



# **FYLDE PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY**

## **DRAFT ASSESSMENT REPORT**

### **APRIL 2016**

**Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration**

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**FYLDE BOROUGH  
PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

3G	Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)
AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
BC	Bowling Club
CC	Cricket Club
CSP	County Sports Partnership
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EH	England Hockey
FA	Football Association
FC	Football Club
FE	Further Education
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
HC	Hockey Club
HE	Higher Education
JFC	Junior Football Club
KKP	Knight, Kavanagh and Page
LCB	Lancashire Cricket Board
LDF	Local Development Framework
LMS	Last Man Stands
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office of National Statistics
PQS	Performance Quality Standard
PF	Playing Field
RFL	Rugby Football League
RFU	Rugby Football Union
RFC	Rugby Football Club
RLFC	Rugby League Football Club
S106	Section 106
TC	Tennis Club
TGR	Team Generation Rate
U	Under

## PART 1: INTRODUCTION

This is the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) Assessment Report prepared by Knight Kavanagh & Page (KKP) for Fylde.

This report presents a supply and demand assessment of playing pitch facilities in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance: An approach to developing and delivering a playing pitch strategy. It has been followed to develop a clear picture of the balance between the local supply of, and demand for, playing pitches and other outdoor sports facilities.

The guidance details a stepped approach to developing a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). These steps are separated into five distinct sections:

- ◀ 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

Stages A-C are covered in this report.

### Stage A: Tailoring the approach

Fylde Council is preparing the new single Local Plan which will run until 2032 and will consist of the following two-part combined document:

- ◀ Fylde Local Plan: Part 1 – Strategic Allocations and Development Management policies
- ◀ Fylde Local Plan: Part 2 – Non-strategic Allocations

The primary purpose of the Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide a strategic framework which ensures that the provision of outdoor playing pitches meet the local needs of existing and future residents within Fylde over the next 15 years.

In 2004, a Playing Pitch Strategy was prepared by an in-house team at Fylde Council. This document is now out of date and the Council requires a new PPS to address a range of issues directly relating to outdoor sports provision. Specifically the Strategy will:

- ◀ Provide the evidence base for emerging planning policy with the emerging Local Plan;
- ◀ Provide a strategic framework for the provision and management of playing pitches in Fylde;
- ◀ Support external funding bids and maximise support for outdoor sport and physical activity facilities and playing pitches;
- ◀ Provide the basis for ongoing monitoring and review of the use, distribution, function, quality and accessibility of outdoor sport, physical activity facility provision and playing pitches.

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## Local context

### *The Fylde Borough Local Plan (As Altered: October 2005)*

The Fylde Borough Local Plan (As Altered: October 2005) is an amalgamation of two documents: The Fylde Borough Local Plan 1996-2006 and the Fylde Borough Local Plan Alterations Review 2004-2016.

The strategy of the local plan is based on the broad goal: *'To provide for the necessary growth and development of the Borough in ways which are sustainable and which seek to preserve and enhance the quality of environment for those living and/or working in the Borough and for visitors.'*

The achievement of this goal will be reached through the implementation of smaller aims and further to this, objectives such as:

- ◀ To limit development in the open countryside and Green Belt to that appropriate to a rural area and necessary for the well being of the rural community.
- ◀ To protect visually important open areas, within towns and villages, from development.
- ◀ To protect visually important trees and woodlands and secure additional tree planting in both urban and rural situations.
- ◀ To protect areas important for nature conservation from unnecessary development.
- ◀ To protect areas of undeveloped coastline from unnecessary development.
- ◀ To maintain and extend the range of sport, leisure and recreational facilities within the borough for both residents and visitors.
- ◀ To maintain and extend the availability of urban green space, including public open space, recreational play-space and other open areas used for recreation and to maintain and extend the availability of allotments where needed.
- ◀ To identify and safeguard sites for formal recreation and sports facilities.
- ◀ To facilitate access links from urban areas to adjacent countryside.

Current policies for open space, sport and recreation are set out throughout the local plan. The key policies relating to playing pitches are broken down by chapter and highlighted below.

*Table 1.2: Chapter 6: Tourism and Recreation*

Policy TREC 13	All existing areas of public open space will be safeguarded from development unless as a result of development, equivalent or improved provision would be achieved in the locality.
Policy TREC 14	Playing fields and recreational facilities will be safeguarded from development. Planning permission for development on playing fields and other recreational facilities unless they meet specific requirements. For example, the proposed development is ancillary to the use of the site as a playing field.

The Fylde Borough Local Plan (As Altered: October 2005) is currently in the process of being superseded by The Fylde Local Plan to 2032, which will be adopted in March 2017.

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## ***Fylde Local Plan to 2032 (Revised Preferred Option)***

In the Fylde Local Plan to 2032, Fylde is described as having a combination of classic seaside resort towns and historic market towns alongside large areas of countryside. The Fylde Local Plan to 2032 focuses on sustainable development through three dimensions: social, economic and environmental.

The environmental aspect focuses on ‘*contributing to protecting and enhancing our natural, built and historic environment; and, as part of this, helping to improve biodiversity, use natural resources prudently, minimise waste and pollution, and mitigate and adapt to climate change including moving to a low carbon economy.*’

There are cross cutting themes throughout the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 of: Promoting health and wellbeing, equality, viability, achieving good design and sustainability. Chapter 11 expresses the importance of greenspaces for people’s health and wellbeing, and therefore the need retaining and expand (where opportunity arises) on existing greenspaces.

The key policies relating to playing pitches that are set out within the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 can be seen below:

*Table 1.4: Chapter 11: Health and Wellbeing*

Policy HW3	Protecting existing provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities as well as supporting new facilities where accessible through transport networks.
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## ***Fylde Local Plan to 2032 – Publication Version***

The Fylde Local to 2032 (Publication Version) highlights five local areas together with the level of housing growth over the plan period (an occupancy rate of 2.00 is used as set out in the Council’s Housing Requirement Paper 2015):

Local areas	Number of homes	Associated population
Lytham and St Annes	2,020	4,040
Fylde-Blackpool Periphery	2,728	5,456
Warton	778	1,556
Kirkham and Wesham	1,142	2,284
Rural Areas	720	1,440
<b>Totals</b>	<b>7,388</b>	<b>14,776</b>

All of these aside from Rural Areas are strategic locations. Within strategic locations development must be met with the necessary infrastructure. This includes green infrastructure, culture and leisure opportunities, as stated in the Fylde Infrastructure Delivery plan (IPD). This is ensured through masterplanning and design codes described in policies within Chapter 7 in the Fylde Local Plan to 2032 (Publication Version).

See Figure 1.1 highlighted the strategic locations.

## ***Management arrangements***

A strong and effective steering group has led and will continue to lead and drive this PPS forward during its development and also to ensure the delivery and implementation of its recommendations and actions. The membership of the group is balanced and representative of the different parties and key drivers behind the work and the providers and users of playing pitches in the study area. High Level Officer representation from the Council has been confirmed and to chair the steering group and has and will continue to provide the high level officer link with elected members. Further to this, the Steering Group is and has been responsible for the direction of the PPS from a strategic perspective and for supporting, checking and challenging the work of the project team. The Steering Group is made up of representatives from Sport England and National Governing Bodies (NGBs).

## ***Scope of the project***

The Assessment Report provides detail in respect of what exists in the Borough, in terms of playing pitches and ancillary facilities, their condition, distribution and overall quality. The Assessment Report then provides detail of existing demand for those pitches and ancillary facilities along with any latent and unmet demand. It also considers the future demand for facilities based on population distribution and planned growth. The full list of sports facilities covered is set out below:

- ◀ Football pitches
- ◀ Cricket pitches
- ◀ Rugby union pitches
- ◀ Artificial grass pitches (AGPs)

The Playing Pitch Strategy guidance advises that the project should also address rugby league and any other sports which may be identified as taking place on grass or artificial pitches. At present there are no other pitch sports played in Fylde beyond those identified above, therefore they have not been included within the scope of the project.

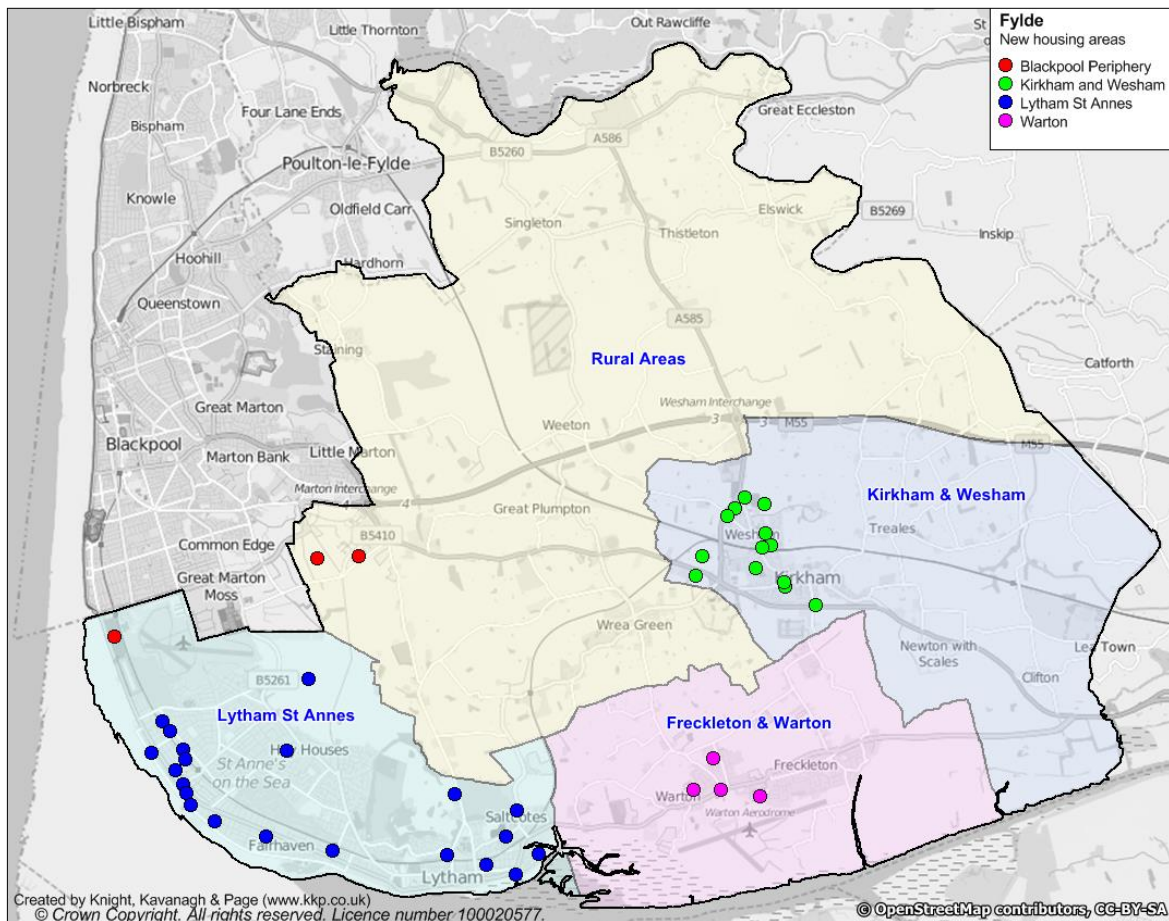
## ***The extent of the study area***

The area of Fylde consists of the major conurbations of Lytham, St Anne's, Kirkham and Freckleton along with the rural countryside area. St Anne's is a traditional seaside resort with a Victorian pier. The main towns within the Borough are the towns of Lytham, St Anne's and Kirkham. The Borough also contains the smaller urban areas of Freckleton, Bryning with Warton and Singleton and many smaller parishes.

Fylde is divided into four analysis areas (reflecting the geographic and demographic nature of the area). These allow more localised assessment of provision in addition to examination of playing pitches at a more local level. Use of analysis areas also allows local circumstances and issues to be taken into account. The area is therefore, broken down as shown overleaf.

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Figure 1.1: Study analysis areas with strategic locations



## Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

It is essential that a PPS is based on the best and most accurate and up-to-date information available about the supply of and demand for playing pitches. This section provides detail about how this information has been gathered in Fylde.

### *An audit of playing pitches*

PPS guidance uses the following definitions of a playing pitch and playing field. These definitions are set out by the Government in the 2010 'Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order'.<sup>1</sup>

- ◀ **Playing pitch** – a delineated area which is used for association football, rugby, cricket, hockey, lacrosse, rounders, baseball, softball, American football, Australian football, Gaelic football, shinty, hurling, polo or cycle polo.
- ◀ **Playing field** – the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch.

This PPS counts individual grass pitches (as a delineated area) as the basic unit of supply. The definition of a playing pitch also includes AGPs.

<sup>1</sup>. [www.sportengland.org](http://www.sportengland.org)>Facilities and Planning> Planning Applications



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### *Quantity*

All playing pitches are included irrespective of ownership, management and use. Playing pitch sites were initially identified using Sport England's Active Places web based database. The Council and NGBs supported the process by checking and updating this initial data. This was also verified against club information supplied by local leagues. For each site the following detail is recorded in the project database. (It is supplied as an electronic file):

- Site name, address (including postcode) and location
- Ownership, management type and security of tenure
- Total number, type and quality of pitches
- A description and the quality of the ancillary facilities

### *Accessibility*

Not all pitches offer the same level of access to the community. The ownership and accessibility of sports pitches also influences their actual availability for community use. Each site is assigned a level of community use as follows:

- Available for community use and used** - pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) recorded as being available for hire and currently in use by teams playing in community leagues.
- Secured community use** - there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.
- Available but unused** - pitches that are available for hire but are not currently used by teams which play in community leagues; this most often applies to school sites but can also apply to sites which are expensive to hire.
- No community use** - pitches which as a matter of policy or practice are not available for hire or use by teams playing in community leagues. This should include professional club pitches along with some semi-professional club pitches where play is restricted to the first or second team.
- Disused** – pitches that are not being used at all by any users and are not available for community hire either. Once these sites are disused for five or more years they will then be categorised as 'lapsed sites'.
- Lapsed** - last known use was as a playing field more than five years ago (these fall outside of Sport England's statutory remit but still have to be assessed using the criteria in paragraph 74 of the National Planning Policy Framework).

In addition, there should be a good degree of certainty that the pitch will be available to the community for at least the following three years. A judgement is made based on the information gathered and a record of secured or unsecured community use put against each site.

### *Disused/lapsed sites*

Site name	Sport(s)	Status	Comments
Lytham Juniors Pitch	Football	Disused	Previously had three junior football pitches
The Croft	Football	Disused	Previously had one junior football pitch

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Site name	Sport(s)	Status	Comments
William Pickles Park	Football	Disused	Previously had one adult football pitch

### *Quality*

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by their quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of a sport. In extreme circumstances it can result in a pitch being unable to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

It is not just the quality of the pitch itself which has an effect on its capacity but also the quality, standard and range of ancillary facilities. The quality of both the pitch and ancillary facilities will determine whether a pitch is able to contribute to meeting demand from various groups and for different levels and types of play.

The quality of all pitches identified in the audit and the ancillary facilities supporting them is assessed regardless of ownership, management or availability. Along with capturing any details specific to the individual pitches and sites, a quality rating is recorded within the audit for each pitch.

The ratings are used to help estimate the capacity of each pitch to accommodate competitive and other play within the supply and demand assessment.

In addition to undertaking non-technical assessments (using the templates provided within the guidance and as determined by NGBs), users and providers were also consulted with regard to quality and in some instances the quality rating adjusted to reflect this.

### ***Developing a picture of demand***

#### *Current demand*

Presenting an accurate picture of current demand for playing pitches (i.e. recording how and when pitches are used) is important in order to carry out the full supply and demand assessment. Demand for playing pitches tends to fall within the categories:

- ◀ Organised competitive play
- ◀ Organised training
- ◀ Informal play

In addition, unmet and displaced demand for provision is also identified on a sport by sport basis. Unmet demand is defined as the number of additional teams that could be fielded if access to a sufficient number of pitches (and ancillary facilities) was available. Displaced demand refers to teams that are generated from residents of the area but due to any number of factors do not currently play within the area.

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## *Future demand*

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. Using population growth factors, an estimate can be made of the likely future demand for playing pitches in Fylde.

## *Population growth*

The current resident population in Fylde is 76,442<sup>2</sup>. By 2032 (to reflect the Local Plan period) the Borough's population is projected to increase to 81,765<sup>3</sup> which is an increase of 5,323 (or equivalent to a percentage increase of 6.9%) according to ONS data.

Further to this there is predicted to be an increase across all youth team generation rate age groups in Fylde ranging from 9% for 7-17 year old boys to 1% for 13-18 year old girls. All adult team generation rate age groups are set to decrease.

## *Housing growth*

Further to the above, housing growth is predicted to provide the following population increases across Fylde.

*Table 2.1: Fylde housing growth population increases*

Analysis area	Current population <sup>4</sup>	Population growth	Future population <sup>5</sup>
Freckleton & Warton	9,593	1,556	11,149
Kirkham & Wesham	13,140	2,284	15,424
Lytham St Annes	8,728	4,388	13,116
Rural Areas	42,752	6,548	49,300
<b>Totals</b>	<b>74,213</b>	<b>14,776</b>	<b>88,989</b>

## *Team generation rates (TGR)*

TGRs provide an indication of how many people it takes to generate a single team (for all pitch sports) and can help with estimating the change in demand for pitch sports that may arise from any population change in the study area.

A TGR can be calculated by dividing the current population within an age group for a sport by the number of teams in the area within that age group. In order to calculate future demand for pitches, current team generation rates (TGRs) are used.

<sup>2</sup>Source: ONS Mid-2013 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex and ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2032. Released: 29 May 2014

<sup>3</sup> Source: ONS 2012-based projections 2012-2037. Released: 29 May 2014

<sup>4</sup> Source: ONS Mid-2014 Population Estimates for Lower Layer Super Output Areas in England and Wales by Single Year of Age and Sex

<sup>5</sup> We have used the Fylde Local Areas to calculate likely future population growth in each Study Analysis Area. Fylde-Blackpool Periphery Strategic Location for Development which is located within the Lytham St Annes Analysis Area is the Coastal Dunes (the former Pontins site), which amounts to 348 homes.

Future demand for playing pitches is presented on a sport by sport basis within the relevant sections of this report.

### *Example*

An area may have 10 youth boys' football teams of a particular age category and a current population of 900 boys within the relevant age group. This would equate to a TGR of one team per 90 boys in the age group (i.e. suggesting that it currently takes 90 boys within the age group to generate one team). A PPS may be looking ten years into the future at which point the population of this age group is projected to total 1,440. The TGR would therefore suggest that the projected increase of 540 junior boys within this age group may generate an additional six teams.

If it assumed that the six teams will play home and away fixtures they will demand a home pitch for matches every other week, equating to 0.5 match equivalent sessions a week or three match equivalent sessions a week for the six teams. The breakdown of when matches are played in the study area suggests that two thirds take place on a Sunday morning and the other third on a Saturday morning. Allocating the six teams in line with this current breakdown would generate a demand for two match equivalent sessions during the peak period of Sunday morning and one elsewhere in the week (i.e. Saturday mornings). The project team should also indicate the likely training requirements for such teams based on knowledge of how teams currently train and any known changes in how training activity may take place (e.g. use of AGPs once a week).

### *Consultation*

A variety of consultation methods were used to collate demand information. Face to face consultation was carried out with key clubs from each sport. This allowed for collection of detailed demand information and exploration of key issues to be interrogated and more accurately assessed.

For data analysis purposes an online survey (converted to postal if required) was utilised. This was sent to all clubs not covered by face to face consultation.

### **Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views**

Supply and demand information gathered within Section B was used to assess the adequacy of playing pitch provision. It focused on looking at how much use each site could potentially accommodate (on an area by area basis) compared to how much use is currently taking place.

### ***Understand how a site is being used***

Qualitative pitch ratings are linked to a pitch capacity rating derived from NGB guidance and tailored to suit a local area. The quality and use of each pitch is assessed against the recommended pitch capacity to indicate how many match equivalent sessions per week (per season for cricket) a pitch could accommodate.

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This is compared to the number of matches actually taking place and categorised as follows to identify:

Potential spare capacity: Play is below the level the site could sustain.	
At capacity: Play is at a level the site can sustain.	
Overused: Play exceeds the level the site can sustain	

### ***Develop the current picture of provision***

Once capacity is determined on a site by site basis, actual spare capacity is calculated on an area by area basis via further interrogation of temporal demand. Although this may have been identified it does not necessarily mean that there is surplus provision. For example, spare capacity may not be available when it is needed or the site may be retained as 'strategic reserve' to enable pitch rotation to reduce wear and tear.

Capacity ratings assist in the identification of sites for improvement/development, rationalisation, decommissioning and disposal.

### ***Develop the future picture of provision - scenario testing***

Modelling scenarios to assess whether existing provision can cater for unmet, displaced and future demand is made after the capacity analysis. This will also include, for example, removing sites with unsecured community use to demonstrate the impact this would have if these sites were to be decommissioned in the future. Scenario testing occurs in the strategy report and therefore does not form part of the assessment report.

### ***Identify the key findings and issues***

By completing Steps 1-5 it is possible to identify several findings and issues relating to the supply, demand and adequacy of playing pitch provision in Fylde. This report seeks to identify and present the key findings and issues, which should now be checked, challenged and agreed by the Steering Group prior to development of the Strategy (Section D).

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

# FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## PART 2: FOOTBALL

### 2.1: Introduction

The organisation primarily responsible for the development of football in Fylde is Lancashire FA. It is also responsible for the administration, in terms of discipline, rules and regulations, cup competitions and representative matches, development of clubs and facilities, volunteers, referees, coaching courses and delivering national football schemes.

This section of the report focuses on the supply and demand for grass football pitches. Part 5 captures supply and demand for artificial grass pitches (AGPs). In the future it is anticipated that there will be a growing demand for the use of AGPs for competitive football fixtures, especially to accommodate mini and youth football.

### Consultation

In addition to face to face consultation with key clubs, an electronic survey was sent to all football clubs playing in Fylde with contact details having been provided by the County FA. Consultation (either through a survey or face to face interview) represents a 67% club response rate and 92% team response rate. In general, it is only one team clubs which have not responded to the survey.

The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report. The following clubs and leagues were met with face to face:

- ▶ AFC Fylde
- ▶ Kirkham Juniors FC
- ▶ Lytham Town FC
- ▶ Lytham Juniors FC
- ▶ Lytham St Annes YMCA FC

### 2.2: Supply

There are 87 football pitches identified within Fylde, of which, 48 are available and have recorded community use. A further 17 are available but have no recorded use by community clubs (but may act as provision for recreational play or infrequent use), whilst there are 22 pitches not available. There are no FA or FIFA certified 3G pitches on which competitive football matches can be played.

Figure 2.1 identifies all pitches within Fylde regardless of community use. See Table 2.5 for the key to the map.

*Table 2.1: Summary of grass football pitches in Fylde*

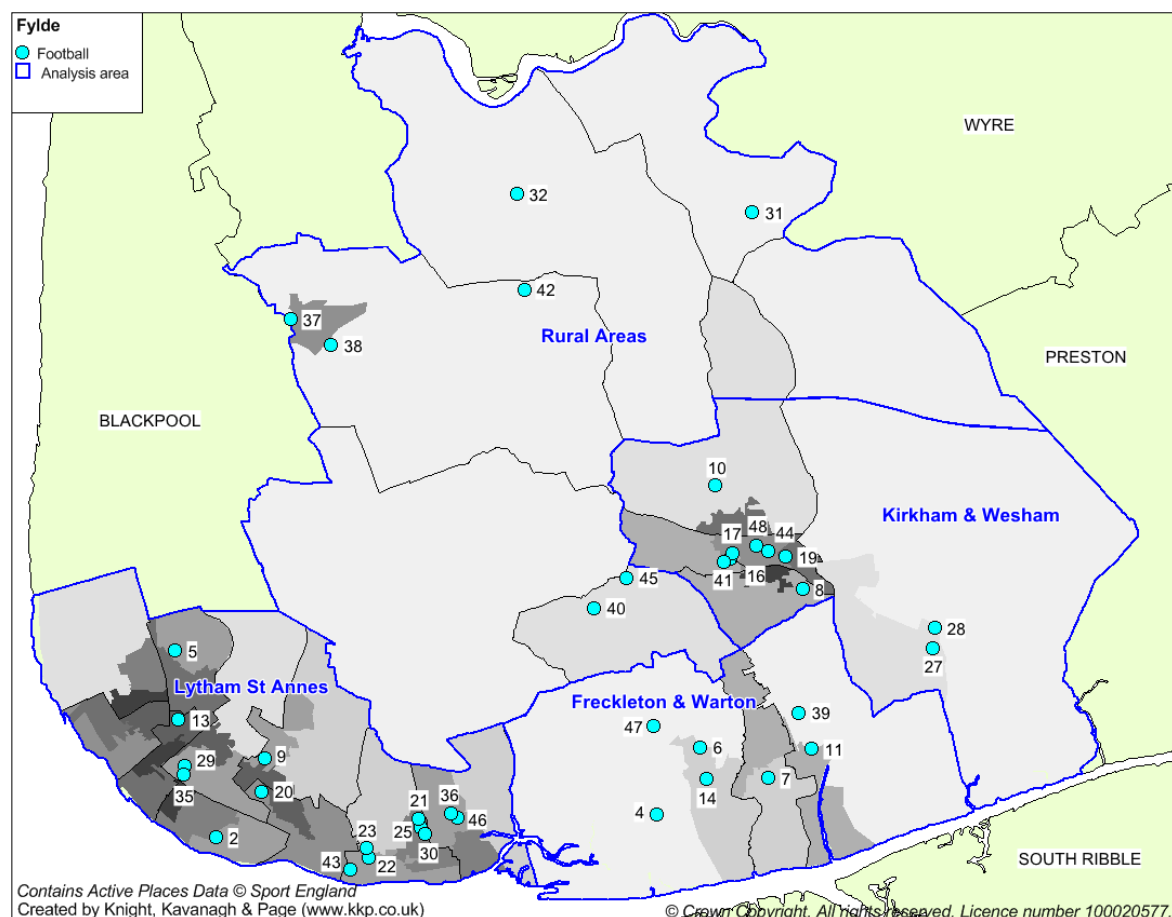
Community use	Pitch type					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Available	25	5	12	11	12	65
Unavailable	5	-	5	8	4	22
<b>Total</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>87</b>

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Most pitches in Fylde are adult sized which is, in part, due to youth 11v11 teams playing on adult pitches. This is not ideal for youth players and is not in line with the recent FA Youth Review. Adult pitches used by both adult and youth teams include:

- ✦ Bank Lane Sports Ground
- ✦ Blackpool Road North Playing Field
- ✦ Bridges Recreation Ground
- ✦ Bush Lane Playing Fields
- ✦ Kellamergh Park
- ✦ Lytham Cricket Club and Sports Club
- ✦ Lytham Town FC
- ✦ William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields

*Figure 2.1: Location of football pitches in Fylde*



### **Disused/lapsed sites**

Site information taken from Active Places indicates three sites which previously had marked football pitches which are not currently instated. Data indicates that there was previously one adult football pitch at William Pickles Park, one junior pitch at the Croft and three junior pitches at North Clifton Street. William Pickles Park now has small sided goalposts for recreational play but could accommodate an adult pitch as was previously provided.



# FYLDE BOROUGH

## PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### *Pitch quality*

The quality of football pitches in Fylde has been assessed via a combination of non-technical assessments (as determined by The FA) and user consultation to reach and apply an agreed rating as follows:

- ◀ Good
- ◀ Standard
- ◀ Poor

Pitch quality is primarily influenced by the carrying capacity of the site; often pitches are over used and lack the required routine maintenance work necessary to improve drainage and subsequent quality. It is likely that pitches which receive little to no ongoing repair or post-season remedial work will be assessed as poor, therefore limiting the number of games able to take place each week without it having a detrimental effect on quality. Conversely, well maintained pitches which are tended to regularly are likely to be of a higher standard and capable of taking a number of matches without a significant reduction in surface quality.

The percentage parameters used for the non-technical assessments were as follows; Good (>80%), Standard (50-80%), Poor (< 50%). It should be noted that all of the sites that received a 'standard' rating from the non-technical assessments scored between 50% and 57%.

The table below summarises the quality of grass pitches that are available for community use.

*Table 2.2: Summary of football pitch quality (community use pitches)*

Pitch type	Good	Standard	Poor	Total
Adult	7	14	4	25
Youth 11v11	-	4	1	5
Youth 9v9	1	9	2	12
Mini 7v7	2	7	2	11
Mini 5v5	-	11	1	12
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>65</b>

Pitch quality ratings show that over half (70%) of pitches available for community use are standard quality and a further 15% are poor quality, with 15% rated as good. The majority of pitches at each format are rated as standard quality, representing 56% of adult pitches, 76% of youth pitches and 78% of mini pitches.

Private sites (e.g. sports clubs) typically offer better quality facilities than Council parks/playing fields and school pitches. In general, such sports clubs tend to have dedicated ground staff or volunteers working on pitches and the fact that they are often secured by fencing prevents unofficial use. Private site hire is often at full cost recovery. The maintenance and use of Council sites tends to be less frequent and unofficial use of these sites can further exacerbate quality issues.

Specific comments relating to the pitch conditions at individual sites can be seen in the table below. The comments are a combination of club feedback and site assessment information.

*Table 2.3: Summary of pitch quality comments*



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Site	Comments
Blackpool Road North Playing Field	St Annes Juniors FC reports that the pitches were greatly impacted upon when used as a car parking area a few years ago during The Open golf championship. It states that the grass is cut but the cuttings are often left across the pitches in large clumps and not removed.
Bush Lane Playing Fields	Warton Typhoons Junior FC states that the Parish Council cuts the pitches but does not mark them. Line marking is done by the Club at cost and takes up volunteer time.
Carr Hill High School & Sixth Form Centre	The school reports that the pitches have got worse and have become heavier in winter, with more molehills in the areas of broken drainage. It believes they are not fit for purpose.
Lytham Town Football Club	Cutting and lining carried out by the Club but machinery is dated and will need replacing soon. Further remedial work is carried out by a subcontractor. Requires new goalposts for the adult pitches. The adult pitch drains poorly in two particular areas which become very wet.
Park View Road Playing Fields	Pitch quality is reported as generally sufficient and the Club pays extra for a subcontractor to carry out further remedial work.
Staining Playing Fields	Staining FC is of the opinion that the pitches have improved slightly due to the procurement of a sit down mower and added input from parents in maintaining pitches.
William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields	Kirkham Juniors FC states that the goal areas become bald, even with the goalposts taken down to discourage public use of these areas. Maintained by a subcontractor on behalf of the Town Council with a financial contribution made by the Club.

One of the main reasons cited by clubs for a decline in pitch quality is related to reports of limited pitch maintenance or a lack of available funds to carry out appropriate maintenance. Other reasons cited for the decline in pitch quality include:

- ✦ Overmarked pitches
- ✦ High amount of rainfall this season (2015/16)
- ✦ Uneven and hard surfaces
- ✦ Overplay in bad weather
- ✦ Casual use
- ✦ Dog foul/litter
- ✦ Lack of investment and limited maintenance including infrequent grass cutting
- ✦ Lack of remedial work i.e. seeding
- ✦ Adult matches churning up pitches before afternoon youth games

### **Overmarked pitches**

Overmarking of pitches is notable in Fylde, with youth 9v9 pitches often marked into the middle or mini 7v7 pitches marked widthways across each half of adult and youth 11v11 pitches. Overmarked pitches are typically subject to youth and mini play on Saturday mornings followed by adult and youth play on Sundays. This sustained and intense use over short periods of time can impact on pitch quality and allows little time for the surface to rest and recover. Use of smaller pitches marked within larger pitches typically causes focused and specific wear due to the high traffic on certain overlapping areas such as the middle third of adult pitches.

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Four sites in Fylde have pitches marked onto larger pitches, including the sites below which are particularly subject to overmarking:

- ✦ Blackpool Road North Playing Field (youth 9v9)
- ✦ Park View Road Playing Fields (mini 5v5 and youth 9v9)
- ✦ Staining Playing Fields (mini 7v7)
- ✦ William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields (mini 5v5 and youth 9v9)

### ***Ancillary facilities***

Changing facilities are an issue at some football sites. Some of the facilities are described as poor quality by users although all responding clubs state they have access to changing rooms if required.

Lytham Town FC and Lytham Juniors FC have plans to develop a new clubhouse and changing facilities at Lytham Town FC and intend to apply for grant funding to supplement club funds for the planned development. This will include new changing facilities to replace the existing poor quality portacabins and will comply with ground grading requirements as the Club hopes to progress to play within the football pyramid at Step 7.

The lack of sufficient car parking space at Blackpool Road North Playing Field is highlighted by St Annes Junior FC as a key issue. The site is located beside the airport on the boundary with Blackpool on a busy main road and has just a small grass area behind the changing rooms which can fit two or three cars at most. Parking along the busy road and has caused local residents to complain. There have also been complaints from the police about safety concerns relating to children crossing the road and ambulance access. The Club has formed a local community group and has conducted a local resident's survey which it believes supports its case for an improved car parking area. Changing rooms are also a key issue given there are just two rooms to service 11 pitches onsite, all of which are in use on Saturday mornings by youth and mini teams.

Park View Road Playing Fields is a similarly large site with eight pitches yet has no accompanying changing provision. It is used by seven teams from Lytham Juniors FC which identifies the lack of provision but also states that there is no real demand for use by most junior teams. Nonetheless, the absence of changing provision limits the availability and suitability for adult teams which may be able to make greater use of the site.

Kirkham Juniors FC highlights the lack of access to toilet facilities at Maryfields as a key issue. The nature of the site being the footprint of a former primary school which was subject to arson and not rebuilt means that it was not initially designed for sporting use and there is no accompanying ancillary provision. It uses storage sheds onsite for its equipment and as makeshift changing and shelter areas but identifies the absence of toilet provision.

The Club also highlights issues with access to the clubhouse building at William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields. Since the Town Council took on management of the site the Club now only has access to storage space and changing facilities. There is only one set of changing rooms onsite which are deemed insufficient to serve three pitches and are only used by older youth teams.

Blackpool FC is a professional club based in Blackpool but its Squires Gate training ground is located within the Fylde area boundary. Ancillary facilities are reported to be poor quality and inadequate to support the daily training and operational needs of a professional club,

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with the first team currently changing at its Bloomfield Road Stadium before travelling to Squires Gate. It has recently secured planning permission for the construction of a new building onsite which is to include changing rooms, a classroom, offices, hospitality area with canteen, gym and physiotherapist room.

It is possible that some clubs report a lack of access to changing facilities but in reality do not require access to them. This is a particular trend nationwide in that most mini and youth teams are using changing facilities increasingly less and that access to toilet facilities are of greater priority.

### ***Security of tenure***

The majority of teams in Fylde rent pitches managed by the Council, parish/town council or other community organisations such as Warton Sports Association or the YMCA. Most teams are considered to have secured tenure of their home pitches either as part of the Council's or parish/town council's maintained sports and leisure provision offering, whilst other providers such as the YMCA operate sports provision commercially therefore are deemed to be available for future use.

Borough Council managed pitch hire prices relative to other local authorities are shown below and are competitively priced and are notably cheaper to hire than those in nearby Preston. Cost of season hire has increased marginally since last season from £215 for adult pitches (<3%) and £115 for junior pitches (<4%).

Local authority	Adult pitch price	Junior pitch price
Fylde	£220 per season	£120 per season
Blackpool	£39.60 per match	£19.60 per match
Preston	£56.50 per match £380 per season	£34 per match £193 per season

Only AFC Townhouse rents pitches at a school site (LSA Technology & Performing Arts College) and does not have formal agreement in place confirming use for the next three years or beyond, consequently tenure of the site is considered to be unsecure.

Kirkham Juniors FC is also considered to have unsecured tenure at Maryfields on which it has a license agreement with the County Council to use but which does not confirm long term use. It also has unsecured use of Kirkham & Wesham Cricket Club as this is only through verbal agreement for use of the mini pitches on the outfield.

### ***Football pyramid facilities***

Clubs within the step system must adhere to ground requirements set out by the FA. The higher the level of football being played the higher the requirements. Clubs cannot progress into the league/step above if the ground requirements do not meet the correct specifications. Ground grading, as it is referred to, assesses grounds from A to H, with 'A' being the requirements for Step 1 clubs.

AFC Fylde is the only club in the Borough which currently plays within the football pyramid structure but does so at a high level at Step 2 in the National League North. The Club has great aspirations for progression up the football pyramid as part of its '2022' campaign, which includes securing promotion to the National League (Step 1) by 2017 and further promotion to The Football League by 2022. This was reflected in its change of name in

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2008 to AFC Fylde, in an attempt to broaden its appeal to the whole of the Fylde Coast and increase support. The Club currently has a partnership with Blackpool & the Fylde College (BFC) where the AFC Fylde Academy is based and plays matches.

AFC Fylde currently plays at Kellamergh Park which recently underwent improvements in March 2015 to add additional spectator seating so to comply with Step 2 requirements. New safety barriers were also installed in and around the ground including upgrading of the perimeter fencing so that facilities also comply with Step 1 requirements should the Club be successful in securing promotion to the National League.

Whilst the Club made improvements to current facilities at Kellamergh Park to meet short term requirements, its new 6,000 capacity stadium is currently under construction at Mill Farm in Kirkham as part of the wider development planned onsite, to include a sports village with several AGPs and a number of accompanying retail and commercial developments. The Club believes that this fits its long term vision to be a Football League club and in time become fully professional, with a dedicated academy which would train onsite as would the first and reserve teams.

### ***Future developments***

The Whyndyke Farm development proposed across the Blackpool and Fylde area includes around 1,400 new homes built alongside new neighbourhood centres and retail provision. Plans currently include the creation of two new adult football pitches to service the additional demand generated by the new dwellings. Further discussions between the councils is required to determine the makeup of this site and logistics regarding management and maintenance given it serves both local authority areas, whilst the evidence from playing pitch strategies for each area should guide the nature of new provision based on current and future needs.

St Annes Junior FC has aspirations for a 3G pitch onsite at Blackpool Road North Playing Field and has recently established a fundraising group. It believes that the site would be a good location for a full sized 3G pitch and intends to seek grant funding for such a development.

### **2.3: Demand**

A total of 100 affiliated teams are identified as playing matches on football pitches within Fylde, shown in the table below. There are six junior girls' teams and one girls' mini team though there are no women's teams. No teams were identified as consistently playing home matches on 3G pitches.

*Table 2.4: Summary of teams playing in Fylde*

Team type	Adult	Youth			Mini		Total
		11v11	9v9	7v7	7v7	5v5	
Total number of teams	17	27	24	1	16	15	100
		52			31		

Increases in mini teams does not always lead to an increase in adult teams because nationally there has been a trend of 11 aside adult men's teams decreasing due to players opting to play small sided versions of the game. The way in which people, especially adult men, want to play football is changing. People want to be able to fit it in to their busy lifestyle

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and the small sided formats and shorter games allow players to do this without giving up their weekends. If this trend continues there is likely to be an increase in demand for 3G pitches.

### ***Unmet and latent demand***

Unmet demand is existing demand that is not getting access to pitches. It is usually expressed, for example, when a team is already training but is unable to access a match pitch, or when a league has a waiting list due to a lack of pitch provision, which in turn is hindering the growth of the League.

St Annes Juniors FC identifies unmet demand at the mini soccer age group amounting to three teams, whilst it was also unable to accept requests from three youth teams wanting to become part of the club due to a lack of available pitch space. It states that this is mainly because the leagues will not allow kick off times to be staggered though doing so would allow the pitches to accommodate more matches across the morning.

Latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision. No clubs indicate that they felt there was latent demand within the area.

### ***Displaced demand***

Displaced demand refers to Fylde registered teams that are currently accessing pitches outside of the local authority for their home fixtures, normally because their pitch requirements cannot be met, which is usually because of pitch supply or in some cases quality issues.

Conversely, imported demand refers to teams registered in authorities outside of the Borough that are currently accessing pitches in Fylde for their home fixtures. No teams were identified as based outside of Fylde but importing demand to use pitches.

AFC Fylde Football Academy team uses the 3G pitch at Blackpool & the Fylde College (BFC) in neighbouring Blackpool. This is mainly because of the partnership between the Club and the College is based there throughout the week, though the 3G pitch has not yet been FA tested/sanctioned for competitive use.

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### **Future demand**

#### *Population increases*

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2032).

*Table 2.5: Team generation rates*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population (2032) within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-45)	12,046	17	1:709	11,550	16.3	0
Senior Women's (16-45)	11,668	0	0	10,885	0	0
Youth Boys' (10-15)	2,419	46	1:53	2,575	49	3
Youth Girls' (10-15)	2,241	6	1:374	2,375	6.4	0.4
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	3,020	31	1:97	3,246	33.3	2.3

Team generation rates (TGRs) based on future population indicate that participation is anticipated to increase at the youth and mini age groups, amounting to the likely creation of at least three additional youth boys' teams and two additional mini teams. An increase in participants at the youth girls' age group is anticipated but these new players will probably join existing age group squads. Population projections indicate that no new teams are likely to be created at the adult age group.

Further to the above, a housing growth scenario will be included within the Strategy to assess the impact of housing on existing pitch provision.

It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example there is an FA focus on developing girl's football within Fylde and this is likely to lead to more girls' teams in the future and therefore demand for more pitches.

It is important to note that there has been a recent decrease nationally in participation at adult level and that the number of FA affiliated adult teams playing competitive football has dropped. Similarly, there has been a decline in the number of youth players making the transition from youth football to adult.

For example, there are seven teams in Fylde that play in the Blackpool & Fylde Sunday Alliance (BFSA) which has decreased in size over the past season from four divisions to three, with the total number of teams having reduced to 42 from 53 in 2014/15. This may be due in part to reliance on hire of pitches from other providers which comes at a cost. Many singular team clubs such as these without their own facilities often find revenue generation and sponsorship to be a key challenge and in turn many of these teams don't train because midweek hire of a floodlit facility typically comes at additional cost.



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Lytham Town FC has aspirations to establish a women's section including developing its walking football programme to include women's sessions. The Club is keen to start women's and girls' teams but reports that the quality and number of current changing rooms is presents a challenge in doing so. Freckleton FC would also like to reinstate its second adult men's team which previously folded but is not certain this will happen next season. This considered no clubs highlighted realistic and likely plans to increase the number of teams next season.

### ***Use of artificial grass pitches***

Competitive football can take place on 3G surfaces that have been FA or FIFA certified and a growing number of 3G pitches are now used for competitive match play at mini soccer and youth level. Only 3G pitches with a valid performance test and listed on the FA Register (<http://3g.thefa.me.uk/?countyfa=Lancashire>) can be used for competitive play. This is to ensure the pitch has the same playing characteristics as natural turf and ensures that the pitches are safe to use. 3G pitches are able to undergo testing in order to become a FIFA certified One Star or Two Star pitch. FIFA Two Star testing criteria focuses on high quality playing performance as based on UEFA research requirements and is the minimum requirement for all teams playing in UEFA and FIFA competitions (including Step 2 and above in the football pyramid). FIFA One Star testing criteria places more emphasis on the ability of a surface to sustain and endure multiple repetitions of acceptable performance. A FIFA Two Star pitch is deemed able to accommodate 30 to 40 hours use per week and has an estimated lifespan of 5,000 hours use in total, whereas a FIFA One Star pitch is deemed able to accommodate 60 to 85 hours per week with a lifespan of 20,000 hours use. These figures are based on the assumption that the surface is maintained regularly and to the required standard which may include periodic deep or microbial cleaning, de-compaction and restoration up of rubber crumb content.

Demand from football for 3G pitches has increased in recent years due to demand from clubs for training but also due to a growing acceptance by local leagues of use for competitive matches, where play on 3G pitches is now included within the FA Standard Code of Rule. This considered, the general condition of local authority pitches and increasingly limited budget for regular and adequate maintenance may lead more teams to consider 3G pitches as a possible alternative should it be financially viable.

A number of leagues around the country now use 3G pitches as central venues where all mini soccer play takes place, though this is not the case in Fylde. Some leagues are also held at 3G central venues, for example, the LFA Vets League is based on the 3G pitch at the LFA County Ground in Leyland. This trend is likely to increase in the future and more mini soccer and vets leagues could be played exclusively on 3G pitches.

### ***The FA model***

The FA considers high quality third generation artificial grass pitches as an essential tool in promoting coach and player development. The FA can support intensive use and as such are great assets for both playing and training. Primarily such facilities have been installed for community use and training, however, are increasingly used for competition which The FA wholly supports.

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The FA's long term ambition is to provide every affiliated team in England the opportunity to train once per week on floodlit 3G surface, together with priority access for every Charter Standard Community Club through a partnership agreement. The FA standard is calculated by using the latest Sport England research "AGPs State of the Nation March 2012" assuming that 51% of AGP usage is by sports clubs when factoring in the number of training slots available per pitch at peak times. It is estimated that one full sized AGP can service 42 teams.

On the basis there are 100 teams playing competitive football in Fylde, there is a recommended need for 2.38 (rounded to three) 3G pitches. Currently there are none in the Borough and there are no surfaces of any size certified for competitive football use. However, there are seven smaller sized pitches that are typically used for social football leagues and informal commercial lets but which may help to accommodate demand, for example from mini teams and for training. These can be seen below:

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Quality	Quantity	Size
3	Bactive Fitness Centre	Medium Pile 3G	Poor	2	35x15m
7	Bush Lane Playing Fields	Medium Pile 3G	Good	1	40x36m
12	Fylde Rugby Football Club	Medium Pile 3G	Standard	1	60x40m
31	Roseacre Road Playing Fields	Medium Pile 3G	Standard	1	35x32m
33	Ribby Hall Village	Sand Filled	Standard	1	33x15m
46	YMCA (Lytham)	Medium Pile 3G	Standard	1	45x33m

There is no competitive club football on 3G AGPs in Fylde due to the absence of full sized 3G provision or an FA certified AGP. Two teams were identified as exporting demand to other local authority areas in order to access 3G pitch provision. BAE Warton FC uses the AGP at Ashton Community Science College for training for one hour each week whilst AFC Fylde Academy has one team playing matches at either Blackpool & the Fylde College (BFC) or Brownedge St Mary's Catholic High School, largely due to the partnership AFC Fylde has with BCA where its football academy is based.

Some teams train on small sided 3G pitches such as Bush Lane Playing Fields (Warton Typhoons Junior FC) and Fylde Rugby Club (St Annes Juniors FC). Others report accessing indoor sports hall provision for mini soccer teams to train. A significant number of responding clubs expressed a need for greater access to affordable floodlit training facilities, all of which specified a desire for great access to 3G pitches.

Access to affordable 3G provision is a priority for the FA; especially where there are several multi team junior clubs which have various teams. Providing training facilities for them all can be difficult and may require use of multiple venues, especially when having to make use of small sized AGPs which have limited available space.

Accessibility of full sized AGPs in Fylde is also limited, for example, the full sized AGP at AKEQMS is available throughout the week but the school does not accept booking for football use, which represents the majority of demand for AGP training provision in the Borough. Available capacity at Kirkham Grammar School is also limited because Kirkham Juniors FC uses the pitch for seven of the thirteen hours available at midweek peak time, with much of the limited residual capacity available at 8pm onwards which is generally not considered to a desirable or appropriate time for children to train.



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Access to affordable floodlit training facilities is a key issue for most clubs in Fylde, particularly those with a large number of youth and mini teams. Not only is it difficult for teams to access sufficient capacity but teams at some clubs are spread across a number of venues where they can manage to find available timeslots, often on small sized 3G pitches which are too small to accommodate a number of teams at once. There are three full sized sand based AGPs which are well used by teams for training but clubs still report demand for greater floodlit AGP provision, particularly 3G surfaces.

Should proposed plans for the development of 3G pitches (one full sized 3G and eight small sized cages) go ahead at Mill Farm, current demand for 3G pitches would be able to be met given there are no limitations on hours available for community use in the peak period.

### 2.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. As a minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing football. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times. Pitch quality is often influenced by weather conditions and drainage.

As a guide, The FA has set a standard number of matches that each grass pitch type should be able to accommodate without adversely affecting its current quality (pitch capacity). Taking into consideration the guidelines on capacity the following was concluded in Fylde:

Adult pitches		Youth pitches		Mini pitches	
Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week	Pitch quality	Matches per week
Good	3	Good	4	Good	6
Standard	2	Standard	2	Standard	4
Poor	1	Poor	1	Poor	2

Table 2.6 applies the above pitch ratings against the actual level of weekly play recorded to determine a capacity rating as follows:

Potential capacity	Play is below the level the site could sustain
At capacity	Play matches the level the site can sustain
Overused	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain

### Education sites

For the purposes of capacity analysis only education sites with regular known and recorded community use have been included. In many cases, where there is no identified community use at present there is little capacity to accommodate further play. Maintenance of school pitches is generally carried out to a basic standard and may not include much beyond grass cutting and line marking. This combined with the significant usage throughout the school week for curricular sport, extracurricular training sessions and fixtures often impacts on surface quality and far exceeds recommended capacity.

Some schools do not allow community use in order to manage poor quality pitches for their own use throughout the week. Schools may also play fixtures on Saturday mornings during

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the winter because of bad light after school which may limit capacity for community use, particularly in the case of youth and mini pitches as this coincides with the main junior football leagues which operate on Saturday mornings. In Fylde this is not the case and most school fixtures are played after school during the week until late October when visibility decreases, starting again in February when it improves.

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Table 2.6: Football pitch capacity analysis (recorded community use)

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Type of tenure <sup>6</sup>	Management	Pitch type <sup>7</sup>	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Total current play (in match sessions)	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Availability in peak period (in match sessions)
4	Bank Lane Sports Ground	Freckleton & Warton	Yes	Secure	Industry	Adult		Good	1	1.5	3	1.5	0.5
5	Blackpool Road North Playing Field	Lytham St Annes	Yes	Secure	Council	Adult (Youth)	(9v9)	Standard	2 (2)	8.5	4	4.5	-
						Mini	5v5	Standard	4	2.5	16	13.5	1.5
							7v7	Standard	3	2.5	12	9.5	1
6	Bridges Recreation Ground	Freckleton & Warton	Yes	Secure	Council	Adult		Poor	1	2	1	1	-
						Youth	9v9		1	1	1	-	-
7	Bush Lane Playing Fields	Freckleton & Warton	Yes	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	2	1.5	4	2.5	2
10	Fleetwood Road Playing Field	Kirkham & Wesham	Yes	Secure	Council	Adult		Poor	1	0.5	1	0.5	0.5
16	Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club	Kirkham & Wesham	Yes	Unsecure	Sports Club	Mini	5v5	Standard	2	2	8	6	-
20	LSA Technology & Performing Arts College	Lytham St Annes	Yes	Unsecure	School	Adult		Standard	2	0.5	4	3.5	
22	Lytham Cricket Club and Sports Club	Lytham St Annes	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Good	1	1	3	2	-
25	Lytham Town Football Club	Lytham St Annes	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Good	1	2	3	1	-
						Mini	7v7	Good	1	1	6	5	-
30	Park View Road Playing Fields	Lytham St Annes	Yes	Secure	Council	Adult (Youth)	(9v9)	Standard	1 (1)	1	2	1	1
						Youth (Youth)	11v11 (9v9)	Standard	1 (1)	1	2	1	1
						Youth (Mini)	11v11 (5v5)	Standard	1 (2)	1.5	2	0.5	1
38	Staining Playing Fields	Rural Areas	Yes	Secure	Community	Youth (Mini)	11v11 (7v7)	Poor	1 (2)	1	1	-	-
						Youth	9v9	Poor	1	3	1	2	-
40	The Green	Rural Areas	Yes	Secure	Parish Council	Adult		Poor	1	1	1	-	-
43	William Pickles Sports Ground	Lytham St Annes	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Mini	5v5	Standard	1	2	4	2	-
						Youth	11v11	Standard	1	1	2	1	-
							9v9	Standard	1	3.5	2	1.5	-
44	William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields	Kirkham & Wesham	Yes	Secure	Town Council	Adult (Youth)	(9v9)	Standard	1 (1)	3	2	1	-
						Youth	11v11	Standard	1	0.5	2	1.5	0.5
							9v9	Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	-
46	YMCA (Lytham)	Lytham St Annes	Yes	Secure	Community	Adult		Standard	3	1.5	6	4.5	2

<sup>6</sup> Unless local information suggests otherwise it can be assumed that the availability of all pitches in LA, town and parish council and sports club ownership will be secure.

<sup>7</sup> Where pitches are overmarked, recommended capacity is based on the larger pitch size, whilst number and type of smaller pitch sizes marked within are shown in italic.

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Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Available for community use?	Type of tenure <sup>6</sup>	Management	Pitch type <sup>7</sup>	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	Total current play (in match sessions)	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)	Overused, at capacity or potential to accommodate additional play	Availability in peak period (in match sessions)
47	Kellamergh Park	Freckleton & Warton	Yes	Secure	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	1.5	2	0.5	1
48	Maryfields	Kirkham & Wesham	Yes	<b>Unsecure</b>	County Council	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	2	4	2	-

Table 2.7: Summary of available football pitches with no recorded community use by teams

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Management	Pitch type	Pitch size	Quality rating	No. of pitches	FA recommended site capacity (in match sessions)	Sessions available in peak period
2	Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS)	Lytham St Annes	School	Adult		Good	2	6	-
4	Bank Lane Sports Ground	Freckleton & Warton	Industry	Mini	7v7	Good	1	6	1
						Standard	1	4	1
11	Freckleton C of E Primary School	Freckleton & Warton	School	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2	-
13	Heyhouses Endowed C of E Primary School	Lytham St Annes	School	Adult		Standard	1	2	-
				Mini	7v7	Standard	1	4	-
22	Lytham Cricket Club and Sports Club	Lytham St Annes	Sports Club	Youth	9v9	Good	1	4	1
28	Newton With Clifton Village Hall Field	Kirkham & Wesham	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	2	1
30	Park View Road Playing Fields	Lytham St Annes	Council	Adult	-	Standard	1	2	1
31	Roseacre Road Playing Fields	Rural Areas	Parish Council	Adult		Standard	1	2	1
37	Staining C of E Voluntary Controlled Primary School	Rural Areas	School	Mini	7v7	Standard	1	4	-
41	The Willows Catholic Primary School	Kirkham & Wesham	School	Youth	9v9	Standard	1	2	-
43	William Pickles Sports Ground	Lytham St Annes	Sports Club	Adult		Standard	1	2	1
44	William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields	Kirkham & Wesham	Town Council	Mini	5v5	Standard	2	8	-
45	Wray Crescent	Rural Areas	Unknown	Mini	5v5	Poor	1	2	1

Pitches shown in colour within Table 2.7 are unused but considered to have match sessions available in the peak period and able to accommodate further community use, therefore are included within the subsequent capacity analysis. A number of pitches are shown to have unused pitches which are available for community use but are not considered to have capacity in the peak period. Unused pitches at school sites are not considered to have spare capacity given the unsecured nature of tenure for clubs which may wish to use these pitches. The two mini 5v5 pitches at William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields are not adjudged to have spare capacity given that they act as overspill for use if required and are marked onto a youth 11v11 pitch. Consequently, like other overmarked pitches they have not been included within the capacity analysis.

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### 2.5: Supply and demand analysis

#### *Peak time*

The peak time varies for the different pitch types. Peak time for adult football in Fylde is Sunday morning whilst peak time demand for adult pitches is exacerbated by the significant number of youth teams playing 11 a side matches on them. Peak time for mini soccer and youth 9v9 football is Saturday mornings as most teams play within the Poulton & District Primary League (PDPL).

#### *Actual spare capacity*

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Overmarked pitches which express potential spare capacity have not been considered available to accommodate further play in order to protect pitch quality, given the nature of repeated and sustained use over a short period of time.

Where there is potential spare capacity expressed at school sites beyond current community use, this has also been excluded due to the significant additional use during the week by schools for curricular, extracurricular and competitive sport.

Potential spare capacity of 0.5 match sessions at Kellamergh Park has been discounted because AFC Fylde limits use of the pitch in order to protect quality to accommodate Step 2 football. The first and reserve teams also play midweek games some weeks, leaving little time for the grounds team to repair the pitch in between matches.

Therefore, there are 30 pitches in secured use across 14 sites which express potential capacity, amounting to 59.5 match equivalent sessions on football pitches across the Borough. However, only eight of these match sessions represent actual spare capacity at peak time (and taking account of exclusions detailed above). Further to this, eight match equivalent sessions are available at peak time on pitches which are available for community use but are currently unused, totalling 16 match equivalent sessions of spare capacity in Fylde.

*Table 2.8: Summary of actual spare capacity*

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
4	Bank Lane Sports Ground	Adult	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.
5	Blackpool Road North Playing Field	Mini 5v5	13.5	1.5	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Site ID	Site name	Pitch type	Potential capacity	Actual spare capacity	Comments
		Mini 7v7	9.5	1	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.
7	Bush Lane Playing Fields	Adult	2.5	2	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.
10	Fleetwood Road Playing Field	Adult	0.5	0.5	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.
30	Park View Road Playing Fields	Adult (Youth 11v11)	1	1	Pitches are overmarked and so spare capacity is not considered to be available. Capacity should be retained to protect pitch quality given intensified use.
		Youth 11v11 (Youth 9v9)	1	1	
		Youth 11v11 (Mini 5v5)	0.5	1	
44	William Segar Hodgson Playing Fields	Youth 11v11	1.5	0.5	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.
46	YMCA (Lytham)	Adult	4.5	2	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.
47	Kellamergh Park	Adult	0.5	1	Spare capacity available at peak time to accommodate additional play.
<b>Total</b>			<b>36.5</b>	<b>8</b>	

Table 2.9: Total actual spare capacity (pitches used by community teams)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
Freckleton & Warton	2.5	-	-	-	-	2.5
Kirkham & Wesham	0.5	0.5	-	-	-	1
Lytham St Annes	2	-	-	1	1.5	4.5
Rural Areas	-	-	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 2.10: Total actual spare capacity (pitches unused by community teams)

Analysis area	Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)					Total
	Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Freckleton & Warton	-	-	-	2	-	2
Kirkham & Wesham	1	-	-	-	-	1
Lytham St Annes	2	-	1	-	-	3
Rural Areas	1	-		-	1	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>8</b>

Table 2.9 shows a total of eight match sessions of actual spare capacity on pitches which are available for community use and currently used. There are eight extra match equivalent sessions available on secured pitches which are available for community use but are currently unused, shown in Table 2.10. In total, there are 16 match equivalent sessions available to accommodate additional play, most of which are on adult pitches.

### Match sessions

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. As the main usage of pitches is likely to be for matches, it is appropriate for the comparable unit to be match equivalent sessions but may for example include training sessions and informal use.

At this stage match equivalent sessions does not equate to the number of pitches which are required/surplus. For example, an analysis area might show three match equivalent sessions of spare capacity but you would need to cross reference back to individual sites to determine where the spare capacity originates from.

If it is spread across a number of sites then there is minimal spare capacity within the site which may be required to accommodate strategic reserve. If the spare capacity is on one pitch then it might indicate a need to create a different type of pitch to address a deficiency. This will be fully determined and recommendations will be made accordingly within the Strategy and Action Plan.

### Overplay

Overplay occurs when there is more play accommodated on a site than it is able to sustain (which can often be due to the low carrying capacity of the pitches). Only sites which have are overplayed and have current community use have been included in the overplay summary, therefore school sites which may be overplayed due to curriculum use and school fixtures have not been included. Overplay on football pitches in Fylde amounts to ten match equivalents, all of which is on adult and youth 9v9 pitches, in some instances where the two are overmarked.

Blackpool Road North Playing Field is overplayed the most by 4.5 match equivalent sessions. This is due to the large number of youth teams sharing the adult pitch on which the youth 9v9 pitch is overmarked. Use is subsequently intensified on specific areas whilst a high level of play is sustained over a relatively short weekend period.

Table 2.11: Total overplay (pitches used by community teams)

Actual spare capacity (match sessions per week)					Total
Adult	Youth 11v11	Youth 9v9	Mini 7v7	Mini 5v5	
6.5	-	3.5	-	-	10

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### 2.6: Conclusions

Having considered supply and demand, the tables below identify the overall spare capacity in each of the analysis areas for the different pitch types, based on match equivalent sessions. Future demand is based on Team Generation Rates (TGRs) which are driven by population increases as well as club development plans.

*Table 2.12: Summary of demand (in secured use) – Freckleton & Warton*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity <sup>8</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	2.5	1	-	1.5
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	-
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	-
Mini 7v7	2	-	-	2
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.5</b>

There is no requirement for additional match equivalents on any pitch type within the Freckleton & Warton Area. There is currently enough actual spare capacity to accommodate further play on adult and mini 7v7 pitches.

*Table 2.12: Summary of demand (in secured use) – Kirkham & Wesham*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity <sup>9</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	1.5	1	-	0.5
Youth 11v11	0.5	-	-	0.5
Youth 9v9	-	-	-	-
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	-
Mini 5v5	-	-	-	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>1</b>

There is no requirement for additional match equivalents on any pitch type within the Kirkham & Wesham Area. There is currently enough actual spare capacity to accommodate further play on adult and youth 11v11 pitches.

*Table 2.13: Summary of demand (in secured use) – Lytham St Annes*

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity <sup>10</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	4	4.5	-	0.5

<sup>8</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>9</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>10</sup> In match equivalent sessions



## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Youth 11v11	-	-	-	-
Youth 9v9	1	1.5	-	0.5
Mini 7v7	1	-	0.5	0.5
Mini 5v5	1.5	-	1	0.5
<b>Total</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6</b>	1.5	-

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

There is a requirement for an additional 0.5 match sessions on both adult and youth 9v9 pitches to accommodate current demand in the Lytham St Annes Area. However, there is actual spare capacity to accommodate both unmet demand expressed by St Annes Juniors and further mini soccer play.

Table 2.14: Summary of demand (in secured use) – Rural Areas

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity <sup>11</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)		
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total
Adult	1	-	-	1
Youth 11v11	-	-	-	-
Youth 9v9	-	2	-	2
Mini 7v7	-	-	-	-
Mini 5v5	1	-	-	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>

There is a requirement for an additional two match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches to accommodate current demand in the Rural Areas. However, there is actual spare capacity to accommodate further adult and mini 5v5 play.

Table 2.15: Summary of demand (in secured use) – Fylde Borough

Pitch type	Actual spare capacity <sup>12</sup>	Demand (match equivalent sessions)				
		Overplay	Unmet demand	Current total	Future demand	Total
Adult	9	6.5	-	2.5	-	2.5
Youth 11v11	0.5	-	-	0.5	0.5	-
Youth 9v9	1	3.5	-	2.5	0.5	3
Mini 7v7	3	-	0.5	2.5	-	2.5
Mini 5v5	2.5	-	1	1.5	0.5	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>4.5</b>	<b>1.5</b>	<b>3</b>

Table 2.14 shows that overall in Fylde there is spare capacity to accommodate demand for all pitch types with the exception of youth 9v9 both at present and in consideration of future demand. Across all pitch types in the Borough there is current spare capacity of 4.5 match equivalent sessions at present and three match sessions given future demand.

The requirement for more match sessions on youth 9v9 pitches is largely due to the lack of exclusive pitches in relation to the number of teams. There are just four specific youth 9v9 pitches available for community use to accommodate 24 teams at this format, though several youth 9v9 teams play on pitches which are marked onto others. Two youth 9v9 pitches are overplayed; William Pickles Sports Ground because mini soccer teams also use the pitch and Staining Playing Fields because the pitch is also used for training.

<sup>11</sup> In match equivalent sessions

<sup>12</sup> In match equivalent sessions

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### Football – grass pitch summary

- ◀ There are 87 grass football pitches are identified within Fylde, of which, 48 are available and have recorded community use.
- ◀ Over half (70%) of pitches available for community use are standard quality and a further 15% are poor quality, with 15% rated as good.
- ◀ Over marking of pitches is frequent and several clubs with a large number of junior teams mark mini or youth 9v9 pitches inside others. This causes sustained and focused use to specific areas of the larger pitch which may increase the likelihood of surface damage.
- ◀ Poor quality and lack of changing facilities is a key issue across the Borough. In particular, at Lytham Town FC and to service key sites Park View (no changing) and Blackpool Road North (only two changing rooms).
- ◀ Lack of car parking at peak times at Blackpool Road North Playing Field is an identified key issue.
- ◀ Kirkham Juniors FC has unsecured tenure of the pitches at both Maryfields and Kirkham & Wesham CC, whilst AFC Townhouse also has unsecured tenure.
- ◀ A total of 100 affiliated teams are identified as playing matches on grass football pitches within Fylde.
- ◀ Kirkham Juniors FC believes it is operating at pitch capacity at peak time and therefore cannot increase the number of teams beyond the current number, whilst St Annes Junior FC reports unmet demand.
- ◀ AFC Fylde is the only team currently playing within the football pyramid structure at Step 2. Lytham Town FC aims to progress to Step 7 but is currently restricted as changing facilities do not comply with ground grading requirements.
- ◀ Clubs generally make use of AGP facilities for winter training, several of which use sand based pitches such as Kirkham Grammar School and Lytham High School or small sized 3G pitches. Further access to affordable floodlit training provision was highlighted as a key requirement, especially 3G surfaces.
- ◀ There is a total of 16 match sessions of actual spare capacity on grass football pitches across the Borough, of which nine are on adult pitches.
- ◀ There are six grass pitches overplayed by a total of ten match equivalent sessions.
- ◀ There is a shortfall of match sessions at the youth 9v9 format to accommodate current demand and anticipated future demand, though overall there is current spare capacity of 4.5 match sessions.
- ◀ AFC Fylde has begun construction of a new stadium at Mill Farm, which would also incorporate full size 3G and sand based pitches as well as eight small sided 3G cages for football and a clubhouse building, all available for community use. Plans also include a host of retail, restaurant and service developments. It is currently unknown as to the extent to which this facility will be available for community use.

## **PART 3: CRICKET**

### **3.1: Introduction**

Lancashire Cricket Board (LCB) is the main governing and representative body for cricket within the County, including Fylde. Its aim is to promote the game at all levels through partnerships with professional and recreational cricketing clubs, and other appropriate agencies.

Senior cricket in Fylde is typically played on Saturday afternoons, with some midweek matches as part of twenty over cup competitions associated to the respective leagues. Senior cricket teams play in the Northern Premier Cricket League (NPCL), Liverpool Cricket Competition (LCC) or Palace Shield Cricket League (PSCL). The LCC and PSCL also operate Sunday leagues, with Fylde based teams playing in the latter.

The youth league structure in Fylde is club based matches which are generally played midweek, therefore there is usually no conflict with access to squares and any midweek matches are usually played on different nights. All junior cricket takes place as part of the PSCL which operates a junior section with leagues at various age groups, whilst there is also an LCC U21 knockout competition in which Lytham CC CC enters a team.

### ***Consultation***

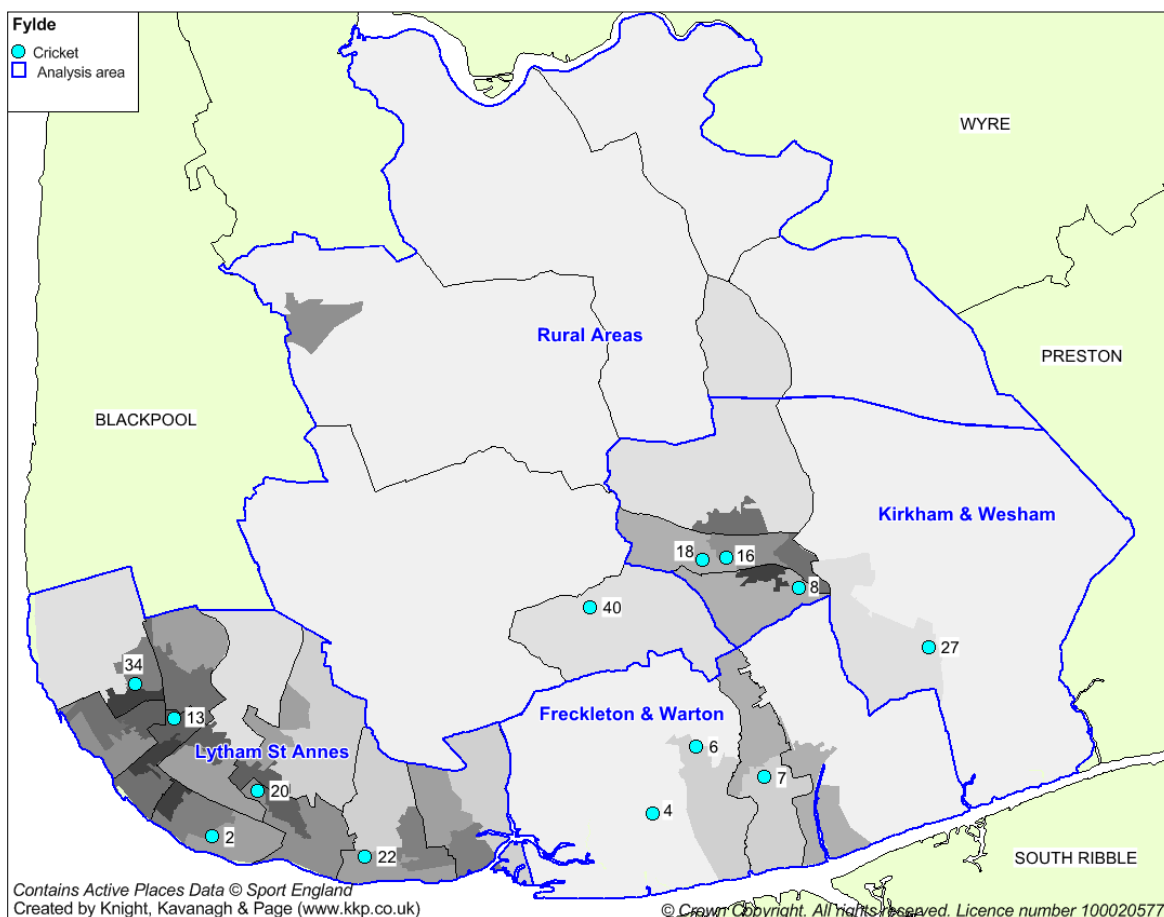
Consultation was carried out by online survey, to which all clubs submitted a response, representing a 100% club response rate. The results are used to inform key issues within this section of the report.

### **3.2: Supply**

In total, there are 11 grass cricket squares in Fylde, of which all but the two squares at Kirkham Grammar School are available for community use. Four grass cricket squares were identified at school sites.

# FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Figure 3.1: Location of cricket pitches in Fylde



## Surface quality

Pitch quality ratings determined by non-technical site assessment and club feedback show six grass squares to be rated as good quality (54%) and five squares are assessed as standard (46%), with no poor quality pitches. All three of the main senior leagues also rate the quality of the wicket used as part of the umpires' report for each match.

Table 3.1: Summary of pitch quality comments

Site	Comments
Bush Lane Playing Fields	Freckleton CC reports the pitch to be uneven but that quality has improved since taking on a more knowledgeable groundsman.
Kirkham & Wesham CC	Quality of the square has improved over the past season due to increased maintenance and remedial work undertaken by the Club. The pitch has become uneven over time which the Club suspects may be due to movement of land drainage.
The Green	Publicly accessible village green which is subject to consistent dog fouling. Pond in the corner is problematic when marking the boundary area and preventing the ball from being lost in it.

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Maintaining high square quality is the most important aspect of cricket. If the wicket is poor, it can affect the quality of the game and can, in some instances, become dangerous. To obtain a full technical assessment of wicket and squares, the ECB recommends a Performance Quality Standard Assessment (PQS). The PQS looks at a cricket square to ascertain whether the square meets the Performance Quality Standards which are benchmarked by the Institute of Groundsmanship (IOG). The report identifies surface issues and suggests options for remediation together with likely costs. With the exception of Freckleton CC, all clubs state that they have PQS assessments which did not highlight any outstanding issues.

### ***Non-turf pitches (NTPs)***

There are seven NTPs, three of which are exclusive (all located at school sites) with no accompanying natural turf square provision. Three NTPs are unavailable for community use, again all located at school sites and two of which are exclusive.

There are three sites in Fylde used for club cricket which have NTPs; Bush Lane Playing Fields, Kirkham & Wesham CC and The Green. The NTPs at all three sites are situated on the edge of natural turf squares; therefore access and use may be restricted at times by match play.

A non-turf wicket is considered able to take 60 matches per season although this may include training sessions where on occasions mobile nets may be used as a practice facility. Only two junior teams at Kirkham & Wesham CC were recorded as playing competitive club cricket matches on NTPs. Given the current supply and limited use, Fylde is well served for NTPs at present and in view of future demand.

### ***Ancillary facilities***

Quality and access to required match day and preparatory facilities in Fylde is mixed but most clubs have access to onsite pavilion and changing facilities at their respective home grounds.

Wrea Green CC highlights the lack of changing facilities at The Green as problematic; however, this is mainly because the site is maintained by the parish council as a village green open space. The Club uses a makeshift changing area at the pub opposite which it states is poor quality. Lytham CC also states that the condition of its clubhouse is poor but did not state whether it has access to changing facilities at Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS). All clubs with the exception of Wrea Green CC report demand for access to better quality training facilities, particularly the desire for fixed artificial net bays.

### ***Security of tenure***

Clubs in Fylde generally have secured tenure of sites; either playing on club owned or leased pitches or public sports provision. Two clubs (Freckleton CC and Wrea Green CC) rent pitches at parish/town council managed sites, whilst Blackpool CC imports ad hoc demand to rent the Council managed pitch at Bridges Recreation Ground on occasion. These clubs are all considered to have secured tenure as part of the Council's maintained sports and recreation offering.

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Kirham & Wesham CC and Lytham CC each have ownership of its home ground whilst St Annes CC has long term lease of the pitch at St Annes CC from private ownership. Lytham CC has one U17 team which plays at AKEQMS where it rents the square to play only a few matches per year. The Club has no known use agreement with the school guaranteeing future use beyond the next three years and therefore tenure is considered to be unsecure.

### 3.3: Demand

There are five cricket clubs in Fylde fielding a total of 45 teams, made up of 19 senior and 26 junior teams. There are no specific ladies or girls teams.

*Table 3.2: Team demand at cricket clubs in Fylde*

Club	Senior men	Junior	Total
Freckleton CC	4	-	4
Kirkham & Wesham CC	4	7	11
Lytham CC	3	11	14
St Annes CC	6	8	14
Wrea Green CC	2	-	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>45</b>

Women's and girls' cricket is a national priority and there is a target to establish two girls' and one women's team in every local authority over the next five years. 8-10% of the Whole Sport Plan funding is focused around women and girls and talent ID. At present, there are no ladies or girls cricket teams in Fylde.

The Fylde Cricket League folded at the end of the 2014 season and saw the loss of one Fylde based team (The New Saints CC) which folded as a result. Amongst other clubs, Freckleton CC reports the loss of three junior teams due to a lack of players, which it hopes to restore in coming seasons.

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

An analysis of match play identifies that overall peak time demand for cricket squares is midweek (25 teams – 56%); largely due to the number of different junior age groups playing matches. The peak time demand for cricket squares for senior play is Saturday afternoons (11 teams – 58%).

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

Blackpool CC (Blackpool) rents the pitch at Bank Lane Sports Ground on a game to game basis, though this varies when required. The Club has third and fourth teams which cannot be accommodated at Blackpool CC on Saturday afternoons and usually play at Fleetwood Road Recreation Ground (Blackpool). In the event of fixture congestion the teams occasionally make use of Bank Lane Sports Ground, though fixture clashes with St Annes CC means they may also use Bridges Recreation Ground. The Club is currently negotiating a lease agreement on the Fleetwood Road Recreation Ground site with a view to developing it into a genuine second ground, meaning it would no longer need to make use of cricket provision in Fylde.

# FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

## Future demand

Team generation rates (TGRs) are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2032).

Table 3.3: Team generation rates

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team generation rate	Future population (2032) within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (18-55)	16,902	19	890	15,741	17.7	0
Senior Women's (18-55)	16,729	0	0	15,022	0.0	0
Junior Boys' (7-17)	4,512	26	174	4,796	27.6	1.6
Junior Girls' (7-17)	4,211	0	0	4,354	0.0	0

TGRs suggest that demand for junior boys' cricket will increase and is likely to be sufficient to create at least one more teams. On average, junior boys' teams play three home matches per season, thus generating a requirement for three additional match sessions per season across Fylde. Growth in demand based on population is not anticipated at any other age group. It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools.

## Last Man Stands (LMS)

Kirkham and Wesham CC received ECB grant funding in 2014 for the installation of an NTP to host an LMS league, with the Club itself also using the wicket for U10 and U11 fixtures. The LMS league began late summer 2015 with an initial three teams and is expected to grow in 2016. Based on the small number of fixtures and the relatively few junior fixtures held by the Club there is capacity for further play or training to be held on the NTP at present.

## 3.4: Capacity analysis

Capacity analysis for cricket is measured on a seasonal rather than weekly basis. This is due to playability (i.e. only one match is generally played per square per day at weekends or weekday evening). Wickets are rotated throughout the season to reduce wear and allow repair. Therefore, it is more accurate to assess capacity seasonally rather than weekly. The capacity of a square to accommodate matches is driven by the number and quality of wickets. This section presents the current square stock available for cricket and illustrates the number of competitive matches per season per square.

To help calculate square capacity, the ECB suggests that a good quality natural turf wicket should be able to take five matches per season per grass wicket (adults). This information is used to allocate capacity ratings as follows:

<b>Potential capacity</b>	Play is below the level the site could sustain
<b>At capacity</b>	Play matches the level the site can sustain
<b>Overused</b>	Play exceeds the level the site can sustain



## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 3.4: Natural turf cricket square capacity

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/management	Security of tenure	Teams accommodated	Quality rating <sup>13</sup>	No. of pitches	No. of grass wickets	Actual play (sessions per season)	Capacity (sessions per season)	Capacity rating (sessions per season)
2	Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS)	Lytham St Annes	School	<b>Unsecure</b>	Lytham CC U17	Good	2	8 + 7	2	75	73
4	Bank Lane Sports Ground	Freckleton & Warton	Industry/ Sports Association	Secure	St Annes CC 3 <sup>rd</sup> & Sunday XI Blackpool CC 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> XI	Standard	1	8	23	40	17
6	Bridges Recreation Ground	Freckleton & Warton	Council	Secure	Blackpool CC 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> XI	Standard	1	4	2	20	18
7	Bush Lane Playing Fields	Freckleton & Warton	Parish Council	Secure	Freckleton CC	Standard	1	13	40	65 +60	25
16	Kirkham and Wesham Cricket Club	Kirkham & Wesham	Sports Club	Secure	Kirkham & Wesham CC	Standard	1	9	55 +9	45 +60	10
18	Kirkham Grammar School	Kirkham & Wesham	School	<b>Unsecure</b>	School teams	Good	2	10 + 8	Unknown	90	-
22	Lytham Cricket Club and Sports Club	Lytham St Annes	Sports Club	Secure	Lytham CC	Good	1	18	69	90	21
34	St Annes Cricket Club	Lytham St Annes	Private/ Sports Club	Secure	St Annes CC	Good	1	13	63	65	2
40	The Green	Rural Areas	Parish Council	Secure	Wrea Green CC	Standard	1	8	24	40 +60	16

<sup>13</sup> As derived from the non technical site assessments

### 3.5: Supply and demand analysis

#### *Spare capacity*

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'spare capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular training sessions, or to protect the quality of the site.

The squares at Kirkham Grammar School are not available for community use and only accommodate school play. It is likely that there is capacity for further use but the school plays fixtures on Saturday afternoons meaning there would be little potential for use by senior club teams at peak time anyway.

There are 99 match sessions of potential spare capacity across six sites in Fylde, excluding AKEQMS from the analysis where tenure is unsecured. The nature of cricket in the Borough is largely focused at club sites, with some use of parish council sites (i.e. Freckleton CC and Wrea Green CC).

Of sites with secured tenure which exhibit potential capacity, only Bank Lane Sports Ground has actual spare capacity for further play at senior peak time amounting to 0.5 match sessions. Aside from the three sports club sites which currently have junior play, all other sites exhibit actual spare capacity for additional junior or senior use midweek. There is subsequently enough capacity at Bush Lane Playing Fields to accommodate the planned re-establishment of junior teams by Freckleton CC.

#### *Overplay*

Only Kirkham and Wesham CC is overplayed, representing a total of ten overplayed match sessions across the Borough. Play at Kirkham and Wesham is already supported by the non-turf wicket which is used to accommodate U10s and U11s matches.

### 3.6: Conclusions

Overall there is a sufficient supply of cricket pitches to cater for current demand from clubs within Fylde at peak time for both senior and junior play. This is also enough to accommodate increases in future demand predicted at junior level. Consideration must be given to the level of overplay at Kirkham & Wesham CC which may be able to be sustained through improvements in pitch quality and careful management.

## FYLDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### Cricket summary

- ◀ In total, there are 11 grass cricket squares in Fylde, all of which are available for community use with the exception of two squares at Kirkham Grammar School. There are also seven artificial wickets, three of which are located at school sites.
- ◀ The non-technical assessments carried out on cricket squares in Fylde found six squares to be of good quality and five as standard quality, with no poor quality squares.
- ◀ All clubs with the exception of Wrea Green CC report demand for access to better quality training facilities, particularly the desire for fixed artificial net bays.
- ◀ Clubs in Fylde generally have secured tenure of sites; either playing on club owned or leased pitches or public sports provision. Two clubs rent pitches at parish council managed sites.
- ◀ Lytham CC has one team playing at AKEQMS where it rents the pitch. Tenure of the site is considered unsecure.
- ◀ There are five clubs in the Borough which field a total of 45 teams, made up of 19 senior and 26 junior teams. The New Saints CC recently folded in 2014 as a result of the Fylde Cricket League also folding.
- ◀ Blackpool CC imports demand from team adult teams which play at Bank Lane Sports Ground and Bridges Recreation Ground on an infrequent game by game basis. The Club has plans for the development of a second home ground in Blackpool therefore it is unlikely that this occasional play will be long-term.
- ◀ Last Man Stands was introduced for the 2015 season at Kirkham and Wesham CC and the league is likely to grow in the 2016 season and beyond.
- ◀ There are six sites in secured use which show potential spare capacity on grass wickets in Fylde, totalling 99 match sessions per season.
- ◀ Only Bank Lane Sports Ground shows actual spare capacity for additional senior play, amounting to 0.5 match sessions. Four other sites are currently unused by junior teams midweek and are subsequently available for further use at peak time.
- ◀ Only Kirkham and Wesham CC is considered to be overplayed, by a total of 10 match sessions per season. The site has relatively few wickets given the amount of play throughout the season, some of which takes place on the NTP.
- ◀ Overall there is sufficient capacity within Fylde to accommodate current demand on existing squares. There is also enough capacity to accommodate anticipated increases in demand at junior level.

## PART 4: RUGBY UNION

### 4.1: Introduction

The Rugby Football Union (RFU) is the national governing body responsible for grassroots and elite rugby in England. The RFU is split into six areas across the country with a workforce team that covers development, coaching, governance and competitions. Lancashire RFU administers the sport across Fylde with a County Development Manager and a team of community rugby coaches that deliver core programmes in schools and clubs. The variety of programmes, which include 15-a-side, 10-a-side, 7-a-side, Tag and the O2 Touch programme, all aiming to increase and retain participation within the game. In order to sustain and increase participation in the game, facilities need to be appropriate, affordable and accessible. The rugby union playing season operates from September to May.

### Consultation

Fylde RFC is the only club in the Borough and face to face consultation was undertaken to inform this section of the report.

### 4.2 Supply

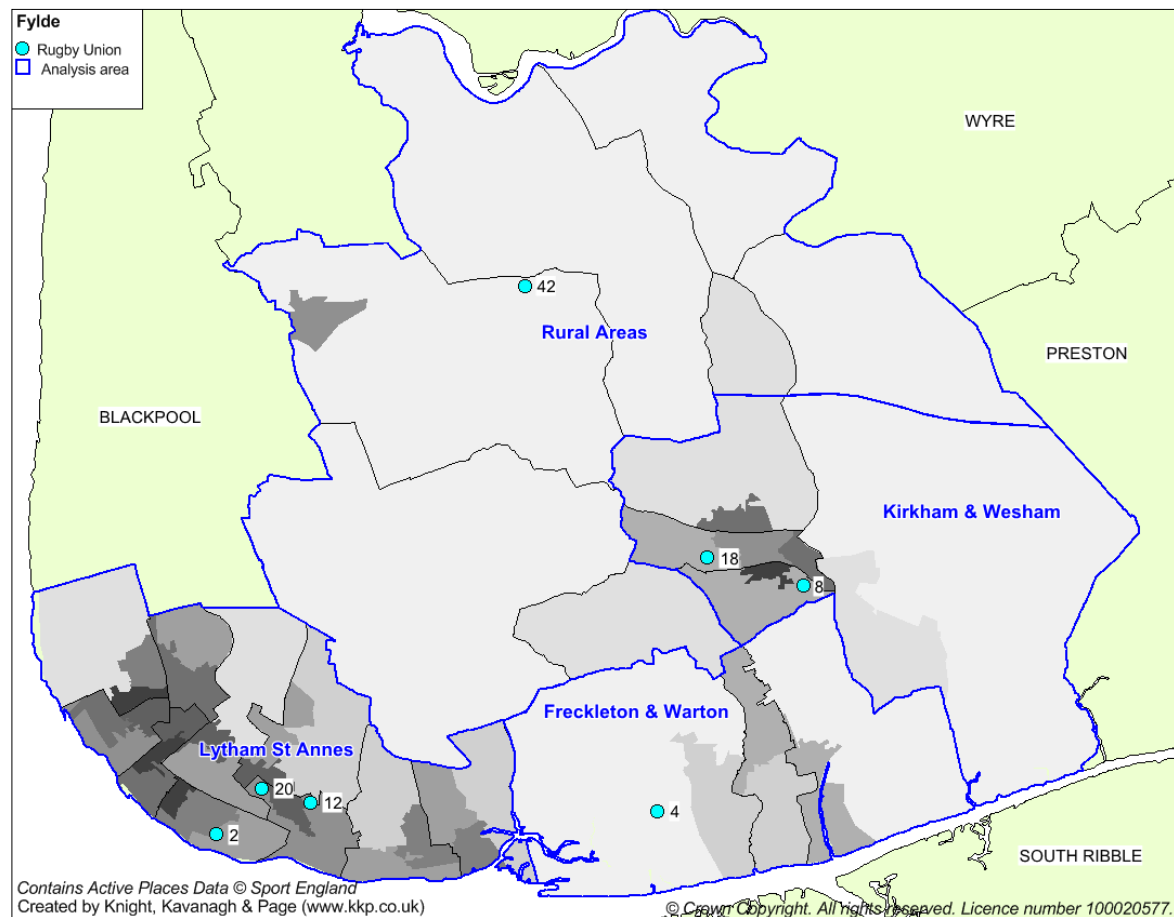
There are 12 senior pitches and two mini pitches identified within Fylde, of which, only five are available for community use. Most unavailable pitches are located at school sites where access or staffing presents a barrier for use, particularly with regards to access to changing facilities.

The pitch at LSA Technology & Performing Arts College has a drainage grid within the playing area and is subsequently regarded as unusable for safety reasons. The school therefore has to play all rugby union fixtures away at opposition schools.

Please note that the audit only identifies dedicated, line marked pitches. For the purposes of this report, being available for community use refers to pitches in public, voluntary, private or commercial ownership or management (including education sites) that are recorded as being available for use/hire by teams/clubs.

For rugby union pitch dimension sizes please refer to RFU 'Grass Pitches for Rugby' at: [http://www.rfu.com/managingrugby/clubdevelopment/facilitiesandequipment/~/\\_media/files/2009/facilitiesandequipment/facilities%20guidance%20note%202.ashx](http://www.rfu.com/managingrugby/clubdevelopment/facilitiesandequipment/~/_media/files/2009/facilitiesandequipment/facilities%20guidance%20note%202.ashx)

Figure 4.1: Location of rugby union pitches in Fylde



## Ownership/management

Fylde RFC has ownership of its home site and therefore is considered to have secured tenure for long term use. It occasionally rents the pitches at AKEQMS on an infrequent basis with no formal long term agreement in place for future use. Though use of the site is occasional and not weekly, it is considered to be unsecure. The pitch at Bank Lane Sports Ground is also available for use and is industry owned. It is available to rent from Warton Sports Association which manages and maintains the site.

## Pitch quality

The guidance for assessing rugby pitch quality looks at two key elements; the maintenance programme and the level of drainage on each pitch. An overall quality based on both drainage and maintenance can then be generated.

The agreed rating for each pitch type also represents actions required to improve pitch quality. A breakdown of actions required based on the ratings can be seen below.

## FYLDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.1: Definition of maintenance categories

Category	Definition
M0	Action is significant improvements to maintenance programme
M1	Action is minor improvements to maintenance programme
M2	Action is no improvements to maintenance programme

Table 4.2: Definition of drainage categories

Category	Definition
D0	Action is pipe drainage system is needed on pitch
D1	Action is pipe drainage is needed on pitch
D2	Action is slit drainage is needed on pitch
D3	No action is needed on pitch drainage

Table 4.3: Quality ratings based on maintenance and drainage scores

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	Poor	Poor	Standard
	Natural Adequate (D1)	Poor	Standard	Good
	Pipe Drained (D2)	Standard	Standard	Good
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	Standard	Good	Good

None of the pitches in Fylde are rated as good quality, with the 14 pitches equally rated in quality between poor (50%) and standard (50%). Most senior pitches are rated as standard quality (58%) whilst both mini pitches are rated as poor. Six of the seven poor quality pitches (all sizes) are at school sites, with the exception of Bank Lane Sports Ground. Of the five pitches available for community use, three at Fylde RFC are rated as standard whilst pitches at AKEQMS and Bank Lane Sports Ground are rated as poor.

All club play in Fylde takes place at Fylde RFC which is located in the Lytham St Annes Area. The main pitch is used regularly by senior teams on Saturday and whichever is the eldest junior age group at home on Sunday, whilst mini training at weekend takes place on the small sized 3G pitch for ball skills practice. Pitch Two is floodlit and used heavily for training both during the week and at weekends though the Club recognises this and tries to limit use where possible. The quality of this pitch is reported as much poorer than last season, likely a product of sustained overuse. Maintenance is carried out by a part time groundsman with the help of a turf subcontractor when required and the high sand and peat based soil drains well.

## FYLDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.4: Summary of rugby union pitch quality in Fylde

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Ownership/ Management	Community use?	Pitch type	Non-tech score
2	Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS)	Lytham St Annes	School	Yes	Senior	M0 / D0 (Poor)
4	Bank Lane Sports Ground	Freckleton & Warton	Industry/ Sports Association	Yes - unused	Senior	M0 / D0 (Poor)
8	Carr Hill High School & Sixth Form Centre	Kirkham & Wesham	School	No	Senior	M1 / D1 (Standard)
8	Carr Hill High School & Sixth Form Centre	Kirkham & Wesham	School	No	Senior	M1 / D1 (Standard)
12	Fylde RFC	Lytham St Annes	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	M1 / D1 (Standard)
12	Fylde RFC	Lytham St Annes	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	M1 / D1 (Standard)
12	Fylde RFC	Lytham St Annes	Sports Club	Yes	Senior	M1 / D1 (Standard)
18	Kirkham Grammar	Kirkham & Wesham	School	No	Mini	M0 / D1 (Poor)
18	Kirkham Grammar	Kirkham & Wesham	School	No	Mini	M0 / D1 (Poor)
18	Kirkham Grammar	Kirkham & Wesham	School	No	Senior	M0 / D1 (Poor)
18	Kirkham Grammar	Kirkham & Wesham	School	No	Senior	M0 / D1 (Poor)
18	Kirkham Grammar	Kirkham & Wesham	School	No	Senior	M0 / D1 (Poor)
20	LSA Technology & Performing Arts College	Lytham St Annes	School	No - unsafe	Senior	M1 / D1 (Standard)
42	Weeton Barracks	Rural Areas	Military	No	Senior	M1 / D1 (Standard)

### Ancillary facilities

The Club's primary development focus at present is to improve the main changing room to fit en suite showers and to improve communal shower facilities, possibly extending the club building to install an improved gym area and maybe physiotherapy rooms to let to a local business. The current changing rooms are of standard quality and there is a set to service each of the three grass pitches, with referees sharing a communal officials changing room with shower.





### ***Future developments***

The Club has aspirations for a 3G stadia pitch to replace the existing main pitch, which would be made available for both community use and for use by local schools during the day and for weekend fixtures. The RFU recently announced capital investment into the development of World Rugby compliant 3G pitches over the next four years and Fylde RFC is of the opinion that its site would be good location given the additional potential for use by local schools such as AKEQMS.

### ***Use of artificial grass 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 (this is also adopted by rugby league). The artificial surface standards identified in Regulation 22 allows matches to be played on surfaces that meet the standard. Full contact activity, including tackling, rucking, mauling and lineouts can take place. There are no full size 3G pitches in the Borough at present and subsequently there are no surfaces certified for competitive use for rugby union.

Given the poor quality weather often experienced throughout the winter months of the rugby union season, more clubs are becoming increasingly receptive towards training on artificial pitches. Clubs traditionally train on match pitches where floodlights are in place or one pitch designated for all training in particular, as is the case at Fylde RFC. It often results in deterioration in pitch quality coupled with decreasing maintenance budgets.

Nationally clubs identify the use of 3G pitches for training as a method of protecting the match pitches and providing a high quality surface for full contact practice. Competitive play continues to take place on grass pitches for the most part, with ad hoc use of 3G pitches for fixtures in the case of unsuitable pitches due to water logging or frost. The recent RFU strategy on investment in 3G pitches both at club and community based sites is indicative of the growing acceptance of 3G pitches amongst clubs nationally.

This considered there is demand from Fylde RFC for greater access to floodlit training provision and the Club is keen to access 3G provision for both matches and training. At present the only rugby union training recorded as taking place on AGPs is by mini rugby teams training on the small sized 3G pitch at Fylde RFC, given there are no World Rugby certified pitches in the Borough for full contact practice.

### **4.3: Demand**

Fylde RFC is the only rugby union club in the Borough and fields four senior, one colts, four junior and six mini teams. All play at the main club site, with some ad hoc use of AKEQMS when required in the instance of an excess number of home matches than pitches available. A decrease in senior players meant that the fourth and fifth teams reduced in squad size and now form just one fourth team. The Club previously had a women's team and is keen to do so again but recognises the need to make stronger links with UCLAN (Preston) from which many of its former female players came.

## **Unmet demand**

The Club highlights significant unmet demand at mini level where there are approximately 60 players between U8 and U9 squads and at least two more teams could be created as coaching resources currently permit but for the lack of pitch space. The Club would like to make greater use of AKEQMS if possible and would look to a reciprocal arrangement with the school if it had a 3G stadia pitch on which the school could play Saturday morning fixtures.

## **Future demand**

### *Population increases*

Team generation rates are used below as the basis for calculating the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (2032).

*Table 4.5: Team generation rates*

Age group	Current population within age group	Current no. of teams	Team Generation Rate	Future population (2032) within age group	Predicted future number of teams	Additional teams that may be generated from the increased population
Senior Men's (16-45)	10,811	5	1:2162	10,249	4.7	0
Senior Women's (16-45)	10,474	0	0	9,701	0	0
Youth Boys' (10-15)	2,506	4	1:627	2,621	4.2	0.2
Youth Girls' (10-15)	2,366	0	0	2,391	0	0
Mini-Soccer Mixed (6-9)	4,484	6	1:747	4,887	6.5	0.5

Team generation rates (TGRs) based on future population forecasts the creation of no new teams at any age group. It is important to note that TGRs are based on population figures and cannot account for specific targeted development work within certain areas or focused towards certain groups, such as NGB initiatives or coaching within schools. For example, Fylde RFC previously had a women's team which it is keen to re-establish but recognises the need to make stronger links with UCLAN (Preston) from where many of its former female players were based.

## **Training**

Training usually takes place onsite using both the main pitch and the designated training pitch which are both floodlit. The main pitch is only used for training by the senior men's first team twice a week, whilst all other junior teams train on the training pitch both during the week and at weekends. Mini teams up to and including U10 typically train on the small sized 3G pitch but do not practice contact skills as the surface is not World Rugby certified.

On Sunday mornings in the absence of a home or away fixture mini teams also train on whichever 3G and grass pitch spaces are available amidst junior matches taking place onsite, sometimes having to make ad hoc use of AKEQMS as an overspill area to accommodate some training or matches. The Club tries to manage use of the pitches at Fylde RFC where possible, particularly the floodlit training pitch which is reported to be in much poorer condition than last season due to sustained use.

## FYLDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

It highlights aspirations for a World Rugby compliant 3G pitch onsite which it believes would help to alleviate the impact of training demand on the grass pitches.

### 4.4: Capacity analysis

The capacity for pitches to regularly provide for competitive play, training and other activity over a season is most often determined by quality. At minimum, the quality and therefore the capacity of a pitch affects the playing experience and people's enjoyment of playing rugby. In extreme circumstances it can result in the inability of the pitch to cater for all or certain types of play during peak and off peak times.

To enable an accurate supply and demand assessment of rugby pitches, the following assumptions are applied to the site analysis:

- ✦ The site is used for competitive rugby matches (regardless of whether this is secured community use) are included on the supply side.
- ✦ All competitive play is on a senior sized pitch.
- ✦ From U13 upwards, teams play 15-a-side rugby and use a full pitch.
- ✦ Mini teams (U7-12) play across half one adult team i.e. two teams per senior pitch.
- ✦ For senior and junior teams the current level of play per week is set at 0.5 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis (assumes half of matches will be played 'away').
- ✦ For mini teams, play per week is set at 0.25 for each match played based on all teams operating on a traditional home and away basis and playing across half one adult team.
- ✦ All male adult club rugby takes place on a Saturday afternoon.
- ✦ All U13-18 rugby takes place on a Sunday morning.
- ✦ Training that takes place on club pitches is reflected by addition of team equivalents.
- ✦ Team equivalents have been calculated on the basis that 30 players (two teams) train on the pitch for 90 minutes (team equivalent of one) per night.

As a guide, the RFU has set a standard number of matches that each pitch should be able to accommodate. Capacity is based upon a basic assessment of the drainage system and maintenance programme ascertained through a combination of the quality assessment and the club survey as follows:

		Maintenance		
		Poor (M0)	Standard (M1)	Good (M2)
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3
	Pipe Drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2	3	3.5

This guide should only be used as very general measure of potential pitch capacity and does not account for specific circumstances at time of use and assumes average rainfall and an appropriate end of season rest and renovation programme.

## FYLDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

Table 4.6: Rugby union provision at Fylde RFC

Pitch number	Floodlit	Pitch type	Quality rating	Weekly play (Match equivalent sessions)	Site capacity (sessions per week)	Capacity rating
1	Yes	Senior	Standard (M1/D1)	4	2	2
2	Yes	Senior		5	2	3
3	No	Senior		2	2	-

*Pitch 1:* Used on Saturday afternoon for one senior match each week, as well as for first team training twice per week for 90 minutes each session. Used for one match on Sunday by the eldest junior team playing at home.

*Pitch 2:* Heavily used for all other training midweek across three nights. Used on Sunday for training by whichever junior teams do not have an arranged fixture as well as some occasional use by mini teams for contact and tackling practice.

*Pitch 3:* Used for one senior match on Saturday and one junior match on Sunday.

### ***The peak period***

In order to fully establish actual spare capacity, the peak period needs to be established. Peak time demand for senior rugby union pitches in Fylde is Saturday afternoon, whilst the peak time for mini rugby and junior rugby demand is Sunday morning. It is important to acknowledge that the peak time demand for use of senior rugby pitches is actually Sunday mornings, as all junior and mini rugby takes place on senior sized pitches and exceeds demand from senior teams on Saturdays.

## **4.5: Supply and demand analysis**

### ***Spare capacity***

The next step is to ascertain whether or not any identified 'potential capacity' can be deemed 'actual capacity'. There may be situations where, although a site is highlighted as potentially able to accommodate some additional play, this should not be recorded as spare capacity against the site. For example, a site may be managed to regularly operate slightly below full capacity to ensure that it can cater for a number of regular friendly matches and activities that take place but are difficult to quantify on a weekly basis.

Actual spare capacity of one match equivalent is available across the Borough at Bank Lane Sports ground which is unused. AKEQMS is also not regularly used and is available at peak time but it is likely that the limited carrying capacity and extent of curricular use causes this pitch to be overplayed. Potential capacity displayed on the third pitch at Fylde RFC is not considered to be available and should be retained in order to help accommodate some of the existing overplay on the accompanying pitches.

## FYLDE PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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### **Overplay**

Overplay at Fylde RFC amounts to five match sessions and largely derives from Pitch Two which is used heavily for midweek floodlit training and junior section training in the absence of fixtures on Sundays. The main pitch is also overplayed due to accommodating two midweek training sessions and two matches each week.

### **Conclusions**

Overall there are a sufficient number of pitches in Fylde to accommodate current demand, although there is a need for Fylde RFC to access further match sessions at secondary sites at peak time to accommodate existing overplay, unmet demand and enable further growth.

Much of the existing overplay at Fylde RFC derives from training demand and there is a need to access additional floodlit training facilities in order to alleviate this, preferably exclusive from match pitches. The Club has expressed the desire for a World Rugby compliant 3G surface onsite and further access to either a separate floodlit grass training area or a World Rugby certified 3G surface would help to reduce the level of training use applied to pitches which are already rated as good quality.

#### **Rugby union summary**

- ◆ In total, 12 senior and two mini rugby union pitches are located across seven sites in Fylde, of which only five senior pitches are available for community use.
- ◆ Of the five available for community use, there are three standard quality pitches at Fylde RFC and two poor quality pitches at AKEQMS and Bank Lane Sports Ground, the latter of which is unused.
- ◆ Pitches unavailable for use are mainly located at school sites where staffing, access and lack of access to changing facilities located in school buildings are key obstacles to use.
- ◆ Fylde RFC is the only club in the Borough, which has four senior teams and a full junior section with teams at each age group including Colts. All teams play at the club site which it owns, with some occasional use of AKEQMS when required.
- ◆ Teams typically train on pitch two in the case of full floodlighting, except the first team which uses the main pitch and mini teams which typically train on the 3G onsite. There is no World Rugby compliant AGP in Fylde.
- ◆ There is no spare capacity at either senior or junior peak time at Fylde RFC.
- ◆ The Club reports unmet demand at mini level in terms of excessive squad sizes and reports that it could field another two mini teams given access to additional pitches. It would like to make more regular use of AKEQMS which could help accommodate this unmet demand.
- ◆ Spare capacity of one match equivalent is available across the Borough at Bank Lane Sports ground which is unused. AKEQMS is also not regularly used and is available at peak time but it is likely that the limited carrying capacity and extent of curricular use causes this pitch to be overplayed.
- ◆ Overplay at Fylde RFC amounts to five match sessions and largely derives from Pitch Two which is used heavily for midweek floodlit training and junior training in the absence of fixtures on Sundays.
- ◆ Much of the existing overplay at Fylde RFC derives from training demand and there is a need to access additional floodlit training facilities in order to alleviate this, preferably exclusive from match pitches.
- ◆ Fylde RFC has aspirations for the creation of a 3G pitch to replace the current main grass pitch onsite, which would be made available for wider community and school use. Current development priorities are to improve the main changing room and the quality of shower provision.

## PART 5: HOCKEY

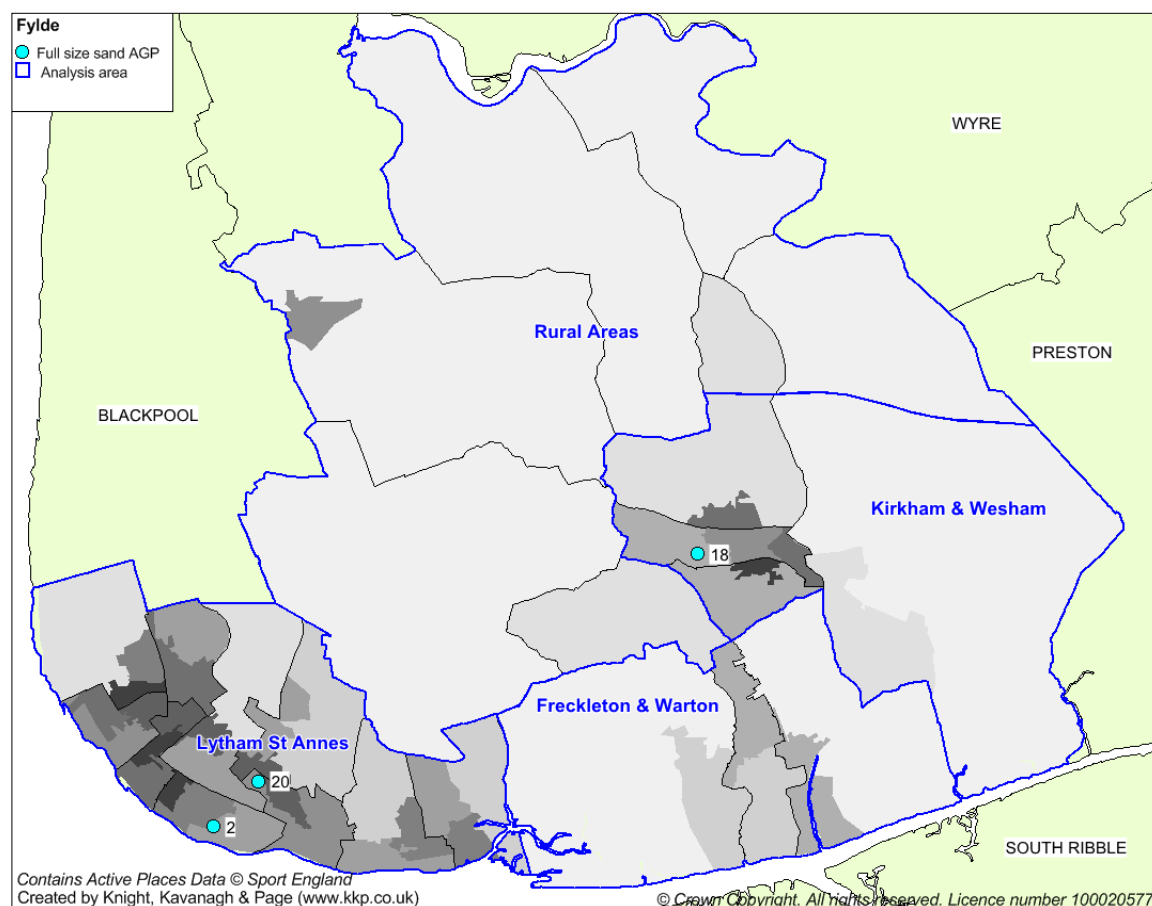
### 5.1 Introduction

There are several surface types that fall into the category of artificial grass pitch (AGP). The three main groups are rubber crumb (third generation turf 3G), sand (filled or dressed) and water based. Hockey is played predominantly on sand based/filled AGPs. Although competitive play cannot take place on 3G pitches, 40mm pitches may be suitable, in some instances, for beginner training and are preferred to poor grass or tarmac surfaces.

### 5.2 Supply

There are three full size AGPs in Fylde, all of which are sand based and floodlit, with availability for community use. These are shown below in Table 5.1.

*Figure 5.1: Location of full sized AGPs in Fylde*





### 5.3 Quality

One pitch at LSA Technology & Performing Arts College is assessed as good quality and was resurfaced within the last three years, whilst the two remaining pitches are of standard quality. The carpet of an AGP is considered to have a lifespan of ten years, therefore given that Kirkham Grammar School and AKEQMS are eight and nine years old respectively, both are considered to be approaching requirement for surface replacement.

*Table 5.1: Summary of AGP type and quality*

Site ID	Site name	Surface type	Year built (refurbished)	Quality	Hours available in peak period
2	Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS)	Sand Dressed	2006	Standard	Mon-Fri: 5.30-9pm Weekend: 9am-6pm <b>Total: 31.5hrs</b>
18	Kirkham Grammar School	Sand Filled	1991 (2007)	Standard	Mon-Fri: 6.00-9pm Saturday: 10am-4pm <b>Total: 19hrs</b>
20	LSA Technology & Performing Arts College	Sand Filled	1997 (2012)	Good	Mon-Fri: 5.30-9.30pm Weekend: 8am-6pm <b>Total: 31.5hrs</b>

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

### *Availability and usage*

The following table summarises the availability of full size AGPs for community use in Fylde. In addition, it records the availability of provision within the peak period. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) applies an overall peak period for AGPs of 34 hours a week (Monday to Thursday 17:00-21:00; Friday 17:00-19:00; Saturday and Sunday 09:00-17:00).

*Table 5.2: Summary of AGP availability and usage*

Site ID	Site name	Analysis area	Surface type	Floodlit?	Quality <sup>14</sup>	Total number of hours available for community use during peak period	Football/ rugby usage	Hockey usage	Spare capacity
2	Arnold King Edward VII and Queen Mary School (AKEQMS)	Lytham St Annes	Sand Dressed	Yes	Standard	31.5 hours	Unavailable	37%	57%
18	Kirkham Grammar School	Kirkham & Wesham	Sand Filled	Yes	Standard	19 hours	37%	32%	31%
20	LSA Technology & Performing Arts College	Lytham St Annes	Sand Filled	Yes	Good	31.5 hours	100%	-	-

AKEQMS does not allow football use of the sand dressed AGP; consequently it acts a key site for hockey and is home venue of Lytham St Annes HC. The pitch is also marked for tennis for use by the school throughout summer term. The absence of football bookings through school policy means that there is likely to be spare capacity available midweek and on Sundays, however; the Club reports that the pitch operates at capacity on Saturday as the school uses it in the mornings for fixtures before the Club does.

Kirkham Grammar School is not available on Sundays and does not have a resident hockey user on Saturday, though Preston HC (Preston) occasionally imports demand for use as a reserve pitch when required. Hockey is a key sport at the school and it fields in excess of 10 girls' teams which play on Saturday mornings, therefore the amount of potential capacity available for community use is limited by the number of school fixtures. The pitch is used by Kirkham Juniors FC for winter training which has a two hour slot four nights a week, representing a large chunk of the community use throughout the winter months. The school did not provide feedback regarding pitch usage but no other community clubs highlight using the pitch for training during the week so it is likely that there is some capacity available. However, Kirkham

<sup>14</sup> Quality is assessed via a combination of non technical assessments carried out by KKP but also take account of user views and opinions.

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Juniors FC uses the pitch from 6-8pm, therefore much of the residual capacity (3 hours – 16%) is from 8-9pm which is generally not considered desirable for teams to train. The Club does not use the pitch on Tuesdays so there may be a relatively small number of hours available for further use then

The pitch at LSA Technology & Performing Arts College is reserved for school use until 5.30pm midweek, after which it is operated by YMCA Ansdell which is on the same site. YMCA Ansdell reports that the pitch is heavily used, particularly by small sided football leagues and is fully booked for most of the year. It is likely that there is some spare capacity at weekends when the pitch is used for one match each Saturday by Lytham St Annes HC due to a lack of capacity to accommodate all teams at AKEQMS.

### ***Future developments***

Mill Farm Ventures Limited has recently begun construction work as part of its planned Mill Farm development in Kirkham, which in addition to a new football stadium for AFC Fylde includes plans for two new floodlit AGPs, one hockey suitable and one 3G surface, both of which would be full sized and available for community use. A number of smaller sized 3G cages are proposed alongside these pitches as well as a new changing and social facility. The company and Club intend to seek grant funding for such development and to propose to make facilities available for community use from 6-10pm, with two schools reported to have shown interest in using them during the day. Springfields HC (currently playing in Preston) has already agreed to become a resident club should the development go ahead and plans to rename itself as AFC Fylde HC.

### **6.4 Supply and demand analysis**

Lytham St Annes HC is the only hockey club in the Borough and face to face consultation was carried out with the Club to inform this section of the report. It has seven senior teams made up of four men's and three women's teams, all playing on Saturday afternoons. The threat of losing the fourth men's team is a particular concern for the Club, as many of its players form a strong social group and fears are that should a few retire or stop playing then most others will cease to play as well. It is also concerned that potential new players perceive other clubs in neighbouring areas to be better able to deliver success and development opportunities, therefore more attractive to join than Lytham St Annes HC.

The Club believes its key priority is to develop its junior section in order to strengthen for the long term and runs a community hockey session on Sunday mornings for juniors. It states a lack of willing volunteers currently holding back the running of regular junior teams and fixtures rather than a lack of access to a pitch on a Sunday morning. The Club considers Lytham Cricket & Sports Club to be its social base where changing provision is available but is not used often due to poor quality.

Teams play across two sites due to the level of demand exceeding capacity of one pitch, typically with three matches played at AKEQMS and one at LSA Technology & Performing Arts College. AKEQMS is used to capacity on Saturdays as it is also used in the mornings for school fixtures so the Club requires access to two pitches each week. The Club reports no difficulty in accessing capacity for training because it does not have to compete with football demand due to school policy of not using the pitch for football.

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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Hockey also a popular sport at Kirkham Grammar School where hockey is taught as part of the curriculum for both boys and girls, with the school fielding over ten teams for girls across different age groups. The school has achieved regular success in both national and county competitions and each year a significant number of girls who attend the school also attend the local Junior Regional Performance Centre (JRPC). School hockey matches are played on Saturdays which limits capacity available for community use. Preston HC also imports demand to use the pitch occasionally at weekends as an overspill venue in the event of fixture congestion, whilst there is some junior league play takes place on some weekends too.

England Hockey growth rates used to forecast future demand indicate that participation is predicted to increase by 10%. Based on the current number of teams it is unlikely that any new teams will be created with new players likely to be absorbed into existing squads. Subsequently, the current supply of hockey suitable AGPs in Fylde is sufficient to cater for projected future demand.

### **Conclusions**

In summary, supply and demand analysis highlights that Fylde is well served for hockey suitable AGPs both at present and in future to accommodate demand for matches and training from Lytham St Annes HC and local hockey playing schools. Despite the absence of full sized 3G pitch provision in Fylde and competition with football training demand, access to AGPs for hockey is not currently a key issue and priority should be to maintain sufficient access to pitches in order to allow for growth in participation at Lytham St Annes HC.

#### **Hockey summary**

- ◀ There are three full size AGPs in Fylde all of which are sand based surfaces and are floodlit. One is assessed as good quality whilst two are assessed as standard quality, both of which are more than eight years old and subsequently require carpet replacement within the next few years.
- ◀ All AGPs are located at education sites where this is generally made available after school and at weekends.
- ◀ AKEQMS has midweek capacity and does not permit football use. Lytham St Annes HC reports no problems accessing capacity for training there and would be able to access more if required.
- ◀ There is spare capacity for further weekend use at both Kirkham Grammar School and Technology & Performing Arts College, particularly on Sundays when there is available capacity at all three sites.
- ◀ Mill Farm Ventures Limited has proposed plans for the construction of several new AGPs as part of its Mill Farm development, which would include an FA and World Rugby certified 3G pitch as well a full size hockey suitable pitch and a number of small sided 3G football cages. All pitches would be available for community use and use by Springfields HC has already been agreed in principle.
- ◀ Future demand is anticipated to increase should Springfields HC relocate to the Borough from Preston. This is dependent on the creation of a new hockey suitable pitch at Mill Farm and will only go ahead should a new pitch be built, therefore current supply will not need to accommodate this added demand.
- ◀ In summary, supply and demand analysis highlights that Fylde is currently well served for hockey suitable AGPs both at present and in the future.

## APPENDIX 1: 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: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)***

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transforming sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. Launched in January 2012 the strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment will be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ✦ Maximise value from current NGB investment
- ✦ Places, People, Play
- ✦ Strategic direction and market intelligence
- ✦ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment
- ✦ Market development

The aim by 2017 is to ensure that playing sport is a lifelong habit for more people and a regular choice for the majority. A specific target is to increase the number of 14 to 25 year olds playing sport. To accomplish these aims the strategy sets out a number of outcomes:

- ✦ 4,000 secondary schools in England will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more NGBs, depending on the local clubs in a school's area.
- ✦ County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.
- ✦ All secondary schools that wish to do so, will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- ✦ At least 150 further educational colleagues will benefit from a full time sports professional who will act as a College Sport Maker.
- ✦ Three quarters of university students aged 18-24 will get the chance to take up a new sport or continue playing a sport they played at school or college.
- ✦ A thousand of our most disadvantaged local communities will get a Door Step Club.
- ✦ Two thousand young people on the margins of society will be supported by the Dame Kelly Holmes Legacy Trust into sport and to gain new life skills.
- ✦ Building on the success of the Places People Play, a further £100 million will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.
- ✦ A minimum of 30 sports will have enhanced England Talent Pathways to ensure young people and others fulfil their potential.

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

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.

## FYLDE BOROUGH PLAYING PITCH ASSESSMENT

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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.

### ***The FA National Game Strategy (2015 – 2019)***

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

- ◆ Sustain and Increase Participation.
- ◆ Ensure access to education sites to accommodate the game.
- ◆ Help players to be the best that they can be and provide opportunities for them to progress from grassroots to elite.
- ◆ Recruit, retain and develop a network of qualified referees
- ◆ Support clubs, leagues and other competition providers to develop a safe, inclusive and positive football experience for everyone.
- ◆ Support Clubs and Leagues to become sustainable businesses, understanding and serving the needs of players and customers.
- ◆ Improve grass pitches through the pitch improvement programme to improve existing facilities and changing rooms.
- ◆ Deliver new and improved facilities including new Football Turf Pitches.
- ◆ Work with priority Local Authorities enabling 50% of mini-soccer and youth matched to be played on high quality artificial grass pitches.

### ***Champion Counties – England and Wales Cricket Board (ECB) Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017)***

“Champion Counties” - continues to focus on the four pillars, as identified in the ECB’s previous strategy: “Grounds to Play”. The pillars are:

- ◆ Energising people and partnerships through effective leadership and governance
- ◆ Building a Vibrant domestic game through operational excellence and delivering a competition structure with appointment to view
- ◆ Engaging participants through the maintenance of existing facilities, supporting club/school links, supporting volunteers and expanding women’s and disabilities cricket
- ◆ Delivering Successful England teams and world class global events



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The key measures for the life span of the plan are as follows:-

- ✦ Increase the subset of participation measured by Sport England's Active People Survey from 183,400 to 197,500.
- ✦ Increase attendances at LV= CC, YB50 and FLT20 by 200,000.
- ✦ Complete sponsorship and broadcasting agreements through 2019.
- ✦ Win the World Test Championship and Women's World Cup in 2017.
- ✦ Win The Ashes and World Cup in 2015.
- ✦ Expand the number of clubs participating in NatWest Cricket Force from 2,000 to 2,200.
- ✦ Complete co-operation agreements for each of the 39 County Boards with their First Class County or Minor County partner.
- ✦ Deliver two world class global events in 2017 which exceed budget and exceed customer satisfaction targets.
- ✦ Increase the number of cricket's volunteers to 80,000 by 2017.
- ✦ Expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% by 2017.
- ✦ Award all Major Matches through 2019 by December 2014.
- ✦ To increase the number of TwelfthMan members from 220,000 to 250,000 by 2017.
- ✦ Complete an approved Community Engagement programme with all 18 First Class Counties and MCC.
- ✦ Provide First Class Counties with total fee payments of £144m between 2014 and 2017.
- ✦ For each £1 provided in facility grants through the Sport England Whole Sport Plan grant programme ensure a multiplier of 3 with other funding partners.
- ✦ Provide a fund of £8.1m of capital investment to enhance floodlights, sightscreens, replay screens, power sub-stations and broadcasting facilities at First Class County venues.
- ✦ Provide an interest-free loan fund to community clubs of £10 million.
- ✦ Leverage the 2014 tour by India to engage with a minimum of 10,000 cricket supporters of Asian origin. Qualify and engage 50 Level 4 coaches to support the development of professional cricketers.
- ✦ Expand the number of coaches who have received teacher level 1, 2 or 3 qualifications to 50,000.
- ✦ Deliver an annual fixture for the Unicorns against a touring (Full, A or U19) ICC member nation.
- ✦ Provide a fund of £2 million for community clubs to combat the impact of climate change.
- ✦ Introduce a youth T20 competition engaging 500 teams by 2017.

### ***The Rugby Football Union National Facilities Strategy (2013-2017)***

The RFU National Facility Strategy 2013-2017 provides a framework for development of high-quality, well-managed facilities that will help to strengthen member clubs and grow the game in communities around them. In conjunction with partners, this strategy will assist and support clubs and other organisations, so that they can continue to provide quality opportunities for all sections of the community to enjoy the game. It sets out the broad facility needs of the sport and identifies investment priorities to the game and its key partners.

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It identifies that with 470 grass root clubs and 1500 players there is a continuing need to invest in community club facilities in order to:

- ✦ Create a platform for growth in club rugby participation and membership, especially with a view to exploiting the opportunities afforded by RWC 2015.
- ✦ Ensure the effectiveness and efficiency of rugby clubs, through supporting not only their playing activity but also their capacity to generate revenue through a diverse range of activities and partnerships.

In summary the priorities for investment which have met the needs of the game for the Previous period remain valid:

- ✦ Increase the provision of changing rooms and clubhouses that can sustain concurrent adult and junior male and female activity at clubs
- ✦ Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches and floodlighting
- ✦ Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development

It is also a high priority for the RFU to target investment in the following:

- ✦ Upgrade and transform social, community and catering facilities, which can support the generation of additional revenues
- ✦ Facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs
- ✦ Pitch furniture, including rugby posts and pads, pitch side spectator rails and grounds maintenance equipment

### **England Hockey (EH) - A Nation Where Hockey Matters (2013-2017)**

EH have a clear vision, a powerful philosophy and five core objectives that all those who have a role in advancing Hockey can unite behind. With UK Sport and Sport England's investment, and growing commercial revenues, EH are ambitious about how they can take the sport forward in Olympic cycles and beyond.

*"The vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters'. A nation where hockey is talked about at dinner tables, playgrounds and public houses, up and down the country. A nation where the sport is on the back pages of our newspapers, where children dream of scoring a goal for England's senior hockey team, and where the performance stirs up emotion amongst the many, not the few"*

England Hockey aspires to deepen the passion of those who play, deliver and follow sport by providing the best possible environments and the best possible experiences. Whilst reaching out to new audiences by making the sport more visible, available and relevant and through the many advocates of hockey.

Underpinning all this is the infrastructure which makes the sport function. EH understand the importance of volunteers, coaches, officials, clubs and facilities. The more inspirational people can be, the more progressive Hockey can be and the more befitting the facilities can be, the more EH will achieve. The core objectives are as follows:

- ✦ Grow our Participation
- ✦ Deliver International Success
- ✦ Increase our Visibility
- ✦ Enhance our Infrastructure

- ◀ Be a strong and respected Governing Body

England Hockey has a Capital Investment Programme (CIP) that is planned to lever £5.6 million investment into hockey facilities over the next four years, underpinned by £2m million from the National Governing Body. With over 500 pitches due for refurbishment in the next 4-8 years, there will be a large focus placed on these projects through this funding stream. The current level of pitches available for hockey is believed to be sufficient for the medium term needs, however in some areas, pitches may not be in the right places in order to maximize playing opportunities

### ***‘The right pitches in the right places’<sup>15</sup>***

In 2012, EH released its facility guidance which is intended to assist organisations wishing to build or protect hockey pitches for hockey. It identifies that many existing hockey AGPs are nearing the end of their useful life as a result of the installation boom of the 90's. Significant investment is needed to update the playing stock and protect the sport against inappropriate surfaces for hockey as a result of the rising popularity of AGPs for a number of sports. EH is seeking to invest in, and endorse clubs and hockey providers which have a sound understanding of the following:

- ◀ Single System – clubs and providers which have a good understanding of the Single System and its principles and are appropriately places to support the delivery.
- ◀ ClubsFirst accreditation – clubs with the accreditation are recognised as producing a safe effective and child friendly hockey environment
- ◀ Sustainability – hockey providers and clubs will have an approved development plan in place showing their commitment to developing hockey, retaining members and providing an insight into longer term goals. They will also need to have secured appropriate tenure.

### ***England Hockey Strategy***

**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.

Our club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey 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.

The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

#### **1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision**

We currently have over 800 pitches that are used by hockey clubs (club, school, universities.) We need to retain the current provision where appropriate to ensure that hockey is maintained across the country.

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<sup>15</sup>

<http://englandhockey.co.uk/page.asp?section=1143&sectionTitle=The+Right+Pitches+in+the+Right+Places>

**2. 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. There needs to more support for clubs to obtain better agreements with facilities providers & education around owning an asset.

**3. 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.**

The research has identified key areas across the country where there is a lack of suitable Hockey provision and there is a need for additional pitches. 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.