



**Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk,  
NR33 0EQ**

# Cabinet

## **Members:**

Councillor Steve Gallant (Leader)  
Councillor Craig Rivett (Deputy Leader and  
Economic Development)  
Councillor Norman Brooks (Transport)  
Councillor Stephen Burroughes (Customer  
Services, ICT and Commercial Partnerships)  
Councillor Maurice Cook (Resources)  
Councillor Richard Kerry (Housing)  
Councillor James Mallinder (The Environment)  
Councillor David Ritchie (Planning & Coastal  
Management)  
Councillor Mary Rudd (Community Health)  
Councillor Letitia Smith (Communities, Leisure  
and Tourism)

Members are invited to a **Meeting of the Cabinet**  
to be held in the Conference Room, Riverside, Lowestoft,  
on **Tuesday, 5 July 2022 at 6.30pm**

This meeting will be broadcast to the public via the East Suffolk YouTube  
Channel at <https://youtu.be/mFBSlqJlyAs>

An Agenda is set out below.

**Part One – Open to the Public**

<b>1</b>	<b>Apologies for Absence</b> To receive apologies for absence, if any.	
<b>2</b>	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> Members and Officers are invited to make any declarations of Disclosable Pecuniary or Local Non-Pecuniary Interests that they may have in relation to items on the Agenda and are also reminded to make any declarations at any stage during the Meeting if it becomes apparent that this may be required when a particular item or issue is considered.	
<b>3</b>	<b>Announcements</b> To receive any announcements.	
<b>4a</b>	<b>Minutes - May 2022</b> To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 3 May 2022	<b>1 - 9</b>
<b>4b</b>	<b>Minutes - June 2022</b> To confirm as a correct record the Minutes of the Meeting held on 7 June 2022	<b>10 - 21</b>
<b>KEY DECISIONS</b>		
<b>5</b>	<b>East Suffolk Leisure Strategy Adoption ES/1193</b> Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism	<b>22 - 305</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Acquisition of new Refuse Collection Vehicles ES/1194</b> Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services, ICT and Commercial Partnerships and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment	<b>306 - 314</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Area Parking Reviews ES/1196</b> Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport	<b>315 - 320</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Draft Financial Outturn 2021/22 and Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2022/23 ES/1195</b> Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources	<b>321 - 351</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>Review of Strategic Management Team Capacity ES/1197</b> Report of the Leader of the Council	<b>352 - 360</b>
<b>NON-KEY DECISION</b>		
<b>10</b>	<b>Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25 ES/1198</b> Report of the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources	<b>361 - 398</b>

## **11 Exempt/Confidential Items**

It is recommended that under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

## **Part Two – Exempt/Confidential**

### **12a Exempt Minutes - May 2022**

- Information relating to any individual.
- Information that is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

### **12b Exempt Minutes - June 2022**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

## **KEY DECISION**

### **13 Port Health and actions following the HM Government Brexit Written Statement of 28 April 2022**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**Close**



Stephen Baker, Chief Executive

## **Filming, Videoing, Photography and Audio Recording at Council Meetings**

The Council, members of the public and press may record / film / photograph or broadcast this meeting when the public and press are not lawfully excluded.

The Council cannot guarantee public seating areas will not be filmed or recorded. By entering the Conference Room and sitting in the public seating area, those present will be deemed to have consented to the possible use of filmed images and sound recordings. If you do not wish to be recorded, please speak to a member of the Democratic Services team at the earliest opportunity.

If you require this document in large print, audio or Braille or in a different language, please contact the Democratic Services Team on 01502 523521 or email:

[democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:democraticservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)



**The national Charter and Charter Plus Awards for Elected Member Development**  
East Suffolk Council is committed to achieving excellence in elected member development  
[www.local.gov.uk/Community-Leadership](http://www.local.gov.uk/Community-Leadership)



**Unconfirmed**



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Cabinet** held in the Conference Room, Riverside, on **Tuesday, 3 May 2022 at 6:30 pm**

**Members of the Cabinet present:**

Councillor Norman Brooks, Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Councillor Maurice Cook, Councillor Steve Gallant, Councillor James Mallinder, Councillor David Ritchie, Councillor Letitia Smith

**Other Members present:**

Councillor Edward Back, Councillor Peter Byatt, Councillor Judy Cloke, Councillor Linda Coulam, Councillor John Fisher, Councillor Louise Gooch, Councillor Mark Jepson, Councillor Ed Thompson

**Officers present:**

Stephen Baker (Chief Executive), Stephanie Baxter (Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager), Karen Cook (Democratic Services Manager), Elliott Dawes (Development Officer), Andy Jarvis (Strategic Director), Nick Khan (Strategic Director), Karen Last (Electoral Services Manager), Bridget Law (Programme Manager), Sandra Lewis (Head of Digital and Programme Management), Fern Lincoln (Housing Needs Service Manager), Izak Loggenberg (Interim Estates Manager) Matt Makin (Democratic Services Officer), Andrea McMillan (Principal Planner (Policy and Delivery)), Sue Meeken (Political Group Support Officer (Labour)), Brian Mew (Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer), Tom Potter (Communications and Marketing Officer), Fiona Quinn (Head of Environmental Services and Port Health), Andrew Reynolds (Environment Protection Manager), Heather Tucker (Head of Housing), Nicola Wotton (Deputy Democratic Services Officer)

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Kerry, Councillor Rivett and Councillor Rudd.

Apologies for absence were also received from Councillor Cooper, as an Assistant Cabinet Member.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3 Announcements

At the invitation of the Leader, the Assistant Cabinet Member - Refugee Support, gave an update in respect of the situation in Ukraine. Councillor Cloke reported that it was her understanding that the Housing Team had undertaken 40 home visits thus far, with a further 30 visits booked; the Housing Team was working with Suffolk County Council (SCC) to undertake the visits as quickly as possible and was generally managing to get them completed within the week of notification. Members of the Housing Team were attending regular meetings with various organisations such as Health and Welfare and of course SCC. Councillor Cloke understood also that the statistics issued by the Home Office that up to 29 April 175 visas had been issued to people wanting to come to East Suffolk. One of the most common questions that Councillor Cloke had received, she reported, was how could community support teams find out where the refugees were in their area; Councillor Cloke had asked this of SCC and apparently Community Action Suffolk was putting some money in place to support local community groups; SCC would be working with Community Action Suffolk to offer support. Councillor Cloke stated that she did not feel that this was quite the answer and she felt that it was too vague an arrangement and, as such, she would discuss possible improvements with the Head of Communities. Councillor Cloke reported that she was also in the process of writing to Peter Aldous MP to ask whether the visa process could be improved to speed it up or just make it workable.

### 4 Data Analytical Capacity

Cabinet received report **ES/1123** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services, ICT and Commercial Partnerships, who reported that more and more we are living in a world of digital data, with the use of this data playing an ever-increasing role in designing, delivering and transforming public services to improve outcomes and drive efficiencies. This was becoming an increasingly vital tool in evolving services in East Suffolk. More data than ever was available to inform services and obtain greater insights into the needs of the organisation, the people who live and work within the district and the places served.

Councillor Burroughes stated that the proposal before Cabinet directly addressed priority P17, Effective use of data, of the Strategic Plan, by putting in place additional resource to take forward ESC's ambitions of being a data-led authority. It also supported all other themes of the Strategic Plan, including governance, by providing a vital data service to underpin everything done, delivering the technical skills to provide insights and data analytics to the organisation as a whole, subsequently leading to improved delivery of front-line services across all areas of the Council.

This proposal was key, Councillor Burroughes stated, to unlocking a better understanding of delivery of services, including providing better focus, efficiency and different perspectives on tackling the needs of the district and all who lived in it. Unlocking the power of data in a co-ordinated and managed way would provide a vital next step for East Suffolk. In a commercial setting, all businesses used data specifically to drive growth and improvement, increasing technical ability and pursuing investment opportunities and potential, ESC should be no different Councillor Burroughes stated.

The Leader stated that ESC was a modern, forward thinking and ambitious Council and he added that data was key to steering the direction of the Council; he referred to the importance of understanding data and how that would drive all of the ambitions within the Strategic Plan.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment gave his full support for the proposal, referring to environmental concerns and how data was key to understanding communities and what they wanted.

Councillor Byatt, after giving his support for the proposal within the report, asked about timescales in respect the appointment of the new officer; he also enquired about working with the Suffolk Observatory. Clarification was provided in that the post would be advertised once the Cabinet call-in period had passed, and also ESC would continue to work closely with the Suffolk Observatory.

On the proposition of Councillor Burroughes, seconded by Councillor Smith, it was by unanimous vote

## **RESOLVED**

That a supplementary budget increase of £65,508 including all on-costs for the appointment of a Senior Data Analyst role within the Digital and Programme Management service area be approved.

## **5 Consultation on, and Revocation of Woodbridge Air Quality Management Area**

Cabinet received report **ES/1124** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment, who reported that this Administration believed that clean air was a fundamental right of every citizen of East Suffolk; as such, it was a priority in decision making and was part of making sure ESC protected and championed environmentally sustainable communities. Councillor Mallinder was delighted to advise Cabinet that ESC met all statutory requirement in East Suffolk with 72 locations across the district having monitoring equipment in place, diffusion tubes for Nitrogen Dioxide, all currently returning results below the legal requirements.

Councillor Mallinder reported that he was pleased to bring this paper to Cabinet recommending the consultation to remove the Woodbridge AQMA. The reason for this was that back in 2002 processes triggered the need for a detailed assessment of this junction in Woodbridge and in 2006 an AQMA was declared. However by 2014 and 2015 nitrogen dioxide levels had started to fall. Defra advised that, since the Nitrogen Dioxide levels had declined consistently and had been below the objective levels for the past seven years, ESC should revoke the Air Quality Management Area (AQMA) without further delay.

Councillor Mallinder highlighted two points, he stated that models had taken into account the redevelopments of the former council offices at Melton Hill and this would not have an impact on nitrogen dioxide levels. Covid impact had been factored into the models and had little impact in the overall picture as levels were down prior to Covid. Added to that, models again had taken into account any possible impact of commercial vehicles due to any future construction projects in East Suffolk and it was

concluded that the area was not a route for such vehicles and the risk would be from residents' vehicles finding alternative routes, but from the East Suffolk model these would cause no further nitrogen dioxide levels.

Councillor Mallinder stated that if ESC removed the AQMA this did not mean that it would no longer monitor this area, through its robust air quality strategy it had many checks and balances in place and would monitor air quality as it did across East Suffolk.

In conclusion, Councillor Mallinder stated, ESC's detailed modelling prepared as part of its investigations into the need to maintain this AQMA had included predictions of air quality up to 2028, taking into consideration all possible negative influences on air quality, including the possible factors mentioned earlier, with the result that ESC had a high degree of confidence in the belief that revocation of the AQMA was an appropriate decision to make at this time. This view was supported by Defra whose own experts had assessed ESC's technical reports against the relevant technical guidance and come to the same conclusion.

In the very unlikely event air quality deteriorated, Councillor Mallinder reported, ESC would be very well placed to spot any upward trends and respond appropriately and quickly.

Cabinet gave its support for the proposal within the report; the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport commented on ESC making a positive step by moving most of the fleet of refuse vehicles onto biofuels which had made a substantial reduction in the amount of noxious fumes coming into the atmosphere; there had also been a large increase in stop/start vehicles which did not sit idly in traffic jams. Councillor Brooks also referred to the RingoGo app which had been introduced; when used it advised in respect of available parking spaces and saved unnecessary driving to locate available spaces. In conclusion, Councillor Brooks highlighted the Walking and Cycling Strategy which would reduce the amount of car travel.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism commented on the importance of sharing the information within the report to communities, ensuring that the people who lived in the area were aware of the quality of air.

On the proposition of Councillor Mallinder, seconded by Councillor Burroughes, it was by unanimous vote

## **RESOLVED**

That the commencement of formal consultation seeking views on revocation of the Woodbridge Air Quality Management Area, be approved, following which delegated authority be given to the Head of Environmental Services and Port Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment, to consider consultation responses, liaise with Defra and approve the Revocation Order.

Cabinet received report **ES/1127** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management, who reported that East Suffolk had two Local Plans: the Suffolk Coastal Local Plan and Waveney Local Plan, both of which contained planning policies relating to the delivery of affordable housing, either as a requirement on residential developments or as standalone developments in their own right.

The Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) had been developed to support the implementation of these policies relating to affordable housing in the Local Plans, as well as to be consistent with Government policy contained in the National Planning Policy Framework and in Planning Practice Guidance.

Once adopted, Councillor Ritchie explained, the new SPD would replace the current guidance contained in Supplementary Planning Guidance 2: Affordable Housing (adopted in July 2004); this applied to the former Suffolk Coastal area and in the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document (adopted in May 2012) (this applied to the former Waveney local planning authority area). These existing guidance documents were considered to be out of date in places in relation to adopted Local Plan policies and current Government policy contained within the National Planning Policy Framework and associated national Planning Practice Guidance. In May 2021 the Government also issued new Planning Practice Guidance on a new type of affordable housing, First Homes, and the Council published a First Homes Position Statement setting out that it intended to provide guidance on implementation of the First Homes policy as part of the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document.

The preparation of the new SPD, Councillor Ritchie reported, had been undertaken through an officer steering group and had involved officers from Planning Policy and Delivery, Housing, Development Management, Section 106 officers and Legal Services, and had also been overseen by the Local Plan Working Group.

An initial consultation to inform the scope and content of the SPD was carried out between 9 November and 21 December 2020. In total, 194 comments were received from 22 individuals and organisations. Virtual roundtable sessions were also held to inform the preparation of Model Heads of Terms and Template Clauses for legal agreements relating to affordable housing. The responses informed preparation of a draft document.

The consultation on the draft SPD was carried out between 1 November and 13 December 2021. In total, ESC received 111 comments from 27 individuals and organisations. Various changes had been made to the SPD to address the comments received.

The Affordable Housing SPD provided guidance on a range of topics including in relation to types of affordable housing, identifying an appropriate mix of affordable housing, the design of affordable housing, legal agreements, vacant buildings credit and carrying out local housing needs assessments. The SPD also incorporated model Heads of Terms and Template Clauses for legal agreements relating to affordable housing. Guidance on First Homes is incorporated into the SPD.

The Affordable Housing SPD, Councillor Ritchie reported, did not create new policies but rather sought to provide guidance that would help with the implementation of relevant policies in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Plans.

On adoption the Affordable Housing SPD would be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications.

The Leader highlighted the consultation process, as referred to by Councillor Ritchie, and Cabinet supported the approach of changes being made as a result of that.

Councillor Byatt gave thanks for the report and he too welcomed the consultation process; he welcomed that the SPD would be in place for material purposes for Planners.

On the proposition of Councillor Ritchie, seconded by Councillor Brooks, it was by unanimous vote

## **RESOLVED**

1. That the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document be approved.
2. That the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management, be authorised to make any presentational or typographical amendments to the Affordable Housing Supplementary Planning Document prior to it being published.

## **7 HRA Fire Safety Strategy**

Cabinet received report **ES/1125** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing which, in his absence, was presented by the Leader of the Council. The report and the attached Fire Safety Strategy had been developed to set out the way ESC's Landlord Services aimed to minimise the risk of fires starting and spreading in Housing Revenue Account (HRA) owned and managed properties and how the service would safeguard residents, staff, contractors and visitors in the event of fire.

Although Fire Safety had always been a key priority for the Landlords Service, the Leader reported, this was the first formal Strategy, which had been developed and which set out the Council's proposals to manage fire safety in accordance with best practice, legislation and other relevant internal policies, which enabled the safe management of properties.

The Leader referred to the previous week, after the Cabinet papers had been published, the Building Safety Bill having received royal assent; therefore, if the Strategy was adopted by Cabinet, there would be a minor amendment made to include the Building Safety Bill into Appendix A. The proposals set out in the Building Safety Bill had already been taken into consideration during the development of the Strategy.

In response to a question from Councillor Byatt, regarding the reference in paragraph 5.3 of the report, to the Maintenance Manager acting as the 'competent person' until a Building Safety and Compliance Manager was appointed, at which point they would

become the 'competent' person, it was confirmed that it would be a new ESC post and the person appointed would be responsible for ensuring that all ESC properties met with the fire standard and that person would also oversee the other compliance elements too.

On the proposition of Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Burroughes, it was by unanimous vote

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the Fire Safety Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report, be approved, which will be implemented by officers immediately.
2. That authority be delegated to the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing, Head of Housing and the Housing, Health and Safety Board to update the Strategy as required.
3. That authority be delegated to the Head of Housing and the Housing, Health and Safety Board to develop all the required policies and procedures to support the implementation of this Fire Safety Strategy.

### **8 Community Housing Fund Spend Policy**

Cabinet received report **ES/1126** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing which, in his absence, was presented by the Leader of the Council.

The report set out that the Community Housing Fund (CHF) Spend Policy provided a clear framework of the level of funding available, who could bid for it and how it was to be used. The CHF Spend Policy had been designed to ensure a fair process for allocating funding, which would try and support as many Community Led Housing Schemes as possible.

Cabinet, followed by Councillor Byatt, welcomed the Community Housing Fund Spend Policy.

On the proposition of Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Brooks, it was by unanimous vote

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the Community Housing Spend Policy, as set out in Appendix A of the report, be adopted.
2. That delegated responsibility be given to the Head of Housing in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing to award the Community Housing Fund (CHF) spend policy.

### **9 Exempt/Confidential Items**

The Leader reported that in exceptional circumstances, the Council may, by law, exclude members of the public from all, or part of, an executive decision-making meeting. The Council should, unless there were urgent circumstances, give notice of

its intention to do so via the Forward Plan, which was updated and published on its website 28 clear days prior to the meeting.

There were various reasons that the Council, on occasions, had to do this and examples were because a report contained information relating to an individual, information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person, or information relating to any consultations or negotiations.

Tonight, the Leader explained, Cabinet had four substantive exempt matters to consider and they were as outlined on the published agenda, items 10 to 13.

Firstly, the Leader reported, agenda item 10 related to an electoral services specialist printing tender and the report sought Cabinet approval to tender for a new specialist printing contract and to obtain delegated authority to enter into that contract on behalf of ESC.

Secondly, the Leader explained, agenda item 11 related to property acquisition works and adaptations for an exceptional housing need case. The report sought Cabinet approval for expenditure for the acquisition and remodelling of a suitable property to meet the needs of a family within the East Suffolk area. Assisting people with complex needs to access affordable and suitable housing was a priority for ESC and by identifying suitable accommodation it would be offering long term settled accommodation in line with the support and care needs, and aspirations, for the family.

Thirdly, the Leader stated, agenda item 12 related to a redevelopment of affordable homes at White Lion Flats in Beccles. This report outlined proposals for the redevelopment of an under-utilised property. The recommendations within the report would assist ESC in its ambition to increase overall numbers of new build homes. The development of this scheme would deliver four quality homes into the Housing Revenue Account and would contribute to the delivery of a number of ESC's key priorities. The specification of the proposed properties demonstrated ESC's commitment to change and align with its aspirations to provide efficient, sustainable housing with environmentally considered design helping to reduce running costs for tenants.

Lastly, the Leader reported, agenda item 13 related to Anglia Revenues Partnership fraud services and a section 113 agreement with Norwich City Council. This report sought Cabinet approval for a section 113 agreement between ESC as a member of the ARP and Norwich City Council, to enable officers to continue to provide fraud services to Norwich City Council. This proposal supported the East Suffolk and ARP strategic plans by contributing to efficiencies across the partnership; increasing income; and potentially further partnership opportunities.

On the proposition of Councillor Gallant, seconded by Councillor Burroughes, it was by unanimous vote

**RESOLVED**



That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 1, 2 and 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**10 Electoral Services Specialist Printing Tender**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**11 Property acquisition works and adaptations for an exceptional housing needs case**

- Information relating to any individual.
- Information that is likely to reveal the identity of an individual.

**12 Redevelopment of Affordable Homes – White Lion Flats, Beccles**

- Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

**13 Anglia Revenues Partnership Fraud Services - Section 113 Agreement with Norwich City Council**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The meeting concluded at 7.55 pm

.....  
Chairman

<p><b>Unconfirmed</b></p>
---------------------------



Minutes of a Meeting of the **Cabinet** held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, on **Tuesday, 7 June 2022 at 6:30 pm**

**Members of the Cabinet present:**

Councillor Norman Brooks, Councillor Stephen Burroughes, Councillor Maurice Cook, Councillor Richard Kerry, Councillor James Mallinder, Councillor David Ritchie, Councillor Craig Rivett, Councillor Mary Rudd, Councillor Letitia Smith

**Other Members present:**

Councillor Edward Back, Councillor David Beavan, Councillor Alison Cackett, Councillor Judy Cloke, Councillor Tony Cooper, Councillor Linda Coulam, Councillor Mike Deacon, Councillor Louise Gooch, Councillor Tracey Green, Councillor Mark Jepson, Councillor Steve Wiles

**Officers present:**

Stephen Baker (Chief Executive), Kerry Blair (Head of Operations), Emma Chapman (Town Centre Programme Manager), Duncan Colman (Interim Asset and Investment Manager), Karen Cook (Democratic Services Manager), Stephanie Duff (Housing Maintenance Manager), Andy Jarvis (Strategic Director), Nick Khan (Strategic Director), Matt Makin (Democratic Services Officer), Sue Meeken (Labour Political Group Support Officer), Brian Mew (Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer), Darren Newman (Economic Regeneration Manager), Agnes Ogundiran (Conservative Political Group Support Officer), Thomas Pierce (Design & Conservation Officer), Nicole Rickard (Head of Communities), Lorraine Rogers (Deputy Chief Finance Officer), Robert Scrimgeour (Principal Design & Conservation Officer), Louise Thomas (Communities Officer), Karen Thomas (Head of Coastal Partnership East), Rachel Tucker (Anti-Social Behaviour Transformation Co-ordinator), Marie Webster-Fitch (Economic Development Manager), Paul Wood (Head of Economic Development and Regeneration)

**1 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from the following Cabinet Member - Councillor Gallant.

Apologies for absence were received from the following Assistant Cabinet Members - Councillor Back, Councillor Cackett and Councillor Cloke.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources gave two announcements. Firstly, he gave an update in respect of the distribution of the Energy Council Tax Rebate Scheme, stating that through the Anglia Revenues Partnership, no less than 84% of East Suffolk council tax payers had now received the discount of £150 from their council taxes, with the total value being at some 93,500 transactions, with over £14,048,000 been distributed, with the vast majority of those being through the BACS system refunding accounts via direct debits, and now a significantly growing proportion of those that East Suffolk Council (ESC) had written to encouraging people to complete claim forms. Goring forward, when there were no more claim forms coming in, credit would be applied to council tax bills.

Secondly, Councillor Cook referred to a very important piece of legislation coming forward, that would be very beneficial to ESC. He referred to the Queen's Speech, outlining the Government's planned legislative programme for the next 12 months, which was presented to Parliament on 10 May 2022. The Government was proposing that billing authorities would have the power to charge a 100% premium on second homes or empty dwellings.

The Levelling-Up and Regeneration Bill would give billing authorities the power to charge a 100% premium on "dwellings occupied periodically". A determination would have to be "made at least one year before the beginning of the financial year to which it related". Assuming receipt of Royal assent in early 2023, authorities should be able to use the premium from 2024/25 at the earliest.

Given the number of second homes in Suffolk, Councillor Cook stated, this 100% council tax premium should represent a significant addition to the income stream from council tax. Based on current information and council tax levels, this could yield additional income of just under £11.2m in Suffolk, the bulk of which was in East Suffolk.

In East Suffolk, over £7.6m could be generated, around £5.9m for Suffolk County Council, over £1m for Suffolk Police, and over £700,000 for ESC. As with other premiums, the second homes premium would generate this additional income by way of increasing the council tax base parish by parish. Consequently, parish councils with significant numbers of second homes would also benefit from this premium, enabling them to increase their income for the same level of parish council tax, or reduce their parish council tax for the same level of precept.

Properties could, Councillor Cook advised Cabinet, be reclassified as being liable for business rates to avoid this premium, but the criteria for holiday lets in the business rates system was also being tightened from April 2023, and scope for avoidance of the premium may be limited.

With regard to properties empty for more than one year, again, based on current information and council tax levels, Councillor Cook reported, it was estimated that application of the 100% council tax premium could generate additional, largely one-off, income of around £650,000, around £500,000 for Suffolk County Council, around £90,000 for Suffolk Police, and around £60,000 for ESC. Any ongoing additional income

would be dependent on further properties becoming empty for more than a year, a situation that the premium and Council policy was actually seeking to prevent.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment was delighted to announce that Paul Mackie had recently been appointed as ESC's very own Environment and Climate lead officer. Paul would bring an articulation, a solid academic background and a commitment to all things environment. Councillor Mallinder reported that Paul currently worked for Coastal Partnership East and so therefore knew more than most the tangible changes in the coast due to the manifestation of climate change. Councillor Mallinder stated that this role was absolutely crucial for East Suffolk as it was about continuing focusing the Council on his environmental vision; it would build on the excellent work that Daniel Waring had already started.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health took the opportunity to refer to Covid-19 and encouraged everybody, where appropriate, to come forward for their vaccinations.

#### **4 Minutes**

##### **RESOLVED**

That the minutes of the meeting held on 5 April 2022 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

#### **5 Resilient Coasts Project**

Cabinet received report **ES/1162** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management, together with a presentation which was given by officers. The report contained a high level overview, which stated that the Resilient Coasts project would deliver practical solutions to deal with climate change and sea level rise that were co-created and implemented by communities along East Suffolk and Great Yarmouth coastal frontages. The project aimed to facilitate a sense of ownership that would increase community resilience to tidal flooding and coastal erosion.

It was reported that high risk communities with no resilience options would benefit from a suite of innovative tools that would allow them to plan and transition in response to coastal change to viable, sustainable places whilst delivering wider outcomes of local plans and strategies. Through eight work packages much needed tools and options would be created for those affected by coastal change so new community-led resilience master plans could be co-created.

The project would add value to traditional coastal management and planning approaches and go beyond other resilience work initiatives by offering the first dedicated joint UK erosion and tidal risk resilience project. This would generate significant learning locally, nationally, and across public and private sectors. The project would provide evidence for policy change and underpin how coastal practitioners manage the coast and learn to adapt to coastal change now and in the future.

The £9.1m Resilient Coast project would be funded by the Defra and Environment Agency (EA) Flood and Coast Resilience Innovation Programme (FCRIP) and would be one of 25 projects across England to be funded and one of only five dedicated coastal projects.

The draft Outline Business Case was currently being technically reviewed by the Environment Agency assurers and it had been proposed that ESC acts as Lead Authority for the project in partnership with Great Yarmouth Borough Council with work being delivered by the Coastal Partnership East officers. Additional resources to support project delivery would be necessary and paid for by the FCRIP fund.

Although the EA had already given approval for the project to commence and allocated the funding the project required, Government processes stipulated that a detailed Outline Business Case be submitted for technical 'assurance' by the EA's national panel. When this process had been completed approval would be in place to move into the delivery phase and claim the remaining funding over the course of the project.

It was highlighted that the project would focus on finding practical solutions to enable adaptation to coastal erosion, flooding and climate change risk. The funding was not available to spend in locations that already had flood and coastal solutions through existing funding routes.

The project's work would be focused on four core pilot locations and the outputs would also feed-in to three 'twin' locations, ie

- Southwold, a defended coastal town between the mouth of an estuary at flood risk and soft eroding cliffs - focus was on the transition between hard defences and soft/natural coast where defences.
- Hemsby, an undefended coastal resort with properties at risk behind an eroding sand dune with significant environmental designations.
- Great Yarmouth, a defended urban zone at flood risk with areas of uneconomic frontage that needed resilience solutions and potential for enhanced biodiversity and alternative flood management solutions.
- Thorpeness, a partially defended rural coastal heritage village at both erosion and flood risk.

The twin locations were as follows:-

- The undefended cliff top community in Pakefield at significant erosion risk.
- The rural community at erosion risk in Shotley Gate within an estuary environment.
- The area from Corton to Gunton, with key infrastructure, holiday parks, failed historic coastal defenses and a village at future erosion risk.

Wider coastal community benefits were highlighted as follows:-

Outside the pilots and twins it was an aim to work strategically with communities across the whole East Suffolk and Great Yarmouth frontage to establish coastal change science and potential impacts and raise awareness about coastal risk.

CPE would develop and share visualisations of future coast scenarios to support community understanding of the constraints and opportunities for a resilient coast to support future discussions when coastal impacts increase. CPE would share new coastal erosion risk mapping to support planning and development decisions.

CPE would also be engaging infrastructure and third-party asset owners to establish where infrastructure was located along the whole coast and work with these partners to establish longer term investment plans that support more resilient infrastructure for our coastal communities and economies for the future.

CPE would be exploring the natural capital of the coast and establishing wherever possible ways that would support the natural coastal areas and potential funding routes to enhance biodiversity and local nature recovery.

Cabinet was advised that governance to this stage had been provided by the CPE Board which included Councillors Ritchie and Mallinder and Senior Officers Nick Khan and Philip Ridley. A Resilient Coast Project Board would be established upon approval of the outline business case by the EA and following approval by ESC Cabinet. Wider project governance was already being established with officers, partners and stakeholders and included a new Coastal Community group for the pilot locations at Thorpeness, Southwold, Great Yarmouth and Hemsby and would extend to other key coastal communities including Pakefield, Easton Bavents, Corton and Gunton.

In conclusion, the project would meet a significant number of ESC Local Plan and Strategy objectives and deliver outcomes across all five ESC strategic themes. The project was aligned with National Defra Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy and LGA Coastal Specialist Interest Group work plans and linked to wider government place-making and levelling-up agendas.

Cabinet gave its full support for the project and welcomed the work with communities; the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment particularly commented favourably in respect of ESC and CPE really focussing and building environmentally resilient communities; he acknowledged that East Suffolk was exposed in this area and he was delighted to see national Government recognising that; he stated that East Suffolk needed to make sure it was ready for the future; he stated the importance of building environmentally sustainable and resilient communities, for now and for future generations.

Councillor Beavan stated that he welcomed the report and he gave thanks to all involved; he added that it was a dream that he had, when the Southwold Board was set up, to proactively build a road to resilience for East Suffolk communities; Councillor Beavan thanked Councillor Ritchie for helping to set up the Board and also for the work that was being undertaken constructively on the harbour as well. In conclusion, Councillor Beavan stated that he looked forward to the opportunities ahead for cross-party working and he looked forward to the engagement with local communities so that they could devise their own resilient road forward.

Councillor Gooch referred to a news item that she had just seen, which related to the types of people who might purchase vulnerable coastal properties and might not have

a survey prior to doing so; Councillor Gooch commented that a suggestion had been made that there should be openness and those people should be protected. Officers commented in respect of the sharing of information, stating that there were almost certainly people who were purchasing properties in erosion risk areas, who were unaware of the risks. Officers thought that over the next couple of years the issue would be raised as an important issue, and with the erosion risk mapping being refreshed in 2023/24 that would flag to a lot of people potential new erosion risk areas that people were not anticipating. Officers were uncertain as to whether the Government wanted to put it into legislation that estate agents and others needed to give this information to people but it was thought, from a community and grass roots level, that the relevant information should be shared.

On the proposition of Councillor Ritchie, seconded by Councillor Rudd, it was by unanimous vote

#### **RESOLVED**

1. That the Resilient Coast Outline Business Case, attached at Appendix A of the report, be accepted as a basis for a £9.1m programme of innovative coastal adaptation along the East Suffolk and Great Yarmouth coastal frontages.
2. That it be acknowledged that the Outline Business Case approval by the Environment Agency will release the allocation of funding to East Suffolk Council and the Cabinet's approval of the Outline Business Case is therefore required by the Environment Agency to release funds.
3. That the role as lead authority and the financial responsibility and scrutiny of £9.1m, supported by the additional scrutiny of GYBC's Environment Committee, be accepted.

## **6 East Suffolk Economic Strategy**

Cabinet received report **ES/1163** by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development; the report was introduced by the Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development. The report highlighted the key elements of ESC's new Economic Strategy and it set out why this was a critical time to review the Council's approach to supporting the existing economy and enabling sustainable growth. The report also reflected the wider national and regional economic context and how the new strategy would align with this.

Cabinet welcomed the new Strategy, commenting that ensuring that East Suffolk continued to have a strong, resilient and diverse economic base was crucial in maintaining a high quality of life for the residents of the district. It would also provide a strong foundation for new businesses to emerge, develop and innovate. Coupled with a strong emphasis on place development and capitalising on the competitive advantage the key sector presented, the new Strategy would provide a clear and robust framework for delivering sustainable economic growth that could benefit all of the district's residents, businesses and visitors.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources, commenting in respect of financial sustainability, highlighted that one of the advantages in having such a

Strategy was that ESC would be able to predict further in advance how potential budget gaps could be closed.

The Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment commented in respect of environmental issues, stating that as a shift was made to a more environmentally focussed way of living, that would create jobs.

Councillor Deacon referred to the comment in the report that as part of the development of the new Strategy almost 80 organisations were consulted; he asked how many organisations had responded; it was confirmed that the consultation had been "direct" and, as such, all organisations had responded.

Councillor Deacon referred to the reference within the report to Suffolk seeking a devolution deal and he enquired about the impacts of that; Councillor Deacon asked for more information. It was confirmed that discussions continued in this regard with the devolution deal still being worked up and there being many different variables, with ESC, and other districts, being very much involved.

Councillor Deacon referred to paragraph 3.2 of the report and the reference to it being imperative that ESC harness opportunities to ensure that communities, especially the most marginalised, benefit from the unprecedented developments referenced; Councillor Deacon suggested that East Suffolk should monitor the take up of jobs by ward deprivation data for example and he asked if there would be a proactive plan. It was confirmed that following the adoption of the Strategy there would be annual delivery plans that would set out in detail the activities that would be pursued in order to achieve the objectives. There would also be a focus on skills, apprenticeships, aspiration raising and awareness of the opportunities available.

Councillor Deacon referred to paragraph 3.7 of the report and the performance measures; he commented that fulltime jobs should not be the only indicator of success in the area, particularly as many hospitality and tourism jobs were part time and of a seasonal nature. Councillor Deacon also suggested that, in order to see if people were benefiting from the new Strategy, there needed to be an increase in residents' ability to live well and to see an improvement in the quality of their lives and health. Councillor Deacon stated that ESC needed to measure the growth in wages of all employees over time. In conclusion, Councillor Deacon stated that none of the measures listed within the report measured that. In response, to provide reassurance, it was confirmed that a wide range of indicators were measured within the Economic Development Team and the report referenced the highlights and key measures; there was a lot of analysis in respect of the points that had been made by Councillor Deacon; also, once the annual delivery plan had been finalised the measures would be reviewed to ensure that they were appropriate; they would also complement and align with the Strategic Plan key performance objectives.

Councillor Deacon referred to page 169 of the report, the Lowestoft section, and the reference to consultation; he asked what the consultation would be about and what was hoped to be achieved. It was explained that ESC wanted to engage properly to ensure that it took account of the needs and aspirations of local communities.



Councillor Deacon referred to Felixstowe and asked what an all year round offer might include; he also asked about the the Logistics College and asked how that was progressing. Councillor Deacon was advised that an all year round offer would focus on the out of season time; an example was the development of the Martello P Tower and also, in the longer term, the proposals for Landguard Fort. Referring to the Logistics College, officers reported that this was an ambition as part of the Freeport East objectives; it was something that would be fleshed out as part of the delivery phase.

Councillor Beavan commented that a successful economy was not all about profit and productivity; it was, he said, about giving people worthwhile lives. Councillor Beavan stated that through the pandemic people had reassessed their work life balance, sometimes working a four day week and spending more time at home; Councillor Beavan hoped that this could be factored into the Strategy so that ESC could consider what the economy was doing for people, not what the people were doing for the economy.

Councillor Gooch commented that although she applauded the general direction of the new Strategy she objected to the framing of Sizewell C development within the clean energy sector, as currently illustrated within the report. Councillor Gooch added that it was not clean, referring to waste production, carbon neutrality, marine churn etc. Councillor Gooch suggested that there needed to be re-phrasing. The Deputy Leader, in response, acknowledged that there were many views about Sizewell; however, he stated that he was content with the phrasing as drafted.

On the proposition of Councillor Rivett, seconded by Councillor Burroughes, it was by unanimous vote

#### **RESOLVED**

That the East Suffolk Economic Strategy, attached as Appendix A, be approved.

### **7 Extension to existing Thorpeness Conservation Area and proposed adoption of the Thorpeness Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan**

Cabinet received report **ES/1164** by the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management, the purpose of which was to seek the adoption of the Thorpeness Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan with boundary changes and to consider an extension to the Conservation Area. The appraisal and Management Plan would provide guidance on the historic significance of the area to support decision making in the development management process.

Cabinet was advised that under section 71 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 ESC had a statutory duty to draw up and publish proposals for the preservation and enhancement of conservation areas in its district from time to time.

Cabinet welcomed the proposals contained within the report and supported the reviews, as referenced, from time to time.

Following a question by Councillor Cooper as to why the proposals did not extend further into Aldeburgh, it was explained that this had been considered but many of the

properties had been extensively altered and, as such, were not of the same significance.

On the proposition of Councillor Ritchie, seconded by Councillor Smith, it was by unanimous vote

**RESOLVED**

1. That the Thorpeness Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan, attached at Appendix A, be adopted.
2. That the extension of the Thorpeness Conservation Area as shown on the map attached at Appendix B be agreed and include those properties included in the schedule attached at Appendix E.
3. That the Head of Planning and Coastal Management, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning and Coastal Management, be authorised to make any presentational or typographical amendments to the Thorpeness Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan prior to it being published.

**8 Anti Social Behaviour Policy**

Cabinet received report **ES/1165** by the Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety, the purpose of which was to seek adoption of an updated and revised Anti Social Behaviour Policy for 2022. The current policy needed revision and updating and the new policy would allow ESC to actively work in partnership across all relevant teams and provide a joined up approach.

There being no questions or debate, on the proposition of Councillor Rudd, seconded by Councillor Brooks, it was by unanimous vote

**RESOLVED**

That the revised Antisocial Behaviour Policy 2022, attached as Appendix A, be adopted and authority be delegated to the Head of Communities, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health, to make minor changes to the policy to accommodate evolving requirements of the service and changes to legislation and guidance.

**9 Public Space Protection Order for Latitude**

Cabinet received report **ES/1166** by the Assistant Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Health, who reported that the current Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for Henham Park Latitude Festival was due to expire on 17 July 2022 and this year's Latitude Festival would start on 19 July 2022. It was proposed that the PSPO for the Henham Estate Latitude Festival should not be extended on the basis that there was extremely limited evidence that the PSPO had supported the Police in tackling Nitrous Oxide related use in this location.

Cabinet gave its full support for the proposals contained within the report, with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing noting, from the report, that the number of day ticket visitors over the weekend of the 2021 festival was nearly 35,000

people and there were no fixed penalty notices given for the use of Nitrous Oxide and fewer than 10 Nitrous Oxide cannisters were found. Cabinet was encouraged by these figures.

On the proposition of Councillor Rudd, seconded by Councillor Kerry, it was by unanimous vote

**RESOLVED**

That it be agreed that the Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) for the Henham Estate Latitude Festival 2022 should not be extended on the basis that there was limited evidence that the PSPO for this area had been needed or used or that it had supported the Police in tackling Nitrous Oxide related use in this location.

**10 Appointments to Outside Bodies 2022/23 (Executive)**

Cabinet received report **ES/1167** by the Leader of the Council, the purpose of which was to consider appointments to outside bodies (Executive), as outlined within Appendix A of the report. In the absence of the Leader, the report was presented by the Deputy Leader.

There being no questions or debate, on the proposition of Councillor Rivett, seconded by Councillor Smith, it was by unanimous vote

**RESOLVED**

1. That Councillors be appointed to those Outside Bodies listed in Appendix A for the 2022/23 Municipal Year.
2. That the Leader of the Council be authorised to fill any outstanding vacancies left unfilled by the Cabinet.
3. That the Leader of the Council be granted delegated authority to make any necessary changes to the members of the Outside Bodies for the remainder of the 2022/23 Municipal Year

**11 Exempt/Confidential Items**

The Deputy Leader reported that in exceptional circumstances, the Council may, by law, exclude members of the public from all, or part of, an executive decision-making meeting. The Council should, unless there were urgent circumstances, give notice of its intention to do so via the Forward Plan, which was updated and published on its website 28 clear days prior to the meeting.

There were various reasons that the Council, on occasions, had to do this, Councillor Rivett advised, and examples were because a report contained information relating to an individual, information relating to the financial or business affairs of a particular person, or information relating to any consultations or negotiations.

Tonight, Councillor Rivett stated, Cabinet had four substantive exempt matters to consider and they are as outlined on the published agenda – items 13 to 16.

Firstly, agenda item 13 related to the Lowestoft Town Investment Plan. The purpose of

this report was to consider the development phase of the Cultural Quarter town deal project following the completion of a HMT Green Book standard business case and submission to the Department of Levelling Up, Housing and Communities, unlocking £14.7m of the £24.9m Town Deal. The other four of the five Town Deal projects received Cabinet approval in March of this year. At this time Cabinet also gave approval for the Cultural Quarter to undertake detailed procurement of professional services in relation to the concept design for this project. The project included investment to transform and fill the viability gap of ESC owned assets which would enable them to play a key role in the redevelopment and regeneration of Lowestoft as well as generating income and realising a return on capital investment.

Secondly, Councillor Rivett, reported, agenda item 14 related to a Plumbing Supplies Contract. ESC had retained social housing stock of around 4,500 properties for rent, generating around £25m per annum income to the Housing Revenue Account (HRA). The HRA was ringfenced and could only be used for the provision of housing, new developments, maintenance and other services on behalf of tenants. ESC had various workstreams in place to undertake a wide range of maintenance, refurbishment and improvement programmes to its social housing stock. Many of these workstreams were undertaken by the Council's retained in-house workforce, keeping homes in good condition for its tenants. In order to undertake necessary and ongoing repair and maintenance activities, there was clearly a need to purchase a wide range of plumbing materials. The current plumbing material supplies contract would expire in 2021 and this report sought permission to re-procure a new contract for the supply of plumbing materials.

Thirdly, Councillor Rivett reported, agenda item 15 related to the Lowestoft Beach Hut Refurbishment. The purpose of this report he advised was to seek Cabinet approval for the external refurbishment of 93 beach huts and the beach office and to revise the capital programme to include a budget for the project. These were contained within four blocks that were located to the south of Claremont Pier along Lowestoft South Seafront. Once refurbished, the beach huts would be re-let for the 2023-2024 season.

Lastly, Councillor Rivett concluded, agenda item 16 related to the Southwold Enterprise Hub. The development of this Enterprise Hub had strategic importance. It would support the local economy by helping to create and support a resilient and sustainable business community. The Enterprise Hub would also help create a more diverse economy with space for community initiatives and increased micro and SME business provision. This was in line with the East Suffolk Growth Plan 2018-2023 vision and objectives to support, sustain and diversify the economy.

On the proposition of Councillor Rivett, seconded by Councillor Kerry, it was by unanimous vote

## **RESOLVED**

That under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) the public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraphs 3 and 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

**12 Exempt Minutes**

- Information relating to any individual.
- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**13 Lowestoft Town Investment Plan**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).
- Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

**14 Plumbing Supplies Contract**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**15 Lowestoft Beach Hut Refurbishment**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

**16 Southwold Enterprise Hub**

- Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The meeting concluded at 9.03 pm

.....  
Chairman



**CABINET**

**Tuesday, 05 July 2022**

<b>Subject</b>	East Suffolk Leisure Strategy Adoption
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Letitia Smith Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Tim Snook Leisure Development Partnership Manager <a href="mailto:tim.snook@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">tim.snook@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> 01394 444210

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
-------------------------------	------

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

The purpose of this report is to recommend the adoption of the East Suffolk Council Leisure Strategy. This incorporates East Suffolk Council's:

- Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy (IBF)
- Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)
- Open Space Report

The Strategy is intended to help inform and guide decision making processes relating to the Council's own leisure facilities and the requirements for such further provision required as the result of future housing and population growth.

### **Options:**

Option 1 – Adopt the East Suffolk Leisure Strategy attached as Appendix 1

Option 2 - Not agree to adopt the East Suffolk Leisure Strategy.

### **Recommendation/s:**

That the East Suffolk Leisure Strategy, attached as Appendix A to the report, be adopted and the Strategic Director, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Communities, Leisure and Tourism, be authorised to implement the Strategy and update the action plan, as necessary.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

Not applicable.

### **ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

The East Suffolk Leisure Strategy is informed by and has drawn information from the East Suffolk Strategic Plan. The evidence within the Leisure Strategy will also support the implementation of policies and site allocations within the East Suffolk Council – Waveney Local Plan (2019) and the East Suffolk Council – Suffolk Coastal Local Plan (2020).

### **Environmental:**

Any built sports facilities or playing pitch projects developed in delivering the Leisure Strategy will be brought forward with the aim of also improving East Suffolk Council's carbon footprint.

### **Equalities and Diversity:**

Equality Impact Assessment reference EQIA428504531, the adoption of the East Suffolk Leisure Strategy will not require any mitigating actions to be carried out. It is possible that some of the suggestions from the Strategy will have more positive outcomes for different demographics if they are able to be delivered.

**Financial:**

East Suffolk Council is not responsible for delivering all the recommendations and actions contained within the East Suffolk Leisure Strategy. The Council is keen to maintain and to further develop a collaborative approach with its national, regional, and local stakeholders to deliver the key outcomes. For the actions that are the responsibility of the Council, such as the redevelopment of the leisure centres, resources will be allocated as part of the annual budget setting process.

**Human Resources:**

There are no HR implications

**ICT:**

There are no ICT implications attached to the East Suffolk Leisure Strategy.

**Legal:**

There are no legal implications of adopting the strategy. Each resulting project will ensure that any legal considerations are identified and addressed and that the Council will ensure that it complies with its duties under the Equality Act 2010

**Risk:**

There are no risks envisaged in relation to the implementation of the recommendations.

**External  
Consultees:**

Although East Suffolk Council has taken the lead in developing the local Built Facility, Open Space and Playing Pitch strategic documents as part of its evidence base, it is recognised that these documents can be used by partners, clubs, and community groups to help support future development. It is not for East Suffolk Council to deliver all the actions, but to help facilitate them. The Council supports a collaborative approach with the national, regional, and local stakeholders to deliver the key recommendations and health and wellbeing outcomes that the documents identify. Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP) were appointed as consultants in 2020 to support the development of the Leisure Strategy and begin the process of consultation. A community questionnaire was developed and shared via social media, community groups and Town and Parish Councils for the Open Space assessment.

The playing pitch strategy looked at the following sports facilities:

- |                    |                     |                    |
|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| • Football pitches | • Cricket squares   | • Rugby union      |
| • Hockey pitches   | • Tennis courts     | • Third generation |
| • Bowling greens   | • Netball courts    | • Athletics track  |
| • Croquet lawns    | • Petanque terrains | • Golf courses     |

In addition, a variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Response rates exceeded Sport England's guidance and ensure a robust evidence base:



	Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate		
	Football clubs	72	51	73%		
	<i>Football teams</i>	<i>532</i>	<i>445</i>	<i>84%</i>		
	Cricket clubs	18	15	83%		
	Rugby union clubs	8	7	88%		
	Hockey clubs	4	4	100%		
	Tennis clubs	25	16	64%		
	Netball club	9	6	67%		
	Bowls clubs	48	25	52%		
	Croquet clubs	2	2	100%		
<p>Information relating to golf, athletics and petanque was primarily acquired through consultation with the relevant NGBs and local clubs.</p> <p>Indoor and built sports facilities consultation was undertaken through a mix of face to face and telephone consultation with schools, health partners, operators, NGBs, clubs and a wide range of Council officers</p>						

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<p>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</p> <p><b>Whilst the Council is not necessarily directly responsible for delivering all the recommendations, the priorities support the key priorities as follows.</b></p>			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1	Background facts
1.1	<p>East Suffolk Council commissioned Knight, Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP) as consultants in 2020 to support the development of the first East Suffolk Council Leisure Strategy, incorporating a suite of strategies, namely the Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy, Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and Open Space and Play Strategy, to provide an up-to-date evidence base and to help inform future decision-making processes. The objectives of the strategies extend across multiple Council departments and partners and are summarised below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To help deliver the health and wellbeing agenda</li> <li>• To inform the capital programme for the Council</li> <li>• To inform Local Plan policy</li> <li>• To set the Leisure Facilities plan within the context of the Local Plan and wider strategies for parks, green spaces, and community development</li> <li>• To inform sports development initiatives</li> <li>• To reflect wider Council asset reviews</li> <li>• To help facilitate community use of outdoor facilities on education sites</li> <li>• Follow the Sport England best practice guidance.</li> <li>• Setting a framework for the strategic approach to sport and leisure delivery at some key sites within the district</li> </ul>
1.2	<p>A working group of officers was set up to work with KKP to develop the Leisure Strategy and supporting documents. The timescale set for the development of the leisure strategy commenced in September 2020 and was due to be completed in May 2021 but was severely impacted upon by the pandemic lockdowns as travel to visit sites and contact with sports clubs and National Governing bodies was difficult which resulted in a delay of 12 months.</p>
1.3	<p>The Leisure Strategy incorporates and has drawn information to support it from the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• National Planning Policy Framework 2021</li> <li>• Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021</li> <li>• Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England</li> <li>• East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan (2020 – 2024)</li> <li>• Local Plans; former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local authorities</li> <li>• Waveney Green Infrastructure Strategy (2015)</li> <li>• Active Suffolk Partnership</li> <li>• East Suffolk Community Partnerships</li> </ul>
1.4	<p>The Leisure Strategy and supporting documents (Indoor Built and Sports Strategy, Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and Open Space Report) do not apportion direct responsibility for specific recommendations and actions to single organisations. Rather it takes more of a matrix approach with some instances, actions being Council-led but supported by external stakeholders, whereas in others they will be led by local clubs and organisations in partnership with their</p>

	respective national governing bodies of sport and where the Council has no specific role to play.
1.5	<p>Three supporting strategies were undertaken to inform the East Suffolk Leisure Strategy. There were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Indoor and Built Facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An evidence base – focus on indoor and built facility provision</li> <li>• Considers the current and future picture for sport in East Suffolk</li> <li>• Key stakeholder consultation</li> <li>• Scope includes Sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness facilities and village and community halls.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Playing Pitch Strategy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An evidence base – focus on outdoor sports provision, football, rugby, cricket, non-pitch sports.</li> <li>• Pitch assessments and club engagement</li> <li>• Driven by steering groups - councils, Sport England, all relevant NGB's</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Open Space Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PPG17 Companion Guide and Fields In Trust for Outdoor Sport and Play: Beyond The Six Acre Standard</li> <li>• Comprehensive audit using principles of Green Flag criteria</li> <li>• Parks, natural, amenity, play areas, allotments, cemeteries</li> <li>• Supported by database and GIS mapping</li> <li>• Green Flag judges</li> <li>• Set new quantity, quality, and accessibility provision standards</li> <li>• Inform requirements for new population growth</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

## 2 Current position

2.1	Prior to the formation of East Suffolk Council, both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, both had adopted leisure strategies in 2015. The two strategies were for a 5-year period and many of the actions have been undertaken, including delivery of significant leisure centre redevelopment.
2.2	The proposed East Suffolk Leisure Strategy will help set and direct the future work of the Leisure Team and will also provide evidence and other information to assist to the planning of future growth and development, including new housing and infrastructure projects. Thereby ensuring that the needs of the community are met.

## 3 How to address current situation

3.1	The proposed East Suffolk Leisure Strategy will help set and direct the future work of the Leisure Team and will also inform the implementation of Local Plan policies and site allocations as well as guiding the development of future planning documents. Thereby ensuring that the needs of the community are met.
3.2	In order to seek funding from NGBs and Sport England, local authorities are expected to update and review their Leisure Strategy and the supporting documents, (Indoor and Built Sports Facility Strategy, Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy and Open Space Report) every five years. These updated

	documents will help to unlock potential future funding opportunities from Sport England and the NGB's
3.3	The Leisure Strategy will help achieve the Council's Strategic Plan of Enabling our Communities. It will provide our communities with the data that could help with funding bids to help with improvements.
3.4	For the reasons stated in this report, it is recommended that the Council should adopt East Suffolk Leisure Strategy.

#### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	Adoption of a comprehensive East Suffolk Leisure Strategy will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i) Ensure a planned approach to improving leisure opportunities in the district.</li> <li>ii) Assist with the delivery of key corporate actions within the Council's Strategy.</li> <li>iii) Inform other relevant strategies, projects and documentation in the requirements for Leisure within the district.</li> </ul>
-----	--

## Appendices

### Appendices:

<b>Appendix A</b>	East Suffolk Leisure Strategy
<b>Appendix B</b>	Indoor and Built Sports Facility Strategy (IBF)
<b>Appendix C</b>	Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS)
<b>Appendix D</b>	Open Space Report

### Background reference papers:

Date	Type	Available From
2021	National Planning Policy Framework	Gov.uk
2021	Sport England: Uniting the Movement	Sport England
2019	Planning for Sport: Sport England	Sport England
2020-24	East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan	ESC
2019 and 2020	Local Plans; former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney	ESC
2015	Waveney Green Infrastructure Strategy	ESC
2020-21	East Suffolk Community Partnerships Priorities	ESC

## **EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL**

## **LEISURE STRATEGY**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

1-2 Frecheville Court ◀ off Knowsley Street ◀ Bury BL9 0UF  
**T** 0161 764 7040 ◀ **F** 0161 764 7490 ◀ **E** mail@kcp.co.uk ◀ **www.kcp.co.uk**



**CONTENTS**

INTRODUCTION ..... 1

POLICY CONTEXT ..... 2

APPROACH ..... 18

KEY FINDINGS ..... 21

STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ..... 37



## INTRODUCTION

East Suffolk Council commissioned a suite of studies to provide an up-to-date evidence base and to help inform future decision-making processes. The objectives of the studies extend across multiple East Suffolk departments and partners and are summarised below:

- ◀ To help deliver the health and wellbeing agenda
- ◀ To inform the capital programme for ESC
- ◀ To inform Local Plan policy
- ◀ To set the Leisure Facilities plan within the context of the Local Plan and wider strategies for parks, green spaces, and community development
- ◀ To inform sports development initiatives
- ◀ To reflect wider ESC asset reviews
- ◀ To help facilitate community use of outdoor facilities on education sites
- ◀ Follow the Sport England best practice guidance
- ◀ Setting a framework for the strategic approach to sport and leisure delivery at some key sites within the district

It can also importantly help to support and inform wider council priorities such as green technology/energy initiatives, green infrastructure, and rural access.

Each study is intended to help inform and guide decision making processes relevant to that element and should help inform the requirements for such forms of provision with regard to future housing and population growth.

The documents developed include the following:

- ◀ Open Space Report and Play Strategy
- ◀ Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy
- ◀ Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS)

The key focus for the documents is that the initial three studies (open spaces, indoor sports facilities and playing pitch strategies) provide the planning related evidence base across East Suffolk and identify a way to develop improved facilities for residents.

In delivering each of the studies KKP has followed the relevant national guidance and methodology which ensures that East Suffolk has a robust evidence base which informs future planning policy and wider investment decisions.

## Collaborative approach

Although East Suffolk Council has taken the lead in developing the above strategic documents as part of its evidence base, it is recognised that it alone is not responsible for delivering all of the recommendations and actions. The Council requires a collaborative approach with its national, regional and local stakeholders to deliver the key recommendations and health and wellbeing outcomes that the documents identify.

The strategies do not apportion direct responsibility for specific recommendations and actions to single organisations. In some instances these will be Council led but supported by external stakeholders, whereas in others they will be led by local clubs and organisations in partnership with their respective national governing bodies of sport and where the Council has no specific role to play.

A key aspect of the Leisure Strategy is to guide future development and growth in understanding the wider needs and opportunities across East Suffolk when developing new housing and infrastructure projects. This seeks to ensure that as much as possible, a holistic approach to delivering health and wellbeing outcomes is achieved from new development.

## POLICY CONTEXT

### National Policy Context

#### ***National Planning Policy Framework 2021***

The National Planning Policy Framework (July 2021) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 98 establishes that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Referencing this, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important. The three key objectives are illustrated below:

**1**  
Advocating for movement,  
sport and physical activity

**2**  
Joining forces on five big  
issues

**3**  
Creating the catalysts for  
change

As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, though the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five big issues that people and communities need to work together to address. They are cited as being some of the biggest challenges to an active nation over the next decade and are also the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference.

Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but tackled collectively, could change things profoundly:

- ◀ *Recover and reinvent*: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ *Connecting communities*: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ *Positive experiences for children and young people*: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ *Connecting with health and wellbeing*: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ *Active environments*: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these five big issues, the right conditions for change need to be created: involving people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including the development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

## ***Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England***

Sets out how the planning system can help provide opportunities for everyone to be physically active. It highlights the vital role planning systems play in shaping environments (including open spaces) which offer opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity. To help with this, the guidance sets out 12 planning-for-sport principles to be embraced.

### *12 planning for sport principles*

<b>Overarching</b>	Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity
	Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessment of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them
	Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles
<b>Protect</b>	Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use
	Ensure long-term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision
<b>Enhance</b>	Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they are needed
	Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision
<b>Provide</b>	Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs
	Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision
	Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed
	Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt

	Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments
--	--

## Local Policy Context

### ***East Suffolk Council Strategic Plan (2020-2024)***

The Strategic Plan provides the framework to deliver a range of vital services for local communities. The ambition is to deliver the best possible quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk. It is structured around the following five themes:

*ESC Strategic Plan (2020-2024) key themes and aims:*

Theme	Aim
Growing our economy	To build a strong sustainable economy for the future so that will achieve its maximum potential, for the good of everyone in the area.
Enabling our communities	Working together, ESC will enable communities to identify opportunities and challenges. It will empower them to make a difference. It will also support communities to enhance the places for living and working and for the wellbeing of all.
Remaining financially sustainable	To grow and prosper as a council; ESC will ensure it is well-run; providing value for money and strive for excellence.
Delivering digital transformation	Digital technology can transform the way we work and live; ESC will use technology to make services efficient and easily accessible to all and assist communities to embrace and access new technologies.
Caring for our environment	The environment be put at the heart of everything ESC does.

### ***Local plans; former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney local authorities***

East Suffolk was formed in 2019 following the merger of Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council, as a result there are two existing Local Plans for East Suffolk. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan covers the period 2018-2036 and The Waveney Local Plan covers the period 2014-2036. Both plans share the same vision and strategic priorities to:

*'Maintain and sustainably improve the quality of life for everyone growing up in, living in, working in and visiting the area'.*

The vision is accompanied by nine strategic priorities. In relation to health and wellbeing, the priority is to support healthy, safe, cohesive and active communities by improving health, wellbeing and education opportunities for all. This will be achieved via a range of education, health and leisure provision to meet localised need and create sustainable communities across the area.

### ***Waveney Green Infrastructure Strategy (2015)***

The document recognises a well connected and diverse green infrastructure network can provide a variety of benefits for people and wildlife. It sets out a coordinated approach towards improving the existing green infrastructure network by ensuring the right types of green spaces are provided where they are most needed and that improvements are made in areas where they will provide the greatest benefit.



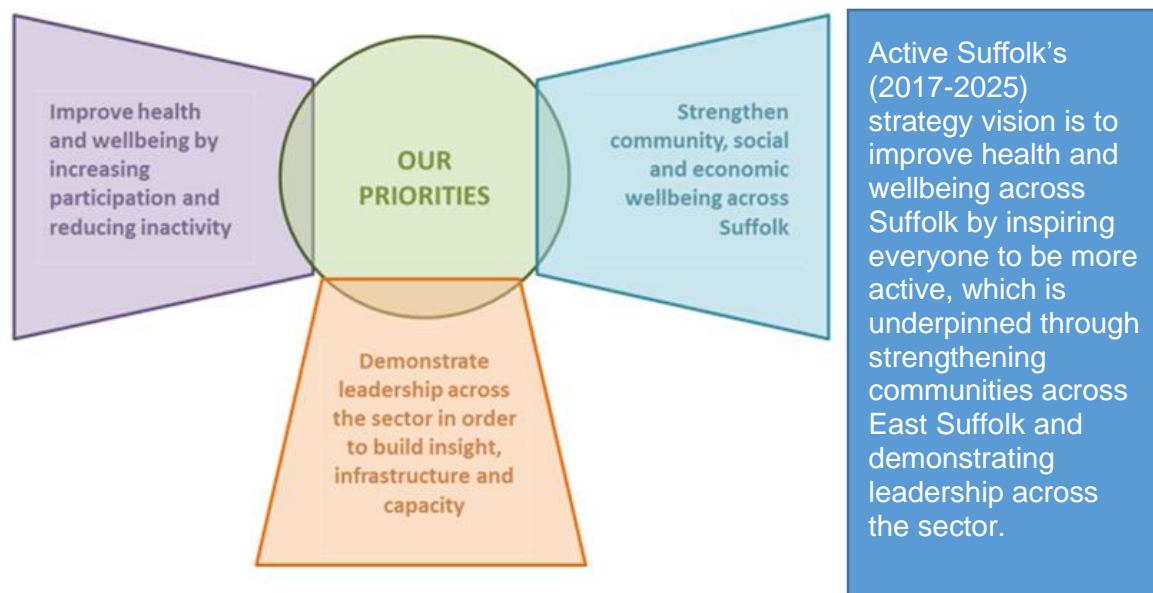
The Strategy sets out key objectives to:

- ✦ Brings together information from different evidence bases, identifies potential ways to improve existing shortfalls and prioritises areas most in need of improvement. These can be used to inform planning decisions.
- ✦ Sets out key principles to ensure the right types of green infrastructure are provided where they are most needed. Considering how green spaces can be included in a proposal early in the design process will improve the overall quality of new development.
- ✦ Identifies gaps in the existing green infrastructure network. This will help the Council, Town and Parish Councils, developers, community groups and external organisations to proactively take advantage of opportunities when they arise to improve the quality and connectivity of the network.
- ✦ Provides a coordinated approach to the planning and delivery of green infrastructure to maximise the long-term benefit for people and wildlife.
- ✦ Raises awareness of green infrastructure, existing local issues and potential opportunities that will enable communities to achieve their aspirations.

### ***Suffolk Active Partnership***

Active Suffolk is one of 43 active partnerships the majority of which cover former administrative county areas across the whole of England. It is committed to increasing the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity through working with a wide range of partners including local authorities, national governing bodies (NGB's), the education sector, the health sector, charitable/voluntary organisations and third sector organisations.

### ***Active Suffolk's Strategic Priorities***



## East Suffolk Community Partnerships

Eight East Suffolk community partnerships were set up in 2019, and inclusive of a range of local organisations (parish councils, CCGs, voluntary organisations, police, local business). These each hold an annual local delivery budget of £25,000 for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and have agreed a set of priority work areas which have been reviewed in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. In addition, an overarching partnership board has been convened, representative of the eight partnerships with a delivery budget of c.£1million. This has adopted social isolation and community transport, which feature as issues across multiple community partnerships, as the top priorities.

## East Suffolk Community Partnership priorities



### Community Partnership Priorities

<b>Lowestoft and northern parishes</b>	<b>Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley</b>	<b>Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula</b>	<b>Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages</b>
Improve mental health and wellbeing (45)	Reduce social isolation & loneliness	Active and sustainable transport provision	Active and sustainable transport provision, particularly rural
Tackle childhood obesity	Environmental care and sustainable transport	Village Hub – bringing services to people	Reduce social isolation and loneliness
Reduce social isolation – all ages	Support people to age well/Traffic and road safety	Youth Engagement, opportunities and services	Facilities, activities and employment for young people
<b>Felixstowe Peninsular</b>	<b>Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages</b>	<b>Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages</b>	<b>Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages</b>
Education – aspirations, ambition and standards	Active and sustainable transport solutions / community transport	Developing opportunities for young people	Education, Opportunities and Aspirations
Social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation & loneliness particularly carers, older people, and men 40+
Community spaces and physical enhancements	Improve wellbeing and enable people to live healthy lives	Alternative, active and sustainable transport provision	Encourage and enable everyone to be more physically active and healthy

## Summary of local context

Local policy demonstrates the focus on improving health and wellbeing throughout the Authority. The Council is keen to achieve this through the development of major infrastructure projects, including a new leisure centre in Felixstowe, which will aim to make Felixstowe a leisure destination. There is also a focus to reduce health inequalities across the Authority. Through a partnership approach, there is a desire to reduce inequalities across all stages of life to ensure residents live healthier, happier lives. This will be achieved through a range of initiatives, from providing all children with the best start possible to improving mental wellbeing for all.

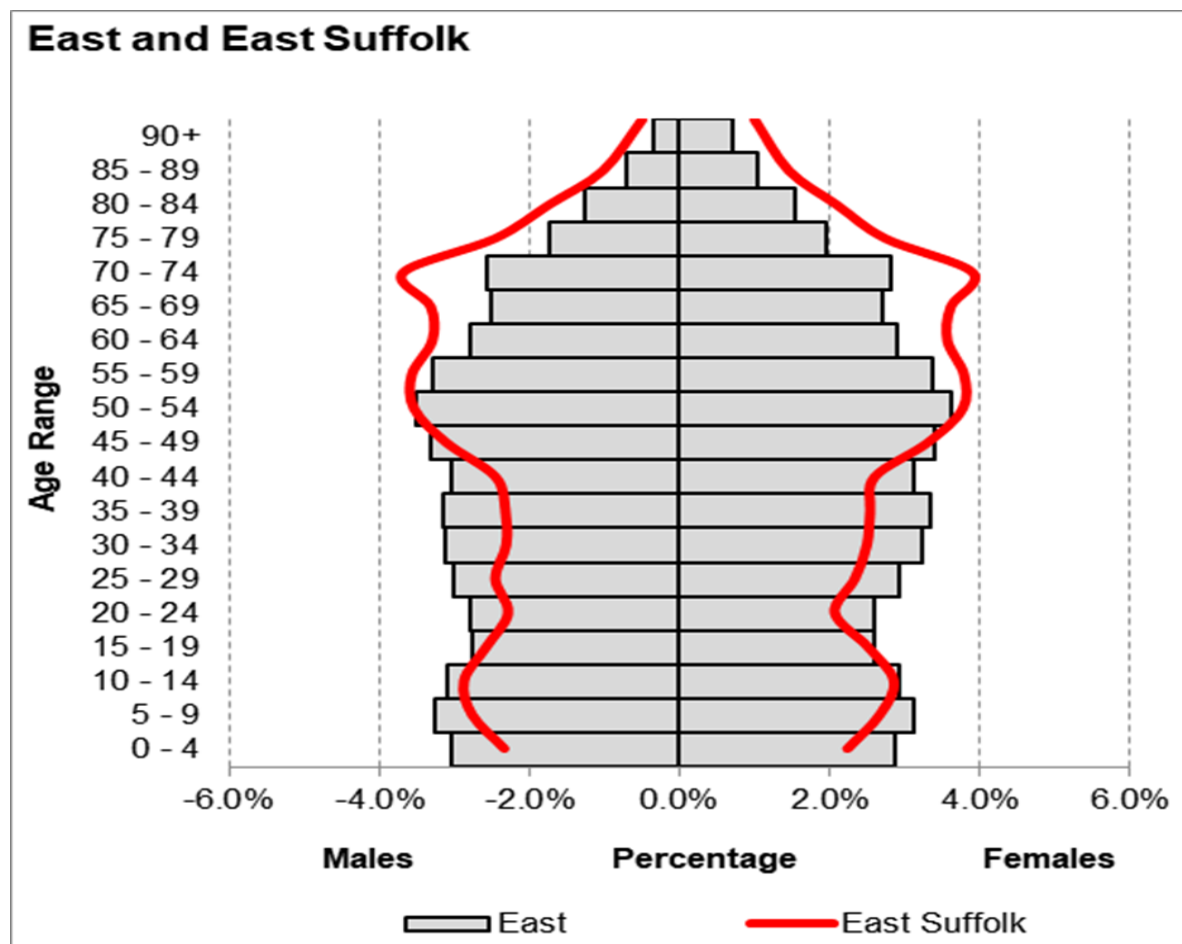


## About East Suffolk

### *Demographics and socio-economics*

The total population in East Suffolk according to 2019 mid-year estimates was 249,461 with slightly more females (128,040) than males (121,421).

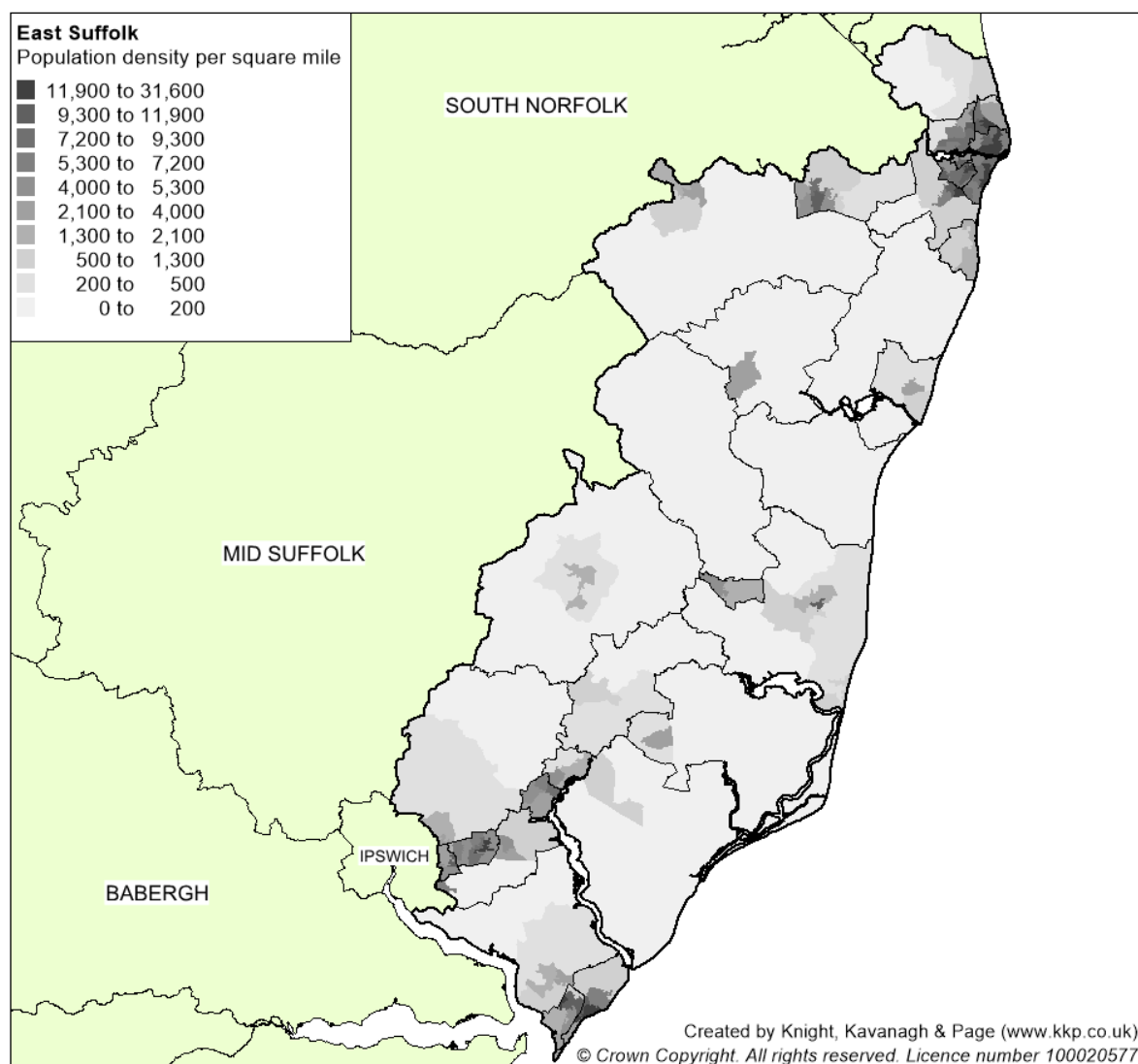
*Population, age and gender in East Suffolk*



There are proportionately fewer 10–34-year-olds in East Suffolk (24.7%), than there are in the East region (29.1%). However, it has more people in the 60-74 age groups (38.7%) than the region as a whole (33.5%). The resident population is concentrated mainly around its major market towns which include Lowestoft (in the north of the District) and Felixstowe (in the south of the district). The area to the East of Ipswich which includes Kesgrave, also shows a higher population density. The remainder is quite sparsely spread across the district's rural hinterland.



*Population density 2019 MYE: East Suffolk lower super output areas (LSOA)*



**Ethnicity** (*Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS*) - East Suffolk's ethnic composition does not reflect that of England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census, 97.1% of the local population classified their ethnicity as White; this is significantly higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest group is Asian, at 1.2% (markedly lower than the national equivalent: 7.8%).<sup>1</sup> This information is subject to change given the proposed new Census due in 2021.

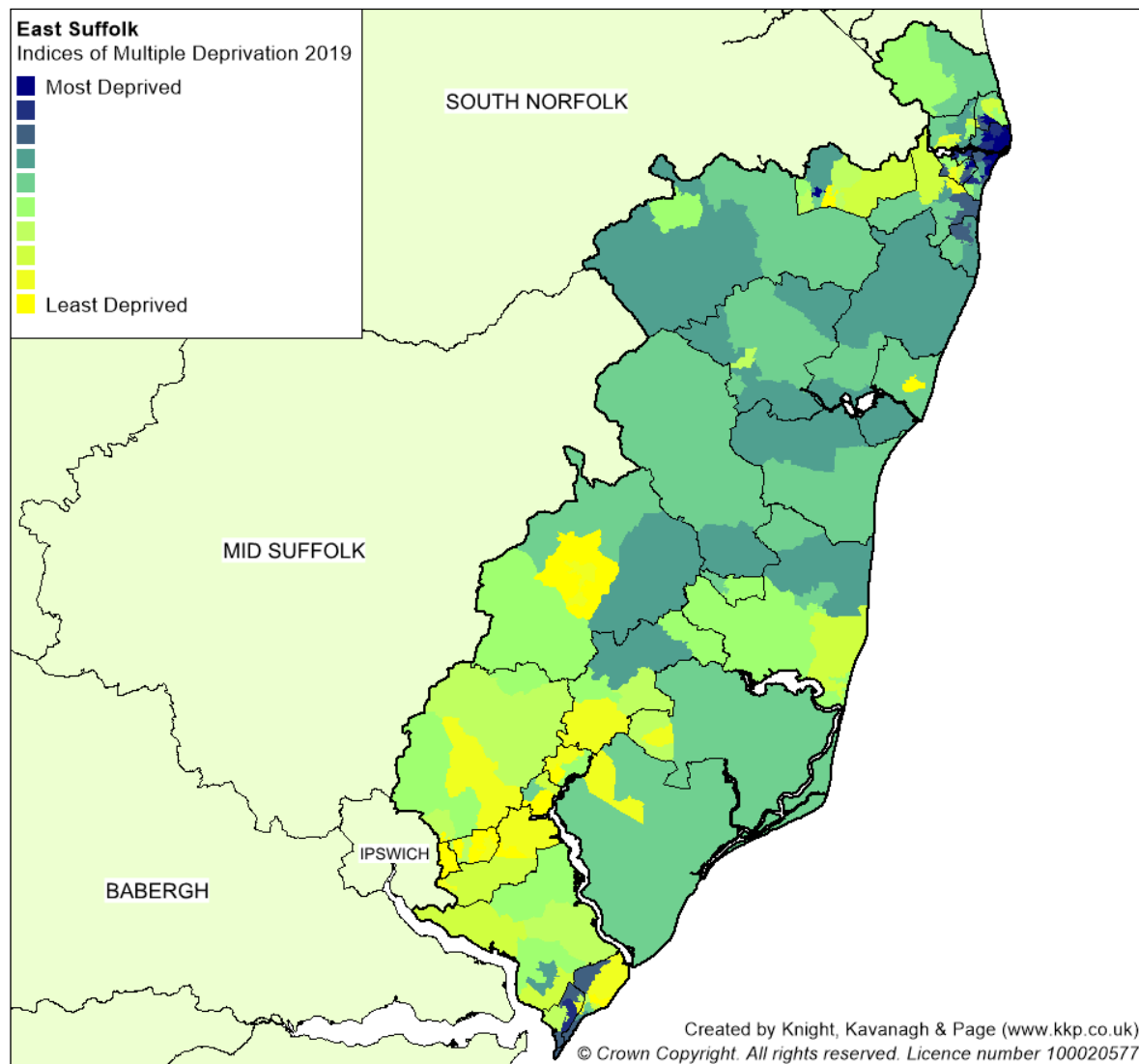
**Crime** (*Data source: 2019 Recorded Crime, Home Office*) - During the 12 months to June 2019 the rate for recorded crimes per 1,000 persons in East Suffolk was 70.5; this is markedly lower than the equivalent rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 114.2. The number of recorded crimes in East Suffolk has fallen by 4.4% since June 2018, while by contrast the number for England and Wales has risen by 1.3% over the same period.

<sup>1</sup> NB this data will shortly be superseded by the 2021 census.

**Income and benefits dependency-** The median figure for full-time earnings (2019) in East Suffolk is £28,314; the comparative rate for the East is £30,649 (+8.2%) and for Great Britain is £29,666 (+4.8%). In October 2020 there were 6,860 people in East Suffolk claiming out of work benefits<sup>2</sup>; this is increase of 81.7% compared to January 2020 (3,775). This is likely to have been affected by the Covid pandemic.

**Deprivation** (Data source: 2019 indices of deprivation, DCLG)

*Index of multiple deprivation for East Suffolk*



Deprivation patterns in East Suffolk are much lower than those in the UK as a whole; one in five of the Authority's population (18.6%) live in areas that are in the country's three most deprived cohorts, compared to a national average of c.30%. Conversely, 32.4% live in the three least deprived groupings in the country (again, this compares to a 'norm' of c.30%).

<sup>2</sup> This includes both Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) and Universal Credit. Universal credit also includes other benefits including employment and support allowance (ESA) and child tax credits.

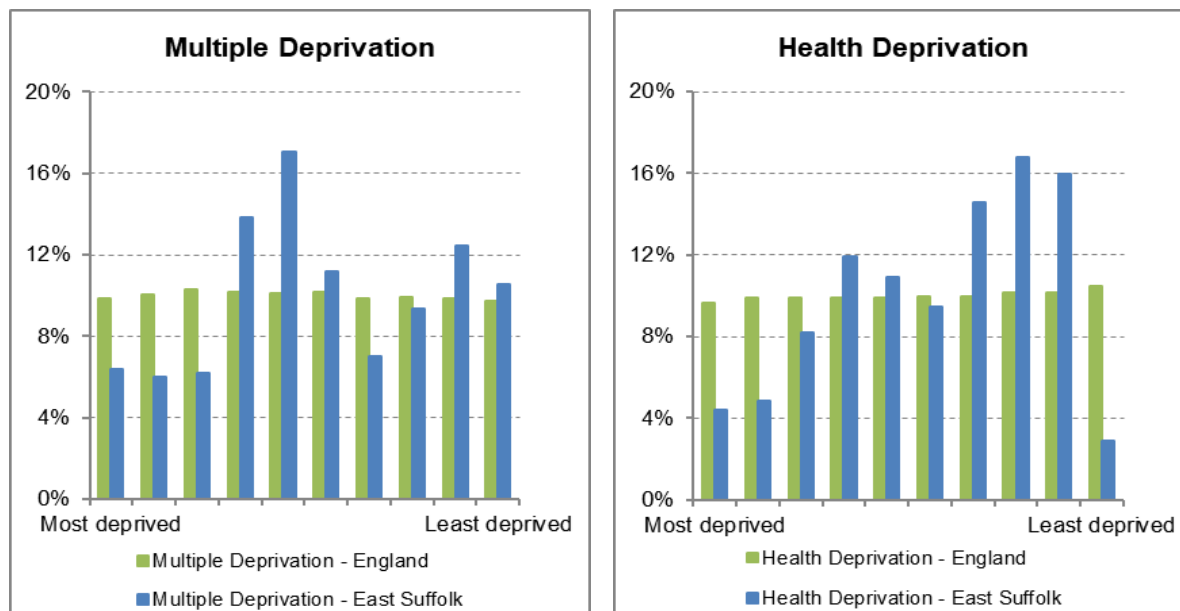
## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL LEISURE STRATEGY

A similar pattern, to that seen for multiple deprivation, is seen in relation to health. One in six of East Suffolk's population (17.5%) falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts whereas 35.7% live in areas in the three least deprived groupings.

Table 2.3: Index of multiple deprivation (IMD) and health deprivation in East Suffolk

IMD cumulative norm		Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation		
		Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population	
Most deprived	10.0	15,416	6.4%	6.4%	10,685	4.4%	4.4%
	20.0	14,594	6.0%	12.4%	11,790	4.9%	9.3%
	30.0	15,034	6.2%	18.6%	19,944	8.2%	17.5%
	40.0	33,603	13.8%	32.4%	28,960	11.9%	29.4%
	50.0	41,337	17.0%	49.4%	26,461	10.9%	40.3%
	60.0	27,179	11.2%	60.6%	22,901	9.4%	49.7%
Least deprived	70.0	17,037	7.0%	67.6%	35,418	14.6%	64.3%
	80.0	22,683	9.3%	77.0%	40,784	16.8%	81.1%
	90.0	30,269	12.5%	89.5%	38,821	16.0%	97.1%
	100.0	25,581	10.5%	100.0%	6,969	2.9%	100.0%

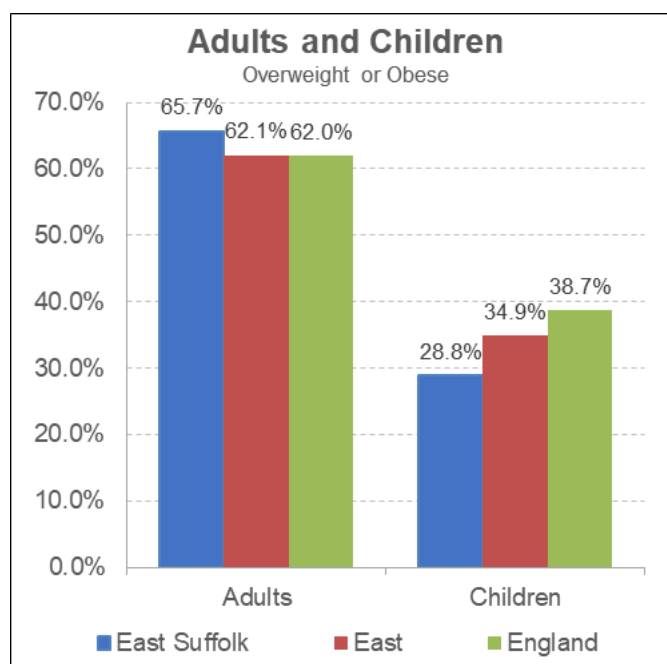
IMD and health domain comparisons – East Suffolk and England.



### Weight and obesity

Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At a national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge.

## Adult and child obesity rates East Suffok



Adult obesity rates in East Suffolk are above the national and regional averages.

Conversely, child rates for obesity are lower than the national and regional averages.

In most areas obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 and 11, however, data for this area has been suppressed for reception aged children. In Year 6, just under 16.0% are classed as obese and 12.9% are described as being overweight. In total, by Year 6, over a quarter (28.8%) are either overweight or obese.

## Health costs of physical inactivity

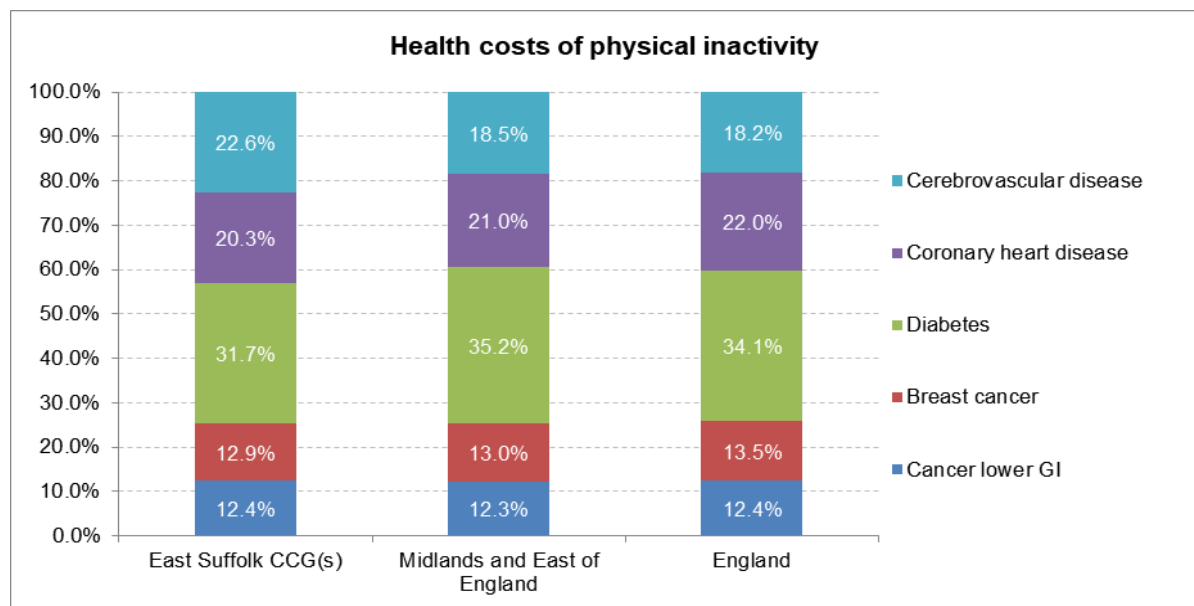
The British Heart Foundation (BHF) Promotion Research Group has reviewed the costs of avoidable ill health that it considers are attributable to physical inactivity. Initially produced for the DoH report Be Active Be Healthy (2009) the data has subsequently been reworked for Sport England and updated in 2014/15 by Public Health England.

Illnesses that the BHF research relates to include cancers such as bowel cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease e.g., stroke. The data indicates a similar breakdown between these illnesses regionally and nationally.

East Suffolk falls within the boundaries of one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG): NHS Ipswich and East Suffolk CCG.

The total annual cost to the NHS of physical inactivity for the CCGs that East Suffolk falls within is estimated at £5,610,712. When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000, the total costs for the CCGs (£896,568) are 9.7% above the national average (£817,274) and 9.6% above the regional average (£818,185). It should also be noted that in addition to the NHS costs there are also significant costs to industry in terms of days of productivity lost due to back pain etc. These have also been costed in CBI reports and are of similar magnitude to NHS costs.

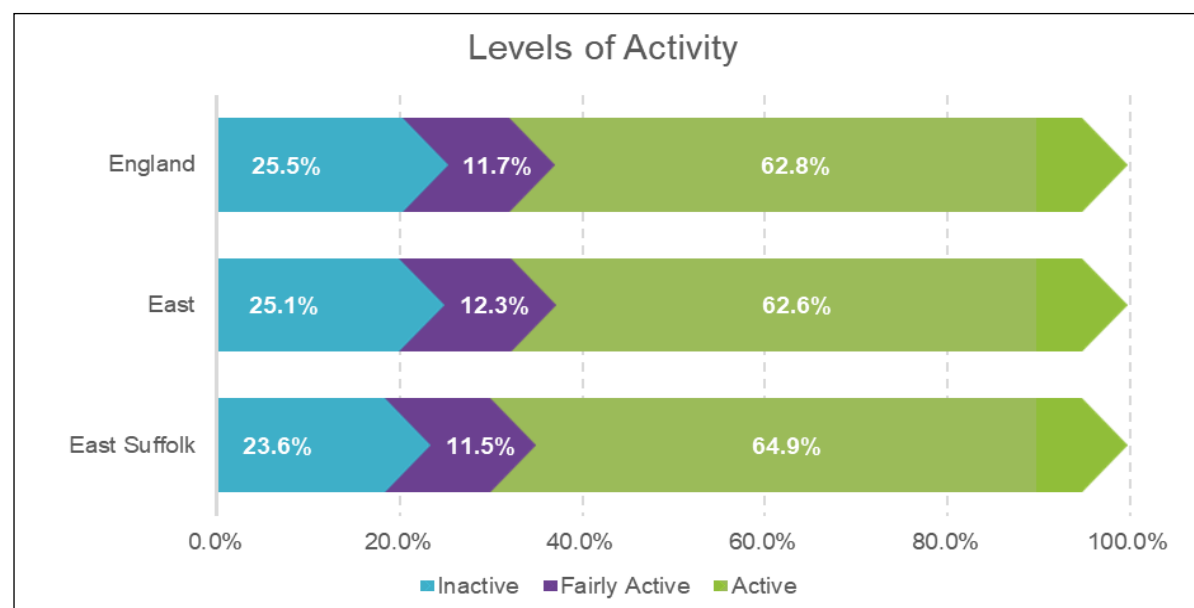
## Health costs of physical inactivity in East Suffolk



## Active Lives Survey 2019/20

Sport England's Active Lives Survey (ALS) May 2019/20 assesses 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. As identified in Figure 2.11, the percentage of the population considered to be inactive in East Suffolk is 23.6%. This is below regional (25.1%) and national (25.5%) averages. East Suffolk also has more active people (64.9%) than national (62.8%) regional (62.6%) averages.

Figure 2.11: Levels of activity in East Suffolk

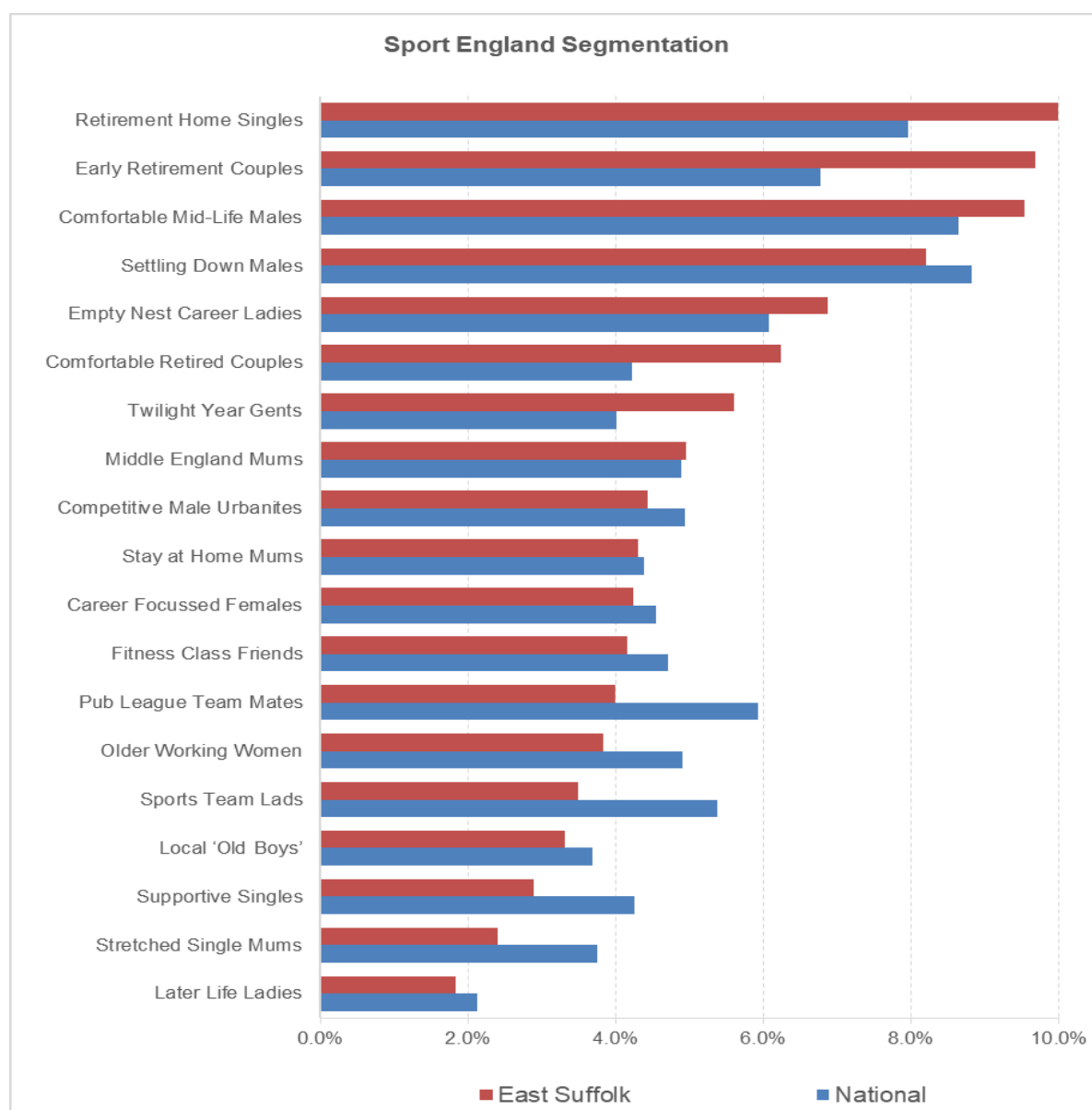


## Sporting segmentation *(Data source: Market segmentation, Sport England)*

Sport England classifies the adult population via a series of 19 market segments providing insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country. These cover a wide range of characteristics, from gender and age to the sports that people take part in, other interests, the newspapers that they read etc.

The profile for East Suffolk indicates that 'Retired home singles' is the largest segment of the adult population 10.0% (19,249) compared to a national average of 8.0%. This is closely followed by 'Early Retirement Couples' and 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males'. At the other end of the spectrum, there are fewest 'Later Life Ladies' with just under 2.0% (similar in percentage to the national average), 'Stretched Single Mums' (2.4%) and 'Supportive Singles' (2.9%).

### SE market segmentation; East Suffolk compared to England

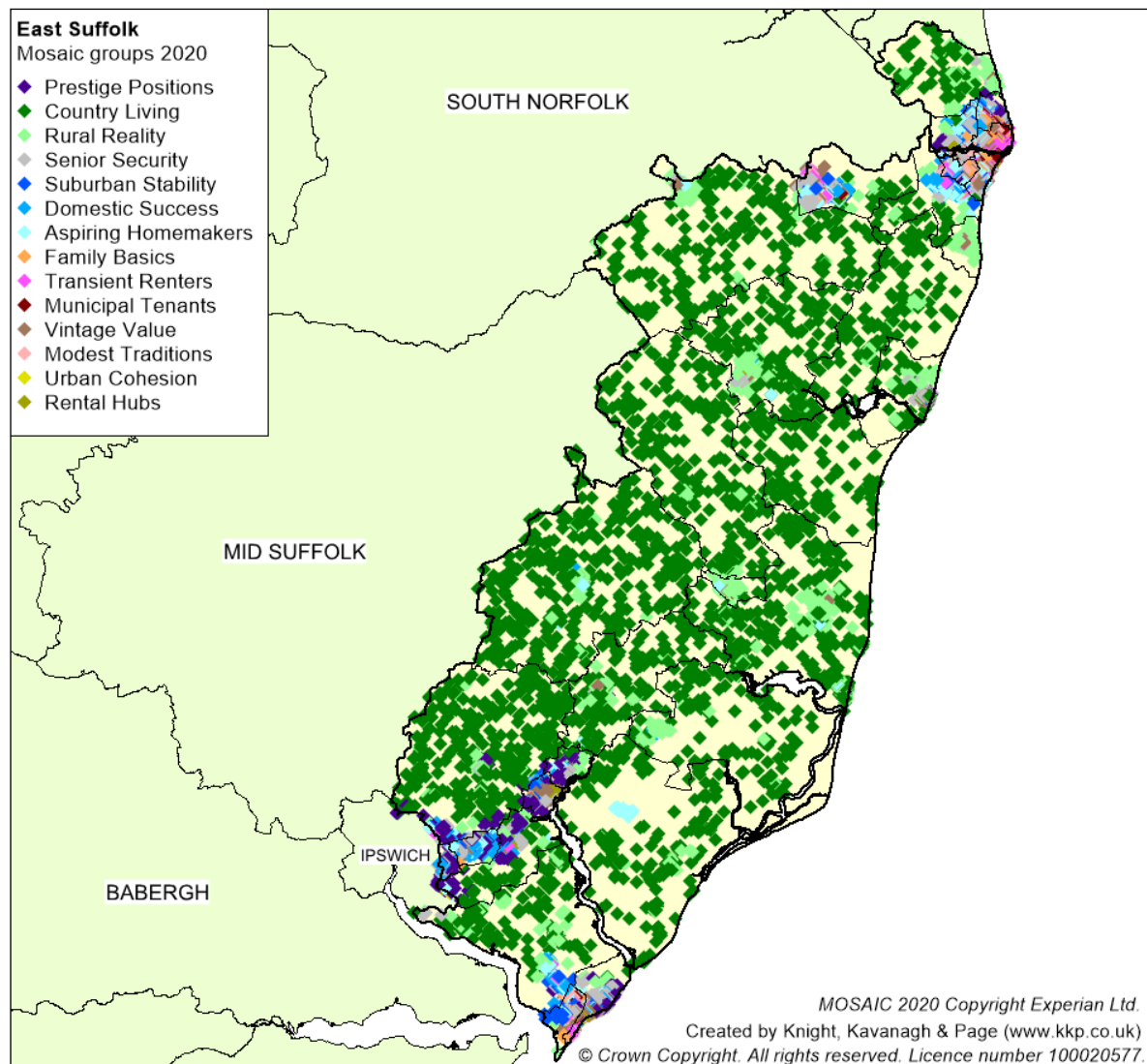


## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL LEISURE STRATEGY

### **Mosaic** (Data source: 2018 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

Mosaic 2020 is a similar consumer segmentation product and classifies all 28.3 million households into 15 groups, 66 household types and 238 segments. This data is used to paint a picture of UK consumers. The top five Mosaic segments in East Suffolk are shown below. The dominance of these five segments can be seen in as much as they represent almost two thirds (65.4%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of just over 4 in 10 (40.5%).

### *Distribution of Mosaic segments in East Suffolk*



The largest segment profiled for East Suffolk is the Rural Reality group, at 18% of the adult population in the area, this is significantly higher than the national rate (6.9%). They are defined as people who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.



# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL LEISURE STRATEGY

## Mosaic – main population segments in East Suffolk

Mosaic group description	East Suffolk		National %
	#	%	
1 - Rural Reality	45,440	18.0%	6.9%
2 - Country Living	41,969	16.6%	7.2%
3 - Senior Security	35,230	14.0%	6.9%
4 - Aspiring Homemakers	22,996	9.1%	10.4%
5 - Domestic Success	19,426	7.7%	9.0%

## Dominant Mosaic profiles in East Suffolk

<b>Rural Reality</b>		People who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.
<b>Country Living</b>		Well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of major towns and cities. Some people are landowners or farmers, others run small businesses from home, some are retired, and others commute distances to professional jobs.
<b>Senior Security</b>		Elderly singles and couples who are still living independently in comfortable homes that they own. Property equity gives them a reassuring level of financial security. This group includes people who have remained in family homes after their children have left, and those who have chosen to downsize to live among others of similar ages and lifestyles.

## Projected population change

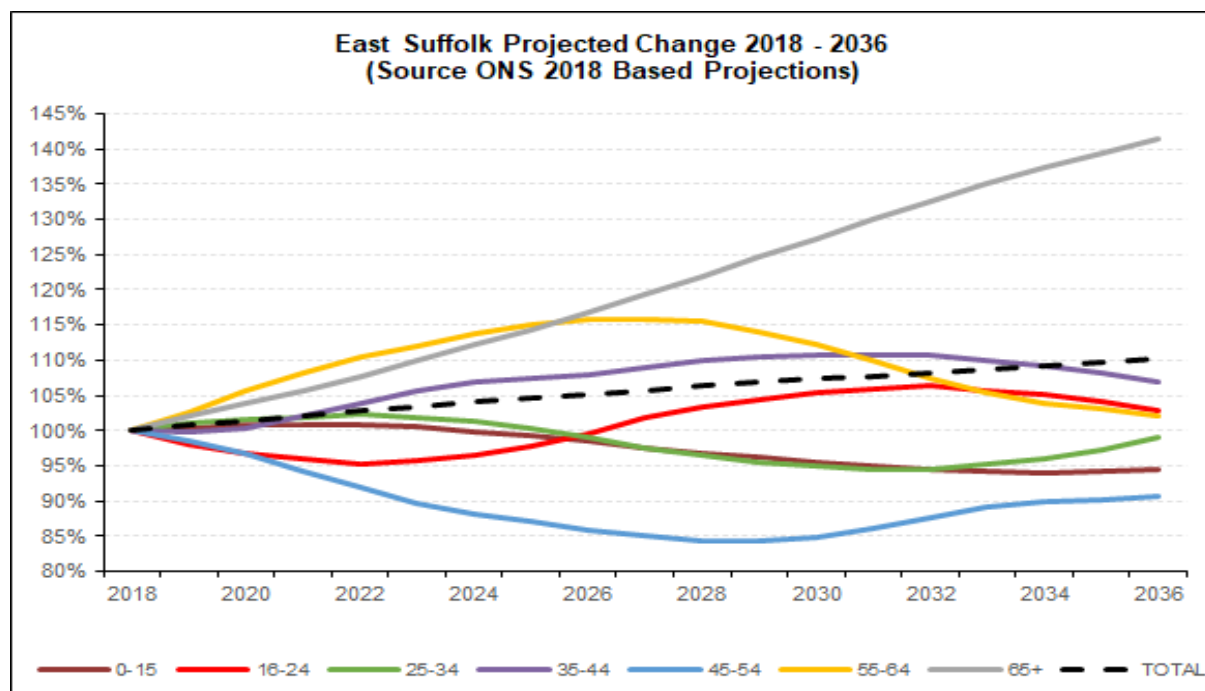
The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 10.1% in East Suffolk's population (+25,061) over the 18 years from 2018 to 2036. Over this extended timeframe fluctuations are seen in rise and fall at different points across the majority of age groups.

## East Suffolk - ONS projected population (2018 to 2036)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2018 – 2036		
	2018	2027	2036	2018	2027	2036	2018	2027	2036
0-15	42,066	41,050	39,702	16.9%	15.6%	14.5%	100.0%	97.6%	94.4%
16-24	20,914	21,288	21,523	8.4%	8.1%	7.9%	100.0%	101.8%	102.9%
25-34	23,526	22,935	23,284	9.5%	8.7%	8.5%	100.0%	97.5%	99.0%
35-44	24,933	27,159	26,635	10.0%	10.3%	9.7%	100.0%	108.9%	106.8%
45-54	34,821	29,597	31,587	14.0%	11.3%	11.6%	100.0%	85.0%	90.7%
55-64	34,666	40,160	35,374	14.0%	15.3%	12.9%	100.0%	115.8%	102.0%
65+	67,323	80,359	95,205	27.1%	30.6%	34.8%	100.0%	119.4%	141.4%
<b>Total</b>	<b>248,249</b>	<b>262,548</b>	<b>273,310</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>105.8%</b>	<b>110.1%</b>



## *East Suffolk projected population change (2018 -2036)*



Several key points for East Suffolk are outlined below:

- ✦ One of the most notable points is a decline in the number of 0-15 year olds, falling by 1,016 (2.4%) over the first half of the projection (to 2027).
- ✦ In contrast, there is predicted a small rise in the number of 16-24 year olds, 1.8% in the first period (374) followed by further growth to a whole period total of 2.9% (609).
- ✦ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+. Numbers will increase by 19.4% (13,036) in the first period continuing to rise to 41.4% (27,882) between 2018 and 2036. While the age group represented 27.1% of East Suffolk's population in 2018 it is projected to be 34.8% of the total by 2036.

### **Summary of the demographic profile and population projections**

East Suffolk's population is expected to increase, with people aged 65+ seeing the largest growth. By 2036, this age group will account for over one third of the population. This is reflected in the Sport England Market segmentation data which highlights 'retired home singles' and 'early retirement couples' as the dominant segments, and it is anticipated that these will grow to reflect the population increase. It is fair to assume that there will be increased demand for sports facilities and physical activity opportunity in areas where housebuilding is planned. The key issue is more to do with how the ageing population chooses to use its leisure time; this may well lead to changes in levels of demand for different activities.

The importance of ensuring that the proportion of the population which is currently active remains so and that more of the presently inactive become active (sustaining and improving the general health of the local population) will become increasingly relevant. Indoor and built facilities, and programmes of activity therein, need to be capable of adapting to any changing demands and needs associated with demographic change.

## **APPROACH**

### **Open space study**

The methodology used in the open space assessment is based on that originally set out in Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guide; Assessing Needs and Opportunities published in September 2002. Whilst PPG17 has been replaced by the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), it is still recognised as best practice providing a sound methodology.

The purpose of an Open Space Study is to recognise the role of open space provision as a resource. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. The impact of climate change is a recognised concern. One which open space provision has the ability to help contribute towards tackling through measures such as tree planting, landscaping, re-wilding and creation of wild areas etc. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

All open space sites (including provision for children and young people) have been identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate their value and quality. Only sites publicly accessible are included (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is only counted once. The audit, and the report, utilise the following typologies in accordance with best practice:

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Provision for children and young people
5. Allotments
6. Cemeteries/churchyards

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated PPOSS. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space (as a different methodology is prescribed).

The results of the consultation undertaken as part of the open space study are utilised. An online survey was conducted as a key element of the assessment.

The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency, quality etc. The online survey was promoted by the Council via social media and other outlets in winter/spring 2021.

A total of 581 responses were received. The findings of the consultations are reviewed and interpreted to further support the report findings.

## Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

Sport England's guidance details a stepped approach to developing a PPOSS. These steps were followed throughout the process and are separated into five distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- ◀ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- ◀ Stage D: Develop the strategy
- ◀ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date

As per the guidance, and considering the whole East Suffolk Council area, analysis areas have been used to allow for a more localise assessment of provision. For this purpose, the district is split into eight distinct sections, aligned to its Community Partnership areas:

Analysis area	Community Partnership reference
1	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham & Villages
2	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth & Villages
3	Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold & Villages
4	Felixstowe Peninsula
5	Framlingham, Wickham Market & Villages
6	Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford & Flynn Valley
7	Lowestoft & Northern Parishes
8	Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula

The following outdoor sports facilities were included within the PPOSS:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Hockey pitches
- ◀ Bowling greens
- ◀ Croquet lawns
- ◀ Cricket squares
- ◀ Tennis courts
- ◀ Netball courts
- ◀ Petanque terrains
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Third generation turf (3G)
- ◀ Athletics tracks
- ◀ Golf courses

The quality of provision was determined via a combination of non-technical assessments (determined by NGBs) and consultation with stakeholders. This not only relates to the pitch itself but also to the ancillary facilities.

In addition, a variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information about leagues, clubs, county associations and national/regional governing bodies of sport. Response rates exceeded Sport England's guidance and ensures a robust evidence base:

Sport	Total number	Number responding	Response rate
Football clubs	72	51	73%
Football teams	532	445	84%
Cricket clubs	18	15	83%
Rugby union clubs	8	7	88%
Hockey clubs	4	4	100%
Tennis clubs	25	16	64%
Netball club	9	6	67%
Bowls clubs	48	25	52%
Croquet clubs	2	2	100%

Information relating to golf, athletics and petanque was primarily acquired through consultation with the relevant NGBs.

### Indoor and built sports facilities

Sport England's ANOG guidance (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) details the approach adopted to developing this study. The following steps were followed throughout the process and are separated into four distinct stages:

- ◀ Stage A - Prepare and tailor the approach
- ◀ Stage B - Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision
- ◀ Stage C - Assessment, bringing the information together
- ◀ Stage D - Application of the assessment and development of the Strategy

The following indoor and built sports facilities were included within the study:

◀ Sports halls	◀ Swimming pools	◀ Health and fitness
◀ Squash courts	◀ Indoor bowls	◀ Cycling
◀ Gymnastics	◀ Community halls	

The approach to delivering the study included an assessment of the following key elements:

- ◀ Quantity of individual sports facilities across East Suffolk.
- ◀ Quality assessment of each facility and activity area.
- ◀ Accessibility of each facility to the local community (e.g. how far they need to travel).
- ◀ Availability of facilities for community use.

In addition to the above KKP also undertook face to face consultation with a range of local and regional stakeholders including health partners, operators, NGBs, clubs and a wide range of Council officers.

## KEY FINDINGS

### Open space study

There is a total of over 6,755 hectares of open space in East Suffolk. The largest contributor to provision is natural and semi-natural greenspace (6,264 hectares); accounting for 93% of provision.

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares) <sup>3</sup>	Hectares per 1,000 population
Allotments	85	64	0.26
Amenity greenspace	196	229	0.92
Cemeteries/churchyards	175	119	n/a
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	98	6,264	25.11
Park and gardens	22	54	0.22
Provision for children & young people	280	25	0.10
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>856</b>	<b>6,755</b>	<b>-</b>

For open spaces, provision standards are established and used to determine deficiencies and surpluses. These are set in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility.

Of assessed open space sites, the quality of below half of provision (44%) rates above the thresholds set for quality. However, 56% of sites are of a lower quality which is significant and slightly higher than in comparison to other similar studies undertaken by KKP.

It is understandable for amenity greenspace to have fewer sites scoring above the quality threshold due to the wider range and forms of provision of this type, often with no features, poor appearance or maintenance.

Typology	Quality		Value	
	Low	High	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	108	88	15	181
Provision for children & young people	158	122	24	256
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	55	43	1	97
Park and gardens	14	8	0	22
<b>Totals</b>	<b>335</b>	<b>261</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>556</b>

East Suffolk also has significantly mixed results for play and parks and gardens which are often more relevant to local residents. In most instances this is due to the maintenance, general appearance, pathways and/or a lack of ancillary facilities.

However, the majority of all open spaces (93%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value. This reflects the importance of open space provision and its role offering social, environmental and health benefits.

<sup>3</sup> Rounded to the nearest whole number

In summary, 38% of respondents are very satisfied with the availability of open space with 29% are very satisfied with quality of provision. Furthermore, only 1% of people are very dissatisfied with the availability and quality of open space provision.

Therefore, East Suffolk has a key challenge in relation to the amount and quality of open space across the area and the application of the provision standards identifies that there are deficiencies and shortfalls in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. However, the key focus for the Council is to maintain current open space standards wherever possible and work to improve existing open space for more multi-purpose outcomes.

### **Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy**

The key findings from the assessment of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities across East Suffolk is summarised as follows:

#### ***Football***

- ✦ The audit identifies a total of 222 grass football pitches within East Suffolk across 114 sites, with 178 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 83 sites.
- ✦ There are significantly more adult pitches available across East Suffolk when compared to the other pitch sizes.
- ✦ Six sites are identified as having disused football provision, including the former Deben High School site which is to re-purposed to accommodate cricket.
- ✦ Woodbridge Town FC has security of tenure issues with its lease of Notcutts Park due to expire in 2024; discussions are ongoing regarding a relocation.
- ✦ The large majority of community available pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 141 rated this way compared to 12 assessed as good quality and 25 assessed as poor quality.
- ✦ More clubs report that quality has improved in recent years than those that report poorer quality.
- ✦ Quality of ancillary provision is generally perceived to be good or adequate, with 18 sites serviced by good quality facilities, 51 by standard quality facilities and just 14 by poor quality facilities (or no facilities at all).
- ✦ Reydon Playing Fields, Dip Farm Playing Fields, Eastward Ho and Millennium Sports Ground are larger sites in need of ancillary facility improvements.
- ✦ Through the audit and assessment, 532 teams from within 71 clubs are identified as playing within East Suffolk, consisting of 134 adult, 242 youth and 156 mini teams.
- ✦ There is a general trend of recent growth across East Suffolk with significantly more clubs reporting team increases compared to those reporting decreases.
- ✦ There are currently nine teams within the football pyramid, with Leiston FC and Lowestoft Town FC playing at the highest level (Step 3), whilst three teams play within the women's system.
- ✦ Lowestoft Town FC is currently exploring a relocation and the development of a new stadium which as a minimum will be of Step 2 standard; it reports that this may be viable as part of wider plans from the Council relating to Oakes Farm.
- ✦ A total of 19 clubs state that they have latent demand, with 18 clubs citing training facility issues, 10 clubs reporting grass pitch issues and nine clubs suggesting ancillary facility constraints.
- ✦ Based on population growth, an increase of four adult teams is projected (no increases in youth or mini football are identified due to decreases within the relevant age bands).
- ✦ Nine clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide, with this equating to a predicted growth of 28 teams.

- Actual spare capacity totals 32.5 match equivalent sessions per week across football pitches in East Suffolk, with the majority found on adult pitches.
- A total of 21 pitches across 14 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 27 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There is currently sufficient adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 provision to meet demand, although there are areas where shortfalls need to be addressed.
- There is a shortfall in relation to youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision.
- After factoring in future demand, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 shortfalls are projected to worsen and a shortfall is set to be created on mini 5v5 pitches.

### **3G pitches**

- There are five full size 3G pitches in East Suffolk, all of which are floodlit.
- Four of the full size pitches are available for community use; the pitch at Ipswich Town Football Club's Training Ground is considered to be unavailable as it is reserved entirely for use by a professional club.
- In addition to the full size pitches, there are also five smaller sized outdoor 3G pitches and two smaller sized indoor 3G pitches in the District.
- All of the full size pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant.
- The four community available full size pitches are readily accessible during peak times across weekdays and at weekends.
- The pitch at Barnards Soccer Centre is now 12 years old and is showing considerable wear and tear; it has been assessed as poor quality, with resurfacing recommended.
- The smaller sized pitch at Kirkley & Pakefield Sports Club has also exceeded its recommended lifespan (having been installed in 2008), although this is considered to be less problematic as it has generally received less usage over the years.
- All remaining pitches are considered to be good or standard quality and they have all been installed or resurfaced within the last 10 years.
- The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current activity being football-based.
- With 532 football teams currently playing in East Suffolk, there is a calculated need for 14 full size 3G pitches in the District, meaning a shortfall of 10 pitches is identified (discounting the pitch at Ipswich Town Football Club's Training Ground).
- When accounting for future demand for an additional 32 teams (based on population increases and latent/future demand expressed by clubs), the shortfall increases by one to 11 pitches.
- When assessing 3G pitch need by analysis area there remains a current shortfall of 10 pitches, which when broken down equates to a shortfall of two pitches in areas 4 and 6 and a shortfall of one pitch in areas 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8.
- Taking future demand into consideration, there is an exacerbated shortfall in Area 7, increasing this to two pitches.
- Whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training, maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.
- Although no other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches, that it is not to say that there is no demand,
- Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified for rugby union, it is considered that World Rugby compliant provision would be of benefit to the District; this could be achieved in collaboration with reducing shortfalls for football, or exclusively if this was adjudged to be sustainable.
- Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches.



- ◀ In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated, particularly at Barnards Soccer Centre given that its pitch has reached the end of its lifespan.

### **Cricket**

- ◀ In total, there are 33 grass cricket squares in East Suffolk located across 28 sites, with 28 squares available for community use.
- ◀ There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 11 sites and there are standalone NTPs at seven sites.
- ◀ Of the clubs with lease arrangements in place, Yoxford CC reports a particular issue in that the agreement for its site, which is acquired from a private landowner, expires in 2023.
- ◀ Blundeston & Somerleyton CC has only nine years remaining on its lease of Somerleyton Playing Field, from Somerleyton Community Association, whereas Felixstowe & Corinthians CC has only 11 years remaining on its lease of the Town Ground, from the Council.
- ◀ The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found 16 to be good quality and the remaining 12 to be standard quality; none are assessed as poor.
- ◀ The NTPs servicing the squares at Saxmundham Sports Club, the Town Ground and Yoxford Cricket Club are considered to be poor quality, as is the standalone NTP at Kesgrave High School.
- ◀ Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield and Lowestoft Town cricket clubs are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.
- ◀ There are 18 clubs in East Suffolk which collectively provide 38 senior men's, eight senior women's and 47 junior teams.
- ◀ Five clubs in East Suffolk form part of the All Stars initiative, whilst three clubs are running Dynamo's sessions.
- ◀ Six clubs field women's softball teams.
- ◀ No future demand is predicted via population growth, although eight indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, equating to four senior men's, three senior women's and nine junior teams.
- ◀ The Suffolk Cricket Board expects three additional senior women's teams to be fielded within the next three years in addition to increases expressed by clubs.
- ◀ Three clubs report that senior demand has increased over the previous three years, whilst four report a decrease.
- ◀ Four clubs report an increase in junior demand, with only Southwold CC reporting a reduction.
- ◀ There are 21 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets although only 11 of these have actual spare capacity for senior demand on Saturday's, whilst 12 have actual spare capacity on Sunday's.
- ◀ A total of 13 squares have actual spare capacity during midweek for junior cricket.
- ◀ Five squares are overplayed, with total overplay equating to 51 match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ For senior cricket, significant overall spare capacity is identified, although shortfalls are evident in Area 4 and Area 5.
- ◀ For junior cricket, overall spare capacity exists both currently and in the future; however, a worsening shortfall is identified in Area 5.



### ***Rugby union***

- ✦ There are 48 rugby union pitches in East Suffolk across 27 sites, which broken down equates to 40 senior and eight junior pitches.
- ✦ Of the pitches, 38 are available for community use across 21 sites.
- ✦ Of the community available pitches, 11 are assessed as good quality, 19 are assessed as standard and eight are assessed as poor.
- ✦ Lowestoft & Yarmouth, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Felixstowe, Ipswich and Woodbridge rugby clubs all express a need for their ancillary provision to be improved/enhanced.
- ✦ Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC aspires to relocate its demand and is hoping to lodge a planning application in 2022 to enable this, with its existing site allocated for housing.
- ✦ A planning application has been submitted at Halesworth Campus Sports Complex that proposes the loss of a grassed area that is used by Southwold RUFC.
- ✦ With cricket provision that previously shared Coronation Sports Ground relocating to the former Deben High School site, space has been freed up for rugby and will allow the Felixstowe RUFC to re-configure the pitches and provide floodlighting.
- ✦ Woodbridge RUFC has recently secured additional land that it is looking to develop for its mini demand and wheelchair rugby.
- ✦ The only club considered to have unsecure tenure is Southwold RUFC as its lease of Southwold Common has expired, although the Club reports that discussions are ongoing regarding a long-term extension.
- ✦ There are eight rugby union clubs based in East Suffolk providing a total of 102 teams, which when broken down equates to 22 senior, 38 junior and 42 mini teams.
- ✦ Beccles, Lowestoft & Yarmouth, Woodbridge, Ipswich YM and Ipswich rugby clubs all train on match pitches that are accompanied by floodlighting, whilst Aldeburgh RUFC and Felixstowe RUFC also use pitches via portable lighting.
- ✦ Both Aldeburgh RUFC and Felixstowe RUFC are exploring the installation of permanent floodlighting to better accommodate training demand, whereas Ipswich RUFC and Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC report that they need additional floodlights due to existing capacity issues.
- ✦ No future demand is predicted via population growth, whilst six of the clubs have growth aspirations amounting to a potential increase of six senior and 14 junior teams.
- ✦ Overall, there is a current shortfall of 27 match equivalent sessions on rugby union pitches, with only Area 1 and Area 5 having no capacity issues.
- ✦ When considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 37 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ The largest shortfalls are noted in Area 2 and Area 7, both of which have a current deficit of 7.5 match equivalent sessions and a future deficit of 9.5 match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ Actual spare capacity is evident on only four pitches in the District and amounts to four match equivalent sessions.
- ✦ There are 13 pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a total of 31 match equivalent sessions per week.

### ***Hockey***

- ✦ The audit identifies 10 full size hockey suitable AGPs in East Suffolk, nine of which are available for community use (the pitch at Rock Barracks is not).
- ✦ Eight of the pitches are floodlit (one of the pitches at Ipswich School Sports Centre is not).
- ✦ There are also four smaller sized pitches provided; three of these are available to the community and two are floodlit.

- ✦ East Coast HC is without security of tenure at East Point Academy, as is Framlingham HC at Framlingham College.
- ✦ Of the full size pitches, four are assessed as good quality, three pitches are standard quality and two as poor quality (access could not be gained to Rock Barracks).
- ✦ The pitch at Felixstowe School and the older pitch at Framlingham College are assessed as poor as both are beyond their recommended lifespan and signs of wear and tear on the surface are prevalent.
- ✦ Floodlighting is also of concern at Felixstowe School, with the current provision considered to be unsafe.
- ✦ Whilst the pitch at East Point Academy is assessed as standard quality, it too has exceeded its recommended lifespan.
- ✦ Felixstowe HC has issues in relation to the ancillary facilities at Felixstowe School, where access has recently been denied.
- ✦ The four hockey clubs in East Suffolk consist of 30 teams, which as a breakdown consists of ten senior men's, 12 senior women's and 14 junior teams as well as six other team varieties.
- ✦ East Coast HC has an aspiration to develop its own facility and has built up a small fund to contribute towards this; it is aware of wider plans around Oakes Farm and is interested in potentially being part of the development.
- ✦ Beccles HC was previously based in Beccles until 2006 but had to relocate when league stipulations meant that an AGP had to be accessed; it now plays at Langley School in South Norfolk but states that this was detrimental to its demand.
- ✦ All five hockey clubs have plans to increase their membership, with growth across the clubs equating to three senior men's and six senior women's teams.
- ✦ No England Hockey initiatives are currently identified as taking place in East Suffolk, although Ipswich East Suffolk HC reports an intention to develop its informal programme moving forward.
- ✦ As seven community available full size pitches are currently in use by hockey clubs, these require protection (or replacement) as each is serving a specific purpose.
- ✦ Quality should be sustained or improved across the sites to ensure that they remain useable for the long-term future, whilst security of tenure issues also need to be addressed in relation to East Coast HC and Framlingham HC.
- ✦ There may also be a requirement to find a solution to the exported demand expressed by Beccles HC given its aspiration to relocate to East Suffolk.

### ***Tennis***

- ✦ There is a total of 230 tennis courts identified in East Suffolk across 70 sites, with 163 courts categorised as being available for community use at 51 sites.
- ✦ The majority of courts are operated by schools, although only 36% of these are available for community use.
- ✦ The large majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 177 being of this type, 42 having an artificial surface and the remaining 11 have a grass surface.
- ✦ In total, 108 of the 230 tennis courts are serviced by floodlights, representing 48% of the provision, which is a relatively high amount when compared to other local authorities.
- ✦ Of the courts, 49 are assessed as good quality, 120 as standard quality and 61 as poor quality.
- ✦ Of particular concern are the poor quality courts at Charsfield Recreation Ground, Denes Oval, Grundisburgh Playing Field and Wenhaston Recreation Ground as these are all in regular use by clubs.

- ◀ A number of clubs rate the quality of their clubhouse and/or changing rooms as being poor quality, with this applying to Aldeburgh, Saxmundham, Southwold & District, Ufford, Wenhamston, Wickham Market and Wrentham tennis clubs.
- ◀ There are 25 tennis clubs in East Suffolk; at the 16 clubs where membership is known, there are 1,928 members (1,307 senior and 681 junior) and the average membership is 120.5.
- ◀ Seven clubs report that senior membership has increased over recent years whilst eight report that junior membership has increased; only four clubs report decreases.
- ◀ A total of 11 clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 380 potential additional members (200 senior and 180 junior).
- ◀ In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 4,399 people within East Suffolk.
- ◀ Away from clubs, it is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in East Suffolk have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded due to the open access nature of many sites.
- ◀ The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and clubs to grow the use of tennis courts, in turn making them more sustainable and financially viable.
- ◀ Out of the education providers, only Ipswich School Sports Centre reports any regular demand from the community for tennis.
- ◀ Precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts.
- ◀ Five clubs have current capacity issues, with these being Woodbridge, Grundisburgh, Snape, Ufford and Southwold & District tennis clubs.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand, a shortfall could also be created at Saxmundham Sports Club based on the growth aspirations of Saxmundham TC.
- ◀ All remaining clubs have spare capacity at the sites that they use, suggesting that there is an overall sufficient number of courts in the District, albeit solutions are required to better accommodate the clubs with capacity issues.

### **Netball**

- ◀ There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across East Suffolk, with 101 identified across 47 sites; however, only 46 courts at 19 sites are available for community use.
- ◀ Most outdoor netball courts in East Suffolk are operated by schools, with 86 of the 101 courts falling under this management type.
- ◀ The large majority of outdoor netball courts in East Suffolk have a macadam surface, with 82 being of this type; the remaining 19 courts all have an artificial surface.
- ◀ All but 18 of the courts are over marked by tennis provision.
- ◀ Only 39 of the courts are serviced by floodlighting, with 32 of these being available for community use.
- ◀ Of the courts, 10 are assessed as good quality, 68 as standard quality and 23 as poor quality.
- ◀ Eight netball clubs have been identified as being based in East Suffolk.
- ◀ All eight clubs use outdoor courts for some form of activity, with provision at Ipswich School Sports Centre, Brackenbury Sports Centre, Framlingham College, Framlingham College Prep School and Kesgrave High School accessed.
- ◀ Both Ipswich Ladies Netball Club and Atlas Netball Club export some demand outside of East due to a lack of suitable provision within the District, whilst the Lowestoft Netball League is also exported as it uses a site in Great Yarmouth as a central venue.
- ◀ Beccles Bluebirds Netball Club reports latent demand in that it suggests that it would be able to accommodate more members if it had access to an increased number of better quality courts.

- ◆ Ipswich Ladies, Beccles Bluebirds and Teachers Pets netball clubs all report aspirations to grow their number of members and teams, whereas remaining clubs report that priority is on retaining participation levels.
- ◆ Back to Netball and Walking Netball have been ran in East Suffolk, with additional sessions likely to be held in the future.
- ◆ Netball Now sessions are held at Inspire Suffolk Colville House.
- ◆ With eight clubs and numerous leagues servicing the East Suffolk area, there is relatively high demand for netball in East Suffolk and particularly for access to outdoor courts.
- ◆ The quantity of courts does not seem to be a problem, with many unused, but rather the quality of them in addition to accessibility issues.
- ◆ Priority should therefore be placed on improving the existing stock of courts, with a focus on sites that are already in use for netball or where netball demand would exist if there was a better offer (such as in Lowestoft).
- ◆ Focus should also be placed on supporting the various initiatives that are championed by England Netball and ensuring such programmes have suitable provision from which to be ran from.

### **Bowls**

- ◆ There are 48 flat green bowling greens in East Suffolk provided across the same number of sites.
- ◆ In addition, there are disused greens at St Audry's Bowling Club, Corton Bowling Club and Lound Bowling Club.
- ◆ A planning application has been submitted that proposes the loss of the playing field, including the bowling green, at Suffolk Constabulary Ground to enable the creation of a 300-dwelling housing development.
- ◆ Security of tenure concerns exist for Bealings, Easton, Sweffling and Wrentham bowls clubs given the private nature of their sites, whereas Felixstowe & Walton BC also has unsecure tenure as the future of its green is very much down to Felixstowe Conservative Club.
- ◆ Overall, 32 greens are assessed as good quality and 16 are assessed as standard; none are poor quality.
- ◆ Nine clubs report that quality has improved over the last year, whilst only four clubs report worsening quality.
- ◆ Otley BC and Sweffling BC are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities, whereas Bredfield, Brampton & District, Martlesham, Red Triangle and Saxmundham bowls clubs all report an intention to improve their provision.
- ◆ There are 48 clubs using bowling greens in East Suffolk; where membership is known, across 25 clubs, there are 677 senior male, 233 senior female and four junior members.
- ◆ The average membership across the clubs is 37.
- ◆ Only 13 of the 48 clubs are affiliated to Bowls England, with the remaining 25 being unaffiliated.
- ◆ In correlation to a national trend of declining membership, 12 clubs report a reduction in participation over recent years, whereas none report an increase.
- ◆ Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2036), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- ◆ A total of 23 clubs express future demand, equating to potential growth of 172 senior members and 60 junior members.
- ◆ All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away; however, Felixstowe BC indicates that it requires an additional green to enable it to increase its demand.

- Three clubs are currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold for a bowling green (Felixstowe BC, Framlingham Castle BC and Woodbridge BC).
- Five clubs (Leiston Town BC, Mettingham BC, Red Triangle BC, Saxmundham BC and Sutton BC) are operating below the level of membership required to ensure that the greens that they use are sustainable.
- All remaining clubs are considered to be adequately catered for and sustainable; with no greens being unused (with the exception of disused provision), this means that no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements at this stage.

### ***Pétanque terrains***

- Across East Suffolk, pétanque is identified as being played at 21 different venues.
- The terrain at Brackenbury Sports Centre is set to be lost as part of wider plans to develop the site for housing and a new Felixstowe Leisure Centre developed.
- Three new terrains are to be developed along the Felixstowe Sea Front, with the provision set to be in place before the end of 2021.
- As most of the pétanque terrains are provided at public houses, security of tenure is an issue for many users.
- The nature of the sport means that surface quality is not considered overly important when compared to similar sports such as bowls, with balls being thrown towards the jack, rather than rolled.
- The Suffolk Coastal Pétanque Alliance runs both a Summer League and a Winter League for pétanque teams as well as an annual Singles League.
- Of the 29 teams competing in the 2020 Winter League, 23 are based in East Suffolk.
- Each site is in use by at least one team, whilst seven venues are in use by multiple teams.
- The Suffolk Coastal Pétanque Alliance does not have a capacity within its league structures, with any future growth just resulting in more divisions being created.
- The existing supply in East Suffolk is considered sufficient to meet demand.
- Nevertheless, something that could be explored is the creation of suitable provision at more secure venues, such as at council sites and at sport clubs.

### ***Croquet lawns***

- Two croquet lawns are provided at Fynn Valley Golf Club (Area 6) for Ipswich Croquet Club, whilst one is provided at Ogilvie Pavilion Sports Ground (Area 1 for Thorpeness Croquet Club).
- All three lawns are assessed as good quality, with the respective club users reporting that they are well maintained.
- Both Ipswich Croquet Club and Thorpeness Croquet Club have their own clubhouses, with the latter reporting that improvements are planned.
- Ipswich Croquet Club is planning to relocate its demand to Trinity Park, where two lawns are also provided following previous bowls use.
- There are two croquet clubs based in East Suffolk; Ipswich Croquet Club and Thorpeness Croquet Club.
- Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Thorpeness Croquet Club catered for 28 playing members before suspending subscriptions when play was no longer allowed, whilst Ipswich Croquet Club has 46 members.
- Ipswich Croquet Club was previously based in Ipswich and considers itself to be an Ipswich-based club, although it is satisfied in East Suffolk.



- Neither club report latent or unmet demand; however, given its location and the size of East Suffolk, it is reasonable to assume that some potential demand is not being catered for, particularly in central and northern parts of the District.
- Thorpeness Croquet Club is adequately provided for via the lawn at Ogilvie Pavilion Sports Ground; however, demand should be monitored, given the infancy of the Club.
- Supply is also sufficient to meet demand from Ipswich Croquet Club and this is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future given how established the Club is.
- Demand should be further explored in other areas of East Suffolk to better understand if there is a need for any additional provision to be established elsewhere.

### ***Athletics***

- There are no purpose-built athletics track provided in East Suffolk, with the nearest facilities being located in Ipswich at Northgate Sports Centre and in Great Yarmouth at Wellesley Recreation Ground.
- Numerous trim trails are provided across the District to support running activity, such as at Ufford Park in Woodbridge, Martlesham Heath in Martlesham and Buregate Road in Felixstowe.
- Nine clubs have been identified that have a focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- The clubs vary in size, with the likes of Waveney Valley Athletics Club and Beccles & Bungay Harriers Athletics Club catering for a high number of members.
- Many of the clubs also organise annual running events, such as the Framlingham 10km, the Saxon 5-mile and the Coastal 10-mile.
- Five different Park Run events are held weekly across East Suffolk, with an average of 198.9 runners taking part, whilst an additional event is proposed at Rendlesham Forest.
- Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in East Suffolk, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity.
- There are currently no Run Together groups in East Suffolk, with Rushmere Community Runners providing the nearest service, in Ipswich.
- Demand for club-based activity and the various initiatives is likely to increase in the future, although to what extent is difficult to quantify.
- There is high demand for athletics and particularly running in East Suffolk; priority should therefore be placed on continuing to support activity, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation.
- Opportunities should also be explored to establish purpose-built facilities, linked to England Athletics' current priorities, such as through the development of floodlit mini tracks and/or endurance loops at multi-sport sites.

### ***Golf***

- There are currently 20 golf sites in East Suffolk.
- Two additional golfing venues were also previously provided, known as Dip Farm Golf Course and High Lodge Darsham Golf Course; however, these closed in 2018 and 2021, respectively.
- All 20 current golf sites provide at least one standard hole course, with a total of 13 18-hole and 12 9-hole courses supplied.
- The course at Kingfishers at Cretingham has recently been reduced from 18 holes to nine holes following a change in ownership, whilst the course at Waldringfield Golf Club is presently undergoing a major redevelopment.
- Only two sites provide a Par 3 course, with these found at Fynn Valley Golf Club and Rookery Park Golf Club in addition to their standard hole courses; both encompass nine holes.

- There are 111 driving range bays provided across seven of the venues, with six of these available for the general public to use on a pay and play basis (the facility at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club is generally reserved for members and green fee users).
- There are no municipal courses following the closure of Dip Farm Golf Course, with the remaining sites equally split between members clubs and proprietary facilities.
- Provision at Framlingham College and Orwell Park School operates significantly differently to the remaining provision, with both being school sites and inaccessible to the wider public.
- The average cost of membership is lower than the national average suggesting an overall cheaper price point than the national rate, although costs are higher at Woodbridge, Thorpeness and Ipswich golf clubs as these are high end facilities.
- Green fees are available at 17 of the sites, with costs ranging significantly from as little as £5 at Beccles Golf Club to up to £125 at Aldeburgh Golf Club.
- In terms of quality, it is relatively good across the District with no significant issues identified and with nearly all sites having dedicated green keeping staff which provide maintenance regimes that operate all-year round.
- Ancillary facilities are also for the most part good, with Fynn Valley Golf Club and Kingfishers at Creetingham in particular well provided for having had new clubhouses built in 2018 and 2019, respectively.
- Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club has planning permission to develop a new clubhouse, with building work expected to start soon.
- Overall demand across East Suffolk is seemingly high, with 6,256 members attached to the clubs; however, this means that the average membership (417 members per facility) is actually below the national average (484 members).
- Membership is above the national average at six sites which are all generally at the higher end of the golfing market within the District.
- Against a national trend of increasing membership, overall membership in East Suffolk has marginally declined over recent years, with 6,353 members attached to the clubs in 2015 compared to 6,256 currently.
- Seven clubs have increased their membership since 2015 compared to nine that have seen a reduction.
- England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally by 1.07%, which would represent an increase of 67 members in East Suffolk.
- England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Priory Park Golf Course and Ipswich Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.
- East Suffolk is currently well provided for in relation to golf provision, with a large quantity and a variety of facilities provided.
- Aligned with the above, demand for golf provision in East Suffolk is also reasonably high, with membership numbers generally strong against the national average.
- There is likely to be a need for facilities to be retained as each site will cater for a specific type of demand and market that cannot necessarily be accommodated elsewhere in the locality.

### **Summary**

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some sports and in some areas where demand is currently being met. The shortfalls identified are for youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 football pitches, senior rugby union pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and purpose-built athletics facilities.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. In addition, there remain some area and site specific issues that need resolving despite no overall capacity issues, such as those relating to quality and security of tenure.

Where shortfalls are present, for the most part, they can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. Another example of how to develop existing provision to overcome shortfalls is through pitch re-configuration (or re-designation).

Notwithstanding the above, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches and entry level athletics facilities that can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help to reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

### **Indoor and built sports facilities**

ESC has overseen a recent programme of investment into its built leisure facilities, including major refurbishments of leisure centres operated by Places Leisure, at Leiston and Deben. In addition, it has re-procured the management and operation of two former Waveney District Council facilities (Waterlane and Waveney Valley leisure centres) which have also been refurbished and are now operated by Everyone Active. It plans to make a further significant investment to replace and relocate facilities at the existing Felixstowe and Brackenbury leisure centres, in line with local plan proposals to develop a garden village in North Felixstowe.

Overall the assessment found that (taking into account proposed investment in Felixstowe), the District's needs in terms of core swimming pool, sports hall and health & fitness provision will be adequately catered for over the period of the Local Plan.

Key challenges for ESC and partners include the need to provide a safe return to activity post-Pandemic for its residents, and to consider how those in the more rural isolated parts of the district can be supported to access good quality leisure provision. It will also be critical to support secondary schools to enable their stock of community accessible sports halls to re-open and operate sustainably following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, and to consider how some schools could extend the available community offering, and/or better promote and manage bookings to both improve their own income generation and provide additional sports hall capacity to sports clubs and individuals.

### *Sports halls*

East Suffolk has 106 sports halls, of which 19 are 3+ badminton courts in size – or larger. Of the 19, the assessment found 15 to be of 'good', or 'above average' quality. No sites were rated poor quality. There is relatively good distribution of sports hall provision across East Suffolk's main settlements. A new five court hall is planned as part of the new Felixstowe leisure centre, which will replace provision at Brackenbury sports centre (also five courts).



The majority (15 of 19) 3+ court halls are located on education sites. Two of the remaining four (Leiston Leisure Centre, Brackenbury Sports Centre) are operated by Places leisure under contract with ESC. Waterlane Leisure Centre's sports hall is operated by Everyone Active, with the remaining site at Kesgrave being run by a charitable trust. The audit found some issues around general wear and tear of school sports hall sites, such as the need for sports hall floor or lighting replacement. There is also potential to improve the efficacy of some school booking arrangements, and to provide additional staff resource to enable community access to facilities.

Club consultation revealed some availability issues for badminton in respect of existing facilities being fully programmed. There was also expressed demand for improved accessibility to competition standard netball facilities in the north of the District.

Overall, the current stock of sports halls meets the needs of the resident population satisfactorily in 2021. Potential additional demand (around six courts) related to population growth up to 2036 could be accommodated within current stock on the basis of improvements to management and booking arrangements and quality upgrades being delivered on certain school sites.

### *Swimming pools*

There are 31 swimming pool facilities in East Suffolk. When smaller pools and lidos are discounted the number of venues which accommodate pools of at least 160m<sup>2</sup> reduces to nine which between them have 13 pools. These are well distributed in relation to the main population centres (Felixstowe in the South, Beccles, Bungay and Lowestoft in the North).

Five of the nine facilities are rated good quality, with four; Waterlane Leisure Centre (5 x 25m plus learner pool), Deben (6 x 25m), Leiston (5 x 25m plus learner) and Waveney Valley (5 x 25m) having received significant recent investment into major refurbishment work. Facilities at Felixstowe Leisure Centre (6 x 25m plus learner) whilst rated below average quality are due to be replaced by a new facility located at the North Felixstowe Garden Village.

It is anticipated that future demand (up to 2036) due to population growth can be accommodated within existing facilities (and taking into account new provision in Felixstowe) given their available capacity. There is an opportunity, nevertheless, to consider whether/how to extend availability at smaller community and lido facilities. This could improve accessibility to swimming for residents in areas where barriers to services are particularly high and deliver a positive impact in respect of increased participation in swimming and other aquatic activities.

### *Schools*

In general, there is a reasonably good level of community access to school sports facilities in East Suffolk. In 'normal times' their facilities are operating at around 60-70% capacity based on available community booking information. In terms of management, five of the fifteen schools with 3 court + halls are independent; the remaining ten have academy status. In respect of the Pandemic, schools were (in Autumn 2020) focusing on the safe transit of staff and pupils around facilities and were in the process of considering how and when community sport bookings could resume.

Whilst management and operation of community facilities is without exception handled in-house across secondary schools in East Suffolk, available resources to promote and handle bookings vary. Of the independent schools, Woodbridge School and Ipswich School sports centres (which include extensive indoor and outdoor facilities) offer a significant volume (40 hours plus) of community bookings per week and employ dedicated sports centre staff enable marketing and promotion of their venues. On the other hand, the academy schools able to offer segregated community sports facilities such as Kesgrave and Sir John Leman, tend not to have dedicated staff resource nor do they offer online booking arrangements.

### *Village and community halls*

Reflecting its largely rural geography, East Suffolk has an extensive network of village and community hall facilities. There are 261 such buildings in total across the district, with around 60% of East Suffolk residents living within 800m of such a facility which represents a good level of accessibility when compared to similar authorities of a rural nature.

Research undertaken for this study found a variety of activities taking place in village halls, such as badminton, carpet bowls and exercise classes. Consultation with certain badminton clubs found that in some cases village halls offer a more cost effective, accessible place to participate than school or leisure centre provision.

Whilst (given the remoteness of some villages in relation to services) there would seem to be good potential for village halls to make a greater contribution to meeting the districts sport and physical activity needs, the needs assessment survey response was relatively low. There is, thus, a need for further consultation with parish councils and community partnerships to identify particular facility improvement needs and the scope for greater usage at such facilities.

### *Health and fitness suites*

There are 29 fitness facilities in East Suffolk, containing a total of 1,454 fitness stations. These are mainly located in the northern and southern periphery of the district in the main towns of Felixstowe, Beccles, Lowestoft and Bungay. Main contracted leisure facilities at Felixstowe (41 stations), Leiston (60 stations), Waterlane (90 stations) and Waveney Valley (50 stations) each offer health and fitness facilities. The replacement Felixstowe Centre is expected to include a facility with 100 stations.

Overall and in respect of supply and demand for health and fitness, a deficit of 277 stations by 2036 is predicted taking account of population growth. In meeting this future need, it should be borne in mind that the health and fitness sector is currently emerging from a period of unprecedented disruption as a result of the Pandemic and that there may be some re-calibration of the private sector market. In the light of this, the role of smaller community gyms, (possibly co-located with other local services) in meeting the needs of the more isolated rural parts of the district should be considered.

### *Indoor bowls*

There are five indoor bowls facilities in East Suffolk, three of which are operated by bowls clubs (Sole Bay, Carlton Rd, Beccles). Gunton Hall (a members only facility) is part of a wider leisure resort. The facility at Felixstowe Leisure Centre, where Felixstowe Bowls Club (200+ members) is based is operated by Places Leisure and is due to relocate to the former Deben High School sports hall and there will be the option of increasing slightly in size from a four to a six-rink facility.

Overall the assessment found a good supply of indoor bowls facilities in East Suffolk and no significant anticipated future demand for indoor bowls is anticipated. With this in mind, focus should be placed from a strategic perspective on ensuring that the replacement Felixstowe facility is fit for purpose in the sense of its design, operational and management principles.

### *Squash courts*

There are 22 squash courts distributed across eight sites in East Suffolk. There is good coverage of the district in relation to its main settlements. Two of the three squash facilities at public contracted sites (Leiston and Waterlane) are rated as good quality. The remaining public leisure centre site, at Brackenbury is rated above average and will be replaced by new courts at the new Felixstowe Leisure Centre. There is stable demand for squash in East Suffolk and the generally good quality facilities are well distributed to serve the local resident population.

Whilst projected population increases are unlikely to lead to demand for additional courts, there is a need to maintain the quality and preserve the function of existing courts, such as those at St John Leman and Framlingham College which are of below average quality.

### *Indoor Tennis*

East Suffolk does not have an indoor tennis facility, however, consultation with LTA officers suggests that demand may exist for such a development. This should be considered as part of the linked housing developments such as Felixstowe Garden Village. Lowestoft and Felixstowe are identified within East Suffolk by regional LTA officers as priority locations, with Lowestoft Tennis Club noted to be interested in creating a dome facility at Denes Oval. Felixstowe Tennis Club is also recognised by the NGB as having potential to develop indoor facilities.

### *Cycling*

Of the four formal cycling facilities in East Suffolk, three are trail centres (at Rendlesham and Tunstall Forests managed by Forestry England, and the independently managed Twisted Oaks facility at Brightwell) and a cycle speedway track at Kesgrave Community Sports, home of Kesgrave Panthers Cycle Speedway Club. Each of these is well used offering opportunity for recreational as well as competitive activity across the disciplines of mountain bike and cycle speedway.

ESC is currently preparing a cycling and walking strategy - due to be published for consultation in 2021. It has a focus on improving walking and cycling infrastructure and integration with key development proposals across the two local plan areas.

There is an opportunity for the findings of the emerging walking and cycling strategy to be integrated with this study. This can be achieved by embedding active design principles within the new Felixstowe Leisure Centre development, and also by the Council working with its leisure operators to promote the benefits of cycling, establish connectivity with existing cycling networks and ensure minimum standards in respect of cycle storage provided at its leisure facilities.

### *Replacement Felixstowe Leisure Centre*

East Suffolk's main proposed indoor facility related intervention, endorsed by its Cabinet in September 2019 is to deliver a destination leisure facility in Felixstowe as part of the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, as a replacement for both the current Felixstowe and Brackenbury *Leisure Centres*.

*The East Suffolk Council, Suffolk Coastal Local Plan makes a number of recommendations in respect of the proposed masterplan* that will support a future planning application in respect of the garden neighbourhood including:

- ◀ A new leisure centre in a location which is easily accessible for the existing community.
- ◀ Design and layout that supports inclusive use and a dementia friendly environment.
- ◀ Up to 2,000 dwellings
- ◀ Provision of 630 primary school spaces and early years provision

The 2017 Felixstowe Leisure Centre Feasibility Study identified a preferred site (North development site) which comprises land owned currently by Trinity College, Cambridge. It offers the advantages of an edge of town location with good frontage to the A154, proximity to the rail station and the ability to operate existing provision at Felixstowe up until completion of the new build. In supply and *demand* terms for the core swimming, sports hall and health and fitness elements, findings of KKP's needs assessment support the Council's ambition to deliver a destination leisure centre in Felixstowe. It will incorporate the following facility specification:

- |   |                                       |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| ◀ 25m x 8 lane pool                     | ◀ Spin studio x 1                     |
| ◀ Teaching pool 15m x 8.5m              | ◀ Thermal suite sauna and steam       |
| ◀ 5 court sports hall                   | ◀ Soft play                           |
| ◀ Health and fitness gym (80+ stations) | ◀ Clip n climb                        |
| ◀ Studios x 2                           | ◀ Flexible meeting/consultation space |
| ◀ Squash courts x 2                     | (147m <sup>2</sup> )                  |

In progressing plans through detailed design and feasibility stages, and in line with the emerging masterplan for the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, ESC will need to consider issues such as public transport *accessibility* to the new site, and (in line with its emerging cycling and walking strategy) how the centre will adopt the principles of active design<sup>4</sup> to consider connectivity to existing paths, new residential areas and ensuring safe navigation across the A154.

---

<sup>4</sup><https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design>

## STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

### Open spaces

The setting and application of provision standards helps inform shortfalls in provision and to ensure new developments contribute to the provision of open space across the area. A number of recommendations are provided that seek to assist in these processes. These are:

#### Recommendation 1

*Sites helping or with the potential to help serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be prioritised as opportunities for enhancement*

These sites currently help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where opportunities are possible, the Council should seek to adapt these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help further strengthen their role in meeting the identified gaps.

These sites should therefore be viewed as open space provision likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of some of these sites is secured and maintained (Recommendation 2).

#### Recommendation 2

*Ensure low quality/value sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement*

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards (i.e. high quality and/or value).

#### Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps

Ref	Site name	Settlement area	Helps to serve provision gap in:
70	Castle Hills	Bungay	Parks
163	Kings Road	Bungay	Parks
224	North Parade Boating Lake	Southwold	Parks
376	Upland Community Centre	Lowestoft	NSN
426	Allenby Park	Felixstowe	NSN, AGS
490	Coronation Sports Ground	Felixstowe	NSN
530	Framlingham Mere	Framlingham	Parks
564	Kendall Green	Felixstowe	NSN
569	King Georges Recreation Ground	Leiston	Parks
621	Pageant Field	Framlingham	Parks
649	Memorial Field	Saxmundham	Parks
753	The Mount	Kesgrave	Parks
783	Waterloo Avenue	Leiston	Parks

### Recommendation 3

*Recognise low quality and value sites and how they may be able to meet other needs*

Where sites of low quality or value appear to fall within an area of sufficiency, a change of primary typology should be first considered. If no shortfall of other open space type is noted or the practicality of enhancing the site is not cost effective, then the site may be redundant or 'surplus to requirements'.

There are 174 sites identified as currently having either lower quality and/or value. Of these 174 sites, 13 are identified as helping to serve catchment gaps in other types of open space. These sites should first be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these 13 sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced.

Consequently, there are 161 sites of low quality and/or value, which do not currently appear to serve any highlighted gaps in catchment mapping. The sites are set out in the supporting Excel database. Further exploration into these sites could be undertaken to establish whether any are potentially genuinely surplus to requirements.

Other factors, such as shortfalls in quantity for that provision type, the potential removal of a site creating a different catchment gap and/or the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision should also be considered. The Council may also be aware of other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or as a visual amenity, that may also indicate that a site should continue to be protected.

The Open Space Report is a snapshot in time. Whilst significant changes are not as common for open space provision, inevitably over time changes in provision occurs through creation of new provision, loss of provision and/or alterations to site boundaries and management. Population change and housing growth are also another consideration to review when undertaking any update as this may impact on quantity provision levels and shortfalls.

## Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy

The following overarching, strategic recommendations have been identified from the PPOSS analysis. These are based on Sport England's key themes of protect, enhance and provide:

### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

#### Recommendations:

- ◀ Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- ◀ Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- ◀ Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

### OBJECTIVE 2

To **enhance** playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### Recommendations:

- ◀ Improve quality
- ◀ Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- ◀ Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- ◀ Secure developer contributions.



## OBJECTIVE 3

To **provide** new playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

### Recommendations:

- Identify opportunities to increase add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch stock.

Linked to the strategic recommendations, the following recommendations are made for each sport:

### ***Football***

- Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- Improve strategic sites, using the LFFP as a guide, and consider updating the priority projects within the LFFP following the findings of this study.
- Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed, including the transfer of demand from grass pitches to existing and new 3G pitches.
- Explore pitch reconfiguration at suitable, currently under-utilised sites to better cater for playing formats with identified shortfalls.
- Work with providers to secure access to unsecure sites and sites not currently offering community use via the creation of community use agreements.
- Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing/sporting offer.
- Ensure clubs playing within the football pyramid can continue to do so and that they can progress if promotion is achieved (including the relocation of Woodbridge Town FC).
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, which will usually be the case, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, where possible, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.



### **3G pitches**

- ◆ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◆ Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate shortfalls, using the LFFP to guide investment.
- ◆ Identify additional sites in Area 3 and Area 6 to fully alleviate identified 3G shortfalls.
- ◆ Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby union demand; or, explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- ◆ Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- ◆ Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- ◆ For World Rugby compliant pitches, seek re-testing every two years to ensure provision remains accredited.
- ◆ Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- ◆ Resurface existing 3G pitches that have exceeded recommended lifespan i.e. at Barnards Soccer Centre.
- ◆ Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- ◆ Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.

### **Cricket**

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ◆ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ◆ Address overplay via quality improvements and the installation of NTPs as well as through greater utilisation of the NTPs already in place.
- ◆ Ensure clubs can realise future growth plans and continue to monitor increases in demand to ensure additional teams can be fielded.
- ◆ Pursue improved security of tenure, particularly for Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield and Yoxford cricket clubs.
- ◆ Improve ancillary facilities, particularly those servicing Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield and Lowestoft Town cricket clubs given current issues and plans.
- ◆ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, first and foremost focusing on Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield, Melton St Audry's, Nacton, Saxmundham Sports and Yoxford cricket clubs.
- ◆ Consider re-purposing some of the unused squares by means of reducing other playing pitch shortfalls, subject to confirmation from the ECB and Suffolk Cricket that they are surplus to requirements, providing the provision can be brought back into use for cricket if the need ever arises.
- ◆ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e. via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis.
- ◆ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- ◆ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◆ Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).

### ***Rugby union***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches and areas used for rugby union activity.
- ◀ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches.
- ◀ Explore the installation of additional floodlighting at sites that are overplayed as a result of training demand on grass pitches.
- ◀ Explore the installation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches as a resolution for clubs that would still have grass pitch shortfalls even if quality and floodlighting was maximised.
- ◀ Explore options to increase the pitch stock available to clubs with significant pitch shortfalls.
- ◀ Ensure Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC is adequately provided for if its relocation goes ahead, with at least five grass pitches (three floodlit) or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch and three grass pitches required.
- ◀ Ensure Southwold RUFC's training needs continue to be adequately accommodated in light of proposals at Halesworth Campus Sports Complex.
- ◀ Pursue improved security of tenure for Southwold RUFC via an extension to its lease from Southwold Common Trust.
- ◀ Support all clubs with their aspirations to improve their ancillary facilities.
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.
- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing local sites.

### ***Hockey***

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the seven pitches currently in use by hockey clubs as well as the pitch at Woodbridge School.
- ◀ Ensure future demand can be accommodated at venues currently in use, particularly at Felixstowe School given current capacity concerns.
- ◀ Explore options to accommodate exported demand expressed by Beccles HC.
- ◀ Encourage hockey use at Woodbridge School given the quality of the pitch and look to establish a long-term partnership between a club (or clubs) and the School.
- ◀ Resurface the AGPs as hockey suitable at East Point Academy, Felixstowe School and Framlingham College given age, quality issues and hockey usage levels.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Seek a resolution to the ancillary facility issues at Felixstowe School.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure at all venues used by clubs through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure no 3G pitch conversions are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand if and when a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.
- ◀ Ensure any new 3G pitch developments do not make sand-based provision in the locality unsustainable following the transfer of football activity.

### ***Tennis***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are well used for recreational demand.

- ◀ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create year-round recreational tennis options to meet local demand.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Install additional floodlighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites operating above the capacity guidance.
- ◀ Provide additional court space for clubs operating above the capacity guidance, where it is required, potentially via better utilisation of existing provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at club sites, where it is required.
- ◀ Support the development of indoor tennis provision in strategic areas and where aspirations exist e.g. in Lowestoft and Felixstowe.

### ***Netball***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs and for England Netball initiatives.
- ◀ Consider establishing additional floodlighting at club-based venues or at venues that could attract netball demand following installation.
- ◀ Explore options to return exported demand expressed by the Lowestoft Netball League and Atlas Netball Club.

### ***Bowls***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of greens that are in use.
- ◀ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ◀ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary.
- ◀ Improve security of tenure for Bealings, Easton, Felixstowe & Walton, Sweffling and Wrentham bowls clubs.
- ◀ Support plans for a second green to be established at Felixstowe Bowls Club given existing capacity issues.
- ◀ Support Framlingham Castle BC and Woodbridge BC to ensure demand continues to be met, given high levels of membership.
- ◀ Ensure greens at LTAA Sports Ground, Mettingham Bowls Club, Red Triangle Bowls Club, Saxmundham Sports Club and Sutton Recreation Ground remain sustainable and support club users to increase membership.
- ◀ Mitigate any permanent loss of greens at disused sites through replacement provision or through appropriate enhancements to other facilities.

### ***Pétanque***

- ◀ Protect existing provision.
- ◀ Ensure provision is provided at Felixstowe Sea Front to a good quality and seek to maximise usage.
- ◀ Explore options to provide more secure provision, e.g. at local authority sites rather than there being a reliance on private facilities.

### **Croquet**

- ◀ Protect existing provision.
- ◀ Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.
- ◀ Support Thorpeness Croquet Club in its aspirations to improve its clubhouse at Ogilvie Pavilion Sports Ground.
- ◀ Support Ipswich Croquet Club in its plans to relocate to Trinity Park and ensure that the Club remains adequately provided for following this.
- ◀ Further explore croquet demand in other areas of East Suffolk to determine if any additional provision is required.

### **Athletics**

- ◀ Explore opportunities to establish purpose-built facilities, linked to England Athletics current priorities, where demand is particularly high.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs/groups continue to have home bases to operate from and pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.

### **Golf**

- ◀ Retain all existing golf provision unless separate needs assessments are completed that evidence that a facility can be lost or reduced without it impacting upon demand.
- ◀ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ◀ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- ◀ Continue to retain Dip Farm Golf Course as public open space and ensure it can be brought back into use should the need ever arise (unless evidence is provided to support permanent loss).
- ◀ Further explore plans at High Lodge Darsham Golf Course and ensure any proposals are supported by England Golf and Sport England.

### **Indoor and built sports facilities**

#### ***Protect: ESC will***

- ◀ Work with Places Leisure, Everyone Active, secondary school and academy providers, NGBs and community clubs to support a sustainable return to activity following the coronavirus pandemic.
- ◀ Work with secondary school and academy providers to maintain the quality and preserve the function of existing sports halls on school sites including those which are presently of below average quality.
- ◀ Work with secondary school, academy and community partners to maintain the quality and preserve the function of existing squash courts including those on school sites which are of below average quality.

**Enhance:** ESC will:

- ◀ Work with secondary school and academy providers at schools with below average quality sports halls to upgrade and improve these facilities.
- ◀ Work with partners such as Active Suffolk to explore the potential to create additional capacity in the school sports hall supply via enhancement of booking arrangements, securing additional staff resource and sourcing external funding support.
- ◀ Work with/through East Suffolk Community Partnerships, town and parish councils to gauge the potential of the village hall network to contribute further to providing accessible spaces for physical activity and identify capital improvements to ancillary and activity spaces at those venues which have the capacity and potential to increase and improve provision.
- ◀ Aim to improve the accessibility of contracted leisure provision to rurally isolated residents and those with health/mobility issues by exploring whether initiatives such as community transport are appropriate for this purpose and could be extended or enhanced.
- ◀ In respect of its emerging Cycling and Walking Strategy, ensure that findings with regard to development of new cycle corridors and improving accessibility to existing routes consider their connectivity to existing and proposed built facility provision.
- ◀ Work with partners at town and parish council level to consider whether and how greater use could be made of targeted smaller community pools and lido provision – to play a role enabling access to such provision for the District's rurally deprived residents.

**Provide:** ESC will:

- ◀ Deliver a new destination Felixstowe Leisure Centre as part of which it will:
  - ◀ Ensure that Active Design principles are fully applied in the final facility design in relation to the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, including a clear plan in respect of access via public transport, walking and cycling routes, traversing the A154.
  - ◀ Consider how centre design and layout can create a dementia friendly environment.
  - ◀ Work with Places Leisure and the appointed design team to ensure that the swimming pool specification includes appropriate timing equipment and starting blocks to enable competitive swimming to take place.
  - ◀ Work with Places Leisure to develop a sustainable business plan, cognisant of the need to return to a normal trading position by April 2022.
- ◀ Continue to work with Felixstowe indoor bowls club and the EIBA to ensure its needs are fully met within replacement provision.
- ◀ In respect of development of the Brackenbury Sports Centre site, ensure that opportunity in respect of investment of a capital receipt into community sports provision is fully realised.
- ◀ Work with the LTA, Lowestoft and Felixstowe tennis clubs to explore potential for capital investment in indoor tennis facilities. This should be considered as part of the linked housing developments such as North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood.



**EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL**

**INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STRATEGY  
FINAL REPORT**

**AUGUST 2021**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

**MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS**

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kkp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kkp.co.uk) [www.kkp.co.uk](http://www.kkp.co.uk)



Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	Andrew Fawkes	13 May 2021
Quality control	John Eady	14 May 2021
Client comments		
Final approval		



## CONTENTS

<b>PART 1: INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>4</b>
1.1 Purpose.....	4
1.2 National strategic context .....	5
1.3 Planning policy .....	6
<b>PART 2: LOCAL AREA CONTEXT.....</b>	<b>9</b>
2.1 Local strategic context.....	9
3.1 General findings .....	14
<b>PART 4: VISION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ACTION PLAN.....</b>	<b>18</b>
4.1 Key strategic drivers.....	18
4.3.1 Indoor built facilities action plan (generic actions).....	22
, 4.3.2 Indoor built facilities action plan (Sport & Activity Specific Actions).....	23
4.3.3: Indoor built facilities action (Facility specific actions) .....	24
<b>PART 5: MONITORING AND REVIEW .....</b>	<b>28</b>

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the East Suffolk Indoor & Built Facilities Strategy (IBF) for the period 2021 – 2036. Recommendations are drawn from the Needs Assessment Report 2021, researched and prepared between September 2020 and March 2021 by specialist sport and leisure consultancy, Knight Kavanagh and Page Ltd (KKP). The Assessment Report and Strategy were both prepared in accordance with Sport England's ANOG (Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance - for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities) and in consultation with East Suffolk Council (ESC), Sport England, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), local sports clubs and key stakeholders.

#### 1.1 Purpose

The overall aim of the indoor sports strategy is for ESC to make informed decisions to ensure sports and physical activity facilities are located in the right places to ensure that the maximum number of local people take part in regular, meaningful physical activity. ESC has an aspiration and need to consider its facilities planning, particularly in the context of its growing population and the changing economic (post Covid-19 pandemic) and demographic profile (rise in the number and proportion of older population) of the area.

The focus is on provision of clear direction to all partners so that together they can capitalise on the opportunity presented by the Council's recent and proposed investment in community-based leisure, physical activity and sport facilities in East Suffolk. It provides a concise, robust, comprehensive, up-to-date evidence base in line with existing Local Plans for the former Waveney and Suffolk Coastal areas, and strategic, action plan-based approach to the enhancement of existing, and creation of new, sporting provision.

This will ensure that residents have the option to be physically active and healthier, and where appropriate develop their physical, sporting, health and wellbeing ambitions within their local community. This report is one component of a wider suite which includes a playing pitch and outdoor sport strategy and an open spaces assessment.

Built facilities assessment aims are to:

- ✦ Identify the built sporting and recreational infrastructure that will be required to serve existing and new development, covering both the demand for and use of existing facilities identifying areas of deficiency or surplus facilities and highlighting priority locations for future provision.
- ✦ Prioritise any funding for sport and recreation from local authority budgets.
- ✦ Identify the longer-term sustainability of facilities, their changing and ancillary features such as car parking and on-going funding and management.
- ✦ Review existing local standards of provision and accessibility - recommend prioritised solutions in the form of amendments, improvements or continued use of existing standards.
- ✦ Establish the potential for community use of private and educational establishment built sporting facilities. And principles for shared use by new school developments.

Its objectives cut across multiple East Suffolk departments and partners, they are to:

- ✦ Help deliver the health and wellbeing agenda
- ✦ Inform the capital programme for ESC
- ✦ Inform Local Plan policy
- ✦ Set the leisure facilities plan within the context of the Local Plan and wider strategies for parks, green spaces, and community development
- ✦ Inform sports development initiatives

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

## INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Reflect wider ESC asset reviews
- ◀ Help facilitate community use of outdoor facilities on education sites
- ◀ Set a framework for the strategic approach to sport and leisure delivery at key sites in the District including:
  - ◀ North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood
  - ◀ Halesworth Healthy Neighbourhood
  - ◀ Oakes Farm, Carlton Colville, Lowestoft
  - ◀ Yarmouth and Lowestoft Rugby club proposals in north Lowestoft.

### 1.2 National strategic context

#### ***Sporting Future: A new strategy for an active nation (December 2015)***

The Government's strategy for sport confirms its recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference and states its intention that the sector will deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Referencing this, Uniting the Movement is its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity. Its ambition is to tackle key inequalities in sport and physical activity, provide opportunity for people and communities that are traditionally left behind and to help to remove the barriers to activity. Its three key objectives are illustrated below:



As well as advocating sport and physical activity, via the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five issues upon which people and communities must work together to address. These are cited as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as presenting the greatest opportunity to make a lasting difference. Each is described as a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but tackled collectively, could change things profoundly:

- ◀ *Recover and reinvent*: Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ *Connecting communities*: Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ *Positive experiences for children and young people*: Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ *Connecting with health and wellbeing*: Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ *Active environments*: Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these five big issues, the right conditions for change need to be created: involving people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed, which will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### 1.3 Planning policy

#### ***National Planning Policy Framework 2019***

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) February 2019 ([National Planning Policy Framework](#)) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social, and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 96 establishes that access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 97 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

East Suffolk Council, as the local planning authority, retains oversight of all potential facility developments. Its policies and potential supplementary planning documents set out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

Ensuring that community use of new facilities is agreed at the outset (by enshrining it within planning policy) enables their contribution to the Council's wider sport and physical activity aspirations and those of its partners. The approach taken to this is pivotal to strategy delivery over coming years.

## Planning Practice Guidance (PPG) -MHCLG

PPG is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the NPPF. It is intended that the two documents should be read together. When considering how local planning authorities and developers assess the needs for sports and recreation facilities the guidance states that authorities and developers may refer to Sport England guidance.

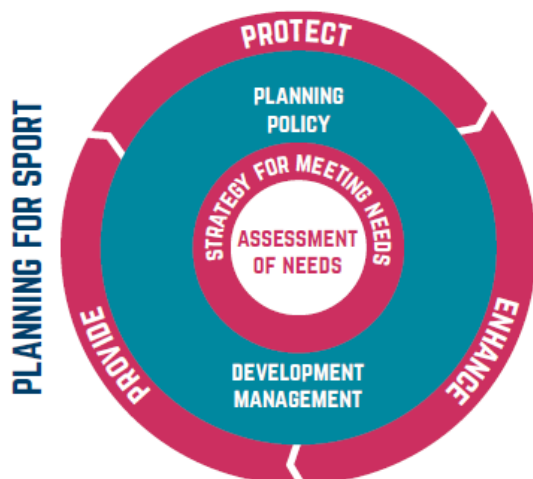
### 1.4 Sport England's planning aim

Sport England's aim in working with the planning system is to help provide active environments that maximise opportunities for sport and physical activity for all, enabling the already active to be more so and the inactive to become active. This is supported by the planning objectives of Protect, Enhance, Provide:

Table 1.4: Sport England Planning objectives

Protect	Enhance	Provide
To protect the right opportunities in the right places.	To enhance opportunities through better use of existing provision	To provide new opportunities to meet the needs of current and future generations.
Existing provision should be protected unless an assessment has demonstrated there is an excess of the provision and the specific buildings or land are surplus to requirements; or the loss would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the former or current use.	The use of existing provision should be optimised, for example, through quality, access and management improvements supported by appropriate ancillary facilities.	Appropriate new provision that meets needs and encourages people to play sport and be physically active should be provided by adapting existing places and through new development.

Figure 1.4: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



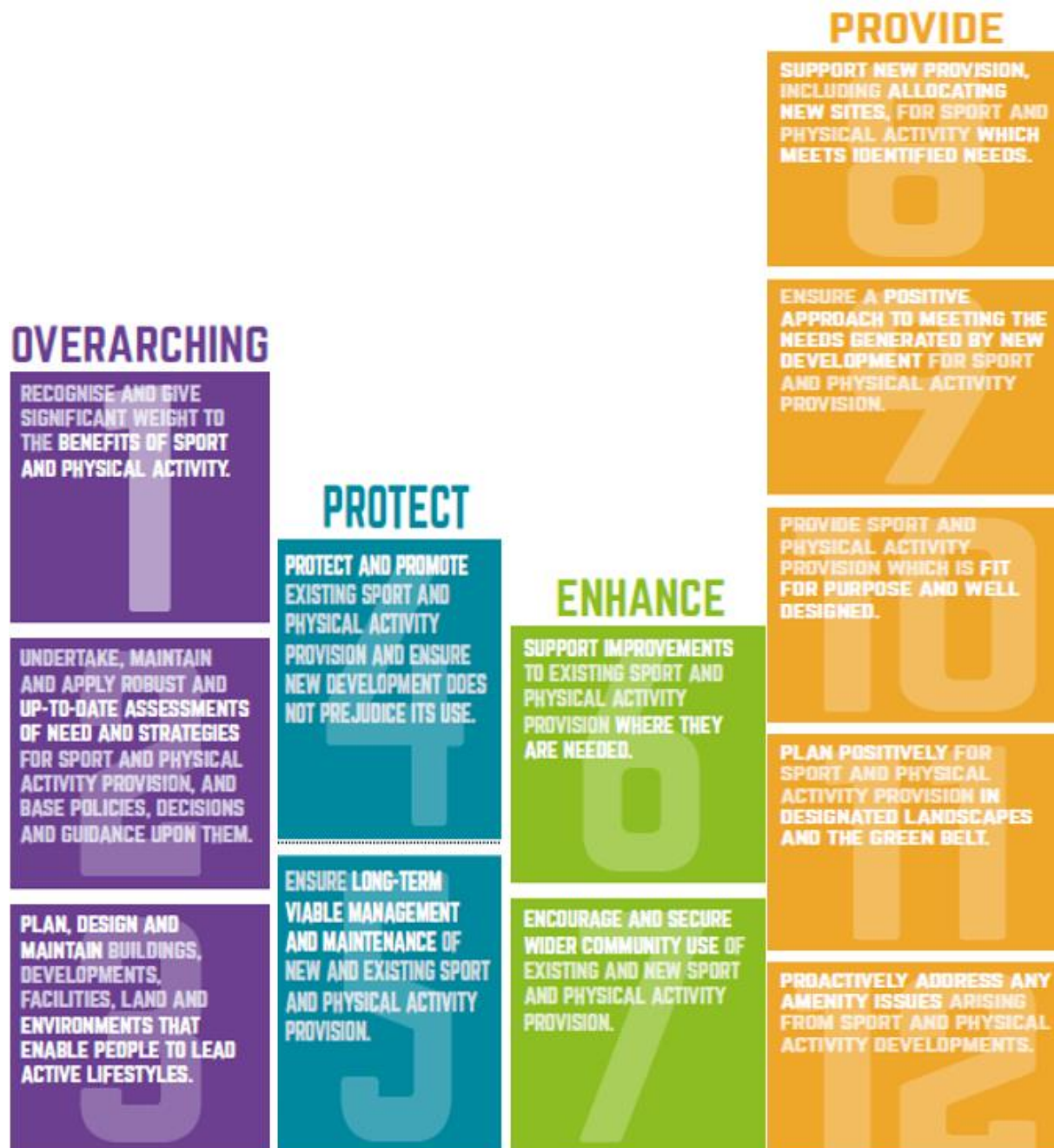
It is supported by 12 planning-for-sport principles. They are geared to helping the planning system contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) highlights that it must play - in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities.

Applying them will ensure that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunities for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings.

These principles apply to all areas of the planning system at all levels, for example strategic, local authority and neighbourhood planning levels. As such they are of relevance to all involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

Figure 1.5: Sport England's 12 planning principles





# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

## INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

### PART 2: LOCAL AREA CONTEXT

#### 2.1 Local strategic context

The ESC Strategic Plan (2020-2024) provides the framework to deliver a range of vital services for local communities. The ambition is to deliver the best possible quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk. It is structured around the following five themes:

*Table 2.1: ESC Strategic Plan (2020-2024) key themes and aims:*

Theme	Aim
Growing our economy	To build a strong sustainable economy for the future so that the District will achieve its maximum potential, for the good of everyone in the area.
Enabling our communities	Working together, ESC will enable communities to identify opportunities and challenges. It will empower them to make a difference. It will also support communities to enhance the places for living and working and for the wellbeing of all.
Remaining financially sustainable	To grow and prosper as a council; ESC will ensure it is well-run; providing value for money and strive for excellence.
Delivering digital transformation	Digital technology can transform the way we work and live; ESC will use technology to make services efficient and easily accessible to all and assist communities to embrace and access new technologies.
Caring for our environment	The environment be put at the heart of everything ESC does.

Within the *Enabling our communities* theme, there is a commitment to 'provide the environment opportunities for everyone to lead healthy, active safe and fulfilling lives', and that 'improvement in mental and physical health and wellbeing' will be measured in relation to this theme.

#### **Local plans; former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney local authorities**

East Suffolk was formed in 2019 following the merger of Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council, as a result there are two existing local plans for East Suffolk. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan covers the period 2018-2036 and The Waveney Local Plan covers the period 2014-2036. Both share the same vision and strategic priorities, to: *Maintain and sustainably improve the quality of life for everyone growing up in, living in, working in and visiting the area*.

The vision is accompanied by nine strategic priorities. In relation to health and wellbeing, the priority is *to support healthy, safe, cohesive and active communities by improving health, wellbeing and education opportunities for all*. This will be achieved via a range of education, health and leisure provision to meet localised need and create sustainable communities across the area.

Development of a new leisure centre for Felixstowe is mentioned specifically in the Suffolk Coastal plan linked to delivery of the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, as follows (Policy SCLP12.16). :

*Felixstowe Leisure Centre and Brackenbury Sports Centre are coming to the end of their operational life. The Council considers it necessary to redevelop both of these existing venues with a new purpose-built modern facility which to serve the community for future generations, as well as being able to provide a destination facility to attract tourists and*

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

*visitors to Felixstowe. As part of the Council Leisure Redevelopment Programme, the purpose of which is to increase participation in health and wellbeing activities across East Suffolk, a new leisure centre as part of the Garden Neighbourhood will meet future needs. The creation of new leisure facilities will be delivered as part of the programme which provides redevelopment opportunities at Brackenbury Sports Centre (Policy SCLP12.5) and Felixstowe Leisure Centre*

### *Housing allocations*

Both local plans acknowledge the need to increase the supply of housing to meet needs across the new district area. The respective local plans set out the level of growth needed in the area and identified where that growth should be located and how it should be delivered.

- ♦ In the former Suffolk Coastal area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,756 houses (542 dwellings per annum) between 2018-2036. This will include creation of two new garden neighbourhoods (Felixstowe and Saxmundham), to focus growth on the A12 and A14 corridors and to support rural communities.
- ♦ In the former Waveney area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,235 houses (419 dwellings per annum) between 2014-2036. Just over half of the committed allocation will be in the Lowestoft area (Lowestoft, Carlton Colville, Corton, Gisleham, Oulton and Oulton Broad) with a proposed 5,206 dwellings.

### **Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2019-2022**

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board identifies that health and wellbeing are fundamental to both individuals and families. Consequently, the stated Strategy vision is to *ensure people in Suffolk live healthier, happier lives*. There is also a desire to narrow the difference in healthy life expectancy between those living in the most deprived communities and the more affluent. This will be delivered via improvements in more disadvantaged communities, through a partnership approach. To achieve this, the strategy outlines four stated priorities.

*Table 2.2: Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priorities*

Priority	Description
1	Every child to have the best start in life, which will focus on increasing the number of children who are a healthy weight and support vulnerable children including children whose parents have misused alcohol or drugs.
2	People of working age are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing, including preventing heart disease and supporting people to be healthy at work.
3	Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life, with the aim of reducing the impact of frailty on the lives of older people and making sure people are supported well at the end of their life.
4	People have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing, by having access to good quality and effective mental health services when they need them.

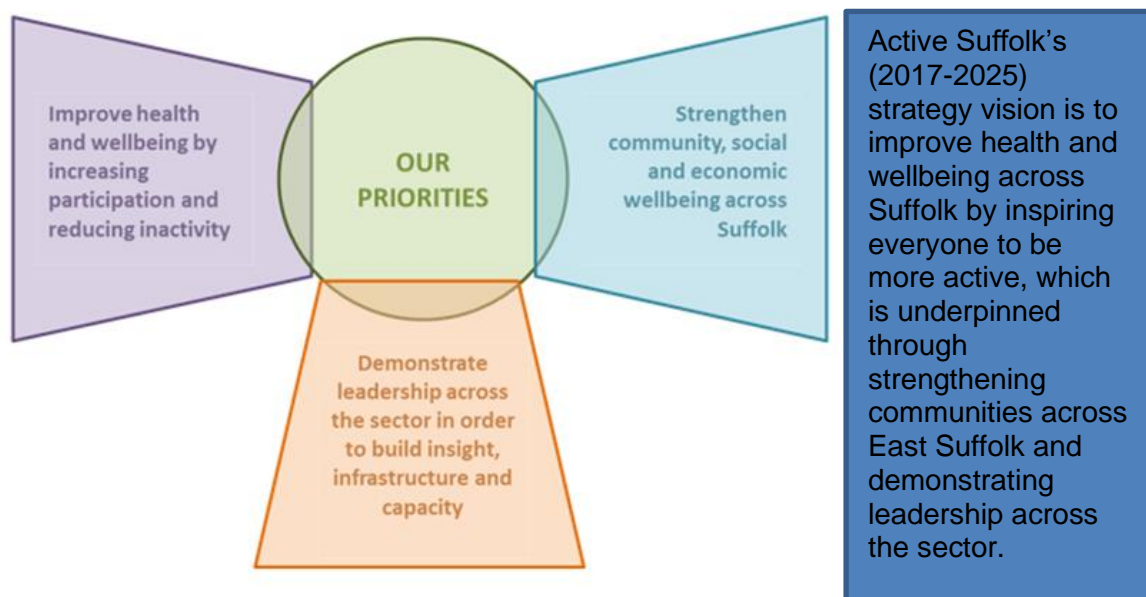
### **Suffolk Active Partnership**

Active Suffolk is one of 43 active partnerships the majority of which cover former administrative county areas across the whole of England. It is committed to increasing the number of people taking part in sport and physical activity through work with a wide range of partners including local authorities, national governing bodies of sport (NGBs), the education sector, the health sector, charitable/voluntary organisations and third sector organisations.



# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

Figure 2.2: Active Suffolk's strategic priorities



## East Suffolk Community Partnerships

Eight East Suffolk community partnerships were set up in 2019, and inclusive of a range of local organisations (parish councils, CCGs, voluntary organisations, police, local business). These each hold an annual local delivery budget of £25,000 for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and have agreed a set of priority work areas (see Figure 2.4) which have been reviewed in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic. In addition, an overarching partnership board has been convened, representative of the eight districts with a delivery budget of c.£1million. This has adopted social isolation and community transport, which feature as issues across multiple community partnerships, as the top priorities.

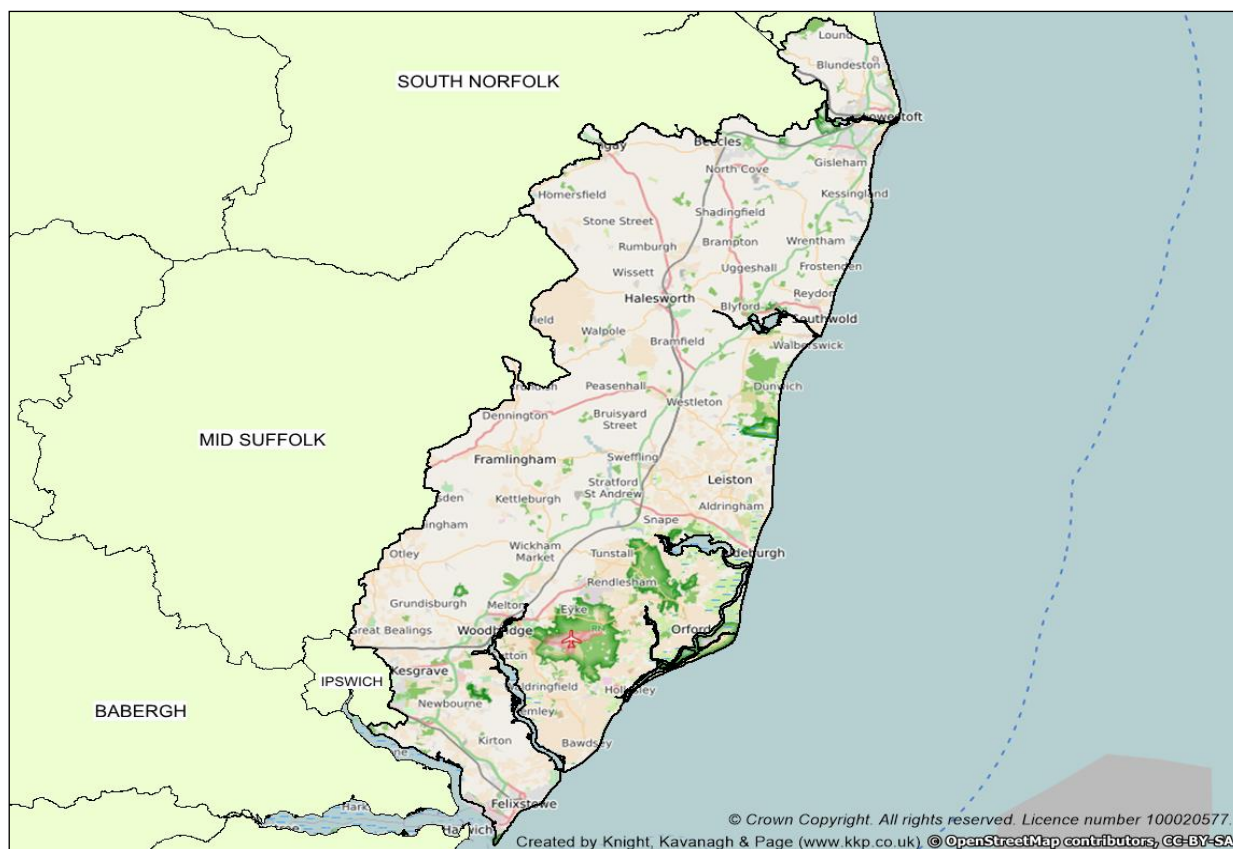
Figure 2.3: East Suffolk Community Partnership priorities

Community Partnership Priorities			
			
<b>Lowestoft and northern parishes</b>	<b>Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley</b>	<b>Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula</b>	<b>Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages</b>
Improve mental health and wellbeing (45)	Reduce social isolation & loneliness	Active and sustainable transport provision	Active and sustainable transport provision, particularly rural
Tackle childhood obesity	Environmental care and sustainable transport	Village Hub – bringing services to people	Reduce social isolation and loneliness
Reduce social isolation – all ages	Support people to age well/Traffic and road safety	Youth Engagement, opportunities and services	Facilities, activities and employment for young people
<b>Felixstowe Peninsular</b>	<b>Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages</b>	<b>Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages</b>	<b>Aldborough, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages</b>
Education – aspirations, ambition and standards	Active and sustainable transport solutions / community transport	Developing opportunities for young people	Education, Opportunities and Aspirations
Social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation & loneliness particularly carers, older people, and men 40+
Community spaces and physical enhancements	Improve wellbeing and enable people to live healthy lives	Alternative, active and sustainable transport provision	Encourage and enable everyone to be more physically active and healthy

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

Figure 2.4 Map of East Suffolk

East Suffolk is a district characterised by its largely rural nature, with many smaller villages and hamlets interspersed with market towns including Lowestoft, Beccles and Bungay in the North and Felixstowe in the South.



### Population and distribution - (Data source: 2019 Mid-Year Estimate, ONS)

The population of East Suffolk is 249,461 with slightly more females (128,040) than males (121,421). It has proportionately fewer 10–34-year-olds (24.7%), than there are in the East region (29.1%) but more people in the 60–74 age groups (38.7%) than the region as a whole (33.5%). The resident population is concentrated mainly around its major market towns which include Lowestoft (in the north of the District) and Felixstowe (in the south of the district). The area to the East of Ipswich which includes Kesgrave, also shows a higher population density. The remainder is quite sparsely spread across the district's rural hinterland.

### Active Lives Survey 2019/20

Sport England's Active Lives Survey (ALS) May 2019/20 assesses the number of 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity. The percentage of the population considered to be inactive in East Suffolk is 23.6%. This is below regional (25.1%) and national (25.5%) averages. East Suffolk also has more active people (64.9%) than national (62.8%) regional (62.6%) averages.

#### ***Summary of the demographic profile and population projections***

Review of Council policies and those of strategic stakeholders demonstrates a shared commitment in East Suffolk to improving the health and wellbeing of residents. There is strong emphasis on the role of community partnerships and devolved decision making in helping to achieve outcomes in relation to health and wellbeing. Local Plan policies in relation to new housing development, and specifically the Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, present a clear opportunity for investment in new built leisure provision.

East Suffolk's population is expected to increase, with the number and proportion of people aged 65+ seeing the largest growth. By 2036, this age group will account for over one third of the population. This is reflected in the Sport England Market Segmentation data which highlights 'retired home singles' and 'early retirement couples' as the dominant segments – it is anticipated that these two segmentation-defined groups will grow to reflect the population increase. It is fair to assume that there will be increased demand for sports facilities and physical activity opportunity in areas where housebuilding is planned. The key issue is more to do with how the ageing population chooses to use its leisure time; this may well lead to changes in levels of demand for different activities.

The importance of ensuring that the proportion of the population which is currently active remains so and that more of the presently inactive become active (sustaining and improving the general health of the local population) will become increasingly relevant. Indoor and built facilities, and programmes of activity therein, need to be capable of adapting to any changing demands and needs associated with demographic change.

### **PART 3: NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS**

#### **3.1 General findings**

As noted, East Suffolk has a higher proportion of older people (aged 60-74) and this trend is set to continue to the point where, by 2043, one in three residents will be aged 65+. East Suffolk does not rank highly generally in respect of the indices of multiple deprivation, however in respect of the IMD access to services domain (such as post offices, general stores) outside of its main market towns, most parts of the district are in the top 20% most deprived areas based on this measure. This shows a degree of commonality with priorities established by the East Suffolk community partnerships which determined that addressing social isolation and improving community transport links are important across multiple partnership areas.

ESC has overseen a recent programme of investment into its built leisure facilities, including major refurbishments of leisure centres operated by Places Leisure, at Leiston and Deben. In addition, it has re-procured the management and operation of two former Waveney District Council facilities (Waterlane and Waveney Valley leisure centres) which have also been refurbished and are now operated by Everyone Active. It plans to make a further significant investment to replace and relocate facilities at the existing Felixstowe and Brackenbury leisure centres, in line with local plan proposals to develop a garden village in North Felixstowe.

Overall the assessment found that (taking into account proposed investment in Felixstowe), the District's needs in terms of core swimming pool, sports hall and health & fitness provision will be adequately catered for over the period of the Local Plan.

Key challenges for ESC and partners include the need to provide a safe return to activity post-Pandemic for its residents, and to consider how those in the more rurally isolated parts of the district can be supported to access good quality leisure provision. It will also be critical to support secondary schools to enable their stock of community accessible sports halls to re-open and operate sustainably following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions, and to consider how some schools could extend the available community offering, and/or better promote and manage bookings to both improve their own income generation and provide additional sports hall capacity to sports clubs and individuals.

#### **3.2: What do we know about facilities and activities in East Suffolk**

##### *Sports halls*

East Suffolk has 106 sports halls, of which 19 are 3+ badminton courts in size – or larger. Of the 19, the assessment found 15 to be of 'good', or 'above average' quality. No sites were rated poor quality. There is relatively good distribution of sports hall provision across East Suffolk's main settlements. A new five court hall is planned as part of the new Felixstowe leisure centre, which will replace provision at Brackenbury sports centre (also five courts).

The majority (15 of 19) 3+ court halls are located on education sites. Two of the remaining four (Leiston Leisure Centre, Brackenbury Sports Centre) are operated by Places Leisure under contract with ESC. Waterlane Leisure Centre's sports hall is operated by Everyone Active, with the remaining site at Kesgrave being run by a charitable trust. The audit found some issues around general wear and tear of school sports hall sites, such as the need for sports hall floor or lighting replacement. There is also potential to improve the efficacy of some school booking arrangements, and to provide additional staff resource to enable community access to facilities.

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

---

Club consultation revealed some availability issues for badminton in respect of existing facilities being fully programmed. There was also expressed demand for improved accessibility to competition standard netball facilities in the north of the District.

Overall, the current stock of sports halls meets the needs of the resident population satisfactorily in 2021. Potential additional demand (around six courts) related to population growth up to 2036 could be accommodated within current stock on the basis of improvements to management and booking arrangements and quality upgrades being delivered on certain school sites.

#### *Swimming pools*

There are 31 swimming pool facilities in East Suffolk. When smaller pools and lidos are discounted the number of venues which accommodate pools of at least 160m<sup>2</sup> reduces to nine which between them have 13 pools. These are well distributed in relation to the main population centres (Felixstowe in the South, Beccles, Bungay and Lowestoft in the North).

Five of the nine facilities are rated good quality, with four; Waterlane Leisure Centre (5 x 25m plus learner pool), Deben (6 x 25m), Leiston (5 x 25m plus learner) and Waveney Valley (5 x 25m) having received significant recent investment into major refurbishment work. Facilities at Felixstowe Leisure Centre (6 x 25m plus learner) whilst rated below average quality are due to be replaced by a new facility located at the North Felixstowe Garden Village.

It is anticipated that future demand (up to 2036) due to population growth can be accommodated within existing facilities (and taking into account new provision in Felixstowe) given their available capacity. There is an opportunity, nevertheless, to consider whether/how to extend availability at smaller community and lido facilities. This could improve accessibility to swimming for residents in areas where barriers to services are particularly high and deliver a positive impact in respect of increased participation in swimming and other aquatic activities.

#### *Schools*

In general, there is a reasonably good level of community access to school sports facilities in East Suffolk. In 'normal times' their facilities are operating at around 60-70% capacity based on available community booking information. In terms of management, five of the fifteen schools with 3 court + halls are independent; the remaining ten have academy status. In respect of the Pandemic, schools were (in Autumn 2020) focusing on the safe transit of staff and pupils around facilities and were in the process of considering how and when community sport bookings could resume.

Whilst management and operation of community facilities is without exception handled in-house across secondary schools in East Suffolk, available resources to promote and handle bookings vary. Of the independent schools, Woodbridge School and Ipswich School sports centres (which include extensive indoor and outdoor facilities) offer a significant volume (40 hours plus) of community bookings per week and employ dedicated sports centre staff enable marketing and promotion of their venues. On the other hand, the academy schools able to offer segregated community sports facilities such as Kesgrave and Sir John Leman, tend not to have dedicated staff resource nor do they offer online booking arrangements.

#### *Village and community halls*

Reflecting its largely rural geography, East Suffolk has an extensive network of village and community hall facilities. There are 261 such buildings in total across the district, with around



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

---

60% of East Suffolk residents living within 800m of such a facility which represents a good level of accessibility when compared to similar authorities of a rural nature.

Research undertaken for this study found a variety of activities taking place in village halls, such as badminton, carpet bowls and exercise classes. Consultation with certain badminton clubs found that in some cases village halls offer a more cost effective, accessible place to participate than school or leisure centre provision.

Whilst (given the remoteness of some villages in relation to services) there would seem to be good potential for village halls to make a greater contribution to meeting the districts sport and physical activity needs, the needs assessment survey response was relatively low. There is, thus, a need for further consultation with parish councils and community partnerships to identify particular facility improvement needs and the scope for greater usage at such facilities.

#### *Health and fitness suites*

There are 29 fitness facilities in East Suffolk, containing a total of 1,454 fitness stations. These are mainly located in the northern and southern periphery of the district in the main towns of Felixstowe, Beccles, Lowestoft and Bungay. Main contracted leisure facilities at Felixstowe (41 stations), Leiston (60 stations), Waterlane (90 stations) and Waveney Valley (50 stations) each offer health and fitness facilities. The replacement Felixstowe Centre is expected to include a facility with 100 stations.

Overall and in respect of supply and demand for health and fitness, a deficit of 277 stations by 2036 is predicted taking account of population growth. In meeting this future need, it should be borne in mind that the health and fitness sector is currently emerging from a period of unprecedented disruption as a result of the Pandemic and that there may be some re-calibration of the private sector market. In the light of this, the role of smaller community gyms, (possibly co-located with other local services) in meeting the needs of the more isolated rural parts of the district should be considered.

#### *Indoor bowls*

There are five indoor bowls facilities in East Suffolk, three of which are operated by bowls clubs (Sole Bay, Carlton Rd, Beccles). Gunton Hall (a members only facility) is part of a wider leisure resort. The facility at Felixstowe Leisure Centre, where Felixstowe Bowls Club (200+ members) is based is operated by Places Leisure and is due to relocate to the former Deben High School sports hall and there will be the option of increasing slightly in size from a four to a six-rink facility.

Overall the assessment found a good supply of indoor bowls facilities in East Suffolk and no significant anticipated future demand for indoor bowls is anticipated. With this in mind, focus should be placed from a strategic perspective on ensuring that the replacement Felixstowe facility is fit for purpose in the sense of its design, operational and management principles.

#### *Squash courts*

There are 22 squash courts distributed across eight sites in East Suffolk. There is good coverage of the district in relation to its main settlements. Two of the three squash facilities at public contracted sites (Leiston and Waterlane) are rated as good quality. The remaining public leisure centre site, at Brackenbury is rated above average and will be replaced by new courts at the new Felixstowe Leisure Centre. There is stable demand for squash in East Suffolk and the generally good quality facilities are well distributed to serve the local resident population.

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

---

Whilst projected population increases are unlikely to lead to demand for additional courts, there is a need to maintain the quality and preserve the function of existing courts, such as those at St John Leman and Framlingham College which are of below average quality.

#### *Indoor Tennis*

East Suffolk does not have an indoor tennis facility, however, consultation with LTA officers suggests that demand may exist for such a development. This should be considered as part of the linked housing developments such as Felixstowe Garden Village. Lowestoft and Felixstowe are identified within East Suffolk by regional LTA officers as priority locations, with Lowestoft Tennis Club noted to be interested in creating a dome facility at Denes Oval. Felixstowe Tennis Club is also recognised by the NGB as having potential to develop indoor facilities.

#### *Cycling*

Of the four formal cycling facilities in East Suffolk, three are trail centres (at Rendlesham and Tunstall Forests managed by Forestry England, and the independently managed Twisted Oaks facility at Brightwell) and a cycle speedway track at Kesgrave Community Sports, home of Kesgrave Panthers Cycle Speedway Club. Each of these is well used offering opportunity for recreational as well as competitive activity across the disciplines of mountain bike and cycle speedway.

ESC is currently preparing a cycling and walking strategy - due to be published for consultation in 2021. It has a focus on improving walking and cycling infrastructure and integration with key development proposals across the two local plan areas.

There is an opportunity for the findings of the emerging walking and cycling strategy to be integrated with this study. This can be achieved by embedding active design principles within the new Felixstowe Leisure Centre development, and also by the Council working with its leisure operators to promote the benefits of cycling, establish connectivity with existing cycling networks and ensure minimum standards in respect of cycle storage provided at its leisure facilities.

#### PART 4: VISION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS ACTION PLAN

This is East Suffolk's vision for sport and leisure provision in the area for the period 2020 -2036. As noted earlier, it builds upon the findings of the Built Facilities Needs Assessment Report. East Suffolk has made significant investment in refurbishment of its built leisure facilities since 2014 and plans further outlay to replace Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

The needs assessment has demonstrated that East Suffolk's main leisure centre provision is well located to the meet the needs of residents living in its main settlements and that its swimming, health and fitness facilities are of good quality. This will be further improved by provision of the replacement Felixstowe Leisure Centre. As with all local authorities in 2021, It faces the challenge, of working with and supporting its leisure operator, schools and community organisations to ensure a safe and secure return to activity following the Coronavirus pandemic, and to ensure that financial recovery is achieved.

ESC and its partners have the opportunity to use the basis of a fundamentally sound stock of built facilities to explore how they can ensure that residents who are currently inactive, or at risk of social isolation including the older population can build a healthy and active lifestyle.

The proposed headline aim is, thus that ESC will :

*Maintain sustainable, financially secure leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle social and rural isolation for our older residents and provide accessible, inclusive activities to improve health and wellbeing for everyone in East Suffolk.*

#### 4.1 Key strategic drivers

##### *Recovery from the Coronavirus Pandemic*

During 2020/21 ESC supported both its leisure operators to a significant degree financially to enable them to maintain normal operation during the Pandemic - when restrictions allowed. At the time of the KKP audit, (October 2020) leisure centres in the district were able to open their swimming and health and fitness facilities, however a further period of lockdown ensued between January-April 2021. ESC has over the course of the Pandemic made investment of around £4m refurbishing the former Bungay (now Waveney Valley) and Waterlane leisure centres. These have been brought under a new leisure contract with Everyone Active and have been open since the lifting of restrictions in April 2021.

Financial support continued on the basis of open book reconciliation for the period until 1 April 2022 when it was expected that the operators would have recovered sufficiently to attain the previous contract position. East Suffolk was also successful in gaining a Government grant from the National Leisure Recovery Fund of circa £570k.

Essentially on the basis of their good quality, and the continued financial support from the Council, East Suffolk's contracted leisure facilities should have a good platform from which to return towards a normal trading position - within the Council's stated timelines. There is undoubtedly an opportunity at the same time for operators to make use of available insight such as the Moving Communities<sup>1</sup> platform to ensure that those residents disproportionately affected

---

<sup>1</sup> <https://movingcommunities.org/>



# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

## INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

---

by the Pandemic such as older people and those from areas of higher socio-economic deprivation are enabled to access provision.

### *Replacement Felixstowe Leisure Centre*

East Suffolk's main proposed indoor facility related intervention, endorsed by its Cabinet in September 2019 is to deliver a destination leisure facility in Felixstowe as part of the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, as a replacement for both the current Felixstowe and Brackenbury Leisure Centres.

The East Suffolk Council, Suffolk Coastal Local Plan makes a number of recommendations in respect of the proposed masterplan that will support a future planning application in respect of the garden neighbourhood including:

- ✦ A new leisure centre in a location which is easily accessible for the existing community.
- ✦ Design and layout that supports inclusive use and a dementia friendly environment.
- ✦ Up to 2,000 dwellings
- ✦ Provision of 630 primary school spaces and early years provision

The 2017 Felixstowe Leisure Centre Feasibility Study identified a preferred site (North development site) which comprises land owned currently by Trinity College, Cambridge. It offers the advantages of an edge of town location with good frontage to the A154, proximity to the rail station and the ability to operate existing provision at Felixstowe up until completion of the new build. In supply and demand terms for the core swimming, sports hall and health and fitness elements, findings of KKP's needs assessment support the Council's ambition to deliver a destination leisure centre in Felixstowe. It will incorporate the following facility specification:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| ✦ 25m x 8 lane pool                     | ✦ Spin studio x 1  |
| ✦ Teaching pool 15m x 8.5m              | ✦ Thermal suite sauna and steam                            |
| ✦ 5 court sports hall                   | ✦ Soft play  |
| ✦ Health and fitness gym (80+ stations) | ✦ Clip n climb   |
| ✦ Studios x 2                           | ✦ Flexible meeting/consultation space (147m <sup>2</sup> ) |
| ✦ Squash courts x 2                     |  |

In progressing plans through detailed design and feasibility stages, and in line with the emerging masterplan for the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, ESC will need to consider issues such as public transport accessibility to the new site, and (in line with its emerging cycling and walking strategy) how the centre will adopt the principles of active design<sup>2</sup> to consider connectivity to existing paths, new residential areas and ensuring safe navigation across the A154.

### **4.2 Strategic objectives and action plan**

Taking into account the needs assessments related to specific facilities and sports, the demographic make-up, current vision of the Council and associated organisations, plus Sport England's Planning for Sport guidance which encourages Protection, Enhancement and Provision of new facilities, East Suffolk should take account of the following strategic recommendations which are then laid out in the subsequent action plans related to general, sports specific and facility specific themes.

---

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/active-design>

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY

---

#### **Protect:** ESC will

- ◀ Work with Places Leisure, Everyone Active, secondary school and academy providers, NGBs and community clubs to support a sustainable return to activity following the coronavirus pandemic.
- ◀ Work with secondary school and academy providers to maintain the quality and preserve the function of existing sports halls on school sites including those which are presently of below average quality.
- ◀ Work with secondary school, academy and community partners to maintain the quality and preserve the function of existing squash courts including those on school sites which are of below average quality.

#### **Enhance:** ESC will:

- ◀ Work with secondary school and academy providers at schools with below average quality sports halls to upgrade and improve these facilities.
- ◀ Work with partners such as Active Suffolk to explore the potential to create additional capacity in the school sports hall supply via enhancement of booking arrangements, securing additional staff resource and sourcing external funding support.
- ◀ Work with/through East Suffolk Community Partnerships, town and parish councils to gauge the potential of the village hall network to contribute further to providing accessible spaces for physical activity and identify capital improvements to ancillary and activity spaces at those venues which have the capacity and potential to increase and improve provision.
- ◀ Aim to improve the accessibility of contracted leisure provision to rurally isolated residents and those with health/mobility issues by exploring whether initiatives such as community transport are appropriate for this purpose and could be extended or enhanced.
- ◀ In respect of its emerging Cycling and Walking Strategy, ensure that findings with regard to development of new cycle corridors and improving accessibility to existing routes consider their connectivity to existing and proposed built facility provision.
- ◀ Work with partners at town and parish council level to consider whether and how greater use could be made of targeted smaller community pools and lido provision – to play a role enabling access to such provision for the District's rurally deprived residents.

#### **Provide:** ESC will:

- ◀ Deliver a new destination Felixstowe Leisure Centre as part of which it will:
  - ◀ Ensure that Active Design principles are fully applied in the final facility design in relation to the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood, including a clear plan in respect of access via public transport, walking and cycling routes, traversing the A154.
  - ◀ Consider how centre design and layout can create a dementia friendly environment.
  - ◀ Work with Places Leisure and the appointed design team to ensure that the swimming pool specification includes appropriate timing equipment and starting blocks to enable competitive swimming to take place.
  - ◀ Work with Places Leisure to develop a sustainable business plan, cognisant of the need to return to a normal trading position by April 2022.
- ◀ Continue to work with Felixstowe indoor bowls club and the EIBA to ensure its needs are fully met within replacement provision.
- ◀ In respect of development of the Brackenbury Sports Centre site, ensure that opportunity in respect of investment of a capital receipt into community sports provision is fully realised.

## **EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL**

### **INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES: DRAFT STRATEGY**

---

- ◀ Work with the LTA, Lowestoft and Felixstowe tennis clubs to explore potential for capital investment in indoor tennis facilities. This should be considered as part of the linked housing developments such as North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood.

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES – DRAFT STRATEGY

#### 4.3.1 Indoor built facilities action plan (generic actions)

Recommendation	Action	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Aim to improve the accessibility of contracted leisure provision to rurally isolated residents and those with health/mobility issues by exploring whether initiatives such as community transport are appropriate for this purpose and could be extended or enhanced. <b>ENHANCE</b>	Work with community partnerships to further identify means by which better access to leisure provision can be developed in order to reduce rural isolation.	Autumn 2021	ESC, Community Partnerships	High
Work with secondary school and academy providers to maintain the quality and preserve the function of existing sports halls on school sites. <b>PROTECT</b>	ESC to maintain regular contact with secondary school network, and via Active Suffolk to develop awareness of facility improvement needs	Ongoing	ESC, Active Suffolk	Medium
Work with secondary school and academy providers at schools with below average quality sports halls to upgrade and improve them. <b>ENHANCE</b>	Work with the following schools, as detailed in the facility specific action plan. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◀ Felixstowe Academy</li> <li>◀ Farlingaye High School</li> <li>◀ Benjamin Britten High School</li> <li>◀ Sir John Leman High School</li> <li>◀ Saxmundham Free School</li> <li>◀ Alde Valley Academy</li> </ul>	2021-22	ESC, Active Suffolk, Identified secondary schools	Medium
Work with partners to explore potential to create additional capacity in school sports hall supply via enhancement of booking arrangements, securing additional staff resource and/or sourcing external funding support. <b>ENHANCE</b>	Identify exact school requirements on a site-by-site basis to collectively form an East Suffolk School engagement action plan.	Autumn 2021	ESC, Active Suffolk, schools	Medium

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES – DRAFT STRATEGY

#### 4.3.2 Indoor built facilities action plan (sport and activity specific actions)

Sport/activity	Recommendation – ESC to:	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Swimming <b>ENHANCE</b>	Consider more promotion and use of smaller community pools and lido provision.	Ongoing	ESC, Places Leisure	Medium/high
Tennis <b>PROVIDE</b>	Work with Lowestoft and Felixstowe tennis clubs to explore potential for capital investment in indoor tennis facilities.	Autumn / Winter 2021	ESC, LTA	Medium
Health and fitness <b>ENHANCE</b>	Work with community partnerships, local primary care networks, parish councils and targeted voluntary sector partners to determine whether provision of H&F equipment within selected community and village hall settings is potentially part of the solution in respect of reducing social isolation and improving health & well-being.	Ongoing	ESC, Community Partnerships	Medium
Squash <b>ENHANCE</b>	ESC to work with England Squash, St John Leman High School and Framlingham College to identify required improvements in order to enhance overall facility quality. In respect of squash at the replacement Felixstowe Leisure Centre, work with <i>in situ</i> clubs to ensure that programmes such as Squash 101 are implemented effectively.	Autumn / Winter 2021 On opening of new centre	ESC / LTA, St John Leman HS, Framlingham College.  ESC, ES, Places Leisure	Medium  Medium/high
Cycling <b>ENHANCE/ PROVIDE</b>	In respect of the proposed East Suffolk Cycling strategy, consider how it can work with its leisure operators to promote cycling as a means to access built facilities, raise awareness of existing routes and proposed network improvements.  In respect of the emerging ESC Cycling and Walking Strategy, ensure that findings with regard to development of new cycle corridors and improving accessibility to existing routes consider connectivity to existing and proposed built facility provision, including the replacement Felixstowe Leisure Centre.	2021-22	ESC, Places Leisure, Everyone Active, appointed design teams.	Medium / High
Bowls <b>PROVIDE</b>	Work with Felixstowe Indoor Bowls Club to ensure a clear strategy is in place with regard to management and operation of the proposed new facility at Deben High School, and that the Club is fully engaged in this process in the lead up to opening.	2021-22	ESC, EIBA,	Medium

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES – DRAFT STRATEGY

Sport/activity	Recommendation – ESC to:	Timescale	Responsibility	Importance
Badminton <b>ENHANCE</b>	England Badminton to work with member East Suffolk clubs and facility providers to identify specific facility capacity constraints hindering growth.	Summer / Autumn 2021	Places Leisure, BE, Everyone Active	Low /Medium

#### 4.3.3: Indoor built facilities action (Facility specific actions)

Facility	Management	Overview	Recommendation	Lead agencies
Brackenbury Sports Centre <b>PROTECT</b>	Places Leisure	This site currently houses a 5-court sports hall, 2 squash courts and meeting rooms all of above average quality. It is to be replaced by the new Felixstowe Leisure Centre	Replace gymnastics provision at new Centre. Ensure that any opportunity in respect of investment of a capital receipt into community sports provision is fully realised	ESC, Places Leisure
Leiston Leisure Centre <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	Places Leisure	Facility has had recent major refurbishment, rated as good quality containing a 25m x 5 lane swimming pool, learner pool, health and fitness and squash courts	Focus on financial recovery following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions. Consider use of available insight (i.e., SE Moving Communities) to enable programming to be flexed to maximise access to rurally isolated and older residents.	ESC, Places Leisure
Deben Leisure Centre <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	Places Leisure	This has undergone recent major refurbishment. It is rated as good quality and contains a 25m x 6 lane swimming pool plus H&F.	Focus on financial recovery following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions. Consider use of available insight (i.e., SE Moving Communities) to enable programming to be flexed to maximise access to rurally isolated and older residents.	ESC, Places Leisure
Felixstowe Leisure Centre (existing) <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	Places Leisure	Existing leisure centre, containing 25m x 6 lane swimming pool, (rated below average) fitness suite and indoor bowls centre (rated above average)	Focus on financial recovery following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions. Consider use of available insight (i.e., SE Moving Communities) to enable programming to be flexed to maximise access to rurally isolated and older residents.	ESC, Places Leisure
Waterlane Leisure Centre <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	Everyone Active	This re-opened in 2021. It is rated good quality following major refurbishment. It offers: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90 station health and fitness suite</li> <li>6 court sports hall</li> <li>25 m x 5 lane swimming pool</li> <li>2 squash courts</li> </ul>	Focus on financial recovery following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions. Consider use of available insight (i.e. SE Moving Communities) to enable programming to be flexed to maximise access to rurally isolated and older residents.	ESC, Everyone Active

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES – DRAFT STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview	Recommendation	Lead agencies
Felixstowe Leisure Centre replacement <b>PROVIDE</b>	Places Leisure	New leisure centre to be provided with the following specification <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>25m x 8 lane pool</li> <li>Learner pool 15m x 8.5m</li> <li>5 court sports hall</li> <li>Health and fitness gym (100 stations)</li> <li>Studios x 2. Spin studio x 1</li> <li>Squash courts x 2</li> <li>Thermal suite sauna and steam</li> <li>Flexible meeting/consultation space</li> </ul>	Work with appointed design team to ensure final swimming pool specification includes appropriate timing equipment and starting blocks to enable competitive swimming to take place Ensure that Active Design principles are fully applied in the final facility design in relation to the North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood Work with Places Leisure to develop a sustainable business plan, cognisant of the need to return to a normal trading position by April 2022.	ESC, Places Leisure
Waveney Valley Leisure Centre <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	Everyone Active	It re-opened in 2021, rated as good quality following major refurbishment and containing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>50 station health and fitness suite</li> <li>25 x 5 lane swimming pool</li> </ul>	Focus on financial recovery following the lifting of Coronavirus restrictions. Consider use of available insight (i.e., SE Moving Communities) to enable programming to be flexed to maximise access to rural isolated and older residents.	ESC, Everyone Active
Kesgrave Comm. Sports/Conference Centre <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house (Charity)	Multi-sport site; four court sports hall, cycle speedway track, conference and community centre, tennis and outdoor pitches.	Focus on ensuring site sustainability following resumption of activities. Consider how footfall can be maximised across non-sporting facilities (e.g., conference space, health consultation).	Kesgrave Trust, ESC, Active Suffolk
Pakefield High School <b>ENHANCE</b>	N/A	4-court sports hall rated above average quality. The school does not offer community use of its sports facilities.	Consider how School can be best supported to develop a community use offer, taking into account current resource constraints.	Pakefield HS, ESC, Active Suffolk
Benjamin Britten High School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In -house	4-four court sports hall rated above average quality & below average changing facilities. It offers c40 hours of community use per week.	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity following Pandemic and maximising community bookings. Consider changing room refurbishment.	Benjamin Britten HS, ESC, Active Suffolk
Bungay High School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	4-court sports hall rated above average, offering 20 hours per week of available community bookings.	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and maximising community bookings, explore possible increase in available community hours.	Bungay HS, Active Suffolk



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES – DRAFT STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview	Recommendation	Lead agencies
East Point Academy <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	4-court sports hall and 50 station H&F rated above average quality. Offering 35 hours per week of available community bookings.	Focus on sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and maximising community bookings.	East Point Academy, Active Suffolk
Alde Valley Academy	In house	4-court sports hall not currently marked out and currently used as assembly / dining space.	Consider whether , with appropriate reinstatement of line marking the feasibility of returning use of the sports hall for community use.	Alde Valley Academy, Active Suffolk
Farlingaye High School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	4-court sports hall rated below average, offering 42 hours per week of available community bookings.	Focus on sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and maximising community bookings. Consider sports hall and changing room refurbishment.	Farlingaye High School, Active Suffolk
Felixstowe Academy <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	4-court sports hall rated below average, offering 26 hours per week of available community bookings.	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and maximising community bookings.	Felixstowe Academy, Active Suffolk
Orwell Park School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	Not known	Independent secondary school, not able to offer access at the time of audit and offering 20 hrs of available community bookings.	Focus on sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and maximising community bookings. Establish any specific facility improvement needs.	Orwell Park School, Active Suffolk
Sir John Leman High School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	Secondary school offering 38.5 hrs of community access, containing four court sports hall rated as good and one squash court rated as below average	Continue to focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic, and improvement of online booking arrangements. Consider refurbishment of squash court.	Sir John Leman HS, Active Suffolk
St Felix School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	Independent school, 4-court sports hall, 25 x 5 lane swimming pool, 2 squash courts, all rated above average. Offers 31 hrs of community access:	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and maximising community bookings. Consider whether swimming facilities could offer wider community access.	St Felix School, Active Suffolk
Thomas Mills High School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	4-court sports hall rated below average offering 20 hrs community access	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and maximising community bookings. Consider refurbishment of sports hall and changing room areas.	Thomas Mills High School Active Suffolk



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

### INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES – DRAFT STRATEGY

Facility	Management	Overview	Recommendation	Lead agencies
Ipswich school sports centre <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	5-court sports hall rated above average offering 46.5 hrs per week community access	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity following the Pandemic and maximising community bookings.	Ipswich School Sports Centre Active Suffolk
Kesgrave High School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	4-court sports hall rated above average and offering 46 hrs community access	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and on maximising community bookings.	Kesgrave High School
Ormiston Denes Academy <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	Secondary school containing a four court sports hall and offering 45 hours of community access per week.	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic and on maximising community bookings.	Ormiston Denes Academy
Woodbridge School <b>PROTECT/ENHANCE</b>	In house	Independent school, 6-court sports hall rated below average quality – offers 45.5 hours of community access	Focus on a sustainable return to community use activity post-Pandemic. Consider a programme of refurbishment to sports hall and changing rooms.	Woodbridge School
Commercial fitness gyms <b>PROTECT</b>	Commercial	There are several commercially operated health and fitness gyms situated across the district, including large budget gym providers in Lowestoft , Beccles and Felixstowe.	ESC and leisure operators to maintain a watching brief in respect of commercial gym sector presence in the district and respond flexibly to any significant changes in supply affecting the market.	ESC, Places Leisure, Everyone Active
Waveney Gymnastics Club <b>PROTECT</b>	In house	Indoor gymnastics centre including conference room and café.	ESC to work with Waveney Gymnastics Club and British Gymnastics to help club to make a sustainable return to activity post-Pandemic, including marketing and promotion of the facility.	Waveney GC, ESC, BG

### **PART 5: MONITORING AND REVIEW**

This Strategy identifies the investment and actions required to deliver and maintain a high-quality built facilities infrastructure for East Suffolk for the period up until 2036.

It is important that the Strategy is (and is treated as) a live document and is used in a practical manner to prioritise investment, develop key work programmes and partnerships, guide planning gain investment and ensure that built sports facilities are a vital component contributing to the quality of life of East Suffolk residents.

Strategy production is just the start of the process and there is a requirement for all partners to engage in ongoing dialogue and review to ensure that a considered perspective and approach is maintained throughout its life.

It will be important for East Suffolk and its partners to adopt a 3-5 year action plan based around the Strategy. The delivery of this should be monitored and reviewed on an annual basis. It is further recommended that a holistic, annual monitoring process and report be set up to assess progress made in respect of recommendations made in ESC's Indoor and Built Facilities Strategy, its Playing Pitch Strategy and the Open Spaces report.

This process should not only review progress against the action plan but identify actual/potential changes in supply and demand. This is on the basis that the Strategy is as much about how facilities are used as it is about ensuring that local infrastructure is of a good quality.

The annual review should include:

- ▶ Review of annual progress on recommendations made in the 3-5 year action plan; taking account of any changes required to the priority of each action (e.g. the relevance of some may increase/decrease following implementation of others).
- ▶ Learning and sharing lessons learnt throughout the period.
- ▶ Taking account of any other new facilities which come on stream within, or that will have an impact on, residents of the District.
- ▶ Review of any specific changes in the use of key sites (e.g., sport specific specialisms, changes in number of community available hours, opening times etc.).
- ▶ Any specific changes in demand at particular facilities and/or from clubs in the area (e.g., reduction or increase in club numbers, reaction to new housing growth etc.).
- ▶ Giving consideration to new sports/activities and/or formats of traditional sports that may emerge.
- ▶ Any other new or emerging issues and opportunities.

The outcome of the review will be to develop a new annual and medium-term action plan for indoor and built sports facilities in and across the District.

## **EAST SUFFOLK**

## **PLAYING PITCH & OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY & ACTION PLAN**

**NOVEMBER 2021**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

**MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS**

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@kkp.co.uk](mailto:mail@kkp.co.uk) [www.kkp.co.uk](http://www.kkp.co.uk)



# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

## CONTENTS

ABBREVIATIONS.....	1
PART 1: INTRODUCTION.....	2
PART 2: VISION.....	8
PART 3: AIMS .....	9
PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	10
PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS .....	43
PART 6: ACTION PLAN .....	56
PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS.....	98
PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE.....	104
APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT.....	107
APPENDIX TWO: GLOSSARY .....	117

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial turf)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
CFA	County Football Association
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
DCMS	Department for Culture, Media and Sport
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FF	Football Foundation
FIFA	Fédération Internationale de Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GMA	Grounds Management Association
HC	Hockey Club
IOG	Institute of Groundsmanship
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LFFP	Local Football Facilities Plan
MOD	Ministry of Defence
NFFS	National Football Facilities Strategy
NGB	National Governing Body
NHS	National Health Service
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
RDO	Rugby Development Officer
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RUFC	Rugby Union Football Club
TC	Tennis Club
U	Under

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy (PPOSS) for East Suffolk. Building upon the preceding Assessment Report, it provides a clear, strategic framework for the maintenance and improvement of existing outdoor sports facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.

The Strategy is capable of:

- ✦ Providing planning guidance to assess development proposals affecting outdoor sports facilities and, as appropriate, directing contributions secured through development.
- ✦ Informing the protection and provision of outdoor sports facilities.
- ✦ Informing land use decisions in respect of future use of existing outdoor sports areas and areas capable of accommodating provision.
- ✦ Providing a strategic framework for the provision and management of provision.
- ✦ Supporting external funding bids and maximising support for outdoor sports facilities.
- ✦ Providing the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sports facilities.

It is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Guidance (for playing pitch sports) and Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (for "non-pitch" sports). Sport England's PPS Guidance details a 13-stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:

- ✦ Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach (1)
- ✦ Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision (2 & 3)
- ✦ Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views (4, 5 & 6)
- ✦ Stage D: Develop the strategy (7 & 8)
- ✦ Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date (9 & 10)

Stage D is covered in this report, with stages A-C evidenced in the Assessment Report and Stage E ongoing once the work has been adopted. The lifespan of a PPOSS is considered to be three years, although this can be increased if it is kept up to date.

The PPOSS forms one part of a wider, inter-related strategy for sports and recreation that also includes an Indoor Facilities Strategy and an Open Spaces Strategy. The relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPOSS also use indoor facilities for matches or training as well as open space areas for informal use.

### ***Agreed scope***

The PPS covers the following playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities:

- ✦ Athletics tracks/facilities
- ✦ Bowling greens
- ✦ Cricket squares and outfielders
- ✦ Football pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ✦ Golf courses
- ✦ Hockey pitches (sand/water based AGPs)
- ✦ Netball courts
- ✦ Pétanque facilities
- ✦ Rugby union pitches (including 3G pitches)
- ✦ Tennis courts

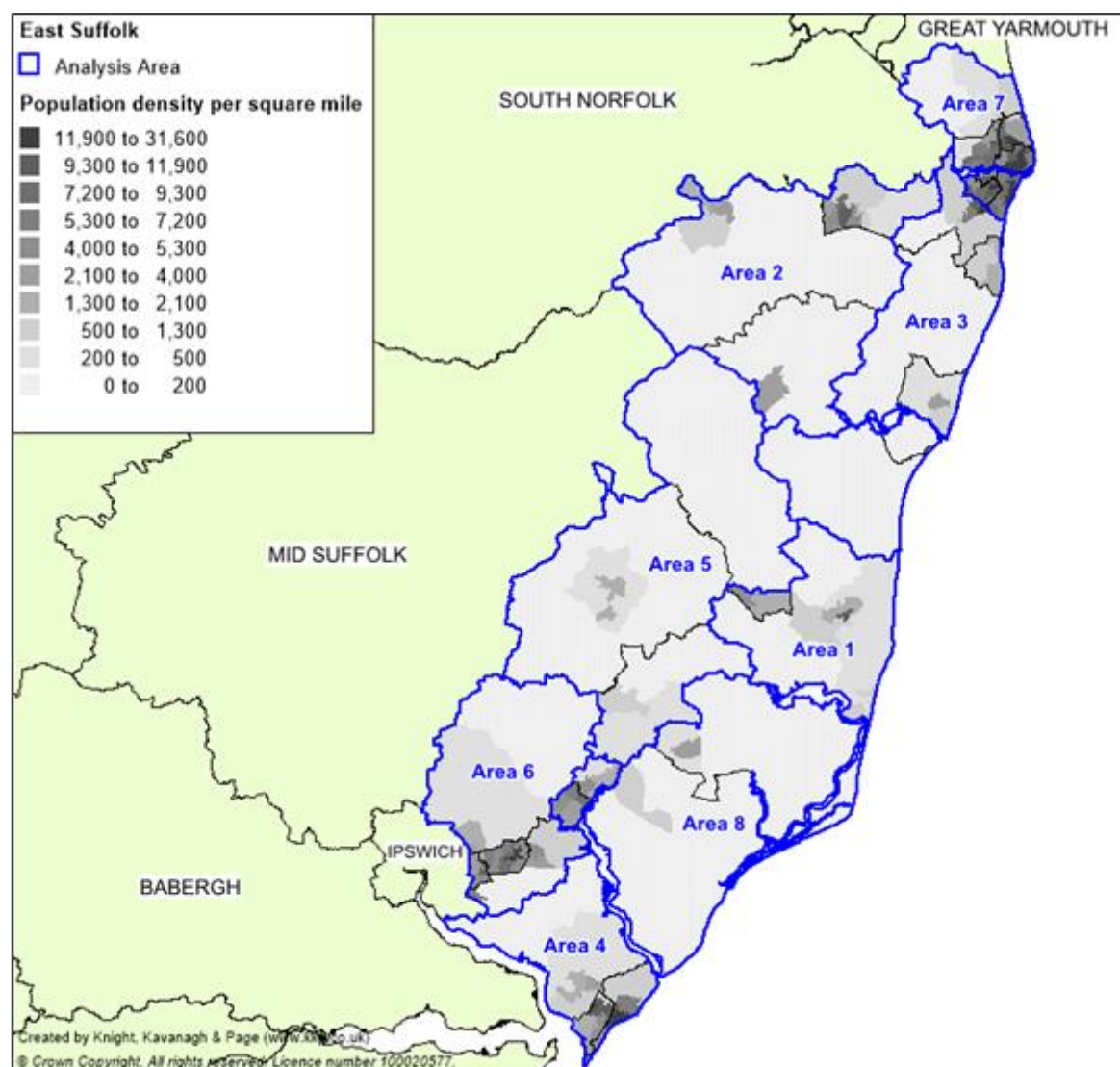
# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Rugby league also forms part of the scope of a PPOSS; however, no supply or demand has been identified in the District and it has therefore not been considered as part of the work.

## Study area

The study area is the East Suffolk Council boundary area. Further to this, sub areas or analysis areas are used to allow for a more localised assessment of provision and examination of supply and demand at a local level. For this purpose, the District is split into eight distinct sections, aligned to its Community Partnership areas.

Figure 1.1: Analysis areas



Given the lengthy names of the majority of the areas, for ease of reference, it has been agreed to number them throughout the Strategy, where appropriate, 1-8 (in alphabetical order). Please see the table overleaf for further details.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 1.1: Analysis area breakdown

Analysis area	Community Partnership reference
1	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham & Villages
2	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth & Villages
3	Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold & Villages
4	Felixstowe Peninsula
5	Framlingham, Wickham Market & Villages
6	Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford & Flynn Valley
7	Lowestoft & Northern Parishes
8	Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula

### Covid-19

The PPOSS has been undertaken during the Covid-19 global pandemic, which has resulted in England entering into unprecedented restrictions that have fluctuated since March 2020. At various points in time, grassroots sport has been halted, leading to truncated seasons and changes to way leagues have been run and fixtures scheduled. This has had a direct consequence on the supply of and demand for playing pitch and outdoor sport facilities, which, if considered in isolation, would not present an accurate representation of provision.

Given the above, this study presents information based on what supply and demand would have been like had there not been any restrictions in place, although consideration is given to the impact of Covid-19 and the issues clubs, teams and users face as a consequence. It is currently unknown what impact the pandemic and enforced restrictions will have on participation and provision moving forward. Therefore, this should form a key aspect of the Stage E process, with the review of the documents ensuring that any recommendations made remain accurate as the effect of Covid-19 becomes clearer.

As part of Stage E, the PPOSS should be reviewed on an annual basis from the date it is formally signed off by the Steering Group. A review will help to maintain the momentum and commitment built up during its development. Given current circumstances an annual meeting, which could coincide with the annual NGB affiliation process, would be beneficial to understand what impact, Covid-19 and the lockdowns have had within East Suffolk.

For more information regarding the Stage E process please see Part 8: Deliver the Strategy and keep it robust and up to date, or see: <https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport>

### 1.1: Structure

The Strategy has been developed and updated from research and analysis of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision and usage within East Suffolk to provide:

- ▶ A vision for the future improvement and prioritisation of facilities.
- ▶ A number of aims to help deliver the recommendations and actions.
- ▶ A series of sport-by-sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
- ▶ A range of sport-by-sport and local authority wide scenarios to help inform policy recommendations and prioritisation of actions.
- ▶ A series of strategic recommendations which provide a framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, if applicable, the rationalisation of playing pitches.
- ▶ A prioritised area-by-area action plan to address key issues.



# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

The recommendations made in this strategy should be translated into local plan policy so that there is a mechanism to support delivery and secure provision and investment into provision where the opportunity arises. It also recommends numerous priority projects for East Suffolk that should be implemented over the course of its lifespan. These are outlined to provide a framework for improvement, with potential partners and possible sources of external funding identified in light of limited council resources.

There is a need to sustain and build key partnerships between the Council, NGBs, Sport England, parish/town councils, education providers, leisure contractors, maintenance contractors, community clubs and private landowners to maintain and improve relevant provision. In these instances, the potential for the Council to take a strategic lead can be limited (except in terms of Section 106 agreements and developer contributions). This document therefore provides clarity with regard to the way forward and will allow organisations to focus on the key issues and objectives that they can directly influence and achieve.

### 1.2: Context

The rationale for undertaking this study and updating it is to identify current levels of provision within East Suffolk across the public, education, voluntary and commercial sectors and to compare this with current and future levels of demand. The primary purpose of the PPOSS is therefore to provide a strategic framework that ensures the provision of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities meets the local needs of existing and future residents.

Concern at national government level over the loss of sports provision prompted the development of localised playing pitch and outdoor sports assessments and strategies which identify current and future requirements. Developing a strategic approach to the analysis of supply and demand is, thus, necessary to:

- ✦ Protect provision against development pressures on land in, and around, urban areas.
- ✦ Identify supply and demand issues in relation to predicated population changes.
- ✦ Address 'demand' pressures created as a result of specific sports development pressures e.g. growth of mini soccer and wider use of artificial grass pitches.
- ✦ Address budget pressures and public sector cuts.

This strategy provides an evidence base for planning decisions and funding bids and background evidence to support Local Plan policies in relation to formal recreation. It ensures that this evidence is sound, robust, and capable of being scrutinised through examination and meets the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)<sup>1</sup>.

One of the core planning principles of the NPPF is to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs. Section 8 of the NPPF deals specifically with the topic of healthy communities; Paragraph 96 discusses the importance of access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation that can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.

Paragraphs 97 discusses assessments and the protection of "existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields". Paragraphs 99 and 100 promote the identification of important green spaces by local communities and the protection of these facilities. Such spaces may include playing fields.

---

<sup>1</sup><http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/forward-planning/>

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### 1.3: Headline findings

The table below highlights the updated quantitative headline shortfalls for each included sport within East Suffolk from the preceding Assessment Report. For qualitative findings and site-specific findings, please see Part 4: Sport Specific Recommendations and Scenarios, and Part 6: Action Plan.

Table 1.1: Quantitative headline findings

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance <sup>2</sup>	Future supply/demand balance (2036) <sup>3</sup>
Football (grass pitches)	Adult	Actual spare capacity 14 match session	Actual spare capacity 8 match session
	Youth 11v11	Shortfall of 2.5 match sessions	Shortfall of 7 match sessions
	Youth 9v9	Shortfall of 7 match sessions	Shortfall of 9.5 match sessions
	Mini 7v7	Actual spare capacity 1 match session	Demand is being met
	Mini 5v5	Demand is being met	Shortfall of 2 match sessions
3G pitches	Full size	Shortfall of 10 full size pitches	Shortfall of 11 full size pitches
Cricket	Senior (Saturday)	Actual spare capacity of 257 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 209 match sessions
	Senior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 294 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 222 match sessions
	Junior (Sunday)	Actual spare capacity of 316 match sessions	Actual spare capacity of 272 match sessions
Rugby union	Senior	Shortfall of 27 match sessions	Shortfall of 37 match sessions
Hockey	Sand-based AGP	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Tennis	Courts	Shortfall for five clubs	Shortfall for six clubs
Netball	Courts	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Bowls	Greens	Shortfall for three clubs	Shortfall for three clubs
Pétanque	Terrains	Demand is being met	Demand is being met
Croquet	Lawns	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

<sup>2</sup> Current demand is calculated from an analysis of overplay and spare capacity only.

<sup>3</sup> Demand that will exist in 2030 if the current demand is not met' also includes identified latent/exported demand.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Sport	Pitch type	Current supply/demand balance <sup>2</sup>	Future supply/demand balance (2036) <sup>3</sup>
Athletics	Tracks	Provision required (entry level for track and field activity and running clubs/groups e.g. mini tracks and endurance loops).	Provision required (entry level for track and field activity and running clubs/groups e.g. mini tracks and endurance loops).
Golf	Courses	Demand is being met	Demand is being met

### Conclusions

The existing position for all sports is either that demand is being met or that there is a shortfall, whereas the future position shows the exacerbation of current shortfalls and the creation of shortfalls for some sports and in some areas where demand is currently being met. The shortfalls identified are for youth 11v11, youth 9v9 and mini 5v5 football pitches, senior rugby union pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens and purpose-built athletics facilities.

Where demand is being met, this does not equate to a surplus of provision, with any spare capacity instead considered as a solution to overcoming shortfalls. As such, there is a clear need to protect all existing provision until all demand is met, or there is a requirement to replace provision to an equal or better quantity and quality before it is lost, in line with Sport England's Playing Fields Policy. In addition, there remain some area and site specific issues that need resolving despite no overall capacity issues, such as those relating to quality and security of tenure.

Where shortfalls are present, for the most part, they can be met by better utilising current provision, such as through improving quality, installing additional floodlighting, improving ancillary facilities and enabling access to existing unused provision, such as at unavailable school sites. Another example of how to develop existing provision to overcome shortfalls is through pitch re-configuration (or re-designation).

Notwithstanding the above, there is a shortfall of 3G pitches and entry level athletics facilities that can only be met through increased provision. With resources to improve the quality of grass pitches being limited, an increase in 3G provision could also help to reduce grass pitch shortfalls through the transfer of play, which in turn can aid pitch quality improvements.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

## PART 2: VISION

### 2.1: Vision

The vision for the wider East Suffolk Leisure Facility Strategy, which the PPOSS forms part of, is for the Council and its partners to:

*“Maintain sustainable, financially secure leisure and sports facilities which meet community need, increase participation, help tackle social and rural isolation for all residents and provide accessible, inclusive activities to improve health and wellbeing for everyone in East Suffolk”*

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## PART 3: AIMS

The following overarching aims are based on the three Sport England themes (see Figure 1.2 below). It is recommended that they are adopted by the Council and its partners to enable it to achieve the overall vision of the PPOSS as well as Sport England's planning objectives. Strategy delivery is the responsibility of, and relies upon, all stakeholders.

### AIM 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

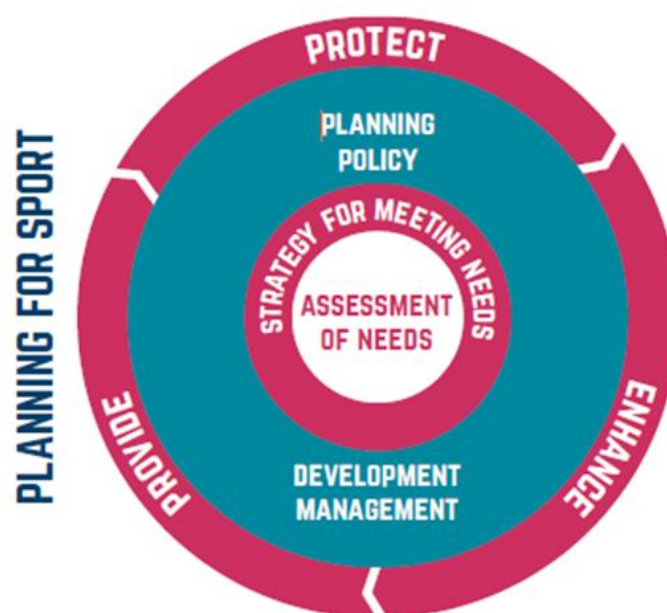
### AIM 2

To **enhance** playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

### AIM 3

To **provide** new playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

Figure 1: Sport England themes



Source: Sport England, Planning for Sport Guidance (2019)

### PART 4: SPORT SPECIFIC ISSUES SCENARIOS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In order to help develop the recommendations/actions and to understand their potential impact, a number of relevant scenario questions are tested against the key issues in this section for each relevant sport. This then informs sport specific recommendations.

#### Football – grass pitches

##### *Supply and demand summary*

- Actual spare capacity totals 32.5 match equivalent sessions per week across football pitches in East Suffolk, with the majority found on adult pitches.
- A total of 21 pitches across 14 sites are overplayed by a combined total of 27 match equivalent sessions per week.
- There is currently sufficient adult, mini 7v7 and mini 5v5 provision to meet demand, although there are areas where shortfalls need to be addressed.
- There is a shortfall in relation to youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 provision.
- After factoring in future demand, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 shortfalls are projected to worsen and a shortfall is set to be created on mini 5v5 pitches.

##### *Supply summary*

- The audit identifies a total of 222 grass football pitches within East Suffolk across 114 sites, with 178 pitches available, at some level, for community use across 83 sites.
- There are significantly more adult pitches available across East Suffolk when compared to the other pitch sizes.
- Six sites are identified as having disused football provision, including the former Deben High School site which is to re-purposed to accommodate cricket.
- Woodbridge Town FC has security of tenure issues with its lease of Notcutts Park due to expire in 2024; discussions are ongoing regarding a relocation.
- The large majority of community available pitches are assessed as standard quality, with 141 rated this way compared to 12 assessed as good quality and 25 assessed as poor quality.
- More clubs report that quality has improved in recent years than those that report poorer quality.
- Quality of ancillary provision is generally perceived to be good or adequate, with 18 sites serviced by good quality facilities, 51 by standard quality facilities and just 14 by poor quality facilities (or no facilities at all).
- Reydon Playing Fields, Dip Farm Playing Fields, Eastward Ho and Millennium Sports Ground are larger sites in need of ancillary facility improvements.

##### *Demand summary*

- Through the audit and assessment, 532 teams from within 71 clubs are identified as playing within East Suffolk, consisting of 134 adult, 242 youth and 156 mini teams.
- There is a general trend of recent growth across East Suffolk with significantly more clubs reporting team increases compared to those reporting decreases.
- There are currently nine teams within the football pyramid, with Leiston FC and Lowestoft Town FC playing at the highest level (Step 3), whilst three teams play within the women's system.
- Lowestoft Town FC is currently exploring a relocation and the development of a new stadium which as a minimum will be of Step 2 standard; it reports that this may be viable as part of wider plans from the Council relating to Oakes Farm.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ✦ A total of 19 clubs state that they have latent demand, with 18 clubs citing training facility issues, 10 clubs reporting grass pitch issues and nine clubs suggesting ancillary facility constraints.
- ✦ Based on population growth, an increase of four adult teams is projected (no increases in youth or mini football are identified due to decreases within the relevant age bands).
- ✦ Nine clubs' report aspirations to increase the number of teams that they provide, with this equating to a predicted growth of 28 teams.

### Scenarios

#### *Improving pitch quality at overplayed sites*

In total there are 21 pitches overplayed in East Suffolk across 14 sites by a combined total of 27 match equivalent sessions. Improving quality of such provision (i.e. through increased maintenance or improved drainage) will increase capacity and as a consequence reduce both current and future shortfalls.

To illustrate the above, Table 4.1 highlights that most overplayed pitches could accommodate current usage levels if quality improved.

*Table 4.1: Overplay if all pitches were good quality*

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating <sup>4</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>5</sup>
1	Alan Hutchinson Field	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	1
10	Beccles Caxton Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
39	Dip Farm Playing Fields	Adult	2	Standard	2	0
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	3	1
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
52	Framlingham Sports Ground	Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2	0
59	Halesworth Playing Fields (Dairy Hill)	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
65	Hollesley Village Playing Field	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	0.5	2.5
71	Jubilee Park	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
73	Kesgrave Community Centre	Adult	2	Standard	2	0
74	Kesgrave High School	Adult	2	Standard	3.5	1.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	3	1
79	Kirkley & Pakefield Sports Club	Adult	1	Good	0.5	0.5
90	Martlesham Heath Green	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5

<sup>4</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>5</sup> Match equivalent sessions



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Current quality	Current Capacity rating <sup>4</sup>	Good quality capacity rating <sup>5</sup>
95	Millennium Sports Ground	Adult	2	Poor	3	1
98	Normanston Park	Youth (9v9)	1	Poor	1.5	1.5
153	Walton Recreation Ground	Adult	1	Poor	1	1

As seen, only the pitches at Kesgrave High School as well as the youth 11v11 pitch at Dip Farm Playing Fields and the adult pitch at Kirkley & Pakefield Sports Club would remain overplayed. Some play at these sites should therefore be transferred to sites with actual spare capacity, to an existing or additional 3G pitch, or, if space and other usage allows, pitch re-configuration could be considered.

Carrying out the improvements would not only improve things at the relevant sites, but also in relation to the supply and demand balance for East Suffolk as a whole. In fact, no overall pitch shortfalls would be evident, with current shortfalls for youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 football both overcome.

*Table 4.2: Impact of improving pitch quality on overall supply and demand*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions per week)				
	Current actual spare capacity	Current overplay	Current total	Potential overplay	Potential total
Adult	27.5	13.5	14	2	25.5
Youth 11v11	1.5	4	2.5	1	0.5
Youth 9v9	2.5	9.5	7	1	1.5
Mini 7v7	1	-	1	-	1
Mini 5v5	0	-	0	-	0

In addition, there are currently 6.5 match equivalent sessions per week of spare capacity discounted (aggregated from all pitch types) due to poor quality. Improving pitch quality at these sites would provide and increase overall actual spare capacity, which can be used to accommodate demand from the remaining overplayed sites as well as latent and future demand.

Notwithstanding the above, given the costs of improving pitch quality, alternatives also need to be considered that can offer a more sustainable model for the future of football. The alternative to grass pitches is the use of 3G pitches for competitive matches. Not only can this alleviate overplay of grass pitches but it can also aid quality improvements through the transfer of play and therefore reduced use.

### *Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)*

As improving the quality of certain overplayed sites may not be feasible from an investment point of view, an alternative approach is to focus on improving strategic sites. To that end, the Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP) identifies 12 key sites for grass pitch improvements across East Suffolk. The table below therefore identifies what the impact would be on the capacity of pitches at these sites if quality improved to good.



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.3: Impact of LFFP quality improvements

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	No. of pitches	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
27	Bungay Town Football Club	Adult	2	Standard	0.5	1.5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	1.5
		Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	2	6
		Mini (7v7)	1	Standard	2	4
		Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
39	Dip Farm Playing Fields	Adult	2	Standard	2	0
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	3	1
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1	1
42	Eastward Ho	Adult	4	Standard	7.5	11.5
52	Framlingham Sports Ground	Adult	2	Standard	1.5	3.5
		Youth (11v11)	2	Standard	1.5	5.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	2	0
		Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
74	Kesgrave High School	Adult	2	Standard	3.5	1.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	3	1
79	Kirkley & Pakefield Sports Club	Adult	1	Standard	0.5	0.5
		Youth (11v11)	3	Standard	1	7
		Youth (9v9)	2	Standard	0.5	4.5
81	Kirtton & Falkenham Recreation Ground	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
		Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	2.5	4.5
82	Langley Avenue	Adult	3	Standard	1	4
83	Waterloo Centre	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	3
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	1.5	3.5
95	Millennium Sports Ground	Adult	2	Poor	3	1
120	Saxmundham Sports Club	Adult	2	Standard	3	5
		Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	1	3
		Youth (9v9)	1	Standard	0.5	2.5
121	Seaton Road Recreation Ground	Youth (11v11)	1	Standard	3	5
		Mini (5v5)	1	Standard	2	4

Improving quality as set out in the table above would create 57.5 match equivalent sessions of additional capacity, whilst creating 13.5 match equivalent sessions of actual spare capacity and reducing overplay to just 3.5 match equivalent sessions. As a result, all existing pitch shortfalls in East Suffolk would be overcome.

As the LFFP is a live document to be informed by an up-to-date PPS, it is recommended that the priority list is updated on the back of this study to account for changes in demand since the project was completed. To that end, it is considered that the majority of sites currently included should remain, with discussions required regarding potential additions, such as Kesgrave Community Centre, given current usage levels and overplay.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### *Providing security of tenure*

Currently, 12 match equivalent sessions per week are played on unsecured pitches throughout East Suffolk. If these pitches were to fall out of use, shortfalls would be exacerbated in youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 pitches, whilst a current shortfall would be created for mini 5v5 pitches in addition to a future shortfall for mini 7v7 pitches.

*Table 4.4: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Unsecure usage	Potential total	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	14	4	10	6	4
Youth 11v11	2.5	3.5	6	4.5	10.5
Youth 9v9	7	2.5	9.5	2.5	12
Mini 7v7	1	1	0	1	1
Mini 5v5	0	1	1	2	3

Most of the unsecured use is located at educational sites. Where there is external investment on school sites e.g. by an NGB or Sport England, there are opportunities to secure use as part of the funding agreement. This also applies to new schools or for existing schools seeking a change to provision as, via planning consent, the Council can seek to establish community use agreement.

Away from schools, most of the unsecure use is identified at Notcutts Park (Woodbridge Town Football Club). This emphasises the importance of ensuring that the Club is able to relocate before its lease expires in 2024.

### *Securing access to currently unavailable sites*

There are currently 44 grass pitches unavailable for community use. By securing access to sites accommodating this provision, spare capacity would significantly increase on adult and mini provision, whilst youth pitch shortfalls would markedly decrease. The spare capacity for the other formats could be utilised to fully alleviate the remaining deficits through pitch re-configuration.

*Table 4.5: Supply and demand balance without unsecure sites*

Pitch type	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
	Current total	Unsecure usage	Potential total	Future demand	Potential future total
Adult	14	9	23	6	17
Youth 11v11	2.5	2	0.5	4.5	5
Youth 9v9	7	3	4	2.5	6.5
Mini 7v7	1	16	17	1	16
Mini 5v5	0	14	14	2	12

As with unsecured sites, most sites not currently offering community use are school sites. As accessing all school sites is considered improbable, initial focus should be on schools offering a large number of pitches, or pitch types that currently have shortfalls.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of pitches (unless replacement provision is agreed upon and provided).
- ◀ Where pitches are overplayed and assessed as poor or standard quality, prioritise investment and review maintenance regimes to ensure it is of an appropriate standard to sustain use and improve quality.
- ◀ Improve strategic sites, using the LFFP as a guide, and consider updating the priority projects within the LFFP following the findings of this study.
- ◀ Transfer play from sites which remain overplayed, including the transfer of demand from grass pitches to existing and new 3G pitches.
- ◀ Explore pitch reconfiguration at suitable, currently under-utilised sites to better cater for playing formats with identified shortfalls.
- ◀ Work with providers to secure access to unsecure sites and sites not currently offering community use via the creation of community use agreements.
- ◀ Work to accommodate future demand at sites which are not operating at capacity or at sites which are not currently available for community use.
- ◀ Where appropriate, develop partnerships and/or lease arrangements with large, sustainable, development-minded clubs to manage their own sites.
- ◀ Improve ancillary facilities where there is a demand to do so and where it can benefit the wider footballing/sporting offer.
- ◀ Ensure clubs playing within the football pyramid can continue to do so and that they can progress if promotion is achieved (including the relocation of Woodbridge Town FC).
- ◀ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◀ Where a housing development is not of a size to justify on-site football provision, which will usually be the case, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- ◀ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site football provision, focus on the creation of multi-pitch sites that reduce existing shortfalls, where possible, with accompanying clubhouse provision included given that single pitch sites without appropriate ancillary facilities can be unsustainable.

### **3G pitches**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ Priority should be placed on the creation of new 3G pitches.
- ◀ In addition, it is important to sustain the current pitch stock to ensure that the existing shortfalls are not exacerbated, particularly at Barnards Soccer Centre given that its pitch has reached the end of its lifespan.

#### ***Supply summary***

- ◀ There are five full size 3G pitches in East Suffolk, all of which are floodlit.
- ◀ Four of the full size pitches are available for community use; the pitch at Ipswich Town Football Club's Training Ground is considered to be unavailable as it is reserved entirely for use by a professional club.
- ◀ In addition to the full size pitches, there are also five smaller sized outdoor 3G pitches and two smaller sized indoor 3G pitches in the District.
- ◀ All of the full size pitches are FA approved to host competitive matches.
- ◀ None of the pitches are World Rugby compliant.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- ✦ The four community available full size pitches are readily accessible during peak times across weekdays and at weekends.
- ✦ The pitch at Barnards Soccer Centre is now 12 years old and is showing considerable wear and tear; it has been assessed as poor quality, with resurfacing recommended.
- ✦ The smaller sized pitch at Kirkley & Pakefield Sports Club has also exceeded its recommended lifespan (having been installed in 2008), although this is considered to be less problematic as it has generally received less usage over the years.
- ✦ All remaining pitches are considered to be good or standard quality and they have all been installed or resurfaced within the last 10 years.

### ***Demand summary***

- ✦ The existing 3G provision is reported to be operating at or close to capacity at peak times, with all current activity being football-based.
- ✦ With 532 football teams currently playing in East Suffolk, there is a calculated need for 14 full size 3G pitches in the District, meaning a shortfall of 10 pitches is identified (discounting the pitch at Ipswich Town Football Club's Training Ground).
- ✦ When accounting for future demand for an additional 32 teams (based on population increases and latent/future demand expressed by clubs), the shortfall increases by one to 11 pitches.
- ✦ When assessing 3G pitch need by analysis area there remains a current shortfall of 10 pitches, which when broken down equates to a shortfall of two pitches in areas 4 and 6 and a shortfall of one pitch in areas 1, 2, 3, 5, 7 and 8.
- ✦ Taking future demand into consideration, there is an exacerbated shortfall in Area 7, increasing this to two pitches.
- ✦ Whilst the number of 3G pitches needed for matches will never outweigh the number of 3G pitches needed for training, maximising the pitches that are in place and that are proposed should be fully supported.
- ✦ Although no other sports clubs/users are presently identified as accessing the existing stock of 3G pitches, that it is not to say that there is no demand,
- ✦ Given the grass pitch shortfalls identified for rugby union, it is considered that World Rugby compliant provision would be of benefit to the District; this could be achieved in collaboration with reducing shortfalls for football, or exclusively if this was adjudged to be sustainable.

### ***Scenarios***

#### *Accommodating football training demand*

To satisfy current football training demand (based on the FA's model of one full size 3G pitch being able to cater for 38 teams) there is a need for at least 14 full size 3G pitches in East Suffolk. Discounting the pitch at Ipswich Town Football Club's Training Ground, which is unavailable for community use, there are currently four pitches provided, meaning a shortfall of 10 pitches.

*Table 4.6: Current demand for 3G pitches in East Suffolk (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Current shortfall
532	14	4	10

When considering future demand (based on population increases and future demand expressed by clubs), there is a demand for 15 full size 3G pitches, meaning a shortfall of 11 pitches.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

*Table 4.7: Future demand for 3G pitches in East Suffolk (based on 38 teams per pitch)*

Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall
564	15	4	11

If every team were to remain training within the respective analysis area in which they play their matches in, the current shortfall equates to two full size 3G pitches in areas 4 and 6 and a shortfall of one in the remaining six areas.

*Table 4.8: Current demand for 3G pitches in East Suffolk by analysis area*

Analysis area	Current number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Area 1	40	1	-	1
Area 2	80	2	1	1
Area 3	27	1	-	1
Area 4	65	2	-	2
Area 5	40	1	-	1
Area 6	105	3	1	2
Area 7	132	3	2	1
Area 8	41	1	-	1
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>

When factoring in future demand, there is a need for an additional pitch in area 7.

*Table 4.9: Future demand for 3G pitches in East Suffolk by analysis area*

Analysis area	Future number of teams	3G requirement	Current number of 3G pitches	Potential shortfall
Area 1	41	1	-	1
Area 2	87	2	1	1
Area 3	31	1	-	1
Area 4	65	2	-	2
Area 5	40	1	-	1
Area 6	111	3	1	2
Area 7	148	4	2	2
Area 8	41	1	-	1
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>564</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>

### *Local Football Facility Plan (LFFP)*

The LFFP for East Suffolk identifies 10 new 3G pitch projects, as explained in further detail in the table below.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.10: LFFP 3G pitch projects

Project	Detail	Analysis area
Felixstowe Leisure Centre	Creation of a full size 3G pitch at Felixstowe Leisure Centre as part of wider developments in relation to the site	Area 4
Framlingham Sports Ground	Creation of a full size 3G pitch	Area 5
Leiston Leisure Centre	Creation of a full size 3G pitch	Area 1
Oakes Farm	Creation of a full size 3G pitch as part of a wider sports and leisure development proposal.	Area 7
Waveney FC	Creation of a full size 3G pitch with multiple site options identified; Benjamin Britten School, Dip Farm Playing Fields and Barnards Soccer Centre	Area 7
Felixstowe & Walton FC	Creation of a full size 3G pitch with multiple site options identified; Town Ground, Eastward Ho or Langley Avenue, although the latter two are no longer considered to be viable.	Area 4
Kesgrave Community Centre or Kesgrave High School	An either/or option for the creation of a full size 3G pitch	Area 6
Woodbridge Area	Creation of a full size 3G pitch in the area, with no preferred site option identified	Area 8
Bungay Town Football Club	Creation of a smaller sized 3G pitch to satisfy localised demand	Area 2
Halesworth Area	Creation of a smaller sized 3G pitch to satisfy localised demand in the area, with no preferred site option identified albeit Halesworth Campus Sports Complex is named as a potential	Area 2

The impact of delivering the above on current shortfalls is identified in the table below. Where smaller sized pitches are proposed, this is considered to contribute 0.5 pitch equivalents (meaning the overall pitch contribution is identified as nine full size pitches).

Table 4.11: LFFP impact on 3G pitch shortfalls

Analysis area	Current number of 3G pitches	Future shortfall	Pitches proposed in LFFP	Shortfall if delivered
Area 1	-	1	1	0
Area 2	1	1	1	-
Area 3	-	1	-	1
Area 4	-	2	2	0
Area 5	-	1	1	0
Area 6	1	2	1	1
Area 7	2	2	2	0
Area 8	-	1	1	0
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>

As seen, the overall future shortfall would reduce from 11 full size pitches to two full size pitches, with only Area 3 and Area 6 under-provided for. Moreover, no analysis areas would experience an oversupply of pitches, meaning all of the projects in the LFFP are considered to be warranted.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The next step should be to identify suitable sites in Area 3 and Area 6 for the creation of additional provision in order to fully eradicate the identified shortfalls.

### *Moving football match play demand to 3G pitches*

Moving match play to 3G pitches is supported by the FA and it is relatively popular within East Suffolk already with 64 teams currently playing competitively on 3G surfaces.

The FA is particularly keen to work with local authorities to understand the potential demand for full size floodlit 3G pitches should all competitive matches that are currently played on council pitches (including parish and town council pitches) be transferred. In East Suffolk, this amounts to 222 teams.

*Table 4.12: Number of teams currently using council pitches<sup>6</sup>*

Pitch type	Pitch size	Peak period	No. of teams
Adult	11v11	Sunday AM	80
Youth	11v11	Sunday AM	60
Youth	9v9	Sunday AM	34
Mini	7v7	Sunday AM	19
Mini	5v5	Sunday AM	29
<b>Total</b>			<b>222</b>

The FA suggests an approach for estimating the number of full size, floodlit 3G pitches required to accommodate the above demand for competitive matches, as seen in the table below.

*Table 4.13: Full size 3G pitches required for the transfer of council pitch demand*

Format	No. of teams	No. of matches	3G units required per match <sup>7</sup>	Total 3G units required	3G pitches required
Adult	80	40	32	1,280	20.00
11v11	60	30	32	960	15.00
9v9	34	17	10	170	2.66
7v7	19	9.5	8	76	1.19
5v5	29	14.5	4	58	0.91

Using the above, transferring all matches currently played on council pitches would equate to the need for 20 full size 3G pitches. This is because the need for adult football can be separated from the need for youth and mini football on the basis that peak time is different (Saturday PM instead of Saturday AM).

In practice, creating this number of 3G pitches could be considered unrealistic as, without enough training demand to support such provision, sustainability would be questionable. As such, it may be more appropriate to consider the requirement for specific formats of play, such as mini football or youth 9v9 football.

The table below tests a scenario to enable all mini 5v5 and mini 7v7 football to transfer to 3G pitches based on a programme of play at current peak time (Saturday AM).

<sup>6</sup> Includes town and parish council pitches

<sup>7</sup> Use of a whole pitch equates to 64 units (32 units on a home and away basis)



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

*Table 4.14: Moving all mini matches to 3G pitches*

Time	Playing format	Total matches/teams
9.00 – 10.00	4 x 5v5	4/8
10.00 – 11.00	2 x 7v7	2/4
11.00 – 12.00	2 x 7v7	2/4
12.00 – 13.00	2 x 7v7	2/4

Based on the above programming and separate start times for the formats, the overall need is for 12 full size 3G pitches to accommodate all current mini match play demand. This is calculated based on 71 teams playing mini 5v5 football requiring nine pitches (rounded up from 8.86) and 85 teams playing mini 7v7 football requiring seven pitches (rounded down from 7.08).

The table below tests a similar scenario for youth 9v9 football. This demand could be accommodated on eight full size pitches (exactly) based on 96 teams playing this format within East Suffolk.

*Table 4.15: Moving all 9v9 matches to 3G pitches*

Time	Playing format	Total matches/teams
10:00-12:00	2 x 9v9	2/4
12:00-14:00	2 x 9v9	2/4
14:00-16:00	2 x 9v9	2/4

It is also worth noting that if all youth 9v9 football was moved to a Sunday and all mini football was retained on a Saturday (or vice versa), it is feasible that all current demand for mini and youth 9v9 football could be accommodated on eight full size 3G pitches, which is only four more than currently provided and below the number required for training demand.

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

World Rugby produced the ‘performance specification for artificial grass pitches for rugby’, more commonly known as ‘Regulation 22’ that provides the necessary technical detail to produce pitch systems that are appropriate for rugby union.

There are currently no World Rugby compliant 3G pitches in East Suffolk. However, given the grass pitch shortfalls identified, evidence exists for provision to be provided, with Beccles, Felixstowe, Ipswich, Ipswich YM, Lowestoft & Yarmouth, Southwold and Woodbridge rugby clubs all likely to benefit from access to a suitable 3G surface.

Given the above and given that it is unrealistic to provide each club with their own 3G pitch, a central location (or locations) should be considered that can service multiple clubs. For this, a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could be developed at a rugby specific site (i.e. a club site) or via a partnership approach with the FA at a multi-sport site.

### **Recommendations**

- ◆ Protect current stock of 3G pitches.
- ◆ Develop additional 3G pitches to alleviate identified shortfalls, using the LFFP to guide investment.
- ◆ Identify additional sites in Area 3 and Area 6 to fully alleviate identified 3G shortfalls.



## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

- Support creation of additional 3G pitches above and beyond football training shortfalls if it can satisfy rugby union demand; or, explore creation of 3G pitches that are both football and rugby appropriate when alleviating shortfalls.
- Ensure that any new 3G pitches are constructed to meet FA/RFU recommended dimensions and quality performance standards to meet performance testing criteria.
- Ensure that all existing and new pitches that are on the FA register are re-tested every three years to sustain certification.
- For World Rugby compliant pitches, seek re-testing every two years to ensure provision remains accredited.
- Encourage more match play demand to transfer to 3G pitches, where possible.
- Resurface existing 3G pitches that have exceeded recommended lifespan i.e. at Barnards Soccer Centre.
- Ensure all 3G providers have a sinking fund in place for long-term sustainability.
- Ensure that any new 3G pitches with external funding have community use agreements in place and seek to use this to also tie in access to grass pitch and other sporting provision, where relevant.

### **Cricket pitches**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- There are 21 squares that show potential spare capacity on grass wickets although only 11 of these have actual spare capacity for senior demand on Saturday's, whilst 12 have actual spare capacity on Sunday's.
- A total of 13 squares have actual spare capacity during midweek for junior cricket.
- Five squares are overplayed, with total overplay equating to 51 match equivalent sessions.
- For senior cricket, significant overall spare capacity is identified, although shortfalls are evident in Area 4 and Area 5.
- For junior cricket, overall spare capacity exists both currently and in the future; however, a worsening shortfall is identified in Area 5.

#### ***Supply summary***

- In total, there are 33 grass cricket squares in East Suffolk located across 28 sites, with 28 squares available for community use.
- There are NTPs accompanying grass wicket squares at 11 sites and there are standalone NTPs at seven sites.
- Of the clubs with lease arrangements in place, Yoxford CC reports a particular issue in that the agreement for its site, which is acquired from a private landowner, expires in 2023.
- Blundeston & Somerleyton CC has only nine years remaining on its lease of Somerleyton Playing Field, from Somerleyton Community Association, whereas Felixstowe & Corinthians CC has only 11 years remaining on its lease of the Town Ground, from the Council.
- The audit of community available grass wicket cricket squares found 16 to be good quality and the remaining 12 to be standard quality; none are assessed as poor.
- The NTPs servicing the squares at Saxmundham Sports Club, the Town Ground and Yoxford Cricket Club are considered to be poor quality, as is the standalone NTP at Kesgrave High School.
- Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield and Lowestoft Town cricket clubs are serviced by poor quality ancillary provision.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

- Six clubs report a demand for new, improved or additional training facilities (Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield, Melton St Audry's, Nacton, Saxmundham Sports and Yoxford cricket clubs).

### ***Demand summary***

- There are 18 clubs in East Suffolk which collectively provide 38 senior men's, eight senior women's and 47 junior teams.
- Five clubs in East Suffolk form part of the All Stars initiative, whilst three clubs are running Dynamo's sessions.
- Six clubs field women's softball teams.
- No future demand is predicted via population growth, although eight indicate aspirations to increase levels of participation, equating to four senior men's, three senior women's and nine junior teams.
- The Suffolk Cricket Board expects three additional senior women's teams to be fielded within the next three years in addition to increases expressed by clubs.
- Three clubs report that senior demand has increased over the previous three years, whilst four report a decrease.
- Four clubs report an increase in junior demand, with only Southwold CC reporting a reduction.

### ***Scenarios***

#### ***Addressing overplay***

Although a regular, sufficient maintenance regime can sustain good quality sites with minimal levels of overplay (e.g. at Bungay Cricket Club and Nacton Sports Ground), a reduction in play is recommended to ensure that there is no detrimental effect on quality over time.

Improving quality is one way to increase capacity, albeit many of the overplayed sites in East Suffolk are already good quality. The exceptions to this are the squares at Beef Meadow and Worlingworth Cricket Club, with overplay at the former able to be eradicated through improvements and overplay at the latter able to be reduced to two match equivalent sessions.

*Table 4.16: Overplay if square quality improved to good*

Site ID	Site name	No. of squares	No. of wickets	Quality	Current capacity rating	Good capacity rating
13	Beef Meadow	1	11	Standard	10	1
97	Nacton Sports Ground	1	8	Good	4	4
132	St Audrys Sports & Social Club	1	13	Good	25	25
190	Worlingworth Cricket Club	1	8	Standard	10	2
193	Bungay Cricket Club	1	8	Good	2	2

To fully alleviate overplay at Nacton Sports Ground and St Audrys Sports & Social Club, the best solution would be to install a NTP in situ as this would allow for the transfer of junior demand away from the grass wickets. Neither site is currently serviced by such provision.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

In relation to St Audrys Sports & Social Club specifically, overplay is particularly high and will also significantly worse if future demand aspirations are realised. As such, plans for a second square to be provided may warrant support, unless existing, unused provision is suitable. An alternative approach could be to utilise squares at Kingston Playing Field and Sudbourne Hall, both of which share the same analysis area (Area 8) and both of which have current spare capacity.

NTPs are already provided at Bungay Cricket Club and Worlingworth Cricket Club; however, the strip at Bungay Cricket Club is only said to be used regularly by two teams for matches, whereas the strip at Worlingworth Cricket Club is unused for competitive play. As such, increasing usage at both sites should be pursued.

As a caveat, whilst the inclusion of NTPs for the management of fixtures would alleviate overplay issues, usage is subject to league rules and minimum pitch specifications. Furthermore, this should not lead to undue pressure being placed on clubs and volunteers using the sites to install self-funded NTPs.

### *Accommodating future demand*

Future demand is expressed by eight clubs and whilst overall spare capacity of cricket squares in East Suffolk suggests that this could be accommodated, the club-based nature of the sport means that it needs to be explored on a club-by-club basis rather than generally. This is therefore studied in the following table.

*Table 4.17: Accommodating future demand*

Club	Future demand			Comments
	Senior men's	Senior women's	Junior	
Beccles Town CC	-	1	-	Site is overplayed but NTP could accommodate demand
Blundeston & Somerleyton CC	1	1	1	Spare capacity exists in the peak period for all formats of play so demand can be accommodated
Bungay CC	-	-	1	Site is overplayed but NTP can could accommodate demand
Melton Achilles Youth CC	-	-	2	Site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated
Melton St Audry's CC	1	-	-	Site is overplayed so demand cannot be accommodated
Saxmundham Sports CC	-	-	1	Spare capacity exists midweek so demand can be accommodated
Southwold CC	1	1	2	Spare capacity exists in the peak period for all formats of play so demand can be accommodated
Thorpeness CC	1	1	1	Spare capacity exists in the peak period for all formats of play so demand can be accommodated
Yoxford CC	-	-	1	Site is at capacity but NTP can could accommodate demand

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

Through utilising spare capacity or via the presence of already installed NTPs, future demand expressed by seven of the nine clubs could be accommodated through the clubs using their existing venues. The only clubs this is not the case for are Melton Achilles Youth CC and Melton St Audry's CC, both of which use St Audrys Sports & Social Club, which is already substantially overplayed and without an NTP.

The future demand for two additional junior teams expressed by Melton Achilles Youth CC could potentially be accommodated if an NTP was installed, although with a significant number of junior teams already requiring access, overall capacity may become problematic. For the additional senior team wanted by Melton St Audry's CC, no actual spare capacity is considered to exist on either a Saturday or a Sunday, meaning it could not feasibly be hosted at the site. As such, access to a secondary venue may be required.

#### *Unused squares*

Six community available squares are currently identified as being unused. These are located at:

- ❖ Lowestoft & Yarmouth Rugby Club
- ❖ Matlesham Heath Green
- ❖ Middleton-cum-Fordley Recreation Ground
- ❖ Normanston Park (x2)
- ❖ Ringsfield Playing Field

Whilst these sites should not be lost as designated playing field land due to overall playing pitch shortfalls, there is a case that not all of the provision is currently required for cricket given that the majority of demand is currently being adequately provided for. As such, on a case-by-case basis and informed through discussions with the ECB and Suffolk Cricket, consideration could be given to re-purposing some sites if the demand exists (e.g. for football or rugby union). That being said, it is imperative that the cricket partners confirm that the sites are surplus to requirements before any development, and that the land can be brought back into use for cricket if the need arises in the future. This is particularly important as clubs continue to grow women's and girls' demand as well as junior demand.

#### **Recommendations**

- ❖ Protect existing quantity of cricket squares.
- ❖ Work with clubs and grounds staff to review quality issues on squares to ensure appropriate quality is achieved at sites assessed as standard and sustained at sites assessed as good.
- ❖ Address overplay via quality improvements and the installation of NTPs as well as through greater utilisation of the NTPs already in place.
- ❖ Ensure clubs can realise future growth plans and continue to monitor increases in demand to ensure additional teams can be fielded.
- ❖ Pursue improved security of tenure, particularly for Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield and Yoxford cricket clubs.
- ❖ Improve the ancillary facilities, particularly those servicing Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield and Lowestoft Town cricket clubs given current issues and development plans.
- ❖ Consider options to increase and improve stock of suitable practice facilities, first and foremost focusing on Blundeston & Somerleyton, BT Wadringfield, Melton St Audry's, Nacton, Saxmundham Sports and Yoxford cricket clubs.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

- Consider re-purposing some of the unused squares by means of reducing other playing pitch shortfalls, subject to confirmation from the ECB and Suffolk Cricket that they are surplus to requirements, providing the provision can be brought back into use for cricket if the need ever arises.
- Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning (i.e. via a sports needs assessment/feasibility study/assessment of need) on an individual basis.
- Where a development is of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, ensure that any proposals for new squares will attract adequate demand.
- Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site cricket provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.
- Ensure that any developments nearby to existing cricket sites do not prejudice the use of the provision (e.g. through ball-strike issues).

### **Rugby union - grass pitches**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- Overall, there is a current shortfall of 27 match equivalent sessions on rugby union pitches, with only Area 1 and Area 5 having no capacity issues.
- When considering future demand, the shortfall increases to 37 match equivalent sessions.
- The largest shortfalls are noted in Area 2 and Area 7, both of which have a current deficit of 7.5 match equivalent sessions and a future deficit of 9.5 match equivalent sessions.
- Actual spare capacity is evident on only four pitches in the District and amounts to four match equivalent sessions.
- There are 13 pitches across seven sites that are overplayed by a total of 31 match equivalent sessions per week.

#### ***Supply summary***

- There are 48 rugby union pitches in East Suffolk across 27 sites, which broken down equates to 40 senior and eight junior pitches.
- Of the pitches, 38 are available for community use across 21 sites.
- Of the community available pitches, 11 are assessed as good quality, 19 are assessed as standard and eight are assessed as poor.
- Lowestoft & Yarmouth, Aldeburgh, Southwold, Felixstowe, Ipswich and Woodbridge rugby clubs all express a need for their ancillary provision to be improved/enhanced.
- Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC aspires to relocate its demand and is hoping to lodge a planning application in 2022 to enable this, with its existing site allocated for housing.
- A planning application has been submitted at Halesworth Campus Sports Complex that proposes the loss of a grassed area that is used by Southwold RUFC.
- With cricket provision that previously shared Coronation Sports Ground relocating to the former Deben High School site, space has been freed up for rugby and will allow the Felixstowe RUFC to re-configure the pitches and provide floodlighting.
- Woodbridge RUFC has recently secured additional land that it is looking to develop for its mini demand and wheelchair rugby.
- The only club considered to have unsecure tenure is Southwold RUFC as its lease of Southwold Common has expired, although the Club reports that discussions are ongoing regarding a long-term extension.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### Demand summary

- There are eight rugby union clubs based in East Suffolk providing a total of 102 teams, which when broken down equates to 22 senior, 38 junior and 42 mini teams.
- Beccles, Lowestoft & Yarmouth, Woodbridge, Ipswich YM and Ipswich rugby clubs all train on match pitches that are accompanied by floodlighting, whilst Aldeburgh RUFC and Felixstowe RUFC also use pitches via portable lighting.
- Both Aldeburgh RUFC and Felixstowe RUFC are exploring the installation of permanent floodlighting to better accommodate training demand, whereas Ipswich RUFC and Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC report that they need additional floodlights due to existing capacity issues.
- No future demand is predicted via population growth, whilst six of the clubs have growth aspirations amounting to a potential increase of six senior and 14 junior teams.

### Scenarios

#### Improving pitch quality

Improving pitch quality through maximising maintenance and the type of drainage system installed would alleviate overplay on seven of the 13 pitches that are currently overplayed, as shown in the table below.

Table 4.18: Capacity of overplayed pitches if quality improved to good (M2/D3)

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Current quality	Current Capacity rating <sup>8</sup>	M2/D3 capacity rating <sup>9</sup>
13	Beef Meadow	Senior	M0/D0	5.5	2.5
		Senior	M0/D0	2	1
34	Coronation Sports Ground	Senior	M1/D1	0.5	1
		Senior	M1/D1	2	0.5
87	Lowestoft & Yarmouth Rugby Club	Senior	M1/D0	5.5	3.5
		Senior	M1/D0	1	1
		Senior	M1/D0	1	1
128	Southwold Common	Senior	M1/D1	1	0.5
		Senior	M1/D1	0.5	1
161	Woodbridge Rugby Club	Senior	M2/D1	4.5	4
167	YM Sports Ground	Senior	M2/D1	0.5	0
		Senior	M2/D1	2	1.5
184	Humber Doucy Lane	Senior	M2/D1	5	4.5

The above would reduce the current overall shortfall of rugby union pitches in East Suffolk from 27 match equivalent sessions to 12.5 match equivalent sessions and the future shortfall from 37 match equivalent sessions to 22.5 match equivalent sessions.

<sup>8</sup> Match equivalent sessions

<sup>9</sup> Match equivalent sessions



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### *Increasing access to floodlit training provision (grass pitches)*

Of the pitches that would remain overplayed despite quality improvements, six of them are currently floodlit and used for training activity (only the pitch at Coronation Sports Ground would remain overplayed without floodlighting). As such, providing additional floodlighting would help reduce overplay as training demand could be dispersed, although this is dependent on the level of spare capacity provided on the existing non-floodlit provision.

Overplay at Humber Doucy Lane could be fully alleviated through the installation of additional floodlighting. Nine match equivalent sessions of training demand currently take place across two floodlit pitches at the site, with current quality providing three match equivalent sessions of capacity per pitch. This means that establishing floodlighting on one additional pitch could accommodate existing training demand without any overplay being present, although no capacity would exist for the pitches to also host matches (unless quality improvements also took place).

At YM Sports Ground, all demand could feasibly be accommodated if all three pitches were M2/D3 and floodlit, with 10.5 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity able to be created to accommodate 10.5 match equivalent sessions of current demand. However, this would leave no room for growth, despite future demand being expressed. Based on current quality (M2/D1), a shortfall of 1.5 match equivalent sessions would be evident.

At Beef Meadow, both pitches are currently overplayed and whilst the non-floodlit pitch would not have overplay if quality was maximised, the level of spare capacity is not sufficient to accommodate enough demand from the existing floodlit pitch without a shortfall remaining. Both pitches combined could provide seven match equivalent sessions of capacity, with 8.5 match equivalent sessions of demand currently taking place.

Similarly, overplay would remain at Lowestoft & Yarmouth Rugby Club, even if all three pitches were floodlit. Maximising quality would provide 10.5 match equivalent sessions of capacity, with 12.5 match equivalent sessions of demand existing. The same also applies at Woodbridge Rugby Club, with its three pitches needing to accommodate 13 match equivalent sessions of demand.

### *World Rugby compliant 3G pitches*

Given the substantial shortfalls identified for grass rugby union pitches and given that significant overplay would remain even if quality was maximised and additional floodlighting was established, evidence exists to support the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches.

Given that it is unrealistic to provide each club with their own 3G pitch, a central location (or locations) should be considered that can service multiple clubs. For this, a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could be developed at a rugby specific site (i.e. a club site) or via a partnership approach with the FA at multi-sport sites.

### *Increasing pitch stock*

If the creation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches is not feasible or not able to cater for all clubs with shortfalls, additional pitches may be required. This is particularly the case for those that would still have overplayed pitches even if quality enhancements took place and additional floodlighting was installed.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Options for this include creating new provision, re-purposing provision that currently provides for an alternative sport but that is not needed, or securing access to school sites with significant pitch stock.

#### *Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC*

Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC aspires to relocate its demand and is hoping to submit a planning application in 2022 to enable this, with its existing site allocated for housing. To ensure that any potential move adequately provides for the Club, it is imperative that its current and future demand is taken into account, as explored in the following table.

*Table 4.19: Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC's demand (match equivalent sessions)*

Current match play demand	Current training demand	Future match play demand	Future training demand	Overall
6	6	2	2	16

To provide for this level of demand without any resultant shortfalls, five good quality pitches are required at a minimum quality of M2/D2 (16.5 match equivalent sessions). In addition, to accommodate training demand, at least three of these will need to be floodlit.

Alternatively, a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch could be provided. With this able to accommodate all training demand in addition to some match play demand, it will reduce the number of grass pitches required to three and will lessen the quality requirements (three pitches at M2/D1 or M1/D3 could accommodate the identified match play demand).

In addition to its pitch requirements, it is imperative that the Club is provided with adequate ancillary facilities as part of any relocation, with particular consideration given to its women's and girls' demand and its aspirations for increased income generation.

#### **Recommendations**

- ◆ Protect existing quantity of rugby union pitches and areas used for rugby union activity.
- ◆ Improve pitch quality at all sites used by clubs through improved maintenance and/or the installation of drainage systems, particularly at sites containing overplayed pitches.
- ◆ Explore the installation of additional floodlighting at sites that are overplayed as a result of training demand on grass pitches.
- ◆ Explore the installation of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches as a resolution for clubs that would still have grass pitch shortfalls even if quality and floodlighting was maximised.
- ◆ Explore options to increase the pitch stock available to clubs with significant pitch shortfalls.
- ◆ Ensure Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC is adequately provided for if its relocation goes ahead, with at least five grass pitches (three floodlit) or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch and three grass pitches required.
- ◆ Ensure Southwold RUFC's training needs continue to be adequately accommodated in light of proposals at Halesworth Campus Sports Complex.
- ◆ Pursue improved security of tenure for Southwold RUFC via an extension to its lease from Southwold Common Trust.
- ◆ Support all clubs with their aspirations to improve their ancillary facilities.
- ◆ Ensure that any large housing developments are provided for and assess the need for new pitch provision through master planning on an individual basis.
- ◆ Where a development is of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, ensure that any proposals for new pitches will attract adequate demand.



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Where a development is not of a size to justify on-site rugby provision, or if sufficient demand cannot be attracted, consider using contributions to improve existing sites within the locality.

#### **Hockey pitches (sand/water-based AGPs)**

##### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ As seven community available full size pitches are currently in use by hockey clubs, these require protection (or replacement) as each is serving a specific purpose.
- ◀ Quality should be sustained or improved across the sites to ensure that they remain useable for the long-term future, whilst security of tenure issues also need to be addressed in relation to East Coast HC and Framlingham HC.
- ◀ There may also be a requirement to find a solution to the exported demand expressed by Beccles HC given its aspiration to relocate to East Suffolk.

##### ***Supply summary***

- ◀ The audit identifies 10 full size hockey suitable AGPs in East Suffolk, nine of which are available for community use (the pitch at Rock Barracks is not).
- ◀ Eight of the pitches are floodlit (one of the pitches at Ipswich School Sports Centre is not).
- ◀ There are also four smaller sized pitches provided; three of these are available to the community and two are floodlit.
- ◀ East Coast HC is without security of tenure at East Point Academy, as is Framlingham HC at Framlingham College.
- ◀ Of the full size pitches, four are assessed as good quality, three pitches are standard quality and two as poor quality (access could not be gained to Rock Barracks).
- ◀ The pitch at Felixstowe School and the older pitch at Framlingham College are assessed as poor as both are beyond their recommended lifespan and signs of wear and tear on the surface are prevalent.
- ◀ Floodlighting is also of concern at Felixstowe School, with the current provision considered to be unsafe.
- ◀ Whilst the pitch at East Point Academy is assessed as standard quality, it too has exceeded its recommended lifespan.
- ◀ Felixstowe HC has issues in relation to the ancillary facilities at Felixstowe School, where access has recently been denied.

##### ***Demand summary***

- ◀ The four hockey clubs in East Suffolk consist of 30 teams, which as a breakdown consists of ten senior men's, 12 senior women's and 14 junior teams as well as six other team varieties.
- ◀ East Coast HC has an aspiration to develop its own facility and has built up a small fund to contribute towards this; it is aware of wider plans around Oakes Farm and is interested in potentially being part of the development.
- ◀ Beccles HC was previously based in Beccles until 2006 but had to relocate when league stipulations meant that an AGP had to be accessed; it now plays at Langley School in South Norfolk but states that this was detrimental to its demand.
- ◀ All five hockey clubs have plans to increase their membership, with growth across the clubs equating to three senior men's and six senior women's teams.
- ◀ No EH initiatives are currently identified as taking place in East Suffolk, although Ipswich East Suffolk HC reports an intention to develop its informal programme moving forward.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### **Scenarios**

#### *Protecting sand-based AGPs*

All seven AGPs currently in use for hockey should be protected as hockey suitable unless replacement provision is provided within the locality and agreed with England Hockey. This is because it is considered unfeasible for demand to be amalgamated onto fewer pitches given the nature of East Suffolk and long drive-time distances between provision. For clarity, this means that the pitches at the following sites require protection:

- ◀ East Point Academy
- ◀ Felixstowe School
- ◀ Framlingham College (x2)
- ◀ Ipswich School Sports Centre (x3)

In addition, the pitch at Woodbridge School should also be protected due to the good quality surface and its age, as well as due to interest in access from Ipswich East Suffolk HC.

Pitches at Orwell Park School and Rock Barracks could potentially be considered for 3G conversion; however, neither of these are currently identified as being of interest to football. Furthermore, the pitch at Rock Barracks is not suitable due to a lack of community use.

#### *Accommodating future demand*

All four hockey clubs currently playing in East Suffolk express plans to increase their membership. East Coast, Framlingham and Ipswich East Suffolk hockey clubs all identify that these increases could be accommodated at sites currently in use, with only Felixstowe HC suggesting that it may be problematic. It has ambitions to field a fourth senior women's team but notes that this will not be possible at Felixstowe School unless the League arranges fixtures to account for overall demand.

Ipswich East Suffolk HC reports that it may look to utilise the pitch at Woodbridge School in the future, particularly as part of its involvement in EH initiatives. Given the recent re-surfacing that has taken place and the resultant quality of the pitch, this should be encouraged as it provides a high level hockey offer.

#### *Exported demand*

Currently, Beccles HC fields a solitary senior women's team playing outside of East Suffolk, at Langley School in South Norfolk. As the Club states that it has a preference to return to the District, potential options should be explored, not only in relation to existing demand but also accounting for aspirations for a second team to be established.

The majority of the Club's membership base is located in Area 2; however, no pitches are provided in the locality. The closest pitch is East Point Academy (circa 10 miles away), which is noted as having sufficient spare capacity for matches but not for training. This is considered to be the only feasible option (unless a new pitch is provided), with all remaining venues considerably further away.

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ As a minimum, protect the seven pitches currently in use by hockey clubs as well as the pitch at Woodbridge School.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

- ◀ Ensure future demand can be accommodated at venues currently in use, particularly at Felixstowe School given current capacity concerns.
- ◀ Explore options to accommodate exported demand expressed by Beccles HC.
- ◀ Encourage hockey use at Woodbridge School given the quality of the pitch and look to establish a long-term partnership between a club (or clubs) and the School.
- ◀ Resurface the AGPs as hockey suitable at East Point Academy, Felixstowe School and Framlingham College given age, quality issues and hockey usage levels.
- ◀ Encourage providers to have sinking funds in place at all sites to ensure long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Seek a resolution to the ancillary facility issues at Felixstowe School.
- ◀ Pursue long-term security of tenure at all venues used by clubs through community use agreements.
- ◀ Ensure that no 3G pitch conversions take place that are detrimental to hockey and revisit hockey demand if and when a conversion is proposed to ensure that the pitch in question is not required.
- ◀ Ensure any new 3G pitch developments do not make sand-based provision in the locality unsustainable following the transfer of football activity.

### **Tennis courts**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ Precedence should be placed on improving quality to an adequate standard for informal play, particularly at publicly available sites hosting multiple courts.
- ◀ Five clubs have current capacity issues, with these being Woodbridge, Grundisburgh, Snape, Ufford and Southwold & District tennis clubs.
- ◀ When accounting for future demand, a shortfall could also be created at Saxmundham Sports Club based on the growth aspirations of Saxmundham TC.
- ◀ All remaining clubs have spare capacity at the sites that they use, suggesting that there is an overall sufficient number of courts in the District, albeit solutions are required to better accommodate the clubs with capacity issues.

#### ***Supply summary***

- ◀ There is a total of 230 tennis courts identified in East Suffolk across 70 sites, with 163 courts categorised as being available for community use at 51 sites.
- ◀ The majority of courts are operated by schools, although only 36% of these are available for community use.
- ◀ The large majority of courts have a macadam surface, with 177 being of this type, 42 having an artificial surface and the remaining 11 have a grass surface.
- ◀ In total, 108 of the 230 tennis courts are serviced by floodlights, representing 48% of the provision, which is a relatively high amount when compared to other local authorities.
- ◀ Of the courts, 49 are assessed as good quality, 120 as standard quality and 61 as poor quality.
- ◀ Of particular concern are the poor quality courts at Charsfield Recreation Ground, Denes Oval, Grundisburgh Playing Field and Wenhaston Recreation Ground as these are all in regular use by clubs.
- ◀ A number of clubs rate the quality of their clubhouse and/or changing rooms as being poor quality, with this applying to Aldeburgh, Saxmundham, Southwold & District, Ufford, Wenhaston, Wickham Market and Wrentham tennis clubs.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### *Demand summary*

- ✦ There are 25 tennis clubs in East Suffolk; at the 16 clubs where membership is known, there are 1,928 members (1,307 senior and 681 junior) and the average membership is 120.5.
- ✦ Seven clubs report that senior membership has increased over recent years whilst eight report that junior membership has increased; only four clubs report decreases.
- ✦ A total of 11 clubs report future growth aspirations, with total future demand amounting to 380 potential additional members (200 senior and 180 junior).
- ✦ In addition, Sport England's Segmentation Tool identifies latent demand of 4,399 people within East Suffolk.
- ✦ Away from clubs, it is considered that all local authority courts available for community use in East Suffolk have spare capacity for a growth in demand, although this is difficult to quantify as use is not recorded due to the open access nature of many sites.
- ✦ The LTA has developed a package of support for local authorities and clubs to grow the use of tennis courts, in turn making them more sustainable and financially viable.
- ✦ Out of the education providers, only Ipswich School Sports Centre reports any regular demand from the community for tennis.

### *Scenarios*

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

The LTA suggests that a non-floodlit court can accommodate a maximum of 40 members, whereas a floodlit court can accommodate 60 members. Based on this, five clubs could have current capacity issues, with these being Woodbridge TC at Kingston Playing Field, Grundisburgh TC at Grundisburgh Playing Fields, Snape TC at Snape Sports Field, Ufford TC at Ufford Recreation Ground and Southwold & District TC at the Club's own site. That being said, the capacity figures are just provided as a guide and in reality, many clubs operating above the limits will not see it as an issue and will still be able to function without a problem.

Of the clubs operating above the capacity guidance, two are without floodlighting; Grundisburgh TC and Snape TC. As such, providing floodlighting at Grundisburgh Playing Field and Snape Sports Field would reduce shortfalls and would in fact fully eradicate it at Snape Sports Field.

*Table 4.20: Impact of providing floodlighting at sites with capacity issues*

Site ID	Site name	No. of courts	Floodlit?	Current Capacity rating (members)	Capacity rating with floodlit courts (members)
56	Grundisburgh Playing Field	3	No	75	15
78	Kingston Playing Field	6	Yes	191	191
126	Snape Sports Field	1	No	13	7
150	Ufford Recreation Ground	1	Yes	6	6
179	Southwold & District Tennis Club	3	Yes	12	12

For the clubs with remaining shortfalls, the only way to alleviate capacity issues is to provide them with access to additional provision. To that end, the following table explores the number of courts that could be required for each club.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 4.21: Additional provision required to satisfy current demand

Club name	Current capacity rating (members)	No. of additional courts required
Grundisburgh TC	75	One additional court if existing provision is floodlit or, if this is not possible, two courts, with or without floodlighting
Woodbridge TC	191	Five non-floodlit courts or four courts with at least two floodlit
Snape TC	13	No additional provision required if existing provision is floodlit or, if this is not possible, one additional court, with or without floodlighting
Ufford TC	6	One additional court, with or without floodlights
Southwold & District TC	12	One additional court, with or without floodlights

When accounting for future demand expressed by the clubs, the capacity issues are projected to worsen at Grundisburgh Playing Fields, Snape Sports Field and Southwold & District Tennis Club. Furthermore, a deficit could be created at Saxmundham Sports Club based on the growth aspirations of Saxmundham TC.

Table 4.22: Additional provision required to satisfy future demand

Club name	Future capacity rating (members)	No. of additional courts required
Grundisburgh TC	100	One additional court if existing provision is floodlit or, if this is not possible, three non-floodlit courts or two courts with at least one floodlit
Woodbridge TC	191	Five non-floodlit courts or four courts with at least two floodlit
Snape TC	33	One additional court, with or without floodlighting
Ufford TC	6	One additional court, with or without floodlights
Southwold & District TC	82	Three non-floodlit courts or two courts with at least one floodlit
Saxmundham TC	43	Two non-floodlit courts or one floodlit court

Where additional courts are required, this does not necessarily mean that new courts need to be established. Instead, enabling access to existing provision at local authority sites or at school sites could be explored.

### *Improving the recreational tennis offer*

Increasing recreational tennis demand is currently a priority for the LTA, with twice as many people playing casually rather than at clubs. To that end, a significant number of sites in East Suffolk currently implement the LTA's Clubspark programme, allowing for users to book courts as part of a streamlined process and enabling usage to be monitored. These are as follows:

- ✦ Alan Hutchinson Field
- ✦ Bungay Town Football Club
- ✦ Framlingham Sports Ground
- ✦ Bawdsey Recreation Ground
- ✦ Denes Oval
- ✦ Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

- ◀ Halesworth Playing Fields
- ◀ Kesgrave Community Centre
- ◀ Saxmundham Sports Club
- ◀ Southwold & District Tennis Club
- ◀ Grundisburgh Playing Field
- ◀ Kingston Playing Field
- ◀ Simon's Cross Playing Field

The LTA suggest that numerous additional sites are likely to be more sustainable if they were part of the programme, especially where existing recreational demand exists. Based on this, the following sites could be considered in the future:

- ◀ Blundeston Village Hall
- ◀ Charsfield Recreation Ground
- ◀ East Point Academy
- ◀ Ipswich School Sports Centre
- ◀ Kensington Gardens
- ◀ Mutford Playing Field
- ◀ Normanston Park
- ◀ Ringsfield Playing Field
- ◀ Somerleyton Playing Field
- ◀ Wenhaston Recreation Ground
- ◀ Brandeston Village Hall
- ◀ Dennington Village Hall
- ◀ Farlingaye High School
- ◀ Kesgrave High School
- ◀ Melton Recreation Ground
- ◀ Nicholas Everitt Park
- ◀ Orford Recreation Ground
- ◀ Snape Sports Field
- ◀ Ufford Recreation Ground
- ◀ Yoxford Village Hall

Focus should particularly be on popular park and recreation sites where investment could improve the tennis offer and help to increase demand. If capital budgets cannot enable this, income generation opportunities linked to utilising the technology provided by the LTA could be pursued, with, for example, grants available to install a Gate Access system.

### ***Recommendations***

- ◀ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ◀ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs or that are well used for recreational demand.
- ◀ Linked to the above, improve park courts as a priority to create year-round recreational tennis options to meet local demand.
- ◀ Explore options to further improve the recreational tennis offer via utilisation of technology provided by the LTA to support the customer journey and through investment into facilities and accompanying ancillary provision.
- ◀ Ensure sinking funds are put into place by providers for long-term sustainability.
- ◀ Install additional floodlighting at club-based venues, particularly at sites operating above the capacity guidance.
- ◀ Provide additional court space for clubs operating above the capacity guidance, where it is required, potentially via better utilisation of existing provision.
- ◀ Improve ancillary provision at club sites, where it is required.
- ◀ Support the development of indoor tennis provision in strategic areas and where aspirations exist e.g. in Lowestoft and Felixstowe.

### **Netball courts**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ◀ With eight clubs and numerous leagues servicing the East Suffolk area, there is relatively high demand for netball in East Suffolk and particularly for access to outdoor courts.
- ◀ The quantity of courts does not seem to be a problem, with many unused, but rather the quality of them in addition to accessibility issues.



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

- Priority should therefore be placed on improving the existing stock of courts, with a focus on sites that are already in use for netball or where netball demand would exist if there was a better offer (such as in Lowestoft).
- Focus should also be placed on supporting the various initiatives that are championed by England Netball and ensuring such programmes have suitable provision from which to be ran from.

#### ***Supply summary***

- There is a large supply of outdoor netball courts across East Suffolk, with 101 identified across 47 sites; however, only 46 courts at 19 sites are available for community use.
- Most outdoor netball courts in East Suffolk are operated by schools, with 86 of the 101 courts falling under this management type.
- The large majority of outdoor netball courts in East Suffolk have a macadam surface, with 82 being of this type; the remaining 19 courts all have an artificial surface.
- All but 18 of the courts are over marked by tennis provision.
- Only 39 of the courts are serviced by floodlighting, with 32 of these being available for community use.
- Of the courts, 10 are assessed as good quality, 68 as standard quality and 23 as poor quality.

#### ***Demand summary***

- Eight netball clubs have been identified as being based in East Suffolk.
- All eight clubs use outdoor courts for some form of activity, with provision at Ipswich School Sports Centre, Brackenbury Sports Centre, Framlingham College, Framlingham College Prep School and Kesgrave High School accessed.
- Both Ipswich Ladies Netball Club and Atlas Netball Club export some demand outside of East due to a lack of suitable provision within the District, whilst the Lowestoft Netball League is also exported as it uses a site in Great Yarmouth as a central venue.
- Beccles Bluebirds Netball Club reports latent demand in that it suggests that it would be able to accommodate more members if it had access to an increased number of better quality courts.
- Ipswich Ladies, Beccles Bluebirds and Teachers Pets netball clubs all report aspirations to grow their number of members and teams, whereas remaining clubs report that priority is on retaining participation levels.
- Back to Netball and Walking Netball have been ran in East Suffolk, with additional sessions likely to be held in the future.
- Netball Now sessions are held at Inspire Suffolk Colville House.

#### ***Scenarios***

##### *Accommodating current and future demand*

The Lowestoft Netball League currently exports all demand to Lynn Grove Academy, in Great Yarmouth, despite up to 95% of its demand coming from East Suffolk. As such, the League expresses a need return to the District and to enable this reports that it is in discussions with Lowestoft & Yarmouth RUFC in regards to being included within its relocation plans.

With two start times currently utilised and with 14 teams being catered for (seven matches per week), four courts would be required, with floodlighting also imperative to allow for all-year round usage. This would leave some capacity for growth (equating to two teams), although extra start times could be implemented if future demand exceeds this.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

Both Ipswich Ladies Netball Club and Atlas Netball Club also export some demand outside of East Suffolk. For Ipswich Ladies Netball Club, this is in order to meet league requirements and is therefore not considered to be an issue, whilst for Atlas Netball Club it is due to no suitable outdoor courts being available in closer proximity. A solution to this could be to over mark netball courts on the tennis courts at Adastral Park, given that the Club already utilises the site for indoor activity.

All other demand is currently being provided for within East Suffolk, although quality improvements are necessary at some key sites to better cater for activity.

### ***Recommendations***

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of courts.
- ✦ Improve court quality at sites assessed as poor or standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good, especially at sites in use by clubs and for England Netball initiatives.
- ✦ Consider establishing additional floodlighting at club-based venues or at venues that could attract netball demand following installation.
- ✦ Explore options to return exported demand expressed by the Lowestoft Netball League and Atlas Netball Club.

### **Bowling greens**

#### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ✦ Three clubs are currently operating above the recommended capacity threshold for a bowling green (Felixstowe BC, Framlingham Castle BC and Woodbridge BC).
- ✦ Five clubs (Leiston Town BC, Mettingham BC, Red Triangle BC, Saxmundham BC and Sutton BC) are operating below the level of membership required to ensure that the greens that they use are sustainable.
- ✦ All remaining clubs are considered to be adequately catered for and sustainable; with no greens being unused (with the exception of disused provision), this means that no provision can be deemed surplus to requirements at this stage.

#### ***Supply summary***

- ✦ There are 48 flat green bowling greens in East Suffolk provided across the same number of sites.
- ✦ In addition, there are disused greens at St Audry's Bowling Club, Corton Bowling Club and Lound Bowling Club.
- ✦ A planning application has been submitted that proposes the loss of the playing field, including the bowling green, at Suffolk Constabulary Ground to enable the creation of a 300-dwelling housing development.
- ✦ Security of tenure concerns exist for Bealings, Easton, Sweffling and Wrentham bowls clubs given the private nature of their sites, whereas Felixstowe & Walton BC also has unsecure tenure as the future of its green is very much down to Felixstowe Conservative Club.
- ✦ Overall, 32 greens are assessed as good quality and 16 are assessed as standard; none are poor quality.
- ✦ Nine clubs report that quality has improved over the last year, whilst only four clubs report worsening quality.
- ✦ Otley BC and Sweffling BC are serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities, whereas Bredfield, Brampton & District, Martlesham, Red Triangle and Saxmundham bowls clubs all report an intention to improve their provision.



# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### ***Demand summary***

- There are 48 clubs using bowling greens in East Suffolk; where membership is known, across 25 clubs, there are 677 senior male, 233 senior female and four junior members.
- The average membership across the clubs is 37.
- Only 13 of the 48 clubs are affiliated to Bowls England, with the remaining 25 being unaffiliated.
- In correlation to a national trend of declining membership, 12 clubs report a reduction in participation over recent years, whereas none report an increase.
- Due to a predicted increase in persons aged 65 and over (to 2036), demand is likely to increase for greens over the coming years.
- A total of 23 clubs express future demand, equating to potential growth of 172 senior members and 60 junior members.
- All clubs report that existing membership can be accommodated on the current level of provision and that no potential members are being turned away; however, Felixstowe BC indicates that it requires an additional green to enable it to increase its demand.

### ***Scenarios***

#### *Accommodating current and future demand*

Bowls England does not have any specific guidance on bowling green capacity, stating that it can vary from site-to-site and from club-to-club. However, as a guide, it states that any green operating with a membership of over 60 may need additional resource to ensure that it is meeting its required level of demand. Three clubs are currently operating above this threshold in East Suffolk:

- Felixstowe BC (at Felixstowe Bowls Club)
- Framlingham Castle BC (at Framlingham Castle)
- Woodbridge BC (at Woodbridge Bowls Club)

Of these, only Felixstowe BC reports any capacity issues, with the Club expressing an aspiration for a second green to be established. This may therefore require support as all other provision in the locality is already in use, meaning a transfer of demand is not possible.

#### *Club sustainability*

Bowls England suggests that clubs operating with a membership of below 20 could be unsustainable. In East Suffolk, this relates to the following five clubs:

- Leiston Town BC (at LTAA Sports Ground)
- Mettingham BC (at Mettingham Bowls Club)
- Red Triangle BC (at Red Triangle Bowls Club)
- Saxmundham BC (at Saxmundham Sports Club)
- Sutton BC (at Sutton Recreation Ground)

Concerns would be alleviated for Leiston Town, Red Triangle, Saxmundham and Sutton bowls clubs if their future demand aspirations were fulfilled, with support therefore required to enable such growth. Mettingham BC does not report any future demand but also does not report any concerns in relation to its long-term future, suggesting that the Club remains viable despite its low membership base.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

For some authorities, an amalgamation of clubs can often be a solution when numerous clubs are struggling for membership within a locality. However, this is not considered to be a workable solution in East Suffolk given the large size of the District and the rural nature of parts of it. Many of the smaller clubs are servicing small villages, with no alternative existing for users if clubs were to be lost and travel times being too long to support any mergers.

### *Disused provision*

Three disused bowling greens are identified in East Suffolk: Corton Bowling Club, Lound Bowling Club and St Audry's Bowling Club.

No demand has been identified for these to be brought back into use, although the history of the clubs that previously accessed the provision has not been able to be determined. As such, a separate needs assessment may be required if and when any proposals come forward for development. If no demand is identified, any mitigation should be directed towards appropriate enhancements to other facilities, whereas replacement provision will be required if demand does exist.

### **Recommendations**

- ✦ Protect existing quantity of greens that are in use.
- ✦ Improve green quality at sites assessed as standard quality and sustain quality at sites assessed as good.
- ✦ Seek to improve ancillary facility quality where it is necessary.
- ✦ Improve security of tenure for Bealings, Easton, Felixstowe & Walton, Sweffling and Wrentham bowls clubs.
- ✦ Support plans for a second green to be established at Felixstowe Bowls Club given existing capacity issues.
- ✦ Support Framlingham Castle BC and Woodbridge BC to ensure demand continues to be met, given high levels of membership.
- ✦ Ensure greens at LTAA Sports Ground, Mettingham Bowls Club, Red Triangle Bowls Club, Saxmundham Sports Club and Sutton Recreation Ground remain sustainable and support club users to increase membership.
- ✦ Mitigate any permanent loss of greens at disused sites through replacement provision or through appropriate enhancements to other facilities.

### **Pétanque terrains**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ✦ The existing supply in East Suffolk is considered sufficient to meet demand.
- ✦ Nevertheless, something that could be explored is the creation of suitable provision at more secure venues, such as at council sites and at sport clubs.

#### **Supply summary**

- ✦ Across East Suffolk, pétanque is identified as being played at 21 different venues.
- ✦ The terrain at Brackenbury Sports Centre is set to be lost as part of wider plans to develop the site for housing and a new Felixstowe Leisure Centre developed.
- ✦ Three new terrains are to be developed along the Felixstowe Sea Front, with the provision set to be in place before the end of 2021.
- ✦ As most of the pétanque terrains are provided at public houses, security of tenure is an issue for many users.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

- ✦ The nature of the sport means that surface quality is not considered overly important when compared to similar sports such as bowls, with balls being thrown towards the jack, rather than rolled.

#### ***Demand summary***

- ✦ The Suffolk Coastal Pétanque Alliance runs both a Summer League and a Winter League for pétanque teams as well as an annual Singles League.
- ✦ Of the 29 teams competing in the 2020 Winter League, 23 are based in East Suffolk.
- ✦ Each site is in use by at least one team, whilst seven venues are in use by multiple teams.
- ✦ The Suffolk Coastal Pétanque Alliance does not have a capacity within its league structures, with any future growth just resulting in more divisions being created.

#### ***Scenarios***

N/A

#### ***Recommendations***

- ✦ Protect existing provision.
- ✦ Ensure provision is provided at Felixstowe Sea Front to a good quality and seek to maximise usage.
- ✦ Explore options to provide more secure provision, e.g. at local authority sites rather than there being a reliance on private facilities.

#### ***Croquet lawns***

##### ***Supply and demand summary***

- ✦ Thorpeness Croquet Club is adequately provided for via the lawn at Ogilvie Pavilion Sports Ground; however, demand should be monitored, given the infancy of the Club.
- ✦ Supply is also sufficient to meet demand from Ipswich Croquet Club and this is likely to remain the case for the foreseeable future given how established the Club is.
- ✦ Demand should be further explored in other areas of East Suffolk to better understand if there is a need for any additional provision to be established elsewhere.

##### ***Supply summary***

- ✦ Two croquet lawns are provided at Fynn Valley Golf Club (Area 6) for Ipswich Croquet Club, whilst one is provided at Ogilvie Pavilion Sports Ground (Area 1 for Thorpeness Croquet Club).
- ✦ All three lawns are assessed as good quality, with the respective club users reporting that they are well maintained.
- ✦ Both Ipswich Croquet Club and Thorpeness Croquet Club have their own clubhouses, with the latter reporting that improvements are planned.
- ✦ Ipswich Croquet Club is planning to relocate its demand to Trinity Park, where two lawns are also provided following previous bowls use.

##### ***Demand summary***

- ✦ There are two croquet clubs based in East Suffolk; Ipswich Croquet Club and Thorpeness Croquet Club.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

- ◀ Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Thorpeness Croquet Club catered for 28 playing members before suspending subscriptions when play was no longer allowed, whilst Ipswich Croquet Club has 46 members.
- ◀ Ipswich Croquet Club was previously based in Ipswich and considers itself to be an Ipswich-based club, although it is satisfied in East Suffolk.
- ◀ Neither club report latent or unmet demand; however, given its location and the size of East Suffolk, it is reasonable to assume that some potential demand is not being catered for, particularly in central and northern parts of the District.

### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Protect existing provision.
- ◀ Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.
- ◀ Support Thorpeness Croquet Club in its aspirations to improve its clubhouse at Ogilvie Pavilion Sports Ground.
- ◀ Support Ipswich Croquet Club in its plans to relocate to Trinity Park and ensure that the Club remains adequately provided for following this.
- ◀ Further explore croquet demand in other areas of East Suffolk to determine if any additional provision is required.

### **Athletics facilities**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ There is high demand for athletics and particularly running in East Suffolk; priority should therefore be placed on continuing to support activity, with a focus on retaining and increasing participation.
- ◀ Opportunities should also be explored to establish purpose-built facilities, linked to England Athletics' current priorities, such as through the development of floodlit mini tracks and/or endurance loops at multi-sport sites.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are no purpose-built athletics track provided in East Suffolk, with the nearest facilities being located in Ipswich at Northgate Sports Centre and in Great Yarmouth at Wellesley Recreation Ground.
- ◀ Numerous trim trails are provided across the District to support running activity, such as at Ufford Park in Woodbridge, Martlesham Heath in Martlesham and Buregate Road in Felixstowe.

#### **Demand summary**

- ◀ Nine clubs have been identified that have a focus on athletics and/or running activity.
- ◀ The clubs vary in size, with the likes of Waveney Valley Athletics Club and Beccles & Bungay Harriers Athletics Club catering for a high number of members.
- ◀ Many of the clubs also organise annual running events, such as the Framlingham 10km, the Saxon 5-mile and the Coastal 10-mile.
- ◀ Five different Park Run events are held weekly across East Suffolk, with an average of 198.9 runners taking part, whilst an additional event is proposed at Rendlesham Forest.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

- ◀ Whilst no data is available in relation to take up of the Couch to 5k initiative in East Suffolk, anecdotal evidence suggests that it is popular and also growing in popularity.
- ◀ There are currently no Run Together groups in East Suffolk, with Rushmere Community Runners providing the nearest service, in Ipswich.
- ◀ Demand for club-based activity and the various initiatives is likely to increase in the future, although to what extent is difficult to quantify.

### **Scenarios**

N/A

### **Recommendations**

- ◀ Explore opportunities to establish purpose-built facilities, linked to England Athletics current priorities, where demand is particularly high.
- ◀ Support clubs, running groups, events and England Athletics initiatives such as Park Run and pursue increased participation, where possible.
- ◀ Ensure all clubs/groups continue to have home bases to operate from and pursue improved security of tenure where it is required.

### **Golf courses**

#### **Supply and demand summary**

- ◀ East Suffolk is currently well provided for in relation to golf provision, with a large quantity and a variety of facilities provided.
- ◀ Aligned with the above, demand for golf provision in East Suffolk is also reasonably high, with membership numbers generally strong against the national average.
- ◀ There is likely to be a need for facilities to be retained as each site will cater for a specific type of demand and market that cannot necessarily be accommodated elsewhere in the locality.

#### **Supply summary**

- ◀ There are currently 20 golf sites in East Suffolk.
- ◀ Two additional golfing venues were also previously provided, known as Dip Farm Golf Course and High Lodge Darsham Golf Course; however, these closed in 2018 and 2021, respectively.
- ◀ All 20 current golf sites provide at least one standard hole course, with a total of 13 18-hole and 12 9-hole courses supplied.
- ◀ The course at Kingfishers at Cretingham has recently been reduced from 18 holes to nine holes following a change in ownership, whilst the course at Waldringfield Golf Club is presently undergoing a major redevelopment.
- ◀ Only two sites provide a Par 3 course, with these found at Fynn Valley Golf Club and Rookery Park Golf Club in addition to their standard hole courses; both encompass nine holes.
- ◀ There are 111 driving range bays provided across seven of the venues, with six of these available for the general public to use on a pay and play basis (the facility at Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club is generally reserved for members and green fee users).
- ◀ There are no municipal courses following the closure of Dip Farm Golf Course, with the remaining sites equally split between members clubs and proprietary facilities.
- ◀ Provision at Framlingham College and Orwell Park School operates significantly differently to the remaining provision, with both being school sites and inaccessible to the wider public.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

- ✦ The average cost of membership is lower than the national average suggesting an overall cheaper price point than the national rate, although costs are higher at Woodbridge, Thorpeness and Ipswich golf clubs as these are high end facilities.
- ✦ Green fees are available at 17 of the sites, with costs ranging significantly from as little as £5 at Beccles Golf Club to up to £125 at Aldeburgh Golf Club.
- ✦ In terms of quality, it is relatively good across the District with no significant issues identified and with nearly all sites having dedicated green keeping staff which provide maintenance regimes that operate all-year round.
- ✦ Ancillary facilities are also for the most part good, with Fynn Valley Golf Club and Kingfishers at Cretingham in particular well provided for having had new clubhouses built in 2018 and 2019, respectively.
- ✦ Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club has planning permission to develop a new clubhouse, with building work expected to start soon.

### ***Demand summary***

- ✦ Overall demand across East Suffolk is seemingly high, with 6,256 members attached to the clubs; however, this means that the average membership (417 members per facility) is actually below the national average (484 members).
- ✦ Membership is above the national average at six sites which are all generally at the higher end of the golfing market within the District.
- ✦ Against a national trend of increasing membership, overall membership in East Suffolk has marginally declined over recent years, with 6,353 members attached to the clubs in 2015 compared to 6,256 currently.
- ✦ Seven clubs have increased their membership since 2015 compared to nine that have seen a reduction.
- ✦ England Golf has an aim to increase membership of clubs nationally by 1.07%, which would represent an increase of 67 members in East Suffolk.
- ✦ England Golf's mapping tool identifies a significant amount of potential demand, with Priory Park Golf Course and Ipswich Golf Club shown to have a particularly high population base.

### ***Scenarios***

N/A

### ***Recommendations***

- ✦ Retain all existing golf provision unless separate needs assessments are completed that evidence that a facility can be lost or reduced without it impacting upon demand.
- ✦ Sustain course and ancillary facility quality and seek improvements where necessary.
- ✦ Support clubs in membership retention and potential growth and encourage clubs and providers to work more collaboratively in terms of creating pathways for players.
- ✦ Continue to retain Dip Farm Golf Course as public open space and ensure it can be brought back into use should the need ever arise (unless evidence is provided to support permanent loss).
- ✦ Further explore plans at High Lodge Darsham Golf Course and ensure any proposals are supported by England Golf and Sport England.



### PART 5: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

The strategic recommendations for the Strategy have been developed via the combination of information gathered during consultation, site visits and analysis which culminated in the production of the Assessment Report, as well as key drivers identified for the study. They reflect overarching and common areas to be addressed, which apply across outdoor sports facilities and may not be specific to just one sport.

#### OBJECTIVE 1

To **protect** the existing supply of playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where it is needed for meeting current and future needs

#### Recommendations:

- a. Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.
- b. Secure tenure and access to sites for high quality, development minded clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.
- c. Maximise community use of education facilities where needed.

**Recommendation (a) – Ensure, through the use of the PPOSS, that playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities are protected through the implementation of local planning policy.**

NPPF paragraph 97 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ✦ An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- ✦ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ✦ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In addition, Sport England is a statutory consultee on developments impacting on playing field provision (and accompanying ancillary provision) and it will object to proposals unless at least one of its five policy exceptions is met. The exceptions are:

- ✦ **Exception 1:** Excess of provision - a robust and up-to-date assessment has demonstrated, to the satisfaction of Sport England, that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, which will remain the case should the development be permitted, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- ✦ **Exception 2:** Ancillary development - the proposed development is for ancillary facilities supporting the principal use of the site as a playing field and does not affect the quantity or quality of playing pitches or otherwise adversely affect their use.
- ✦ **Exception 3:** Land incapable of forming part of a pitch - the proposed development affects only land incapable of forming part of a playing pitch and does not:
  - ✦ reduce the size of any playing pitch;
  - ✦ result in the inability to use any playing pitch (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins and run-off areas);

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

- ◀ reduce the sporting capacity of the playing field to accommodate playing pitches or the capability to rotate or reposition playing pitches to maintain their quality;
- ◀ result in the loss of other sporting provision or ancillary facilities on the site; or
- ◀ prejudice the use of any remaining areas of playing field on the site.
- ◀ **Exception 4:** Replacement provision of equivalent or better quality and quantity - the area of playing field to be lost as a result of the proposed development will be replaced, prior to the commencement of development, by a new area of playing field:
  - ◀ of equivalent or better quality, and
  - ◀ of equivalent or greater quantity, and
  - ◀ in a suitable location, and
  - ◀ subject to equivalent or better accessibility and management arrangements.
- ◀ **Exception 5:** New sports provision benefit outweighs the loss of the playing field - the proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor facility for sport, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss, or prejudice to the use, of the area of playing field.

Based on the above, the PPOSS shows that, due to identified shortfalls, all existing playing field and outdoor sports sites cannot be deemed surplus to requirements and therefore require protection. This includes lapsed, disused, unused and poor quality sites as there is a potential requirement for this provision to meet the evidenced shortfalls.

Should provision be taken out of use for any reason (e.g. council budget restraints), it is imperative that the land is retained so that the facilities can be brought back into use in the future. This means that land containing provision should not be altered (except to improve play) and should remain free from tree cover and permanent built structures, unless the current picture changes to the extent that the site in question is no longer needed (subject to being informed by a review of the PPOSS), or unless replacement provision is provided to an equal or greater quantity and quality (Exception 4).

#### **Recommendation (b) – Secure tenure and access to sites through a range of solutions and partnership agreements.**

A number of school, commercial and private sites are being used in East Suffolk for competitive play, predominantly for football. In some cases, use of pitches has been classified as secure; however, use is not necessarily formalised, meaning relevant organisations should seek to establish appropriate community use agreements, including access to changing provision where required/available. This is especially the case for sites that have unsecured community use despite receiving high levels of use.

For unsecure sites, NGBs, Sport England and other appropriate bodies such as Active Suffolk and the Football Foundation can often help to negotiate and engage with providers where the local authority may not have direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from these bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the agreement.

In the context of the Comprehensive Spending Review, which announced public spending cuts, it is increasingly important for the Council to work with voluntary sector organisations to enable them to take greater levels of ownership and support the wider development and maintenance of facilities. To facilitate this, where practical, it should support and enable clubs to generate sufficient funds, providing that this is to the benefit of sport.



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The Council as well as parish and town councils should further explore opportunities where security of tenure could be granted via long-term lease agreements (a minimum of 25 years is often recommended by Sport England and NGBs) so that clubs are in a position to apply for external funding. This is particularly the case at poor quality, low value local authority sites, possibly with inadequate or no ancillary facilities, so that quality can subsequently be improved and sites developed.

Local sports clubs with or entering into lease agreements should be supported by partners to achieve sustainability across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership work. For example, such clubs should be encouraged to develop evidence of business and sports development plans to generate income via their facilities.

All clubs could be encouraged to look at different management models such as registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC)<sup>10</sup>. They should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, such as volunteer support agencies and local businesses.

For clubs with lease arrangements already in place, these should be reviewed when fewer than 25 years remain on existing agreements to secure extensions, thus improving security of tenure and helping them to attract funding for site developments, if it is required. Any club with less than 25 years remaining on an agreement is unlikely to gain any external funding (unless the agreement has been recently entered into).

Each club interested in leasing a council site should be required to meet service and/or strategic recommendations. An additional set of criteria should also be considered, which takes into account club quality, aligned to its long-term development objectives and sustainability, as seen in the table below.

*Table 5.1: Recommended criteria for lease of council sport sites to clubs/organisations*

Club	Site
<p>Use of Club Matters, a Sport England self-assessment tool.</p> <p>Clubs commit to meeting demonstrable local demand and show pro-active commitment to developing school-club links.</p> <p>Clubs are sustainable, both in a financial sense and via their internal management structures in relation to recruitment and retention policy.</p> <p>Ideally, clubs should have already identified (and received an agreement in principle) any match funding required for initial capital investment identified.</p> <p>Clubs have processes in place to ensure capacity to maintain sites to the existing, or better, standards.</p>	<p>Sites should be those identified as 'Local Sites' (recommendation d) for new clubs (i.e. not those with a District-wide significance) but that offer development potential.</p> <p>For established clubs which have proven success in terms of self-management 'Key Centres' are also appropriate.</p> <p>As a priority, sites should acquire capital investment to improve.</p> <p>Sites should be leased with the intention that investment can be sourced to contribute towards improvement of the site.</p>

<sup>10</sup> <http://www.cascinfo.co.uk/cascbenefits>

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

The Council could also establish a series of core outcomes to derive from clubs taking on a lease arrangement to ensure that the most appropriate clubs are assigned to sites. For examples, outcomes may include:

- ✦ Increasing participation.
- ✦ Supporting the development of coaches and volunteers.
- ✦ Commitment to quality standards.
- ✦ Improvements (where required) to facilities, or as a minimum retaining existing standards.

In addition, clubs should be made fully aware of the associated responsibilities/liabilities when considering leases of multi-use public playing fields. It is important in these instances that the site remains available for other purposes or for other users.

### **Recommendation (c) - Maximise community use of education facilities where needed**

To maximise community use a more coherent, structured relationship with schools is recommended. The ability to access good facilities within the local community is vital to any sports organisation, yet many clubs struggle to find good quality places to play and train. In East Suffolk, pricing policies at facilities can be a barrier to access at some education sites, but physical access, poor quality and resistance from schools, especially some academies, to open up provision is also an issue.

A large number of sporting facilities are located on education sites and making these available to sports clubs can offer significant benefits to both the schools and local clubs. It is, however, common for school facility stock not to be fully maximised for community use, even on established community use sites. For example, many schools offer their playing fields for lettings but do not allow for use of their tennis/netball courts.

In some instances, provision is unavailable for community use due to poor quality and therefore remedial works will be required before it can be established. The low carrying capacity of these facilities sometimes leads to them being played to capacity or overplayed simply due to curricular and extra-curricular use, meaning they cannot accommodate any additional use by the community.

As a priority, community use options should be explored at large schools offering substantial sporting provision. Securing access to these sites will significantly reduce shortfalls throughout the analysis areas that they are based within.

Although there are a growing number of academies over which East Suffolk has little or no control, it is still important to understand the significance of such sites and attempt to work with the schools where there are opportunities for community use. In addition, the relevant NGB has a role to play in supporting the Council and communicating with schools where necessary to address shortfalls in provision.

Where new schools are to be provided, they should be designed to facilitate community access, with opportunities for meeting the community's outdoor sports needs explored at the outset to maximise the impact of the development. An example of this is ensuring the provision of youth 11v11 and/or youth 9v9 grass football pitches, given current shortfalls and their suitability for the playing format of students.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

As detailed earlier, NGBs, Active Suffolk and Sport England can often help to negotiate and engage with schools where the local authority may have limited direct influence. This is particularly the case at sites that have received funding from the relevant bodies or are going to receive funding in the future as community access can be a condition of the funding agreement.

### OBJECTIVE 2

To enhance playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities through improving quality and management of sites

#### Recommendations:

- d. Improve quality
- e. Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites.
- f. Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding.
- g. Secure developer contributions.

#### ***Recommendation (d) – Improve quality***

There are a number of ways in which it is possible to improve quality, including, for example, addressing overplay and improving maintenance. Given that the majority of councils' face reducing budgets, it is currently advisable to look at improving key sites as a priority (e.g. the largest sites that are the most overplayed or the poorest). The Action Plan within this document provides a starting point for this, identifying key sites, poor quality sites and/or sites that are overplayed.

With such pressures on budgets any wide-ranging direct investment into quality is unlikely and other options for improvements should be considered. This could be via asset clubs leasing/managing sites as highlighted in Objective 1, with clubs taking on maintenance, whilst other options may include equipment banks and the pooling of resources for maintenance.

Where investment is possible, feasibility studies should be undertaken on a site-by-site basis to provide an understanding of what work is required to maximise and sustain quality improvements. This is to avoid investing in improvements that do not markedly improve quality or that do so but in a way that is unsustainable.

#### ***Addressing quality issues***

Quality in East Suffolk is variable but generally facilities are assessed as standard quality with the exception of cricket squares and bowling greens, which are mostly assessed as good quality. Where facilities are assessed as standard or poor quality and/or overplayed, maintenance regimes should be reviewed and, where possible, improved to ensure that what is being done is of an appropriate standard to sustain/improve quality. Ensuring continuance of existing maintenance of good quality provision is also essential.

It is also important to note the impact the weather has on quality. The worse the weather, the poorer the facilities tend to become, especially if no, or inadequate, drainage systems are in place. This also means that quality can vary, year on year, dependent upon the weather and levels of rainfall.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

Based upon an achievable target using existing quality scoring to provide a baseline, a standard should be used to identify deficiencies and investment should be focused on those sites which fail to meet the proposed quality standard (using the site audit database created as part of this study, provided in electronic format).

For the purposes of quality assessments, the Strategy refers to provision and ancillary facilities separately as being of 'Good', 'Standard' or 'Poor' quality. For example, some good quality sites have poor quality elements and vice versa (e.g. a good quality pitch may be serviced by poor quality changing facilities).

Good quality refers to facilities with, for example, even surfaces that drain well and are free from vandalism and litter. For rugby, a good pitch is also pipe and/or slit drained. For ancillary facilities, it refers to modern provision with access for disabled people, sufficient provision for referees, juniors/women/girls and appropriate showers, toilets and car parking.

Standard quality refers to pitches that have, for example, an adequate surface and minimal signs of wear and tear. For rugby, drainage is natural but adequate. In terms of ancillary facilities, standard quality refers to adequately sized changing rooms, storage provision and provision of toilets. These tend to be dated facilities but facilities that are at least functional.

Poor quality refers to provision with, for example, an inadequate surface that may be uneven and suffer from poor drainage, whilst maintenance is likely to be minimal and basic. In terms of ancillary facilities, poor quality refers to inappropriate changing rooms, no showers, no running water and old, dated interiors. If a poor quality site receives little or no usage, that is not to say that no improvement is needed as it may instead be the case that it receives no demand because of its quality, thus an improvement in said quality will attract demand to the site, potentially from overplayed standard or good quality sites.

Without appropriate, fit for purpose ancillary facilities, good quality provision may be underutilised. Changing facilities form the most essential part of this offer and therefore key sites should be given priority for improvement. For the majority of sports, no senior league matches can take place without appropriate changing facilities and the same also applies to women's and girls' demand.

To prioritise investment into key sites, it is recommended that the steering group works up a list of criteria, relevant to East Suffolk, to provide a steer on this. It is the responsibility of the whole steering group to agree and to attend regular subsequent update meetings.

### ***Addressing overplay***

In order to improve the overall quality of the outdoor facility stock; it is necessary to ensure that provision is not overplayed beyond recommended carrying capacity. This is determined by assessing quality (via a non-technical site assessment) and allocating a match limit to each (daily for hockey, weekly for football and rugby union and seasonal for cricket), as shown in the preceding Assessment Report.

The FA, RFU, ECB and EH all recommend a number of matches that their respective pitches should take based on quality, as seen in the table below. For other grass pitch sports, no guidelines are set by the NGBs although it can be assumed that a similar trend should be followed.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 5.1: Carrying capacity of pitches

Sport	Pitch type	No. of matches		
		Good quality	Standard quality	Poor quality
Football (grass)	Adult pitches	3 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Youth pitches	4 per week	2 per week	1 per week
	Mini pitches	6 per week	4 per week	2 per week
Rugby union <sup>11</sup>	Natural Inadequate (D0)	2 per week	1.5 per week	0.5 per week
	Natural Adequate (D1)	3 per week	2 per week	1.5 per week
	Pipe Drained (D2)	3.25 per week	2.5 per week	1.75 per week
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	3.5 per week	3 per week	2 per week
Cricket	One grass wicket	5 per season	4 per season	0 per season
	One synthetic wicket	60 per season	60 per season	0 per season
Hockey	Sand/water based AGP	Four per day	Four per day	N/A

For tennis, capacity is linked to membership, with a floodlit court able to accommodate 60 members and a non-floodlit court able to accommodate 40 members. Similarly, capacity for bowls is said to be around 60 members per green.

For all other non-pitch sports (e.g. golf, netball and athletics) there are no capacity recommendations set out by the NGBs. Instead, potential capacity is evaluated on a site-by-site basis following consultation and site assessments.

It is imperative to engage with clubs to ensure that sites are not played beyond their capacity. Therefore, where sites are currently identified as being overused, play should be encouraged, where possible, to be transferred to alternative venues that are not operating at capacity. This may include transferring play to 3G pitches or to sites not currently available for community use but which may be in the future.

For cricket, an increase in NTPs is key to alleviating overplay as this allows for the transfer of junior demand from grass wickets. It also does not require any additional playing pitch space as NTPs can be installed in situ to existing squares.

For rugby union, additional floodlighting will reduce the majority of overplay at club sites as it will allow clubs to spread training demand across a greater number of pitches or unmarked areas. If permanent floodlighting is not possible, portable floodlighting is an alternative.

As mentioned earlier, there are also sites that are poor quality but that are not overplayed. The potential to increase the capacity at such sites should not be overlooked as often poor quality sites have less demand than others but demand could increase if the quality was improved. It does, however, work both ways as potential improvements may make sites more attractive and therefore more popular, which in the long run can lead again to them becoming poor quality if not properly maintained.

<sup>11</sup> The RFU believes that it is most appropriate to base the calculation of pitch capacity upon an assessment of the drainage system and the maintenance programme afforded to a site.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### *Increasing maintenance*

Standard or poor quality provision may not just be a result of overplay or poor drainage. In some instances, ensuring appropriate maintenance for the level/ standard of play can help to improve quality and therefore increase capacity. Each NGB can provide assistance with reviewing maintenance regimes.

The FA has a general pitch improvement strategy which has been developed in partnership with the Grounds Management Association (GMA) to develop a grass pitch maintenance service that can be utilised by grassroots clubs. The key principles behind the service are to provide clubs with advice and practical solutions in a range of areas, with the simple aim of improving playing surfaces. The programme is designed to help clubs on sites that they themselves maintain but can also be used to advise on council-maintained sites.

Further to this, the Football Foundation and the FA have recently developed a new pitch maintenance grant fund that allows clubs and sports organisations to apply for funding for maintenance assistance, consumables and/or equipment. Local authorities are currently ineligible applicants through this fund; however, clubs, leagues and or charitable organisations using local authority sites can apply provided they have security of tenure and/or a proforma is in place.

In addition, the FA's Strategy also aims to focus on developing improved maintenance with local authorities that can be utilised at local authority-maintained sites.

For cricket and the ECB, the equivalent is the Grounds and Natural Turf Improvement Programme (GaNTIP), which is jointly funded by the ECB, FA, Football Foundation and the GMA. Its aim is to raise the standards of sports surfaces as well as the understanding of sports turf management practices among grassroots sports clubs across England and Wales.

In relation to cricket specifically, maintaining high pitch quality is the most important aspect of the sport. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and, in some instances, become dangerous. The ECB recommends full technical assessments of wickets and pitches available through a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS assesses a cricket square to ascertain whether it meets the standards that are benchmarked by the GMA.

For tennis and netball, poor quality is often linked to the age of the surface of the courts, with the recommended lifespan generally considered to be 10 years. Sites with surfaces over this age should therefore be prioritised for improvement, especially at club sites or at non-club sites in high demand from the local community. Sinking funds should also be in place to ensure that future resurfacing can take place when required.

3G pitches and AGPs also have a recommended lifespan of 10 years, with the same principles applying.

### **Recommendation (e) – Adopt a tiered approach (hierarchy of provision) to the management and improvement of sites**

To allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of playing pitch sites and associated facilities. Please refer to Part 6: Action Plan for the proposed hierarchy.



## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

### **Recommendation (f) – Work in partnership with stakeholders to secure funding**

Partners, led by the Council, should ensure that appropriate funding secured for improved sports provision is directed to areas of need, underpinned by a robust strategy for improvement in playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities as well as accompanying ancillary facilities.

In order to address community needs, to target priority areas and to reduce duplication of provision, there should be a coordinated approach to strategic investment. In delivering this recommendation the Council should maintain a regular dialogue with local partners and through the PPOSS Steering Group.

Although some investment in new provision will not be made by the Council directly, it is important that the Steering Group seeks to direct and lead a strategic and co-ordinated approach to facility development by education sites, NGBs, sports clubs and the commercial sector. This is to address community needs whilst avoiding duplication of provision.

One of sport's greatest contributions is its positive impact on public health and it is therefore important to lever in investment from other sectors such as, for example, health and wellbeing. Sport and physical activity can have a profound effect on peoples' lives, and plays a crucial role in improving community cohesion, educational attainment and self-confidence.

### **Recommendation (g) –Secure developer contributions**

It is important that this strategy informs policies and supplementary planning documents by setting out the approach to securing sport and recreational facilities through new housing development.

For playing pitches, the Council should use Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator as a tool for determining developer contributions linking to sites within the locality. This uses team generation rates from the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then converts this into pitch requirements and gives the associated costs (both for providing the provision and for its life cycle). There is an expectation from Sport England that the calculator should be used as a guide by local authorities with a robust PPOSS in place.

The PPOSS should be used to help determine the likely impact of a new development on demand and the capacity of existing sites in the area, and whether there is a need for improvements to increase capacity of existing provision or if new provision is required.

Where a development is located within access of existing high-quality provision, this does not necessarily mean that there is no need for further provision or improvement to existing provision, as additional demand arising from the development is likely to result in increased usage (which can result in overplay or quality deterioration).

Where it is determined that new provision is required to accompany a development, priority should be placed on providing facilities that contribute towards alleviating existing shortfalls within the locality. To determine this, it is imperative that the PPOSS findings are taken into consideration and that for particularly large developments consultation takes place with the relevant NGBs and Sport England. This is due to the importance of ensuring that the stock of facilities provided is correct to avoid provision becoming unsustainable and underutilised.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

The preference is for multi-pitch and multi-sport sites to be developed, supported by a clubhouse and adequate parking facilities and which consider the potential for AGP development.

It is recognised that consultation cannot take place with NGBs for every development due to resource restrictions. Instead, it is recommended that such discussions take place within PPOSS Steering Group meetings that should take place regularly following adoption of the study as part of the ongoing monitoring and evaluation process. It is recommended that these take place every 6-12 months and inform the annual review/update (see Part 8 for further information).

The guidance should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions to include provision and/or enhancement of appropriate facilities and subsequent maintenance. Section 106 and/ or Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) contributions could also be used to improve the condition and of provision in order to increase capacity.

Sport England recommends that a number of objectives should be implemented to enable the above to be delivered:

- ◀ Planning consent should include appropriate conditions and/or be subject to specific planning obligations. Where developer contributions are applicable, a Section 106 agreement or equivalent must be completed that should specify, when applied, the amount that will be linked to Sport England's Building Cost Information Service from the date of the permission and timing of the contribution/s to be made.
- ◀ Contributions should also be secured towards the first ten years of maintenance on new pitches, the cost of which is indicated by the Sport England New Development Calculator. NGBs and Sport England can provide further and up to date information on the associated costs.
- ◀ External funding should be sought/secured to achieve maximum benefit from the investment into appropriate playing pitch facility enhancement, alongside other open space provision, and its subsequent maintenance.
- ◀ Where new multiple pitches are provided, appropriate changing rooms and associated car parking should be located on site.
- ◀ All new or improved outdoor sports facilities on school sites should be subject to community use agreements.

The impact on future demand in relation to housing growth for pitch sports is contained in Part 7 of this Report.

### OBJECTIVE 3

To provide new playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities where there is current or future demand to do so

#### Recommendations:

- h. Identify opportunities to increase add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand.
- i. Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current pitch stock.

#### **Recommendation (h) - Identify opportunities to add to the overall stock to accommodate both current and future demand**

The Steering Group should use and regularly update the Action Plan within this Strategy for improvements to the Council's own facility stock whilst recognising the need to support partners. The Action Plan lists improvements to be made to each site focused upon both qualitative and quantitative improvements as appropriate for each area.

Although there are identified shortfalls, most current and future demand is currently being met and most shortfalls can be addressed via quality improvements and/or improved access to sites that are presently used minimally or currently unavailable. Adding to the current stock, particularly in the short term, is therefore not recommended as a priority, except in the case of 3G pitches, entry level athletics facilities and NTPs where there is a need, where there is significant housing growth, or where new schools are proposed.

For new schools, there is an opportunity to combine the building of a school to the development of a new multi-sport site that will be of a benefit to a school as well as the wider community via a community use agreement.

Any new provision, whether that be at a school or as a result of housing growth, should also consider the Council's wider sporting need. This means that the focus should not solely be on outdoor sports facilities but also provision for wider recreational activity.

#### **Recommendation (i) - Rectify quantitative shortfalls through the current stock**

The Council and its partners should work to rectify identified inadequacies and meet identified shortfalls as outlined in the preceding Assessment Report and the sport-by-sport specific recommendations (Part 4) as well as the following Action Plan (Part 6).

It is important that the current levels of provision are protected, maintained and enhanced to secure provision now and in the future. Maximising use of existing facilities through a combination of the following will help to reduce shortfalls and accommodate future demand:

- ✦ Improving quality in order to improve the capacity to accommodate more demand.
- ✦ Transferring demand from overplayed sites to sites with spare capacity.
- ✦ The re-designation of facilities e.g. converting an unused facility (or facility type) for one sport to instead cater for another sport (or another pitch type).
- ✦ Securing long-term access at school sites including those currently unavailable for community use.
- ✦ Working with commercial and private providers to increase usage.

## **EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

---

Unmet demand, changes in sport participation and trends and proposed housing growth should also be recognised and factored into future facility planning. Assuming that an increase in participation and housing growth occurs, it will impact on the future need for certain types of sports provision.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### PART 6: ACTION PLAN

The site-by-site action plan seeks to address key issues identified in the preceding Assessment Report and deliver on the sport-by-sport and strategic recommendations outlined above. It provides recommendations for each site based on current levels of usage, quality and future demand, as well as the potential of each site for enhancement. It is separated by analysis area and not only includes existing sites but also proposed sites that may be provided within the lifespan of the PPOSS.

The Council should make it a high priority to work with NGBs and other partners to comprise a priority list of actions based on local priorities, NGB priorities and available funding. As stated in Recommendation (e), to allow for facility developments to be programmed within a phased approach, the Council should adopt a tiered approach to the management and improvement of sites and associated facilities.

The identification of sites is based on their strategic importance in a District-wide context i.e. they accommodate the majority of demand or the recommended action could have the greatest impact on addressing shortfalls identified either on a sport-by-sport basis or across the area as a whole.

*Table 6.1: Proposed tiered site criteria*

Criteria	Hub sites	Key centres	Local sites
Site location	Strategically located in the District. Priority sites for NGBs.	Strategically located within the analysis area.	Serves the local community.
Site layout	Accommodates three or more grass pitches/sports facilities, generally including provision of an AGP (or with the potential).	Accommodates two or more grass pitches/sports facilities.	Accommodates one or two pitches/sports facilities.
Type of sport	Multi-sport provision. Could also operate as a central venue.	Single or multi-sport provision.	Generally single sport provision but may cater for two.
Management	Management control allows for wide community use, i.e. through the local authority, a leisure operator or a school with a community use agreement.	Management control generally allows for wide community use but may include sites that are owned or leased by clubs/other organisations.	Management control can be via the local authority, schools, clubs and other providers. Often unavailable for community use or insecure.
Maintenance regime	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines.	Maintenance regime aligns or could align with NGB guidelines but may be less sophisticated.	Standard, basic maintenance regime or an in-house maintenance contract.
Ancillary facilities	Good quality ancillary facilities on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the provision; may include wider social/function facilities.	Good quality ancillary facility on site (or potential), with sufficient changing rooms and car parking to serve the number of pitches.	Limited or no changing room access on site.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

**Hub sites** are of District wide importance where users are willing to travel to access the range and high quality of facilities offered and are likely to be multi-sport. These have been identified on the basis of the impact that the site will have on addressing the issues identified in the assessment.

**Key centres** are more community focused, although some are still likely to service a wider analysis area (or slightly wider); however, there may be more of a focus on a specific sport i.e. a dedicated site.

It is considered that some financial investment may be necessary to improve the facilities at both hub sites and key sites. This could be to improve the provision, create additional provision (e.g. a 3G pitch) or to enhance the ancillary facilities in terms of access, flexibility (i.e. single-sex changing if necessary) and quality as well as ensuring that they meet the rules and regulations of local competitions.

**Local sites** refer to those sites offering minimal provision or that are of minimal value to the wider community. Primarily they are sites with one pitch or a low number of pitches that service just one or two sports.

For local authority sites local sites, consideration should be given, on a site-by-site basis, to the feasibility of a club taking on a long-term lease (if not already present), in order that external funding can be sought. Such sites will require some level of investment, either to the outdoor sport facilities or ancillary facilities and it is anticipated that one of the conditions of offering a hire/lease is that the Club would be in a position to source external funding to improve/extend the provision.

Alternatively, some local sites may be considered for rationalisation, especially where demand is low and is unlikely to increase. The focus of this rationalisation would be for it to enable the creation of bigger, better quality multi-sport sites, providing Sport England's Playing Field Policy is met as part of this.

Other sites considered in this tier may be primary school sites or secondary school sites that are not widely used by the community or that do not offer community availability.

### Management and development

The following issues should be considered when undertaking sports related site development or enhancement:

- ✦ Financial viability and sustainability.
- ✦ Security of tenure (funding should not be directed to a site that offers no community use or that does not provide users with a guarantee of long-term access).
- ✦ Planning permission requirements and any foreseen difficulties in securing permission.
- ✦ Adequacy of existing finances to maintain existing sites.
- ✦ Business Plan/Masterplan – including financial package for creation of new provision where need has been identified.
- ✦ Analysis of the possibility of shared site management opportunities (e.g. a lease arrangement incorporating multiple clubs and/or multiple sports under an umbrella).
- ✦ The availability of opportunities to lease sites to external organisations.
- ✦ Options to assist community groups to gain funding to enhance existing provision.
- ✦ Negotiation with landowners to increase access to private strategic sites.
- ✦ Football investment programme/3G pitches development with the Football Foundation and the FA.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### **Partners**

The column indicating partners refers to the main organisations that the Council would look to work with to support delivery of the actions. Given the extent of potential actions it is reasonable to assume that partners will not necessarily be able to support all of the actions identified but where the action is a priority and resource is available the partner will endeavour to provide support.

Whilst the Council is considered to be a partner within each action to a lesser or greater extent, it is only referenced where it is considered to be a key stakeholder (e.g. at council operated sites).

### **Priority**

Although hub sites are mostly likely to have a high priority actions as they have wide importance, such actions have been identified on the basis of the impact that they will have on addressing the key issues identified. Therefore, some key centres and local sites are also identified as having a high priority actions. It is these projects which should generally, if possible, be addressed within the short term (1-2 years).

The majority of key centres have medium priority actions, whilst low priority actions tend to be attached to single pitch or single sport sites with only local importance but that may also contribute to addressing the issues identified for specific users. Whilst low priority, there may be opportunities to action some of the recommendations made against such sites relatively quickly e.g. through S106 or CIL funding.

Many sites will have numerous recommended actions attached to them, especially larger sites catering for multiple sports. It is not unusual for such sites to have a mix of high, medium and low actions as the issues will differ for each sport as will the level of importance attached to them.

### **Costs**

The strategic actions have also been ranked as low, medium or high based on cost. The brackets are:

- ◀ (L) -Low - less than £50k;
- ◀ (M) -Medium - £50k-£250k;
- ◀ (H) -High £250k and above.

These are based on Sport England's estimated facility costs which can be found at:

<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

### **Timescales**

The Action Plan has been created to be delivered over a ten-year period. The information within the Assessment Report, Strategy and Action Plan will require updating as developments occur. The indicative timescales relate to delivery times and are not priority based:

- ◀ (S) -Short (1-2 years);
- ◀ (M) - Medium (3-5 years);
- ◀ (L) - Long (6+ years).



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### ***Aim***

Each action seeks to meet at least one of the three aims of the Strategy; **Enhance, Provide, Protect.**

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

**AREA 1 (ALDEBURGH, LEISTON, SAXMUNDHAM & VILLAGES)**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
2	Alde Valley Academy	IP16 4BG	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity at peak time. One mini 5v5 and one mini 7v7 pitch, both of a standard quality that are played to capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	School FA	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
						Consider pitch re-configuration to better accommodate school demand and to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.				M	S	
			Cricket		A standard quality NTP that is unavailable to the community.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
			Rugby union		One standard quality senior pitch with spare capacity that has been discounted due to school usage.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use and retain as community available given local shortfalls.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts that are without floodlighting and that are not available for community use.	As a minimum, maintain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School LTA		L	L	L	
						Explore whether floodlighting the courts is possible and if so, explore community use options with the School.			M	S	L	
			Netball		Two standard quality, overmarked macadam courts without floodlights.	As a minimum, maintain quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
						Explore whether floodlighting the courts is possible and if so, explore community use options with the School.			M	S	L	
14	Benhall & Sternfield Ex-Serviceman's Club	IP17 1HE	Football	Club	One poor quality adult pitch that is played to capacity.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Club FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
76	Kings Field Recreation Ground	IP15 5HY	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch; played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Rugby union		One poor quality senior pitch which is played to capacity by Aldeburgh RUFC. The Club has aspirations to develop the clubhouse and extend the changing rooms so that everything is provided on site, with Aldeburgh Community Centre currently used for some provision. Considered to be an at risk club by the RFU due to low membership numbers.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and to accommodate any growth.	Parish RFU		M	S	L	
						Support the Club to increase its membership to ensure long-term sustainability.			M	S	L	
						Support the Club with its aspirations to improve and extend the clubhouse.			M	S	M	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
83	Waterloo Centre	IP16 4HF	Football	Town Council	One youth 9v9 and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of which are standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is played to capacity at peak time, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch has actual spare capacity. Identified for grass pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand and create further capacity through pitch quality improvements.	Town Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
85	Leiston St Margaret's Football Club	IP16 4HZ	Football	Club	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time. The Club is one promotion short of joining the football pyramid.	Ensure the Club can join and progress through the football pyramid.	Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
89	LTAA Sports Ground	IP16 4DQ	Football	District Council	Two good quality adult pitches that are played at capacity during peak time. Recent drainage work has led to a big improvements in quality.	Ensure quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green.	Sustain quality.	Club Bowls England		L	L	L	
			Pétanque		One pétanque terrain used by Leiston and Leiston Engineers.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Club Pétanque Alliance		L	L	L	
94	Middleton-cum-Fordley Recreation Ground	IP17 3NZ	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		One standard quality square with six grass wickets. Currently unused.	Through discussions with the ECB and Suffolk Cricket, determine whether cricket provision is surplus to requirements and, if confirmed, consider re-configuration to meet other sporting needs providing that the cricket provision can be re-established should the need arise.	Parish ECB		L	S	L	
100	Ogilvie Pavilion Sports Ground	IP16 4FD	Cricket	Private	One standard quality square with six grass wickets. Used by Thorpeness CC but actual spare capacity remains for both senior and junior cricket.	Improve square quality to better accommodate demand.	ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Croquet		One good quality lawn used by Thorpeness Croquet Club. The ancillary provision has been identified as standard quality, with improvements planned to modernise the provision in the near future.	Retain for continued croquet use and sustain lawn quality through appropriate maintenance.	Croquet Association		M	S	L	
						Support plans to improve the ancillary provision.			L	S	M	
112	Saxmundham Primary School	IP4 3PZ	Tennis	School	One standard quality macadam court that is not floodlit but is available for community use (although unused).	Retain court and as a minimum seek to sustain current quality.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
119	Saxmundham Free School	IP17 1DZ	Football	School	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity. Available to the community but currently unused.	Improve quality to provide actual spare capacity for the community, and ensure any future use is secure via the creation of a community use agreement.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
		IP17 1AT	Rugby union		One poor quality junior pitch with potential spare capacity that has been discounted due to school usage and poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to better accommodate curricular and extra-curricular needs and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		M	S	L	
			Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts. Two courts have floodlighting.	Retain courts community available and as a minimum seek to sustain current quality.	School LTA		M	L	L	
			Netball		Three standard macadam courts. Two courts have floodlighting and all three are available for community use.	Retain courts community available and as a minimum seek to sustain current quality.	School England Netball		M	L	L	
120	Saxmundham Sports Club	IP17 1AT	Football	Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all assessed as standard quality. The adult and youth 9v9 pitches have actual spare capacity at peak time, whilst the youth 11v11 pitch is played to capacity. Identified as a site for improvements in the LFFP.	Improve pitch quality in line with LFFP recommendations.	Club FA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
						Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.			M	S	L	
			Cricket		One good quality square with eight grass wickets and an NTP, although the NTP is poor. Used by Saxmundham CC but actual spare capacity remains for both senior and junior play. The Club wants to improve the practice facilities at the site after recent damage.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club ECB		M	S	L	
						Replace NTP and replace practice facilities.			M	S	M	
			Tennis		Three standard quality, floodlit, macadam courts used by Saxmunham TC. The floodlights have been reported as in need of replacement and ancillary provision is poor. Expressed future demand may result in capacity issues.	Seek to improve court quality given high demand.	Club LTA		M	S	M	
						Ensure future demand can be accommodated, potentially via access to more court space.			M	S	L	
						Improve floodlighting and ancillary provision.			M	S	M	
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green. The Club is currently operating at below the membership to ensure that the green is sustainable and reports that its future is under threat. It has an aspiration for a dedicated clubhouse.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club Bowls England		M	L	L	
						Support the Club to ensure that it can continue to operate, primarily via increasing its membership base.			H	S	L	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
125	Sizewell Sports & Social Club	IP16 4JX	Football	Club	Two standard quality pitches with actual spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts with floodlights.	Improve court quality.	Club LTA	Local	L	S	L	
126	Snape Sports Field	IP17 1QF	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Tennis		One standard quality macadam court with no floodlights; used by Snape TC. The Club has capacity issues that are projected to worsen due to forecasted future demand.	Seek to improve court quality given high demand.	Parish LTA		M	S	L	
						Ensure future demand can be accommodated through exploring floodlight installation and potentially via enabling access to more court space.			M	S	M	
175	Aldeburgh Tennis & Bowls Club	IP15 5EN	Tennis	Town Council	Four good quality macadam courts, two with floodlights and two without. Ancillary provision on site has been identified as poor quality and in need of improving.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Town Council LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Improve ancillary provision.			M			S	L		
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green used by Aldeburgh BC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club Bowls England		L	L	L	
186	Thorpeness Country Club	IP16 4NU	Tennis	Private	Six good quality macadam courts all without floodlights.	Explore option of floodlighting the courts to allow for increased community use.	LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
219	Friston Bowls Club	IP17 1PS	Bowls	Club	One standard quality green used by Friston BC.	Explore opportunities to improve green quality to better cater for demand.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
220	Peasenhall & Sibton Bowls Club	IP17 2HR	Bowls	Club	One standard quality bowling green used by Peasenhall & Sibton BC.	Explore opportunities to improve green quality to better cater for demand.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
221	Carlton Park	IP17 2NJ	Pétanque	Club	One pétanque terrain used by Saxmundham and Saxmundham II.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
223	The Dolphin Inn	IP16 4FE	Pétanque	Private	One pétanque terrain used by Flukes and Parrot.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
224	Market Cross Place	IP15 5BJ	Pétanque	Private	One pétanque terrain used by Aldeburgh Dr. Strangelove and APC.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
227	The Parrot & Punchbowl	IP16 4PX	Pétanque	Private	One pétanque terrain used by Paraphins.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
228	The Eels Foot Inn	IP16 4SN	Pétanque	Private	One pétanque terrain used by Eels Footboulers and Thebs Plebs.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
231	Aldeburgh Golf Club	IP15 5PE	Golf	Club	An 18-hole members club that is also used Aldeburgh Artisans Golf Club. Significant membership base, with no issues identified.	Retain course given large membership base and ensure appropriate quality is maintained.	Club England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
237	Thorpeness Golf Club	IP16 4NH	Golf	Private	A proprietary golf course with 18 holes. Membership has decreased by 49.72% since 2015.	Explore dwindling membership demand to ensure the site remains sustainable.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
252	The Middleton Bell	IP17 3NN	Pétanque	Private	One pétanque terrain used by Middleton Beaux Belles and Middleton Nouveaux.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
257	Westleton Recreation Ground	IP17 3AS	Pétanque	Parish Council	One pétanque terrain.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Parish Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
-	Leiston Leisure Centre	IP16 4LS	3G	District Council	Identified in the LFFP as a preferred site for the creation of a full size 3G pitch.	Develop a 3G pitch to reduce local shortfalls.	District Council FA	Key centre	H	S	L	Provide

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

**AREA 2 (BECCLES, BUNGAY, HALESWORTH & VILLAGES)**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
1	Alan Hutchinson Field	NR34 9RP	Football	District Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is overplayed. Improving the ancillary provision has been identified as a priority within the LFFP in order to better service the 3G pitch at the site.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or seek the transfer of some demand.	Council FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Improve ancillary provision.			M	S	M	
			3G		A good quality, full size, floodlit pitch. Installed in 2019 and FA approved to host competitive matches.	Sustain quality and ensure a sinking fund is in place for eventual refurbishment.			M	S	L	
						Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch remains approved for competitive matches and seek to maximise use for this purpose.			M	M	L	
			Tennis		Three good quality macadam courts that are floodlit. Used by Beccles TC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Council LTA		M	L	L	
7	Basley Park	IP19 8DE	Football	Community	One poor quality youth 9v9 pitch played to capacity.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
10	Beccles Caxton Club	NR34 9SJ	Football	District Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or seek the transfer of some demand.	District Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		One 60x40 metre pitch that is without floodlighting.	Retain for continued training and recreational usage.			L	L	L	
			Bowls		One good quality green used by Beccles Caxton BC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	District Council Bowls England		L	L	L	
11	Beccles Free School	NR34 7BQ	Football	School	One youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are standard quality and unavailable for community use.	Explore community use aspects with the School given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Cricket		One square with an NTP. Unavailable for community use.	Retain strip for continued curricular and extra-curricular needs.	School ECB		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Three poor quality macadam courts with floodlights. Available for community use.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	School LTA		L	S	L	
			Netball		Two poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use and have floodlighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	School England Netball		L	S	L	
12	Beccles Primary Academy	NR34 7AB	Football	School	One mini 7v7 pitch and one mini 5v5 pitch. Both of a standard quality and unavailable for community use.	No local demand for pitch type; retain for school use.	School FA		L	L	L	Protect
13	Beef Meadow	NR34 9RH	Cricket	District Council	One standard quality square with 11 grass wickets and an NTP. Quality is said to be impacted upon by over marked pitches. Played to capacity at peak time for both senior and junior cricket.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and ensure appropriate maintenance to sustain pitch over markings.	District Council ECB	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide



**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Rugby union		Two poor quality senior pitches, one of which is floodlit. Both are considerably overplayed due to match and training demand from Beccles RUFC.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay. Consider installation of additional floodlighting so that demand can be more evenly dispersed. Explore options to provide the Club with access to additional pitches or access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	District Council RFU		H M M	S S S	M M M	
26	Bungay High School	NR35 1RW	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Establish a community use agreement for club users in order to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One square with an NTP.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
			Rugby union		One standard quality senior pitch that is unused. Spare capacity discounted due to school usage.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use and retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Seven standard quality courts; five macadam and two artificial. None of them are floodlit and none are available to the community.	Explore option of floodlighting the courts given the quantity provided and to enable community use.	School LTA		M	S	M	
			Netball		Three standard quality macadam courts and two standard quality artificial courts. None of them are floodlit and none are available to the community.	Explore option of floodlighting the courts given the quantity provided and to enable community use.	School England Netball		M	S	M	
27	Bungay Town Football Club	NR35 1EJ	Football	Club	Two adult, one youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are standard quality and played to capacity at peak time. Identified as a key site for grass pitch improvements in the LFFP due to existing issues, particularly in relation to drainage.	Improve pitch quality in line with LFFP recommendations.	Club FA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
			3G		Identified in the LFFP as a priority project for the creation of a smaller sized 3G pitch.	Establish 3G provision at the site to reduce local shortfalls.			M	M	M	
			Tennis		Two standard quality artificial courts with floodlights that are available for community use. Site used by Bungay TC.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand.	Club LTA		M	S	M	
36	College Meadow	NR34 9RQ	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time and one standard mini 7v7 pitch with spare capacity. Used by Beccles Town FC, which is one promotion short of the football pyramid.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance. Ensure the Club can join and progress through the football pyramid should promotion be achieved.	Club FA	Local	L L	L L	L L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
58	Halesworth Campus Sports Complex	IP19 8PY	3G	Community	A full size 3G pitch proposed as part of wider development plans for the site. Identified for a smaller sized 3G pitch in the LFFP.	Support plans for a full size 3G pitch given local shortfalls and given rugby union demand in addition to football demand.	RFU FA	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance Provide
						Seek FA and RFU testing so that the pitch can be used for competitive matches and seek to maximise use.			H	S	L	
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			H	L	L	
			Rugby union		A grassed area that is currently used for training activity by Southwold RUFC. A planning application has been submitted that proposes the loss of some of the area, with a full size 3G pitch proposed and the retention of a smaller grassed area.	Ensure Southwold RUFC's training needs continue to be met by floodlighting the grassed area that is to be retained and ensuring that it is of sufficient size.	RFU		H	S	M	
						Ensure that the proposed 3G is World Rugby compliant, affordable and accessible to rugby clubs during peak time for training and match play demand.			H	S	H	
			Tennis		Three poor quality courts that are available for community use but do not have floodlights.	Improve court quality.	LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Two poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but non-floodlit.	Improve court quality.	England Netball		M	S	L	
59	Halesworth Playing Fields (Dairy Hill)	IP19 8JS	Football	Community	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed as well as a mini 7v7 and a mini 5v5 pitch that are both of a standard quality and played to capacity. Serviced by a poor quality clubhouse.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or seek the transfer of some demand.	FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Improve clubhouse.			M	S	M	
			Tennis		Two good quality macadam courts that are available for community use and have floodlights.	Sustain court quality.	LTA		L	L	L	
			Bowls		One standard quality green used by Halesworth Angels BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Bowls England		M	S	L	
66	Holton St Peter County Primary	IP19 8PL	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for continued school use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
116	Ringsfield Playing Field	NR34 8NT	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality youth 11v11 pitch. Actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Parish FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		A good quality square with eight wickets. Currently unused by the community.	Through discussions with the ECB and Suffolk Cricket, determine whether cricket provision is surplus to requirements and, if confirmed, consider re-configuration to meet other sporting needs providing that the cricket provision can be re-established should the need arise.	Parish ECB		M	S	L	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Tennis		Two poor quality macadam courts that are available for community use but that are not floodlit.	Improve court quality and explore floodlighting potential to better accommodate recreation demand.	Parish LTA		M	S	M	
124	Sir John Leman High School	NR34 9PF	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, all with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Pursue a community use agreement with the School and club users to provide security of tenure and actual spare capacity.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
			3G		A 38x19 metre floodlit pitch that is available for community use.	Retain for continued school and recreational demand.			L	L	L	
			Rugby union		A standard quality senior pitch with potential spare capacity that is discounted due to school usage.	Retain as community available should any demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Four standard quality artificial courts, two with floodlights and two without.	Explore opportunities to increase community use and consider court improvements to better accommodate this.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		One standard quality artificial court that is used by Beccles Bluebirds Netball Club.	Pursue a community use agreement with the School and the Club to provide security of tenure	School England Netball		M	S	L	
131	Spexhall Playing Field	IP19 0RN	Football	District Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	District Council FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
133	St Benet's Catholic Primary School	NR34 9PQ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is Unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for continued school use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
156	Wenhaston Recreation Ground	IP19 9EW	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Tennis		One poor quality macadam court used by Wenhaston TC. The ancillary provision has been identified as poor quality.	Improve court and ancillary facility quality to better cater for demand.	Parish LTA		M	S	M	
			Bowls		One standard quality green used by Wenhaston BC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish Bowls England		M	S	L	
157	Westhall Playing Field	IP19 8RQ	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
165	Worlingham VC Primary School	NR34 7SB	Netball	School	Two standard quality macadam courts that are not available for community use and that do not have floodlights.	Retain courts for curricular and extra-curricular needs.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
180	Wrentham Tennis Club	NR34 7JQ	Tennis	Club	Two standard quality macadam courts with floodlights. Serviced by ancillary provision that is poor.	Improve court and ancillary facility quality to better cater for demand.	Club LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
182	Wangford Community Centre	NR34 8RG	Tennis	Community	One poor quality macadam court without floodlighting.	Improve court quality to better cater for recreational demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball		One poor quality macadam court without floodlighting.	Improve court quality to better cater for recreational demand.	England Netball		L	S	L	
193	Bungay Cricket Club	NR35 2RU	Cricket	Club	One good quality square with eight grass wickets and an NTP. Played to capacity for all formats of play.	Ensure quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
203	Beccles Conservative Club	NR34 9TZ	Bowls	Community	A good quality bowling green used by Beccles Town BC.	Ensure quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
204	Bungay Town Bowls Club	NR35 1DL	Bowls	Club	One standard quality bowling green used by Bungay Town BC. The Club leases the green from the council in an agreement that expires in 2042. Car parking can be problematic.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Seek resolution to car parking issues.			L	S	L	
						Consider lease extension to provide greater security of tenure and to assist with any future funding bids.			L	S	L	
205	Wrentham Bowls Club	NR34 7JQ	Bowls	Private	One good quality green used by Wrentham BC. The Club rents the facility from a private landowner.	Sustain green quality and explore opportunities to provide the Club with security of tenure.	Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
206	Brampton & District Bowls Club	NR34 8EQ	Bowls	Club	One standard quality green. The Club has a lease agreement in place that is due to expire in 2029. It reports an intention to enhance the interiors of the clubhouse, although states that external funding will likely be required to facilitate this.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Pursue lease extension to provide greater security of tenure and to assist with any future funding bids.			L	S	L	
						Support the Club in its aspirations to improve the clubhouse.			L	S	L	
207	Beccles Institute Bowls Club	NR34 9QT	Bowls	Club	A good quality green.	Sustain green quality.	Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
217	Mettingham Bowls Club	NR35 1TL	Bowls	Private	A good quality green which the Club rents from Mettingham Church. Currently operating below the level of membership required to ensure that the green is sustainable	Support the Club to ensure that it can continue to operate, primarily via increasing its membership base.	Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect
242	Halesworth Golf Club	IP19 9XA	Golf	Private	A proprietary 18-hole course and a 9-hole course. £800 full membership for a year. Club membership has increased by +27.66% since 2015 to 420 members.	Ensure site is retained given large and increasing membership base.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
245	Beccles Golf Club	NR34 9BX	Golf	Club	A 9-hole members course with only 31 members.	Ensure site remains sustainable despite its low membership base, with a emphasis on high levels of pay and play usage.	Club England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
246	Bungay & Waveney Valley Golf Club	NR35 1DS	Golf	Club	An 18-hole member course with 544 members.	Ensure site is retained given large membership base.	Club England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

**AREA 3 (CARLTON COLVILLE, KESSINGLAND, SOUTHWOLD & VILLAGES)**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
19	Bramfield House School	IP19 9AB	Football	School	One mini 5v5 and one mini 7v7 pitch, both standard quality and unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for continued school use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
28	Carlton Colville Centre	NR33 8BT	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
29	Carlton Colville Primary School	NR33 8DG	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch played to capacity. Identified as needing a new clubhouse in the LFFP, based on an aspiration from Carlton Colville Town FC for a dedicated changing block to be provided to support its female and disability demand.	Ensure no additional usage without quality improvements to avoid future overplay.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
						Provide a dedicated changing block for the Club.			M	S	M	
55	Grove Primary School	NR33 8RQ	Football	School	A standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for continued school use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Netball		A standard quality macadam court with no community use or floodlights.	Retained for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
61	Heathland Beach Caravan Park	NR33 7PJ	Football	Commercial	a standard quality youth 11v11 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options given local shortfalls.	FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
			Tennis		A poor quality, non-floodlit macadam court that is not available for community use.	Retain for continued commercial use.	LTA		L	S	L	
75	Kessingland Community Centre Playing Field	NR33 7PU	Football	Parish Council	One adult pitch and one 7v7 pitch, both standard and with actual spare capacity at peak time. Also, one standard quality mini 5v5 pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
96	Mutford Playing Field	NR34 7UR	Football	Parish Council	Disused football provision.	Explore options to bring supply back into use to relieve local shortfalls and ensure any permanent loss meet Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4).	Parish FA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
			Tennis		One poor quality macadam court with no floodlights that is available for community use.	Improve court quality to better cater for recreational demand.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	
110	Pointons Pakefield Holiday Centre	NR33 7PF	Tennis	Commercial	Two poor quality macadam courts with no community use.	Retain for continued commercial use and pursue improvements.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance



**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
115	Reydon Playing Fields	IP18 6PA	Football	Trust	One adult pitch, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch all of which are standard quality. The adult and youth pitches are played to capacity, whilst the mini pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Ancillary provision on this site has been identified as a priority for improvement within the LFFP.	Ensure no additional usage without quality improvements to avoid future overplay. Improve ancillary provision.	FA	Local	L M	L S	L M	Protect Enhance
130	Southwold Common	IP18 6AJ	Football	Town Council	One standard quality adult pitch played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain current quality through appropriate maintenance.	Town Council FA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
			Cricket		One good quality square with eight grass wickets and an NTP. Used by Southwold CC but with actual spare capacity for all formats of play.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Town Council ECB		M	S	L	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality non-floodlit senior pitches. Both are over played due to match demand from Southwold RUFC. The Club reports ancillary facility issues when other sports are accessing the site at the same time.	Alleviate overplay through pitch quality improvements. Explore resolution to ancillary facility issues.	Town Council RFU		M M	S S	L L	
134	St Felix School	IP18 6SD	Football	School	A standard quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for continued school use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
			Rugby union		Two standard quality pitches, one adult and one junior. Both are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options and potential partnership arrangements with local clubs given shortfalls in the area.	School FA		L	S	L	
			Tennis		Four standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Explore community use options given presence of floodlighting and the quantity of courts provided.	School LTA		L	S	L	
			Netball		Two standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Explore community use options given presence of floodlighting and the quantity of courts provided.	School England Netball		L	S	L	
166	Wrentham Playing Field	NR34 7HJ	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain current quality through appropriate maintenance.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
171	Kessington Beach Holiday Park	NR33 7RW	Tennis	Commercial	One poor quality macadam court with no floodlights or community use.	Retain for continued commercial use and pursue improvements.	LTA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
179	Southwold & District Tennis Club	IP18 6BS	Tennis	District Council	Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts. The Club has a formal plan to build a new clubhouse within the next 12 months.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance. Support the Club in its aspirations to build a new clubhouse.	District Council LTA	Local	L M	L S	L M	Protect Enhance
185	Southwold Town Pit Stop	IP18 6AN	Tennis	Town Council	Three non-floodlit, standard quality macadam courts.	Explore floodlighting opportunities to improve the recreational offer.	LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
202	Kessingland Bowls Club	NR33 7QD	Bowls	Club	One good quality green used by Kessingland BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
218	Sole Bay Bowls Club	IP18 6NR	Bowls	Club	One standard quality bowling green used by Sole Bay BC.	Improve green quality to better accommodate demand.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	S	L	Protect Enhance
225	The Three Horseshoes	NR34 7PH	Pétanque	Private	One pétanque terrain used by Winter Shoes.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
247	Rookery Park Golf Club	NR33 8HJ	Golf	Members	An 18-hole members course with a 14-bay driving range attached. The site has 538 members.	Ensure site is retained given large membership base.	Club England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
248	Southwold Golf Club	IP18 6TB	Golf	Members	An 18-hole members course with 257 members; a 7.89% decrease from 2015.	Explore dwindling membership demand to ensure the site remains sustainable.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
251	The Walberswick Bell	IP18 6TN	Pétanque	Private	One pétanque terrain used by Walberswick.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect



# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## AREA 4 (FELIXSTOWE PENINSULA)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
24	Bucklesham Playing Field	IP10 0EE	Football	Parish Council	One adult and one mini 5v5 pitch, both considered poor quality and with actual spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	Parish FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
30	Causton Junior School	IP11 9ED	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches that are unavailable.	No local demand; retain for continued school use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
			Netball		Three standard quality macadam courts without floodlights that are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options with the School, especially if floodlight installation is possible.	School England Netball		L	S	L	
34	Coronation Sports Ground	IP11 2LN	Rugby union	District Council	Two standard quality senior pitches that are used by Felixstowe RUFC. The Club aspires to modernise the clubhouse and create additional changing rooms. To enable this, it has recently submitted plans for an extension to its building. Both pitches are overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay.	District Council RFU	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
						Explore options to provide the Club with more pitches to fully eradicate overplay or consider providing access to a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.			M	S	H	
						Support proposals in relation to ancillary facility improvements.			M	S	M	
42	Eastward Ho	IP11 9HD	Football	District Council	Four standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity during peak time. The ancillary provision of the site has been identified for improvement in the LFFP.	Utilise actual capacity via demand from overplayed sites.	District Council FA	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
						Improve ancillary provision.			M	S	M	
						Consider pitch re-configuration to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.			M	S	L	
48	Felixstowe School	IP11 9QR	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Pursue security of tenure via the establishment of a community use agreement in order to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Rugby union		One standard senior pitch that is available for community use but is not currently being used.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.			L	L	L	
			Hockey		A poor quality, full size pitch that is floodlit, although the floodlights are poor. The ancillary facilities on site have recently been closed, meaning Felistowe HC must now access the main school building.	Improve pitch quality via re-surfacing the carpet.	School EH		H	S	M	
						Improve floodlighting quality.			H	S	L	
						Seek resolution to ancillary facility access issues.			H	S	L	
			Tennis		Four standard quality macadam courts that are neither floodlit nor available for community use.	Explore opportunities for floodlighting to enable community use given quantity of courts.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Four standard quality macadam courts that are neither floodlit nor available for community use.	Explore opportunities for floodlighting to enable community use given quantity of courts.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
			49		Felixstowe School (Maidstone)	IP11 9EF	Tennis		School	Three poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Improve quality and explore opportunities for floodlighting to enable community use.	
50	Former Deben High School	IP11 7RF	Cricket	District Council	One good quality square with eight natural wickets. The site has no potential spare capacity.	Ensure quality is sustained through appropriate maintenance.	District Council ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
77	Kingsfleet Primary School	IP11 9LY	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch and one standard quality mini 5v5 pitch; unavailable.	No local demand; retain for school use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
81	Kirton & Falkenham Recreation Ground	IP10 0PR	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one mini 5v5 and one youth 9v9 pitch, all standard quality and played to capacity at peak time. Identified for grass pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Improve quality in line with LFFP recommendations.	Parish FA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green used by Kirton & Fakenham BC.	Sustain green quality.	Parish Bowls England		L	L	L	
82	Langley Avenue	IP11 2LY	Football	School	Three standard quality adult pitches played to capacity at peak time. Identified for grass pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Improve quality in line with LFFP recommendations.	Parish FA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
97	Nacton Sports Ground	IP10 0HD	Cricket	Community	One good quality square with eight wickets, used by Nacton CC. Overplayed by four match equivalent sessions. The Club identifies that it has no catering facilities within its pavilion and it wants additional practice nets.	Sustain quality.	ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
						Install an NTP to eradicate overplay.			M	S	L	
						Support the Club to enhance its ancillary and practice facility offer.			M	S	M	
			Tennis		One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam court.	As a minimum, sustain quality for continued recreational demand.	LTA		L	L	L	
103	Orwell Park School	IP10 0ER	Cricket	School	A good quality square with 10 grass wickets that is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options if it is deemed to have the potential to be a secondary venue.	School ECB	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Provide
			Rugby union		One standard quality senior pitch and three standard quality junior pitches that are all unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options and a potential partnership with a local club given quantity of pitches provided.	School RFU		L	S	L	
			Hockey		A standard full size pitch that is available for community use but currently unused by clubs.	Explore lack of community demand and review the School's surface requirements whenever refurbishment is required.	School EH		L	S	L	
			Tennis		Six standard courts; three artificial and three macadam. Neither floodlit nor available.	Explore floodlighting and community use options given the quantity of courts provided.	School LTA		L	S	L	
			Netball		Two standard courts without floodlights or community use.	Explore floodlighting and community use options.	School England Netball		L	S	L	
			Golf		A 9-hole golf course.	Retain for continued school use.	School		L	L	L	
121	Seaton Road Recreation Ground	IP11 9BS	Football	District Council	One mini 5v5 and one youth 11v11 pitch, both of a standard quality and that are played to capacity at peak time. Identified for grass pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Improve quality to provide additional capacity, in line with LFFP recommendations.	District Council FA	Local	M	M	L	Protect Enhance
137	Stennetts Playing Field	IP11 0TY	Football	Parish Council	One youth 11v11 pitch and one mini 7v7, both of a standard quality and both played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
146	Town Ground	IP11 9HP	Football	District Council	Two adult, one youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are a good quality. All pitches are played to capacity at peak time. Ancillary provision has been identified as a priority for replacement in the LFFP.	Sustain good quality through an appropriate and sophisticated maintenance regime.	District Council FA	Key centre	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
						Improve ancillary provision in line with LFFP recommendations.			H	L	M	
			3G		Identified as a potential option for a full size pitch in the LFFP.	Explore option of providing a pitch.			H	S	H	
			Cricket		One good quality square with 16 grass wickets and one NTP. The site has potential spare capacity for midweek junior cricket but is played to capacity for senior play.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	District Council FA		M	L	L	
			Tennis		Two standard quality non-floodlit grass courts that are available for community use.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and retain as grass given rarity of provision.	District Council LTA		M	M	M	
147	Trimley Sports & Social Club	IP11 0RJ	Football	Community	Two standard quality adult pitches with actual spare capacity.	Utilise actual capacity via demand from overplayed sites and consider pitch re-configuration given local youth pitch shortfalls.	FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
148	Trimley St Martin Primary School	IP11 0QL	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is used to capacity at peak time.	Retain as community available and seek to provide greater security of tenure to users via a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect
			Netball		One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam court with no access.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
152	Waldringfield Primary School	IP12 4QL	Netball	School	Two poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Improve quality for continued curricular and extra-curricular use and then re-examine community use options.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
153	Walton Recreation Ground	IP11 9BA	Football	District Council	One poor adult pitch, overplayed by Felixstowe Falcons FC.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay.	District Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
170	Felixstowe Lawn Tennis Club	IP11 7JN	Tennis	Club	Nine good quality grass courts, six good quality macadam courts and three good quality artificial courts.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club LTA	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
						Consider as a strategic site for the creation of indoor provision.			M	M	H	
177	Brackenbury Sports Centre	IP11 9JF	Tennis	District Council	Four standard, floodlit quality macadam courts. To be lost as part of wider plans to develop the site for housing.	Ensure tennis needs in the area remain provided for following the development, with contributions potentially to go towards improving other sites.	District Council LTA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball		Three standard quality, floodlit macadam courts. To be lost as part of wider plans to develop the site for housing.	Ensure netball needs in the area remain provided for following the development.	District Council England Netball		M	S	L	
			Pétanque		One pétanque terrain that is set to be lost as part of wider plans to develop the site for housing and a new Felixstowe Leisure Centre development.	Ensure pétanque remains provided for in the locality once the terrain is lost.	Pétanque Alliance		M	S	L	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
182	Orwell Park Prep School	IP10 0ER	Tennis	School	Two standard quality macadam courts with no floodlights or community use.	Retain for continued school use.	School LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Netball		Two standard quality non floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Retain for continued school use.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
184	Old Felixstowe Community Centre	IP11 9NB	Tennis	District Council	Two standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts.	Consider quality improvements to better accommodate recreational demand and explore the installation of floodlights.	Council LTA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Netball		One poor quality court that is available for community use.	Improve quality.	England Netball		L	S	M	
194	Felixstowe & Suffolk Bowls Club	IP12 1BB	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green used by Felixstowe & Suffolk BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
208	Felixstowe Bowls Club	IP11 7PB	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green that is owned by Felixstowe BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
234	Waldringfield Golf Club	IP12 4PT	Golf	Private	An 18-hole proprietary course that is presently undergoing a major redevelopment following a change of ownership, with only a 9-hole layout provided whilst renovation is taking place. It will then be re-established as an 18-hole course.	Ensure course is re-established as an 18-hole offering and is provided to a good, sustainable standard.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
238	Felixstowe Ferry Golf Club	IP11 9RY	Golf	Club	A members club with an 18-hole course and a 9-hole course as well as 12 driving range bays. Significant membership base of 730 members.	Ensure site is retained given large and increasing membership base.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
243	Priory Park Golf Course	IP10 0JT	Golf	Private	A 9-hole course that does not offer a membership scheme and that is also not affiliated to England Golf. This site has been identified as the having the largest potential demand across East Suffolk, with 59,012 people falling within a 20-minute drive time.	Explore future affiliation to England Golf in order to safeguard the site and to allow for greater examination of demand.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
-	Felixstowe Leisure Centre	IP11 2AE	3G	District Council	Identified in the LFFP as a preferred site for the creation of a full size 3G pitch. This will be as part of a wider Local Plan allocation that will see the existing facilities at the current Felixstowe Leisure Centre as well as at Brackenbury Sports Centre demolished and a new facility created.	Develop a 3G pitch to reduce local shortfalls.	District Council FA	Key centre	H	M	H	Provide

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

**AREA 5 (FRAMLINGHAM, WICKHAM MARKET & VILLAGES)**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
21	Brandeston Village Hall	IP13 7AD	Tennis	Parish Council	One poor quality, non-floodlit macadam court.	Improve quality and explore potential of installing floodlighting.	Parish LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
38	Dennington Village Hall	IP13 8DD	Football	Club	A standard quality adult pitch with actual spare capacity at peak time.	Utilise actual capacity via demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Club FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
			Tennis		One poor quality macadam court without floodlighting.	Improve quality to better accommodate recreational demand and explore potential of installing floodlighting.	Parish LTA		M	S	L	
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green used by Dennington BC. The Club rents the green from Dennington Village Hall.	Sustain green quality.	Parish Bowls England		L	L	L	
						Explore opportunities to provide security of tenure for the Club.			L	S	L	
41	Easton Cricket Club	IP13 0ES	Cricket	Club	One good quality square with nine grass wickets and an NTP. Played to capacity at peak time for all formats of play.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green used by Easton BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England		L	L	L	
51	Framlingham College	IP13 9EY	Cricket	School	Two squares, one with 12 wickets and one with eight wickets. Neither are available for community use.	Explore community use options if the site is deemed to have the potential to be a secondary venue for a club with capacity issues.	School ECB	Key Centre	L	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Rugby union		Three senior pitches all of a standard quality with potential spare capacity that has been discounted due to school usage.	Retain as community available should club demand exist in the future and explore partnership with clubs in the locality given quantity of provision.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Hockey		Two full size pitches; one standard quality and one poor quality. Used by Framlingham HC for training and matches. Availability is limited, especially on Sundays.	Resurface poor quality pitch and ensure sinking funds are in place for future refurbishment of the standard quality pitch.	School EH		H	S	M	
						Attempt to secure usage of the pitches via the creation of a community use agreement.			H	S	L	
						Explore options to extend community opening hours.			M	S	L	
			Tennis		Three standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and floodlit.	Explore options to maximise community use given presence of floodlighting.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Three standard quality macadam courts that are available for community use and floodlit.	Explore options to maximise community use given presence of floodlighting.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
			Golf		A nine-hole course that is generally inaccessible to the wider public.	Retain for continued school use.	School England Golf		L	L	L	



**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
52	Framlingham Sports Ground	IP13 9HS	Football	Club	Two adult, two youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all standard quality. The youth 9v9 pitch is overplayed. Identified for grass pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Improve quality to eradicate overplay on the youth 9v9 pitch, and consider re-configuring pitches to provide more youth 9v9 provision on site.	Club FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		Identified in the LFFP as a preferred site for the creation of a full size 3G pitch.	Develop a 3G pitch to reduce local shortfalls.			H	S	H	
			Tennis		Three good quality, floodlit macadam courts.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club LTA		M	L	L	
67	Hubbards Hill Recreation Ground	IP17 2JN	Football	District Council	One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted. Currently unused.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity and to attract usage.	District Council FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
72	Kelsale Park	IP17 2NX	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity at peak time.	Utilise actual capacity via demand from overplayed sites.	Parish FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
123	Simon's Cross Playing Field	IP13 0NE	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that are played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality to ensure demand can continue to be accommodate without overplay being expressed.	Parish FA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect
			Tennis		Three good quality courts that are used by Wickham Market TC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club LTA		M	L	L	
145	Thomas Mills High School	IP13 9HE	Football	School	Four standard quality adult pitches with spare capacity at peak time. Currently unused by the community.	Further explore lack of community demand and attempt to maximise use given capacity provided.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
					Encourage pitch reconfiguration to better accommodate the School's own demand and to reduce youth pitch shortfalls.				M	S	L	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality senior pitches with spare capacity that is discounted due to school usage.	Retain as community available should club demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Four standard quality artificial courts that are available for community use and floodlit.	Explore opportunities to maximise use given quantity of courts and presence of floodlighting.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Four standard quality artificial courts that are available for community use and floodlit.	Explore opportunities to maximise use given quantity of courts and presence of floodlighting.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
150	Ufford Recreation Ground	IP13 6BF	Football	Parish Council	One standard adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality to ensure demand can be accommodated.	Parish FA	Local site	L	L	L	Protect
			Tennis		One standard quality, floodlit macadam court that is used by Ufford TC. The Club is currently operating with only six members meaning the future of the Club is uncertain. Ancillary provision has been identified as poor quality.	Seek to improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish LTA		M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Ensure the Club remains sustainable through increasing its membership.			M	S	L	
						Support aspirations to improve ancillary facility offer.			L	S	M	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
159	Wickham Market Primary School	IP13 0RP	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Netball		Two standard quality macadam courts with no floodlights and no community access.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
160	Wickham Market Village Hall Playing Field	IP13 0HE	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality as standard to ensure demand can continue to be accommodate and sustained without overplay being created.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Bowls		One good quality green used by Wickham Market BC.	Sustain green quality.	Parish Bowls England		L	L	L	
168	Yoxford Cricket Club	IP17 3HL	Cricket	Club	One standard quality square with eight grass wickets and one NTP. The site has no spare capacity at peak time for any format of play, whilst the Club also wants practice nets installed.	Improve square quality to better accommodate demand.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
						Provide practice facilities.			M	S	M	
			Bowls		One good quality green owned and used by Yoxford BC.	Sustain green quality.	Club Bowls England		L	L	L	
172	Framlingham College Prep School	IP13 7AH	Cricket	School	Four squares, two of which are good quality and two of which are standard. Used as a secondary venue by Easton CC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	School ECB	Key Centre	M	L	L	Protect Provide
						Seek to provide greater security of tenure for Easton CC via a community use agreement.			M	S	L	
			Tennis		Six floodlit standard quality macadam courts and an additional two, non-floodlit courts. All courts are unavailable for community use.	Explore and community use options given the quantity of courts provided.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Four floodlit standard quality macadam courts and an additional two non-floodlit macadam courts. All of the courts are readily available for community use.	Seek to provide greater security of tenure for users via the establishment of a community use agreement.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
181	Yoxford Village Hall	IP17 3HN	Tennis	Parish Council	Two standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are used by Yoxford TC.	Seek to improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball		One standard quality, floodlit, court that is available for community use.	Seek to improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish England Netball		M	S	L	Protect Enhance
188	Bedfield & Monk Soham Tennis Club	IP13 7JE	Tennis	Parish Council	One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam court that is used by Bedfield & Monk Soham TC and is available for community use.	Seek to improve quality to better accommodate demand and explore floodlighting potential.	Parish LTA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
192	Ash Park	IP13 0QB	Cricket	Club	One good quality square with six grass wickets. The site has potential spare capacity for junior demand but is played to capacity at peak time for senior cricket on both Saturdays and Sundays.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club ECB	Local	L	L	L	Protect



**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
200	Framlingham Castle	IP13 9BP	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green that is owned by the Club. The site currently has 63 members, meaning the Club is operating above the recommended capacity threshold.	Sustain green quality. Ensure the Club's demand can continue to be accommodated despite high membership.	Club Bowls England	Local	L L	L L	L L	Protect
201	Sweffling Bowls Club	IP17 2BN	Bowls	Private	One standard quality bowling green used by Sweffling BC. The Club leases the green from a private landowner but is unsure as to how long is left on the agreement. The site is serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve green quality and ancillary provision to better accommodate demand. Review lease arrangement and pursue extension if less than 25 years remain.	Bowls England	Local	M M	S S	L L	Protect Enhance
212	Red Triangle Bowls Club	IP13 0SA	Bowls	Private	One good quality bowling green used by Red Triangle BC. The Club currently have 19 members which is below the recommended capacity threshold. It has plans to build an extension to its clubhouse in order to provide a kitchen and storage space, with the existing facility considered too small.	Sustain green quality. Ensure club remains sustainable through increasing membership levels. Support the Club in its aspirations to improve the sites clubhouse.	Bowls England	Local	L M L	L L S	L L M	Protect Enhance
213	The White Horse Badingham	IP13 8JR	Bowls	Private	One standard quality bowling green used by Badingham BC.	Improve green quality and to better accommodate demand and pursue improved security of tenure given private nature of the site.	Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
240	Kingfishers at Cretingham	IP13 7BA	Golf	Private	A 9-hole proprietary course with ten floodlit driving range bays that are available on a pay to play basis. The Club has 318 members.	Retain course given large membership base and localised importance of the driving range.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect
249	Gleivering Mill Golf Course	IP13 0EY	Golf	Private	A 9-hole proprietary course. Information regarding membership and usage is unknown.	Further explore demand in relation to the site to better understand its local importance.	England Golf	Local	L	L	L	Protect
250	Hatcheston Village Hall	IP13 0DW	Pétanque	Community	One Pétanque terrain used by Hacheston Hi-Jack-Ers.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
253	The Glenham Crown	IP17 2DA	Pétanque	Private	One Pétanque terrain used by Bob's Mob.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
254	The Railway Inn	IP13 9EA	Pétanque	Private	One Pétanque terrain used by Fram Shutters and Fram Loco's.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
258	Framlingham Pageant Field	IP13 9HS	Pétanque	Town Council	One pétanque terrain.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Town Council Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## AREA 6 (KESGRAVE, RUSHMERE ST ANDREW, MARTLESHAM, CARLFORD & FLYNN VALLEY)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
16	Birchwood Primary School	NR32 4PZ	Netball	School	One standard quality, non-floodlit, court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
22	Bredfield Village Hall	IP13 6AX	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality youth 11v11 pitch with spare capacity at peak time.	Utilise actual capacity via demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Tennis		Two poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts.	Improve quality to better accommodate recreational demand and explore floodlighting opportunities.	Parish LTA		M	S	L	
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green that is used by Bredfield BC. The Club reports an intention to enhance the interior of the clubhouse, although states that external funding will likely be required to facilitate this.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Parish Bowls England		L	L	L	
						Support the Club in its aspirations to improve the clubhouse.			L	S	L	
23	Broke Hall Community Primary School	IP4 5XD	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 7v7 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
31	Cedarwood Primary School	IP5 2ES	Football	School	A poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality to better accommodate curricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		A 30x18 metre non-floodlit pitch that is available for community use.	Explore potential of floodlighting the pitch to better accommodate recreational usage.			L	L	L	
32	Charsfield Recreation Ground	IP13 7PX	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality to ensure no future overplay.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Tennis		Two poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are used by Charsfield TC.	Improve quality to better accommodate club demand and explore floodlighting opportunities.	Parish LTA		M	S	M	
			Netball		A poor quality, non-floodlit, macadam court.	Improve quality.	Parish England Netball		L	S	M	
33	Civil Service Sports Ground	IP10 0AU	Football	Private	Disused football provision.	Explore options to bring supply back into use to relieve local shortfalls and ensure any permanent loss meet Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4).	FA	Local	L	S	M	Provide
56	Grundisburgh Playing Field	IP13 6TJ	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality to ensure no future overplay.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Tennis		Three poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are used by Grundisburgh TC. The Club is operating over the site's recommended capacity.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and explore floodlighting opportunities to lessen capacity issues.	Parish LTA		M	S	M	
						Explore options to provide the Club with increased court space to fully alleviate capacity issues.			M	S	M	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
57	Grundisburgh Primary School	IP13 6XH	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
60	Heath Primary School	IP5 1JG	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch played to capacity at peak time.	No local demand; improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball		One standard quality, non-floodlit, macadam court that is not available for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
69	Ipswich School Sports Centre	IP5 1DE	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity.	Ensure no additional usage without quality improvements to avoid future overplay.	School FA	Hub site	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Hockey		Three good quality full size pitches, with priority access given to Ipswich East Suffolk HC. The Club has plans to develop its clubhouse by means of providing a spectator viewing area.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	School EH		H	S	L	
						Ensure sinking funds are in place for long-term sustainability and protect all pitches as hockey suitable.			H	L	L	
						Support the Club in its ancillary facility aspirations.			H	S	M	
			Tennis		Six standard quality macadam courts, four of which are floodlit. The site is open to community use.	Seek to improve courts to better accommodate demand and explore opportunities to maximise community use.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Six macadam courts that are available to community use, four of which are floodlit. The site is used by Ipswich Ladies Netball Club.	Ensure Ipswich Ladies Netball Club is provided with security of tenure via a community use agreement.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
70	Ipswich Town Football Club's Training Ground	IP4 5RG	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued professional club usage.	Club FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			3G		A full size floodlit pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for continued professional club usage.			L	L	L	
71	Gorseland Primary School	IP12 2GT	Hockey	School	A 36x18 metre floodlit pitch with no community access.	Explore community use options with the School to accommodate any recreational demand that may exist in the area.	School EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect Provide
73	Kesgrave Community Centre	IP5 1JF	Football	Community	Two standard quality adult pitches that are overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay or transfer some demand.	FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		Identified as a potential site for a full size 3G pitch in the LFFP, as an either/or option with Kesgrave High School.	Explore option of providing a pitch against proposal at Kesgrave High School.			H	S	H	
			Cricket		One good quality square with 12 grass wickets and an accompanying NTP. The site has no additional capacity at peak time for any format of play.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB		M	L	L	
			Tennis		Four good quality macadam courts and two non-floodlit artificial courts. The site is used by Kesgrave TC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	LTA		M	L	L	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim						
74	Kesgrave High School	IP5 2PB	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch, all of which are overplayed. Identified for grass pitch and ancillary facility improvements in the LFFP.	Improve pitch quality to reduce overplay and seek the transfer of some demand to fully eradicate it. Improve ancillary provision.	School FA	Hub site	H	S	M	Protect Enhance						
			3G		One standard quality full size pitch that is available for community use. FA approved to host competitive matches. Identified as a potential site for another full size 3G pitch in the LFFP, as an either/or option with Kesgrave High School.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability. Seek FA testing every three years so that the pitch can be used for competitive matches and seek to maximise use for this purpose. Explore option of providing an additional pitch.			H	S	M							
					Cricket	A poor quality standalone NTP.			Replace strip to provide for curricular needs.	School ECB	M		S	L				
						Rugby union			One standard quality senior pitch that is available for community use but is not used.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L			
						Tennis			Four standard quality, floodlit artificial courts that are available for community use.	Explore options to improve quality to better accommodate usage and explore opportunities to increase community demand.	School LTA		M	S	M			
			Netball		Three standard quality, non-floodlit artificial courts that are available for community use.	Explore options to improve quality to better accommodate usage.	School England Netball		M	S	M							
			90		Martlesham Heath Green	IP5 3SH	Football		Parish Council	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch. Poor quality; the youth 9v9 pitch overplayed.	Improve pitch quality to eradicate overplay.		Parish FA	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
							Cricket			One standard quality square with six grass wickets and an NTP. Currently unused.	Through discussions with the ECB and Suffolk Cricket, determine whether cricket provision is surplus to requirements and, if confirmed, consider re-configuration to meet other sporting needs providing that the cricket provision can be re-established should the need arise.		Parish ECB		M	S	L	
			91		Martlesham Primary Academy	IP12 4SS	Football		School	A poor quality 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Improve quality to better cater for curricular demand.		School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
							Netball			A standard quality, non-floodlit macadam court that is not available for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.		School England Netball		L	L	L	
92	Martlesham Recreation Ground	IP12 4RF	Football	Parish Council	A standard quality adult pitch that has spare capacity at peak time.	Utilise actual capacity through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect						
			Bowls		One good quality green that is used by Martlesham BC. A temporary structure is presently used for changing.	Sustain green quality. Support the Club with its plans to improve ancillary provision.	Parish Bowls England		L	L	L							
					Pétanque	One pétanque terrain.			Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Parish Pétanque Alliance	M		S	M				
														L	L	L		

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
95	Millennium Sports Ground	IP5 2EN	Football	Parish Council	Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed. The site has been identified as requiring a new build clubhouse in the LFFP as well as grass pitch improvements.	Improve pitch quality to eradicate overplay. Provide a new clubhouse.	Parish FA	Local	M M	S S	L H	Protect Enhance
104	Kesgrave War Memorial Community Centre	IP6 9NT	Hockey	Community	One 36x32 metre pitch with no floodlights	Retain for continued recreational activity.	EH	Local	L	L	L	Protect
122	SEH Sports & Social Club	IP4 3PZ	Football	Club	Two good quality adult pitches that are played to capacity at peak time by Wanderers FC..	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
138	Suffolk Constabulary Ground	IP5 3QY	Football	Private	Two good adult pitches that are unavailable for community use. A planning application has been submitted that proposes the loss of the provision, with no replacement put forward.	Ensure any loss of provision meets Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4).	FA LTA England Netball Bowls England	Key centre	H	S	L	Protect
			Tennis		Two standard, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community access. A planning application has been submitted that proposes the loss of the provision, with no replacement put forward.							
			Netball		Two standard quality, non-floodlit, macadam courts that are not available for community access. A planning application has been submitted that proposes the loss of the provision, with no replacement put forward.							
			Bowls		One standard quality green. A planning application has been submitted that proposes the loss of the provision, with no replacement put forward.							
143	Swilland & Winesham Playing Field	IP6 9EX	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are a standard quality and played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality to ensure demand can continue to be accommodated without overplay being expressed.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
167	YM Sports Ground	IP5 1DG	Rugby union	Ipswich Borough Council	Three good quality senior pitches that are available for community use. Two are floodlit and overplayed due to match and training demand from Ipswich YM RUFC whilst the remaining pitch has spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore opportunities to further enhance quality to reduce overplay. Explore floodlighting of third pitch to allow for training demand to be more evenly spread out. To fully eradicate overplay, provide the Club with access to a greater number of pitches or secure use of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.	Ipswich Council Club RFU	Key centre	M M M	S S M	M M M	Protect Enhance Provide



**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
174	Adastral Park	IP5 3RE	Tennis	Club	Three good quality macadam courts, two of which are floodlit. The site is used by Adastral Park TC whose membership figures are currently unknown.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and consider over marking netball courts given localised demand.	Club LTA England Netball	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
184	Humber Doucy Lane	IP4 3PZ	Rugby union	Ipswich Borough Council	Five senior pitches all of which are a good quality. Two are floodlit, with one at capacity and the other considerably overplayed. The remaining three pitches have spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore opportunities to further enhance quality to reduce overplay.	Council RFU	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
						Explore floodlighting of additional pitches to allow for training demand to be more evenly spread out to fully eradicate overplay.			M	S	M	
198	Bealings Bowls Club	IP13 6LH	Bowls	Private	One standard quality bowling green used by Bealings BC. The Club rents the green from a private landowner on an annual basis.	Improve quality to good to better accommodate demand.	Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Pursue improve security of tenure for the Club.			M	S	L	
199	Earl Soham Bowls Club	IP13 7SA	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green that is used by Earl Soham BC.	Sustain green quality.	Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
211	Otley Bowls Club	IP6 9NP	Bowls	Club	One standard quality bowling serviced by poor quality ancillary facilities.	Improve green and ancillary facility quality to better accommodate demand.	Bowls England	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
226	The Chequers Public House	IP15 5PP	Pétanque	Private	One Pétanque terrain used by two clubs; Kettleburgh and Kettleburgh Bells.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
229	The Cretingham Bell	IP13 7BJ	Pétanque	Private	This site features one Pétanque terrain.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
233	Seckford Golf Club	IP13 6NT	Golf	Club	An 18-hole members course with 10 non-floodlit driving range bays that are available on a pay and play basis. The Club has 310 members, which is a 6.89% increase from 2015.	Retain course given large membership base and localised importance of the driving range.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect
235	Fynn Valley Golf Club	IP6 9JA	Croquet	Private	Two good quality lawns used by Ipswich Croquet Club for its 46 members. The Club as plans to relocate to Trinity Park, where two lawns are provided.	Explore future use options should Ipswich Croquet vacate the site.	Croquet Association	Local	M	S	L	Protect
			Golf	Private	An 18-hole proprietary course with 20 floodlit driving range bays that are available on a pay and play basis. The site has 461 members, which is a 10.55% increase from 2015.	Retain course given large membership base and localised importance of the driving range.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect
241	Ipswich Golf Club	IP3 8UQ	Golf	Members	One 18-hole members course with an additional 9-hole course also provided. The site currently has 644 members.	Retain course given large membership base and localised importance of the driving range.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect
255	The Railway Westerfield	IP6 9AA	Pétanque	Private	One Pétanque terrain used by Les Boulistes Deux.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
-	The Hollies Sports Centre and Social Club	IP10 0FN	Football	Unknown	A planning application has been submitted for the relocation of AFC Kesgrave to the site in order to consolidate all of the Club's demand to one site. Three youth 11v11, two youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch are proposed to be marked out, as well as the development of changing facilities.	Support proposals in order to better provide for AFC Kesgrave and to reduce pitch shortfalls in the area.	FA Club	Key centre	M	S	H	Protect Provide Enhance
						Carry out a detailed assessment of the land to ensure pitches can be provided to an adequate, sustainable quality.			M	S	L	
						Ensure pitch layout best provides for demand and ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are established.			M	S	L	



# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

## AREA 7 (LOWESTOFT & NORTHERN PARISHES)

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
6	Barnards Soccer Centre	NR32 2HF	3G	Leisure Trust	A poor quality full size floodlit pitch. FA approved to host competitive matches following recent accreditation. Identified as a potential option for an additional pitch in the LFFP.	Resurface pitch in order to sustain usage and ensure a sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment and long-term sustainability.	Trust FA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
						Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch remains suitable for match play purposes and seek to maximise use for this purpose.			H	M	L	
						Explore option of providing an additional pitch against proposals at Benjamin Britten High School and Dip Farm Playing Fields.			M	M	H	
15	Benjamin Britten High School	NR32 4PZ	Football	School	Four poor quality adult pitches and one poor quality 9v9 pitch that are all played to capacity through school use only.	Improve pitch quality to provide capacity to the community.	School FA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
			3G		Identified as a potential option for a full size pitch in the LFFP.	Explore option of providing a pitch against proposals at Barnards Soccer Centre and Dip Farm Playing Fields.			M	M	H	
			Rugby union		One poor quality pitch that has spare capacity discounted due to school usage and poor quality.	Improve pitch quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School RFU		L	S	L	
			Tennis		Four poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Improve quality and then explore community use options given quantity of provision provided.	School LTA		M	S	M	
			Netball		Four poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Improve quality and then explore community use options given quantity of provision provided.	School England Netball		M	S	M	
18	Blundeston Village Hall	NR32 5AH	Tennis	Parish Council	One poor quality, non-floodlit macadam court.	Improve quality to better accommodate recreational demand.	Parish LTA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
			Netball		One poor quality, non-floodlit macadam court.	Improve quality to better accommodate recreational demand.	Parish England Netball		L	L	L	
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green that is used by Blundeston BC.	Sustain green quality.	Parish Bowls England		L	L	L	
35	Corton Playing Fields	NR32 5JB	Football	Parish Council	One adult, one youth 11v11, one youth 9v9 and one mini 7v7 pitch, all standard quality. The adult and youth 9v9 pitches are played to capacity, whilst the 11v11 and 7v7 pitches are at capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality to ensure no future overplay.	Parish FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
37	Denes Oval	NR32 IUY	Cricket	Town Council	One good quality square with 15 grass wickets and an NTP. The site has spare capacity on Sundays and during midweek but is played to capacity on Saturdays. It is identified as having basic, dated ancillary provision.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Town Council ECB	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
						Improve ancillary facilities.			M	S	M	
			Tennis		Four standard quality and four poor quality macadam courts used by Lowestoft TC. All eight courts are non-floodlit and available for community use.	Improve court quality to better accommodate demand and explore floodlighting opportunities to increase capacity.	Town Council LTA		M	S	M	
						Consider as a strategic site/area for the creation of indoor provision.			M	S	M	
39	Dip Farm Playing Fields	NR32 4LD	Football	District Council	One adult, one youth 11v11 and one youth 9v9 pitch all of standard quality. All three are overplayed. Identified for grass pitch and ancillary facility improvements in the LFFP.	Improve pitch quality in line with LFFP recommendations to eradicate overplay.	District Council FA	Key centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
						Improve ancillary provision.			H	S	M	
			3G		Identified as a potential option for a full size pitch in the LFFP.	Explore option of providing a pitch against proposals at Barnards Soccer Centre and Benjamin Britten High School.			M	M	H	
40	East Point Academy	NR33 0UQ	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Provide security of tenure for club users via a community use agreement to provide actual spare capacity.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect
			Cricket		One standard quality square with an NTP.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School ECB		L	L	L	
			Rugby union		One standard quality senior pitch with potential spare capacity that has been discounted due to school usage.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Hockey		One standard quality, floodlit, full size pitch. The site is used by East Coast HC for training and matches.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future long-term sustainability.	School EH		H	M	L	
						Pursue greater security of tenure for East Coast HC via the creation of a community use agreement.			H	S	L	
						Explore future use by Beccles HC in order to bring exported demand back into the District.			M	S	L	
			Tennis		Six standard quality, floodlit artificial courts that are available for community use.	Explore options to maximise use given the quantity of courts provided and the presence of floodlighting.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Four standard quality, floodlit artificial courts that are available for community usage.	Explore options to maximise community use given the quantity of courts provided and the presence of floodlighting.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
44	Elm Tree Primary School	NR33 9HN	Football	School	One adult pitch and one youth 9v9 pitch, both standard quality with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to provide club users with security of tenure via the creation of a community use agreement.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
68	Inspire Suffolk Colville House	NR33 9NB	Netball	Trust	One good quality artificial court that is floodlit.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	England Netball	Local	M	L	L	Protect
79	Kirkley & Pakefield Sports Club	NR33 7LE	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch that is overplayed and three standard quality youth 11v11 and two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches that are played to capacity. Identified for grass pitch improvements in the LFFP.	Improve quality and transfer some demand to a site with actual spare capacity to eradicate overplay (or to the on-site 3G pitch).	Club FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect
			3G		A standard quality full size, floodlit pitch. FA approved to host competitive matches.	Ensure a sinking fund is in place for future refurbishment.			M	M	L	
						Ensure FA testing every three years so that the pitch remains suitable for match play purposes and seek to maximise use for this purpose.			M	M	L	
87	Lowestoft & Yarmouth Rugby Club	NR32 5HE	Cricket	Club	One standard square with eight grass wickets. Currently unused. The Club has plans to relocate, with the site allocated for housing.	Through discussions with the ECB and Suffolk Cricket, determine whether cricket is required as part of the proposed relocation given lack of demand.	Club ECB	Key centre	M	M	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Rugby union		Three poor quality senior pitches, one of which is floodlit. The site has issues with drainage being inadequate meaning that waterlogging is a frequent problem. One pitch is considerably overplayed due to match and training demand, whilst the remaining two pitches are also overplayed due to match demand. The Club has plans to relocate, with the site allocated for housing.	Ensure replacement provision is provided in line with Sport England's Playing Field Policy.	Club RFU England Netball		H	M	H	
						To alleviate overplay as part of the relocation, provide the Club with five good quality grass pitches, with two floodlit, or a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch and three grass pitches.			H	M	H	
						Ensure appropriate ancillary facilities are provided.			H	M	M	
						Explore partnership with other sports clubs to make the relocation more viable (e.g. netball).			M	M	M	
88	Lowestoft Town Football Club	NR32 2PA	Football	Club	One good quality adult pitch played to capacity at peak time.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and ensure the Club can progress through the pyramid.	Club FA	Local	M	L	L	Protect
98	Normanston Park	NR32 2QB	Football	Town Council	Two poor quality adult pitches that are overplayed and one poor quality 9v9 pitch with spare capacity discounted.	Improve pitch quality to alleviate overplay and to provide actual spare capacity.	Town Council FA	Key Centre	H	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		Two good quality squares each with six wickets. Currently unused.	Through discussions with the ECB and Suffolk Cricket, determine whether cricket provision is surplus to requirements and, if confirmed, consider re-configuration to meet other sporting needs providing that the cricket provision can be re-established should the need arise.	Town Council ECB		M	S	L	
			Tennis		Six poor quality, non-floodlit artificial courts that are available for community use.	Improve court quality and explore floodlighting potential to attract increased recreational demand	Town Council LTA		M	S	M	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
99	Northfield St Nicholas Academy	NR32 4HN	Football	School	One poor quality mini 5v5 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular activity.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
102	Ormiston Denes Academy	NR32 4AH	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity at peak time and one standard quality youth 9v9 pitch with spare capacity.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	School FA	Key centre	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
			3G		A 60x40 metre floodlit pitch that is available for community use.	Retain for recreational demand and explore opportunities for usage for mini football.			L	L	L	
			Rugby union		One standard quality senior pitch with spare capacity discounted due to school usage.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Six standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are unavailable for community use.	Explore community use aspects and floodlighting opportunities with the School given quantity of courts provided.	School LTA		M	S	M	
			Netball		Four standard quality, overmarked non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community use.	Explore community use aspects and floodlighting opportunities with the School given quantity of courts provided.	School England Netball		M	S	M	
105	Oulton Broad Primary School	NR32 3JX	Netball	School	One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
106	Oulton Recreation Ground	NR32 3AZ	Football	District Council	One poor quality 11v11 pitch with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality.	Improve pitch quality to provide actual spare capacity.	District Council FA	Local	M	L	L	Protect Enhance
107	Pakefield High School	NR33 7AQ	Football	School	Two poor quality adult pitches that are unavailable for community use.	Improve pitch quality and explore community use options with the School.	School FA	Key Centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Tennis		One good quality, floodlit macadam tennis court that is not available for community access.	Explore community use options with the School given the quality of the provision.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		One good quality, floodlit macadam court that is not available for community use.	Explore community use options with the School given the quality of the provision.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
109	Pakefield Primary School	NR33 7AQ	Football	School	One standard quality 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Rugby union		One poor quality junior pitch that is not available for community use.	No local demand; retain and explore improvement opportunities for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Netball		One poor quality, macadam court that is unavailable for community use.	Explore opportunities to improve quality for curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
111	Poplars Primary School	NR32 4HN	Netball	School	One standard quality, non-floodlit court that is not available for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use	School England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
113	Red Oak Primary School	NR33 0RZ	Football	School	A mini 7v7 and a mini 5v5 pitch, both of which are unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
118	Saturn Close Sports Ground	NR32 4PW	Football	Town Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity. Ancillary provision has been identified as in need of improvement in the LFFP.	Ensure no additional usage without quality improvements to avoid future overplay.	Town Council School	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Improve ancillary provision and increase the number of changing rooms as part of this.			M	S	M	
127	Somerleyton Playing Field	NR32 5QL	Cricket	Parish Council	One standard quality square with eight grass wickets. The site has spare capacity for all formats of play. The ancillary provision on this site has been identified as poor quality and additional practice nets are required.	Seek to improve square quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Improve ancillary provision and practice facilities.			M			S	M		
			Tennis		One standard quality macadam court that is without floodlights.	Explore opportunities to improve quality to better accommodate recreational demand, including the potential provision of floodlights.	Parish LTA		L	S	L	
136	St Mary's Roman Catholic Primary School	NR33 0DG	Football	School	Two standard quality mini 5v5 pitches that are unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
141	Swanton Herons Football Club	NR33 0TP	Football	Club	Disused football provision.	Explore options to bring supply back into use to relieve local shortfalls and ensure any permanent loss meet Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4).	FA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Provide
144	The Ashley School Academy Trust	NR32 4EU	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Rugby union		One standard quality junior pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School RFU		L	L	L	
154	Warren School	NR33 8HT	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options with the School given local shortfalls of pitch type.	School FA	Local	L	S	L	Protect Provide
155	Waterlane Leisure Centre	NR32 2NH	Hockey	District Council	One 35x18 metre floodlit pitch.	Retain for continued recreational usage.	EH	Council Local	L	L	L	Protect
158	Westwood Primary School	NR33 9RR	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
178	Kensington Gardens	NR33 0HY	Tennis	Town Council	Four poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and explore floodlighting options to attract increased recreational activity.	Town Council LTA	Key Centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green used by Kensington Gardens BC.	Sustain quality.	Town Council Bowls England		M	L	L	
183	Nicholas Everitt Park	NR33 9JR	Tennis	Parish Council	Four standard quality, floodlit macadam courts that are available for community use and is used by Waveney TC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish LTA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance



**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL  
PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Bowls		One standard quality bowling green used by Oulton Broad BC. Access to the pavilion has not been allowed following the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand and seek resolution to the ancillary facility access issues.	Parish Bowls England		M	S	L	
210	Lowestoft Railway Social Club	NR33 0LZ	Bowls	Private	One good quality bowling green used by Lowestoft Railway BC.	Sustain quality.	Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
214	Sparrows Nest Bowls Club	NR32 1XG	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green used by Sparrows Nest BC.	Sustain quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
215	Waveney Bowls Club	NR32 5DW	Bowls	Club	One standard quality bowling green used by Waveney BC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Club Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
216	Somerleyton Bowls Club	NR32 5DQ	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green used by Somerleyton BC.	Sustain quality.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
-	Oakes Farm	-	3G	District Council	Identified in the LFFP as a preferred site for the creation of a full size 3G pitch as part of a particularly large housing allocation.	Develop a 3G pitch, potentially as part of a wider hub site that also accommodates other sports such as athletics.	District Council FA England Athletics	Hub site	H	L	H	Provide
-	Corton Bowling Club	NR32 5AD	Bowls	Parish	A disused bowling green.	Explore local demand and ensure any permanent loss meets Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4), potentially via provision for other sports.	Parish Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
-	Lound Bowling Club	NR32 5II	Bowls	Parish	A disused bowling green.	Explore local demand and ensure any permanent loss meets Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4), potentially via provision for other sports.	Parish Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect

**AREA 8 (MELTON, WOODBRIDGE & DEBEN PENINSULA)**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
3	Alderton Recreation Ground	IP12 3BZ	Football	Parish Council	Disused football provision.	Explore options to bring supply back into use to relieve local shortfalls and ensure any permanent loss meet Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4).	Parish FA	Local	L	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
			Bowls		One standard quality bowling green used by Alderton BC.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Parish Bowls England		M	S	L	
8	Bawdsey Primary School	IP12 3AR	Football	School	One poor quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain and improve for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect Enhance
9	Bawdsey Recreation Ground	IP12 3AH	Tennis	Parish Council	Two poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts.	Improve quality to better accommodate recreational demand, including the exploration of floodlighting.	Parish LTA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Netball		One poor quality, non-floodlit court.	Improve quality.	Parish England Netball		M	S	M	
17	Blaxhall Playing Field	IP12 2DH	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
47	Farlingaye High School	IP12 4JX	Football	School	One standard quality adult pitch that is played to capacity and two standard quality youth 9v9 pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to provide users with security of tenure via the creation of a community use agreement.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
			Cricket		One square with a standalone NTP.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular use.	School ECB		L	L	L	
			Rugby union		Two standard quality senior pitches that are available for community use, with spare capacity discounted due to school usage.	Retain as community available should demand exist in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Six poor quality, floodlit, artificial courts with no community use.	Improve court quality and then re-examine community use aspects with the School given quantity of courts and presence of floodlighting.	School LTA		M	S	M	
			Netball		Four poor quality, floodlit, artificial courts that are unavailable for community use.	Improve court quality and then re-examine community use aspects with the School given quantity of courts and presence of floodlighting.	School England Netball		M	S	M	
62	HMP Hollesley Bay Colony	IP12 3JW	Football	Private	One standard adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued private use.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Tennis		Two standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are unavailable to the community.	Retain for continued private use.	LTA		L	L	L	



**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
63	HMP Warren Hill	IP12 3BF	Football	Private	One standard quality adult pitch and one standard quality 7v7 pitch that are unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued private use.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
65	Hollesley Village Playing Field	IP12 3QR	Football	Parish Council	One poor quality adult pitch with spare capacity discounted due to poor quality, and one poor quality 9v9 pitch that is overplayed.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay and to provide actual spare capacity	Parish FA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
			Bowls		One good quality bowling green used by Hollesley BC.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Parish Bowls England		L	L	L	
71	Jubilee Park	IP12 2GT	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch that is overplayed.	Improve quality to alleviate overplay.	Parish FA	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
78	Kingston Playing Field	IP12 4BA	Football	Town Council	One youth 9v9, one mini 7v7 and one mini 5v5 pitch, all of which are standard quality and played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality to ensure no future overplay.	Town Council FA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Provide
			Cricket		One standard quality square with an NTP.	Sustain quality for recreational demand.	Town Council ECB		M	L	L	
			Tennis		Six good quality, floodlit macadam courts that are used by Woodbridge TC. The site is currently operating over recommended capacity, with 191 members.	Sustain court quality through appropriate maintenance.	Town Council LTA		M	L	L	
						Explore options to provide Woodbridge TC with access to more court space to relieve capacity issues.			M	S	L	
			Pétanque		One pétanque terrain.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Town Council Pétanque Alliance		L	L	L	
93	Melton Recreation Ground	IP12 1NZ	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity at peak time and one standard quality 9v9 pitch played to capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Hockey		One 31x16 metre, non-floodlit pitch.	Retain for continue recreational demand.	Parish EH		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Two standard quality, non-floodlit macadam courts.	Seek quality improvements to better accommodate demand explore floodlighting options to increase recreational demand.	Parish LTA		L	S	L	
101	Orford Recreation Ground	IP12 2LX	Football	Parish Council	Two standard quality adult pitches with spare capacity at peak time	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect Enhance
			Tennis		Two poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts used by Orford TC.	Seek quality improvements to better accommodate demand explore floodlighting options to increase potential capacity.	Parish LTA		M	S	L	
114	Rendlesham Primary School	IP12 2GF	Football	School	One standard quality mini 7v7 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	No local demand; retain and for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Netball		One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam court.	retain and for curricular and extra-curricular use.	School LTA		L	L	L	

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
117	Rock Barracks	IP12 3LU	Football	MOD	One standard adult pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Retain for continued private use.	FA	Local	L	L	L	Protect
			Rugby union		One standard senior pitch that is not available for community use.	Retain for continued private use.	RFU		L	L	L	
			Hockey		A full size pitch that is generally reserved for private use.	Retain for continued private use.	EH		L	L	L	
132	St Audrys Sports & Social Club	IP12 1LX	Football	Club	Two standard quality adult pitches played to capacity at peak time.	As a minimum, sustain quality to ensure no future overplay.	Club FA	Key centre	M	L	L	Protect Enhance Provide
			Cricket		One good quality square with 13 grass wickets. Significantly overplayed through use by Melton Achilles Youth CC and Melton St Audry's CC, with having aspirations for nets to be provided.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club ECB		M	L	L	
						Install an NTP to relieve capacity issues and explore opportunities to provide users with access to a secondary venue.			H	S	L	
						Install practice nets.			M	S	L	
135	St Mary's Primary School	IP12 4JJ	Football	School	One standard quality youth 9v9 pitch that is unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options with the School given local shortfalls.	School FA	Local	M	S	L	Protect Provide
140	Sutton Recreation Ground	IP12 3JQ	Bowls	Community	One standard quality green, leased by Sutton BC. The Club is currently operating below the recommended capacity guidelines.	Improve quality to better accommodate demand.	Bowls England	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
						Ensure the Club remains sustainable despite its low membership base through attracting increased demand.			M	S	L	
149	Tunstall Playing Field	IP12 2JB	Football	Parish Council	One standard quality adult pitch with spare capacity at peak time.	Seek to utilise actual capacity via the transfer of demand from overplayed sites or through future demand.	Parish FA	Local	L	M	L	Protect
			Netball		One standard quality, non-floodlit macadam court.	Ensure appropriate maintenance to, as a minimum, sustain quality.	Parish England Netball	Local	L	L	L	Protect
161	Woodbridge Rugby Club	IP12 2PP	Rugby union	Club	Three good quality senior pitches, two of which are floodlit. One is played to capacity due to match usage and occasional training demand, whilst the other is considerably overplayed. The non-floodlit pitch has minimal spare capacity.	Sustain quality through appropriate maintenance and explore opportunities to further enhance quality to reduce overplay.	Club RFU	Key centre	M	S	M	Protect Enhance Provide
						Explore floodlighting of third pitch to allow for training demand to be more evenly spread out.			M	S	M	
						To fully eradicate overplay, provide the Club with access to a greater number of pitches or secure use of a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch.			M	M	M	
162	Woodbridge School	IP12 4JH	Football	School	Two standard quality adult pitches with spare capacity discounted due to unsecure tenure.	Seek to provide club users with security of tenure via the creation of a community use agreement.	School FA	Key centre	M	S	L	Protect Enhance Provide

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
			Cricket		One good quality square with 11 grass wickets. Unavailable for community use.	Explore community use options with the School and the potential for the site to provide a secondary venue for any clubs in the locality with capacity issues.	School ECB		M	S	L	
			Rugby union		One standard quality, non-floodlit senior pitch with potential spare capacity that is discounted due to school usage.	Retain as community available should demand existing in the future.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Hockey		A full size pitch that was resurfaced in 2021 and is therefore good quality. Currently unused for hockey.	Explore potential future hockey demand via Ipswich East Suffolk HC given the quality of the pitch.	School EH		M	S	L	
						Ensure a sinking fund is in place for long-term sustainability.			M	L	L	
			Tennis		Three poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available to community use.	Improve quality and then re-examine community use aspects.	School LTA		M	S	L	
			Netball		Two poor quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available to the community.	Improve quality and then re-examine community use aspects.	School England Netball		M	S	L	
163	Woodbridge School Prep	IP12 1DS	Cricket	School	A good quality square with seven grass wickets but no community access.	Explore community use options with the School and the potential for the site to provide a secondary venue for any clubs in the locality with capacity issues.	School ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect
			Rugby union		One standard quality junior pitch that is not available to the community.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School RFU		L	L	L	
			Tennis		Two good quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community access.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School LTA		L	L	L	
			Netball		Two good quality, non-floodlit macadam courts that are not available for community access.	Retain for continued curricular and extra-curricular demand.	School England Netball		L	L	L	
164	Notcutts Park (Woodbridge Town Football Club)	IP12 4TT	Football	Private	Two standard quality adult pitches that are played to capacity. Woodbridge Town FC's lease will expire in 2024 with an additional extension not to be granted.	Relocate the Club to an alternative venue that meets all of its requirements and ensure any permanent loss meets Sport England's Playing Fields Policy (i.e. Exception 4).	FA	Key centre	H	S	H	Protect Enhance
			3G		A priority project in the LFFP is to provide Woodbridge Town FC with access to a 3G pitch.	Consider installation of a full size 3G pitch as part of any relocation of the Club.			H	S	H	
189	Sudbourne Hall	IP12 2AJ	Cricket	Private	One good quality square with 10 grass wickets and one NTP. Used by Sudbourne Hall CC although actual spare capacity existing for all formats of play.	Sustain pitch quality through appropriate maintenance.	ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect

**EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL**  
**PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY**

Site ID	Site	Postcode	Sport	Management	Current status	Recommended actions	Partners	Site hierarchy tier	Priority	Timescales	Cost	Aim
190	Worlingworth Cricket Club	IP13 7EF	Cricket	Club	A standard quality square with eight grass courts and one NTP. The site is overplayed.	Improve square quality to reduce overplay and transfer additional demand to on site NTP to fully eradicate it.	Club ECB	Local	M	S	L	Protect Enhance
191	Fishpond Meadows	IP12 4QX	Cricket	Private	One standard quality square with three grass wickets. The site has no spare capacity at peak time for any format of play and is serviced by poor quality ancillary and practice facilities.	Seek to improve pitch, practice and ancillary facility quality to better accommodate demand.	ECB	Local	M	S	M	Protect Enhance
195	Woodbridge Bowls Club	IP12 1BB	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green used by Woodbridge BC. The Club is currently operating over the recommended capacity guidelines.	Sustain green quality and ensure the Club remains provided for at the site despite its large membership base.	Club Bowls England	Local	M	L	L	Protect
196	Melton Bowls Club	IP12 1PE	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green used by Melton BC.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
197	Tunstall Bowls Club	IP12 2JE	Bowls	Club	One good quality bowling green used by Tunstall & District BC.	Sustain green quality through appropriate maintenance.	Club Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect
232	Woodbridge Golf Club	IP12 2PF	Golf	Club	A members club with an 18-hole course and a 9-hole course. The site has 684 members.	Retain course given large membership base and localised importance of the driving range.	Club England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect
239	Ufford Park Golf Club	IP12 1QW	Golf	Private	A proprietary facility with an 18-hole course and a 9-hole golf course as well as a 32-bay floodlit driving range. The site has 241 members which represents a 5.70% increase from 2015.	Retain provision.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect
244	St Audry's Golf Club	IP12 1SY	Golf	Members	A members 9-hole course with 157 members.	Ensure club remains sustainable given dwindling membership numbers.	England Golf	Local	M	L	L	Protect
256	Bromeswell Village Hall	IP12 2PZ	Pétanque	Community	One pétanque terrain used by Bromeswell.	Retain for continued pétanque use and ensure adequate quality.	Pétanque Alliance	Local	L	L	L	Protect
-	St Audry's Bowls Club	IP12 1TA	Bowls	Parish	A disused bowling green.	Explore local demand and ensure any permanent loss meets Sport England's Playing Field Policy (i.e. Exception 4), potentially via provision for other sports.	Parish Bowls England	Local	L	L	L	Protect

### PART 7: HOUSING GROWTH SCENARIOS

The PPOSS provides an estimate of future demand based on population forecasts and club consultation to 2036 (in line with the local plans for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney). For pitch sports, the Playing Pitch Calculator adds to this, updating the likely demand generated based on housing increases and converting this demand into match equivalent sessions and the potential number of pitches required. This is achieved by taking the current population and team generation rates identified in the Assessment Report to determine how many new teams would be generated from an increase in population derived from housing growth. It then gives the associated costs that may be required to accommodate the increased demand.

There is an expectation from Sport England that the Calculator should be used as a guide by local authorities with a robust PPOSS in place to determine demand increases and to secure developer contributions. As such, the scenarios below provide examples, based on proposed housing growth in East Suffolk, to better show how the Playing Pitch Calculator works and to help understand the potential additional demand for pitch sports that may be generated from housing growth in the District. This is in addition to potential associated costs.

Currently, the Playing Pitch Calculator is based on the former authorities of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, rather than East Suffolk as a whole. As such, the scenarios below have been run for both areas. The scenarios are as follows:

- ♦ **Scenario 1:** Overall outstanding housing growth during the Local Plan period.
- ♦ **Scenario 2:** Yearly housing growth target
- ♦ **Scenario 3:** A development of 100-dwellings (to show how the Calculator can work for single developments).

The demand is shown in match equivalent sessions per week for most sports, except for cricket, where match equivalent sessions are by season. Training demand is expressed in either hours or match equivalent sessions. Where expressed in hours, it is expected that demand will be to either a 3G pitch (to accommodate football demand) or an AGP (to accommodate hockey demand). Where expressed in match equivalent sessions, it is expected training will take place on floodlit grass pitches.

The indicative figures assume that population growth will average 2.4 people per dwelling, which is based on a national average.

#### ***Scenario 1: Overall outstanding housing growth during the Local Plan period***

The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan identifies a requirement for 9,756 new homes over the Local Period (2018-2036), equating to 542 new homes per year. For the period up to April 2021, completions figures show that a total of 1,761 have been delivered (which is 135 above the yearly target). This means an outstanding amount equating to 7,995 dwellings, resulting in a predicted growth of 19,188 people.

*Table 7.1: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from 7,995 dwellings (Suffolk Coastal)*

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 7,995 dwellings	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult football	5.34 per week	42.04 hours
Youth football	9.55 per week	
Mini soccer	6.13 per week	
Rugby union	2.73 per week	3.15 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00 per week	0.00 match equivalent sessions



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 7,995 dwellings	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult hockey	0.88 per week	2.63 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.48 per week	1.13 hours
Cricket	64.36 per season	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs (based on Sport England's Facility Cost Guidance). The total capital cost for accommodating the growth in demand equates to £3,455,776 for pitches and £5,570,319 for changing rooms. This is in addition to lifecycle costs of £503,582 per annum.

Table 7.2: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	5.34	£517,944	£109,286	10.86	£1,786,905
Youth football	9.55	£741,376	£155,689	11.62	£1,944,840
Mini soccer	6.13	£148,579	£31,202	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	2.73	£370,499	£79,287	5.46	£913,015
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	1.40	£400,536	£80,908	2.80	£468,424
Sand based AGPs	0.26	£209,062	£6,481	0.52	£86,899
3G	1.11	£1,067,781	£40,730	2.21	£370,235

For Waveney, the Local Plan identifies a requirement for 8,223 new homes over the Local Period (2014-2036), equating to 374 new homes per year. For the period up to April 2021, completions figures show that a total of 1,519 have been delivered (which is 1,099 below the yearly target). This means an outstanding amount equating to 6,704 dwellings, resulting in a predicted growth of 16,090 people.

Table 7.3: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from 6,074 dwellings (Waveney)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 6,074 dwellings	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult football	4.05 per week	32.42 hours
Youth football	7.38 per week	
Mini soccer	4.78 per week	
Rugby union	2.19 per week	2.51 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00 per week	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.67 per week	2.00 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.36 per week	0.87 hours
Cricket	48.63 per season	N/A

The table below translates estimated demand into new pitch provision with associated capital and lifestyle costs. The total capital cost for accommodating the growth in demand equates to £2,659,657 for pitches and £4,269,421 for changing rooms. This is in addition to lifecycle costs of £388,202 per annum.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 7.4: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost <sup>12</sup>	Lifecycle Cost (per annum) <sup>13</sup>	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	4.05	£393,159	£82,957	8.11	£1,356,339
Youth football	7.38	£572,611	£120,248	8.83	£1,477,501
Mini soccer	4.78	£115,898	£24,338	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	2.19	£297,700	£63,708	4.38	£733,618
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	1.05	£300,462	£60,693	2.10	£351,387
Sand based AGPs	0.19	£156,330	£4,846	0.39	£63,980
3G	0.85	£823,498	£31,412	1.71	£285,535

Combining the requirements in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, the total capital cost equals £6,115,433, whilst the changing room cost equals £9,839,740. The lifecycle cost equals £891,784 per annum.

This scenario identifies what the overall requirements may be over the Local Plan period. Whilst the facility requirements and costs are seemingly high, it must be remembered that this covers a long period of time and a large area. In reality, when the Calculator is used for specific developments, the majority will not require new provision in their own right, with contributions instead to be directed to improving existing playing pitch sites.

### Scenario 2: Yearly housing growth target

The yearly housing growth target in Suffolk Coastal is 542 new homes per year, equating to a population growth of 1,301 people.

Table 7.5: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from 542 dwellings (Suffolk Coastal)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 542 dwellings	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult football	0.36 per week	2.85 hours
Youth football	0.65 per week	
Mini soccer	0.42 per week	
Rugby union	0.18 per week	0.25 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00 per week	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.06 per week	0.18 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.03 per week	0.08 hours
Cricket	4.36 per season	N/A

The total capital cost for accommodating this growth in demand equates to £234,300 for pitches and £377,661 for changing rooms. This is in addition to lifecycle costs of £34,143 per annum.

<sup>12</sup> Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020 – (<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>)

<sup>13</sup> Lifecycle costs are based on the % of the total project cost per annum as set out in Sport England's Life Cycle Costs Natural Turf Pitches and Artificial Surfaces documents (2012)



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

Table 7.6: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.36	£35,120	£7,410	0.72	£121,163
Youth football	0.65	£50,260	£10,555	0.79	£131,842
Mini soccer	0.42	£10,074	£2,116	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.18	£25,119	£5,376	0.37	£61,902
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.09	£27,157	£5,486	0.19	£31,760
Sand based AGPs	0.02	£14,175	£439	0.04	£5,892
3G	0.08	£72,394	£2,761	0.15	£25,102

The yearly housing growth target in Waveney is 374 new homes per year, equating to a population growth of 898 people.

Table 7.7: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from 374 dwellings (Waveney)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 374 dwellings	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult football	0.23 per week	1.81 hours
Youth football	0.41 per week	
Mini soccer	0.27 per week	
Rugby union	0.12 per week	0.14 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00 per week	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.04 per week	0.11 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.02 per week	0.05 hours
Cricket	2.71 per season	N/A

The total capital cost for accommodating this growth in demand equates to £148,456 for pitches and £238,327 for changing rooms. This is in addition to lifecycle costs of £21,669 per annum.

Table 7.8: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.23	£21,945	£4,630	0.45	£75,710
Youth football	0.41	£31,964	£6,712	0.49	£82,492
Mini soccer	0.27	£6,469	£1,358	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.12	£16,616	£3,556	0.24	£40,947
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.06	£16,770	£3,388	0.12	£19,613
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£8,725	£270	0.02	£2,627
3G	0.05	£45,966	£1,753	0.10	£15,938

Combining the requirements in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, the total capital cost equals £382,756, whilst the changing room cost equals £615,988. The lifecycle cost equals £55,812 per annum.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### Scenario 3: A development of 100-dwellings

To show how the Calculator could work for a single development (or group of developments), the population growth from 100 dwellings would equate to 240 people. The impact in Suffolk Coastal is shown below.

Table 7.9: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from 100 dwellings (Suffolk Coastal)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 100 dwellings	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult football	0.07 per week	0.53 hours
Youth football	0.12 per week	
Mini soccer	0.08 per week	
Rugby union	0.03 per week	0.04 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00 per week	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.01 per week	0.03 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.01 per week	0.01 hours
Cricket	0.81 per season	N/A

The total capital cost for accommodating this growth in demand equates to £43,224 for pitches and £69,672 for changing rooms. This is in addition to lifecycle costs of £6,298 per annum.

Table 7.10: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.07	£6,477	£1,367	0.13	£22,346
Youth football	0.12	£9,275	£1,948	0.15	£24,335
Mini soccer	0.08	£1,859	£390	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.03	£4,632	£991	0.07	£11,414
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.02	£5,010	£1,012	0.04	£5,860
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£2,615	£81	0.01	£1,087
3G	0.01	£13,356	£509	0.03	£4,613

Similarly, the tables below show the impact of a 100-dwelling development in Waveney (again based on population growth of 240 people).

Table 7.11: Likely demand for pitch sports generated from 100 dwellings (Waveney)

Pitch sport	Estimated demand by sport for 100 dwellings	
	Match equivalent sessions	Training demand
Adult football	0.06 per week	0.48 hours
Youth football	0.11 per week	
Mini soccer	0.07 per week	
Rugby union	0.03 per week	0.04 match equivalent sessions
Rugby league	0.00 per week	0.00 match equivalent sessions
Adult hockey	0.01 per week	0.03 hours
Junior & mixed hockey	0.01 per week	0.01 hours
Cricket	0.73 per season	N/A

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

The total capital cost for accommodating this growth in demand equates to £39,661 for pitches and £63,632 for changing rooms. This is in addition to lifecycle costs of £5,788 per annum.

*Table 7.12: Estimated demand and costs for new pitch provision*

Pitch type	Estimated demand and costs for new pitches			Changing rooms	
	Number of pitches to meet demand	Capital cost	Lifecycle Cost (per annum)	Number	Capital cost
Adult football	0.06	£5,860	£1,237	0.12	£20,219
Youth football	0.01	£8,537	£1,793	0.13	£22,009
Mini soccer	0.07	£1,731	£363	N/A	N/A
Rugby union	0.03	£4,438	£950	0.07	£10,937
Rugby league	0	£0	£0	0	£0
Cricket	0.02	£4,480	£905	0.03	£5,240
Sand based AGPs	0.01	£2,332	£72	0.01	£969
3G	0.01	£12,283	£469	0.03	£4,259

Combining the requirements in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, the total capital cost equals £82,885, whilst the changing room cost equals £133,034. The lifecycle cost equals £12,077 per annum.

When a development does not equate to the need for a whole pitch for any sport, the likely recommendation, as would be the case in the above scenario, is that contributions should be directed to improving existing sites. This is opposed to new provision being created, as such provision is unlikely to receive enough demand to be sustainable. The PPOSS and particularly the Action Plan can be used to determine appropriate sites in the locality of the development.

### **PART 8: DELIVER THE STRATEGY AND KEEP IT ROBUST AND UP TO DATE**

#### ***Delivery***

The PPOSS seeks to provide guidance for maintenance/management decisions and investment made across East Suffolk. By addressing the issues identified in the Assessment Report and using the strategic framework presented in this Strategy, the current and future sporting and recreational needs of East Suffolk can be satisfied. The Strategy identifies where there is a deficiency in provision and identifies how best to resolve this in the future.

It is important that this document is used in a practical manner, is engaged with partners and encourages partnerships to be developed and maintained to ensure that outdoor sports facilities are regarded as a vital aspect of community life and which contribute to the achievement of Council priorities. The Strategy should therefore be regarded as part of the planning process, with the success of study and the benefits that are gained from it being dependent upon regular engagement between all partners involved and the adoption of a strategic approach. Each member of the steering group should take the lead to ensure the PPOSS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence.

To help ensure that the PPOSS is well used, it should be regarded as the key document within the study area, guiding the improvement and protection of playing pitch and outdoor sports provision. It needs to be the document people regularly turn to for information on the how current demand is being met and what actions are required to improve the situation and meet future demand, as well as when development proposals come forward or when funding bids are made. For this to be achieved, the Steering Group needs to have a clear understanding of how the PPOSS can be applied and therefore delivered.

The process of completing the PPOSS will hopefully have already resulted in a number of benefits that will help with its application and delivery. These may include enhanced partnership working across different agendas and organisations, pooling of resources along with strengthening relationships and understanding between different stakeholders and between members of the Steering Group and the sporting community. The drivers behind the PPOSS and the work to develop the recommendations and action plan will have also highlighted, and helped the Steering Group to understand, the key areas to which it can be applied and how it can be delivered.

#### ***Monitoring and updating***

Once the PPOSS is complete, it is advised that the Steering Group is kept together, with twice-yearly meetings recommended and often encouraged by Sport England and the NGBs. The purpose of these meetings is to:

- ◀ Act as a focal point for promoting the value and importance of the PPOSS and provision in the area.
- ◀ Monitor, evaluate and review progress with the delivery of the recommendations and action plan.
- ◀ Share lessons learnt from how the PPOSS has been used and how it has been applied to a variety of circumstances.
- ◀ Ensure the PPOSS is used effectively to input into any new opportunities to secure improved provision and influence relevant programmes and initiatives.
- ◀ Maintain links between all relevant parties with an interest provision in the area.
- ◀ Review the need to update the PPOSS along with the supply and demand information and assessment work on which it is based.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

Alongside regular steering group meetings, a good way to keep the strategy up to date and maintain relationships is to also hold sport specific meetings with the NGBs and other relevant parties. These should look to update the key supply and demand information, if necessary amend the assessment work, track progress with implementing the recommendations and action plan and highlight any new issues and opportunities.

The meetings could be timed to fit with the annual affiliation process undertaken by the NGBs, which would help to capture any changes in the number and nature of sports clubs in the area. Other information that is already collected on a regular basis such as pitch booking records for local authority and other sites could also be fed in.

As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the PPOS being signed off, then Sport England and the NGBs would consider it and the information on which it is based to be out of date. The nature of the supply and in particular the demand for provision is likely to change year-on-year; therefore, without any form of review and update, it would be difficult to make the case that the supply and demand information and assessment work is sufficiently robust.

A review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:


- ◆ How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
- ◆ How the PPOSS has been applied and the lessons learnt.
- ◆ Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
- ◆ Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport
- ◆ Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

### Checklist

To help ensure the PPS is delivered and is kept robust and up to date, the steering group can refer to the new methodology Stage E Checklist: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date: <http://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/planning-for-sport/planning-tools-and-guidance/playing-pitch-strategy-guidance/>

Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date	Tick 	
	Yes	Requires Attention
<b>Step 9: Apply &amp; deliver the strategy</b>		
1. Are steering group members clear on how the PPS can be applied across a range of relevant areas?		
2. Is each member of the steering group committed to taking the lead to help ensure the PPS is used and applied appropriately within their area of work and influence?		
3. Has a process been put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered and the PPS is being applied?		
<b>Step 10: Keep the strategy robust &amp; up to date</b>		
1. Has a process been put in place to ensure the PPS is kept robust and up to date?		
2. Does the process involve an annual update of the PPS?		
3. Is the steering group to be maintained and is it clear of its on-going role?		
4. Is regular liaison with the NGBs and other parties planned?		
5. Has all the supply and demand information been collated and presented in a format (i.e. single document that can be filtered accordingly) that will help people to review it and highlight any changes?		
6. Have any changes made to the Active Places Power data been fed back to Sport England?		

### APPENDIX ONE: SPORTING CONTEXT

The following section outlines a series of national, regional and local policies pertaining to the study and which will have an important influence on the Strategy.

#### National context

The provision of high quality and accessible community outdoor sports facilities at a local level is a key requirement for achieving the targets set out by the Government and Sport England. It is vital that this strategy is cognisant of and works towards these targets in addition to local priorities and plans.

#### ***Department of Media Culture and Sport Sporting Future: A New Strategy for an Active Nation (2015)***

The Government published its strategy for sport in December 2015. This strategy confirms the recognition and understanding that sport makes a positive difference through broader means and that it will help the sector to deliver five simple but fundamental outcomes: physical health, mental health, individual development, social and community development and economic development. In order to measure its success in producing outputs which accord with these aims it has also adopted a series of 23 performance indicators under nine key headings, as follows:

- ◀ More people taking part in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ More people volunteering in sport.
- ◀ More people experiencing live sport.
- ◀ Maximising international sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ Maximising domestic sporting success.
- ◀ A more productive sport sector.
- ◀ A more financially and organisationally sustainable sport sector.
- ◀ A more responsible sport sector.

#### ***Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021***

Sport and physical activity has a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all. From this notion, Sport England has recently released its new strategy, Uniting the Movement, its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It seeks to tackle the inequalities long seen in sport and physical activity. Providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important.

There are three key objectives to the Strategy:

- ◀ Advocating for movement, sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Joining forces on five big issues
- ◀ Creating the catalyst for change

In particular, the five big issues are identified where the greatest potential is seen for preventing and tackling inequalities in sport and physical activity. Each one is a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly:



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

**Recover and reinvent:** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.

**Connecting communities:** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.

**Positive experiences for children and young people:** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.

**Connecting with health and wellbeing:** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.

**Active environments:** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured through programmes funded, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, a set of key performance indicators will be developed. This hybrid approach will help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

### **National Planning Policy Framework (2019)**

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

The NPPF states the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

The 'promoting healthy communities' theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies or surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown that the open space, buildings or land is surplus to requirements.
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

#### ***The FA National Football Facilities Strategy (2018-28)***

The Football Association's (FA) National Football Facilities Strategy (NFFS) provides a strategic framework that sets out key priorities and targets for the national game (i.e., football) over a ten-year period.

The Strategy sets out shared aims and objectives it aims to deliver on in conjunction with The Premier League, Sport England and the Government, to be delivered with support of the Football Foundation.

These stakeholders have clearly identified the aspirations for football to contribute directly to nationally important social and health priorities. Alongside this, the strategy is clear that traditional, affiliated football remains an important priority and a core component of the game, whilst recognising and supporting the more informal environments used for the community and recreational game.

Its vision is: *"Within 10 years we aim to deliver great football facilities, wherever they are needed"*

£1.3 billion has been spent by football and Government since 2000 to enhance existing football facilities and build new ones. However, more is needed if football and Government's shared objectives for participation, individual well-being and community cohesion are to be achieved. Nationally, direct investment will be increased – initially to £69 million per annum from football and Government (a 15% increase on recent years).

The NFFS investment priorities can be broadly grouped into six areas, recognising the need to grow the game, support existing players and better understand the different football environments:

- ◀ **Improve 20,000 Natural Turf pitches**, with a focus on addressing drop off due to a poor playing experience;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 3G AGP 'equivalents'** (mix of full size and small sided provision, including MUGAs - small sided facilities are likely to have a key role in smaller / rural communities and encouraging multi-sport offers), enhancing the quality of playing experience and supporting a sustainable approach to grass roots provision;
- ◀ **Deliver 1,000 changing pavilions/clubhouses**, linked to multi-pitch or hub sites, supporting growth (particularly in women and girls football), sustainability and providing a facility infrastructure to underpin investment in coaching, officials and football development;
- ◀ **Support access to flexible indoor spaces**, including equipment and court markings, to support growth in futsal, walking football and to support the education and skills outcomes, exploiting opportunities for football to positively impact on personal and social outcomes for young people in particular;
- ◀ **Refurbish existing stock to maintain current provision**, recognising the need to address historic under-investment and issues with refurbishment of existing facilities;
- ◀ **Support testing of technology and innovation**, building on customer insight to deliver hubs for innovation, testing and development of the game.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

### ***The FA: National Game Strategy (2018-2021)***

The FA launched its new National Game Strategy in July 2018 which aims to inspire a life-long journey in football for all. To achieve this, the strategy will focus on five key aspects of the game:

- ◀ A high quality introduction to football
- ◀ Developing clubs and leagues
- ◀ Embrace all formats of football and engage all participants
- ◀ Recruit, develop and support the workforce
- ◀ Develop sustainable facilities

Through these five pillars, The FA's objectives are to:

- ◀ Increase the number of male affiliated and recreational players by 10%.
- ◀ Double the number of female affiliated and recreational players via a growth of 75%.
- ◀ Increase the number of disability affiliated and recreational players by 30%.
- ◀ Ensure affiliated Futsal is available across the country in order to increase the number of Futsal affiliated and recreational players.

The sustainable football facilities should provide support to an agreed portfolio of priority projects that meet National Football Facility Strategy (NFFS) investment priorities.

### ***England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Inspiring Generations (2020-2024)***

The England and Wales Cricket Board unveiled a new strategic plan in 2019. The strategic plan aims to connect communities and improve lives by inspiring people to discover and share their passion for cricket

The plan sets out six important priorities and activities, these are:

- ◀ ***Grow and nurture the core***
  - ◀ Create an infrastructure investment fund for First Class County Clubs (FCCs)
  - ◀ Introduce a new Community Investment Funding for FCCs and County Cricket Boards (CCBs)
  - ◀ Invest in club facilities
  - ◀ Develop the role of National Counties Cricket
  - ◀ Further invest in County Competitions
- ◀ ***Inspire through elite teams***
  - ◀ Increase investment in the county talent pathway
  - ◀ Incentivise the counties to develop England Players
  - ◀ Drive the performance system through technology and innovation
  - ◀ Create heroes and connect them with a new generation of fans
- ◀ ***Make cricket accessible***
  - ◀ Broaden crickets appeal through the New Competition
  - ◀ Create a new digital community for cricket
  - ◀ Install non-traditional playing facilities in urban areas
  - ◀ Continue to deliver South Asian Action Plans
  - ◀ Launch a new participation product, linked to the New Competition
- ◀ ***Engage children and young people***
  - ◀ Double cricket participation in primary schools
  - ◀ Deliver a compelling and coordinated recreational playing offer from age five upwards
  - ◀ Develop our safeguarding to promote safe spaces for children and young people

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

- ◀ **Transform women's and girls' cricket**
  - ◀ Grow the base through participation and facilities investment
  - ◀ Launch centres of excellence and a new elite domestic structure
  - ◀ Invest in girls' county age group cricket
  - ◀ Deliver a girls' secondary school programme
- ◀ **Support our communities**
  - ◀ Double the number of volunteers in the game
  - ◀ Create a game-wide approach to Trust and Foundations through the cricket network
  - ◀ Develop a new wave of officials and community coaches
  - ◀ Increase participation in disability cricket

#### ***The Rugby Football Union Strategic Plan (2017-2021)***

The RFU has released its new strategic vision for rugby in England. The strategy is based on four main elements which are; Protect, Engage, Grow and Win. It covers all elements of rugby union ranging from elite rugby to grassroots, although the general relevancy to the PPS is centred around growing the game.

The RFU exists to promote and develop rugby union in England and ensure the long-term sustainability of clubs by growing player numbers and retaining them across all age groups. Responding to wider market influences, work will continue on developing new ways to take part in all forms of the game, without comprising the sports traditions. This will ensure a lasting legacy from elite success by attracting new players and encouraging current male and female adult players to play.

The four key aims to ensure long term sustainability are to:

- ◀ Improve player transition from age grade to adult 15-a-side rugby
- ◀ Expand places to play through Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- ◀ Engage new communities in rugby
- ◀ Create a community 7's offering

#### ***England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters 2013***

The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'.

We know that delivering success on the international stage stimulates the nation's pride in their hockey team and, with the right events in place, we will attract interest from spectators, sponsors and broadcasters alike. The visibility that comes from our success and our occasions will inspire young people and adults to follow in the footsteps of their heroes and, if the right opportunities are there to meet their needs, they will play hockey and enjoy wonderful experiences.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes our sport function. We know the importance of our volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational our people can be, the more progressive we can be and the more befitting our facilities can be, the more we will achieve for our sport. EH will enable this to happen and we are passionate about our role within the sport. We will lead, support, counsel, focus and motivate the Hockey Nation and work tirelessly towards our vision.

As a governing body, we want to have a recognisable presence to participants of the game, be that through club or association website or their communications, or through the work of the many outstanding coaches in our game, so that players understand that their club is part of a wider team working together to a common goal.

# EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

## PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

The core objectives are as follows:

- ◀ Grow our Participation
- ◀ Deliver International Success
- ◀ Increase our Visibility
- ◀ Enhance our Infrastructure
- ◀ For EH to be proud and respected custodians of the sport

### *Club participation*

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to EH to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside our affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played.

Hockey is clearly benefiting from a double Olympic legacy. After Great Britain's women won bronze in front of a home crowd in London in 2012 the numbers of young girls playing the sport doubled and a historic gold in Rio 2016 saw more than 10,000 players promptly joining clubs. These triumphs have inspired the nation to get active and play hockey. Thanks to the outstanding work of the network of clubs across the country, EH has seen unprecedented growth at both ends of the age range. There has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.

Hockey clubs have reaped the rewards of the improved profile of the sport, focussing on a link with schools to provide excellent opportunities for young players. Programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – in Primary Schools have been hugely successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age. The growth in the sport since the eve of London 2012 has been seen across the country, examples being a 110% increase in under 16s club participation in London, and a 111% growth in the North West in the same age bracket.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

EH's Facilities Strategy can be found [here](#).

**Vision:** For every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players.

**Mission:** More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

- ◀ **PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**
  - There are currently over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities) across the country. It is important to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.
- ◀ **IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)**
  - The current facilities stock is ageing and there needs to be strategic investment into refurbishing the pitches and ancillary facilities. EH works to provide more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

- ◆ **DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate.**

EH has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches, suitable for hockey. There is an identified demand for multi pitches in the right places to consolidate hockey and allow clubs to have all of their provision catered for at one site.

### ***LTA Facilities Investment Strategy – Vision for the 2020 and beyond***

The LTA has developed a programme of action based on seven core strategies. These are:

- ◆ Visibility – Broaden relevance and increase visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players.
- ◆ Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal.
- ◆ Investment – Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play.
- ◆ Accessibility – Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone.
- ◆ Engagement – Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers, to attract and maintain more people in the game.
- ◆ Performance – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.
- ◆ Leadership – Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders.

The LTA Facilities Investment Framework sets out how it intends to deliver the investment to support community accessible tennis facilities. The focus will be on:

- ◆ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◆ Park tennis
- ◆ Tennis clubs
- ◆ Schools and other educational establishments

The key principles of the framework are to:

- ◆ Help fund projects through interest free loans.
- ◆ Invest in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◆ Invest where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◆ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◆ Targeted investment that is demand-led.
- ◆ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

### ***England Netball - Your Game, Your Way 2013-17***

Even though this Plan is out of date, England Netball remains committed to its '10-1-1' mission, vision and values that form the fundamentals for its strategic planning for the future for the sport and business.



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

To facilitate the successful achievement of Netball 10:1:1 and Goal 4, England Netball will:

- ◀ Accelerate the participation growth by extending our market penetration and reach through the activation of a range of existing and new participant-focused products and programmes that access new and targeted markets.
- ◀ Increase the level of long-term participant retention through targeting programmes at known points of attrition and easy transition through the market segments, supported by an infrastructure that reflects the participant needs and improves their netball experience.
- ◀ Build a sustainable performance pathway and system built on the principles of purposeful practice and appropriate quality athlete coach contact time.
- ◀ Develop sustainable revenue streams through the commercialisation of a portfolio of products and programmes and increasing membership sales. This will also include the creation of cost efficiencies and improved value for money through innovative partnerships and collaborations in all aspects of the business.
- ◀ Establish high standards of leadership and governance that protect the game and its people and facilitates the on-going growth and transformation of the NGB and sport.

#### ***Bowls England: Strategic Plan 2014-2017***

Although the Plan is out of date, it remains the most up to date available. Bowls England will provide strong leadership and work with its stakeholders to support the development of the sport of bowls in England for this and future generations.

The overall vision of Bowls England is to:

- ◀ Promote the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Recruit new participants to the sport of outdoor flat green bowls.
- ◀ Retain current and future participants within the sport of flat green bowls.

In order to ensure that this vision is achieved, ten key performance targets have been created, which will underpin the work of Bowls England up until 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017.

- ◀ 115,000 individual affiliated members.
- ◀ 1,500 registered coaches.
- ◀ Increase total National Championship entries by 10%.
- ◀ Increase total national competition entries by 10%.
- ◀ Medal places achieved in 50% of events at the 2016 World Championships.
- ◀ 35 county development plans in place and operational.
- ◀ County development officer appointed by each county association.
- ◀ National membership scheme implemented with 100% uptake by county associations.
- ◀ Secure administrative base for 1st April 2017.
- ◀ Commercial income to increase by 20%.

Despite a recent fall in affiliated members, and a decline in entries into National Championships over the last five years, Bowls England believes that these aims will be attained by following core values. The intention is to:

- ◀ Be progressive.
- ◀ Offer opportunities to participate at national and international level.
- ◀ Work to raise the profile of the sport in support of recruitment and retention.
- ◀ Lead the sport.
- ◀ Support clubs and county associations.



## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL

### PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

#### ***England Athletics Strategic Plan – Athletics & Running: for everyone, forever – 2017 and beyond***

This plan sets out England Athletics' mission, vision and strategic priorities that will direct how they work as an organisation during the coming years: what they do and how they will do it.

**Vision:** Make athletics and running the most inclusive and popular sport in England, led by a network of progressive clubs and organisations and supported by a sustainable, respected and trusted governing body.

For England Athletics to achieve this vision, they will focus on three values:

- Pride – taking pride in their work and demonstrating to athletes that they recognise the importance of their role in bettering athletics.
- Integrity – demonstrate integrity to earn respect and to build effective partnerships.
- Inclusivity – promote inclusivity in all their actions.

**Mission:** To grow opportunities for everyone to experience athletics and running, to enable them to reach their full potential.

In order to achieve their mission, England Athletics will have three strategic priorities.

1. To expand the capacity of the sport by supporting and developing its volunteers and other workforce. The target is to achieve a 6% increase every year of licensed leaders, coaches and officials.
2. To sustain and increase participation and performance levels in our sport. To achieve this, England Athletics' current targets are to increase the number of club registered athletes from (149,000 to 172,000), engage 135,000 people through the RunTogether programme and to increase athlete performance levels across all events and disciplines by 1% every year.
3. To influence participation in the wider athletics market. Their target here is to increase the number of regular athletes or runners by at least one million.

#### ***England Athletics Facility Strategy (2018 – 2025)***

The purpose of this document is to set out our long term vision for athletics facilities in England. Facilities form a vital component of the overall England Athletics strategy.

The development, protection and enhancement of facilities will support our strategic plan and help England Athletics contribute to the delivery of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport's Sporting Futures: A New Strategy for Sport and Sport England's strategy Towards an Active Nation. Appropriate facilities help to attract and inspire new participants and provide the foundation and focus for a significant proportion of the England Athletics family.

The England Athletics Strategic Plan notes that the sport increasingly needs to become financially sustainable and that a business-like and innovative approach is a vital component of its future success. Facilities are fundamental, but they are also expensive to create and to maintain. The sport therefore faces a significant challenge to develop, improve and maintain facilities, most of which are currently operated and funded by third parties.

This strategy sets out a challenge to all those involved with the delivery of the sport to be innovative and business like in the operation and development of facilities at a time of financial challenge, as it aims "To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletic facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England".

#### ***Growing the Game of Golf in England (2017-2021)***

In 2014, England Golf developed its first national strategy to help golf in England rise to some serious challenges. Membership was declining, many clubs were facing financial and business problems and the perception of the game was proving damaging. As such, it decided to set out recommendations for actions that would help “raise the game”.

The 2014 strategy helped achieve the following:

- ◆ 427,111 people being introduced to golf for the first time.
- ◆ 31,913 new members for England’s golf clubs from national initiatives.
- ◆ Over £25 million generated for golf clubs through new members.
- ◆ Four counties to merge their men’s and women’s unions associations.
- ◆ Support for 15,200 national, regional and county squad players.
- ◆ Over 150 championships and events organised across the country.

Following the above strategy, England Golf is now setting out to “grow the game” of golf through seven strategic objectives. Developed in consultation with the golfing community, six of these are developed from the previous work in 2014, whilst one (being customer focussed) is brand new and intends on boosting the impact of them all.

The objectives are:

- ◆ Being customer focussed
- ◆ Stronger counties and club
- ◆ Excellent governance
- ◆ Improve image
- ◆ More members and players
- ◆ Outstanding championships, competitions and events
- ◆ Winning golfers

### APPENDIX TWO: GLOSSARY

**Exported/imported demand** generally relates to play by teams or other users of playing pitches from within the study area (i.e. from residents of the study area) which takes place outside of the area. This may be due to issues with the provision of pitches and ancillary facilities in the study area, just reflective of how the sports are played (e.g. at a central venue for the wider area) or due to the most convenient site for the respective users just falling outside of the local authority/study area.

**Unmet demand** is demand that is known to exist but unable to be accommodated on current supply of pitches. This could be in the form of a team with access to a pitch for matches but nowhere to train or vice versa. This could also be due to the poor quality and therefore limited capacity of pitches in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement. League secretaries may be aware of some unmet demand as they may have declined applications from teams wishing to enter their competitions due to a lack of pitch provision which in turn is hindering the growth of the league.

**Latent demand** is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. This could include feedback from a sports club who may feel that they could set up and run an additional team if they had access to better provision.

**Future demand** is an informed estimate made of the likely future demand for pitches in the study area. This is generally based on the most appropriate current and future population projections for the relevant age and gender groupings for each sport. Key trends, local objectives and targets and consultation also inform this figure.

**Casual use** or other use could take place on natural grass pitches or AGPs and include:

- ♦ Regular play from non-sports club sources (e.g. companies, schools, fitness classes)
- ♦ Infrequent informal/friendly matches
- ♦ Informal training sessions
- ♦ More casual forms of a particular sport organised by sports clubs or other parties
- ♦ Significant public use and informal play, particularly where pitches are located in parks/recreation grounds.

**Carrying capacity** is the amount of play a site can regularly accommodate (in the relevant comparable unit) for community use without adversely affecting its quality and use. This is typically outlined by the NGB.

**Overplay** is when a pitch is used over the amount that the carrying capacity will allow, (i.e. more than the site can accommodate). Pitches have a limit of how much play they can accommodate over a certain period of time before their quality, and in turn their use, is adversely affected.

**Spare capacity** is the amount of additional play that a pitch could potentially accommodate in addition to current activity. There may be reasons why this potential to accommodate additional play should not automatically be regarded as actual spare capacity, for example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below its carrying capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of friendly matches and training activity. This needs to be investigated before the capacity is deemed **actual spare capacity**.

## EAST SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL PLAYING PITCH AND OUTDOOR SPORTS STRATEGY

---

**Match equivalent sessions** is an appropriate comparable unit for pitch usage. For football, rugby union and rugby league, pitches should relate to a typical week within the season and one match = one match equivalent session if it occurs every week or 0.5 match equivalent sessions if it occurs every other week (i.e. reflecting home and away fixtures). For cricket pitches it is appropriate to look at the number of match equivalent sessions over the course of a season and one match = one match equivalent session.

# **EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL**

## **DRAFT OPEN SPACE REPORT**

### **APRIL 2021**

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

**Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd**  
Company No: 9145032 (England)

**MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS**

Registered Office: 1 -2 Frecheville Court, off Knowsley Street, Bury BL9 0UF  
T: 0161 764 7040 E: [mail@knp.co.uk](mailto:mail@knp.co.uk) [www.knp.co.uk](http://www.knp.co.uk)



Quality assurance	Name	Date
Report origination	CD / CMF	April 2021
Client comments		
Revised version		
Agreed sign off		

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE REPORT

---

### Contents

PART 1: INTRODUCTION .....	1
1.1 Report structure .....	2
1.2 National context .....	3
1.3 Local context .....	6
PART 2: METHODOLOGY .....	9
2.1 Analysis area .....	9
2.2 Auditing local provision .....	10
2.3 Open space standards .....	11
2.4 Quality and value .....	11
2.5 Quality and value thresholds .....	13
2.6 Accessibility catchments .....	14
PART 3: SURVEY AND AUDIT OVERVIEW .....	16
3.1 Open space survey analysis .....	16
3.2 Site Audit Overview .....	19
PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS .....	21
4.1 Introduction .....	21
4.2 Current provision .....	21
4.3 Accessibility .....	21
4.4 Quality .....	24
4.5 Value .....	25
PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE .....	27
5.1 Introduction .....	27
5.2 Current provision .....	27
5.3 Accessibility .....	28
5.4 Quality .....	32
5.5 Value .....	33
PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE .....	36
6.1 Introduction .....	36
6.2 Current provision .....	36
6.3 Accessibility .....	36
6.4 Quality .....	43
6.5 Value .....	45
PART 7: ALLOTMENTS .....	47
7.1 Introduction .....	47
7.2 Current provision .....	47
7.3 Accessibility .....	47
PART 8: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS .....	52
8.1 Introduction .....	52
8.2 Current provision .....	52
8.3 Accessibility .....	52



PART 9: PROVISION STANDARDS..... 59

9.1: Quality and value ..... 59

9.2: Accessibility..... 60

9.3: Quantity..... 63

9.4: Recommendations ..... 65

9.5 Implications ..... 68

9.6 Future growth ..... 71

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL

## OPEN SPACE REPORT

---

### Glossary

MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
DDA	Disability Discrimination Act
DPD	Development Plan Document
ESC	East Suffolk Council
FIT	Fields in Trust
FOG	Friends of Group
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LNR	Local Nature Reserve
MUGA	Multi-use Games Area (an enclosed area with a hard surface for variety of informal play)
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NSALG	National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners
ONS	Office of National Statistics
OSNA	Open Space Needs Assessment
PPG	Planning Practice Guidance
PPS	Playing Pitch Strategy
SFS	Sports Facilities Strategy
SOA	Super Output Areas
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SSSI	Sites of Special Scientific Interest

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

East Suffolk Council (ESC) commissioned Knight Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) to deliver an Open Space Assessment. This document is part of a wider series of inter-related strategies for sport and recreation that also includes a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Built Sports Facilities Strategy. Furthermore, a separate Play Area Strategy has also been created to specially focus on play provision. The inter-relationship between the strategies must be noted as some sports covered by the PPS also use indoor facilities for matches/training or use open space areas for informal use. Similarly, there may be forms of open space which feature a playing pitch or sporting facility.

This document focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and GIS mapping that underpin the study. It provides detail regarding what provision exists in the area, its condition, distribution and overall quality.

It will help inform direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, sustainable open spaces in East Suffolk. It can help to inform the priorities for open space provision as part of future population distribution and planned growth.

The purpose of an Open Space Study is to recognise the role of open space provision as a resource. Open spaces contribute to the health, well-being, cultural heritage, landscape, education, climate change mitigation, biodiversity and movement for people and wildlife. The impact of climate change is a recognised concern. One which open space provision has the ability to help contribute towards tackling through measures such as tree planting, landscaping, re-wilding and creation of wild areas etc. It is therefore vital for local authorities to know what provision currently exists and what the priorities and requirements are for the future.

In order for planning policies to be 'sound' local authorities are required to carry out a robust assessment of need for open space, sport and recreation facilities. We advocate that the methodology to undertake such assessments should still be informed by best practice including the Planning Policy Guidance 17 (PPG17) Companion Guidance; *Assessing Needs and Opportunities*\* published in September 2002.

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) has replaced PPG17. However, assessment of open space facilities is still normally carried out in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17 as it still remains the only national best practice guidance on the conduct of an open space assessment.

Under paragraph 96 of the NPPF, it is set out that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

---

\* <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/assessing-needs-and-opportunities-a-companion-guide-to-planning-policy-guidance-17>

The table below details the open space typologies included within the study:

*Table 1.1: Open space typology definitions*

Typology	Primary purpose
Parks and gardens	Urban parks, country parks and formal gardens, open to the general public. Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.
Natural and semi-natural greenspaces	Woodlands, scrubland, orchards, grasslands (e.g. meadows and non-amenity grassland), wetlands and river corridors, nature reserves and brownfield land. Supports wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education and awareness.
Amenity greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas.
Allotments and food growing spaces	Opportunities to grow own produce. Added benefits include the long term promotion of sustainable living, health and social inclusion.
Cemeteries, disused churchyards and other burial grounds	Private burial grounds, local authority burial grounds and disused churchyards. Provides burial space but is considered to provide a place of quiet contemplation and is often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

### 1.1 Report structure

#### ***Open spaces***

This report considers the supply and demand issues for open space provision across East Suffolk. Each part contains relevant typology specific data. Further description of the methodology used can be found in Part 2. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for all open spaces defined as:

- ◀ Part 3: Survey and audit overview
- ◀ Part 4: Parks and gardens
- ◀ Part 5: Natural/ semi-natural greenspace
- ◀ Part 6: Amenity greenspace
- ◀ Part 7: Allotments
- ◀ Part 8: Cemeteries/churchyards

#### ***Playing Pitches and Indoor Built Sports Facilities***

The provision of formal outdoor sports is contained within the associated Playing Pitches and Built Sports Facilities Strategies. The amount and quality of such provision is not included in the total figures for open space as a different methodology in line with national guidance is prescribed.

Any site recognised as sports provision but with a clear multifunctional role (i.e. where it is also available for wider community use as open space) is included in this study as a type of open space. Provision purely for sporting use are included within the other studies. On dual use sites, the pitch playing surfaces are counted as part of the overall site size as they are considered to contribute to the total open space site and reflect its multifunctionality. Pitches on dual use sites are identified in the PPS too but only by number and pitch type (as prescribed in Sport England Guidance).

### 1.2 National context

#### ***National Planning Policy Framework (2019), (MHCLG)***

The National Planning Policy Framework (Feb 2019) (NPPF) sets out the planning policies for England. It details how these are expected to be applied to the planning system and provides a framework to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities.

It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development (paragraphs 7-9). It establishes that the planning system needs to focus on three themes of sustainable development: economic, social and environmental. A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making the NPPF sets out that Local Plans should meet objectively assessed needs.

Paragraph 96 of the NPPF establishes that access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for health and well-being. It states that planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficiencies and surpluses in local areas should also be identified. This information should be used to inform what provision is required in an area.

As a prerequisite paragraph 97 of the NPPF states existing open space, sports and recreation sites, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- ◀ An assessment has been undertaken, which has clearly shown the site to be surplus to requirements; or
- ◀ The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- ◀ The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

#### ***National Planning Practice Guidance (MHCLG)***

PPG is a web-based resource which brings together planning guidance on various topics into one place. It was launched in March 2014 and adds further context to the [National Planning Policy Framework](#) (NPPF). It is intended that the two documents should be read together.

The guidance determines that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

### ***Everybody Active, Every Day (2014), Public Health England***

In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced a plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, the plan identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:

- ◀ Active society: creating a social movement. Shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.
- ◀ Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.
- ◀ Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.
- ◀ Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active. Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.

Open space provision has an important role in working towards these measures. There is a need to ensure accessible facilities that can help meet the physical activity needs of everyone including the physically and mentally disabled and those with learning difficulties and debilitating diseases.

### ***Guidance for Outdoor Sport and Play Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015), Fields in Trust***

As part of its protection work, Fields in Trust (FIT) offers guidance on open space provision and design. This is to ensure that the provision of outdoor sport, play and informal open space is of a sufficient size to enable effective use; is located in an accessible location and in close proximity to dwellings; and of a quality to maintain longevity and to encourage its continued use.

Beyond the Six Acre Standard sets out a range of benchmark guidelines on quantity, quality and accessibility for open space and equipped play. It also offers some recommendations to minimum site sizes.

### ***Planning for Sport Guidance (2019), Sport England***

Sets out how the planning system can help provide opportunities for everyone to be physically active. It highlights the vital role planning systems play in shaping environments (including open spaces) which offer opportunities to take part in sport and physical activity. To help with this, the guidance sets out 12 planning-for-sport principles to be embraced.

Table 1.2: 12 planning for sport principles

Overarching	Recognise and give weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity
	Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessment of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them
	Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles
Protect	Protect and promote existing sport and physical activity provision and ensure new development does not prejudice its use
	Ensure long-term viable management and maintenance of new and existing sport and physical activity provision
Enhance	Support improvements to existing sport and physical activity provision where they are needed
	Encourage and secure wider community use of existing and new sport and physical activity provision
Provide	Support new provision, including allocating new sites for sport and physical activity which meets identified needs
	Ensure a positive approach to meeting the needs generated by new development for sport and physical activity provision
	Provide sport and physical activity provision which is fit for purpose and well designed
	Plan positively for sport and physical activity provision in designated landscapes and the green belt
	Proactively address any amenity issues arising from sport and physical activity developments

### Summary of the national context

Policies set out within the NPPF state that local and neighbourhood plans should both reflect needs and priorities within a local community and be based on robust and current assessments of open space, sport and recreational facilities. Engaging residents to take up and retain a minimum or better level of physical literacy and activity is a high priority for national government. For many people, sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Therefore, ensuring that open space creates an active environment with opportunities and good accessibility is important. In line with national policy recommendations, this report makes an assessment of open space provision from which recommendations and policy will be formulated.



## 1.3 Local context

### ***ESC Strategic Plan (2020-2024)***

The Strategic Plan provides the framework to deliver a range of vital services for local communities. The ambition is to deliver the best possible quality of life for everyone who lives in, works in and visits East Suffolk. It is structured around the following five themes:

*Table 1.3: ESC Strategic Plan (2020-2024) key themes and aims:*

Theme	Aim
Growing our economy	To build a strong sustainable economy for the future so that will achieve its maximum potential, for the good of everyone in the area.
Enabling our communities	Working together, ESC will enable communities to identify opportunities and challenges. It will empower them to make a difference. It will also support communities to enhance the places for living and working and for the wellbeing of all.
Remaining financially sustainable	To grow and prosper as a council; ESC will ensure it is well-run; providing value for money and strive for excellence.
Delivering digital transformation	Digital technology can transform the way we work and live; ESC will use technology to make services efficient and easily accessible to all and assist communities to embrace and access new technologies.
Caring for our environment	The environment be put at the heart of everything ESC does.

### ***Local plans; former Suffolk Coastal and Waveney local authorities***

East Suffolk was formed in 2019 following the merger of Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council, as a result there are two existing Local Plans for East Suffolk. The Suffolk Coastal Local Plan covers the period 2018-2036 and The Waveney Local Plan covers the period 2014-2036. Both plans share the same vision and strategic priorities to:

*‘Maintain and sustainably improve the quality of life for everyone growing up in, living in, working in and visiting the area’.*

The vision is accompanied by nine strategic priorities. In relation to health and wellbeing, the priority is to support healthy, safe, cohesive and active communities by improving health, wellbeing and education opportunities for all. This will be achieved via a range of education, health and leisure provision to meet localised need and create sustainable communities across the area.

### *Housing allocations*

Both local plans acknowledge the need to increase the supply of housing to meet needs across the new area. The respective local plans set out the level of growth needed in the area and identified where that growth should be located and how it should be delivered.

- ◀ In the former Suffolk Coastal area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,756 houses (542 dwellings per annum) between 2018-2036. This will include creation of two new garden neighbourhoods (Felixstowe and Saxmundham), to focus growth on the A12 and A14 corridors and to support rural communities.
- ◀ In the former Waveney area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,235 houses (419 dwellings per annum) between 2014-2036. Just over half of the committed allocation will be in the Lowestoft area (Lowestoft, Carlton Colville, Corton, Gisleham, Oulton and Oulton Broad) with a proposed 5,206 dwellings.

### ***Joint Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy 2019-2022***

Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board identifies that health and wellbeing are fundamental to both individuals and families. Consequently, the stated Strategy vision is to 'ensure people in Suffolk live healthier, happier lives'. There is also a desire to narrow the difference in healthy life expectancy between those living in the most deprived communities and the more affluent. This will be undertaken through improvements in more disadvantaged communities, through a partnership approach. To achieve this, the strategy outlines four stated priorities.

*Table 1.4: Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board's strategic priorities*

Priority	Description
1	Every child to have the best start in life, which will focus on increasing the number of children who are a healthy weight and support vulnerable children including children whose parents have misused alcohol or drugs.
2	People of working age are supported to optimise their health and wellbeing, including preventing heart disease and supporting people to be healthy at work.
3	Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life, with the aim of reducing the impact of frailty on the lives of older people and making sure people are supported well at the end of their life.
4	People have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing, by having access to good quality and effective mental health services when they need them.

### ***East Suffolk Community Partnerships***

Eight East Suffolk community partnerships were set up in 2019 and includes a range of local organisations (parish councils, CCGs, voluntary organisations, police, local business). These each hold an annual local delivery budget of £25,000 for 2020/21 and 2021/22 and have agreed a set of priority work areas (see Figure 2.4) which have been reviewed in the light of the Coronavirus pandemic.

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

In addition, an overarching partnership board has been convened, representative of the eight partnerships with a delivery budget of c.£1million. This has adopted social isolation and community transport, which feature as issues across multiple community partnerships, as the top priorities.

Figure 1.1: East Suffolk Community Partnership priorities

## Community Partnership Priorities



<b>Lowestoft and northern parishes</b>	<b>Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford and Fynn Valley</b>	<b>Melton, Woodbridge and Deben Peninsula</b>	<b>Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold and villages</b>
Improve mental health and wellbeing (45)	Reduce social isolation & loneliness	Active and sustainable transport provision	Active and sustainable transport provision, particularly rural
Tackle childhood obesity	Environmental care and sustainable transport	Village Hub – bringing services to people	Reduce social isolation and loneliness
Reduce social isolation – all ages	Support people to age well/Traffic and road safety	Youth Engagement, opportunities and services	Facilities, activities and employment for young people
<b>Felixstowe Peninsular</b>	<b>Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and villages</b>	<b>Framlingham, Wickham Market and villages</b>	<b>Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham and villages</b>
Education – aspirations, ambition and standards	Active and sustainable transport solutions / community transport	Developing opportunities for young people	Education, Opportunities and Aspirations
Social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation and loneliness	Reduce social isolation & loneliness particularly carers, older people, and men 40+
Community spaces and physical enhancements	Improve wellbeing and enable people to live healthy lives	Alternative, active and sustainable transport provision	Encourage and enable everyone to be more physically active and healthy

## PART 2: METHODOLOGY

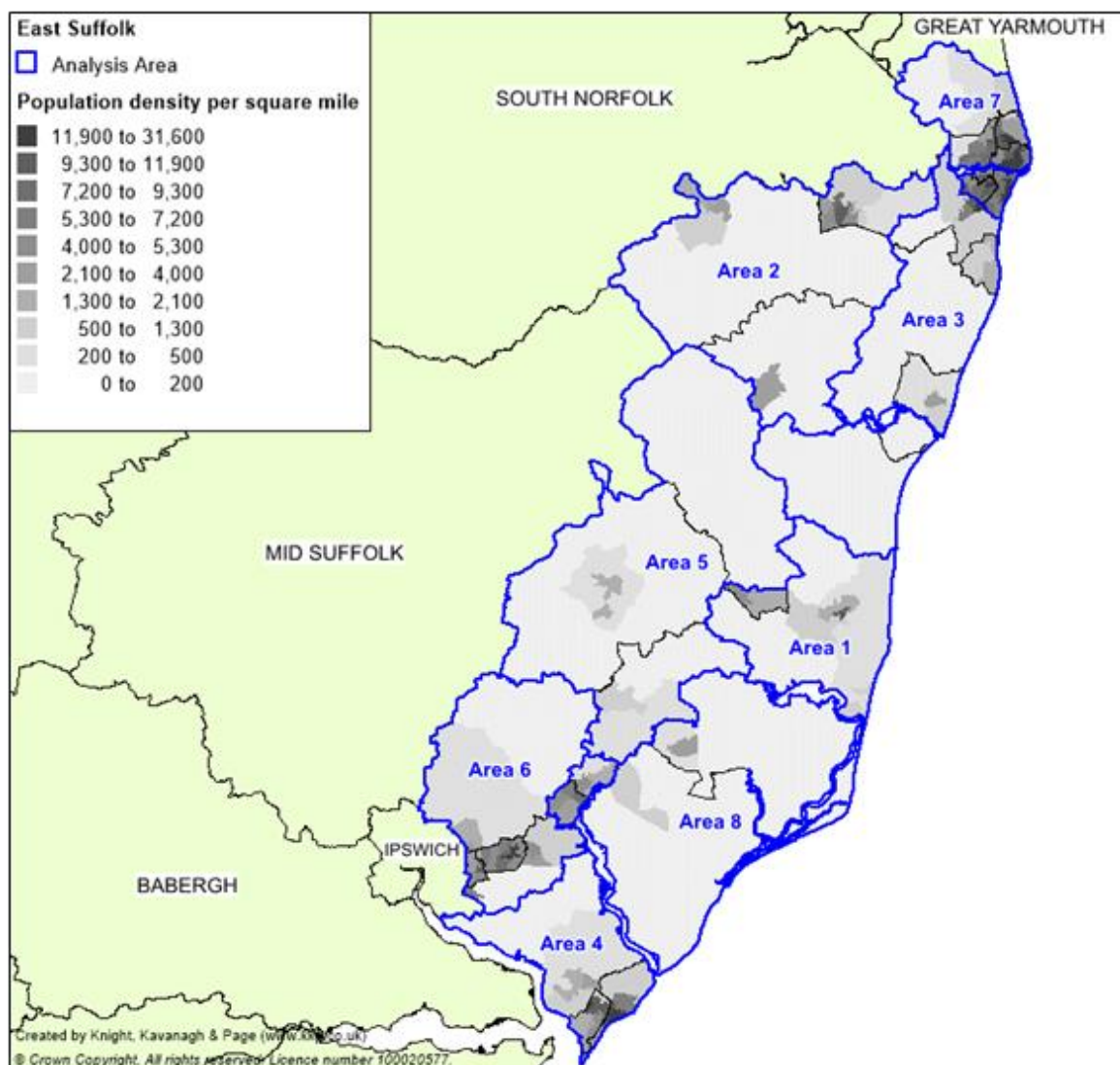
This section details the methodology undertaken as part of the study. The key stages are:

- ◆ 2.1 - Analysis areas
- ◆ 2.2 - Auditing local provision
- ◆ 2.3 - Open space standards
- ◆ 2.4 - Quality and value
- ◆ 2.5 - Quality and value thresholds
- ◆ 2.6 - Accessibility catchments

### 2.1 Analysis area

The study area is the whole of the East Suffolk Council area. In order to address supply and demand on a more localised level, analysis areas (aligned to the Community Partnership areas) have been utilised. Figure 2.1 shows the study area broken down into these analysis areas in tandem with population density.

*Figure 2.1: Map of East Suffolk including analysis areas*



Given the lengthy names of the majority of the areas, for ease of reference it has been agreed to number them throughout this report, where appropriate, 1-8 (in alphabetical order). Please see the table overleaf.

*Table 2.1: Analysis areas and populations*

Analysis area	Community Partnership reference	Population*
1	Aldeburgh, Leiston, Saxmundham & Villages	16,362
2	Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth & Villages	31,890
3	Carlton Colville, Kessingland, Southwold & Villages	23,983
4	Felixstowe Peninsula	35,110
5	Framlingham, Wickham Market & Villages	17,178
6	Kesgrave, Rushmere St Andrew, Martlesham, Carlford & Flynn Valley	35,161
7	Lowestoft & Northern Parishes	66,611
8	Melton, Woodbridge & Deben Peninsula	23,166
<b>East Suffolk</b>		<b>249,461</b>

## 2.2 Auditing local provision

The KKP Field Research Team undertook the site audit for this study in Spring 2021. Open space sites are identified, mapped and assessed to evaluate site value and quality. The focus is on sites publicly accessible are included (i.e. private sites or land, which people cannot access, are not included). Each site is classified based on its primary open space purpose, so that each type of space is counted only once. The audit, and the report, analyse the following typologies in accordance with the Companion Guidance to PPG17.

1. Parks and gardens
2. Natural and semi-natural greenspace
3. Amenity greenspace
4. Allotments
5. Cemeteries/churchyards

As part of the study a sample of site visit assessments were undertaken. This included visits to all parks and gardens and play provision for children and young people (set out in a separate Play Strategy). All amenity and natural and semi-natural greenspace are given a quality and value score via a desk-based assessment. Provision of allotment and cemeteries/churchyards are mapped and included in term of quantity due to the specific roles such provision engenders.

### **Site size threshold**

In accordance with recommendations from the Companion Guidance to PPG17, a size threshold of 0.2 hectares is applied to the typologies of amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is recognised that spaces smaller than 0.2 hectares can provide amenity to local neighbourhoods and stepping-stones for wildlife. However, they are often too small to provide any meaningful leisure and recreational opportunities to warrant a full site assessment.

\* Mid-2019 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England (ONS)

They should therefore be assessed on a site by site basis (to assess potential community, biodiversity and visual value) should a request for development be made upon such a site in the future.

It should be noted that some sites below the threshold i.e. those that are identified as having particular significance and considered to provide an important function, are included in the audit process.

### ***Database development***

All information relating to open spaces is collated in the project open space database (supplied as an Excel electronic file). All sites identified and assessed as part of the audit are recorded within the database. The database details for each site are as follows:

#### **Data held on open spaces database (summary)**

- ◆ KKP reference number (used for mapping)
- ◆ Site name
- ◆ Ownership (if known)
- ◆ Management (if known)
- ◆ Typology
- ◆ Size (hectares)
- ◆ Site visit data

Sites are primarily identified by KKP in the audit using official site names, where possible, and/or secondly using road names and locations.

### **2.3 Open space standards**

To identify specific needs and quantitative and qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space in a local area, provision standards focusing on Quality, Quantity and Accessibility are set and applied later in the document (Part 9).

<b>Quality</b>	Ability to measure the need for enhancement of existing facilities. Aimed at identifying high quality provision for benchmarking and low quality provision. The Quality Standard is based on the audit assessment scores.
<b>Quantity</b>	Are there enough spaces in the right places? Aimed at helping to establish areas of surplus and deficiency and, where appropriate, to understand the potential for alternative uses and/or key forms of provision.
<b>Accessibility</b>	Distance thresholds aimed at improving accessibility factors (e.g. so people can find and get to open spaces without undue reliance on using a car) and helping to identify potential areas with gaps in provision. Shown via maps.

### **2.4 Quality and value**

The quality of open space has been assessed through site visits and desk-based assessments. The Quality Standards are founded on this information.

Through the assessment process most types of open space receive separate quality and value scores. Allotments and cemeteries do not receive a quality/value rating as this is less of a consideration in determining future need which is better informed by quantity and accessibility.

Quality and value are fundamentally different and can be unrelated. For example, a site of high quality may be inaccessible and, thus, be of little value; whereas a rundown (poor quality) site may be the only one in an area and thus be immensely valuable. As a result, quality and value are also treated separately in terms of scoring.

This allows for the application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus within and to a particular open space typology.

### ***Analysis of quality***

Data collated from site visits is initially based upon criteria derived from the Green Flag Award scheme (a national standard for parks and green spaces in England and Wales, operated by Keep Britain Tidy). This is utilised to calculate a quality score for each site visited. Scores in the database are presented as percentage figures. The quality criteria used for the open space assessments carried out for all open space typologies are summarised in the following table.

#### **Quality criteria for open space site visit (score)**

- ◆ Physical access, e.g. public transport links, directional signposts,
- ◆ Personal security, e.g. site is overlooked, natural surveillance
- ◆ Access-social, e.g. appropriate minimum entrance widths
- ◆ Parking, e.g. availability, disabled parking
- ◆ Information signage, e.g. presence of site information, notice boards
- ◆ Equipment and facilities, e.g. seats, benches, bins, toilets
- ◆ Location value, e.g. proximity of housing, other greenspace
- ◆ Site problems, e.g. presence of vandalism, graffiti
- ◆ Healthy, safe and secure, e.g. fencing, gates, staff on site
- ◆ Maintenance and cleanliness, e.g. condition of general landscape & features
- ◆ Groups that the site meets the needs of, e.g. elderly, young people
- ◆ Site potential

### ***Analysis of value***

Each site identified is also provided with a value score. Value is defined in Companion Guidance to PPG17 in relation to the following three issues:

- ◆ Context of the site i.e. its accessibility, scarcity value and historic value.
- ◆ Level and type of use.
- ◆ The wider benefits it generates for people, biodiversity and the wider environment.

In addition, the NPPF refers to attributes to value such as beauty and attractiveness of a site, its recreational value, historic and cultural value and its tranquillity and richness of wildlife.



The value criteria set for audit assessment is derived from:

**Value criteria for open space site visits (score)**

- ◆ Level of use (assumed only), e.g., different user types, location near community facilities
- ◆ Context of site in relation to other open spaces
- ◆ Structural and landscape benefits, e.g., well located, high quality defining the identity/ area
- ◆ Ecological benefits, e.g., supports/promotes biodiversity and wildlife habitats
- ◆ Educational benefits, e.g., provides learning opportunities on nature/historic landscapes
- ◆ Social inclusion and health benefits, e.g., promotes civic pride, community ownership and a sense of belonging; helping to promote well-being
- ◆ Cultural and heritage benefits, e.g., historic elements/links (e.g. listed building, statues) and high profile symbols of local area
- ◆ Amenity benefits and a sense of place, e.g., attractive places that are safe and well maintained; helping to create specific neighbourhoods and landmarks
- ◆ Economic benefits, e.g., enhances property values, promotes economic activity and attracts people from near and far

## 2.5 Quality and value thresholds

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by Companion Guidance to PPG17); the results of the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The primary aim of applying a threshold is to identify sites where investment and/or improvements are required. It can also be used to set an aspirational quality standard to be achieved at some point in the future and to inform decisions around the need to further protect sites from future development (particularly when applied with its respective value score in a matrix format).

A site rating low for quality should not automatically be viewed as being fit for development. It is also necessary to understand its value, access and role within the community it serves. It may for example be the only site serving an area and should therefore be considered a priority for enhancement.

The most recognised national benchmark for measuring the quality of parks and open spaces is the 66% pass rate for the Green Flag Award. This scheme recognises and rewards well managed parks and open spaces. Although this open space study uses a similar assessment criteria to that of the Green Flag Award scheme it is inappropriate to use the Green Flag benchmark pass for every open space as they are not all designed or expected to perform to the same exceptionally high standard.

For example, a park would be expected to feature a greater variety of ancillary facilities (seating, bins, play equipment) and manicured landscaping and planting, etc. in contrast to an amenity greenspace serving a smaller catchment and fewer people.

Furthermore, a different scoring mechanism is used in this study to that of the Green Flag scheme (albeit the criteria for this study is derived from the Green Flag scheme). For each open space typology, a different set and / or weighting for each criterion of quality is used. This is to better reflect the different roles, uses and functions of each open space type. Consequently, a different quality threshold level is set for each open space typology.

Quality thresholds in this study are individual to each open space typology. They are based on the average quality score arising from the site assessments and set using KKP's professional judgment and experience from delivering similar studies. The score is to help distinguish between higher and lower quality sites, it is a minimum expectation as opposed to an absolute goal. This works as an effective method to reflect the variability in quality at a local level for different types of provision. It allows the Council more flexibility in directing funds towards sites for enhancements which is useful if funds are geographically constrained with respect to individual developments.

Reason and flexibility are needed when evaluating sites close to the average score / threshold. The review of a quality threshold is just one step for this process, a site should also be evaluated against the value assessment and local knowledge.

*Table 2.2: Quality and value thresholds by typology*

Typology	Quality threshold	Value threshold
Parks and gardens	60%	20%
Natural and semi-natural greenspace	40%	20%
Amenity greenspace	50%	20%
Allotments	n/a	n/a
Cemeteries/churchyards	n/a	n/a

For value, there is no national guidance on the setting of thresholds. The 20% threshold is derived from KKP's experience and knowledge in assessing the perceived value of sites.

A high value site is one deemed to be well used and offering visual, social, physical and mental health benefits. Value is also a more subjective measure than assessing the physical quality of provision. Therefore, a conservative threshold of 20% is set across all typologies. Whilst 20% may initially seem low - it is a relative score. One designed to reflect those sites that meet more than one aspect of the criteria used for assessing value (as detailed earlier). If a site meets more than one criterion for value it will score greater than 20%. Consequently, it is deemed to be of higher value.

### 2.6 Accessibility catchments

Accessibility catchments can be used as a tool to identify deficiencies of open space in a local area. This is achieved by applying them to create a distance catchment. The report displays the results of the catchment to highlight any potentially deficiencies in access to provision.

There is an element of subjectivity resulting in time / distance variations. This is to be expected given that people walk at different speeds depending on a number of factors including height, age, levels of fitness and physical barriers on route. Therefore, there will be an element of 'best fit' for East Suffolk.

Accessibility guidance from Fields In Trust (FIT) provides suggested catchment standards for parks and gardens, natural and semi-natural greenspace and amenity greenspace. These are set out in Table 2.3.

*Table 2.3: FiT accessibility guidelines*

Open space type	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens	710m	9 minute
Amenity Greenspace	480m	6 minute
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	720m	9 minute

FIT do not set accessibility catchments/standards for allotments or churchyards / cemeteries. Churchyards and cemeteries are unique in their function; making new provision occurs only in exceptional circumstances based on evidence beyond the scope of this study. Therefore, it would not be appropriate to set an accessibility standard as this report can have no impact on provision.

Similarly, for allotments no accessibility catchments are suggested. Allotments provide opportunities for people to grow their own produce. They encourage physical activity, improve mental health and provide a sense of well-being thereby contributing to the quality of life. Making way for the delivery of a new allotment is not without its challenges given the land take involved. However, it can be planned for where there is justification.

## PART 3: SURVEY AND AUDIT OVERVIEW

A community questionnaire was developed in collaboration between KKP and ESC. The use of a questionnaire was considered a good approach to providing a widespread opportunity for people to provide their thoughts towards open space provision.

The questionnaire consisted of a series of multiple choice and open-ended questions asking respondents their thoughts on topics such as types of open space visited, frequency, quality etc. The online survey was promoted by the Council via social media and other outlets. The following provides a summary and breakdown of the views towards open space provision.

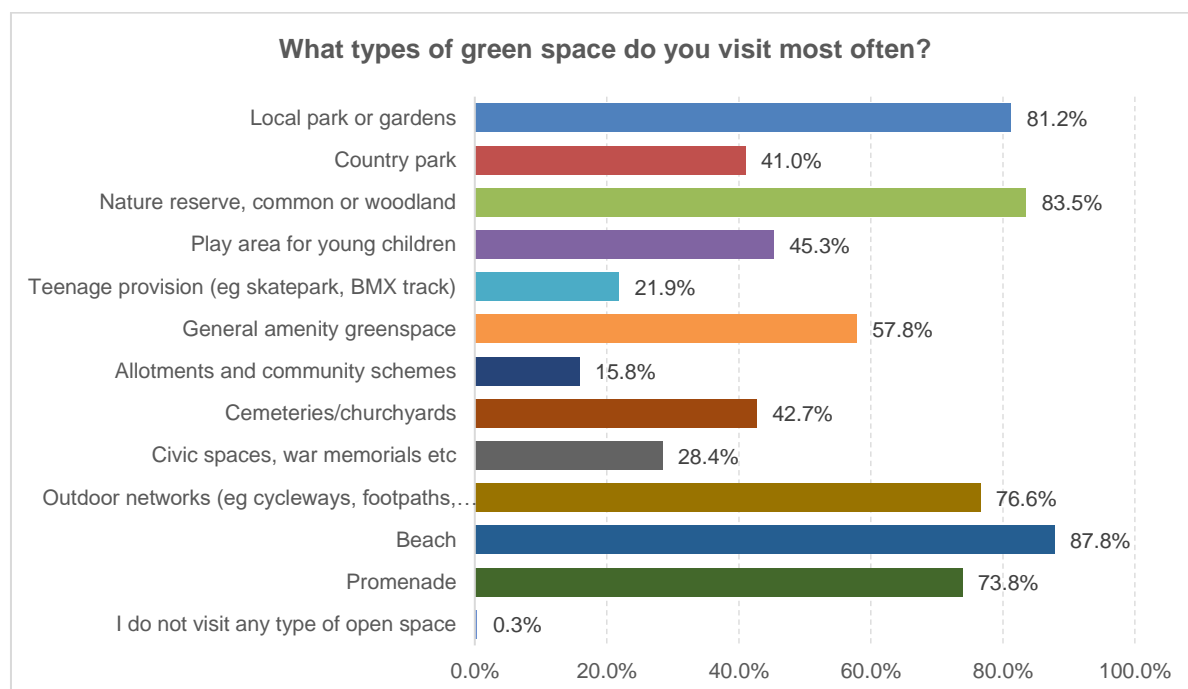
### 3.1 Open space survey analysis

An online community survey was hosted on the Council website and promoted via social media and the Council's communication team. A total of 581 responses were received. The findings of the consultations are reviewed and interpreted to further support the report findings. A summary of the responses is set out on the following pages.

#### Usage

Popular forms of open space provision to visit most often are beaches (88%), nature reserves, commons or woodlands (84%), parks (81%) and outdoor networks (77%).

Figure 3.1.1: Types of open space to visit



## Reasons for visiting open space

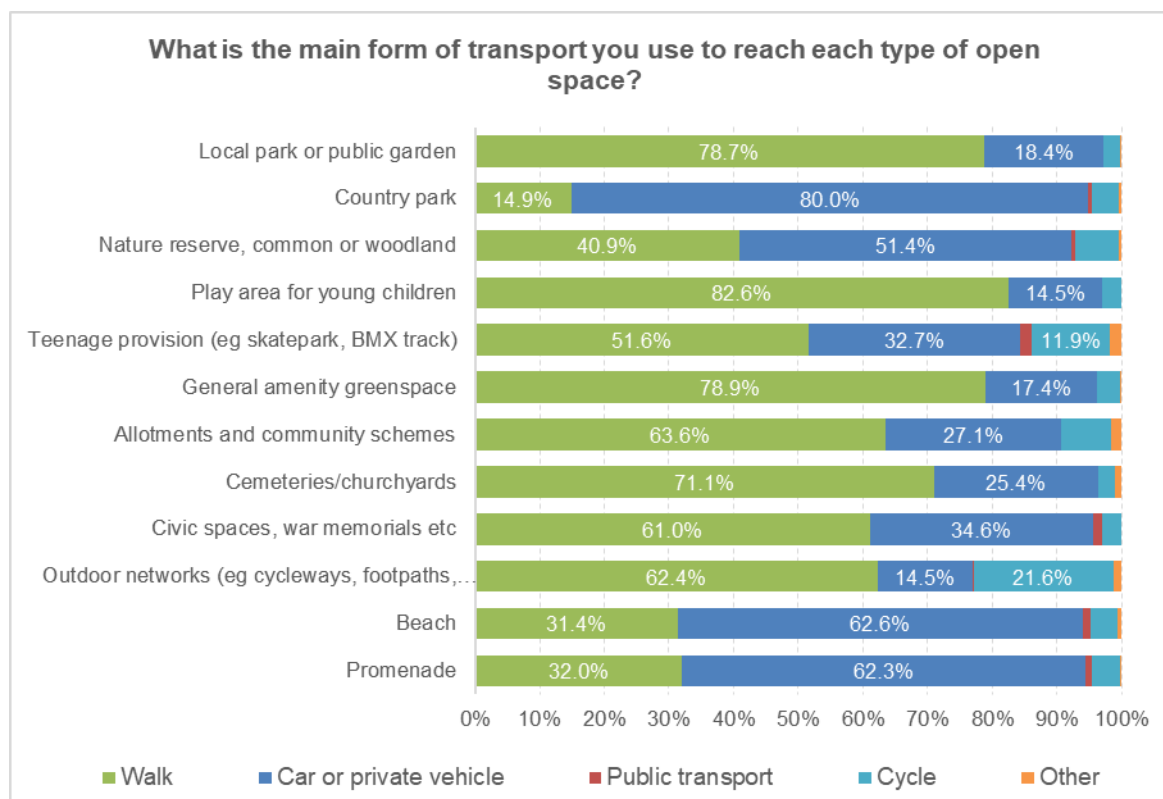
The main reasons for visiting open space are for fresh air (94%), to go for a walk or stroll (92%) and to experience/see nature (74%). Unsurprisingly, the reason: 'to grow fresh fruits and vegetables' received the one of the lowest percentages with only 8.8 % of respondents selecting this. This is a specific reason relating to allotments (and those survey respondents stating they visit an allotment) which is comparatively a niche form of open space with not everyone being an allotment holder. Consequently, it is not a common reason for people visiting open space.

## Accessibility

Results from the survey shows that individuals walk to access provision of amenity greenspace (79%), cemeteries (71%), parks (79%), outdoor networks (62%), play areas for young children (83%), and civic space (61%).

The exception to this is for country parks (80%), nature reserves (51%), beach (63%), promenade (62%) which individuals travel by car to access.

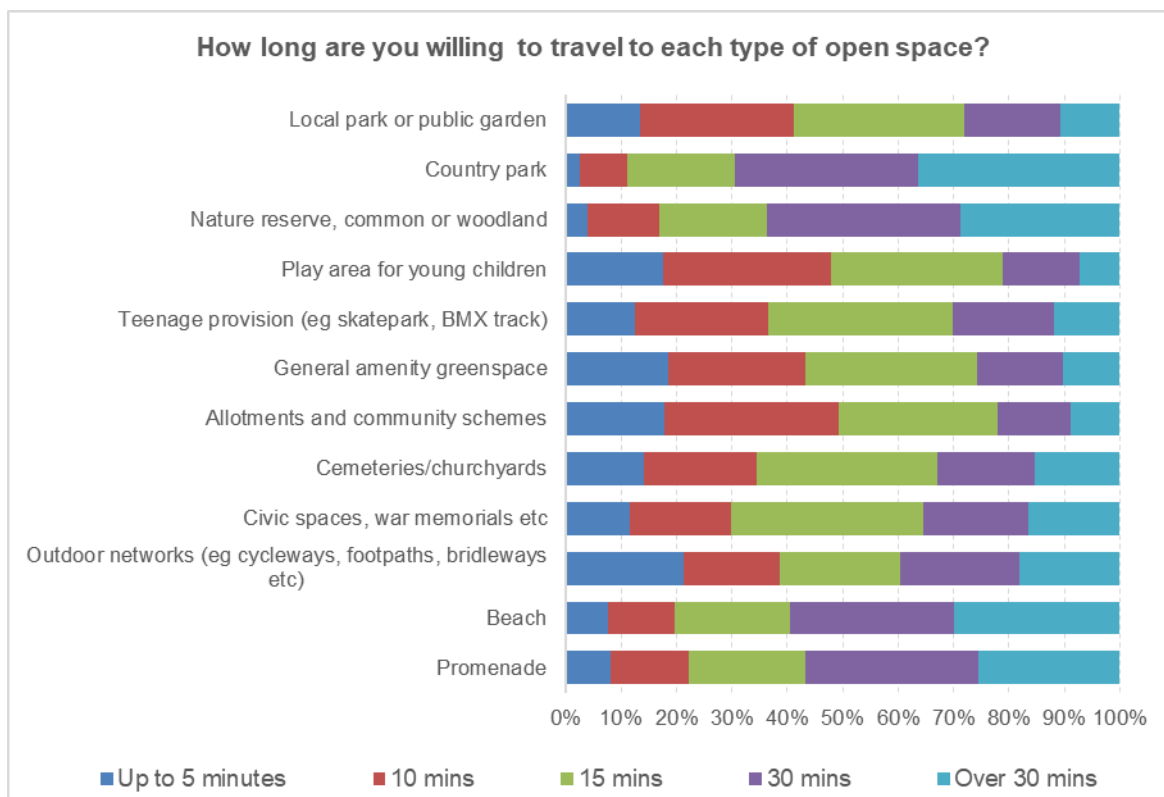
Figure 3.1.2: Mode of travel to open space sites



For some provision such as nature reserves and country parks, there is a willingness to travel further distances; with 36% of respondents stating they would travel over 30 minutes to access a country park and 35% willing to travel 30 minutes to a nature reserve, common or woodland.

For other forms of provision, respondents show a willingness to travel a shorter amount of time (i.e. 10 to 15 minutes). This is particularly noticeable for parks, allotments, amenity greenspace, cemeteries and play provision.

Figure 3.1.3: Time willing to travel to open space sites



## Availability and Quality

In general, respondents consider the amount of open space provision where they live to be quite satisfactory with half stating they are quite satisfactory. Over a third of respondents (38%) rate availability of open space provision as very satisfactory.

Table 3.1.1: Satisfaction with availability of open space provision

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
38.0%	44.7%	8.8%	7.1%	1.4%

Similarly, just over half of survey respondents (46%) consider the quality of open space provision to be generally quite satisfactory. A further 29% rate quality as very satisfactory. Only small proportions of respondents view quality as quite unsatisfactory (10%) or very unsatisfactory (1%).

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

*Table 3.1.2: Satisfaction with quality of parks and open space provision*

Very satisfactory	Quite satisfactory	Neither satisfactory or unsatisfactory	Quite unsatisfactory	Very unsatisfactory
28.6%	45.5%	14.1%	10.3%	1.4%

Respondents to the survey were asked what they thought would improve open space provision. The most common answers include more wildlife/habitat promotion (53%), better and wider range of facilities (51%) and better maintenance and care (50%).

*Table 3.1.3: What would improve open space provision for you?*

Answer option	Percentage of respondents
More wildlife/habitat promotion	52.9%
Better and wider range of facilities (i.e. play equipment, seating, refreshments)	50.9%
Better maintenance and care of features	50.4%
Greater attractiveness (e.g. flowers, trees)	35.7%
Improved access to and within sites	21.0%
Greater community involvement	19.4%
More public events	17.9%
Greater information on sites	15.6%
Other (please state below)	12.9%

### 3.2 Site Audit Overview

Within East Suffolk there is a total of 576 sites equating to approximately 6,730 hectares of open space. The largest contributor to provision is natural/semi-natural greenspace (6,264 hectares); accounting for 93%.

*Table 3.2.1: Overview of open space provision*

Open space typology	Number of sites	Total amount (hectares)*
Allotments	85	64
Amenity greenspace	196	229
Cemeteries/churchyards	175	119
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	98	6,264
Park and gardens	22	54
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>6,730</b>

\* Rounded to the nearest whole number



### Quality

The methodology for assessing quality is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for open spaces.

*Table 3.2.2: Quality scores for all open space typologies*

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	Low	High
Amenity greenspace	50%	13%	47%	75%	108	88
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	40%	16%	41%	68%	55	43
Park and gardens	60%	34%	55%	80%	14	8
					<b>177</b>	<b>139</b>

There is a mixed quality of open space across all typologies. This is reflected in less than half of sites (44%) scoring above their set threshold for quality.

This is explored further under each typology section later in the report.

### Value

The methodology for assessing value is set out in Part 2 (Methodology). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for open spaces.

*Table 3.2.3: Value scores for all open space typologies*

Typology	Threshold	Scores			No. of sites	
		Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Amenity greenspace	20%	11%	32%	60%	15	181
Natural & semi-natural greenspace		19%	39%	65%	1	97
Park and gardens		30%	49%	73%	0	22
					16	300

Nearly all sites (95%) are assessed as being above the threshold for value, reflecting the role and importance of open space provision to local communities and environments.

A high value site is considered to be one that is well used by the local community, well maintained (with a balance for conservation), provides a safe environment and has features of interest, for example, good quality seating, play equipment and landscaping. Sites that provide for a cross section of users and have a multi-functional use are considered a higher value than those offering limited functions and viewed as unattractive.

## PART 4: PARKS AND GARDENS

### 4.1 Introduction

This typology often covers urban parks and formal gardens (including designed landscapes), which provide accessible high-quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events.

### 4.2 Current provision

There are 22 sites classified as parks and gardens across East Suffolk, the equivalent of over 54 hectares (see Table 4.1). No site size threshold has been applied and, as such, all sites have been included within the typology. All analysis areas have parks provision.

*Table 4.1: Current parks and gardens provision in East Suffolk*

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	-	-	-
Area 2	4	5.63	0.18
Area 3	1	5.82	0.24
Area 4	5	10.77	0.31
Area 5	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-
Area 7	10	28.10	0.42
Area 8	2	3.73	0.16
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>54.05</b>	<b>0.22</b>

For parks and gardens, East Suffolk has a current provision level of 0.22 hectares per 1,000 head of population. The largest site and therefore the biggest contributor to this provision is Normanston Park (6.21 ha). The next largest site is Carlton Park, Lowestoft Road (5.82 ha), located in Area 3.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 4.1 shows that overall East Suffolk is below this.

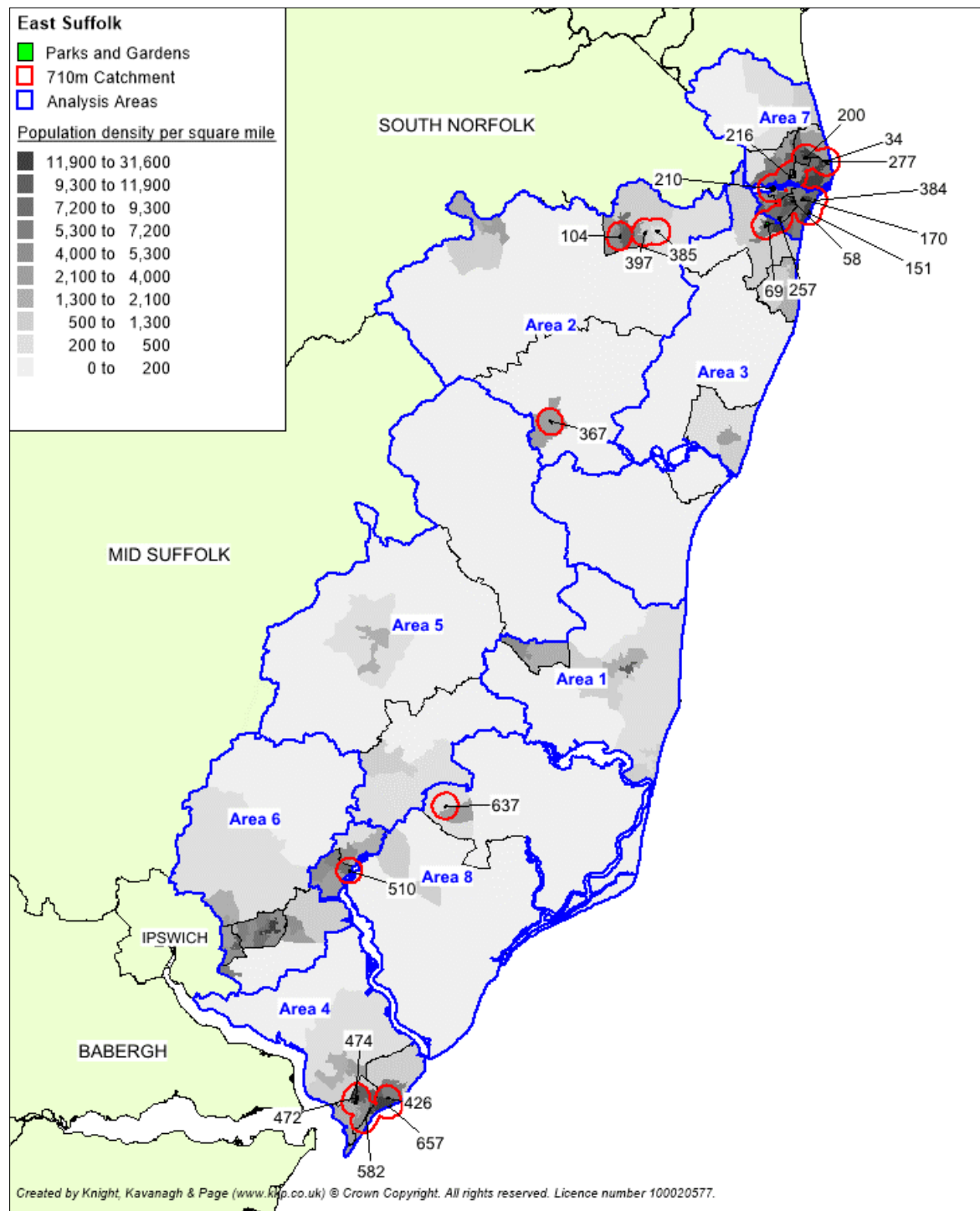
However, as recognised above the reality is that parks provision, particularly 'destination' parks, are only going to exist in areas of greater population density. Consequently, some areas being below the FIT suggestion does not mean a true deficiency exists. It is therefore important to also consider accessibility and quality of provision.

### 4.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, a 710m catchment (based on FIT guidelines) has been applied to parks. Figure 4.1 shows the catchments applied to parks and gardens to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 4.1: Parks and gardens mapped with 710m



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 4.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
34	Bellevue Park	Area 7	1.91		
58	Britten Road	Area 7	1.13		
69	Carlton Park, Lowestoft Road	Area 3	5.82		
104	Darby Road	Area 2	1.51		
151	Kensington Gardens	Area 7	1.93		
170	Kirkley Fen Park	Area 7	3.21		
200	Gunton Community Park	Area 7	2.69		
210	Nicholas Everitt Park	Area 7	4.76		
216	Normanston Park	Area 7	6.21		
257	Rosedale Park	Area 7	2.94		
277	Sparrows Nest Park	Area 7	2.69		
367	Town Park	Area 2	1.20		
384	Wellington Gardens	Area 7	0.62		
385	Werels Loke	Area 2	1.73		
397	Woodfield Park	Area 2	1.19		
426	Allenby Park	Area 4	1.35		
472	Cavendish Park North	Area 4	3.13		
474	Cavendish Park South	Area 4	1.54		
510	Elmhurst Park	Area 8	1.91		
582	Langer Park	Area 4	1.75		
637	Jubilee Park, Rendlesham	Area 8	1.82		
657	Felixstowe Seafront Gardens	Area 4	3.00		

Catchment mapping shows that areas of greater population density are generally served by parks provision. However, catchment gaps are noted. A slight gap in catchment mapping exists to central east Lowestoft (Area 7) and north west Felixstowe (Area 4).

Several settlements such as Bungay (Area 2), Southwold (Area 3), Leiston (Area 1), Saxmundham (Area 1), Framlingham (Area 5), Kesgrave (Area 6) and Martlesham Heath (Area 6) are also highlighted as not being served by a park.

However, in most cases these areas are served by other types of open space such as amenity greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. This is explored further in Part 9.

### 4.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); scores from site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for parks. A threshold of 60% is applied to segregate high from low quality parkland. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 4.3: Quality ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<60%	>60%
Area 1	-	-	-	-	-
Area 2	41%	54%	80%	3	1
Area 3	69%	69%	69%	0	1
Area 4	34%	46%	66%	4	1
Area 5	-	-	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-	-	-
Area 7	46%	60%	80%	5	5
Area 8	44%	51%	58%	2	0
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>34%</b>	<b>55%</b>	<b>80%</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>8</b>

Of the 22 park and garden sites, almost two thirds score below the quality threshold suggesting a mixed standard of quality of parks provision.

Some of the lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Cavendish Park North (34%)
- ✦ Cavendish Park South (39%)
- ✦ Allenby Park (41%)

These sites score lower for general lack of ancillary features such as signage and bins. There are litter bins, dog bins and benches at Allenby Park however, the number is deemed insufficient so scores slightly lower. All three sites lack signage however, each have good entrance scores and user security. In addition, all three have play provision on site.

The criteria used to assess parks and gardens is intended to be high, reflecting the Green Flag Award assessment. As such, not all park and garden sites would be expected to score above the threshold set for such a prestigious award. It is more likely for the flagship 'destination' sites to score highly. There are currently two Green Flag Award sites: Felixstowe Seafront Gardens and Nicholas Everitt Park.

It is important to note that some sites score just below the quality threshold. For example, Jubilee Park, Rendlesham scores 58%. The site has good entrances, dog bins and football goals as well as a play area, adding to the quality of the site. Rendlesham Parish Council highlight that Jubilee park, owned by the PC, is their main asset and the PC would like to develop the pavilion to provide additional facilities such as a gym or increase the building to two storeys. The play area has been revamped with some equipment added. Rendlesham PC are very keen to provide leisure infrastructure and to serve parishes and surrounding ones.

Sites assessed as being of particularly high quality and as such, rate well above the threshold, are Halesworth Town Park (80%), Nicholas Everitt Park (80%) and Normanston Park (72%).

Normanston Park (72%) is observed as a large very well used site with many features including a play area, skate park, six tennis courts, a basketball post and table tennis. The site benefits from numerous picnic tables, benches, bins, good paths and football goals. It also has a restaurant and the site is adjacent to Leathes Ham, a Local Nature Reserve. The range of facilities and sporting activities it offers adds to the quality of the site.

Similarly, Halesworth Town Park (80%) benefits from a good variety of features including a play area, MUGA, skate park and youth shelters. The site also has toilets, benches, picnic tables and bins, although the bins in skate park were noted as damaged. There is lighting on the pathways and interpretation panels about the history adding to the quality of the site.

Like Normanston Park and Halesworth Park, Nicolas Everitt Park (80%) also contains a range of features and facilities such as a play area, tennis courts, signage and seating. However, unlike the other parks, there is also a boating lake, museum, crazy golf and bowling green within the park, further adding to the quality of the Green Flag Award site.

Other high scoring parks include Carlton Park and Felixstowe Seafront Gardens. The former is quite a big site (nearly six hectares) with an array of play provision including a skate park, MUGA, play area, fitness equipment and table tennis. Additionally, there is trim trail/fitness equipment around the site next to the path. There is car park on site, albeit very small.

Consultation with Carlton Colville Town Council identifies that the latest installed equipment was funded by them. The gym equipment was installed in 2020 and the skate park in 2019. The site can suffer from ASB in the summer. The Town Council highlight that the wood area has been made more visible and the skate park has been made more accessible. Moreover, there are open days and nature walks that take place at the park. Carlton Colville Town Council identifies that there is going to be a new country park near The Gardens, south of The St.

### 4.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from the site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for parks. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 4.4: Value ratings for parks and gardens

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Area 1	-	-	-	-	-
Area 2	36%	49%	73%	0	4
Area 3	64%	64%	64%	0	1
Area 4	30%	41%	50%	0	5
Area 5	-	-	-	-	-
Area 6	-	-	-	-	-
Area 7	36%	53%	68%	0	10
Area 8	45%	45%	45%	0	2
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>30%</b>	<b>49%</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>22</b>

All park and garden sites rate above the threshold for value. The highest scoring sites for value are:

- ♦ Halesworth Town Park (73%)
- ♦ Normanston Park (68%)
- ♦ Carlton Park, Lowestoft Road (64%)
- ♦ Nicholas Everitt Park (64%)

All these parks have high amenity and social value due to containing a range of play equipment, good paths and recreational and exercise opportunities. Also, they are observed as attractive parks that are well used and maintained therefore, also score high for structural and landscape benefits.

Normanston Park has additional economic value due to the restaurant on site whilst Nicolas Everitt Park features a boating lake, museum and crazy golf also adding to its economic value.

Halesworth Town Park has floral planting, a stream and connects to Halesworth Millennium Green adding to its ecological value and structural and landscape benefits. It also features interpretation panels about the history providing cultural and heritage value. Nicholas Everitt Park also has added cultural value due to its bandstand.

All park and garden sites provide opportunities for a wide range of users and demonstrate the high social inclusion, health benefits and sense of place that parks can offer.

One of the key aspects of the value placed on parks provision is their ability to function as a multipurpose form of open space provision. Parks provide opportunities for local communities and individuals to socialise and undertake a range of different activities, such as exercise, dog walking and taking children to the play area.

Consequently, sites with a greater diverse range of features and ancillary facilities rate higher for value.



## PART 5: NATURAL AND SEMI-NATURAL GREENSPACE

### 5.1 Introduction

The natural and semi-natural greenspace typology can include woodland (coniferous, deciduous, mixed) and scrub, grassland (e.g. down-land, meadow), heath or moor, wetlands (e.g. marsh, fen), wastelands (including disturbed ground), and bare rock habitats (e.g. quarries) and commons. For the purpose of this study, the focus is on sites publicly accessible.

### 5.2 Current provision

In total, there are 98 accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace sites in East Suffolk, equating to over 6,264 hectares. There are also a further eight are identified but deemed inaccessible equating to 124 hectares.

*Table 5.1: Current accessible natural and semi-natural greenspace in East Suffolk*

Analysis area	Natural and semi-natural greenspace		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	13	423.01	25.85
Area 2	14	88.91	2.79
Area 3	16	3,122.13	130.18
Area 4	9	230.58	6.57
Area 5	3	37.80	2.20
Area 6	11	301.60	8.58
Area 7	15	78.75	1.18
Area 8	17	1,981.24	85.52
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>98</b>	<b>6,264.01</b>	<b>25.11</b>

These totals do not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, they may still make a wider contribution to local areas, in relation to community viability, quality of life and health and wellbeing. Furthermore, they provide 'stepping stones' for flora and fauna enabling freedom of movement for wildlife across the area.

Area 3 has the most accessible natural and semi-natural provision with a total of 3,122 hectares. This makes up almost half of the accessible provision across East Suffolk.

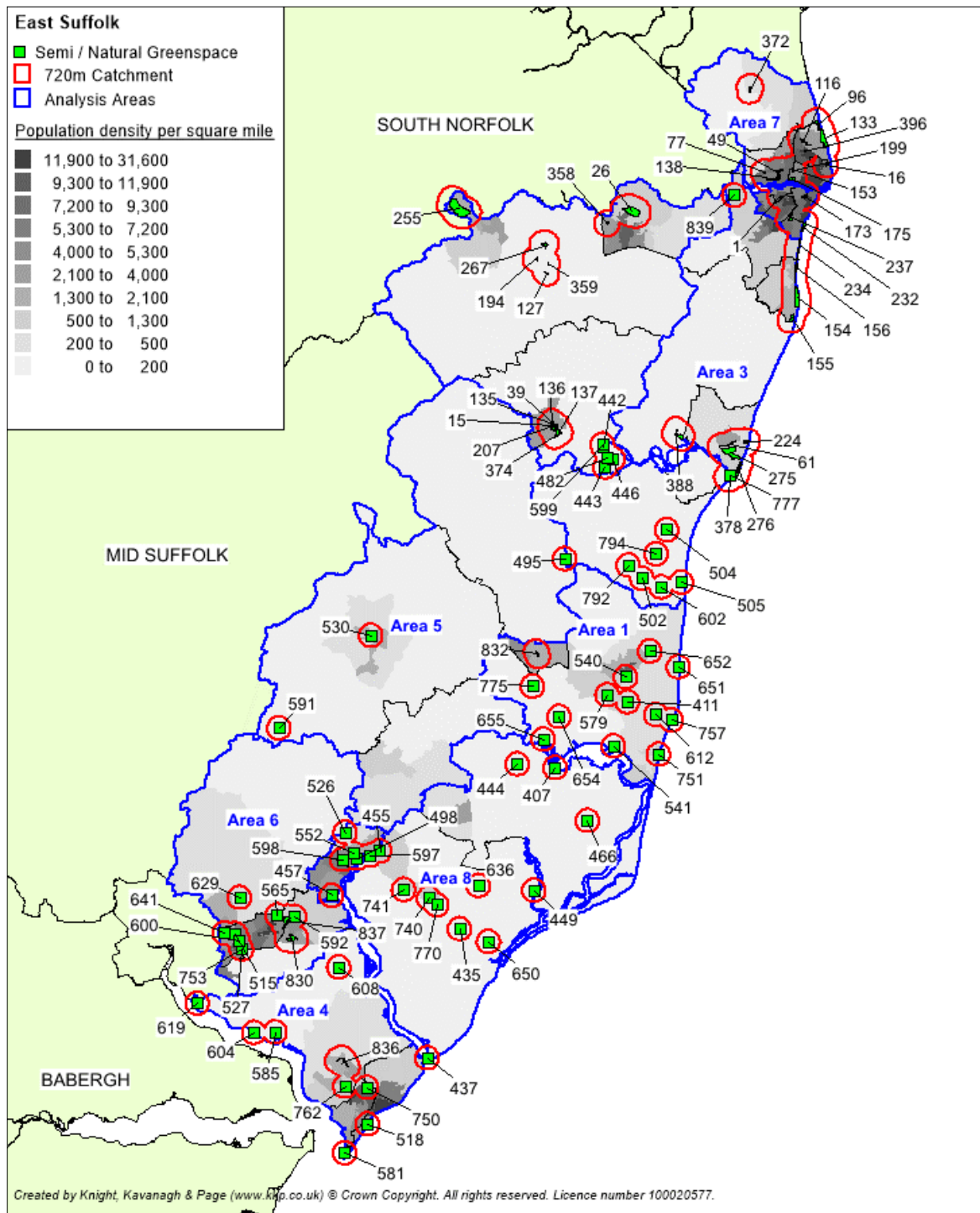
The two largest sites are Rendlesham Forest (1,500 ha) and Walberswick NNR (1,192 ha). The former makes up 24% of accessible natural/semi-natural provision in East Suffolk.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 1.80 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. There is an overall (accessible) provision of 25.11 hectares per 1,000 head of population which exceeds the FIT guidelines.

## 5.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of catchment mapping, a 720m catchment (based on FIT guidelines) has been applied. Figure 5.1 shows catchment mapping to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

Figure 5.1: Natural and semi-natural greenspace mapped with 9-minute catchment



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 5.2: Key to sites mapped\*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
1	Adjacent Dell Primary School	Area 7	0.67		
15	Angel Meadow	Area 2	1.89		
16	Arnolds Bequest	Area 7	0.66		
26	Beccles Common	Area 2	37.44		
39	Birds Folly	Area 2	1.85		
49	Bonds Meadow	Area 7	6.05		
61	Buss Creek	Area 3	5.05		
77	Christmas Lane	Area 7	0.77		
96	Corton Wood	Area 7	7.00		
116	Foxburrow Wood	Area 7	4.76		
127	Godfrey's Common	Area 2	0.49		
133	Gunton Warren and Gunton Wood	Area 7	25.86		
135	Halesworth Millenium Green (a)	Area 2	2.01		
136	Halesworth Millenium Green (b)	Area 2	5.39		
137	Halesworth Millenium Green (c)	Area 2	9.89		
138	Hall Road Ham	Area 7	6.57		
153	Kesgrave Drive NSN	Area 7	0.68		
154	Kessingland Beach (a)	Area 3	29.59		
155	Kessingland Beach (b)	Area 3	7.04		
156	Kessingland Cliffs	Area 3	5.63		
173	Kirkley Ham	Area 7	3.84		
175	Leathes Ham	Area 7	5.98		
194	Mill Common, Great Common	Area 2	1.22		
199	Moncton Avenue	Area 7	0.36		
207	New Reach River	Area 2	0.20		
224	North Parade, Boating Lake	Area 3	4.37		
232	Pakefield Beach	Area 7	6.65		
234	Pakefield Cliffs NSN	Area 3	4.65		
237	Pakefield Park NSN	Area 7	5.92		
255	River Waveney Outney Common	Area 2	71.96		
267	Shipmeadow Common	Area 2	5.13		
275	Southwold Common NSN	Area 3	39.20		
276	Southwold Denes	Area 3	11.26		
358	The Dell	Area 2	1.00		
359	The Mardle	Area 2	0.60		
372	Town Pits	Area 7	3.46		

\* Inaccessible sites identified are listed but without a quality or value rating

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
374	Two Acres	Area 2	0.76		
378	Walberswick Saltmarsh	Area 3	11.47		
388	West of A1095	Area 3	10.22		
396	Wissett Way	Area 7	0.28		
407	Alde Mudflats	Area 8	22.00		
411	Aldringham Common	Area 1	0.66		
435	Barthorps Folly	Area 8	12.00		
437	Bawdsey Quay	Area 8	1.50		
442	Bickers Heath	Area 2	4.70		
443	Blackheath	Area 2	14.70		
444	Blaxhall Common	Area 8	44.50		
446	Blowers Common	Area 2	0.30		
449	Boyton & Hollesley Marshes RSPB Reserve	Area 8	18.00		
455	Bromeswell Green	Area 8	7.20		
457	Broomheath	Area 8	1.54		
466	Captain's Wood	Area 8	56.00		
482	Church Common	Area 2	3.20		
495	Darsham Marshes	Area 5	20.00		
498	Deben Riverside	Area 8	6.00		
502	Dingle Marshes NNR	Area 3	93.00		
504	Dunwich Forest	Area 3	270.00		
505	Dunwich Heath	Area 3	87.00		
515	Farthing Wood	Area 6	0.90		
518	Felixstowe Beach CWS	Area 4	0.10		
526	Foxburrow Farm	Area 6	67.00		
527	Foxhall Woods	Area 6	46.06		
530	Framlingham Mere	Area 5	13.80		
540	Haylings Pond Meadow	Area 1	0.85		
541	Hazelwood Marshes	Area 1	64.00		
552	Hutchison's Meadow	Area 8	1.00		
565	Kesgrave Woods	Area 6	19.32		
579	Knodishall Common	Area 1	13.20		
581	Landguard Common	Area 4	33.00		
585	Levington Lagoon	Area 4	5.00		
591	Martins' Meadows	Area 5	4.00		
592	Martlesham Common	Area 6	9.21		
597	Melton Riverside	Area 8	6.50		
598	Melton Woods	Area 8	10.50		

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
599	Mill Heath	Area 2	5.30		
600	Mill Stream LNR	Area 6	7.50		
602	Minsmere RSPB Reserve	Area 3	999.00		
604	Nacton Shore	Area 4	8.00		
608	Newbourne Springs	Area 4	19.00		
612	North Warren RSPB Reserve	Area 1	44.30		
619	Orwell Country Park	Area 4	80.00		
629	Playford Alder Carr	Area 6	6.80		
636	Rendlesham Forest	Area 8	1,500.00		
641	Rushmere Common	Area 6	79.70		
650	Simpsons Saltings	Area 8	25.00		
651	Sizewell Beach	Area 1	40.00		
652	Sizewell Belts	Area 1	144.00		
654	Snape Common	Area 1	8.000		
655	Snape Marshes	Area 1	19.80		
740	Sutton Common	Area 8	104.60		
741	Sutton Heath	Area 8	62.30		
750	The Grove	Area 4	4.00		
751	The Haven	Area 1	45.00		
753	The Mount	Area 6	43.82		
757	Thorpeness Beach	Area 1	38.00		
762	Trimley Marshes RSPB Reserve	Area 4	77.00		
770	Upper Hollesley Common	Area 8	102.60		
775	Wadd Conservation Area	Area 1	3.50		
777	Walberswick NNR	Area 3	1,192.00		
792	Westleton Common	Area 3	18.40		
794	Westleton Heath NNR	Area 3	145.50		
830	Martlesham Woods	Area 6	11.94		
832	The Hopkins	Area 1	1.70		
836	Crowswell Way	Area 4	4.48		
837	Portal Woodlands	Area 6	9.35		
839	Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve	Area 3	233.00		

Catchment mapping shows that areas of greater population density are generally served by natural greenspace. However, catchment gaps are noted. A slight gap in catchment mapping exists to central south west Lowestoft (Area 7), east Felixstowe (Area 4) and central Kesgrave (Area 6).

However, in most cases these areas are served by other types of open space such as parks and gardens and amenity greenspace. This is explored further in Part 9.

### 5.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from the site assessments are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 40% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 5.3: Quality ratings for natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<40%	>40%
Area 1	23%	37%	68%	10	3
Area 2	16%	36%	59%	8	6
Area 3	32%	44%	67%	8	8
Area 4	28%	45%	62%	2	7
Area 5	26%	36%	44%	2	1
Area 6	20%	43%	64%	5	6
Area 7	29%	43%	65%	9	6
Area 8	17%	38%	65%	11	6
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>16%</b>	<b>41%</b>	<b>68%</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>43</b>

Of the natural and semi-natural sites assessed, less than half (44%) rate above the threshold set for quality, indicating a mixed standard of quality for this type of provision.

The four lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Bickers Heath (16%)
- ✦ Mill Heath (17%)
- ✦ Bawdsey Quay (17%)
- ✦ Playford Alder Carr (20%)

These four sites all score low due to entrances, user security and controls to prevent illegal use. Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as seating and bins. In some instances, natural and semi-natural sites can be intentionally without ancillary facilities in order to reduce misuse/inappropriate behaviour whilst encouraging greater conservation. Bawdsey Quay has poor paths and Mill Heath has poor access to the site due to surrounding narrow roads.

Other low scoring sites for quality include Crowswell Way. This site scores low for user security and paths. This is supported by consultation with Trimley St Mary Parish Council who highlight that users find it 'nerve wracking' to walk through the site as it is very close to the adjacent road (A14) and unfenced. Furthermore, the path is in a poor state but it is a good route to get to the village.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for quality in East Suffolk are:

- ✦ Minsmere RSPB Reserve (67%)
- ✦ Haylings Pond Meadow (66%)
- ✦ Rendlesham Forest (65%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, seating and bins. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, with well-maintained pathways and levels of personal security. All three sites have car parking, picnic tables, benches, are well used and well maintained.

Minsmere RSPB Reserve is the highest scoring natural/semi-natural greenspace. It is a huge coastal nature reserve with woods, wetland and nature trails. The site has the additional benefits of a visitor centre and café. It is a highly managed and popular site with an entrance fee so unsurprisingly scores the highest for quality. Similarly Rendlesham Forest is managed by the Forestry Commission. The site also has play equipment and a café further adding to its quality score. Haylings Pond Meadow is significantly smaller than the Rendlesham Forest and Minsmere RSPB Reserve, however, is observed as a lovely site with a pond, several benches, picnic tables, bins, and trees. It is also well maintained and has good signage.

## 5.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the value assessment for natural and semi-natural greenspace. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of how the value scores are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 5.4: Value scores for assessed natural and semi-natural greenspace*

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Area 1	27%	40%	58%	0	13
Area 2	19%	33%	41%	1	13
Area 3	27%	41%	59%	0	16
Area 4	28%	38%	53%	0	9
Area 5	33%	38%	40%	0	3
Area 6	27%	41%	65%	0	11
Area 7	24%	38%	53%	0	15
Area 8	20%	41%	59%	0	17
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>19%</b>	<b>39%</b>	<b>65%</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>97</b>

All but one natural and semi-natural site scores above the threshold for value. The majority of sites have high ecological value, contributing to flora and fauna, as well as providing habitats for local wildlife.



As well as ecological value, these sites provide benefits to the health and wellbeing of residents and those visiting from further afield. This is a result of the exercise opportunities they provide, for example, through walking and biking trails.

Furthermore, they create peaceful spaces to relax and reflect. The high levels of natural features also support with improving air quality, particularly in built up areas.

The highest scoring natural and semi-natural sites for value are:

- ◀ Martlesham Common (65%)
- ◀ Rendlesham Forest (59%)
- ◀ Minsmere RSPB Reserve (59%)
- ◀ Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve (59%)
- ◀ Haylings Pond Meadow (58%)

These sites are also some of the highest scoring for quality for this typology. These sites offer education value through interpretation boards as well as high amenity and social value due to good paths and recreation and exercise opportunities. All are well located and high quality providing attractive landscapes enhancing structural and landscape benefits. In addition, each provide high ecological value due to high biodiversity providing habitats for flora and fauna.

This is particularly noticeable for the very large sites of Rendlesham Forest and Minsmere RSPB Reserve. Rendlesham Forest is situated in an AONB. This and its large size, enhances ecological and biodiversity value. Moreover, the site has added social and amenity value due to featuring play equipment, walking trails and picnic benches. The café offers economic value. Similarly, Minsmere RSPB Reserve also contains a café enhancing economic value. All these sites have high structural landscape value due to being attractive, well used sites.

Consultation with Martlesham Parish Council highlights that Martlesham Common LNR is a designated Country Wildlife Site and that the area is managed for the community and wildlife. The Parish Council have a 99-year lease on it. Information boards were implemented last Autumn and are a collaboration between the Parish Council and the Greenways Project which help inform visitors about the abundance of nature to be found on the nature reserve, some history and how the site is managed. This adds additional educational and heritage value to the site as well as further adding to the quality of the site. The usage of the site has increased significantly, with a Friends of Group looking to be established. The Greenways volunteers' time is smaller due to Covid-19 however, they want to increase amount of heathland.

Similarly, Carlton Marshes Nature Reserve, owned by Suffolk Wildlife Trust, has also had recent, significant improvements. Consultation with Carlton Colville Town Council identifies that the site has had improvements at the end of last year with a new visitor centre, providing high educational value. Other facilities on site include toilets, a café, picnic area and outdoor play area enhancing amenity, social and health value.

Portal Woodlands scores high for value and consultation with Martlesham Parish Council identifies that there is a volunteer group called Portal Woodlands Conservation Group who help with Coppicing, planting to help conserve the site. There is also an education programme involving lead guided walks and school class events, providing high educational, social and cultural value to the site.



## PART 6: AMENITY GREENSPACE

### 6.1 Introduction

Amenity Greenspace is defined as sites offering opportunities for informal activities close to home or work or enhancement of the appearance of residential or other areas. It includes informal recreation spaces, village greens and other incidental space.

### 6.2 Current provision

There are 196 amenity greenspace sites in East Suffolk equating to over 229 hectares of provision. Sites are most often found within areas of housing and function as informal recreation space or along highways providing a visual amenity. A number of recreation grounds and playing fields are also classified as amenity greenspace.

The totals may not include all provision in the area as a site size threshold of 0.2 hectares has been applied. Sites smaller than this are likely to be of less or only limited recreational value to residents. However, a handful of sites below this size are included due to their quality or value.

*Table 6.1: Distribution of amenity greenspace sites in East Suffolk*

Analysis area	Amenity greenspace		
	Number	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	12	16.71	1.02
Area 2	32	23.77	0.75
Area 3	30	25.22	1.05
Area 4	22	26.50	0.75
Area 5	24	28.16	1.64
Area 6	24	25.27	0.72
Area 7	31	61.29	0.92
Area 8	21	22.16	0.96
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>229.07</b>	<b>0.92</b>

This typology has a broad range of purposes and as such varies significantly in size. For example, St. Lawrence Green, Kesgrave at 0.22 hectares acts as a visual amenity. In contrast, Gainsborough Drive, at nearly 15 hectares, is a large open space with a play area and incorporates Gunton Woods.

Fields In Trust (FIT) suggests 0.60 hectares per 1,000 population as a guideline quantity standard. Table 6.1 shows that overall, East Suffolk is sufficient on this basis. This is also the case for all analysis areas.

### 6.3 Accessibility

For the purpose of mapping, a 480m walk time for sites (based on FIT guidelines) is applied. Figure 6.1 shows the catchments applied to amenity greenspace provision to help inform where deficiencies in provision may be located.

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 6.1: Amenity greenspaces with a 480m catchment

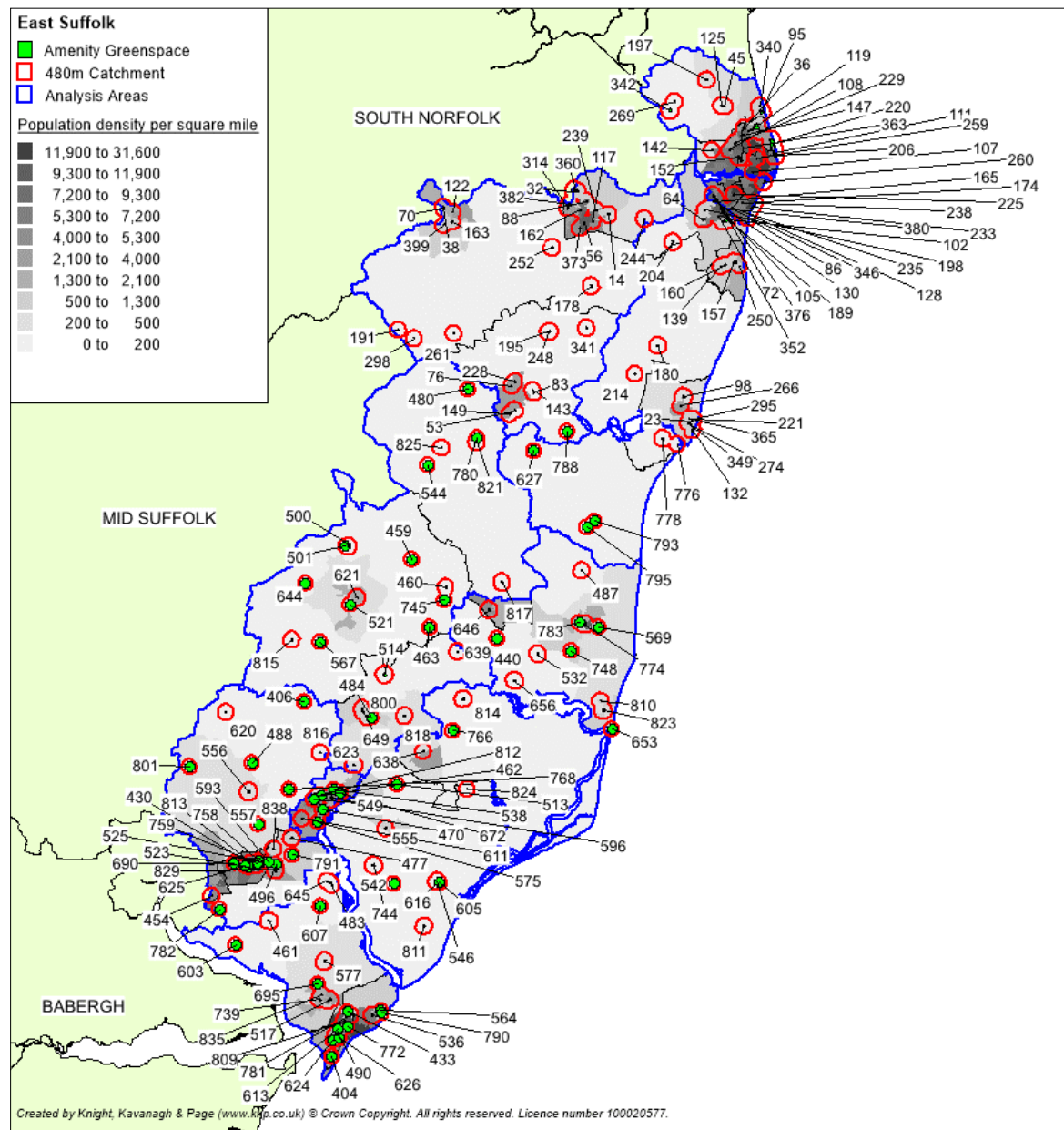


Table 6.2: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
14	All Saints Green	Area 2	0.85		
23	Bartholomew's Green	Area 3	0.22		
32	Beccles Quay	Area 2	0.56		
36	Bentley Drive Parkhill	Area 7	0.35		
38	Bigod Castle	Area 2	0.24		
45	Blundeston Football Pitch (a)	Area 7	0.79		
53	Bramfield Road	Area 2	0.65		

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
56	Bramley Rise	Area 2	0.68		
64	Carlton Colville Community Centre	Area 3	1.77		
70	Castle Hills	Area 2	0.62		
72	Chaukers Crescent	Area 7	2.35		
76	Chichester Road	Area 2	0.26		
83	Church View	Area 2	0.25		
86	Cliftonville Road	Area 7	0.53		
88	Common Lane	Area 2	0.71		
95	Corton Road Football Pitch	Area 7	4.12		
98	Cox's Lane Recreation Ground	Area 3	1.95		
102	Dale End Community Centre	Area 3	5.92		
105	Deepdale	Area 3	0.62		
107	Denmark Road Smith's Marsh	Area 7	0.32		
108	Dunston Drive	Area 7	0.73		
111	East of Sparrows Nest	Area 7	1.11		
117	Foxglove Close	Area 2	0.14		
119	Gainsborough Drive	Area 7	14.59		
122	Garden Close	Area 2	0.39		
125	Glebe Land	Area 7	1.34		
128	Grand Avenue	Area 7	0.29		
130	Grove Road	Area 3	0.20		
132	Gun Hill	Area 3	0.89		
139	Heritage Green	Area 3	0.15		
142	Holly Hill	Area 7	0.30		
143	Holton Village Hall	Area 2	0.49		
147	Jenkins Green	Area 7	0.27		
149	Kennedy Close	Area 2	0.78		
152	Kesgrave Drive AGS	Area 7	2.00		
157	Kessingland Community Centre	Area 3	1.55		
160	Kessingland High Street	Area 3	0.39		
162	Kilbrack Gardens	Area 2	0.37		
163	Kings Road	Area 2	0.82		
165	Kingswood Avenue	Area 3	0.13		
174	Kirkley Recreation Ground	Area 7	1.46		
178	London Road Football Ground	Area 2	1.24		
180	London Road Recreation Ground	Area 3	1.51		
189	Matlock Dale	Area 3	0.19		
191	Metfield Road, St James South Elmham	Area 2	0.38		
195	Mill Common, Wangford Road	Area 2	0.76		

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
197	Millenium Green	Area 7	0.69		
198	Milnes Way / Aveling Way	Area 3	0.80		
204	Mutford Common	Area 3	0.77		
206	Net Drying Area	Area 7	3.82		
214	Norfolk Road Playing Field	Area 3	0.52		
220	North Denes Caravan Park	Area 7	14.49		
221	North Green	Area 3	0.11		
225	Oakwood Road	Area 7	0.30		
228	Old Station Road	Area 2	0.55		
229	Oulton Community Centre	Area 7	1.57		
233	Pakefield Cliffs AGS	Area 7	1.38		
235	Pakefield Green	Area 7	0.41		
238	Pakefield Road	Area 7	0.54		
239	Park Drive	Area 2	0.64		
244	Pinewood Gardens	Area 2	0.64		
248	Rear of the Racehorse PH	Area 2	0.41		
250	Rider Haggard Lane play area	Area 3	0.10		
252	Ringsfield Corner Village Hall	Area 2	0.89		
259	Rotterdam Road	Area 7	0.37		
260	Royal Green	Area 7	0.74		
261	Rumburgh Pleasure Area	Area 2	0.38		
266	Shearwater Way Former School Playing Field	Area 3	0.36		
269	Somerleyton Green	Area 7	0.68		
274	Southwold Common AGS	Area 3	1.03		
295	St Edmunds Green	Area 3	0.36		
298	St James Lane (b)	Area 2	0.41		
314	St Mary's Paddock	Area 2	0.86		
340	Station Road	Area 7	0.54		
341	Station Road	Area 2	0.93		
342	Station Road Cricket Pitch	Area 7	2.73		
346	Stradbooke Road	Area 7	0.62		
349	Strickland Place	Area 3	0.13		
352	Swallowfields	Area 3	0.91		
360	The Quay	Area 2	4.36		
363	Thirlmere Walk	Area 7	0.31		
365	Tibby's Green	Area 3	0.19		
373	Townlands	Area 2	0.34		
376	Upland Community Centre	Area 7	1.56		

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
380	Wannock Close	Area 3	0.28		
382	Waveney Meadow	Area 2	1.31		
399	Woodland Drive	Area 2	0.89		
404	Adastral Close	Area 4	0.40		
406	Aken Field Recreation Ground	Area 6	1.50		
430	Ashdale Green Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	2.72		
433	Ataka Road Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.49		
440	Benhall Village Green	Area 1	0.85		
454	Broke Hall	Area 6	0.47		
459	Bruisyard Riverside Park	Area 5	1.75		
460	Bruisyard Road	Area 5	0.55		
461	Bucklesham	Area 4	1.86		
462	Bury Hill Road Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.31		
463	Butchers Field Amenity Greenspace	Area 5	0.37		
470	Castle Street Amenity Greenspace, W'bridge	Area 8	0.75		
477	Martlesham Recreation Ground	Area 6	0.97		
480	Chediston Amenity Greenspace	Area 5	0.63		
483	Church Field	Area 4	2.18		
484	Church Field, Wickham Market	Area 5	0.49		
487	Church Road	Area 1	0.44		
488	Clopton Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.60		
490	Coronation Sports Ground	Area 4	4.03		
496	De-Brink-on-The -Green	Area 6	0.60		
500	Dennington	Area 5	1.31		
501	Dennington Village Green	Area 5	0.25		
513	Eyke Playing Field	Area 8	3.10		
514	Fair Field Green	Area 5	2.65		
517	Faulkeners Way	Area 4	1.78		
521	Fen Meadow	Area 5	2.40		
523	Fenton's Link Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.40		
525	Fox Lea Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.53		
532	Friston	Area 1	1.07		
536	Gosford Way	Area 4	1.21		
538	Hall Farm Road Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.59		
542	Heath Drive Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.25		
544	Heveningham Glebe Land	Area 5	0.88		
546	Hollesley Village Hall	Area 8	2.38		
549	Houchells Meadow	Area 8	1.50		



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
555	Ipswich Close	Area 8	0.64		
556	Ipswich Road	Area 6	2.36		
557	John Belstead Playing Field	Area 6	1.85		
564	Kendall Green	Area 4	0.90		
567	Kettleburgh Village Green	Area 5	1.85		
569	King George's Recreation Ground	Area 1	0.15		
575	Kingston Playing Field	Area 8	3.18		
577	Kirton & Falkenham	Area 4	2.16		
593	Martlesham Heath Aviation Control Tower	Area 6	1.94		
596	Melton Recreation Ground	Area 8	2.23		
603	Nacton Recreation Ground	Area 4	0.38		
605	New Circle Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.82		
607	Newbourne Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.70		
611	Newnham Avenue	Area 8	0.25		
613	Oak Close Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.22		
616	Old Circle Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.22		
620	Otley AGS	Area 6	0.57		
621	Pageant Field	Area 5	1.09		
623	Parklands	Area 5	1.12		
624	Peewit Hill	Area 4	1.23		
625	Pergola Piece Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.81		
626	Philip Avenue Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.40		
627	Pitman's Grove Amenity Greenspace	Area 3	0.35		
638	Rendlesham Village Green	Area 8	0.36		
639	Riverside	Area 5	0.07		
644	Saxstead Village Green	Area 5	1.20		
645	School Road	Area 4	0.37		
646	Memorial Field	Area 1	1.35		
649	Simon's Cross	Area 5	2.94		
653	Slaughden	Area 1	3.55		
656	Snape Playing Field	Area 1	1.86		
672	St. Andrew's Close Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.20		
690	St. Lawrence Green, Kesgrave	Area 6	0.22		
695	St. Martin's Green, Trimley St. Martin	Area 4	0.21		
739	Stennetts Playing Field	Area 4	1.67		
744	Sutton Recreation Ground	Area 8	1.89		
745	Sweffling Recreation Ground	Area 5	1.35		
748	The Fitches Amenity Greenspace	Area 1	0.36		
758	Through Jollys East Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.47		

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)	Quality score	Value score
759	Through Jollys South Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.29		
766	Tunstall Community Centre Amenity Greenspace	Area 8	0.45		
768	Tymmes Place Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.20		
772	Valley Walk Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	0.60		
774	Victory Road Recreation Ground	Area 1	1.74		
776	Walberswick Green	Area 3	0.22		
778	Walberswick Sports Field	Area 3	1.65		
780	Walpole Village Green	Area 5	0.50		
781	Walton Recreation Ground	Area 4	1.43		
782	Warren Heath	Area 6	0.49		
783	Waterloo Avenue Amenity Greenspace, Leiston	Area 1	2.00		
788	Wenhaston Recreation Ground	Area 2	0.98		
790	Western Avenue Amenity Greenspace	Area 4	1.86		
791	Western Corridor Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.59		
793	Westleton Community Field	Area 3	1.23		
795	Westleton Village Green	Area 3	0.72		
800	Wickham Market Village Hall	Area 5	1.38		
801	Witnesham Bridge Amenity Greenspace	Area 6	0.27		
809	Seaton Road	Area 4	1.99		
810	Kemps Field	Area 1	0.66		
811	Watson Way	Area 8	1.19		
812	Beresford Drive	Area 8	0.30		
813	Grange Meadow	Area 6	2.68		
814	Blaxhall AGS	Area 8	1.41		
815	The Street, Brandeston	Area 5	0.78		
816	Bredfield AGS	Area 6	0.86		
817	Kelsale Park	Area 5	1.36		
818	Campsea Ashe	Area 5	1.15		
821	Walpole AGS	Area 5	1.60		
823	Kings Field AGS	Area 1	2.67		
824	Butley AGS	Area 8	0.14		
825	Huntingfield Millennium Green	Area 5	0.49		
829	The Green, Martlesham Heath	Area 6	2.95		
835	Thurmans Lane	Area 4	0.40		
838	Jubilee AGS, Martlesham	Area 6	0.93		

Mapping demonstrates a good distribution of amenity greenspace provision, with nearly all areas of greater population density being served by amenity provision.

Minor gaps in catchment mapping are observed in areas with greater population densities. This is particularly noticeable to west Kesgrave (Area 6), west Lowestoft (Area 7) and east Felixstowe (Area 4).

However, in most cases these areas are served by other types of open space such as parks and gardens greenspace and natural/semi-natural greenspace. This is explored further in Part 9.

### 6.4 Quality

To determine whether sites are high or low quality (as recommended by the Companion Guidance); the scores from site assessments have been colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results of the quality assessment for urban greenspaces. A threshold of 50% is applied to divide high from low quality. Further explanation of how the quality scores and thresholds are derived can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

*Table 6.3: Quality ratings for amenity greenspaces*

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<50%	>50%
Area 1	30%	40%	56%	10	2
Area 2	25%	46%	71%	19	13
Area 3	29%	51%	75%	11	19
Area 4	24%	45%	56%	15	7
Area 5	13%	42%	72%	14	10
Area 6	17%	48%	75%	12	12
Area 7	16%	51%	74%	12	19
Area 8	24%	43%	63%	15	6
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>13%</b>	<b>47%</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>88</b>

Of amenity sites assessed, 45% rate above the quality threshold. The lowest scoring sites for quality are:

- ✦ Church Field, Wickham Market (13%)
- ✦ Butchers Field Amenity Greenspace (15%)
- ✦ Holly Hill (16%)
- ✦ Clopton Amenity Greenspace (17%)

These sites all score low due to unwelcoming entrances, lack of controls to prevent illegal use and poor general appearance. Holly Hill (16%) and Clopton Amenity Greenspace (13%) are both observed as being overgrown with the latter also opening on to a narrow road with no paths. None of the sites have benches, bins or signage, lowering the quality of the sites. Moreover, all are perceived as hardly used.

Sites scoring below the quality threshold tend to be devoid of basic ancillary features such as seating and bins. General appearance can also often be lacking in comparison to other sites are the same typology.

Blaxhall AGS (41%) scores below the quality threshold. However, consultation with Blaxhall Parish Council identifies it is looking to add an outdoor table tennis and a bowling green but not until the play area is enhanced. The site benefits from football goals, benches, a dog bin and a small car park but lacks signage. It is likely that after the improvements by the Parish Council, the site would score above the quality threshold.

Consultation with Saxmundham Town Council highlights that they have significant concerns about the lack of open spaces and indoor sports/recreation facilities within the Town. It is felt to be short of facilities. Kelsale Park Church Lane is cited as a poor-quality football pitch with no changing facilities. However, the play area had a refurbishment last year and new picnic benches. The Town Council also express it would like more flowers at Street Farm Rd and more footpaths by the River Fromus. The site is an important space to link houses to the town.

Several sites are noted as potentially having poor drainage. In particular, Corton Road Football Pitch (59%) had very poor drainage at the time of assessment with widespread flooding. However, despite this, the site still scores above the quality threshold due to containing good ancillary features such as bins, seating around the site, pitches and a play area. Similarly, Townlands was very boggy at the time of assessment. The site rates below the quality threshold as it scores low for paths, overall maintenance and obviously drainage. The site does benefit from bins, a bench and picnic table as well as play provision including a small MUGA.

A number of sites are cited as having dog fouling problems including Wickham Market Village Hall (47%) which Wickham Market Parish Council identifies as having with numerous complaints recently. The Parish Council also identify the skate park needs work. It is over 26 years old and needs replacing.

Trimley St Mary Parish Council also highlight a problem with dog foul at Thurmans Lane (despite there being a dog bin). The Parish Council feel the site could be made more accessible and welcoming to encourage a wider use of people.

The highest scoring amenity greenspace sites for quality in East Suffolk are:

- ◀ Tibby's Green (76%)
- ◀ Warren Heath (75%)
- ◀ Kirkley Recreation Ground (74%)
- ◀ Huntingfield Millennium Green (72%)

These sites, alongside other high scoring sites, have the added benefit of ancillary features such as informative signage, seating and bins. All benefit from containing play equipment and/or ancillary features. The sites are also observed as having good access for all, being well-maintained and having good levels of personal security. Tibby's Green (76%), the highest scoring amenity greenspace site, is observed as an attractive site, with several entrances and excellent signage at entrances. The site also benefits from a bench, bins, picnic tables and play equipment, adding to the quality of the site. In addition, the site features a table tennis table and medium sized football goals on the grass.

All sites bar Kirkley Recreation Ground (74%) contain play provision. Huntingfield Millennium Green has an abundant supply of benches and picnic tables, some of which had fallen due to the wind at the time of assessment. Likewise to Tibby's Green, the site also benefits from football goals on the grass. The play equipment at Huntingfield Millennium Green is mostly a wooden trim trail/agility area.

### 6.5 Value

To determine whether sites are high or low value (as recommended by the Companion Guidance) site assessments scores are colour-coded against a baseline threshold (high being green and low being red). The table below summarises the results. A threshold of 20% is applied to divide high from low value. Further explanation of the value scoring and thresholds can be found in Part 2 (Methodology).

Table 6.4: Value ratings for amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Scores (%)			No. of sites	
	Lowest score	Average score	Highest score	<20%	>20%
Area 1	16%	32%	45%	1	11
Area 2	16%	32%	55%	6	26
Area 3	18%	35%	60%	1	29
Area 4	23%	31%	40%	0	22
Area 5	16%	31%	45%	2	22
Area 6	17%	33%	40%	1	23
Area 7	11%	32%	44%	2	29
Area 8	11%	31%	45%	2	19
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>11%</b>	<b>32%</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>181</b>

Most amenity greenspace sites rate above the threshold for value. Some of the highest scoring sites for value in East Suffolk are:

- ✦ Tibby's Green (60%),
- ✦ The Quay (55%)
- ✦ Cox's Lane Recreation Ground (50%).

These sites are recognised for the accessible, good quality recreational opportunities they offer (such as sports and play provision) for a wide range of users. The Quay has enhanced ecological value and structural landscape benefits due to its surrounding features including its water features and floral planting. All three sites have play provision, providing high amenity and social value. Cox's Lane Recreation Ground provides a range of play provision such as a play area, outdoor gym equipment, an unenclosed MUGA and a youth shelter. Similarly, Tibby's Green features a variety of play provision including play equipment and a table tennis table. Both also have football goals on the grass, enhancing amenity and health benefits.

Consultation with Parish and Town Councils identifies some have plans to improve sites. For example, Saxmundham Town Council identify that Memorial Field (56%) is their main open space site. It would like to improve the landscape by having a circular path as well as looking to improve biodiversity. It is felt that a path around the whole field could encourage the elderly to visit, relax and walk around. There is also a desire to green the area by adding more flowers and trees. A path around could make it a good opportunity for running. The Parish Council would also like outdoor gyms somewhere. It is thought that gym equipment at Memorial Field would be a good location.

Similarly, Martlesham Parish Council are looking at ways to improve Martlesham Recreation Ground with an accessible walk around the whole site. It would also like an area for older people and dog walkers. The Parish Council want to make better use of the site by making these improvements in order for it to reach its full potential. People park here then link up with Martlesham circular walk. The site has become more popular and the Parish Council want to encourage this. Additionally, there is a dog fouling problem therefore, they are looking at dog management and/or a fenced area. At the time of consultation, the Parish Council were consulting with the public on the proposed improvements to the site.

Amenity greenspace should be recognised for its multi-purpose function, offering opportunities for a variety of leisure and recreational activities. It can often accommodate informal recreational activity such as casual play and dog walking. Many sites offer a dual function and are amenity resources for residents as well as being visually pleasing.

These attributes add to the quality, accessibility, and visibility of amenity greenspace. Combined with the presence of facilities (e.g., benches, landscaping and trees), this means that the better-quality sites are likely to be more respected and valued by the local community.

## PART 7: ALLOTMENTS

### 7.1 Introduction

The allotments typology provides opportunities for people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long-term promotion of sustainability, health and social interaction.

### 7.2 Current provision

There are 85 sites classified as allotments in East Suffolk, equating to over 64 hectares. No site size threshold has been applied to allotments and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

*Table 7.1: Distribution of allotment sites in East Suffolk*

Analysis area	Allotments		
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)	Current provision (Ha per 1,000 population)
Area 1	3	6.35	0.39
Area 2	26	12.59	0.39
Area 3	11	8.47	0.35
Area 4	7	8.72	0.25
Area 5	9	7.43	0.43
Area 6	2	3.06	0.09
Area 7	24	16.40	0.25
Area 8	3	1.30	0.06
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>64.33</b>	<b>0.26</b>

The largest site in East Suffolk is Cowpasture Allotments at five hectares.

The National Society of Allotment and Leisure Gardeners (NSALG) suggests a national standard of 20 allotments per 1,000 households (20 per 2,000 people based on two people per house or one per 100 people). This equates to 0.25 hectares per 1,000 populations based on an average plot-size of 250 square metres (0.025 hectares per plot).

East Suffolk based on its current population (249,461) meets the NSALG standard. Using this suggested standard, the minimum amount of allotment provision for East Suffolk is 62.37 hectares. Existing provision of 64.33 hectares therefore meets this guideline.

### 7.3 Accessibility

Figure 7.1 shows allotments mapped across East Suffolk.





## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
27.2	Beccles Common Allotment (b)	Area 2	0.07
27.3	Beccles Common Allotment (c)	Area 2	0.12
27.4	Beccles Common Allotment (d)	Area 2	0.68
27.5	Beccles Common Allotment (e)	Area 2	0.55
33	Bedingfield Crescent Allotment	Area 2	0.18
41	Blackheath Road Allotment	Area 7	0.08
42	Blacksmiths Loke Allotment	Area 7	1.56
52	Borrow Close Allotment	Area 3	0.33
62	Buss Creek Allotment, Blyth Road	Area 3	3.63
79	Church Road / Rotterdam Road Allotment	Area 7	0.49
80	Church Road / Water Lane Allotment	Area 7	1.42
81	Church Road Allotment	Area 3	0.47
85	Clarkson Road Allotment	Area 7	0.05
89	Common Lane North Allotment	Area 2	0.75
92.1	Common Lane South Allotment (a)	Area 2	0.64
92.2	Common Lane South Allotment (b)	Area 2	0.68
94	Coopers Lane Allotment	Area 3	0.48
97	Cox Common Allotment	Area 2	0.40
110	Earth Lane Allotment	Area 7	1.11
113	Fir Lane Allotment	Area 7	1.53
115	Fowlers Crescent Allotment	Area 7	0.18
124	Gasworks Allotment, Pound Road	Area 2	0.32
131	Grove Road / Napier Terrace Allotment	Area 2	0.15
141	Hillside Road West / Flixton Road Allotment	Area 2	0.46
167	Kirkley Cemetery Allotment (a)	Area 7	0.51
168	Kirkley Cemetery Allotment (b)	Area 7	0.58
169	Kirkley Fen Allotment, Martins Avenue	Area 7	0.21
172	Kirkley Gardens Allotment	Area 7	1.31
177	Loam Pit Lane Allotment	Area 2	0.57
182	Long Acre Allotment	Area 7	0.32
185	Lound Allotment, Church Lane	Area 7	0.14
192	Mill Common Allotment, Wangford Road	Area 2	0.41
196	Mill Lane Allotment	Area 2	0.45
208	Newark Road Allotment	Area 7	0.13
209	Newsons Meadow Allotment	Area 7	0.69
213	Norfolk Road Allotment	Area 3	1.18
242	Parkside Drive Allotment	Area 7	1.29
243	Pilgrims Way Allotment	Area 2	0.91
246	Puttock Hill Allotment	Area 2	0.69

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
254	Rissemere Lane East Allotment	Area 3	0.29
256	Rope Walk Allotment	Area 3	0.43
264	Sand Pits Allotment, Normanston Drive	Area 7	0.21
265	Saxon Road Allotment	Area 7	0.14
271	Somerleyton Road Allotment	Area 7	0.63
273	South Road Allotment	Area 2	0.79
293	St Edmunds Crescent Allotment (a)	Area 3	0.12
294	St Edmunds Crescent Allotment (b)	Area 3	0.16
312	St Margarets Road Allotment	Area 7	2.14
347	Stradbroke Road Allotment	Area 7	0.98
351	Sussex Road Allotment	Area 7	0.56
353	Swan Lane Allotment (a)	Area 2	0.37
354	Swan Lane Allotment (b)	Area 2	0.54
362	The Street / New Road Allotment	Area 2	0.26
375	Union Lane Allotment	Area 7	0.12
379	Wangford Road / Lock's Road Allotment	Area 2	0.41
391	Whites Lane Allotment	Area 3	0.37
432	Ashfield Drive Allotments	Area 1	0.65
434	Bakers Lane Allotment	Area 8	0.20
476	Cemetery Field Allotments	Area 4	0.75
491	Cowpasture Allotments	Area 4	5.10
499	Dennington Allotments	Area 5	0.40
506	Earl Soham Allotments	Area 5	0.25
524	Ferry Road Allotments	Area 4	1.20
533	Gedgrave Road Allotments	Area 8	0.75
534	Glebe Allotments	Area 5	1.35
553	Infirmery Lane Allotments	Area 5	0.29
571	Kings Field Allotments	Area 1	0.95
573	Kingston Field Allotments	Area 8	0.35
590	Lux Farm aka Playford Lane	Area 6	2.02
606	New Road Allotments	Area 5	0.60
633	Railway Hill Allotments	Area 4	0.95
640	Rushmere Allotments	Area 6	0.37
648	Simon's Cross Allotments	Area 5	2.83
746	Taunton Road Allotments	Area 4	0.15
763	Trimley Road Allotments	Area 4	0.15
765	Trimley St. Mary Allotments	Area 4	0.42
771	Valley Road Allotments	Area 1	4.75
786	Wenhaston Allotments	Area 2	0.25

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
807	Yoxford Allotments	Area 5	0.19
822	School Road Allotments, St Andrew Ilketshall	Area 2	0.85
826	Fair Field Green allotments	Area 5	1.40
827	Great Glemham Road allotments	Area 5	0.12
828	Walberswick allotments	Area 3	1.01

### **Ownership/management**

All allotment sites are managed by allotment associations. The Council has no direct involvement in the day to day management of allotments. Table 8.3 provides a summary of the number of plots and waiting lists where it has been possible to identify.

These figures have been provided from consultations with town and parish councils for allotments.

*Table 7.3: Known plot numbers and waiting lists*

Name of site	Number of plots	Waiting List	Parish/Town Council
Borrow Close Allotments	17	20	Carlton Colville
South Road	40	Yes	Beccles
Common Lane	181	Not stated	Beccles
Gas works Fen Lane	13	Not stated	Beccles
Cucumber Lane	6	Not stated	Beccles
Mill Common Allotments	23	A few	Blaxhall
Stone Common allotments	28	None	
Church Rd, Butley	12	None	Butley, Capel St Andrew & Wantisden
Glebe allotments	73	1	Wickham Market
Thong Hall Road	40	None	Wickham Market
Ferry Road	94	No waiting list	Felixstowe
Cowpasture Allotments	306	No	Felixstowe
Taunton Road Allotments	19		Felixstowe
Railway Hill Allotments	44		Felixstowe
Trimley St Mary Allotments	50	21	Trimley St Mary

Trimley St Mary Parish Council highlights a need for additional allotments in the village. It prioritises any vacancies for individuals on the waiting list for those living within the village. The Parish Council also highlights a need for better access to water on the site. Currently users have to manually pump water.

Allotments should generally be considered as highly valued as they are often identified by the local community as important forms of open space provision.

### PART 8: CEMETERIES/CHURCHYARDS

#### 8.1 Introduction

Cemeteries and churchyards include areas for quiet contemplation and burial of the dead. Sites can often be linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity.

#### 8.2 Current provision

There are 175 sites classified as cemeteries/churchyards, equating to over 119 hectares of provision in East Suffolk. No site size threshold has been applied and as such all identified provision is included within the audit.

*Table 8.1: Distribution of cemeteries in East Suffolk*

Analysis area	Cemeteries/churchyards	
	Number of sites	Total hectares (ha)
Area 1	15	10.70
Area 2	42	25.82
Area 3	23	13.25
Area 4	11	9.03
Area 5	32	12.87
Area 6	17	8.02
Area 7	13	20.79
Area 8	22	18.95
<b>East Suffolk</b>	<b>175</b>	<b>119.43</b>

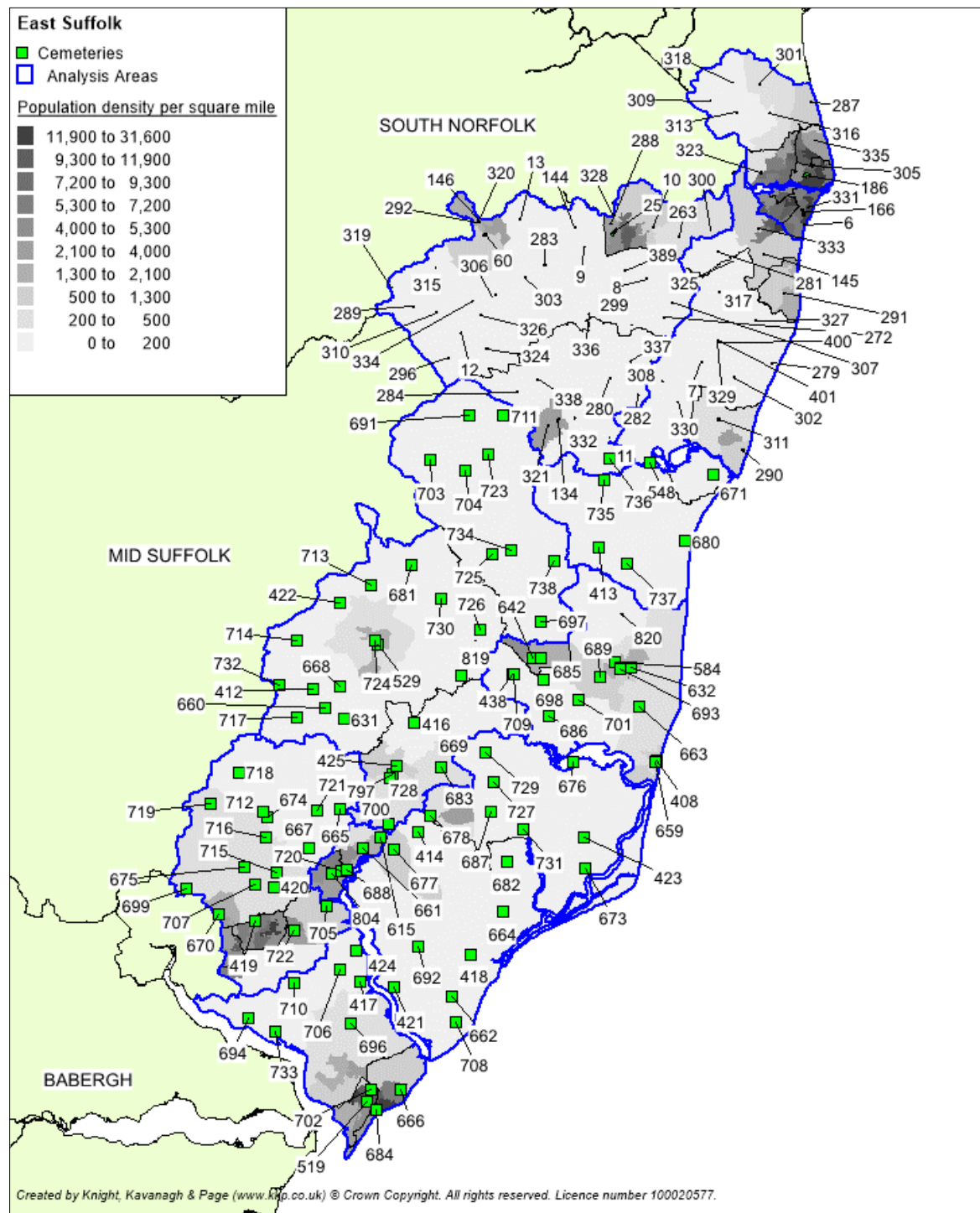
The largest contributor to burial provision is Woodbridge Old and New Cemeteries (10 hectares).

#### 8.3 Accessibility

No accessibility standard is set for this typology and there is no realistic requirement to set such standards. Provision should look to be based on burial demand.

# EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Figure 8.1: Cemetery sites mapped against analysis areas



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 8.3: Key to sites mapped

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
6	All Saints and St Margaret's Church, Causeway	Area 7	0.66
7	All Saints Church, Church Lane	Area 3	0.44
8	All Saints Church, Church Road, Ellough	Area 2	0.53
9	All Saints Church, Church Road, Ringsfield	Area 2	0.34
10	All Saints Church, Lowestoft Road	Area 2	0.50
11	All Saints Church, Southwold Road	Area 2	0.37
12	All Saints Church, St Margaret's Road	Area 2	0.31
13	All Saints Church, Watch House Hill	Area 2	0.60
25	Beccles Cemetery	Area 2	5.40
60	Bungay Cemetery	Area 2	2.44
134	Halesworth Cemetery	Area 2	2.69
144	Holy Trinity Church, Bungay Road	Area 2	0.37
145	Holy Trinity Church, Church Road	Area 3	0.43
146	Holy Trinity Church, Trinity Street	Area 2	0.17
166	Kirkley Cemetery	Area 7	4.77
186	Lowestoft Cemetery	Area 7	8.03
263	Saint Botolph's Church, Lowestoft Road	Area 2	0.41
272	Sotterley Cemetery	Area 2	0.30
279	St Andrews Church, Beach Road	Area 3	0.61
280	St Andrews Church, Church Lane	Area 2	0.40
281	St Andrews Church, Church Road	Area 3	0.40
282	St Andrews Church, London Road	Area 2	0.28
283	St Andrews Church, School Road	Area 2	0.53
284	St Andrews Church, The Street	Area 2	0.42
287	St Bartholomew's Church, Church Lane	Area 7	0.57
288	St Benet's Church, Grange Road	Area 2	0.55
289	St Cross's Church, Fox Hill	Area 2	0.37
290	St Edmunds Church, Bartholomew Green	Area 3	1.18
291	St Edmunds Church, Church Road	Area 3	1.27
292	St Edmunds Church, St Marys Street	Area 2	0.21
296	St James Church, Church Lane	Area 2	0.27
299	St John The Baptists Church, London Road	Area 2	0.24
300	St John The Baptists, Beccles Road	Area 2	0.24
301	St John The Baptists, Church Lane	Area 7	0.58
302	St Lawrence's Church, Southwold Road	Area 3	0.32
303	St Lawrence's Church, Top Road	Area 2	0.31
305	St Margaret's Church, Hollingsworth Road	Area 7	3.08



## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
306	St Margaret's Church, Low Street	Area 2	0.45
307	St Margaret's Church, Sotterley Park Estate	Area 2	0.50
308	St Margaret's Church, Southwold Road	Area 2	0.23
309	St Margaret's Church, St Olaves Road	Area 7	0.31
310	St Margaret's Church, The Street	Area 2	0.29
311	St Margaret's Church, Wangford Road	Area 3	1.83
313	St Mary's Church, Blundeston Road	Area 7	0.62
315	St Marys Church, Abbey Road	Area 2	0.34
316	St Marys Church, Blundeston	Area 7	0.63
317	St Marys Church, Henstead	Area 3	0.57
318	St Marys Church, Market Lane	Area 7	0.24
319	St Marys Church, St Cross Road	Area 2	0.26
320	St Marys Church, St Marys Street	Area 2	0.61
321	St Marys Church, Steeple End	Area 2	0.41
322	St Marys Church, Wangford Road	Area 3	0.49
323	St Michael's Church, Church Lane	Area 7	0.87
324	St Michaels Church, Malt Office Lane	Area 2	1.38
325	St Michaels Church, Rushmere Road	Area 3	0.27
326	St Michaels Church, St Michaels Green	Area 2	0.28
327	St Michaels Church, The Street	Area 3	0.36
328	St Michaels Church, The Walk	Area 2	0.39
329	St Nicholas's Church, Church Street	Area 3	0.44
330	St Peters and St Pauls Church, Church Street	Area 3	0.33
331	St Peters Church and St Johns Church, Lowestoft	Area 7	0.23
332	St Peters Church, Beccles Road	Area 2	0.38
333	St Peters Church, Carlton Colville	Area 3	0.67
334	St Peters Church, Church Road	Area 2	0.29
335	St Peters Church, Gunton Church Lane	Area 7	0.19
336	St Peters Church, Halesworth Road	Area 2	0.28
337	St Peters Church, London Road	Area 2	0.55
338	St Peters Church, Wash Lane	Area 2	0.41
389	Weston St Peters Church	Area 2	0.41
400	Wrentham Cemetery	Area 3	0.69
401	Wrentham New Cemetery	Area 3	0.60
408	Aldeburgh Cemetery	Area 1	3.00
412	All Saints Church, Brandeston	Area 5	0.75
413	All Saints Church, Darsham	Area 3	0.40
414	All Saints Church, Eyke	Area 8	0.30
415	All Saints Church, Great Glenham	Area 5	0.60

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
416	All Saints Church, Hacheston	Area 5	0.30
417	All Saints Church, Hemley	Area 4	0.05
418	All Saints Church, Hollesley	Area 8	0.30
419	All Saints Church, Kesgrave	Area 6	0.20
420	All Saints Church, Little Bealings	Area 6	0.30
421	All Saints Church, Ramsholt	Area 8	0.25
422	All Saints Church, Saxstead	Area 5	0.30
423	All Saints Church, Sudbourne	Area 8	1.00
424	All Saints Church, Waldringfield	Area 4	1.00
425	All Saints Church, Wickham Market	Area 5	0.25
438	Benhall Cemetery	Area 1	1.00
519	Felixstowe Cemetery	Area 4	5.00
529	Framlingham Cemetery	Area 5	3.00
548	Holy Trinity Church, Blythburgh	Area 3	0.40
584	Leiston Cemetery	Area 1	0.75
615	Old Church, Melton	Area 8	0.80
631	Priory Church of St. Mary, Letheringham	Area 5	1.50
632	Quaker Burial Ground	Area 1	0.25
642	Saxmundham Cemetery	Area 1	0.60
659	St Peter and St Paul's Church, Aldeburgh	Area 1	1.20
660	St. Andrew & St. Eustachius's Church, Hoo	Area 5	0.25
661	St. Andrew the Apostle's Church, Melton	Area 8	0.10
662	St. Andrew's Church, Alderton	Area 8	0.50
663	St. Andrew's Church, Aldringham-cum-Thorpe	Area 1	1.20
664	St. Andrew's Church, Boyton	Area 8	0.25
665	St. Andrew's Church, Bredfield	Area 6	0.30
666	St. Andrew's Church, Felixstowe	Area 4	0.05
667	St. Andrew's Church, Hasketon	Area 6	0.05
668	St. Andrew's Church, Kettleburgh	Area 5	0.15
669	St. Andrew's Church, Marlesford	Area 5	0.10
670	St. Andrew's Church, Rushmere St. Andrew	Area 6	3.00
671	St. Andrew's Church, Walberswick	Area 3	1.25
673	St. Bartholomew's Church, Orford	Area 8	2.50
674	St. Botolph's Church, Burgh	Area 6	0.10
675	St. Botolph's Church, Culpho	Area 6	0.05
676	St. Botolph's Church, Iken	Area 8	0.30
677	St. Edmunds's Church, Bromeswell	Area 8	0.15
678	St. Gregory the Great's Church, Rendlesham	Area 8	0.10
680	St. James's Church, Dunwich	Area 3	0.05

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
681	St. John the Baptist's Church, Badingham	Area 5	1.00
682	St. John the Baptist's Church, Butley	Area 8	0.20
683	St. John the Baptist's Church, Campsea Ashe	Area 5	0.25
684	St. John the Baptist's Church, Felixstowe	Area 4	0.05
685	St. John the Baptist's Church, Saxmundham	Area 1	0.20
686	St. John the Baptist's Church, Snape	Area 1	0.20
687	St. John the Baptist's Church, Wantisden	Area 8	0.20
688	St. John's Church, Woodbridge	Area 8	0.10
689	St. Laurence's Church, Knodishall	Area 1	0.10
691	St. Margaret of Antioch's Church, Linstead Parva	Area 5	0.05
692	St. Margaret's Church, Shottisham	Area 8	0.10
693	St. Margaret's, Leiston	Area 1	0.75
694	St. Martin's Church, Nacton	Area 4	0.10
696	St. Mary & St. Martin's Church, Kirton	Area 4	0.05
697	St. Mary & St. Peter's Church, Kelsale	Area 5	0.25
698	St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Sternfield	Area 1	0.10
699	St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Westerfield	Area 6	0.10
700	St. Mary of the Assumption's Church, Ufford	Area 5	0.10
701	St. Mary the Virgin Church, Friston	Area 1	0.60
702	St. Mary the Virgin, Walton	Area 4	0.43
703	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Cratfield	Area 5	0.20
704	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Huntingfield	Area 5	0.20
705	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Martlesham	Area 6	0.30
706	St. Mary the Virgin's Church, Newbourne	Area 4	0.10
707	St. Mary's, Playford	Area 6	1.50
708	St. Mary's Church, Bawdsey	Area 8	0.20
709	St. Mary's Church, Benhall	Area 1	0.10
710	St. Mary's Church, Bucklesham	Area 4	1.25
711	St. Mary's Church, Chediston	Area 5	0.20
712	St. Mary's Church, Clopton	Area 6	1.00
713	St. Mary's Church, Dennington	Area 5	0.50
714	St. Mary's Church, Earl Soham	Area 5	0.10
715	St. Mary's Church, Great Bealings	Area 6	0.40
716	St. Mary's Church, Grundisburgh	Area 6	0.10
717	St. Mary's Church, Monewden	Area 5	0.10
718	St. Mary's Church, Otley	Area 6	0.20
719	St. Mary's Church, Swilland	Area 6	0.25
720	St. Mary's Church, Woodbridge	Area 8	0.05
721	St. Michael & All Angels Church, Boulge	Area 6	0.10

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Site ID	Site name	Analysis Area	Size (ha)
722	St. Michael & All Angels Church, Martlesham Heath	Area 6	0.07
723	St. Michael's Church, Cookley	Area 5	0.15
724	St. Michael's Church, Framlingham	Area 5	0.05
725	St. Michael's Church, Peasenhall	Area 5	0.10
726	St. Michael's Church, Rendham	Area 5	0.10
727	St. Michael's Church, Tunstall	Area 8	0.75
728	St. Peter & St. Paul's Church, Pettistree	Area 5	0.60
729	St. Peter's Church, Blaxhall	Area 8	0.60
730	St. Peter's Church, Bruisyard	Area 5	0.25
731	St. Peter's Church, Chillesford	Area 8	0.20
732	St. Peter's Church, Creetingham	Area 5	0.60
733	St. Peter's Church, Levington	Area 4	0.95
734	St. Peter's Church, Sibton	Area 5	0.05
735	St. Peter's Church, Thorington	Area 3	0.10
736	St. Peter's Church, Wenham	Area 2	0.10
737	St. Peter's Church, Westleton	Area 3	0.15
738	St. Peter's Church, Yoxford	Area 5	0.20
797	Wickham Market Cemetery	Area 5	0.30
804	Woodbridge Old and New Cemeteries	Area 8	10.00
819	St Mary the Virgin Church, The Gull	Area 5	0.32
820	St Peter's Theberton	Area 1	0.65

In terms of provision, mapping demonstrates a fairly even distribution across the area. As noted earlier, the need for additional cemetery provision should be driven by the requirement for burial demand and capacity.

## PART 9: PROVISION STANDARDS

The provision standards used to determine deficiencies and surpluses for open space are set in terms of quality, accessibility and quantity.

### 9.1: Quality and value

Each type of open space receives a separate quality and value score. This also allows for application of a high and low quality/value matrix to further help determine prioritisation of investment and to identify sites that may be surplus as a particular open space type.

#### *Quality and value matrix*

Assessing the quality and value of open spaces is used to identify those sites which should be given the highest level of protection, those which require enhancement and those which may no longer be needed for their present purpose. When analysing the quality/value of a site, it should be done in conjunction with regard to the quantity of provision in the area (i.e. whether there is a deficiency).

When analysing the quality/value of a site it should be done in conjunction with regard to the other forms of provision in the area (i.e. whether there may be an accessibility deficiency).

The high/low classification gives the following possible combinations of quality and value:

		Quality	
		High	Low
Value	High	All sites should have an aspiration to come into this category. Many sites of this category are likely to be viewed as key forms of open space provision.	The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality to the applied standard. The priority will be those sites providing a key role in terms of access to provision.
	Low	The preferred approach to a site in this category should be to enhance its value in terms of its present primary function. If this is not possible, consideration to a change of primary function should be given (i.e. a change to another open space typology).	The approach to these sites in areas of identified shortfall should be to enhance their quality provided it is possible also to enhance their value.  In areas of sufficiency a change of primary typology should be considered first. If no shortfall of other open space typologies is noted than the site may be redundant/ 'surplus to requirements'.

There is a need for flexibility to the enhancement of low-quality sites. In some instances, a better use of resources and investment may be to focus on more suitable sites for enhancement as opposed to trying to enhance sites where it is not appropriate or cost effective to do so. Please refer to the individual typology sections as well as the supporting excel database for a breakdown of the matrix.

### 9.2: Accessibility

Accessibility catchments are a tool to identify communities currently not served by existing facilities. It is recognised that factors underpinning catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day and hour to hour. For the purposes of this process the concept of 'effective catchments' are used, defined as the distance that would be travelled by most users. The recommended accessibility standards are:

*Table 9.2.1: Recommended accessibility standards*

Open space type	Walking guideline	Approximate time equivalent
Parks & Gardens	710m	9 minutes
Urban Greenspace	480m	6 minutes
Natural & Semi-natural Greenspace	720m	9 minutes
Allotment	n/a	n/a
Cemeteries	n/a	n/a

The accessibility catchments do not consider if a distance is on an incline or decline. They are therefore intended to act as an initial form of analysis to help identify potential gaps.

No catchments are suggested for the typologies of allotments or cemeteries. For cemeteries, it is difficult to assess such provision against catchment mapping as it is better to determine need for provision based on demand for burial space. For allotments, it is more appropriate to determine need for provision based on factors such as waiting lists.

If an area does not have access to provision (consistent with the catchments) it is deemed deficient. KKP has identified instances where new sites may be needed or potential opportunities could be explored in order to provide comprehensive access (i.e. a gap in one form of provision may exist but the area in question may be served by another form of open space). Please refer to the associated mapping to view site catchments.

The following tables summarise the deficiencies identified from the application of the accessibility standards. In determining any subsequent actions for identified gaps, the following are key principles for consideration:

- ✦ Increase capacity/usage in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ✦ Enhance quality in order to meet increases in demand, or
- ✦ Commuted sum for ongoing maintenance/repairs to mitigate impact of new demand

These principles are intended to mitigate for the impact of increases in demand on existing provision. An increase in population will reduce the lifespan of certain sites and/or features (e.g. play equipment, maintenance regimes etc). This will lead to the increased requirement to refurbish and/or replace such forms of provision.

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE REPORT

Table 9.2.2: Parks and gardens

Analysis area	Catchment gap	Provision helping to serve gap:
Area 1	Leiston	Victoria Road Recreation Ground (ID 774), King Georges Recreation Ground (ID 569) Waterloo Avenue (ID 783)
	Saxmundham	Memorial Field (ID 649) The Hopkins (ID 832)
Area 2	Bungay	Kings Road (ID 163) Castle Hills (ID 70)
Area 3	Southwold	Cox's Lane Recreation Ground (ID 98) Southwold AGS (ID 274) North Parade Boating Lake (ID 224)
Area 4	North west of Felixstowe	Faulkeners Way (ID 517) Stennetts Playing Field (ID 739)
Area 5	Framlingham	Pageant Field (ID 621) Fen Meadow (ID 521) Framlingham Mere (ID 530)
Area 6	Kesgrave	Pergola Piece (ID 625) Ashdale Green (ID 430) Grange Meadow (ID 813) The Mount (ID 753)
	Martlesham Heath	The Green (ID 829) Martlesham Woods (ID 830)
Area 7	East of Lowestoft	Royal Green (ID 260) Denmark Road Smith's Marsh (ID 107)
Area 8	No significant gap	n/a



Table 9.2.3: Natural and semi-natural greenspace

Analysis area	Catchment gap	Provision helping to serve gap:
Area 1	No significant gap	n/a
Area 2	No significant gap	n/a
Area 3	No significant gap	n/a
Area 4	East Felixstowe	Kendall Green (ID 564) Western Avenue (ID 790) Gosford Way (ID 536) Allenby Park (ID 426) Spa Gardens Lane (ID 657) Coronation Sports Ground (ID 490)
Area 5	No significant gap	n/a
Area 6	Centre of Kesgrave	Grange Meadow (ID 813) Pergola Piece (ID 625) Ashdale Green (ID 430)
Area 7	South west of Lowestoft	Chaukers Crescent (ID 72) Upland Community Centre (ID 376) Carlton Park (ID 69) Carlton Colville Community Centre (ID 64)
Area 8	No significant gap	n/a

Table 9.2.4: Amenity greenspace

Analysis area	Catchment gap	Provision helping to serve gap:
Area 1	No significant gap	n/a
Area 2	No significant gap	n/a
Area 3	No significant gap	n/a
Area 4	East of Felixstowe	Allenby Park (ID 426) Spa Gardens Lane (ID 657)
Area 5	No significant gap	n/a
Area 6	West of Kesgrave	Rushmere Common (ID 641) Farthing Wood (ID 515) Mill Stream LNR (ID 600)
Area 7	West of Lowestoft	Nicolas Everitt Park (ID 210)
Area 8	No significant gap	n/a

## 9.3: Quantity

Quantity standards can be used to identify areas of shortfalls and help with determining requirements for future developments.

The setting and application of quantity standards is necessary to determine shortfalls in provision and to ensure new developments contribute to the provision of open space across the area.

Shortfalls in quality and accessibility are identified across the area for different types of open space (as set out in Parts 9.1 and 9.2). Consequently, the Council should seek ensure new developments contribute to the overall provision of open space.

ESC as part of its Local Plan policy use an existing quantity standard of 2.4 hectares per 1,000 population to calculate future contributions from developments. The Council may wish to consider calculating provision requirements based on current provision levels to reflect up to date existing levels of provision across the area. However, for this study, the current provision levels for open space are initially utilised to identify potential quantity shortfalls.

For natural and semi-natural greenspace, the initial current provision level is noticeably quite large (25.11 hectares per 1,000 population). This figure is based on all forms of accessible provision, regardless of size, being used to calculate an initial current provision level. However, there are several sites identified as being significantly large.

Such large forms of provision skew the current provision level which makes it potentially impractical to base a quantity standard on the current levels of provision; as seeking such large amounts of provision through developer contributions is likely in most cases to not be achievable. Furthermore, the Council already has a requirement in place for some allocations to provide SANGs\* in relation to habitat mitigation.

Therefore if these significantly large sites are omitted from the current provision level calculation†, then a total of 3.64 hectares per 1,000 population is observed. This is considered a more realistic provision level to use and achieve.

*Table 9.3.1: Suggested quantity provision standards*

Typology	Quantity standards (hectares per 1,000 population)
Parks & gardens	0.22
Amenity greenspace	0.92
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.64
Allotment	0.26

The current provision levels can be used to help identify where areas may have a quantity shortfall. Table 9.3.2 shows the position for each sub-area as to whether it is sufficient or identified as having a shortfall against the suggested quantity standards for each type of open space.

\* Suitable Alternative Natural Greenspace

† Any accessible site over 50 hectares

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Table 9.3.2: Current provision against recommended quantity standards

Analysis area	Parks and gardens		Natural & Semi-natural (Hectares per 1000 population)		Amenity greenspace		Allotments	
	0.22		3.64		0.92		0.26	
	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -	Current provision	+ / -
Area 1	-	-0.22	25.85	+22.21	1.02	+0.10	0.39	+0.13
Area 2	0.18	-0.04	2.79	-0.85	0.75	-0.17	0.39	+0.13
Area 3	0.24	+0.02	130.18	+126.54	1.05	+0.13	0.35	+0.09
Area 4	0.31	+0.09	6.57	-2.93	0.75	-0.17	0.25	-0.01
Area 5	-	-0.22	2.20	-1.44	1.64	+0.72	0.43	+0.17
Area 6	-	-0.22	8.58	+4.94	0.72	-0.20	0.09	-0.17
Area 7	0.42	+0.20	1.18	-2.46	0.92	Level	0.25	-0.01
Area 8	0.16	-0.06	85.52	+81.88	0.96	+0.04	0.06	-0.20

Nearly all analysis areas are observed as having shortfalls in some form of open space. Area 3 is the only analysis area highlighted to not have any shortfalls.

### ***Identifying priorities***

Shortfalls in open space provision are highlighted across the areas. Furthermore, new developments will also bring additional demand for open space provision.

Quantity levels should still be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision in any given area. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area also.

Exploring opportunities to enhance existing provision and linkages to these sites should be endorsed. Further insight to the shortfalls is provided within each provision standard summary (Parts 9.1, 9.2 and 9.3).

Quantity levels should still be utilised to indicate the potential lack of provision any given area may have. However, this should be done in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of provision in the area.

The suggested quantity standards could also be used to determine the open space requirements as part of new housing developments. In the first instance, all types of provision should look to be provided as part of new housing developments.

If this is not considered viable, the column signalling whether an area is sufficient or has a shortfall against the suggested quantity standards may be used to help inform the priorities for each type of open space within each area (i.e. the priorities may be where a shortfall has been identified).

### **9.4: Recommendations**

The following section provides a summary on the key findings through the application of the quantity, quality and accessibility standards. It incorporates and recommends what the Council should be seeking to achieve in order to help address the issues highlighted as well as the priorities for meeting demand from future growth.

#### ***Recommendation 1***

- ◀ *Sites helping or with the potential to help serve areas identified as having gaps in catchment mapping should be prioritised as opportunities for enhancement*

Part 9.2 identifies sites that help or have the potential to serve existing identified gaps in provision. A summary of the sites helping to serve these catchment gaps is also set out in Table 9.4.1 below.

*Table 9.4.1: Summary of sites helping to serve catchment gaps*

Ref	Site name	Settlement area	Helps to serve provision gap in:
64	Carlton Colville Community Centre	Lowestoft	NSN
69	Carlton Park	Lowestoft	NSN

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Ref	Site name	Settlement area	Helps to serve provision gap in:
70	Castle Hills	Bungay	Parks
72	Chaukers Crescent	Lowestoft	NSN
98	Cox's Lane Recreation Ground	Southwold	Parks
107	Denmark Road Smith's Marsh	Lowestoft	Parks
163	Kings Road	Bungay	Parks
210	Nicolas Everitt Park	Lowestoft	AGS
224	North Parade Boating Lake	Southwold	Parks
260	Royal Green	Lowestoft	Parks
274	Southwold AGS	Southwold	Parks
376	Upland Community Centre	Lowestoft	NSN
426	Allenby Park	Felixstowe	NSN, AGS
430	Ashdale Green	Kesgrave	Parks, NSN
490	Coronation Sports Ground	Felixstowe	NSN
515	Farthing Wood	Kesgrave	AGS
517	Faulkeners Way	Felixstowe	Parks
521	Fen Meadow	Framlingham	Parks
530	Framlingham Mere	Framlingham	Parks
536	Gosford Way	Felixstowe	NSN
564	Kendall Green	Felixstowe	NSN
569	King Georges Recreation Ground	Leiston	Parks
600	Mill Stream LNR	Kesgrave	AGS
621	Pageant Field	Framlingham	Parks
625	Pergola Piece	Kesgrave	Parks, NSN
641	Rushmere Common	Kesgrave	AGS
649	Memorial Field	Saxmundham	Parks
657	Spa Gardens Lane	Felixstowe	NSN, AGS
739	Stennetts Playing Field	Felixstowe	Parks
753	The Mount	Kesgrave	Parks
774	Victoria Road Recreation Ground	Leiston	Parks
783	Waterloo Avenue	Leiston	Parks
790	Western Avenue	Felixstowe	NSN
813	Grange Meadow	Kesgrave	Parks, NSN
829	The Green	Martlesham Heath	Parks
830	Martlesham Woods	Martlesham Heath	Parks
832	The Hopkins	Saxmundham	Parks

These sites currently help to meet the identified catchment gaps for other open space typologies. Where opportunities are possible, the Council should seek to adapt these sites to provide a stronger secondary role, to help further strengthen their role in meeting the identified gaps.

These sites should therefore be viewed as open space provision likely to provide multiple social and value benefits. It is also important that the quality and value of some of these sites is secured and maintained (Recommendation 2).

## **Recommendation 2**

- ◀ *Ensure low quality/value sites helping to serve potential gaps in accessibility catchments are prioritised for enhancement*

The approach to these sites should be to enhance their quality/value to the applied standards. The quality and value matrix of the supporting database identifies the sites that should be given priority. A list of low quality and/or value sites currently helping to serve catchment gaps in provision is set out in Table 9.4.2 below.

*Table 9.4.2: Summary of low quality/value sites helping to serve catchment gaps*

Ref	Site name	Settlement area	Helps to serve provision gap in:
70	Castle Hills	Bungay	Parks
163	Kings Road	Bungay	Parks
224	North Parade Boating Lake	Southwold	Parks
376	Upland Community Centre	Lowestoft	NSN
426	Allenby Park	Felixstowe	NSN, AGS
490	Coronation Sports Ground	Felixstowe	NSN
530	Framlingham Mere	Framlingham	Parks
564	Kendall Green	Felixstowe	NSN
569	King Georges Recreation Ground	Leiston	Parks
621	Pageant Field	Framlingham	Parks
649	Memorial Field	Saxmundham	Parks
753	The Mount	Kesgrave	Parks
783	Waterloo Avenue	Leiston	Parks

## **Recommendation 3**

- ◀ *Recognise low quality and value sites and how they may be able to meet other needs*

Where sites of low quality or value appear to fall within an area of sufficiency, a change of primary typology should be first considered. If no shortfall of other open space type is noted or the practicality of enhancing the site is not cost effective, then the site may be redundant or 'surplus to requirements'.

There are 174 sites identified as currently having either lower quality and/or value. Of these 174 sites, 13 are identified in Table 9.4.2 as helping to serve catchment gaps in other types of open space. These sites should first be enhanced in terms of quality. Consideration should be given to changing the primary typology or strengthening the secondary function of these 13 sites, to one which they currently help to serve a gap in provision, even if their quality cannot currently be enhanced.

Consequently, there are 161 sites of low quality and/or value, which do not currently appear to serve any highlighted gaps in catchment mapping. The sites are set out in the supporting Excel database. Further exploration into these sites could be undertaken to establish whether any are potentially genuinely surplus to requirements.

Other factors, such as shortfalls in quantity for that provision type, the potential removal of a site creating a different catchment gap and/or the potential to help serve deficiencies in other types of provision should also be considered. The Council may also be aware of other issues, such as the importance of a site for heritage, biodiversity or as a visual amenity, that may also indicate that a site should continue to be protected.

### **9.5 Implications**

The following section sets out the policy implications in terms of the processes. This is intended to help steer the Council in seeking contributions to the improvement and/or provision of any new forms of open space. The basic principle is that a development should provide for the recreational needs that they generate. All new developments should therefore contribute to adequate open space provision.

#### ***How is provision to be made?***

The requirements for on-site provision and / or contributions will vary according to the type of open space to be provided. Collecting contributions from developers can be undertaken through the following two processes.

Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and Planning Obligations are the two main mechanisms available to the Council to ensure future development addresses any adverse impacts it creates. If required, Planning Conditions can be used to ensure that key requirements are met.

#### ***Planning obligations***

Planning Conditions and Obligations (often known as Section 106 Agreements) require individual developments to provide or pay for the provision of development specific infrastructure requirements. They are flexible and deliver a wide range of site and community infrastructure benefits.

A development should make appropriate provision of services, facilities and infrastructure to meet the needs arising from that development.

#### ***Seeking developer contributions***

This document can inform policies and emerging planning documents by assisting in the Council's approach to securing open spaces through new housing development. The evidence should form the basis for negotiation with developers to secure contributions for the provision of appropriate facilities and their long term maintenance.



The wider benefits of open space and associated features regardless of size should be recognised as a key design principle for any new development. These features and elements can help to contribute to the perception of open space provision in an area, at the same time as also ensuring an aesthetically pleasing landscape providing wider social, environmental, climate and health benefits. Sport England's Active Design\* looks at the opportunities to encourage sport and physical activity through the built environment in order to support healthier and more active lifestyles. It is therefore important for planning to consider the principles of Active Design.

Where open space provision within the catchment/analysis area is identified as being sufficient in terms of quantity and can accommodate additional demand, provision of new open space is not always necessary (subject to local plan policy requirements). It may be more suitable to seek contributions for quality improvements and/or new off-site provision in order to address any demand arising from the development. Smaller infill development areas may not be expected to meet its own needs. This should be made clear through local plan policies, supported by the minimum area thresholds for on-site provision.

### *Off-site contributions*

If new provision cannot be sufficiently provided on-site it may be possible to seek to enhance the quality of existing provision and/or improve access and linkages to existing sites. In some instances, a development may be located within proximity to an existing site. In such cases, it may be more beneficial for an off-site contribution to avoid creation of small incremental spaces so close to existing sites.

Costs required for the enhancement of existing open space and provision of new open spaces should be clearly identified and revised on a regular basis.

### *Maintenance contributions*

There will be a requirement on developers to demonstrate that where on-site provision is to be provided it will be managed and maintained accordingly. In most instances, the site will be adopted by the Council, which would require the developer to submit a sum of money in order to pay the costs of the site's future maintenance. The procedure for councils adopting new sites may include:

- ✦ The developer being responsible for maintenance of the site for an initial agreed establishment period.
- ✦ Sums to cover the maintenance costs of a site (once transferred to the Council) should be intended to cover an agreed set period.

Calculations to determine the amount of maintenance contributions required should be based on current maintenance costs.

---

\* <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-and-planning/active-design/>

### ***Approach to developer contributions***

KKP advocates the requirement for open space should be based upon the number of persons generated from the net increase in dwellings in the proposed scheme. We also promote the use of quantity provision standards (in hectares per 1,000 population) in calculating the open space requirements of new housing development.

### ***Flexible approach***

A focus of this study has been to recognise the role quality and accessibility has in terms of open space provision. Future need should not just centre on quantity requirements of new residential developments. In some instances a new residential development may not warrant on-site provision but instead could contribute towards an existing site in proximity.

The flowchart (Table 9.5.1) sets out the process that should be considered when determining contributions in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility. The provision standards should be used to help determine the requirements for open space provision as part of a development.

*Table 9.5.1: Determining developer contributions*

<b>Step 1</b> - Determine the open space requirement resulting from the development based on the recommended quantity standards.
<b>Step 2</b> – Consider whether the size of the development warrants on-site provision or whether the proximity of an existing open space could benefit from enhancement?
<b>Step 3</b> – Determine which sites could benefit most from contribution
<b>Step 4</b> - Calculate the financial off-site contribution required.

If at Step 2, it is determined that provision should be on-site then the recommended quantity standards should be used to calculate the requirements for open space.

The recommended quantity standards (Table 9.3.1) should be used to help determine the open space requirements as a result of a development. These should be used as part of the formula below which calculates the actual open space provision to be required

The formula to determine the initial amount of open space provision required is:

$$\text{New/additional population from development} \times \text{quantity standard} / 1000$$

For example, a hypothetical development of 50 dwellings would require the following amount of amenity greenspace:

$$\text{New/additional population from development } (50 \times 2.4^* = 120) \times \text{amenity greenspace quantity standard } (0.92) / 1000 = \underline{0.11 \text{ hectares}}$$

---

\* Based on household occupancy rate of 2.4 people per dwelling (Source: ONS Families and Households Release 2017)

## ***Determining on-site or off-site contributions***

The requirement for on or off-site provision should be undertaken in conjunction with the accessibility and quality of existing open space provision.

It is recognised that open spaces of a particularly small size hold less recreational use and value. The presence of additional smaller sites will also add to the existing pressures of maintenance regimes and safety inspections. It is therefore suggested that a minimum area threshold is used to determine if provision should be provided on or off-site and in order to ensure meaningful forms of provision are provided.

For instance, if a new form of open space provision falls below a size of site which is considered too small to act as meaningful open space provision it could look to be secured as an off-site contribution. If the provision to be provided surpasses the minimum area it could look to be provided on-site as part of the development.

Both the GLA\* and FIT† offer some guidance to the potential minimum area of sites (Table 9.5.2). New open space provision should look to be provided as off-site contributions if the calculated open space requirement for the proposed development falls below the area threshold. If the requirement is above, it should look to be provided on-site.

*Table 9.5.2: Examples of minimum area sizes*

Classification	Minimum area of site
Allotments	0.4 ha (0.025 per plot)
Amenity greenspace	0.4 ha
Natural and semi natural	0.4 ha
Parks and gardens	2 ha

*Source: GLA Open space strategies: Best practice guidance (2009)*

Consideration to reviewing any pre-existing minimum site sizes is advised given the updated quantity standards recommended within this document.

## **9.6 Future growth**

Future need for open space will arise from population increases from potential housing growth. Both the local plans relevant to East Suffolk set out the level of growth needed in the area and identify where that growth should be located and how it should be delivered.

- ◆ In the former Suffolk Coastal area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,756 houses (542 dwellings per annum) between 2018-2036. This will include creation of two new garden neighbourhoods (Felixstowe and Saxmundham), to focus growth on the A12 and A14 corridors and to support rural communities.
- ◆ In the former Waveney area, the Local Plan is committed to delivering 9,235 houses (419 dwellings per annum) between 2014-2036. Just over half of the committed allocation will be in the Lowestoft area (Lowestoft, Carlton Colville, Corton, Gisleham, Oulton and Oulton Broad) with a proposed 5,206 dwellings.

\* Greater London Authority

† Beyond the Six Acre Standard (2015)

## EAST SUFFOLK COUNCIL OPEN SPACE ASSESSMENT

Using these dwelling figures, an indicative population figure can be calculated. This assumes that on average each new dwelling will generate 2.4\* new residents.

*Table 9.5.3: Future growth*

Scenario	Proposed new dwellings	Estimated new populations
Former Suffolk Coastal area	9,756	23,414
Former Waveney area	9,235	22,164

Below, the suggested quantity provision standards for East Suffolk are applied to each area in order to determine how much additional open space would be required to support growth and ensure the current provision levels are maintained.

### **Former Suffolk Coastal**

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth is estimated as 23,414. This is based on 9,756 dwellings being delivered with an average of 2.4 persons per dwelling.

*Table 9.5.4: Former Suffolk Coastal open space requirement*

Open space type	Quantity standards (per 1,000 population)	Future requirement (hectares)
Parks & gardens	0.22	5.15
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.64	85.23
Amenity greenspace	0.92	21.54
Allotment	0.26	6.09

### **Former Waveney**

The estimated additional population derived from housing growth is estimated as 22,164. This is based on 9,235 dwellings being delivered with an average of 2.4 persons per dwelling.

*Table 9.5.5: Former Waveney open space requirement*

Open space type	Quantity standards (per 1,000 population)	Future requirement (hectares)
Parks & gardens	0.22	4.88
Natural & semi-natural greenspace	3.64	80.68
Amenity greenspace	0.92	20.39
Allotment	0.26	5.76

The figures provide an initial indication to the additional open space required as a result of new housing growth. It should be treated as a starting point for further exploration and negotiation to ensure new populations are served by adequate open space provision.

\* Source: ONS Families and Households Release 2017

### Next steps

#### *Supplementary Planning Document*

The Council is looking to develop a Green Infrastructure Strategy which this study can help to inform. It may wish to develop a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) to provide further detail on the policies and proposals within the Local Plan. An SPD focusing on open space provision standards and how they will be applied could assist in the consideration and determining of planning applications.

The following topics/headings may wish to be considered if the Council progresses with creating an SPD:

- ◀ Policy context – where does the requirement for open space sit in terms of national and local planning policy
- ◀ Overview of the evidence base used to inform setting of standards
- ◀ Explanation to the set provision standards
- ◀ Explanation to how the standards are applied and how contributions are calculated
- ◀ Setting process for calculating the financial contribution for off-site provision or improvements
- ◀ Design principles for open space provision
- ◀ Setting process for calculating maintenance costs required





**CABINET**

**Tuesday, 05 July 2022**

<b>Subject</b>	Acquisition of new Refuse Collection Vehicles
<b>Report by</b>	<p>Councillor Stephen Burroughes</p> <p>Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customer Services, ICT and Commercial Partnerships</p> <p>Councillor James Mallinder</p> <p>Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment</p>
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	<p>Kerry Blair</p> <p>Head of Operations</p> <p><a href="mailto:kerry.blair@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">kerry.blair@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a></p> <p>Rob Stammers</p> <p>Waste Strategy and Business Improvement Manager</p> <p><a href="mailto:robert.stammers@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">robert.stammers@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a></p>

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
-------------------------------	------

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards



## Purpose and high-level overview

### **Purpose of Report:**

To highlight the need to replace 23 Refuse Collection Vehicles (RCV) which will reach the end of their working life by the end of 2023.

An average RCV has a working life of 7 years before being replaced. This is a balance between a reasonable time span to allow depreciation of the asset financially, against the realistic working life of the vehicle before maintenance costs and reliability issues start to outweigh operational viability.

In East Suffolk, due to the size of the district, RCV's we operate cover far higher mileage than is usual so the need for an established replacement programme is paramount.

We currently have 14 new Euro VI engine RCV's operating under a year long hire agreement that have been bought into to allow the use of HVO fuel as part of the Climate Strategy to reduce emissions. These vehicles have replaced RCV's that had old Euro V engines that aren't guaranteed for use with HVO fuel. Some of the fleet that was replaced dated from 2011 & 2012 so had been in operation for 10 years or so.

As hiring is more expensive than purchase these vehicles need to be replaced at the end of their hire term.

In addition to the 14 vehicles mentioned above, there are a further 9 vehicles that will be at least 7 years old by the end of 2023. Having had vehicle workshops conduct a condition survey they are all recommended for replacement due to high mileage and increasing maintenance costs.

As an example, a usual RCV at the end of a 7-year working cycle will have between 70 – 90,000 miles on the clock. Many of our vehicles currently have 130,000+ miles on them, with some 180,000+. They still have another year to work before any replacement even if this procurement proposal is approved.

There is also the formation of the new LATCo, East Suffolk Services, to consider. Does ESC want the new company to be operating vehicles that are at the end of their working life? What image of the new service does this present to residents?

Therefore, we ask for the authority to proceed with a procurement programme for 23 new RCV's.

### **Options:**

There are two options to replace these vehicles, i.e. lease or purchase and depreciate over their working life.

ESC Finance Team have recommended that as these vehicles will be in service for longer than 3 years then purchase is the preferred option.

However, leasing is an option. This would smooth the financial burden by not having the upfront capital cost of purchase, though there would be no asset at the end of the lease purchase.

Both these options are explored further in the financial section.

**Recommendation/s:**

1. That a procurement process to purchase 23 vehicles be started.
2. That authority be given to the relevant Strategic Director, in consultation with both the Cabinet Member for Customer Services, ICT and Commercial Services and the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the Environment, to negotiate and award a contract on terms that best support the interests of East Suffolk Council.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

**Governance:**

This proposal will be managed through existing procurement arrangements, and will include involvement by Procurement, Finance, Legal and Operations depts.

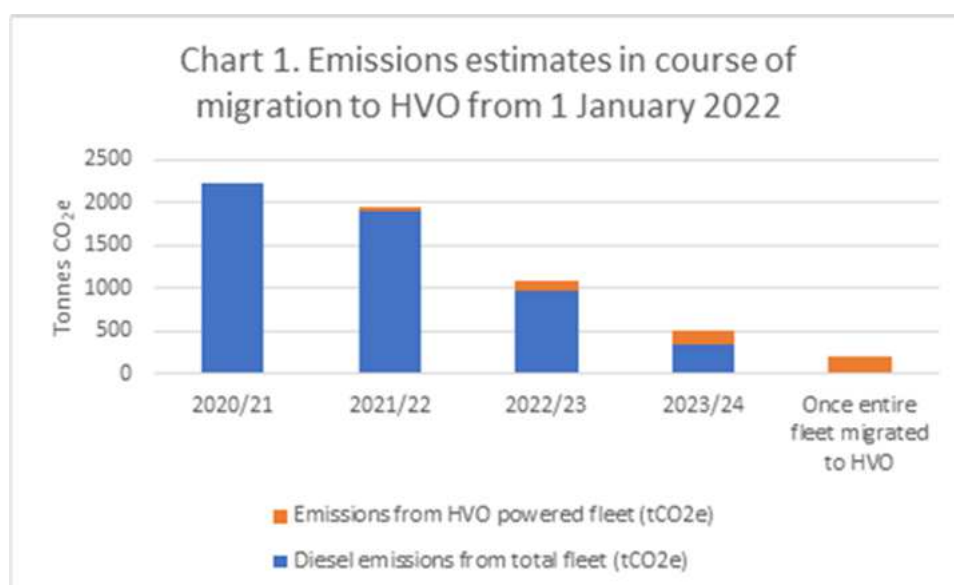
**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

- Strategic Plan 2020 – 2024
- Air Quality Survey 2021
- Strategic Plan Delivery Board 2021 – environmental theme

**Environmental:**

With an ageing fleet the resilience of the collection service is becoming compromised. This can lead to residual, recycling and garden waste bins being uncollected, leading to potential environmental issues around odour and vermin.

Having delayed fleet replacement to allow an assessment of both alternative fuels and RAWs (Resources and Waste Strategy paper), ESC have hired 14 RCV's to replace older vehicles with Euro V engines, thus allowing all the RCV fleet to run on HVO fuel, significantly contributing to reducing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by approximately 2000t p.a.



Switching from fossil-fuel diesel to an alternative low carbon fuel has the potential to ultimately (once the entire fleet has been migrated) reduce annual emissions by approximately 2023tCO<sub>2</sub>e.\*

As such, the action proposed has the potential to deliver, and embed, an immediate and significant contribution to the Council's target to become carbon-neutral by 2030. The

action will also contribute towards the Authority's aim of Leading by Example under the Strategic Plan theme of Caring for our Environment.

Hiring the 14 RCV's is a short-term solution to allow the whole fleet to use HVO fuel, but is more expensive than either purchase or long-term lease. Therefore, ESC needs to look at replacing the existing 14 hire vehicles, along with another 9 that will have reached the end of their working life in 2023.

All the new vehicles will have the latest Euro VI engines, which are more fuel efficient as well as using HVO fuel, reducing our carbon footprint further.

#### **Equalities and Diversity:**

Not applicable.

#### **Financial:**

There are two options available which are to purchase the Refuse Freighters or to enter into a hire arrangement.

#### **Purchase cost:**

Current purchase costs per refuse freighter are £190,000 (excluding VAT), therefore the budget required to purchase would be £4,370,000.

#### **Hire Cost:**

Based on current rates a refuse freighter costs £875 per week to hire, this would therefore equate to £46,540 per freighter per year. A total of 23 freighters per year would cost £1,070,420.

#### **Cost Comparison:**

As the table below shows using an estimated life of 7 years for Refuse freighters the Hire cost would be substantially more at £7.49m compared to the purchasing cost of £4.37m being an increase of 58%.

	Refuse Vehicle		Current cost per vehicle		
	Purchase	Net Cost	Leasing	per week	Total Annual Cost
Year 1	23	4,370,000.00	23	895	1,070,420
Year 2			23	895	1,070,420
Year 3			23	895	1,070,420
Year 4			23	895	1,070,420
Year 5			23	895	1,070,420
Year 6			23	895	1,070,420
Year 7			23	895	1,070,420
		<b>4,370,000.00</b>			<b>7,492,940.00</b>

**Purchase cost v Hire cost    3,122,940.00    58%**

In conclusion the preferred method of replacement would be to purchase, this provides better value for money, however it would require a comprehensive vehicle replacement

programme to be worked up to ensure that peak levels of future replacement are avoided.

#### Human Resources:

Not applicable.

#### ICT:

All new vehicles will be fitted with Bartec, the new operations management software that ESC is adopting to allow us and the LATCo to manage operations, from collections to cleansing and grounds etc. Aside from allowing real time operational monitoring and oversight, it will allow ESC and the LATCo to plan work packages and routing more efficiently, reducing impact on the environment.

#### Legal:

None

#### Risk:

The table below details the current fleet profile, and a proposed replacement schedule, using an industry standard 7 year working life for a vehicle:

Vehicle replacement schedule									
Ufford					Rotterdam road				
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZFO	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZFN	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZFC	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZFM	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZFD	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZPG	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZPJ	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZPH	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZPK	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZHU	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZPL	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 ZHV	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE	VO15 KZV	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VX22 BYU	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE	VO15 KZW	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE PLUS	VK22 BXV	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU65 FBN	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU65 FBJ	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VN16 PGU	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU65 FBK	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VN16 PGV	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VN16 PGX	Euro 6
REFUSE	VOLVO	REL DUSTCART	AU67 HZH	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VN16 PGY	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU67 JDX	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VN67 LEJ	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU67 JDZ	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VN68 RYB	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU67 JFA	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VN68 RYC	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU67 JEJ	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VE69 CVF	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE 6	VU67 JEO	Euro 6	REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	Mac Pac	LO69 ZZJ	Euro 6
REFUSE	DAF	LF GLASS LORRY	DK18 HLM	Euro 6					
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE - EURO 6	VN68 RYA	Euro 6					
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE - EURO 6	VN68 RXZ	Euro 6					
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE - EURO 6	VT19 WHA	Euro 6					
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE - EURO 6	VT19 WHB	Euro 6					
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE - EURO 6	VT19 WHC	Euro 6					
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE	VU62 HPE	Euro 5	Food trial	Mercedes	Atego	AY13 NTJ	Euro 6
REFUSE	DENNIS EAGLE	ELITE	VU62 HPJ	Euro 5					

To benchmark our fleet against industry norms, an average RCV working on a standard municipal contract will last for 7 years before being replaced. During this time the mileage covered will be between 65,000 – 90,000 miles.

We currently have several vehicles that have already covered more than 120,000 miles, with some over 200,000 miles – this is with at least another year in service. This is due to the large geographic area we cover.

By having a rolling replacement programme we can look at new technologies as they are developed, e.g. electric vehicles, hydrogen fuel etc. Currently these technologies aren't

advanced enough for our situation, i.e. range issues in our district, but this will change and by introducing a few vehicles each year it will allow us to introduce and assess any new technologies without committing to replacing an entire fleet.

**External Consultees:**

We have consulted with the Transport and Fleet Managers at Norse Commercial Services.

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

### How does this proposal support the priorities selected?

This acquisition will achieve several strategic priorities for the council. First amongst these is maximising the use of council assets. RCVs represent a significant investment – and are the backbone of the council's waste collection operation. Collection of waste is a vital function of the District Council and it is important that we have the assets to do this in as efficient and reliable way as possible.

The purchase of a new RCV fleet will provide an efficient, reliable and environmentally sustainable transport solution for the collection of refuse. The waste collection fleet are currently the biggest single contributor to the council's carbon emissions. By replacing the fleet with new vehicles, it means that all of the council's RCV fleet will be able to run on HVO fuel, reducing the carbon emissions associated with refuse collection by up to 90%.

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

### 1 Background facts

1.1 Norse currently deploy around 150 collection rounds per week across the district, picking up refuse, recycling, garden waste and trade waste. To enable this service, a fleet of around 50 vehicles are in operation, generally made up of 26t RCV's, but alongside some smaller capacity vehicles that are used for specific areas, e.g. areas with narrow access etc.

26t RCV's are the industry standard vehicle, being the best compromise between capacity and size, bearing in mind that they operate in areas of housing with small roads, cul-de-sacs etc. A 26t RCV has a payload of around 11t, so in a standard service model each vehicle will collect two loads per day, equating to 22t residual waste collected, or around 11t for recycling, as recycling doesn't compress as well as residual waste, due to the volume of plastic and cardboard.

An RCV collection vehicle is usually crewed by a driver and two loaders. The table below shows how many households each service collects from per day on average (pass rate), and the weight collected per year and per collection:

	Pass Rates		
ESC	Properties/day	KG/HH/Year	KG/HH/Day
Residual	1173	621	12
DMR	1290	220	4
GRN	822	419	8

To ensure a robust service, the general rule for fleet numbers is one spare vehicle for every five in service. This allows for the regulatory six-weekly service schedule to be carried out, along with allowing for breakdowns, MOT's etc.

We are currently engaged in a rerouting exercise, to identify whether any efficiencies can be identified, but the latest data prepared for the RAWs project

(Resources and Waste Strategy white paper) which has been circulated indicates that we will need 36 x 26t RCV's to collect the tonnage they're working with (2020 data), so add spares at a 5:1 ratio and we end up with a fleet of 43 vehicles.

By choosing 26t single chamber (collects one waste stream) vehicles we are keeping the maximum operational flexibility in our fleet, able to respond to any changes that are introduced either by us or by RAWs, which has yet to be finalised. All indications from our work with the Suffolk Waste Partnership indicates that a fleet of single chamber vehicles collecting on a twin stream fortnightly basis is the most efficient and cost-effective methodology – see Eunomia RAWs report.

The separate food waste collection service that will be introduced under RAWs will require a different fleet configuration, and will effectively be a stand-alone service. The vehicles currently modelled for this are 12 x 7.5t RCV's, with 2/3 as spare. There will be Government funding to help with this.

In 2020 the Council approved a proposal to move the Council's diesel fleet to use HVO (Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil) fuel instead of diesel, thus reducing total carbon emissions by >40%. Whilst undergoing this process it was noted that 16 vehicles in the RCV fleet were Euro V engines, which are older and not guaranteed for the use of HVO fuel. Therefore, ESC has hired in 14 new RCV's to replace these, all with Euro VI engines which are fine to use HVO. These 14 vehicles have been hired for 12 months, with an option for another 12 months.

The age profile of the 14 vehicles replaced was:

1 x 12 yrs old  
1 x 11 yrs old  
5 x 10 yrs old  
7 x 9 yrs old

Given that the average lifespan for an RCV in municipal service is 7 years, these vehicles were overdue for replacement, especially given the high mileage required in East Suffolk.

In addition, there are a further 9 vehicles that will have reached the end of their working life in 2023, making 23 in total, i.e. 14 vehicles currently hired and 9 x 16 plate vehicles.

The cost of maintaining the ageing vehicles in the fleet is also rising, and they are uneconomic to keep in service. The size of the fleet we maintain to deliver services is calculated on a certain number of vehicles being off-the-road every day for either planned maintenance (servicing and MOT's etc.) or unscheduled breakdowns. There have been several instances recently where these numbers have been exceeded, which has compromised the collection service, and has resulted in extra cost such as overtime payments to rectify along with inconvenience for residents.



2 Current position	
2.1	<p>East Suffolk Norse has an ageing fleet that is affecting their ability to deliver an efficient, resilient waste &amp; recycling collection service. With RAWs being introduced in 2023/2024 we need to have a fleet and operation that can adapt to any service changes that we implement, along with any efficiencies we introduce.</p> <p>In keeping with our desire to deliver an efficient, modern service for residents and with an eye on the LATCo start-up next July, we should look to have an up-to-date fleet, cutting down on emissions, being more resilient and presenting a positive image of East Suffolk Services.</p>
2.2	<p>With current business improvement programmes underway (such as rerouting) and the formation of East Suffolk Services, it is imperative that a fleet replacement programme is started.</p> <p>If we introduce service efficiencies or improvements then we need to have a resilient adaptable fleet at our disposal, to ensure that any changes are as seamless as possible thus causing as little inconvenience to residents as we can.</p>

3 How to address current situation	
3.1	Procure 23 RCVs to be in service by the end of 2023 at the latest.
3.2	To commence a rolling replacement programme, with a further 7 vehicles reaching the end of their life in 2024, 5 in 2025 and 5 in 2026.

4 Reason/s for recommendation	
4.1	To ensure an efficient, adaptable and resilient waste & recycling collection service for East Suffolk.
4.2	To reduce maintenance costs and service disruptions.

## Appendices

Appendices:
None.

Background reference papers:
None.

**CABINET****Tuesday, 05 July 2022**

<b>Subject</b>	Area Parking Reviews
<b>Report by</b>	Cllr Norman Brooks Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Lewis Boudville Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services Manager <a href="mailto:Parking.services@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">Parking.services@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> 01502 523260

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
-------------------------------	------

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable.
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### Purpose of Report:

To recommend approval from Cabinet for a review of the existing parking management regulations and the introduction of new parking management schemes within East Suffolk.

East Suffolk Council is working to ensure that parking regulations – which include resident parking, short term parking bays, double yellow lines, and so on – meet changing local demands, including shifting patterns of town centre use, and growth in housing. Current regulations may not meet these needs – instead, they may represent historic needs. This review and additional resource are necessary to support towns and residents in East Suffolk.

The efficient and effective review of existing parking regulations and the development of proposals for new regulations will require additional specialist resource to deliver the necessary work in a timely manner.

**Options:**

- Do nothing. There is an option to not undertake the proposed review and for parking regulations within the district to remain as they are.
- Proceed as recommended below.

**Recommendation/s:**

1. That the Head of Operations be authorised to implement the review of existing parking management regulations within the district, in consultation with the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Transport.
2. That a Supplementary Budget of £21,000 for 2022/23 and £42,000 for future years be approved for the appointment of a Highways Technician/Engineer to provide the resource and capability necessary for undertaking the review and implement the consequent changes to parking management regulations within the district.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

**Governance:**

None arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

East Suffolk Strategic Plan 2020 - 2024

**Environmental:**

The recommendations of this report positively contribute to the environmental and carbon neutral aims of the East Suffolk Strategic Plan 2020-2024 where we promise to put environmental issues at the heart of everything we do. The review will aim to reduce carbon emissions by ensuring that parking provision is in the right location, which removes the need for vehicles to 'hunt' for parking spaces in towns creating congestion.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

An Equalities Impact Assessment is not required as the recommendation in this report will not impact equality and diversity. An EIA will be completed prior to any changes being implemented where there is a potential impact on particular groups.

**Financial:**

Recruitment of a Highways Technician/Engineer (anticipated at Band 4/5 – mid point with oncosts £41,436). It may be possible to fund this post by way of virement from other areas of the service, and in addition, there could effectively be an element of self-financing through increased parking income. However, as this situation is not guaranteed, the recommendation in this report is for a Supplementary Budget of £21,000 (part year) for 2022/23, and £42,000 for subsequent years be approved for this post.

**Human Resources:**

Recruitment of a Highways Technician/Engineer to complete the review of existing parking management regulations. This post will sit within the Parking Services team, reporting to the Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services Manager.

**ICT:**

None arising directly from the recommendations of this report. If changes will need to be made to GIS maps, or the Taranto parking management system following the review, these will be made at the time.

**Legal:**

Changes to traffic regulation orders following the review may require further Cabinet approval and consultation.

**Risk:**

None arising directly from the recommendations of this report.

**External Consultees:**

Relevant town and parish councils, Business Improvement Districts and Suffolk County Council will be consulted during the review process. Other bodies, such as the Lowestoft Place Board, will also be consulted – as will bodies representing local businesses.

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being, and safety in our District	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education, and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b>  The proposals will ensure that East Suffolk Council (the Council) is meeting its delegated responsibilities and is administering civil parking enforcement in a fair, reasonable and consistent manner. This contributes to the safety of all highway users travelling around the district's towns, allows the Council to work in partnership with other councils and organisations, and gives us the opportunity to consider our environmental aims. Transport planning and parking management is about enabling people to travel in the district for work, and leisure and to be able to do this safely and with minimum impact on the environment.			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

<b>1</b>	<b>Background facts</b>		
1.1	It was apparent on the transfer of parking enforcement powers to the local authorities from the police that many parking regulations were out of date. They had, in many cases, not kept up with changing patterns of town centre use, new housing developments and increases in populations in our towns. Parking management is not simply about enforcement but ensuring that parking regulations facilitate the most efficient use of the highway network whilst supporting the local economy, visitors, and residents. As these are key areas of interest for local authorities, members consider it a priority to conduct a review and make changes where needed.		
1.2	SCC is responsible for the installations of 'signs and lines' to let drivers know where they can and cannot park. These signs and lines are legally installed via a traffic regulation order (TRO). installations, but. But SCC does not have the resource to conduct district-wide reviews to identify problems, so regulations that are out of date and need removing, and areas where there are currently no or inadequate regulations, cannot be considered and amendments made to the TROs. The consequence of this negatively affects this Council's ability to administer CPE efficiently and effectively, which in turn undermines road user safety and the efficient operation of the highway network.		
1.3	SCC has delegated to East Suffolk the necessary functions to maintain regulation installations in accordance with Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD), and to make, vary or revoke orders affecting on-street paid parking places. Effective parking management requires many types of regulations so we will need to work in partnership with SCC to effect appropriate changes for parking management regulations.		

1.4	Senior officers acknowledged process difficulties with SCC and consulted with SCC officers via the Suffolk Chief Officer Leadership Team (SCOLT). The meeting was positive – with a recognition at both District and County level that a review was overdue and support for addressing the issues was necessary.
-----	--

## 2 Current position

2.1	SCC is the Highway Authority and has responsibility for highway management including parking management regulations. The relationship between ESC and SCC in relation to parking was covered by a document called The Agency Agreement, which states TROs cannot be made “...without the specific written consent of the County Council. (The County Council will only withhold consent for technical reasons. This would be if it considers that road safety or traffic management would be adversely affected or if there would be adverse consequential impacts on other parts of the highway network.).
2.2	The district councils (District Councils, in this case East Suffolk Council)ESC, have been delegated ability to install parking regulations where fees apply, and these are limited to permit bays and pay-and-display bays (paid parking places). Delegated functions also include the maintenance of existing ones as they pertain to CPE administration.
2.3	<p>The review will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• confirming existing permit management regulations are still valid;</li> <li>• identifying streets where permit management regulations will prioritise on-street parking opportunities for groups, most likely residents; and</li> <li>• identify areas where parking demand could be balanced using paid parking regulations.</li> </ul> <p>Identifying areas where other regulations may improve the availability of parking for other road users (e.g., short stay parking to support town centre shopping)</p>
2.4	There is currently insufficient capacity in the Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services team to adequately fulfil the requirements of the Highways Engineer function, which is a specialist role.

## 3 How to address current situation

3.1	The review will identify changes to parking availability on the streets of East Suffolk. These opportunities will then need to be worked up into a ‘parking scheme’ that is fit for purpose, and that the Council has the powers to enforce. To do this, it is necessary to employ a Highways Technician/Engineer reporting to and guided by the Transport, Infrastructure & Parking Services Manager. The new role will be dedicated to the task of partnership working with SCC to effect the necessary TRO and TSRGD compliance.
3.2	The commissioning of a consultant for town-by-town reviews would be more costly and less effective at developing the professional relationships required to deliver this part of the Parking Services remit.
3.3	The introduction of this specialist role delivered with consideration to transport planning and management policies and objectives, will enable:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the necessary review of the current parking management regulation in each town to ascertain the level of existing regulations' legislation compliance</li> <li>the rectifying of TSRGD issues where the regulations are deemed still applicable</li> <li>partnership working with SCC to revoke or introduce regulations as required considering existing and future travel management solutions and the resultant parking management necessary</li> <li>the building of the applicable transport strategy and plan knowledge for consideration to mobility services at local, sub-national, and national levels</li> <li>sustained liaison with the Economic Development &amp; Regeneration and Communities teams, the relevant town and parish councils, and to seek views from BIDs to enable informed decisions to be made for the delivery of strategic parking management regulations benefitting all highway users</li> <li>liaison with Planning to ensure consideration of potential land use changes e.g., large housing and commercial developments or other changes to the infrastructure thereby futureproofing solutions from a mobility, traffic movement and parking management perspective</li> <li>consideration of East Suffolk's mobility needs to meet the Council's strategic aim of being carbon neutral by 2030</li> </ul>
3.4	<p>The proposed key activities and milestones are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Cabinet Report for approval of approach – 05/07/2022</li> <li>2. Recruit Highways Technician/Engineer – 30/09/2022</li> <li>3. Audit of parking regulations town by town – 30/09/2022 to 31/12/2022</li> <li>4. Report on findings and sketch proposals for new parking management regulations – 31/01/2023</li> <li>5. Discussions and agreement with SCC on action plan for resolving the identified issues – 28/02/2023</li> <li>6. Remove/introduce regulations to ensure compliance with Traffic Sign Regulations and General Directions and Traffic Regulation Orders – 31/08/2023</li> <li>7. Commencement of new schemes' delivery on a town-by-town basis - 01/04/2023</li> </ol>

#### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	The proposed review and the deployment of the additional resource and capacity being recommended will facilitate the development of local strategies that better support the needs of East Suffolk businesses and residents.
-----	--

## Appendices

### Appendices:

None.

### Background reference papers:

None.



**CABINET**

**Tuesday, 05 July 2022**

<b>Subject</b>	Draft Financial Outturn 2021/22 and Budget Monitoring Quarter 1 2022/23
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Maurice Cook  Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Brian Mew Chief Finance Officer and Section 151 Officer <a href="mailto:Brian.Mew@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">mailto:Brian.Mew@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a> 01394 444571

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
-------------------------------	------

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### Purpose of Report:

This report provides Cabinet with an overview of the Council's unaudited financial performance for 2021/22 in respect of the General Fund, Reserves, Housing Revenue Account (HRA), the Capital Programme and the Collection Fund.

For 2021/22 the Council's General Fund realised a surplus year end position of £1.170m. This report seeks approval for the surplus to be transferred equally between the Short Life Asset Reserve and the Transformation Reserve (Financial Sustainability Theme). This report also seeks approval of the year end movements to and from the Council's other Earmarked Reserves as shown in **Appendix C**.

This report also provides Cabinet with an initial financial outlook for the year ahead as at Quarter 1 of 2022/23.

### Options:

The year-end outturn surplus could be transferred to a different earmarked reserve. The most suitable alternative would be the In-Year Savings Reserves - its purpose is to provide funding to address future budget pressures. It was anticipated for this reserve to be used (£1.382m) to balance the General Fund budget for the year. However, given the surplus position this was not required, placing the Council in a stronger than expected financial position going into 2022/23. It is therefore considered an opportunity to set aside funds in Reserves for projects and initiatives to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan, in particular the transition of the Operations services to East Suffolk Services Ltd.

### Recommendation/s:

1. That the Council's draft outturn position for 2021/22 together with reserves and balances as of 31 March 2022 be noted.
2. That the transfers to and from reserves shown in **Appendix C** of the report, including the transfer of the General Fund outturn surplus, to the Short Life Asset Reserve and the Transformation Reserve, £0.585m to each reserve, be approved.
3. That the budget carry forward requests above £0.030m set out in **paragraph 2.3** of the report be approved.
4. That the key financial considerations for 2022/23 as identified at Quarter 1 be noted.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### Governance:

The process for approval and publication of the Statement of Accounts is set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. Statutory amendments to the process for approval and publication of the Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 have been made in acknowledgement of the impact Covid-19 has had on Local Authorities. The date for signing and dating the draft 2021/22 Statement of Accounts is by 31 July 2022, for publication on 1 August 2022. Under normal circumstances this would have been by 31 May 2022, for publication on 1 June 2022. The deadline for the publication of the final audited accounts is 30 November 2022 (usually 31 July). On completion of the audit, the audited Accounts are reported to the Audit and Governance Committee for its consideration. The Council is currently on course for the draft Statement of Accounts to

be considered by the Audit and Governance Committee on 25 July 2022, and for the accounts to be published on 1 August 2022.

The outturn position will feed into the review and update of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, the Capital Programme, and the Housing Revenue Account in the 2023/24 budget process. This will inform decisions for the 2023/24 budget which will be presented to Members for their approval and consideration during 2022/23.

As set out in the Council's Finance Procedure Rules, requests to carry forward an individual revenue budget at the end of the year of up to £0.030m, can be approved by the Chief Finance Officer. Requests over £0.030m require Cabinet approval.

The financial procedure rules require that the CFO to "prepare and submit quarterly financial reports to Cabinet.

**ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

- East Suffolk Strategic Plan
- East Suffolk Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Capital Programme
- Housing Revenue Account
- East Suffolk Treasury Management Strategy and Treasury Management Policy
- Annual Governance Statement
- Finance Procedure Rules

**Environmental:**

There are no direct environmental implications identified.

**Equalities and Diversity:**

An Equality Impact Assessment is not required as the recommendations of this report do not require changes in policy and service delivery.

**Financial:**

The transfer of the outturn surplus to the proposed reserves will boost the Council's ability to deliver on longer term financial sustainability efforts and increase the resilience of our programme of small life asset replacement.

**Human Resources:**

There are no Human Resource implications identified.

**ICT:**

There are no ICT implications identified.

**Legal:**

There are no legal implications identified.

**Risk:**

There are no risks identified.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	None.
-----------------------------	-------

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education, and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b> An early appreciation of the budget pressures and opportunities for the current financial year will inform the Council's priorities and ensure that decisions throughout the year continue to reflect value for money and support financial sustainability.			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	<p><b>Draft Outturn Position 2021/22</b></p> <p>The Council's accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022 (2021/22 year) have been prepared in accordance with the Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting in the United Kingdom 2021/22 (the Code) issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA). In England and Wales, the local authority Code constitutes "proper accounting practice" under the terms of Section 21(2) of the Local Government Act 2003.</p>
1.2	<p>The Statement of Accounts for 2021/22 is subject to external audit review and therefore the outturn position for the Council as presented in this report is a draft position. The external auditors are due to commence their audit in December 2022. On completion of the audit, the audited Statement of Accounts will be recommended to the Audit and Governance Committee.</p>
1.3	<p>The Narrative Report which is a key accompanying document to the Council's Statement of Accounts provides an easy-to-follow communicating platform to engage with stakeholders. The Narrative Report assists the Council to demonstrate its achievements over the year and how well the authority is equipped to deal with the challenges and opportunities ahead. The Council's Narrative Report is published as an integral part of the Council's Statement of Accounts, a draft of which will be presented to the Audit and Governance Committee in July 2022.</p>
1.4	<p>The careful management of reserves is central to the Council's strategic financial planning process, to be able to manage expected and unforeseen events and circumstances and to ensure adequate balances are in place for East Suffolk Council.</p>
1.5	<p><b>2022/23 Quarter 1 Outlook</b></p> <p>The UK economy entered 2022 still affected by two major impacts of the path out of Covid – very high inflation, and a very tight labour market with strong pay growth. The bank of England is predicting further inflationary pressures for the immediate future. Inflation is expected remain at about 10% through the Summer and fall back to 2% by spring 2024. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is anticipated to intensify and prolong the surge in inflation and tighten the squeeze on household incomes. The Council will continue monitoring the impact this is likely to have on the collection rates for both Council Tax and Business Rates.</p>
1.6	<p>It is anticipated that pay deal negotiations will seek a pay award which is greater than the Council's current assumption of 2% for each year of the MTFS. The impact will depend how much buffer vacancies can provide against a pay award in excess of current assumptions. A 1% increase in pay is approximately £300k for the direct staffing costs of the General Fund and £120k for the indirect staffing of the Council's Operations partner.</p>

2 Current position	
2.1	<p><b>General Fund Revenue Outturn 2021/22</b></p> <p>The General Fund is the main revenue fund from which the Council's services are met. The Council's net expenditure is financed from Council Tax and Business Rates</p>

income and Government Grants. The table below shows the outturn position for 2021/22, actual compared to the revised budget.

General Fund Revenue Outturn				Variance to current budget
Description	Original Budget	Current Budget	Outturn	
	2021/22 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2021/22 £'000	2021/22 £'000
Net Cost of Service	41,645	47,016	39,773	(7,243)
Non-Cost of Service Expenditure Adjustments	2,528	1,998	(257)	(2,255)
<b>Other Operating Expenditure</b>				
Town & Parish Precepts	6,398	6,398	6,398	(0)
Additional Restrictions COVID-19	4,589	0	1,005	1,005
Local Council Tax Support Grant	110	110	110	0
Levies	246	246	261	15
Financing and Investment Income and Expenditure	(10)	12	(391)	(402)
<b>Non-Specific Grant Income</b>				
New Homes Bonus	(1,177)	(1,177)	(1,177)	(0)
S31 Grant	(4,338)	(13,506)	(10,497)	3,009
Capital Grants	(16)	(25)	0	25
Other Non-Specific Grants	(1,735)	(1,735)	(1,853)	(118)
<b>Net Budget Expenditure before Reserve Movements</b>	<b>48,240</b>	<b>39,337</b>	<b>33,373</b>	<b>(5,965)</b>
Net Movements on Reserves				
Revenue Earmarked Reserves	(22,901)	(14,947)	(9,630)	5,317
Capital Reserves	(3,532)	(3,063)	(2,133)	930
<b>Net Budget Expenditure After Reserve Movements</b>	<b>21,808</b>	<b>21,328</b>	<b>21,610</b>	<b>282</b>
<b>Financed By:</b>				
Council Tax Income (District Council)	(14,959)	(14,959)	(14,852)	107
Council Tax Income (Town & Parish Precepts)	(6,398)	(6,398)	(6,398)	0
Share of Surplus/Deficit on Collection Fund (Council Tax)	106	106	0	(106)
Business Rates Income	785	1,264	982	(282)
Local Council Tax Support Grant	(370)	(370)	(370)	(0)
Lower Tier Services Grant	(381)	(381)	(381)	0
Revenue support grant	(330)	(330)	(330)	(0)
Rural Services Delivery Grant	(260)	(260)	(260)	(0)
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>(21,808)</b>	<b>(21,328)</b>	<b>(21,610)</b>	<b>(282)</b>
<b>Budget Shortfall / (Surplus)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

2.2	<p>The summary in <b>Appendix A</b> provides details of the key budget variances for 2021/22, giving the surplus outturn position of £1.170m.</p> <p>The Council made more efficient use of its existing assets, resulting in increased income from fees, rents, and charges. Building control income benefitted from the boom in the property market and housing development in the area. The Council also continued its collaboration with other councils, generating income from providing specialist services to them.</p> <p>Staffing savings due to unfilled vacancies contributed significantly to the General Fund surplus position. Notably, Coastal Management and Planning Services held the highest levels of vacancies at 25% and 10% of their staffing budgets. Asset management and information and communication technology expertise has also been difficult to recruit, although the pressures here are being managed using contractors.</p>																		
2.3	<p><b>Year End Revenue Budget Carry Forwards</b></p> <p>For 2021/22 the following individual revenue budget carry forward request over £0.030m requires Cabinet approval:</p> <table><tr><th colspan="2">Amount Requested</th><th rowspan="2">Comments/Reason for Carry Forward</th></tr><tr><th>Description</th><th>£</th></tr><tr><td>Asset Management</td><td>40,000</td><td>Additional funds required for Lowestoft Towns fund projects and Felixstowe North. This is from the underspends in Asset Management staffing costs.</td></tr></table> <p>Individual carry forward requests of £0.030m or less are approved by the Chief Finance Officer. These total £0.151m for 2021/22 and are detailed in <b>Appendix B</b> for information.</p>	Amount Requested		Comments/Reason for Carry Forward	Description	£	Asset Management	40,000	Additional funds required for Lowestoft Towns fund projects and Felixstowe North. This is from the underspends in Asset Management staffing costs.										
Amount Requested		Comments/Reason for Carry Forward																	
Description	£																		
Asset Management	40,000	Additional funds required for Lowestoft Towns fund projects and Felixstowe North. This is from the underspends in Asset Management staffing costs.																	
2.4	<p><b>General Fund Reserves and Balances</b></p> <p>The Council holds a number of earmarked revenue reserves which have been established to meet known or predicted commitments, and to hold balances of grants and external funding which is committed to future year spend. The Council reviews these reserves to ensure the levels continue to be appropriate and if no longer required, are returned to the General Fund.</p> <p>The total balance on the Council’s General Fund earmarked reserves on 31 March 2022 is £61.881m. This is a decrease of £11.76m on the position as of 31 March 2021. This is due to the release of Covid funding held in the Covid Reserve at March 2021, and use of the Capital Reserve to fund the capital programme. The General Fund balance remains at £6m. Reserve balances are summarised below and are shown in more detail in <b>Appendix C</b>.</p> <table><tr><th>General Fund Earmarked Reserves</th><th>As of 31st March 2022 £'000</th></tr><tr><td>Grants/Funding Carried Forward</td><td>6,861</td></tr><tr><td>Planned Future Capital Spending</td><td>5,453</td></tr><tr><td>Planned Future Revenue Spending</td><td>22,144</td></tr><tr><td>Risk Based</td><td>16,618</td></tr><tr><td>Port Health</td><td>4,315</td></tr><tr><td>COVID Reserve</td><td>5,882</td></tr><tr><td>Other</td><td>608</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total General Fund Earmarked Reserves</b></td><td><b>61,881</b></td></tr></table>	General Fund Earmarked Reserves	As of 31st March 2022 £'000	Grants/Funding Carried Forward	6,861	Planned Future Capital Spending	5,453	Planned Future Revenue Spending	22,144	Risk Based	16,618	Port Health	4,315	COVID Reserve	5,882	Other	608	<b>Total General Fund Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>61,881</b>
General Fund Earmarked Reserves	As of 31st March 2022 £'000																		
Grants/Funding Carried Forward	6,861																		
Planned Future Capital Spending	5,453																		
Planned Future Revenue Spending	22,144																		
Risk Based	16,618																		
Port Health	4,315																		
COVID Reserve	5,882																		
Other	608																		
<b>Total General Fund Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>61,881</b>																		



2.5	<p>Earmarked Reserves to highlight include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <b>Business Rates Equalisation Reserve (£15.241m)</b> – This is income from Business Rates which is set aside to equalise the fluctuations in recognising Business Rate income due to timing differences, in relation to Business Rates appeals and for year-end surpluses/deficits. This reserve increased by £1.862m from the Council's share of the Pooling Benefit.</li> <li>▪ <b>In-Year Savings Reserve (£3.572m)</b> – This is in-year savings set-aside to support future year budget pressures.</li> <li>▪ <b>Business Rate Pilot Reserve (£1.385m)</b> – £0.809m was utilised in-year on various approved projects, notably the post office restoration, full fibre installation and finalisation of the Felixstowe south beach &amp; Martello Café project.</li> <li>▪ <b>Capital Reserve (£3.245m)</b> – This reserve provides a source of funding for capital investment projects. £3.467m was used in 2021/22.</li> <li>▪ <b>New Homes Bonus Reserve (£5.580m)</b> – The Council received NHB funding of £1.177m and spent £1.661m supporting various community initiatives - enabling communities project and community and strategic partnerships.</li> <li>▪ <b>Port Health (£4.316m)</b> – This reserve provides a source of finance to support the future development of the authority's infrastructure at the Port of Felixstowe. Port Health underwent significant expansion in preparation for and immediately following the UK's exit from the EU. The reserves therefore relate to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Future revenue spend reserve: a risk-based reserve to ensure the authority can consistently protect public and environmental health.</li> <li>▪ Brexit reserve due to unspent funding.</li> <li>▪ ICT reserve to facilitate ongoing re-engineering of the Port Health ICT infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> <li>▪ <b>COVID-19 Response Reserve (£5.882m)</b> – Consisting of Section 31 Grants to fund Covid related Business Rate Reliefs and the Local Authority support grant. £17.276m was used from this reserve in 2021/22. This reserve will be utilised in 2022/23 to deal with accounting timing differences related to the pandemic impact on business rates, and to fund the ongoing recovery initiatives.</li> </ul>
2.6	<p><b>COVID–19 Impact and Funding</b></p> <p>COVID-19 did not cause a significant impact on income as activities returned to near pre-pandemic levels. The Council applied its allocated Local Authority Covid grant towards alleviating the continued impact of Covid, with indoor leisure continuing to be the most affected.</p> <p>Savings on staff/member travel costs – mileage claims, use of public transport and hire of vehicles was forecast to continue in 2021/22, with a reduction made to the budget of £0.200m. The actual position for the year has exceeded this by a further £0.066m.</p>
2.7	<p><b>Capital Programme 2021/22 – General Fund</b></p> <p>Capital expenditure relates to the acquisition of fixed assets or expenditure that adds to (and not merely maintains) the value of an existing fixed asset. Costs of maintaining assets (repairs and maintenance) are funded through the General Fund revenue expenditure.</p> <p>The General Fund Capital Programme outturn and financing for 2021/22 is summarised below. Grants and reserves were the main source of financing in 2021/22, providing over half the funding required.</p>

	2021/22 Original Budget £'000	2021/22 Revised Budget £'000	2021/22 Outturn £'000	2021/22 Variance £'000
Service Area				
Economic Development & Regeneration	1,456	956	715	(241)
Environmental Services & Port Health	150	400	343	(57)
Financial Services	3,873	100	106	6
ICT Services	804	327	517	190
Operations	17,750	9,765	4,366	(5,399)
Planning & Coastal Management	19,344	4,169	8,560	4,391
Housing Improvement	1,399	1,100	1,042	(58)
Long Term Debtors	10,000	0	0	0
<b>Total General Fund Capital Expenditure</b>	<b><u>54,776</u></b>	<b><u>16,817</u></b>	<b><u>15,649</u></b>	<b><u>(1,168)</u></b>
<b>Financed By: -</b>				
Borrowing	25,470	5,435	6,996	1,561
Capital Receipt	0	0	112	112
Contributions	0	400	400	0
Grants	21,413	5,357	3,210	(2,147)
Reserves	7,893	5,625	4,931	(694)
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b><u>54,776</u></b>	<b><u>16,817</u></b>	<b><u>15,649</u></b>	<b><u>(1,168)</u></b>

2.8

Capital budgets are approved for the life of the project which can span more than one financial year. Any capital budgets for a project that remain unspent at the end of the financial year are carried forward to the following year. Similarly, with projects that are ahead of the original profile, budgets can be brought forward. The key variances on the General Fund Capital Programme (actual compared to the revised budget) are set out in the table below.

General Fund Capital Programme 2021/22	
Summary of Key Variances	
	£'000
<b>Economic Development &amp; Regeneration</b>	
Former Post Office Façade - works due to be finished early 2022/23	(186)
Ness Point Regeneration Project - capital underspend (project completed)	(72)
Towns Fund - Station Quarter advanced expenditure	17
	<b>(241)</b>
<b>Environmental Services &amp; Port Health</b>	
Port Health - underspend on estimated expenditure	(57)
	<b>(57)</b>
<b>Financial Services</b>	
Financial Services - minimal increased expenditure	6
	<b>6</b>
<b>ICT Services</b>	
Corporate IT - increased expenditure IDOX/UNIFORM upgrade	80
Corporate IT - corporate requirement increased expenditure	110
	<b>190</b>

	<b>Operations</b>	
	East Point Pavilion - work to be completed by June 2022	(966)
	Southwold Caravan Site redevelopment - rephased to 2022/23	(956)
	Former Deben High School - slippage to 2022/23	(829)
	Operational Vehicles/Equipment - deferred to 2022/23	(514)
	Seafront Gardens Beach Hut Sites & Relocations	(495)
	Various Pumping Stations - budget not required	(300)
	Public Conveniences Programme - rephased to 2022/23	(227)
	Play Areas (District wide) - budget not required	(200)
	Royal Plain - Crazy Golf now part of East Point Pavilion Project	(171)
	Newcombe Road Lowestoft - deferred to 2022/23	(150)
	Other minor re-phasing/deferments	(591)
		<b>(5,399)</b>
	<b>Planning &amp; Coastal Management</b>	
	Lowestoft Flood Wall - scheme programme advanced	4,960
	Thorpeness Emergency works -	(115)
	Other minor project deferments to 2022/23	(454)
		<b>4,391</b>
	<b>Housing Improvement</b>	
	Minimal underspend	(58)
		<b>(58)</b>
		<b>Total</b>

2.9

**Capital Programme 2021/22 - Housing Revenue Account (HRA)**

A summary of the HRA Capital Programme for 2021/22 is provided in the table below. The largest area of variance against budget was in respect of the new build programme due to delays with the development of sites and the purchase of sites for development.

Housing Capital Programme Outturn	2021/22 Original Budget £'000	2021/22 Revised Budget £'000	2021/22 Outturn £'000	2021/22 Variance £'000
Housing Repairs	5,781	2,007	1,946	(61)
Housing Project Development	1,915	1,787	721	(1,066)
New Build Programme	15,016	3,042	1,566	(1,476)
<b>Total General Fund Capital Expenditure</b>	<b><u>22,712</u></b>	<b><u>6,836</u></b>	<b><u>4,233</u></b>	<b><u>(2,603)</u></b>
<b>Financed By: -</b>				
HRA DRF	5,369	2,237	930	(1,307)
Capital Receipt	5,329	1,438	1,155	(283)
Contributions	205	205	205	0
Grants	848	4	4	0
Reserves	10,961	2,952	1,939	(1,013)
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b><u>22,712</u></b>	<b><u>6,836</u></b>	<b><u>4,233</u></b>	<b><u>(2,603)</u></b>

2.10

Key variances on the HRA Capital Programme are set out below.

HRA Capital Programme 2021/22	
Summary of Key Variances	
	£'000
<b>Housing Repairs</b>	
Minor underspends	(61)
	<b>(61)</b>
<b>Housing Project Development</b>	
Projects - Compliance rephased to 2022/23	(100)
New Developments - rephased to 2022/23	(966)
	<b>(1,066)</b>
<b>New Build Programme</b>	
Rephased to 2022/23	(1,476)
	<b>(1,013)</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>(2,603)</b>

2.11

**Housing Revenue Account (HRA) 2021/22**

The HRA is the statutory account to which the revenue costs of providing, maintaining, and managing the Council dwellings are charged. The HRA is financed by rents charged to tenants and charges for related services and facilities. The table below summarises the HRA outturn position for the year against the revised budget. The Housing Revenue Account has ended the year with a £3.650m net movement to the HRA working balance.

Housing Revenue Account Outturn Summary				
	2021/22 Original Budget £'000	2021/22 Revised Budget £'000	2021/22 Outturn £'000	2021/22 Variance £'000
<b>Income</b>				
Dwelling rent	(19,496)	(19,302)	(19,420)	(118)
Non-dwelling rents	(185)	(153)	(171)	(18)
Service charges and facilities	(1,227)	(1,224)	(1,212)	12
Leaseholder charges for services	(10)	(12)	(12)	0
Contributions towards expenditure	(33)	(59)	(97)	(38)
Reimbursement of costs	(306)	(259)	(273)	(14)
Interest income	(109)	(205)	(239)	(34)
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>(21,366)</b>	<b>(21,214)</b>	<b>(21,424)</b>	<b>(210)</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Repairs & maintenance	4,292	6,003	5,209	(794)
Supervision and management	3,397	3,421	3,294	(127)
Special services	2,190	2,076	1,930	(146)
Rents, rates and other charges	103	162	162	0
Movement in the bad debt provision	12	113	22	(91)
Contribution to CDC*	95	95	78	(17)
Capital charges	3,768	3,339	3,558	219
Interest charges	2,194	2,184	2,166	(18)

	<table><tr><td>Revenue contribution to capital</td><td>5,368</td><td>2,236</td><td>854</td><td>(1,382)</td></tr><tr><td>Transfers to earmarked reserves</td><td>500</td><td>2,000</td><td>501</td><td>(1,499)</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total Expenditure</b></td><td><b>21,919</b></td><td><b>21,629</b></td><td><b>17,774</b></td><td><b>(3,855)</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Net movement on the HRA for the year</b></td><td><b>553</b></td><td><b>415</b></td><td><b>(3,650)</b></td><td><b>(4065)</b></td></tr><tr><td colspan="5">* Corporate and Democratic Core (CDC)</td></tr></table>	Revenue contribution to capital	5,368	2,236	854	(1,382)	Transfers to earmarked reserves	500	2,000	501	(1,499)	<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21,919</b>	<b>21,629</b>	<b>17,774</b>	<b>(3,855)</b>	<b>Net movement on the HRA for the year</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>(3,650)</b>	<b>(4065)</b>	* Corporate and Democratic Core (CDC)																																							
Revenue contribution to capital	5,368	2,236	854	(1,382)																																																									
Transfers to earmarked reserves	500	2,000	501	(1,499)																																																									
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>21,919</b>	<b>21,629</b>	<b>17,774</b>	<b>(3,855)</b>																																																									
<b>Net movement on the HRA for the year</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>(3,650)</b>	<b>(4065)</b>																																																									
* Corporate and Democratic Core (CDC)																																																													
2.12	<table><tr><td colspan="2">The key HRA variances against the revised budget for 2021/22 are provided below.</td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"><b>Housing Revenue Account 2021/22</b></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2"><b>Summary of Key Variances</b></td></tr><tr><td></td><td><b>£'000</b></td></tr><tr><td><b>Description</b></td><td></td></tr><tr><td>Reduced transfer to Debt Repayment Reserve, increased HRA working balance for potential provision (Transfer to earmark reserve)</td><td>(1,500)</td></tr><tr><td>Rephasing on the housing development programme - Direct Revenue Financing (DRF)</td><td>(1,382)</td></tr><tr><td>Increase in budget for repair and maintenance services not required *1</td><td>(794)</td></tr><tr><td>Reduced number of dwelling rent debts written off (dwelling rents)</td><td>(99)</td></tr><tr><td>Increase to the bad debt provision was not necessary</td><td>(91)</td></tr><tr><td>Staff savings due to vacancies (supervision and management)</td><td>(78)</td></tr><tr><td>Reprofiling of consultancy costs relating to the development programme (special services)</td><td>(87)</td></tr><tr><td>Budget increase for utility charges on sheltered schemes not yet required (special services)</td><td>(35)</td></tr><tr><td>Additional income for other sale of materials and admin fees (contributions towards expenditure)</td><td>(38)</td></tr><tr><td>Increased return on investment income</td><td>(34)</td></tr><tr><td>Savings on printing for the tenants' magazine and other office related costs (supervision and management)</td><td>(30)</td></tr><tr><td>Staff savings due to vacancies (special services)</td><td>(24)</td></tr><tr><td>Additional income on dwelling rents (dwelling rents)</td><td>(19)</td></tr><tr><td>Saving on interest payable and similar charges</td><td>(18)</td></tr><tr><td>Additional income on garage rents (Non dwelling rents)</td><td>(18)</td></tr><tr><td>Saving on contribution to Corporate and Democratic Core</td><td>(17)</td></tr><tr><td>Additional income on rechargeable repairs (reimbursement of costs)</td><td>(14)</td></tr><tr><td>Reprofiling of IT consultancy fees (supervision and management)</td><td>(14)</td></tr><tr><td>Saving on Legal Fees (supervision and management)</td><td>(5)</td></tr><tr><td>Saving on Debt Management and treasury fees (capital charges)</td><td>(3)</td></tr><tr><td>Increased depreciation charge (capital charges)</td><td>222</td></tr><tr><td>Reduced income on service charges (service charges and facilities)</td><td>12</td></tr><tr><td>Transfer to Brampton Sinking fund reserve (Transfer to earmark reserve)</td><td>1</td></tr><tr><td><b>Total variance to in-year forecast</b></td><td><b>(4,065)</b></td></tr><tr><td colspan="2">*1 Increased budget as contingency for unrecoverable cost relating to rising costs in service delivery.</td></tr></table>	The key HRA variances against the revised budget for 2021/22 are provided below.		<b>Housing Revenue Account 2021/22</b>		<b>Summary of Key Variances</b>			<b>£'000</b>	<b>Description</b>		Reduced transfer to Debt Repayment Reserve, increased HRA working balance for potential provision (Transfer to earmark reserve)	(1,500)	Rephasing on the housing development programme - Direct Revenue Financing (DRF)	(1,382)	Increase in budget for repair and maintenance services not required *1	(794)	Reduced number of dwelling rent debts written off (dwelling rents)	(99)	Increase to the bad debt provision was not necessary	(91)	Staff savings due to vacancies (supervision and management)	(78)	Reprofiling of consultancy costs relating to the development programme (special services)	(87)	Budget increase for utility charges on sheltered schemes not yet required (special services)	(35)	Additional income for other sale of materials and admin fees (contributions towards expenditure)	(38)	Increased return on investment income	(34)	Savings on printing for the tenants' magazine and other office related costs (supervision and management)	(30)	Staff savings due to vacancies (special services)	(24)	Additional income on dwelling rents (dwelling rents)	(19)	Saving on interest payable and similar charges	(18)	Additional income on garage rents (Non dwelling rents)	(18)	Saving on contribution to Corporate and Democratic Core	(17)	Additional income on rechargeable repairs (reimbursement of costs)	(14)	Reprofiling of IT consultancy fees (supervision and management)	(14)	Saving on Legal Fees (supervision and management)	(5)	Saving on Debt Management and treasury fees (capital charges)	(3)	Increased depreciation charge (capital charges)	222	Reduced income on service charges (service charges and facilities)	12	Transfer to Brampton Sinking fund reserve (Transfer to earmark reserve)	1	<b>Total variance to in-year forecast</b>	<b>(4,065)</b>	*1 Increased budget as contingency for unrecoverable cost relating to rising costs in service delivery.	
The key HRA variances against the revised budget for 2021/22 are provided below.																																																													
<b>Housing Revenue Account 2021/22</b>																																																													
<b>Summary of Key Variances</b>																																																													
	<b>£'000</b>																																																												
<b>Description</b>																																																													
Reduced transfer to Debt Repayment Reserve, increased HRA working balance for potential provision (Transfer to earmark reserve)	(1,500)																																																												
Rephasing on the housing development programme - Direct Revenue Financing (DRF)	(1,382)																																																												
Increase in budget for repair and maintenance services not required *1	(794)																																																												
Reduced number of dwelling rent debts written off (dwelling rents)	(99)																																																												
Increase to the bad debt provision was not necessary	(91)																																																												
Staff savings due to vacancies (supervision and management)	(78)																																																												
Reprofiling of consultancy costs relating to the development programme (special services)	(87)																																																												
Budget increase for utility charges on sheltered schemes not yet required (special services)	(35)																																																												
Additional income for other sale of materials and admin fees (contributions towards expenditure)	(38)																																																												
Increased return on investment income	(34)																																																												
Savings on printing for the tenants' magazine and other office related costs (supervision and management)	(30)																																																												
Staff savings due to vacancies (special services)	(24)																																																												
Additional income on dwelling rents (dwelling rents)	(19)																																																												
Saving on interest payable and similar charges	(18)																																																												
Additional income on garage rents (Non dwelling rents)	(18)																																																												
Saving on contribution to Corporate and Democratic Core	(17)																																																												
Additional income on rechargeable repairs (reimbursement of costs)	(14)																																																												
Reprofiling of IT consultancy fees (supervision and management)	(14)																																																												
Saving on Legal Fees (supervision and management)	(5)																																																												
Saving on Debt Management and treasury fees (capital charges)	(3)																																																												
Increased depreciation charge (capital charges)	222																																																												
Reduced income on service charges (service charges and facilities)	12																																																												
Transfer to Brampton Sinking fund reserve (Transfer to earmark reserve)	1																																																												
<b>Total variance to in-year forecast</b>	<b>(4,065)</b>																																																												
*1 Increased budget as contingency for unrecoverable cost relating to rising costs in service delivery.																																																													
2.13	<p>The below table provides the HRA Reserve balances as at the 31 March 2022. Also supported by <b>Appendix C</b>.</p>																																																												

As at 31 March 2022	
HRA Reserves	£'000
<b>HRA Working Balance</b>	<b>9,670</b>
<b>HRA Earmarked Reserves</b>	
Debt Repayment Reserve	13,000
Hardship Reserve	500
MMI Reserve	60
Impairment/Revaluation Reserve	256
Housing Development Reserve	6,300
Brampton Sinking Fund	1
<b>Total of HRA Revenue Earmarked Reserves</b>	<b>20,117</b>
<b>Capital Earmarked Reserves (Major Repairs Reserve)</b>	<b>13,754</b>

2.14	<p><b>Collection Fund 2021/22</b></p> <p>The Collection Fund records the income from Business Rates and Council Tax and its distribution, net of an allowance for cost of collection paid to the Billing Authority (East Suffolk Council).</p> <p><b>Council Tax</b></p> <p>Council tax income finances the expenditure of Suffolk County Council, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk, East Suffolk Council and its Town and Parish Councils. During 2021/22, the in-year movement on the Council Tax Collection Account was a surplus of £4.270m. The balance on the Council Tax Collection Account as of 31 March 2022 was a surplus of £2.772m (deficit of £1.498m in 2020/21). Central government created a Hardship Fund to provide Council Tax Relief to vulnerable people and households to help those affected most by the economic impact of the pandemic. This relief was granted under S13A discretionary reliefs and ESC was given a Hardship Grant to compensate for the relief granted. The impact of the pandemic on Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme reliefs and the council tax base has not been as great as originally estimated.</p> <p><b>Business Rates</b></p> <p>The Council as the Billing Authority collects all non-domestic rates from local businesses and distributes these to Central Government (50%), Suffolk County Council (10%) and East Suffolk Council (40%).</p> <p>Each year, the Council must make several assumptions in January to produce the National Non-Domestic Rate (NNDR1) return, which provides an estimate for the forthcoming year. Key assumptions in arriving at the estimated amounts include the value of outstanding appeals and forecasts of growth or reduction in the business rates base of the area.</p> <p>During 2021/22 the in-year movement on the Business Rate Collection Account was a surplus of £23.154m, reducing the brought forward deficit of £34.131m to a deficit of £10.977m (including the Central Government and SCC shares) as of 31 March 2022. These extremely large movements resulted from the introduction of significant business rate reliefs by the Government in response to the impacts of the pandemic on businesses, particularly in respect of the retail, hospitality, and leisure sectors in both 2020/21 and 21/22. The cost of these reliefs to ESC and SCC are funded by way of Section 31 Grant. Due to accounting timing differences, this funding is being carried forward in the Covid-19 Response Reserve referred to above, which will enable the Collection Fund deficits in 2022/23 to be met.</p>
------	--

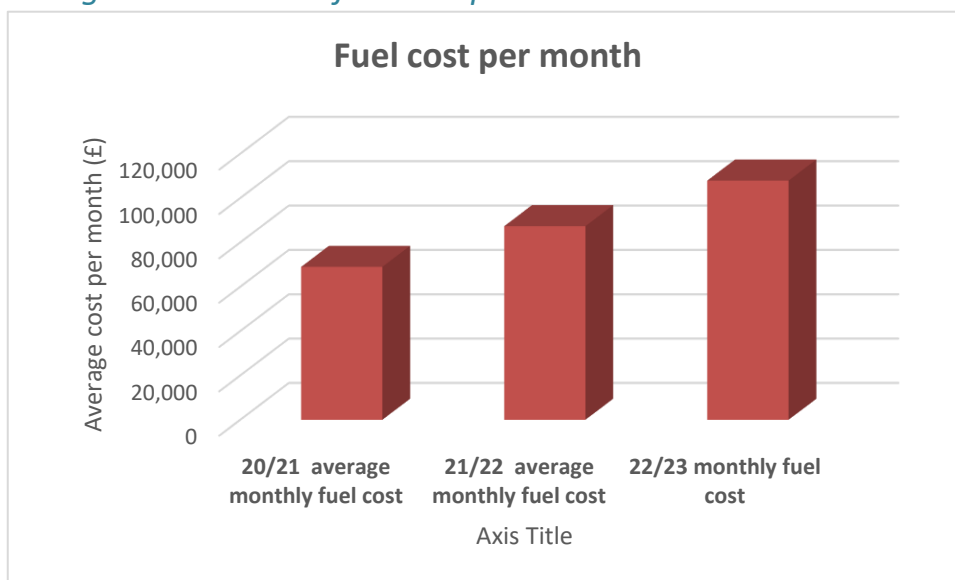
	<p>To reduce the amounts paid as levies to Government, all the Suffolk councils have entered a pooling arrangement allowing them to retain a larger proportion of growth by reducing their individual rate of levy. For 2021/22, the benefit to the Council of participating in the Suffolk Business Rates Pool was £3.368m. £1.506m of this benefit relates to Suffolk Public Sector Leaders forgoing their share of the pooling benefit on a one-off basis in response to the pandemic. This has been transferred to a separate earmarked reserve.</p>															
2.15	<p><b>2022/23 Quarter 1 Monitoring</b></p> <p><b>Fees and charges outlook</b></p> <p>The boost in economic activities continues to contribute to healthy income levels from the utilisation of operational and investment assets and planning and development activities. Most areas of income expected to be on budget by the end of the year, except for parking services that continues to experience low uptake. However, some recovery is anticipated during the Summer.</p> <p>The below graph shows how fees and charges income currently compares to budget in the four core areas. Further details on income trend so far are provided in <b>Appendix D</b>.</p> <p><i>Figure 1 – Key fees and charges for April and May 2022</i></p> <div><table><caption>Data for Figure 1 – Key fees and charges for April and May 2022</caption><thead><tr><th>Core Area</th><th>April-May budget (£'000)</th><th>April - May Actuals (£'000)</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>Licensing</td><td>~100</td><td>~200</td></tr><tr><td>Port health (ICT income)</td><td>~100</td><td>~100</td></tr><tr><td>Planning and development management</td><td>~400</td><td>~500</td></tr><tr><td>Operations</td><td>~3,500</td><td>~4,300</td></tr></tbody></table></div> <p><b>Staffing</b></p> <p>The Council continues to struggle to fill some vacancies, particularly in specialist roles. Work is currently underway with regards to a recruitment and retention plan.</p> <p><b>Utilities</b></p> <p>Hybrid working of Council offices means utility costs have not significantly increased yet. This will be closely monitored over the year.</p> <p>Indoor Leisure has the greatest exposure to utility price increases. The Council works closely with its Leisure Partners to monitor performance and presently cost pressures are being managed within existing budgets.</p>	Core Area	April-May budget (£'000)	April - May Actuals (£'000)	Licensing	~100	~200	Port health (ICT income)	~100	~100	Planning and development management	~400	~500	Operations	~3,500	~4,300
Core Area	April-May budget (£'000)	April - May Actuals (£'000)														
Licensing	~100	~200														
Port health (ICT income)	~100	~100														
Planning and development management	~400	~500														
Operations	~3,500	~4,300														



## Fuel costs

The biggest impact from the fuel inflation will come through the Council's Operations Partnership. To put this into perspective, Figure 2 below shows the trend in average fuel costs since 2020/21. The early fuel price increases have been covered by a timely reduction in waste disposal costs so far. Waste disposal cost reduction are driven by a combination of an increased demand for recycle due to the green agenda and a reduction in residual waste tonnages.

*Figure 2 – Partner fuel cost pressures*



## 3 How to address current situation

### 3.1 Draft Outturn Position 2021/22

The draft year end position for 2021/22 is a surplus of £1.170m. The proposal is to transfer this surplus equally between the Transformation Reserve and the Short Life Asset Reserve, approximately £0.585m to each reserve. This will assist with building reserves to support the transition of the Operations service to East Suffolk Services Ltd and to drive the highest possible standard of service delivery.

3.2 The carry forward of revenue budgets will enable services to have sufficient budget available in the new financial year for commitments made in 2021/22. Revenue budgets carry forward requests approved by the Chief Finance Officer will be transferred to a specific reserve to enable closer monitoring of their use throughout the forthcoming year. Requests no longer required are released back to the General Fund.

3.3 The outturn position will feed into the review and update of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy, Capital Programme, and the Housing Revenue Account in the 2022/23 budget process. This will inform decisions for the 2023/24 budgets which will be presented to Members for their approval and consideration during 2022/23.

### 3.4 2022/23 Quarter 1 Outlook

Quarterly financial monitoring will be reported to Cabinet during 2022/23.

4 Reason/s for recommendation	
4.1	To give Cabinet an update on the unaudited 2021/22 outturn for the Council's revenue and capital accounts, before the audited accounts are submitted for approval to the Audit and Governance Committee.
4.2	To provide Members with financial information on the Council's reserves and balances to assist in formulating budget policies for 2023/24 and beyond.
4.3	To provide Members with an initial financial outlook for 2022/23.

## Appendices

Appendices:	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Summary of key General Fund budget variances in 2021/22
<b>Appendix B</b>	Individual revenue budget carry forward requests up to £0.030m
<b>Appendix C</b>	Movement on Reserves and Balances in 2021/22
<b>Appendix D</b>	Financial monitoring report – 2022/23 Q1

Background reference papers:		
Date	Type	Available From
June 2022	Final Accounts Working Papers for 2021/22	Financial Services Team

General Fund Outturn 2021/22		
Summary of Key Variances (Actual compared to Current Budget)		
	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Operational Efficiencies/Savings/Underspends</u></b>		
Direct staffing costs (vacancy savings over budgeted attrition levels)	(1,193,092)	
Port Health direct staffing variance transferred to Port Health Reserve	444,775	
Net vacancy impact on the general fund		(748,317)
Further transport/travel savings		(66,133)
Bank fees under budget		(113,738)
Housing Benefit Subsidy/Rent Allowances & Rebates		(436,864)
Other		(393,726)
<b>Total</b>		<b>(1,758,778)</b>
<b><u>Additional Income</u></b>		
Planning, Building Control		(382,959)
Joint Venture profit share		(149,445)
Interest and investment income		(424,481)
<b>Total</b>		<b>(956,885)</b>
<b><u>Income loss</u></b>		
Car parking (off street)	162,563	
<b>Total</b>		<b>162,563</b>
<b>Budget Carry Forward Requests</b>		<b>(191,336)</b>
<b>Use of the In-Year Savings Reserve to balance the budget not required</b>		<b>1,382,700</b>
<b>Total variance on 2021/22 outturn to be funded from Reserves</b>		<b>(1,361,736)</b>
Transfer to Budget Carry Forward Reserve		191,336
Transfer of Outturn Surplus:		
Transfer to Short Life Asset Reserve		585,200
Transfer to Transformation Reserve (Financial Sustainability)		585,200
		<b>1,361,736</b>

**ESC Carry Forward Requests 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 - Amounts up to £30,000 approved by the CFO (as per the Constitution)**

Account Name	Department name	Amount Requested £	Comments/Reason for Carry Forward
Financial Training	Human Resources	7,636	2021/22 budget allocated for finance training, as highlighted in the finance strategy theme delivery group and by the Corporate Governance Group. The procurement exercise took longer than anticipated and pushed the training back to 2022/23. The training includes a ½ day session for CMT plus full day sessions for cost centre managers.
Member Training	Member Expenses	15,000	There is a £50k budget covering the full four years between elections for Member Development. This is a requirement set by external standards. Due to delays caused by Covid, training is behind schedule and £15k needs to be carried forward. Specific plans are in place for 2022/23 and allocates funds to each of the political groups. £5k was carried forward from 2021.
Postages, Printing and Publication Expenses	Communications and Marketing	20,000	Publication of the final resident's magazine for 2021/22 has been delayed to 2022/23.
CIVIC events expenditure	Committee Administration	7,000	Expenditure on Civic Events and Chairman's Events has not occurred due to Covid restrictions, however, there are plans for larger events in 2022/23.
Grants & Contributions Expenditure	Sector Support Other	10,000	The commitment for the spend was made in Q3 2021 and the delays experienced were not foreseen and, in some respects, beyond our control. If this contribution has to be taken from the 2022/23 Economic Development budget, it will result in the team having little budget to spend on any new business support projects. This would severely impact the team's ability to develop initiatives or support projects. It would also limit what the team can feasibly do to support the East Suffolk business community throughout 2022/23 when it is still in recovery following Covid-19.

**ESC Carry Forward Requests 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 - Amounts up to £30,000 approved by the CFO (as per the Constitution)**

Account Name	Department name	Amount Requested £	Comments/Reason for Carry Forward
Grants & Contributions Expenditure	Sector Support Tourism	10,000	<p>The commitment for the spend was made in Q3 2021 and the delays experienced were not foreseen and, in some respects, beyond our control.</p> <p>If this contribution has to be taken from the 2022/23 Economic Development budget, it will result in the team having little budget to spend on any new business support projects. This would severely impact the team's ability to develop initiatives or support projects. It would also limit what the team can feasibly do to support the East Suffolk business community throughout 2022/23 when it is still in recovery following Covid-19.</p>
Grants & Contributions Expenditure	Business Support	10,000	<p>The commitment for the spend was made in August 2021 and the delays experienced were not foreseen and beyond our control. Payment of the grant was to be withheld until the lease agreement was signed between Menta and the landlord.</p> <p>If this contribution has to be taken from the 2022/23 Economic Development budget, it will result in the team having little budget to spend on new business support projects. This would severely impact the team's ability to develop initiatives or support projects. It would limit what the team can feasibly do to support the East Suffolk business community throughout 2022/23 when it is still in recovery following Covid-19.</p>
Grants & Contributions Expenditure	Economic Regeneration Staffing	3,100	<p>There are two reasons for the delay in expenditure; the first is following discussions with Procurement and Asset Management, we took the decision to create a 'DPS' (Dynamic Purchasing System) which provides many advantages and time saving when procuring services against project development and delivery. The second is the development funds required for the next tranche of the Regeneration programme, specifically around the Levelling Up Fund, which would be insufficient without the addition of the underspend in the 2021/22 financial year.</p>

**ESC Carry Forward Requests 2021/2022 to 2022/2023 - Amounts up to £30,000 approved by the CFO (as per the Constitution)**

Account Name	Department name	Amount Requested £	Comments/Reason for Carry Forward
Grants & Contributions Expenditure	Economic Regeneration Projects	20,400	There are two reasons for the delay in expenditure; the first is following discussions with Procurement and Asset Management, we took the decision to create a 'DPS' (Dynamic Purchasing System) which provides many advantages and time saving when procuring services against project development and delivery. The second is the development funds required for the next tranche of the Regeneration programme, specifically around the Levelling Up Fund, which would be insufficient without the addition of the underspend in the 2021/22 financial year.
Analysts/Vets Fees	Local Air Quality Management	13,800	Underspend on Air Quality supplies and services. This budget is required to extend a fixed term Environmental Health Officer in 2022/23.
Grants & Contributions Expenditure	Heritage Action Zone North	15,100	ESC match North HAZ PSiCA(Partnership Schemes in Conservation Areas) Grants scheme.
Other Ext Provided Services	Dog Control	5,300	Underspend on Dog Control supplies and services. This budget is required to extend a fixed term Environmental Health Officer in 2022/23.
Audit Fees	Internal Audit and Assurance	14,000	The ICT Auditor at Ipswich Borough Council (IBC) retired in 2020 and it has not been possible to replace him. There is a backlog of work that needs to be carried out by a specialist ICT Auditor. This budget carry forward for audit fees to IBC, will contribute towards the funding for this resource.
	<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>151,336</b>	

## GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT(HRA) EARMARKED RESERVE SUMMARY 2021/22

	Balance 31 March 2020 £'000	Transfers Out 2020/21 £'000	Transfers In 2020/21 £'000	Balance 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfers Out 2021/22 £'000	Transfers In 2021/22 £'000	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
<b>General Fund:</b>								
Actuarial Contributions	1,500	(1,500)	-	-	-	200	200	Financing pension strain budget pressures.
Additional Disabled Facilities Grant(DFG) funding (Non-Ringfenced)	29	(17)	-	12	(2)	-	10	External funding supporting additional Disabled Facilities Grant works above standard DFG.
Air Quality	86	(2)	-	84	(4)	-	80	Funding for Air Quality Management Areas by DEFRA.
Better Broadband	12	(5)	500	507	(500)	-	7	External funding received to support Broadband delivery.
Brexit	55	(61)	150	144	-	-	144	External funding received to finance Brexit cost pressures.
Budget Carry Forwards	203	(114)	109	198	(204)	272	266	Unspent revenue budgets carried forward to fund approved requests.
Building Control	515	-	-	515	-	-	515	Statutory fund to smooth Building Control expenditure and income over a rolling annual period.
Business Incentive	2	-	-	2	-	-	2	External Funding to support economic development.
Business Rates Equalisation	5,881	(14)	7,522	13,389	(10)	1,862	15,241	Business rates income set aside to equalise business rate income fluctuations and accounting timing differences.
Business Rates Pilot	2,673	(479)	-	2,194	(809)	-	1,385	Business rate retention pilot scheme income (2018/19) set aside to fund agreed projects.
Business Rates- Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL)	-	-	-	-	(190)	1,506	1,316	Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) share of the business rates pooling benefit.
Capital Reserve	7,950	(2,543)	605	6,012	(3,467)	700	3,245	Source of finance for capital investment plans.
Climate Change (includes Suffolk Energy Link)	78	(1)	3	80	(9)	4	75	Additional source of finance for initiatives to reduce climate change.
Coastal Management - Revenue Works	166	-	144	310	-	70	380	Funding of coastal defence revenue expenditure.
Coastal Protection - Capital Works	176	-	-	176	-	-	176	Funding of coastal defence capital expenditure.
Communities	182	(52)	3,025	3,155	(925)	254	2,484	External Funding for community initiatives.
Community Housing Fund	2,134	(53)	-	2,081	(13)	-	2,068	Enabling local community groups to deliver affordable housing units.
Contractual Liability	-	-	500	500	(87)	-	413	Supporting any third party contractual issues.
County Sports Partnership	865	(152)	76	789	(124)	112	777	Delivery of the County Sports Partnership.
COVID9 Response	99	(2,368)	18,002	15,733	(17,276)	7,425	5,882	Government funding received in response to the COVID9 pandemic.
Customer Services	156	-	90	246	-	80	326	Funding project support and implementation costs.
Deployment of Flood Barrier	88	-	-	88	-	-	88	Meeting Lowestoft flood barrier deployment costs.
District Elections	80	-	60	140	-	60	200	Supporting costs of future elections.
Domestic Violence Support Funding	146	(83)	-	63	-	156	219	Funding domestic violence support schemes.
Economic Development	655	(55)	521	1,121	(124)	27	1,024	Funding to support Economic Development projects.
Economic Regeneration	269	(148)	60	181	(100)	-	81	Post 2013 flooding Lowestoft Seafront recovery activity.
Empty Properties & Houses in Disrepair	133	-	2	135	-	101	236	Assisting bringing empty properties back into use.
Enterprise Zone	640	(474)	381	547	(424)	438	561	Enterprise Zone retained business rates income pending distribution.



## GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT(HRA) EARMARKED RESERVE SUMMARY 2021/22

	Balance 31 March 2020 £'000	Transfers Out 2020/21 £'000	Transfers In 2020/21 £'000	Balance 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfers Out 2021/22 £'000	Transfers In 2021/22 £'000	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
<b>General Fund:</b>								
Environmental Protection	-	-	151	151	(83)	-	68	Sizewell funding for Environmental Protection staffing.
Felixstowe Forwards	33	(3)	1	31	(12)	-	19	External funding received to fund projects in Felixstowe.
Food Safety	-	-	-	-	-	195	195	Funding received in relation to staff time spent on Covid. To provide additional support for addressing the Food Safety backlog due to Covid.
Flood Prevention	6	-	-	6	-	-	6	Funding for flood prevention assistance.
Great Places	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	Funding new ways of working, building capacity, research, consultations and developing partnerships within Lowestoft.
Green Homes Funding	-	-	18	18	(18)	195	195	External funding received to facilitate greener home initiatives.
Growth Programme	140	(72)	-	68	(5)	-	63	External funding received to fund work on Suffolk Design Concepts.
Gypsy & Traveller	25	-	29	54	(28)	-	26	Fund for macerator at Kessingland site and external funding to find a new suitable site.
Heritage Action Zone North	30	(2)	1	29	(28)	9	10	Funding received to deliver the North Heritage Action Zone project.
Homelessness Prevention	438	(151)	284	571	(442)	857	986	Homelessness prevention revenue grants received in advance to be matched with expenditure in subsequent years.
Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) - Area Action Plan (AAP) Land Contamination Grant	162	-	-	162	-	-	162	To fund site investigative works covering the Area Action Plan in Lowestoft. Externally funded with conditions attached.
Homes & Communities Agency (HCA) Development Grant	75	-	-	75	-	-	75	Funding received for the Adastral Park development.
Housing Advisory	-	-	-	-	-	25	25	External funding to support an external review of the Council's running of temporary accommodation.
Housing and Planning Delivery	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	To provide a source of finance to fund service improvements in these service areas.
Housing Benefit (HB) Subsidy	300	-	-	300	-	-	300	Meeting budget pressures due to fluctuations with HB subsidy and implementation/changes due to Government legislation.
Housing Condition Survey & Improvements	91	(46)	-	45	(45)	-	-	To meet the cost of the periodic survey of Private Sector Housing within the district.
Human Resources	-	-	-	-	-	10	10	To provide funding for addition E-Learning (on-line learning) for staff.
Individual Electoral Registration	378	-	140	518	(60)	-	458	To meet the additional cost for administration of Individual Electoral Registration.
Indoor Leisure	50	-	-	50	-	-	50	Providing a source of finance to support the closure cost of Deben Leisure Centre during refurbishment.
Insurance	166	-	5	171	-	-	171	To provide a source of finance for any uninsured losses.
In-Year Contingency	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	To provide in-year contingency provision.
In-Year Savings	4,920	(600)	-	4,320	(748)	-	3,572	In-Year savings set aside to support future year budget gaps.
Key Capital Programme	182	-	-	182	-	-	182	To provide a source of finance to support the revenue costs associated with the delivery of key capital projects.
Land Charges	150	-	-	150	-	-	150	To support the General Fund from losses in future Land Charges income.

## GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT(HRA) EARMARKED RESERVE SUMMARY 2021/22

	Balance 31 March 2020 £'000	Transfers Out 2020/21 £'000	Transfers In 2020/21 £'000	Balance 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfers Out 2021/22 £'000	Transfers In 2021/22 £'000	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
<b>General Fund:</b>								
Landguard	16	(6)	8	18	(10)	78	86	Funding for the Landguard Governance review.
Local Development Framework	5	-	-	5	-	-	5	To meet the costs arising from the periodic preparation and adoption of the Local Development Framework.
Lowestoft Rising	101	(44)	1	58	(11)	40	87	Funding received to deliver earmarked work under the Lowestoft Rising project.
Modular Ramps - DFG	-	-	-	-	-	2	2	DFG funding for the removal of temporary ramps when no long required.
New Homes Bonus	5,442	(1,681)	2,303	6,064	(1,661)	1,177	5,580	Supporting community initiatives across East Suffolk.
Next Step Accommodation Programme	-	-	36	36	(14)	-	22	External funding to help Rough Sleepers get off the streets and into accommodation.
Planning	400	-	-	400	-	-	400	To provide a source of finance for planning appeals, local plans and planning challenges.
Planning & Building Control	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	To provide a source of finance for professional training and development needs of the service.
Planning Legal	200	-	200	400	-	-	400	To provide for legal costs in respect of planning appeals.
Planning Policy	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	To support development work and audit of the Local Plan.
Port Health	5,181	(789)	1,205	5,597	(4,133)	2,852	4,316	Supporting the future investment and development of the Authority's infrastructure at the Port of Felixstowe.
Private Sector Housing	54	-	18	72	(43)	182	211	Grants repaid to be set aside for empty property/home improvement initiatives.
Private Sector Housing Renovation Grants	810	(67)	-	743	(108)	-	635	Grants repaid set aside to fund future renovation works.
Protect and Vaccinate	-	-	-	-	-	69	69	DLUHC funding received via the Protect and Vaccinate programme. The funding is ringfenced for the purposes of protecting and vaccinating rough sleepers in response to the COVID-19 Omicron variant.
Recreation Areas Mitigation Strategy Staffing	-	-	-	-	-	103	103	Funding set aside to cover initial costs.
Rent Guarantee Scheme	15	-	-	15	-	-	15	To provide a source of finance for landlord claims.
Revenue & Benefits Administration	243	-	-	243	-	-	243	To provide a source of finance for budget pressures on the administration of Revenues & Benefits.
S106 Interest	30	-	-	30	-	-	30	Contingency related to Affordable Housing S106 should conditions not be met.
Short Life Assets	400	(144)	618	874	(653)	1,286	1,507	To fund the purchase of short life assets. Any capital funding will be repaid from revenue budgets.
Southwold Beach Huts	175	-	-	175	-	-	175	Receipt of monies from letting of new beach hut sites in Southwold in 2014/15 approved to be used within Southwold.
Stepping Homes	62	(47)	1	16	(5)	81	92	External funding received to support hospital patients to return home (Stepping Home project).

## GENERAL FUND AND HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNT(HRA) EARMARKED RESERVE SUMMARY 2021/22

	Balance 31 March 2020 £'000	Transfers Out 2020/21 £'000	Transfers In 2020/21 £'000	Balance 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfers Out 2021/22 £'000	Transfers In 2021/22 £'000	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
<b>General Fund:</b>								
Strategic Plan Delivery	250	-	-	250	(250)	-	-	Facilitating the delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan, including any emerging priorities.
Transformation	1,137	(1,683)	3,763	3,217	(877)	1,226	3,566	To provide funding for efficiency (invest to save) initiatives and to support the delivery of the Strategic Plan.
Warmer Homes Healthy People	65	(26)	80	119	(63)	147	203	To provide a source of finance to fund grants towards heating of homes.
Youth Leisure	10	-	-	10	-	-	10	Project funding received to support Active Leisure for young people.
<b>Total General Fund</b>	<b>46,515</b>	<b>(13,482)</b>	<b>40,612</b>	<b>73,645</b>	<b>(33,565)</b>	<b>21,801</b>	<b>61,881</b>	

	Balance 31 March 2020 £'000	Transfers Out 2020/21 £'000	Transfers In 2020/21 £'000	Balance 31 March 2021 £'000	Transfers Out 2021/22 £'000	Transfers In 2021/22 £'000	Balance 31 March 2022 £'000	Purpose of the Earmarked Reserve
<b>Housing Revenue Account:</b>								
Hardship Reserve	500	-	-	500	-	-	500	Providing financial help to tenants who find themselves in financial hardship.
Debt Repayment Reserve	11,000	-	1,500	12,500	-	500	13,000	Set aside funds to meet future liabilities for repaying the Self-Financing debt.
Impairment/Revaluation Reserve	256	-	-	256	-	-	256	Providing for potential impairment and revaluation losses to HRA assets due to changes in Accounts and Audit Regulations.
Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI) Reserve	60	-	-	60	-	-	60	To provide for potential liabilities relating to Municipal Mutual Insurance Limited (MMI).
Housing Development Reserve	4,500	-	1,800	6,300	-	1	6,301	Funding for the Housing development programme.
<b>Total Housing Revenue Account</b>	<b>16,316</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3,300</b>	<b>19,616</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>501</b>	<b>20,117</b>	

## Financial Performance Monitoring Review

*For the period 1 April 2022 – 31 May 2022*

Contents	Financial Performance Monitoring Review .....	1
	<i>For the period 1 April 2022 – 31 May 2022 .....</i>	<i>1</i>
	<b>1. Executive Summary .....</b>	<b>2</b>
	<b>2. Economic context .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>3. General Fund .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	<b>3.1. Service Area Fees and Charges .....</b>	<b>3</b>
	<i>Figure 1 – Key fees and charges KPIs for April and May 2022 .....</i>	<i>4</i>
	<i>Table 1 – Operations fees and charges compared to budget (April and May 2022) .....</i>	<i>4</i>
	<b>3.2. Net cost of service – General Fund .....</b>	<b>4</b>
	<i>Figure 3 – Analysis of net cost of service variance .....</i>	<i>5</i>
	3.2.1. Grants and Contributions income .....	6
	3.2.2. Staffing .....	6
	3.2.3. Premises expenses .....	6
	3.2.4. Supplies and services .....	6
	3.2.5. Third party payments .....	6
	<i>Figure 4 – Partner cost pressures .....</i>	<i>7</i>
	<b>5. General Fund Capital Programme .....</b>	<b>7</b>

## 1. Executive Summary

This report provides members with an overview of financial performance for the two months of 2022/23 in respect of the General Fund, the Housing Revenue Account, and the Capital Programme. The report highlights macro indicators impacting on Council finances and provides indicative projections of year end performance against budget based on macro and local factors known to service managers and the Finance Team.

The UK economy entered 2022 still affected by two major impacts of the path out of Covid – very high inflation, and a very tight labour market with strong pay growth. The bank of England is predicting further inflationary pressures for the immediate future. Inflation is expected to remain at about 10% through the Summer and fall back to 2% by spring 2024.

Recruitment challenges continue to result in staffing underspend, with contractors employed in the most critical areas. The inflationary impacts will also influence the pay deal, with initial indications that a pay award of greater than the current budget assumption of 2% is highly likely. A 1% increase in pay above the budgeted 2% will cost approximately £300k for the direct staffing costs of the General Fund and £120k for the indirect staffing of the Council's Operations partner. Fees and charges have stayed positive in most areas of the general fund revenue budget, with the exception being car parking income which has not returned to pre-covid levels.

The impacts of inflation are currently being managed within existing budgets - utilising savings and capital projects are being re-engineered to deliver similar outcomes on budget.

The Council continues to monitor the economic impact on the collection rates for both Council Tax and Business Rates.

At this early stage of the financial year, this report provides an overview of the potential challenges ahead for 2022/23. As trends in service areas and partner performance develops, a more comprehensive update will be provided at Quarter 2.

## 2. Economic context

The UK economy entered 2022 still affected by two major impacts of the path out of Covid – very high inflation, and a very tight labour market with strong pay growth<sup>1</sup>. The bank of England is predicting further inflationary pressures for the immediate future. Inflation is expected to rise to about 10% this year and fall back to 2% by spring 2024. The Russian invasion of Ukraine is anticipated to intensify and prolong the surge in inflation and tighten the squeeze on household incomes.

The resulting squeeze on household income later this year and into next year is forecast to reduce disposable income. The Council is likely to experience the impact of supply side inflation most noticeably through those services that are provided in partnership, where increasing labour, fuel, and material prices, combined with labour shortages in some sectors continue to have an increasing impact. Capital projects which require bought in materials are being impacted by inflationary pressures, and although contingent budgets will cover temporary price pressures, in some areas, more significant variation to current estimates may be required. Inflation continues to be a significant risk for the delivery of our strategic initiatives.

## 3. General Fund

### 3.1. Service Area Fees and Charges

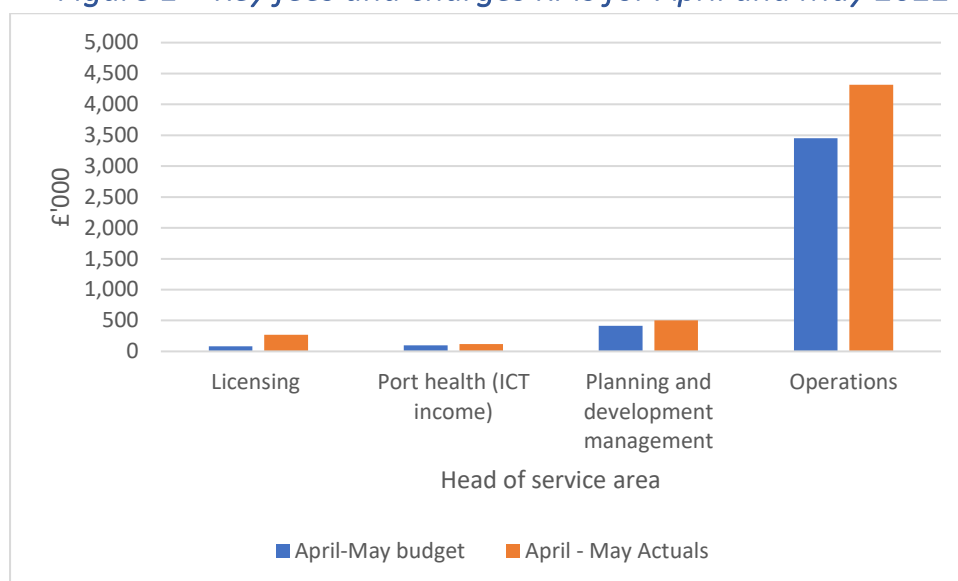
The boost in economic activities continues to contribute to healthy income levels from the utilisation of operational and investment assets and planning and development activities. Figure 1 below compares the budget with projected income for the first two months in four core areas. The chart shows income is tracking ahead of projection due to various income streams typically received for the whole quarter (and this report is for two months) in areas such as licensing and beach huts.

Most areas of income are forecasted to be on budget by the end of the year, except for parking services that continues to experience low uptake. However, some recovery is anticipated during the Summer. Table 1 outlines key income trends in the Operations service area. The waste management income reflects green waste income levels as expected. However, recycling credit income (also part of waste management) is not yet reflected as the Council's Operations partner has not yet confirmed tonnages required to recognise the income.

---

<sup>1</sup> Speech of the Deputy Governor for financial sustainability, Bank of England. [Monetary and financial stability and the invasion of Ukraine – speech by Jon Cunliffe \(bankofengland.co.uk\)](https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/speeches/2022/monetary-and-financial-stability-and-the-invasion-of-ukraine)

*Figure 1 – Key fees and charges KPIs for April and May 2022*



*Table 1 – Operations fees and charges compared to budget (April and May 2022)*

Operational service name	Budget (April- May 2022) £'000	Actuals (April- May 2022) £'000	Variance (April- May 2022) £'000
Beach Huts and Chalets	(156)	(777)	(621)
Car Parks	(784)	(552)	232
Caravan and Camping Sites	(416)	(583)	(167)
Cemeteries	(50)	(75)	(25)
Concessions	(7)	(35)	(28)
Harbours and Yacht Stations	(65)	(147)	(82)
Indoor Leisure	(25)	(60)	(35)
Industrial Estates	(105)	(261)	(156)
Miscellaneous Land	(25)	(43)	(19)
Miscellaneous Property	(59)	(118)	(59)
Playing Fields and Sports Grounds	(3)	(21)	(18)
Waste Management	(1,743)	(1,636)	107
Others	(12)	(10)	2
<b>Total Operations income</b>	<b>(3,450)</b>	<b>(4,319)</b>	<b>(869)</b>

It is important not to view fees and charges in isolation, as there are typically costs associated with new income levels. Hence the net cost-of-service update is provided in the next section.

### **3.2. Net cost of service – General Fund**

The below table presents the net cost of service for the period April to May 2022.



Figure 3 – Analysis of net cost of service variance

Net Direct Expenditure and Income	Approved Full Year Budget 2022/23	Current Budget (April & May 2022)	Actuals (April & May 2022)	Variance (April & May 2022)
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>				
Employee Expenses	37,201	6,021	5,652	(370)
Premises Expenses	4,431	460	193	(267)
Transport Expenses	477	76	110	34
Supplies and Services	16,202	2,307	2,965	658
Third Party Payments	18,610	2,943	4,626	1,682
Transfer Payments	(95)	(14)	1	15
Housing Benefit Payments and Rent Rebates				
Internal Transfers	52,311	-	-	-
Other Expenditure	354	103	17	(86)
Total Expenditure	129,490	11,896	13,562	1,666
<b><u>Income</u></b>				
Customer and Client Receipts	(27,188)	(5,759)	(6,169)	(410)
Grants and Contributions	(8,803)	(1,716)	(5,908)	(4,192)
Housing Benefit Subsidy	(50,438)	-	-	-
Internal Transfers	(329)	(37)	(17)	20
Total Income	(86,758)	(7,512)	(12,094)	(4,582)
<b>Direct Expenditure and Income</b>	<b><u>42,732</u></b>	<b><u>4,384</u></b>	<b><u>1,467</u></b>	<b><u>(2,916)</u></b>

### 3.2.1. Grants and Contributions income

It is usual for grants for specific purposes to be received in fully. Such grants will be spent on specific initiatives and the balance transferred to reserves at the end of the year to continue to fund future spend on those initiatives. The favourable grants position relates to funding received early in the year for Homelessness Prevention, Free Port East, New Burdens, Coastal Management, and Port Health (related to anticipated Brexit checks).

### 3.2.2. Staffing

The Council continues to experience difficulties recruiting in some areas, particularly in specialist roles. Work is underway with regard to a recruitment and retention plan. So far, the majority of vacancy savings have been committed to backfill contractors to ensure continued service delivery. Month 1 and 2 budgets are still underspent, and the overall staffing budget continues to be closely monitored to ensure value for money with all appointments.

It is anticipated that pay deal negotiations will seek a pay award which is greater than the Council's current assumption of 2% for each year of the MTFS. The impact will depend how much buffer vacancies can provide against a pay award more than current assumptions. A 1% increase in pay is approximately £300k for the direct staffing costs of the General Fund and £120k for the indirect staffing of the Council's Operations partner.

### 3.2.3. Premises expenses

At the time of writing, utility costs for April and May have not yet been received. The lower utilisation of the office accommodation due to hybrid working is expected to offset the higher costs of energy initially and will be closely monitored. Actual spent on responsive and planned maintenance is also behind the budget profile due to timings.

### 3.2.4. Supplies and services

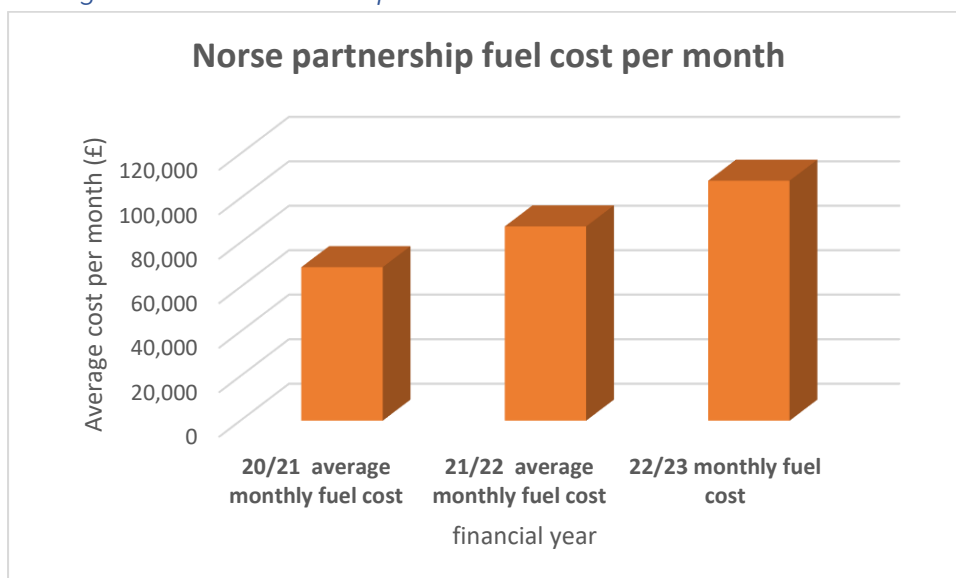
The main reason for actuals being ahead of budget on supplies and services is due to ICT maintenance costs paid annual in advance.

### 3.2.5. Third party payments

#### Operations

Third party payments appear ahead of budget due to early invoicing from the Council's Operations partner (a month in advance) running key customer facing services such as waste and street cleansing. The biggest impact from fuel inflation will come through the Council's Operations partnership. To put this into perspective, Figure 4 shows the trend in average fuel costs over the last few years. For every ten pence increase in the fuel price, it could cost the partnership an additional £6.5k per month which would be passed on to the Council. The early fuel price increases have so far been covered by a timely reduction in waste disposal costs. Waste disposal cost reduction is driven by a combination of an increased demand for recycle due to the green agenda and a reduction in residual waste tonnages. Recycling demand has remained abnormally high and how long this will last is uncertain, but while it does, costs are kept low.

Figure 4 – Partner cost pressures



## Leisure

The Council's greatest exposure to rising utility costs is via the indoor leisure operations. The Council works close with its leisure operators and costs are currently being managed within existing budgets.

UK Active are also making representations to the Government to support swimming pools with the increased utility costs.

## 4. Housing Revenue Account

The Housing Revenue Account, being a ring-fenced account is designed to be self-sufficient in its operation and financing of social housing. All its revenues are reinvested back into the housing stock.

The HRA income base is expected to change following the outcome of the ongoing forensic review into a rent charging inconsistency. Rents and other charges will be reviewed based on the outcome of the review and an update will be provided at Quarter 2.

Whilst there is no overspend in the HRA at present, the cost of maintaining our housing stock could be impacted by the rising cost of building materials which could limit the ambition on investing in further social housing. The expenditure is being monitored closely.

## 5. General Fund Capital Programme

The General Fund capital programme is progressing as planned. There remains a risk that some projects will cost more because of the ongoing materials shortage. Officers are working to manage exposure to this risk. A revised capital programme will be brought to Cabinet and Full Council later in the year and an update provided at Quarter 2.



**CABINET**

**Tuesday, 05 July 2022**

<b>Subject</b>	Review of Strategic Management Team Capacity
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Steve Gallant Leader of the Council
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Stephen Baker Chief Executive <a href="mailto:Stephen.baker@eastsoffolk.gov.uk">Stephen.baker@eastsoffolk.gov.uk</a> 01502 523210

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
-------------------------------	------

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### Purpose of Report:

The need for additional corporate capacity has been recognised by the Council's Strategic Management Team for a while. It is self-evident that the Council is engaged on a wide and detailed agenda of activity and that this is creating significant pressure on the Council's senior officers. A recent Corporate Peer Challenge carried out by the Local Government Association in February 2022 has confirmed this; they recommended that an additional Director post is created to provide that extra capacity. Furthermore, they recommended that this post should be focused on corporate activity in order to maintain a strong governance 'grip' on the Council's corporate activity. This report proposes that the Council allocates provision within its Budget on an ongoing basis for a new Director post.

### Options:

The Strategic Management Team has considered in detail how additional capacity would be incorporated into the Strategic Management Team. This has been distilled into the following options, all of which have been debated at length, the preferred option being Option 1:

- *Option 1 – Transfer specific responsibilities to the new post*  
The simplest to implement with a structure based on a transfer of specific responsibilities to the new post, leaving the remaining responsibilities as allocated between the current members of the Strategic Management Team unchanged. This maintains continuity on key projects and work programmes.
- *Option 2 – Re-define the roles and line management of all Directors*  
This option is based on grouping service areas together in a way that may generate some synergies and benefits, such as 'People' and 'Place'. However, this approach could give rise to potential conflicts of interest which weakens this as an option and can lead to an imbalance of workload between senior staff.
- *Option 3 – Allocate roles based on statutory and non-statutory services*  
That the definition of 'statutory' and 'non-statutory' services is used to allocate service areas between the current two Strategic Directors. This is an option, but will lead to confusion in some areas, such as housing, that have both statutory and non-statutory elements.
- *Option 4 – No change*  
To continue with the current structure in the knowledge that capacity is a significant issue and will likely impact on delivery of the Council's Strategic Plan.

### Recommendation:

That a Supplementary Budget for 2022/23 and additional funding for future years be approved for the appointment of a new Strategic Director post to ensure that the Council has sufficient capacity at the most senior level to deliver its ambitious Strategic Plan, to maintain and strengthen its approach to corporate governance, and to enable greater senior officer support for service provision and project delivery.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### **Governance:**

If approved by Cabinet, recruitment to the post will be undertaken immediately and given the strategic nature of the post, Members and senior Officers will be involved in the appointment process with the support of HR. Corporate governance involves the whole Council and all of the various service areas within it. This post will report direct to the Chief Executive.

### **ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:**

- East Suffolk Strategic Plan
- East Suffolk Medium Term Financial Strategy

### **Environmental:**

No Environmental implications have been identified.

### **Equalities and Diversity:**

There is no requirement for an Equality Impact Assessment in respect of this report. The recruitment process will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Equality and Diversity Policy.

### **Financial:**

This new post represents permanent growth to the budget from 2022/23, with full year costs estimated to be £151,000 including oncosts. It is the Council's policy that the salary for a Director post is no greater than 7 x the Full Time Equivalent salary of a salary Band 1 employee. In 2022/23, the appointment of the post will require approval of a Supplementary Budget, estimated to be £38,000.

### **Human Resources:**

This report refers to the creation of a new post and, subject to Cabinet approving the necessary funding, it is proposed that recruitment will begin immediately.

### **ICT:**

No ICT implications have been identified.

### **Legal:**

No Legal implications have been identified.

### **Risk:**

There is a risk that the Council will be unable to deliver its Strategic Plan in full without this additional resource. There is also a risk to the ongoing resilience of the Strategic and Corporate Management Teams if this extra resource is not provided. The Local Government peer challenge report (February 2022) identified that this extra resource would reduce the risk of any failings in the corporate governance of the organisation.

### **External Consultees:**

None

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b>  This proposal will strengthen the Council's ability to achieve the ambitions identified within the Strategic Plan and will further strengthen its approach to corporate governance.			



## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1	Background facts
1.1	The Council has embarked on an ambitious programme to deliver its Strategic Plan which consists of five main themes and the evolution of a sixth theme of 'Governance' which ensures that the right mechanisms are in place to deliver the Strategic Plan, including overseeing performance reporting and the governance of risks.
1.2	<p>The senior management of East Suffolk Council comprises two teams; the Strategic Management Team which consists of two Strategic Directors and the Chief Executive and the Corporate Management Team which is made up of 11 Heads of Service + the Strategic Management Team. Heads of Service are line managed by members of the Strategic Management Team as below:</p> <p><b>Strategic Director (AJ):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Housing</li> <li>• Economic Development and Regeneration</li> <li>• Operations</li> <li>• Customer Experience</li> </ul> <p><b>Strategic Director (NK):</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Environmental Services and Port Health</li> <li>• Communities</li> <li>• Planning and Coastal Management</li> <li>• Digital and Programme Management</li> </ul> <p><b>Chief Executive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chief Finance Officer (and Section 151 Officer)</li> <li>• Legal and Democratic Services (and Monitoring Officer)</li> <li>• Internal Audit</li> </ul>
1.3	<p>In addition to the above, a number of additional posts also report direct to a member of the Strategic Management Team as below:</p> <p><b>Reporting to the Chief Executive:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communications and Marketing</li> <li>• Human Resources and Workforce Development</li> <li>• Electoral Services</li> <li>• Suffolk Growth Partnership Manager (a county wide function funded by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' group).</li> </ul> <p><b>Reporting to Strategic Directors:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Political Assistants</li> <li>• Environmental Climate Change Lead Officer</li> <li>• Head of the Anglia Revenues Partnership</li> <li>• Delivery Manager</li> <li>• Active Suffolk</li> </ul>
1.4	The Council commissioned the Local Government Association to undertake a Corporate Peer Challenge in February 2022 which covered five core elements:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local priorities and outcomes</li> <li>• Organisational and place leadership</li> <li>• Governance and culture</li> <li>• Financial planning and management</li> <li>• Capacity for improvement</li> </ul> <p>Peer challenges are an established tool for providing objective, robust, strategic and credible challenge and support to councils by bringing together a review of political and managerial leadership, through the use of member and officer peers. Feedback from a Corporate Peer Challenge helps councils to gain a better insight and helps to identify areas where we could improve our effectiveness. It is recognised best practice and the Local Government Association recommends that all councils should undergo a Peer Challenge at least every five years.</p>
1.5	<p>During the process of the Peer Challenge, under the 'Organisational and place leadership' element, the Peer Challenge Team observed that:</p> <p><i>"There is a strong sense of 'one council' which galvanises the organisation and energises the workforce to do whatever it takes to deliver on the plans. There is a risk that the levels of energy required to serve the level of ambition over time are not sustainable. The Council should reflect and question if it has the right level of leadership capacity at senior levels for both Members and Officers."</i></p> <p>This observation led the team to make the following key recommendation:</p> <p><b><i>"Address your senior corporate capacity gap as quickly as you can."</i></b></p> <p>The Peer Challenge Team's report also made a specific comment and recommendation about how the gap in capacity should be filled:</p> <p><i>"Capacity at strategic corporate management level is urgently required to improve the support to your heads of service and wider workforce. This is not specifically about providing an additional level of oversight, however more focused on supporting strategic decision-making so Heads of Service feel supported. A corporate focused director will be able to provide oversight across the different functional areas and provide line of sight across the range of work programmes. Increasing strategic corporate management capacity should support achieving more 'grip' around some of your corporate processes and provide further accountability to ensure these are aligned to the achievement of your Strategic Plan."</i></p> <p><i>A corporate focused director could be made accountable for providing leadership to the next stage of the organisations development and ensure there is adequate alignment between for example the Council's processes, resources, culture, systems and the ongoing requirements of the Strategic Plan. The role would be pivotal in ensuring existing plans such as the People Strategy (including recruitment and retention, pay and reward) and existing frameworks, for example performance management and programme management, continue to evolve and adapt alongside the Council's ambitions and Strategic Plan."</i></p>

	The message from the Peer Challenge Team was clear; given the size of East Suffolk Council, its scale and the projects and activities that it has underway, and those planned but yet to start, it needs extra capacity at the most senior leadership and management level.
--	---

## 2 Current position

2.1	<p>East Suffolk Council has a population of over 250,000 and a geography of 487 sq miles. With 178 town and parish councils, there are areas of affluence which contrast starkly with areas of significant deprivation. East Suffolk is also home to many major developments, from energy infrastructure to housing development, from Port upgrades to new transport infrastructure. The Peer challenge Team had all of this in mind when reflecting on the Council's corporate capacity, as did the Strategic Management Team when they recently reviewed the challenges currently facing the authority. Some of these challenges have been captured below and appear in no particular order:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Response to Environmental / Climate Change challenge</li> <li>• Freeport East</li> <li>• Engagement with Health &amp; Wellbeing challenges and Integrated Care Structures</li> <li>• Local Enterprise Partnership review</li> <li>• Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project</li> <li>• Coastal Protection initiatives</li> <li>• Major development in North Felixstowe</li> <li>• Lowestoft Towns Fund / Place Board</li> <li>• Regeneration of Lowestoft Town Centre</li> <li>• Review of organisational capacity</li> <li>• Implementation of local authority trading companies</li> <li>• Develop partnership working</li> <li>• Development of agile working / future accommodation needs</li> <li>• Community Partnerships</li> <li>• Deprivation / inequality/ hidden needs</li> <li>• Asset development and management</li> <li>• Asylum seekers / refugee support</li> <li>• Develop events potential</li> <li>• Address recruitment and retention / pay review</li> <li>• Levelling Up/County Deal and Devolution</li> <li>• Offshore wind development and onshore infrastructure</li> <li>• Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects including Sizewell C</li> <li>• Wider infrastructure challenges (road, rail and utilities)</li> <li>• Southwold Harbour</li> <li>• Housing stock retrofit</li> <li>• Housing Services - tenant engagement</li> <li>• Digital development (community)</li> <li>• Digital / ICT capacity and maximising productivity</li> <li>• Financial challenge and delivery of the Capital Programme</li> <li>• Cost of living crisis - impact on budgets and communities</li> <li>• District Election 2023</li> </ul>
-----	--

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development/refresh of a new Strategic Plan</li> <li>• Port Health and impact of EU Exit</li> <li>• PHILIS / NEOMA – next steps</li> <li>• Government's Waste Strategy (RAWS)</li> </ul>
2.2	Few other councils have a list of challenges like this and it is important to provide the appropriate capacity to respond to this workload, enable staff to deliver and support Members as they deliver for their constituents.
2.3	It should be noted that although this additional resource will help to free up capacity in order to deal with the external challenges that we know are coming our way, it is also the intention to use the additional resource to focus on the effect these challenges will have on the areas which it is intended the new Director will be responsible. This will include the impact on our existing policies and approach, the Strategic Plan, our organisational review and development etc.
2.4	It is recognised that the existing Directors are fully stretched and extra capacity is required to ensure that existing staff can perform better, be more focused and provide more support for Corporate Management Team colleagues.

### 3 How to address current situation

3.1	The need for new, additional, corporate capacity has been recognised by the Strategic Management Team for a while. It is self-evident that the Council is engaged on a wide and detailed agenda of activity and that this is creating significant pressure the Council's senior officers. The recent Corporate Peer Challenge by the Local Government Association has confirmed this, recommending that an additional Director post is created to provide that extra capacity. Furthermore, they recommend that this post is focused on corporate activity, to maintain a strong governance 'grip' on the Council's corporate activity.
3.2	The Strategic Management Team has considered how this new role could be implemented and the responsibilities it would take on. They also discussed the 'knock on effect' on the portfolios of the other two Directors and the Chief Executive. Four options were debated at length, as referenced above, with Option 1 considered the most effective way forward.
3.3	The options have also been considered by the Council's Leader and Deputy Leader as well as the Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources and the Leaders of the Labour Group and the GLI Group.
3.4	<p>Having identified Option 1 as the way forward, subject to Cabinet agreeing budget provision, an organisational review will take place in three phases:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>I. Recruit a new Director for corporate services, with the consequent changes to Director portfolios.</li> <li>II. Review the Corporate Management Team structure to ensure it is appropriate for future challenges and 'fit for purpose' given those challenges.</li> <li>III. Make the necessary adjustments within service areas, below Corporate Management Team level, to ensure services work effectively, are streamlined and reflect future demands.</li> </ol> <p>It is proposed that this new post will have the same Job Description as the existing Strategic Directors.</p>

3.5	It has long been recognised that the Council lacks capacity in the area of policy development in which case this will be added to the responsibilities of the new Director post and will neatly align with the Strategic Plan work that is led by the Head of Digital and Programme Management who will also be allocated to this post.
-----	---

#### 4 Reason/s for recommendation

4.1	The recommendation in this report is considered to strengthen the Council's existing senior leadership team and will provide the capacity and resource required to deliver the Council's ambitious work programme whilst further reinforcing the Council's governance processes.
-----	--

## Appendices

#### Appendices:

None.

#### Background reference papers:

Date	Type	Available From
May 2022	Peer Challenge Report	<a href="#">LGA Peer Challenge » East Suffolk Council</a>



## CABINET

Tuesday, 05 July 2022

<b>Subject</b>	Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25
<b>Report by</b>	Councillor Maurice Cook Cabinet Member with responsibility for Resources
<b>Supporting Officer</b>	Brian Mew Chief Finance Officer & Section 151 Officer <a href="mailto:brian.mew@eastsuffolk.gov.uk">brian.mew@eastsuffolk.gov.uk</a>

Is the report Open or Exempt?	OPEN
-------------------------------	------

Category of Exempt Information and reason why it is <b>NOT</b> in the public interest to disclose the exempt information.	Not applicable.
<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards

## Purpose and high-level overview

### Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to recommend to Full Council for approval of an updated Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25, in accordance with updated Guidance and Directions issued by the Secretary of State in April 2022.

### Options:

There is an option for the Council not to approve an updated Strategy. However, this would mean not potentially taking advantage of a very valuable flexibility enabling funding of the revenue costs of a number of the Council's key projects in the medium term.

### Recommendations:

That the approval of the updated Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy attached as Appendix C of the report be recommended to Full Council.

## Corporate Impact Assessment

### Governance:

The approval of this strategy by Full Council will enable the Council to utilise this flexibility in accordance with the Guidance and Direction issued by the Secretary of State.

### ESC policies and strategies that directly apply to the proposal:

- East Suffolk Strategic Plan
- East Suffolk Medium Term Financial Strategy
- Capital Programme
- Financial Management Code

### Environmental:

There are no environmental impacts directly related to this report.

### Equalities and Diversity:

Equality Impact Assessments will be or have been produced for the individual policies, projects, and initiatives identified as being potentially eligible for funding using this flexibility.

### Financial:

The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy enables the Council to potentially take advantage of a valuable flexibility enabling funding of the revenue costs of a number of the Council's key projects in the medium term. However, inclusion in the strategy does not constitute a commitment to fund through capital receipts as this decision needs to be taken in the light of the Council's overall revenue and capital financing requirements, nor does inclusion in the strategy constitute approval to progress a project. For 2022/23, Cabinet will determine the actual financing when approving the Council's Capital Programme outturn and financing for the year. For 2023/24 and 2024/25, the Council will



approve the budgeted funding of the projects in the strategy when approving the Budget and the Capital Programme for the year.

**Human Resources:**

There are no HR implications directly arising from this report.

**ICT:**

There are no ICT implications directly arising from this report.

**Legal:**

Use of this flexibility in respect of the treatment of costs as capital expenditure outlined will be exercised in accordance with the sections 16(2)(b) and 20 of the Local Government Act 2003 as referred to in the Direction attached as Appendix B.

**Risk:**

Risk Assessments will be or have been produced for the individual policies, projects, and initiatives identified as being potentially eligible for funding using this flexibility.

<b>External Consultees:</b>	Not Applicable.
-----------------------------	-----------------

## Strategic Plan Priorities

Select the priorities of the <a href="#">Strategic Plan</a> which are supported by this proposal: (Select only one primary and as many secondary as appropriate)		Primary priority	Secondary priorities
<b>T01</b>	<b>Growing our Economy</b>		
P01	Build the right environment for East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P02	Attract and stimulate inward investment	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P03	Maximise and grow the unique selling points of East Suffolk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P04	Business partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P05	Support and deliver infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T02</b>	<b>Enabling our Communities</b>		
P06	Community Partnerships	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P07	Taking positive action on what matters most	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P08	Maximising health, well-being and safety in our District	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P09	Community Pride	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T03</b>	<b>Maintaining Financial Sustainability</b>		
P10	Organisational design and streamlining services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P11	Making best use of and investing in our assets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P12	Being commercially astute	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P13	Optimising our financial investments and grant opportunities	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
P14	Review service delivery with partners	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T04</b>	<b>Delivering Digital Transformation</b>		
P15	Digital by default	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P16	Lean and efficient streamlined services	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P17	Effective use of data	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P18	Skills and training	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P19	District-wide digital infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>T05</b>	<b>Caring for our Environment</b>		
P20	Lead by example	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P21	Minimise waste, reuse materials, increase recycling	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P22	Renewable energy	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
P23	Protection, education and influence	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>XXX</b>	<b>Governance</b>		
XXX	How ESC governs itself as an authority	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>How does this proposal support the priorities selected?</b>  The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy enables the Council to potentially take advantage of a valuable flexibility enabling funding of the revenue costs of a number of the Council's key projects in the medium term. The flexibility will enable the Council to optimise the use of capital receipts and conserve revenue budget resources.			

## Background and Justification for Recommendation

1 Background facts	
1.1	Full Council in February 2022 approved a Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Policy for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25. This was based on the Efficiency Strategy approved for the previous six years by the Council and its predecessors, and was intended to pre-empt the possible extension of this flexibility beyond March 2022.
1.2	The predecessor Councils' first Efficiency Strategies were produced in response to the Statutory Guidance on the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts, originally issued for 2016/17 by the former Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), now the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC). In response to this, the Council, and its predecessors produced Efficiency Strategies which were approved with the Budget each year.
1.3	The Guidance provided the flexibility to local authorities to use capital receipts to fund the revenue set up and implementation costs of projects designed to generate ongoing revenue savings, but did not enable ongoing revenue costs to be funded by this method.
1.4	<p>The Guidance originally applied to capital receipts and projects over the period 2016/17 to 2018/19, but in the 2018/19 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement it was announced that:</p> <p><i>Local government operates in a society that is constantly changing. To meet the challenges of the future, the Communities Secretary confirmed that the flexibility to use capital receipts to help meet the revenue costs of transformation will be extended for a further 3 years to April 2022.</i></p>
1.5	To date there has been no use of capital receipts to fund one-off revenue costs by either the Council or its predecessors, primarily because no significant capital receipts have been realised over this period. The costs of transformation projects have tended to be met from earmarked reserves.
1.6	<p>In the 2022/23 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the following was announced:</p> <p><i>Extension of the flexibility to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects</i></p> <p><i>We are also announcing a 3-year extension from 2022-23 onwards of the existing flexibility for councils to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects that produce long-term savings or reduce the costs of service delivery. We will provide further details on the extension in due course.</i></p>

2 Current position	
2.1	On 4 April 2022, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities confirmed this extension and published the Guidance attached as Appendix A and the Direction attached as Appendix B. It should be noted that the flexibility excludes Right-To-Buy capital receipts.

3 How to address current situation	
3.1	The extension of this flexibility is a very welcome development, as it has been announced at a time when the Council has a number of significant transformation projects underway, and has also received a capital receipt of £5.385m from the sale of the former Suffolk Coastal offices at Melton Hill.
3.2	The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy approved by Full Council in February 2022 has now been expanded and revised in the light of the new guidance. The Strategy is attached as Appendix C, and following approval by the Council, is intended to be submitted to the Secretary of State as outlined in the Guidance.
3.3	Whilst inclusion in the strategy does not constitute a commitment to fund through capital receipts, it is proposed in the Strategy that the transformation costs associated with the North Felixstowe project; Set Up of East Suffolk Services Ltd (ESSL) Local Authority Trading Company; and rebalancing Port Health be regarded as priority projects for the potential use of this funding flexibility.

4 Reason/s for recommendation	
4.1	The Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy enables the Council to potentially take advantage of a valuable flexibility enabling funding of the revenue costs of a number of the Council's key projects in the medium term. The flexibility will enable the Council to optimise the use of capital receipts and conserve revenue budget resources.

## Appendices

Appendices:	
<b>Appendix A</b>	Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Guidance April 2022
<b>Appendix B</b>	Direction to 1 April 2025
<b>Appendix C</b>	Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy 2022/23 to 2024/25

Background reference papers:	
None.	

## Cookies on GOV.UK

We use some essential cookies to make this website work.

We'd like to set additional cookies to understand how you use GOV.UK, remember your settings and improve government services.

We also use cookies set by other sites to help us deliver content from their services.

Accept additional cookies

Reject additional cookies

[View cookies \(/help/cookies\)](/help/cookies)



1. Home (<https://www.gov.uk/>)
  2. Regional and local government (<https://www.gov.uk/regional-and-local-government>)
  3. Local government spending (<https://www.gov.uk/regional-and-local-government/local-government-spending>)
  4. Guidance on flexible use of capital receipts  
(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-guidance-on-flexible-use-of-capital-receipts>)
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-levelling-up-housing-and-communities>)
  - Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/ministry-of-housing-communities-and-local-government>)

Statutory guidance

# Guidance on the flexible use of capital receipts (updated)

Updated 4 April 2022

## Contents

Part 1: Informal commentary on the guidance on flexible use of capital receipts

Part 2: Updated guidance on flexible use of capital receipts



© Crown copyright 2022

This publication is licensed under the terms of the Open Government Licence v3.0 except where otherwise stated. To view this licence, visit [nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3](https://nationalarchives.gov.uk/doc/open-government-licence/version/3) or write to the Information Policy Team, The National Archives, Kew, London TW9 4DU, or email: [psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk](mailto:psi@nationalarchives.gov.uk).

Where we have identified any third party copyright information you will need to obtain permission from the copyright holders concerned.

This publication is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/final-guidance-on-flexible-use-of-capital-receipts/guidance-on-the-flexible-use-of-capital-receipts-updated>



## **Part 1: Informal commentary on the guidance on flexible use of capital receipts**

[References to the paragraphs in the formal guidance are in square brackets]

### **Power under which the Guidance is issued [1.1]**

1. The Local Government Act 2003 (“the Act”), section 15(1) requires a local authority “... to have regard (a) to such guidance as the Secretary of State may issue, and (b) to such other guidance as the Secretary of State may by regulations specify ...”.
2. The guidance on use of capital receipts flexibility in Part 2 of this document (the Guidance) is issued under section 15(1) of the Act and authorities are therefore required to have regard to it.
3. Two codes of practice issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) contain guidance on capital receipts and local authority accounting that complement the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) guidance. These publications are:
  - The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities
  - The Code of Practice on Local Authority Accounting
4. Local authorities are required to have regard to the current edition of The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities by regulation 2 of the Local Authorities (Capital Finance and Accounting) (England) Regulations 2003 and to the Local Authority Accounting Code as proper practices for preparing accounts under section 21(2) of the Act.

### **Application [3.1-3.2]**

5. The Guidance should be read alongside the relevant direction issued by the Secretary of State.
6. The Guidance applies to all years that the flexible use of capital receipts direction applies.
7. The direction makes it clear that local authorities cannot borrow to finance the revenue costs of service reform. Local authorities can only use capital receipts from the disposal of property, plant and equipment assets received in the years in which this flexibility is offered.

### **Qualifying expenditure [4.1-4.3]**

8. The Secretary of State believes that individual authorities and groups of authorities are best placed to decide which projects will be most effective for their areas. The key criteria to use when deciding whether expenditure can be funded by the capital receipts flexibility is that it is forecast to generate ongoing savings to an authorities’, or several authorities, and/or to another public sector body’s net service expenditure.
9. A list of types of projects that would qualify for the flexible use of capital receipts is included in the Guidance. This list is not meant to be prescriptive or exhaustive. Individual authorities who have projects that will generate ongoing savings that are not included in the list provided in the Guidance, can apply the flexibility to fund those projects.
10. As set out in the direction, discretionary redundancy payments cannot be qualifying expenditure and must not be capitalised under the direction. An authority may capitalise redundancy payments that are necessarily incurred and limited to the amounts available as statutory redundancy payments, where such costs are otherwise qualifying expenditure Authorities should not use the proceeds from

asset sales to fund redundancy costs in excess of what is required by statute. This restriction does not apply to other severance costs, including pension strain costs; the treatment of these costs remains unchanged from the previous direction.

## **Accountability and transparency [5.1-5.11]**

11. It is important that individual authorities demonstrate the highest standards of accountability and transparency. Each authority should disclose the individual projects that will be funded or part funded through capital receipts flexibility to full council or the equivalent. This requirement can be satisfied as part of the annual budget setting process, through the Medium-Term Financial Plan or equivalent.

12. The Guidance recommends that the council produces a Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy (the Strategy) setting out details of projects to be funded through flexible use of capital receipts be prepared prior to the start of each financial year. Failure to meet this requirement does not mean that an authority cannot access the flexibility in that year. However, in this instance, the Strategy should be presented to full council or the equivalent at the earliest possible opportunity. The Guidance allows local authorities to update their Strategy during the year.

13. It is a required condition of the direction that authorities must send details setting out their planned use of the flexibility to the Secretary of State, in advance of its use for each financial year. This is to make sure that the government is adequately sighted on the use of the flexibility and can monitor how it is used. It is not a process of approval and authorities do not require a response in order to use the flexibility. It is important that the information sent to the Secretary of State is accurate and, for that reason, it is also a requirement that authorities do not capitalise expenditure in excess of what was set out in the submitted plans. Authorities may, however, update their plans and resubmit to the Secretary of State during the financial year. Authorities may submit their Strategies to fulfil this requirement, or an equivalent plan. No format is specified, however, the information must contain, as a minimum, the detail specified in the direction and should contain the detail set out in 5.3 and 5.4 of the Guidance.

## **Supplementary**

14. Nothing in the Guidance or in the direction exempts local authorities from any other obligations, for example in relation to Right to Buy receipts.

## **Part 2: Updated guidance on flexible use of capital receipts**

Issued under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003 and effective from 1 April 2022.

### **(1) Power under which the Guidance is issued**

1.1 The following guidance is issued by the Secretary of State under section 15(1)(a) of the Local Government Act 2003.

### **(2) Definition of terms**

2.1 In this guidance, the Act means the Local Government Act 2003.

2.2 Local authority has the meaning given in section 23 of the Act (and in regulations made under that section).

2.3 Capital receipt has the meaning given in section 9 of the Act (and in regulations made under that section).

2.4 Qualifying expenditure means expenditure on a project where incurring up-front costs will generate ongoing savings. The main part of this guidance details the types of projects that will generate qualifying expenditure.

2.5 The direction means a direction made under section 16(2)(b) of the Act, to allow named local authorities to treat qualifying expenditure as being capital expenditure.

2.6 Prudential indicators has the meaning given in the CIPFA code of practice, The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

### **(3) Application**

#### **Effective date**

3.1 This guidance applies with effect from 1 April 2022, for the period for which flexible use of capital receipts will apply, which will be set out in the direction.

#### **Local authorities**

3.2 This guidance applies to all local authorities in England named in the directions issued by the Secretary of State.

### **(4) Qualifying expenditure**

#### **Types of qualifying expenditure**

4.1 Qualifying expenditure is expenditure on any project that is designed to generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services in future years for any of the public sector delivery partners. Within this definition, it is for individual local authorities to decide whether or not a project qualifies for the flexibility.

4.2 Set up and implementation costs of any new processes or arrangements can be classified as qualifying expenditure. The ongoing revenue costs of the new processes or arrangements cannot be classified as qualifying expenditure. In addition, one off costs, such as banking savings against temporary increases in costs/pay cannot be classified as qualifying expenditure. Under the direction the in force from April 2022, with respect to redundancy payments, qualifying expenditure will be limited to those amounts that are necessarily incurred as statutory redundancy payments provided the other requirements of qualifying expenditure are met. This restriction does not apply to other severance costs, including pension strain costs; the treatment of these costs remains unchanged from the previous direction.

#### **Examples of qualifying expenditure**

4.3 There are a wide range of projects that could generate qualifying expenditure and the list below is not prescriptive. Examples of projects include:

- Sharing back-office and administrative services with one or more other council or public sector bodies;
- Investment in service reform feasibility work, e.g. setting up pilot schemes;
- Collaboration between local authorities and central government departments to free up land for economic use;

- Funding the cost of service reconfiguration, restructuring or rationalisation where this leads to ongoing efficiency savings or service transformation;
- Driving a digital approach to the delivery of more efficient public services and how the public interacts with constituent authorities where possible;
- Aggregating procurement on common goods and services where possible, either as part of local arrangements or using Crown Commercial Services or regional procurement hubs or Professional Buying Organisations;
- Improving systems and processes to tackle fraud and corruption in line with the Local Government Fraud and Corruption Strategy – this could include an element of staff training;
- Setting up commercial or alternative delivery models to deliver services more efficiently and bring in revenue (for example, through selling services to others); and
- Integrating public facing services across two or more public sector bodies (for example children’s social care or trading standards) to generate savings or to transform service delivery.

## **(5) Accountability and transparency**

### **Preparation**

5.1 For each financial year, a local authority should ensure it prepares at least one Flexible use of Capital Receipts Strategy (“the Strategy”) in accordance with the timetable in paragraphs 5.6 and 5.7.

5.2 This Strategy does not need to be a separate document, and the requirement can be satisfied by including relevant documents within the Annual Budget documents or as part of the Mid-Term Financial Plan (or equivalent). Content

5.3 As a minimum, the Strategy should list each project that plans to make use of the capital receipts flexibility and that on a project-by-project basis details of the expected savings/service transformation are provided. The Strategy should report the impact on the local authority’s Prudential Indicators for the forthcoming year and subsequent years.

5.4 For the 2022-23 Strategy and in each future year, the Strategy should contain details on projects approved in previous years, including a commentary on whether the planned savings or service transformation have been/are being realised in line with the initial analysis.

5.5 The Strategy may also include any other matters considered to be relevant. Approval

5.6 The Strategy should be presented to full council. For authorities without a full council, the Strategy should be tabled at the closest equivalent level.

### **Timing**

5.7 For any financial year the Strategy (“the initial Strategy”) should be prepared before the start of the year. 5.8 The initial Strategy may be replaced by another Strategy (“the revised Strategy”) at any time during the year, on one or more occasions. The initial Strategy should specify the circumstances in which a revised Strategy is to be prepared, but a revised Strategy may be prepared in other circumstances, if at any time it is considered to be appropriate. When setting a revised Strategy its impact on the local authority’s Prudential Indicators shall be considered and whether it is necessary to amend the Prudential Indicators at the same time. Where an authority presents a revised Strategy during the year this should be submitted DLUHC via [DELTA \(https://delta.communities.gov.uk/login\)](https://delta.communities.gov.uk/login) or to [capitalreceiptsflexibility@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:capitalreceiptsflexibility@levellingup.gov.uk).



## Publication and disclosure

5.9 The initial Strategy and any revised Strategy should, once approved, be made available online to the public free of charge.

5.10 It is a required condition of the direction that the authority submit to the Secretary of State the details of its planned use of the flexibility for each year in which the flexibility is used. This must be sent as soon as is practicable following disclosure to full Council or equivalent, and must be sent in advance of the flexibility being used. Providing a copy of the Strategy will fulfil this requirement, but an equivalent document is acceptable provided it is fully consistent with the Strategy and presents accurately the authority's planned use of the flexibility. The information provided in the plan should contain, as a minimum, the detail set out in paras 5.3 - 5.5. of this guidance and must contain the detail required in the direction.

5.11 The amount capitalised in the financial year must not exceed the amount set out in the plan provided to the Secretary of State, however, an authority may revise its plans and send an update at any time in the financial year. All information should be provided to DLUHC by submitting via [DELTA](https://delta.communities.gov.uk/login) (<https://delta.communities.gov.uk/login>) or to DLUHC at [capitalreceiptsflexibility@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:capitalreceiptsflexibility@levellingup.gov.uk).

---

## OGL

All content is available under the [Open Government Licence v3.0](#), except where otherwise stated

[© Crown copyright](#)

**Dear Chief Finance Officers: Local Authorities Listed in Annex A**

**LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 SECTIONS 16(2)(b) AND 20: TREATMENT OF COSTS AS CAPITAL EXPENDITURE**

1. This direction commences from financial year beginning 1 April 2022. The previous direction issued on 6 February 2018 will continue to apply to the financial years beginning 1 April 2016 to 1 April 2021 inclusive, without amendment.
2. In February 2021, the Secretary of State announced, alongside the local government finance settlement, the continuation of the capital receipts flexibility programme for a further three years, **to give local authorities the continued freedom to use capital receipts from the sale of their own assets (excluding Right to Buy receipts) to help fund the revenue costs of transformation projects and release savings.**
3. Accordingly, the Secretary of State directs, in exercise of his powers under sections 16(2)(b) and 20 of the Local Government Act 2003 (“the Act”), that the **local authorities listed in Annex A (“the Authorities”)** treat as capital expenditure, expenditure which:
  - i. is incurred by the Authorities that is designed to **generate ongoing revenue savings in the delivery of public services and/or transform service delivery to reduce costs and/or transform service delivery in a way that reduces costs or demand for services in future years for any of the public sector delivery partners; and**
  - ii. is properly incurred by the Authorities **for the financial years that begin on 1 April 2022, 1 April 2023 and 1 April 2024.**
  - iii. is not incurred with respect to redundancy payments, except where such redundancy costs are necessarily incurred and limited to the amounts available as statutory redundancy payments.
4. In further exercise of the Secretary of State’s powers under section 20 of the Act, it is a condition of this direction that expenditure treated as capital expenditure in accordance with it **only be met from capital receipts**, within the meaning of section 9 of the Act and regulations made under that section (for current provisions see Part 4 of S.I. 2003/3146, as amended), **which have been received in the years to which this direction and the previous direction (as referenced in paragraph 1) applies; and**
5. It is a further condition that local authorities applying this direction must send details of their planned use of the flexibility to the Secretary of State, for each financial year in which the direction is used. This should be sent as soon as is practicable after the council has determined and approved its strategy for the use of the direction, but must be sent before the flexibility is used. Where local authorities update their plans during the financial year, an updated plan reflecting the changes must be sent to the Secretary of State. This requirement can be met by providing to the Secretary of State a copy of the

authority's own planning documents. However, details provided to the Secretary of State must include as a minimum:

- the amount of planned capitalisation using the flexibility for the relevant financial year;
- the purpose of the expenditure to be capitalised with a description of the associated projects;
- the amount of expenditure that was capitalised using the flexibility for the prior financial year; and,
- the efficiency savings that are directly attributable to the use of the flexibility that were achieved for the prior financial year.

If any of this information is unavailable or unknown, the council must set this out with a description as to why it cannot be provided.

6. The value of expenditure capitalised must not exceed the amount set out in the plan, including any updated plans, provided to the Secretary of State as per paragraph 5.
7. By submitting the information set out in paragraph 5 to the Secretary of State the council will have met the condition; there is no further requirement to receive explicit consent in order to use the flexibility as set out in this direction. It is expected that authorities will evidence, as necessary, to their external auditors that they complied in full with this condition.
8. This direction is given for the purposes of Chapter 1 of Part 1 of the Act only. It does not grant any other consent that may be required or any view as to the propriety of the expenditure. It is for the Authority to be satisfied that any amount to which this direction is applied is properly incurred in the financial year concerned.
9. When applying the direction, the Authorities are required to have regard to the Guidance on Flexible Use of Capital Receipts issued by the Secretary of State under section 15(1)(a) of the Act.
10. If you have any queries in connection with the above, please do not hesitate to contact the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities at the email address: [capitalreceiptsflexibility@levellingup.gov.uk](mailto:capitalreceiptsflexibility@levellingup.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely,





## Annex A - List of authorities to which this direction applies

English councils
Adur District Council
Allerdale Borough Council
Amber Valley Borough Council
Arun District Council
Ashfield District Council
Ashford Borough Council
Babergh District Council
London Borough of Barking and Dagenham
London Borough of Barnet
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Barrow-in-Furness Borough Council
Basildon Borough Council
Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council
Bassetlaw District Council
Bath and North East Somerset Council
Bedford Borough Council
London Borough of Bexley
Birmingham City Council
Blaby District Council
Blackburn with Darwen Borough Council
Blackpool Council
Bolsover District Council
Bolton Metropolitan Borough Council
Boston Borough Council
Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council
Bracknell Forest Council
Bradford Metropolitan District Council
Braintree District Council
Breckland District Council
London Borough of Brent
Brentwood Borough Council

Brighton and Hove City Council
Bristol City Council
Broadland District Council
London Borough of Bromley
Bromsgrove District Council
Borough of Broxbourne
Broxtowe Borough Council
Buckinghamshire Council
Burnley Borough Council
Bury Metropolitan Borough Council
Calderdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Cambridge City Council
Cambridgeshire County Council
Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority
London Borough of Camden
Cannock Chase District Council
Canterbury City Council
Carlisle City Council
Castle Point Borough Council
Central Bedfordshire Council
Charnwood Borough Council
Chelmsford City Council
Cheltenham Borough Council
Cherwell District Council
Cheshire East Council
Cheshire West and Chester Council
Chesterfield Borough Council
Chichester District Council
Chorley Council
City of London
Colchester Borough Council
Copeland Borough Council
Cornwall Council

Cotswold District Council
Coventry City Council
Craven District Council
Crawley Borough Council
London Borough of Croydon
Cumbria County Council
Dacorum Borough Council
Darlington Borough Council
Dartford Borough Council
Derby City Council
Derbyshire County Council
Derbyshire Dales District Council
Devon County Council
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council
Dorset Council
Dover District Council
Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council
Durham County Council
London Borough of Ealing
East Cambridgeshire District Council
East Devon District Council
East Hampshire District Council
East Hertfordshire District Council
East Lindsey District Council
East Riding of Yorkshire Council
East Staffordshire Borough Council
East Suffolk Council
East Sussex County Council
Eastbourne Borough Council
Eastleigh Borough Council
Eden District Council
Elmbridge Borough Council
London Borough of Enfield

Epping Forest District Council
Epsom and Ewell Borough Council
Erewash Borough Council
Essex County Council
Exeter City Council
Fareham Borough Council
Fenland District Council
Folkestone and Hythe District Council
Forest of Dean District Council
Fylde Borough Council
Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council
Gedling Borough Council
Gloucester City Council
Gloucestershire County Council
Gosport Borough Council
Gravesham Borough Council
Great Yarmouth Borough Council
Greater London Authority
Greater Manchester Combined Authority
Royal Borough of Greenwich
Guildford Borough Council
London Borough of Hackney
Halton Borough Council
Hambleton District Council
London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
Hampshire County Council
Harborough District Council
London Borough of Haringey
Harlow Council
Harrogate Borough Council
London Borough of Harrow
Hart District Council
Hartlepool Borough Council

Hastings Borough Council
Havant Borough Council
London Borough of Havering
Herefordshire Council
Hertfordshire County Council
Hertsmere Borough Council
High Peak Borough Council
London Borough of Hillingdon
Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council
Horsham District Council
London Borough of Hounslow
Huntingdonshire District Council
Hyndburn Borough Council
Ipswich Borough Council
Isle of Wight Council
Council of the Isles of Scilly
London Borough of Islington
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea
Kent County Council
King's Lynn and West Norfolk Borough Council
Kingston-upon-Hull City Council
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames
Kirklees Council
Knowsley Metropolitan Borough Council
London Borough of Lambeth
Lancashire County Council
Lancaster City Council
Leeds City Council
Leicester City Council
Leicestershire County Council
Lewes District Council
London Borough of Lewisham
Lichfield District Council

City of Lincoln Council
Lincolnshire County Council
Liverpool City Council
Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
Luton Borough Council
Maidstone Borough Council
Maldon District Council
Malvern Hills District Council
Manchester City Council
Mansfield District Council
Medway Council
Melton Borough Council
Mendip District Council
London Borough of Merton
Mid Devon District Council
Mid Suffolk District Council
Mid Sussex District Council
Middlesbrough Council
Milton Keynes Council
Mole Valley District Council
New Forest District Council
Newark and Sherwood District Council
Newcastle City Council
Newcastle-Under-Lyme Borough Council
London Borough of Newham
Norfolk County Council
North Devon Council
North East Combined Authority
North East Derbyshire District Council
North East Lincolnshire Council
North Hertfordshire District Council
North Kesteven District Council
North Lincolnshire Council

North Norfolk District Council
North Northamptonshire Council
North of Tyne Combined Authority
North Somerset Council
North Tyneside Metropolitan Borough Council
North Warwickshire Borough Council
North West Leicestershire District Council
North Yorkshire County Council
Northumberland County Council
Norwich City Council
Nottingham City Council
Nottinghamshire County Council
Nuneaton and Bedworth Borough Council
Oadby and Wigston Borough Council
Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council
Oxford City Council
Oxfordshire County Council
Pendle Borough Council
Peterborough City Council
Plymouth City Council
Portsmouth City Council
Preston City Council
Reading Borough Council
London Borough of Redbridge
Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council
Redditch Borough Council
Reigate and Banstead Borough Council
Ribble Valley Borough Council
London Borough of Richmond upon Thames
Richmondshire District Council
Rochdale Metropolitan Borough Council
Rochford District Council
Rossendale Borough Council



Rother District Council
Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council
Rugby Borough Council
Runnymede Borough Council
Rushcliffe Borough Council
Rushmoor Borough Council
Rutland County Council
Ryedale District Council
Salford City Council
Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council
Scarborough Borough Council
Sedgemoor District Council
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council
Selby District Council
Sevenoaks District Council
Sheffield City Council
Shropshire Council
Slough Borough Council
Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council
Somerset County Council
Somerset West and Taunton District Council
South Cambridgeshire District Council
South Derbyshire District Council
South Gloucestershire Council
South Hams District Council
South Holland District Council
South Kesteven District Council
South Lakeland District Council
South Norfolk District Council
South Oxfordshire District Council
South Ribble Borough Council
South Somerset District Council
South Staffordshire District Council

South Tyneside Council
South Yorkshire Combined Authority
Southampton City Council
Southend-on-Sea City Council
London Borough of Southwark
Spelthorne Borough Council
St Albans City and District Council
St Helens Metropolitan Borough Council
Stafford Borough Council
Staffordshire County Council
Staffordshire Moorlands District Council
Stevenage Borough Council
Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council
Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council
Stoke-on-Trent City Council
Stratford-on-Avon District Council
Stroud District Council
Suffolk County Council
Sunderland City Council
Surrey County Council
Surrey Heath Borough Council
London Borough of Sutton
Swale Borough Council
Swindon Borough Council
Tameside Metropolitan Borough Council
Tamworth Borough Council
Tandridge District Council
Tees Valley Combined Authority
Teignbridge District Council
Telford & Wrekin Council
Tendring District Council
Test Valley Borough Council
Tewkesbury Borough Council

Thanet District Council
Three Rivers District Council
Thurrock Council
Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council
Torbay Council
Torridge District Council
London Borough of Tower Hamlets
Trafford Metropolitan Borough Council
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Uttlesford District Council
Vale of White Horse District Council
Wakefield Metropolitan District Council
Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council
London Borough of Waltham Forest
London Borough of Wandsworth
Warrington Borough Council
Warwick District Council
Warwickshire County Council
Watford Borough Council
Waverley Borough Council
Wealden District Council
Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council
West Berkshire Council
West Devon Borough Council
West Lancashire Borough Council
West Lindsey District Council
West Midlands Combined Authority
West Northamptonshire Council
West of England Combined Authority
West Oxfordshire District Council
West Suffolk Council
West Sussex County Council
West Yorkshire Combined Authority

City of Westminster
Wigan Metropolitan Borough Council
Wiltshire Council
Winchester City Council
Royal Borough of Windsor and Maidenhead
Wirral Metropolitan Borough Council
Woking Borough Council
Wokingham Borough Council
Wolverhampton City Council
Worcester City Council
Worcestershire County Council
Worthing Borough Council
Wychavon District Council
Wyre Council
Wyre Forest District Council
City of York Council

<b>Fire and Rescue Authorities and Police and Crime Commissioners</b>
Avon & Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Avon Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Bedfordshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Bedfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Berkshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Cheshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Cleveland Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Derbyshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Derbyshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Devon & Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Authority
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Durham Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
East Sussex Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Essex Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Essex Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Gloucestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Greater London Authority
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority
Hampshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Hereford & Worcester Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Humberside Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Humberside Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Kent Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Kent Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Lancashire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Leicestershire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Leicestershire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Lincolnshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Merseyside Fire And Rescue Authority
Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
North Yorkshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
North Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority
Northumbria Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority

Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Shropshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
South Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Staffordshire Combined Fire and Rescue Authority
Staffordshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Surrey Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority
Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
West Mercia Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authority
West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Authority
West Yorkshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Wiltshire Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

## **FLEXIBLE USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS STRATEGY 2022/23 - 2024/25**

### **1 BACKGROUND**

- 1.1 In the 2022/23 Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement the following was announced:

***Extension of the flexibility to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects***

*We are also announcing a 3-year extension from 2022-23 onwards of the existing flexibility for councils to use capital receipts to fund transformation projects that produce long-term savings or reduce the costs of service delivery. We will provide further details on the extension in due course.*

- 1.2 On 4 April 2022, the Department of Levelling Up, Housing, and Communities confirmed this extension and published Guidance and a Direction.
- 1.3 The Council has previously produced strategies over the period 2016/17 to 2021/22 in respect of the previous flexibility. This Strategy has been updated and produced for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25 in the light of the new extension and revised Guidance.

### **2 OBJECTIVES AND PURPOSE**

- 2.1 This Strategy is intended to enable the Council to potentially take advantage of this flexibility if appropriate. The Strategy forms part of the delivery of the East Suffolk Strategic Plan and particularly supports the theme of Financial Sustainability. The East Suffolk Strategic Plan focusses on the five key themes of:

- Economic Growth
- Enabling Communities
- Financial Sustainability
- Digital Transformation
- The Environment

- 2.2 The objectives of this Strategy are to:

- Outline the methodology for funding projects using this flexibility;
- Identify actual and potential capital receipts that could be utilised to fund transformation projects;
- Identify projects that are considered to be eligible and which could be funded by this method;
- In subsequent years, report on the progress of projects approved in previous years.

### **3 METHODOLOGY**

- 3.1 For the first year of this Strategy, 2022/23, it will be approved by Full Council and then submitted to the Secretary of State in accordance with the Guidance. For 2023/24 and

2024/25 it will be approved by Full Council as part of approval of the Council's Budget. If required, a revised Strategy can be prepared during the course of the year to reflect significant changes to both the range and potential funding value of eligible projects.

- 3.2 Key projects will be monitored by the Strategic Plan Theme Delivery Groups, with oversight across the Council being maintained by the Financial Sustainability Theme Group.
- 3.3 To make use of this flexibility, capital receipts must arise in the period 2016/17 to 2024/25, and qualifying expenditure must take place in the same period. For example, a capital receipt realised in 2016/17 could finance a project in 2024/25, but not in 2025/26. Capital receipts realised before 2016/17 cannot be used.
- 3.4 If projects are identified in the Strategy, they can still be financed in whole or in part from other sources, e.g. revenue budgets. Having approved the Strategy, the Council is not obliged to fund these projects from capital receipts. It is Council policy that capital receipts are not relied upon to fund any expenditure until they are realised and as new capital receipts might not necessarily be available during the period of the Strategy, it is essential that eligible projects should only proceed if alternative sources of funding have been identified. Inclusion in the strategy does not constitute a commitment to fund through capital receipts as this decision needs to be taken in the light of the Council's overall revenue and capital financing requirements, nor does inclusion in the strategy constitute approval to progress a project.
- 3.5 For 2022/23, Cabinet will determine the actual financing when approving the Council's Capital Programme outturn and financing for the year. For 2023/24 and 2024/25, the Council will approve the budgeted funding of the projects in the strategy when approving the Budget and the Capital Programme for the year.

#### 4 ELIGIBLE CAPITAL RECEIPTS AND IMPACT ON PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS

- 4.1 As at May 2022, the position in respect of eligible Capital Receipts regarding this flexibility is shown below. It should be noted that the flexibility excludes Right-To-Buy capital receipts. It should also be noted that it is Council policy that capital receipts are not relied upon to fund any expenditure until they are realised. Consequently, the planned use of the flexibility shown in Section 5 does not exceed the amount of eligible receipts currently realised and available. This summary will be updated in each annual strategy.

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26
	£000	£000	£000	£000
<b><i>General Fund Capital Receipts Received</i></b>				
Melton Hill	-5,385	0	0	0
<b><i>Anticipated General Fund Capital Receipts</i></b>				
Lowestoft Eastern Edge Beach Huts	-1,015	0	0	0
<b>Allocated against capital expenditure</b>				
Lowestoft Beach Huts	400	0	0	0
<b>Potentially available for Flexible Use</b>	<b>-6,000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>



- 4.2 As it is Council policy not to rely on capital receipts until they are realised, these capital receipts have not been factored into the Council's Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) by way of either reducing debt or financing capital expenditure. Consequently, the use of these receipts under this flexibility will have no effect on the Council's Prudential Indicators.

## **5 ELIGIBLE PROJECTS AND USE OF CAPITAL RECEIPTS 2022/23**

- 4.1 A summary of projects identified included in this Strategy as being potentially eligible for capital receipts funding is summarised below, with a description of the project, project objectives, and potential planned use of receipts. This list is not definitive and further potentially eligible projects could be identified during the course of the year – if this is the case, further revisions will be made to the Strategy. The transformation costs associated with the North Felixstowe project; Set Up of East Suffolk Services Ltd (ESSL) Local Authority Trading Company; and rebalancing Port Health are highlighted as priority projects for the potential use of this funding flexibility.

Project	Description and Progress	Service Transformation / Savings	Lead Team	Cabinet Portfolio	Planned Use of Receipts 2022/23
					£000
<b>North Felixstowe Garden Neighbourhood – Priority Project</b>	<p>Key leisure-led regeneration programme in Felixstowe focused upon the creation of new leisure centre to replace ageing and expensive leisure centres, and housing development. Programme could entail development of housing by ESC either directly or through a development company to generate significant future income streams. ESC has made provision for capital expenditure in the Capital Programme, but significant revenue expenditure also likely to be incurred on Planning, design, and feasibility work. ESC land in the programme could facilitate development or potentially generate capital receipts generating investment interest / reducing debt.</p> <p>Progress – Ongoing – medium term regeneration programme spanning around 6 – 7 years.</p>	<p>Replacement of leisure centres estimated to reduce net costs by around £400k pa when fully operational. Significant capital receipts and/or income streams could also potentially be generated.</p>	Regeneration	Deputy Leader & Economic Development	1,350
<b>Set Up of East Suffolk Services Ltd (ESSL) Local Authority Trading Company – Priority Project</b>	<p>Business Case to set up ESSL approved in June 2021, to replace current Joint Venture arrangements from July 2023. Services include refuse collection, recycling, street cleansing, grounds maintenance, car parking, building maintenance, and facilities management. ICT infrastructure, systems, support service arrangements, asset procurement, and company structure to be established. Service improvements, cost savings and efficiencies to be identified and implemented. Total transformation costs are estimated to be in the region of £1.6m, and are currently budgeted to be met from the Transformation Reserve. A further potential financing alternative is for these costs to met by ESSL itself.</p> <p>Progress – Company established, notice served for termination of Joint Venture, project on track for transfer of services in 2023.</p>	<p>Business Case identified ongoing cost savings of £000 from 2023 onwards. Estimated ongoing savings are now estimated to be around £000. Service and environmental improvements to also be delivered.</p>	SMT	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	1,600

Project	Description and Progress	Service Transformation / Savings	Lead Team	Cabinet Portfolio	Planned Use of Receipts 2022/23
					£000
<b>Rebalance Port Health – Priority Project</b>	Rebalancing Port Health service in response to legislative changes and delays. Develop commercial offer for other Port Health Authorities and central competent agencies to generate additional income and enhance the reputation of the service. Continued DEFRA transition funding should be the source of funding for rebalancing the service, but worst case scenarios could entail ESC needing to fund some short term costs.  Progress - Ongoing	Development of potential revenue income streams. Short term costs of c.£500k potentially required to reduce staffing costs by around £162k per month.	Port Health	Community Health	500
<b>Operation of the Gateway to Homechoice Choice-Based Lettings Scheme</b>	Allocation of social housing in conjunction with other Local Authority Partners. Attendance at the Gateway to Homechoice Project Board and the Operational Group to oversee the delivery of the CBL system.  Progress - Ongoing	Potential reduction in operating costs	Housing Needs	Housing	
<b>Implementation of Inspection Strategy</b>	A cyclical inspection programme to ensure properties are inspected and reviewed.  Progress - Ongoing	Potential reduction in operating costs	Asset Management	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	
<b>CCTV remodelling</b>	Identify opportunities to improve the efficiency of the CCTV system, including identifying savings and opportunities to add functionality.  Progress - Ongoing	Potential reduction in operating costs	Contract Management	Communities, Leisure and Tourism	
<b>Accommodation Project</b>	Review office accommodation needs to ensure sufficient space post pandemic and post Brexit.  Progress - Ongoing	Potential reduction in operating costs	Port Health	Community Health	
<b>Transformation of Council accommodation to deliver workplace strategy</b>	Review the council's accommodation strategy, building on changes made during the pandemic.  Progress - Ongoing	Potential rationalisation of Council accommodation requirements and delivery of cost savings e.g. travel, energy, etc.	Asset Management	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	100

Project	Description and Progress	Service Transformation / Savings	Lead Team	Cabinet Portfolio	Planned Use of Receipts 2022/23
					£000
<b>Printing Procurement</b>	Tendering for Elections and Electoral Registration printed material.  Progress – Contract to be tendered	Potential reduction in costs due to implementation of multi-year contract	Electoral Services	Resources	
<b>Cemeteries and Closed Churchyard Review</b>	Review and revise the burial service provided by the Council and how the cemetery assets / closed churchyards are managed.  Progress – 90% complete	Potential reduction in operating costs	SMT Projects	Deputy Leader & Economic Development	
<b>Delivery of Growth and Development Projects</b>	Design, management and delivery of projects to deliver income and economic growth, e.g. East Point Pavilion and Post Office, Lowestoft.  Progress – East Point Pavilion complete, other projects in progress	Development of potential revenue income streams	Asset Management	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	
<b>Property Investment</b>	Increase return on investment in the Council's property portfolio.  Progress – Ongoing	Development of potential revenue income streams and potential cost reductions	Asset Management	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	
<b>Building Control Consultation Services</b>	Building Control surveying advice is much sought after and our client base continues to ask for our services to be employed outside of East Suffolk. Consultation charging is currently effective within Planning and may be applicable to Building Control consultation advice.  Progress - Ongoing	Development of potential revenue income streams and potential cost reductions	Building Control	Planning and Coastal Management	
<b>Asset Management System Development</b>	Implementing the efficient use of the Asset Management module within Uniform to enable the Asset Management team to work digitally and efficiently, this includes digitising and streamlining the ownership, acquisitions, lease, maintenance and other processes within asset management. This is a complex and long term project.  Progress - 10% complete	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	Business Solutions	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	50

Project	Description and Progress	Service Transformation / Savings	Lead Team	Cabinet Portfolio	Planned Use of Receipts 2022/23
					£000
<b>Land Registry – Land Charges LLC1 data migration</b>	Work with HMLR on Land charges data migration for changes to Land Charge Services.  Progress - 10% complete	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	Business Solutions	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	
<b>Public Access / Customer Service Delivery Model</b>	Review services customer services team currently deliver to ensure it evolves to take advantage of the channel choice and shift, and further strategic digital transformation work.  Progress - Ongoing	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	CS Operations	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	
<b>Channel Shift Overall Programme</b>	Over-arching programme to oversee channel shift - the movement of traditional forms of contact and processes to digital means, freeing up vital resources to assist those who cannot use digital channels or have more complex enquiries. This includes online services such as self-service portals, e-forms, payments and also other means of communication such as incoming/outgoing post.  Progress – 50% complete	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	Business Solutions	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	
<b>Asset Management System for Housing/building maintenance</b>	Re-procure an Asset Management System for Housing. System use is being investigated alongside the Building Services team in Operations/Asset Management as they have similar needs.  Progress – Concept stage	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	Housing Maintenance	Housing	
<b>Housing Maintenance - new software for Mobile Working, Scheduling and Job Management</b>	Implementation of Total Mobile software in Housing Maintenance: Procure and implement software that will deliver Orchard job tickets to maintenance operatives on a mobile device (tablet). The software will allow better data collection regarding jobs undertaken for management purposes as well as streamlining the service delivery.  Progress – 10% complete	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	Housing Maintenance	Housing	

Project	Description and Progress	Service Transformation / Savings	Lead Team	Cabinet Portfolio	Planned Use of Receipts 2022/23
					£000
<b>Orchard Tenants Self Service portal - phase 2</b>	Implement Orchard Digital Self Appointing Repairs. This will provide a new digital channel for Tenants to report responsive repairs, and move traffic away from telephone based reporting.  Progress - Ongoing	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	Tenancy Services	Housing	
<b>Garden Waste Service improvements</b>	Identify and implement ongoing improvements to the garden waste service to ensure it is delivered efficiently.  Progress - Ongoing	Efficiency savings, reduction in operating costs, and potential increased income.	Contract Management	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	
<b>Assistive Technology Project for independent Living</b>	An exploratory project to test a range of novel technologies, to support residents to continue to live independently in their own home. The goal is delivery of new services for our Landlord's service and the ESC Home Improvement Agency (HIA) for private sector homes.  Progress - Ongoing	Efficiency savings and reduction in operating costs	Housing Transformation	Housing	
<b>EV pool vehicles</b>	Install EV charging point and EV pool cars at Port Health offices.  Progress - Ongoing	Cost reduction.	Port Health	Environment	
<b>Beech Close - Retrofit</b>	Existing HRA assets earmarked for retrofit refurbishment under decarbonisation programme.  Progress – Investigation stage	Cost reduction.	Housing Development / Housing Maintenance	Housing	
<b>Orchard Green - Retrofit</b>	Existing HRA assets earmarked for retrofit refurbishment under decarbonisation programme.  Progress – Investigation stage	Cost reduction.	Housing Development / Housing Maintenance	Housing	
<b>Low emissions Fleet</b>	Deliver a low emissions fleet – with rollout commencing in Jan 2021.  Progress – 50% complete	Cost reduction and environmental improvements	Contract Management	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	

Project	Description and Progress	Service Transformation / Savings	Lead Team	Cabinet Portfolio	Planned Use of Receipts 2022/23
					£000
<b>Managing East Suffolk Land for sustainability</b>	<p>Maximise the number of areas of open space that ESC can manage in a way that promotes conservation.</p> <p>Progress – 25% complete</p>	Cost reduction and environmental improvements	Contract Management	Customer Services and Operational Partnerships	