Pay and play is available at a number of parks sites in the area. However, consultation reports that demand is in decline and that the revenue collected is no longer sufficient to cover maintenance costs.
- ◆ The LTA is keen for a Beacon site to be developed in the area and notes that Barretts Recreation Ground would be an ideal location.
- ◆ St James Tennis Club is unlikely to move in the current climate and will consolidate operations at the current site. Grimsby Tennis Centre has plans to resurface a number of courts in future years to maintain the quality.
- ◆ There is limited community use of tennis courts at education sites, primarily due to be a lack of demand for such provision. Clubs in the area already have established home grounds and NELC provides an extensive range of public courts, which therefore limits demand for accessing courts on education sites.
- ◆ Over two-fifths of the courts are rated as good quality.

## **PART 13: ATHLETICS**

### **13.1: Introduction**

The sport is governed by England Athletics (EA), which also works at a regional and local level via regional and county associations. Much of the development work is delivered by the local Club and Coach Support Officer. England Athletics and UK Athletics (UKA) are encouraging the development of club networks.

Grimsby Harriers & Athletic Club and Cleethorpes Athletic Club provide opportunities for senior and junior members in a range of athletic disciplines including track and field, cross country and road racing.

### **13.2: Development**

England Athletics, working with the UKA are currently developing a facility strategy which will identify priorities for facility investment from 2013 onwards.

England Athletics has also produced a guide 'What we are going to do and how we will do it 2009-2013' which outlines the NGB's way of working with partners in relation to facilities it outlines EAs plans to:

- ◀ Work with UKA to maintain and develop the existing stock of specific training and competition facilities for affiliated clubs and communities.
- ◀ Work with UKA to influence local planning frameworks, growth agendas and local authorities to improve local athletics facilities.
- ◀ Work with UKA to improve access to training facilities to support aspiring coaches and athletes.

### **13.3: Current provision**

The King George V Stadium is an eight lane, synthetic, 400 metre track with a stand which can accommodate 750 spectators. The track is floodlit and also accommodates full field events. Grimsby Harriers & Athletic Club and Cleethorpes Athletic Club are both based at the King George V Stadium and between these clubs they occupy four evenings (Monday to Thursday) at the stadium such that it could be considered to be used to capacity. There is also occasional use of the facility by Louth Athletic Club

### **13.4: Key issues for athletics**

#### ***Facility quality***

Both clubs have recently been in negotiation with Sport and Leisure Management (SLM) who manage the track on behalf of NELC. The negotiations have resulted in an increased charge of £25 per hour for the clubs. Rates had previously been lower in recognition of the fact that the clubs were struggling to meet the costs. However, in exchange for the increase in costs SLM has agreed to undertake a series of works to ensure that the track retains its certification. This has included resurfacing lanes one and two of the track, purchasing a high jump bed and a new throwing cage.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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The main issue at King George V Stadium relates to the lighting of the track. The lighting currently only covers 2-3 outside lanes and during the winter months the inside lanes can be very dark. This also restricts the clubs in training and competing in high jump in the winter.

The clubs make little use of the changing accommodation at the Stadium which is regarded as poor quality. However, the majority of junior participants arrive in kit and would not use these facilities.

There is demand for more storage to be made available at the Stadium. In many cases coaches are required to store equipment. This becomes an issue where a coach might not attend every session.

### ***Demand***

Both Grimsby Harriers & Athletic Club and Cleethorpes Athletic Club are well established clubs which tend to have a consistent membership particularly for juniors.

The track is now only open from 4pm during the week and from 9-2pm on a Saturday. Consultation suggests that there is demand for more time to be made available during the weekend, particularly in winter to support training during daylight hours.

It is also noted that during the football season the clubs are unable to use the in-field for throwing.

During the winter both clubs access sports halls. Last winter Cleethorpes Athletic Club used Cleethorpes Academy following a move from Havelock Academy. It is unsure as yet which facility will be use for the coming winter training. Consultation indicates that Grimsby Harriers & Athletic Club had been unable to secure an indoor training venue last winter which resulted in a slight decline in membership levels.

Cleethorpes Athletic Club also runs a road running section which operates from Cleethorpes Cricket Club (to accommodate use of changing provision). It notes that this has had a positive effect on the level of participation for senior members.

Cleethorpes Athletic Club has purchased a track wheelchair and has introduced a wheelchair racing group for young athletes.

#### **Athletics summary**

- ◀ There are two athletic clubs in North East Lincolnshire; Grimsby Harriers and Athletic Club and Cleethorpes Athletic Club. Both are based at the King George V Stadium and operate training sessions on alternative evenings.
- ◀ Improving lighting at the track and increasing daytime use at weekends would allow both clubs to train more often.
- ◀ There is also demand to provide additional storage at the track.
- ◀ Membership levels across both clubs generally remain consistent.

## **PART 14: NETBALL**

### **14.1: Introduction**

The England Netball Association (ENA) is the governing body with overall responsibility for ensuring the effective governance of the sport. League netball in the County is played using indoor and outdoor courts and there are both summer and winter leagues in operation.

### **14.2: Development**

#### *Humberside County Netball Association*

The Humberside County Netball Association has a number of key priorities which include:

- ◀ Increasing netball participation in the Humber.
- ◀ Developing clubs, umpires and coaches.
- ◀ Working closely with primary and secondary schools to encourage more young people to play or get involved in netball.
- ◀ Encouraging women to get “Back to Netball”.

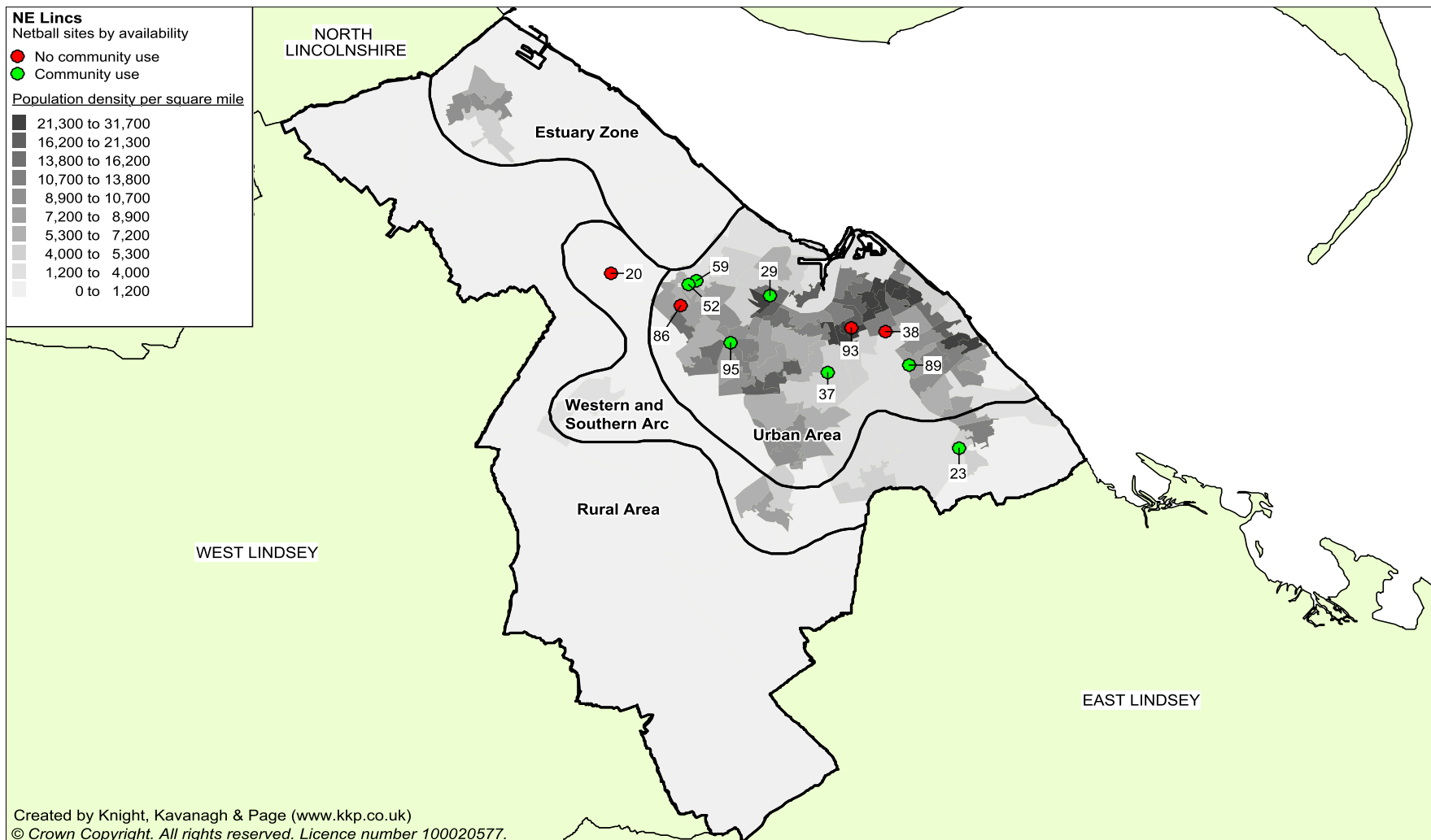
There is a strong league system in place in Grimsby during both summer and winter for senior and junior participants. In the main the leagues are based at Grimsby Leisure Centre and Oasis Academy Wingtringham.

### **14.3: Current provision**

In total, KKP has identified 34 netball courts across North East Lincolnshire. The majority of this provision, with the exception of Grimsby Leisure Centre’s courts, is based at school sites.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Figure 14.1: Current provision of netball courts in North East Lincolnshire



# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

Table 14.1: Key to map of netball courts

| Site name                              | KKP ref | Analysis area            | Community use | Number of courts |
|----------------------------------------|---------|--------------------------|---------------|------------------|
| GREAT COATES PRIMARY SCHOOL            | 59      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 2                |
| MACAULEY PRIMARY SCHOOL                | 29      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 1                |
| MATTHEW HUMBERSTON LOWER               | 89      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 5                |
| OASIS ACADEMY WINTRINGHAM              | 37      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 4                |
| OLD CLEE PRIMARY SCHOOL                | 38      | Urban Area               | No            | 1                |
| WELHOLME INFANT & JUNIOR SCHOOL        | 93      | Urban Area               | No            | 2                |
| WESTERN CAMPUS                         | 95      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 4                |
| JOHN WHITGIFT ACADEMY                  | 52      | Urban Area               | Yes           | 5                |
| WYBERS WOOD JUNIOR                     | 86      | Urban Area               | No            | 1                |
| HEALING SCHOOL - SCIENCE ACADEMY       | 20      | Western and Southern Arc | No            | 3                |
| HUMBERSTON MATHS AND COMPUTING COLLEGE | 23      | Western and Southern Arc | Yes           | 6                |

### 15.4: Key issues for netball

Consultation suggests that netball is strong in the area and there is believed to be a waiting list for access to the League. It is understood that the availability of facilities is a limiting factor for the Grimsby & District Netball League.

There is a lot of junior development work happening in partnership with Grimsby Junior Netball Club and schools. However, NELC notes that further structures have not been developed due to a lack of volunteers.

The quality of facilities is variable. Courts at Whisgitt School are noted to be the lowest quality, with a rating of 41% (i.e. below average quality), whilst the courts at Oasis Academy Wintringham are rated as excellent quality.

#### Netball summary

- ◀ There are 34 netball courts in North East Lincolnshire. The majority are located at education sites.
- ◀ Netball is played both outdoor and indoor.
- ◀ It is reported that there is a waiting list for the Grimsby & District Netball League which is in part attributed to the lack of available facilities.
- ◀ The average score for netball courts across North East Lincolnshire is 69%.

### PART 15: ROUNDERS

#### 15.1: Introduction

Rounders England (RE) is the National Governing Body for Rounders. It is responsible for the rules and the development of the sport. The sport is traditionally played from April to September.

#### 15.2: Supply

At present there is no established rounders league in North East Lincolnshire playing competitively. However, primary and secondary schools are participating in the sport and often mark out their grass pitches during the summer to play informal matches. Currently there is only one formally marked out pitch at Whitgift School but this is not used for community use.

#### 15.3 Demand

North East Lincolnshire has been identified as a priority area by RE and therefore it has an 'enhanced' agreement with Humber County Sports Partnership (CSP) to increase and sustain rounders participation in the area.

Humber CSP is working in the area to increase the profile and develop 'return to rounders' sessions aimed at large workforces in the area such as the NELC and private sector companies. It is therefore likely that rounders participation will increase in the future in the area.

#### *Sport England Market Segmentation*

National market segmentation research tools allow you to identify latent demand for individual sports. Analysis of latent demand for rounders identifies that the 'Chloe' segment is most likely to play rounders (0.4% of Chloe's play rounders). The second most likely to play rounders is Leanne, 0.3% of Leanne's play rounders. From a local perspective, there are 4.6% of Leanne's in the local authority area and 2.2% of Chloe's.

#### **Rounders summary**

- ◀ At present, there are no organised rounders teams or leagues established in North East Lincolnshire. However, it is likely that participation will increase through 'return to rounders' sessions.

### PART 16: OTHER SPORTS

Demand for a number of other grass pitch sports/facilities has also been examined. With the exception of archery, consultation with NGBs has not identified the need for North East Lincolnshire to consider additional provision. It is noted that users are willing to travel further to access specialist provision associated with these sports.

| Sport             | Demand                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hurling           | No registered teams or demand are identified in the area.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Polo              | No registered teams or demand identified. The nearest activity identified is the Vale of York Club near Doncaster.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| Cycle Polo        | No registered teams or demand identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Baseball/Softball | No registered teams or demand. The nearest activity is in Hull.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| Shinty            | No registered teams or demand identified.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| Archery           | <p>Two clubs are identified as being present in the area. A brief summary of each club is set out below:</p> <p><i>Immingham Archers</i></p> <p>Currently only an indoor club which trains on Thursday evenings from 6 - 8pm at the Immingham Sports Centre. The Club, which has a total of 20 regular members, is looking to move to outdoor shooting in 2012. It had not previously played outside due to costs in providing safety measures. Potential sites are currently being identified by the Club with the possibility of being used next year.</p> <p><i>Grimsby Archers</i></p> <p>Club activity times are from 10–12pm on Saturdays and Sundays. At weekends the Club plays at the St Andrews College site. This is used due to the large sports field at the site and its convenient location. In addition the sports hall also allows for indoor shoots if the weather is bad.</p> <p>During the week the Club practices at the Carr Lane Social Club on a Thursday at 6pm. This midweek session only runs during the months of May to September. The Club highlights the limited availability of sites large enough to accommodate archery in North East Lincolnshire.</p> |

## PART 17: EDUCATION PROVISION

### 17.1: Introduction

The provision of pitches at schools and colleges can make an important contribution to the overall stock of playing pitches. It is therefore important to have accurate information about the number, type, quality and availability of pitches within the education sector in the City.

The new Education and Inspection Act (2006) came into force in early 2009 and amends the existing legislation within the Schools Standards and Framework Act (SSFA) 1998, which was originally introduced by the Government requiring all schools to seek approval from the Secretary of State for Education and Employment (Education and Skills since July 2001 now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) for the sale or change of use of their playing fields. Section 77 of the SSFA seeks to protect school playing fields against disposal or change of use by requiring the prior consent of the Secretary of State before disposal or change of use may take place. The School Playing Fields General Disposal and Change of Use Consent (No.3) 2004 order highlights some limited circumstances in which the requisite approval has been delegated to the relevant governing body (i.e. local authority), which can decide whether the disposal or change of use meets the circumstances and criteria set out in the Consent Order<sup>8</sup>.

### 17.2: PE and School Sport

The North East Lincolnshire School Sports Partnership (SSP) hosts 10 secondary schools, 48 primary schools and three special schools. However, as of September 2011 school sport partnerships will cease to exist in the current format and will be replaced by 'School Games Organisers' based at former SSP hub sites i.e. Oasis Academy Wintringham and 'School Games Co-ordinators' (teacher release staff) at secondary and special/pupil referral sites.

#### ***Building Schools for the Future and the James Review***

Following the announcement of changes to the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, the North East Lincolnshire schools programme was put on hold by the Government.

However, Hereford School and Havelock Academy had already been started/developed via the Academies framework as part of the BSF pathfinder projects. Hereford School was funded via target capital funding with BSF ICT funding. The new school opened in October 2010. Havelock is on programme and due to be completed in Easter 2012.

St Andrews College formed part of NELC's sample scheme and funding was confirmed February 2010 with the School opening in September 2011.

Indicative funding has been confirmed for the remaining schools in the programme subject to the findings of the James Review.

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<sup>8</sup> Full and detailed guidance can be accessed at <http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=11600>

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## 17.2: Current provision

The following tables provide an outline of the outdoor recreation facilities available within North East Lincolnshire. The table also outlines the proportion of these facilities that are currently available for use by the community (for regular competitive fixtures by the community).

*Table 17.1: Summary of pitches at school sites and availability of community use in North East Lincolnshire*

| Analysis area                  | Total no. of education pitches |                 |               | No. of education pitches available for community use |                 |               |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------------|---------------|
|                                | Senior football                | Junior football | Mini football | Senior football                                      | Junior football | Mini football |
| Estuary Zone                   | 2                              | 2               | -             | -                                                    | -               | -             |
| Rural Area                     | -                              | -               | -             | -                                                    | -               | -             |
| Urban Area                     | 36                             | 31              | 6             | 19                                                   | 8               | -             |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 13                             | 4               | 3             | 3                                                    | 2               | -             |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>51</b>                      | <b>37</b>       | <b>9</b>      | <b>22</b>                                            | <b>10</b>       | <b>-</b>      |

A significant proportion of North East Lincolnshire's junior pitches are located at primary school sites which are generally not available for community use. It is important to consider this within the context of the projected shortfall of junior pitches in North East Lincolnshire and how this can be met by existing provision.

In addition to this there are four rugby pitches and six cricket pitches at school sites which are not used by the community.

*Table 17.2: Summary of non-pitch facilities at school sites and availability of community use in North East Lincolnshire*

| Analysis area                  | Total no. of education non-pitches |           | No. of education pitches available for community use |           |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|-----------|------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                | Tennis                             | Netball   | Tennis                                               | Netball   |
| Estuary Zone                   | -                                  | -         | -                                                    | -         |
| Rural Area                     | -                                  | -         | -                                                    | -         |
| Urban Area                     | 26                                 | 16        | 18                                                   | 12        |
| Western and Southern Arc       | 17                                 | 9         | 6                                                    | 6         |
| <b>NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE</b> | <b>43</b>                          | <b>25</b> | <b>24</b>                                            | <b>18</b> |

Please note some non-pitch facilities may appear to have community use by virtue that the pitch facilities are available. It is evident; however, that community use of non-pitch facilities is very limited.

### 19.3: Secondary schools consultation summary

The following table provides a summary of the key issues relating to the quality of provision at school sites emerging through consultation. Secondary schools in North East Lincolnshire have a range of facilities as cited below:

| KKP ref | School           | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|---------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 19      | Havelock Academy | <p>As referenced earlier the site is being re-built as part of a three phase facility development programme as part of the academies framework as the BSF pathfinder projects and is due to be complete by Easter 2012.</p> <p>The number of senior football pitches will remain the same. However, only two pitches will be made available for community use. Furthermore, the number of tennis courts will increase from four macadam to eight (four macadam and four artificial and floodlit). The School reports the artificial surface of the courts will provide the opportunity for community use.</p> <p>The site (post build) will also provide an artificial cricket wicket.</p> |
| 84      | Healing School   | <p>The School reports that it is currently unable to offer community use due to the lack of adequate changing accommodation. The changing rooms are located within the school's gymnasium and are very small. It reports that this deters any potential community use, for example, the Police FC moved away from the School to access better changing provision elsewhere.</p> <p>However, as a school it is keen to support the development of girls' football locally.</p> <p>Furthermore, the pitches at the School are also prone to water logging during the winter months.</p>                                                                                                      |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| KKP ref | School                                 | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|---------|----------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 23      | Humberston Maths and Computing College | <p>The School has extensive playing fields surrounding the main building. The football pitches are used by teams including Discoveries JFC and Police FC. There is also some ad hoc use of the rugby pitch by Cleethorpes RFC when Lucarllys is not available.</p> <p>The School reports that the pitch quality is generally adequate and that more community use could be accommodated. However, during inclement weather if the pitches become at risk of being unplayable then the school use takes precedence and community fixtures will be postponed.</p> <p>To the front of the School there is a disused artificial cricket wicket which requires replacement. It however also has a second artificial wicket which is used by the School.</p> <p>The hard courts are left open and pupils are encouraged to use these areas during break times. A new basketball post has recently been installed.</p> <p>The School marks the field for rounders (accommodating nine pitches) and athletics during the summer term and also has two long jump pits (the third is to be lost to classroom expansion).</p> <p>The lettings policy currently imposes one charge. However, the School is hopes to update this to cover three tiers of use including school clubs, community clubs and private users. The current cost is £35 for one pitch with a second pitch charged at £10. The School seeks only to cover the custodian costs incurred. The majority of senior club use also requires access to changing accommodation.</p> |
| 37      | Oasis Academy Wintringham              | <p>The School has an agreement in place with Grimsby Town FC for the Club to use the AGP and grass pitches to deliver its Academy. As part of the agreement the pitches are reserved for its sole use.</p> <p>There is extensive use of the outdoor courts by Grimsby Netball League which are floodlit until 10pm and the AGP is also used by Grimsby Hockey Club and Grimsby Hockey Academy for Saturday fixtures and midweek training.</p> <p>There have been some issues with drainage on the rugby and cricket pitch due to these pitches being located on the schools old foundations. The School plans to rotate pitches as the ground develops.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| 44      | St Andrews College                     | <p>The site features three senior football pitches and one senior cricket pitch. In addition there are two five-a-side hard courts on the site. These courts are marked on what forms the main playground facility for the School. All three football pitches are assessed as being in good condition with the goalposts present also being to a well maintained standard.</p> <p>The field where the pitches are located is used by the Grimsby Archers Club at weekends. The Club reports that the site is one of few in the area that is large enough in dimension to accommodate such activity.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| KKP ref | School                | Issue                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|---------|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 67      | Tollbar Academy       | A total of four senior grass football pitches are observed at the Tollbar Academy. Positioned in-between the football pitch provision are two senior grass cricket pitches. As result there is some overlap of the cricket field boundaries onto the football pitches. The condition of both the football and cricket facilities is decent. In particular, the surrounding security and run-off space around the provision is excellent.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 56      | Tollbar Edge Academy  | There are two senior grass football pitches and one senior grass cricket pitch located at the site. No line markings or goalposts were present at the time of the site visits. However, this is likely to be due to the time of year visits took place, as this occurred during summer holidays. Condition of all three pitches is deemed reasonable with no evidence of misuse or damage to the playing surfaces noted.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| 52      | John Whitgift Academy | <p>The site comprises three football pitches (two senior and one junior) during the winter season and marks out a 400 metre grass athletic track and a rounders pitch during the summer months. In addition, it provides two concrete wickets which are not used by the School as there is no artificial carpet on the surface.</p> <p>The hard-court areas are marked out on the school playground and accommodate ten tennis courts. Site assessments score the surface quality as poor due to faded line markings and are undulated in places. The playing surface of the grass pitches are undulated in places.</p> <p>The football pitches are used by local teams; AFC Wybers, Willows FC and Solo JFC. There is capacity on site to accommodate an additional two senior pitches.</p> <p>As of September 2011, the School will become an Academy.</p> |

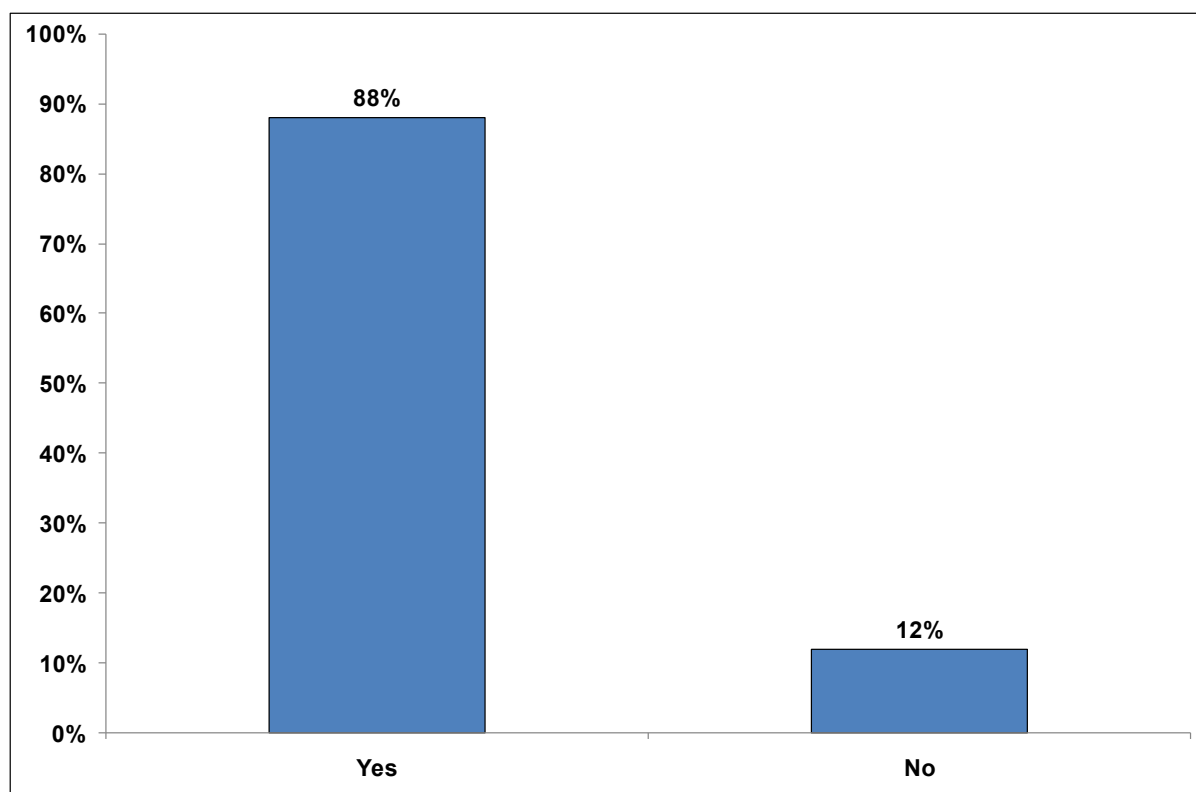
### 17.4: Primary school consultation summary

A survey was sent directly to each of the primary schools in North East Lincolnshire (39 in total) to ascertain the quality, quantity and accessibility of outdoor sports pitch facilities. A 41% return rate was obtained. For primary schools where a response was not provided, a site visit was made to collect site assessment data.

#### ***Schools with playing fields***

The majority of schools (88%) have access to playing fields. Only a small proportion of schools state it does not have access to a playing field (12%). Of the 88% schools that state they have access to playing fields, all are located on the site of the main school building.

*Figure 17.1: Schools with access to playing fields*



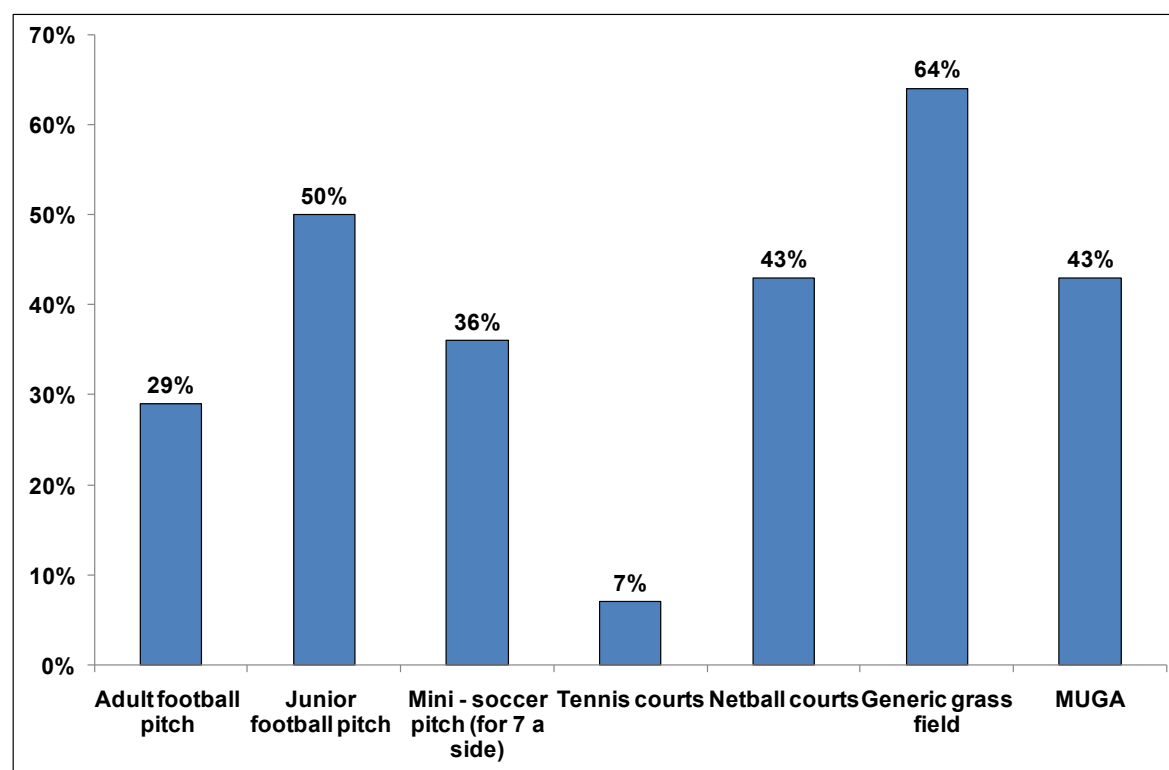
### *Type of outdoor sports facilities*

Several types of outdoor sports facilities are accommodated at primary schools in North East Lincolnshire. The majority (64%) contain a generic grass field. or mini-soccer pitch. Junior football pitches (50%), netball courts (43%) and MUGAs (43%) are also a significant type of provision.

In total, only one school (Grange Primary) states it has two junior grass football pitches available. Furthermore, both Great Coates Primary and Old Clee Primary have more than one mini pitch located on site. This is higher compared to other school sites which tend to only have one pitch. Macaulay Primary School is the only site identified as having access to tennis court provision.

As is to be expected, no primary schools provide adult or junior rugby pitches, cricket pitches or artificial turf pitches.

*Figure 17.2: Type of outdoor sports facilities at North East Lincolnshire Primary Schools*



### *Playing fields*

The majority of responses relating to the condition of playing fields are positive. Overall schools indicate that the quality is good. In particular, all primary schools rate the length of grass as good. Almost all (93%) rate the amount of grass cover as good as well. Over half of schools also rate the size (57%), slope (64%), safety margins (64%) and lack of issues of dog fouling (71%) as good.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

However, almost one third of schools (29%) rate the evenness of pitches and posts/sockets as poor compared to ratings for other categories.

*Table 17.3: Matrix of playing field scores*

| Category                      | Good | Average | Poor | No answer/<br>not<br>applicable |
|-------------------------------|------|---------|------|---------------------------------|
| Grass cover                   | 93%  | 7%      | -    | -                               |
| Length of grass               | 100% | -       | -    | -                               |
| Evenness of pitch             | 14%  | 57%     | 29%  | -                               |
| Size of pitch                 | 57%  | 43%     | -    | -                               |
| Slope of pitch                | 64%  | 29%     | 7%   | -                               |
| Adequate safety margins       | 64%  | 29%     | -    | 7%                              |
| Line markings                 | 14%  | 64%     | 7%   | 14%                             |
| Posts and sockets             | -    | 57%     | 29%  | 14%                             |
| Evidence of dog fouling       | 71%  | 29%     | -    | -                               |
| Evidence of unofficial use    | 50%  | 50%     | -    | -                               |
| Evidence of damage to surface | 36%  | 50%     | 7%   | 7%                              |

### **Courts**

All the categories relating to the condition of courts are rated as good. However, line markings receive a slightly higher average rating (33%) compared to other categories.

The number of categories with poor ratings is low, a reflection of the general good condition and quality of existing courts at primary schools in North East Lincolnshire. Welholme Community Primary School is the only site to indicate both evidence of glass/stones/litter and inappropriate use.

*Table 17.4: Matrix of court scores*

|                                 | Good | Average | Poor | No answer/<br>not<br>applicable |
|---------------------------------|------|---------|------|---------------------------------|
| Slope of court                  | 100% | -       | -    | -                               |
| Evidence of moss/lichen         | 83%  | 17%     | -    | -                               |
| Loose gravel                    | 83%  | 17%     | -    | -                               |
| Holes or rips in surface        | 83%  | 17%     | -    | -                               |
| Grip underfoot                  | 83%  | 17%     | -    | -                               |
| Adequate safety margins         | 100% | -       | -    | -                               |
| Line markings                   | 67%  | 33%     | -    | -                               |
| Surrounding fencing             | 100% | -       | -    | -                               |
| Evidence of glass/stones/litter | 83%  | 17%     | -    | -                               |
| Evidence of inappropriate use   | 83%  | 17%     | -    | -                               |
| Access for disabled players     | 83%  | 17%     | -    | -                               |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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### ***Use of playing fields***

Nearly two thirds (64%) of primary schools state their playing fields are used during the holidays for coaching or other similar activities. These holiday activities tend to be for football training and clubs.

The percentage of school playing fields that are not used during holidays is just over a third (36%). The most common reasons as to why playing fields were not used during the holidays include a lack of demand or interest.

Similar to results for the use of school playing fields during holidays, most school playing fields (79%) are available for wider community use. However, over a fifth of schools (21%) report that community use of the school playing fields is not permitted.

No school receives more interest in the use of their facilities than they can accommodate which suggests that there is capacity within schools to accommodate additional play and training requirements.

### ***Community use***

The table below summarises the levels of community use at schools which are used by the community. The majority of community use is by football clubs. On average, facilities are used for up to three hours per week.

*Table 17.5: Summary of community use*

| School site                     | Club name      | Number of hours per week | Facility type    |
|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Humberston Cloverfields Primary | Solar Sports   | 4.5                      | Football pitch   |
| Macaulay Primary                | East Coast JFC | 3                        | School Field     |
|                                 | Solar Play FC  | 2                        |                  |
|                                 | Cromwell FC    | 2                        |                  |
|                                 | Cromwell 2 FC  | 2                        |                  |
| Great Coates Primary            | Gradley League | 2                        | Mini-pitches     |
| Fairfield Primary               | Solar Sports   | 6                        | Football pitches |
|                                 | Gradley Sports | 4                        |                  |

Wybers Wood Primary School has one junior pitch and a netball court to the rear of the school building. The School highlights that it is keen to open the site for community use. Currently it is identified as having no community use due to a lack of interest.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

Over four-fifths of schools (81%) do not have specific changing accommodation/rooms available for sports use. Of schools that do (19%), most are available for community use. Of the schools that do have specific changing facilities, all rate them as being of an adequate quality.

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

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Half of schools state there is car parking available for teams/individuals using their facilities. Similarly, the remaining schools do not have car parking available for community users.

### ***Plans to develop or expand existing provision***

Only two schools highlight any plans to develop or expand existing provision. Wybers Wood Primary School, as identified earlier, is keen to open the site (i.e. its junior pitch) for community use.

Welholme Community Primary School is the only other site to indicate any development plans. The School states the playing field at the site is to be redeveloped following contamination of the site. Plans include levelling and seeding.

#### **Schools summary**

- ◀ Community use varies according to individual school circumstance.
- ◀ In the majority of instances, where pitches are available and in use, access to school changing accommodation is limited or non-existent.
- ◀ The quality and quantity of sports facilities (pitch and non pitch) at school sites varies across the area.

## **PART 18: SUMMARY**

This Assessment Report considers the supply and demand issues for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in North East Lincolnshire. It identifies local need from consultation highlighting the predominant issues. This will form the basis of discussions to inform the development of a strategy and action plan to address key issues. Strategic recommendations and provision standards will also be incorporated in this document.

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## APPENDIX ONE: CONSULTEE LIST

| Name             | Organisation                         | Designation                                        |
|------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|
| S Smith          | AFC Waltham                          | Club representative                                |
| R Cuthbert       | AFC Wybers                           | Club representative                                |
| Alex Smith       | Archery GB                           |                                                    |
| Mrs Kim Kirkham  | Ashby Cum Fenby                      |                                                    |
| S Baldock        | Aston Estates FC                     | Club representative                                |
| Paula Walker     | Athletico FC                         | Club representative                                |
| Mrs M A Stennett | Barnoldby Le Beck                    |                                                    |
| -                | Barretts Bowling Club                | Club representative                                |
| John Mills       | Baseball/Softball                    |                                                    |
| R Phillips       | BBS Couriers FC                      | Club representative                                |
| Mr K Cooper      | Blossom Way Old Boys CC              | Club representative                                |
| M. Finch         | Breakaways JFC                       | Club representative                                |
| Lee Wilkinson    | Buddies                              | Club representative                                |
| A. Hayes         | Caistor Crusaders JFC                | Club representative                                |
| Mrs C Appleyard  | Carr Lane Bowling Club               | Club representative                                |
| Lorraine Stiff   | Clee Community ESL                   | Club representative                                |
| Mrs L. Stiff     | Clee Community JFC                   | Club representative                                |
| S Etheridge      | Clee Workingmens FC                  | Club representative                                |
| Paul Hewstone    | Cleethorpes Cricket Club             | Club representative                                |
| D Patterson      | Cleethorpes Town FC                  | Club representative                                |
| J. Southam       | Cleethorpes Town JFC                 | Club representative                                |
| Len Davidson     | Crows Nest                           | Club representative                                |
| Michael Cook     | D M S                                | Club representative                                |
| Mr S Griffiths   | DFDS CC                              | Club representative                                |
| Geoff Batholomew | Discoveries JFC/Capro Junior League  | -                                                  |
| P Knox           | DMS FC                               | Club representative                                |
| Angela Ayre      | Drinksy Building-Cricketers FC       | Club representative                                |
| N. Hill          | East Coast Lions                     | Club representative                                |
|                  | East Ravendale C of E Primary School |                                                    |
| J Hunter         | Empire Athletic FC                   | Club representative                                |
| Heidi Bradley    | England Athletics                    | Club & Coach Support Officers                      |
| John Hubbard     | England Cricket Board                | Regional Funding and Facilities Manager (Midlands) |
| Niall Young      | England Cricket Board                | Cricket Development Manager                        |
| Lewis Butcher    | England Hockey                       | Relationship Manager                               |
| Darren Bailey    | Everyone Active                      | Club representative                                |
| H Wilson         | Fairdeal Carpets FC                  | Club representative                                |
|                  | Fairfield Primary School             |                                                    |
| Mark Wainwright  | FC Fabrique                          | Club representative                                |
| Simon Ridley     | FC Sentiments                        | Club representative                                |
| Barry Turner     | Gradley Sports Junior Football       | League Secretary                                   |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| Name                          | Organisation                                     | Designation                           |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
|                               | League                                           |                                       |
| A Woolsey                     | Grange Crowland FC                               | Club representative                   |
|                               | Grange Primary School                            |                                       |
|                               | Greatcoates Primary School                       |                                       |
| Cliff Dundridge               | Grimsby & District Intermediate Football League  | League Representative                 |
| Mr D Bellwood                 | Grimsby and West End Bowling Club                | Club representative                   |
| Ken Vincent                   | Grimsby Borough Football Club                    | League Representative                 |
| G Miller                      | Grimsby Fireplace Centre FC                      | Club representative                   |
| Rob Davies                    | Grimsby Institute                                | -                                     |
| Mr A Parker                   | Grimsby Institute CC                             | Club representative                   |
| John Scaife                   | Grimsby RUFC                                     | Club representative                   |
| Andrew Lashbrook              | Grimsby Tennis Centre                            |                                       |
| Martin Fowler                 | Grimsby Town Cricket Club                        | Club representative                   |
| Karen Rimington               | Grimsby Warriors FC                              | Club representative                   |
| Nick O'Sullivan               | Havelock Academy                                 | Principal                             |
| A Beckett                     | Healing FC                                       | Club representative                   |
| R. Winship                    | Healing Hotspurs JFC                             | Club representative                   |
|                               | Healing Primary School                           |                                       |
| Mrs Addison                   | Healing School                                   | Principal                             |
|                               | Humberston C of E Primary School                 |                                       |
| Ian Stenton / Roy Farr        | Humberston Coach House FC                        | Club representative                   |
| M Kirman                      | Humberston Grosvenor FC                          | Club representative                   |
| Steve Kemshall                | Humberston Maths & Computing College             | Head of PE                            |
| M Woolford                    | Humberston Quayside FC                           | Club representative                   |
| Sophie McPherson              | Hurlingham Polo Association                      |                                       |
| Ruth Frampton                 | Immingham archers                                |                                       |
| D Gamwell                     | Immingham Bluestone FC                           | Club representative                   |
| Simon Leach                   | Immingham Pilgrims JFC                           | Club representative                   |
| D Lambert                     | Immingham Town FC                                | Club representative                   |
| Mrs V Bayram                  | Irby Parish Council                              |                                       |
| Colin Kennedy                 | John Pettit Cricket League (Junior and Saturday) | League Secretary                      |
| Ian Fisher                    | John Whitgift Academy                            | Schools Estate and Facilities Manager |
| Mr S Skipworth                | Keelby CC                                        | Club representative                   |
| S Jarvis / T Wright / N Kenny | Keelby United FC                                 | Club representative                   |
| Neil Kenny                    | Keelby United JFC                                | Club representative                   |
| A Osbourne                    | Laceby Arms FC                                   | Club representative                   |
| Paul Hamnett                  | Lincolnshire Football Association                | Football Development Officer          |
|                               | Macaulay Primary School                          |                                       |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

## SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| Name                       | Organisation                                 | Designation                                                  |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| -                          | Mariners Ladies FC                           | Club representative                                          |
| D Drury                    | Millfields FC                                | Club representative                                          |
| Martin Atkinson            | Mitchells FC                                 | Club representative                                          |
| Alison Buck                | Newtons Athletic FC                          | Club representative                                          |
| Mike Tofton                | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Principal Asset Surveyor (Asset Management)                  |
| Andy Hartley               | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Neighbourhood Manager                                        |
| Alan Fletcher              | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Parks and Open Spaces Manager                                |
| Chris Pulford              | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Neighbourhood Manager                                        |
| David Watson               | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Senior Performance & Improvement Officer (Leisure Contracts) |
| Gary Precious              | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Football Development Manager                                 |
| James Bellis               | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Spatial Planning Officer                                     |
| Mark Cullum                | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Project Manager for Sport Leisure and Development            |
| Nathan Vear                | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Acting Head of Neighbourhood Improvement                     |
| Rachel Benefer             | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Capital Assistant (Capital Assets Team)                      |
| Rod Dean                   | North East Lincolnshire Council              | -                                                            |
| Shaun Evers                | North East Lincolnshire Council              | Project Manager                                              |
| Sophie Wignall             | North East Lincolnshire Council              | -                                                            |
| Sue Marshall               | North East Lincolnshire Council              | -                                                            |
| Lawrie Cook                | Number One Pub                               | Club representative                                          |
|                            | Nunthorpe Community School                   |                                                              |
| Chris Brooking             | Oasis Academy (Wintringham)                  | Business Manager                                             |
|                            | Old Clee Primary School                      |                                                              |
| I Biglin                   | Old Lloyds FC                                | Club representative                                          |
| Lisa Birkett               | Optis Boys FC                                | Club representative                                          |
| -                          | Parity Youngs FC                             | Club representative                                          |
| W Cunningham / Carl Davies | Phoenix Young FC                             | Club representative                                          |
| N Macrae                   | Police FC                                    | Club representative                                          |
| Mr B Brown                 | Punjab Lions CC                              | Club representative                                          |
|                            | Queen Mary Avenue Infants and Nursery School |                                                              |
| S Stead / P Stead          | RH Construction                              | Club representative                                          |
| Alison Howard              | Rounders England                             | Chief Executive                                              |

## NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

| Name                 | Organisation                                     | Designation                    |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| J Thomson            | Seacatch                                         | Club representative            |
| Ronald Ross          | Shinty                                           |                                |
|                      | Signhill's Infants School                        |                                |
| Heidi Malpas         | Solar JFC                                        | Club representative            |
| P Evans              | Spiders Web FC                                   | Club representative            |
| Fiona Pudge          | Sport England                                    | Planning Manger                |
| Steve Ibbotson       | Springfield IB CC                                | Club representative            |
|                      | Stallingborough C of E Primary School            |                                |
| Mr J Smith           | Stallingborough CC                               | Club representative            |
|                      | Strand Community School                          |                                |
| Matt Bartle          | The FA                                           | Funding and Facilities Manager |
| Tony Parrott         | The Grimsby & Cleethorpes Sunday Football League | Chairman                       |
| Andy McFeeters       | The Lincolnshire Lawn Tennis Association         | Tennis Development Manager     |
| Ross Baxter          | The RFU                                          | Funding and Facilities Manager |
| T Lovell             | The Valiant FC                                   | Club representative            |
| B. Manson            | Theddlethorpe JFC                                | Club representative            |
| Andy Moore           | TP Athletico FC                                  | Club representative            |
| Lisa Aitken          | Turners Mortgages FC                             | Club representative            |
| Mrs Lesley Leach     | Waltham Parish Council                           |                                |
| Mrs Margaret Leggett | Waltham Park Bowling Club                        | Club representative            |
| Richard Bott         | Waltham Tea Gardens FC                           | Club representative            |
|                      | Welholme Community Primary School                |                                |
| Steve Webster        | West Marsh JFC                                   | Club representative            |
| Mr MP Barton         | Western Old Boys CC                              | Club representative            |
| Mr DJ Cook           | Willys Cleethorpes CC                            | Club representative            |
|                      | Wybers Wood Primary School                       |                                |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## APPENDIX TWO: SITE VISIT PROFORMAS

### Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Individual Pitch Assessment

|                    |                      |             |                      |            |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------------|------------|
| KKP Site reference | <input type="text"/> | Site Name   | <input type="text"/> |            |
| Number of pitches  | <input type="text"/> | Pitch ID(s) | <input type="text"/> | Pitch Type |
| Community Use?     | <input type="text"/> |             |                      |            |

Pitch Issues:

Background information:

|                                                                                |                      |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| Number of games played on pitch each season                                    | <input type="text"/> |
| Number of games cancelled due to unfitness of pitch (excluding frozen pitches) | <input type="text"/> |
| % of games cancelled per season                                                | <input type="text"/> |

**Assessment Criteria** (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)

| Element                                                     | Rating      |  |            |                   |            |    |                   |           | Guidance notes |                                                                                                                                                                      | Comments                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|--|------------|-------------------|------------|----|-------------------|-----------|----------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| About the winter pitch/cricket field                        |             |  |            |                   |            |    |                   |           |                |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                     |
| Grass cover - entire pitch / cricket field                  | >94%        |  | 85-94%     |                   | 70-84%     |    | 60-69%            |           | <60%           |                                                                                                                                                                      | Where, 90%+ grass cover should be given 'Excellent'; less than 60% should be considered 'very poor' |
| Length of grass                                             | Excellent   |  | Good       |                   | Poor       |    |                   | Very Poor |                |                                                                                                                                                                      | The ideal length of grass will vary between sports                                                  |
| Size of pitch / cricket field                               | Yes - fully |  |            | No - but adequate |            |    | No - not adequate |           |                | Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions                                                                                                    |                                                                                                     |
| Adequate safety margins                                     | Yes - fully |  |            | No - but adequate |            |    | No - not adequate |           |                | Does it meet the NGB standard? See pitch sizes tab for dimensions                                                                                                    |                                                                                                     |
| Slope of pitch / cricket outfield (gradient and cross fall) | Flat        |  | Slight     |                   | Gentle     |    | Moderate          |           | Severe         |                                                                                                                                                                      | Cricket wickets should be flat.                                                                     |
| Evenness of pitch / cricket field                           | Excellent   |  | Good       |                   | Poor       |    |                   | Very Poor |                |                                                                                                                                                                      | Where field is completely level = 'Excellent'                                                       |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of Dog fouling                      | None        |  |            | Yes - some        |            |    | Yes - lots        |           |                | If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter            | None        |  |            | Yes - some        |            |    | Yes - lots        |           |                | If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of Unofficial use                   | None        |  |            | Yes - some        |            |    | Yes - lots        |           |                | eg. informal, casual use, unbooked use, kids kickabout etc. If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey                                            |                                                                                                     |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of Damage to surface                | None        |  |            | Yes - some        |            |    | Yes - lots        |           |                | eg. golf divots, car-parking on field etc. If no evidence, assume none. May wish to refer to user survey                                                             |                                                                                                     |
| Training ; Estimated number of hours per week in season     | 0           |  | 1 to 2 hrs |                   | 2 to 4 hrs |    |                   | 4+        |                |                                                                                                                                                                      | Training which takes place on the pitch area                                                        |
| Changing Accomodation                                       |             |  |            |                   |            |    |                   |           |                |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                     |
| Changing Accomodation                                       | Yes         |  |            |                   |            | No |                   |           |                | Is the pitch served by changing facilities                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                     |
| About the equipment/ wicket...                              |             |  |            |                   |            |    |                   |           |                |                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                     |
| Winter Sports Only- Goal Posts - quality                    | Excellent   |  |            | Good              |            |    | Poor              |           |                | Upright, straight, painted, for football, goals are there safe net hooks at both ends. If posts are dismantled after game, or are removable goals, assume Excellent. |                                                                                                     |
| Cricket Only - Is the wicket protected when not used        | Yes         |  |            |                   |            | No |                   |           |                | Is the wicket protected when not in use - can be roped off or covered.                                                                                               |                                                                                                     |
| Line markings - quality                                     | Excellent   |  |            | Good              |            |    | Poor              |           |                | e.g. Have they been painted recently; are lines straight and clear etc                                                                                               |                                                                                                     |
| Training area                                               | Yes         |  |            |                   |            | No |                   |           |                | eg. nets/ goals/ grids off main body of pitch                                                                                                                        |                                                                                                     |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Tennis/ Netball/ Basketball Courts

| KKPref                                                                                                                                                  |                                                         |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|--------|--------|------------------|------------|--------------------------------------------------|-------------------|--|--------|----------------|----------|-------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Site name:                                                                                                                                              |                                                         |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Number of courts -                                                                                                                                      |                                                         | Tennis |        | Netball          |            |                                                  | Basketball        |  |        | Five-a-side    |          | Overmarked? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| General Playground or specific sports court area?                                                                                                       |                                                         |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Court surface                                                                                                                                           |                                                         |        |        |                  | Management |                                                  |                   |  |        | Community Use? |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|                                                                                                                                                         | Artificial turf, Clay, Grass, Macadam, Polymeric, Shale |        |        |                  |            | Club, LA - Parks, Parish Council, Public, School |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer) |                                                         |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Element                                                                                                                                                 | Rating                                                  |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                | Comments |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>About the courts</b>                                                                                                                                 |                                                         |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evidence of moss/lichen (all surfaces)                                                                                                                  | None                                                    |        |        | Yes - some       |            |                                                  | Yes - lots        |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Loose gravel (macadam surface)                                                                                                                          | None                                                    |        |        | Yes - some       |            |                                                  | Yes - lots        |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Holes or rips in surface (macadam, art. grass or polymeric surfaces)                                                                                    | None                                                    |        |        | Yes - some       |            |                                                  | Yes - lots        |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grip underfoot                                                                                                                                          | Good                                                    |        |        | Adequate         |            |                                                  | Poor              |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Line markings - quality                                                                                                                                 | Good                                                    |        |        | Adequate         |            |                                                  | Poor              |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Surrounding fencing                                                                                                                                     | Good                                                    |        |        | Adequate         |            |                                                  | Poor              |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Size of courts                                                                                                                                          | Yes - fully                                             |        |        | No- but adequate |            |                                                  | No - not adequate |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Adequate safety margins                                                                                                                                 | Yes - fully                                             |        |        | No- but adequate |            |                                                  | No - not adequate |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Slope of courts                                                                                                                                         | Flat                                                    |        | Slight |                  | Gentle     |                                                  | Moderate          |  | Severe |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of Glass/ stones/ litter                                                                                                        | None                                                    |        |        | Yes - some       |            |                                                  | Yes - lots        |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use                                                                                                            | None                                                    |        |        | Yes - some       |            |                                                  | Yes - lots        |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Access for disabled players - ie: ramps onto courts, width of gates                                                                                     | Good                                                    |        |        | Adequate         |            |                                                  | Poor              |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Changing Accomodation</b>                                                                                                                            |                                                         |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Changing Accomodation                                                                                                                                   | Yes                                                     |        |        | No               |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>About the equipment</b>                                                                                                                              |                                                         |        |        |                  |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Posts and net                                                                                                                                           | Good                                                    |        |        | Adequate         |            |                                                  | Poor              |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Are the courts locked when not in use?                                                                                                                  | Yes                                                     |        |        | No               |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Practice wall                                                                                                                                           | Yes                                                     |        |        | No               |            |                                                  |                   |  |        |                |          |             |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Bowling green

|                                                                                                                                                         |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|----------|----------------|------------|----|---------------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|----------|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| KKPref                                                                                                                                                  |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Site name:                                                                                                                                              |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Number of greens                                                                                                                                        |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Flat/crown                                                                                                                                              |  |          | Community Use? |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Assessment Criteria</b> (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer) |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Element                                                                                                                                                 |  | Rating   |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | Comments |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>About the greens</b>                                                                                                                                 |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Grass cover                                                                                                                                             |  | Over 70% |                | 40-69%     |    | less than 40% |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Evenness of surface                                                                                                                                     |  | Good     |                | Adequate   |    | Poor          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Signs of wear and tear                                                                                                                                  |  | None     |                | Yes - some |    | Yes - lots    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Condition of ditches/boarding                                                                                                                           |  | Good     |                | Adequate   |    | Poor          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Surface of surrounding hard areas                                                                                                                       |  | Good     |                | Adequate   |    | Poor          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Is the green and surrounding area fenced?                                                                                                               |  | Yes      |                |            | No |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fencing around the green and ancillaries                                                                                                                |  | Good     |                | Adequate   |    | Poor          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Problem areas: litter, glass, fouling, leaf fall on the green                                                                                           |  | None     |                | Yes - some |    | Yes - lots    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Problem Areas: Evidence of inappropriate use on the green                                                                                               |  | None     |                | Yes - some |    | Yes - lots    |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Access for disabled players/spectators - ie: ramps onto greens, width of gates                                                                          |  | Good     |                | Adequate   |    | Poor          |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>Ancillary facilities</b>                                                                                                                             |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Changing Accomodation                                                                                                                                   |  | Yes      |                |            | No |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Toilets                                                                                                                                                 |  | Yes      |                |            | No |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Car parking                                                                                                                                             |  | Yes      |                |            | No |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| <b>General comments about the site:</b>                                                                                                                 |  |          |                |            |    |               |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |          |  |  |  |  |  |  |



# NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL SPORTS PITCH STRATEGY

## Non Technical Visual Quality Assessment - Changing Accomodation

KKP Site reference

Site Name:

Changing Accom  
Name

Assessment undertaken by:

Date of Assessment:

Capacity of changing rooms;

(Number of teams that can change at any one time in the facility)

Changing Accomodation Issues:

**Assessment Criteria (please rank each of the following aspects for each pitch with an 'X' in the coloured box to the right of the chosen answer)**

| Element                         | Rating     |  |            |  |         |           |            |  |             |  | Guidance notes                                                                                                   | Comments |
|---------------------------------|------------|--|------------|--|---------|-----------|------------|--|-------------|--|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| About the Changing Accomodation |            |  |            |  |         |           |            |  |             |  |                                                                                                                  |          |
| Overall Quality                 | Excellent  |  | Good       |  | Average |           | Poor       |  | No changing |  | Perceived quality of changing accommodationDoes it look well maintained, clean, safe etc                         |          |
| Evidence of vandalism           | None       |  | Yes - some |  |         |           | Yes - lots |  |             |  | Damage to pavillion, graffiti, broken glass etc                                                                  |          |
| Showers                         | Yes - Good |  | Yes - OK   |  |         | Yes -poor |            |  | No          |  | Are there showers facilities, what is their quality (if known)                                                   |          |
| Toilets                         | Yes - Good |  | Yes - OK   |  |         | Yes -poor |            |  | No          |  | Are there toilets - what is their condition (if known)                                                           |          |
| Parking                         | Good       |  |            |  | OK      |           |            |  | Poor        |  | Is there enough for circa 20 cars, bays marked out etc                                                           |          |
| Links to public transort        | Good       |  |            |  | OK      |           |            |  | Poor/non    |  | Is the site close to public transport links, proximity to bus stop, train station, hubs.                         |          |
| Security                        | Good       |  |            |  | OK      |           |            |  | Poor        |  | Does the accomodation look secure - secure doors/windows, evidence of breakins ( may get info from User Surveys) |          |
| Segregated changing             | Yes        |  |            |  |         | No        |            |  |             |  | accomodation be used by both male and female teams at same time                                                  |          |