



Playing Pitch Strategy
RECOMMENDATIONS
AND ACTION PLAN - West Suffolk

January 2015
Version 3.0

Forest Heath • St Edmundsbury
West Suffolk
working together

Prepared by



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1 INTRODUCTION AND SCOPE

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, operating as West Suffolk, have jointly commissioned 4 global to produce a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) across the two local authorities. A Playing Pitch Strategy was commissioned in 2012, however this was not adopted and it is deemed necessary to undertake an updated analysis, using the latest PPS guidelines issued by Sport England. The council's will be referred to as West Suffolk throughout this report and the geographical area of West Suffolk will be referred to as 'the study area'.
- 1.1.2 Alongside this PPS, the West Suffolk has also commissioned an Indoor Sport Facilities Strategy, which will be issued with this PPS report. This will be presented as a separate document however the two should be used to inform a co-ordinated approach to sports provision over the next 15 to 16 years (up to 2031) in West Suffolk. An executive summary has been prepared to summarise the key issues and recommendations from the two strategies.
- 1.1.3 This piece of work is commissioned by West Suffolk on behalf of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council, however the individual Local Authorities will need to reference the report in their separate planning documents. With this in mind, the primary data and analysis will be split by authority, as well as the action plans.
- 1.1.4 The PPS is split into two key documents. The PPS Analysis includes a detailed strategic context and evaluation of each sport included in the study. This also includes the detailed site-by-site analysis that forms the basis of the Action Plan. The PPS Analysis is to be used as the evidence base for all the actions and recommendations in the PPS. It includes details of all consultations and evaluation, therefore the document is complex and lengthy.
- 1.1.5 The PPS Action Plan and Strategy (this document) includes a reduced strategic context, in addition to the summary of findings for each sport and the final site-by-site Action Plan. The Action Plan and Strategy is to be used as the ongoing strategic document by the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group, to inform future planning and long-term decision making.
- 1.1.6 A PPS is a strategic assessment which provides an up to date analysis of supply and demand regarding playing pitches (grass and artificial) which serve the following core sports;

- Football
- Rugby Union
- Cricket
- Hockey.

1.1.7 This report will also analyse the supply and demand of the following sports and physical activities

- Tennis
- Bowls
- Netball
- Athletics
- Golf
- Archery
- Cycling.

1.1.8 West Suffolk is committed to providing sports provision that meets the needs of its residents and local clubs. With a projected population growth, West Suffolk also has an obligation to assess planning applications with a complete evidence base and make decisions that benefit the local residents of West Suffolk. In addition, there are a number reasons why it is a good time to prepare the strategy;

- The operational management of St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District Council has been merged and the two councils are looking to create a combined vision for sports and leisure facilities across the two local authorities. It is recognised that the current supply of facilities will not cope with the demand caused by the anticipated future growth
- West Suffolk is looking to facilitate the creation of a network of community sport and leisure facilities, with a strategic hub at the centre. A strategy is therefore needed to identify where opportunities exist in the West Suffolk area to develop this community network of facilities
- There is significant growth planned in nearly all of the main towns in West Suffolk and further guidance is required on which sports or facilities would best compliment the developments being considered
- The current and future demand for sports and recreation facilities need to be planned for holistically, including the contribution that West Suffolk's sports facilities offering neighbouring authorities and the wider region
- The strategy will also provide evidence to support funding bids from National Sports bodies and support requests for contributions from Section 106 Planning Obligations or the Community Infrastructure

Levy (CIL).

1.1.9 West Suffolk has identified two of its wider priorities, which this strategy should support;

- Increase opportunities for economic growth
- Resilient families and communities that are healthy and active.

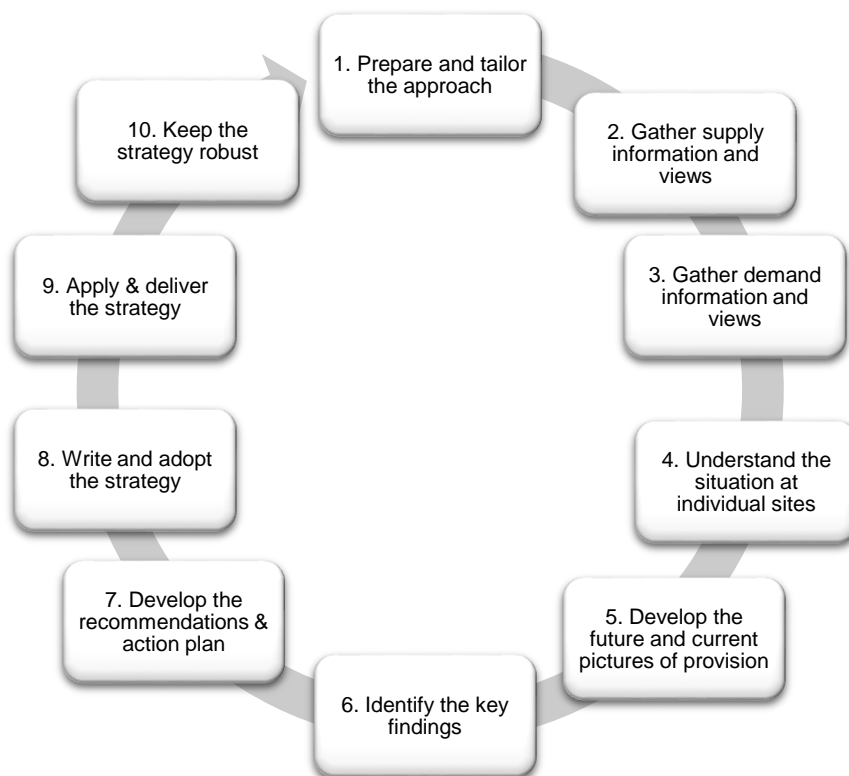
1.1.10 The objectives of the West Suffolk PPS are;

- To identify supply and demand issues for playing pitch provision across West Suffolk
- To identify priority sports, pitches and clubs for the area based on clear evidence-based justification and also based on National Governing Bodies (NGB) targets
- To provide evidence to guide and support bids to external funding partners and to support the delivery of new and improved sports and recreation facilities in the local authorities
- To provide a robust needs and evidence base to support the preparation, adoption and implementation of sport and leisure planning policies
- To develop a priority list of pitches and projects for investment and use of resources secured through CIL and Section 106
- To identify opportunities to deliver new and improved sports pitches and ancillary facilities as part of the strategic development of Local Authority owned sites.

1.2 Methodology

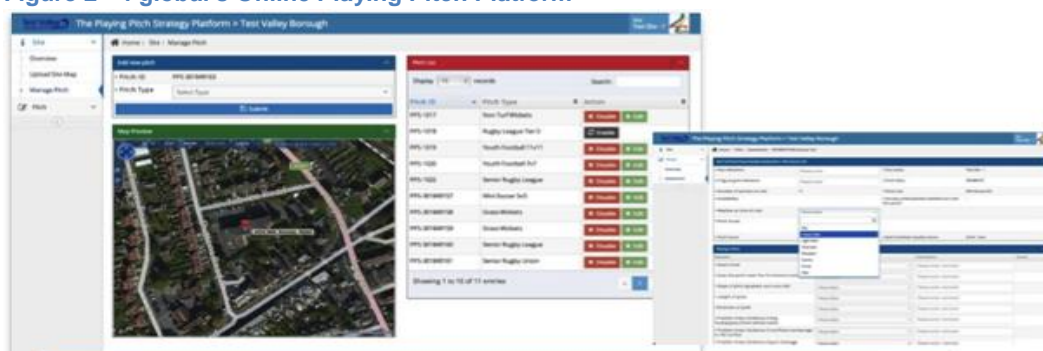
1.2.1 The assessment methodology adopted for the PPS follows the published guidance from Sport England. The guidance used is the 2013 version, Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance – An Approach to Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy. Figure 1 summarises the approach proposed in this guidance and is broken down into 10 steps.

Figure 1: Developing and Delivering a Playing Pitch Strategy – The 10 Step Approach (Sport England, 2013)



1.2.2 To facilitate information gathering and help ensure PPS reports are based on a robust evidence base, 4 global has developed an online data entry and assessment platform (see images below), which contains all pitch provider and club information. This will enable West Suffolk to keep supply and demand information and the strategy up to date through its life and beyond.

Figure 2 - 4 global's Online Playing Pitch Platform



1.2.3 A Project Steering Group comprising representatives from West Suffolk, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs) has guided the study from its commencement. At critical milestones, the Steering Group members have reviewed and verified the data and information collected to allow the work to proceed efficiently through each stage, reducing the margin of error.

- 1.2.4 For the purpose of this study, the two local authorities have been treated as two separate areas for audits and supply calculations (looking back). The Action Plan and future recommendations (looking forward) will reflect the increasingly collaborative approach of the two local authorities and provide recommendations for West Suffolk as a whole.

1.3 The Structure of our Report

- 1.3.1 The structure of the PPS report is as follows

- Section 2 – Strategic Context
- Section 3 – Summary of Findings
- Section 4 – Recommendations and Action Plan

2 STRATEGIC CONTEXT

- 2.1.1 This section summarises the most important policies and context that impact upon the strategy and its interpretation. It also gives an overview of the demographics of the borough, which provides contextual background to sport participation and the need for provision now and in the future. Further detail can be found in Appendix 1: National Context.
- 2.1.2 Sport specific strategies and policy documents published by NGBs are included within each sport's section to provide more relevant context to each sport.

2.2 National Context

- 2.2.1 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the requirement of local authorities to establish and provide adequate and proper leisure facilities to meet local needs. Paragraphs 73 and 74 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities.

“Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. 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. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required”.

‘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.”

2.2.2 Sport England is a statutory consultee on all planning applications that affect sports pitches and it has a long established policy of playing pitch retention, even prior to the NPPF guidance. It looks to improve the quality, access and management of sports facilities as well as investing in new facilities to meet unsatisfied demand. Sport England requires local authorities to have an up-to date assessment of playing pitch needs and an associated strategy including a recommendation that the evidence base is reviewed every three years. The key drivers for the production of the strategy as advocated by Sport England are to protect, enhance and provide playing pitches, as follows:

- **Protect:** To provide evidence to inform policy and specifically to support Site Allocations and Development Management Policies which will protect playing fields and their use by the community, irrespective of ownership
- **Enhance:** To ensure that sports facilities are effectively managed and maintained and that best uses are made of existing resources - whether facilities, expertise and/or personnel to improve and enhance existing provision – particularly in the light of pressure on local authority budgets
- **Provide:** To provide evidence to help secure external funding for new facilities and enhancements through grant aid and also through CIL and Section 106 agreements

2.2.3 Sport England and local authorities can then use the strategies developed and the guidance provided in making key planning decisions regarding sports pitches and facility developments in the area and to support or protect against planning applications brought forward by developers.

2.3 Local Context – West Suffolk

2.3.1 A number of current strategic policies, strategies and factors influence current and future supply and demand for sport and recreation facilities in West Suffolk. It is important to be aware that if current initial discussions around devolution in Suffolk progress, there could be implications for some of these, if the existing shared agenda, funding and partnership arrangements/agreements change.

2.3.2 These include:

- Forest Heath Local Plan
- St Edmundsbury Local Plan
- Suffolk Community Strategy
- Suffolk Health and Well-Being Strategy
- Creating an Active Suffolk – Suffolk County Sports Facilities Strategy

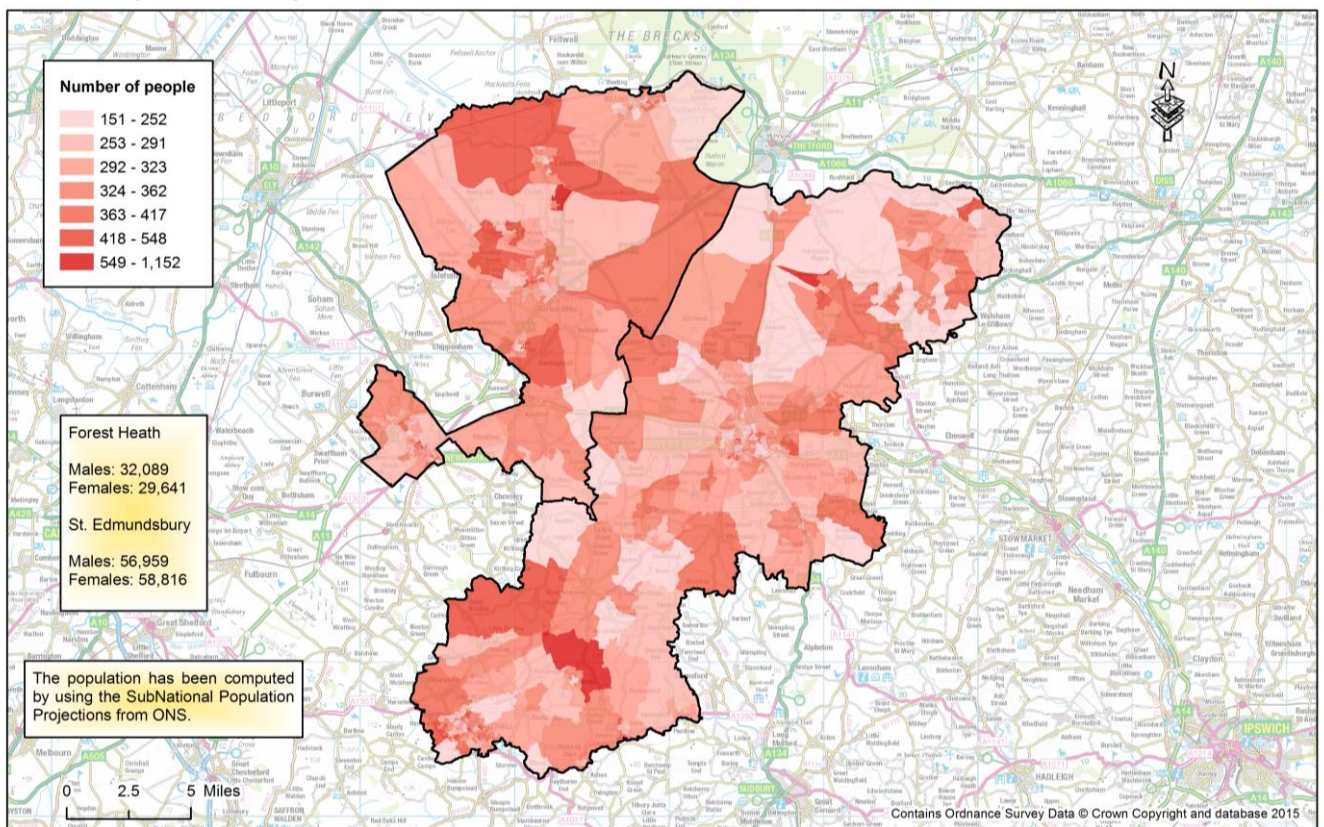
2009 – 2016

- Suffolk the most Active County
- Population Profiles and Projections
- Participation Trends and Rates

2.4 Population Profiles and Projections

2.4.1 The population profile of West Suffolk, the future growth projections and the locations of growth are important to understand in planning for the future provision of sports facilities. Figure 3 below shows the population in West Suffolk, with the darker red areas indicating densely populated output areas.

Figure 3 Existing Population in West Suffolk



Population (2015)

2.4.2 The population of Bury St Edmunds is 37,000, (2015), but this is expected to increase to 50,000 by 2031 i.e. an increase of 13,000 people.

2.4.3 Table 1 shows how this population is split among the main settlements, illustrating the high proportion of residents in villages and outlying areas and emphasising the rural nature of the area.

Table 1 – 2015 Mid Year Population Split Estimates. Source: Suffolk Observatory Census 2011

Town	Population %
Villages and outlying areas	38%
Bury St Edmunds	25.5%
Haverhill	15%
Newmarket	10.5%
Brandon	6%
Mildenhall	5%

2.4.4 Table 2 below provides a summary of the demographic profile in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, which provides valuable insight into the different resident profiles.

Table 2 – Summary of demographic profile in St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath

Key Factors	West Suffolk	St Edmundsbury Borough	Forest Heath District
Population 2013 (all ages) (Office for National Statistics mid year estimates 2013)	173,000	111,800 in between 2012 and 2013, the population of St Edmundsbury grew by 0.2%	61,200 in between 2012 and 2013, the population of Forest Heath grew by 0.8%.
Population 2031 (all ages)	185,256	116,851	68,405
Population Increases Planned		Bury St Edmunds – a minimum of 6,360 new homes between 2009 and 2031 (5,740 between 2012 and 2031), located in five strategic areas of growth around the town. Haverhill – a minimum of 4,260 new homes between 2009 and 2031, located to the northwest and northeast of the town. Rural areas – 1,600 new homes	5,000 new homes 2011-2013; the area has already virtually achieved its allocation
Population characteristics	Ageing population. In 2011, 18% of the population was aged over 65, compared to an England average of 16.3% (Census 2011).	Predominantly white; young population – 0 - 13, and 25 - 49; also large 50 - 65+ group	Predominantly white, young population – 0 - 13, and 25 - 49; also large 65+ group Most ethnically diverse in Suffolk
Rural Areas		St Edmundsbury is predominantly rural. 42,800 people or 38% of its population live in its rural area, which includes 80 villages. The population of St Edmundsbury's rural area is increasing, whilst nationally the rural population is declining. There are a higher proportion of older people	Forest Heath also has large rural areas, including forests, and open countryside around Newmarket. Mildenhall and Brandon are smaller urban settlements close to large US army bases. In January 2015 the US Office of the Secretary of Defense announced that the RAF Mildenhall airbase

Key Factors	West Suffolk	St Edmundsbury Borough	Forest Heath District
		living in the rural areas than in the towns: nearly 25% of the rural population is 65 or over, increasing from 22% in 2001 and compared to only 18% in St Edmundsbury and 13% in Haverhill. In the rural areas only 20% of the population is under 24 years old compared with 21% in Bury St Edmunds. There is a noticeable difference in Haverhill which has 26% of the population under 24.	would close by 2022. At the same time the USAF also committed its future to West Suffolk with the announcement that RAF Lakenheath would expand in 2021 with the arrival of approximately 1,600 extra personnel alongside F-35A jets. It's estimated that as a result of the changes at both RAF Mildenhall and RAF Lakenheath that there will be a net loss of 2,900 jobs across both airbases (including USAF personnel). Many leisure facilities are provided for USAF personnel on-base, however the changes across both airbases could bring a higher civilian population in Forest Heath. This could have a positive impact on demand for leisure facilities from civilians that will be occupying residential properties and not able to access leisure facilities on-base.
Deprivation		IMD 15.271 (204 th ranked LA in England) ¹ Although St Edmundsbury is a relatively affluent area, with low unemployment and general good health, it has pockets of health inequality. There is a significant gap in life expectancy between those from the most affluent areas of the town compared with those from the most deprived. Moreton Hall residents, for example, have an average life expectancy of 86.3 years, compared with Eastgate ward residents with an average of 77.3 years.	18.016 (165 th ranked LA in England) ¹ Given the relative affluence of some people and communities in the rural area, it is important to recognise that this also masks fairly severe areas of deprivation in the more urban areas.
Obesity		66% of adults are overweight; 12.9% of children are obese	65.1% of adults are overweight; 20% of children are obese

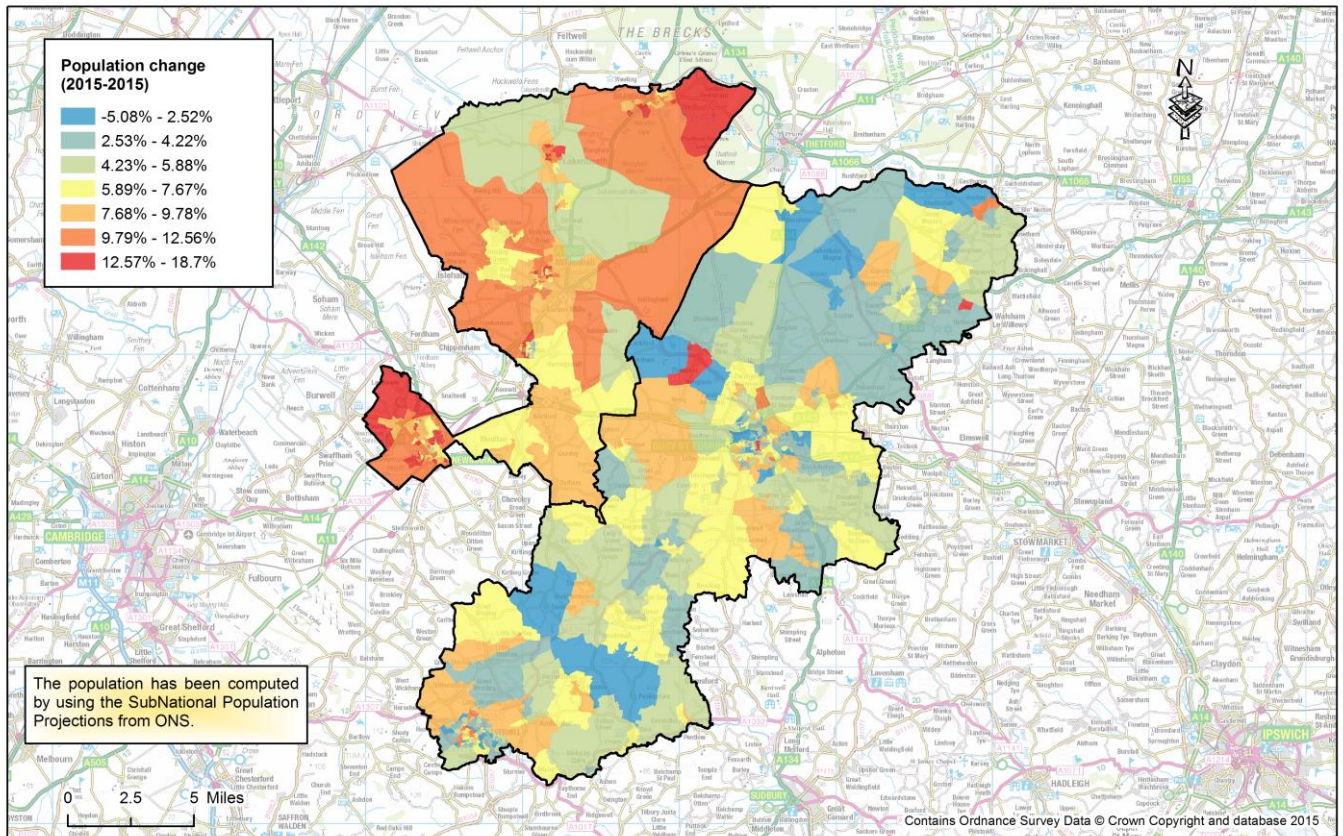
¹ Local Authority IMD Statistic (Office of National Statistics: 2013)

Key Factors	West Suffolk	St Edmundsbury Borough	Forest Heath District
Health Cost of Inactivity		£2.014m	£1.240m
Health Issues		Main health problems are caused by obesity and smoking: in St Edmundsbury about 22% of the adult population smoke and about 24% are obese.	Health priorities in Forest Heath include ensuring more children are at a healthy weight, preventing early death from cardiovascular disease, and reducing smoking levels in routine and manual workers.

- 2.4.5 In order to accurately predict the level of sports provision that will be required in West Suffolk over the next 15 years, the housing developments summarised above will be used to inform the population projections.
- 2.4.6 A key finding from the analysis of the location of residents is that both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury are predominantly rural areas, where car travel is required to access the majority of facilities and services. This will be considered as part of the final action plan and recommendations.

2.4.7 In order to understand how the population in West Suffolk will change in the medium to long term, Figure 4 illustrates the population growth forecast for West Suffolk and the locations in which it will occur. The darker the colour shade, the higher the population growth in that specific area. The areas of densest population growth are in the North, West and Northwest (red and orange) or West Suffolk.

Figure 4 – Population growth forecast for West Suffolk by 2025



Population change (2025-2015)

2.5 Local Sports Context

2.5.1 This section summarises the key sports specific strategies and plans for West Suffolk in order to understand the key priorities for sports and leisure in the local and surrounding areas.

Creating an Active Suffolk – Suffolk County Sports Facilities Strategy 2009 – 2016

2.5.2 This strategy is one of six County Sports Facilities Strategies developed in the East of England; it sits underneath 'Creating Active Places', the Sports Facilities Strategy for the East of England, and above local district and borough sports facilities strategies. This hierarchy provides an overall context for the current and future provision of sports facilities at a county and local level. The development of the Suffolk Sports Facilities Strategy has been driven by the need to develop a prioritised and strategic framework for future sports facilities provision across Suffolk and to reflect and build upon the recommended priorities in the East of England Sports Facilities Strategy 'Creating Active Places'.

2.5.3 Ten recommendations were developed for Suffolk, to be reflected in district/borough sports facility strategies:

- Invest in Facility Stock
- Develop New Facility Provision
- Address Unmet Demand
- Negotiate increased Accessibility/ Availability to Existing Facilities
- Resourcing Future Sports Facilities Provision by maximising potential opportunities through Building Schools for the Future (and Planning Framework – identified need)
- Partnerships
- Planning Framework
- Retain elite athletes in the County
- Harness Benefits of 2012
- Multi-sport hubs
- Sports Clubs Security of Tenure
- Major Events

Suffolk – The Most Active County 2012

2.5.4 Most Active County was launched in February 2012 to provide a framework for partners in Suffolk to work together to create, promote and commission sport and physical activity opportunities that promote healthy, active lifestyles, shift inactive behaviours and address the barriers that communities or individuals face in accessing sport, leisure and physical activity. It provided a catalyst to address the physical inactivity epidemic faced by Suffolk, and to make the County the 'most Active' in the UK. Key partners include Suffolk County Council, district and borough councils, NHS Suffolk, Suffolk Sport and Sport England.

2.5.5 There is clear evidence to demonstrate the need for the Most Active County initiative:

- Over 50% of adults in Suffolk do no sport or active recreation;

- 1,000 lives are lost every year in Suffolk due to physical inactivity;
- 74% of people with a limiting disability in Suffolk do not undertake any sport or active recreation;
- 55% of women in Suffolk do no sport or physical activity compared to 44.1% of men;
- The health cost of physical inactivity in Suffolk is £12.2 million per year;
- 22.9% of adults and 15.7% of year 6 children in Suffolk are obese;
- An older person remaining active in Suffolk and independent at home defers £11,500 per year from social care costs;
- Reducing falls in Suffolk by 10% would realise £2million in savings annually;
- Physical activity reduces the risk of mental disorders including depression, cognitive decline and dementia and improves self-perception of mental well-being, increases self-esteem, lowers likelihood of sleep disorders and enables a better ability to cope with stress;
- 51% of adult residents in Suffolk want to start playing sport or do a bit more sport.

2.5.6 Many of these issues are mirrored in West Suffolk as illustrated by the low levels of participation and high levels of obesity

2.6 Sports Profiling

2.6.1 This section summarises the results of the Sport England Active People Survey for West Suffolk, in order to understand the key trends in sports participation across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.

Sport England Key Performance Indicators

2.6.2 Sport England, the Government's agency for sport, measures five key areas in relation to sport activity. Table 4 and 5 overleaf set out the performance of St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, compared to the East region and England.

Table 4 – Sport England KPI's for St Edmundsbury. Source: Sport England Local Sports Profile (August 2015)

Note: The blue highlighted figure is the highest and the red is the lowest across the three areas

KPI1 3x30 – Physical Activity per week	Year	St Edmundsbury			East			England				
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female		
	2005/06	19.4%	20.9%	17.8%	20.8%	22.8%	18.9%	21.3%	24.0%	18.7%		
	2012/13	23.5%	29.5%	17.9%	23.8%	26.5%	21.1%	24.7%	28.3%	21.3%		
Indicator	St Edmundsbury				East				England			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
KPI2 * - Volunteering at least one hour a week	3.8%	7.2%	*	4.2%	4.8%	8.0%	7.4%	6.8%	4.5%	7.2%	7.6%	6.0%
KPI3 - Club Membership in the last 4 weeks	29.7%	22.3%	21.5%	18.4%	24.3%	23.6%	23.7%	22.2%	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%
KPI4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 months	17.2%	17.0%	15.2%	11.5%	18.3%	16.8%	17.4%	16.7%	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%
KPI5 - Took part in organised competition in last 12 months	18.2%	15.0%	16.2%	12.1%	15.3%	14.5%	15.1%	13.6%	14.4%	14.3%	14.4%	11.2%
KPI6 - Satisfaction with local provision	75.8%	~	~	65.0%	70.2%	~	~	62.5%	69.0%	~	~	60.3%

2.6.3 It can be seen from Table 4 that in 2012/13, St Edmundsbury was below all KPIs in comparison to both the and England averages except satisfaction with sports facilities, and participation levels in organised competition. It is critical that regular participation opportunities continue to be provided, given their health benefits, and are both accessible and affordable.

Table 5 – Sport England KPI's for Forest Heath. Source: Sport England Local Sports Profile (August 2015)

Note: The blue highlighted figure is the highest and the red is the lowest across the three areas

KPI1 3x30 – Physical Activity per week	Year	Forest Heath			EAST			England				
		All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female	All	Male	Female		
	2005/06	24.9%	26.0%	23.7%	20.8%	22.8%	18.9%	21.3%	24.0%	18.7%		
	2012/13	27.4%	30.0%	24.7%	23.8%	26.5%	21.1%	24.7%	28.3%	21.3%		
Indicator	Forest Heath				East				England			
	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
KPI2 * - Volunteering at least one hour a week	4.7%	9.8%	*	6.5%	4.8%	8.0%	7.4%	6.8%	4.5%	7.2%	7.6%	6.0%
KPI3 - Club Membership in the last 4 weeks	19.8%	16.5%	19.3%	14.9%	24.3%	23.6%	23.7%	22.2%	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%
KPI4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 months	16.8%	12.9%	*	10.8%	18.3%	16.8%	17.4%	16.7%	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%
KPI5 - Took part in organised competition in last 12 months	17.6%	12.0%	*	18.3%	15.3%	14.5%	15.1%	13.6%	14.4%	14.3%	14.4%	11.2%
KPI6 - Satisfaction with local provision	73.8%	~	~	61.2%	70.2%	~	~	62.5%	69.0%	~	~	60.3%

2.6.4 It can be seen from Table 5 that in 2012/13, Forest Heath has higher average levels of participation in physical activity once a week than both the East region and England. However, there is lower club membership and participation in coaching in Forest Heath than both the East region average, and the England average. Levels of satisfaction with sports facilities are lower in Forest Heath than the East, but higher than the England average. It is critical that regular participation opportunities continue to be provided, given their health benefits, and are both accessible and affordable, as KPIs 2-8 still evidence low participation levels, although they have increased since the initial APS survey in 2005/06.

2.6.5 Table 6 below summarises the participation factors for West Suffolk, comparing Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury in 7 key areas.

Table 6 – Summary of Participation Factors for West Suffolk

Key Factors	St Edmundsbury	Forest Heath
Participation	34.2% (16+, once a week); has been as high as 39%, declined and is now increasing again) APS 8 30.7% (Oct 2014)	33% (16+, once a week); has been as high as 41%) APS 8 35.4% (Oct 2014)
Participation in Physical activity and sport 5 x 30minutes per week	23.5%	16.2%
Participation in Physical activity and sport 1-2 x 30 minutes per week	27.5%	28%
Latent Demand to do more sports	49.4% of all adults; 31% of active adults; 18.4% of inactive adults	54.1% of all adults; 32.7% of active adults; 21.4% of inactive adults
Specific sports adults want to do more of	Swimming	Swimming, cycling
Top participation sports	Cycling Athletics Swimming Gym Fitness	Cycling, Swimming, Fitness, Athletics, Gym
Satisfaction with local provision	Declining	Declining

2.6.6 These key participation factors will be addressed throughout the strategy and action plan, focussing on where the survey has identified latent demand or low satisfaction.

Market Segmentation

2.6.7 Sport England's market segmentation model comprises 19 'sporting' segments. It is designed to assist understanding of attitudes, motivations and perceived barriers to sports participation and to assist agencies involved in delivery of sport and recreation to develop tailored interventions, communicate more effectively with the target market and to better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles. Across St Edmundsbury, Market Segmentation data indicates higher proportions of people in segments two, nineteen, four, nine and eleven (see below) relative to other segments locally, regionally and/or nationally. Segment two 'Jamie's – sports team drinkers' (21.5%) is the most significant.

2.6.8 Table 7 summarises the four dominant segments in West Suffolk and their key characteristics.

Table 7 - Market Segmentation Summary for St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath

Market segment	Key characteristics	% Of St Edmundsbury Population	% Of Forest Heath POPULATION	Activities / sports that appeal to segment
Philip, Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Philip keeps up his love of sport, hindered only by office pressures. He plays badminton in a local team, and if he gets home early enough, enjoys a swim at the health club. He shares football season tickets with his son, and together they play cricket for the local Sunday side –alas, his rugby days are over. Philip also enjoys keep fit/gym, swimming, football, golf and athletics (running). His participation in most of his top sports is above the national average, which is indicative of the priority he places on sport. Reasonably health conscious, Philip wants to stay healthy for later in life so he can keep playing sport for as long as possible. He's not in any hurry to hang up his pads, and anyway, he'd keep up his involvement in the club as fixture secretary.	10.1	9.8	Cycling, keep fit / gym, swimming and football
Tim, Settling Down Males	Tim is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. He is aged 26 – 35, may be married or single, is a career professional, and may or may not have children. Tim participates in very active, technical sports, skiing, water sports, team games, individual activities, personal fitness and likely to have private gym membership.	10	8.4%	Cycling keep fit/gym, swimming, football and athletics or running, also football and athletics.
Elsie and Arnold Retirement home singles	Lowest participation rates of the 19 segments. Poor health and disability are major inhibitors. Participation mainly in low intensity activity. Safer neighbourhoods or people to go with would encourage participation. Organised, low-impact, low intensity events would be welcomed.	8	8.6	Walking, bowls and dancing
Roger and Joy Early Retirement Couples	Typically aged 56 – 65 this couple may be in employment, but nearing the end of their careers, or already have taken early retirement. They are slightly less active than the average adult population.	8.2	8.2	Walking, swimming, table tennis, golf and keep fit classes

- 2.6.9 Table 7 illustrates that there is a need to ensure provision of quality facilities for cycling, fitness, keep fit/gym, swimming, football, cricket, athletics or running, table tennis and golf at the local level. There is also a need to ensure opportunities exist for walking and dancing.
- 2.6.10 By undertaking an analysis of the distribution of the dominant segments, the Market Segmentation tool illustrates that the majority of 'Phillips' are in the north of the local authority, while 'Tim's are in the south and around Bury St Edmunds.
- 2.6.11 In Forest Heath, the majority of 'Elsie and Arnolds' are in the north, middle and south of the area, whilst 'Rogers and Joys are in the north. This local intelligence will be used to develop and drive the action plan to maximise opportunities at a local level, by providing activities in which people want to take part.

3 Summary of Key Findings

3.1.1 The following section provides a summary of the key findings for each of the sports analysed in the PPS analysis document. These summaries provide the context for the recommendations contained in Section 4.

3.2 Football

Table 8: Key finding for Football

Football Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The supply and demand results indicate that on the whole, there is sufficient capacity across West Suffolk for football pitches, with limited deficiency on only a small number of sites ➤ Balance figures for 2012 - adult football +108 match equivalents, youth football +98 match equivalents and mini soccer +183 match equivalents ➤ Projected balance figures for 2031 - adult football +93 pitches, youth football +72 pitches and mini soccer +163 pitches ➤ The FA's key priorities for West Suffolk are to improve the provision of 3G facilities across the two local authorities. There are currently no full size 3G pitches in West Suffolk, however this will change with developments at the New Croft, the new Moreton Park School and Newmarket Town FC. Further supply is still required in Bury St Edmunds. ➤ The FA would like Sporting 87 and Bury Town FC, as the largest clubs in the study area, to have priority booking on the new 3G facilities at Moreton Hall. The FA has also stated that this facility should be built to a FIFA 1* standard, which will enable competitive football to be played by both adults and juniors ➤ A solution is also required for Bury Town FC, as the current facility mix is not fit for purpose for a club playing at Step 4. It's a priority for the FA and councils to assist in developing a new site and the club is also considering plans for a new clubhouse. This is a key priority, as the current ancillary is not fit for use. ➤ As and when a 3G pitch is installed nearby to a Sand-based pitch, there needs to be a co-ordination of pricing policies to ensure competition ➤ The FA have also prioritised finding a long term facility for Newmarket Town FC, which should be addressed by the new privately funded 3G AGP development at the club site. ➤ Both Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury have relatively low participation rates across all demographics, compared to neighbouring local authorities. Forest Heath in particular has the worst conversion rate of any local authority in it's sub-group ➤ The quality of grass pitches is STANDARD in the majority, with only a small percentage marked as GOOD or POOR. As West Suffolk is primarily made up of clay-based pitches, there are often issue of waterlogging following extreme weather. ➤ The highest scoring sites were Red Lodge and Victory Sports Ground while many of the recreation grounds and village pitches score poorly. A consistent issue of pests has been identified and supported by the club consultations.

3.3 Cricket

Table 9: Key findings for Cricket

Cricket Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There is a general surplus of cricket wickets across the borough and there is still a surplus even with future demand taken into account ➤ Team generation rates for West Suffolk suggest that by 2031, 5 new adult teams and 10 new youth teams are likely to exist ➤ Balance figures for 2012 - +366 wickets (individual strips) ➤ Projected balance figures for 2031 - +166 wickets (individual strips) ➤ There are some large and high performing clubs in the area, including Bury St Edmunds CC, Mildenhall CC and Haverhill CC. All of these have well maintained and managed club grounds, which scored excellently during site assessments. ➤ The proposed Mildenhall Hub is likely to have an impact on provision for Mildenhall CC, however this could lead to improved ancillary facilities through a sharing use agreement. ➤ The Severals pavilion in Newmarket is a good facility however the cricket provision (pitch quality and maintenance) is not satisfactory for a large club. Further investment in the site could improve the quality of the pitch and provide a good quality home ground for a local club.

3.4 Rugby

Table 10 – Key findings for Rugby

Rugby Summary Box
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ There are four main rugby clubs in West Suffolk; Bury St Edmunds RFC, Haverhill & District RFC, Newmarket RFC and Mildenhall & Red Lodge RFC. ➤ There is a mixture of deficiency and surplus across these sites, with Haverhill RFC and Newmarket RFC showing a deficiency due to the poor carrying capacity of their pitches. ➤ The RFU has prioritised finding a long-term home for Newmarket RFC, as well as improving the quality of pitches at Castle Fields (Haverhill RFC). ➤ Bury St Edmunds RFC owns and manages the only 3G facility in the area and this is a valuable asset to the club. The club would like to increase the number of playing teams but feels it is unable to do so due to capacity. ➤ There is an opportunity to re-develop the Newmarket RFC site in the future, taking advantage of potential development plans on the former Scaltback Middle School site. The club has identified that it does not want to relocate and would like to refurbish the clubhouse and agree a long-term lease. This is currently being negotiated with Forest Heath Council. ➤ Investment is required to improve draining and maintenance at Castle Fields, due to the amount of cancellations of matches from waterlogging. ➤ Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC have made it clear they would like to be integrated more closely with the RFU.

3.5 Hockey

Table 11 – Key findings for Hockey

Hockey Summary Box	
➤	There are three main hockey clubs in West Suffolk; Bury St Edmunds HC, Haverhill HC and Newmarket HC
➤	There are 5 full sized sand-based AGP's across the study area, 4 of which were rated as STANDARD and the other as POOR.
➤	England Hockey is keen to support Bury St Edmunds Hockey Club in their proposal to move all playing activity to Culford School, however would like to maintain a hockey presence in Bury St Edmunds. If the Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre Sand-based AGP is to be retained, then it requires re-surfacing as it is over 10 years old and scored poorly in the assessment.
➤	If the pitch at the leisure centre is resurfaced as a 3G pitch, then England Hockey would like this to be a short pile (30mm) surface so that recreational hockey can be maintained at the site.
➤	The Culford school site is the only AGP that is over-demand, which will be addressed by the current development of an additional sand-based pitch at the school. The school and club should also work together to re-surface the current pitch within 3 – 5 years.
➤	A key priority for Hockey in West Suffolk is to ensure that both pitches at Culford School have a robust and long-term community use agreement. There is a large amount of hockey played at the site and it is key to secure this access in the long term.
➤	The recent re-surfacing of the sand-based Haverhill AGP has addressed the concerns of Haverhill HC on the quality of their provision.

3.6 Tennis

3.6.1 This section summarises each of the additional sports that were assessed as part of the PPS project. A detailed supply and demand assessment has not been carried out and explained in the accompanying analysis document and therefore a summary of quantity, quality and accessibility has been included below.

Table 12 – Key findings for Tennis

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There is a relatively poor level of provision with only 29 courts across the two local authorities. This ensures a low (unfavourable) ratio of courts to residents, compared with neighbouring authorities
Quality	Unfortunately, due to the poor survey response from tennis clubs, only quality data is available from one tennis club. This data shows that the current facilities are fit for purpose however a greater sample size is required before making firm conclusions and recommendations.
Accessibility	There is poor accessibility to tennis courts in West Suffolk, especially in Forest Heath where there are only 2 clubs available across the entire LA. A strength of the tennis provision is the amount of pay per play or casual provision, which ties in with the LTA's objective of creating facilities with low barriers to entry and high flexibility.

Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues West Suffolk could consider the benefits of investing in the upgrading or reinstatement of tennis courts at local parks. This could follow the example set by Christchurch Park (in nearby Ipswich LA). The LTA has indicated that it is unlikely to provide investment until it can see West Suffolk working more proactively on tennis development initiatives.
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3.7 Bowls

Table 13 – Key findings for Bowls

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There is strong level of supply across West Suffolk, with a large concentration of bowls clubs in Bury St Edmunds.
Quality	Unfortunately, due to the poor survey response from bowls clubs, quality data is only available from two bowls clubs. This data shows that the current facilities are fit for purpose however a greater sample size is required before making firm conclusions and recommendations.
Accessibility	There is good accessibility to bowls club across West Suffolk, with supply across St Edmundsbury and Forest Heath, however there is a gap to the north of Bury St Edmunds for indoor facilities.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues It is recommended that West Suffolk continues to provide some financial support for bowls clubs, which are struggling to raise money to cover their costs, but where it is clear that membership is declining significantly and there is no sustainable future then West Suffolk should review its investment commitments.

3.8 Netball

Table 14 – Key findings for Netball

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There is insufficient supply of both indoor and outdoor netball courts across West Suffolk. All regional matches are played in Ipswich due to the lack of high quality supply.
Quality	The main issue with quality is the lack of floodlights, which means leagues cannot utilise outdoor courts during the winter, therefore increasing the demand for indoor facilities.
Accessibility	There is not currently a central venue in West Suffolk and there are minimal indoor courts across Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues It is recommended that West Suffolk work with Netball England to increase the supply of outdoor floodlit netball courts across West Suffolk. Increased provision should be focussed on the four market towns, with Bury St Edmunds become a central venue.

3.9 Athletics

Table 15 – Key findings for Athletics

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are two athletics tracks in West Suffolk, one of which is available to the public.
Quality	The West Suffolk arena track is seen as a high quality facility, which is suitable for all levels of amateur athletics.
Accessibility	With only one facility across both local authorities, participants in Forest Heath are forced to travel in order to access the track in Bury St Edmunds.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues No latent demand has been identified as part of the assessment. The recommendation is therefore to maintain the current levels of supply.

3.10 Golf

Table 16– Key findings for Golf

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are six courses across West Suffolk, which does not represent a high level of supply for the total area, but is sufficient for the low density of population.
Quality	The quality of the golf courses appear to be high, with an average Net Promoter Score of 9 across the three clubs that were consulted.
Accessibility	There is a good spread of golf courses across the two local authorities.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues It is recommended that West Suffolk work with England Golf to continue supporting clubs in their programming and coaching provision, as this has clearly benefited the operational performance of the West Suffolk Golf Club. No further golfing provision is required and West Suffolk could consider a more detailed supply and demand analysis to understand if there are any opportunities to rationalise underperforming courses

3.11 Archery

Table 17 – Key findings for Archery

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are two areas of provision for archery across West Suffolk, which is sufficient for the current level of demand.
Quality	A need has been identified by one of the clubs to improve its facilities to allow for greater disabled participation.
Accessibility	The only provision for archery is in Bury St Edmunds and the surrounding area. This means that participants for the rest of West Suffolk may have to travel significant distances to participate in archery.
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues It is recommended that West Suffolk works with the EAF to assist the St Edmunds Archers develop a permanent facility, similar to the King Forest Bowmen. This could increase accessibility for otherwise hard-to-reach demographics and participant groups such as disabled and the elderly.

3.12 Cycling

Table 18 – Key findings for Cycling

Measure	Assessment Findings
Quantity	There are currently 3 cycling facilities in West Suffolk, two in Bury St Edmunds and one in Haverhill. None of these are close loop tracks, as required for road cycling
Quality	The clubs consulted could not comment on the road surfaces but explained that the ancillaries at their meeting locations were poor, namely Abbeycroft Leisure Centre
Accessibility	There are currently no closed loop circuits to access
Summary	Provision requirements – needs and issues It is recommended that West Suffolk work with British Cycling to undertake a detailed feasibility study for a closed loop cycling track near to Bury St Edmunds. This would increase provision for a growing sport, as well as achieving goals set out as part of the Local Plans. 4 global has recently undertaken a Playing Pitch Strategy for Ipswich Borough Council, where it was recommended that a closed loop cycling circuit be built to satisfy growing demand. It is unlikely that both West Suffolk and Ipswich would need their own facility, so it is recommended that the three councils work together to build a facility in either Ipswich or Bury St Edmunds.

4 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Overview

- 4.1.1 As illustrated throughout this analysis, West Suffolk has sufficient provision for the current and future levels of demand for 'playing pitch' sports. This has been calculated using projected population growth and the future housing development plans in mind, emphasising the recommendation that the focus should be on improving the quality rather than quantity of provision.
- 4.1.2 The quality of pitches is relatively ordinary apart from cricket, which scored well across a number of high quality sites. A major contribution to this is the clay soil that is unavoidable for the region, however it is compounded by the lack of winter training space. The maintenance and quality of rural sites has been identified as a key issue, with pests causing some playing fields deemed to be almost dangerous for sporting activity.
- 4.1.3 For planning purposes, and to provide a clear understanding of recommendations for Protection, Enhancement and Provision, the West Suffolk PPS Analysis Document includes a site-by-site assessment table for each individual sport section. For the avoidance of doubt where the protect section of this table states 'This site should be protected as playing pitches...' then this site is deemed as being required for future sporting need in West Suffolk. As defined in the 2013 PPS guidance, a short summary explaining the meaning of these key terms are shown below;
- **Protect** – There is a need to protect playing pitch provision irrespective of ownership and the degree of community access and use
 - **Enhance** – The recommendations and actions should look to make the best use of existing provision ensuring better quality, access and management
 - **Provide** – The key findings and issues from the strategy suggest that alongside the enhancement of existing provision, new natural and/or AGP's are required to meet current and/or future demand
- 4.1.4 The most significant gap in provision is the lack of any full size 3G for football and rugby use in Bury St Edmunds and the impact this has on three major clubs in the town; Bury Town FC, Sporting 87 FC and Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club. Based on the assessment of need undertaken, and the analysis of all consultations, the following provision should be considered;

- 1 x 3G (120m x 80m including run-offs) pitch in Bury St Edmunds, suitable for competitive football. This should be a FIFA 1* accredited surface to allow it to be used for match-play
- 1 x 3G (120m x 80m including run-offs) pitch in Bury St Edmunds, suitable for competitive rugby. This should include the requisite shock pad, required for competitive rugby.

- 4.1.5 It should be noted that if the RFU and FA are able to agree on a solution that satisfies the requirement of both clubs and sports, then it may be possible to share a single facility.
- 4.1.6 This recommendation assumes that planned 3G AGP developments at the New Croft, the new Moreton Park School and at Newmarket FC, are all completed in 2016 as planned.
- 4.1.7 The provision of a network of high quality and accessible facilities will contribute to the overall priority for healthier lifestyles in West Suffolk, across all age groups. Facilitating opportunities to be more physically active is vital in order to contribute to a reduction in health inequalities across West Suffolk.
- 4.1.8 Table 19 below shows the recommendations from the PPS, broken down by sport and with clear owners and timescales. For further detail, these recommendations should be considered alongside the site-by-site assessment in the PPS Analysis document.

4.1.9 It should be noted that Short term; 0 – 3 years, Medium term; 3 – 5 years and Long term; 5 – 10 years. Priority has been assigned according to the total impact that an action will make when completed.

Table 19– Recommendations for West Suffolk PPS

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
Forest Heath – Sub area codes: North (N), Central (C), South (S)								
Beck Row Aspal Close Nature Reserve	C	FH-Foot1	The ancillary facilities at Beck Row Football Club are extremely poor and do not attract new participants to the club.	1. Utilise existing Section 106 to install a basic ancillary block on the site. Alternatively the teams could make greater use of the nearby Beck Row primary school and their changing facilities.	FHDC FA	FHDC Officer time Shared ancillary funding with FA	Medium	Low
Brandon Leisure Centre	N	FH-Foot2	The clubhouse at the Brandon Leisure Centre pitches is adequate but not of a sufficient standard to attract new members.	1. Refurbishment of the pavilion, with high quality changing rooms for players and referees.	Brandon Remembrance Playing Fields Trust (BRPFT) FA FHDC Abbeycroft Leisure	BRPFT time and resources Ancillary development funding	Long	Low
Eriswell Road Playing Fields	C	FH-Crick1	This is a high quality site but long-term tenure and community use is not secured	1. Secure long term community use agreement with the Lakenheath Playing Fields Association	Lakenheath CC ECB FHDC	Officer time for negotiation	Short	High
Lakenheath Football Club	N	FH-Foot3	Lakenheath Football Club is heavily used by a number of junior sides and two senior sides. The current provision does not meet demand and the quality of the pitch will require further maintenance in future to maintain	1. Seek additional training facilities, utilising the pitches at Brandon Leisure Centre and the associated facilities. 2. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch	Lakenheath FC BRPFT FA	FA support to grounds maintenance improvement	Short	Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
			the current level of use.	improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county.				
Mildenhall Cricket Club	C	FH-Crick2	Parking is an issue on match days and during busy junior periods	1. Seek additional parking facilities, as part of the new Mildenhall Hub build	FHDC	Officer time during Mildenhall Hub planning	Medium	Low
Newmarket RFC - Scaltback Middle School	S	FH-Rug2	The clubhouse at Newmarket Rugby Club is not currently fit for purpose. This cannot be addressed, as the clubhouse does not have long-term security. A long-term lease is a pre-requisite for any funding application compiled.	1. Agreement of a long-term lease for the former Scaltback school site 2. A full refurbishment/replacement of the existing clubhouse in order to satisfy the social demands of the club and attract new members. 3. Agree an improved maintenance programme, based on best-practice examples from nearby clubs	Newmarket RFC RFU Suffolk County Council	Club staff/volunteer fundraising time RFU groundsman and pitch improvement programme	Medium	High
Red Lodge Sports Club	C	FH-Rug3	Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC does not currently work closely with the RFU and is struggling to grow its membership base and improve playing facilities.	1. Undertake maintenance training programme with M&RL RFC, using expertise from Bury St Edmunds and the RFU to increase the quality of supply and improve membership numbers.	Mildenhall and Red Lodge RFC RFC SEBC	Increased grounds maintenance effort Visit and mentorship from a nearby high quality club RFU pitch improvement programme	Medium	Medium
The Severals Sports Pavilion	S	FH-Crick3	There is currently no long-term community use secured at the site. The pitch quality is also not sufficient to provide a home ground for high quality cricket.	1. Secure long-term community use agreement with a local club or cricket user 2. Invest in the pitch quality, both on the square and outfield. Conduct	FHDC ECB	FHDC Officer time ECB support on pitch improvement	Short	Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
				small-scale feasibility study to confirm expected costs				
Tuddenham Playing Fields	C	FH-Crick4	The ground does not currently have a non-turf pitch, which increases the demand on the grass square	1. Install a non-turf wicket on the square, to allow for midweek training and junior matches.	ECB Tuddenham CC	Non-turf wicket installation costs	Medium	Low
St Edmundsbury – Sub area codes: Bury St Edmunds (BSE), Rural Areas North (RN), Haverhill (HAV), Rural South (RS)								
Bardwell Playing Fields	RN	SE-Crick1	The ancillary facilities at Bardwell Playing Fields are not sufficient for a growing club with high quality pitches.	1. Refurbishment of the ageing pavilion	Bardwell CC ECB SEBC	Consultant/Advisor time for a feasibility study. Construction Costs	Medium	High
Bury St Edmunds Leisure Centre (West Suffolk AWP)	BSE	SE-Hock1	The quality of the pitch surface is poor and needs to be replaced. There is still a requirement for recreational hockey at the site, however this is unlikely to be sufficient to justify re-surfacing the pitch as a sand-based AGP, given the demand for football in the area and the commercial benefits of a 3G surface.	1. Resurface the current AGP with a 3G surface. If acceptable by all key stakeholders, re-surface the current sand-based surface with a short pile (30mm) 3G surface in order to satisfy the requirements of recreational hockey and football.	Abbeycroft Leisure EH SEBC SCC King Edwards School	Pitch resurfacing costs.	Medium	Medium
Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club	BSE	FH-Rug2	Training and match facilities are not sufficient at Bury St Edmunds RFC to satisfy the growing demand, especially at peak time on a week night or Saturday PM. The key priority for the club is the mid week training demand as the current level of supply leads to training cancellations.	1. Club to continue developing in line with the RFU growth plan agreed between the club and the NGB. 2. Work with the RFU, FA and SEBC to deliver a training facility that suits the needs of the rugby club. Need to retain existing training capacity in the short term while migrating football demand onto a new training and	Bury St Edmunds RFC RFU FA SEBC	Club staff/volunteer fundraising time ECB development grants	Medium	Medium

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
				match site. 3. Begin dialogue between Bury St Edmunds Rugby Club and Bury Town Football Club on the potential of sharing training and matchplay resources.				
Chalkstone Playing Field (The New Croft)*	HAV	SE-Foot1	The grass pitch quality needs to be improved in order to provide a large, high quality council owned site. Unwanted community use is currently leading to dog fouling and broken glass, which does not make the sites attractive to new users.	1. Investment in increased signage and security for pitches to be provided by local council. Introduction of penalties for community damage to be monitored by grounds maintenance team. 2. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county. 3. Plan for the loss of grass pitches caused by the development of the planned 3G AGP facility.	SEBC SCC	Infrastructure associated with penalty system. FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	Medium
		SE-Foot2	A grant offer has been made from the FF for a new 3G facility and this has planning consent. A full funding plan is currently in development.	1. Support plans for a 3G pitch at the New Croft.	SEBC FA	AGP build costs Officer time to project manage build	Short	High

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
Clare Playing Fields	RS	SE-Foot3	The pitches currently suffer from flooding due, making the pitches unplayable during periods of high rainfall.	1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county. As part of this programme, undertake further site surveys to determine the correct long term drainage solution for the site	Clare Town Council SEBC	Funding for drainage improvement FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Medium	Low
Culford Sports & Tennis Centre	BSE	SE-Ten1	The site currently provides high quality tennis courts to the community however this access is not secured and could be withdrawn at any time.	1. Seek agreement with Culford school to sign a mutually beneficial agreement formalising the community use of their tennis courts.	Culford School SEBC LTA	Officer team for agreement negotiation and signature	Short	Med
		SE-Hock2	There is no long term security for cricket use at this high quality education site	1. Seek a formal, long-term community use agreement for hockey at Culford School 2. Support the development of an additional AGP at the school site	Culford School EH SEBC	Officer time to negotiation agreement	Short	Medium
		SE-Hock3	The carpet on the existing sand-based AGP is nearing the end of its expected lifecycle and will therefore require replacing.	3. Re-carpet the current pitch within 3 – 5 years.	Culford School EH SEBC	Officer time to negotiation agreement	Medium	High

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
Euston Park	RN	SE-Foot4	The significant slope on the pitches is a limiting factor for competitive football. The Pavilion is in need of replacement in order to service that large number of teams currently playing at the facility.	1. Conduct a feasibility study for re-levelling of the adult pitches 2. Replace or refurbish the pavilion	Euston Estate SEBC FA	Officer time and consultancy costs to undertake feasibility study. Long-term costs for ancillary refurb	Medium	Low
Gainsborough Recreation Park	BSE	SE-Foot5	The current ancillary is very poor and needs replacing,	1. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation park users.	SEBC	Officer time to project manage new development. Build costs	Short	Medium
Hardwick Heath	RS	SE-Foot6	The pitches can have issues with drainage and improvements to this would create a high quality, large football site.	1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county. As part of this programme, undertake further site surveys to determine the correct long term drainage solution for the site	SEBC FA	Increased maintenance team to manage pitch improvement and maintain higher quality surface. FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	High

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
Haverhill and District RFC - Castle Playing Fields	HAV	FH-Rug3	The current drainage and maintenance system at Castle Fields is not fit for purpose, with a number of games called off for waterlogging.	1. Agree an improved maintenance programme, based on best-practice examples from nearby clubs. Deliver in line with the RFU Capital Investment Programme. 2. Progress with the protecting playing fields project (currently under review). 3. Invest in new mid week floodlights for midweek training	Haverhill and District RFC RFU SEBC	Increased grounds maintenance effort Visit and mentorship from a nearby high quality club RFU ground improvement funding and funding for floodlighting.	Short	High
Haverhill Bowls and Sports Club	HAV	SE-Crick2	This is one of the only sites across the two local authorities that are over-capacity.	1. Seek solution to under-supply, through ground share (Withersfield Parish CC) or by seeking alternative supply of grass wickets	Haverhill CC	Rental costs for ground share.	Short	High
Mottsfeld Playing Field	HAV	SE-Foot7	The changing facilities are not currently adequate for this two-pitch site.	1. Conduct further consultation with AFC Haverhill to confirm support in development of new facilities. 2. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation park users.	SEBC AFC Haverhill FA	Officer costs. Ancillary build costs	Medium	Low
Pakenham Playing Field	RN	SE-Foot8	Both the pitch quality and the ancillary are extremely poor and there is not an opportunity to displace demand due to the rural nature of the site.	1. Support the grounds maintenance team with further resource in order to improve the quality of the pitch. 2. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation park users.	Pakenham Parish Council SEBC FA	Parish Council Effort to raise funds. Officer costs Ancillary build costs	Long	Medium
Puddlebrook Playing	HAV	SE-Foot9	Both the pitch quality and the ancillary are extremely poor and	1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the	SEBC FA	Officer costs Ancillary	Long	Low

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
Fields			there is not an opportunity to displace demand due to the rural nature of the site.	Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county. 2. Invest in a new, basic ancillary facility to be used by all recreation park users.		build costs Increased maintenance costs FA support to pitch improvement programme.		
Risby Community Trust Playing Field	RN	SE-Crick3	This is a good quality site that is secured for long-term community use but not used extensively.	1. Designate this ground as an additional ground for a large club nearby, such as Bury St Edmunds. Note: There are no clear candidates for this currently, but Bury St Edmunds CC require additional space if they continue to grow	Risby Parish Council ECB	ECB development team to market additional space to larger clubs	Long	Low
Stanton Recreation Ground	RN	SE-Foot10	The pitch has an issue with molehills, which has a direct impact on the quality and safety of provision	1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county.	Stanton PC SEBC	FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	Medium
The Great Meadow	RS	SE-Foot11	While the club cited the pitch provision as adequate, the site assessment deemed the provision to be poor and requiring additional investment, particularly around the maintenance regime.	1. Undertake a pitch improvement programme in collaboration with the Suffolk FA Grass Roots pitch improvement programme, which is currently being implemented across the county.	SEBC	FA support to pitch improvement programme.	Short	Low
Victory Sports Ground –	BSE	SE-Crick4	The practice capabilities at Victory Sports ground are adequate, but should be improved if the club is looking to grow.	1. Refurbish the current 2 net practice area to maintain an adequate quality of training supply	ECB Bury St Edmunds CC	Grant aid funding for additional nets	Short	High
		SE-Crick5	The practice capabilities at Victory Sports ground are adequate, but	1. Install additional non-turf permanent nets in order to increase	ECB Bury St	Grant aid funding for	Medium	Low

Site	Sub Area	Action ID	Issue / opportunity to be addressed	Key Action(s) Numbering indicates order of preference	Delivery Owners (Bold indicates lead)	Resource Implications	Timescales	Priority -
			should be improved if the club is looking to grow.	practice capacity	Edmunds CC	additional nets		
Withersfield Parish Sports Ground	RS	SE-Crick6	This is a high quality site that is not currently fully utilised and could be used as a second ground for larger nearby clubs.	1. Seek agreement with Haverhill CC to be used as an additional ground for matches and training, generating revenue for the club	Withersfield Parish Council Haverhill CC ECB	ECB development team assistance in ground share negotiation	Short	Medium

*Note 1: Chalkstone Playing Field and the New Croft have been combined for the Action Plan as these are managed as the same site from an operational point of view