

# Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Needs and Evidence

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# 1. Introduction

## Introduction

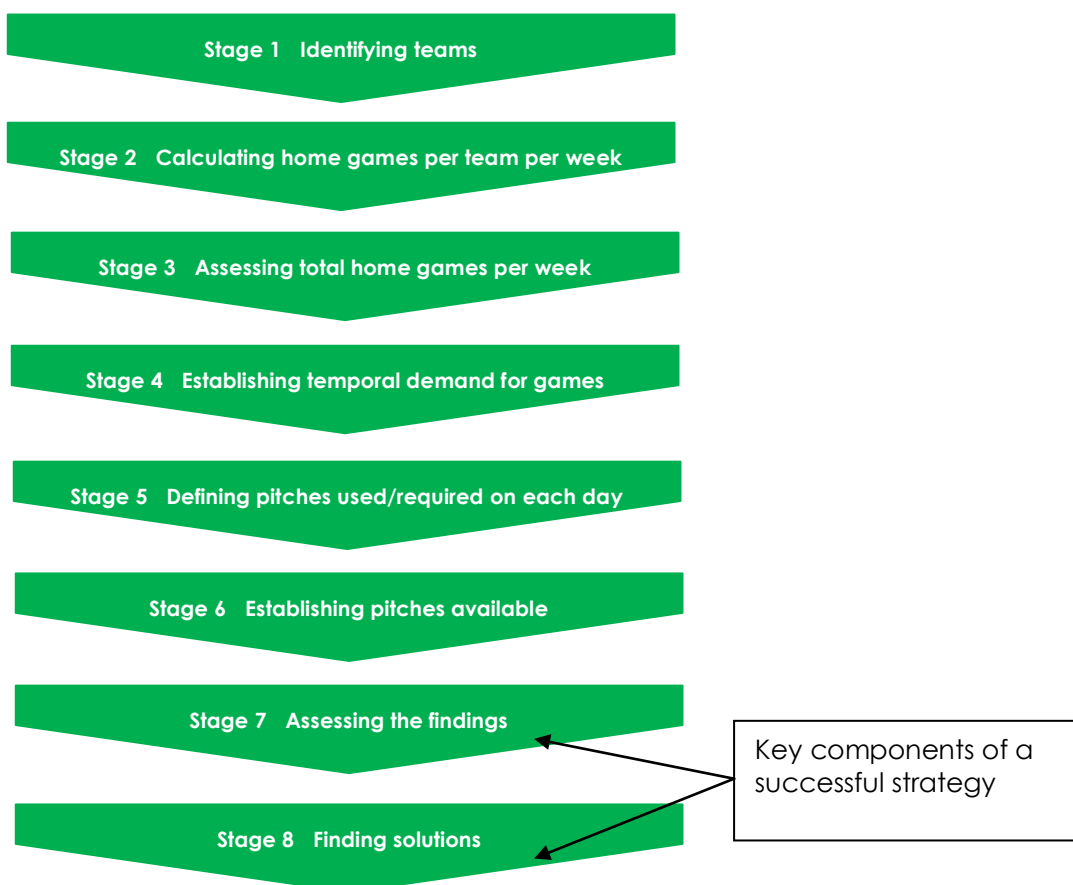
- 1.1 Neil Allen Associates was commissioned in September 2012 to produce a suite of documents for the Central Lincolnshire Partnership, specifically
- A built indoor facilities assessment
  - A playing pitch assessment
  - An assessment and strategy for minority sports.
- 1.2 The need for these documents was identified in a scoping study undertaken across Central Lincolnshire, which evaluated the spectrum of evidence available in relation to sport and recreation facilities and outlined areas where further information was required.
- 1.3 This document sets out the playing pitch assessment which considers the adequacy of provision for key pitch sports, specifically football, cricket, rugby and hockey. It also evaluates the availability of facilities for tennis and bowls. The assessment builds upon the foundations set by playing pitch strategies produced in each of the local authorities between 2002 and 2003, all of which are now considered to be out of date and no longer reflective of local needs.
- 1.4 The key objectives of the assessment are to;
- provide a full understanding of the location, availability and quality of all existing pitches regardless of ownership;
  - identify all current users and potential users of pitches and sports facilities in the Central Lincolnshire area and understand their needs and aspirations;
  - evaluate the current propensity of the population to participate and ensure that potential changes to the population profile, as well as the projected growth in the population are taken into account in the forward planning of playing pitch needs;
  - analyse the adequacy of provision to meet current and projected need;
  - identify key issues that need to be addressed.
- 1.5 The key drivers for the production of this assessment are to;
- Provide an understanding of areas of deficiency and surplus and other issues evident within the Central Lincolnshire Partnership area;
  - Support the development of policy options to address the issues identified;
  - provide a spatial and long term assessment of need taking into account the growth agenda

- support the development of an action plan for the delivery of pitch provision across Central Lincolnshire.
- 1.6 The primary application of the PPS is to inform the Central Lincolnshire Infrastructure Delivery plan. This evidence base will also guide local priorities relating to playing pitch provision.
- 1.7 This document summarises the evidence collated and identifies the key issues that need to be considered and addressed to meet both current and projected demand. It also summarises the implications for each local authority area in detail.
- 1.8 This assessment report is set out as follows:
- Section 2 – Methodology
  - Section 3 – Population and Sports Participation
  - Section 4 – AGPs
  - Section 5 – Football
  - Section 6 - Cricket
  - Section 7 – Rugby
  - Section 8 – Hockey
  - Section 9 – Bowls
  - Section 10 – Tennis
  - Section 11 – Summary and Implementation (including local authority specific summaries and site specific examples.

## 2. Methodology

- 2.1 This section summarises the methodology that has been used in the development of the assessment and strategy. Both documents have been developed in line with 'Towards a Level Playing Field: A Manual for the Production of a Playing Pitch Strategy' (Sport England, 2003) (TaLPF).
- 2.2 Figure 2.1 summarises the key stages of this methodology. These stages cover the issues of supply and demand as well as analysis of the adequacy of provision. While stages one to six are largely numerical calculations, designed to evaluate the current supply and demand, it is steps 7 and 8, the evaluation of issues and solutions, which are the essential components of a successful strategy.

**Figure 2.1: The key stages of the Playing Pitch Methodology**



- 2.3 TaLPF is currently being updated and a revised methodology will shortly be published. The revised methodology will take into account the evolving context of sport as well as the requirements of The National Planning Policy Framework. It places a greater emphasis on site specific issues and includes new ways of assessing the quality of facilities and recording the availability of each pitch. Most importantly, the new methodology promotes the involvement of National Governing Bodies and Sport England, ensuring that

local priorities are matched with regional issues and priorities. It also seeks to ensure that strategies are representative of the needs of sport. Where possible, these changes have been incorporated into the preparation of this assessment and strategy for the Central Lincolnshire Partnership. Most notably, a site specific assessment has been undertaken and the used and spare capacity of each site has been evaluated.

- 2.4 TaLPF includes only a methodology for pitch sports and there is no formally adopted approach for an assessment of tennis and bowls. The adequacy of provision for tennis and bowls has therefore been evaluated through the interpretation of supply and demand as well as detailed consultation. The methodology (and therefore this assessment) includes competitive sport only.
- 2.5 The remainder of this section briefly summarizes the approach that has been undertaken in the preparation of this assessment and strategy.

## **Approach**

### ***Demand (Steps 1 – 5)***

- 2.6 A full audit of teams playing or wishing to play within Central Lincolnshire was conducted. This audit process involved:
- use of data collected by National Governing Bodies (NGBs) on participation;
  - cross referencing of NGB data through analysis of pitch booking records, local league websites and fixture lists and internet research; and
  - clarification telephone calls with Town and Parish Councils, league secretaries, clubs and providers.
- 2.7 To supplement the baseline data, a consultation exercise was carried out to provide full understanding of the issues and challenges currently experienced. This comprised:
- distribution of an online survey to all schools and follow up telephone calls to none responding schools (final response 87%);
  - face to face meetings, telephone and email consultations with league secretaries;
  - email and telephone discussions with Town and Parish Councils (final response 78%);
  - face to face and telephone discussions with NGBs to discuss key issues and priorities;
  - discussions with officers of each of the three local authorities as well as Lincolnshire County Council; and
  - discussions with other external stakeholders including Sport England, the MOD and the Lincolnshire County Sports Partnership.
- 2.8 In addition to the above consultations, invitations to complete a survey online were distributed to all clubs known to be playing within Central Lincolnshire area and follow up telephone consultations were undertaken with clubs that did not respond. Efforts were made to contact all clubs on at least five separate occasions and as a result, a high proportion of teams engaged with the process, specifically;

- Football – 72%
- Cricket – 61%
- Rugby Union – 80% (96% of teams)
- Hockey – 80% (85% of teams)
- Tennis – 79%
- Bowls – 64%.

### **Supply (Step 6)**

2.9 A full audit of the supply of playing fields is an essential component of a Playing Pitch Strategy. A detailed audit of the current pitches across Central Lincolnshire was compiled by:

- reviewing County Sports Partnership and NGB data on pitches;
- cross matching existing data sources with the Sport England Active Places tool;
- undertaking a detailed survey to all schools and analysing the findings of the sports club and Town and Parish Council survey;
- engaging with City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey Council officers and other providers to understand provision in their control;
- undertaking non-technical site visits (in line with the Sport England Matrix) to all public playing fields and a sample of school sites; and
- carrying out internet searches and local consultation.

### **Availability and accessibility**

2.10 The ownership and accessibility of pitches will influence their actual availability for community use. In line with Towards a Level Playing Field, the term 'secured community use' has been adopted to define this. This embraces:

- all local authority facilities;
- school facilities where they are subject to formal community use agreements;
- other institutional facilities that are available to the public as a result of formal community use agreements; and
- any facilities that are owned, used or maintained by clubs/private individuals and which, as a matter of policy and practice, are available to large sections of the public through membership of a club or through an admission fee.

2.11 Pitches in secured community use are defined as those where the future use is secured for the coming seasons by one or more of the following:

- a formal community use agreement;

- a leasing/management arrangement between the school and LEA requiring the pitch(es) to be available to community teams;
  - a policy of community use minuted by school or LEA, including tariff of charges, etc;
  - minutes of the board of school governors allowing use of pitches by community teams; and
  - written commitment from the school to the current community team(s) using the pitch(es) and where it is the intention of the school to maintain access for community teams to its pitch(es) at peak times (ie evenings, weekends and/or school holidays) for the next two or more years.
- 2.12 Where pitches are available for community use but are not currently used this has also been recorded. Responses to the school survey were used to determine the level of access and the degree of security of this access to school sites. Telephone calls were used to ascertain the level of access to other facilities, including those owned and managed by the Ministry of Defence.
- 2.13 It should be noted that where schools have indicated that they offer secure community use, there is no firm guarantee that this will take place indefinitely, only that community use will be available in the short foreseeable future.

### **Strategy Development (Stages 7 and 8)**

- 2.14 Following the collation of supply and demand data, calculations were undertaken to evaluate the adequacy of pitches across Central Lincolnshire. These calculations, alongside the key issues arising from consultations, drive the priorities of the strategy and the actions that emerge from these priorities. Several different scenarios were explored and evaluated in order to fully understand the issues associated with playing pitch provision in Central Lincolnshire.

### **Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)**

- 2.15 AGPs are increasingly being used to meet demand for pitch sports. To acknowledge this, the adequacy of AGPs has been informed by the use of the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) as well as Sport England Active Places. This analysis has been used to guide decision making in relation to the future requirements for AGPs as well as the adequacy of current pitch provision.
- 2.16 Requirements for AGPs are also informed by new standards and modeling created by the FA, which seeks to determine the number of AGPs required for football. This will be explored further in Section 4.

### **Geographical Analysis**

- 2.17 This assessment covers pitch and court provision across the Central Lincolnshire partnership area. This area includes the local authority areas of the City of Lincoln, North Kesteven District and West Lindsey District.
- 2.18 To fully understand the patterns of supply and demand and in order to take a strategic view of provision, the adequacy of provision has been evaluated at a strategic level across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, as well as within each local authority boundary and more locally at a site specific level.



- 2.19 Section three provides further detail relating to changes in the population profile anticipated in Central Lincolnshire, as well as proposed population growth.
- 2.20 Section 3 sets out the strategic context for pitch provision in Central Lincolnshire. It also provides a full understanding of the participation profile in sport and physical activity of residents in the district, as well as their propensity to participate and also comments upon the key population trends which may influence demand for sports pitch provision in future years.

## 3. Population and Sports Participation Profile

### Introduction

- 3.1 An understanding of the local strategic context is essential if a strategy is to be effectively tailored to achieve local targets and priorities. The demographics of a given area can also impact upon the propensity of a population to participate in different sports.
- 3.2 This section therefore sets out the key policies that impact upon the preparation of this playing pitch strategy and provides an overview of the demographics of each local authority and the impact of this on demand for pitch sports.

### Strategic Context

- 3.3 At a national level, there are several key policies that impact upon the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy:

### National Planning Policy Framework

- 3.4 The National Planning Policy Framework seeks to make the planning system less complex and more accessible, and to promote sustainable growth. The framework includes a 'presumption in favour of sustainable development' in order to promote development but highlights the importance of environmental protection. The presumption champions the right sort of development at the right level by placing a greater emphasis on having a Local Plan in place. Through the plan, local communities will have a say in the sort of development they want and need in their areas. These plans will set out the opportunities for local development and form the basis for planning decisions.

- 3.5 Directly referencing open space and sport, paragraph 73 of the NPPF states;

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

- 3.6 Paragraph 74 states that existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
  - an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements;
  - the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
  - the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.

3.7 The NPPF makes several other references to the importance of sport and recreation facilities. Paragraph 70 indicates that to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- plan positively for the provision and use of shared space, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to:
  - enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
  - guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
  - ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise in a way that is sustainable, and retained for the benefit of the community; and
  - ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

3.8 This Playing Pitch Strategy will provide an important evidence base to fulfil these requirements.

### **Sport England Playing Field Policy**

3.9 Sport England has been a statutory consultee on planning applications affecting playing pitches since 1996 and has a long established policy of retention. Sport England also advises that informed decisions on playing pitch matters require all local authorities to have an up to date (within the last three years) assessment of need and a strategy emanating from this.

3.10 Sport England policy on the loss of playing fields is set out in 'A Sporting Future for the Playing Fields of England'. This policy indicates that Sport England would oppose the granting of planning permission for any development which would prejudice the use of whole or part of a playing field, unless an assessment has been carried out which confirms that there is an excess in playing field provision in the catchment area and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.

3.11 Sport England considers the definition of a playing field to be "the whole of a site which encompasses at least one playing pitch". A playing field is defined as such where it has either been used in the last five years for this function, or is allocated as a playing field within Local Authority Plans. This policy relates to all playing fields of 0.2 ha or above.

3.12 The policy indicates that Sport England will not object to the loss of playing fields where one or more of the following exception criteria are met:

- An assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated that there is an excess of playing field provision in the catchment, and the site has no special significance to the interests of sport
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or playing fields, and does not affect the quantity or quality of pitches or adversely affect their use

- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming, or forming part of, a playing pitch, and does not result in the loss of or inability to make use of any playing pitch
- Lost playing fields would be replaced by a playing field or playing fields of an equivalent or better quality and of equivalent or greater quantity, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of development
- The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport as to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of the playing field or playing fields.

### **Local Context**

- 3.13 More locally in Central Lincolnshire, the preparation of this Playing Pitch Strategy impacts upon, or is informed by, a number of key documents including;

**Central Lincolnshire Planning Framework;** The Central Lincolnshire Joint Strategic Planning Committee has since 2009 been responsible for the preparation of a joint Local Development Framework with a Core Strategy and related documents for the local authorities of City of Lincoln Council (CLC), North Kesteven District Council (NKDC) and West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) working with Lincolnshire County Council (LCC) up to 2031. In shorthand this is known as the Central Lincolnshire Partnership (CLP). It is anticipated that the Final Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy will be consulted upon shortly. The focus of this strategy is growth in housing and employment across parts of each local authority. This growth will create the need for related infrastructure and as such the CLP has determined it will produce an Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) to set out the infrastructure requirements resulting from this growth. Delivery of the infrastructure requirements will be the responsibilities of the local authorities, plus statutory and non – statutory bodies. The evidence base for these infrastructure requirements, including sport and physical activity as a consequence of the projected growth is a key component of the IDP. This Playing Pitch assessment will be an important component of the evidence base relating to sport and leisure facilities.

**A Strategy for Sport and Physical Activity in Lincolnshire 2013 – 2017;** the vision of this strategy is to create “a successful county that leads a healthy, sporting lifestyle”. It seeks to ensure that neither the size of community or geographical location will be a barrier to participation or achieving true potential. The priorities of the strategy are derived upon the values of fun, safe, inclusive, excellence, respect, sustainability and partnership working. With regards facilities, the strategy seeks to;

- To increase the number of facilities available to the public for sport and physical activity
- Identification and support to improve any facility within the County
- Identification and support to increase sport and physical activity usage across the County.

The assessment will also support the delivery of other key local authority specific priorities, including those set out the respective Sustainable Community Strategies.

### **Population and Sports Participation**

- 3.14 An evaluation of population trends and overall participation in sport in Central Lincolnshire underpins the more detailed investigation of the adequacy of pitches in later sections.

This section draws on the findings from the Sport England Active People surveys and Sport England Market Segmentation.

3.15 In particular it covers:

- **Population trends in Central Lincolnshire:** What are the population trends in Central Lincolnshire and what does this mean for pitch sports participation and for future requirements for outdoor sports facilities?
- **Sports Participation trends for adults across Central Lincolnshire:** Drawn from the Sport England Active People Survey, what are the overall trends in participation, how are these changing and what does this mean for pitch sports participation?
- **Which are the most popular sports played by adults in Central Lincolnshire:** Again drawn from the Sport England Active People survey; and where do pitch sports rank in terms of popularity when compared with other sports/physical activity?
- **What is the sporting profile of participants in Central Lincolnshire and where do participants live:** Using the Sport England market segmentation data to set out a sports and spatial profile of the most dominant population groups. How do pitch sports *rank* in the importance and the amount of sports played by these groups? Do residents in Central Lincolnshire have a higher or lower propensity to participate in pitch sports when compared with the national profile?
- **What percentage of adults who play pitch sports now compared to how many adults would like to play these sports:** Again based on the Active People market segmentation survey findings, what percentage of the population play pitch sports now and where are they located? Then what percentage of the population would like to play pitch sports and where do they live?

3.16 Due to the constraints of the data collated by Sport England, these figures are presented on a local authority basis.

### Central Lincolnshire Population Profile

3.17 Analysis of the population profile of Central Lincolnshire provides a context for the interpretation of participation in sports. Table 3.1 sets out the population of each local authority based upon the 2011 census figures (and updated for 2012 by Office of National Statistics ONS). It indicates that the total population of Central Lincolnshire is 296,764. Of this, 32% of the total population is based in City of Lincoln, 37% in North Kesteven and 31% in West Lindsey.

**Table 3.1 – Population in Central Lincolnshire**

Name of Authority	2012 Population
Central Lincolnshire	296,764
City of Lincoln	93,889
North Kesteven	111,255
West Lindsey	91,619
Rest of Lincolnshire County	434,959

- 3.18 In addition to natural growth (projected by the ONS), the Draft Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy sets out a strategy for significant growth, amounting to 42,000 dwellings between 2011/ 2012 and 2031. The strategy identifies broad location for sustainable growth to take place through the creation of eight Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs). These are largely focused in and around the existing urban areas of Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford.
- 3.19 Table 3.2 outlines the amount of dwellings that it is anticipated will be created in each area.

**Table 3.2 – New Dwellings in and around each urban area.**

SETTLEMENT	Number of new dwellings, 2011/12-2030/31, and area to which target relates
Lincoln	18,800 dwellings in and adjacent to the Lincoln Principal Urban Area
Gainsborough	10,000 dwellings in and adjacent to the Gainsborough Urban Area
Sleaford	4,500 dwellings in and adjacent to the Sleaford Urban Area
Smaller Towns and Rural Settlements	9,500 dwellings
TOTAL	42,800 dwellings

- 3.20 The exact implications of the new development, alongside projected changes to the existing population profile are still to be refined, however for the purposes of this study, calculations have been undertaken to project the future population in each local authority area. The total future population in each area is contained in Table 3.3. The 2022 figure has been obtained by using a total population number for the 8 strategic Urban Extension areas in the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy (provided by Central Lincolnshire partnership) and for the remainder of the Central Lincolnshire Area, projections have been extracted from ONS 2011 Census based and trend projections to 2022.

**Table 3.3 – Current and Projected Population Figures in Central Lincolnshire**

Name of Authority	2012 Population	2022 Estimated Population	Percentage Population Increase
Central Lincolnshire	296,764	325,562	9.70%
City of Lincoln	93,889	97,201	3.50%

Name of Authority	2012 Population	2022 Estimated Population	Percentage Population Increase
North Kesteven	111,255	124,048	11.40%
West Lindsey	91,619	104,312	13.80%

- 3.21 It should be noted that while these population projections provide an indication of the likely growth in each area, spatially the impact of population growth may be felt in neighbouring areas also. Growth on the edge of Lincoln for example may see residents both travel into Lincoln City but also out to more rural areas to use facilities.
- 3.22 The potential impact of growth on the demand for playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities will be considered as part of this strategy both quantitatively (number of additional facilities required) but also taking into account the spatial implications.
- 3.23 While population growth is important, potential changes to the demographic profile of an area also have a significant impact on the demand for sports facilities. The characteristics of residents that participate in pitch sports will be discussed later in this section, however in brief, it is clear that the majority of participants are between the ages of 6 and 45. It is therefore important to consider the changing profile of the population and to evaluate the impact that this may have on demand for facilities.
- 3.24 Table 3.4 outlines the projected change in the amount of people in age group by indicating the percentage change in the amount of people in each age group in each area. It provides an indication only, as projections have been taken from the Office of National Statistics Sub National Projections and therefore do not correlate exactly with the population projections used. While it is indicative only, it clearly indicates that the population age groups that are likely to see an increase are focused in the older ranges.

**Table 3.4 – Trends in the profile of the population**

Age Group	City of Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Central Lincolnshire
0-5	4.8%	12.2%	15.7%	10.6%
6 to 10	30.5%	25.8%	32.6%	29.3%
11 to 15	4.2%	4.9%	7.5%	5.6%
16 to 20	-12.9%	-8.7%	-13.5%	-11.8%
21 to 25	-3.7%	0.9%	-2.3%	-2.0%
26 – 30	-9.8%	16.6%	18.3%	5.4%
31 – 35	0.0%	26.1%	22.2%	15.1%
36-40	5.2%	10.3%	10.7%	8.8%
41-45	-14.4%	-18.7%	-19.4%	-17.7%

Age Group	City of Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Central Lincolnshire
46-50	-15.8%	-11.3%	-13.5%	-13.2%
51-55	6.1%	19.0%	11.2%	12.8%
56-60	24.5%	34.3%	24.9%	28.4%
61-65	-0.8%	-2.7%	-1.3%	-1.7%
66-70	11.0%	0.2%	6.5%	4.9%
71-75	38.2%	36.3%	51.9%	42.0%
76-80	21.6%	38.6%	39.9%	34.9%
81-85	10.9%	35.5%	29.1%	26.8%
86 and above	40.2%	42.7%	54.7%	45.6%

3.25 Table 3.5 summarises the proportion of the total population that will be in each age group in Central Lincolnshire and more locally within each local authority. It reflects the trends evident in Table 3.4, revealing that the proportion of residents in the older age groups will be higher, while the proportion of the total population in the mid range age groups will be lower. The groups in Central Lincolnshire as a whole that will see an increase in the proportion of residents falling in that age group are highlighted in red.

**Table 3.5 – Proportion of Residents in each age group (Current and Future Years)**

Age Group	Proportion of Current Population of Central Lincolnshire	Likely Future proportion of population of Central Lincolnshire	City of Lincoln Current	City of Lincoln Future	North Kesteven Current	North Kesteven Future	West Lindsey Current	West Lindsey Future
0-5	6.5%	6.7%	7.3%	7.5%	6.2%	6.3%	6.1%	6.4%
6 to 10	5.0%	6.0%	4.6%	5.8%	5.3%	6.0%	5.1%	6.1%
11 to 15	5.6%	5.5%	4.8%	4.9%	6.1%	5.7%	6.0%	5.8%
16 to 20	7.1%	5.8%	10.3%	8.7%	5.4%	4.4%	5.9%	4.6%
21 to 25	6.6%	6.0%	10.2%	9.5%	5.1%	4.6%	4.7%	4.2%
26 – 30	5.9%	5.7%	8.1%	7.1%	5.2%	5.4%	4.5%	4.8%
31 - 35	5.4%	5.8%	6.6%	6.4%	5.1%	5.8%	4.7%	5.1%
36-40	5.8%	5.8%	5.8%	6.0%	6.1%	6.1%	5.5%	5.5%
41-45	7.2%	5.4%	6.2%	5.2%	7.8%	5.7%	7.4%	5.4%
46-50	7.5%	6.0%	6.6%	5.4%	8.0%	6.4%	8.0%	6.3%
51-55	6.7%	6.9%	5.8%	6.0%	6.8%	7.3%	7.4%	7.4%
56-60	6.0%	7.1%	5.0%	6.1%	6.0%	7.3%	6.9%	7.8%
61-65	6.7%	6.1%	5.1%	5.0%	7.2%	6.3%	7.8%	7.0%
66-70	5.7%	5.5%	4.0%	4.3%	6.3%	5.7%	6.7%	6.4%
71-75	4.4%	5.7%	3.1%	4.2%	5.0%	6.2%	4.8%	6.6%



Age Group	Proportion of Current Population of Central Lincolnshire	Likely Future proportion of population of Central Lincolnshire	City of Lincoln Current	City of Lincoln Future	North Kesteven Current	North Kesteven Future	West Lindsey Current	West Lindsey Future
76-80	3.4%	4.2%	2.6%	3.1%	3.7%	4.6%	3.8%	4.8%
81-85	2.5%	2.9%	2.1%	2.2%	2.7%	3.2%	2.6%	3.1%
86 and above	2.1%	2.8%	2.0%	2.7%	2.2%	2.8%	2.1%	2.9%

3.26 Using the figures above, as well as data by individual year, it is possible to calculate the impact that changes to the population profile will have on the demand for pitch sports in terms of actual participation numbers. This has been done using a series of assumptions specifically;

- The current breakdown of the population by age group has been taken from the 2011 census data and used to measure the current number of residents in each age group. To reflect the increase in population between 2011 and 2012, it has been assumed that growth has been even across all age groups and a multiplication factor equivalent to the overall growth has been applied
- The subnational population projections for 2022 have been used to evaluate the likely future proportion of residents in each age group. These figures have then been applied to the bespoke projections for each authority in Central Lincolnshire (which also take into account the anticipated growth) to determine the actual number of residents in each age group.

3.27 The impact of this analysis will be considered in the sport specific sections in detail, however overall it is clear that;

- Across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, despite the ageing population, the high levels of population growth mean that there will be still be an increase in the number of residents in the age groups that are likely to participate in pitch sports
- Breaking this down further, there will be an overall increase in the number of residents likely to play junior sports
- Contrasting with this however, despite the population growth, but reflecting the lower numbers of residents in the middle age brackets, there will be a slight decrease in the number of people playing senior pitch sports
- This trend is not consistent across each authority. While there will be increases in the number of residents in junior age groups in each area, it is only in City of Lincoln where there will be an overall decrease in the number of people that are within the adult age brackets for each sport.

3.28 Detailed implications of these trends for each sport will be returned to in the sport specific sections 5 – 10.

### **Adult Participation in Sport**

3.29 The nationally accepted measure of adult participation in sport is the Sport England Active People survey. The first survey was conducted between October 2005 and October 2006, and was a telephone survey of 363,724 adults in England (aged 16 plus). It is unique in providing reliable statistics on participation in sport and active recreation for all 354

local authorities (a minimum of 1,000 interviews were completed in every Local Authority in the initial round).

- 3.30 The Active People survey has been updated on the same basis, commencing in October each year until the following October. The latest Active People survey is AP 6 which commenced in October 2009 and finished in October 2012. It provides by far the largest sample size ever established for a sport and recreation survey and allows levels of detailed analysis previously unavailable. It identifies how participation varies from place to place and between different groups in the population.
- 3.31 The survey also measures the proportion of the adult population that volunteer in sport on a weekly basis, club membership, involvement in organised sport/competition, receipt of tuition or coaching, and overall satisfaction with levels of sporting provision in the local community.

### Headline Findings from the Active People 6 Survey

- 3.32 Between October 2011 – October 2012 (Active People 6), at least 15.51 million people participated in sport at least once a week. This is over 750,000 more people than the AP 5 survey period, October 2010 – October 2011 when 14.76 million adults played sport once a week. The latest result also represents a 1.6 million increase on 2005/06 (AP1).
- 3.33 During the period October 2011 – October 2012 (AP6), 8.639 million men (41.1%) participated once a week which is 175,300 higher than AP5 (8.463 million, 40.8%). The latest result also shows a 947,300 increase on AP1.
- 3.34 Compared with APS 5, participation among women has increased by 578,500 from 6.296 million to 6.874 million (29.0% to 31.1%). The latest result also represents a 626,000 increase on APS1.
- 3.35 Comparison of AP 6 with AP5 shows 19 sports have shown a positive change in participation, while 13 sports are unchanged or showing a negative change. Eight of the increases in participation were statistically significant. These being in order of the highest increase in number of participants: cycling; athletics; swimming; tennis; hockey; netball; judo and sailing.
- 3.36 Providing a context for the Playing Pitch Strategy, the percentage and number of participants nationally in each sport for AP 6 (October 2011 – October 2012) compared with AP5 (October 2010 – 2011) is set out in Table 3.6. Football, tennis and rugby union have experienced an increase in participation between AP 5 and AP 6, based on numbers (albeit the increase in numbers are small), whilst cricket and bowls have experienced modest decreases in participation.

**Table 3.6: Percentage and number of participants in each sport for AP 6 (October 2011 – October 2012) compared with AP5 (October 2010 – 2011)**

Sport	AP5 (Oct 2010-Oct 2011)		AP6 (Oct 2011 - Oct 2012)		
	Percentage of population	Number of Participants	Percentage of population	Number of Participants	Statistically significant change from APS 2
Swimming	6.62%	2,809,300	6.81%	2,933,100	Increase
<b>Football</b>	4.98%	2,117,000	4.94%	2,126, 800	<b>Increase (in numbers)</b>

Athletics	4.47%	1,899,400	4.72%	2,033,700	Increase
Cycling	4.15%	1,761,200	4.55%	1,962,000	Increase
Golf	1.96%	833,200	1.97%	850,500	Increase
Badminton	1.20%	510,300	1.26%	544,200	Increase
<b>Tennis</b>	<b>0.88%</b>	<b>375,800</b>	<b>1.03%</b>	<b>445,100</b>	<b>Increase</b>
Equestrian	0.74%	312,600	0.77%	331,000	Increase
Squash and racketball	0.67%	284,800	0.61%	263,200	Decrease
<b>Bowls</b>	<b>2.55%</b>	<b>219,800</b>	2.45%	214,100	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>Cricket</b>	<b>0.51%</b>	<b>215,500</b>	0.43%	183,400	<b>Decrease</b>
<b>Rugby Union</b>	<b>0.42%</b>	<b>178,900</b>	0.42%	183,000	<b>Increase (in numbers)</b>
Basketball	0.36%	151,500	0.35%	152,900	No change
Netball	0.31%	131,700	0.37%	159,300	Increase

(Source: Sport England Active People Surveys 5 and 6 October 2010 – October 2012)

#### Active People Survey Findings for City of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey Council's for former National Indicator NI 8

3.37 The trends in overall adult sports participation in each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities for the former NI 8 measure of 3 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity 3 times a week are set out in Table 3.7. These figures are taken from Active People 6.

**Table 3.7: Active People Surveys 1 - 6 for the NI8 measure of Adult Sports Participation of 3 x 30 Minutes of Moderate Sport and Physical Activity a Week**

Local authority	AP1 (Oct 2005 - Oct 2006)		AP2/3 (Oct 2007 - Oct 2009)		AP5/6 (Oct 2010 - Oct 2012)		Change between AP1 (Oct05-Oct 06) and AP5/6 (Oct 10-Oct 12)		
	%	Base	%	Base	%	Base	Percentage point change	Range	Statistical Significance
City of Lincoln	21.2	991	22.6	1,005	18.2	1,004	- 3%	+/- 3.5	No change
North Kesteven	21.6	1,000	24.8	1,008	25	1,001	+ 3.4%	+/- 3.7	No Change
West Lindsey	20.6	1,026	23.4	992	21.4	998	+ 0.8 %	+/- 3.5	No change

(Source: Results for participation in sport and active recreation, data from Active People Surveys, 2/3 (2007/09) and 5/6 (2010/12) shown against the baseline data from 2005/6 (Active People Survey 1).

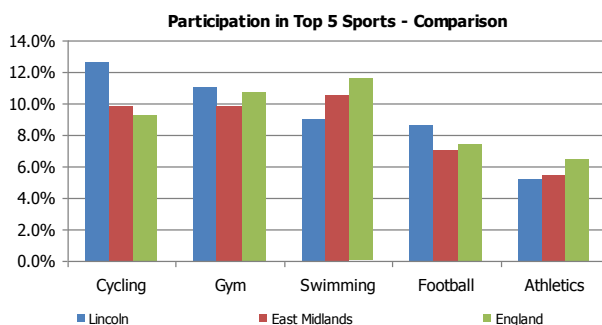
3.38 Table 3.7 shows that:

- the rate of adult sports participation has fluctuated over the Active People surveys 1 – 6 but overall there is an upwards trend in North Kesteven and West Lindsey Districts and a decline in City of Lincoln;
- over the AP survey period's 1 – 6, participation increased in North Kesteven from 21.6% to 25% of the population by AP 6;
- in West Lindsey over the same AP 1 – 6 period, participation increased from 20.6% to 21.4% by AP 6; and
- in City of Lincoln over the same AP 1 – 6 period, participation decreased from 21.2% to 18.2% by AP 6.

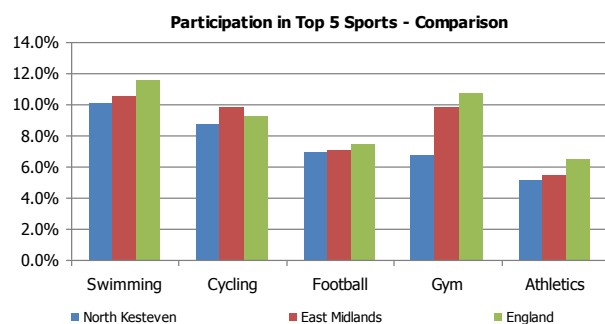
#### Which are the Most Popular Sports in the Central Lincolnshire authorities?

3.39 As well as understanding the overall trends in adult sports participation it is also important to also understand which sports/activities people most like to participate in. The profile of the five most popular sporting activities in each of Central Lincolnshire authorities based on participation of at least once a month is set out in Charts 3.1 – 3.3. It must be noted that (1) these findings are from Active People 5 (2010 – 2011). This is the most up to date data as Market Segmentation information is not refreshed annually (2) the most popular sport is categorised as multi sports and is not included in this table because it is not sport specific (3) Sport England produce this data on an individual local authority are base and so it is not possible to set out the findings for the combined Central Lincolnshire area (4) the once a month participation measure for the most popular sports differs from the NI 8 measure of 3 x 30 minutes of moderate intensity activity 3 times a week).

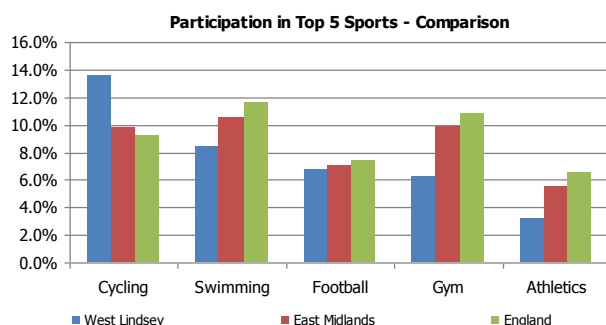
**Chart 3.1: The five most popular sports/activities played by the adult population in City of Lincoln**



**Chart 3.2: The five most popular sports/activities played by the adult population in North Kesteven District**



**Chart 3.3: The five most popular sports/activities played by the adult population in West Lindsey District**



(Source: Active People Survey 5, Population data: ONS Annual Population Survey 2011. Measure: Participation rate of the top 5 sports and the number of people that participate at least once per month).

3.40 The key findings from Charts 3.1 – 3.3 are:

- **Cycling** (Note; the cycling definition is for recreational cycling (but not exclusively for travel purposes) and competitive cycling, BMX, cyclo-cross and mountain-biking) is the most popular activity in Lincoln City with 12.2% of the adult population participating at least once a month and in West Lindsey where 13.8% of the adult population participate. Cycling is the second most popular activity in North Kesteven but only 8.5% of the adult population participate. The Lincoln and West Lindsey participation rates are significantly above the East Midlands (9.8%) and England (9.6%) rates of participation
- **Swimming** is the most popular activity in North Kesteven with 10% of the adult population participating at least once a month. Swimming is the third most popular activity in Lincoln (participation rate of 9) and the second most popular activity in West Lindsey (8.2% of the adult population participating).
- **Gym** (defined as aerobic exercise, health and fitness/exercise and dance classes) is the second most popular activity in Lincoln with 11% of the adult population participating. It is the fourth most popular activity in North Kesteven and West Lindsey with 6.3% and 6.1% of the adult population participating respectively.
- **Football** is the only one of the six sports in the PPS to register in the most popular sports activities. It is the fourth most popular activity in Lincoln with 8.3% of the adult population participating and this is higher than the East Midlands regional and England wide percentages at 7% and 7.2% respectively.
- Figures for **North Kesteven** are lower than the East Midlands Region and England wide percentage of adult participation in each of the five most popular sports participated in the district. In **West Lindsey** this is also the case for 4 out of the 5 most popular sports, cycling being the exception. Lincoln City it has a higher rate in 3 of the 5 most popular sports but is lower in swimming and athletics.

#### **What is the profile of adult sports participation in each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities?**

- 3.41 Building upon the Active People survey findings (which records participation of adults 16+, and linking with Mosaic Lifestyle data, Sport England analysed data on the English population (18+)) to produce 19 market segments considered to have distinct sporting

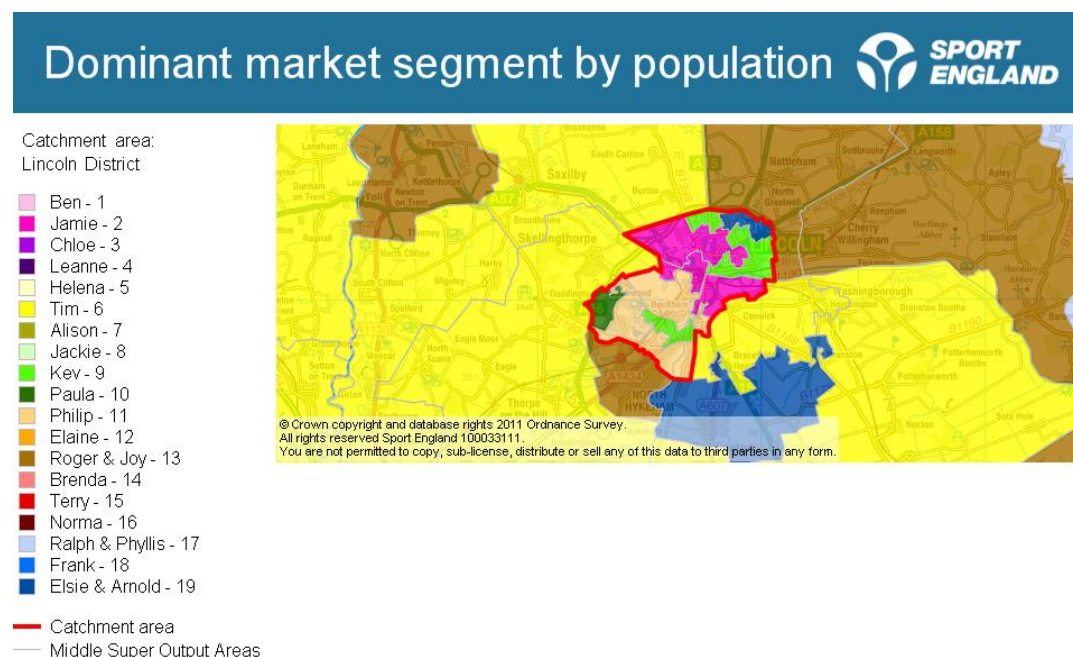
behaviours and attitudes. This analysis provides information on specific sports people take part in as well as an understanding of why people do sport, whether they want to do sport and the barriers to doing more sport. In addition, the segments provide information on media consumption and communication channels, social capital, health indicators including obesity and engagement in the wider cultural sphere. A full description of all the 19 market segments can be found at <http://segments.sportengland.org/querySegments.aspx>.

- 3.42 The power of these sporting segments lies not only in their ability to help us better understand the characteristics of our potential market but also to explore the market base at differing geographic levels. Each segment has been assigned a name that reflects the most popular first names for the group.
- 3.43 The market segmentation profile for each of the Central Lincolnshire authorities is set out next. Again this data is analysed and presented by Sport England at individual local authority area level as it not possible to present a combined Central Lincolnshire profile.

### Profile of adult sports participation in Lincoln City

- 3.44 Map 3.1 overleaf provides a spatial profile of the dominant market segments in Lincoln City and this is followed by Chart 3.4 which sets out the population numbers in each market segment. This in turn is followed by a description of each of the dominant market segments and their sporting activity profile.

**Map 3.1: Dominant market segments in Lincoln City by location**

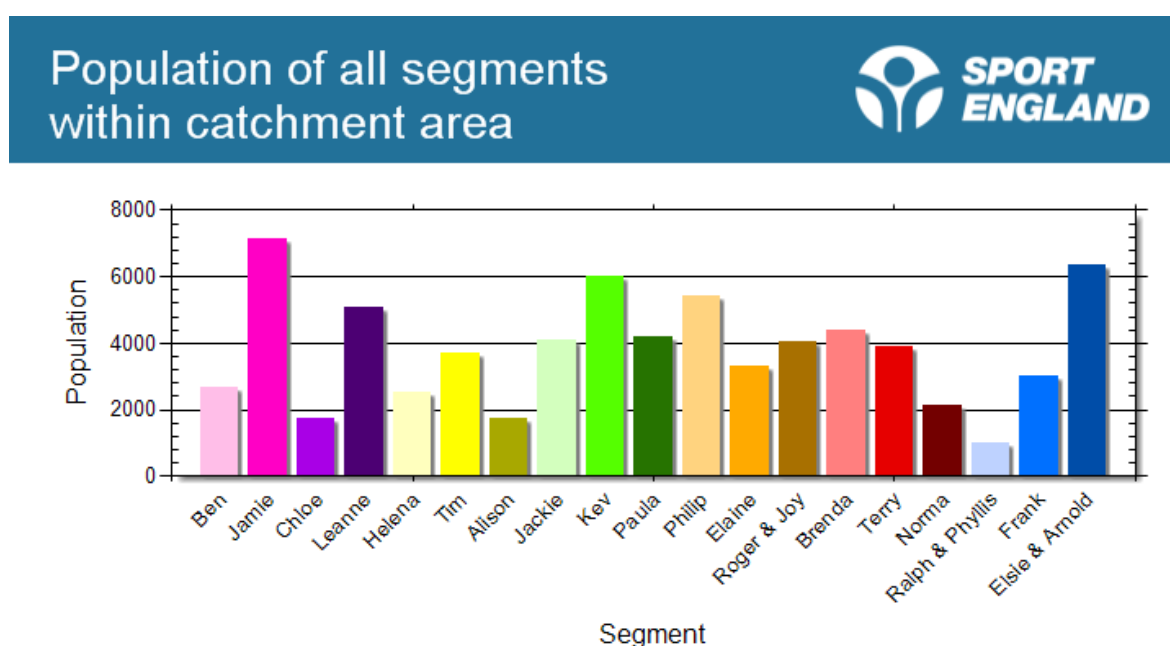


- 3.45 As the map shows there are 5 dominant market segments across the middle super output areas of Lincoln City. This is quite an unusual both in the high number and also the balance of segments across age ranges and types of sports participation. More usually the maps for most local authorities are dominated by 2 maybe 3 segments and within the same age range and sporting profile.
- 3.46 The dominant market segments are Jamie (shaded pink), Philip (shaded light brown), Kev (shaded light green), Paula (shaded dark green) and Elsie and Arnold (shaded dark blue). In terms of their SPATIAL distribution it is Philip and Jamie which make up the largest parts of

the Lincoln District. Followed by Kev, then Paula and Elsie and Arnold in approximately the same size/ number of output areas.

- 3.47 Whilst these are the SPATIALLY dominant segments it does not mean these segments have the highest population numbers in City of Lincoln. The population distribution is shown to be a bit different from the spatial distribution and is set out in Chart 3.4.

**Chart 3.4: Market Segments in by population In City of Lincoln**



- 3.48 Chart 3.4 shows that the market segment populations have a slightly different profile to the spatial profile. The top seven dominant market segments by population are set out in Table 3.8 below:

**Table 3.8: Population numbers and percentages for top seven markets segments in Lincoln City**

Name of Market Segment	Total population in Lincoln	% of total adult (16+) population in Lincoln
Jamie	7,154	9.9%
Elsie and Arnold	6,362	8.8%
Kev	6,017	8.3%
Philip	5,407	7.5%
Leanne	5,078	7%
Brenda	4,383	6.1%
Paula	4,183	5.8%



<b>Total</b>	38, 584	53.4%
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(Source: Sport England Active People Market Segmentation 2011)

3.49 As the chart and table show;

- there are 3 male and 3 female segments and one which is for both genders - Elsie and Arnold. So a balanced profile of adult sports participation by gender;
- the male segments make up 25.7% of the Lincoln adult population and the three female segments make up 18.9% of the Lincoln adult population. Elsie and Arnold make up 8.8% of the Lincoln adult population;
- in terms of age bands there are two segments which are in the 16 – 34 age band (Jamie and Leanne) where there is a higher than the national average rate of sports participation and sports/physical activity participation is an important lifestyle choice;
- four of the five remaining market segments are in the 35 – 54 age range where sports and physical activity levels are around, or, below the national average rate of participation. Reasons for participation are mainly focused on keeping fit, recreational and social activity, rather than for competitive organised team/individual activity or improvement in sporting performance; and
- Elsie and Arnold are in the 60+ age range and do sport/physical activity for social and health reasons; they have a below the national average rate of sports participation.

3.50 The profile of all 19 market segments, their population numbers in Lincoln City, details of the sports/activities most likely to appeal to each segment, as well as information on barriers and motivating factors affecting them are all set out in Table 3.9. The seven largest segments in Lincoln in terms of population numbers and spatially are shown in blue.

**Table 3.9: Profile of all 19 market segments for Lincoln City**

Segment	Total and (% of population in Lincoln	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
01	2,673 (3.7%)	Ben  Competitive Male Urbanites	Male  18-25  Single  Graduate professional	Rugby, Squash, Windsurfing, Tennis, Cricket, Climbing, Gym, Football	Improving performance  Training for competition  Social  Enjoyment  Keep fit	Time  Interest	Better facilities  People to go with  Improved transport	Most active in population  Approx. 20% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in Lincoln	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
02	7,154 (9.9%)	Jamie  Sports Team Drinkers	Male  18-25  Single  Vocational Student	Basketball, Football, Weight Training, Badminton, Boxing, Martial Arts	Social  Performance  Competition	Time	Better facilities  People to go with  Longer opening hours	Second highest participation of all types  Approx. 30% zero days
03	1,755 (2.4%)	Chloe  Fitness Class Friends	Female  18-25  Single  Graduate Professional	Body combat, Netball, Pilates, Running, Aqua Aerobics, Tennis, Gym, Swimming	Weight  Fitness	Time	Cost  Opening Hours  Facilities  People to go with	Active type  30-35% zero days
04	5,078 (7%)	Leanne  Supportive Singles	Female  18-25  Single  Likely to have children  Student / part time vocational education	Swimming, Gym, Aerobics, Ice Skating, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Utility Walking	Losing weight  Activities for children	Health isn't good enough  Time	Help with child care  Longer opening hours  Cost	Least active of A but does participate  40-45% zero days
05	2,522 (3.5%)	Helena  Career Focused Females	Female  26-35  Single  Full time professional	Gym, Road Running, Dance Exercise, Horse Riding, Skiing, Tai chi, Body Pump, Yoga	Losing weight  Keeping fit  Improving performance	Time  People to go with	Longer opening hours  People to go with	Very active type  30-35% zero days
06	3,721 (5.1%)	Tim  Settling Down Males	Male  26-45  Single / married  May have children  Professional	Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Squash, Skiing, Golf, Football	Improve performance  Keep fit  Social	Time	More free time  Help with childcare	Very active type  25-30% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in Lincoln	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
07	1,729 (2.4%)	Alison  Stay at Home Mums	Female 36-45 Married Housewife Children	Swimming, Badminton, Aerobics, Pilates, Tennis, Cycling, Horse Riding, Exercise Bike	Taking children Losing weight Keeping fit	Time	Help with childcare  Better facilities	Fairly active type  30-35% zero days
08	4,102 (4.7%)	Jackie  Middle England Mums	Female 36-45 Married Part time skilled worker, housewife Children	Swimming, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Ice Skating (with children), Walking, Aqua Aerobics	Taking children Losing weight	Time Cost Lack of interest	Help with childcare  Cheaper admissions	Average  45-50% zero days
09	6,017 (8.3%)	Kev  Pub League Team Mates	Male 36-45 Single / married May have children Vocational	Football, Darts, Karate, Snooker, Weights, Boxing, Fishing, Pool, Ten Pin Bowling, Cricket	Competition Social Enjoyment (ltd) Perform	Time Slight cost factor	More free time Cost Facilities	Less active within group B  Approx. 50% zero days
10	4,183 (5.8%)	Paula  Stretched Single Mums	Female 26-35 Single Job seeker or part time low skilled	Swimming, Utility walking, Aerobics, Ice Skating	Lose weight Take children	Cost Lack of childcare Poor transport Lack of interest	Improved transport Cheaper admission Help with childcare Better facilities	Least active type within Group B  Approx. 60% zero days
11	5,407 (7.5%)	Philip  Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Male 46-55 Married Professional Older children	Sailing, Football, Badminton, Cycling, Gym, Jogging, Golf, Cricket	Social Taking children Improving performance Enjoyment	Time Lack of childcare	More free time Help with childcare	Most active within Group C  Approx. 40% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in Lincoln	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
12	3,309 (4.6%)	Elaine  Empty Nest Career Ladies	Female 46-55 Married Professional Children left home	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Step Machine, Yoga, Horse Riding, Pilates, Gym	Keeping fit Losing weight Help with injury	Time Lack of interest	Longer opening hours More people to go with	Reasonably active type  40-45% zero days
13	8,108 (7.4%)	Roger and Joy  Early Retirement Couples	Male / female 56-65 Retired or part-time	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Bowls, Sailing, Golf, Shooting, Fishing, Racquet Sports	Keeping fit To help with injury Enjoyment Taking grandchildren	Poor health Lack of interest Transport	Better facilities Improved transport	Participate once or twice a week  50-55% zero days
14	4,383 (6.1%)	Brenda  Older Working Women	Female 46-55 Single / married May have children Low skilled worker	Swimming, Utility Walking, Dance Exercise, Aerobics, Step Machine, Keep fit	Weight Bring grandchildren Help with injury	Lack of interest Time	More free time Longer hours Cheaper admissions Help with childcare (for grand children)	Sometimes participates  60-65% zero days
15	3,895 (5.4%)	Terry  Local 'Old Boys'	Male age 56-65 Single / married Low skilled worker Job seeker	Fishing, Shooting, Pool, Utility walking, Darts, Snooker, Utility cycling	Help with injury Social	Poor health Lack of people to go with Cost	Subsidised admissions People to go with	Some low intensity participation  65-70% zero days
16	2,124 (2.9%)	Norma  Later Life Ladies	Female 56-65 Single / married Low skilled worker Retired	Walking, Keep fit, Swimming, Aqua Aerobics	Help with injury or disability	Poor health Cost	Cheaper admissions People to go with	Lowest participation of Group C  75-80% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in Lincoln	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
17	978 (1.4%)	Ralph and Phyllis  Comfortable Retired Couples	Male / female  65+  Married  Retired	Bowls, Golf, Tennis, Table tennis, Snooker, Walking, Fishing, Swimming	Social  Improve performance and keep fit  Enjoyment	Transport  Lack of people to go with	Improved transport  More people to go with	Highest participation of Group D  Approx. 70% zero days
18	3,006 (4.2%)	Frank  Twilight Year Gents	Male 66+  Married / single  Retired	Bowls, Golf, Darts, Pool, Snooker, Walking, Fishing	Social  Enjoyment	Poor health	Improved transport  Cheaper admission	Medium participation for group D  75-80% zero days
19	6,362 (8.8%)	Elsie and Arnold  Retirement Home Singles	Male / female  66+  Widowed  Retired	Walking, Dancing, Bowls, Low-impact exercise	Social  Help with injury	Health problems and disability	Improved transport  People to go with	Lowest participation of Group D  Approx. 85% zero days

### Lincoln City sporting profile in pitch and court sports

- 3.51 Table 3.9 shows that football participation is spread amongst the three dominant male segments, especially Jamie where 28% of this segment play football, compared to 4% of all adults nationally. 12% of the Kev segment takes part in football compared to 4% of all adults nationally. However there is very limited reference to other pitch or court sports after football amongst the seven most dominant market segments. There is some participation in cricket by Philip and bowls is listed for Elsie and Arnold.
- 3.52 The market segmentation and Active People analysis can be used to determine for each of the pitch sports the numbers of adult participants **WHO DO PLAY** each sport together with (but presented separately) the numbers of participants **WHO WOULD LIKE TO PLAY** if the barriers to participation listed in Table 3.9 above could be removed. This is presented in Table 3.10.

**Table 3.10: Number of adults who do play or would like to play each pitch and court sport in Lincoln City**

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of Lincoln City Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of Lincoln City Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play
Football	5,393	7.51%	1,101	1.5%	6,494 (9%)
Cricket	677	0.94%	432	0.60%	1,109 (1.54%)

Rugby Union	1089	1.51%	277	0.38%	1,366 (1.89%)
Hockey	217	0.30%	152	0.21%	369 (0.51%)
Tennis	1,449	2.0%	1,740	2.42%	3,189 (4.42%)
Bowls	655	0.91%	155	0.21%	810 (1.12%)

(Source: (Source: Sport England Active People Market Segmentation 2011 and Sport England Local Sport Profile Adult Population Data 2011))

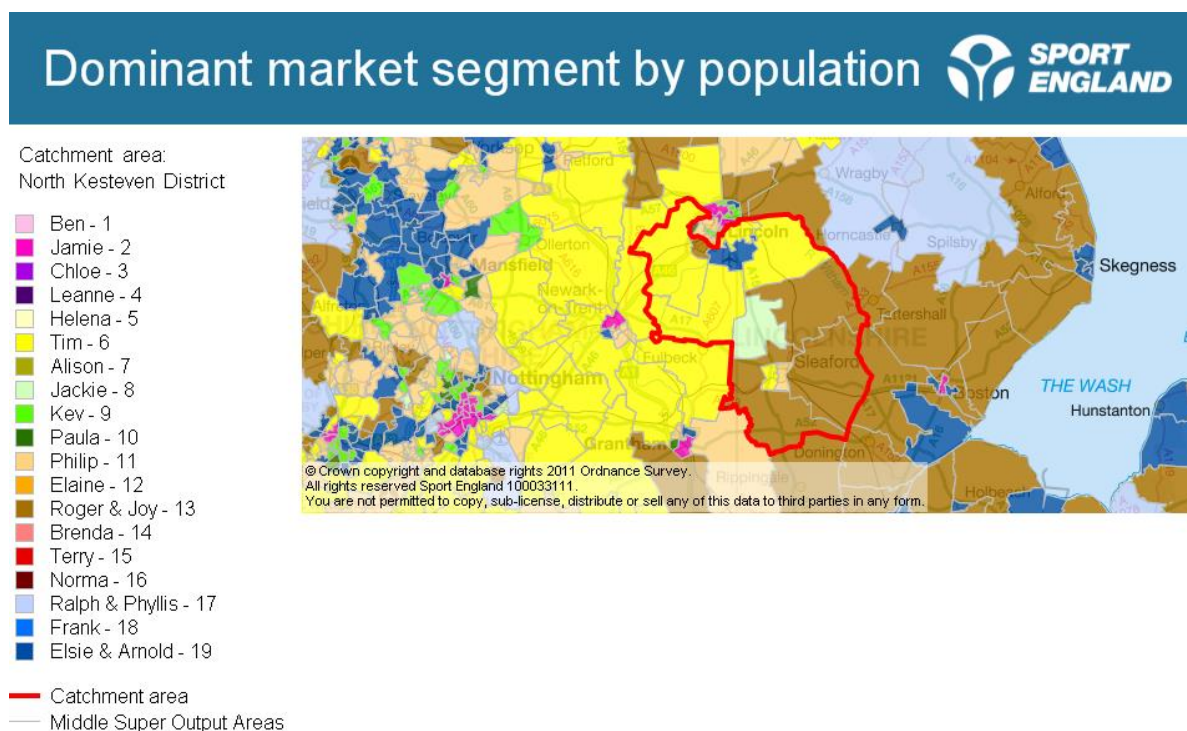
3.53 As Table 3.10 shows;

- football is by far the dominant sport of any of the pitch and court sports for adults who do play and those who would like to play. To put this into perspective the number of adults who WOULD LIKE TO play football exceeds the adults who DO PLAY for all of the other sports excluding tennis;
- for tennis there is a bigger latent market for adults who would like to play than those who do play. This suggests there is most potential to increase participation in this sport. (Note; this finding for tennis is not unusual and is the same for North Kesteven and West Lindsey)); and
- with the exception of football and tennis, the total proportion of residents who either currently play or would like to play is lower than 2%. 4.4% of the adult population either do play or would like to play tennis and a total of 9% of the population either do play (or would like to play) football.

#### Profile of adult sports participation in North Kesteven District

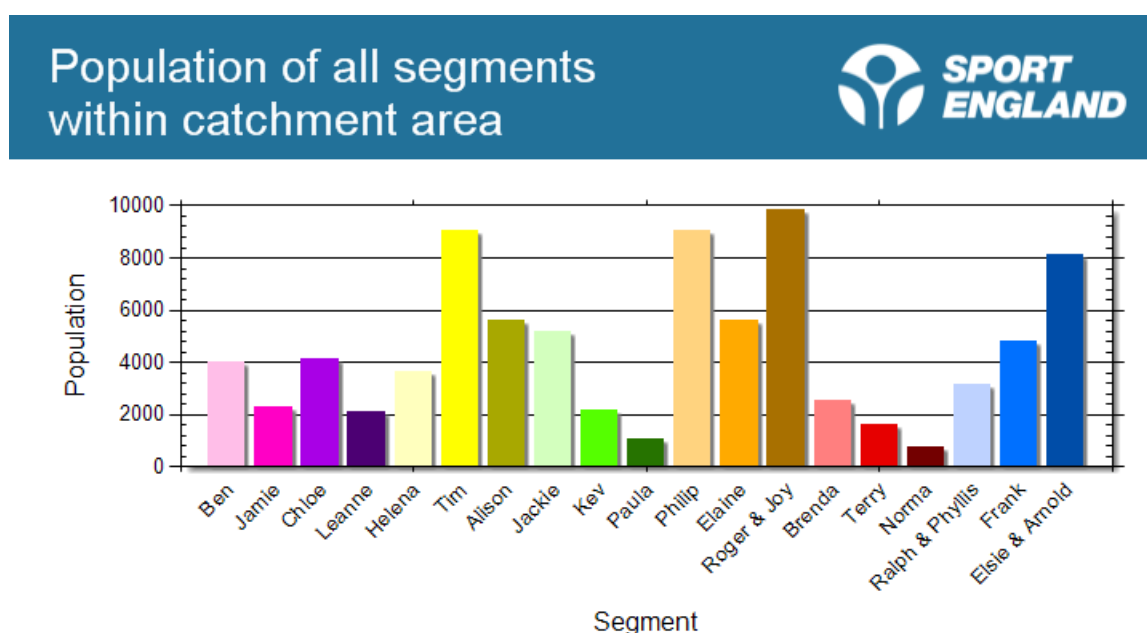
3.54 The profile of participation in North Kesteven District is set out in Map 3.2 and Chart 3.5.

**Map 3.2: Dominant market segments in North Kesteven by location**



- 3.55 Map 3.2 shows that there are five dominant market segments across the middle super output areas in North Kesteven. However the spatial balance between the top 5 segments is very much focused on two segments, these being Roger and Joy (shaded dark brown) and Tim (shaded yellow). After that and in terms of the scale and number of output areas, the dominant segments are Jackie (light green), Elsie and Arnold (dark blue) and one very small output area Philip (light brown).
- 3.56 With regards location, as can be seen the authority splits very much into a NW area of Tim's and a SE area of Roger and Joy's. The sporting and physical activity profiles of these two segments are very different and it will be important to consider the overall size of the population in each of these large areas to determine the extent to which they are the dominant segments.
- 3.57 As with Lincoln City but for different reasons this is quite an unusual market segment profile. Whilst there is the spatial dominance of two segments in very large areas, Chart 3.6 reveals that there are other segments that have high population numbers that are almost as high as Tim and Roger and Joy.

**Chart 3.6: Market Segments in by population in North Kesteven District**



- 3.58 Chart 3.6 shows that the dominant market segments spatially are also the dominant segments by population numbers. However two other segments – Philip and Elsie and Arnold represent almost as high proportions of the population. Philip has the lowest spatial area but is the joint second highest segment with Tim in population terms - 10.7% of the North Kesteven adult population in 2011 are classified as Tim.
- 3.59 In addition, there are two female segments that are important in terms of population numbers, specifically Elaine (6.6% of the adult population) and Alison (6.1% of the population of North Kesteven).
- 3.60 The top market segments spatially are added with Elaine and Alison to provide the top seven market segments by population. The total number of people in each category and the percentage adult population is set out in Table 3.11 overleaf.



**Table 3.11: Population numbers and percentages for top seven markets segments in North Kesteven**

Name of Market Segment	Total population in North Kesteven	% of total adult (16+) population in North Kesteven
Roger and Joy	9,837	11.6%
Tim	9,042	10.7%
Philip	9,029	10.7%
Elsie and Arnold	8,126	9.6%
Elaine	5,619	6.6%
Alison	5,588	6.6%
Jackie	5,147	6.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>34,335</b>	<b>61.9%</b>

3.61 As the chart and table show;

- In terms of **gender** there are 2 male, 3 female segments and 2 male/ female segments in the top seven segments by population. The two male segments make up 21.4% of the North Kesteven population while the three female segments make up 19.3% and the two male/female segments make up 21.2%.
- The **age bands** of the dominant market segments in North Kesteven are as follows;
  - 1 in the 26 – 45 age group; (Tim)
  - 2 in the 36 – 45 age group; (Jackie and Alison)
  - 2 in the 46 – 55 age group; (Elaine and Philip)
  - 1 in the 56 – 65 age group; (Roger and Joy)
  - 1 in the 66+ age group (Elsie and Arnold).

3.62 As demonstrated, four of the top seven segments are in the 36 – 55 age groups and only one is in the younger 26 – 45 age group.

3.63 The 36 – 55 age group has rates of sports participation which are around or below the national average rate of sports participation and North Kesteven has a lot of people in this age range. More importantly, these age groups are outside of the main age bracket that most commonly enjoy pitch sports.

3.64 The 55 – 66+ age group includes Roger and Joy and Elsie and Arnold. These groups participate for health and social recreation reasons and have below national rates of sports participation.

3.65 It is the younger age groups (18 – 35 years of age) who have both higher than the national average rate of sports participation and who also participate most in pitch sports. The finding that none of the top seven dominant market segments in North Kesteven are below 26 years of age therefore means that participation in pitch sports is not so



prominent when compared to the sports which older age groups do. This is borne out by the table on the most popular sports played which has swimming and cycling as the two most popular sports activities in North Kesteven. Football is the third most popular activity with 7% of the adult population playing at least once month (a level below regional and national averages).

- 3.66 To put this into context, there are four market segments in the 18 – 25 age group, they are - Ben, Jamie, Chloe and Leanne. In North Kesteven these 4 market segments total 12,535 people in 2011, some 14.8% of the North Kesteven adult population. As Table 3.12 shows, these 4 groups are amongst the lowest in population numbers in North Kesteven. It is however these age groups that drive participation as sports and an active lifestyle are important choices and they have above the national average rates of engagement.
- 3.67 The two male segments Ben and Jamie participate a lot in pitch sports, particularly football and adventure activity but there are not many Jamies and Bens in North Kesteven. Bens make up 4.7% of the adult population in North Kesteven in 2011 and Jamies make up 2.7%. So, in short, there is a low representation of younger age groups in the North Kesteven profile but it is these age groups who play pitch sports most. This means that a relatively low proportion of the population have a high propensity to participate in pitch sports.
- 3.68 Table 3.12 provides a profile of all 19 market segments, their population numbers, details of the sports/activities most likely to appeal to each segment as well as information on barriers and motivating factors affecting them.
- 3.69 The seven largest segments in North Kesteven in terms of population numbers and spatially are shown in blue.

**Table 3.12: Profile of all 19 market segments for North Kesteven**

Segment	Total and (% of population in NK)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
01	3,999 (4.7%)	Ben  Competitive Male Urbanites	Male 18-25 Single Graduate professional	Rugby, Squash, Windsurfing, Tennis, Cricket, Climbing, Gym, Football	Improving performance Training for competition Social Enjoyment Keep fit	Time Interest	Better facilities People to go with Improved transport	Most active in population  Approx. 20% zero days
02	2,296 (2.7%)	Jamie  Sports Team Drinkers	Male 18-25 Single Vocational Student	Basketball, Football, Weight Training, Badminton, Boxing, Martial Arts	Social Performance Competition	Time	Better facilities People to go with Longer opening hours	Second highest participation of all types  Approx. 30% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in NK)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
03	4,120 (4.9%)	Chloe  Fitness Class Friends	Female 18-25 Single Graduate Professional	Body combat, Netball, Pilates, Running, Aqua Aerobics, Tennis, Gym, Swimming	Weight  Fitness	Time	Cost  Opening Hours  Facilities  People to go with	Active type  30-35% zero days
04	2,120 (2.5%)	Leanne  Supportive Singles	Female 18-25 Single Likely to have children Student / part time vocational education	Swimming, Gym, Aerobics, Ice Skating, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Utility Walking	Losing weight  Activities for children	Health isn't good enough  Time	Help with child care  Longer opening hours  Cost	Least active of A but does participate  40-45% zero days
05	3,627 (4.3%)	Helena  Career Focused Females	Female 26-35 Single Full time professional	Gym, Road Running, Dance Exercise, Horse Riding, Skiing, Tai chi, Body Pump, Yoga	Losing weight  Keeping fit  Improving performance	Time  People to go with	Longer opening hours  People to go with	Very active type  30-35% zero days
06	9,042 (10.7%)	Tim  Settling Down Males	Male 26-45 Single / married May have children Professional	Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Squash, Skiing, Golf, Football	Improve performance  Keep fit  Social	Time	More free time  Help with childcare	Very active type  25-30% zero days
07	5,588 (6.6%)	Alison  Stay at Home Mums	Female 36-45 Married Housewife Children	Swimming, Badminton, Aerobics, Pilates, Tennis, Cycling, Horse Riding, Exercise Bike	Taking children  Losing weight  Keeping fit	Time	Help with childcare  Better facilities	Fairly active type  30-35% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in NK)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
08	5,147 (6.1%)	Jackie  Middle England Mums	Female  36-45  Married  Part time skilled worker, housewife  Children	Swimming, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Ice Skating (with children), Walking, Aqua Aerobics	Taking children  Losing weight	Time  Cost  Lack of interest	Help with childcare  Cheaper admissions	Average  45-50% zero days
09	2,143 (2.5%)	Kev  Pub League Team Mates	Male  36-45  Single / married  May have children  Vocational	Football, Darts, Karate, Snooker, Weights, Boxing, Fishing, Pool, Ten Pin Bowling, Cricket	Competition  Social  Enjoyment (ltd)  Perform	Time  Slight cost factor	More free time  Cost  Facilities	Less active within group B  Approx. 50% zero days
10	1,074 (1.3%)	Paula  Stretched Single Mums	Female  26-35  Single  Job seeker or part time low skilled	Swimming, Utility walking, Aerobics, Ice Skating	Lose weight  Take children	Cost  Lack of childcare  Poor transport  Lack of interest	Improved transport  Cheaper admission  Help with childcare  Better facilities	Least active type within Group B  Approx. 60% zero days
11	9,029 (10.7%)	Philip  Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Male  46-55  Married  Professional  Older children	Sailing, Football, Badminton, Cycling, Gym, Jogging, Golf, Cricket	Social  Taking children  Improving performance  Enjoyment	Time  Lack of childcare	More free time  Help with childcare	Most active within Group C  Approx. 40% zero days
12	5,619 (6.6%)	Elaine  Empty Nest Career Ladies	Female  46-55  Married  Professional  Children left home	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Step Machine, Yoga, Horse Riding, Pilates, Gym	Keeping fit  Losing weight  Help with injury	Time  Lack of interest	Longer opening hours  More people to go with	Reasonably active type  40-45% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in NK	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
13	9,837 (11.6%)	Roger and Joy  Early Retirement Couples	Male / female  56-65  Retired or part-time	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Bowls, Sailing, Golf, Shooting, Fishing, Racquet Sports	Keeping fit  To help with injury  Enjoyment  Taking grandchildren	Poor health  Lack of interest  Transport	Better facilities  Improved transport	Participate once or twice a week    50-55% zero days
14	2,512 (3%)	Brenda  Older Working Women	Female  46-55  Single / married  May have children  Low skilled worker	Swimming, Utility Walking, Dance Exercise, Aerobics, Step Machine, Keep fit	Weight  Bring grandchildren  Help with injury	Lack of interest  Time	More free time  Longer hours  Cheaper admissions  Help with childcare (for grand children)	Sometimes participates    60-65% zero days
15	1,639 (1.9%)	Terry  Local 'Old Boys'	Male age  56-65  Single / married  Low skilled worker  Job seeker	Fishing, Shooting, Pool, Utility walking, Darts, Snooker, Utility cycling	Help with injury  Social	Poor health  Lack of people to go with  Cost	Subsidised admissions  People to go with	Some low intensity participation    65-70% zero days
16	769 (0.9%)	Norma  Later Life Ladies	Female  56-65  Single / married  Low skilled worker  Retired	Walking, Keep fit, Swimming, Aqua Aerobics	Help with injury or disability	Poor health  Cost	Cheaper admissions  People to go with	Lowest participation of Group C    75-80% zero days
17	3,164 (3.7%)	Ralph and Phyllis  Comfortable Retired Couples	Male / female  65+  Married  Retired	Bowls, Golf, Tennis, Table tennis, Snooker, Walking, Fishing, Swimming	Social  Improve performance and keep fit  Enjoyment	Transport  Lack of people to go with	Improved transport  More people to go with	Highest participation of Group D    Approx. 70% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in NK)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
18	4,802 (5.7%)	Frank  Twilight Year Gents	Male 66+  Married / single  Retired	Bowls, Golf, Darts, Pool, Snooker, Walking, Fishing	Social  Enjoyment	Poor health	Improved transport  Cheaper admission	Medium participation for group D  75-80% zero days
19	8,126 (9.6%)	Elsie and Arnold  Retirement Home Singles	Male / female  66+  Widowed  Retired	Walking, Dancing, Bowls, Low-impact exercise	Social  Help with injury	Health problems and disability	Improved transport  People to go with	Lowest participation of Group D  Approx. 85% zero days

### North Kesteven sporting profile in and pitch and court sports

- 3.70 In terms of pitch and court sports participation in North Kesteven, Table 3.12 shows that football participation is spread amongst three male segments, especially Jamie where 28% of this segment play football, compared to 4% of all adults nationally. 12% of Kevs take part in football compared to 4% of all adults nationally. There is very limited reference to other pitch or court sports after football amongst the seven most dominant market segments in North Kesteven. There is some participation in cricket by Philip and bowls is listed for Elsie and Arnold.
- 3.71 The market segmentation and Active People analysis can be used to determine for each of the pitch sports the numbers of adult participants **WHO DO PLAY** each sport together with (but presented separately) the numbers of participants **WHO WOULD LIKE TO PLAY** if the barriers to participation listed in table 3.12 above could be removed. This is presented in Table 3.13 below.

**Table 3.13: Number of adults who do play or would like to play each pitch and court sports in North Kesteven**

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play
Football	5,086	6.06%	1,002	1.19%	6,088 (7.2%)
Cricket	760	0.90%	400	0.47%	1,160 (1.37%)
Rugby Union	1,146	1.36%	289	0.34%	1,435 (1.7%)
Hockey	288	0.34%	169	0.20%	457 (0.54%)
Tennis	1,912	2.28%	2,028	2.42%	3,940 (4.7%)
Bowls	979	1.16%	219	0.26%	1,198 (1.42%)

(Source: (Source: Sport England Active People Market Segmentation 2011 and Sport England Local Sport Profile Adult Population Data 2011))

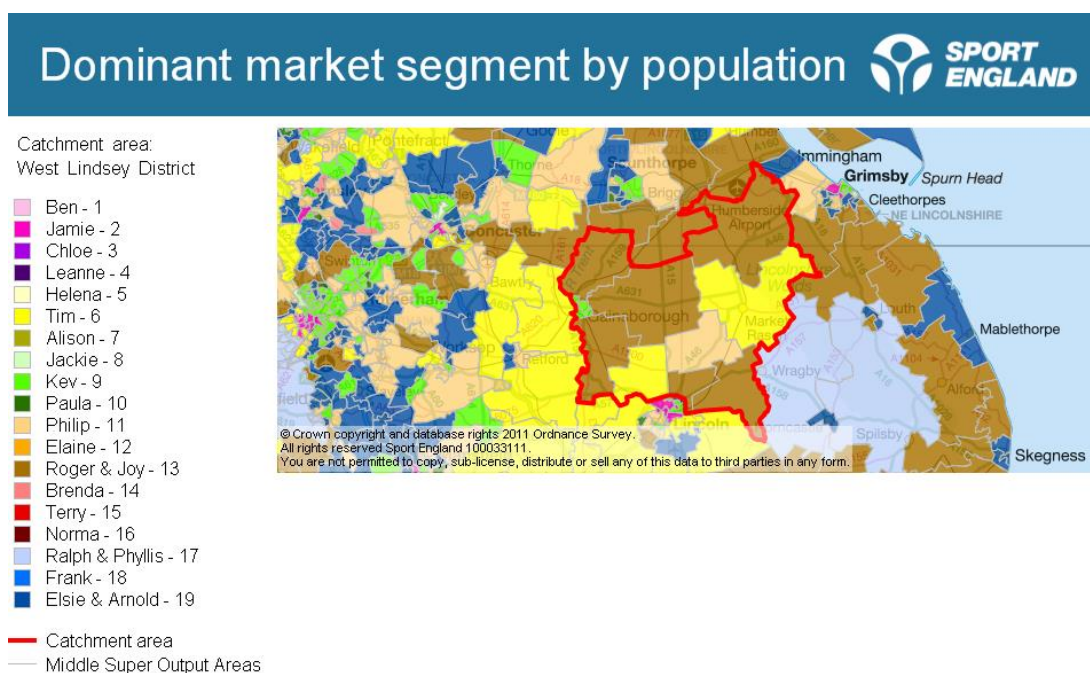
3.72 As Table 3.13 shows;

- football, as in Lincoln City, is by far the dominant sport in this PPS for adults who do play and those who would like to play. There is a combined total for those who do play and those who would like to play of 7.2% of the North Kesteven adult population. The next highest sport is tennis with a combined 4.7% of the North Kesteven adult population in 2011 who do, or, would like to play tennis;
- hockey has a combined total of 457 adults who either do play or would like to play hockey. This represents only 0.54% of the North Kesteven adult population in 2011;
- for tennis and again as in Lincoln City, there is a bigger latent market than those who do play. 1,912 do play while 2,028 adults would like to play; and
- overall participation levels for all the sports (except football and tennis) for those adults who do play and would like to play are below 2% of the 2011 adult population in North Kesteven. 7.2% of the population either do play or would like to play football, while 4.7% of the population play or would like to play tennis.

### Profile of adult sports participation in West Lindsey District

3.73 The profile for West Lindsey District and the dominant segments are set out in Map 3.3 and Chart 3.7.

**Map 3.3: Dominant market segments in West Lindsey by location**

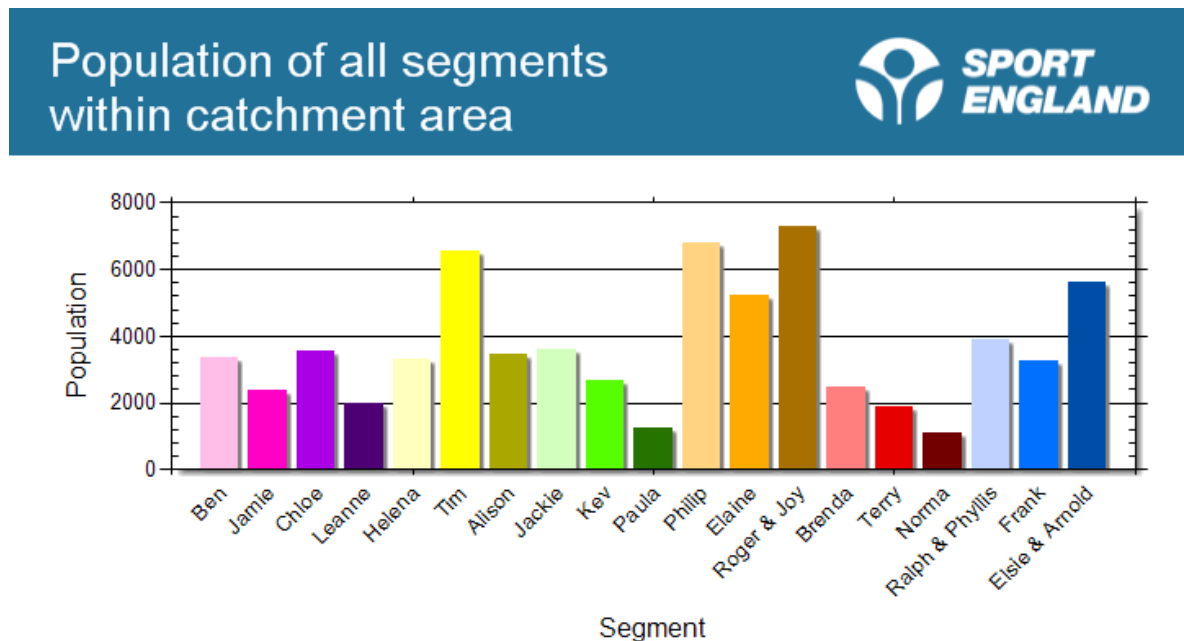


3.74 As Map 3.3 shows there are 4 dominant market segments across the middle super output areas in West Lindsey. However Roger and Joy (shaded dark brown) very much dominate the SPATIAL distribution across these four segments, covering around 60% of the West Lindsey area. The coverage is across the northern half of the authority and output areas in the SE of the authority. After this segment the next largest is Tim (shaded yellow) with around 20% of the West Lindsey area and in two areas to the centre/north focused on Market Rasen and SE of Gainsborough. After that there is one central area where the Philip market segment is dominant (shaded light brown) west of Market Rasen. There is one

very small output area characterised by Kev (shaded green) and this is focused on Gainsborough.

3.75 Roger and Joy and Tim make up around 80% of the land area.

**Chart 3.8: Market Segments in by population in West Lindsey District**



3.76 Chart 3.8 shows that the dominant market segments SPATIALLY are also the dominant segments by POPULATION NUMBERS, excepting Kev. Three of the four top dominant market segments spatially also have the highest population numbers. There is however a difference between the findings for Philip who has the third lowest spatial area but has the second highest population numbers with 6,816 people which is 9.8% of the West Lindsey adult population in 2011. In short there are lots of Philips spread across the authority but a concentration in only one output area.

3.77 Elsie and Arnold is the fourth highest segment in terms of population, with a population of 5,603 and which is 8.1% of the West Lindsey adult population. They are followed by Elaine and then Ralph and Phyllis and Jackie to make up the top seven largest market segments by population.

3.78 The numbers and percentage of each segment are set out in Table 3.14 overleaf.



**Table 3.14: Population numbers and percentages for top seven markets segments in West Lindsey**

Name of Market Segment	Total population in West Lindsey	% of total adult (16+) population in West Lindsey
Roger and Joy	7,263	10.4%
Philip	6,816	9.8%
Tim	6,544	9.8%
Elsie and Arnold	5,603	8.1%
Elaine	5,233	7.5%
Ralph and Phyllis	3,910	5.6%
Jackie	3,605	3.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,369</b>	<b>54%</b>

3.79 As the chart and table show;

- In terms of **gender** there are two male, two female segments and three male and female segments in the top seven segments by population. The two male segments make up 19.2% of the West Lindsey adult population in 2011 while the two female segments make up 10.7% of the adult population. There is therefore quite a large imbalance between the dominant market segments in terms of gender
- The three older male/female top market segments make up 24.1% of the West Lindsey adult population in 2011 meaning that those in the segments that are in the 55+ age groups dominate
- In terms of **age bands**, none of the top seven dominant market segments are below 26 years of age. This is the same finding as for North Kesteven. The youngest segment is Tim (aged between 26 – 45). Tims are the third highest segment in terms of population numbers at 6,544 of the adult population, or 9.4%
- To put this finding into context and to reiterate the finding from North Kesteven, the market segments in the 18 – 25 age group are Ben, Jamie, Chloe and Leanne. In West Lindsey these 4 market segments total 11,252 people in 2011, some 16.2% of the West Lindsey adult population. As Chart 3.8 shows these 4 groups are middle to low range in population numbers in West Lindsey. For these 4 segments, sports participation and an active lifestyle are important choices and they have above the national average rates of sports participation.
- The two male segments participate most in pitch sports, particularly football and adventure activity, whilst the 2 female segments participate in swimming health and fitness/dance. However Ben's make up only 4.8% (3,399 people) of the adult population in West Lindsey in 2011 and Jamie's make up 3.4% (2,361 people)



- There is therefore a low representation in population by the younger age groups in the West Lindsey profile. This is significant as it is the four younger age groups who have above the national average in sports participation
- The **age bands** of the dominant market segments in West Lindsey are:
  - 1 in the 26 – 45 age group; (Tim)
  - 1 in the 36 – 45 age group; (Jackie)
  - 2 in the 46 – 55 age group; (Elaine and Philip)
  - 1 in the 56 – 65 age group; (Roger and Joy)
  - 2 in the 65+ age group; (Elsie and Arnold/ Ralph and Phyllis).

3.80 It is therefore clear that 5 of the top 7 segments in terms of population numbers are in the 46+ age bands and only one is in each of the younger 26 – 35 and 36 – 45 age group. This reinforces the earlier finding that there are low population numbers in the younger age bands that play sport and do more physical activity than the older age groups.

3.81 The profile of all 19 market segments, their population numbers, details of the sports/activities most likely to appeal to each segment as well as information on barriers and motivating factors affecting them is set out in Table 3.15. The seven largest segments in West Lindsey in terms of population numbers are highlighted in blue.

**Table 3.15: Profile of all 19 market segments for West Lindsey**

Segment	Total and (% of population in WL)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
01	3399 (4.8%)	Ben  Competitive Male Urbanites	Male  18-25  Single  Graduate professional	Rugby, Squash, Windsurfing, Tennis, Cricket, Climbing, Gym, Football	Improving performance  Training for competition  Social  Enjoyment  Keep fit	Time  Interest	Better facilities  People to go with  Improved transport	Most active in population  Approx. 20% zero days
02	2,361 (3.4%)	Jamie  Sports Team Drinkers	Male  18-25  Single  Vocational Student	Basketball, Football, Weight Training, Badminton, Boxing, Martial Arts	Social  Performance  Competition	Time	Better facilities  People to go with  Longer opening hours	Second highest participation of all types  Approx. 30% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in WL)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
03	3,563 (5.1%)	Chloe  Fitness Class Friends	Female 18-25 Single Graduate Professional	Body combat, Netball, Pilates, Running, Aqua Aerobics, Tennis, Gym, Swimming	Weight  Fitness	Time	Cost  Opening Hours  Facilities  People to go with	Active type  30-35% zero days
04	1,989 (2.9%)	Leanne  Supportive Singles	Female 18-25 Single Likely to have children Student / part time vocational education	Swimming, Gym, Aerobics, Ice Skating, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Utility Walking	Losing weight  Activities for children	Health isn't good enough  Time	Help with child care  Longer opening hours  Cost	Least active of A but does participate  40-45% zero days
05	3,308 (4.8%)	Helena  Career Focused Females	Female 26-35 Single Full time professional	Gym, Road Running, Dance Exercise, Horse Riding, Skiing, Tai chi, Body Pump, Yoga	Losing weight  Keeping fit  Improving performance	Time  People to go with	Longer opening hours  People to go with	Very active type  30-35% zero days
06	6,544 (9.4%)	Tim  Settling Down Males	Male 26-45 Single / married May have children Professional	Canoeing, Cricket, Cycling, Squash, Skiing, Golf, Football	Improve performance  Keep fit  Social	Time	More free time  Help with childcare	Very active type  25-30% zero days
07	3,499 (5%)	Alison  Stay at Home Mums	Female 36-45 Married Housewife Children	Swimming, Badminton, Aerobics, Pilates, Tennis, Cycling, Horse Riding, Exercise Bike	Taking children  Losing weight  Keeping fit	Time	Help with childcare  Better facilities	Fairly active type  30-35% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in WL)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
08	3,605 (5.2%)	Jackie  Middle England Mums	Female  36-45  Married  Part time skilled worker, housewife  Children	Swimming, Dance Exercise, Body Pump, Ice Skating (with children), Walking, Aqua Aerobics	Taking children  Losing weight	Time  Cost  Lack of interest	Help with childcare  Cheaper admissions	Average  45-50% zero days
09	2,652 (3.8%)	Kev  Pub League Team Mates	Male  36-45  Single / married  May have children  Vocational	Football, Darts, Karate, Snooker, Weights, Boxing, Fishing, Pool, Ten Pin Bowling, Cricket	Competition  Social  Enjoyment (ltd)  Perform	Time  Slight cost factor	More free time  Cost  Facilities	Less active within group B  Approx. 50% zero days
10	1,221 (1.8%)	Paula  Stretched Single Mums	Female  26-35  Single  Job seeker or part time low skilled	Swimming, Utility walking, Aerobics, Ice Skating	Lose weight  Take children	Cost  Lack of childcare  Poor transport  Lack of interest	Improved transport  Cheaper admission  Help with childcare  Better facilities	Least active type within Group B  Approx. 60% zero days
11	6816 (9.8%)	Philip  Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Male  46-55  Married  Professional  Older children	Sailing, Football, Badminton, Cycling, Gym, Jogging, Golf, Cricket	Social  Taking children  Improving performance  Enjoyment	Time  Lack of childcare	More free time  Help with childcare	Most active within Group C  Approx. 40% zero days
12	5,233 (7.5%)	Elaine  Empty Nest Career Ladies	Female  46-55  Married  Professional  Children left home	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Step Machine, Yoga, Horse Riding, Pilates, Gym	Keeping fit  Losing weight  Help with injury	Time  Lack of interest	Longer opening hours  More people to go with	Reasonably active type  40-45% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in WL)	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
13	7,263 (10.4%)	Roger and Joy  Early Retirement Couples	Male / female  56-65  Retired or part-time	Swimming, Walking, Aqua Aerobics, Bowls, Sailing, Golf, Shooting, Fishing, Racquet Sports	Keeping fit  To help with injury  Enjoyment  Taking grandchildren	Poor health  Lack of interest  Transport	Better facilities  Improved transport	Participate once or twice a week    50-55% zero days
14	2,490 (3.6%)	Brenda  Older Working Women	Female  46-55  Single / married  May have children  Low skilled worker	Swimming, Utility Walking, Dance Exercise, Aerobics, Step Machine, Keep fit	Weight  Bring grandchildren  Help with injury	Lack of interest  Time	More free time  Longer hours  Cheaper admissions  Help with childcare (for grand children)	Sometimes participates    60-65% zero days
15	1,871 (2.7%)	Terry  Local 'Old Boys'	Male age  56-65  Single / married  Low skilled worker  Job seeker	Fishing, Shooting, Pool, Utility walking, Darts, Snooker, Utility cycling	Help with injury  Social	Poor health  Lack of people to go with  Cost	Subsidised admissions  People to go with	Some low intensity participation    65-70% zero days
16	1,075 (1.5%)	Norma  Later Life Ladies	Female  56-65  Single / married  Low skilled worker  Retired	Walking, Keep fit, Swimming, Aqua Aerobics	Help with injury or disability	Poor health  Cost	Cheaper admissions  People to go with	Lowest participation of Group C    75-80% zero days
17	3,910 (5.6%)	Ralph and Phyllis  Comfortable Retired Couples	Male / female  65+  Married  Retired	Bowls, Golf, Tennis, Table tennis, Snooker, Walking, Fishing, Swimming	Social  Improve performance and keep fit  Enjoyment	Transport  Lack of people to go with	Improved transport  More people to go with	Highest participation of Group D    Approx. 70% zero days

Segment	Total and (% of population in WL	Forename & brief description	Gender/age/status	Sports Most Interested in	Motivations	Barriers	How to Increase Participation	Participation Profile
18	3,252 (4.7%)	Frank  Twilight Year Gents	Male 66+  Married / single  Retired	Bowls, Golf, Darts, Pool, Snooker, Walking, Fishing	Social  Enjoyment	Poor health	Improved transport  Cheaper admission	Medium participation for group D  75-80% zero days
19	5,603 (8.1%)	Elsie and Arnold  Retirement Home Singles	Male / female  66+  Widowed  Retired	Walking, Dancing, Bowls, Low-impact exercise	Social  Help with injury	Health problems and disability	Improved transport  People to go with	Lowest participation of Group D  Approx. 85% zero days

### West Lindsey sporting profile in and pitch and court sports

3.82 The market segmentation and Active People analysis can be used to determine for each of the pitch sports the numbers of adult participants **WHO DO PLAY** each sport together with (but presented separately) the numbers of participants **WHO WOULD LIKE TO PLAY** if the barriers to participation listed in Table 3.15 above could be removed. This is presented in Table 3.16 below.

**Table 3.16: Number of adults who do play or would like to play each pitch and court sport in West Lindsey**

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of West Lindsey Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of West Lindsey Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play
Football	4,268	6.06%	849	1.20%	5,117 (7.26%)
Cricket	621	0.88%	348	0.49%	969 (1.37%)
Rugby Union	945	1.34%	242	0.34%	1,187 (1.68%)
Hockey	237	0.33%	141	0.20%	378 (0.53%)
Tennis	1,564	2.22%	1,668	2.36%	3,232 (4.58%)
Bowls	786	1.11%	176	0.25%	962 (1.36%)

(Source: (Source: Sport England Active People Market Segmentation 2011 and Sport England Local Sport Profile Adult Population Data 2011))

3.83 As Table 3.16 shows;

- as in both other authorities, football is by far the dominant sport of any of the pitch and court sports for adults who do play and those who would like to play. There is a combined total for those who do play and those who would like to play of 7.26% of

the West Lindsey adult population. The next highest sport is tennis with a combined 4.58% of the West Lindsey adult population in 2011 who do, or, would like to play tennis;

- bowls and cricket have virtually the same level of participation in terms of the percentage of the adult population who do play and would like to play. For cricket it is 1.37% whilst for bowls it is 1.36% of the adult West Lindsey population in 2011;
- again as in the two other authorities, tennis has a bigger latent market segment for adults who would like to play than those who do play. 1,564 do play tennis and 1,668 adults who would like to play tennis; and
- overall participation levels for all the sports (except football and tennis) for those adults who do play and would like to play are below 2% of the 2011 adult population in West Lindsey. 7.26% of the population either do play or would like to play football, while 4.58% of the population play or would like to play tennis.

### **Summary of findings on sports participation across all three local authorities**

3.84 The key findings relating to the sporting profile across the Central Lincolnshire authorities are therefore;

- there is an adult sporting participation profile which is very much focused in the age range 45 – 65+ with around 40% – 60% of the total adult sporting participation focused in this age band;
- both North Kesteven and West Lindsey have a very similar age grouping and sporting profile of activities with the same dominant market segments. These 5 – 6 market segments in the 45 – 65 age range play sport/do physical activity for keep fit, health and social and recreational purposes – predominantly. Swimming and cycling are the most popular activities (in different order) in these authorities. Lincoln City differs only from these two authorities in that it has a wider spread of population in these most dominant market segments/age range – with 5- 6 as distinct from 3 - 4 in the other two authorities. However Lincoln City has a very similar sporting profile in terms of motivations and sporting activities as the other authorities. Cycling is the most popular activity followed by gym, reflecting a slightly higher younger age range in Lincoln;
- none of the authorities have a profile of dominant market segments in the 18 – 25 age range. There are four market segments in this age range and only Lincoln, with Jamie at 9.9% of its adult population has one of these market segments in their top seven segments by population numbers. The four market segments that make up the 18 – 25 age range have higher than national average rates of sports participation. Sport and physical activity and a healthy lifestyle are important lifestyle choices. They play sport/do physical activity to improve personal and team performance and play in organised competitive sporting structures. There is a very marked absence of these segments in the sporting profile across the Central Lincolnshire authorities;
- the implication of comparatively lower numbers in this 18 – 25 age range is an absence of high numbers of people who will drive participation. (Note: all authorities have high rates of sports participation based on the Active People Surveys because they have high numbers of people in the 45 – 65 age range who play sport/do physical activity comparatively less often than the young age groups - but there are lots of them). The lower numbers in the 18 – 25 age range also has implications for

demand for sporting facilities and the type of sports played. It is this age range and extending up to 4.5 who most play pitch and court sports and the absence of comparative high numbers in this age range means lower demand for pitch and court sports. Noticeably based on the Active People survey findings, football is the only pitch and court sport which appears in the five most popular sporting activities played; and

- furthermore to underline the age range profile for pitch sports, the Active People survey estimates that the total adult population who do play/would like to play cricket, hockey, rugby union and bowls is very low (below 2% for each sport in all areas). The Active People survey of the total estimated population who do play or would like to play each of these sports at least once a month, together with the percentage of the adult population in each authority is set out in Table 3.17 below.

**Table 3.17: Population number and percentage of the adult population which does play or would like to play cricket, hockey, rugby union and bowls**

Sport	City of Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey
Cricket	1,109 (1.5%)	1,160 (1.4%)	969 (1.4%)
Hockey	369 (0.5%)	457 (0.5%)	378 (0.5%)
Rugby Union	1,366 (1.9%)	1,435 (1.7%)	1,187 (1.7%)
Bowls	810 (1.1%)	1,198 (1.4%)	962 (1.4%)

- 3.85 In addition the low propensity to participate in pitch sports, analysis earlier in this section demonstrated that there is an ageing population profile and that by 2022, higher proportions of residents will fall within older age groups than is currently the case.
- 3.86 While calculations demonstrate the high population growth will ensure that more residents overall will be within the age range likely to participate in pitch sports, overall this group will represent a smaller proportion of the population. In terms of actual numbers, the amount of people in the senior sport age groups may actually decline in Central Lincolnshire as whole and more specifically within Lincoln City, although it is still likely to increase in North Kesteven and West Lindsey.
- 3.87 This will be explored further in the sport specific Sections 5 – 10.
- 3.88 The remainder of this report draws on the base information in this section, and provides an overview of provision for football, cricket, rugby, hockey, tennis and bowls in Central Lincolnshire as a whole and more specifically within each of the three local authority areas.
- 3.89 The specific implications for each local authority are summarised in Section 11.

## 4. AGPs

04

- 4.1 Artificial pitches are used for both football and hockey, as well as to a lesser extent rugby. While different surfaces are preferred for each sport, in reality, many facilities are used interchangeably by one or more sports.
- 4.2 As a result, many of the tools for analysing AGPs consider the stock of AGPs as a whole. This section summarises the findings of the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) for AGPs.
- 4.3 The implications of this analysis for football, rugby and hockey will be identified in each of the specific sections. Sport specific implications will also be informed by National Governing Body Assessments (many have their own tools for the evaluation of AGPs). These assessments will differ from the modelling undertaken by Sport England as they will be looking at a particular sport, be informed by the needs of clubs in particular, and have more detailed information about clubs' ownership, and access to pitches which clubs do not own. Plus it will be focused on the uses of pitches for particular purposes, eg sports and skills development.

### Introduction

- 4.4 The Sport England assessment of the supply and demand for full size AGPs is undertaken once a year for every local authority in England and based on the same methodology it does provide a consistent assessment - for each local area and over time for assessing the supply and demand for AGP's. It is the baseline start point and can be overlaid with the assessment of the supply and demand for full size AGP's which each National Governing Body (NGB) of Sport undertakes for their sport.
- 4.5 The data presented is based on the Sport England analysis of what is termed "combined use". This means the assessment is based on the use of full size AGP's for football, rugby union and hockey in one assessment of supply and demand. The data set identifies the type of pitch surface for every pitch included in the analysis and the amount of use for football, rugby union or hockey in the weekly peak period. The analysis is therefore pitch and sports use specific. The analysis for each pitch is then aggregated into one data set to present the findings combined into an area assessment, which is presented for each local authority.
- 4.6 The analysis of the supply and demand for each pitch is based on three catchment areas for pitches; car; public transport; and walk to – the supply of each pitch and the demand for it within its catchment area. So although the analysis is presented under the heading of each local authority area, the analysis is undertaken based on where pitches are located, their catchment area and where demand for pitches is located. How this work as and the interaction is set out in the introduction to the findings under each heading before the findings are reported.

### Total Supply

- 4.7 Table 4.1 sets out the total supply of AGPs across Central Lincolnshire.



### Definition of Total Supply

- 4.8 Total supply is the total supply of pitches measured in the number of visits which a pitch can accommodate in the weekly peak period for use by football, rugby union or hockey. The weekly peak period for AGP's is defined as: Monday – Thursday of 4 hours between 17.00 hours – 21.00 hours; Friday 17.00 hours – 19.00 hours; and Saturday and Sunday 09.00 hours – 17.00 hours. So there are 34 hours in the weekly peak period. It is assessed that 85% of the weekly throughput of a pitch occurs in the weekly peak period.

**Table 4.1: Total Supply of AGPs across Central Lincolnshire**

Table 1 – Supply	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire County	EAST MIDLANDS REGION
Number of pitches	4	3	2	20	177
Number of pitch sites	4	3	2	20	160
Supply of total pitches in pitches	4	3	2	20	177
Supply of publicly available pitch space in pitches (scaled with hours available in the peak period)	3.6	3.0	1.8	18.2	148.0
Supply of total pitch space in visits	2635	2220	1330	13450	109548
Pitches per 10,000 population	0.43	0.27	0.22	0.27	0.38

- 4.9 Table 4.1 reveals that there is a total of 9 full size AGP's at 9 sites across the three Central Lincolnshire authorities. Each site contains one pitch, there are no double pitch sites.
- 4.10 Lincoln has the most pitches at four, followed by North Kesteven with three and West Lindsey with two pitches. When the pitches are assessed/scaled on the amount of peak times hours for public access (which includes clubs) there is a slight reduction in Lincoln and West Lindsey with the supply reducing to 3.6 pitches in Lincoln and 1.8 pitches available for public use at peak hours. In North Kesteven it remains unchanged at 3 pitches.
- 4.11 Details of each pitch are set out in Table 4.2. As can be seen there is an almost even balance between pitch surface types with five being a 3g surface and four being a sand filled surface. The sand filled surface pitches are the older pitches with three being constructed in the 1990's, of which 2 have been resurfaced (the RAF College Cranwell pitch being the exception).

- 4.12 Six of the nine pitches are on school or dual sites, highlighting the need to negotiate with schools to retain community access. The exceptions are Lincoln City FC pitch which is a commercial pitch and has less public access as well, Ruston Sports and Social Club and RAF Cranwell.
- 4.13 There is a limited direct District Council role in the ownership and operation of AGP's, whilst acknowledging the pitches at Yarborough and NK Sports Centre are on school sites but the management and operation is controlled by the District Council. However overall there is the need to negotiate with individual site owners to gain or retain public access to pitches.

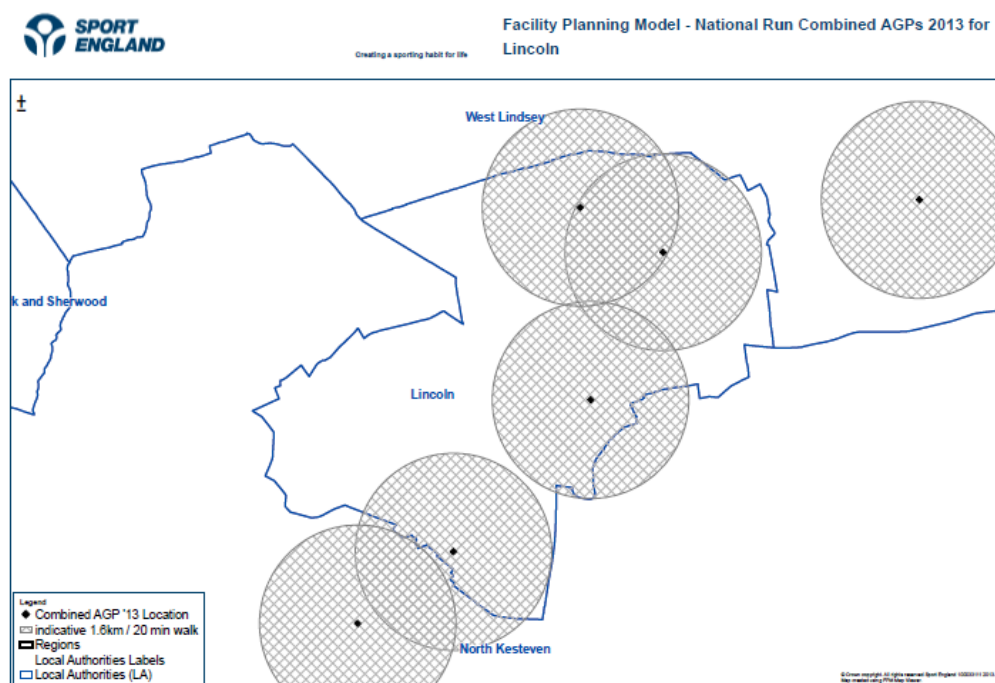
**Table 4.2: Type of pitch surface for pitches in Central Lincolnshire Authorities**

Name of Authority and pitch	Type of surface	Dimensions	Year built	Year refurbished	Public or commercial site
<b>Lincoln City</b>					
Lincoln Christ Hospital School	3g floodlit	100 x 60	2009		P
Lincoln City FC	3g floodlit	100 x 60	1998	2010	C
Ruston Sports & Social Club	3g floodlit	106 x 69	2007		P
Yarborough Leisure centre	Sand Filled	110 x 60	2006		P
<b>North Kesteven</b>					
Carre's Grammar School	3g floodlit	100 x 60	2007		P
North Kesteven Sports Centre	Sand floodlit	100 x 60	1974	2007	P
RAF College Cranwell	Sand floodlit	100 x 60	1997		P
<b>West Lindsey</b>					
Cherry Willingham Community School	3g floodlit	100 x 60	2009		P
Trent Valley Academy	Sand floodlit	100 x 60	2009		P

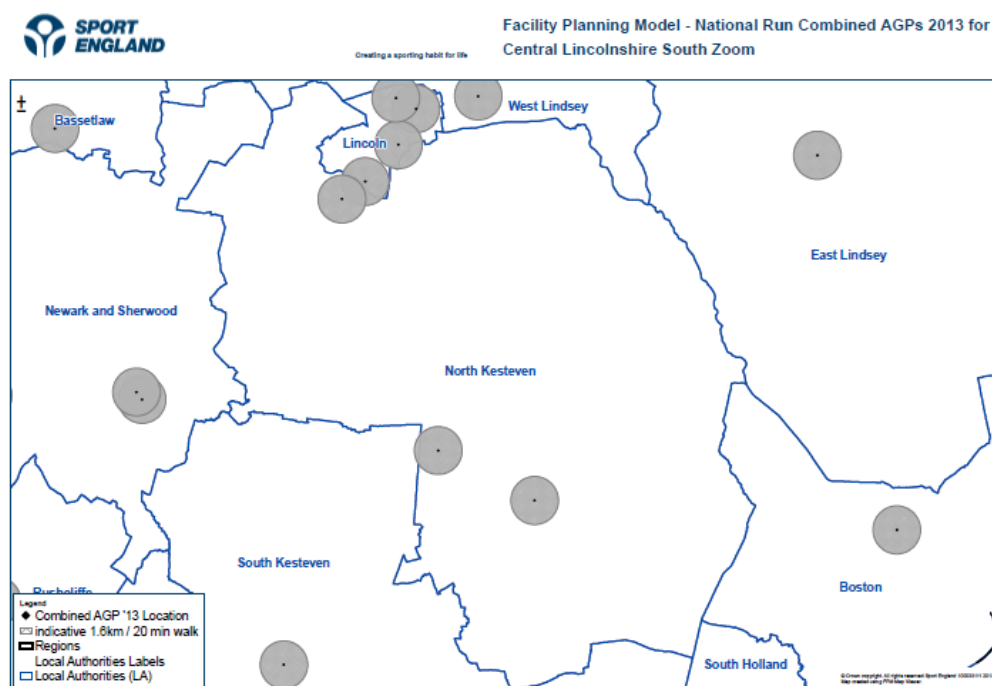
- 4.14 The three Central Lincolnshire authorities contain 9 of the 20 pitches in Lincolnshire County, so some 45% of the County supply of pitches. There are 177 pitches in East Midlands Region and so the Central Lincolnshire authorities have 5% of the Regional pitch supply.

- 4.15 Sport England sets out a standard of pitch supply per 10,000 population and based on this standard the highest provision is in Lincoln City at 0.43 pitches per 10,000 population. North Kesteven and West Lindsey have 0.27 and 0.22 pitches respectively per 10,000 population.
- 4.16 The Lincolnshire County standard is 0.27 pitches per 10,000 population, the same as for North Kesteven. The East Midlands Region standard is 0.38 pitches per 10,000 population which is above the North Kesteven and West Lindsey standard. Lincoln City is above both the Lincolnshire County and East Midlands Region standard of provision of pitches per 10,000 population.
- 4.17 Maps 4.1 – 4.3 show the location of the existing AGPs. The maps also provide an indicative one mile/20 minutes walking catchment area.

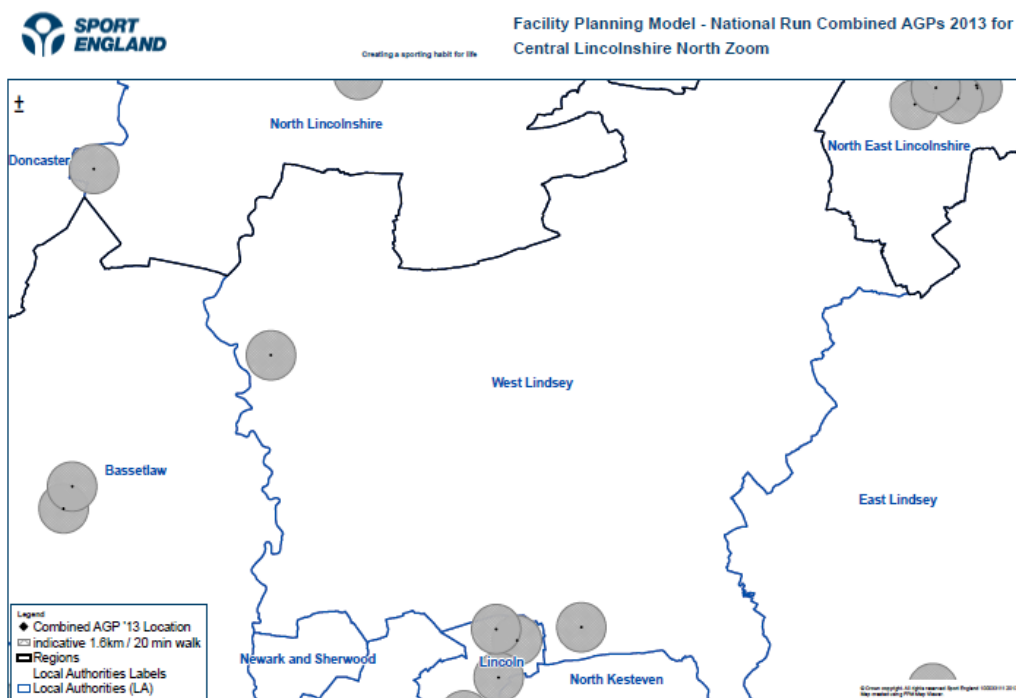
**Map 4.1: Location of Artificial Grass Pitches City of Lincoln**



**Map 4.2: Location of Artificial Grass Pitches North Kesteven**



**Map 4.3 Location of Artificial Grass Pitches West Lindsey**



## Total Demand

### *Definition of total demand*

- 4.18 Total demand for AGP's is the amount of demand there is for AGP's within the catchment area of each pitch location. Demand is assessed in the same terms as total supply, namely the number of visits a pitch can accommodate within the weekly peak period. The hours of the weekly peak period for total demand are the same as for total supply.
- 4.19 The total demand for pitches is first determined by the total population and then the percentage of the population who play football, rugby union and hockey on AGP's and how often they play.
- 4.20 Total demand for pitches in Central Lincolnshire is summarised in Table 4.3.

**Table 4.3: Total Demand for AGPs in Central Lincolnshire**

Table 3 - Demand	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire County	EAST MIDLANDS REGION
Population	93889	111255	91619	731723	4620650
Visits demanded – vpwpp	2525	2245	1780	15088	105361
Equivalent in pitches	3.41	3.03	2.41	20.39	142.38
% of population without access to a car	28.6	12.2	14.4	17.2	21.3

- 4.21 Table 4.3 reveals that;

- the total population for each district in Central Lincolnshire in the Sport England 2013 analysis is within quite a close range. North Kesteven has the highest population at 111,255 people, followed by City of Lincoln at 93,889 people and West Lindsey at 91,619 people; and
  - from this population the total demand for pitches in Lincoln City is 2,525 visits in the weekly peak period. This equates to a total demand for 3.4 pitches. North Kesteven has a similar demand profile, with total demand being 2,245 visits in the weekly peak period which equates to a demand for 3 pitches. West Lindsey has a slightly lower demand of 1,780 visits, which equates to a demand for 2.4 pitches.
- 4.22 Access to pitches is very much influenced by access to cars as car travel is the dominant travel mode to pitches. Therefore the level of access to cars by the resident population is important to consider. In Lincoln City there is a high 28.6% of the adult population who do not have access to a car. This is above the Lincolnshire County percentage of 17.2% of the population without access to a car and the East Midlands Region percentage which is 21.3% of the population without access to a car. This means that local access to AGPs in city of Lincoln may be important.

- 4.23 In North Kesteven and West Lindsey the percentage of the population without access to a car is considerably lower, not surprisingly given they are more rural and with a more dispersed population. In North Kesteven some 12.2% of the population does not have access to a car and in West Lindsey it is 14.4%. Both are below the County and Regional percentages of the population without access to a car.

### Supply and demand balance

#### *Definition of supply and demand balance*

- 4.24 Supply and demand balance provides a 'global' view of provision – it compares AGP demand generated **within each local authority within Central Lincolnshire** with the supply of AGP's **within each Central Lincolnshire authority**. It therefore represents an assumption that ALL the demand for AGP's in each individual local authority is met by ALL the supply of AGP's in each Central Lincolnshire authority. In short, supply and demand balance **does not take into account** where the AGP's are located and their catchment areas and if this extends into other authorities. Or, if the catchment areas of AGPs in other authorities extend into Central Lincolnshire.
- 4.25 Most importantly supply and demand balance does not take into account the propensity/reasons for residents using facilities outside their own District. All these topics are covered in the more detailed modelling set out in later tables (Satisfied Demand, Unmet Demand and which are based on the catchment area of each AGP.).
- 4.26 The reason for presenting the findings on supply and demand balance is because some local authorities like to see how THEIR total supply of AGP's compares with THEIR total demand for AGP's from their own population. Supply and demand balance presents this somewhat crude comparison of supply and demand. This is set out in Table 4.4, which summarises the supply and demand balance for AGPs in Central Lincolnshire.

**Table 4.4: Supply / Demand Balance for AGPs in Central Lincolnshire**

Table 4 - Supply/Demand Balance	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire County	EAST MIDLANDS REGION
Supply - Pitch provision (pitches) scaled to take account of hours available for community use	3.6	3.0	1.8	18.2	148.0
Demand - Pitch provision (pitches)	3.4	3.0	2.4	20.4	142.4
Supply / Demand balance - Variation in pitches of provision available compared to the minimum required to meet demand.	0.15	-0.03	-0.61	-2.21	5.66

4.27 Table 4.4 reveals that;

- there is a very narrow range of findings on supply and demand balance findings across the three local authorities. Overall total supply is very close to total demand in each of the three local authorities;
- Lincoln City has a positive supply and demand balance, which means total supply from the 4 Lincoln pitches exceeds total demand from the Lincoln population. Total supply in Lincoln is 3.6 pitches for public use and access and total demand is for 3.4 pitches. So there is a positive balance of 0.2 of one pitch;
- in North Kesteven there is an equal balance where total supply for public use and access is for 3 pitches and total demand is for 3 pitches; and
- in West Lindsey there is a negative balance but it is very small and less than one pitch. Total supply from the 2 pitches in West Lindsey for public use and access is 1.8 pitches and total demand is for 2.4 pitches, creating a negative balance of 0.6 of one full size pitch.

4.28 Across Lincolnshire County there is negative supply and demand balance of 2.2 pitches (there is a total supply of 18.2 pitches for public use and access and a total demand of 20.4 pitches). In East Midlands region there is a positive supply and demand balance of 5.6 pitches.

### Satisfied demand

#### *Definition of satisfied demand*

4.29 Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity of the AGP's from residents who live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment area of a pitch. Table 4.5 summarises the amount of satisfied demand in Central Lincolnshire.

**Table 4.5: Satisfied Demand in Central Lincolnshire**

<b>Table 5 - Satisfied Demand</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>North Kesteven</b>	<b>West Lindsey</b>	<b>Lincolnshire County</b>	<b>EAST MIDLANDS REGION</b>
Total number of visits which are met	2333	2042	1400	12660	95728
% of total demand satisfied	92.4	90.9	78.7	83.9	90.9
% of demand satisfied who travelled by car	74.4	88.8	92.2	87.6	84.4
% of demand satisfied who travelled by foot	20.2	9.2	4.3	9.6	12.1
% of demand satisfied who travelled by public	5.4	2.1	3.5	2.9	3.4

<b>Table 5 - Satisfied Demand</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>North Kesteven</b>	<b>West Lindsey</b>	<b>Lincolnshire County</b>	<b>EAST MIDLANDS REGION</b>
transport					
Demand Retained	1776	1302	875	11820	93050
Demand Retained -as a % of Satisfied Demand	76.1	63.8	62.5	93.4	97.2
Demand Exported	557	740	525	840	2679
Demand Exported -as a % of Satisfied Demand	23.9	36.2	37.5	6.6	2.8

4.30 Table 4.5 indicates that;

- there are high levels of satisfied demand in both Lincoln City and North Kesteven. The level of satisfied demand in each authority is 92.4% and 90.9% respectively of total demand. This compares with a satisfied level of demand in Lincolnshire County and East Midlands Region of 83.9% and 90.9% respectively;
- in short, the number, location and catchment area of the pitches means that over 90% of the Lincoln City and North Kesteven demand is within the catchment area of a pitch and there is enough capacity at these pitches to absorb this very high level of total demand;
- in West Lindsey, satisfied demand is a bit lower but still at a high level with 78.7% of the total demand for pitches being satisfied demand;
- car travel and its 20 minutes drive time catchment is the predominate choice of travel mode to pitches. In Lincoln City some 74.4% of all visits to AGP's are by car. In North Kesteven it is a higher 88.8% and in West Lindsey an even higher 92.2% of all visits. The findings for these two local authorities do reflect the higher percentage of the population which has access to a car compared with Lincoln City; and
- the opposite is true of the percentage of visits to pitches by the 20 minutes/1mile walk to catchment area. In Lincoln City (because of the comparatively lower percentage of the population who have access to a car than in North Kesteven and in West Lindsey) 20.2% of all visits to pitches are on foot. This compares to the lower percentages of walk to visits to pitches of 9.2% and 4.3% in North Kesteven and West Lindsey respectively.

### **Retained demand**

- 4.31 It is possible to estimate how much of the satisfied demand for AGP's is met by the pitches in each of the Central Lincolnshire authorities and this is known as retained demand. This differs from the supply and demand balance because it is based on the catchment area of pitches and the Sport England sends the demand to the nearest pitch regardless of which local authority it is located in.



- 4.32 The assessment is that 76% of the Lincoln satisfied demand for pitches is met by the 4 pitches located in Lincoln. In North Kesteven some 63.8% of the North Kesteven satisfied demand is retained at the 3 pitches located in North Kesteven, whilst in West Lindsey, 62.5% of the West Lindsey satisfied demand which is met at the 2 pitches in West Lindsey.
- 4.33 Overall these are high levels of retained demand and it shows that the pitches within each district are well located to meet (and keep) the majority of their own residents demand.
- 4.34 In Lincolnshire County and East Midlands Region there are extremely high levels of retained demand these being 93.4% and 97.2% respectively.

### Exported demand

- 4.35 Exported demand is the opposite of retained demand. It estimates how much of the satisfied demand in each of the Central Lincolnshire authorities is exported. This therefore includes where the nearest pitch for residents of each of the Central Lincolnshire authorities being located outside their district (this could be another Central Lincolnshire district or another Lincolnshire authority) and there is enough capacity at that pitch to absorb that demand.
- 4.36 Lincoln City exports 23.9% of demand for AGP's outside the district. The percentages for North Kesteven and West Lindsey are 36.2% and 37.5% respectively. These are high percentages and it does reflect that car travel is the predominate choice of travel mode to pitches. So based on a 20 minute drive time of where residents live this is going to extend beyond individual boundaries and the nearest pitch being located outside the authority in which residents live. (Note: the Sport England national analysis data does not set out where this demand is exported to and how much is exported to a particular authority. It just provides the totals number and percentages of exported demand).

### Unmet Demand

#### *Definition of unmet demand*

- 4.37 Unmet demand has two categories. The first is demand which cannot be met because there is too much demand for the capacity of any particular AGP within its catchment area to absorb. The second category is demand which is located outside the catchment area of any AGP.
- 4.38 Table 4.6 summarises the levels of unmet demand in Central Lincolnshire.

**Table 4.6: Unmet Demand in Central Lincolnshire**

Table 6 - Unmet Demand	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire County	EAST MIDLANDS REGION
Total number of visits in the peak, not currently being met	192	204	380	2428	9633
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	7.6	9.1	21.3	16.1	9.1
Equivalent in pitches	0.26	0.28	0.51	3.28	13.02
% of Unmet Demand due					

Table 6 - Unmet Demand	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire County	EAST MIDLANDS REGION
to ;					
Lack of Capacity -	71.8	40.9	44.0	49.9	70.4
Outside Catchment -	28.2	59.1	56.0	50.1	29.6
Outside Catchment;	28.2	59.1	56.0	50.1	29.6
% Unmet demand who do not have access to a car	8.7	14	11.2	11.7	9.6
% of Unmet demand who have access to a car	19.5	45.1	44.8	38.4	20.1
Lack of Capacity;	71.8	40.9	44.0	49.9	70.4
% Unmet demand who do not have access to a car	12.2	4.5	3.6	9.0	30.0
% of Unmet demand who have access to a car	59.6	36.5	40.4	40.9	40.4

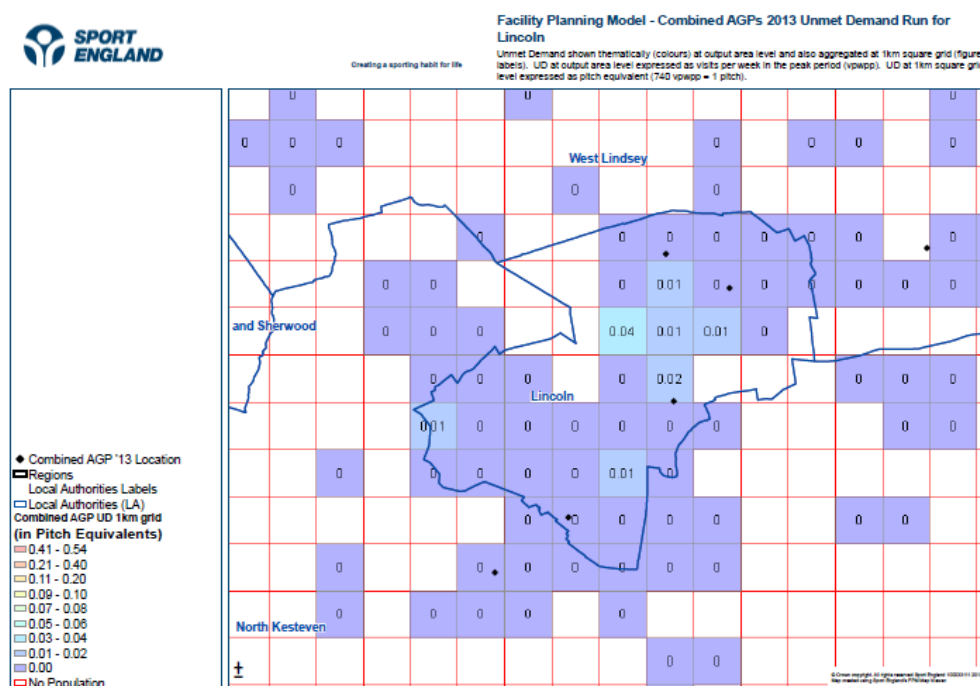
4.39 Table 4.6 indicates that;

- Unmet demand in total is very very low in each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities and it is not a driver for providing more pitches –overall, the quantity of pitches and access to them are not issues in 2013.
- In Lincoln City unmet demand is 192 visits and which is 7.6% of total demand but this equates to only 0.26 of a pitch. In North Kesteven the figures for unmet demand are 204 visits, which is 9.1% of total demand and equates to 0.28 of one full size pitch. For West Lindsey the figures are 380 visits, some 21.3% of total demand and which is a high percentage but this equates only to 0.51 of a full size pitch.

#### *Unmet Demand in Lincoln City*

4.40 In terms of the types of unmet demand, in Lincoln City, some 71.8% is due to lack of capacity and 28.2% is due to demand being located outside the catchment area of a pitch. However to reiterate, total unmet demand in Lincoln City is only 0.26 of a pitch. Map 4.4 shows the location and scale of unmet demand for AGP's in one kilometre grid squares, expressed as full size pitch equivalents for the City of Lincoln. As the map shows the highest value sq is 0.04 of a pitch (shaded light blue and in the centre of Lincoln).

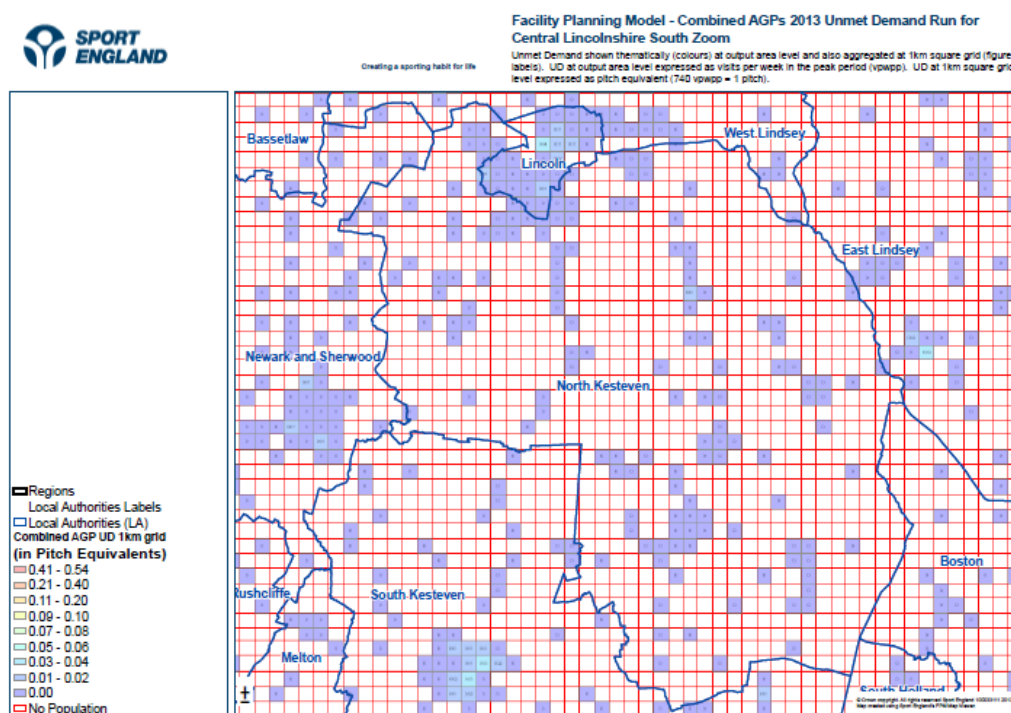
**Map 4.4: Unmet demand scale and location for Lincoln City**



### Unmet Demand in North Kesteven

- 4.41 In North Kesteven the unmet demand is more evenly split with 41% due to lack of capacity and 59% due to demand being located outside the catchment area of a pitch. Total unmet demand is 0.28 of a full size pitch. The scale and location of the unmet demand across North Kesteven is set out in Map 4.5. As the map shows there is only one square which has a value and this is equivalent to 0.01 of a full size pitch. The squares which have a zero value are where there is population but not enough unmet demand to even register as the lowest category. The total unmet demand across North Kesteven of 0.28 of a pitch is therefore so widely and thinly dispersed that the map does not identify areas of unmet demand.

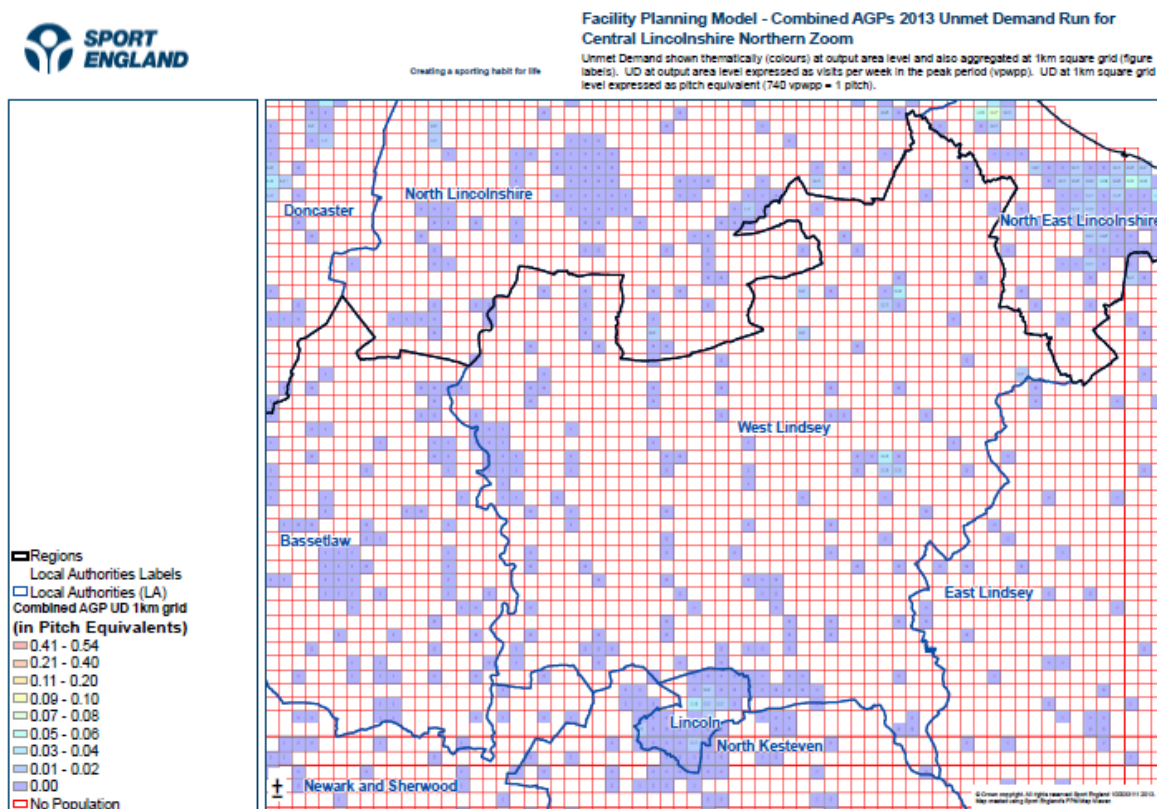
**Map 4.5: Unmet demand scale and location for North Kesteven**



#### *Unmet Demand in West Lindsey*

- 4.42 In West Lindsey unmet demand due to lack of capacity is 44%. 56% of unmet demand is due to residents being located outside the catchment area of a pitch. Total unmet demand is the equivalent of half a full size pitch. West Lindsey therefore has the highest level of unmet demand of the three authorities but still very small. In terms of locations there are 2 areas where unmet demand. The first is in Market Rasen where unmet demand across 2 grid squares is equivalent to 0.25 of a pitch, so half of the total unmet demand in West Lindsey. The second area is in the South East of the authority where the remainder of the unmet demand is located, again across 2 grid squares.

#### Map 4.6: Unmet demand scale and location for West Lindsey



#### Used capacity

##### Definition of used capacity

- 4.43 Used capacity is a measure of usage and throughput at AGP's and estimates how well used/how full facilities are.
- 4.44 Table 4.7 summarises the used capacity in Central Lincolnshire.

**Table 4.7: Used Capacity in Central Lincolnshire**

Table 7 - Used Capacity	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire County	EAST MIDLANDS REGION
Total number of visits used of current capacity	2635	2051	1174	12795	99231
% of overall capacity of pitches used	100	92.4	88.3	95.1	90.6
% of visits made to pitches by walkers	18.5	8.2	5.4	9.5	11.7
% of visits made to pitches by road	81.5	91.8	94.6	90.5	88.3

<b>Table 7 - Used Capacity</b>	<b>Lincoln</b>	<b>North Kesteven</b>	<b>West Lindsey</b>	<b>Lincolnshire County</b>	<b>EAST MIDLANDS REGION</b>
Visits Imported;					
Number of visits imported	859	749	299	975	6181
As a % of used capacity	32.6	36.5	25.5	7.6	6.2
Visits Retained:					
Number of Visits retained	1776	1302	875	11820	93050
As a % of used capacity	67.4	63.5	74.5	92.4	93.8

4.45 Table 4.7 indicates that;

- the estimated used capacity of all pitches in all three Central Lincolnshire authorities is very high – there is virtually no unused capacity. In Lincoln City 100% of capacity is used, in North Kesteven 92.4% of total capacity is used and in West Lindsey the estimate is that 88.3% of total pitch capacity is used;
- the North Kesteven used capacity findings show that the NK Sport centre pitch and the Carre's Grammar School pitch are estimated to be used 100% of the time in the weekly peak period and the RAF Cranwell pitch is used for 78% of the time in the weekly peak period; and
- in West Lindsey the estimate is that the Cherry Willingham Community School is used for 81% of the time in the weekly peak period and the Trent Valley Academy pitch is used for 94% of the time in the weekly peak period. This suggests that there is some limited spare capacity at the Cherry Willingham school pitch.

### **Imported demand**

4.46 Demand which is imported and met at the pitches in each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities is set out under the used capacity heading because it is demand which shows up under the use of pitches.

4.47 In Lincoln City imported demand represents 859 visits or 32.6% of the used capacity of Lincoln City's 4 pitches( again and as with exported demand this maybe demand imported from other Central Lincolnshire authorities as well as other Lincolnshire County district authorities).

4.48 North Kesteven's imported demand is 749 visits or 36.5% of the used capacity of North Kesteven's three pitches. Whilst in West Lindsey imported demand is the lowest at 299 visits, or, 25.5% of the used capacity of West Lindsey's two pitches. (Note: also and as with exported demand, the Sport England analysis only provides the total demand which is imported it does not provide the breakdown of how much demand is imported from any particular local authority).

### Retained, exported and imported demand

- 4.49 It is possible to set out how much demand is retained, exported and imported in terms of visits for each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities and thereby set out which are net exporters or importers and by how much. This is included in Table 4.8. It shows that both Lincoln City and North Kesteven are net importer (albeit North Kesteven is a net importer by only 9 visits) whilst West Lindsey is a net exporter of 226 visits. (Note: for context, the capacity of one full size AGP is 740 visits in the weekly peak period).

**Table 4.8: Retained, exported and imported demand in visits for each Central Lincolnshire authority**

Name of authority	Retained demand (visits)	Exported demand (visits)	Imported demand (visits)	Net exporter/importer (visits)
City of Lincoln	1,776	557	859	Net importer of 302 visits
North Kesteven	1,302	740	749	Net importer of 9 visits
West Lindsey	875	525	299	Net exporter of 226 visits.

### Relative Share

#### Definition of relative share

- 4.50 In addition to the supply and demand assessment, the Sport England national assessment also analyses the relative share of AGP's. This means it takes into account the size and availability of pitches and the travel mode to them. This helps to establish whether residents in one area have a greater or lesser share of provision than other areas, when compared against a national average (100).
- 4.51 A simple analogy is to consider AGP provision as a cake, its size being proportional to the facility's catchment and its slices divided among the users within the catchment.
- 4.52 Table 4.9 sets out the Relative Share of AGPs in Central Lincolnshire. It should be noted that, if the national relative share to pitches is set at 100, then any relative share for an authority which is above a value of 100 means that residents have a higher relative share of access to AGP's than in England. A local authority with a value below 100 shows it to have lower than the national average access to pitches and by how much.

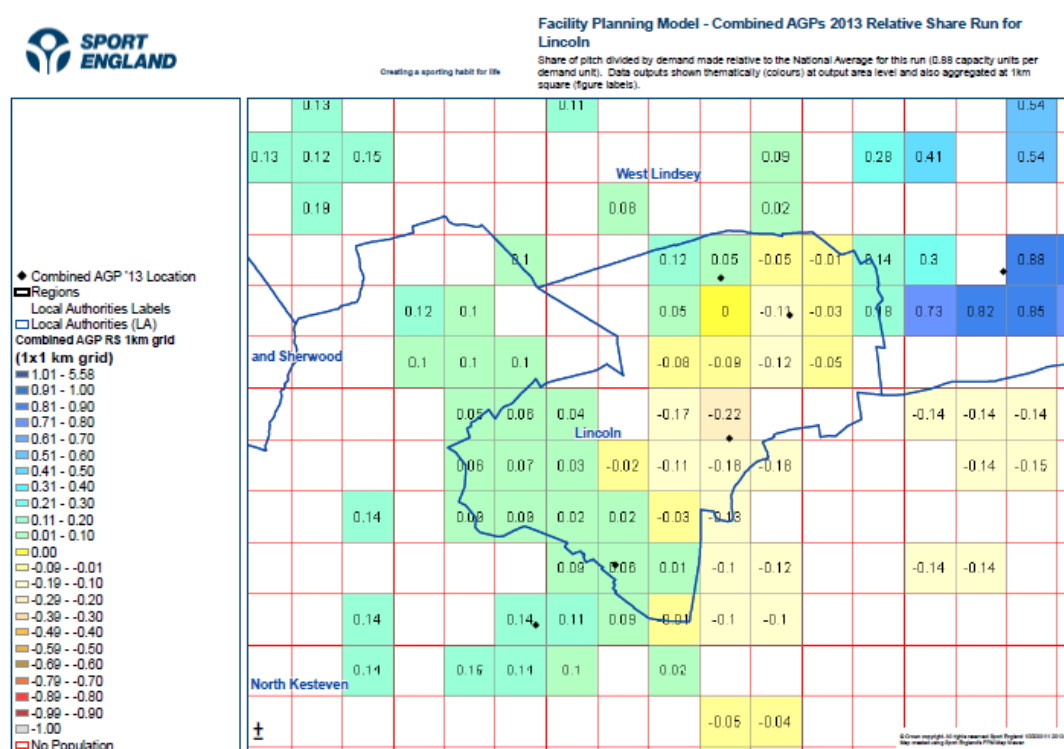
**Table 4.9: Relative Share of AGPs in Central Lincolnshire**

Table 8 - Relative Share	Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey	Lincolnshire County	EAST MIDLANDS REGION
Score - with 100 = Average share	94	116	111	102	117
+/- from National share	-6	16	11	2	17

4.53 Maps 4.7 – 4.9 illustrate the relative share in each of the three areas.

4.54 Table 4.9 demonstrates that Lincoln City has a relative value of 94 – a level below the national average. The city average does however mask variations across the authority as Map 4.7 shows. The areas shaded green to the west and north of the authority have positive values of relative share. The green shaded squares as the map key shows are the lowest positive values. The squares shaded dark yellow, to light yellow to beige and in that sequence have lower than the England average at 100. These are located to the centre and eastern side of the authority.

**Map 4.7: Relative share for Lincoln City**

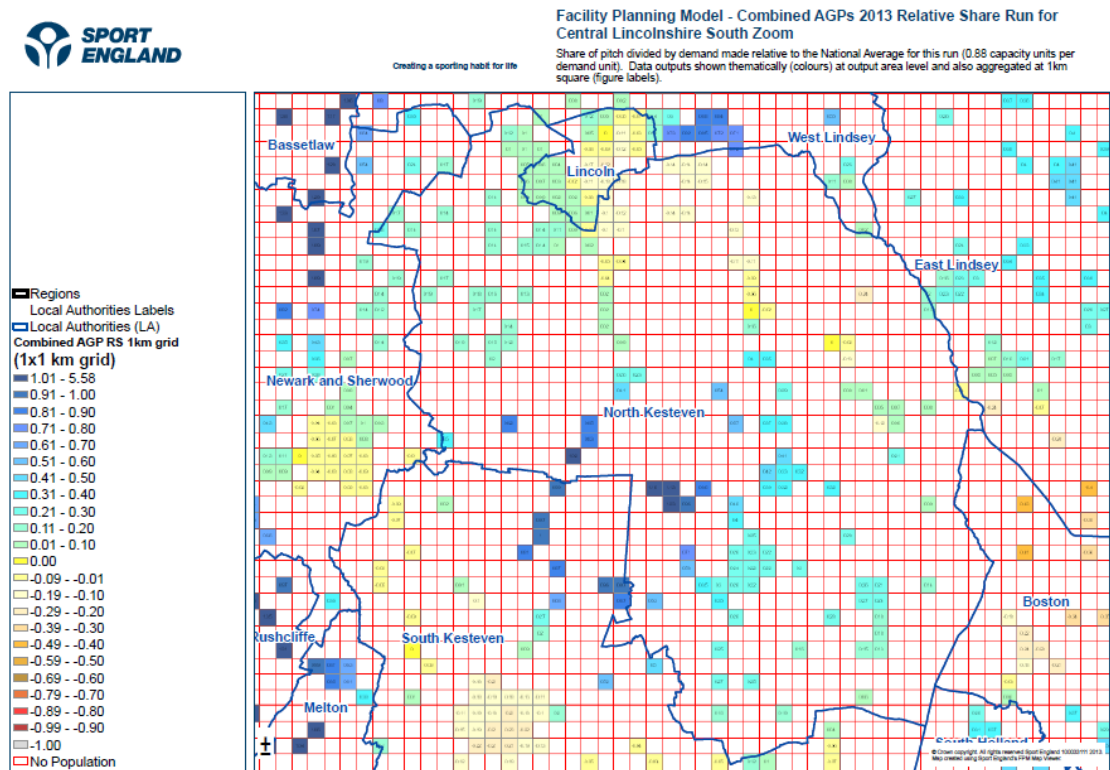


4.55 Both North Kesteven and West Lindsey have a positive relative share value and above the England wide value of 100. In North Kesteven it is 116 and so an authority wide value which is +16 to the England wide value of 100. Map 4.8 for North Kesteven shows there are variations to this authority wide average. Squares shaded dark to light blue, around Sleaford have the highest relative share and in that order. Next highest are squares shaded turquoise to light green and again in that order. Finally there are squares which are shaded yellow around the City of Lincoln boundary where the relative share is below the England average of 100. So despite a North Kesteven average of +16 to the England average there is considerable variation to this figure across the authority.

4.56 If an objective is to increase access to AGP's then the map shows that the areas of the authority to focus on are those shaded yellow.

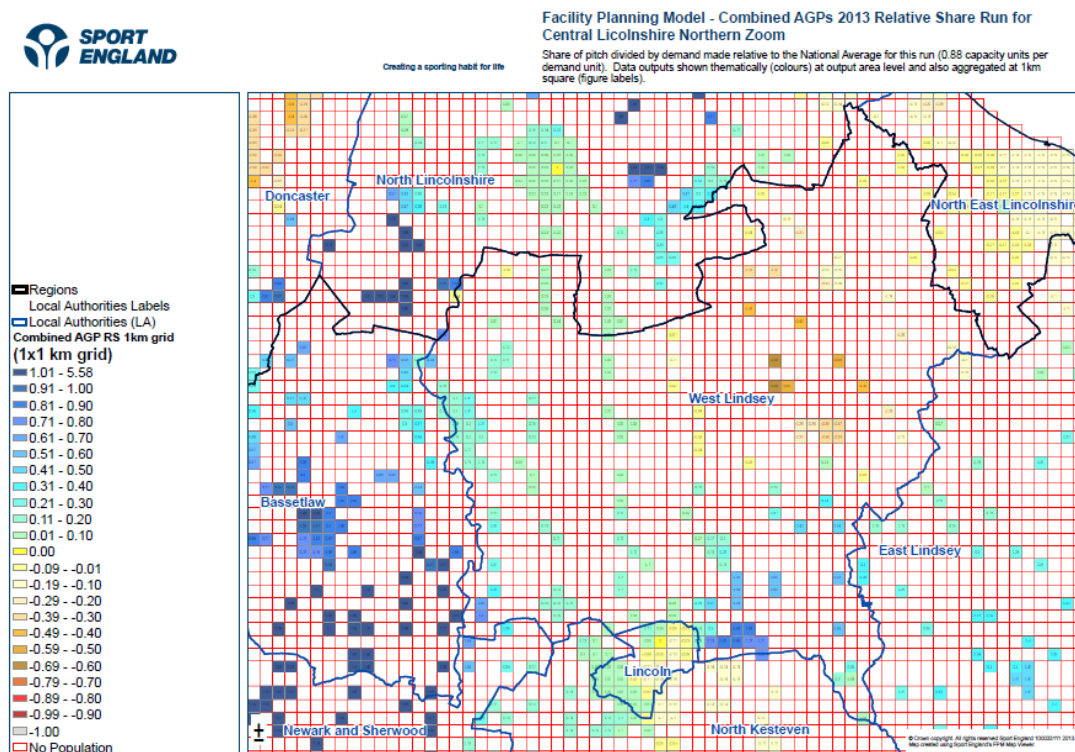


**Map 4.8: Relative share for North Kesteven**



- 4.57 In West Lindsey there is a relative share of 111 so an authority wide value of +11 to the England wide value of 100. Again the authority wide average of + 11 does mask variations within West Lindsey. There is an area to the south of the authority bordering Lincoln where relative share is highest (shaded dark and light blue). There are then quite a few squares shaded green to the west side of the authority shaded green which have a positive value but lower than the authority wide average of +11. Finally in Market Rasen and to the NE of the authority there are squares shaded brown and yellow which have a relative share below the England wide average of 100. These are the areas to focus on in increasing access to pitches

## Map 4.9: Relative share for West Lindsey



- 4.58 Both Lincolnshire County and East Midlands Region have positive relative share values (102 for Lincolnshire County and 117 for the East Midlands Region).

### Summary

- 4.59 The Facility Planning Model provides a theoretical analysis of the adequacy of AGPs. Combined with sport specific analysis (in later sections), this supports decision making in relation to AGPs.
- 4.60 The key issues arising from the Application of the FPM are as follows;
- 4.61 There are 9 full size AGP's at 9 sites across the three Central Lincolnshire authorities. Lincoln has the most pitches at 4, followed by North Kesteven with 3 and West Lindsey with 2 pitches. This is reflected in measures of provision per 1000 population, where the amount of facilities is highest in Lincoln:
- Five pitches have a 3g surface and four a sand filled surface. All authorities have both types of provision. The sand filled surface pitches are the older pitches. Six of the 9 pitches are on school or dual sites, highlighting the importance of negotiating with schools to retain community access.
  - Total supply in Lincoln is 3.6 pitches for public use and access and total demand is for 3.4 pitches. So there is a positive balance of 0.2 of one pitch.
  - In North Kesteven there is an equal balance where total supply for public use and access is for 3 pitches and totals demand is for 3 pitches.

- In West Lindsey there is a negative balance but is very small at less than one pitch. Total supply from the 2 pitches in West Lindsey for public use and access is 1.8 pitches and total demand is for 2.4 pitches, creating a negative balance of 0.6 of one full size pitch.
  - When considering satisfied demand, there are high levels of satisfied demand in both Lincoln City and North Kesteven, being 92.4% and 90.9% respectively of total demand. In West Lindsey satisfied demand is a bit lower but still at a high level (78.7%).
  - 76% of the Lincoln satisfied demand for pitches is met by the 4 pitches located in Lincoln. In North Kesteven some 63.8% of the North Kesteven satisfied demand is retained at the 3 pitches located in North Kesteven. Whilst in West Lindsey it is 62.5% of the West Lindsey satisfied demand which is met at the 2 pitches in West Lindsey. Overall these are high levels of retained demand and it shows that the location of the pitches within each district are well located to meet (and keep) the majority of their own residents demand. The remainder of demand is exported.
  - Unmet demand in total is very very low in each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities and it is not a driver for providing more pitches - overall quantity of pitches and access to them are not issues in 2013. Unmet demand equates to only 0.26 of a pitch in Lincoln, 0.28 of a pitch in North Kesteven and 0.51 pitches in West Lindsey.
  - In Lincoln City some 71.8% is due to lack of capacity and 28.2% due to demand being located outside the catchment area of a pitch. In North Kesteven the unmet demand is more evenly split with 41% due to lack of capacity and 59% due to demand being located outside the catchment area of a pitch. In West Lindsey unmet demand due to lack of capacity is 44% and due to it being located outside the catchment area of a pitch it is 56%. Total unmet demand is the equivalent of half a full size pitch.
  - The estimated used capacity of all pitches in all there Central Lincolnshire authorities is very high with there being virtually no unused capacity. In Lincoln City the estimate is that 100% of all the pitch time available for public use at peak times is used. Modelling reveals that Cherry Willingham Community School and RAF Cranwell have some unused capacity.
  - Relative share in Lincoln City is below the national average (94). The areas with the lowest relative share are in the centre and east.
  - In North Kesteven, relative share is 116. Areas around the city of Lincoln boundary have the lowest relative share, while provision in Sleaford is highest.
  - In West Lindsey, relative share is 111. It is in Market Rasen and the north east where relative share is lowest.
- 4.62 This analysis therefore suggests that there may be some justification for additional AGPs in Central Lincolnshire, based upon the capacity of existing facilities.
- 4.63 This analysis will be used to inform more detailed evaluation of the adequacy of pitches for each sport in Sections 5 (Football) and 8 (Hockey).

## 5. Football

05

### Introduction

5.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of pitches for football and provides:

- An overview of supply and demand for football
- An evaluation of the overall adequacy of pitches to meet demand
- Key issues for the strategy to address
- Strategic priorities for football.

### Football in Central Lincolnshire – An Overview Pitch Supply

5.2 There are 334 individual grass football pitches across Central Lincolnshire. This figure includes all known public, private, school and other pitches whether or not they are in secured community use. These pitches comprise:

- 135 adult football pitches
- 141 junior football pitches
- 58 mini soccer pitches

5.3 The full audit of pitches can be seen in Appendix A. Overall, 70% of football pitches are based at sites that offer either secured or unsecured community access.

5.4 It must be noted that a high proportion of schools in Central Lincolnshire have playing fields – only 13 responding schools suggest that they have no grass playing fields. Not all schools mark their pitches out formally however – 14 schools suggested that they have a playing field but do not have any markings for formal pitches. These sites are excluded from above totals.

5.5 There is relative positivity across Central Lincolnshire about community use and many schools demonstrate a good relationship with community teams. 19 schools indicate that their playing fields are currently used by the local community and the majority of this use is by football teams. 50% of these schools indicated that there is scope to increase the amount of use of their sites.

5.6 Table 5.1 summarises the distribution of community pitches across Central Lincolnshire by local authority. It clearly indicates that the majority of pitches are located in the more rural areas. Provision is lowest in Lincoln and highest in West Lindsey in terms of both number of facilities provided and provision per 1000 population. The proportion of pitches with secured community use is highest in North Kesteven.

5.7 Encouragingly, 52% of schools that do not offer community use currently would be interested in doing so. These are spread across Central Lincolnshire. Of particular note, they include Welbourn Sir William Robertson High School and Branston Community Academy, both of which indicate that they have several playing pitches available. Community use of these sites would offer a significant opportunity to increase the stock of publically available football pitches and to make better use of existing resources.

**Table 5.1: Community Use Pitches**

Area	Adult Football Pitches	Junior Football Pitches	Number of Mini Football Pitches	Unsecured pitches	% of Community Pitch Provision Secured (no of pitches)	Community Pitch Provision per 1000 Population
City of Lincoln	36	13	5	6	90%	0.65
North Kesteven	41	21	18	0	100%	0.74
West Lindsey	40	23	22	9	90%	1.04

5.8 As indicated in Table 5.1, there are 15 pitches that are unsecured for community use. These are all located at school sites, but are used by local clubs, meaning that that they are important in providing opportunities to participate. These schools are in West Lindsey and City of Lincoln and are as follows;

- Lincoln St Peter and St Paul Lincoln's Catholic High School
- Gainsborough Queen Elizabeth's High School
- Bishop Grosseteste University College
- Cherry Willingham Primary School
- Manor Leas Primary School.

5.9 Several of the secondary school sites, including academies, have been considered to have formal community use. This decision has been taken as a result of feedback from secondary schools and clubs, as well as the presence of formal community use agreements. It should be noted that not all of these schools are currently used (in particular those in Lincoln) and in some respects were thought to be inaccessible (either community use is refused when requested and / or the costs are prohibitive to hire). This will be returned to later in this section.

5.10 The size of the Central Lincolnshire area means that the spatial distribution of each pitch must be shown across three maps. Maps 5.1 – 3 therefore illustrate the location of all football pitches in Central Lincolnshire demonstrating those facilities that are available for community use.

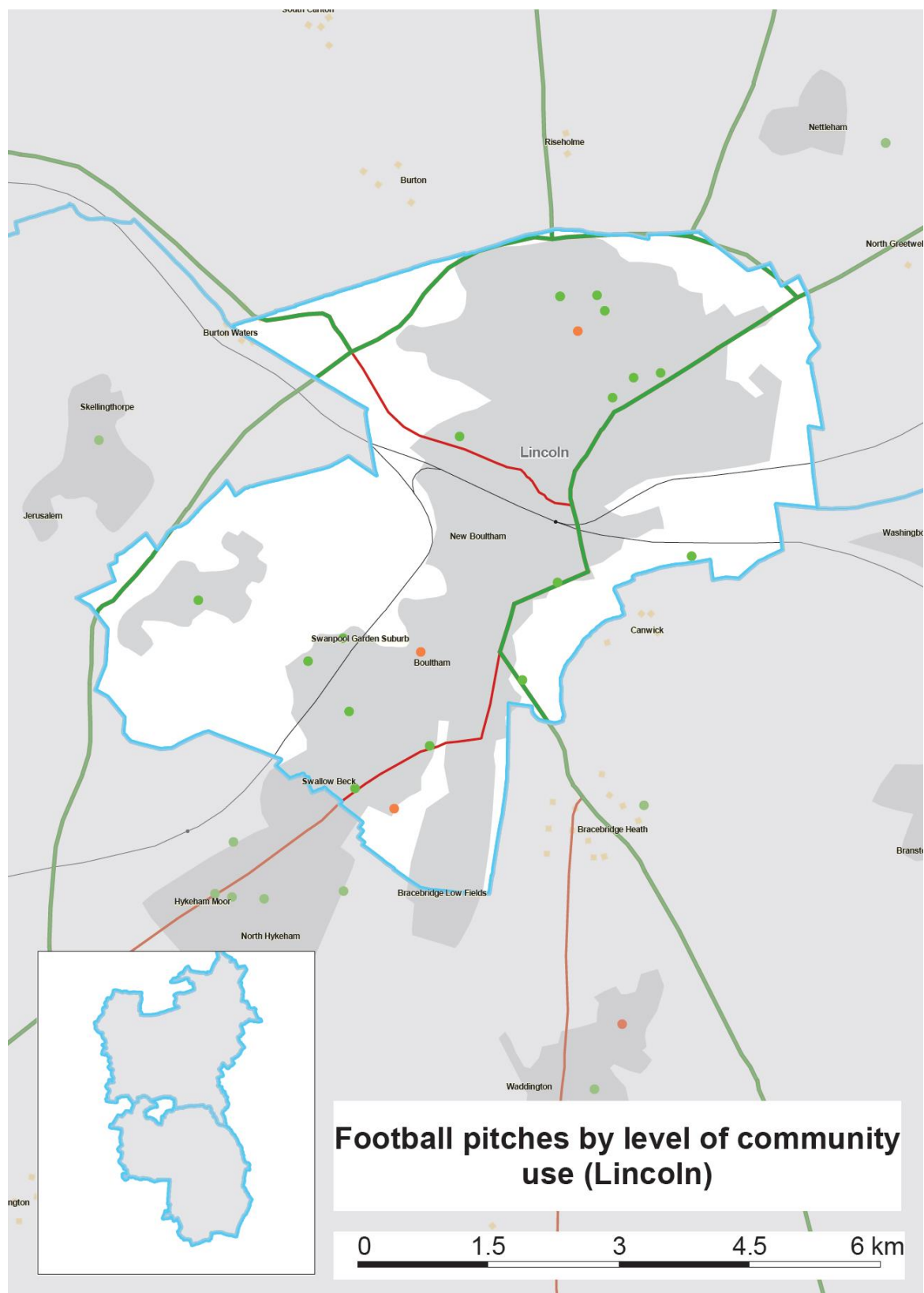
5.11 Maps 5.4 - 6 illustrate the scale of facilities that are available for formal community use. They clearly demonstrate that the majority of sites are relatively small scale. Across Central Lincolnshire, the average site containing football pitches has 2 pitches, which is relatively small. This means that opportunities to accommodate large clubs on one site are restricted. There is some slight variation in this in each of the local authorities, with sites in Lincoln being significantly larger, specifically;

- City of Lincoln – average site size 2.6
- North Kesteven – average site size 1.9
- West Lindsey – average site size 1.95

5.12 These maps indicate that football pitches are relatively evenly distributed, with pitch sites located in all of the more densely populated areas of Central Lincolnshire. It is however clear that most provision, and in particular the larger sites, are focused in and around

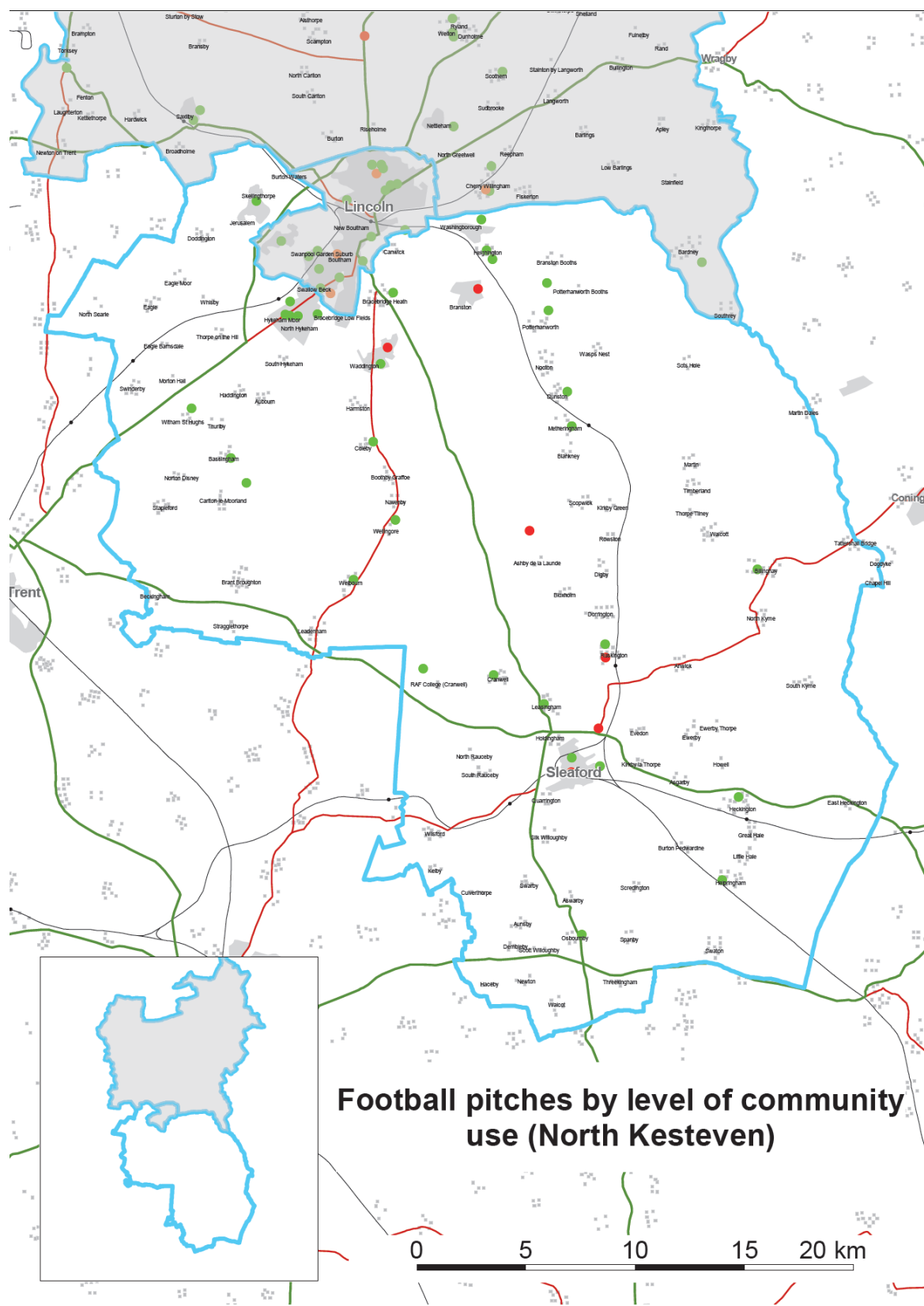
Lincoln and that provision outside of the key urban areas and the borders with Lincoln in North Kesteven and West Lindsey is much more limited.

**Map 5.1: Distribution of grass football pitches across Central Lincolnshire – City of Lincoln**



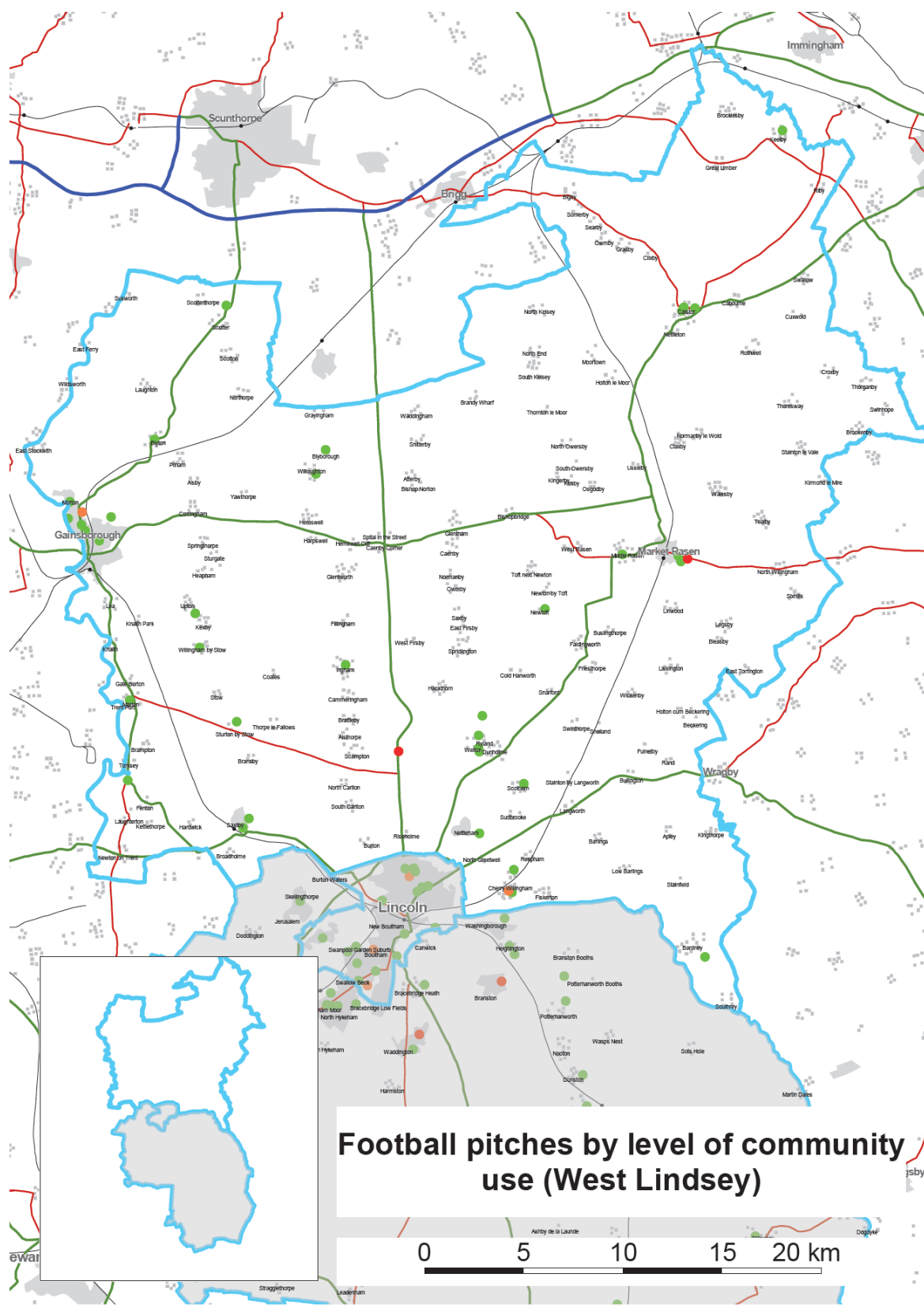


**Map 5.2: Distribution of grass football pitches across Central Lincolnshire – North Kesteven**

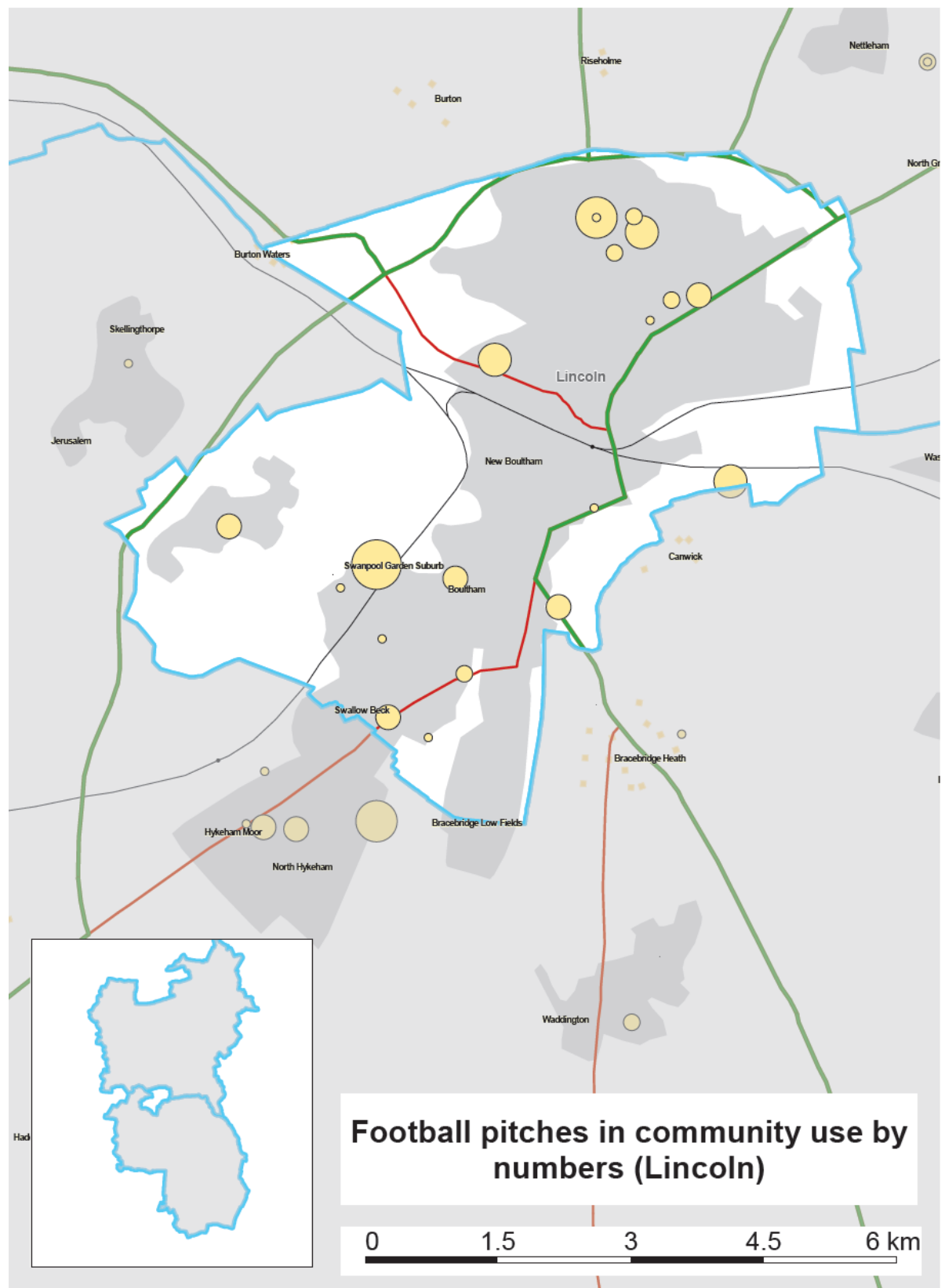




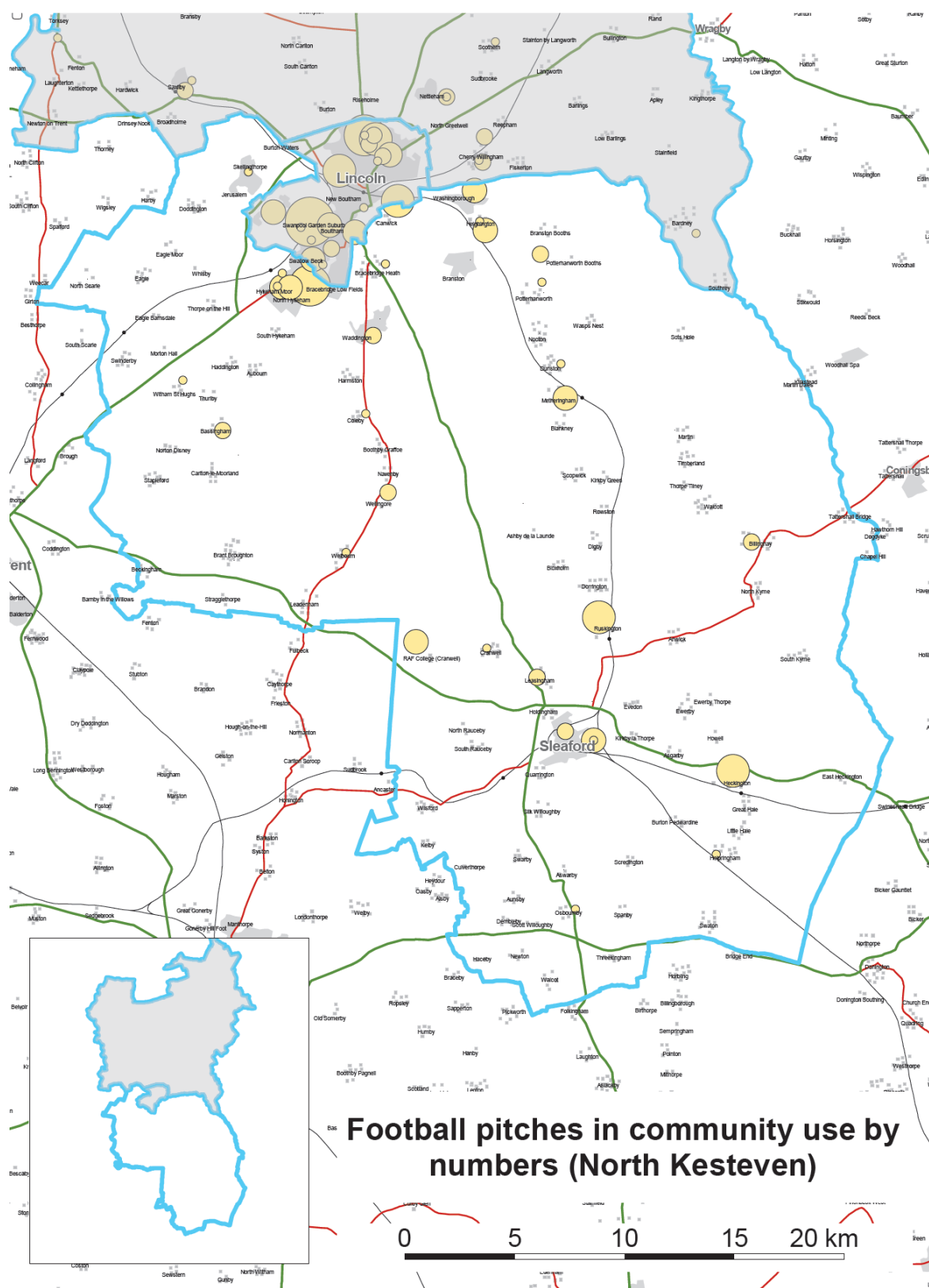
**Map 5.3: Distribution of grass football pitches across Central Lincolnshire – West Lindsey**



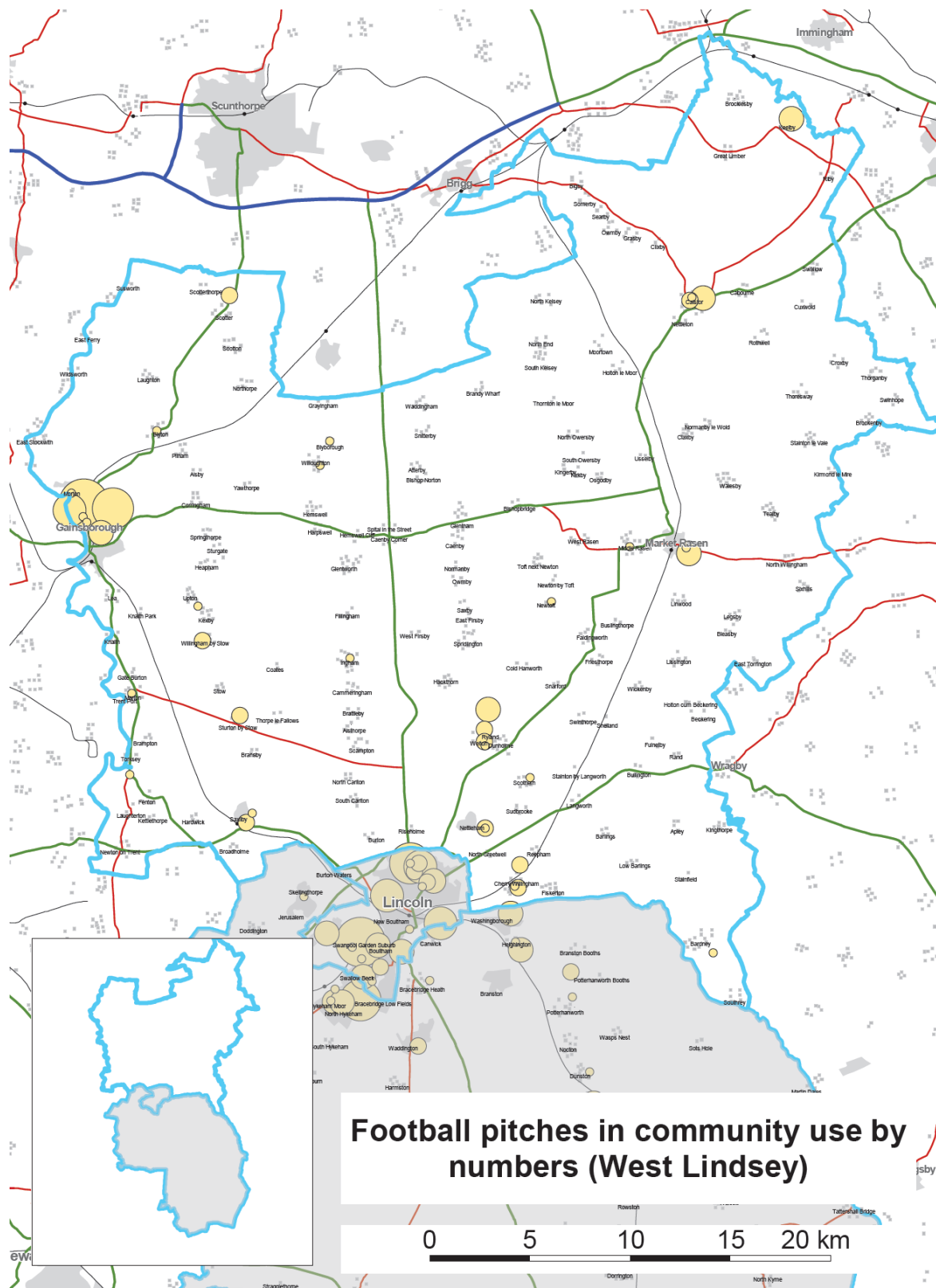
**Map 5.4: The Scale and Distribution of Community Use Football Pitches – City of Lincoln**



**Map 5.5: The Scale and Distribution of Community Use Football Pitches – North Kesteven**



**Map 5.6: The Scale and Distribution of Community Use Football Pitches – West Lindsey**



## Other Facilities

- 5.13 There are 12 full size Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) that complement the spread of grass football pitches across Central Lincolnshire. These are set out in Table 5.3. Further detail on the distribution of these facilities was provided in Section 4.

**Table 5.3: AGPs across Central Lincolnshire**

Area	LA	Education	Sports club	Other	Total
<b>Lincoln</b>	1	2	1	1	5
<b>North Kesteven</b>	1	1		3	5
<b>West Lindsey</b>		2			2
<b>Central Lincs</b>	2	6	1	4	12

- 5.14 Five of the pitches are 3g pitches (and therefore designed specifically for football) while the remainder are sand based (which can be used for football training although they are not the ideal surface). Full details on the pitches were outlined in Section 4, however for clarity, the 3g pitches are summarised in Table 5.4.

**Table 5.4: Provision of 3g AGPS across Central Lincolnshire**

Name of Authority and pitch	Type of surface	Dimensions	Year built	Year refurbished	Public or commercial site
<b>Lincoln City</b>					
Lincoln Christ Hospital School	3g floodlit	100 x 60	2009		P
Lincoln City FC	3g floodlit	100 x 60	1998	2010	C
Ruston Sports & Social Club	3g floodlit	106 x 69	2007		P
<b>North Kesteven</b>					
Carre's Grammar School	3g floodlit	100 x 60	2007		P
<b>West Lindsey</b>					
Cherry Willingham Community School	3g floodlit	100 x 60	2009		P

- 5.15 Section 4 clearly demonstrated that these AGPs are clustered around the Lincoln and Greater Lincoln area, and in the areas of larger population concentrations.
- 5.16 In addition to the above AGPs and the grass pitches referenced earlier in this section, several sites have been identified that appear to have been used previously as grass pitches but are now no longer used as formal playing fields. While some of these are former school sites that are now closed, the remainder are village playing fields where there is no current demand for a formal pitch and instead they function primarily as recreational green space. These are set out in Table 5.5.

**Table 5.5: Former Football Pitches**

Area	Sites
City of Lincoln	King George Playing Fields
North Kesteven	Beckingham Playing Fields, Wellingore Playing Field, Canwick Playing Field, Leadenham Playing Field, Wilsford Playing Field, Walcott Playing Field, Screddington Playing Field, Waddington Field 2, Woodside Playing Field, Carlton le Moorland Playing Field, Nocton Village Hall, Branston Recreation Field, Welbourne Playing Fields
West Lindsey	Faldingworth Playing Field, Bishop Norton & Atterby Playing Field, The Castle Hills Community Arts College, Middlefield School Of Technology, Lincolnshire Police HQ, Morton Trentside School Playing Fields, Aisby Walk, Willingham Playing Field, Owston Ferry Recreation Ground, Scotter Village Hall, Keelby United

## Demand

### Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)

- 5.17 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation (explained in Section 3), it is possible to evaluate how many residents of Central Lincolnshire **do** participate in football and how many of the population **would like** to participate in football. It is also possible to understand how this varies across different part of Central Lincolnshire.
- 5.18 Table 5.6 sets out the current proportion of residents that play football according to Active People and also illustrates the number of residents that would like to participate. The propensity to participate in all areas is lower than average, primarily influenced by the profile of the local population but is highest in Lincoln. There is some latent demand in each area, with the highest latent demand being in Lincoln. Across Central Lincolnshire, the key participants are similar, with the main groups being Jamie, Ben, Tim, Philip and Kev.

**Table 5.6: Participation in Football (Active People Survey)**

Authority	DO PLAY POPULATION	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	Total Number and % who do/would play	Spatial Variation	Market Segmentation
<b>City of Lincoln</b>	5,393 (7.51%)	1,101 (1.5%)	6,494 (9%)	Current participation higher in South Lincoln than remainder of city. Latent demand highest in East Lincoln.	Key participants are Jamie, Ben, Kev and Philip. The majority of those that would like to play are in the same market segments.
<b>North Kesteven</b>	5,086 (6.06%)	1,002 (1.19%)	6,088 (7.2%)	Both current and potential participation consistent across all areas	Key participants are Tim, Ben, Philip and Jamie. The same groups make up the vast majority of those that would like to play, with the addition of Kev.
<b>West Lindsey</b>	4,268 (6.06%)	849 (1.20%)	5,117 (7.26%)	Both current and potential participation consistent across all areas	Key participants are Tim, Ben, Jamie, Philip and Kev. The same groups make up the vast majority of those that would like to play,

### FA Participation Report

- 5.19 The FA record the number and type of football clubs that are affiliated for each season and as a result are able to undertake analysis of participation in each local authority area.
- 5.20 Reports for Central Lincolnshire provide a comparison between participation in 2010 and 2012 and this is set out in Table 5.7.



**Table 5.7: Participation trends in Central Lincolnshire between 2010 and 2012**

Authority	Adult Male Football	Female Football Participation	Junior Male Football Participation	Junior Female Participation	Mini Soccer
City of Lincoln	-14%	+14%	-19%	-10.5%	-20%
North Kesteven	-28%	-50%	-9.5%	-67%	+11%
West Lindsey	-22%	+50%	-11/5%	-25%	-8.6%

5.21 It demonstrates that;

- there was an overall decline in participation in football across Central Lincolnshire between 2010 /11 and 2011 /2012 seasons and this was evident in all forms of the game except female football. In terms of team numbers, there has been a particular decline in adult football;
- participation in each authority has declined and there is an overall decrease in number of teams in each area. North Kesteven is the only area showing an increase in participation outside female football – there has been an 11% increase in participation in mini soccer;
- this overall decline in participation mirrors both trends nationally and regionally, however it must be noted that it is (in percentage terms) much more pronounced in Lincolnshire;
- the FA measures participation through the use of conversion rates (which identify the percentage of the population in the relevant age group that play football). When comparing participation in each of the authorities against authorities considered to be within the same family group (ie demographically similar), the conclusions that can be drawn are as follows;
- participation in City of Lincoln ranks the authority 1<sup>st</sup> when measured against similar authorities – this suggests that the number of teams is comparatively high;
- participation in North Kesteven ranks the authority 35 / 47 , suggesting that there are opportunities to increase the amount of people playing football; and
- West Lindsey, which is classified in the same group as North Kesteven, is ranked 34 / 47, again inferring that there is scope to increase the amount of participants.

5.22 The report uses conversion rates to estimate the potential for participation increases in the each of the three local authorities. Reflecting the lower conversion rates than other similar



authorities in West Lindsey and North Kesteven, growth potential is relatively high as follows;

- North Kesteven – 46 adult football teams, 4 female teams, 69 junior male teams, 9 junior female teams, and 11 mini soccer teams; and
- West Lindsey – 15 adult teams, 59 junior male teams, 9 junior female teams and 11 mini soccer teams.

5.23 There is particular potential to increase the amount of adult football played in North Kesteven as the conversion rates for adult football in this area are particularly low.

5.24 As the highest performing authority in its family group, the FA report considers there to be no growth potential / latent demand in City of Lincoln.

5.25 The participation reports also indicate that the number of teams in Central Lincolnshire based in clubs that have achieved Charter Standard accreditation is low, with only City of Lincoln above national averages. Compared to a national average of 75.6%, the percentage of teams based in accredited clubs in each authority is as follows;

- City of Lincoln – 76.7%
- North Kesteven – 70.6%
- West Lindsey - 67.9%.

5.26 It is difficult to directly compare the FA conversion rates and the Sport England market segmentation findings for football given they have different purposes of analysis. Both sets of figures provide contextual analysis and should be used to support the analysis of issues emerging through analysis of current football participation using the playing pitch methodology. It is however clear from the football participation reports that there are opportunities to increase the number of people playing football across Central Lincolnshire, however in the first instance; there is a need to reverse the decline in participation.

### **Current Football Participation**

5.27 Football is the most popular sport in Central Lincolnshire and in total there are 459 teams, of which 40% play senior football and 26% play mini soccer. 93% of teams are male teams or mixed teams. 8% of teams are female football teams.

5.28 Table 5.8 summarises the spread of teams currently based (or wishing to play) in Central Lincolnshire by local authority. It also considers the amount of teams created in proportion to the population of each area and suggests that while participation in City of Lincoln and West Lindsey are relatively consistent in this regard, there are fewer teams for the size of the population in North Kesteven.

**Table 5.8: Football Teams in Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Adult Male	Ladies Teams	Junior Male	Junior Female	Mini Soccer	TOTAL TEAMS	Teams per 1000 population
City of Lincoln	70	12	32	12	31	157	1.75
North Kesteven	48	1	52	3	44	148	1.39
West Lindsey	51	2	51	7	43	154	1.72
<b>TOTAL</b>	169	15	135	22	118	459	1.60

- 5.29 It is notable that a high proportion of teams in Central Lincolnshire are affiliated to a larger club and there are relatively few single teams remaining. The majority of single teams are adult male football teams and are members of the Lincoln and District Sunday football league. Anecdotally, many smaller clubs / teams have folded due to players joining larger clubs (particularly junior teams).
- 5.30 Consultation with clubs indicates that despite FA trends, across Central Lincolnshire, participation at 72% of responding football clubs has remained static. 16% have increased the number of teams that they are running while 12% have experienced a decline. These patterns vary slightly between local authority areas. Just over 80% of clubs in City of Lincoln and North Kesteven are static. Participation however seems more transient in West Lindsey, with 20% of clubs indicating that participation has decreased while conversely 28% have experienced growth.
- 5.31 The majority of growth in team numbers has taken place in junior football. Almost all clubs that have declined also focus in these age groups. Many clubs growing attribute this to the quality of their facilities and the number of teams they run. Smaller clubs indicate that they struggle to compete and have poorer facilities and larger clubs therefore attract new players as these clubs fold or aspire to play at better facilities.
- 5.32 These views however disguise the real trend that was evident through the FA reports, as several teams have folded between this year and last year and were therefore excluded from the consultation process.
- 5.33 As set out earlier in this section, a lower than average proportion of clubs have achieved Charter Standard and / or Community Club Accreditation. Notably, across Central Lincolnshire there are also relatively few clubs that offer pathways through from junior and mini soccer through to adult teams. Clubs that do include;

- Lincoln Moorlands FC (City of Lincoln)
- Ruston Sports (City of Lincoln)
- Metherringham FC (North Kesteven)
- Hykeham Tigers (North Kesteven)
- Sleaford Town FC (North Kesteven)
- Gainsborough Trinity FC (West Lindsey)
- Marshalls Sports FC (West Lindsey).

5.34 Other large clubs within Central Lincolnshire include:

- City of Lincoln - North Lindum Hawkes, Birchwood JFC, St Helens JFC
- North Kesteven - HBW JFC, Lowlands JFC, Navenby JFC, Ruskington Lions, Greenbank JFC
- West Lindsey – Nettleham JFC, Saxilby JFC, Scotter JFC and Welton JFC.

5.35 The presence of these large clubs provides different challenges with regards pitch provision, as most wish to find large venues that can accommodate all of their teams.

### **Leagues**

5.36 The league structure across Central Lincolnshire is relatively complex with teams involved in around 40 different leagues and several clubs operating teams in a variety of leagues. Notably, two leagues, both senior Saturday football leagues, folded between seasons 2011 and 2012, emphasising the concerns of the FA with regards the retention of players.

5.37 The key local leagues that teams participate in are summarised below;

### **Adult teams**

- Lincoln Saturday Football League – two divisions kicking off on a Saturday afternoon. Primarily based in and around Lincoln
- Lincoln Sunday Football League – six divisions playing Sunday morning. Play predominantly in Lincoln on City Council pitches and in surrounding areas
- Gainsborough and District Sunday Football League – four divisions playing Sunday morning
- Lincolnshire Intermediate Football league – league for U18 players across Lincolnshire. The divisions are split into Central, North and South and there is a premier league covering all areas
- Lincolnshire Ladies Football league - one division of ten teams including clubs from across Lincolnshire. Play Sunday afternoon.

5.38 Teams also play in a variety of other leagues including those based in Grantham, Boston and Scunthorpe as well as South Humber Ladies leagues. Several teams also play in leagues in the FA pyramid, including the Football conference, Conference North, Northern Premier, United Counties and Northern Counties East League. Lincoln City FC are the highest performing male team within the Central Lincolnshire area, playing within the Blue Square Premier. Lincoln Ladies FC play in the national premier league. There is also some player movement into Nottinghamshire based leagues (and teams from Nottinghamshire playing in Lincolnshire leagues).

Some of the most popular junior football leagues in the area include;

- Mid Lincs Youth Football League – the most popular youth league in Lincolnshire, the majority of clubs play within the Mid Lincs Football League. The league includes circa 350 teams from U7 through to U16 and in the majority of age groups there are several divisions
  - Kerry Gainsborough Football League – small league for U10, U9 and U8 players
  - Jack Kalson Football League – based in Scunthorpe but includes several teams in Central Lincolnshire.
  - Lincolnshire Girls League – across Lincolnshire includes leagues U14 and U16.
- 5.39 Analysis of the leagues demonstrates that demand is relatively high at peak time, which is a Sunday morning for all forms of the game. At this time, 56% of adult teams, 63% of junior teams and 58% of mini soccer teams all wish to play. A higher number of pitches is therefore required to meet demands than if play was more evenly spread.
- 5.40 The league structures mean that there is an element of travel between Central Lincolnshire and other areas of the county for away fixtures, however further analysis demonstrates that almost all teams based in Central Lincolnshire play their home fixtures within one of the three authorities.

### **Quality of Football Pitches**

- 5.41 Pitch quality influences the amount of matches that be sustained, and as a consequence has a significant impact on the overall adequacy of supply. Furthermore, perceived quality of pitches (and ancillary facilities) is almost as important as actual quality and can change usage patterns.
- 5.42 Pitch quality in Central Lincolnshire has been evaluated in several ways including;
- site visits;
  - consultation with providers; and
  - consultation with users – leagues and clubs.

### **Site Assessments**

- 5.43 Site assessments were undertaken using the assessment matrix provided in TaLPF – these assessments are non-technical assessments designed to provide an overview of pitch quality. The timing of this study meant that many of the visits were undertaken following heavy periods of snow and rain and it is important that this is taken into account in the analysis of the issues emerging.

- 5.44 Overall, the quality of football pitches was good at the time of site visits across all three local authorities with the range of scores achieved being 66% - 91% (good to very good). This may be partially attributed to the lack of use over the previous weeks, but nevertheless, many pitches were considered to be flat, even and well maintained. Site visits at other times undertaken to a small number of sites confirmed these views.
- 5.45 Table 5.9 summarises the quality of pitches by local authority and reveals that the average quality score is very consistent across Central Lincolnshire in terms of both the average score and the range of scores.

**Table 5.9: Pitch quality by area**

Authority	Range of Quality Scores	Average Site Quality Score
City of Lincoln	65-91%	80%
North Kesteven	63%-89%	82%
West Lindsey	63%-88%	81%
Central Lincolnshire	63% - 91%	81%

- 5.46 Site visits revealed that;
- there are some examples of excellent pitches and many sites have good quality surfaces;
  - the grass cover was particularly good for the time of year pitches were visited, although as previously acknowledged, this can be partly attributed to the limited play that had been possible due to the poor weather conditions;
  - the evenness of pitches was the lowest scoring attribute – several pitches demonstrated issues with molehills and showed evidence of bumpy surfaces;
  - pitch sizes were relatively inconsistent across the area and several junior pitches had adult sized goal posts; and
  - there is potential to increase number of pitches marked out on several sites.
- 5.47 Chart 5.1 illustrates the average quality score achieved for each of the criteria sites were measured against. Site-specific quality issues are discussed later in this section.

**Chart 5.1: Quality issues at football pitches**



### Changing Facilities

- 5.48 The proportion of sites that do not contain any playing fields is low. With regards public facilities, only Ingham Playing Fields, Martin Playing Fields and St Aidens Park, North Hykeham do not have any changing rooms either on site or available in close proximity. Access to changing facilities at several school sites is also minimal.
- 5.49 While the overall amount of changing facilities provided is high, the quality of this provision is more varying. While many sites offer good modern changing accommodation that often appears relatively new, many of the changing facilities at other sites appear run down and in need of improvement.
- 5.50 It should also be noted that while the majority of sites currently in use have changing accommodation, Table 5.5 listed a number of former football pitches that now function primarily as recreational greenspace. Very few of these former pitches have changing accommodation.

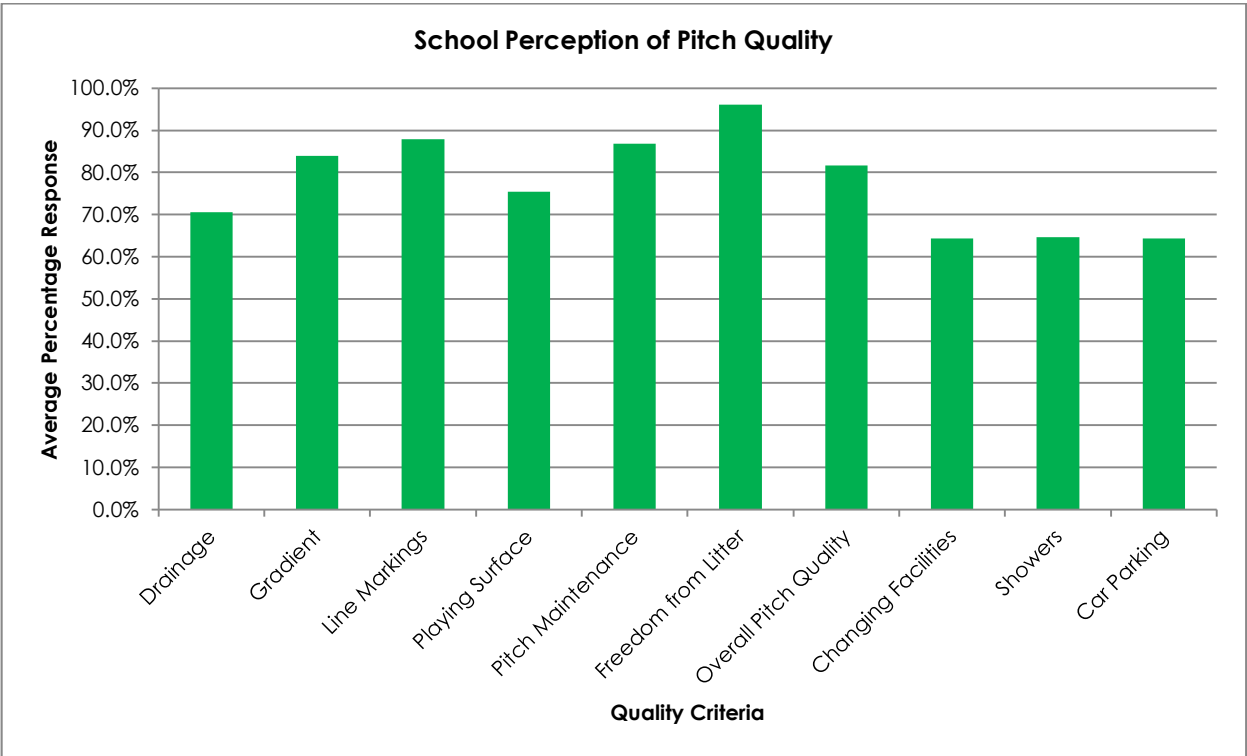
### School Playing Fields

- 5.51 Overall, consultation with schools reveals below positive perceptions of the quality of facilities with factors generally rated as average to good. For those schools that do not currently open up their facilities to the community, the main reasons given were security and concerns about access arrangements. Although several schools indicated that the changing that they have is also inappropriate (or completely lacking), few referenced the quality of pitches directly.
- 5.52 The key issues arising for schools are drainage and the playing surface (specifically issues arising from molehills and rabbits). Almost all schools highlighting problems with the quality of their pitches refer to either damage caused by moles and the health and safety issues that this creates, and / or poor drainage. One school currently offering community use (North Kesteven) indicate that the quality of their pitches has deteriorated as a result of

permitting community use and pitches are now considered to be overused. Some schools also highlight issues with poor or a lack of changing accommodation.

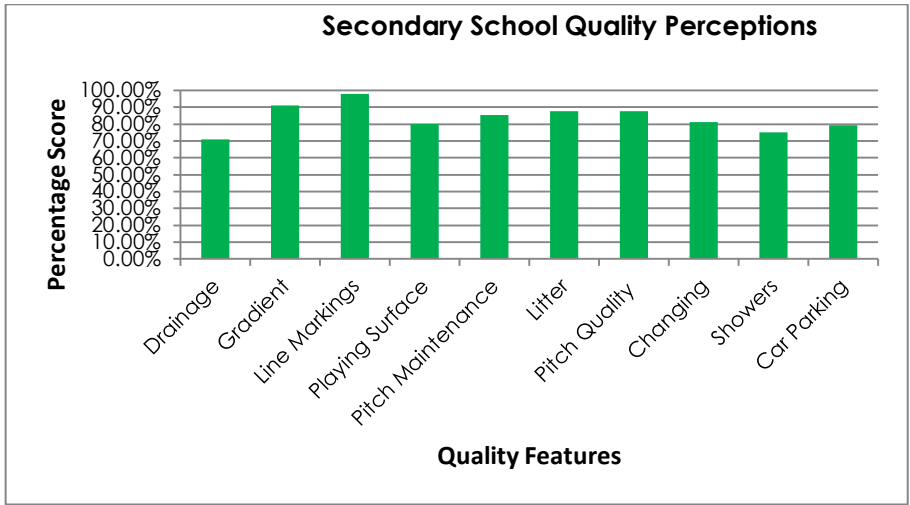
- 5.53 Reflecting the quality issues identified, 14 schools have plans to improve their facilities. Perhaps unsurprisingly given the issues identified, all but two relate to aspirations to improve the quality. Carre's Grammar School, who do offer community use, indicate that they need to improve their changing accommodation, while Bracebridge Heath St John Primary indicate that they are seeking to provide an AGP. North Kesteven School, who are an important venue for community football currently indicate that their AGP (sand based) needs resurfacing.
- 5.54 Chart 5.2 summarises the views of schools in relation to the quality of facilities. While comments made relating to drainage, changing and playing surface are clearly reflected, it illustrates that schools are satisfied overall with maintenance related issues, with maintenance, freedom from litter and line markings all rated highly.

**Chart 5.2: Quality of School Sites**



- 5.55 While the above provides an important overview of school facilities in general, the majority of playing fields at school sites in Central Lincolnshire are relatively small and it is only the secondary schools that have multiple facilities. It is also these sites that are primarily used by the local community and offer the greatest potential for community use in the future.
- 5.56 Chart 5.3 therefore summarises the views of just the secondary schools. It reveals that the views of secondary schools are relatively consistent with the overall picture, but are perhaps slightly more positive in terms of the changing accommodation available. The quality of the playing surface and pitch drainage remain the areas of highest concern.

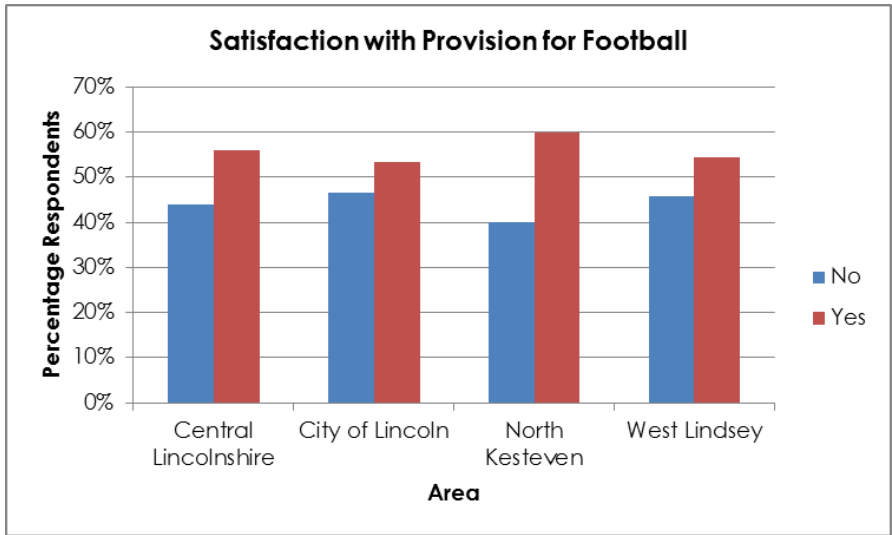
Chart 5.3: Quality of Secondary School Playing Fields



Club Perceptions of Quality

5.57 Clubs were asked to comment upon the quality of pitch provision in Central Lincolnshire and more specifically on the pitches that they most frequently use. Just 28% of responding clubs indicate that the quality of pitches impacts on play and in each area, as well as in Central Lincolnshire as a whole, more clubs are satisfied with provision than are dissatisfied. This is illustrated in Chart 5.4. Satisfaction is highest in North Kesteven, where 60% are satisfied.

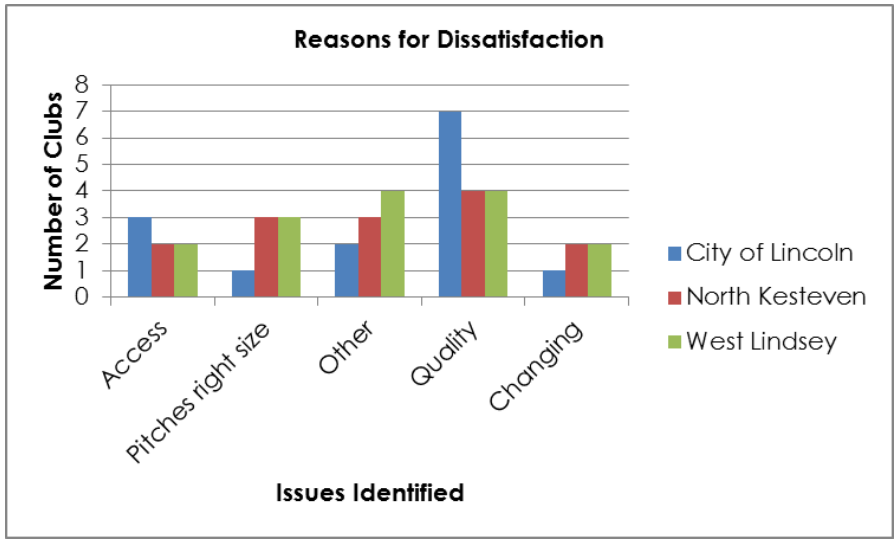
Chart 5.4: Club Satisfaction with Pitch Quality



5.58 Chart 5.5 sets out the reasons given for dissatisfaction where these were provided. It is clear that while issues with pitch quality are balanced with access to pitches and concerns relating to the amount of pitches available, quality is the highest concern, particularly in City of Lincoln.

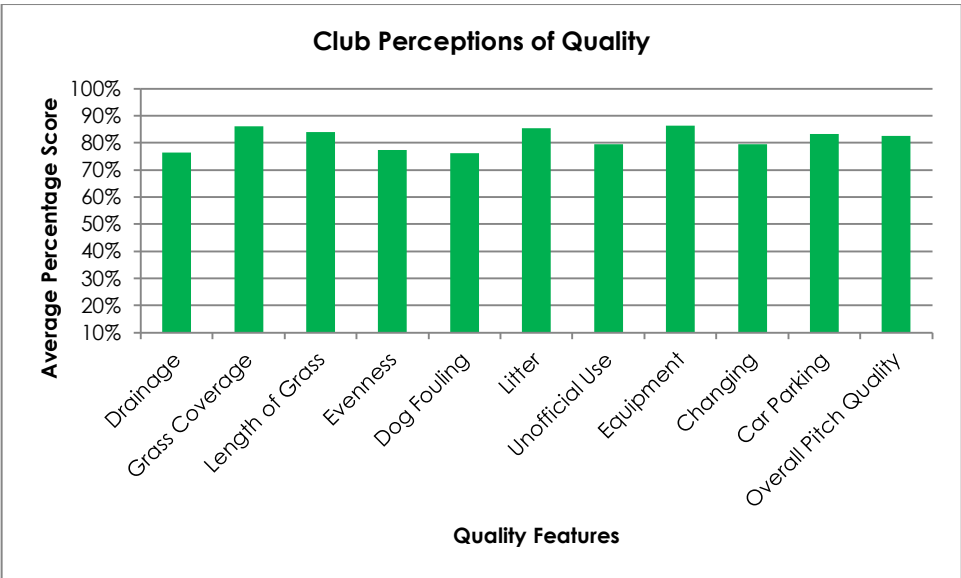


Chart 5.5: Reasons for Dissatisfaction with Pitch Provision



5.59 Chart 5.6 reveals that linking with the findings of other consultations and site visits, clubs are concerned about the playing surface of the pitches and the drainage. Clubs also highlight the impact that the use of pitches for other recreational activities has on the overall quality of the facilities, and the amount of litter and dog fouling is considered to be poor by several clubs.

Chart 5.6: Club Perceptions of Playing Fields in Central Lincolnshire



5.60 Further analysis of the perceptions of clubs demonstrates that there are variations according to the type of pitches used. Table 5.10 therefore illustrates the views of clubs according to whether they use a Council, Parish Council / Management Committee, school pitch or private club facility. It indicates that the perceptions of facilities managed by the local authorities and by Parish / Town Councils are much lower than those managed and maintained by clubs themselves.

- 5.61 Further analysis demonstrates that there is also some degree of variation by local authority area. Table 5.11 therefore summarises the perceived quality of facilities by local authority area. It indicates that perceptions are slightly more negative in West Lindsey and North Kesteven than in City of Lincoln. Concerns about drainage and the quality of the pitch surface are particularly apparent in West Lindsey.

**Table 5.10: Perceptions of Clubs on Pitch Quality by Pitch Provider**

Maintenance Provider	Drainage	Grass Coverage	Length of Grass	Evenness of Pitch	Freedom from Dog Fouling	Freedom from Litter	Freedom from Unofficial Use	Posts and Sockets	Condition of Changing	Car Parking	Overall Pitch Quality
Club	77.8%	88.9%	81.9%	72.2%	88.9%	90.3%	86.1%	94.4%	79.2%	90.3%	83.3%
Council	68.3%	76.2%	77.8%	68.3%	66.7%	76.2%	71.4%	79.4%	77.8%	73.0%	73.0%
Parish Council	68.0%	84.0%	78.7%	77.3%	60.0%	82.7%	76.0%	84.0%	80.0%	81.3%	78.7%
School	79.2%	87.5%	95.8%	83.3%	91.7%	91.7%	95.8%	91.7%	91.7%	87.5%	83.3%
Other	89.4%	93.9%	92.4%	84.8%	83.3%	90.9%	80.3%	81.8%	78.8%	86.4%	90.9%

**Table 5.11: Perceptions of Clubs on Pitch Quality by Local Authority Area**

Area	Drainage	Grass Coverage	Length of Grass	Evenness of Pitch	Freedom from Dog Fouling	Freedom from Litter	Freedom from Unofficial Use	Posts and Sockets	Condition of Changing	Car Parking	Overall Pitch Quality
<b>Central Lincolnshire</b>	76.0%	86.0%	83.7%	76.3%	76.0%	85.7%	80.0%	85.7%	80.0%	83.3%	81.7%
<b>City of Lincoln</b>	80.0%	87.8%	86.7%	76.7%	82.2%	83.3%	82.2%	91.1%	78.9%	77.8%	84.4%
<b>North Kesteven</b>	89.5%	87.6%	84.8%	82.9%	70.5%	86.7%	74.3%	78.1%	78.1%	88.6%	85.7%
<b>West Lindsey</b>	59.0%	82.9%	80.0%	69.5%	76.2%	86.7%	83.8%	88.6%	82.9%	82.9%	75.2%

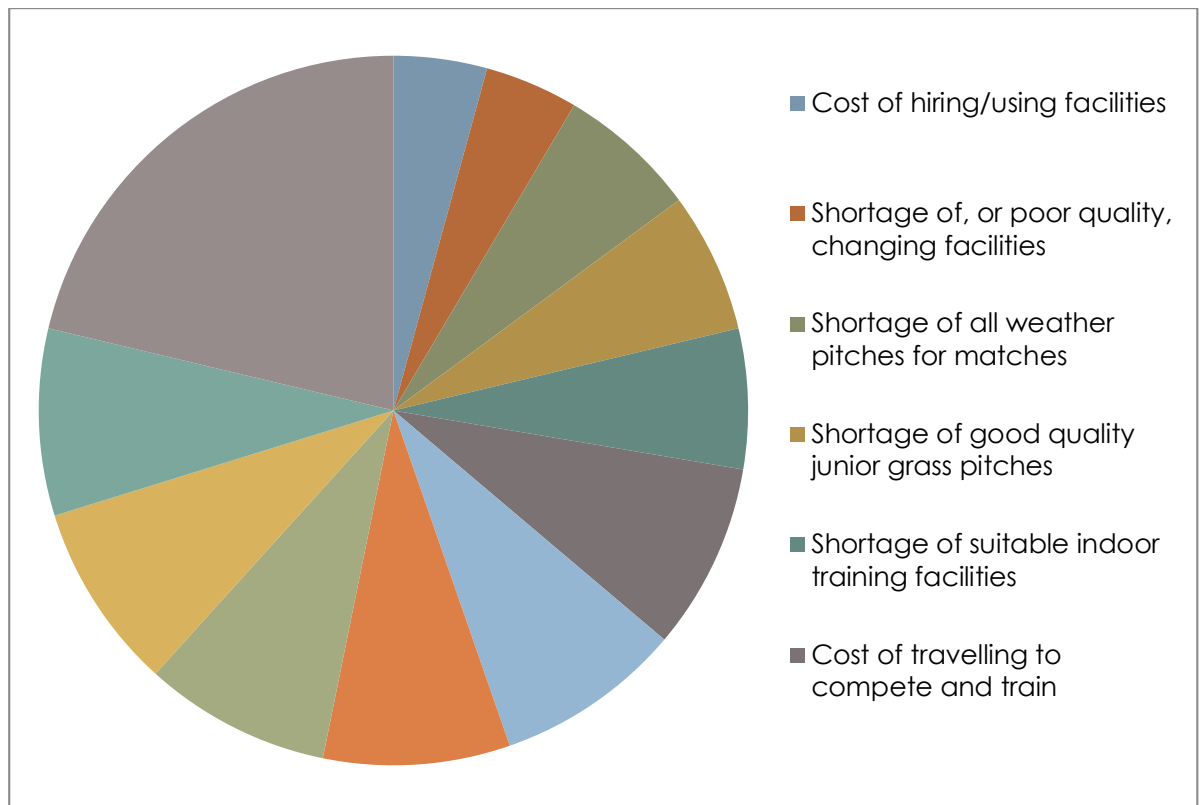
## Consultations

5.62 Consultations with clubs revealed the following:

- On average 3 games per team were cancelled last season. These cancellations were largely attributed to weather – either snow or rain causing waterlogging. As set out earlier, 28% of clubs indicated that quality issues cause problems with scheduling for home and away matches. While most clubs indicate that they are happy with the quality of their facilities, some point out challenges with maintaining facilities and several clubs indicate that the quality of facilities at smaller clubs is poor
- Across Central Lincolnshire, 29% of participants travel below a mile to reach their home ground while 42% travel over 3 miles (19% of these travel greater than 5 miles). This means that there is a willingness to travel to an appropriate pitch. Residents in West Lindsey are however more likely to use a playing field close to their home (only 38% travel more than 3 miles) which may be reflective of the distribution of facilities, with most small settlements providing a playing field. In contrast, the City of Lincoln attracts 22% of players from more than 5 miles
- Just 14% of football clubs indicated that they have issues scheduling matches. Almost all of these are junior clubs that are approaching capacity and therefore struggle to access enough pitches at their current ground. The remainder refer to a lack of appropriate changing facilities. Most clubs acknowledge that there are plenty of pitches and several clubs refer to sites that were previously pitches that no longer exist (either now informal pitches or have been lost to development). The amount of clubs struggling to access match facilities is much higher in North Kesteven (17%) and West Lindsey (14%) than in Lincoln (6%)
- 8 teams indicate that they are not currently playing at their preferred venue. Three of these clubs are associated with Lincoln City (want improved facilities) and four in North Kesteven (2 wish to find improved facilities, one feels the cost is too high and one club are seeking single venue that can accommodate all of their teams). The only club in West Lindsey not playing at their preferred venue indicates that rental costs at the current site are too high
- While there are few issues accessing match pitches, there are more clubs that find training pitches difficult to access. 33% of clubs in Lincoln and 29% in both North Kesteven and West Lindsey indicate that have difficulty in finding training facilities. Most teams refer to lack of access to floodlit facilities, however a small number of teams highlight issues with training out of season when there are no Council pitches available and those that share facilities with cricket pitches are also unable to use their pitches
- 12 clubs in Lincoln City, 14 in North Kesteven and 15 in West Lindsey indicate that they wish to run more teams next year. The majority of these aspirations focus upon additional junior and mini teams
- Several barriers to increasing participation were however raised and these are outlined overleaf in Chart 5.7. In summary, in order of most commonly referenced, the key barriers were;

- Shortage of coaches and volunteers
- Concerns over the provision of adult grass pitches
- Lack of all weather pitches
- Shortage of internal and external funding
- Falling membership
- Cost.

**Chart 5.7: Barriers to Growth of Football Clubs in Central Lincolnshire**



### Football League Consultations

5.63 All of the main football leagues were offered the opportunity to provide feedback on current league structures and facilities provided. **The views of the leagues** that responded are set out below.

### Lincoln Saturday Football League

5.64 Although demand increased at the start of this season, 3 teams have since folded (two due to a lack of players and the other as players owed money). The league has capacity to increase the number of teams and is already planning for next season with a view to expanding the league. The cost of playing is a key barrier to football clubs and a reduction in pitch rent would be beneficial in encouraging clubs to return to the sport.

5.65 As the league runs outside of peak time, the amount of pitches is sufficient to meet demand. The quality of pitches is also largely good (4 on a scale of 1 – 5)

although there are lots of stones on pitches at Birchwood Leisure Centre. Changing facilities are also good with the exception of Skellingthorpe, which contains only portacabins that are insufficient.

- 5.66 While the league supports the use of synthetic pitches, there are some concerns with the cost of these sites.

### **Lincoln and District Sunday Football League**

- 5.67 The Lincoln and District Sunday Football League is one of the largest senior football teams within Lincolnshire and has the highest number of adult teams based within Central Lincolnshire. It focuses upon providing opportunities for grass roots football and is based predominantly upon Lincoln City Council managed pitches although some teams further afield of Lincoln use other facilities.

- 5.68 Matches are played on a Sunday morning in a home and away formation (with a 10.30am kick off) and teams are assigned pitches at the beginning of the season (for league matches) although cup matches are scheduled later. The focus upon play on a Sunday morning means that there is a particular pressure on pitches in the City of Lincoln at this time.

- 5.69 Although the league remains one of the largest in the area, it has experienced a drop in the number of teams registering. In 1989 there were 116 teams and this has now dropped to 76, divided into six leagues. This is the lowest for many years and mirrors the decline in Saturday football. While the amount and quality of pitches may perhaps contribute to this, several other factors are attributed to the decline including;

- increasing costs and associated requirements (for example insurances);
- lack of volunteers;
- competing interests; and
- the growth of 5 / 6 a side midweek football leagues.

- 5.70 In general;

- the amount of pitches is sufficient to sustain the current number of teams in the league although the majority of pitches in Central Lincoln are thought to be at capacity. The number of pitches has decreased since the establishment of the league and it is considered important to retain the remaining sites to support grass roots football. There is scope to increase the use of some pitches that are further afield from the city;
- all of the pitches have changing facilities and therefore fulfil the minimum requirements of the league. There are however some concerns over the quality of some pitches (West Common – horse manure on site and poor pavilion. The site is also susceptible to flooding, Cowpaddle – interruption of games by young people, Skellingthorpe Road – good quality pitches but poorer changing accommodation). Some pitches at school sites and in village halls are considered to be of good quality;
- challenges arise with different age groups using pitches at the same time; and
- it is felt that communication between pitch providers and the league could be improved – on occasion, pitches are marked out when no team is home.

- 5.71 It is clear that there are few formal pathways between adult and junior football leagues in the Central Lincolnshire area.

#### **Lincoln CO-OP Mid Lincs Youth League and Mini Soccer League**

- 5.72 The league is a Charter Standard League. As such, all clubs must have achieved accreditation by the end of the 2012 – 2013 season, or for new clubs, within one year of joining the league.
- 5.73 In contrast to demand across the country, as well as demand for adult football in Lincolnshire, demand for the Mid Lincs Youth league has remained relatively static and there are leagues for U6 right through to U16. There has actually been an upsurge in the last two years and in most age groups there are three to four divisions meaning that football of a variety of standards is played and particularly the top divisions play at a high standard and therefore attract teams from across Lincolnshire.
- 5.74 The league has capacity to accommodate further teams, although fears that this may be limited in the longer term by facilities as well as lifestyle and cultural choices. There has been a traditional drop off in the U15 / U16 age groups as players find other activities to occupy them.
- 5.75 Each club is responsible for securing their own facilities and ideally the league would like pitches to meet minimum specifications, including changing rooms and toilets. A common sense approach is however taken and clubs are asked to provide facilities where possible but to notify visiting clubs where basic facilities are not available. This seeks to ensure that opportunities to play football are not restricted by the availability of facilities.
- 5.76 The league has already adopted many of the principles of the recent FA review of youth football which required the introduction of 9 v 9 and 5 v 5 football by 2013 in a phased approach.
- 5.77 Key issues identified include:
- In some areas of the catchment of the league there are insufficient pitches to meet demand. Particular pressures are evident in Boston and Grantham. This may impact on demand for pitches in other areas. The new forms of the game that have been introduced are placing extra pressures on the pitch stock. In some areas, pitches have been overmarked, but this has been difficult to implement as adult matches before mean that the lines marked on for youth football have disappeared
  - There are some clubs who are spread across several sites and struggling to access appropriate pitches. Hykeham Tigers are a particular example within the Central Lincolnshire area, although they have recently begun to play the majority of matches at Fen Lane. Until recently Greenbank experienced similar problems. They have taken the decision to base all teams at North Kesteven Leisure Centre (even though the pitches at this site are poor)
  - The quality of pitches is deteriorating and in particular pitch surfaces are poor. Improvement of this will be particularly important if the aims of the new forms of the game (which seek to promote more touches of the ball and more passing) are to be achieved. On the most part, facilities are



poor regardless of the provider (i.e. council pitches, village pitches etc) although there are some examples of good pitches. A lack of maintenance is the main reason for these issues. There are issues at some specific sites too, for example the league no longer uses Cowpaddle (Lincoln) as incidents of violence and disruption. The quality of pitches at cricket grounds is often particularly good

- The cost of football is increasing – maintenance is suffering as a result of this.

5.78 As a consequence of the above, the league indicates that there are issues with both the quality and the quantity of pitches. AGPs are an accepted facility for teams in the league.

### **The Lincolnshire Intermediate League (LIFL)**

5.79 The Lincolnshire Intermediate Football league has demonstrated slight decline in the North of Lincolnshire but steady levels in Central and South areas. (max 45 - min 37 clubs -700 plus players) This is equivalent to 5.6% participation of male 16-18 year olds in Lincolnshire. LIFL generally lose clubs during a season but of late more have folded. The league attributes this to distractions of other sports and hobbies, costs associated with play (and the need to work) as well as ageing demographics. The league could take more teams and indicate that while there are 39 teams currently, 60 teams could be accommodated within the existing structure.

5.80 The availability of pitches could be improved and many clubs share pitches with teams who play on a Saturday and / or Sunday morning. Despite this, generally in Lincolnshire pitches are level and of a reasonable quality but maintenance, fittings and preparation could be better especially on public parks. Changing facilities and social amenities are generally of poor quality and in need of modernisation compared to other countries with football passion.

5.81 The LIFL is in favour of using 3G artificial turf on full size pitches with good facilities and security. The supply of more full size 3/4G pitches with floodlights and possible indoor/roofed stadia with good social facilities to allow other days/nights to be included in fixtures and more sharing of such facilities by several clubs and teams should be encouraged. Ideally these should be linked with schools or colleges where a return to sporting activities should be encouraged in secondary and tertiary education.

### **Lincolnshire Football League**

5.82 Demand in the Lincolnshire league has steadily increased from the mid-2000s. This is attributed to many elements, including better league development, standards, and administration. The Lincolnshire League could accommodate more teams and there is potential for future expansion.

5.83 Despite a shortage of facilities a few years ago, recent developments in Grimsby, Skegness and Lincoln seem to have addressed these issues. Although facilities are improving, they would benefit from existing funding. Investment into changing rooms are the priority for the Lincolnshire League, followed by pitch environment and spectator safety, also Compliance with FA guidelines on relevant criterion.

5.84 As well as identifying priorities, it is important that sustainability of use is taken into account. Unfortunately in the past facilities have been provided/upgraded for clubs that have for whatever reason folded or not used them to their full

potential. Clubs that have a long history of providing sports and have demonstrated ambition need to be recognised for their commitment both to their communities and to the county.

- 5.85 The league permits play on synthetic pitches and recently, the only fixture to go ahead in the county on a particularly poor weather day was played on a synthetic surface.

### **The FA - National Governing Body Perspective**

#### **The FA National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2015).**

- 5.86 The document sets out the long term vision of the FA for the development of facilities to support football. It has a strapline of "Building, Protecting and Enhancing sustainable Football Facilities".
- 5.87 The strategy research identified several key issues relating to the provision of football facilities in England, specifically;
- playing pitch surfaces – many grass pitches fall below acceptable standards. This contributes to poor play and impedes the development of a players technical ability;
  - a lack of 3g pitches – these are essential for player and coaching development;
  - lack of floodlighting – to ensure that facilities are used to their maximum potential; and
  - basic facilities – such as toilets or changing facilities are either absent or fall below the minimum standards expected
- 5.88 Based upon the research undertaken, the strategy indicates that facilities should satisfy the following criteria;
- flexible – to support a variety of match and training formats;
  - reflective of demand;
  - well maintained;
  - club centred;
  - financially sustainable;
  - inspiring places to train and play.
- 5.89 Several challenges that football faces to provide facilities to meet these criteria are highlighted, including falling public investment, changes in society, new forms of football, increased club and league ownership and the need to maximise financial sustainability. In particular, the strategy seeks to promote increased club ownership and the acquisition of facilities for clubs through asset transfer, targeting leases of at least 20 years.
- 5.90 The FA strategy sets out its priorities under five key themes as follows:

- Leading the development of technical standards – building upon existing guidance and leading the way in technical guidance, drawing upon user feedback
- Facility development and protection of playing fields – supporting local authorities to undertake playing pitch strategies, working with key authorities to ensure that provision meets demand, working to ensure that new developments take into account the needs of football and supporting Sport England with their statutory planning role
- Supporting club and league volunteers – create relevant supporting resources and monitor feedback from volunteers
- Targeted facility improvement schemes – national floodlighting scheme, pitch improvement scheme, self-help scheme for clubs, an equipment bank and advice and guidance services
- Capital investment – promoting good standards and good practice and prioritising facilities impacting the activities of Charter Standard clubs.

5.91 The strategy targets the following key facility improvements nationally;

- natural grass pitches improved – target: 3000;
- a network of new Artificial Grass Pitches built – target: 100;
- a network of refurbished Artificial Grass Pitches – target: 150;
- on selected sites, new and improved changing facilities and toilets;
- continue a small grants programmes designed to address modest facility needs of clubs; and
- ongoing support with the purchase and replacement of goalposts.

5.92 Local to Central Lincolnshire, the FA indicate that improvements to facilities are essential if aspirations relating to football are to be achieved. As well as site specific issues covered later in this report, the following general issues were raised;

- There has been a decline in adult participation in the Central Lincolnshire area (reflecting national trends and the data set out earlier in this section) and this has resulted in two Saturday leagues folding. The Lincolnshire FA are currently undertaking research to evaluate the reasons behind this, and this includes investigations into whether teams are folding or are just travelling to play elsewhere. There however remains a strong foundation of young participants in schools and there are leagues set up for primary and secondary schools
- 3g pitch provision is becoming increasingly important for football, particularly for training. While there is good provision on one side of Lincoln, there is a need to cater for clubs on the other side of the city. It is essential that any new facility is considered in the context of use in the day time as well as later on in the evening
- The key issues experienced by clubs currently include issues around safeguarding and the cost of facility hire. There are some clubs that are

struggling for appropriate facilities, namely North Hykeham Tigers and Greenbank

- The implications of the FA youth review, which requires new forms of the game (specifically 5 v 5 and 9 v 9) has already been partially embraced in Central Lincolnshire, with the Mid Lincs league operating 9 v 9 football this season for U11 and this will be started next year for U12. There remain ongoing discussions as to how the requirements of the 5 v 5 game will be implemented
- Sustainability of football clubs is becoming an increasingly important issue and there is a need to encourage multi-functionality and diversification
- Local football networks are currently being established in each local authority. These groups will help to grow the game and include key users from each area, the County FA, representatives of local leagues, referee representatives, Local Authority Sports Development and Playing Field departments. It is hoped that these forums will improve communication between different sectors of the football community and will provide a foundation to move forwards. These groups will help to target development
- As well as considering pitches to support play, it is also important to take into account requirements for coach education, which include the use of a classroom. At least one is required within each local authority.

Recognising the role that small sided football is now having upon participation, and the impact that regular play in such leagues can have on maintaining healthy lifestyles, the Lincs FA are considering the creation of more smaller sided leagues.

### **Supply and Demand Modelling**

- 5.93 The Playing Pitch methodology (PPM) is a peak day model, which determines the adequacy of pitch supply to meet peak time demand. In Central Lincolnshire, peak time demand is comparatively high, with 56% of adult, 63% of juniors (including 9 v 9) and 58% of mini soccer teams all playing at peak time (Sunday morning). These patterns of play have a significant impact on the number of pitches required as more pitches are required to meet demand if all league fixtures kick off at the same time rather than staggered kick offs.
- 5.94 Despite an overall emphasis on peak time, there is substantial play in different time slots across a weekend and pitches are therefore often required to sustain more than one match.
- 5.95 Table 5.12 summarises the results of the application of the PPM for football. It includes only those pitches that have secured community use. It clearly demonstrates that there are enough adult pitches to meet demand at peak times (although it should be recognised that peak time demand is low).
- 5.96 When assuming that all junior teams play on pitches meeting FA guidelines for their age group (grouping together junior and 9 v 9 pitches as the transformation is currently in progress – this will be returned to later), there are sufficient pitches to meet demand overall.
- 5.97 The results of the calculations provide a starting point for strategy development and action planning.

5.98 It must be noted that Table 5.12 considers only the demand for pitches for match play and takes into account only grass pitches.

**Table 5.12: Adequacy of Pitch Provision in Central Lincolnshire**

			Football	Mini-soccer	
STAGE ONE Identifying teams		Adult games	184	118	
		Junior teams	157		
STAGE TWO Calculate home games per week		Adult games	0.5	0.5	
		Junior teams	0.5		
STAGE THREE (S1x S2) Assessing total home games per week		Adult games	92	59	
		Junior teams	79		
STAGE FOUR  Establish temporal demand for pitches	Saturday AM	Adult games	0%	20%	
		Junior teams	10%		
	Saturday PM	Adult games	22%	3%	
		Junior teams	5%		
	Sunday AM	Adult games	56%	58%	
		Junior teams	63%		
	Sunday PM	Adult games	11%	19%	
		Junior teams	22%		
		Junior teams	0%		
STAGE FIVE (S3 x S4)  Defining pitches used each day		Saturday AM	Adult games	0	12
			Junior teams	8	
		Saturday PM	Adult games	20	2
			Junior teams	4	
		Sunday AM	Adult games	52	34
			Junior teams	49	
		Sunday PM	Adult games	10	11
			Junior teams	17	
			Junior teams	0	
STAGE SIX Establishing pitches currently available		Adult games	117	45	
		Junior teams	57		
STAGE SEVEN (S6-S5)  Identifying shortfall (-) and surplus (+)		Saturday AM	Adult games	117.0	33.2
			Junior teams	49.2	
		Saturday PM	Adult games	96.8	43.2
			Junior teams	53.1	
		Sunday AM	Adult games	65.5	10.8
			Junior teams	7.5	
		Sunday PM	Adult games	106.9	33.8
			Junior teams	39.7	
			Junior teams	57.0	

**Geographical Variations in the adequacy of provision**

5.99 To provide a greater understanding of surpluses and deficiencies, Table 5.13 outlines the shortfalls and surpluses of pitch provision at peak time by local authority area.

**Table 5.13: Adequacy of football pitches in Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
City of Lincoln	13.0	-0.9	-4.0

North Kesteven	27.3	3.7	5.2
West Lindsey	25.2	4.7	9.5
Central Lincolnshire	<b>65.5</b>	<b>7.5</b>	<b>10.8</b>

5.100 Table 5.13 indicates that the pattern of surplus pitches is evident across Central Lincolnshire. It is however clear that there are greater pressures on pitches in City of Lincoln (the only area to exhibit shortfalls of junior and mini pitches - and these shortfalls impacting upon the adequacy of adult pitches) than in West Lindsey and North Kesteven where there are enough of all types of pitches.

5.101 It is clear that in City of Lincoln there is some use of adult pitches by junior teams. Furthermore, league requirements for all matches to kick off at the same time places further pressures on the playing pitches.

5.102 It must be noted that while it is clear that the supply of pitches is greater than demand, this is to be partially expected given the rural nature of much of the Central Lincolnshire area and the need to provide pitches in smaller villages as well as the larger towns. Pitches in such settlements are more likely to be underused (due to lower levels of local demand) but are still important sites in the context of providing a community resource. Site and settlement specific issues will be returned to later in this section.

5.103 Table 5.14 includes only pitches that are formally secured for community use. It is clear from both the schools and club surveys that there is some use of unsecured school sites by some of the large clubs, for both training and matches. Table 5.14 demonstrates the impact of including these, and shows that the shortfalls of junior pitches in Lincoln are reduced and the surplus of adult pitches increases further across Central Lincolnshire as a whole.

**Table 5.14: Supply and demand (including unsecured pitches)**

Area	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
City of Lincoln	14.0	1.1	-1.0
North Kesteven	27.3	3.7	5.2
West Lindsey	26.2	11.7	10.5
Central Lincolnshire	<b>67.5</b>	<b>16.5</b>	<b>14.8</b>

5.104 While both Table 5.13 and Table 5.14 indicate that there is sufficient provision to accommodate community demand, in many areas schools play an important role in this. The changing nature of schools and the introduction of academies, which offer greater independence from the local authorities means that it is becoming much more difficult to guarantee long term community use. Table 5.15 therefore illustrates the implications of removing community use from all schools. It clearly demonstrates that whilst in West Lindsey and North Kesteven there remains sufficient provision, in City of Lincoln when excluding school sites, demand is greater than supply.

**Table 5.15: Adequacy of Provision Excluding School Sites**

Area	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
City of Lincoln	4.0	-4.9	-5.0
North Kesteven	21.3	1.7	2.2
West Lindsey	15.2	-2.3	5.5
Central Lincolnshire	<b>40.5</b>	<b>-5.5</b>	<b>2.8</b>

5.105 The above figures are particularly important for Lincoln City. While Priory City Academy, Priory LLST Academy and Priory Witham Academy have formal community agreements, the actual use of these sites is limited. Table 5.15 clearly indicates the importance of the school facilities within Lincoln City and highlights how supply is very closely matched with demand if these facilities are not used. It also serves to demonstrate the importance of access to Ravendale Playing Fields (Lincoln College) which is currently an important community venue. While this site has secured access at the moment, it is not guaranteed for the long term.

### Varying Patterns of Temporal Demand

5.106 Further in depth analysis however indicates that while Table 5.12 – 5.15 assume that patterns of play are similar across Central Lincolnshire, in reality there are some small differences across the area. This is primarily caused by the dominance of different leagues in different parts. This variation has limited impact on peak time demand, but does mean that pressures in some areas are different than appears in previous tables. Table 5.16 summarises the percentage of play in each local authority at peak time. Most notably, peak time in West Lindsey for mini soccer is Saturday morning rather than Sunday morning (highlighted in blue). Of particular note, play is more spread in city of Lincoln than in Central Lincolnshire as a whole, meaning that pressures on pitches at peak time are slightly reduced. Conversely, a higher proportion of play in North Kesteven takes place at peak time than in Central Lincolnshire as a whole. Proportions of play lower than the Central Lincolnshire average are highlighted in red.

**Table 5.16: Percentage of Play in Each Local Authority Area at Peak Time**

Area	Adult Football	Junior Football	Mini Football
Lincoln	46%	61%	96%
North Kesteven	58%	75%	70%
West Lindsey	63%	51%	52%



5.107 Table 5.17 takes these variations in peak time into account and illustrates the adequacy of provision in each authority based upon actual temporal demand in each authority.

5.108 It demonstrates that there remain sufficient pitches in all areas although pressures are slightly greater in North Kesteven and slightly reduced in West Lindsey. As with other scenarios, it is in Lincoln City where pressures are greatest. It should be emphasised that peak time for all forms of the game in Lincoln City is Sunday morning, meaning that adult pitches are used to accommodate mini and junior matches at the same time as adults are also playing. This means that there are few pitches spare at any time. This is exacerbated by the fact that all adult matches kick off at the same time.

**Table 5.17: Shortfalls and Surpluses taking into account temporal demand in each area**

Area	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football -Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
City of Lincoln	18.14	-0.42	-9.88
North Kesteven	26.79	0.38	2.60
West Lindsey	22.31	8.21	10.82

### The Impact of Quality

5.109 Quality of pitches has emerged as perhaps the main concern throughout consultation, particularly with regards the drainage of sites and the undulating and bumpy playing surfaces. These issues were also confirmed through site visits.

5.110 While bumpy surfaces reduce the playing experience, the capacity of the pitch is not affected. Furthermore, while there are some pitches where drainage is relatively poor, all pitches are deemed able to sustain at least two games per week.

### Frequency of Use of Pitches

5.111 Analysis of surpluses and shortfalls at peak times disguises the frequency of use of pitches in the area. As set out previously, while demand is focused at peak time, there is a reasonable spread across the weekend with some play midweek, and use of pitches is higher than may initially appear. Table 5.18 summarises the number of matches per week on each pitch (competitive matches only). Figures include only sites secured for community use.

**Table 5.18: Frequency of Use of Pitches**

Area	Senior	Junior	Mini	Summary
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	No of teams	No of pitches	No of teams	No of pitches	No of teams	No of pitches	Total Pitches	Games Per Week (Home every other week	Use Per Week
City of Lincoln	82	37	44	13	31	5	55	78.5	1.427273
North Kesteven	49	41	55	21	44	18	80	74	0.925
West Lindsey	53	39	58	23	43	22	84	77	0.916667
Central Lincolnshire	184	117	157	57	118	45	219	229.5	1.047945

5.112 Table 5.18 indicates that influenced by the high peak time demand, pitches are required to sustain below optimum amounts of competitive activity (2 games per week), with pitches used on average once per week. Usage is highest in Lincoln, where pitches are required to sustain almost 1.5 games per week.

5.113 Analysis of formal match play only however ignores other uses of pitches. Many of the pitches are located within public recreation spaces and are therefore also used informally. There is evidence of many clubs using pitches to train on during the week and some formal pitches are used primarily for training only.

5.114 This use does not impact upon peak time demand, but adds wear and tear to pitches.

5.115 Pitches at school sites are also used for PE lessons (and often for informal recreation), as well as inter school fixtures. Like at the public pitches, this does not impact upon peak time demand. It is difficult to quantify this off peak usage, however to provide an indication of usage, the following assumptions have been used:

- assuming that each of the 14 schools / colleges with formal use generate five teams each (one for each year group), this is equivalent to an additional 70 teams. To also take into account the use sustained during PE lessons / break times, it is assumed that use on school sites may be up to the equivalent of 70 teams (35 match equivalents); and
- circa 75% of clubs train each week. While most of these train on AGPs, between 30 and 50% carry out some training sessions on grass pitches. Based on the worst case scenario, it can be assumed that 50% of teams train once per week on a grass pitch, and that they train with another team (circa 114 matches per week).

5.116 Calculations using the above assumptions suggest that pitches are used 1.7 times per week. This remains below recommended optimum levels for pitch provision and is based upon worst case scenario assumptions for school and training use. The high levels of demand at peak time influence this and mean that there is a requirement for more pitches to meet the needs of the number of teams than there would be if play was more evenly spread across the weekend and week.

## **Imbalance of Use**

- 5.117 While analysis of surplus and deficiencies contained in Tables 5.12 – 5.17, as well as the evaluation of the frequency of use of each pitch indicates that the existing pitch stock is more than sufficient to accommodate the required amount of play, it must be noted that this disguises significant imbalances in the use of pitches both for competitive fixtures and matches. Further analysis demonstrates significant fluctuations in the level of use that pitches receive.
- 5.118 Analysis of peak time capacity at specific sites reflects modelling scenarios presented in tables earlier in this section. Many sites are at / nearing capacity at peak times, however there are several pitches that are not used at this time. Many of these are used Saturday afternoon (often associated with teams playing at a higher standard. Lincoln United and Lincoln City for example are full outside of Sunday morning but are available at peak time.
- 5.119 Very few sites are not used at all, although there is limited use of some school sites that are available to the local community (particularly in City of Lincoln). In general sites in more rural areas are used less frequently, but are important in acting as a home ground for local teams.
- 5.120 Typically, sites with higher levels of use are associated with larger clubs. Saxilby Playing Fields (both William Street and Mill Lane), Scotter Playing Fields, Mulsanne Park, Lincoln Moorlands Railway are all used more than 2 times per week on average, which is above the optimum level of provision. Rustons Sports Club, Metheringham Playing Fields and Fen Lane, North Hykeham also have high levels of use. This links with dissatisfaction raised by some larger clubs, who indicate that they struggle to accommodate all fixtures on their existing home grounds and / or have to split teams between several different sites. Several clubs, particularly junior clubs in the south of Lincoln / North Hykeham area have approached the Council with regards the difficulties that they have in accessing pitches.
- 5.121 It also must be noted that there is evidence of junior teams using adult pitches particularly in Lincoln. Most club sites have however adapted provision to suit team structure and junior / mini pitches are balanced with the demand for these facilities. Pitches provided at some sites fluctuate to meet demand. Yarborough Leisure Centre for example has an area that is used as overspill pitches when demand is high.

## **AGPs**

- 5.122 AGPs complement grass pitches and are viewed as being particularly important in accommodating teams for training. Analysis in section 4 reveals that the Facility Planning Model (FPM) indicates that unmet demand in total is very low in each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities and it is not a driver for providing more pitches –overall, the quantity of pitches and access to them are not issues in 2013. Population growth is likely to see an increase in requirements, however this will largely take place between 2022 and 2031 (explored later in this section).
- 5.123 The FPM considers the requirement for AGPs generally. In recognition of this, the FA have established their own demand model which evaluates the need for AGPs for football. The modelling is built upon the premise that all teams in charter standard clubs should have access to at a 3g AGP for at least one hour a week for training. It considers current need and also builds in aspirations for future growth in the requirement for AGP resulting from increases in participation in football.

5.124 Table 5.19 sets out the requirements set through the FA modelling and outlines the adequacy of provision based upon current parameters. It also considers the distribution of facilities, drawing upon information presented in Section 4, AGPs.

5.125 It should be noted that figures provided are indicative only and in reality, demand should be considered across local authority boundaries and closely linked with the proximity of local clubs in order to ensure that facilities are financially viable. Facilities in Lincoln for example will also serve parts of North Kesteven in reality. Table 5.19 therefore also outlines the FA identified priorities, which it has developed following evaluation of the location of clubs.

**Table 5.19 – Adequacy of AGPs for Football**

Area	FA Demand Modelling Requirement (number of 3g AGPs)	Current Provision	Accessibility	FA Priorities
City of Lincoln	4.8	3 (Lincoln Christ Hospital School, Lincoln City FC, Ruston Sports & Social Club)	Good in East, more disjointed in west. Pitches also serve residents of NK and West Lindsey due to proximity of settlements to boundary	One additional pitch, west of town
North Kesteven	2.2	Carre's Grammar	Good in areas of highest population	None
West Lindsey	2.2	Cherry Willingham School	Access to 3g pitches lacking in Gainsborough	Conversion of Trent Valley Academy pitch to 3g

5.126 While the above provide an indication of FA priorities, it is important that these are balanced with the need for hockey (Section 8).

5.127 In addition to training needs, AGPs are also important in hosting small sided football leagues and many stakeholders believe that it is the growth of these small sided football leagues that has contributed to a decline in participation in league football. While the use of AGPs for these leagues can reduce access to facilities for clubs, these leagues do provide strong developmental foundations for football and are also successful in attracting new players to the game.

### Area and Site Specific Issues

5.128 Building upon the above, Tables 5.20 to 5.22 are subdivided by local authority. They outline the adequacy of provision at each site in each area, highlighting both site specific issues and providing a picture of football more locally in each authority. They outline the information presented throughout this section and are structured as;

- Table 5.20: City of Lincoln

- Table 5.21: North Kesteven
- Table 5.22: West Lindsey.

5.129 As well as allowing a site specific view of capacity, the information collated also highlights several issues that are particularly pertinent for the future planning of football pitches, notably;

- While overall across Central Lincolnshire there are enough pitches, it is clear that there are several settlements where pitch provision is already at capacity. These settlements tend to have one or more of three characteristics, specifically;
  - These are predominantly larger urban settlements
  - They contain larger clubs
  - They are located in close proximity to Lincoln.

Areas where there are particular pressures on pitches include many that will see significant population growth in future years, specifically;

- City of Lincoln - Lincoln
- North Kesteven area – Sleaford, Waddington, Metherringham, Hykeham, Skellingthorpe and Washingborough
- West Lindsey; Nettleham, Welton, Saxilby, Caistor, Nettleham, Scotter, Gainsborough.
- Particularly in the larger settlements much of the spare capacity is located at school sites that offer community use and are either not fully utilised or are not used at all
- In most areas where there are quantitative pressures on the existing stock of pitches, there are few opportunities to address this through the reconfiguration of the pitch stock due to the high levels of demand at peak times.

5.130 These issues will be explored further when analysing the future requirements for football pitches taking into account projected population growth.

### **City of Lincoln**

5.131 As set out to date, analysis of capacity at peak time reveals that there are sufficient pitches to meet demand. When excluding access to pitches at school sites that are not used, it is clear however that supply is very much in close balance with demand. This is impacted further by the fact that peak time demand for all forms of the game is Sunday, meaning that pitches are all required for use at the same time.

5.132 Table 5.20 reveals several salient points;

- Several sites in Lincoln have high levels of weekly usage, notwithstanding the impact of informal recreation, specifically Birchwood Leisure Centre, Lincoln City, Moorlands Sports Club, Rustons Sports and Social Club, Yarborough Leisure Centre

- While analysis of peak time capacity indicates that there are several surplus pitches, it is clear on further examination that in many instances, these pitches are full other days and / or are not appropriate for use. Facilities at Lincoln City, Lincoln United are both used Saturday and are not available for community teams on a Sunday, while pitches at the Lindum Sports Association are currently for the exclusive hire of a primary school. When excluding these from consideration, there is almost no remaining capacity on a Sunday (peak time).
- That said, there is some capacity on a Sunday for adult teams, although no site is really able to accommodate more than one more team. Assuming that teams play home and away on alternative weeks, additional teams could be fitted in at Skellingthorpe Road, Cowpaddle, Lincoln Claytons, Rustons Sports Club and Sudbrooke Drive. Notably, both Rustons Sports Club and Moorlands Sports Club indicate that they wish to increase the number of teams that they are running, but both clubs are already at or nearly at capacity.
- With the exception of Lindum Sports Association (exclusive use by a school), there are no junior pitches with any spare capacity. Most junior teams are using adult pitches. Birchwood Leisure Centre, Yarborough Leisure Centre and Skellingthorpe Road are all used by junior teams. This adds to pressures in the city and slight increases in demand will mean that there may not be enough pitches to accommodate peak time play. The high levels of use of adult pitches at peak time however suggest that there is limited, if any, opportunity to redesignate adult pitches for junior use (unless flexible kick off times are introduced). The City Council have discussed this with the league who do not believe that staggered kick off times can be successfully operated.
- The only spare capacity within City of Lincoln is located at school sites, many of which have community use agreements but currently offer limited or no community use. Consultation feedback demonstrates that either pricing is restrictive, or community use is not supported when requested.
- Despite high levels of capacity at peak time, there is capacity through the week to accommodate additional play at most sites, due to the high levels of demand at peak time.
- Added to the capacity issues, some site specific quality issues are also evident, specifically;
  - West Common – Horse manure (and occasional interruption to games due to charging horses), poor drainage; and
  - Skellingthorpe Road – temporary changing accommodation only
  - Cowpaddle – drainage on one pitch.

Several clubs with their own facilities also identify a requirement for pitch improvements, in particular Rustons Sports and Social Club, Lincoln United and Lincoln Moorlands.

**Table 5.20: Football Site Specific Issues in City of Lincoln**

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
Birchwood Community & Leisure Centre	2 adult, 1 junior. Other space available to be marked out where required	15	2.5	Sunday AM				Pitches full at peak time	88%	On site floodlit MUGA	Club highlight issues with dog fouling and unofficial use.	Club have aspirations to double number of teams. Cost is an issue
Cowpaddle	4 adult pitches	7	0.875	Sunday AM				Only one slot available Sunday AM	77%	Interesting set up of 4 well-used pitches within common ground. Pitch nearest changing more prone to waterlogging. Molehills	Concerns over antisocial behaviour on site and unofficial use, for example dog fouling	
Lincoln City Football Club (Sincil Bank)	1 adult pitch	4	2	Saturday PM				Pitch available at peak time but used at optimum levels in the week, full on a Saturday	91%		Excellent facility	
Lincoln Clayton Sports Ground	2 adult and 1 mini football pitch	5	0.833	Saturday PM				Some capacity Sunday	79-81%	Some damage to surface	Good facilities although can be uneven towards the end of the season. Some issues with molehills	

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
Lincoln United FC	1 adult football pitch	3	1.5	Saturday PM				No use at peak period but busy Saturday and Sunday PM	86%		quality of facilities acceptable although would benefit from further improvements to pitch quality if funding could be raised	
Lindum Sports Association	1 junior and 1 mini football pitch		0	Midweek				Currently exclusive midweek use for private school				
Moorland Community Centre	1 adult football pitch	2	1	Sunday AM					88%	On site floodlit MUGA		
Moorlands Sports Ground (The Backies)	1 adult and 1 junior pitch	12	3	Saturday PM				Full Saturday PM for juniors too	88-91%		Good facilities but can be uneven. Lots of lime in soil means that growth of grass is challenging	Would like to create 2 additional adult teams, more junior teams
Ruston Sports & Social Club	2 adult, 1 junior and 2 mini football pitches	22	2.2	Sunday AM				Busy across weekend	89% - 91%	Very well maintained pitches.	Good quality facilities. Slight issue with drainage, looking to secure funding	Intention to run girls teams
Skellingthorpe Rd	4 adult and 2 junior football pitches	19	1.5833	Sunday AM				Mini teams use spare adult pitch at peak times	81% - 91%	Temporary container style units, poor quality	Quality of facilities acceptable, would like to see improved maintenance and redevelopment of changing accommodation. Some issues with	Running teams in every age group



Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
											unevenness of pitches	
Sobraon Barracks Playing Fields	1 adult football pitch		0	N/A					65%	Difficult access, appears little used.	Grass coverage of facilities poor, overall pitches require more maintenance	Aspirations to increase number of teams
The Sudbrooke Drive Community Centre	2 adult football pitches	3	0.75	Sunday AM				Also used Saturday PM	75%	Site is secured by perimeter metal railings. Large site, has potential for junior/mini pitches	Dog fouling and litter. Equipment ageing	
West Common	4 adult football pitches	6	0.75	Sunday AM				Some capacity	67%	Good grass but site is used for grazing horses and is badly damaged. Lots of horse manure (lines painted over it).	Poor drainage and pitch condition. Poor changing. Issues with horse manure and dog fouling on site. Some games interrupted due to horses charging	
Yarborough Leisure Centre	2 adult football pitches, 3 junior football pitches. Scope to add additional pitches	17	1.7	Sunday AM				Very busy, pitches often laid out in different formations. Should be noted that facilities also used by Lincoln Castle Academy	80%	Good quality facilities, flat.	Varying opinions but overall facilities acceptable. Communication issues between providers and clubs.	



5.133 In addition to grass pitches, there are also identified shortages of AGPs in City of Lincoln. Providers of AGPs are also keen to highlight the role that these facilities have in accommodating more informal football participation, including small sided leagues which are becoming increasingly popular in the area. Lincoln City Council in particular consider these leagues to be a key means of promoting healthy lifestyles and physical activity.

### **North Kesteven**

5.134 As set out to date, analysis of capacity at peak time reveals that there are more than sufficient playing pitches in North Kesteven.

5.135 Table 5.21 however highlights the importance of almost all of the facilities in promoting football participation. It indicates that;

- while most sites are not at capacity, almost all sites are used by at least one team. This is typical of a rural area where local teams use local facilities and more matches could be accommodated at each site were teams to travel. Illustrating this point, there are only 2 adult pitches at capacity at peak time, but similarly there are only two that are not used (both used at other times). The following sites receive lower levels of use – Bassingham, Cranwell Sports and Social Club, Potterhanworth Playing Fields;
- Eslaforde Park (Sleaford) and Fen Lane (Hykeham) receive high levels of use during the week. It is these sites where pressures are also most evident, with little availability at peak time. Added to this, Hykeham Tigers highlight a shortfall of facilities and indicate that they struggle to access appropriate pitches for the number of teams that they run. It is clear that there are greater pressures on junior pitches, with several sites at or near capacity (assuming junior teams play on Junior pitches). Playing fields in Waddington, Metherringham, Hykeham, Skellingthorpe and Washingborough are all well used and approaching capacity. These sites are generally associated with larger clubs and / or are in close proximity to Lincoln;
- some quality concerns are raised and it is clear that recreational use has a big impact in North Kesteven. The following site specific quality issues are of higher significance;
  - North Kesteven Sports Centre – poor drainage
  - Bassingham Memorial Playing Field - uneven goalmouths and wear and tear from unofficial use;
  - Billingham Village Hall Playing Field - poor drainage;
  - Eslaforde Park Football Pitches - pitch improvements required (surface etc);
  - Heckington Sports Ground - changing facilities;
  - Hykeham Memorial Playing Fields - poor changing; and
  - Spring Lane Playing Field, Leasingham - Changing facilities.

**Table 5.21: Football Site Specific Issues in North Kesteven**

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
The Drove, Osbourny	1 adult football pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM							Quality of equipment is poor	
Witham St Hughs Village Hall	1 adult football pitch	2	1	Sunday AM							Pitch suffers from heavy recreational use outside formal match play. Quality could be improved	Potential to create additional adult team and considering opportunities to start youth teams
North Hykeham North Kesteven Sports Centre		1	#DIV/0!					Used at peak time			Pitch quality good but some drainage issues	Insufficient pitches
Bassingham Memorial Playing Field	1 adult, 1 junior, 2 mini	5	0.625	Saturday AM	Y	Y	Y	Adult team plays at peak time, junior / mini teams outside peak. Mini pitches not at capacity at pitches	88 - 89%	Smart new changing, old changing still on site. Inappropriate sized posts	Unofficial use is high. Goalmouths are becoming worn and uneven	

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
								peak time				
Billinghay Village Hall Playing Field	2 adult football	2	0.5	Saturday PM	Y	N/A	N/A	Pitches not at capacity in any time slot	81%	Pitch nearest changing rooms has indistinct markings. Favoured pitch is furthest from changing.	Poor drainage. Equipment also needs replacing	Club would like to further develop
Bracebridge Heath Playing Fields	1 adult pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM				Only use is at peak time	88%	Training area large enough to be marked as pitch. Potential for more pitches.	Good quality	Club struggle to find availability of pitches for preseason fixtures
Coleby Playing Field	1 adult pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM				Also used Sunday PM	82%	Nice set up: single pitch and changing accommodation within new village hall.		
Cranwell Sport & Social Club	1 junior football pitch	0	0	N/A				Used for training only	81%	Faint markings. Smaller, unmarked pitch with small goals.		
Dunston Village Playing Fields	1 adult football pitch	2	1	Saturday PM				Full Saturday PM	84%	Posts of unmarked junior pitch next to adult pitch.		
Eslafor Park Football Pitches	2 adult, 1 junior and 2 mini football pitches	22	2.2	Sunday AM				Also used outside peak time. Juniors use adult pitches	86%	Grass cover bit thin on new pitches in places. Lovely facility. Junior pitch is same size as adult pitch but smaller	Poor grass coverage and pitch uneven - requires improvements	

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
										goals		
Fen Lane / Witham Fields, North Hykeham	4 adult pitches, 1 junior pitch	17	1.7	Sunday AM				Junior use adult pitches. Also used midweek	88%			
Grantham Road Playing Field, Waddington	1 adult, 1 junior and 3 mini pitches	9	0.9	Sunday AM				All use at peak time. Junior teams use adult pitch	82%-84%		Pitch quality acceptable but issues with dog fouling	Would like to create additional adult side
Heckington Sports Ground	1 adult, 3 mini pitches	7	0.875	Saturday PM adult Sunday AM				Adult pitch full Sat PM	81%	Site is split into two fields: nearest pavilion has 2 junior pitches on cricket outfield, furthest has adult and junior pitch	Unofficial use of site is high - dog fouling, glass bottles etc. Poor changing facilities. Moles during the winter	Would like to create additional teams
Helpingham Playing Field	1 adult pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM					86%	Small goals on adjacent area.	Good quality facilities	
Hykeham Memorial Playing Fields	1 adult football pitch	2	1	Sunday AM/Saturday PM				Also used Saturday PM	81%	Some damage to surface	Issues with dog fouling and pitch quality. Changing facilities poor.	
John Cutforth Field	1 adult, 1 junior and 2 mini pitches	11	1.375	Sunday PM				Sunday peak, busy in afternoon and almost at	79% - 81%		Good quality facilities	Aspirations to create additional youth teams and more girls teams

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
								capacity				
Martin Playing Fields	1 mini football pitch		0						63%	Newly established pitch next to children's play area		
Metheringham Playing Fields	2 adult football pitches, 1 junior football pitch and 1 mini football pitch	8	1	Sunday morning but used other time					88%	Well established football site let down by poor changing rooms. Grid marked floodlit grass training area	Pitches acceptable to good, issues with dog fouling and unofficial use	Aspirations to run teams in all age groups and ladies teams but insufficient interest currently
Moor Lane Playing Field, Branston	2 adult pitches, 1 mini pitch	2	0.3333	Sunday					88%	New, on-site, floodlit 'astro'	Good quality facilities	
Potterhanworth Playing Field	1 adult football pitch	2	1	Sunday PM				Junior team use senior pitch	77%	Room for and possible markings of mini soccer pitch		
Potterhanworth Road Sports Field (Heighington)	3 junior pitches	10	1.6667	Sunday AM					86%	Large, well used, floodlit, grass training area. All pitches are of 'large mini' size which could be played on by juniors..	Good quality facilities	
RAF College Cranwell	3 adult pitches	4	0.6667	Sunday					88%	Tiered football site with separate training area/goal post.	Excellent quality facilities	

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
Ruskington Playing Fields	3 adult, 1 junior and 1 mini football pitch	11	1.1	Sunday PM				Pitches busy outside peak time	84%	Good grass	Unofficial use and dog fouling are the main issue. Changing perhaps weak area	
Skellingthorpe Playing Field	1 adult football pitch	2	1	Sunday AM					84%	Room and faint markings of previous junior pitch. Separate grass training/kickabout area.		
Spring Lane Playing Field, Leasingham	2 junior and 2 mini football pitches	4	0.5	Sunday AM					84%	Good quality grass surface	Issues with dog fouling. Poor quality changing facilities	Aspirations to create additional teams - U6, U12. Also to reinstate teams formerly folded
St Aidens Park, North Hykeham	1 junior football pitch		0	N/A				Limited Use	63%	Very faint markings. Adult size goal on junior pitch.		
Station Road Recreation Ground (Heighington)	1 adult football pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM					81%	Some damage to surface		
Washingborough Playing Fields	2 adult football pitches, 1 junior	6	1	Sunday AM					86%-89%	On site floodlit MUGA	Excellent pitch except for goalposts	



Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
	football pitch											
Welbourn Playing Field	1 junior football pitch		0	Sunday AM					79%	Strange configuration of junior pitch set between posts of (unmarked) adult pitch. Floodlit, grass training area.		

## **West Lindsey**

- 5.136 As set out to date, analysis of capacity at peak time reveals that there are more than sufficient playing pitches in West Lindsey
- 5.137 Table 5.22 however highlights the importance of almost all of the facilities in promoting football participation although it suggests that play is more balanced in terms of temporal demand than in other areas meaning that there are higher levels of availability at peak time. Play is however more imbalanced across different sites. It is clear that there are higher levels of demand in the larger settlements and in areas closer to Lincoln (Welton, Saxilby, Caistor, Nettleham, Scotter). Mulsanne Park, Scotter Playing Fields and Saxilby Playing Fields (William Street and Bell Street) are all used at or above optimum levels across the week. There is no further availability at Mulsanne Park at peak time. The main pressures in West Lindsey with regards pitches are in the Nettleham and Saxilby area
- 5.138 While demand is also high in Market Rasen and in Gainsborough at club based sites, there are school facilities that are available but receive limited use.
- 5.139 Illustrating the imbalance in play, at peak time, there are 11 adult pitches that are not used and six that are at capacity. Mulsanne Park, Welton Playing Fields, Marshalls Playing Fields, Upton and Kexby Playing Fields, Roses Sports Grounds and Caistor Sports and Social are all at capacity for at least one type of pitch at peak time.
- 5.140 While there is availability in the pitch stock at peak time, many pitches are used outside of this window. Roses Sports Ground, Rase Park and Hickman Memorial Playing Fields are all at capacity outside of peak time.
- 5.141 While most sites are at capacity, almost all sites are used by at least one team. Ingham Playing Fields is the only site that is not used at all.
- 5.142 This is typical of a rural area where local teams use local facilities and more matches could be accommodated at each site were teams to travel.
- 5.143 Some quality concerns are raised and it is clear that drainage is one of the key concerns in West Lindsey. The following site specific issues were raised by clubs;
- Bardney Playing fields – pavilion
  - Blyton - uneven pitch
  - Cherry Willingham - changing facilities
  - Hickman Bacon - drainage
  - Marton Playing Fields - uneven
  - Mulsanne Park - drainage
  - Newtoft - drainage
  - Rase Park - drainage
  - Roses Sports Ground - uneven (due to moles)
  - Welton - grass coverage and drainage
  - William Street Saxilby – drainage.

**Table 5.22: Football Site Specific Issues in West Lindsey**

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
Willingham-by-Stow Playing Field	1 adult football pitch and 1 junior football pitch	3	0.75	Sunday AM				Note use of junior / adult by mini teams	<b>77%</b>	Poor drainage in places. Large junior pitch		
Bardney Playing Fields	1 junior, 2 mini	3	0.5	Sunday PM	N/A	Y	Y	Used Sunday PM	<b>84%</b>	Strange configuration of junior pitch set between posts of (unmarked) adult pitch. Old, floodlit single court MUGA in corner of field.	Issues with dog fouling and poor quality pavilion	Club has increased membership recently and would like to develop additional U7 and U8 teams
Blyborough Park	1 adult pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM				Used Saturday PM	<b>82%</b>	Remote but nice set up. Prefabricated changing units. Small safety margins		
Caistor Sports And Social Club	1 adult football	4	2	Sunday AM				Also used Saturday	<b>81%</b>	Good quality grass surface. Slight slope	Good quality facilities	Aspirations to create U7 / U8 and U9 teams. Potentially requires additional land
Cherry Willingham Playing Field	1 adult and 1 junior pitch	1	0.25	Saturday PM				Used Saturday PM	<b>72%</b>	Poor line markings	Issues with unofficial use - damage to surface and litter	

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
Hickman Bacon Memorial Park (The Levellings)	1 junior and 2 mini football pitches	4	0.6667	Saturday				Junior pitch full outside peak	<b>75%</b>	Large grass site enables pitch configuration to change. Variable grass quality. Lots of graffiti on pavilion	Poor drainage, issues with unofficial use	Aspirations for further girls teams and youth teams
Ingham Playing Fields	1 junior football pitch	0	0					No use	<b>63%</b>	Goals in place. Very faint markings. Partly waterlogged.		
Keelby Sports Association	2 adult, 1 junior and 2 mini football pitches	8	0.8	Sunday PM				Busy Sunday PM	<b>82%</b>	Smart New Changing Complex	Excellent facilities	Aspirations to increase number of teams
Limestone Rangers Football Club	1 adult pitch	2	1	Saturday PM				Not used at peak time, at capacity Saturday PM	<b>86%</b>	Remote but nice set up. Attractive old stone pavilion. Concerns about safety margins	Good quality facilities	
Manor Park Sports Club	1 adult, 2 junior and 1 mini football pitch	8	1	Sunday AM				Used Saturday PM and Sunday PM also	<b>84-88%</b>	Quality of pitches not up to quality of changing accommodation. Site also includes half size, floodlit 3G pitch.	Drainage and grass coverage poor. Equipment reaching end of life	Aspirations to increase youth section.
Marshall's Sports Ground	2 adult, 1 junior and 3 mini football pitches	12	1	Mini full Saturday Am. Adult also used across the week					<b>77% - 81%</b>	Smart New Changing Complex. Litter issues	Poor drainage. Pitch quality relatively poor overall	
Marton Playing Fields	1 adult football	1	0.5						<b>82%-86%</b>	Excellent quality grass	Issues with moles and rabbits	

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
	pitch										means pitches are uneven. Dual use of pitch - caravans on site some weekends	
Middle Rasen Playing Fields	1 adult football pitch	1	0.5	Saturday PM				Capacity at Saturday PM	86%	Adjoins village hall. Training area could be marked as junior pitch.	Good quality facilities, some issues with moles	
Morton Playing Fields	1 adult football pitch	2	1	Sunday AM					82%	Width of pitch constrained by hedges. Molehills. Container style unit		
Mulsanne Park Football Pitches	1 adult, 1 junior and 1 mini football pitch. 1 adult pitch also for Nettleham FC	13	1.625	Sunday AM				Used throughout weekend	82% - 86%	Surprising to find enclosed stadium pitch in public park. Goal mouths from other pitches fenced off	Poor drainage. Pitch quality adequate	
Newtoft Playing Fields		2	1	Sunday AM				Also used Sunday PM	88%	Some litter identified	Poor drainage and training facilities	
Northmoor Park (Scotter Playing Fields)	2 junior and 1 mini pitch	17	2.8333	Sunday AM				Mini pitch also used Saturday and site at capacity	84 - 86%	Floodlit MUGA and grass training area on site. Some litter	Good quality pitches	Intend to run additional girls teams
Rase Park	1 adult and 1 mini football pitch	4	1	Sunday AM				Pitches used outside peak time			Poor drainage - needs investment	

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
Roses Sports Ground	3 adult, 1 junior and 2 mini football pitches	12	1	Sunday AM				Site well used outside peak time	84% - 88%	Football training facility on site.	Poor drainage, some issues with moles mean that pitches are uneven	Intention to run girls teams. Other clubs also have aspirations to increase youth and adult sections
Ryland Playing Field (Welton Sports and Social Club)	1 adult and 1 junior football pitch	5	1.25	Saturday				Junior pitch at capacity Saturday A< and PM	79%	Pitches are too close together for simultaneous play.	Facilities acceptable	Aspirations to increase number of teams, including ladies teams
Scothern Village Hall	1 adult football pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM					82%		Issues with dog fouling but primarily good	
Sturton By Stow Recreation Field	1 adult and 1 junior football pitch	1	0.25	Sunday AM					82%	Extended, older style brick pavilion. Large junior pitch. Damage to surface	Good quality facilities, suffers from unofficial use	
The Northolme (Gainsborough Trinity Fc)	1 adult football pitch	3	1.5	Saturday PM				Also used Sunday PM	84%	Completely enclosed stadium.		
Upton and Kexby Playing Fields	1 adult football pitch, 1 mini football pitch	7	1.75	Sunday AM			1	Also used outside peak times	82- 89%	Inappropriate sized posts	Good facilities	
William Street /	2 adult	11	2	Sunday				Also used	89%	On site floodlit	Poor drainage	Intention to

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
Saxilby Playing Field and Mill Lane Playing Field	football pitch and 1 junior football pitch			AM				outside peak times		MUGA	causes issues with flooding.	run U7 and U8 teams
	2 adult and 1 junior football pitch	1	0.15	Sunday AM							Changing and parking perhaps main area for improvement. Pitch quality acceptable - good	
Caistor Grammar	2 junior football pitches	3	0.25					Used Sunday PM			Acceptable pitches, but issues with drainage and grass quality	
Carre's Grammar	1 adult and 1 junior pitch	2	0.25	Saturday PM				Used Saturday PM - adult pitch at capacity			Good quality facilities. School wish to replace changing accommodation	
Cherry Willingham School	1 adult, 1 junior and 3 mini pitches	3	0.83	Sunday PM				Also used Sunday afternoon. Limited use of adult / mini pitches			Poor grass coverage and changing.	
De Aston School	2 adult and 1 mini pitch									Wear and tear	Uneven pitches. Surrounded by hawthorns that puncture the footballs.	
Torksey Lock	1 adult football pitch	1	0.5	Sunday AM					79%	Difficult access, appears little used.	Good quality facilities, would benefit from	Aspirations to create youth team

Site Name	Provision	Total Teams at Site	Use over Week	Peak Time for Pitch	Peak Time Adult (Sunday AM)	Peak Time Junior	Peak Time Mini	Use of Pitch	Site Visit Quality Score	Site Visit Comments	User Comments	On site club aspirations
											dugout and floodlights	
Blyton Playing Field, Sandbeck Lane	1 adult and 2 mini pitches	2	0.3333	Sunday AM /Saturday Am				Capacity outside peak times also	67% - 84%	Mini soccer pitches well tended. Molehills approaching. Adult pitch poorer quality. Some damage to surface	Issues with evenness and dog fouling - moles	Like to create youth teams
Dunholme Village Hall	1 adult football pitch		0	N/A				Limited use	82%	Separate, smart prefab units behind village hall. Damage to surface		



## Team Generation Rates

- 5.144 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band.
- 5.145 Comparison of TGRs in Central Lincolnshire against the Sport England database indicates that participation is above national averages for all types of football. This should however be treated with caution as the database has not been updated for several years. Team Generation Rates are relatively consistent between the three authorities, but are in general highest in West Lindsey. This is set out in Table 5.23.

**Table 5.23: TGRs in Central Lincolnshire**

Sport	TGR Central Lincolnshire	TGR City of Lincoln	TGR North Kesteven	TGR West Lindsey	Sport England National Average
<b>Mini Soccer</b>	1:99	1:109	1:104	1:86	1:431
<b>Junior Male</b>	1:74	1:85	1:77	1:65	1:195
<b>Junior Female</b>	1:504	1:236	1:1409	1:496	1:4038
<b>Adult Male</b>	1:330	1:315	1:394	1:289	1:452
<b>Adult Female</b>	1:3890	1:1917	1:19815	1:7766	1:19,647

## Future Demand

- 5.146 By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand. Based on the projected population growth between 2012 and 2022, and taking into account the change in population profile, across Central Lincolnshire as a whole;
- the number of adult male football teams would decrease from 169 to 166, while the number of female senior teams would remain constant.
  - the number of junior football teams will increase slightly, from 135 now, to 142 while the number of junior female teams would remain constant
  - the number of mini teams will increase significantly, from 118 now to 159.

Table 5.24 outlines the changes that will take place in each of the local authorities up to 2022, based upon the population projections. It is clear that while the population is projected to increase, the changes to the profile of this population will negate much of this growth as lower proportions of the total population will be in the age groups that traditionally play football.

**Table 5.24 – Changes to teams arising from increase in population and changes to the population profile (up to 2022).**

Area	Adult Male	Ladies Teams	Junior Male	Junior Female	Mini Soccer
City of Lincoln	-5	-1	1	0	12
North Kesteven	1	0	2	0	13
West Lindsey	1	0	4	1	17
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>-3</b>	<b>-1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>42</b>

5.147 Table 5.25 translates the above figures into shortfalls and surpluses for each local authority. It reveals that the increase in mini football participation places greater pressures on the current pitch stock, particularly in Lincoln, while the slight decline in adult participation has a much lower impact. The below figures include pitches that are available for secured community use only.

**Table 5.25: Shortfalls and Surpluses of Provision**

Local Authority	Adult Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Junior Football - Shortfall / Surplus	Mini Football - Shortfall / Surplus
<b>City of Lincoln</b>	13.0	-0.9	-4.0
<b>North Kesteven</b>	27.3	3.7	5.2
<b>West Lindsey</b>	25.2	4.7	9.5

Table 5.25 indicates that when considering provision across each of the three authorities, by 2022, provision remains sufficient in quantitative terms overall. There are greater pressures in Lincoln but overall there are just enough pitches.

#### **Locationally Specific Demand up to 2031**

5.148 Site specific tables earlier in this section highlighted that while overall there is currently sufficient provision, there are pressures in some areas of Central Lincolnshire, particularly larger settlements and those on the periphery of the city of Lincoln.

5.149 Table 5.26 summarises the impact of the change in the number of teams (based upon Team Generation Rates) between 2011 and 2022 and indicates that overall there will be few changes, due to the impact that the ageing population will have in mitigating the increase in the number of people living in Central Lincolnshire. Much development in Central Lincolnshire will however take place in concentrated areas, specifically the outskirts of Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford, meaning that demand will be concentrated.

5.150 Building upon the site specific analysis undertaken earlier in this section (which indicated that it is in these areas where the greatest pressures on provision currently occur), Table 5.26 considers the adequacy of current provision in just the areas where growth is likely to occur. It indicates that reflecting the capacity analysis, while overall there are sufficient football pitches across Central Lincolnshire, it is the areas located in close proximity to the potential areas of new development that are already experiencing the highest levels of pressure. This table takes into account just pitches and teams located within the defined areas. The area identified as edge of Lincoln takes into account settlements that may be impacted by the proposed growth on the edge of Lincoln boundaries and includes Hykeham, Waddington, Washingborough, Nettleham, Cherry Willingham and Saxilby,

**Table 5.26 – Adequacy of Current Football Provision in Close proximity to the SUE**

Area	Including Community Use Schools			Excluding Community Use Schools		
	Adult Pitches	Junior Pitches	Mini Pitches	Adult Pitches	Junior Pitches	Mini Pitches
City of Lincoln	13.0	-0.9	-4.0	4.0	-4.9	-5.0
Edge of Lincoln	12.7	-0.4	5.2	8.7	-2.4	2.2
Gainsborough	5.8	-0.1	4.4	1.8	-1.1	4.4
Sleaford	1.5	-1.2	0.3	1.5	-1.2	0.3

5.151 Table 5.26 clearly demonstrates that in these areas, there are pressures on the existing pitch stock, particularly when excluding schools with community use currently.

5.152 Given that this indicates that this reinforces the pressures in these parts of Central Lincolnshire, it is also important to examine the impact of the potential growth specifically in these areas in order to facilitate planning for future need.

5.153 Table 5.27 therefore sets out the potential implications of growth in terms of the number of teams created in each of the areas impacted by the SUEs. It should be noted that these tables are calculated using the anticipated population in each output area where SUEs will be created (using figures supplied by Central Lincolnshire Partnership). They take into account the ageing population using assumptions set out in Section 3 and all potential team figures are calculated using TGRs for Central Lincolnshire as a whole.

5.154 It indicates that unlike the picture across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, which with the exception of mini soccer demonstrates a relatively static level of demand up to 2022, in the areas impacted by the proposed growth, there is an increase in pitch requirements. By association, this means that outside of these areas in Central Lincolnshire demand will decline.

5.155 Between 2022 and 2031, the most significant levels of growth will occur and this will have implications for the adequacy of pitch provision.

**Table 5.27 – Impact of Population Growth in the areas impacted by SUEs**

Census OA	Planned Housing	Current Population	Future Population	Future Population	Future Teams 2022 (calculated using TGR)					Future Teams 2031 (calculated using TGR)			
			2022	2031	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female	mini	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female
		2011*	2022	2031	330.0	3890.0	74.0	504.0	99.0	330.0	3890.0	74.0	504.0
Gainsborough North	2400	744	1296	5353	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.6	2.7	0.2	2.4	0.4
Gainsborough East	2100	523	1006	5353	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.1	3.1	2.7	0.2	2.4	0.4
Gainsborough South	2500	773	1348	6523	0.7	0.1	0.6	0.1	2.8	3.3	0.3	2.9	0.4
Sleaford West	1750	1792	2195	5817	1.1	0.1	1.0	0.2	2.2	3.0	0.3	2.6	0.4
Sleaford South	1600	791	1159	4471	0.6	0.1	0.5	0.1	4.6	2.3	0.2	2.0	0.3
Lincoln WGC	2700	3104	3752	9584	1.9	0.2	1.7	0.3	2.9	4.9	0.4	4.3	0.7
Lincoln NEQ	2000	1276	1756	6076	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.1	3.7	3.1	0.3	2.7	0.4
Lincoln SEQ	2800	1012	1684	7732	0.9	0.1	0.8	0.1	0.0	4.0	0.3	3.5	0.5

5.156 Much of the growth will however take place between 2022 and 2031 and it is between these two time periods that the majority of impact will be felt. Table 5.28 outlines the growth that will occur in each area as a result of the creation of the SUE between 2011 and 2031. It indicates that;

- There will be an increase of 28 teams in the areas surrounding Lincoln
- There will be an increase of 23 teams in Gainsborough
- There will be an increase of 12 teams in Sleaford.

**Table 5.28 – Change in Participation in Areas impacted by SUEs by 2031**

Area	Change in Number of Teams between 2011 and 2031				
	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female	Mini
<i>Gainsborough North</i>	2.3	0.2	2.1	0.3	2.0
<i>Gainsborough East</i>	2.5	0.2	2.2	0.3	2.2
<i>Gainsborough South</i>	2.9	0.3	2.6	0.4	2.6
<i>Sleaford West</i>	2.0	0.2	1.9	0.3	1.9
<i>Sleaford South</i>	1.9	0.2	1.7	0.3	1.7
<i>Lincoln WGC</i>	3.2	0.3	3.0	0.5	3.1
<i>Lincoln NEQ</i>	2.4	0.2	2.2	0.3	2.2
<i>Lincoln SEQ</i>	3.4	0.3	3.0	0.5	3.0

5.157 In pitch terms (assuming the same temporal demand), the increase set out above in Table 5.30 amount to an additional;

- 2 – 3 adult pitches, 3 junior pitches and 2 mini pitches in the Lincoln areas
- 1 – 2 adult pitches, 2 junior pitches and 1 mini pitch in the Sleaford area
- 3 adult pitches, 3 junior pitches and 3 mini pitches in the Gainsborough area.

5.158 Table 5.29 summarises the impact of the increasing demand in these areas. For ease of reference, it joins together Lincoln city and the surrounds. It should be treated as indicative only, as it is not clear exactly which pitches will and won't be used by residents in the new developments, but provides an indication of the issues that may arise. It clearly indicates that when excluding schools, there are not enough pitches to accommodate demand. If all schools are available, pitch provision remains tight. To maximise the function of any new facilities, learning from issues with the existing pitch stock, single pitch sites should be avoided and multiple sites should be promoted.

**Table 5.29 – Shortfalls and Surplus (Future 2031) in areas impacted by SUE**

Area	Including Community Use Schools			Excluding Community Use Schools		
	Adult Pitches	Junior Pitches	Mini Pitches	Adult Pitches	Junior Pitches	Mini Pitches
City of Lincoln / Edge of Lincoln	20.7	-4.3	1.2	5.7	-10.3	-5.8
Gainsborough	-0.7	-2.5	0.3	-1.7	-3.5	0.3
Sleaford	20.7	-4.3	1.2	5.7	-10.3	-5.8

5.159 In addition to the changes in demand that may arise from increases in population, there are also significant aspirations to increase the levels of participation. Notably, the FA reports indicate that there is particular scope to increase the number of residents playing in West Lindsey and North Kesteven, and the Active People surveys also identify a degree of latent demand. This is however placed a current backdrop of declining participation and the degree to which participation is likely to increase is therefore open to question.

5.160 More locally, 12 clubs in Lincoln City, 14 in North Kesteven and 15 in West Lindsey indicate that they wish to run more teams next year. Many of these clubs are based in areas where supply has already been highlighted as being tightly in balance with demand. While increases in play can be accommodated overall, the locational specific issues and priorities remain.

### **Implications of the FA Youth Review**

5.161 Table 5.30 indicates that despite the anticipated population growth, the changing profile of the population means that up to 2022, there will be little increase in demand for football pitches resulting solely from population growth. More detailed analysis however reveals that increases in demand will be concentrated in areas of high population growth (in and around Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough) while other areas are likely to see a decline (unless the proportion of the population that currently participate increases).

5.162 The FA youth review sees the introduction of the requirement for pitches of different size as follows:

- U7 – 5 v5 (by 2013/14)
- U8 – 5v5 (by 2014/15)
- U9 – 7v7 already established
- U10 – 7v7 already established
- U11 – 9v9 (by 2013/14)
- U12 – 9v9 (by 2014/15)
- U13 - 11v11 or 9v9 optional

5.163 These requirements have already started to be piloted in Central Lincolnshire during the season in which this data was collected, with some 9 v 9 play in

some areas. From next season however, some teams currently requiring junior pitches will instead need 9 v 9 pitches, introducing a new type of pitch to the stock.

5.164 Based on current participation (ie teams in age groups that require 9 v 9 etc) there are 32 teams that will require 9 v 9 pitches in 2013 / 2014. These are spread as follows;

- City of Lincoln (10 teams – 3 -5 pitches given that all play currently takes place on a Sunday morning)
- North Kesteven (9 teams) – 4 pitches given that all play currently takes place on a Sunday morning. It should be noted however that demand is spread across a large geographical area and therefore it is likely that one pitch may be required for each club.
- West Lindsey (13 teams) – greater spread of play means that circa 4 pitches would meet demand. Like in West Lindsey, it should be noted however that demand is spread across a large geographical area and therefore it is likely that one pitch may be required for each club.

5.165 These requirements are spread across multiple clubs and for the most part, the change to pitch type can be accommodated at the existing club base (particularly when U12 teams the following year will also require a 9 v 9 pitch). Depending upon how 9 v 9 will be delivered in the different leagues (central venue / continuation of home and away grounds etc), there may be challenges accommodating the changes to the pitch stock that are required for some clubs where capacity is already tight. These include clubs using public pitches in City of Lincoln, Sleaford Town, Hykeham, Scotter and Gainsborough.

### **Summary and Key Issues**

5.166 Drawing on the issues and analysis set out in previous pages, the key issues for football in Central Lincolnshire are therefore summarised below.

#### **Key issues to address – Football**

- Football participation has declined significantly in very recent times. This decline mirrors national and regional trends but is more pronounced. Over the last season, two Saturday afternoon football leagues have ceased to exist. Reflecting this, participation is comparatively low in Central Lincolnshire as a whole. When compared with similar authorities (nearest neighbours), provision in Lincoln compares favourably (ranked number 1) while North Kesteven and West Lindsey are ranked 35/47 and 34 / 47 respectively. Some of the decline in league play is attributed to increasing participation in smaller sided football leagues, often hosted on Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) rather than grass pitches
- In terms of the number of teams wishing to play in each area this season, demand is particularly high in Lincoln in comparison to the size of the population and comparatively low in North Kesteven
- Despite this, pitch provision per 1000 population is lowest in City of Lincoln and highest in West Lindsey. The average pitch size in City of Lincoln is much larger than in the other two areas and consultation clearly demonstrates that pitches in the city attract residents from further afield, while facilities in North Kesteven and West Lindsey have a much more local catchment

## Key issues to address – Football

- Modelling reveals that there are significant surpluses of adult pitches overall across Central Lincolnshire, despite the majority of adult, junior and mini play taking place simultaneously. It is clear that most junior teams playing are using senior sized pitches – many junior teams share their pitches with adults / youth teams
- Analysis of the overall situation however reveals significant concerns with pitch provision in City of Lincoln, where modelling demonstrates that supply is only just sufficient to meet demand. When removing schools from consideration (several schools with formal community use are not currently used and not perceived to offer use) demand actually exceeds supply. The role of schools is therefore central to provision in Lincoln in particular. Ravendale College is a particularly important venue for community sport
- There are no concerns with regards the overall adequacy of facilities in terms of quantity in North Kesteven or West Lindsey with pitches of all types available on peak day. These findings reflect views emerging from consultations overall, with only 14% of clubs indicating that they struggle to access pitches for matches (predominantly junior clubs)
- While headline findings suggest that there are surplus pitches, more in depth analysis reveals that this issues with the pitch stock. Despite overall surplus provision, site specific analysis highlights several sites that are at capacity, many of which are of strategic importance to football in Central Lincolnshire. Saxilby Playing Fields, Scotter Playing Fields, Mulsanne Park, Lincoln Moorlands Railway all used more than 2 times per week on average. Rustons, Metherringham, Fen Lane Hykeham also receive high levels of use. Further analysis suggests that there is particularly high demand in Sleaford, Gainsborough and Lincoln (all areas of high population growth) as well as in many areas near to Lincoln.
- Site visits and consultation reveal that the quality of pitches is relatively consistent across Central Lincolnshire as a whole. There are greater concerns about drainage in West Lindsey and unofficial use in North Kesteven, however residents in Lincoln are most concerned about pitch quality. Several quality issues were highlighted at specific sites, some of which impact upon larger clubs and / or are associated with busy sites. The concerns focus around drainage, pitch surface and quality of equipment as well as the quality of changing accommodation on a small proportion of sites. 28% of clubs indicated that quality issues cause problems with scheduling for home and away matches and it is essential that this is considered in the planning of pitches and provision of support if the longer term development of football in the area is not to be inhibited
- While many sites (particularly those in Lincoln) are busy and at capacity, there are also several sites that are not used at all. Numerous former playing fields that are no longer laid out as formal pitches were identified in West Lindsey and North Kesteven. Only King George Playing Fields fits within this category in Lincoln City
- The population of Central Lincolnshire is ageing, and the propensity of residents to participate in football is therefore reducing, and this will become even more apparent over the strategy period. While the area will see significant population growth, the impact of this is negated to an extent by the change in the population profile. Detailed spatial analysis however reveals that by 2022 and



## Key issues to address – Football

the concentration of population growth in Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough will see significant increases in participation in these areas and in contrast, the ageing population will see a decline in other parts of Central Lincolnshire. Reflecting the pressures that already exist on pitches in some settlements, the level of growth expected will see shortfalls in all areas of high concentrated growth by 2031, particularly when excluding schools sites. The population increase up to 2031 will generate enough teams to use at least 8 pitches in Lincoln, 9 in Gainsborough and 6 in Sleaford. The most significant impact of the population growth will be felt between 2022 and 2031.

- In addition, 12 teams in Lincoln City, 14 in North Kesteven and 15 in West Lindsey indicate that they wish to run more teams next year. While on the whole this can be accommodated within the existing pitch infrastructure, many clubs with development aspirations are those that are already struggling to accommodate their teams within the existing infrastructures. The introduction of 9 v 9 football, following the FA youth review, for the season 2013 – 2014 will add further pressures, with at least 4 9 v 9 pitches required in each area (and more if teams are to be accommodated locally and at their current home bases).
- Access to facilities for training is as important for clubs as the selection of appropriate pitches for competitive fixtures. 33% of clubs in City of Lincoln and 29% in both North Kesteven and West Lindsey indicate that they struggle to access training facilities and a shortage of AGPs was highlighted as the main barrier to club development. There are five 3g AGPs across Central Lincolnshire (3 in City of Lincoln and 1 each in North Kesteven and West Lindsey) and these are complemented by a network of sand facilities
- The Sport England FPM indicates that there is little justification for additional AGPs, although it is clear that many are at or approaching capacity. Reflecting this, the FA highlight a requirement of one additional pitch in City of Lincoln (to the west side) and the creation of one pitch in West Lindsey to support clubs in the Gainsborough area. Providers of AGPs are also keen to highlight the role that these facilities have in accommodating more informal football participation, including small sided leagues which are becoming increasingly popular in the area. Lincoln City Council in particular consider these leagues to be a key means of promoting healthy lifestyles and physical activity.
- The FA would like to see priority given to supporting charter standard and community clubs. They are also keen to support clubs in their development and eventually, to own / manage sites. The national strategy identifies several issues for football most of which are prevalent in Central Lincolnshire – these include poor playing surfaces, a lack of 3g pitches. Key priorities over the national strategy period therefore include upgrading playing surfaces and creating a network of 3g pitches. FA modelling relating to 3g pitches seeks to ensure that all teams in charter standard clubs have access to a 3g pitch for training.
- The cost of participating was highlighted as a key issue by many clubs and as well as facilities, a lack of volunteers and coaches was also seen as detrimental to ongoing football development. There are opportunities to increase the amount of football played in Central Lincolnshire, with both North Kesteven and West Lindsey considered to be below target levels. Added to this, several clubs highlight aspirations to increase their membership. Removal of barriers will however be key if this is to be achieved.

## Strategic Priorities – Football

### Quantity of Football Pitches

**F1: To maximise the use of resources and to release pressures on existing pitches, particularly in junior football, formalise community agreements at school sites that currently accommodate mini and junior community football.** Priority should be given to those pitches currently permitting community use and where there are greater deficiencies. It will also be important to ensure that sites with community use agreements in place are fully operating under the terms of these agreements as the use of school facilities will become increasingly important in the longer term.

It is recognised that there are particular challenges associated with securing community use of school sites. Guidance produced by Sport England available at [http://www.sportengland.org/support\\_advice/accessing\\_schools.aspx](http://www.sportengland.org/support_advice/accessing_schools.aspx) may help to maximise opportunities.

**F2: Support the creation of new facilities where unmet demand is identified / and or where facilities are at capacity.** This situation may arise for a variety of reasons including a shortage of pitches in quantitative terms (either current or projected), poor quality facilities meaning that pitches are not fit for purpose or a lack of facilities of appropriate size to meet the needs of certain clubs.

Deficiencies could be addressed by:

- expanding existing sites;
- securing community use of school sites;
- formalising existing informal pitches (or former pitches) into more formal pitches where they are appropriately located – this may require qualitative improvements;
- and providing new facilities (in particular new facilities to facilitate club development).

**F3: Support the introduction of new forms of the game introduced through the FA youth review by supporting the provision of appropriate pitches to meet new size guidelines. These new forms of the game are designed to make the transition between junior and adult football easier and to maximise technical improvements.**

The introduction of new pitch sizes will however place further demands on the existing pitch stock and the way it is accommodated will need to be different for each club (for example some sites have sufficient capacity on site to lay out additional pitches, while others may need to overmark different sized pitches). Clubs that will be

impacted primarily have their own grounds already, but many are identified within this document as already being at or close to capacity.

#### Ensuring that facilities are of sufficient quality to meet the needs of all users

**F4: Seek to provide changing facilities of appropriate quality at all sites accommodating adult football and a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.**

**F5: Improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted.** Key priorities include drainage and improvements to the pitch surface.

**F6: Support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to training facilities for football clubs across Central Lincolnshire.** Evidence suggests that there are currently not enough 3g pitches to meet the needs of charter standard clubs across the Central Lincolnshire area.

#### Support Football Development

**F7: Support interventions to increase participation in football across Central Lincolnshire and to reduce the current decline.**

## 6. Cricket

06

6.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for cricket across Central Lincolnshire and provides;

- An overview of supply and demand for cricket
- An evaluation of the overall adequacy of pitches to meet demand
- Settlement specific issues and opportunities
- Key issues for the strategy to address
- Strategic priorities for cricket.

### Overview of Facilities for Cricket

#### Supply

6.2 There are 50 cricket grounds across Central Lincolnshire, ten of which are located at school sites. These are largely artificial wickets and therefore not suitable for the majority of formal club play. Only Caistor Yarborough Academy contains more than one cricket pitch.

6.3 Table 6.1 summarises the cricket pitches in Central Lincolnshire. It indicates that the majority of pitches are located in North Kesteven and West Lindsey. There are much lower levels of provision for cricket in City of Lincoln with only four club cricket sites (two of which are owned and managed by City of Lincoln Council).

**Table 6.1: Cricket Pitches in Central Lincolnshire**

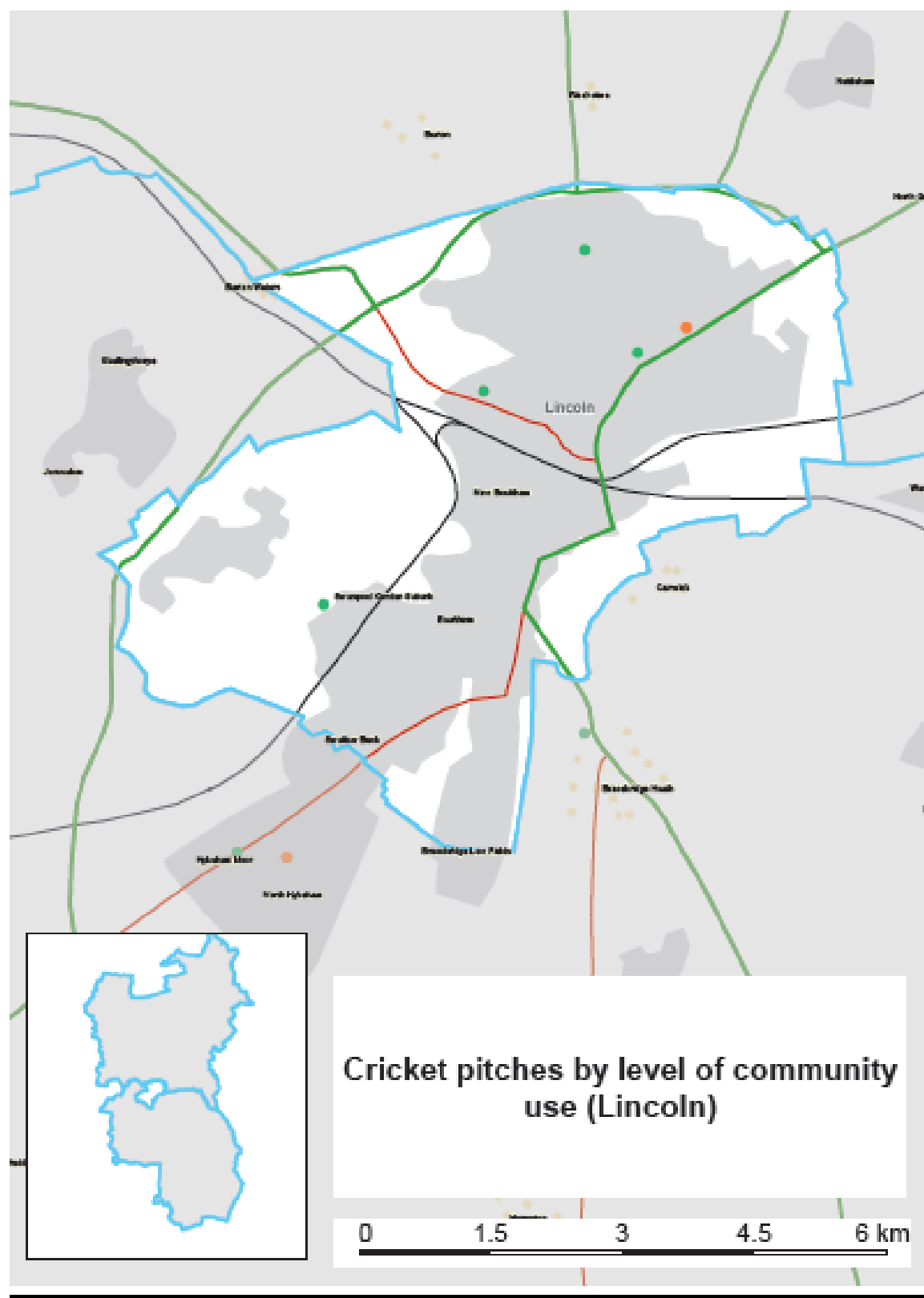
Area	Club Cricket Pitches	School Sites
City of Lincoln	4	1
North Kesteven	17	3
West Lindsey	19	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>10</b>

6.4 Of the above sites, two are private use only (Sleaford/Ruskington St George's Academy and Welbourn Sir William Robertson High School, both in North Kesteven) and one site offers only unsecured community use (Queen Elizabeth High School, Gainsborough). One of the club based cricket pitches in West Lindsey (Willingham CC) has only an artificial wicket (as opposed to a fine turf square).

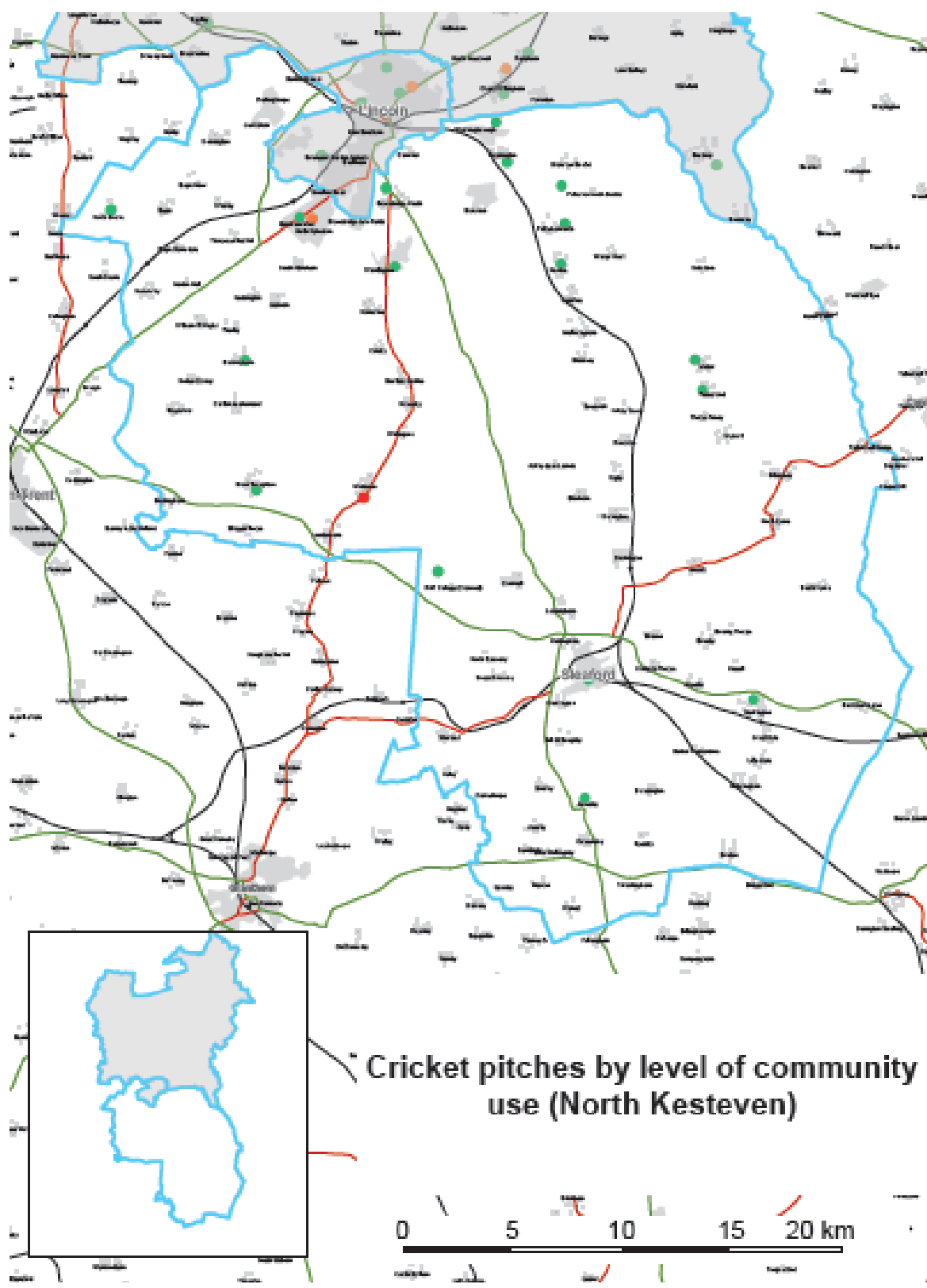
6.5 Despite the abundance of cricket pitches at school sites, there is a more limited role for school cricket pitches in Central Lincolnshire than for other sports, partially due to the quality standards associated with cricket and the high expectations for facilities. Both Christs Hospital School and Trent Valley Academy cricket pitches are however used by clubs.

- 6.6 In addition to the above grounds, there is a cricket pitch at Morton Playing Fields. The site is currently being redeveloped and the cricket club are playing at Roses Sports Ground in Gainsborough. This site will however be reopening as a cricket pitch and the club will relocate back when it is complete, providing an additional pitch.
- 6.7 Maps 6.1 – 6.3 illustrate the distribution of cricket pitches across Central Lincolnshire.

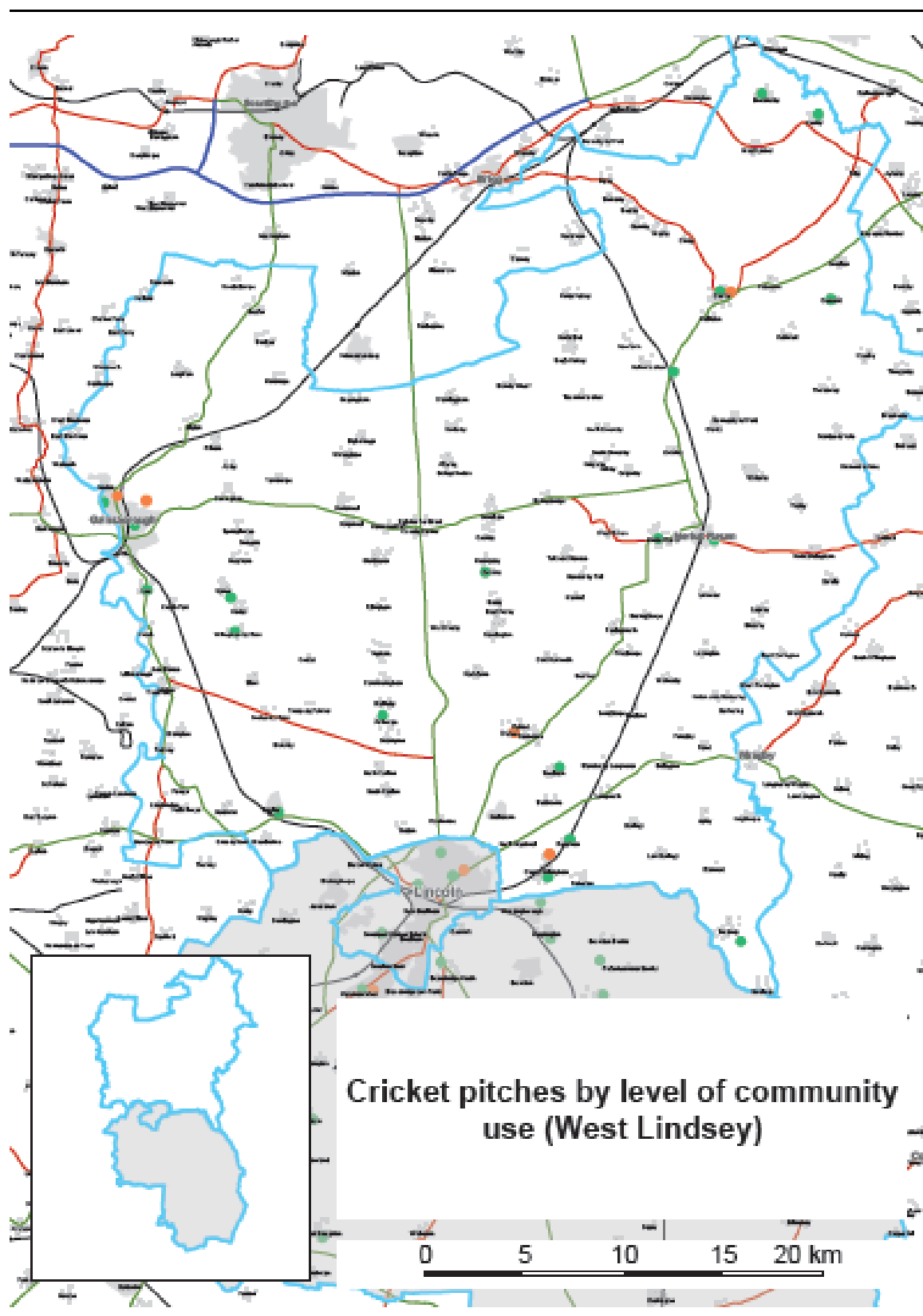
**Map 6.1: Cricket Pitches across Central Lincolnshire (City of Lincoln)**



**Map 6.2: Cricket Pitches across Central Lincolnshire (North Kesteven)**



**Map 6.3: Cricket Pitches across Central Lincolnshire (West Lindsey)**





## Demand

### Active People and Market Segmentation

- 6.8 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation (explained in Section 3), it is possible to evaluate how many residents of Central Lincolnshire **do** participate in cricket and how many of the population **would like to** play cricket. It is also possible to understand how this varies across each of the different parts of Central Lincolnshire.
- 6.9 Table 6.2 builds upon the data presented in Section and 3 and outlines the current and projected proportion of residents that participate according to Active People and highlights any spatial variations. It also indicates the market segments that are currently participating and would like to participate.

**Table 6.2: Participation in Cricket (Active People)**

Authority	% of Adult Population	% of Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play	Spatial Variation	Groups Participating
City of Lincoln	0.94 %	0.60%	1,109 (1.54%)	Higher participation in Central Lincoln (1.1-2% compared to below 1.1% in remainder. Latent demand evenly spread (between 0.1 – 1%).	Current participants - Jamie, Ben, Tim, Philip, Kev. Would like to play – same groups (Jamie in particular). Some interest from Terry.
North Kesteven	0.90 %	0.47%	1,160 (1.37%)	Both current play and latent demand geographically consistent (between 0.1-1%)	Current participants; Tim, Philip, Ben and Jamie. Same groups would like to play, but evidence of interest from Roger and Joy, Frank, Terry and Kev.
West Lindsey	0.88 %	0.49%	969 (1.37%)	Both current play and latent demand geographically consistent (between 0.1-1%)	Current participants – Tim, Ben, Philip, Jamie. Same groups would like to play, but evidence of interest from Roger and Joy, Frank, Terry and Kev.

- 6.10 It indicates that there are 2058 cricket players in Central Lincolnshire. The proportion of the population that plays is slightly higher in Lincoln than in North Kesteven and West Lindsey despite the lower levels of provision outlined in Table 6.1.
- 6.11 Analysis of participation geographically indicates that play is highest in the centre of Lincoln City. In addition to those that currently play, a further 1180 people would like to play cricket across Central Lincolnshire. These are located across the area, but the largest number of residents are situated in the City of Lincoln. In numerical terms, the lowest level of latent demand is in West Lindsey, however in terms of proportion of the population, the lowest latent demand is based in North Kesteven. The overall propensity to participate

(1.54% of the population) is highest in City of Lincoln. As demonstrated earlier in this section, it is in the City of Lincoln where provision is currently lowest.

- 6.12 On the whole, those that would like to play cricket are in the same market segments as those that do currently play. It is clear however that particularly in West Lindsey and North Kesteven there is also interest from other groups, including those in the older segments of Terry, Frank and Roger and Joy.

### Current Participation

- 6.13 The distribution of cricket teams across Central Lincolnshire is summarised in Table 6.3.

**Table 6.3: Cricket Teams across Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Adult Male	Ladies Teams	Junior Male	Junior Female	% of Total Teams	% of total Population
City of Lincoln	17	0	15	2	19%	32%
North Kesteven	33	0	17	0	28%	37%
West Lindsey	54	1	36	1	52%	31%
Total	104	1	68	3	100%	100%

- 6.14 Table 6.3 above indicates that in contrast to the findings of the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation, there is relatively uneven participation across Central Lincolnshire. 52% of all cricket teams are located in West Lindsey. City of Lincoln, which had the highest overall propensity to participate, has just 19% of cricket teams. It should be noted that since research and analysis was undertaken, Carholme Cricket Club has folded, meaning that participation in City of Lincoln is now lower than it appears in Table 6.3 by one team.
- 6.15 Taking into account the proportion of the population living in each area, it can be seen that the amount of teams is below levels that may be expected in City of Lincoln and West Lindsey and significantly above in West Lindsey. There are few girls and female teams although it is acknowledged that some of the junior boys teams include female players.
- 6.16 15% of cricket clubs responding to the survey report an increase on membership from the previous season and the remainder of clubs have remained static. Growth is largely attributed to an increase in junior participation and specific aspirations are as follows;
- Branston CC (North Kesteven) - Mixed adult and age group teams
  - Lea Park (West Lindsey) – Youth coaching
  - Nettleham CC (West Lindsey) – ladies teams
  - Nocton CC (North Kesteven) – Junior and Ladies teams
  - Upton Cum Kexby CC - (West Lindsey ) – expand junior section

- Willingham CC (West Lindsey) – ladies and over 35s.

6.17 Several other clubs would like to increase participation although do not state specific aspirations.

### **Cricket Leagues**

6.18 Many clubs have at least one team playing in the Lincolnshire Cricket League and most teams also have one or more senior teams in a variety of Sunday leagues on a Sunday afternoon. Junior play is staggered throughout the week and this means that although grounds are not required at the same time as for the senior sides, cricket squares are often used Saturday, Sunday and midweek. Friendlies are generally played on a Sunday or in midweek.

6.19 Interestingly, peak time for cricket in Central Lincolnshire is Sunday (42% of play). 32% of cricket takes place on a Saturday and the remainder occurs midweek.

6.20 The main leagues in which teams across Central Lincolnshire participate in are:

**Lincolnshire Cricket League:** This league is the highest level of cricket played in the area. The league includes a premier league and four subsequent divisions. Many clubs enter two teams into this league

**Lincoln and District Sunday Cricket League:** This league has a premier division and four further divisions. Teams play on a Sunday

**Lincolnshire Youth Cricket League** - runs competition for age groups U9 up to U17.

6.21 Some clubs also play in the North Lindsey Cricket League, East Lindsey Cricket League, South Lincs and Borders Cricket league, the West Wold Evening Cricket League and the Gainsborough T20 Cricket League.

### **Quality of Cricket Pitches**

6.22 Pitch quality has a significant impact on the overall adequacy of supply in an area. Particularly for cricket, poorer quality pitches can lead to a difficult game, can be dangerous, and can lead to injuries due to uneven bounce of the ball. Lower quality facilities can therefore deter people from playing.

6.23 The following data sources have therefore been used to evaluate the quality of cricket pitches across Central Lincolnshire;

- Site Assessments in line with Towards a Level Playing Field
- Analysis of individual club perceptions
- Views of local cricket leagues

### **Site Assessments**

6.24 The specialised grounds maintenance requirements of cricket pitches mean that the TaLPF non technical site assessment matrix is of more limited value than for other sports. It does not assess the way that the pitch plays and provides only an overview of pitch quality. Adding to this, the timing of the assessment means that site visits were carried out during

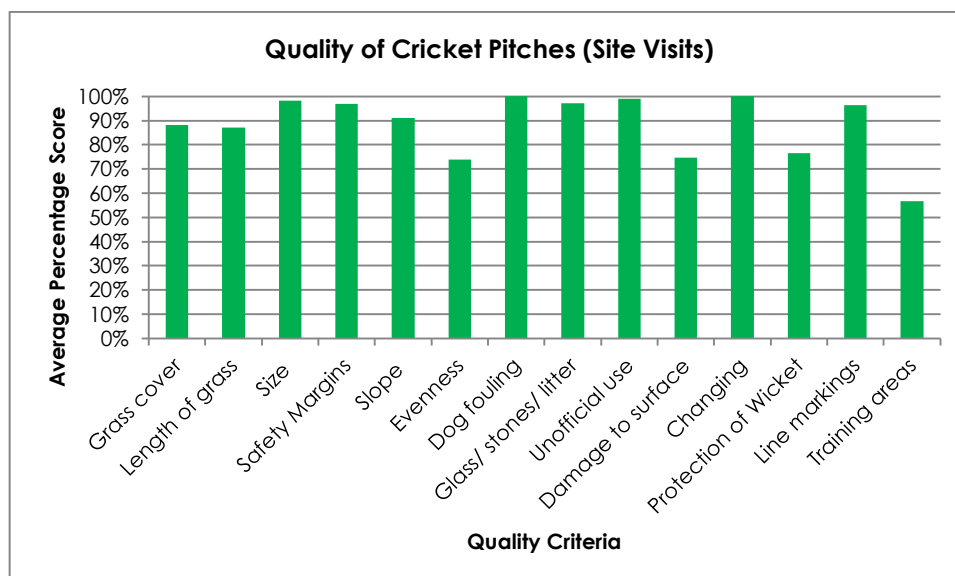
the cricket off season, meaning that wickets were not fully prepared and making it more difficult to accurately judge pitch quality. Site visits do however provide a baseline of quality that when balanced with other data sources, can be used to highlight further issues.

6.25 Overall; across Central Lincolnshire, site visits reveal that;

- the quality of cricket pitches is good, with site visit scores achieved ranging from 67% to 91%, equivalent to good to excellent;
- the majority of clubs maintain their own facilities and it is evident that a lot of care is taken to maintain them;
- there is a real variation in the quality of pavilions – facilities range from old sheds to new build high specification pavilions;
- majority of cricket fields have good grass cover, perhaps reflecting the lack of use that takes place on the facilities outside of the season;
- the key quality issues emerging are the evenness of surface and evidence of damage to the surface. Similar to problems raised in relation to football and rugby pitches, there are clear issues with molehills on almost half of all sites; and
- the amount of sites with practice nets is low – only around half of clubs have access to training facilities. High levels of play are visible at some sites, which may be reflective of the lack of training facilities and the subsequent need to use wickets for practice.

6.26 Chart 6.1 reinforces the issues outlined above and demonstrates the average percentage score achieved for each of the key quality criteria during site visits.

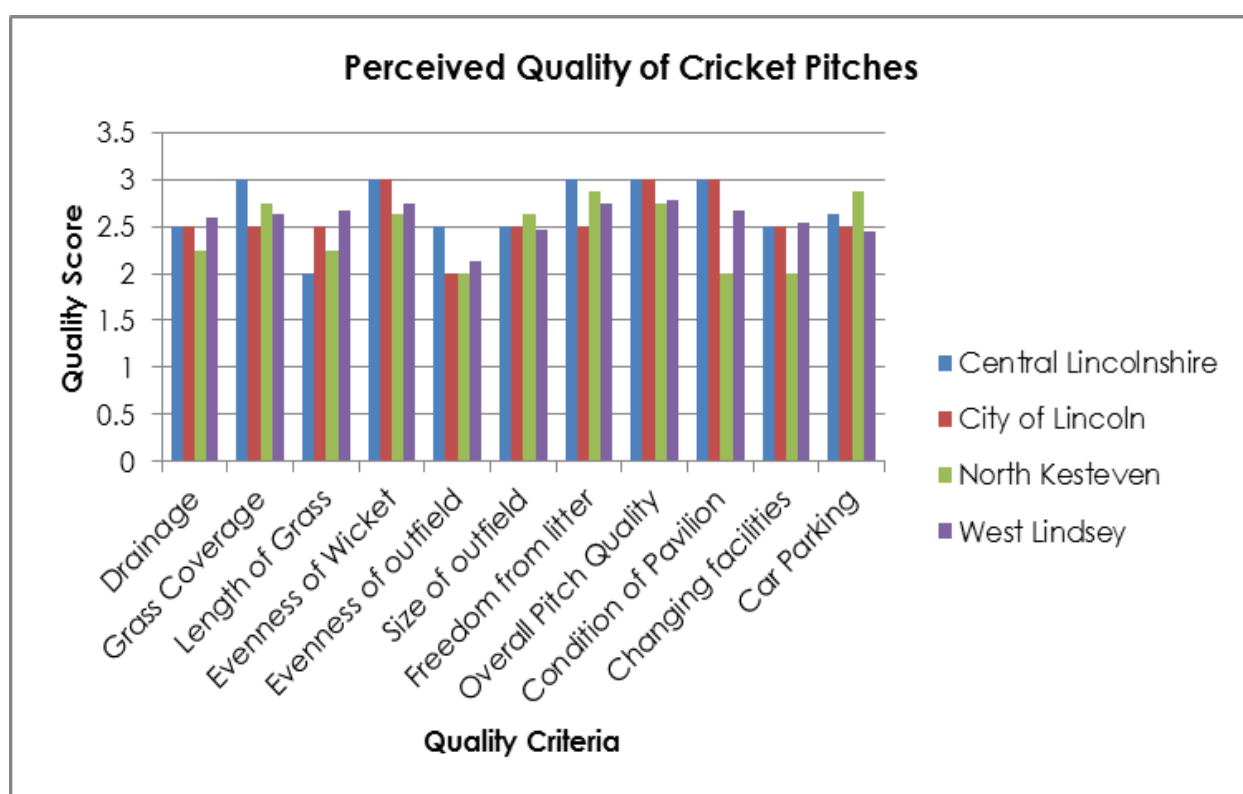
**Chart 6.1: Quality of Cricket Pitches in Central Lincolnshire**



### Club Opinion on Quality

- 6.27 Clubs were asked to rate the quality of pitches that they use. Chart 6.2 illustrates that overall, responding clubs view pitch provision positively, with the most common response for the majority of criteria being good (3).
- 6.28 68% of clubs are satisfied with cricket facilities in Central Lincolnshire. Those that aren't all cite a lack of Council owned cricket fields (referencing Lincoln) and do not necessarily directly attribute their dissatisfaction to quality. Pavilions and changing facilities are the most commonly identified area for improvement and this is particularly apparent in North Kesteven, where these factors are rated much lower by clubs than in City of Lincoln and West Lindsey.
- 6.29 Club perceptions of quality are relatively consistent across all three authorities. The perceived average quality is marginally highest in City of Lincoln highest and lowest in West Lindsey. There are however no clear patterns in emerging in terms of the issues raised, with the exception of issues relating to changing and pavilions explored above. Drainage is also rated lower in North Kesteven than in other areas.
- 6.30 The average of all scores indicates that for all factors, the overall response is between acceptable (2) to good (3). The evenness of pitches is perhaps the largest concern, and many clubs highlight problems with molehills and rabbits. Other areas achieving the lowest scores are changing facilities / pavilion, car parking and drainage.

**Chart 6.2: Perceptions of Pitch Quality by Cricket Clubs**



- 6.31 On a site by site basis, average overall scores range from 1.45 (poor to acceptable) to 2.9 (excellent). Only 3 clubs have an average score of below 2, suggesting that pitches are poor (Aisthorpe CC, Bassingham CC and Lea Park).
- 6.32 Site specific comments are recorded later in this section.

### **Consultations**

- 6.33 Consultation with cricket clubs demonstrated that:

- just 3 clubs have issues accessing pitches for matches and 3 clubs for training. Generally these clubs highlight quality issues (eg drainage), conflicting seasons with football and rugby or a lack of practice nets, rather than a need for additional cricket grounds as the reasons that they struggle to meet requirements;
- almost 50% of clubs do not have access to training bays. Of these 21% travel to another ground to use their facilities. For responding clubs, provision is notably lower in West Lindsey. Site visits confirm the low levels of practice nets;
- 31% of responding clubs indicate that quality factors make it difficult to accommodate matches and training (Aisthorpe CC, Market Rasen CC, Nettleham CC, Upton cum Kexby CC and Owmbly CC in West Lindsey, and Branston CC in North Kesteven). Several clubs also raise issues with a lack of wicket covers and sight screens;
- surprisingly given the even distribution of cricket pitches across Central Lincolnshire, participants travel some distance to reach cricket clubs. 60% of players travel over 3 miles and 40% travel over 5 miles;
- six clubs have aspirations to increase the number of teams and in total this would create an additional 2 ladies teams, 3 junior sections, a mixed team and a veterans team. Four of these clubs are based in West Lindsey, suggesting that there is particular scope for cricket development in this area, despite already high levels of participation; and
- with regards barriers to participation, three clubs indicate that a shortage of good quality junior pitches will prevent expansion while some also reference issues with the amount of good quality senior pitches. A shortage of wickets for matches and training (all weather) is also highlighted by 3 clubs. Only 3 clubs identify issues with a lack of volunteers / coaches.

### **League Consultation**

#### **Lincolnshire Cricket League**

- 6.34 The number of teams playing the Lincolnshire League has remained reasonably static over the last 5 years, with 5 divisions of between 9 and 11 teams apiece, totalling 50 sides. Where a side has dropped out, in general other teams have taken their place. Anecdotally, many clubs are struggling to recruit players, particularly with the amount of time a game takes out of their Saturday.
- 6.35 The League welcomes any application to join although the ground played on must meet the leagues minimum quality criteria.

- 6.36 Across Central Lincolnshire, the number of cricket pitches has reduced, although there are enough for the purposes of the clubs in the league. There are some issues relating to access to facilities however - larger teams wishing to field 3 or 4 senior sides often struggle to access a satellite site and some clubs share facilities with football and / or rugby clubs and there can be clashes with regards to priorities and availability at those clubs.
- 6.37 The standard of cricket grounds in Lincolnshire is generally good, within the context that most cricket grounds in the League are multi-sport facilities that do not have a full-time groundsman. The quality of facilities does vary, but all meet the league's minimum criteria and the majority offer a comfortable environment for players and spectators. Although the league does not evaluate pitch quality every season, umpires provide a ground mark for every game played and where a club has received consistently low marks the committee will authorise a new inspection to be carried out.
- 6.38 The key areas for improvement across Lincolnshire as a whole are perceived to be;
- improving practice facilities at grounds - particularly artificial nets;
  - providing covering for wickets and sightscreens;
  - providing quality machinery for maintaining squares and outfielders; and
  - enabling clubs to afford to be able to spend time and money on their playing surface - particularly with regards to having a designated grounds-person.
- 6.39 As well as ensuring that there are appropriate facilities for teams within the league, the need to provide pitches of appropriate quality for clubs / schools that feed into the league was also raised. Pitches should be of sufficient quality to prepare players for higher standard cricket.

#### **Lincoln and District Cricket League**

- 6.40 Demand for the Lincoln and District Cricket League has remained static in terms of the number of teams, however several village clubs have folded and those who wish to have joined larger clubs. This results primarily from the costs of pitch preparation and buying equipment. The league is a grass roots cricket league.
- 6.41 While the number of pitches available matches the numbers of teams well at present, the quality of pavilions tends to be poor, particularly at smaller clubs. Some villages have built new village halls to improve facilities and town teams often have good facilities with regular groundsmen and better equipment to work with. Town clubs tend also to have bar facilities and good changing facilities, and are better able to provide teas.
- 6.42 In dry summers, there are often issues with the wickets as clubs are unable to water them. The league uses league funds to support clubs with issues with the quality of their facilities.

#### **South Lincs Border Cricket League**

- 6.43 Interest in cricket has grown tremendously after suffering a downturn in the 1990s which has led to clubs forming 2nd, 3rd and even 4th teams on Saturdays and Sundays to meet demand, with the subsequent increase in fixtures. In 2005, the South Lincs & Border League had about 20 teams in two divisions and there are now three divisions of 12. In contrast, the number of cricket pitches has reduced and several clubs struggle to accommodate the demand for league and junior cricket. Many clubs have a junior section increasing the demand and there are a number of pitch-shares between clubs within the league.
- 6.44 The majority of quality concerns can be attributed to lack of money. Lincolnshire has a County Pitch Advisor, trained by the ECB, who monitors pitches and is always available to



visit clubs, take soil samples and give advice on what work needs doing. Maintaining and improving cricket pitches should be considered to be top priority, as without an appropriate facility, the standard of cricket is poor. The role and involvement of the Groundsmen's Association is key in achieving this objective.

- 6.45 Junior development is important for club sustainability and coaches are therefore needed to provide this activity. In addition, new cricket facilities should be encouraged (and existing sites retained) in order to promote the continued growth of the game.

#### **National Governing Body Perspective - England Cricket Board (ECB)**

- 6.46 The ECB Strategic Plan (2013 – 2017) Champion Counties, recognises the challenging financial environment in which cricket clubs are operating and targets operational excellence. It highlights the additional challenges caused by flooding during 2012 and the impact that this has had on participation, facilities and consequently short term sustainability. The strategy sets the following aims;

- 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; and
- delivering Successful England teams and world class global events.

- 6.47 More specifically, the strategy sets several specific targets. Those which impact upon the supply and or demand for facilities include;

- to contain support costs within 7.5% of total expenditure;
- to sustain current participation levels and to support clubs in applications for capital grants to Sport England to total a minimum of £5 million for the period 2014–2017;
- to provide funding of £6.15m to the Cricket Foundation to ensure that two million children are introduced to cricket within the school system;
- to increase the number of volunteers to 80,000 by 2017;
- to expand the number of participants in women's and disabilities cricket by 10% prior to 2017;
- to provide up to £5 million of interest free loans and to work with schools and facilities in inner city areas to provide greater community use by 2017; and
- ECB will work through Five Sports to influence Government policy for sport.

- 6.48 The strategy places a particular focus on increasing participation in the 14 – 25 age group and also seeks to support the introduction of a youth T20 competition engaging with a minimum of 500 teams by 2017.

#### **The Lincolnshire Cricket Facilities Strategy (2009 – 2013)**

- 6.49 The Lincolnshire Cricket Facilities Strategy focuses upon the following key areas;

- Fine Turf Provision
- Non Turf Pitch Provision
- Clubhouse Provision
- Indoor Facility Provision
- Ancillary Provision
- Machinery and Ground staff Provision.



6.50 A vital component of the strategy is the identification of minimum standards that are required by focus clubs to support their cricket development. These minimum standards link with the criteria required for participation in the Lincolnshire County Cricket League referenced earlier in this section.

6.51 The key aims of the strategy in general terms are to;

- offer priority support to focus clubs who have no or little NTP provision;
- offer priority support to focus clubs who have no or little fine turf provision;
- work with key partners to investigate avenues of facility development for county and district cricket;
- encourage clubs and other organisations to look at a variety of funding streams to help support potential projects; and to
- highlight areas of current strength and well as potential areas to improve facility development.

6.52 With regard specific clubs, the strategy indicates the following;

- Bracebridge Heath Cricket Club – junior section is at capacity. Key priorities are medium to long term lease, Formal training opportunities for groundsmen / assistant groundsmen and purchase of new roller
- Caistor Cricket Club – key priorities are renovation of changing rooms to meet with TS5 standards and also cater for officials changing facility, Extend square / deal with pitch: match ratio (Over playing), Formal training opportunities for groundsmen / assistant groundsmen and improve current NTP practice facilities (possible re-siting)
- Hartstholme Cricket club - Installation of NTP practice facilities (currently facilities are dilapidated) , Formal training opportunities for groundsmen / assistant groundsmen, replace current NTP match strip as heavily overused, extension of length of tenure
- Market Rasen Cricket Club - Formal training opportunities for groundsmen / assistant groundsmen , Improve quality of sightscreens, improve quality of covers, Develop some fine turf practice provision
- Messingham Cricket Club – replace outfield mower, formal training opportunities for groundsmen
- Nettleham Cricket Club – Purchase of new pitch mower, Purchase of new outfield mower , Develop some fine turf practice provision
- Scothern Cricket Club - Replace NTP practice facilities, Installation of NTP Match Pitch
- formal training opportunities for groundsmen / assistant groundsmen, Look at quality of square and outfield. Development of an officials changing room
- Sleaford Cricket Club - Formal training opportunities for groundsmen / assistant groundsmen. Develop some fine turf practice provision, Renovate / Replace current score box provision.

### **The Lincolnshire Strategy for the development of Women and Girls Cricket (20011 – 2016)**

6.53 The key objectives of the strategy are to;

- Increase participation by women and girls by 45%
  - Increase the number of competitive opportunities for cricket (6 clubs to 15)
  - Develop a network of cricket ambassadors across school, club, county and region.
- 6.54 Specifically with regards facilities, the strategy seeks to ensure that there are appropriate facilities for women and girls and that the network of facilities across the county facilitates play for all participants.

### **Cricket in Central Lincolnshire – Lincolnshire Cricket Board**

- 6.55 Participation in cricket has steadily increased over the past 3/4 years in Lincolnshire. Historically, focus has been placed upon junior cricket development but more recently, attention has now also been put towards senior participation. Additionally the number of ladies teams in the county has grown from 1 in 2010 to 6 in 2012. Chance to Shine, a grass roots cricket initiative focusing upon junior participation and involving schools has had significant impacts upon the number of younger players. Intensive club development has also reaped rewards.
- 6.56 The Lincolnshire Cricket Board are currently working to increase participation in all areas of the game, specifically women and girls, adults, juniors and disability cricket. In addition to traditional cricket, a franchise of Last Man Stands (a shorter form of the game which records statistics online, enabling comparison across the world) has been bought in Lincolnshire. The owners are currently exploring opportunities to set up just outside Central Lincolnshire, in the Fulbeck area.
- 6.57 In addition Lincolnshire Cricket run double dozen cricket in Lincoln - in essence this is pay and play cricket - a shortened version of indoor cricket. There are plans to extend the game out further to Gainsborough and possibly Grantham, as well as continue to develop the outdoor format of the game. There are also plans to create a ladies form of Double Dozen.
- 6.58 With regards facilities, the key issues in Lincolnshire are considered to be;
- pitch quality skill sets / qualifications of groundsmen. In particular, many groundsmen are of the older generation and it is important that succession planning is considered at this point;
  - pavilions – clubs are embracing the green agenda (Rain water harvesting, insulation, solar panels, etc) and there are many developments required to adapt to this. In addition, there are some clubs who need to renovate old and dilapidated pavilions;
  - the amount of grounds - In Lincolnshire there is something of an anomaly – there are pressures on grounds in some areas (Cleethorpes/Grimsby/Lincoln) but there are many grounds in rural areas (and in Stamford) and more than sufficient to accommodate the amount of cricket played; and
  - indoor training facilities - Lincolnshire Cricket's ultimate goal is to have a purpose built indoor centre for cricket and they are currently investigating options in Lincoln. Currently indoor cricket is played in a few schools / sports halls around the county which generally are of a good standard however the quality and safety can vary, and frequently there are competing demands for other sports.

- 6.59 There have been several facility developments in recent months across Lincolnshire, and the Cricket board has worked with clubs including Woodhall Spa CC (NTP Practice facility) and Sobraon Barracks (Lincoln - Pavilion Upgrade) There are also plans afoot to work with clubs like Cleethorpes (2nd Ground) Scunthorpe (Pavilion Upgrade/Women's Cricket).

### Supply and Demand Modelling

- 6.60 The Playing Pitch methodology (PPM) determines the adequacy of pitch supply to meet peak time demand.
- 6.61 For adults, peak time demand for cricket is Sunday, with 42% of matches taking place at this time. The majority of remaining adult matches are played on a Saturday. Junior matches take place throughout the week and the most clubs indicate that they fit in their junior matches around training.
- 6.62 Table 6.4 summarises the adequacy of cricket pitch provision in Central Lincolnshire when including all cricket pitches.
- 6.63 These figures have been calculated using the following steps;
- number of teams in each area wishing to play on each type of pitch
  - temporal demand – ie proportion of teams that wish to play at peak time
  - number of Games at Peak Time – calculated by evaluating the proportion of teams that wish to play at peak time and using the assumption that each team will play home and away alternately
  - comparison of above figures with number of pitches of each type available in each area to determine whether there are shortfalls or surpluses.
- 6.64 Table 6.4 reveals that in all areas of Central Lincolnshire, there are enough pitches in each area at peak time. Provision in City of Lincoln is however much more closely matched with demand than in the area as a whole although Carholme Cricket Club has since folded (one team) meaning that surplus provision is equivalent to nearer two pitches.

**Table 6.4: Adequacy of cricket pitches by area**

Area	Shortfall / Surplus
City of Lincoln	1.4
North Kesteven	13.1
West Lindsey	13.5
Central Lincolnshire	28.6

- 6.65 Table 6.4 however includes pitches at school sites, only two of which are currently used regularly by clubs for competitive fixtures. The remainder are of a lower quality (and / or offer artificial wickets only) than would be expected by local clubs. While some may be appropriate for junior play, they have a limited role to play in meeting demand at peak time.

- 6.66 Table 6.5 illustrates pitch provision in each part of Central Lincolnshire when school facilities that are not used are removed from the equation. It demonstrates that supply remains more than sufficient to meet demand. Analysis of use of specific sites reflects this, indicating that several rural facilities are used relatively infrequently and accommodate only one team. This will be returned to later.

**Table 6.5: Adequacy of cricket pitches by area (excluding school sites)**

Area	Shortfall / Surplus
City of Lincoln	1.4
North Kesteven	10.1
West Lindsey	7.5
Central Lincolnshire	19.6

- 6.67 The above figures however disguise pressures at specific club sites at peak time and there are some clubs that are forced to travel to use other facilities in order to accommodate all demand from their teams. In contrast, other pitches are less well used and are able to accommodate more teams.

- 6.68 The following sites are at capacity on a Saturday;

- City of Lincoln – Hartsholme CC, Lindum CC
- North Kesteven – Bracebridge Heath, Hykeham, Sleaford CC
- West Lindsey – Caistor, Cherry Willingham, Keelby, Market Rasen, Nettleham,

- 6.69 In addition, many of the same sites are also at capacity on a Sunday

- City of Lincoln – Hartsholme CC, Lindum CC
- North Kesteven – Bracebridge Heath, Hykeham CC, Sleaford CC, Heckington CC
- West Lindsey – Cherry Willingham, Market Rasen, Nettleham, Roses Sports Ground (temporarily due to relocation of Morton Cricket Club).

- 6.70 The capacity of each pitch at peak time will be considered in detail later in this section

### **Impact of Training**

- 6.71 For cricket, calculations are perhaps less relevant than for other sports, as the pitch quality and amount of play on the wicket are as important as the number of grounds that are available.
- 6.72 As demonstrated in the two previous tables, there are more than sufficient pitches to accommodate demand at peak time. There are however some pitches at capacity and for some clubs, there is limited scope for growth of Saturday afternoon cricket within the current pitch stock. Supply is much more closely matched with demand in Lincoln than in other areas.

- 6.73 Although there are enough pitches to accommodate matches on a peak day, as noted above, adding to the adult play, junior play is well spread meaning that pitches receive heavy use throughout the week. Most of the clubs also train at their own grounds (although all have practice nets) which can add extra wear and tear.
- 6.74 Usage of the facilities for training is largely off peak and therefore does not impact on peak time shortfalls and surpluses. It can however generate wear and tear of the outfield, and on the wicket where artificial wickets are not used. Artificial wickets are considered appropriate by the ECB for training, however their value for matches is limited and even for junior matches, are thought to inhibit player development. There is a particular lack of training facilities in Central Lincolnshire, in terms of both practice nets and artificial pitches.
- 6.75 The following clubs do not have any facilities;
- City of Lincoln - West Common (Rustons CC);
  - North Kesteven - Aswarby CC, Bassingham CC, Hykeham CC, Martin Cricket Club, Nocton CC, North Scarle CC, Waddington CC, Washingborough CC; and
  - West Lindsey - Aisthorpe CC, Bardney CC, Cherry Willingham CC, Cuxwold CC, Middle Rasen CC, Owmbly CC, Reepham CC, Roses CC, South Kelsey CC, Upton Cum Kexby CC, Brocklesby CC and Saxilby CC.
- 6.76 There are also four clubs without nets (Christ Hospital (Old Lincolnians), Keelby CC, Lea Park CC and Willingham CC and eight clubs that do not have access to artificial wickets. All but one of the clubs without artificial wickets is based in North Kesteven (Blankney CC, Bracebridge Heath CC, Branston CC, Heckington CC, Heighington CC, Sleaford CC, Timberland CC (all North Kesteven) and Scothern CC (West Lindsey).
- 6.77 The ECB works alongside the Lincolnshire Cricket Board and associated leagues to improve the quality of the cricket experience and promote higher quality facilities. As detailed above, many grounds are currently used for a full game Saturday and Sunday as well as by junior teams midweek and some clubs are now at capacity at peak times.
- 6.78 While the availability of cricket pitches at peak time is an important issue, the amount of play on a wicket also has a significant impact on the quality of a facility and is the key determinant of overuse.
- 6.79 ECB guidelines suggest that a strip / wicket should be used as follows:
- 3 times – optimum
  - 4 times – overuse
  - 5 times – extensive overuse.
- 6.80 A good quality wicket may take up to 7 junior matches (taking into account the reduced overs in these games). Analysis of the number of strips at each club (using an approximation of 10 as exact provision is not known for the majority of sites) and the number of teams playing on the facilities reveals that supply is overused on several sites, specifically;
- City of Lincoln - Hartsholme CC, Lindum CC;
  - North Kesteven - Washingborough CC, Sleaford CC, Bracebridge Heath CC; and

- West Lindsey - Cherry Willingham CC, Owmbly CC, Market Rasen CC, Keelby CC, Scothern CC, Nettleham CC and Caistor CC. Use is also high at Roses Sports Ground, although this is temporary while the site also accommodates Morton CC.
- 6.81 It must be noted that this provides an indication only. Calculations have been undertaken using broad assumptions (specifically that senior teams will play eight home games per season and that junior use will be equivalent to 10 full games per season). It also assumes that each club will play all fixtures at their home base and that no matches are played on artificial wickets.
- 6.82 It is particularly important to note that almost all of the sites that have high use of wickets, are also at capacity on Saturday and / or Sunday. These are;
- City of Lincoln – Hartsholme CC, Lindum CC
  - North Kesteven – Bracebridge Heath, Sleaford CC, Hykeham CC,
  - West Lindsey – Caistor, Cherry Willingham, Keelby, Market Rasen, Nettleham.
- 6.83 Bracbridge Heath, Scothern, Owmbly, Cherry Willingham and Sleaford CC do not have artificial wickets to support the high levels of use of the fine turf.

#### **Area and Site Specific Issues**

- 6.84 Tables 6.6 to 6.8 are subdivided by local authority. They outline the adequacy of provision at each site in each area, highlighting both site specific issues and providing a picture of cricket more locally in each authority. They outline the information presented throughout this section and are structured as;
- Table 6.6: City of Lincoln
  - Table 6.7: North Kesteven
  - Table 6.8: West Lindsey
- 6.85 It should be noted that use of each site should be considered as indicative only, as several assumptions have been made and indeed teams change almost weekly.

**Table 6.6: Site Specific Issues – City of Lincoln**

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
Christ Hospital (Old Lincolnians)	1	No	1	1		2	4.0	Smart, new changing pavilion	79%		
West Common (Rustons CC)	0	No		1	1	2.8	5.1	Changing room and pavilion poor, location does not enable viewing of the match.	74%		Note Carholme Cricket Club have folded since calculations were undertaken. The site is now therefore shown to be underused and to have capacity to accommodate further play.
Sobraon Barracks (University of Lincoln CC)					2	1.6	2.3			New facility. Good quality and recently funded through partnership	

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
										approach	
Hartsholme CC	1	Yes	2	2	8	10.4	17.1	Appears to sustain high level of play	91%	Grant received to upgrade practice nets – will significantly improve site quality and functionality	
Lindum CC	1	Yes	3	2	10	13	21.4	Shared with rugby, attractive pitch	91%	Outfield becomes muddy and uneven during rugby season	



6.86 Table 6.6 demonstrates that the key issues for City of Lincoln relating to cricket are as follows;

- Reflecting the calculations undertaken earlier in this section, availability of cricket pitches in City of Lincoln (excluding pitches at school sites that are not used) is relatively limited. On a Saturday, there are 2 pitches available (West Common and Sobraon Barracks) and one slot (alternative weeks) at Lincoln Christ Hospital School. Pressures are greater on a Sunday, with just one pitch available (Sobraon Barracks) and Christs Hospital School unoccupied every other week. The collapse of Carholme CC means that West Common is also now available every other week. Both Hartsholme CC and Lindum CC are at capacity on both Saturday and Sunday and both accommodate above average levels of play. This reinforces that demand is relatively closely balanced with supply and that there is limited scope for growth of cricket within the current pitch stock;
- While Sobraon Barracks is a good quality facility (that has recently been upgraded) with availability at the weekend, this is used during the week by the university and it is hoped that this will stimulate high quality cricket in years to come. The site is also available for community use midweek when not used by the university but activity must be balanced around university requirements. The level of usage during the week may however restrict the availability for community cricket at a weekend;
- Despite pressures on pitch capacity, the quality of club cricket pitches is high (albeit some concerns about the impact of rugby at the Lindum CC site and high levels of use at Hartsholme CC). The site at West Common is however relatively poor and there are some concerns relating to the quality and location of the changing pavilion. There have been several match cancellations in the last few years. Cricket (particularly Saturday Cricket) requires high quality facilities and the ongoing quality issues at the site mean that it plays a smaller role in community cricket than it otherwise would do. Furthermore, the key club using the site (Carholme CC) has folded since research and calculations were undertaken. This means that this site has a limited role currently, functioning as overspill provision only;
- Despite issues in Central Lincolnshire as a whole, access to practice facilities is better in Lincoln than in other areas, with all clubs having at least practice nets and / or an artificial wicket on site. The Lincolnshire Cricket Board however identify the need for an indoor cricket training facility to also be available in Lincoln;
- There are no known specific club aspirations for growth in City of Lincoln, however there are clear opportunities to increase the amount of cricket that is played (only 20% of teams are based here in comparison to 32% of the population and it is this area that has the highest propensity for cricket to increase). All clubs have an online presence that seeks to encourage new participants.

6.87 Table 6.7 overleaf outlines the key issues relating to cricket in North Kesteven. It indicates that;

- Cricket in North Kesteven is particularly focused around Sunday. 8 grounds are not used on a Saturday at all and as a consequence, there are several facilities that could be used as potential overspill facilities. In contrast, only one ground (Martin Cricket Club – pulled out of the league this year) is unused every Sunday – all other grounds have at least one team associated with them

- Building upon the above, it is evident that many grounds could sustain significantly higher levels of use than they are currently doing. Aswarby CC, Bassingham CC, Heighington CC, Nocton CC, North Scarle CC and Waddington CC in particular all have significant capacity for more play. In contrast, Blankney CC, Hykeham CC, Washingborough CC, Sleaford CC and Bracebridge Heath CC are sustaining high levels of use which may potentially impact upon pitch quality. Notably all clubs with high levels of use are those in or near to the urban areas (Sleaford, Hykeham, Bracebridge Heath) – it is the more rural clubs that have capacity for additional matches. The possible exception to this is Branston CC, where usage is average and there is scope to increase participation. More importantly, all sites which are at or nearing capacity are located on the periphery of Lincoln city and in close proximity to the proposed Sustainable Urban Extensions. It is these sites where increases in participation may be experienced and where pressures will therefore intensify
- Reflecting points made earlier, several clubs raise quality concerns, largely relating to the quality of pavilions and issues with drainage and maintenance. There are no very poor quality facilities; however there are some clear opportunities to increase overall pitch quality. In particular, it is evident that high levels of use are becoming evident at some sites and potentially starting to have a detrimental impact. The quality of sites in general is better in the towns (although it is these areas where more wear and tear is starting to become evident). Key quality issues raised include;
  - North Scarle CC – Changing rooms and pitch need a lot of pre season maintenance. Molehills
  - Nocton CC- Drainage issues, uneven outfield. No electricity
  - Blankney CC- Facility adequate with several factors rated good.
  - Branston CC - Grass length poor (due to maintenance regime). Conflict between football and cricket uses
  - Bassingham CC- Lack of designated groundsman inhibits pitch quality. Poor grass cover. Issues with evenness of wicket and surface.
  - Waddington CC-Length of grass
  - Aswarby CC-Pavilion poor
  - Heckington CC-Poor changing rooms, quality of outfield also poor
  - Sleaford CC-Uneven outfield, changing rooms and heating system outdated
- There is a particular lack of nets and artificial wickets in this area. It is clear however that most of those clubs lacking in either (Aswarby CC, Bassingham CC, Hykeham CC, Martin Cricket Club, Nocton CC, North Scarle CC, Waddington CC, Washingborough CC) are those with capacity on the grass wicket. Hykeham CC and Washingborough CC however have high levels of use and the lack of practice facilities is therefore likely to intensify pressures.

**Table 6.7: Site Specific Issues in North Kesteven**

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
Aswarby CC	0	No		1		1	2.0	Cricket pitch set within grounds of country estate.	77%	Facility adequate with several factors rated good. Pavilion poorest feature	No specifics stated
Bassingham CC	0	No		1		1	2.0	Smart, new provision adjoining village hall. Old changing rooms still on site.	81%	Lack of designated groundsman inhibits pitch quality. Poor grass cover. Issues with evenness of wicket and surface.	No specifics stated
Heighington CC	0	No		1		1	2.0		82%		
Nocton CC	0	No		1		1	2.0	Quaint, old changing and tea room. Needs some	75%	Drainage issues, uneven outfield. No electricity	Ladies team

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
								pre-season preparation			
North Scarle CC	0	No		1		1	2.0	Changing rooms and pitch need a lot of pre season maintenance. Molehills	75%		
Waddington CC	0	No		1		1	2.0	Fairly recently extended	82%	Length of grass	
Timberland CC	0	Yes	1	1		2	4.0		82%		
Heckington CC	0	Yes	1	2		3	6.0		84%	Poor changing rooms, quality of outfield also poor	
Branston CC	0	Yes		1	1	1.8	3.1	New astro surface net cage. Square poorly defined	81%	Grass length poor (due to maintenance regime). Conflict between football and cricket uses.	Mixed age group adult team
Blankney CC	0	Yes	1	1	1	2.8	5.1		89%	Facility adequate with several factors rated good.	

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
Hykeham CC	1 (poor)	No	2	2	1	4.8	9.1	Used by football, rugby and cricket	79%		
Washingborough CC	0	No	1	1	4	5.2	8.6	Smart, new changing pavilion for football and cricket	84%		
Sleaford CC	0	Yes	2	2	7	9.6	16.0	Impressive site. Ground in particularly good condition considering time of year.	89%	Uneven outfield, changing rooms and heating system outdated	
Bracebridge Heath CC	0	Yes	2	2	8	10.4	17.1	Appears to sustain high level of play	84%	No response	No specifics stated
Martin Cricket Club	0	No				0	0.0	Square is not well defined	75%	Club have pulled out of league this season.	

6.88 Table 6.8 outlines the site specific issues that can be found in West Lindsey. It reveals that;

- cricket in West Lindsey is particularly focused around Sunday. 10 grounds are not used on a Saturday at all and as a consequence, there are several facilities that could be used as potential overspill facilities. While there are many unused sites on a Saturday, there are also 7 grounds that are operating at or above capacity on a Saturday. 4 sites have capacity to accommodate only one additional team. There are lower levels of availability on a Sunday, with 6 grounds not used at all but twelve sites have capacity for one additional team. This indicates that within West Lindsey as a whole, there are enough cricket pitches. It should be noted however that Willingham CC contains only an artificial wicket – there is no grass square which limits the potential for overspill use of this facility.
- despite the above, seven sites are at capacity on a Saturday and three on a Sunday. All sites that are at capacity on a Saturday are also full on a Sunday (Cherry Willingham CC, Market Rasen CC and Nettleham CC). It is also these sites where use of wickets is highest. With the exception of Owmbly CC and South Kelsey CC, all of the sites with high use of the wicket are at capacity on at least Saturday or Sunday. Notably, these sites are located in the main urban areas and in close proximity to Lincoln. There is however scope to expand activity in Gainsborough without further provision. Roses Sports Ground is currently accommodating Morton Cricket Club, who will relocate back to Morton Playing Fields following renovations to the pitch, ensuring that there remains capacity within Gainsborough;
- the quality of cricket clubs was perceived to be lower in West Lindsey, and coupled with this, fewer sites contain artificial wickets and / or training nets (less than half of cricket clubs have either nets or an artificial wicket). Cherry Willingham CC is the most significant example of this – the club is at or approaching capacity and does not have either nets or an artificial wicket;
- reflecting points made earlier, several clubs raise quality concerns, largely relating to the quality of pavilions and issues with drainage and maintenance. There are some clear opportunities to increase overall pitch quality. In particular, it is evident that high levels of use are becoming evident at some sites and potentially starting to have a detrimental impact. Key quality issues raised include;
  - Upton Cum Kexby CC - Lack of facilities for coaching. Grass cover could be improved;
  - Middle Rasen CC - Molehills. Relatively poor pavilion;
  - Lea Park CC - Pavilion suffered from vandalism - replaced since site visit. No changing rooms;
  - Aisthorpe CC - Poor drainage, pavilion in need of improvement;
  - Market Rasen CC - Poor drainage, pavilion in need of improvement, car park needs tarmacking; and
  - Brocklesby CC - require covers for wicket. Changing pavilion poor.

**Table 6.8: Site Specific Issues in West Lindsey**

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
Aisthorpe CC	0	No		1		1	2.0	Small old wooden pavilion. Molehills	68%	Poor drainage, pavilion in need of improvement	No specifics stated
Bardney CC	0	No		1		1	2.0	Square poorly defined	79%	No response	No specifics stated
Roses CC	0	No		1		5	2.0	Unprotected square	74%	Good provision	
South Kelsey CC	0	No	2			2	4.0	Molehill infestation, remedial work required	67%		
Marshalls CC			1	1		2	4.0				
Cuxwold CC	0	No			1	0.8	1.1	Molehill infestation. Square set in a hollow with sloping outfield	68%	No response	

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
Willingham CC	1	No			1	0.8	1.1	New artificial wicket between football pitches. No evidence of grass square	77%	Good provision	Ladies 35 and over
Middle Rasen CC	0	No		1	1	1.8	3.1	Adjoins village hall, size of pitch constrained by hedges	81%	Molehills. Relatively poor pavilion	
Reepham CC	0	No		1	1	1.8	3.1		75%		
Lea Park CC	1 (poor)	No	1	1	1	2.8	5.1	Third of pitch was under water at time of visit.	75%	Pavilion suffered from vandalism - replaced since site visit. No changing rooms	Youth coaching
Upton Cum Kexby CC	0	No		1	4	4.2	6.6		82%	Lack of facilities for coaching. Would like larger pitch but failed in bid to purchase	Expansion of junior section



Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
										adjacent land. Grass cover could be improved	
Cherry Willingham CC	0	No	2	2	4	7.2	12.6		81%	No response	
Owmby CC	0	No	1	1	5	6	9.7		88%	Good provision. Moss and weeds are only concern	
Market Rasen CC	1 (poor)	Yes	2	2	5	8	13.7		88%	Poor drainage, pavilion in need of improvement, car park needs tarmacking	
Keelby CC	1	No	2	1	6	7.8	12.9	Smart, new changing complex shared with other sports. Square neither protected nor apparent.	74%		
Scothern CC	0	Yes	2	1	6	7.8	12.9	Adjoins village hall, size of pitch	82%		

Clubs	Artificial Wickets	Practice Nets	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Average Use of Strip (average 10 available). Highlighted where average use is high and there is no artificial wicket	Number of Strips Required (5 matches adults and 7 matches juniors)	Site Visit Comment	Site Visit Score	Club Comments	Club aspirations
								constrained by hedges			
Nettleham CC	1	Yes	2	2	6	8.8	14.9		86%	8 wickets, club struggle to accommodate all matches. Square cannot be enlarged due to football	Ladies team
Caistor CC	1	Yes	3	1	7	9.6	16.0		84%	No response. Identified as a key priority by ECB for multiple improvements	
Saxilby CC	0	No			1	0.8	1.1		82%		
Brant Broughton CC					1	0.8	1.1				
Brocklesby CC	0	No	1		1	1.8	3.1	exposed pitch,	82%	Require covers for wicket. Changing pavilion poor	

## Team Generation Rates and Latent Demand

- 6.89 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team, thus enabling analysis of participation. Table 6.9 summarises the TGRs for cricket and provides a comparison with national standards. These national figures should however be treated with caution as the Sport England database has not been updated for several years however it can be concluded that participation in cricket in Central Lincolnshire is high and there is limited latent demand for all forms of the game.

**Table 6.9: TGRs across Central Lincolnshire**

Type of Cricket	Sport England National Average	City of Lincoln TGR	North Kesteven TGR	West Lindsey TGR	Central Lincolnshire TGR
<b>Junior Male Cricket</b>	1:1480	1:220	1:279	1:112	1:178
<b>Junior Female Cricket</b>	1:21052	1:1724	n/a	1:4242	1:4221
<b>Senior Male Cricket</b>	1:1415	1:1563	1:769	1:377	1:695
<b>Senior Female Cricket</b>	1:54,815	n/a	n/a	1:21401	1:75740

## Meeting Future Demand

- 6.90 By applying TGRs to population projections we can estimate the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and also take into account the impact that the ageing population will have on participation in cricket.
- 6.91 For Central Lincolnshire as a whole, the application of current TGRs suggests that participation will remain relatively constant. The growth in population numbers will be offset by the higher proportion of residents that are outside of the age groups that traditionally play cricket. Participation will remain constant as follows;
- There will remain 105 senior teams
  - There will remain 71 junior teams.
- 6.92 There will be little difference within this pattern in each of the three authorities. It is likely that while North Kesteven and West Lindsey will see an increase of circa one team resulting from population growth alone, there will be a decline of one team in City of Lincoln as a result of the lower levels of numbers of residents in the age bracket likely to play senior cricket. There will therefore be no change to current shortfalls and surpluses in provision (assuming that overall participation rates remain constant).
- 6.93 Spatially however, the concentration of growth and the distribution of cricket clubs means that some clubs are more likely to be impacted upon more than others. The more local nature of cricket means that it is important to consider this further.

6.94 Table 6.10 summarises the impact of the proposed SUEs. It outlines the population that it is anticipated will live in each area (including existing population) by 2022 and 2031 and the impact that this will have on the number of cricket teams. Previous analysis indicated that participation up to 2022 overall is likely to remain relatively static (due to the impact of the ageing population). Table 6.11 however demonstrates that in the areas immediately impacted by the creation of SUE there will be a small growth by 2022 (and therefore by association suggesting that there will be a decrease in the number of teams elsewhere) and a more significant increase by 2031.

### **Demand by 2031**

6.95 Table 6.11 summarises the change in the number of teams (based upon Team Generation Rates) between 2011 and 2031 in close proximity to the SUEs. It indicates that there will be increases of;

- 5 adult and 3 junior teams in Gainsborough
- 2 adult and 2 junior teams in Sleaford
- 5 adult and 4 junior teams in and around Lincoln.

The majority of these increases will take place between 2022 and 2031.

6.96 It should be noted that both of these tables are calculated using the anticipated population in each output area where SUEs will be created (using figures supplied by Central Lincolnshire Partnership). They take into account the ageing population using assumptions set out in Section 3 and all potential team figures are calculated using TGRs for Central Lincolnshire as a whole.

**Table 6.10 – Demand for cricket in SUEs**

Census OA	Planned Housing	Future Population	Future Population	Future Junior	Future Senior	Future 2031 Junior	Future 2031 Senior	Future Teams 2022 (calculated using TGR)				Future Teams 2031 (calculated using TGR)			
		2022	2031					Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female
Gainsborough North	2400	1296	5353	98	583	407	2409	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.1	0.0
Gainsborough East	2100	1006	5353	76	453	407	2409	0.3	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.7	0.0	1.1	0.0
Gainsborough South	2500	1348	6523	102	607	496	2935	0.4	0.0	0.3	0.0	2.1	0.0	1.4	0.1
Sleaford West	1750	2195	5817	167	988	442	2618	0.7	0.0	0.5	0.0	1.8	0.0	1.2	0.1
Sleaford South	1600	1159	4471	88	522	340	2012	0.4	0.0	0.2	0.0	1.4	0.0	0.9	0.0
Lincoln WGC	2700	3752	9584	285	1688	728	4313	1.2	0.0	0.8	0.0	3.0	0.0	2.0	0.1
Lincoln NEQ	2000	1756	6076	133	790	462	2734	0.6	0.0	0.4	0.0	1.9	0.0	1.3	0.1
Lincoln SEQ	2800	1684	7732	128	758	588	3479	0.5	0.0	0.4	0.0	2.5	0.0	1.6	0.1

**Table 6.11 – Growth in output areas where SUEs will be developed**

Area	Change in Number of Teams between 2011 and 2031			
	Senior Male	Senior Female	Junior Male	Junior Female
<i>Gainsborough North</i>	1.4	0.0	1.0	0.0
<i>Gainsborough East</i>	1.5	0.0	1.0	0.0
<i>Gainsborough South</i>	1.8	0.0	1.2	0.1
<i>Sleaford West</i>	1.2	0.0	0.8	0.0
<i>Sleaford South</i>	1.1	0.0	0.8	0.0
<i>Lincoln WGC</i>	2.0	0.0	1.3	0.1
<i>Lincoln NEQ</i>	1.5	0.0	1.0	0.0
<i>Lincoln SEQ</i>	2.1	0.0	1.4	0.1

6.97 If new cricket pitches are not provided as part of the SUEs (and there is already a network of sustainable clubs in the area), clubs in close proximity to areas of growth are likely to see an increase in club membership. Those that are likely to be impacted upon by high growth are as follows;

- Lindum CC (already nearing capacity in terms of both use of wicket and peak time usage)
- Hartsholme CC (already nearing capacity in terms of both use of wicket and peak time usage)
- Rustons CC
- Aswarby CC
- Bracebridge Heath CC (already nearing capacity in terms of both use of wicket and peak time usage)
- Branston CC
- Hykeham CC (already nearing capacity in terms of both use of wicket and peak time usage)
- Sleaford CC (already nearing capacity in terms of both use of wicket and peak time usage)Waddington Cricket Club
- Cherry Willingham CC (already nearing capacity in terms of both use of wicket and peak time usage)
- Roses Cricket Club (has capacity but is currently accommodating teams from Morton CC)

- 6.98 There is therefore some capacity within the existing stock to accommodate the growth (particularly in Gainsborough) but satellite facilities (or the creation of new clubs) may be required in the longer term.
- 6.99 The ECB also have ongoing aspirations for the growth of cricket and several clubs indicate that they wish to continue to expand. None of the clubs above that are reaching capacity have specific stated aspirations to expand.
- 6.100 It will therefore be important to consider how future demand will be met. It is clear that overall. This is however reliant upon larger clubs sharing with smaller clubs. Without this, in areas of high growth set out above, where clubs are already at or approaching capacity, there will be insufficient facilities to meet demand and new provision will be required, particularly between 2022 and 2031.

## Summary and Key Issues

### Key issues to address – Cricket

Cricket is a popular sport in Central Lincolnshire and there is a strong network of cricket clubs. There is a particularly high number of cricket teams in West Lindsey (in proportion to the population) while participation in cricket is much lower in City of Lincoln. Local cricket leagues indicate that demand has either remained static or increased in recent years. Active People surveys indicate that there is some potential to increase participation and that there is interest from some residents in older age groups as well as those who are more traditionally likely to play cricket.

Cricket clubs are very proactive and there a reasonable level of satisfaction with the quality of existing facilities (68% of clubs are satisfied). Changing facilities, drainage and issues with maintenance are the main concerns and pitches and facilities at larger clubs are generally of higher quality than those in more rural areas. Issues relating to maintenance are also reflected by the Lincolnshire Cricket Board (who emphasise the importance of groundsmanship skills and the role of succession planning) and a lack of access to training facilities is also highlighted. There are also clear variations in the quality of changing facilities and ancillary accommodation and this is considered to be a key issue by local league secretaries.

Analysis of the adequacy of supply to meet demand at peak time (Sunday afternoon -42%) suggests that including schools, there are 28 pitches surplus to requirements. The quality of pitches at schools is however relatively poor, (only two are used – Lincoln Christs Hospital and Trent Valley Academy, Gainsborough). When excluding school sites, capacity is only just sufficient in Lincoln (1.4 pitches surplus) but there remain sufficient pitches in North Kesteven (10.1) and West Lindsey (7.5)

Several clubs have strong junior sections which exert further pressures on pitches. Several clubs are at or approaching capacity, including

- City of Lincoln – Hartsholme CC, Lindum CC
- North Kesteven – Bracebridge Heath, Hykeham, Sleaford CC.
- West Lindsey – Caistor, Cherry Willingham, Keelby, Market Rasen, Nettleham,

Application of Team Generation Rates indicates that across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, the increase in the population will serve to negate the impact of the ageing population and the number of cricket teams is likely to remain constant. The concentration of the high growth however (coupled with the tendency for residents to choose one of their local cricket clubs) may however mean that there are particular pressures on a smaller number of clubs that are located in closer proximity to areas of growth. Most of the sites that are at or approaching capacity are situated in areas that will see high levels of growth (Hartsholme CC, Lindum CC, Bracebridge Heath CC, Hykeham CC, Sleaford CC, Cherry Willingham CC). It will therefore be important to consider how future demand will be met as while overall there are sufficient pitches (although provision in City of Lincoln is becoming tight), this is reliant upon clubs sharing facilities and using pitches as overspill when their own grounds have no further capacity.



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## Strategic Priorities

### Ensure that there are enough facilities

**C1: In partnership with the Lincolnshire Cricket Board, ensure that the amount of cricket facilities available does not impact on the opportunities to grow participation in the sport.** Many clubs are nearing capacity, particularly on a Saturday and Sunday afternoon. While overall there are sufficient facilities, it is important to ensure that particularly in areas of high growth, a shortage of facilities does not constrain existing or future participation. Facilities for use by these clubs should be sought through;

- Retaining existing cricket pitches
- the ongoing development of relationships between larger and smaller clubs. This has already proved successful, with many larger clubs using facilities owned by smaller clubs. Use of facilities at other clubs provides an important source of income for smaller clubs and may support the overall sustainability of cricket across the area
- the development of school club links and the establishment of a relationship between schools and cricket clubs. Facilities at school sites can then be used by the cricket club as the club expands. Note improvements to the quality of facilities are likely to also be required (in line with recommendation (C3) as most school sites are not currently of sufficient quality to sustain club use
- the provision of a new satellite ground for clubs at capacity where this represents a sustainable option for growth.

Any new facilities should be provided in conjunction with an existing club or in support of a new club that has appropriate leadership and structures in place. They should also meet with National Governing Body quality standards and design guidance.

### Pitch Quality

**C2; Support improvements to the quality of pitches.** Key areas for improvement relate to:

- grounds maintenance skills – qualifications and education, as well membership of the Institute of Groundsmen;
- appropriate machinery;
- changing pavilions;
- equipment; and
- surface and drainage.

**C3: Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities.** As well as improving overall performance, such facilities will reduce pressures on the existing. This might include the provision of outdoor cricket nets and / or artificial wickets at larger clubs that do not currently have access to such facilities

### Promote increases in participation and the creation of sustainable clubs

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**C4: Support the introduction of development initiatives to increase participation in cricket. This may include;**

- new forms of the game such as Last Man Standing;
  - initiatives targeting school pupils;
  - introduction of an informal cricket league; and
  - coach education and training.
-

## 7. Rugby

7.1 This section provides:

- An overview of supply and demand for rugby
- An evaluation of the overall adequacy of pitches to meet demand
- Site Specific Issues and Opportunities
- Summary and key issues to address.

### Pitch Supply

7.2 There are 35 rugby union pitches within Central Lincolnshire. Table 7.1 summarises the rugby pitches that are available across the whole area. It demonstrates that 18 pitches are senior sized pitches and 6 are midi pitches. Six pitches are not secured for use by the community.

**Table 7.1: Rugby Pitches in Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Site	Senior Pitches Available	Junior Pitches Available	Midi Pitches Available	Community Use
City of Lincoln	Lincoln RUFC – Lindum Sports Association	2	1		Yes
	Lincoln Prison	1			Yes (unsecured)
	Lincoln University – Brayford Pool	1			Lincoln University only
	Lincoln Christs Hospital School	1			Yes
North Kesteven	North Kesteven School Sports Centre	1			Yes
	Sleaford RUFC	4	2	6	Yes
	North Hykeham RUFC	1			Yes
	Carre's Grammar School	1			Yes

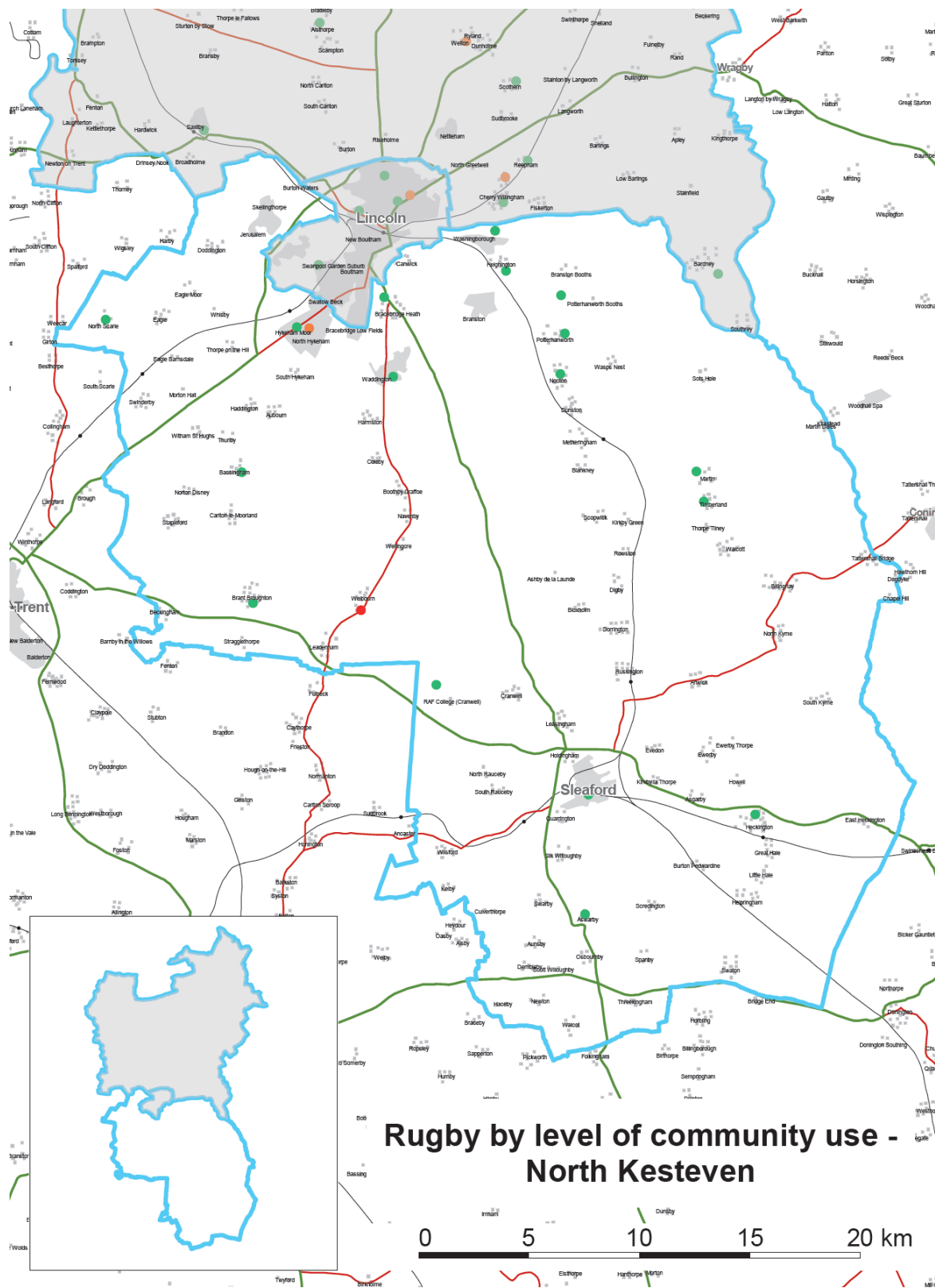
Area	Site	Senior Pitches Available	Junior Pitches Available	Midi Pitches Available	Community Use
	Sleaford Ruskington School	1			No
	RAF Cranwell	2			Yes
	RAF Digby	1			No
	RAF Waddington	1			No
	Branston Community School	1			No
West Lindsey	Market Rasen and Louth RUFC	3	0	0	Yes
	Gainsborough RUFC (Trent Valley Academy)	1			Yes
	Cherry Willingham Community School	1	0	0	Yes
	Welton William Farr School	1			Yes
	Queen Elizabeth School	1			Yes but not secured
	Market Rasen De Aston School	1			Yes
TOTAL		26	3	6	

7.3 Maps 7.1 – 7.3 outline the distribution of rugby pitches across Central Lincolnshire. They demonstrate that each local authority has at least one rugby club as well as other rugby pitches distributed sparsely across the local area.

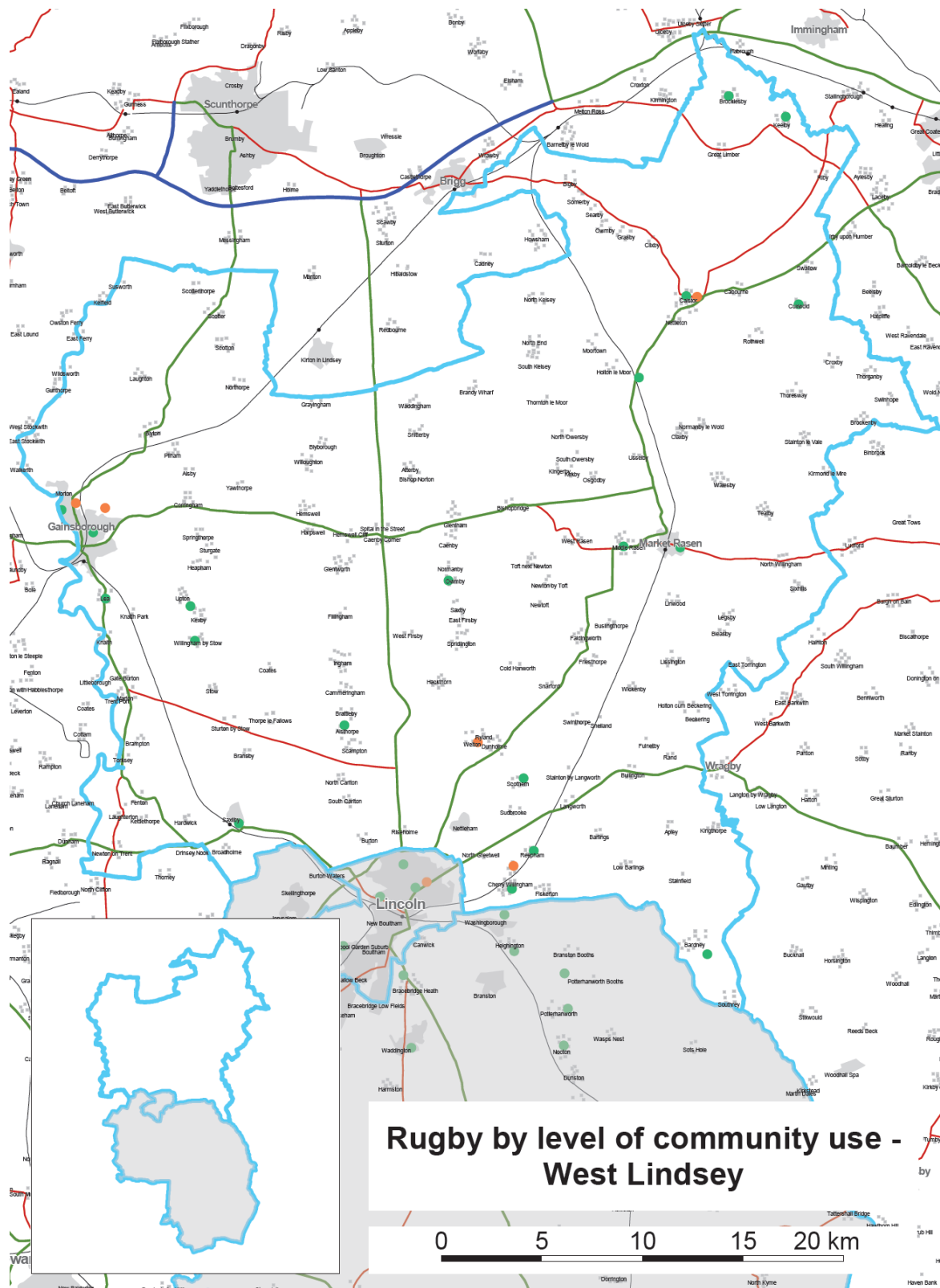
**Map 7.1: Rugby Pitches in Central Lincolnshire (City of Lincoln)**



**Map 7.2: Rugby Pitches in Central Lincolnshire (North Kesteven)**



**Map 7.3: Rugby Pitches in Central Lincolnshire (West Lindsey)**



## Demand

### Active People and Market Segmentation Analysis

- 7.4 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation (explained in Section 3), it is possible to evaluate how many residents of Central Lincolnshire **do** participate in rugby and how many of the population **would like** to participate in rugby. It is also possible to understand how this varies across different part of Central Lincolnshire.
- 7.5 Table 7.2 sets out the current proportion of residents that participate according to Active People and also illustrates the proportion of residents that would like to play. It builds upon information set out in Section 3.
- 7.6 In total, there are 3180 current rugby players in Central Lincolnshire. The proportion of the population that plays is slightly higher in Lincoln than in North Kesteven and West Lindsey and the amount of latent demand is also higher. Analysis of participation geographically indicates that play is highest in North Lincoln and lowest in the Gainsborough area of West Lindsey. Outside of these areas, participation is consistent. Latent demand is also consistent across the whole of Central Lincolnshire.
- 7.7 Like other pitch sports, the profile of the population means that the overall propensity to play rugby is lower than average.



**Table 7.2: Current and Potential Participation in Rugby (Active People)**

Authority	% of Adult Population	% of Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play	Geographical Variation	Market Segments
City of Lincoln	1.51%	0.38%	1,366 (1.89%)	Highest participation in Central Lincoln (2.1-5%). Lowest in north. Proportion of people who would like to play is spatially even	Jamie, Ben, Tim. Same groups as above, but some interest also from kev (who has higher latent demand than Tim) and Philip.
North Kesteven	1.36%	0.34%	1,435 (1.7%)	Participation spatially even. Those that would like to play are also spatially even.	Ben, Tim. Some participants in groups of Philip and Jamie. Interest from same groups, plus Jamie, Philip and Roger and Joy.
West Lindsey	1.34%	0.34%	1,187 (1.68%)	Participation even except Gainsborough (one SOA lower). Those that would like to play are spatially even.	Key participants – Ben, Tim, Jamie and Philip. Kev and Roger and Joy also demonstrate some aspirations to play.

### Current Participation

- 7.8 There are five community rugby clubs based within the boundaries of Central Lincolnshire. According to data collated by the RFU, in 2012 - 2013 these clubs accommodate 1292 rugby union players, which is an increase of 9% from participation in 2011. In addition, the University of Lincoln runs two male rugby teams.
- 7.9 Three of the five clubs operate junior as well as adult teams, meaning that there are opportunities for progression through the age groups. The remaining two clubs offer junior training. Table 7.3 summarises the rugby clubs within Central Lincolnshire.

**Table 7.3 – Rugby Clubs in Central Lincolnshire**

Club	Adult Teams	Colts Teams	Junior Teams	Mini / Midi Teams	Venue	League
<b>Lincoln Rugby Club</b>	4 male and 1 ladies team	None	6 junior teams	6 midi teams	Lincoln Rugby Club. Also play at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School and Lincoln Prison	Midlands 2 East(North), Lincs Merit League, NLD Cup
<b>Market Rasen and Louth Rugby Club</b>	4 adult male teams, 1 ladies team and a veterans team	None	7 junior teams	5 midi teams	Market Rasen and Louth RUFC, Willingham Road	RFU Midlands Div1 (East), Notts Pennant league Div1, Lincs Merit League
<b>Sleaford Rugby Club</b>	2 adult male teams	1 team	5 junior male teams and 2 girls teams	6 midi teams	Sleaford RUFC	Midlands League, Notts Pennant League, Lincs Merit league and various cups
<b>North Hykeham Rugby Club</b>	2 adult teams		Junior training (no competitive fixtures)		Memorial Fields, North Hykeham	Midlands Division 5 East (North), Lincs Merit Table
<b>Gainsborough Rugby Club</b>	2 senior male teams		Some training undertaken with juniors		Gainsborough RUFC, Queen Elizabeths High School Gainsborough	Lincolnshire Merit League
<b>University of Lincoln</b>	2 senior male teams				Lincoln University	BUCS

### Trends in Participation

- 7.10 Analysis of club membership demonstrates mixed participation trends. Whilst participation at Gainsborough Rugby Club has increased marginally, there have been significant increases at Market Rasen and Louth RUFC, Sleaford RUFC and North Hykeham RUFC. In contrast, although the amount of adults playing at Lincoln RUFC has increased, there has been a decline in the number of members of the junior section.
- 7.11 Table 7.4 summarises the trends in participation recorded by the RFU between 2011 – 2012 and 2012 – 2013 seasons.

**Table 7.4: Participation Trends (information supplied by RFU)**

Club	Type of Rugby	Percentage Increase / Decrease
Gainsborough	Adult	5%
	Youth	
	Mini	
Lincoln	Adult	10%
	Youth	-1%
	Mini	-30%
Market Rasen	Adult	5%
	Youth	73%
	Mini	124%
North Hykeham	Adult	16%
	Youth	
	Mini	
Sleaford	Adult	1%
	Youth	26%
	Mini	26%

### Quality of Rugby Pitches

- 7.12 Pitch quality influences the amount of matches that can be sustained, and as a consequence has a significant impact on the overall adequacy of supply in an area.
- 7.13 Site assessments have been carried out in line with the assessment matrix provided in Towards a Level Playing Field – these assessments are non-technical assessments designed to provide an overview of pitch quality and the degree to which facilities are fit for purpose. The non-technical site assessments revealed the quality of rugby pitches to be good overall although there is some scope for improvement. Like cricket and football pitches, some issues with drainage were identified.
- 7.14 On a site by site basis, the site visits revealed the following quality issues:

- **Gainsborough RUFC** – facility at school site. Potential for improvement of facility – basic club facility
- **Lincoln RUFC** – pitch enclosed, training area on pitch. Club are shortly moving to new site where it is hoped that all existing issues with the current site are addressed. Current site is secure, minimising the potential for unofficial use
- **Market Rasen and Louth RUFC** - Functional rugby site with large changing/social area. Car park needs resurfacing. One pitch is floodlit for training. There is some evidence of damage to the surface of the pitch, perhaps caused by overuse
- **North Hykeham RUFC** – site contains a separate training area. Site is unsecured and reflecting this, there was evidence of dog fouling at the time of the visit as well as damage to the surface
- **Sleaford RUFC** – large changing pavilion and two floodlit pitches. Some evidence of damage to the surface and grass bare in places. Pitches also uneven in parts.

#### **Club Consultation – Quality Issues and other issues experienced**

7.15 Consultation with the rugby clubs in general reveals the following;

- 50% of rugby players in Central Lincolnshire travel above 3 miles to play;
- Key issue for clubs is the overuse of club pitches, particularly floodlit pitches. There are also concerns about the availability of appropriate facilities;
- Despite recent growth, there are aspirations to continue to increase participation, with a particular focus on youth and ladies rugby; and
- The key barriers to growth are identified as facilities, a lack of coaches and volunteers and a shortage of external funding.

7.16 Key issues identified specific to each club include;

- **Gainsborough RUFC** – no response received from club
- **Lincoln RUFC** – the current main pitch is well looked after however the 2nd team pitch has poor drainage and very little grass. Both pitches are often out of use due to the drainage and wear and tear of the facilities – only one pitch has floodlights and this is therefore used extensively for training. The club use pitches at Lincoln Christs Hospital School as well as the Prison as overspill venues for training and do not have enough space to accommodate all of their teams. The changing accommodation and car parking are also particularly poor. The new facilities will address the majority of these concerns and it is anticipated that the facilities will be of high quality. In addition, there will be training lights on one of the new pitches for training and lights will also be installed on the first pitch for evening fixtures. The club hope to purchase portable goals to support further training. There will be a new club house with full disabled facilities, referees room with shower facilities and six changing rooms, all to approved specifications
- **Market Rasen and Louth RUFC** – Quality of pitches is acceptable, but condition of changing and car parking is poor. The pitches are generally overused and all pitches suffer from poor drainage. Overuse of the facility makes the pitches

unusable after periods of heavy rain. The club have significant aspirations for ongoing development and in conjunction with the RFU, have created a clear development plan for all aspects of club growth, including facilities, volunteer development, coaching and membership. With regards facilities, specific targets include;

- securing additional playing space;
  - expanding the clubhouse and providing extra changing for teams and officials, toilets along with improved accessibility; and
  - installing floodlights on a second pitch.
- **North Hykeham RUFC** – pitches perceived to be of good quality, although there are issues with dog fouling, caused primarily by the open access nature of the playing fields and their subsequent use for dog walking. The quality of equipment (posts / sockets etc is also poor. The club sometimes have difficulties in securing appropriate match facilities, as when there are two home fixtures they are reliant upon the use of the school site opposite which is not always possible.
  - **Sleaford RUFC** – Facilities considered to be acceptable to poor, with only changing accommodation considered to be good. Club have concerns relating to the cost of maintenance. Some floodlighting is in need of repair. Grass coverage, evenness of pitches (due to rabbits) and the quality of equipment considered to be key issues for the club. Sleaford RUFC have issues accessing appropriate training facilities and indicate that a lack of floodlit areas prevents teams from midweek training. Car parking facilities are also perceived to be inadequate for larger events preventing running of festivals without risking damaging the playing surfaces. The club have a particularly wide catchment area, with the majority of players travelling 5 miles or more to reach the club.

### **National Governing Body perspective**

7.17 Facilities are one of the most important components of a rugby club. They drive the club ethos and spirit and facilitate high quality participation and club development. Rugby is increasing in popularity as a sport, with 26,000 new players joining the game in the third quarter of 2012 and it is hoped that this growth will continue, particularly as the rugby world cup will be held in 2015. Appropriate amounts of facilities are essential if clubs are to grow and to develop and attract new members. Facilities are also central to the sustainability of rugby clubs.

7.18 The overall vision of the RFU National Facilities Strategy (2013 – 2017) is;

*'Strengthening our Member Clubs and Growing the Game in Communities around them'*

7.19 Effective and efficient facilities are seen as a key component of achieving this goal. Rugby development opportunities (including both the retention of existing players, the recruitment of new players and the development of coaches and volunteers are seen as being essential to the success of the strategy delivery.

7.20 The strategy seeks to;

- recognise the role of facility development in the delivery of community rugby's core purpose and key drivers;

- provide evidence-based conclusions on the current key facility issues affecting the sustainability and growth of rugby union in England;
- set out priority areas for future investment;
- outline a facility planning model to enable the delivery of the strategy at a local level;
- highlight other key factors in the delivery of high quality facilities; and
- outline the need for and role of associated Investment Strategies.

7.21 The strategy indicates that the key priorities of the RFU in relation to rugby clubs are as follows:

- increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child- friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club;
- improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches (including maintenance);
- improve the quality and quantity of floodlighting; and
- increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development outcomes.

7.22 The document indicates that investment in the following will also be prioritised;

- social, community and catering facilities, that can support diversification and the generation of additional revenues;
- facility upgrades, which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs; and
- pitch equipment, including quality rugby posts and pads.

7.23 Increasing participation in rugby by teenagers, with a particular focus on retaining players during the transition between junior and senior rugby is a key priority of the RFU and there is also work underway to grow the amount of female participants. In addition to continuing to build the existing club infrastructure, touch rugby, a newer form of the game is also being introduced in an attempt to attract new participants to the sport. It is hoped that growth across the club structure will amount to at least 2% of participants per annum.

7.24 The facilities strategy sets out three types of model venues, which seek to balance the level of activity that takes place at a club with the facilities that are provided (both on and off the field). The three tiers of provision are;

- Model Venue 1: This is usually a club, school, university or other provider playing lower level or recreational rugby;
- Model Venue 2: An established club venue with a wider programme of adult and junior rugby for both male and female; and
- Model Venue 3: A venue with potentially higher level competitive rugby that can provide for more sophisticated RFU development programmes.

- 7.25 The strategy indicates that the range of facilities required should be driven by the activity that takes place.
- 7.26 Locally, rugby union is a very popular sport and there have been significant efforts put in to increasing participation in partnership with clubs. As a result, participation in Lincolnshire is high in comparison to many other areas.
- 7.27 Increasing participation in rugby by teenagers, with a particular focus on retaining players during the transition between junior and senior rugby is a key priority of the RFU and there is also work underway to increase the amount of female participants. In addition to continuing to build the existing club infrastructure, touch rugby, a newer form of the game is also being introduced in an attempt to attract new participants to the sport. It is hoped that growth across the club structure will amount to at least 2% of participants per annum. Appropriate facilities will be essential if the development of rugby in the Central Lincolnshire area is to continue. Reflecting comments made by clubs, the RFU highlight several issues relating to the club bases:
- Lincoln RUFC are currently in the process of relocating from Lindum Sports Ground to a new site and it is anticipated that the new ground and associated club house will meet all of the club's needs. Having previously been part of a multi sports club, the club will be in charge of their own management and maintenance following the relocation
  - North Hykeham RUFC –require training floodlights. Although this club had a successful girls and ladies section for a while, it has since folded
  - Gainsborough RUFC are currently in negotiations to obtain security of tenure on the school site that they currently hire (Trent Valley Academy). The achievement of this goal will enable them to apply for capital funding towards the installation of new mobile floodlights
  - Sleaford RUFC – may require new floodlights to enable activity to be sustained
  - Market Rasen and Louth Rugby Club – the amount of activity that is currently sustained at the site means that an extension to the existing facilities is required.
- 7.28 As well as ensuring that clubs have appropriate facilities, it is essential to maximise knowledge and understanding relating to club sustainability and the maintenance of facilities. The RFU Seal of Approval accreditation recognises the effort and achievement of volunteers in reaching the standard required in the development of rugby across the whole club, and to plan for the long-term sustainability of the club. Lincoln RUFC have achieved accreditation and Market Rasen and Louth RUFC are also working towards this goal.

### **Supply and Demand Modelling**

- 7.29 Table 7.5 evaluates the adequacy of existing pitch provision on a peak day. It includes all facilities, whether or not they are available for community use and compares this against the number of teams wishing to play (assuming that each team plays home and away on alternative weeks). As two midi games can be played on an adult pitch, it is assumed that 2 midi teams are equivalent of one adult team.

**Table 7.5: Adequacy of rugby pitches taking into account all pitches**

	Number of pitches	Total Number of Match Equivalents per week	Total Number of Matches (Saturday – Senior)	Total Number of Matches (Sunday morning – Junior and Midi)	Total Number of Sunday afternoon (female and colts)	Shortfall / Surplus at Peak Time (Sunday morning)
City of Lincoln	6	8	2	4.5	0.5	1.5
North Kesteven	21	9	3	6.5	1	14.5
West Lindsey	8	8.5	2	5	1	3

7.30 Table 7.5 therefore suggests that there are enough rugby pitches in Central Lincolnshire to meet peak time demand. There are however pressures in Lincoln, with just 1.5 pitches surplus to requirements at peak time (prior to club relocation). There are only just enough pitches in West Lindsey. It should also be noted that both Hykeham RUFC and Gainsborough RUFC run some coaching sessions for juniors, which may also happen at peak time.

### **Impact of Training on Capacity**

7.31 All rugby clubs in Central Lincolnshire train predominantly at their club base and each club has at least one floodlit pitch (although some repairs are required to facilities at Sleaford). Only North Hykeham RUFC however have a separate training area.

7.32 This additional use of the facilities has impact on pitch quality and this is picked up in consultation with rugby clubs, with all clubs indicating that their pitches are overused due to the use of match pitches for training. While some training takes place on other sites (primarily Lincoln RUFC) the majority occurs at the home ground.

7.33 This can be considered by including this training within modelling. Based on the number of teams at each club and the number of training sessions clubs are thought to have, it has been assumed that the impact of training is equivalent to the following;

- Gainsborough RUFC – training is equivalent to 1 match per week
- Lincoln RUFC – training is equivalent to 7 matches per week
- North Hykeham RUFC – training is equivalent to 1 match per week
- Market Rasen and Louth RUFC – training is equivalent to 7 matches per week



- Sleaford RUFC – training is equivalent to 5 matches per week
- Lincoln University RUFC – training is equivalent to 1 match per week.

7.34 This means that training generates the equivalent of an additional 22 matches per week (44 team equivalents).

7.35 Nine of the rugby pitches across Central Lincolnshire are located at school sites and are therefore subject to wear and tear during a typical curriculum programme, particularly for PE lessons and by school teams. The implications of these uses can also be factored in as team equivalents based on the following assumptions:

- each school with a rugby pitch runs 2 hours outdoor PE per week per year group – equivalent of 5 teams (2.5 matches per week); and
- each school with a rugby pitch also has 5 school teams that compete (2.5 matches per week).

7.36 These implications represent the worst case scenario and assume that all PE use is focused on the rugby pitches and would generate an additional 90 teams (45 matches per week. It must be noted that Demand from school lessons and training does not impact upon the adequacy of provision to meet peak time demand, however it increases the amount of times pitches are used significantly. Table 7.5 evaluates the impact of both training and school use on the amount of times pitches are used per week.

**Table 7.6: Adequacy of rugby pitches in Central Lincolnshire**

Number of pitches	Club Matches	Use including training team equivalents	Use including PE lessons and training	Matches per week per pitch
35	25.5	25.5+22	25.5+22+45	2.6

7.37 As is illustrated above, when taking into account the implications of training patterns and school use of facilities, it is clear that pitch provision is much more well used than initially suggested. While this perhaps over emphasises the use of the facilities, all schools with a rugby pitch are involved in playing rugby in some capacity and use of their facilities is a vital part of this. This is particularly true for Trent Valley Academy, which is also used by Gainsborough Rugby Club.

### **Access and Capacity**

7.38 Four of the five rugby clubs have their own facilities although there is some ad hoc use of other facilities for training. Most of this use is by Lincoln RUFC and this is likely to decline following the establishment of the new facility at Lodge Lane.

7.39 Pitches in at Sleaford Ruskington School, Branston Community School, RAF Waddington and RAF Digby (all North Kesteven) are not available to the public, while facilities at the Prison (Lincoln) and Queen Elizabeth School (West Lindsey) are unsecured. Furthermore, while Trent Valley Academy has secured public use, Gainsborough RUFC do not have a long term lease for the site.

- 7.40 Table 7.7 considers the implications of removing these pitches from consideration on the ability to meet demand at peak time. It demonstrates that provision is more closely matched with demand, but that play at peak time can still be met across Central Lincolnshire as a whole. More locally, in the City of Lincoln there is a shortage of facilities and in West Lindsey supply is only just above demand.

**Table 7.7: Impact of Access Arrangements to School Facilities**

	Number of pitches	Total Number of Match Equivalents per week	Total Number of Matches (Saturday – Senior)	Total Number of Matches (Sunday morning – Junior and Midi)	Total Number of Sunday afternoon (female and colts)	Shortfall / Surplus at Peak Time (Sunday morning)
City of Lincoln	5	8	2	4.5	0.5	0.5
North Kesteven	16	9	3	6.5	1	9.5
West Lindsey	7	8.5	2	5	1	2

- 7.41 The nature of rugby however means that the adequacy of provision at the club base is the overarching priority and this is also emphasised in the national rugby facilities strategy. Satellite facilities at school sites, while offering a useful short-term solution do not fit into the club ethos and can inhibit club development if they become permanent features.
- 7.42 As set out earlier in this section, Gainsborough RUFC are currently in negotiations to secure security of tenure to the facility that they currently rent at Trent Valley Academy. If these discussions were not successful, the club would have to make the decision whether to relocate or to continue to rent this facility (but acknowledge that this means that there is limited opportunity to secure access to capital funding without security of tenure). The loss of the pitch at this site would not generate a shortfall in provision overall (but would ensure that supply remains sufficient in West Lindsey) but would leave the club without a home base.

### **The Impact of Pitch Quality and Capacity**

- 7.43 Both site visits and consultation confirm that drainage is an issue affecting several of the rugby clubs. With the exception of one pitch at Sleaford RUFC, all drainage at club sites is natural and is considered to be between poor and acceptable. Guidance from the RFU in relation to the capacity of pitches with drainage issues is set out in Table 7.8. It clearly indicates that for pitches with natural drainage, between 1 and 2 matches per week is acceptable.

**Table 7.8: Impact of Drainage on Capacity**

		Maintenance		
		Poor	Adequate	Good
Drainage	Natural (Inadequate)	1	2	3
	Natural (Adequate)	2	3	4
	Pipe Drained	2.5	3.5	4.5
	Pipe and Slit Drained	3.0	4	5

7.44 As outlined earlier in this section, when taking into account school use as well as the impact of community play and training, some pitches are required to sustain more than this level of use.

7.45 The impact of pitch capacity will be considered further in text below and overleaf.

#### **Site Specific Supply and Demand**

7.46 Table 7.9 therefore considers the adequacy of supply to meet demand at each of club bases. It focuses on the club bases as the remaining schools are purely accommodating curricular and extracurricular activity at the current time.

7.47 It can be seen that while the overall spread of rugby across the week generates theoretical surpluses of provision, when looking at the club bases, the number of games played per week is significantly above the levels that may be expected, especially given the poor drainage at several of the pitches. In particular, it is noticeable that activity at Market Rasen RUFC and Lincoln RUFC is high and both clubs(in their current form) are at capacity.

**Table 7.9: Club Based Issues – Rugby**

Venue	Baseline Supply and Demand		Home Games Per Week			Peak Time capacity			Games Per Pitch	Matches Per Pitch	Comments
	Number of Pitches	Number of Teams	Adult	Junior	Mini	Adults	Junior	Midi	Games Per Pitch	Games Per Pitch Including Training	
Sleaford RUFC	4 adult, 2 junior and 6 mini	3 adult, 7 junior 6 midi (equivalent 3 adult)	1.5	3.5	1.5	2.5	-1.5	4.5	0.5	1	Use per pitch adequate. Requirement for additional floodlights to balance wear of pitches.
Lindum Sports Association	2 adult 1 junior	7 adult including University teams, 6 junior and 6 midi	3.5	3	3	0 (Note Lincoln University play Wednesday), ladies play outside peak time	-2	3	3.2	4.6	Use above optimum levels. Club at capacity
Market Rasen & Louth RUFC	3 adult	5 adult, 7 junior 5 midi (equivalent 2.5 adult)	2.5	3.5	1.25	1.5 (ladies and veterans play outside peak time)	-3.5	-1.25	2.4	4.8	Use above optimum levels and club is at capacity. Floodlighting and changing accommodation also problematic.
North Hykeham RUFC	1 adult	2 adult	1						1	2	Optimum level of use. Floodlights required for pitch (separate training area)
Gainsborough RUFC	1 adult	2 adult	1						1	2	Optimum level of use. Security of tenure is a concern
Lincoln University RUFC											

7.48 The above figures do not take into account the aspirations of clubs to grow and develop or the potential impact of population growth in the area.

### Impact of New facility for Lincoln RUFC

- 7.49 Lincoln RUFC are shortly to relocate and work has started on site at their new venue. Pitches are being laid and the clubhouse is in the process of being built. The new facility will provide;
- 4 adult pitches,
  - 2 youth pitches
  - a midi pitch for each team aged 6 – 12.
- 7.50 At peak time, there will be sufficient pitches to accommodate all age groups (although on occasion a youth team may be required to use an adult pitch). It is anticipated that training will see pitch usage reduce to circa 3 matches per week, which will significantly improve the levels of wear and tear on each pitch.
- 7.51 In addition to club specific usage, the club have also been approached by Lincoln University RUFC who wish to train. In particular, it is hoped that the female university teams training at the club will have a positive impact on club aspirations to increase the club female section. The American Football team at the university are also interested in using the facilities.

### Latent Demand

- 7.52 Latent demand can be identified from a variety of sources, including Team Generation Rates (TGRs). TGRs indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team, thus enabling analysis of participation. TGRs are derived by dividing the appropriate population age band in the area by the number of teams playing within that area in that age band. Table 7.10 summarises TGRs for rugby across Central Lincolnshire and compares them with national statistics.
- 7.53 The TGRs indicate that TGRs in Central Lincolnshire are better than the national averages, suggesting that there is limited latent demand. The national statistics should be treated with caution, as the Sport England database has not been updated for several years. TGRs for the different disciplines of rugby vary in each of the three authorities. It must however be noted that the distance travelled to rugby clubs means that many players may travel across boundaries.
- 7.54 Furthermore, analysis of the Market Segmentation and Active People statistics supports this, indicating that few people wish to play rugby who do not already do so.

**Table 7.10: TGRs across Central Lincolnshire**

Type of Rugby	National Average	TGR Central Lincolnshire	TGR City of Lincoln	TGR North Kesteven	TGR West Lindsey
Midi Rugby	1:2639	1:889	1:714	1:1018	1:980
Junior Male Rugby	1:2105	1:782	1:400	1:663	n/a
Junior Female Rugby	1:19,524	1:4510	n/a	1:1739	n/a
Senior Male Rugby	1:7032	1:2843	1:3495	1:3400	1:1886
Senior Female Rugby	1:43770	1:26802	1:21885	n/a	1:13893

## Meeting Future Demand

- 7.55 By applying TGRs to population projections we can estimate the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and also take into account the impact that the ageing population will have on participation in rugby.
- 7.56 For Central Lincolnshire as a whole, the application of current TGRs suggests that participation will remain relatively constant up to 2022. The growth in population numbers will be offset by the higher proportion of residents that are outside of the age groups that traditionally play rugby. There will however be a small increase in the amount of midi rugby players as follows;
- There will remain 18 senior rugby teams and 2 female teams
  - There will remain 11 junior rugby teams and 2 female teams
  - There will be an increase from 17 to 21 midi rugby teams.
- 7.57 Spatially, because the nature of rugby and the small number of clubs, the location of growth has little impact on demand for rugby and it is anticipated that future rugby will focus around existing clubs. Indeed Lincoln Rugby Union club, traditionally in Lincoln have now relocated just outside over into West Lindsey.
- 7.58 Between 2022 and 2031 however, growth is likely to increase and a small number of additional rugby players will be created. These are likely to feed into existing clubs, all of which, with the exception of Market Rasen and Louth, are located in areas of high population growth, notably;
- Lincoln RUFC, Hykeham RUFC – near to proposed SUE's on borders of Lincoln
  - Sleaford RUFC – near to proposed SUEs in Sleaford
  - Gainsborough RUFC – near to proposed SUEs in Gainsborough.
- 7.59 These clubs are therefore likely to as a minimum retain membership and if not grow.
- 7.60 Market Rasen and Louth RUFC, who are already at capacity, are further away from the proposed areas of growth and may see a more limited impact from the incoming population. Limited facilities at Gainsborough and Hykeham however may see a long term requirement for new provision if they benefit from the increase in population in their surrounding areas.
- 7.61 While the population growth is likely only to negate the impact of the declining numbers of residents in age brackets that traditionally play rugby, the RFU have aspirations for continued growth of rugby.
- 7.62 The RFU measures participation increases through the affiliation process, looking at the number of participants, number of matches etc. They target increases in adult participation, as junior participants are more easily generated. The conversion of junior participants to adults (thus avoiding the drop off) is also a key target. Clubs indicate that the targets that they are working towards currently are:
- **Gainsborough RUFC** - no known aspirations to grow;

- **Lincoln RUFC** - aspirations to create girls U15 and U18 teams;
- **Market Rasen and Louth RUFC** - aspirations to increase the playing membership of the male and female seniors sections and to improve the retention of players in the transition between junior and senior sections;
- **North Hykeham RUFC** - aspirations to further grow the club through the development of a junior section, as well as the creation of a 3rd team and a male team if enough members can be secured; and
- **Sleaford RUFC** - Despite recent decreases in membership, the club have aspirations to run a ladies team.

7.63 All of these developments would place additional pressures on the pitches. For Market Rasen and Louth, who are already at capacity, facilities are likely to restrict opportunities to develop and grow.

### Summary and Key Issues

#### Key issues to address – Rugby Union

Participation in rugby is relatively strong in Central Lincolnshire and there are five clubs, as well as the University of Lincoln. Three of the clubs offer the opportunity for full transition between midi, junior and senior rugby, offering clear player pathways. There have been clear increases in participation in recent years, with only the junior section at Lincoln RUFC demonstrating a small decline.

Modelling reveals that when taking into account all rugby pitches in Central Lincolnshire, there are sufficient pitches to meet demand, with 19 pitches not used at peak time. When considering just those facilities that have fully secured access for the community, this decreases to 13 pitches. Notably however, supply is particularly closely balanced with demand in both City of Lincoln and West Lindsey.

The RFU National Facility Strategy emphasises the importance of facilities, and recommends the use of an activity v facility continuum. This enables an evaluation of where club facilities are inhibiting participation and also provides guidance as to the type and extent of facilities that are required to support clubs of varying sizes and aspirations.

Club bases are particularly important for the growth and development of rugby clubs and it is clear that both Market Rasen and Louth RUFC and Lincoln RUFC are at capacity, based on the amount of activity that the clubs sustain and the pitches that they have available on site. Lincoln RUFC have secured a new venue and are currently in the process of relocating. This new venue will contain sufficient pitches for the needs of the club and will also enable the ongoing growth of the club. Market Rasen and Louth have a development plan which seeks to help them secure an extension to existing facilities in order to ensure that participation in the longer term is not compromised.

While other clubs currently have sufficient pitch provision, it should be noted that Gainsborough RUFC currently rent a pitch at Trent Valley Academy. The rental agreement means that the club have no long term security of tenure of the facility and are unable to secure grants to improve the quality of the site.

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In addition to concerns about the capacity of the club bases, there are also issues with access to training facilities and the use of match pitches for training. Both North Hykeham RUFC and Sleaford RUFC indicate that additional floodlights are required. Such facilities would enable a greater spread of play across pitches and would ensure that current playing patterns could be sustained and improved. Most club bases demonstrated evidence of wear and tear on the playing surface during site visits.

In addition to meeting current needs, most clubs have aspirations to increase participation further, with a particular emphasis on the development of junior and female sections. This will have an impact on both the number of facilities required, but also the changing accommodation that is needed to accommodate these teams

Population increases will have overall limited impact upon the demand for rugby, with the growth in the number of residents being negated by the impact of the ageing population up to 222. Increases in the number of younger residents will however generate more midi teams than are currently evident. The growth is likely to be spread relatively evenly across the rugby clubs, with Market Rasen and Louth (who are already at capacity) the only club not located in relatively close proximity to an area of high growth. Across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, increases in participation through club development and other sports development initiatives are likely to have a greater implication than population changes. Between 2022 and 2031 however, population growth will have a greater impact, although will still only generate a small number of additional players (in all likelihood spread across the club bases).

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## **Rugby League**

### **Supply**

- 7.64 There are no dedicated rugby league pitches within Central Lincolnshire.

### **Demand**

- 7.65 Sleaford Spartans are the only club based team playing rugby league in Central Lincolnshire. They play at Sleaford RUFC and use the rugby union pitches during the summer months. Lincoln University Rugby League team travel to Newark Rugby Union Club to play.

### **A National Governing Body Perspective – the RFL**

- 7.66 Consultation with the RFL confirms that little rugby league takes place in the area with the only known participation being the above clubs. The RFL are keen to support the clubs in the area with aspirations to grow club membership and would back the clubs if they wished to work towards the development of their own facilities.

### **Summary and Key Issues**

#### **Key issues to address – Rugby League**

Existing participation in rugby league is limited, with only two teams. There is no evidence of growing demand for the sport in the borough however the RFL would support teams with aspirations to grow their membership and longer term, to create rugby league specific facilities.

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## Strategic Priorities

7.67 The key issues identified for rugby in Central Lincolnshire lead to the following general priorities;

### Meeting current and future demand – Quantity

R1: Support club relocation (or extension) where club bases are constraining the amount and standard of play either due to current or future demand. Key priorities are;

- Lincoln RUFC (relocation underway)
- Market Rasen and Louth RUFC (at capacity)
- North Hykeham RUFC and Gainsborough RUFC – longer term. Provision currently limited (one pitch per site). Location in areas of high population growth coupled with high participation increase may see requirement for additional pitches. This could be delivered through use of school sites (see R2).

R2: Maximise security of tenure for all rugby clubs;

- Gainsborough RUFC (Trent Valley Academy)
- Priority access to rugby pitch at North Kesteven School (Hykeham RUFC)

R3: Monitor demand for rugby league provision over the strategy period.

### Maximise Quality of Facilities

R4: Support partners to maintain and improve the quality of existing facilities, particularly where this will improve capacity. Key priorities include;

- The provision of training floodlights (Lincoln RUFC / Market Rasen and Louth / Hykeham RUFC / Gainsborough RUFC / Sleaford RUFC).
- Improving and expanding changing accommodation (Market Rasen and Louth)

### Support Rugby Development

R5: Support initiatives to increase rugby participation including the introduction of new forms of the game, which may require the provision of flexible spaces.

## 8. Hockey

8.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for hockey and considers:

- The supply of pitches and demand for these pitches
- The adequacy of Artificial Grass Pitches in Central Lincolnshire for hockey
- Summary and Issues to Address
- Strategic Priorities for Hockey across Central Lincolnshire

### Pitch Supply

8.2 Hockey is almost exclusively played on Artificial Grass Pitches and grass pitches are largely obsolete for competitive forms of the game. Guidance on AGPs (Sport England 2010) indicates the following surfaces to be suitable for hockey:

- Water Based (suitable for high level hockey)
- Sand Filled (preferred surface for hockey)
- Sand Dressed (acceptable surface for hockey)
- Short Pile 3g (acceptable surface for hockey).

8.3 Table 8.1 summarises the suitability of AGPs across Central Lincolnshire for Hockey. It reveals that there are five pitches with approved surfaces for hockey, at least one of which is located in each of the three authorities.

**Table 8.1: Facilities Provided and Suitability for Hockey**

Site Name	Local Authority Area	Built/Refurbished	Surface	Sports	Ownership / Management	Access Arrangements
Yarborough Leisure Centre	City of Lincoln	1996/ 2006	Aquaturf	Surface suitable for hockey	Local Authority /Trust	Pay and Play
Lincoln Christs Hospital School		2009	3G	Surface suitable for football but is also acceptable for hockey (shorter pile than other 3g pitches)	Voluntary Aided School/in house	Pay and Play
Lincoln City Football Club		1998/2010	3G	Surface suitable for football	Commercial	Pay and Play
Ruston Sports and Social Club		2007	3G	Surface suitable for football	Sports Club	Pay and Play
Carre's Grammar	North Kesteven	2007	3G	Surface suitable for	Foundation School/in	Pay and Play

Site Name	Local Authority Area	Built/ Refurbished	Surface	Sports	Ownership / Management	Access Arrangements
School				football	house	
North Kesteven Sports Centre		1974/ 2007	Sand	Surface suitable for hockey	Foundation School/commercial	Pay and Play
RAF College Cranwell		1997	Sand	Surface suitable for hockey	MOD	Sports Club / Community Association
Trent Valley Academy	West Lindsey	2009	Sand	Surface suitable for hockey	Academies/commercial	Pay and Play
Cherry Willingham Community School		2009	3G	Surface suitable for football	Community school/in house	Sports Club / Community Association

8.4 In addition to the above sites, which are accessible to the local community (and were therefore included in modelling in Section 4), there are three sites which do not offer public access. These facilities are illustrated in Table 8.2 below. All of these facilities are sand based surfaces that are suitable for hockey.

**Table 8.2: AGPs without any public access**

Site Name	Local Authority Area	Built/ Refurbished	Surface	Sports	Ownership / Management	Access Arrangements
RAF Digby		-	Sand	Surface designed for hockey	MOD	Private Use
RAF Waddington		2000	Sand	Surface designed for hockey	MOD	Private Use
University of Lincoln		2000	Sand	Surface designed for hockey	Higher Education Institutions/in house	Private Use (but some sports club access)

## Demand

### Active People and Market Segmentation Analysis

8.5 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation (explained in Section 3), it is possible to evaluate how many residents of Central Lincolnshire **do** participate in hockey and how many of the population **would like** to participate in hockey. It is also possible to understand how this varies across the area.

- 8.6 Building upon data set out in Section 3, Table 8.3 sets out the current proportion of residents that participate according to Active People and also illustrates the amount of residents that would like to play.
- 8.7 It indicates that the overall playing base is relatively small, with just 742 participants. The proportion of residents playing currently is slightly lower in the City of Lincoln, but is relatively consistent across the whole of Central Lincolnshire. Latent demand is also relatively even. Like other pitch sports, the profile of the population means that the overall propensity to play hockey is lower than average. When combining the numbers of current participants with the number of potential participants it can be seen that the number of players is very similar in each authority. A marginally lower proportion of residents are likely to play hockey in Lincoln than in the other two areas. North Kesteven has the highest potential playing base.
- 8.8 Table 8.3 clearly indicates that hockey attracts a much wider cross section of residents than many other sports in this document. In addition to both male and female segments, there is also evidence of interest in hockey from some residents in older market segments.

**Table 8.3: Participation in Hockey**

Authority	DO PLAY POPULATION	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	Total Number and % who do/would play	Spatial Variation	Participants
City of Lincoln	217 (0.30%)	152(0.21%)	369 (0.51%)	No spatial variation in current or potential participants.	Wider base of participants – Ben, Jamie, Leanne, Philip, Chloe. Potential participants also well spread. Particular demand from Jamie, Leanne and Paula. Most segments have some interest in hockey
North Kesteven	288 (0.34%)	169(0.20%)	457 (0.54%)	No spatial variation in current or potential participants	Wider base of participants than many other sports. Key groups – Ben, Tim, Chloe and Philip. Chloe, Alison, Jackie and Tim have high levels of potential interest and most segments express some interest in hockey.
West Lindsey	237 (0.33%)	141(0.20%)	378 (0.53%)	No spatial variation in current or potential participants	Wider base of participants Key groups – Ben, Chloe, Tim and Philip. Chloe, Alison, Jackie, Helena and Tim have high levels of potential interest and most segments express some interest in hockey.

### Current Participation

- 8.9 There are six hockey clubs in Central Lincolnshire as a whole generating a total of 18 adult teams and seven junior teams. These clubs and their home venues are summarised in Table 8.4.

**Table 8.4: Hockey Clubs in Central Lincolnshire**

Club	Adult Male Teams	Adult Female teams	Junior Teams	Veterans	Mixed	Venue	League
Lincoln Hockey Club	2	2	2	1	Yarborough Leisure Centre, North Kesteven Sports Centre	Yorkshire Leagues, Lincolnshire Leagues, Horncastle Summer League	
Lincoln Roses Hockey Club	4	3			Lincoln University	Yorkshire Leagues, Lincolnshire Leagues.	
Sleaford Junior Hockey Club			1		Carre's Grammar School	No league, training and friendlies only	
Woodhall Spa Hockey Club	1				Lincoln Christs Hospital School	Lincolnshire Women's League	
Leadenham Hockey Club	1		3		RAF Cranwell	East League, Lincolnshire Junior League	
University of Lincoln	2	3			University of Lincoln (Brayford Pool)	BUSA	

- 8.10 Table 8.4 demonstrates that the majority of hockey takes place in Lincoln, with the two largest clubs (Lincoln Roses and Lincoln Hockey Club) being based in this area as well as the University of Lincoln. Woodhall Spa Hockey Club travel into Lincoln to play due to a lack of facilities within their local area. There are no

hockey clubs in West Lindsey (despite demand being similar according to Active People statistics).

- 8.11 Participation in hockey in Central Lincolnshire has seen significant increases recently, with only Leadenham HC not demonstrating an increase between 2011 and 2013. Table 8.5 summarises the increase in playing members for clubs registered to England Hockey between season 2011 / 2012 and 2012 / 2013.

**Table 8.5: Increases in Participation (Data provided by England Hockey)**

Club	Percentage Increase
Lincoln Roses Hockey Club	41.5% increase
Lincoln Hockey Club	35% increase
Woodhall Spa Hockey Club	47% increase
Sleaford Town Juniors	12% increase
Leadenham Hockey Club	Static

- 8.12 Both Lincoln Roses and Lincoln Hockey Club have aspirations to continue to increase the number of teams that the club is running.

### **Schools Participation**

- 8.13 Despite the high levels of participation at club level, few schools play hockey competitively, with only Minster School, Caistor Grammar School and Queen Elizabeth School entering teams into the Lincolnshire School championship. This suggests that clubs will be particularly important in the ongoing growth of the sport.

### **Club Consultation**

- 8.14 Consultation with clubs reveals dissatisfaction with facilities across Central Lincolnshire, with no respondents indicating that they are happy with the facilities provided. In particular, concerns relating to access to pitches for training and the competition for appropriate time slots with football teams are evident. Clubs are willing to travel to reach facilities, although currently only 22% of players travel over 5 miles to play, suggesting that most players are relatively local to their home ground.
- 8.15 The views of responding clubs can be summarised as:

**Lincoln Hockey Club** –currently play at Yarborough Leisure Centre. The club believe that there is a lack of appropriate facilities for hockey and also highlight

difficulties accessing facilities for training. They indicate that the facility at Yarborough Leisure Centre is not a dedicated hockey surface and while access to the pitch for competitive fixtures has been reasonable, there is a high demand for the use of the facility from football clubs for training, as well as for small sided leisure leagues, and this has an impact on the hockey club. While the facility at Yarborough is relatively new and the equipment is good, some facilities in Central Lincolnshire are perceived to be poorly maintained and in need of refurbishment. The club also use the AGP at North Kesteven Leisure Centre which is in need of refurbishment.

The club are working with the Lindum Sports Association on plans to lay a new AGP at the site (recently received planning permission) and this will see pressures for training reduced. There will however still be a need to use Yarborough Leisure Centre for some matches at peak time (Saturday). The club have aspirations to increase participation through the creation of new teams in all age groups. Lincoln Hockey Club has the widest catchment of any existing club in Central Lincolnshire, with 40% of players travelling 5 miles or more to play.

**Lincoln Roses Hockey Club** – like Lincoln Hockey Club, Lincoln Roses Hockey Club will be moving to use the facility at Lindum Sports Association when it is developed. The club have a relatively local catchment, with only 5% of players travelling further than 5 miles. The club use facilities at Lincoln University, as well as at Christs Hospital School (3g pitch approved for hockey). Access to pitches for competitive play is currently of no concern, although the quality of the facility and equipment at Lincoln University is poor and the club have received fines for this from their league. The surface at North Kesteven Leisure Centre is also reported to need replacing. In contrast, the club have significant difficulties accessing pitches for training and have been unable to secure a regular venue. They are keen to continue to build their junior section as well as to provide a mens veterans team and additional senior teams however the current lack of training facilities is hindering these plans. They highlight the importance of securing a hockey specific venue that can be used for matches and training and support a variety of teams.

**Sleaford Hockey Club** – use the facility at Carres Grammar School in Sleaford. This pitch is a 3g surface and most players are local to the venue. The club do not raise any concerns about access to facilities, but only use the facilities on a Saturday morning, primarily for training.

**Woodhall Spa Hockey Club** – the club previously used a venue in Horncastle, but the quality of this site deteriorated and they were forced to relocate. They consider the quality of the pitch at Christs Hospital School to be excellent and have no other concerns.

### **National Governing Body Perspective – England Hockey**

- 8.16 England Hockey believe that facilities are one of the most important assets that a club can have. The National Hockey Facility Strategy – The Right Facilities in the Right Places (2012) provides strategic direction and guidance for the provision of new AGPs as well as maintenance and improvement of existing facilities and highlights that with the increasing importance of AGPs for other

sports, and the growing rivalry for use of these facilities, it is essential that sufficient appropriate facilities for hockey are secured and protected.

8.17 The strategy sets out the following methodology for evaluating the need for hockey pitches;

- Supply and demand – what issues should be addressed, including the amount and quality of nearby facilities
- Strategic considerations – for example whether the facility will serve as a venue to accommodate play as part of the single system pathway
- Type and level of use – what will be the main use of the pitch and what standard of hockey will be played
- Amount of use.

8.18 The strategy indicates that there are approximately 1000 sand based / dressed pitches and a further 50 waterbased pitches across England. Of these, 12% are over 15 years old and 32% are over 10 years old. It indicates that the key challenges for hockey clubs in relation to facilities are:

- Access
- Costs
- Quality
- Storage
- Poor / lack of programming.

8.19 The strategy sets the target of increasing participation by an additional 10,000 adult players and 32500 junior players nationwide. This equates to one or two teams per club. It is anticipated that this will largely be met through the growth in existing hockey bases rather than the establishment of new clubs. It also highlights the importance of retaining existing participants and indicates that one of the key ways to do this by providing a quality playing experience.

8.20 As well as growing participation at club level, there are two other initiatives that might impact upon the future demand for hockey, specifically:

- Back to Hockey: A scheme providing informal sessions to encourage women to take up hockey. Following the informal sessions, participants are invited to join the club; and
- Rush Hockey: This initiative is currently being piloted. It is a small sided form of hockey (4 or 5 players) that can take place on any surface. It is being tested with commercial partners and is likely to roll out following this. It is not anticipated that this new form of the game will immediately generate additional club based players, but will encourage people who are not



currently playing hockey to play. It requires a different type of facility and there is potential for this type of hockey to be run from a club base as a commercial venture, or from leisure centres.

- 8.21 More locally in Central Lincolnshire, England Hockey considers participation to be comparatively high, particularly within the Lincoln City area where there are two large clubs. Participation is growing and Lincoln Roses Hockey Club are running a back to hockey and rush hockey programme, meaning that hockey is continuing to develop within the Central Lincolnshire area.
- 8.22 Attempts were made to invigorate rush hockey in the Gainsborough area at Trent Valley Academy (a site that has previously been used by Lincoln Roses HC) however demand was not sufficiently high.
- 8.23 Supporting the issues raised by the clubs, England Hockey make the following points relating to club based hockey in the area:
- Lincoln Hockey Club and Lincoln Roses Hockey Club are both proactive clubs in the Lincoln area. Neither club has their own facilities or club house and both clubs have been using social facilities at Lindum Hawks Sports Ground (a multisport site) although their pitches are further afield. England Hockey support the creation of the new AGP at the Lindum Hawkes Sports Ground. As well as benefitting both clubs, the facility will also be used as a central venue to accommodate county training (Junior Development Centre and Junior Academy) through the single system player pathway. The proposed link with Minster School (who wish to use the facility during curriculum time) will mean that the level of use of the facility is high. The provision of the pitch on the site of the social facilities will also help to support the clubs in their plans for growth and development.
  - Woodhall Spa Hockey Club play in Central Lincolnshire, at Christ Hospital School. This is a 3g pitch and is not the preferred surface for hockey. Development of a new facility at Lindum Sports Centre may provide an opportunity for the relocation of this club.
  - Like Woodhall Spa Hockey Club, Sleaford Town Juniors are playing on 3g pitch at Carre's Grammar School.
  - The remaining club, Leadenham Hockey Club are based at RAF Cranwell and there are no known issues with the facilities at the site.
- 8.24 In addition to issues experienced by clubs, there have been no coach education courses run in the area due to the lack of appropriate facilities and it is hoped that a new AGP at Lindum Sports Club would also solve this issue.

### **Peak Time Demand Calculations**

- 8.25 Towards a Level Playing Field requires the comparison of the number of teams wishing to play at peak time, with the availability of pitches. Hockey operates more flexibly than most sports, with fixtures typically played over the course of a

day with push back times to suit pitch availability. The nature of synthetic pitches means that extensive use of the pitch does not have the same impact as it would on grass.

- 8.26 Table 8.6 summarises the current situation at peak time, taking into account firstly all AGPs that are suitable for hockey and then just when taking into account those pitches that are currently accessible.

**Table 8.6: Towards a Level Playing Field Calculations - Hockey**

Calculation	All Pitches	Pitches available (excluding those without access)
<b>Number of AGPS</b>	7	5
<b>Capacity of pitches on peak day (assumes 4 matches per pitch)</b>	28	20
<b>Main Peak Day</b>	Saturday	Saturday
<b>Peak Demand for Teams (assumes all senior (except veterans) play on Saturday)</b>	12	12
<b>Home matches per week</b>	0.5 per team	0.5 per team
<b>Peak Games per week</b>	6	6
<b>Supply / Demand at Peak Time</b>	Pitch supply above level required	Pitch supply above level required

- 8.27 On the basis that each pitch can take 4 matches per day, overall within Central Lincolnshire, there are enough pitches to accommodate match play at peak times, even when taking into account that two of the sand based pitches are not available.
- 8.28 While Table 8.6 demonstrates that there are sufficient sand based pitches within Central Lincolnshire to accommodate demand at peak time, it must be noted that not all pitches that are available are located in the appropriate areas for clubs, and some clubs are using 3g pitches / multi surface pitches rather than sand based facilities that are designed for hockey. Analysis of club membership demonstrates that local facilities are important and clubs therefore travel to their nearest facility.
- 8.29 Table 8.7 outlines the use of the pitches that are currently used for hockey. It indicates that there is high demand for pitches in Lincoln and that pitches at Lincoln University and Yarborough Leisure are heavily used at peak time.

**Table 8.7: Hockey Usage**

Venue	Teams			Matches per Week		
	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek	Saturday	Sunday	Midweek
Lincoln Christ Hospital	1			0.5	0	0
Carre's Grammar		1		0	0.5	0
Lincoln University	7		5	3.5	0	2.5
Yarborough Leisure Centre	3	3	1	1.5	1.5	0.5
RAF Cranwell	1	3		0.5	1	0
North Kesteven Sports Centre	Used as overspill by Lincoln Hockey Club					
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>

**Adequacy of AGPs**

- 8.30 As set out in this and Section 4, AGPs are essential for football as well as hockey and it is important that needs of the two sports are balanced. The key concerns of hockey clubs relate to access to pitches for training and the competing demands for pitches between football and hockey teams. AGPs in Central Lincolnshire are also important in terms of hosting small sided football leagues.
- 8.31 Section 5 has summarised the need for pitches for football and refers to the need to consider opportunities to train as well as match and small sided league play while Section 8 has evaluated the demand for hockey facilities.

**Implications of Modelling**

- 8.32 The modelling set out in Section 4 revealed that overall;
- there are high levels of satisfied demand in both Lincoln City and North Kesteven. In West Lindsey satisfied demand is a bit lower but still at a high level (78.7%);
  - unmet demand in total is very low in each of the three Central Lincolnshire authorities and it is not a driver for providing more pitches - overall quantity of pitches and access to them are not issues in 2013. Unmet demand equates to only 0.26 of a pitch in Lincoln, 0.28 of a pitch in North Kesteven and 0.51 pitches in West Lindsey;
  - the estimated used capacity of all pitches in all the Central Lincolnshire authorities is very high with there being virtually no unused capacity. In Lincoln City the estimate is that 100% of all the pitch time available for public use at

peak times is used. Modelling reveals that Cherry Willingham Community School and RAF Cranwell have some unused capacity;

- relative share in Lincoln City is below the national average (94). The areas with the lowest relative share are in the centre and east;
- in North Kesteven, relative share is 116. Areas around the city of Lincoln boundary have the lowest relative share, while provision in Sleaford is highest; and
- in West Lindsey, relative share is 111. It is in Market Rasen and the north east where relative share is lowest.

8.33 It is therefore clear that while pitch provision is on the whole above average, most pitches are operating at or near capacity and there is little scope for additional use.

8.34 Modelling therefore suggests that the following should be considered;

- opening of pitches that are currently private; and
- creation of additional capacity, in particular by providing additional pitches in the centre of the area, in or near Lincoln.

8.35 The above figures relate to both football and hockey. Issues specific to hockey in the context of the above modelling are considered in the remainder of this section.

### **Implications**

8.36 The above provides an indication of the theoretical need for AGPs and indicates that sports development needs are perhaps the most important driver in the determination of the requirement for new pitches, as while the supply is currently sufficient, most pitches are at or nearing capacity. It is therefore necessary to consider the requirements of each sport requiring AGPs and to link this in with the findings of the modelling, in order to best inform current and potential future pitch configuration in Central Lincolnshire.

8.37 Table 8.8 overleaf summarises the requirements for hockey as a sport, assuming that the new pitch at Lindum Sports Association (which has now received planning information) goes ahead. It takes into account the current users of each pitch and evaluates the longer term needs in the area.

**Table 8.8: Pitch Requirements for Hockey**

Site Name	Built/ Refurbish	Surface	Sports	Users	Comments
<b>Yarborough Leisure Centre (CL)</b>	1996/ 2006	Sand	Hockey and Football	Lincoln Hockey Club	New pitch at Lindum Sports Association likely to see a proportion of hockey use relocate. In all likelihood not all use will be relocated to new pitch at peak time and sand still required at this venue.
<b>Lincoln Christs Hospital School (CL)</b>	2009	3G	Hockey and Football	Sleaford Hockey Club, Woodhall Spa Hockey Club, Lincoln Roses Hockey Club (Training only). Home to Lincoln Girls Centre of Excellence.	New pitch at Lindum Sports Association likely to see a proportion of hockey use relocate. Facility approved for hockey but primarily football use.
<b>Lincoln City Football Club (CL)</b>	1998/2010	3G	Football	Lincoln City Football Club	Not required for hockey
<b>Ruston Sports and Social Club (CL)</b>	2007	3G	Football	Ruston Sports FC	Not required for hockey
<b>University of Lincoln (CL)</b>	2000	Sand		Lincoln University HC, Lincoln Hockey Club (matches)	Requires resurfacing and improved equipment. Remain important site for hockey
<b>Carre's Grammar School (NK)</b>	2007	3G	Football and Hockey	Sleaford Town HC	Used by Sleaford Town JFC for hockey. Not ideal surface for hockey club.
<b>North Kesteven Sports Centre (NK)</b>	1974/ 2007	Sand	Football and Hockey	Lincoln Hockey Club (training)	Pitch requires resurfacing. New facility at Lindum Sports Association means that it is likely to play a limited role in the future delivery of hockey.

Site Name	Built/ Refurbish	Surface	Sports	Users	Comments
<b>RAF College Cranwell (NK)</b>	1997	Sand	Hockey	Leadenham Hockey Club	Important club venue. Required for hockey
<b>RAF Digby (NK)</b>	-	Sand	None	No community use	Potential to function as site for hockey if community access was negotiated.
<b>RAF Waddington (NK)</b>	2000	Sand	None	No community use	Potential to function as site for hockey if community access was negotiated.
<b>Trent Valley Academy (WL)</b>	2009	Sand	Football	Formerly used for hockey (Lincoln Roses HC. No ongoing use).	No long term requirement for hockey
<b>Cherry Willingham Community School (WL)</b>	2009	3G	Football	Lincoln Griffins FC	No long term requirement for hockey
<b>Lindum Sports Association</b>	Planned	Sand	Hockey	Lincoln Roses HC and Lincoln HC	New facility to be used by both Lincoln HC and Lincoln Roses HC for matches and training. Important venue for coaching and representative hockey.

8.38 The following conclusions can be drawn from Table 8.8;

**Hockey in Lincoln** - As demonstrated, the provision of a new pitch at the Lindum Sports Association will provide a valuable resource for both Lincoln Roses HC and Lincoln HC and ensure dedicated facilities are available to the two clubs (as well as wider hockey development needs). Following the development of this facility, there will remain however a requirement for at least one other pitch in the Lincoln area to retain a surface suitable for the use of hockey clubs. This will be required for overspill at peak times from the Lindum Hockey Association as well as the use of Woodhall Spa Club. As the pitch at Lincoln Christ's Hospital School is 3g (and therefore not the ideal surface for hockey) retention of the surface at Yarborough would support the ongoing development of hockey in the area.

**Hockey in North Kesteven** – while Leadenham Hockey Club have existing appropriate access to a facility (RAF Cranwell – assuming that this is

maintained), as set out above, it is clear that there are no surfaces for hockey that are currently available that are located in close proximity to Sleaford. Although the facility at NK Leisure Centre is sand based, this is outside of the catchment for a hockey club in Sleaford. The early stages of development of the club mean that the use of the 3g surface currently has limited impact. If the club was however to grow and require sand based surfaces, access to an alternative pitch would be required. Table 8.8 indicates there is a pitch with a suitable surface at RAF Digby that is not currently accessible. Although this is located in relatively close proximity to Sleaford, usage of this site may be impractical as it is situated within secure areas. Longer term therefore a new sand based pitch may be required to ensure continued growth of hockey.

**Hockey in West Lindsey** – there are no hockey clubs in West Lindsey and no clear evidence of demand. Neither sand based surface is therefore required to meet current demand for hockey.

### Latent Demand and Team Generation Rates

- 8.39 It is difficult to estimate precise levels of latent demand because of the sub regional nature of hockey. Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data suggests that latent demand is low, however there is also relatively low participation in terms of the proportion of people playing hockey.
- 8.40 The Team Generation Rates set out in Table 8.9 enable comparison with national averages. They demonstrate that participation in hockey is above national averages and suggest that there is limited latent demand. It must be noted however that national averages should be treated with caution as the Sport England database containing these figures has not been updated for several years. As reflected by the distribution of teams, Team Generation Rates are highest in City of Lincoln.

**Table 8.9: TGRs for Hockey**

Age Group	National Average	Central Lincolnshire	City of Lincoln	North Kesteven	West Lindsey
Senior Male	1:7944	1:5569	1:2449	1:18893	n/a
Senior Female	1:8943	1:6483	1:2556	n/a	n/a
Junior	1:4304	1:2904	1:2344	1:1736	n/a

### Meeting Future Demand

- 8.41 TGRs can be used to provide an indication of the likely impact of population growth on demand for hockey. The application of TGRs enables the consideration of both future population growth and changes to the population profile.

- 8.42 For Central Lincolnshire as a whole, the application of current TGRs suggests that participation will remain constant. The growth in population numbers will be offset by the higher proportion of residents that are outside of the age groups that traditionally play hockey.
- 8.43 The slight decline in the amount of residents in Lincoln aged between 16 and 45 (senior hockey) may result in a decrease in participation in the Lincoln area (2 teams) however this will be offset by growth in demand in North Kesteven and West Lindsey.
- 8.44 Spatially, because the nature of hockey and the small number of clubs, the location of growth has little impact on demand for hockey and it is anticipated that future hockey will focus around existing clubs. The clear gap in current provision is hockey in Gainsborough, however previous intentions to develop such a club have resulted in limited success. The population growth in the Gainsborough area, while significant, is unlikely to be sufficiently large (once the profile of the population and their propensity to take part is taken into account) to justify a requirement for additional hockey clubs. Across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, the increase in demand is likely to generate an additional 1.5 male hockey teams and 1.5 female hockey teams between 2022 and 2031. The increase in demand will be equivalent to circa 2 junior teams.
- 8.45 While population growth is therefore likely to have little impact on demand for hockey, England Hockey does have aspirations to increase participation in hockey. In addition to targeting growth in the existing club (around one to 2 teams per club over the next five years) England Hockey have also introduced several initiatives designed to attract new players to the game, specifically;
- Back to Hockey; and
  - Rush Hockey.
- 8.46 Analysis of the market segmentation data suggests that Jackie is particularly keen in playing hockey but currently has a low participation profile. The characteristics of the population mean that a Back to Hockey Programme may be particularly successful. The new facility at the Lindum Sports Association which will provide a strong environment for the Lincoln Clubs may also facilitate the ongoing growth of the sport.

### Summary and Key Issues

#### Key issues to address – Hockey

There are six hockey clubs in Central Lincolnshire and analysis of participation trends demonstrate evidence of significant recent expansion. Despite this, the current and potential playing profile of the area is relatively limited, with hockey likely to attract less than 1% of residents of Central Lincolnshire, even when taking into account latent demand. In all three local authorities however, hockey does attract a significant spread of participants and even some of the older market segments would like to play hockey.

The distribution of hockey clubs is skewed slightly towards Lincoln (four clubs).



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There are two clubs in North Kesteven and none in West Lindsey.

Most hockey clubs are dissatisfied with the current levels of provision in Central Lincolnshire. Concerns are primarily raised in relation to access to facilities for training and there are perceived to be enough pitches to meet peak time demand. The quality of facilities is also highlighted as problematic at some sites.

Analysis of use of the facilities at a peak time confirms perceptions that there are enough facilities to accommodate demand, although usage patterns clearly demonstrate that some hockey clubs are based in areas where there are no sand based pitches, meaning that they instead use 3g pitches.

Both Lincoln Hockey Club and Lincoln Roses Hockey Club have significant aspirations to increase participation, but feel that these are inhibited by a lack of training facilities and dedicated appropriate hockey surfaces. This is also supported by England Hockey, who struggle to effectively develop the sports playing and coaching network due to a lack of suitable facilities.

While the overall amount of facilities in Central Lincolnshire is above average levels, across both sand based and 3g pitches, the Sport England Facility Planning Model supports the need for additional AGPs (or improved access to existing sites) within the Central Lincolnshire area. This is primarily because existing facilities are functioning at capacity and there is a lack of opportunities to increase access to these sites. This modelling should however be treated as theoretical only and should be supplemented by sport specific development requirements.

The provision of the new AGP at Lindum Sports Association will add to the stock of AGPs and will provide a dedicated facility for hockey, supporting the two largest clubs in the area (Lincoln Roses and Lincoln Hockey Club). It will also free up capacity on existing 3g pitches. There will however be a requirement to remain an additional sand based surface in Lincoln to cater for overspill from this site.

In North Kesteven, existing sand based pitches (NK Leisure Centre) are not necessarily located appropriately to serve hockey clubs and there are two facilities that are not accessible at all. The RAF Cranwell site is a valuable facility for Leadenham Hockey Club. While the embryonic stages of Sleaford Junior Hockey club mean that use of a 3g pitch has no significant implications at the current time, there is potential that longer term, the growth of the club may increase demand for a sand based facility. This could be delivered through either new provision or negotiating access to an existing facility (RAF Digby) although this may be challenging, due to the location of the facility within secure areas.

While changes to the population profile of Central Lincolnshire are likely to mean that increasing numbers of residents are likely only to negate the decline in the proportion of residents in age groups most likely to play hockey, other schemes designed to increase participation in hockey may generate demand for further facilities in the longer term. These include Back to Hockey

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and Rush Hockey. England Hockey also has aspirations for ongoing growth in the area and the new facility at Lindum Sports Association is likely to facilitate this. There will be a greater impact on demand in hockey between 2022 and 2031, with as much as 6 additional teams generated. This will be spread across existing clubs and can be accommodated within existing stock (not taking into account increases in participation).

### **Strategic Priorities for hockey across Central Lincolnshire**

8.47 The key issues identified for hockey in Central Lincolnshire lead to the following general priorities;

#### **Meeting Current and Future Demand – Quantity of Facilities**

H1: Retain based surfaces on AGPs that are valuable for hockey now or are anticipated to be in future years, specifically;

- Lindum Sports Association (once built in line with H1 above)
- RAF Cranwell
- Yarborough Leisure Centre

H2: Support the creation of new AGPs where there is a hockey development requirement

H3: Negotiate access to sand based pitches that are currently inaccessible (or provide new) where additional provision is required for hockey (long term)

- Sleaford

#### **Ensure that facilities are of appropriate quality to meet the needs of users**

H4: Support improvements that are required to maintain an appropriate standard of pitch surface. Promote the use of a sinking fund to support the refurbishment of the pitch surface when this is required.

- Brayford Pool – University of Lincoln

#### **Promote Hockey Development**

H5: Support initiatives to introduce new forms of hockey by ensuring that appropriate flexible spaces are available. Priority initiatives for England Hockey are:

- Rush Hockey
- Back to Hockey.

8.48 The implications for each local authority are summarised in Section 11.

## 9. Bowls

9.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for bowls and considers:

- The supply of greens and demand for these greens
- The adequacy of greens
- Summary and Issues to address
- Strategic priorities for bowls.

### Supply

9.2 There are 61 bowling greens in Central Lincolnshire. The distribution of these facilities is summarised in Table 9.1. All sites contain only one green with the exception of Roses Sports Ground, Lincoln West Common, Lincoln Boultham Park and Sleaford Bristol Bowls Club which have two greens.

**Table 9.1: Bowling greens in Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Number of Greens	Provision per 1000 Population
City of Lincoln	11	0.12 greens
North Kesteven	32	0.30 greens
West Lindsey	18	0.20 greens
Central Lincolnshire	61	0.21 greens

9.3 Table 9.1 indicates that provision is significantly higher in the North Kesteven area of Central Lincolnshire than in both City of Lincoln and West Lindsey. Provision is substantially lower in Lincoln.

9.4 Four of the identified bowling greens appear to no longer be in use, specifically;

- South Kelsey Bowling Green (which has fallen to disrepair although could easily be reinstated);
- Clayton Sports Association Bowling Green (abandoned);
- Timberland Bowling Green (abandoned); and
- Jolly Scotsman Pub (abandoned)

9.5 The second green at West Common is also now considered defunct.

9.6 All bowling greens are fine turf, with the exception of Bracebridge Heath and Ruston Sports Bowling Greens which have artificial surfaces.

## Quality of Facilities

9.7 The quality of existing playing and ancillary facilities was investigated by site visits as well as by club questionnaires. As the study was undertaken outside of the main bowling season, the site visits should be considered to provide an overview of quality issues only. Key issues raised include:

- the majority of facilities were highly rated. Many greens appear to be recently renovated and new and the majority are very well looked after;
- despite this, site visit scores range from 47% to 100%. It must however be noted that only four sites score below 70%, meaning that the vast majority of sites achieve consistently high scores. There are no patterns in the location of the facilities that scored more poorly;
- the quality of pavilions was perhaps the most varying element –while some were new and others were less impressive; and
- the condition of the surrounds was the main area where bowling greens achieved lower scores on site visits. The average score however remained at 86%, reinforcing the high quality of the majority of bowling greens.

9.8 Table 9.2 demonstrates that the quality of bowling greens is consistently high in each area and illustrates the average percentage score achieved for each quality factor.

**Table 9.2: Quality of Bowling Greens**

Area	Grass Cover	Proportion of Grass	Playing Surface	Condition of surrounds	Condition of Paths	Litter and Graffiti	Spectator Provision	Storage
Central Lincolnshire	94%	94%	94%	86%	83%	98%	94%	96%
City of Lincoln	100%	100%	93%	80%	83%	92%	100%	100%
North Kesteven	93%	92%	93%	87%	83%	100%	89%	94%
West Lindsey	93%	93%	95%	85%	83%	98%	98%	96%

## Demand

9.9 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation (explained in Section 3), it is possible to evaluate how many residents of Central Lincolnshire **do** participate in bowls and how many of the population **would like** to participate in bowls. It is also possible to understand how this varies across different parts of Central Lincolnshire.

9.10 Table 9.3 sets out the current proportion of residents that participate in bowls according to Active People and also illustrates the number of residents that would like to play.

9.11 It indicates that the proportion of residents currently playing bowls is relatively consistent across Central Lincolnshire, although it is marginally lower in City of Lincoln than in North Kesteven and West Lindsey. Spatially, participation levels are slightly lower in the east, particularly to the east of Lincoln City and in Gainsborough. The proportion of people playing bowls is highest in North Kesteven (1.16%).

9.12 In comparison to the number of people that do play bowls in Central Lincolnshire (2420) the amount of latent demand is relatively small. 550 residents would like to play bowls that do not currently play. The proportion of latent demand is slightly higher in North Kesteven than in other areas and overall, the total proportion of the population who have the propensity to participate is highest in this area. Residents in City of Lincoln have the lowest potential levels of participation in bowls (1.16% either do play or would like to play). This can be attributed to the make up of the population.

**Table 9.3: Participation in Bowls**

Authority	DO PLAY POPULATION	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	Total Number and % who do/would play	Spatial Differences	Key Participants
City of Lincoln	655 (0.91%)	155 (0.21%)	810 (1.12%)	Higher participation in the south (1.1-2%) than the remainder of the city. Potential participants spatially even.	Key participants – Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy. Same groups would like to play bowls with the addition of Terry.
North Kesteven	979 (1.16%)	219 (0.26%)	1,198 (1.42%)	Lower levels of current participation in East and centre (around Sleaford). Potential participants spatially even.	Key participants – Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy and Ralph and Phyllis. Same groups would like to play bowls, particularly high interest from Roger and Joy.
West Lindsey	786 (1.11%)	176 (0.25%)	962 (1.36%)	Lower levels of participation in Gainsborough and south. Potential participants spatially even	Key participants – Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy and Ralph and Phyllis. Same groups would like to play bowls, particularly high interest from Roger and Joy.

### Current Participation

9.13 There are 54 bowling clubs playing in Central Lincolnshire. Members of all clubs participate in both separate gender and mixed competitions and in single and doubles events.

9.14 These include;

- 8 bowling clubs in Lincoln;
- 30 bowling clubs in North Kesteven; and
- 16 bowling clubs in West Lindsey.

## **Club Feedback**

- 9.15 Clubs were contacted by telephone and / or electronic questionnaire and feedback was provided with regards participation in bowls, as well as the quality and quantity of greens in the Central Lincolnshire
- 9.16 For those responding, consultation revealed that;
- 89% of clubs indicate participation is static and the remainder have fewer players than last year. No bowling clubs have experienced growth in the number of members that they have;
  - all responding bowling clubs currently have capacity for new members and some clubs reference the challenges of attracting new participants (and in particular younger players), indicating that they have tried with limited success to increase their playing membership. 88% of clubs indicate that they are actively seeking new members and almost all suggest that they have tried to do this through open days / leaflets / advertisements;
  - there are no clubs that currently have any members with disabilities and North Kelsey Bowling Club is the only responding club to have junior members (8); and
  - while several clubs indicate that they have had limited success in their aspirations to grow, only one club references the amount / quality of greens as a barrier to growth. 39% highlight their falling membership as the main problem and 38% cite lack of external funding as a key contributing factor. The most prevalent facility rated issue is the quality of the pavilion (16%).
- 9.17 There are no differences in the above opinions by local authority area. Supporting the perception that participation in bowls is declining, as highlighted following table 9.1, four bowling greens have recently been abandoned (only one of these due to relocation elsewhere).

## **Perceptions of Quality**

- 9.18 Overall, consultation demonstrates a high level of satisfaction with facilities for bowls across Central Lincolnshire and only two responding clubs indicate that they are not happy with the facilities. Both of these attribute their issues to green quality and the lack of money available to maintain facilities.
- 9.19 Almost all clubs rate the quality of their facilities as good overall and the majority of factors considered are also rated as good. Reflecting the findings of the site visits, the quality of pavilions is the most negatively rated feature. Despite this, only 16% consider this to be poor and 11% of responding clubs acceptable, with the remainder rating this to be good. This suggests that overall, there are relatively few concerns relating to the quality of bowling greens.
- 9.20 There is no evidence of variation in opinion between local authority areas and quality is perceived consistently highly across Central Lincolnshire. The majority of greens are managed and maintained by the local clubs and associated volunteers. It is notable that Council maintained greens are perhaps perceived slightly more negatively than private facilities, however this is only marginal.

9.21 While the quality of facilities is perceived to be high, it should be noted that one point consistently raised by all clubs is the challenges that they face in maintaining the facility as a result of the costs associated with providing a high quality bowling green.

9.22 Table 9.4 summarises the site visits scores and comments made relating to the required improvements from both consultations and site visits. It is clear from this table that there are very few quality concerns at the current time.

**Table 9.4: Quality of Bowling Greens across Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Area of improvement	Improvements Required (Club / Site Visits)
City of Lincoln	Lincoln West Common Bowls Club	82%
	Lincoln Chaucer Drive Bowling Green	91%
	Monks Road Bowls Club	91%
	Lincoln Norman House Bowls Club	94%
	Ruston Sports and Social Club – Bowls	71%
	Lincoln, Boultham Park	94%
	Moorlands Railway Bowling Green	94%
	Lincoln Eastgate Bowls Club	100%
	Claytons Sports Association	0%
	Timberland Bowls Club	0%
	Bracebridge Heath Bowls Club	62%
	Chapel Hill Bowling Green	68%
	Helpringham Bowls Club	79%
	Cranwell Sport & Social Club	82%
	North Kelsey Bowling Green	82%
	Dunston Bowls Club	85%
	Canwick Bowling Green	88%
	Sleaford Bowls Club	88%
	Brant Road Social Club	91%
	Eslaforde Park Bowls Club, Sleaford	91%
North Kesteven	Heighington Bowling Club	91%
	Leadenham Bowling Green	91%
	Leasingham Bowls Club	91%
	Metheringham Bowls Club	91%

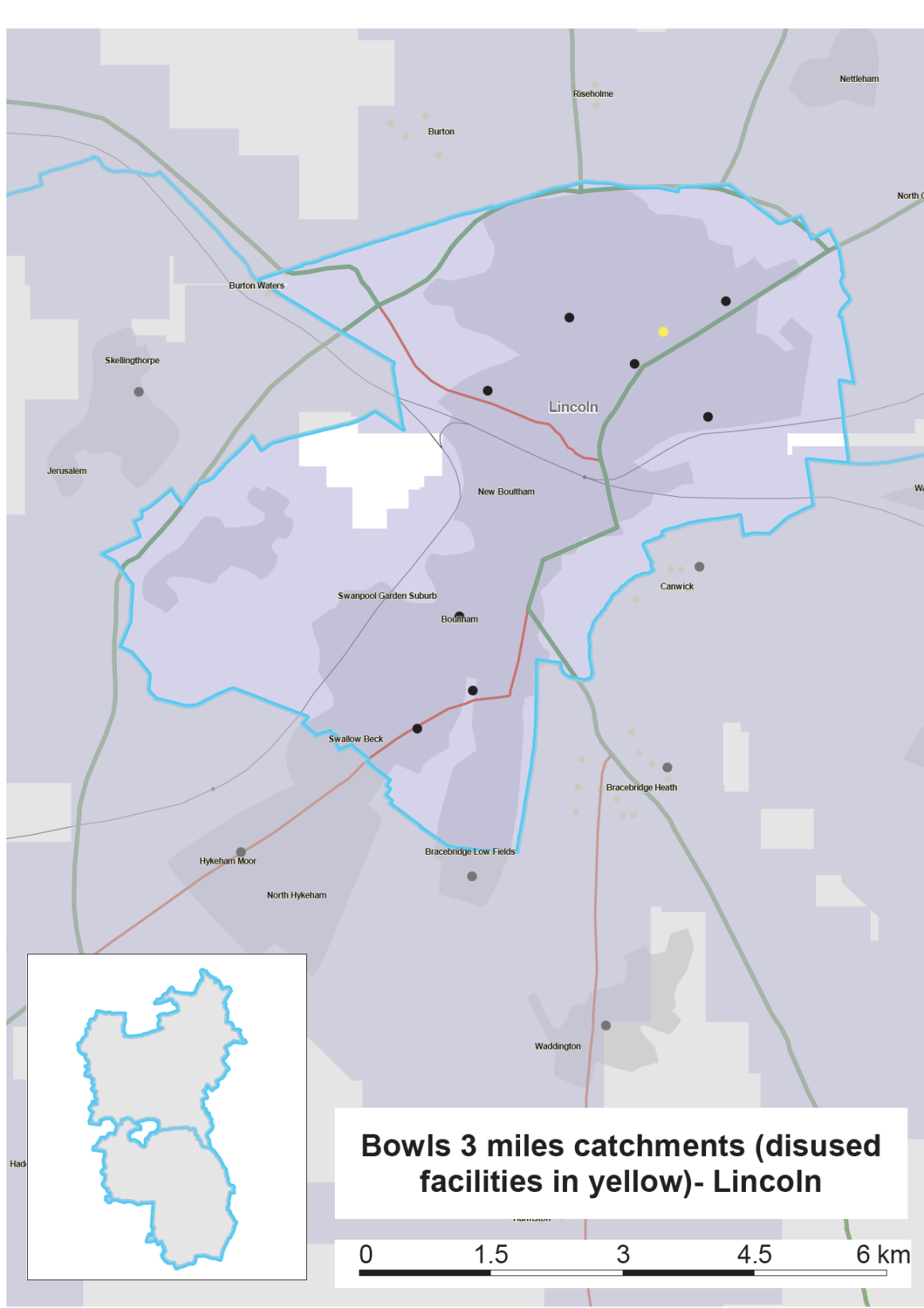
Area	Area of improvement	Improvements Required (Club / Site Visits)
	Ruskington Bowling Green	91%
		Limited car parking
		Tucked away in residential area. No signposting. Prefabricated, small pavilion
	Waddington Bowls Club, Coupland Close	91%
	Billinghay Bowls Club	94%
	Branston Bowling Club	94%
	Washingborough Bowling Green	94%
	Bassingham Bowling Green	97%
	Bristol Bowls Club, Sleaford	97%
	North Hykeham, Hykeham Memorial Playing Fields – Bowls	97%
	North Scarle Bowling Green	97%
	Skellingthorpe Bowls Club	97%
	Swinderby Bowls Club	97%
	Navenby Bowls Club	100%
	Heckington Bowls Club	94%
	Jolly Scotchman pub	0%
West Lindsey	South Kelsey Bowling Green	47%
		Abandoned
		No longer used.
	Middle Rasen Bowling Club	82%
		Limited car parking and paths.
	Dunholme Bowls Club	94%
	Market Rasen Bowling Club	85%
	Bardney Bowling Club	91%
	Marshall Sports Ground – Bowls	91%
	Caistor Hillside Bowls Club	94%
	Ingham Bowls Club	94%
	Keelby Sports Development – Bowls	94%
	Marton Bowls Green	94%
	Nettleham Bowls Club	94%
	Osgodby Bowling Green	94%
	Roses Sports Ground – Bowls	94%
	Cherry Willingham Bowls Club	97%
	Saxilby Bowling Green	97%
	Tealby Bowls Club	97%
	Manor Park, Welton Bowls Club	100%
	Scotter Bowls Club	100%



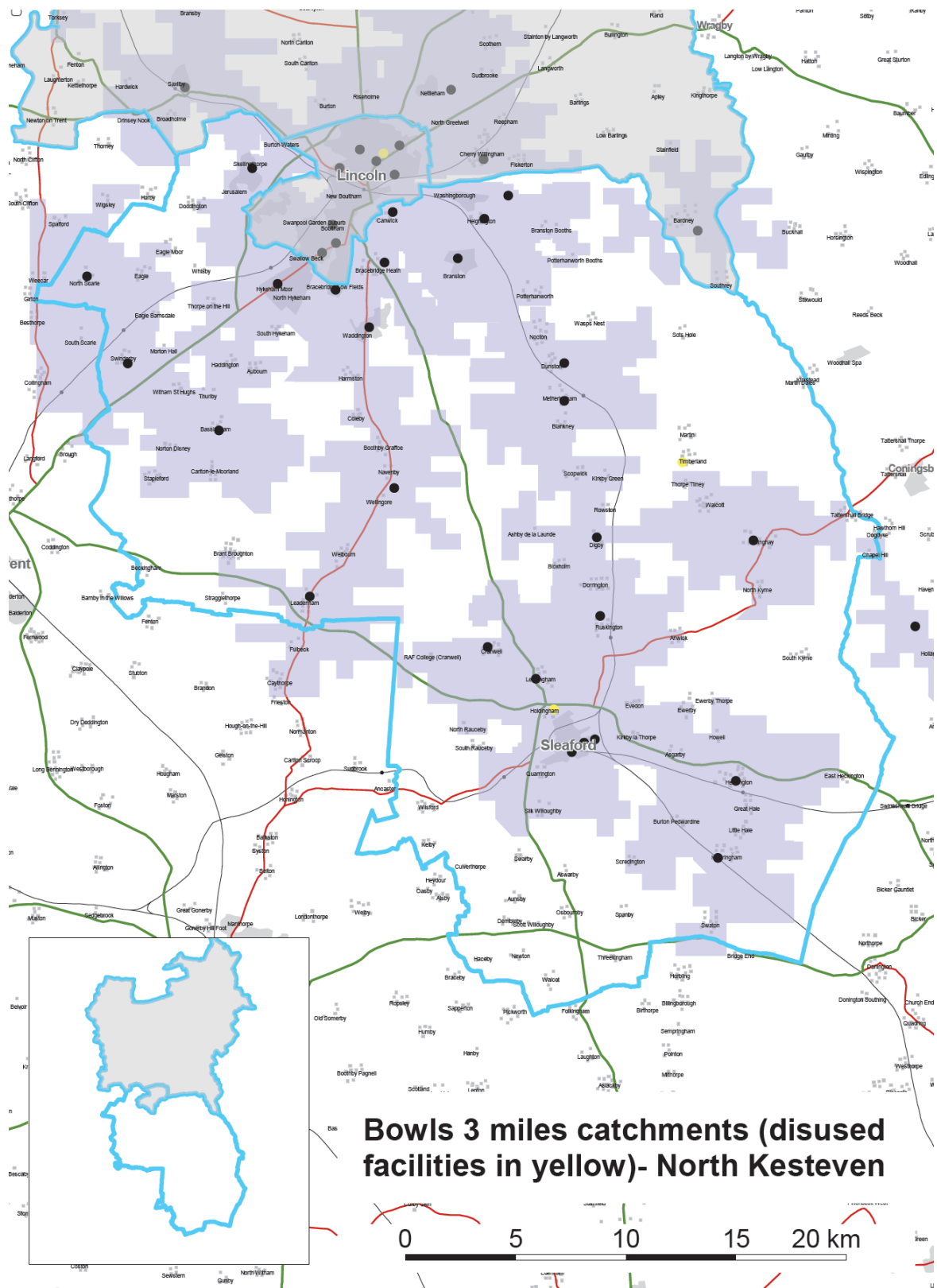
## **Accessibility**

- 9.23 Consultation with bowling clubs reveals that most members choose clubs relatively close to their home. 50% of club members in Central Lincolnshire live within 1 mile of the green. Only 5% travel further than 5 miles.
- 9.24 Current travel patterns are however in part likely to be reflective of the distribution of current facilities. i.e. people are forced to travel to reach a bowling green where there is not one located close to their home. The age profile of participants in bowls means that access may be more important, and many may expect local facilities, or require greens that are accessible by public transport. Maps 9.1 – 9.3 therefore illustrate the location of each of the greens and include a 3 mile catchment area.
- 9.25 It can be seen that while the majority of bowling greens are located within a cluster in and around Lincoln. The majority of residents in these areas are within 3 miles of such a facility. Provision in the more rural parts of West Lindsey and North Kesteven is much more sparse and in both of these areas, residents in some villages must travel further than 3 miles to reach a bowling green. It should be noted however that the indoor facilities assessment noted a variety of opportunities for bowls at local village halls. These complement the stock of outdoor facilities.

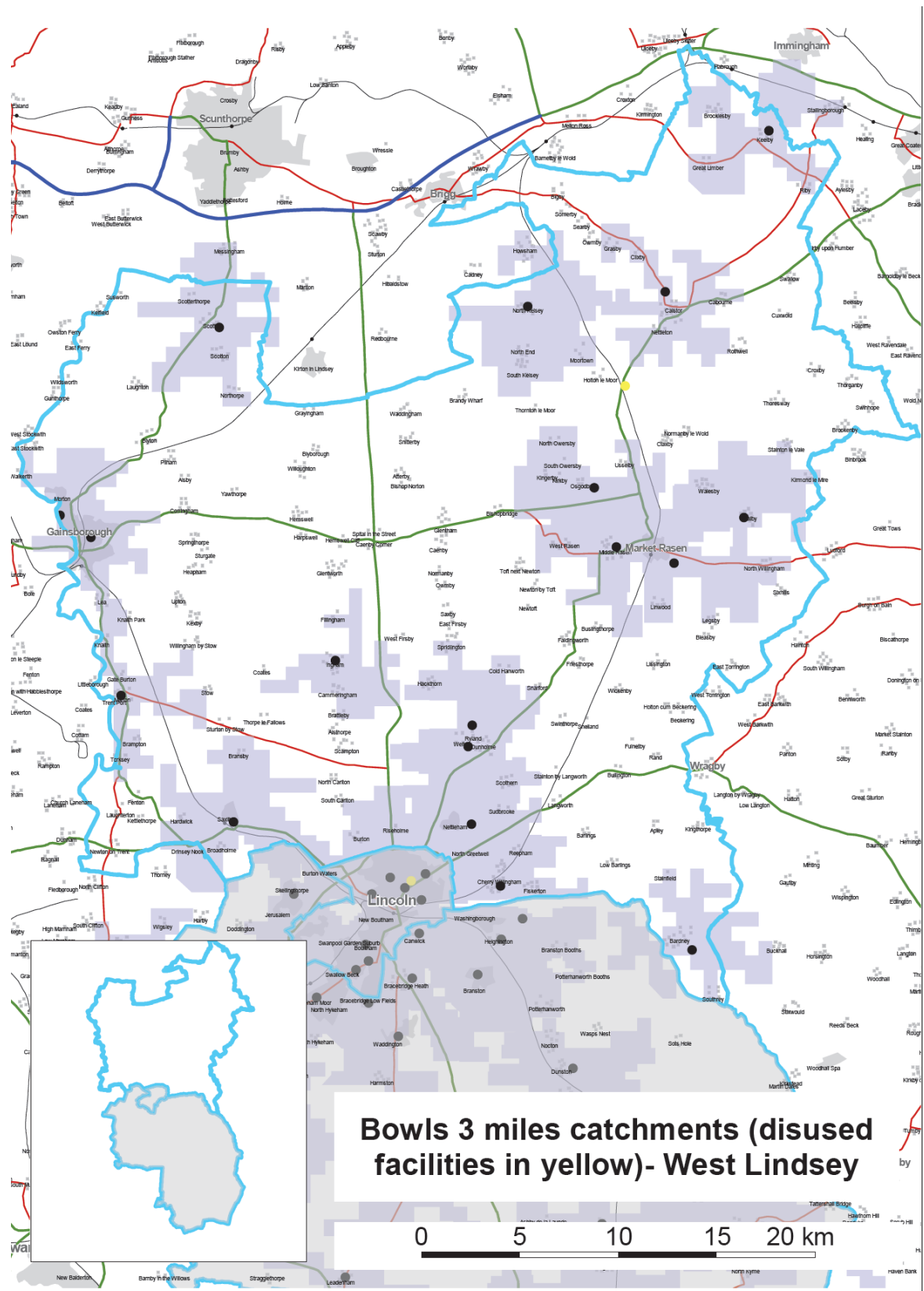
**Map 9.1: Bowling Greens in Central Lincolnshire (City of Lincoln)**



**Map 9.2: Bowling Greens in Central Lincolnshire (North Kesteven)**



**Map 9.3: Bowling Greens in Central Lincolnshire (West Lindsey)**



## Meeting Current and Future Demand

- 9.26 There are no supply and demand models for bowling greens and it is therefore not appropriate to assess demand by applying the methodology used by other sports or by the use of TGRs.
- 9.27 Adoption of a historic Sports Council standard of 10 greens per 60,000 people (Planning for Sport 1970) would give a requirement of circa 48 greens across Central Lincolnshire. There are currently 61 greens (of which 56 are active) meaning that provision is quite significantly above this standard. Furthermore, the stock of outdoor bowling greens is supplemented by indoor bowling facilities all of which are well used. The indoor bowls centre in Hall Drive, Lincoln for example, has 1000 members. The indoor facilities assessment also indicated that several village halls accommodate short mat bowls, providing further opportunities for residents to participate in this type of activity.
- 9.28 Recent participation trends (existing club memberships) suggest that participation in bowls is stagnant and the recent closure of three clubs suggest that there are issues with the sustainability of some bowling clubs across Central Lincolnshire. Reflecting this, all responding clubs indicate that they have capacity for additional members, and the flexibility of fixtures means that there is scope to accommodate additional teams on existing greens. Analysis of access to bowling greens suggests that on the whole, the majority of the population are within close proximity to a bowling green and only those in the more rural parts of North Kesteven and West Lindsey must travel further than three miles.
- 9.29 Although there is sufficient capacity currently, the ageing population suggests that the number of people who may have the propensity to participate in bowls is likely to grow in future years. Section 3 indicates that there will be significant growth in the number of residents falling into the older age groups by 2022. In contrast to the impact for pitch sports (which are likely to see a decline in participation occurring as a result of the lower numbers of people in the age groups likely to play), for bowls it is likely that more residents will be of an age that traditionally plays bowls (29.9% over 60 compared to 27% currently). Adding this to the projected population growth and demand for bowls is likely to increase, particularly in areas where the increase in population is concentrated.
- 9.30 The potential impact of this is summarised in Table 9.5. It must be noted that these figures are based upon the assumption that bowls players fall into the age group of 60+. While it is recognised that this is not entirely accurate, membership figures, consultation and the Sport England Market Segmentation indicate that this enables a realistic estimate of future participation to be undertaken.
- 9.31 Figures are based upon the average membership of responding clubs (34).

**Table 9.5: Calculation of Potential Growth in Bowls**

Current Situation	
Area considered	Calculation
Current Population Aged 60+	70,768
Current Membership of Bowling Clubs	34*61 = 2074
% of Current Population Participating in Bowls	2.9%

Future Population aged 60+	90,949
Assumed Future Participation in Bowls (participation remains constant)	2.9%
Potential Future Participants in Bowls	2638

\*assumes average membership for clubs where total membership is not known

- 9.32 Table 9.5 therefore indicates that assuming participation rates remain constant, demand for bowls is likely to increase by 564 players as a direct result of population growth. Assuming that membership of all greens is even, this would mean a membership of 47 players at each bowling club (excluding greens that are currently abandoned). An average of ten players per team would therefore mean that circa 5 games are taking place per week (in addition to training).
- 9.33 This suggests therefore that there is sufficient stock to of facilities to meet current and future demand, based on existing participation rates and the assumption that all greens are retained. The higher levels of membership are likely to maximise the sustainability of clubs.
- 9.34 Future participation in bowls is only likely to grow significantly however if a more aggressive approach to recruitment is taken by clubs and governing bodies. There is little marketing of existing opportunities outside of word of mouth and leafleting currently and there has been little growth in the sport. If marketing / promotion was to be successful and latent demand and participation increases were realised, demand could increase significantly and new provision may be required.
- 9.35 While this provides an overall indication of provision, it is clear that demand may be more uneven than assumed in Table 9.5. While the ageing population is evident across Central Lincolnshire, population growth will be focused in Sleaford, Gainsborough and on the edges of Lincoln meaning that it is clubs in these areas where the impact of growth may be most keenly felt. Furthermore, much additional population growth will take place between 2022 and 2031, placing extra pressures on the facility infrastructure.

#### **Adequacy of Provision in each Local Authority Area**

- 9.36 As well as considering provision across Central Lincolnshire as a whole, supply and demand and the impact of population growth can therefore be measured in a similar fashion to above and the implications considered spatially.

#### **Application of Standard of 10 greens per 60000 population**

- 9.37 Table 9.6 outlines the application of the standard of 10 greens per 1000 population by local authority. It indicates that provision is above target levels in North Kesteven and West Lindsey and below in Lincoln. This is a historic standard only however and should be treated as an indication of the amount of facilities required rather than a formal target standard.

**Table 9.6: Application of Standard of 10 Greens per 60000 Population**

Area	Population	Number of Greens Required	Number of Greens Provided	Above / Below Standard
City of Lincoln	93541	16	11	Below

North Kesteven	107766	18	32	Above
West Lindsey	89250	15	18	Above

9.38 Table 9.7 illustrates the likely implication of population growth in each area. Using calculations set out earlier, it assumes that 2.9% of residents aged 60 and above will participate in bowls.

**Table 9.7: Implications of potential growth in population**

Area	Current Population 60+	Future Population aged 60 and above	Total Bowls Players (Currently)	Total Future Bowls Players	Membership per green (all greens)	Membership per green (excluding redundant greens)
City of Lincoln	18,590	21,700	539	629	57	63
North Kesteven	32,062	36,843	930	1,068	33	56
West Lindsey	27,116	32,406	786	940	52	35

9.39 Table 9.7 indicates that the number of members at greens in Lincoln and West Lindsey will be significantly above that in North Kesteven. On the assumption that matches continue to be arranged flexibly (ie played throughout the week rather than at one peak time), levels of use should however remain just acceptable, although they are becoming close to capacity in Lincoln (particularly as much of the growth on the edge of Lincoln is located in North Kesteven, but may impact on demand in Lincoln City). The quality of facilities will be essential in ensuring that the additional capacity can be accommodated within the existing infrastructure.

9.40 Spatially, clubs located within Gainsborough, Sleaford and those in South and East Lincoln (in particular Canwick) are likely to experience higher levels of growth as a result of the planned increases in population although the ageing population is likely to see all clubs experience a slight increase. Table 9.8 illustrates this, indicating that over half of all growth will take place in these three areas.

**Table 9.8 – Growth in Bowling as a result of concentrated population growth**

Area	Planned new housing	Number of Players			Increase in number of players
		Current	2022	2031	
Gainsborough North	2400	6	11	45	39
Gainsborough East	2100	4	8	45	41
Gainsborough South	2500	6	11	55	49
Sleaford West	1750	14	18	49	35



Area	Planned new housing	Number of Players			Increase in number of players
Sleaford South	1600	6	10	38	31
Lincoln WGC	2700	24	32	81	56
Lincoln NEQ	2000	10	15	51	41
Lincoln SEQ	2800	8	14	65	57

- 9.41 While all nearby clubs currently have capacity to accommodate increases, an increase in the number of people playing bowls would see a requirement for new facilities between 2022 and 2031 in the areas where particular population growth will occur.

### Summary and Key Issues

#### Key issues to address – Bowls

There are 61 bowling greens across Central Lincolnshire. Provision is particularly high in North Kesteven and comparatively low in City of Lincoln. Five of these greens are inactive.

In quantitative terms, there are no supply and demand models for bowling greens and it is therefore not appropriate to assess demand by applying the methodology used by other sports. For indicative purposes however it is possible to compare provision with the historic Sports Council standard. This standard advocates 10 greens per 60,000 people (*Planning for Sport 1970*) and therefore gives a requirement of circa 48 greens across Central Lincolnshire. Current provision of 61 greens (56 of which are active) means that provision is significantly above this standard. The Indoor Bowls Centres offer further opportunities to play bowls and complement the outdoor facility stock.

Reflecting the application of quantity standards, all clubs responding to consultation indicated that they have capacity for additional members, and there is scope to accommodate more teams on most greens.

Adding to this, while current participation in bowls is good, there is no evidence of growth in bowls with most clubs remaining static and the remainder indicating that their membership has declined. Four clubs have become disused in recent years (one each in City of Lincoln and West Lindsey and two in North Kesteven). Several bowls clubs have however made attempts to increase their membership levels and many clubs have sought to target both juniors and adults with limited success. This suggests that supply is more than adequate to meet demand at peak time.

The quality of existing provision is high and a high proportion of clubs were satisfied with facilities provided. It is clear that significant time and effort goes into the management and maintenance of these facilities and this was demonstrated through the achievement of consistently high quality scores. The overriding concern emerging through consultation was the cost of management and maintenance of a high quality green and this will be an important consideration moving forwards. An increase in membership will generate additional income and will help to ensure that the management and maintenance of bowling greens remains viable.



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In contrast to pitch sports however, the ageing population may see bowls become more popular in future years, as market segmentation demonstrates that it is the older age groups who have a higher propensity to participate. This growth alone could generate an additional 564 bowls players, meaning that clubs would have higher levels of members and supply would be much more closely matched with demand, particularly in Lincoln where the number of players would exceed 60 per club. Over 50% of the increase in participation will be in Gainsborough, Sleaford and Lincoln. While there is currently sufficient capacity to accommodate increased participation, the amount of growth between 2021 and 2031 may see a requirement for an additional green in these areas, particularly if also coupled with increases in participation.

The changing population profile and the propensity of the older age groups to play bowls (based upon Sport England Market Segmentation) however means that there is a significant opportunity to promote bowls. Junior development is also a key target for many clubs.

### **Strategic Priorities**

#### **Quantity of Provision**

**BG1: Protect all remaining bowling greens (excluding those that have already closed).**

**BG2: Monitor the requirement for additional facilities in the long term (2022 – 2031).** This is likely to occur in Sleaford, Lincoln and Gainsborough. Increases in participation in the shorter term should be channelled to existing clubs to increase membership and consequently to improve sustainability and viability.

#### **Quality of Provision**

**BG3: Support existing Clubs to improve the quality issues identified at current bowling green sites.** Quality will be essential if increases in club membership are to be sustainable

#### **Promote increases in participation and the creation of sustainable clubs**

**BG4: Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership.** To maximise the sustainability of bowls as a sport, efforts should focus on recruitment of junior players as well as adult and veterans. This is important for the sustainability of existing clubs as well as the growth of bowls as a sport.

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## 10. Tennis

10.1 This section evaluates the adequacy of facilities for tennis and considers:

- The supply of courts and demand for these courts
- The adequacy of courts to meet demand
- Summary and key issues to address
- Strategic priorities for tennis.

### Supply

#### Courts

10.2 There are 127 tennis courts located at public venues across Central Lincolnshire. Of these, 10 are grass courts and 63 have a synthetic surface. Almost all of the remainder are tarmac. A small number of club sites also have mini courts

10.3 Circa a quarter of all publicly accessible courts are floodlit. All floodlit courts are currently associated with club bases.

10.4 Table 10.1 outlines the spread of tennis courts across Central Lincolnshire. It demonstrates that the distribution of courts is relatively uneven when taking into account the size of the population in each area. It is however notable that in addition to there being fewer facilities in the City of Lincoln, those sites that do cater for tennis offer more courts. There are more courts available in both North Kesteven and West Lindsey that are not on club sites (mostly Parish Council owned).

10.5 Of the 127 tennis courts, 12 appear to be redundant (or unplayable without significant investment). These are located in West Lindsey and North Kesteven and are as follows;

- Welbourn Playing Field,
- Ingham Tennis Court,
- North Kelsey Tennis Court,
- Sudbrooke Village Hall Tennis Court,
- Scothern Village Hall Tennis Court,
- Bracebridge Heath Tennis Courts.
- Wellingore Tennis Courts
- Keelby courts (recently relocated but former courts remain).

**Table 10.1: Tennis Courts in Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Total Courts	Total Sites	Courts Per 1000 Population	Number of Courts on Club Sites	Number of Courts Appearing Redundant
City of Lincoln	29	5	0.31	80%	0
North Kesteven	50	19	0.47	62%	7
West Lindsey	48	20	0.54	69%	4

10.6 There are also five indoor tennis courts, one of which is privately owned and accessed locally and the remainder are at a David Lloyd Centre. It is also possible to play tennis on the outdoor covered multi use surface at Lincoln College (Deans Sports Centre).

10.7 In addition to the courts referenced above, there are 78 courts at school sites / private facilities (primarily RAF sites) that are not currently available for public use or have limited use. These are distributed as follows;

- City of Lincoln - 7 courts
- North Kesteven – 40 courts
- West Lindsey – 31 courts

10.8 Facilities at RAF Scampton (included above) appear to be redundant.

### **Demand**

10.9 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation (explained in Section 3), it is possible to evaluate how many residents of Central Lincolnshire **do** participate in tennis and how many of the population **would like** to participate in football. It is also possible to understand how this varies across different part of Central Lincolnshire.

10.10 Table 10.2 sets out the current proportion of residents that participate in tennis according to Active People and also illustrates the number of residents that would like to play.

10.11 It indicates that the proportion of residents currently playing tennis is relatively consistent across Central Lincolnshire, although it is marginally lower in City of Lincoln than in North Kesteven and West Lindsey. Spatially, participation levels are slightly lower in North and West Lincoln, Gainsborough and Billinghay.

10.12 In all three areas of Central Lincolnshire, the proportion of people that would like to play tennis is higher than those that do play, suggesting that there is higher latent demand than for other sports. Spatially, more detailed analysis indicates that latent demand is even, with the exception of North Lincoln City and Gainsborough where it is lower. The overall numbers of people that either do play or would like to play tennis are relatively consistent and are higher than for many other sports considered in this document.

**Table 10.2: Participation in Tennis across Central Lincolnshire**

Authority	DO PLAY POPULATION	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	Total Number and % who do/would play	Spatial Variation	Key Participants
City of Lincoln	1,449 (2%)	1,740 (2.42%)	3,189 (4.42%)	Lower participation in North East and South West. Potential to participate even except for north west (Lower)	Key participants Jamie, Ben, Tim, Philip and Leanne. Spread of participants would like to play. demand from Leanne particularly high
North Kesteven	1,912 (2.28%)	2,028 (2.42%)	3,940 (4.7%)	Lower participation in East. Spatial distribution of those that would like to play is even.	Key participants Tim, Philip, Ben, Alison, Chloe. Spread of participants would like to play. But higher demand focused in same groups.
West Lindsey	1,564 (2.22%)	1,668 (2.36%)	3,232 (4.58%)	Spatial distribution of those that play even. Distribution of those that would like to play is also even.	Key participants – Tim, Ben, Philip and Chloe. Same groups would like to play but again demand is evident across most segments.

### Existing Participation - Clubs

10.13 Around 70% of identified courts are associated with tennis clubs and the tennis clubs in each area are summarised in Table 10.3.

10.14 Most clubs are affiliated to the LTA, however there are a few clubs based in small villages that are not affiliated and offer a more informal set up. The majority of large clubs are focused in Lincoln.

**Table 10.3: Tennis Clubs in Central Lincolnshire**

Area	Club
City of Lincoln	Boultham Park, Eastgate Tennis Club, Lincoln City Sports Centre (Priory City of Lincoln Academy), Rustons Tennis Club,
North Kesteven	Bassingham Tennis Club, Billingham TC, Branston Tennis Club, Canwick Tennis Club, Cranwell Sport and Social Club, Heckington Tennis Club, Heighington Tennis Club, Leadenham Tennis Club, North Scarle Tennis Club, Sleaford Tennis Club, Washingborough Tennis Club
West Lindsey	Caistor Sports and Social Club, David Lloyd Burton Waters, Gainsborough Town Tennis Club, Keelby Sports Association, Lea Park, Nettleham Tennis Club (Mulsanne Park), Reepham Tennis Club, Saxilby Tennis Club, Scotter Tennis Club, Tealby Tennis Club

10.15 There is also a degree of casual participation which is difficult to measure. West Common Tennis Courts (City of Lincoln) are accessed free of charge in Lincoln. Potterhanworth, Washingborough, Welbourn and Dunholme Tennis courts are also believed to be free access. In addition to running membership policies, Cranwell, Eastgate, Rustons, Sleaford and Tealby Tennis Clubs are all registered to the LTA as occasionally offering free tennis.

10.16 Boultham Park and Millfield Golf Complex operate as pay and play. The remainder of sites operate primarily on a membership basis, although 14 clubs indicate that they also offer pay and play opportunities (to varying degrees).

#### **Quality of Provision:**

10.17 The quality of existing playing and ancillary facilities was investigated by site inspections and also informed by consultations. Analysis below summarises the key issues that were identified.

#### **Site Visits**

10.18 The quality of tennis courts is less consistent than other types of facility. There is a greater discrepancy in overall scores and examples of very poor and very good provision. This range of facilities is evident in each of the areas, however further investigation demonstrates that provision in City of Lincoln is clearly more consistent than in North Kesteven and West Lindsey. The range of scores achieved are as follows;

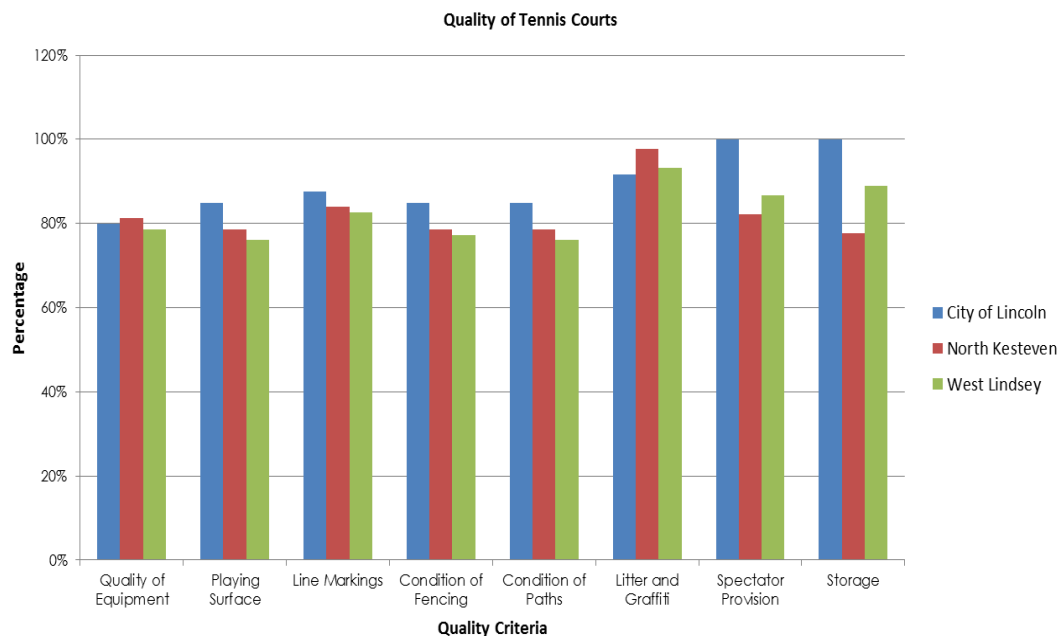
- City of Lincoln – 58% - 100% (but only one site below 80%);
- North Kesteven – 53% - 100%; and
- West Lindsey – 58% - 100%.

10.19 Considering the adequacy of provision in more detail, the average score for each of the quality factors is around 75%. Some sites however achieve poor scores in terms of quality of equipment and playing surface and these are the lowest scoring features. In addition, several sites are considered in need of resurfacing. Consultation with Parish and Town Councils reveals that some are considering resurfacing in order to provide a multi sports

surface and to diversify the use of the tennis courts. It is notable that on the whole, club based facilities are of higher quality than those that offer just pay and play access.

10.20 The above issues are illustrated in Chart 10.1, which outlines the average percentage score attributed to each feature rated in each area of Central Lincolnshire. It demonstrates that spectator provision, storage and litter and graffiti were the areas achieving the most positive scores.

**Chart 10.1: Quality of Tennis Courts in Central Lincolnshire**



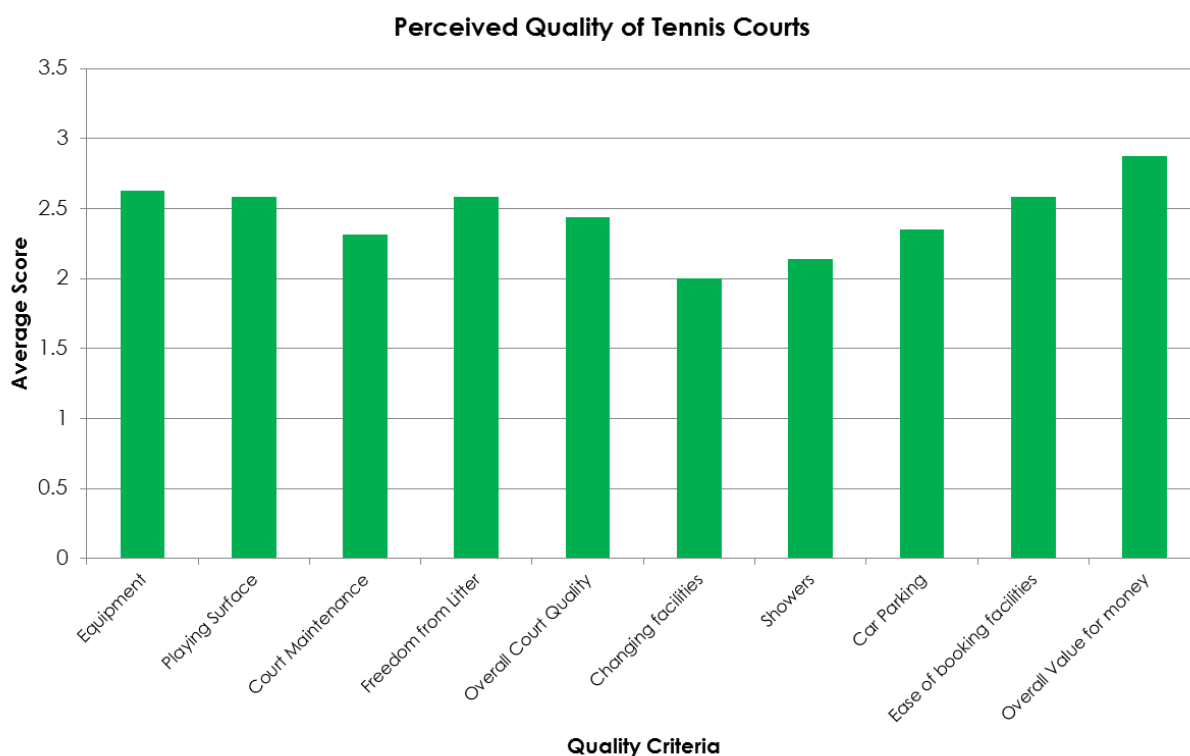
### **Club Consultation**

10.21 Consultation with clubs revealed the following issues with regards the quality of facilities:

- 71% of responding clubs are satisfied with facilities for tennis in Central Lincolnshire. Clubs that are dissatisfied are evenly spread and there is at least one in each area. The main reasons behind the dissatisfaction are the lack of courts or the need to resurface the facilities;
- there is a positive view on the quality of facilities overall, although 4 clubs indicate that quality impacts on their ability to function; and
- several clubs identified site specific priorities – these primarily relate to similar issues - resurfacing / floodlighting / additional courts.

10.22 Chart 10.2 illustrates the views of clubs in relation to each of the factors considered. It indicates that access to changing facilities, showers and court maintenance are most poorly rated features for tennis clubs. Value for money, the quality of equipment and playing surface are the most highly rated elements overall, although it must be noted that this disguises several site specific concerns which will be explored later.

**Chart 10.2: Quality of Tennis Courts**



#### **Other Issues arising from consultation**

- 67% of clubs indicate that participation is static while the remainder of responses are evenly split between increasing and decreasing membership numbers. There are no clear patterns evident to explain the variations in membership trends.
- Eleven clubs indicate that they would like to increase the number of teams that they run but all reference difficulties in attracting new members. Other concerns raised included legislation relating to junior teams and a lack of coaches. This is felt to be a key concern for the development of tennis moving forwards.
- Varying barriers to club development and growth were identified. The key issues raised were a shortage of good quality courts, lack of coaches / volunteers and lack of external funding (all 37%), falling membership (31%), poor quality changing facilities and lack of indoor training provision (26%). It is clear that there a multitude of challenges faced and many of these are specific to each club.

#### **Accessibility**

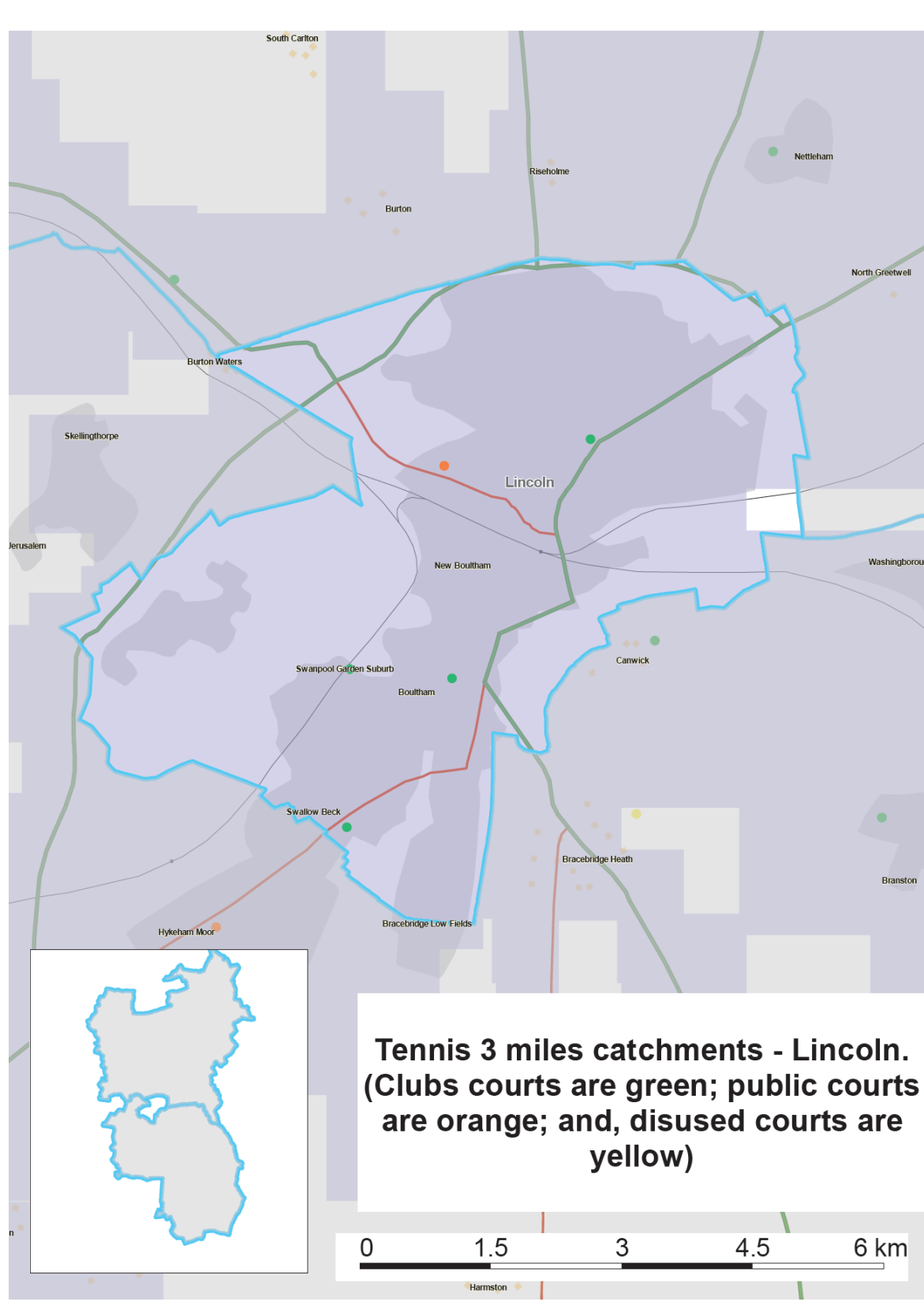
10.23 Consultation provides an understanding of the catchment areas of the existing clubs. It is clear that the catchment area of most facilities is relatively local – on average 46% of members of clubs are based within 1 mile of the club base and just 20% further than 3 miles.

10.24 While this is the overall pattern, it is notable that residents travel further to tennis facilities in largest settlements (and to sites of more established clubs). Eastgate TC (City of Lincoln) and Gainsborough TC (West Lindsey) in particular have wider catchments.

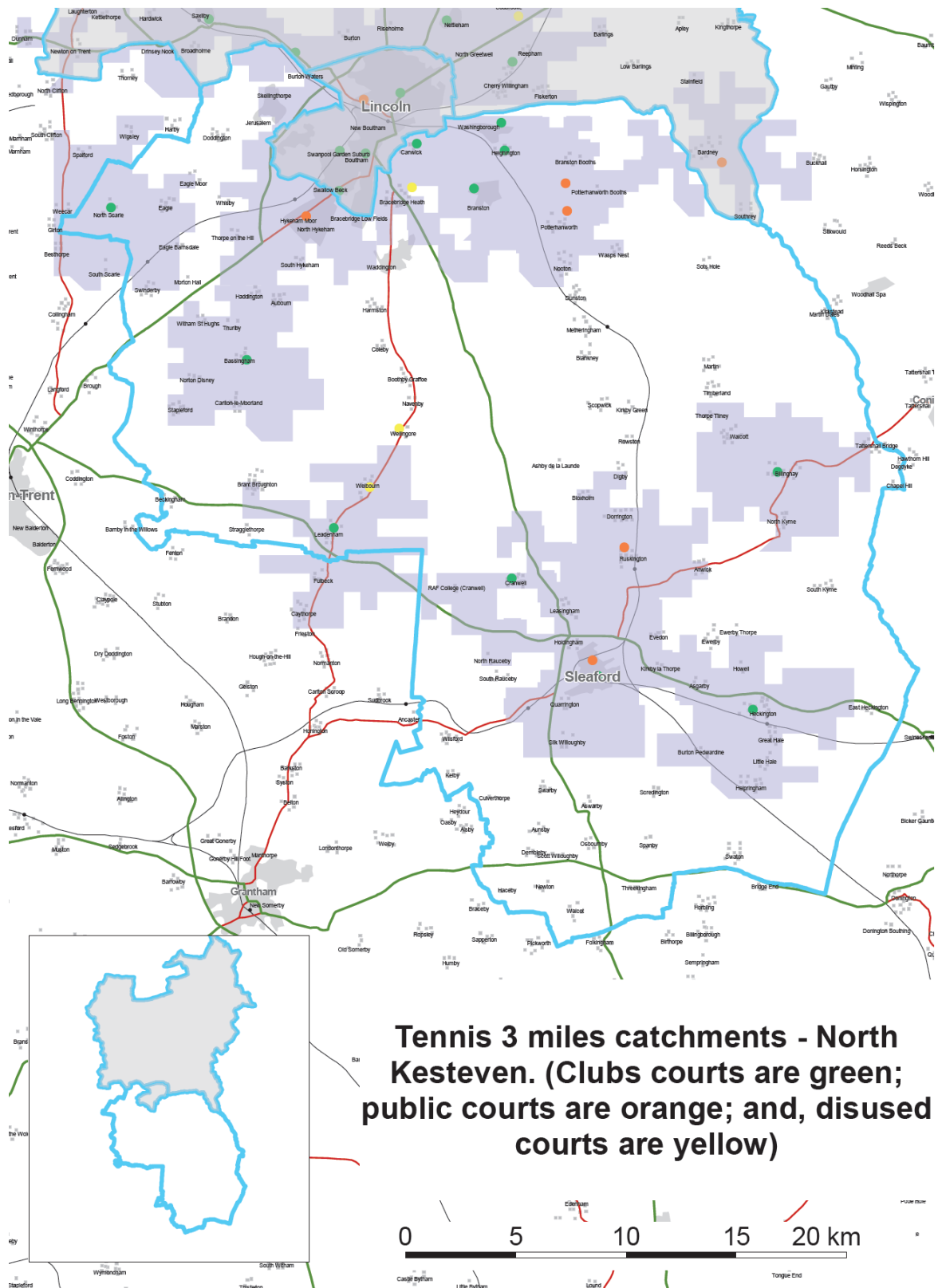
- 10.25 Current travel patterns are however in part likely to be reflective of the distribution of current facilities. I.e. people are forced to travel to reach a tennis club where there is not one located close to their home. Maps 10.1 – 10.3 therefore illustrate the location of each of the courts, with a 4800m (3 mile) catchment around each facility.
- 10.26 It reveals that there is an even distribution of tennis courts across Central Lincolnshire, although there are some areas where residents must travel more than 3 miles to access a facility in the more rural parts of North Kesteven and West Lindsey. All areas surrounding Lincoln and within Lincoln are able to access tennis courts within 3 miles of their home. Market Rasen is the only larger town without a club (although there are courts at De Aston Sports Centre, which have limited use) however residents are located within 3 miles of other tennis clubs, including Tealby Tennis Club, a successful club with development aspirations.



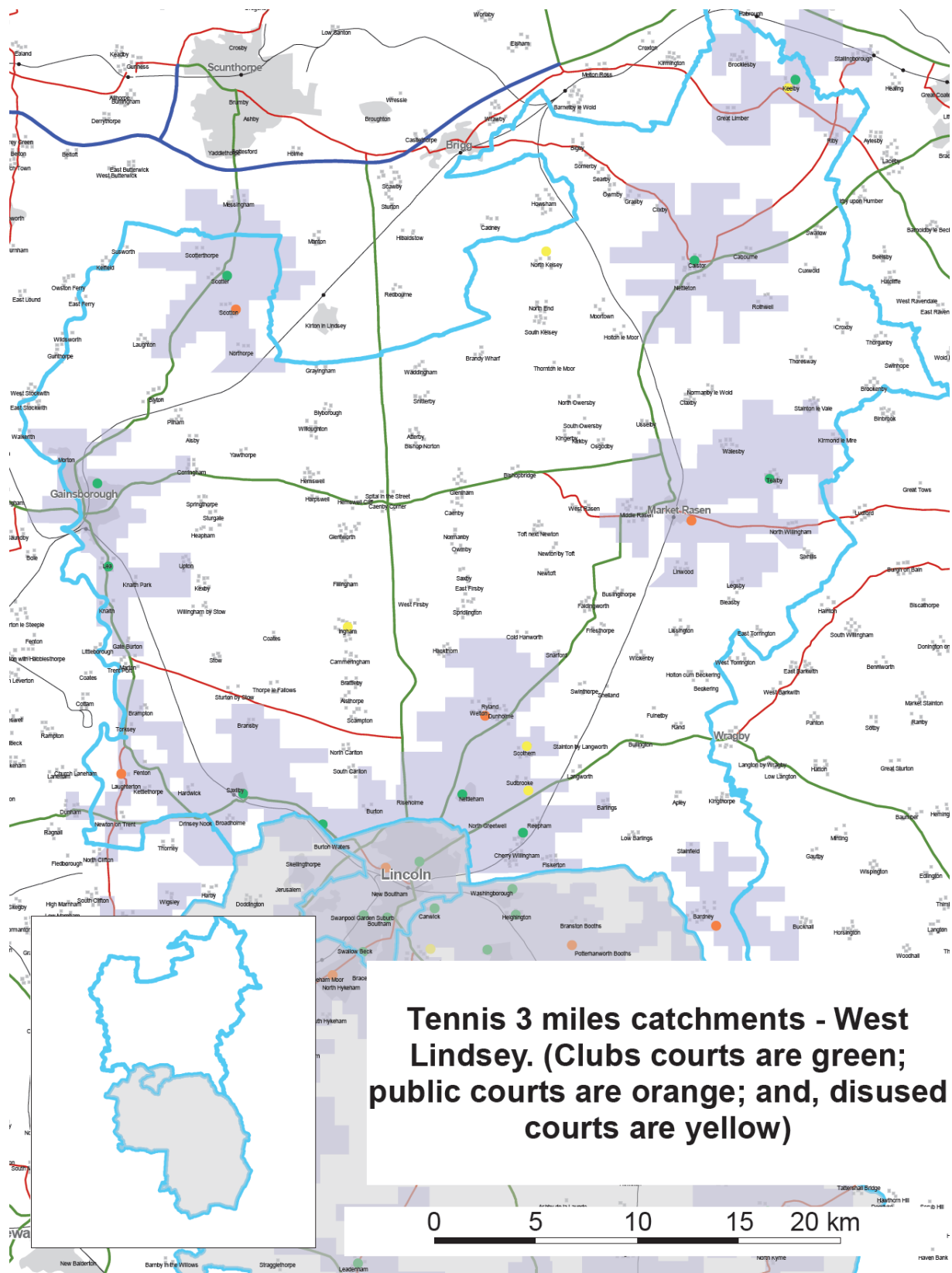
**Map 10.1: Catchment Areas of Existing Tennis Facilities (City of Lincoln)**



**Map 10.2: Catchment Areas of Existing Tennis Facilities (North Kesteven)**



**Map 10.3: Catchment Areas of Existing Tennis Facilities (West Lindsey)**



## National Governing Body Perspective – Lawn Tennis Association

10.27 The Governing Body for tennis is the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA). It is responsible for the administration of tennis across the country, including youth and other development. The LTA National facility strategy is set out in Places to Play. The Place to Play Strategy sets out:

- the overall vision for places to play;
- how the LTA will grow regular participation by supporting places to play to develop and deliver the right programmes;
- how the LTA will make capital investment decisions to ensure investment in the right facilities to grow the sport; and
- how LTA will support performance programmes in the right locations.

10.28 It indicates that the LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition. The overall aim between 2011-2016 is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the location of high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In brief:

- access for everyone to well maintained high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play;
- a Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of their home;
- indoor courts within a 20 minute drive time of their home;
- a mini tennis (10 and under) performance programme within a 20 minute drive of their home (Performance Centres);
- a performance programme for 11 - 15 year olds within a 45 minute drive time of their home (High Performance Centre); and
- a limited number of internationally orientated programmes strategically spread for players 16+ with an international programme (International High Performance Centres).

10.29 The facility element of the LTA places to play strategy focuses on:

- **improving facilities at high quality places to play:** Enhancing facility provision at performance venues and Tennis Clubmark accredited places to play;
- **tennis in community settings:** Beacon sites - supporting LA's to bring back into use existing community tennis facilities and working with them to develop affordable quality tennis programmes; and
- **sustainability:** Advising places to play to ring fence funding to ensure existing facilities can be upgraded or replaced when they get to the end of their life.

10.30 LTA research reveals that many successful places to play are unable to grow or maximise their potential and their tennis programme due to site restrictions e.g.

- courts are at capacity and there is no space to expand further; and
- planning restrictions preventing the installation of floodlights or indoor courts.

10.31 Within the Central Lincolnshire area, the majority of tennis clubs are affiliated to the LTA and there is a strong club structure.

10.32 While there is a clear understanding of the amount of participation at club level, the amount of casual participants is not fully understood as access to many of the courts is free and use is not monitored. Increasing participation through non traditional methods of delivery is a key priority moving forward and pilots have been undertaken in different areas of the country in order to understand how this can most effectively be done. Activities that will help to deliver this are likely to include mini tennis, Tennis Express (soon to be introduced) and cardio tennis.

10.33 These forms of the game are much more flexible in terms of facility requirements and can be played using traditional tennis courts or alternative facilities. In general, they need a smaller space than traditional tennis courts and use fold out nets and can therefore be played in a variety of venues including sports halls and community halls. It is hoped that the introduction of these alternative forms of the game will stimulate participation in tennis, leading to an increase in the membership of clubs as well as more informal participants.

10.34 The Places to Play website (<http://www.lta.org.uk/players-parents/Getting-started-in-tennis/Places-to-Play/>) is an important tool developed by the LTA with a view to raising awareness of tennis and the opportunities available. It provides information for potential players on the location of courts and also allows people to link up with other players in their area.

10.35 The key priorities of the LTA both nationally and more locally in Lincolnshire are to develop tennis participation for those aged 14 and above, develop the adult tennis programme and focus upon junior development. There is a strong ethos that tennis development and growth in participation will stimulate demand for facilities. There has been limited success in establishing new facilities for tennis and then subsequently seeking to generate interest and participation.

10.36 Within Central Lincolnshire, the distribution of tennis clubs and the abundance of relatively small clubs serving a local market means that most residents live within close proximity to tennis courts. It is noted that;

- areas of high population are a key priority for the LTA as these offer significant potential to increase the amount of residents involved in the sport. In the Central Lincolnshire area, City of Lincoln therefore offers the most potential to grow the game. In this area, there are two public facilities (Boultham Park and West Common) both of which are good quality facilities. The two private clubs are located in the North (Eastgate Tennis Club) and South (Rustons Tennis Club) meaning that there is an even distribution of facilities. There is scope to increase participation at both clubs, in particular at Rustons Tennis Club;
- within the West Lindsey area, the main town of Gainsborough is served by a club and there is scope to increase activity further. Although Market Rasen does not have a tennis club (or a pay and play site), Tealby Tennis Club is thought to meet demand in this area as it is located just down the road; and

- Sleaford Tennis Club serves the main area of population growth within North Kesteven and there is an even network of clubs outside of this urban area. Sleaford Tennis Club has recently benefited from LTA investment. Residents of North Kesteven living towards Lincoln also benefit from the larger facilities in Lincoln City.

10.37 The key priorities for the LTA in relation to facilities for tennis across Lincolnshire are;

- floodlighting of existing facilities to extend capacity where there are active tennis programmes; and
- covering existing tennis courts to provide additional capacity and ensure that facilities are playable all year round.

10.38 There are no clubs that are known to require additional facilities at the current time and it is thought that the majority of clubs have access to sufficient facilities in relation to the levels of activity that they are undertaking.

### **Adequacy of Current Provision and Meeting Future Demand**

10.39 As with bowls the assessment of tennis facilities does not lend itself to the estimation of demand used in other sports or the use of TGRs. It is however possible to evaluate the adequacy of provision drawing upon the tools available and the information outlined in this section as well as the targets set by the LTA.

10.40 With regards the adequacy of provision, these reveal that:

- clubs are equitably distributed across Central Lincolnshire (although there are fewer facilities in Lincoln compared to the size of the population) and there are relatively few large settlements where residents are outside of a 3 mile catchment of tennis courts. Market Rasen is the only large settlement not to have a tennis club, however residents are able to access other facilities within 3 miles, including Tealby Tennis Club, a club with development aspirations; and
- Active People surveys show that across Central Lincolnshire, 4925 people currently participate in tennis however a further 5436 people would like to play. This latent demand is spread across different population groups and both genders (unlike most other pitch sports). This indicates that there is potentially quite a lot of latent demand currently and that there is an overall potential tennis playing population of 10,361. While the LTA now predominantly measures the adequacy of facilities in an area using a series of targets around accessibility, previous standards have measured the adequacy of facilities based upon a quantity of one court per 45 participants (and 1 court per 60 participants if floodlit). It is however emphasised that this provides an indication only, and other elements should be taken into account including tennis development, club structure and sustainability when considering the requirement for additional courts.

10.41 Applying this broad figure however (and drawing firstly upon data collated as part of the Active People Programme) to the estimated current and future demand provides an indication of the adequacy of provision. Calculations are set out in Table 10.4 and conclude that;

- current provision is sufficient to meet demand in most areas although it is above baseline recommendations in City of Lincoln. While these calculations assume that no sites are floodlit (and all are able to sustain only 40 players), in reality circa 25% are floodlit and can accommodate up to 60 players. When taking this into account, usage per court falls below 40 people per court. Usage is even lower in Lincoln when



also considering the impact of the indoor courts that are provided (which have an even higher capacity);

- when excluding redundant sites, there are also sufficient courts when taking into account the floodlit courts;
- if all courts were available to the public, usage of facilities would be considered low; and
- if latent demand was realised however, participation would increase significantly and provision would fall below 1 court per 50 players even when including all schools and provision would be much lower in Lincoln (1 court per 89 players). If assuming that 25% of facilities are floodlit, this decreases slightly, but nevertheless there may therefore at this time become a requirement to use some of the facilities that are not currently available to the general public.

**Table 10.4: Impact of Participation Growth on Access to Tennis Courts**

Area	Current Participants	Potential Participants	Accessible Courts	Accessible Courts (Excluding redundant sites)	Current			Future			Players Per Court (all sites)
					All courts	Players Per Court (Accessible Courts)	Players Per Court (Accessible Courts excluding redundant sites)	Players Per Court (all sites)	Players Per Court (Accessible Courts)	Players Per Court (Accessible Courts excluding redundant sites)	
Central Lincolnshire	4925	10361	127	116	205	39	42	24	82	89	51
City of Lincoln	1449	3189	29	29	36	50	50	40	110	110	89
North Kesteven	1912	3940	50	43	93	38	44	21	79	92	42
West Lindsey	1564	3232	48	44	76	33	36	21	67	73	43

10.42 Population growth will also have an impact on demand. Active People surveys estimate that between 2 % and 2.38% of residents in Central Lincolnshire currently participate in tennis.

10.43 With population anticipated to increase by almost 10% by 2022 (48,979), of which circa 80% will be over 18 (assuming the new population mirrors future populations), if 2 % of these new residents also participate, an additional 785 players would be in the area making a total of 5709 players. Taking into account the accessible courts only, there would be 46 players per court, which is well within acceptable levels.

10.44 This could increase by significantly more if potential latent demand highlighted above is realised. If latent demand in the current population was also realised, this level of growth would see the amount of players per court exceed target levels.

10.45 Despite data suggesting that provision is becoming closely matched with demand, all responding clubs in Central Lincolnshire indicate that they currently have capacity for additional members, although it must be noted that some are dissatisfied and attribute this to the number of courts that they have access to. Participation is however static at most

clubs and there is clear evidence of issues with the sustainability of more local courts (particularly those not associated with clubs) with 11 courts now redundant or almost redundant. Many Town and Parish Councils are currently looking to develop multi purpose facilities (and / or to diversify the use of their existing tennis courts), providing further evidence of concerns about the long term sustainability of standalone tennis courts. The intention of the Governing Body to introduce more non-traditional ways of playing tennis however fits with these plans.

10.46 Evaluation of the membership of existing clubs would also suggest that the Active People survey overestimates current demand in terms of regular activity. While the survey does also take into account casual participation, it is unlikely that this amounts to double the club membership levels as circa 70% of courts are club based. While the above calculations provide an indication, they can therefore be considered to potentially over estimate demand and therefore illustrate the upper echelons of demand.

10.47 Considering provision on a club by club level provides more revealing analysis of the current situation. Where the total membership of the club is not known, the Central Lincolnshire average of 94 has been used.

10.48 Based upon this, only Eastgate Tennis Club, Sleaford Tennis Club, Scotter Tennis Club and Nettleham Tennis Club are operating at levels approaching capacity, taking into account the number of courts provided and the members wishing to use them.

10.49 Supporting this, there is no evidence that the existing network of club and parks courts, with the backup of courts at school sites, is insufficient to meet current demand. Instead, several raise site specific concerns with regards quality and also highlight aspirations for floodlighting. Table 10.5 outlines the tennis courts in Central Lincolnshire and illustrates where sites are reaching capacity (as outlined above) based upon the assumption that each court can accommodate 45 players. Key quality concerns and aspirations of each club are also presented.

10.50 It reveals that;

*The following clubs are at or approaching capacity:*

- Eastgate Tennis Club (City of Lincoln) – Club would like to cover some courts
- Tealby Tennis Club (West Lindsey)
- Scotter Tennis Club (West Lindsey)

*The following clubs have aspirations for floodlights;*

- Tealby Tennis Club (would address capacity issues) (West Lindsey)
- Caistor Tennis Club (West Lindsey)
- Scotter Tennis Club (would address capacity issues) (West Lindsey)
- Nettleham (West Lindsey)
- Saxilby (West Lindsey)

*The surface of facilities is poor at the following sites;*



- Sudbrooke (West Lindsey)
- Scothern (West Lindsey)
- Dunholme (West Lindsey)
- Ruskington (North Kesteven)

10.51 There is a requirement for improvements to the pavilions at the following sites;

- Sleaford (North Kesteven)
- Branston Tennis Club (North Kesteven)
- Heckington (North Kesteven)

10.52 There is particular scope to increase the amount of play at Gainsborough and Rustons Tennis Club.

**Table 10.5: Club Specific Issues**

Site Name	Club	Membership Numbers	Total Courts	Remaining Capacity (No shortfall or surplus)			
				Capacity			
Boultham Park	Yes	94	3	135	41	85.3%	Good quality facilities
David Lloyd Burton Waters	Yes	94	4	180	86		No assessment undertaken
Eastgate Tennis Club	Yes	650	8	360	-290	100.0%	Smart, city centre facility. Recently refurbished, club would like covers in Winter
Lea Park	Yes	94	2	90	-4	94.1%	Nice facility
Lincoln City Sports Centre (Priory City of Lincoln Academy)	Yes	94	6	270	176		New facilities
Millfield Golf Complex		185	1	45	-140		
Rustons Tennis Club	Yes	94	6	270	176	100.0%	Pavilion is separate from main complex
Sudbrooke Tennis Court			1	45	45	58.8%	Very poor. Difficult to say whether still in use for tennis. Minimum needs surface cleaned.

West Common Tennis Courts			6	270	270	85.3%	Hard courts recently resurfaced. Floodlighting is a consideration.
Bassingham Tennis Club (Bassingham Memorial Field)	Yes	12	1	45	33	94.1%	Adjacent, fully floodlit MUGA also marked for 2x tennis. Site suffers from vandalism
Billinghay TC	Yes	52	2	90	38	79.4%	Unsigned and has appearance of a private facility. Club indicate resurfacing is required
Bracebridge Heath Recreation Ground			3	135	135	82.4%	Posts and nets removed from two courts (due to vandalism)
Moor Lane Playing Fields, Branston		94	2	90		100.0%	New facility
Branston Tennis Club	Yes	94	4	180	86	85.3%	Adjacent village hall probably used for changing. Club indicate improvements are required
Canwick Tennis Club	Yes	37	2	90	53	94.1%	Recently resurfaced courts. Pavilion is a small, wooden hut.
Cranwell Sport and Social Club	Yes	94	2	90	-4	64.7%	Needs resurfacing

Heckington Tennis Club	Yes	94	3	135	41	73.5%	Small wooden hut on site. No signage. Area barely recognisable as tennis courts. Club indicate that improvements are required to changing and toilets
Heighington Tennis Club	Yes	94	2	90	-4	82.4%	
Leadenham Tennis Club	Yes	94	2	90	-4	100.0%	New facility. Courts also marked for football.
Memorial Hall Playing Fields, Wellingore			1	45	45	60%	Appears to have limited use
North Hykeham North Kesteven School			7	315	315		
North Scarle Tennis Courts	Yes	94	3	135	41	94.1%	Smart, enclosed, new brick pavilion. Club happy with site quality
Carre's Grammar - Northgate Sports Hall			2	90	90		No assessment
Potterhanworth Playing Field			1	45	45	67.6%	Tucked away court. Second court is now a skate park
Ruskington Playing Fields			2	90	90	64.7%	Open access. Only 1 set of nets in place. Poor surface.
Sleaford Tennis Club	Yes	94	4	180	86	94.1%	New facility. Also small, junior court. Pavilion is currently container type unit - excellent facility let down by this.

Washingborough Tennis Club	Yes	86	3	135	49	97.1%	Third court (tarmac) is also marked for netball. Club indicate requirement for fourth court
Welbourn Village Hall			2	90	90	52.9%	Seen better days. Hopefully no longer in use.
Bardney Playing Fields			1	45	45	76.5%	Open access, single court
Caistor Sports and Social Club	Yes	94	2	90	-4	88.2%	Floodlights would seem appropriate
Gainsborough Town Tennis Club	Yes	94	6	270	176	82.4%	Hard courts in need of resurfacing, grass courts are good.
Dunholme Tennis courts - Honeyholmes Lane, Dunholme			2	90	90	79.4%	Patched surface, poor nets, covered with moss.
Ingham Tennis Court			1	45	45	73.5%	Court currently out of use. Needs resurfacing or thorough cleaning.
Keelby Sports Association	Yes	94	2	90	-4	94.1%	New provision. Club indicate resurfacing is required
Keelby Village Green			2	90	90	0.0%	Redundant site
Market Rasen De Aston School			4	180	180		

Nettleham Tennis Club (Mulsanne Park)	Yes	180	5	225	45	91.2%	Courts split into 3 courts for club play (better surface) and 2 courts for public play. Club would like floodlights
North Kelsey Tennis Courts			1	45	45	41.2%	Obviously not currently being used for tennis - doubles as car park for bowls. Only public court identified in village.
Reepham Tennis Club	Yes	94	2	90	-4	97.1%	Smart facility. Courts appear recently resurfaced. Behind village hall
Saxilby Tennis Club	Yes	94	4	180	86	85.3%	4th court (furthest from pavilion) has separate, open access and appears not as well maintained as other 3. Club highlight need for floodlighting
Scothern Tennis Courts			1	45	45	61.8%	Very poor. Minimum needs surface cleaned. Club indicate resurfacing is required
Scotter Tennis Club	Yes	138	3	135	-3	100.0%	Smart new provision. Club would like floodlighting
Scotton Tennis Courts, Northorpe Road			1	45	45	70.6%	Single court with posts removed. Importance has probably lessened due to smart, new provision nearby.

Tealby Tennis Club	Yes	220	3	135	-85	97.1%	Additional small junior court. Floodlights would seem appropriate.
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10.53 There is however clear latent demand and potential to grow participation in tennis, supported by Active People surveys and Market segmentation as well as suggestions from providers that tennis courts could be better used. Growth of the membership of these facilities will be essential if clubs are to remain sustainable, as well as if they are to progress and improve the facilities that are provided. There is evidence that some clubs have already fallen into disrepair and a need to ensure that this does not happen to further facilities due to a lack of demand. The LTA highlight the importance of creating tennis courts based upon demand rather than providing courts with a view to stimulating demand.

10.54 While provision is likely to overall be sufficient to meet demand, it is important to consider the implications of the concentration of population growth. With growth centred around Sleaford, Lincoln and Gainsborough, demand in these areas will be much higher. Whilst the infrastructure overall in Central Lincolnshire is sufficient, pressures in these areas may exceed supply.

10.55 Table 10.6 indicates that based upon a baseline participation rate of 2 %, there will be a relatively small increase in demand by 2022, but a significant increase between 2022 and 2031.

**Table 10.6 – Increasing demand for Tennis in areas of high growth**

Area	Planned new housing	Number of Players			Increase in number of players
		Current	2022	2031	
Gainsborough North	2400	12	21	87	74
Gainsborough East	2100	9	16	87	78
Gainsborough South	2500	13	22	105	93
Sleaford West	1750	29	35	94	65
Sleaford South	1600	13	19	72	59
Lincoln WGC	2700	51	61	155	104
Lincoln NEQ	2000	21	28	98	77
Lincoln SEQ	2800	17	27	125	108

10.56 Consideration of the capacity at each of the clubs indicates that while clubs could accommodate demand up to 2022, there will be a requirement for additional club facilities (and / or use of school sites) by 2031. Sleaford TC, Eastgate TC and Nettleham TC are all already nearing capacity and have limited opportunities to sustain additional play without intervention.

## Summary and Key Issues

### Key issues to address – Tennis



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- Tennis offers a significant opportunity to increase overall participation in sport and physical activity in Central Lincolnshire – the sport has a wider participation base than any other sport and the Active People Survey indicates that there is significant latent demand at present. While analysis of the existing club bases suggest that demand may be slightly overestimated, it is clear that tennis still provides a significant opportunity
  - There is spare capacity in the existing club bases and clubs are seeking to grow their membership. This is important for the sustainability of the clubs as well as the growth of tennis in Central Lincolnshire. Several tennis courts have recently fallen into disrepair and long term sustainability of facilities is therefore an important consideration
  - There are sufficient courts at all clubs across Central Lincolnshire to meet the needs of current membership, with only Eastgate TC, Sleaford TC, Scotter TC and Nettleham TC operating at anywhere near capacity. If all potential latent demand was realised (using figures outlined in the Active People / Market segmentation analysis) notwithstanding the significant amounts of population growth that are projected, then capacity at club and public facilities would be exceeded and there would be a reliance upon the use of school facilities.
  - Analysis of the implications of population growth indicates that the current stock of facilities is sufficient to meet demand up to 2022, on the basis that participation does not increase significantly. The focus of growth upon Lincoln, Gainsborough and Sleaford will however generate large numbers of players and may see a requirement for additional facilities, particularly between 2022 and 2031. All three areas have good club based provision already (although Sleaford TC and Eastgate TC are nearing capacity) and the LTA highlight the importance of providing tennis facilities in response to demand, rather than in creating facilities in an attempt to stimulate demand. It will be important therefore that new facilities are linked to existing clubs (and /or school sites).
  - There are quality issues at both club and public facilities which may inhibit the overall development of tennis in both the short and long term. It is important to develop a strategic network of courts that can effectively meet the needs of the population.
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## Strategic Priorities

### Quantity of Provision

#### T1: Improve capacity where required at existing club bases through;

- covering courts
- providing floodlights.

To improve sustainability, clubs should be encouraged to promote pay and play activity as well as club membership.

**T2: Provide access to additional courts as demand grows through;**

- The creation of links between existing clubs and school sites containing tennis courts (and negotiation for community access to these school courts)
- The development of multi-purpose facilities that can be used for tennis in smaller settlements
- the development of satellite tennis courts in areas of high growth where additional demand cannot be met through existing clubs (longer term)

**Ensure that facilities are of sufficient quality to meet current and future demand**

**T3: Support clubs and other providers in the improvement of club bases focusing on;**

- improving the quality of pavilions and club houses; and
- maintaining quality surfaces to ensure that appropriate levels of tennis can be played.

**Promote increases in participation and the creation of sustainable clubs**

**T4: In light of the high levels of latent demand for tennis, review opportunities to maximise the use of tennis courts through effective programming and coaching opportunities.** Seize opportunities to introduce new forms of tennis into Central Lincolnshire including Express Tennis and Cardio Tennis.

# 11. Implications and Key Issues

11

## Introduction

- 11.1 This playing pitch assessment provides an evidence base relating to the supply and demand for playing fields across Central Lincolnshire and can be used to support the creation of local policy. It can also be used to drive proactive and reactive priorities relating to playing pitch provision.
- 11.2 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) clearly establishes the requirement that local plans ensure that there is proper provision of community and cultural facilities to meet current and future needs. It sets out in paragraphs 73 and 74 (included in full in Section 3) its expectations for the development of local planning policy for sport and physical activity/recreation, which require there to be a sound (i.e. up-to-date and verifiable) evidence base underpinning policy and its application.
- 11.3 To support the creation of local policy, this section draws upon the information set out in Sections 3 – 10 to provide a short overview of the key issues arising across Central Lincolnshire and more specifically, for each local authority. Full detail is provided within the sport specific sections and a summary of the issues for each sport across Central Lincolnshire is also provided at the end of each section.

## General Overview

- 11.4 The outputs from this assessment will provide the evidence base for the Central Lincolnshire Joint Planning Unit to incorporate into the development planning documents for the strategic planning, provision and funding of playing pitches, as well as inform the creation of proactive action plans for the delivery and management of playing pitches in each of the three local authorities.
- 11.5 The key conclusions of the assessment relating to playing pitches across Central Lincolnshire are broadly summarised below;
  - In general, there are sufficient playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities in quantitative terms across Central Lincolnshire to meet current demand. While not all facilities are used to their full capacity, this is typical of a rural area, where more provision is required to ensure that residents are able to access pitches and outdoor sports facilities within their locality. There is therefore a requirement to protect existing facilities for future use (in line with policy in Sport England Protecting Playing Fields documents). In more detail, the assessment notes that;
    - For football – all current pitches are valuable assets, even those that are not used to their full potential. Many pitches accommodate only one local team, but play an important role in meeting community demand
    - A similar issue arises for cricket and all community pitches are used to a greater or lesser degree and many clubs with only one team offer the use of their grounds as important overspill facilities for other clubs

- The club based infrastructure is particularly important in meeting the needs of community rugby clubs. While other facilities, primarily at school sites, have lower importance for community use, they are important in providing grass roots opportunities for young residents
- While some bowling greens have recently been abandoned (with no evidence of remaining demand) all other sites function as valued club bases
- There are some poor quality tennis facilities that have little function in their current form, but outside of these there is a thriving club infrastructure complemented by some pay and play opportunities.
- The overall statement that there are enough playing pitches across Central Lincolnshire disguises an imbalance in use of pitches and pockets of unmet demand, particularly for football and cricket. It is clear that there are already pressures on the current pitch stock in City of Lincoln and the immediate surrounding area, as well as in Gainsborough and Sleaford and action is required to ensure that participation is not constrained. Quality improvements are also needed in these areas, particularly as quality is a key component of capacity and it is clear that quality is as important as the amount of facilities. Current issues relating to quantity include;
  - Localised pressures on football pitches, largely arising from the presence of large clubs. These are predominantly on the edge of the urban area of Lincoln and increases in population may see shortfalls develop
  - Requirements for additional capacity for cricket teams at large clubs
  - Need for additional rugby provision (particularly at Market Rasen and Louth)
- In addition to the quantity and accessibility issues identified above, there are several quality issues impacting upon pitch capacity and the attractiveness of pitches to users which need to be addressed.
- The use of Team Generation Rates enables the calculation of facility requirements in future years. The evidence demonstrates that while the ageing population will largely negate the increase in population up to 2022 (meaning that the priority is to address current issues up to 2022), if development goes ahead as proposed between 2022 and 2031, there will be a requirement for additional provision in areas of high population growth (Lincoln, Sleaford and Gainsborough). This impacts all sports, but it should be noted that;
  - For football, new provision is likely to be required around the edges of Lincoln, as well as potentially in Gainsborough and Sleaford. This will be dependent upon how new provision is to be secured (new sites / use of school sites etc in line with recommendations in Section 5)
  - For cricket, new provision may be required in the same areas, again depending upon how new provision is to be secured
  - For rugby, it is likely that development pressures will impact upon the club bases. In addition to meeting short term needs, longer term additional facilities may be required

- For hockey, additional facilities may be required to accommodate the needs of growing clubs
  - For both tennis and bowls, population increases may see a requirement for additional facilities between 2022 and 2031.
  - Outside of areas of high population growth, there will be limited (if any) increase in demand for facilities unless significant increases in overall participation rates occur. In these areas, retention of existing sites and maintenance and improvement of the quality of facilities will be of greater priority than new provision. There is also capacity in the existing facility stock to grow participation in pitch sports.
- 11.6 It is therefore important that policy is sufficiently flexible to ensure that all new developments contribute towards provision, but that where there are already enough facilities, investment is targeted towards qualitative improvements rather than new provision. Team Generation Rates should be used to identify the impact of new development and the provision of single pitch should be avoided in favour of multi pitch provision.
- 11.7 Sections 5 – 10 set out strategic priorities for addressing the key issues for each of the sports considered and these should be used to formulate policy as well as to develop proactive action plans for the future delivery and improvement of playing pitches. It will be necessary to work in partnership to agree how the issues identified will be addressed and how they will be funded. There are issues relating to both the adequacy of the existing pitch stock and requirements to meet future need. These are detailed in sections 5 -10 of this report, and are summarised by authority in the remainder of this section. Site specific examples and opportunities are also outlined.
- 11.8 In short, the recommendations outline the importance of;
- Protecting existing provision where it is valuable (ie is currently used, or is located in an areas where there is likely to be future unmet demand)
  - Providing new facilities where they are needed (to meet current and future demand)
  - Ensuring that facilities are of appropriate quality (and in line with National Governing Body Standards)
  - Maximising the use of facilities to promote physical activity and sport.
- 11.9 This remainder of this section provides further detail;
- firstly on the supply and demand and issues arising for all sports by included within this assessment, by local authority specifically;
    - Football
    - Cricket
    - Rugby
    - Hockey
    - Tennis
    - Bowls.

- And secondly by outlining area and site specific issues and opportunities in response to the key strategic priorities in sections 5 – 10.

11.10 It is structured by local authority as follows;

- City of Lincoln
- North Kesteven
- West Lindsey.

## **City of Lincoln**

### **Participation Trends**

11.11 According to the Active People Surveys (AP1 – AP6), there has been a slight decline in participation – from 21.2% to 18.2%.

11.12 Sport England market segmentation indicates that there are 7 dominant segments across City of Lincoln – Jamie, Elsie & Arnold, Kev, Philip, Leanne, Brenda and Paula. Only Jamie and Leanne are aged between 16 and 34, which is the traditional pitch sports market. Jamie has high propensity to participate and other segments do have an interest in pitch sports – specifically Philip/ Kev (high propensity to play football / cricket for their age) and Elsie & Arnold, who enjoy bowls. The composition of the population overall however means that in general, there is a relatively low propensity to participate in pitch sports.

11.13 Football is the only one of the sports considered within this document to feature in the five most popular sports in City of Lincoln. It is the fourth most popular activity with 8.3% of the adult population participating and this is higher than the East Midlands regional and England wide percentages at 7% and 7.2% respectively.

11.14 Table 11.1 outlines the proportion of people that do play and would like to play each sport, according to the Sport England Active People Survey. It also sets out the key participants using the Sport England Market Segmentation Tool.

**Table 11.1: Participation in Pitch Sports in City of Lincoln**

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of Lincoln City Adult Populat ion	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of Lincoln City Adult Populati on	Total Number and % who do/would play		
Football	5,393	7.51%	1,101	1.5%	6,494 (9%)	Current participation higher in South Lincoln than remainder of city. Latent demand highest in East Lincoln.	Key participants are Jamie, Ben, Kev and Philip. The majority of those that would like to play are in the same market segments.
Cricket	677	0.94%	432	0.60%	1,109 (1.54%)	Higher participation in Central Lincoln (1.1-2% compared to below 1.1% in remainder. Latent demand evenly spread (between 0.1 – 1%).	Current participants - Jamie, Ben, Tim, Philip, Kev. Would like to play – same groups (Jamie in particular). Some interest from Terry.
Rugby Union	1089	1.51%	277	0.38%	1,366 (1.89%)	Highest participation in Central Lincoln (2.1-5%). Lowest in north. Proportion of people who would like to play is spatially even	Jamie, Ben, Tim. Same groups as above, but some interest also from kev (who has higher latent demand than Tim) and Philip.
Hockey	217	0.30%	152	0.21%	369 (0.51%)	No spatial variation in current or potential participants.	Wide base of participants – Ben, Jamie, Leanne, Philip, Chloe. Potential participants also well spread. Particular demand from Jamie, Leanne and Paula. Most

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of Lincoln City Adult Populat ion	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of Lincoln City Adult Populati on	Total Number and % who do/would play		
							segments have some interest in hockey
Tennis	1,449	2.0%	1,740	2.42%	3,189 (4.42%)	Lower participation in North East and South West. Potential to participate even except for north west (Lower)	Key participants Jamie, Ben, Tim, Philip and Leanne. Spread of participants would like to play. demand from Leanne particularly high
Bowls	655	0.91%	155	0.21%	810 (1.12%)	Higher participation in the south (1.1-2%) than the remainder of the city. Potential participants spatially even.	Key participants – Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy. Same groups would like to play bowls with the addition of Terry.

11.15 With the exception of football and tennis, the total proportion of residents who either currently play or would like to play is lower than 2%. 4.4% of the adult population either do play or would like to play tennis and a total of 9% of the population either do play (or would like to play) football.

11.16 The remainder of this summary sets out the key issues for each sport in Lincoln. Supply and demand for AGPs is considered first and this will inform discussions relating to this type of facility for both football and hockey.

### AGPs

11.17 AGP modelling for Lincoln City reveals that;

- total supply in Lincoln is 3.6 pitches for public use and access and total demand is for 3.4 pitches. So there is a positive balance of 0.2 of one pitch;
- there are high levels of satisfied demand in Lincoln City (92.4%);
- 76% of the Lincoln satisfied demand for pitches is met by the 4 pitches located in Lincoln;



- unmet demand equates to 0.26 of a pitch;
- 71.8% of unmet demand is due to lack of capacity and 28.2% due to demand being located outside the catchment area of a pitch;
- it is estimated that 100% of all the pitch time available for public use at peak times is used; and
- relative share in Lincoln City is below the national average (94). The areas with the lowest relative share are in the centre and east.

## Football

- 11.18 There are 54 pitches across City of Lincoln in secured community use and a further 6 pitches that are unsecured (Lincoln St Peter and St Pauls High School and Bishop Grosseteste College). It should however be noted that Priory City Academy, Priory LLST Academy and Priory Witham Academy have community use agreements (and are therefore classified as secure) but currently offer very little community use. At Priory City Academy, this has been because pitches have been out of use due to ongoing works, however this will soon be resolved and it is thought that they will be available.
- 11.19 Pitch provision per 1000 population is much lower in Lincoln than in North Kesteven and West Lindsey. Supplementing the stock of grass pitches, there are three floodlit 3g AGPs (Lincoln City, Rustons Sports Club and Lincoln Christ's Hospital School). The former playing fields at King George's Field are no longer used as playing fields but have been retained as green space.
- 11.20 The average site size in City of Lincoln is 2.6 pitches, much larger than in both North Kesteven and West Lindsey. Consultation demonstrates that pitches in City of Lincoln have a much wider catchment area than in other areas, with teams travelling from further afield to use these facilities. This has an impact on demand for pitches.
- 11.21 There has been a recent decline in participation across Central Lincolnshire and this has been evident in City of Lincoln. Despite this, FA data indicates that participation in City of Lincoln ranks the authority 1st when measured against similar authorities – this suggests that the number of teams is comparatively high. Reflecting this, despite having the lowest levels of provision per 1000 population, City of Lincoln has the highest amount of teams per 1000 population. Much of the decline in participation is attributed to a surge in the membership of small sided football leagues.
- 11.22 Pitch quality is consistent across Central Lincolnshire. Consultation indicates that quality concerns are the main issue for clubs in all areas. Perceptions of quality are slightly lower in North Kesteven and West Lindsey than in City of Lincoln, however higher levels of dissatisfaction are attributed to quality in City of Lincoln.
- 11.23 Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that taking into account just pitches with secured community access, provision on a peak day is sufficient to meet demand, with 14 adult pitches spare. There are however shortfalls of 0.9 junior pitches and 4 mini pitches. Added to this, these figures include the three Priory Academies have a formal agreement for community use but are currently little used, meaning that demand is more heavily focused on other available pitches. The role that schools play is however clear – when removing all school sites from the equation, there are 4 adult pitches surplus to requirements, however this is offset by shortages of 5 junior pitches and 5 mini pitches. This serves to highlight the importance of school facilities – in particular Ravendale Sports

Ground (Lincoln College) which is well used and the need to secure these facilities for future years.

#### 11.24 Site specific analysis reveals several points which build upon the peak day analysis;

- many sites in Lincoln have high levels of weekly usage, notwithstanding the impact of informal recreation, specifically Birchwood Leisure Centre, Lincoln City, Moorlands Sports Club, Rustons Sports and Social Club, Yarborough Leisure Centre
- While analysis of peak time capacity indicates that there are several surplus pitches, it is clear on further examination that in many instances, these pitches are full other days and / or are not appropriate for use. Facilities at Lincoln City, Lincoln United are both used Saturday and are not available for community teams on a Sunday, while pitches at the Lindum Sports Association are currently for the exclusive hire of a primary school
- That said, there is some capacity on a Sunday for adult teams, although no site is really able to accommodate more than one more team. Assuming that teams play home and away on alternative weeks, additional teams could be fitted in at Skellingthorpe Road, Cowpaddle, Lincoln Claytons, Rustons Sports Club and Sudbrooke Drive. All of these sites could sustain only limited additional play (in some instances just one team). Notably, both Rustons Sports Club and Moorlands Sports Club indicate that they wish to increase the number of teams that they are running, but both clubs are already at or nearly at capacity
- With the exception of Lindum Sports Association (exclusive use by a school), there are no junior pitches with any spare capacity. Most junior teams are using adult pitches. Birchwood Leisure Centre, Yarborough Leisure Centre and Skellingthorpe Road are all used by junior teams. The introduction of 9 v 9 football for U11 and U12 teams will place further pressures on pitches in Lincoln. There is little scope to reallocate any senior or junior pitches to 9 v 9 pitches based upon current levels of usage. Unless kick off times are staggered (which the league indicates is not possible) adult pitches are required to meet demand at peak time.
- Despite issues with provision at peak time, not all pitches are used to capacity throughout the week.
- Population projections indicate that the population is ageing, and the propensity of residents to participate in football is therefore reducing, and this will become even more apparent over the strategy period. While the area will see significant population growth, the impact of this is negated to an extent by the change in the population profile and based upon population trends alone (up to 2022), there will actually be a small decrease in the amount of adult teams participating, although there will be increases in the numbers of mini teams. By 2022, there will be sufficient adult pitches (13) but shortfalls of junior pitches (1) and mini pitches (4). These figures include school sites that are not currently used by the local community although they are available for use.
- Lincoln will however be the subject of significant growth both within the city boundaries and just outside and by 2032, growth in areas impacted by SUEs will be significant. Taking into account current and projected demand (and assuming that supply remains constant) while there would remain sufficient adult pitches, there would be shortfalls of junior pitches (7) and only just enough mini pitches. If schools were excluded from consideration however, this situation would be significantly

different, with shortfalls of mini and junior pitches (10.3 and 5.8 respectively) exceeding the number of adult pitches that are available (5.7). The proposed SUEs in and around Lincoln would generate demand for in the region of 8 additional pitches.

Building upon the information presented in the FPM in relation to the adequacy of AGPs, FA modelling considers the need for AGPs. It seeks to ensure that sufficient pitches are provided to meet the training needs of charter standard clubs, and to balance this with economic viability. FA modelling identifies the need for an additional AGP to the west of Lincoln, based upon both the location of existing clubs and taking into account the distribution of other facilities.

The City Council also highlight the role that AGPs are currently playing in providing small sided leagues and the role that such participation plays in the promotion of healthy lifestyles. Further AGPs to accommodate such play may be required if the boom continues, particularly to ensure that access to such facilities for training and competitive fixtures for clubs is not compromised.

### **Cricket**

- 11.25 Only 20% of cricket teams in Central Lincolnshire are based in City of Lincoln, despite 32% of the population living there. As the area demonstrates the highest propensity to participate in cricket, there is significant potential for improvement. One club has folded since the calculations were undertaken.
- 11.26 Few specific concerns with regards pitch provision were raised, however several respondents to the telephone survey comment upon the lack of public pitches. The Lincolnshire Cricket Board believe Lincoln City to be one of the areas of the county where pressures for cricket pitches are highest.
- 11.27 Reflecting this, analysis of the balance of supply and demand demonstrates that supply is closely balanced with demand. There are just 1.4 pitches available at peak time and this includes the pitch at Lincoln Christs Hospital School. There are no further facilities at school sites to support this pitch stock.
- 11.28 Reflecting this, availability of cricket pitches in City of Lincoln is relatively limited. On a Saturday, there are 2 pitches available (West Common and Sobraon Barracks) and one slot (alternative weeks) at Lincoln Christ Hospital School. Pressures are greater on a Sunday, with just one pitch available (Sobraon Barracks) and West Common and Christs Hospital School unoccupied every other week. Both Hartsholme CC and Lindum CC are at capacity on both Saturday and Sunday and both accommodate above average levels of play. This reinforces that demand is relatively closely balanced with supply and that there is limited scope for growth of cricket within the current pitch stock.
- 11.29 Sobraon Barracks is a good quality facility with availability at the weekend, this is used during the week by the university (available to the community outside of university requirements) and it is hoped that this will stimulate high quality cricket in years to come. The level of usage during the week is likely to restrict the availability for community cricket at a weekend
- 11.30 Despite pressures on pitch capacity, the quality of club cricket pitches is high (albeit some concerns about the impact of rugby at the Lindum CC site and high levels of use at Hartsholme CC). The site at West Common is however relatively poor and the changing facilities are in need of improvement in terms of both quality and location. Cricket

(particularly Saturday Cricket) requires high quality facilities and while the site is well valued the ongoing quality issues mean that it plays a smaller role in community cricket than it otherwise may do. The site also has issues with drainage and the recent collapse of the Carholme Cricket Club means that it currently has a limited role to play.

- 11.31 Despite issues in Central Lincolnshire as a whole, access to practice facilities is better in Lincoln than in other areas, with all clubs having at least practice nets and / or an artificial wicket on site. The Lincolnshire Cricket Board however identify the need for an indoor cricket training facility to also be available in Lincoln and consider this to be a priority for future provision.
- 11.32 There are no known specific club aspirations for growth in City of Lincoln, however there are clear opportunities to increase the amount of cricket that is played (only 20% of teams are based here in comparison to 32% of the population and it is this area that has the highest propensity for cricket to increase).

### **Rugby**

- 11.33 While the amount of adults playing at Lincoln RUFC has increased, there has been a decline in the number of members of the junior section.
- 11.34 Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that when taking into account all pitches (regardless of use) there are only just enough pitches to meet demand, with just 1.5 pitches not used at peak time. Lincoln RUFC currently use pitches at the Prison (unsecured use) and at Lincoln Christs Hospital School. If pitches at the Prison were to be no longer accessible, provision would be almost in line with demand with no scope for increased activity.
- 11.35 The club have however secured new pitches (outside of City of Lincoln in West Lindsey) and it is anticipated that these will address the majority of current concerns. The facilities will be of high quality and there will be training lights on one of the new pitches for training and lights will also be installed on the first team pitch to enable evening fixtures to be fulfilled. The club hope to purchase portable goals to support further training. There will be a new club house with full disabled facilities, referees room with shower facilities and 6 changing rooms, all to approved specifications. Facilities will increase the number of rugby pitches by 2 adult pitches, 1 junior pitch and 6 mini pitches and will therefore allow for the ongoing expansion of the club.
- 11.36 It should be noted however that once this club has relocated, there will be no club based opportunities for rugby in Lincoln.

### **Hockey**

- 11.37 In addition to the pitches included within the AGP modelling, there is a pitch at Lincoln University although this is primarily for the use of university students.
- 11.38 The majority of hockey in Central Lincolnshire takes place in Lincoln, with Lincoln Roses Hockey Club, Lincoln Hockey Club, University of Lincoln and Woodall Spa Hockey Club all based in the area. Yarborough Leisure Centre and Christs Hospital School are the main venues for hockey, with Lincoln University used by Lincoln University teams (as well as occasional overspill by Lincoln Roses). Teams also travel to North Kesteven Sports Centre on occasion. All facilities are of appropriate standard having all been built or replaced since 2007.

- 11.39 Both Lincoln Hockey Club and Lincoln Roses Club raise concerns about access to training facilities, as well as to a lesser extent match provision. Both clubs will be transferring to the new Lindum Sports Association pitch when it is built and it is anticipated that this will alleviate concerns, although there will still be a requirement to use Yarborough Leisure Centre and / or Christs Hospital School as an overspill facility as modelling suggests that not all activity for both clubs can be delivered through the use of one single pitch. Woodhall Spa also travel to use Christs Hospital School, which although has a 3g base is approved for hockey.
- 11.40 The provision of a new pitch at the Lindum Sports Association will provide a valuable resource for both Lincoln Roses HC and Lincoln HC and ensure dedicated facilities are available to the two clubs. It will also promote hockey development in Central Lincolnshire as a whole through the delivery of activity sessions through the Single System (Junior Development Centre and Junior Academy Centre). Following the development of this facility, there will remain a requirement for at least one other pitch in the Lincoln area to remain as sand based for the use of hockey clubs. This will be required for overspill at peak times from the Lindum Hockey Association as well as the use of Woodhall Spa Club. As the pitch at Lincoln Christs Hospital School is 3g (and therefore not the ideal surface for hockey) retention of the sand based surface at Yarborough would support the ongoing development of hockey.

### **Bowling Greens**

- 11.41 There are 11 greens in City of Lincoln, representing a total of 0.12 greens per 1000 population. This is a level significantly below the average in Central Lincolnshire (0.2ha) and is the lowest of the three authorities. Two sites (Boultham Park and West Common) contain two greens and the remainder have one. There are eight bowling clubs based at these sites.
- 11.42 Claytons Sports Association Bowling Green has been recently abandoned however the remaining sites are high quality facilities with scores achieved ranging from 82% - 100%. Only West Common Bowling Greens were identified as in need of improvement.
- 11.43 Although there is no formal standard for the amount of bowling greens that should be required, an old Sports Council standard of 10 greens per 60000 population can be used to measure provision. With 11 greens and a population of almost 100,000, Lincoln fall below this level (but are the only authority in Central Lincolnshire to do so. Market segmentation indicates that the profile of bowls players is older than for most sports. As a consequence, the ageing population is likely to have a different impact on participation in bowls than for other pitch sports. Population growth between 2012 and 2022 is likely to generate demand for an additional 90 bowls players.
- 11.44 Clubs located near to areas of concentrated growth (notably those in South and East Lincoln (in particular Canwick) are likely to experience higher levels of growth as a result of the planned increases in population. This is particularly notable between 2022 and 2031 where it is likely that participation will increase significantly and almost half of all growth will take place in these areas (anticipated 154 players in areas of high population growth in and around Lincoln).
- 11.45 Analysis indicates however that all bowling greens have capacity for additional members and that there are no clear aspirations for additional facilities at the current time. Increases in members will support the sustainability of existing clubs. It should be noted however that significant increases in participation levels in addition to the population growth may generate a requirement for one or more localised bowling greens.

11.46 Analysis therefore indicates that there are no requirements for any additional bowling greens in the short term, but that existing facilities should be retained and longer term (post 2022) new provision may be required.

## **Tennis**

11.47 There are 29 accessible tennis courts in City of Lincoln across 5 sites. This is equivalent to 0.31 courts per 1000 population, which is the lowest level in Central Lincolnshire. While total provision is lower, sites are generally larger than in other areas of Central Lincolnshire.

11.48 80% of courts are at club sites, however there are good large sites that are accessible to the public on a pay and play basis (West Common and Boultham Park). Eastgate Tennis Club is strategically important for the LTA across Lincolnshire and is a large club with multiple courts. Other courts include Boultham Park, Lincoln City Sports Centre (Priory City of Lincoln Academy), Rustons Tennis Club.

11.49 The quality of tennis courts varies significantly across Central Lincolnshire but is highest in City of Lincoln, with scores ranging from 80% to 100%.

11.50 Taking into account just accessible courts and based upon current levels of participation according to Active People (which take into account casual play and if anything are thought to overestimate demand) the current number of courts is marginally above required levels (50 people per court excluding redundant courts). This does not take into account the impact of floodlighting at some sites and does not consider the role of the indoor tennis courts, which reduce demand for outdoor facilities but suggests that participation is tight. Increases in participation could however see this increase to 110 courts per 1000 population (or 89 when including school sites). While these levels are unlikely to be achieved, population growth will see an impact on demand for tennis in the area and provision will become more in line with demand.

11.51 Site specific analysis reveals the following issues specific to Lincoln;

- High quality provision is focused within the city area where there is a range of club and public access provision
- Eastgate Tennis Club is approaching capacity – club would like to cover some courts
- There is scope to significantly increase membership at Rustons Tennis Club based upon the facilities provided.

11.52 Concentrated population growth will see an increase in the amount of almost 300 tennis players in the areas impacted by the SUEs (circa 6 courts). While existing courts have capacity up to 2022, there is a potential longer term requirement for additional courts up to 2031 to take into account the high population growth. This will be particularly apparent if aspirations to increase participation are achieved.

11.53 Based upon the above key issues, Table 11.2 summarises the key priorities in Lincoln City in response to the strategic priorities outlined in Sections 5 – 10.

**Table 11.2 – Key Priorities in City of Lincoln**

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
Hockey	H1: Retain required sand based surfaces for hockey	Yarborough Leisure Centre, University of Lincoln, new Lindum Sports Association
Hockey	H2: Negotiate access to sites not currently available for community use	N/A
Hockey	H3 – New Provision	Lindum Sports Association
Hockey	H4: Support improvements that are required to maintain an appropriate standard of pitch surface.	University of Lincoln
Hockey	H5: Support initiatives to introduce new forms of hockey by ensuring that appropriate flexible spaces are available.	n/a
Rugby	R1: Support club relocation or expansion	Lincoln RUFC
Rugby	R2: Maximise security of tenure for rugby clubs	N/A
Rugby	R3: Monitor demand for rugby league	N/A
Rugby	R4: Support enhancements to the quality of existing facilities	Lincoln RUFC
Rugby	R5: Support initiatives to increase rugby participation including the introduction of	N/A



Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	new forms of the game, which may require the provision of flexible spaces	
Cricket	C1 In partnership with the Lincolnshire Cricket Board, ensure that the amount of cricket facilities available does not impact on the opportunities to grow participation in the sport.	<p>Retention of all facilities;</p> <p>Close balance between supply and demand for cricket in Lincoln plus potential for growth means that all cricket grounds should be retained. West Common Cricket pitch is of poorer quality, particularly in terms of the changing accommodation. Any changes to the provision of sporting facilities at West Common (in conjunction with pitches for football) should see the replacement of this facility in the longer term, although in the short term it has limited role in community cricket due to the recent collapse of the cricket club.</p> <p><b>Development of School / Club Links</b></p> <p>Long term security of access to Christs Hospital School cricket facility is essential. There are no other school based facilities currently that could be used to meet community demand.</p> <p>Hartsholme CC and Lindum CC also approaching capacity. Future demand could be met through provision of quality facilities at school sites in return for community use and / or satellite ground</p> <p>At least 1 additional pitch will be required by 2031 to accommodate growth.</p>
Cricket	C2: Support improvements to the quality of pitches.	West Common – changing accommodation requires improvement. Site has however limited short term role in cricket due to recent collapse of cricket club.
Cricket	Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities.	All clubs have basic training, but England Cricket Board identify need for indoor facility.
Cricket	Support the introduction of development initiatives to increase participation in cricket.	Active People analysis indicates that there is significant potential to increase the amount of cricket played in Lincoln City.



Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
Bowling	BG1: Protect all remaining bowling greens (excluding those that have already closed).	Retain all facilities. Claytons Sports Association facility has already fallen into disrepair and there is no evidence of demand at the current time.  Both greens at Boultham Park should be retained. One could be used as a pay and play facility providing an opportunity for club expansion longer term.
Bowling	BG2: Monitor the requirement for additional facilities in the long term (2022 – 2031). This is likely to occur in Sleaford, Lincoln and Gainsborough. Increases in participation in the shorter term should be channelled to existing clubs to increase membership and consequently to improve sustainability and viability.	Longer term potential requirement for new green as part of SUE development. Should be linked with new club. Requirement should be based upon club membership of existing facilities by 2022. New green likely to be required only after 2022.
Bowling	BG3: Support existing Clubs to improve the quality issues identified at current bowling green sites. Quality will be essential if increases in club membership are to be sustainable	Pavilion at both West Common Bowling Green and Boultham Park Bowling Club.
Bowling	BG4: Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership.	Particular opportunity to increase membership at Rustons Tennis Club
Tennis	T1: Improve capacity where required at existing club bases through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>covering courts</li> <li>providing floodlights.</li> </ul> <p>To improve sustainability, clubs should be encouraged to promote pay and play activity as well as club membership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Eastgate Tennis Club – Cover courts</li> <li>- Boultham Tennis Courts – floodlighting (longer term) to increase capacity</li> <li>-</li> </ul>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
Tennis	<p>T2: Provide access to additional courts as demand grows through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The creation of links between existing clubs and school sites containing tennis courts (and negotiation for community access to these school courts)</li> <li>• The development of multi-purpose facilities that can be used for tennis in smaller settlements</li> <li>• the development of satellite tennis courts in areas of high growth where additional demand cannot be met through existing clubs (longer term)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Particular scope to increase use of Rustons Tennis Club. Limited remaining capacity at Eastgate TC.</li> <li>- Retain existing pay and play bases. May require club use of these sites as demand grows</li> <li>- Secure access to facilities at Priory City of Lincoln Academy</li> </ul>
Tennis	T3: Support clubs and other providers in the improvement of club bases	Pavilion and courts – Boultham Tennis Courts (linking with bowling club)
Tennis	T4: In light of the high levels of latent demand for tennis, review opportunities to maximise the use of tennis courts through effective programming and coaching opportunities.	Longer term potential to develop West Common / Boultham Park as beacon sites
Football	F1: To maximise the use of existing resources and to release pressures on	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that community access is permitted in line with existing community use agreements;</li> <li>• Lincoln The Priory Academy LSST</li> </ul>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	<p>existing pitches, particularly in junior football, formalise community agreements at school sites that currently accommodate mini and junior community football.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lincoln the Priory Witham Academy</li> </ul> <p>Secure formal long term agreements for community access to;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Lincoln Christ's Hospital School</li> <li>Ravendale (Lincoln College)</li> </ul>
Football	<p>F2: Support the creation of new facilities where unmet demand is identified / and or where facilities are at capacity. This situation may arise for a variety of reasons including a shortage of pitches in quantitative terms (either current or projected), poor quality facilities meaning that pitches are not fit for purpose or a lack of facilities of appropriate size to meet the needs of certain clubs.</p> <p>Deficiencies should be addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expanding existing sites;</li> <li>securing community use of existing school sites;</li> <li>formalising existing informal pitches into more formal pitches where they are appropriately located – this may require qualitative improvements;</li> <li>and providing new facilities (in particular new facilities to facilitate</li> </ul>	<p>Protect sites currently in use (with the exception of West Common) and maximise use of Birchwood Community Leisure Centre and Yarborough Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Ensure full community use of pitches at school sites as highlighted above</p> <p>Reinstate pitches at King George V Field. In the short term, these could replace the poor quality facilities at West Common. Longer term, the pitches at West Common will also be required to meet demand. It should be noted that reinstatement of pitches at King George Field would require infrastructure improvements.</p> <p>Ensure that new provision for football is required as part of the creation of the new SUEs. In total, new housing will generate demand for 2 – 3 adult pitches, 3 junior pitches and 2 mini pitches will be needed. It may be more appropriate to configure pitches for juniors as there are likely to remain sufficient senior pitches (but many of these are currently used by juniors).</p>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	club development).	
Football	F3: Support the introduction of new forms of the game introduced through the FA youth review by supporting the provision of appropriate pitches to meet new size guidelines. These new forms of the game are designed to make the transition between junior and adult football easier and to maximise technical improvements.	Junior pitches should be converted into 9 v 9 pitches. Circa 3 – 5 pitches will be required, depending upon arrangements for 9 v 9 pitches agreed with the league. This play can take place on grass or 3g pitches. There are few opportunities to convert existing grass junior or senior pitches to 9 v 9 on public pitches (competing demands). Pitches should therefore be overlaid where required in the first instance or school pitches used.
Football	F4: Seek to provide changing facilities of appropriate quality at all sites accommodating adult football and a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.	Improvements to facilities at Skellingthorpe Road
Football	F5: Improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted. Key priorities include drainage and improvements to the pitch surface.	Cowpaddle (drainage of one pitch)  Rustons Sports and Social Club, Lincoln Moorlands and Lincoln United all sustain high levels of use and require pitch improvements to ensure that this can continue.
Football	F6: Support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to training facilities for football clubs across Central Lincolnshire.	New AGP located to the west of Lincoln. Potential locations – Priory City Academy / Birchwood Leisure Centre.
Football	F7: Support interventions to increase participation in football across Central	FA data indicates that latent demand in Lincoln City is much lower than in other

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	Lincolnshire and to reduce the current decline.	parts of Central Lincolnshire.

## North Kesteven

### Participation

11.54 According to the Active People survey, participation in North Kesteven increased from 21.6% (Active People 1) to 25% of the population (Active People 6).

11.55 Sport England Market Segmentation indicates that spatially, North Kesteven is dominated by residents in the Tim (NW) and Roger and Joy (SE) categories. In terms of population totals, there are also high numbers of Jackie, Elsie and Arnold, Philip, Elaine and Alison. Only Tim is aged 26 – 45, which is the age group most likely to participate in sports and there is a lower propensity to play pitch sports for all other dominant groups (although it should be noted that Elsie & Arnold enjoy bowls). This means that overall, residents in North Kesteven have a comparatively low propensity to participate in pitch sports and reflecting this, only football is amongst the five most popular in the district (and even participation in football is below national and regional averages).

11.56 Table 11.3 outlines the proportion of people that do play and would like to play each sport, according to the Sport England Active People Survey. It also sets out the key participants using the Sport England Market Segmentation Tool.

**Table 11.3: Participation in Pitch Sports in North Kesteven (Sport England Active People Survey)**

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play		
Football	5,086	6.06%	1,002	1.19%	6,088 (7.2%)	Both current and potential participation consistent across all areas	Key participants are Tim, Ben, Philip and Jamie. The same groups make up the vast majority of those that would like to play, with the addition of Kev.
Cricket	760	0.90%	400	0.47%	1,160 (1.37%)	Both current play and latent demand geographically consistent (between 0.1-1%)	Current participants; Tim, Philip, Ben and Jamie. Same groups would like to play, but evidence of interest from Roger and Joy, Frank, Terry and

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play		
							Key.
Rugby Union	1,146	1.36%	289	0.34%	1,435 (1.7%)	Participation spatially even. Those that would like to play are also spatially even.	Ben, Tim. Some participants in groups of Philip and Jamie. Interest from same groups, plus Jamie, Philip and Roger and Joy.
Hockey	288	0.34%	169	0.20%	457 (0.54%)	No spatial variation in current or potential participants	Wide base of participants than many other sports. Key groups – Ben, Tim, Chloe and Philip. Chloe, Alison, Jackie and Tim have high levels of potential interest and most segments express some interest in hockey.
Tennis	1,912	2.28%	2,028	2.42%	3,940 (4.7%)	Lower participation in East. Spatial distribution of those that would like to play is even.	Key participants Tim, Philip, Ben, Alison, Chloe. Spread of participants would like to play. But higher demand focused in same groups.
Bowls	979	1.16%	219	0.26%	1,198 (1.42%)	Lower levels of current participation in east and centre (around Sleaford). Potential participants spatially even.	Key participants – Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy and Ralph and Phyllis. Same groups would like to play bowls, particularly high interest from

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of North Kesteven Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play	
						Roger and Joy.

11.57 Table 11.3 reveals that overall, participation levels for all the sports (except football and tennis) for those adults who do play and would like to play are below 2% of the 2011 adult population in North Kesteven. 7.2% of the population either do play or would like to play football, while 4.7% of the population play or would like to play tennis.

11.58 The remainder of this summary sets out the key issues for each sport in North Kesteven. Supply and demand for AGPs is considered first and this will inform discussions relating to this type of facility for both football and hockey.

### AGPS

11.59 AGP modelling for North Kesteven reveals that;

- in North Kesteven there is an equal balance where total supply for public use and access is for 3 pitches and total demand is for 3 pitches;
- there are high levels of satisfied demand (90.9%);
- 63.8% of satisfied demand is retained at the 3 pitches located in North Kesteven;
  - unmet demand equates to 0.28 of a pitch;
  - unmet demand is evenly split with 41% due to lack of capacity and 59% due to demand being located outside the catchment area of a pitch; and
  - the estimated used capacity of pitches is high, although there is scope to increase use at RAF Cranwell.
- relative share is 116 – above national benchmarks. Areas around the city of Lincoln boundary have the lowest relative share, while provision in Sleaford is highest.

### Football

11.60 There are 80 pitches across North Kesteven in secured community use. Pitch provision per 1000 population is equivalent to 0.74 pitches per 1000 population, which is significantly lower than in West Lindsey. Supplementing the stock of grass pitches, there is one 3g AGP at Carre's Grammar School. The AGP at North Kesteven School, although not 3g, is also an important facility for football.

11.61 In addition to these grass pitches, there are numerous sites that do not currently function as formal pitches, but have done so previously. These include Beckingham Playing Fields, Wellingore Playing Field, Canwick Playing Field, Leadenham Playing Field, Wilsford Playing Field, Walcott Playing Field, Scredington Playing Field, Waddington Field 2, Woodside



Playing Field, Carlton le Moorland Playing Field, Nocton Village Hall, Branston Recreation Field and Welbourne Playing Fields.

- 11.62 The average site size in North Kesteven is 1.9 pitches. Reflecting this, there are relatively few sites that contain multiple pitches and are easily able to accommodate large clubs.
- 11.63 There has been a recent decline in participation across Central Lincolnshire and this has been evident in North Kesteven (although there was an increase in mini soccer). FA data ranks the authority 35 / 47, suggesting that there are opportunities to increase the amount of people playing football. The proportion of teams achieving charter standard is also comparatively low. In terms of actual participation, the number of teams per 1000 population is lower in North Kesteven than in both City of Lincoln and West Lindsey.
- 11.64 Pitch quality is consistent across Central Lincolnshire and consultation indicates that quality concerns are the main issue for clubs in all areas. Perceptions of quality are slightly lower in North Kesteven and West Lindsey than in City of Lincoln.
- 11.65 Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that taking into account just pitches with secured community access, provision on a peak day is sufficient to meet demand, with 27.3 adult pitches, 3.7 junior pitches and 5.2 adult pitches surplus to requirements. Excluding schools from consideration, surpluses decrease to 21.3 adult pitches, 1.7 junior pitches and 2.2 mini pitches. This suggests that in principle, there are sufficient pitches to meet current demands.
- 11.66 Site specific capacity analysis however reveals several points that build upon the peak day analysis and despite the seemingly high levels of surplus provision, it highlights the importance of almost all of the facilities in promoting football participation. It indicates that;
- while most sites are at capacity, almost all sites are used by at least one team. This is typical of a rural area where local teams use local facilities and more matches could be accommodated at each site were teams to travel. Illustrating this point, there are only 2 adult pitches at capacity at peak time, but similarly there are only two that are not used (both used at other times). The following sites receive lower levels of use – Bassingham, Cranwell Sports and Social Club, Potterhanworth Playing Fields;
  - Eslaforde Park (Sleaford) and Fen Lane (Hykeham) receive high levels of use during the week. It is these sites where pressures are also most evident, with little availability at peak time. Added to this, Hykeham Tigers highlight a shortfall of facilities and indicate that they struggle to access appropriate pitches for the number of teams that they run. It is clear that there are greater pressures on junior pitches, with several sites at or near capacity (assuming junior teams play on Junior pitches). Playing fields in Waddington, Metherringham, Hykeham, Skellingthorpe and Washingborough are all well used and approaching capacity. These sites are generally associated with larger clubs and / or are in close proximity to Lincoln;
  - some quality concerns are raised and it is clear that recreational use has a big impact in North Kesteven. The following site specific quality issues are of higher significance;
    - Eslaforde Park Football Pitches - pitch improvements required (surface etc);
    - Hykeham Memorial Playing Fields - poor changing; and

- Playing Field, Leasingham - Changing facilities.
- Population projections indicate that the population is ageing, and the propensity of residents to participate in football is therefore reducing, and this will become even more apparent over the strategy period. While the area will see significant population growth, the impact of this is negated to an extent by the change in the population profile and based upon population trends alone (up to 2022), there will only be small increases in participation (1 adult team, 2 junior male teams and 13 mini soccer teams). Provision will therefore remain sufficient overall.
- Up to 2022 and particularly up to 2031 however, population growth is unlikely to be even and instead will be concentrated around Sleaford and on the edge of the Lincoln boundaries. In these areas, the increase in population will negate the impact of the ageing population and participation is likely to increase. In other areas, it is anticipated that there will be a small decrease in the amount of teams playing football (excluding any potential increases in participation). Further spatial analysis however reveals that up to 2031, population growth will have significant local impact. In Sleaford specifically, in areas impacted by the SUE supply will become very closely matched with demand and although there will be sufficient adult pitches, this will be negated by shortfalls of junior pitches. This is inclusive of community use of school facilities – the removal of these sites would place even higher pressures on the facility stock. There are also clear pressures on the provision of pitches in areas towards the Lincoln boundaries and these will increase between 2022 and 2031 as the population grows. Such areas include Hykeham, Waddington and Washingborough.

## **AGPs**

11.67 Building upon the information presented in the FPM in relation to the adequacy of AGPs, FA modelling considers the need for AGPs. It seeks to ensure that sufficient pitches are provided to meet the training needs of charter standard clubs, and to balance this with economic viability. The FA indicates that based upon the presence of an existing pitch in Sleaford and the current and planned provision in Lincoln, there is no requirement for an additional 3g pitch in North Kesteven.

## **Cricket**

11.68 30% of cricket teams in Central Lincolnshire are based in North Kesteven. With 37% of the population living here, there is some potential for increases in the amount of teams. Reflecting this, both Branston CC and Nocton CC have specific aspirations to increase participation (junior and ladies teams).

11.69 Club perceptions of quality are relatively consistent across all three authorities. While facilities in North Kesteven are rated in the middle, drainage is highlighted as a particular issue and the quality of changing accommodation and pavilions is perceived to be poor. Only Branston CC however comment that the quality of their facilities make it difficult to accommodate all play.

11.70 Analysis of the balance of supply and demand demonstrates that there are enough pitches to meet demand at peak time - when including all school facilities, there are 13.1 pitches not used at peak times. Excluding schools that are not used, this decreases to an average of 10.1 pitches.

- 11.71 Cricket in North Kesteven is particularly focused around Sunday. 8 grounds are not used on a Saturday at all and as a consequence, there are several facilities that could be used as potential overspill facilities. In contrast, only one ground (Martin Cricket Club – pulled out of the league this year) is unused every Sunday – all other grounds have at least one team associated with them.
- 11.72 Despite this, it is evident that many grounds could sustain significantly higher levels of use than they are currently doing (and it is for this reason that there appear to be surplus pitches). Aswarby CC, Bassingham CC, Heighington CC, Nocton CC, North Scarle CC and Waddington CC in particular all have significant capacity for more play. In contrast, Blankney CC, Hykeham CC, Washingborough CC, Sleaford CC and Bracebridge Heath CC are sustaining high levels of use which may potentially impact upon pitch quality. Notably all clubs with high levels of use are those in or near to the urban areas (Sleaford, Hykeham, Bracebridge Heath) – it is the more rural clubs that have capacity for additional matches. The possible exception to this is Branston CC, where usage is average and there is scope to increase participation. More importantly, all sites which are at or nearing capacity are located on the periphery of Lincoln city and in close proximity to the proposed Sustainable Urban Extensions. It is these sites where increases in participation may be experienced and where pressures will therefore intensify. While population growth alone will have relatively limited impact on demand for cricket (particularly due to the relatively low numbers of people that play), the concentration of this growth will have particular implications for those clubs located near to areas of growth.
- 11.73 Adding to this and reflecting points made earlier, several clubs raise quality concerns, largely relating to the quality of pavilions and issues with drainage and maintenance. There are no very poor quality facilities; however there are some clear opportunities to increase overall pitch quality. In particular, it is evident that high levels of use are becoming evident at some sites and potentially starting to have a detrimental impact. The quality of sites in general is better in the towns (although it is these areas where more wear and tear is starting to become evident). There is a particular lack of nets and artificial wickets in this area. It is clear however that most of those clubs lacking in either (Aswarby CC, Bassingham CC, Hykeham CC, Martin Cricket Club, Nocton CC, North Scarle CC, Waddington CC, Washingborough CC) are those with capacity on the grass wicket. Hykeham CC and Washingborough CC however have high levels of use and the lack of practice facilities is therefore likely to intensify pressures.

## **Rugby**

- 11.74 Sleaford RUFC and North Hykeham RUFC have both seen significant increases in participation between 2011 and 2013.
- 11.75 Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that when taking into account all pitches (regardless of use) there is more than sufficient capacity to meet demand, with 14.5 pitches not used at peak time. There are several pitches not available for community use however (including RAF Waddington and Digby, as well as schools) and removal of these sites would see surplus pitch provision reduce to 9.5 pitches at peak time.
- 11.76 Despite the adequate levels of provision overall, pitches are not necessarily sufficient for club needs. North Hykeham RUFC indicate that they sometimes have difficulties in securing appropriate match facilities, as when there are two home fixtures they are reliant upon the use of school sites which is not always possible. Calculations reflect this, indicating that pitch usage is currently optimum, however there is little scope to increase activity. Further floodlighting may however allow greater flexibility in the use of the pitches for training.

11.77 While pitch quality at North Hykeham RUFC is in general good, the informal access to the site causes issues with dog fouling and damage to the surface. The quality of equipment (posts / sockets etc) is also poor.

11.78 Pitches at Sleaford RUFC are relatively bare in places and suffer from damage to the surface (rabbits). There are two floodlit pitches, but the club indicate that they have issues accessing appropriate training facilities and believe that a lack of floodlit areas prevents teams from midweek training. Car parking facilities are also perceived to be inadequate for larger events preventing running of festivals without risking damaging the playing surfaces. The club have a particularly wide catchment area, with the majority of players travelling 5 miles or more to reach the club. Calculations demonstrate that there are sufficient pitches to meet demand.

### **Hockey**

11.79 There are hockey pitches available to the community at RAF Cranwell and North Kesteven Sports Centre. There is also a 3g pitch at Carre's Grammar School. In addition (and excluded from modelling above) there are pitches at RAF Digby and RAF Waddington. Neither of these facilities is available to the local community.

11.80 Sleaford Junior Hockey Club and Leadenham Hockey Club are the main clubs in North Kesteven. While Leadenham have access to the high quality facility at RAF Cranwell, Sleaford Junior Hockey Club use the 3g pitch at Carre's Grammar School, which is not designed for hockey. No immediate concerns are raised by the club however and while the club is accommodating junior training only, England Hockey do not highlight this as a priority issue.

11.81 Although Leadenham Hockey Club have existing appropriate access to a facility, as set out above, it is clear that there are no surfaces for hockey that are currently available in North Kesteven that are located in close proximity to Sleaford. The early stages of development of the club mean that the use of the 3g surface currently has limited impact. If the club was however to grow and require sand based surfaces, access to an alternative pitch would be required. RAF Digby is located in relatively close proximity to Sleaford and is a sand based pitch that is not currently available to the local community. The potential for community use of this facility may however be limited as it is located within secure areas of the RAF site. There is limited current use of the pitch at North Kesteven Sports Centre for hockey, however it is anticipated that this will stop completely once the new facility at Lindum Sports Association (Lincoln) is complete.

### **Bowling**

11.82 There are 32 greens in North Kesteven, representing a total of 0.32 greens per 1000 population. This is a level significantly above the average in Central Lincolnshire (0.2) and is the highest of the three authorities. Two greens have recently been abandoned (Jolly Scotsman and Timberland Bowling Green). All sites just have one green and all active sites have a club associated with it.

11.83 The quality of facilities is high, with site visit scores ranging from 62% to 100%. Sites achieving lower quality scores were generally thought to be lacking in relation to the pavilion and the overall condition of the site.

11.84 Analysis of the adequacy of provision suggests that the amount of bowling greens in North Kesteven is significantly above the target standard of 10 greens per 60000 population. Even when taking into account projected levels of growth up to 2022 (and the likelihood

that a higher proportion of the population will be within the age range that traditionally plays bowls), estimates suggest that there will be just 36 people per green, which is well within acceptable levels. Increasing membership of greens will be important in securing the long term sustainability of bowling greens. The concentrated nature of the proposed growth however means that while most areas will see an increase in the number of people playing bowls (due to the increased numbers of people of relevant age), the impact will be felt much more in areas where population growth is highest, largely in and around Sleaford and on the periphery of the Lincoln borders.

- 11.85 Analysis indicates however that all bowling greens have capacity for additional members and that there are no clear aspirations for additional facilities at the current time. Increases in members will support the sustainability of existing clubs in the first instance, however in the event of high growth in participation alongside an increase in population, new facilities may be required.

### **Tennis**

- 11.86 There are 50 tennis courts in North Kesteven, of which 62% are on a club base. Provision per 1000 population is highest of all parts of Central Lincolnshire. There are however 7 courts that are in poor condition and appear disused – Bracebridge Heath, North Kelsey, Wellingore.
- 11.87 74% of courts are at club sites and most other facilities are single or double court sites located in rural settlements. Sites where tennis clubs exist are Bassingham Tennis Club, Billingham TC, Branston Tennis Club, Canwick Tennis Club, Cranwell Sport and Social Club, Heckington Tennis Club, Heighington Tennis Club, Leadenham Tennis Club, North Scarle Tennis Club, Sleaford Tennis Club, Washingborough Tennis Club. Many other sites are free to access.
- 11.88 The quality of tennis courts varies significantly across Central Lincolnshire but the range of provision is highest in North Kesteven (53% - 100%). In general, club based facilities achieve higher quality scores than sites that are just let out for public use.
- 11.89 Taking into account just accessible courts and based upon current levels of participation according to Active People (which take into account casual play and if anything are thought to overestimate demand) the current number of courts is around suggested levels (44 people per court excluding redundant courts). This also does not take into account the impact of floodlighting at some sites and does not consider the role of the indoor tennis courts, which reduce demand for outdoor facilities. Increases in participation could however see this increase to 79 courts per 1000 population. While these levels are unlikely to be achieved, population growth will see an impact on demand for tennis in the area and provision will become more in line with demand. If all facilities were accessible, the number of courts would remain within target levels, even in the event of significant participation increases. The concentration of growth in the Sleaford area would however see demand focused in this area and between 2012 and 2032 circa 150 additional players would be generated in this area alone. The club is already approaching capacity and provision may therefore become constrained in the longer term, particularly if aspirations to increase participation are achieved.
- 11.90 Site specific analysis also reveals several quality issues.
- 11.91 Based upon the above key issues, Table 11.4 summarises the key priorities in North Kesteven in response to the strategic priorities outlined in Sections 5 – 10.

**Table 11.4: - key Priorities in North Kesteven**

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
Hockey	H1: Retain required sand based surfaces for hockey	RAF Cranwell RAF Digby (if community access can be secured)
Hockey	H2: Negotiate access to sites not currently available for community use	RAF Digby
Hockey	H3 – New Provision	N/A
Hockey	H4: Support improvements that are required to maintain an appropriate standard of pitch surface.	N/A (although resurfacing will be required over local plan period)
Hockey	H5: Support initiatives to introduce new forms of hockey by ensuring that appropriate flexible spaces are available.	N/A
Rugby	R1: Support club relocation or expansion	North Hykeham (Long term). Potential for extra provision to be delivered through use of North Kesteven School in short term
Rugby	R2: Maximise security of tenure for rugby clubs	North Hykeham RUFC
Rugby	R3: Monitor demand for rugby league	
Rugby	R4: Support enhancements to the quality of existing facilities	North Hykeham RUFC (Floodlights), Sleaford RUFC (floodlights)

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
Rugby	R5: Support initiatives to increase rugby participation including the introduction of new forms of the game, which may require the provision of flexible spaces	
Cricket	C1 In partnership with the Lincolnshire Cricket Board, ensure that the amount of cricket facilities available does not impact on the opportunities to grow participation in the sport.	<p>Retain all existing facilities</p> <p>Clubs approaching capacity are all located near to proposed SUEs, specifically Hykeham CC, Washingborough CC, Sleaford CC and Bracebridge Heath CC. Given the potential increase in participation in these areas, it will be necessary to either;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure access for larger clubs at sites with available provision (many smaller clubs currently underused)</li> <li>Improve facilities at school sites and secure access for clubs – key opportunities are existing facilities at Sir Robert Pattinson Academy, Welbourn School and Sleaford Ruskington School (all would need upgrade to facilities in line with C2) or new facilities at other schools. North Kesteven High School have expressed an interest in a new cricket wicket which they would also propose to rent out for community use.</li> <li>Satellite facilities linked with above clubs may be required if above school facilities are not secured. At least 1 additional pitch will be required by 2031 to accommodate growth.</li> </ul>
Cricket	C2: Support improvements to the quality of pitches.	<p>Priority improvements (located in areas of growth and / or high usage)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Branston CC - Grass length poor (due to maintenance regime). Conflict between football and cricket uses</li> <li>Heckington CC-Poor changing rooms, quality of outfield also poor</li> <li>Sleaford CC-Uneven outfield, changing rooms and heating system outdated, pitch quality improvements</li> </ul>



Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
		<p>Other requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- North Scarle CC - Changing rooms and pitch need a lot of pre season maintenance. Molehills</li> <li>- Nocton CC- Drainage issues, uneven outfield. No electricity</li> <li>- Bassingham CC- pitch quality. Poor grass cover. Issues with evenness of wicket and surface.</li> <li>- Aswarby CC-Pavilion poor</li> </ul>
Cricket	Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities.	<p>Key priorities (High levels of use and / or located in an area of potential growth)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hykeham CC</li> <li>• Washingborough CC</li> </ul> <p>Other clubs without facilities;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Waddington CC,</li> <li>• Aswarby CC</li> <li>• Bassingham CC</li> <li>• Martin Cricket Club, Nocton CC</li> <li>• North Scarle CC</li> </ul>
Cricket	Support the introduction of development initiatives to increase participation in cricket.	There is capacity within the existing facility stock to increase participation in cricket.
Bowling	BG1: Protect all remaining bowling greens (excluding	Timberland Bowling Green and Jolly Scotchman Bowling Green



Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	those that have already closed).	abandoned.
Bowling	BG2: Monitor the requirement for additional facilities in the long term (2022 – 2031). This is likely to occur in Sleaford, Lincoln and Gainsborough. Increases in participation in the shorter term should be channelled to existing clubs to increase membership and consequently to improve sustainability and viability.	Potential longer term requirement for bowling green in Sleaford to supplement existing facility, particularly in the event of high levels of participation increases as well as population growth (between 2022 and 2031).
Bowling	BG3: Support existing Clubs to improve the quality issues identified at current bowling green sites. Quality will be essential if increases in club membership are to be sustainable	Priority to issues in areas of growth.  Other greens requiring support;  Cranwell Bowls Club, Heighington Bowls Club, Chapel Hill Bowls Club, Cranwell Bowls Club
Bowling	BG4: Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership.	
Tennis	T1: Improve capacity where required at existing club bases through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>covering courts</li> <li>providing floodlights.</li> </ul> To improve sustainability, clubs should be encouraged to promote pay and play activity as well as club membership.	- Sleaford TC at or approaching capacity.
Bowling	T2: Provide access to additional courts as demand grows through; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The creation of links between existing clubs and school sites containing tennis courts (and negotiation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sleaford TC at or approaching capacity</li> <li>Access to school facilities a key priority (linked with clubs). Sleaford Ruskington St Georges Academy is not currently accessible but offers 8 courts. New provision may be required if access cannot be secured (post 2022).</li> </ul>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	<p>for community access to these school courts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of multi-purpose facilities that can be used for tennis in smaller settlements</li> <li>• the development of satellite tennis courts in areas of high growth where additional demand cannot be met through existing clubs (longer term)</li> </ul>	
Bowling	T3: Support clubs and other providers in the improvement of club bases	<p>Pavilion improvements;</p> <p>Sleaford TC (particularly important given location of potential development)</p> <p>Branston Tennis Club (particularly important given location of potential development)</p> <p>Heckington</p> <p>Ruskington TC – poor surface.</p>
Tennis	T4: In light of the high levels of latent demand for tennis, review opportunities to maximise the use of tennis courts through effective programming and coaching opportunities.	There are several redundant tennis courts across North Kesteven. Support should be given to the diversification of these facilities to ensure that they are of maximum sporting benefit – this could improve improvements for tennis as well as modifications to ensure a more multi-purpose approach.
Football	F1; To maximise the use of existing resources and to release pressures on existing pitches, particularly in junior football, formalise community agreements at school sites	<p>Retain community use agreements for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sleaford Carre's Grammar School,</li> <li>• North Hykeham North Kesteven School and Sir Robert</li> </ul>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	that currently accommodate mini and junior community football.	<p>Pattinson Academy</p> <p>Secure formal long term agreements for community access to Branston Community Academy (currently private). This will be essential in meeting localised demand as population increases.</p>
Football	<p>Support the creation of new facilities where unmet demand is identified / and or where facilities are at capacity. This situation may arise for a variety of reasons including a shortage of pitches in quantitative terms (either current or projected), poor quality facilities meaning that pitches are not fit for purpose or a lack of facilities of appropriate size to meet the needs of certain clubs.</p> <p>Deficiencies should be addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expanding existing sites;</li> <li>securing community use of existing school sites;</li> <li>formalising existing informal pitches into more formal pitches where they are appropriately located – this may require qualitative improvements;</li> <li>and providing new facilities (in particular new facilities to facilitate club development).</li> </ul>	<p>Protect sites currently in use</p> <p>Ensure full community use of pitches at school sites as highlighted above and secure community use to Branston Community Academy</p> <p>New provision should be considered as part of the SUE in the Sleaford area to meet longer term increases in demand - 1 – 2 adult pitches, 2 junior pitches and 1 mini pitch in the Sleaford area</p> <p>Monitor short term capacity in Waddington, Metheringham, Hykeham, Skellingthorpe and Washingborough with a particular view to ensuring that the requirements for large clubs are accommodated. There may be potential to reinstate the former Waddington Playing Fields. Secure community use will be essential in Hykeham.</p> <p>There is potential to expand and / or reinstate playing fields in close proximity to Lincoln and proposed SUEs in order to meet current and future needs. Opportunities include Bracebridge Heath Playing Fields (expansion), reinstatement of Canwick Playing Fields.</p>
Football	Support the introduction of new forms of the game introduced through the FA youth review by supporting the provision of appropriate pitches to meet new size guidelines. These new forms of the game are designed	Junior pitches should be converted into 9 v 9 pitches. Circa 5 pitches will be required, depending upon arrangements for 9 v 9 pitches agreed with the league. This play can take place on grass or 3g pitches. The location of clubs requiring 9 v 9 pitches means

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	to make the transition between junior and adult football easier and to maximise technical improvements.	that it is likely that a pitch will be required on each home ground.
	F4: Seek to provide changing facilities of appropriate quality at all sites accommodating adult football and a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.	<p>Key Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hykeham Memorial Playing Fields</li> <li>Carre's Grammar School</li> </ul> <p>Other Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Heckington Sports Ground</li> <li>Spring Lane Playing Field, Leasingham</li> <li>Metheringham Playing Fields.</li> </ul>
	F5: Improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted. Key priorities include drainage and improvements to the pitch surface.	<p>Key Priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Drainage – North Kesteven Sports Centre</li> <li>Eslafor Park Football Pitches - pitch improvements required (surface etc);</li> </ul> <p>Other Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bassingham Memorial Playing Field - uneven goalmouths and wear and tear from unofficial use;</li> <li>Billinghay Village Hall Playing Field - poor drainage;</li> </ul>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	F6: Support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to training facilities for football clubs across Central Lincolnshire.	FA demand modelling indicates that there are no further requirements for 3g pitches in North Kesteven. Existing unmet demand for facilities will be offset through the creation of a new AGP in City of Lincoln.
	F7: Support interventions to increase participation in football across Central Lincolnshire and to reduce the current decline.	Note there are several former playing pitch sites that are no longer in use. These sites offer the potential to re-invigorate activity in these areas (Table 5.5).

## West Lindsey

### Participation Trends

11.92 According to the Active People survey, participation in West Lindsey increased from 20.6% (Active People 1) to 21.4% of the population (Active People 6)

11.93 Sport England Market Segmentation reveals that there are 4 dominant market segments. Roger and Joy are spatially dominant, but other larger population groups include Tim, Kev, Elsie & Arnold (and Philip in terms of numbers). Five of the top seven segments are aged 46+ and as a consequence, the profile does not generate high propensity to participate in pitch sports. Reflecting this, only football is amongst the five most popular in West Lindsey (and participation in football is below national and regional averages).

11.94 Table 11.5 outlines the proportion of people that do play and would like to play each sport, according to the Sport England Active People Survey. It also sets out the key participants using the Sport England Market Segmentation Tool.

**Table 11.5: Participation in Pitch Sports in West Lindsey (Active People Survey)**

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of West Lindsey Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of West Lindsey Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play	
Football	4,268	6.06%	849	1.20%	5,117 (7.26%)	Both current and potential participation consistent across all areas  Key participants are Tim, Ben, Jamie, Philip and Kev. The same groups make up the vast majority of those that would like to play,
Cricket	621	0.88%	348	0.49%	969 (1.37%)	Both current play and latent demand geographically consistent (between 0.1-1%)  Current participants – Tim, Ben, Philip, Jamie. Same groups would like to play, but evidence of interest from Roger and Joy, Frank, Terry and Kev.
Rugby Union	945	1.34%	242	0.34%	1,187 (1.68%)	Participation even except Gainsborough (one SOA lower). Those that would like to play are spatially even.  Key participants – Ben, Tim, Jamie and Philip. Kev and Roger and Joy also demonstrate some aspirations to play.
Hockey	237	0.33%	141	0.20%	378 (0.53%)	No spatial variation in current or  Wide base of participants than many other sports.

Sport	DO PLAY POPULATION	% of West Lindsey Adult Population	WOULD LIKE TO PLAY POPULATION	% of West Lindsey Adult Population	Total Number and % who do/would play		
						potential participants	Key groups – Ben, Chloe, Tim and Philip. Chloe, Alison, Jackie, Helena and Tim have high levels of potential interest and most segments express some interest in hockey.
Tennis	1,564	2.22%	1,668	2.36%	3,232 (4.58%)	Spatial distribution of those that play even. Distribution of those that would like to play is also even.	Key participants – Tim, Ben, Philip and Chloe. Same groups would like to play but again demand is evident across most segments.
Bowls	786	1.11%	176	0.25%	962 (1.36%)	Lower levels of participation in Gainsborough and south. Potential participants spatially even	Key participants – Elsie and Arnold, Frank and Roger and Joy and Ralph and Phyllis. Same groups would like to play bowls, particularly high interest from Roger and Joy.

11.95 Overall participation levels for all the sports (except football and tennis) for those adults who do play and would like to play are below 2% of the 2011 adult population in West Lindsey. 7.26% of the population either do play or would like to play football, while 4.58% of the population play or would like to play tennis.

11.96 The remainder of this summary sets out the key issues for each sport in West Lindsey. Supply and demand for AGPs is considered first and this will inform discussions relating to this type of facility for both football and hockey.

### AGPs

11.97 AGP modelling for West Lindsey reveals that;

- in West Lindsey there is a negative balance but it is very small at less than one pitch. Total supply from the 2 pitches in West Lindsey for public use and access is 1.8 pitches and total demand is for 2.4 pitches, creating a negative balance of 0.6 of one full size pitch;
- satisfied demand is lower than in both North Kesteven and City of Lincoln;

- 62.5% of the West Lindsey satisfied demand is met at the 2 pitches in West Lindsey;
- unmet demand equates to 0.51 of a pitch;
- unmet demand due to lack of capacity is 44% and due to it being located outside the catchment area of a pitch it is 56%;
- the estimated used capacity of pitches is high. There is some capacity at Cherry Willingham Community School and a small amount at Trent Valley Academy; and
- in West Lindsey, relative share is 111. It is in Market Rasen and the north east where relative share is lowest.

## Football

- 11.98 There are 85 pitches across West Lindsey in secured community use. Pitch provision is equivalent to 1.05 pitches per 1000 population, which is the highest in Central Lincolnshire. There are 9 pitches that are not secured but offer some kind of community use (predominantly at Gainsborough Queen Elizabeth High School).
- 11.99 In addition to these grass pitches, there are numerous sites that do not currently function as formal pitches, but have done so previously. These include Faldingworth Playing Field, Bishop Norton & Atterby Playing Field, The Castle Hills Community Arts College, Middlefield School of Technology, Lincolnshire Police Hq, Morton Trentside School Playing Fields, Aisby Walk, Willingham Playing Field, Owston Ferry Recreation Ground, Scotter Village Hall, Keelby United.
- 11.100 The average site size in West Lindsey is 1.95 pitches, meaning that there are few larger sites capable of sustaining high levels of play.
- 11.101 Supplementing the stock of grass pitches, there is one 3g AGP at Cherry Willingham Community School.
- 11.102 There has been a recent decline in participation across Central Lincolnshire and this has been evident in West Lindsey. FA data ranks the authority 34 / 47, suggesting that there are opportunities to increase the amount of people playing football. The proportion of teams achieving charter standard is also comparatively low. Despite this, participation per 1000 population is very similar to levels in City of Lincoln when measuring the number of teams that are based in the area and is considerably higher than levels in North Kesteven. Team Generation Rates are also highest in West Lindsey for many forms of the game.
- 11.103 Pitch quality is consistent across Central Lincolnshire and consultation indicates that quality concerns are the main issue for clubs in all areas. Perceptions of quality are slightly lower in North Kesteven and West Lindsey than in City of Lincoln and concerns about drainage and the quality of the pitch surface are particularly apparent in West Lindsey.
- 11.104 Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that taking into account just pitches with secured community access, provision on a peak day is sufficient to meet demand, with 24.2 adult pitches, 4.7 junior pitches and 9.2 adult pitches surplus to requirements. When including unsecured pitches, this increases to 26.2 adult pitches, 11.7 junior pitches and 10.5 mini pitches available at peak time.



- 11.105 Excluding schools from consideration, surpluses decrease to 15.2 adult pitches and 5.5 mini pitches. The surplus of junior pitches turns into a shortfall, highlighting the importance of these sites.
- 11.106 Despite the high levels of surplus pitches, site specific analysis highlights the importance of almost all of the facilities in promoting football participation although it suggests that play is more balanced in terms of temporal demand than in other areas meaning that there are higher levels of availability at peak time. Play is however more imbalanced across different sites. It is clear that there are higher levels of demand in the larger settlements and in areas closer to Lincoln (Welton, Saxilby, Caistor, Nettleham, Scotter). Mulsanne Park, Scotter Playing Fields and Saxilby Playing Fields (William Street and Bell Street) are all used at or above optimum levels across the week and there is no further availability at Mulsanne Park at peak time. The main pressures in West Lindsey with regards pitches are in the Nettleham and Saxilby area
- 11.107 While demand is also high in Market Rasen and in Gainsborough at club based sites, there are school facilities that are available but receive limited use.
- 11.108 Illustrating the imbalance in play, at peak time, there are 11 adult pitches that are not used and six that are at capacity. Mulsanne Park, Welton Playing Fields, Marshalls Playing Fields, Upton and Kexby Playing Fields, Roses Sports Grounds and Caistor Sports and Social are all at capacity for at least one type of pitch at peak time.
- 11.109 While there is availability in the pitch stock at peak time, many pitches are used outside of this window. Roses Sports Ground, Rase Park and Hickman Memorial Playing Fields are all at capacity outside of peak time.
- 11.110 While most sites are at capacity, almost all sites are used by at least one team. Ingham Playing Fields is the only site that is not used at all.
- 11.111 These patterns are relatively typical of a rural area where local teams use local facilities and more matches could be accommodated at each site were teams to travel.
- 11.112 The high quantities of provision mean that taking into account population growth across West Lindsey as a whole, provision will remain sufficient to meet demand. It is clear however that many of the areas where pressures are already evident are those that are anticipated to see high levels of concentrated growth. The implications of growth will be particularly felt between 2022 and 2032 and most notably in Gainsborough, where the number of teams will increase by 23 between 2012 and 2032, creating an overall shortfall in the area. While there are sufficient pitches on the whole therefore, there are isolated areas where new provision may be required to meet demand.
- 11.113 In addition to issues relating to the amount of pitches, some quality concerns are raised and it is clear that drainage is one of the key concerns in West Lindsey.
- 11.114 AGPs for Football - Building upon the information presented in the FPM in relation to the adequacy of AGPs, FA modelling considers the need for AGPs. It seeks to ensure that sufficient pitches are provided to meet the training needs of charter standard clubs, and to balance this with economic viability. FA modelling identifies the need for a 3g AGP in the Gainsborough area, based upon both the location of existing clubs and taking into account the distribution of other facilities.

## Cricket

- 11.115 50% of cricket teams in Central Lincolnshire are based in West Lindsey, where only 31% of the population live. Participation is therefore very high. Lea Park (Youth coaching), Nettleham CC (ladies teams), Upton Cum Kexby CC (expand junior section) and Willingham CC (ladies and over 35s) all state specific aspirations to increase participation, suggesting that demand may increase in future years.
- 11.116 Club perceptions of quality are relatively consistent across all three authorities but are lowest in West Lindsey. There are no clear areas of concern, instead several site specific issues are raised. Almost all of the clubs indicating that quality factors make it difficult to accommodate matches are based in West Lindsey, specifically; Aisthorpe CC, Market Rasen CC, Nettleham CC, Upton cum Kexby CC and Owmbly CC).
- 11.117 Analysis of the balance of supply and demand demonstrates that there are enough pitches to meet demand at peak time. When including all school facilities, there are 14.1 pitches not used at peak times. When excluding schools (other than those that are of appropriate quality and are used) there are just 8.1 surplus pitches.
- 11.118 Cricket in West Lindsey is particularly focused around Sunday. 10 grounds are not used on a Saturday at all and as a consequence, there are several facilities that could be used as potential overspill facilities. While there are many unused sites on a Saturday, there are lower levels of availability on a Sunday, with 6 grounds not used at all but twelve sites have capacity for one additional team. This indicates that within West Lindsey as a whole, there are enough cricket pitches.
- 11.119 Despite the above, seven sites are at capacity on a Saturday and three on a Sunday. All sites that are at capacity on a Saturday are also full on a Sunday (Cherry Willingham CC, Market Rasen CC and Nettleham CC). It is also these sites where use of wickets is highest. With the exception of Owmbly CC and South Kelsey CC, all of the sites with high use of the wicket are at capacity on at least Saturday or Sunday. Notably, these sites are located in the main urban areas and in close proximity to Lincoln. There is however scope to expand activity in Gainsborough without further provision.
- 11.120 The quality of cricket clubs was perceived to be lower in West Lindsey, and coupled with this, fewer sites contain artificial wickets and / or training nets (less than half of cricket clubs have either nets or an artificial wicket). Cherry Willingham CC is the most significant example of this – the club is at or approaching capacity and does not have either nets or an artificial wicket.
- 11.121 While with a few exceptions the amount of facilities is sufficient, several clubs raise quality concerns, largely relating to the adequacy of pavilions and issues with drainage and maintenance. There are some clear opportunities to increase overall pitch quality. In particular, it is evident that high levels of use are becoming evident at some sites and potentially starting to have a detrimental impact.
- 11.122 Future population growth will impact upon the demand for cricket, particularly in areas of high concentrated growth.

## Rugby

- 11.123 Whilst participation at Gainsborough Rugby Club has increased marginally, there have been significant increases at Market Rasen and Louth RUFC.

- 11.124 Analysis of the adequacy of pitches indicates that when taking into account all pitches (regardless of use) there is sufficient capacity to meet demand, with 2 pitches not used at peak time (excluding pitches that are not secured for the community).
- 11.125 Market Rasen and Louth RUFC are a proactive club that have significant aspirations for ongoing development. Quality of pitches is acceptable although they suffer from poor drainage, but the condition of changing and car parking is poor. In conjunction with the RFU, they have created a clear development plan for all aspects of club growth, including facilities, volunteer development, coaching and membership. With regards facilities, specific targets include;
- securing additional playing space;
  - expanding the clubhouse and providing extra changing for teams and officials, toilets along with improved accessibility; and
  - installing floodlights on a second pitch.
- 11.126 Site specific calculations support the need for additional pitch requirements to facilitate the growth of the club, indicating that current activity is above levels that can be adequately accommodated at the club base.
- 11.127 The club base at Gainsborough Rugby Club is much more limited. There is a requirement to secure tenure of their home site (Trent Valley Academy) so that the club can develop as a club, and also to allow the club access to capital grant funding. The limited supply of surplus rugby pitches in the area means that this is a particular priority.
- 11.128 Potential increases to participation, as well as population growth will increase the importance of these facility requirements.

### **Hockey**

- 11.129 There are no hockey clubs in West Lindsey. Despite this, both Caistor Grammar School and Queen Elizabeth School enter hockey tournaments (two of only three schools in Central Lincolnshire). It is therefore likely that players travel to reach nearby clubs. Recognising the lack of hockey in the area, England Hockey made attempts were to invigorate rush hockey in the Gainsborough area at Trent Valley Academy (a site that has previously been used by Lincoln Roses HC) however demand was not sufficiently high.
- 11.130 The AGP at Trent Valley academy is therefore not currently used for hockey and analysis of current and future requirement for hockey suggest that it is not likely to be required for this purpose. There are no aspirations to develop a new hockey club currently.

### **Bowls**

- 11.131 There are 18 greens in West Lindsey, representing a total of 0.32 greens per 1000 population. This is a level equivalent to the average in Central Lincolnshire (0.2) and is higher than provision in Lincoln, but lower than the amount of facilities in North Kesteven. All sites just have one green and all active sites have a club associated with it. The green at South Kelsey has recently been abandoned.
- 11.132 The quality of facilities ranged from 47% to 100%, with only the recently abandoned site achieving a low quality score. The quality of facilities is therefore high overall and few issues were identified.

- 11.133 Although there is no formal standard for the amount of bowling greens that should be required, an old Sports Council standard of 10 greens per 60000 population can be used to measure provision. West Lindsey are significantly above this target standard. Even taking into account projected population increases, it is anticipated that provision will remain sufficient. Furthermore, assuming that participation levels remain static, membership per green will remain within acceptable levels.
- 11.134 Market segmentation indicates that the profile of bowls players is older than for most sports. As a consequence, the ageing population is likely to have a different impact on participation in bowls than for other pitch sports.
- 11.135 Clubs located near to areas of concentrated growth (notably those in Gainsborough and on the Lincolnshire borders) are likely to experience higher levels of growth as a result of the planned increases in population. This is particularly notable between 2022 and 2031 where it is likely that participation will increase significantly and almost half of all growth will take place in these areas.
- 11.136 Analysis of the adequacy of provision suggests that facilities in all bowling greens have capacity for additional members and that there are no clear aspirations for additional facilities at the current time. Increases in members will support the sustainability of existing clubs. Population growth between 2022 and 2031 may however see the requirement for additional provision in Gainsborough.

## **Tennis**

- 11.137 There are 48 tennis courts in West Lindsey, of which 69% are on a club base. Provision per 1000 population is equivalent to 0.54 – the highest in Central Lincolnshire. There are four courts that are in poor condition – Keelby Village Green (now disused) and Scothern Village Hall.
- 11.138 Outside of club sites, most other facilities are single or double court sites located in rural settlements. Sites where tennis clubs exist are Caistor Sports and Social Club, Gainsborough Town Tennis Club, Keelby Sports Association, Lea Park, Nettleham Tennis Club (Mulsanne Park), Reepham Tennis Club, Saxilby Tennis Club, Scotter Tennis Club, Tealby Tennis Club
- 11.139 The quality of tennis courts varies significantly across Central Lincolnshire and this pattern is also reflected in West Lindsey, with sites achieving scores ranging from 50% - 100%. In general, club based facilities achieve higher quality scores than sites that are just let out for public use.
- 11.140 The distribution of facilities is relatively good and Market Rasen is the only large town without a club (although there are courts at De Aston Sports Centre). The town is also relatively close to Tealby Tennis Club.
- 11.141 Taking into account just accessible courts and based upon current levels of participation according to Active People (which take into account casual play and if anything are thought to overestimate demand) the current number of courts is around suggested levels (44 people per court excluding redundant courts). This also does not take into account the impact of floodlighting at some sites and does not consider the role of the indoor tennis courts, which reduce demand for outdoor facilities. Increases in participation could however see this increase to 74 courts per 1000 population. While these levels are unlikely to be achieved, population growth will see an impact on demand for tennis in the area and provision will become more in line with demand. If all facilities were accessible, the

number of courts would remain within target levels, even in the event of significant participation increases.

11.142 Site specific analysis reveals the following issues specific to West Lindsey;

- There are some redundant courts that are no longer used to accommodate tennis
- Tealby Tennis Club and Scotter Tennis Club are approaching capacity
- There are significant aspirations for floodlighting - Tealby Tennis Club (would address capacity issues), Caistor Tennis Club, Scotter Tennis Club (would address capacity issues), Nettleham Tennis Club Saxilby Tennis Club
- Scothern Tennis Club has poor quality surfacing
- Gainsborough Tennis Club has capacity to accommodate additional play.
- Concentrated population growth will see an increase in the amount of almost 245 tennis players in the Gainsborough area alone (5 courts) While existing courts have capacity up to 2022, there is a potential longer term requirement for these additional courts up to 2031 to take into account the high population growth. This will be particularly apparent if aspirations to increase participation are achieved but could potentially be delivered through the use of school sites.
- Based upon the above key issues, Table 11.6 summarises the key priorities in West Lindsey in response to the strategic priorities outlined in Sections 5 – 10.

**Table 11.6: Site Specific Priorities in West Lindsey**

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
Hockey	H1: Retain required sand based surfaces for hockey	N/A
Hockey	H2: Negotiate access to sites not currently available for community use	N/A
Hockey	H3 – New Provision	N/A
Hockey	H4: Support improvements that are required to maintain an appropriate standard of pitch surface.	N/A
Hockey	H5: Support initiatives to introduce new forms of hockey by ensuring that appropriate flexible spaces are available.	N/A
Rugby	R1: Support club relocation or expansion	Market Rasen and Louth RUFC
Rugby	R2: Maximise security of tenure for rugby clubs	Gainsborough RUFC
Rugby	R3: Monitor demand for rugby league	N/A
Rugby	R4: Support enhancements to the quality of existing	Market Rasen and Louth RUFC (clubhouse and floodlights – extension / additional facility should be addressed first) and

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	facilities	Gainsborough RUFC (floodlights)
Rugby	R5: Support initiatives to increase rugby participation including the introduction of new forms of the game, which may require the provision of flexible spaces	N/A
Cricket	C1 In partnership with the Lincolnshire Cricket Board, ensure that the amount of cricket facilities available does not impact on the opportunities to grow participation in the sport.	<p>Retain all existing facilities</p> <p>Given the potential increase in participation in areas of high growth it should be noted that;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cherry Willingham CC is at capacity and is located close to an area of potential growth. Possible to secure use of Cherry Willingham School facility (would require improvement in line with C2)</li> <li>Similarly, Nettleham CC is at capacity and located close to an area of potential growth. Overspill facilities may be required</li> <li>There is capacity to accommodate additional growth in participation in Gainsborough without further facilities. The facility at Trent Valley Academy is important in this.</li> </ul>
Cricket	C2: Support improvements to the quality of pitches.	Priority improvements (located in areas of growth and / or high usage)

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
		<p>Roses CC – wicket requires greater protection</p> <p>Caistor CC – pitch and pavilion</p> <p>Other issues include;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lea Park - drainage</li> <li>• Middle Rasen CC -Molehills. Relatively poor pavilion;</li> <li>• South Kelsey CC – remedial work required</li> <li>• Cuxwold CC – remedial work required</li> <li>• Bardney CC – square poorly defined</li> <li>• Aisthorpe CC Poor drainage, pavilion in need of improvement;</li> <li>• Market Rasen CC - Poor drainage, pavilion in need of improvement, car park needs tarmacking; and</li> <li>• Brocklesby CC- require covers for wicket. Changing pavilion poor.</li> <li>• Scothern CC</li> </ul>
Cricket	Ensure that all clubs have access to appropriate training facilities.	<p>Key priorities (High levels of use and / or located in an area of potential growth)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cherry Willingham CC</li> <li>• Nettleham CC</li> </ul>



Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Saxilby CC</li> <li>• Roses CC</li> </ul> <p>Other clubs;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Aisthorpe CC,</li> <li>• Bardney CC,</li> <li>• Cuxwold CC,</li> <li>• Middle Rasen CC</li> <li>• Owmby CC</li> <li>• Reepham CC</li> <li>• South Kelsey CC</li> <li>• Upton Cum Kexby CC, Brocklesby CC</li> </ul>
	Support the introduction of development initiatives to increase participation in cricket.	
Bowling	BG1: Protect all remaining bowling greens (excluding those that have already closed).	South Kelsey Bowling Green no longer used.
Bowling	BG2: Monitor the requirement for additional facilities in the long term (2022 – 2031). This is likely to occur in Sleaford, Lincoln and Gainsborough. Increases in participation in the shorter term should be channelled	Potential longer term requirement for bowling green in Gainsborough to supplement existing facilities (2022 – 2031).

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	to existing clubs to increase membership and consequently to improve sustainability and viability.	
Bowling	BG3: Support existing Clubs to improve the quality issues identified at current bowling green sites. Quality will be essential if increases in club membership are to be sustainable	Priority to issues in areas of growth.
Bowling	BG4: Support clubs to proactively increase participation and membership.	
Tennis	<p>T1: Improve capacity where required at existing club bases through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>covering courts</li> <li>providing floodlights.</li> </ul> <p>To improve sustainability, clubs should be encouraged to promote pay and play activity as well as club membership.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tealby Tennis Club (would address capacity issues) (West Lindsey)</li> <li>Caistor Tennis Club (West Lindsey)</li> <li>Scotter Tennis Club (would address capacity issues) (West Lindsey)</li> <li>Nettleham (West Lindsey) – located near area of high growth</li> <li>Saxilby (West Lindsey) – located near area of high growth</li> </ul>
Tennis	<p>T2: Provide access to additional courts as demand grows through;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The creation of links between existing clubs and school sites containing tennis courts (and negotiation for community access to these school</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Gainsborough TC currently has capacity for additional members.</li> <li>Longer term, secure access to Gainsborough Queen Elizabeth High School and or Trent Valley Academy or provide new facilities if club reaches capacity.</li> </ul>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	<p>courts)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The development of multi-purpose facilities that can be used for tennis in smaller settlements</li> <li>• the development of satellite tennis courts in areas of high growth where additional demand cannot be met through existing clubs (longer term)</li> </ul>	
Tennis	T3: Support clubs and other providers in the improvement of club bases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scothern TC</li> <li>- Dunholme TC</li> </ul>
Tennis	T4: In light of the high levels of latent demand for tennis, review opportunities to maximise the use of tennis courts through effective programming and coaching opportunities.	
Football	To maximise the use of existing resources and to release pressures on existing pitches, particularly in junior football, formalise community agreements at school sites that currently accommodate mini and junior community football.	<p>Retain community use agreements at Trent Valley Academy and Caistor Grammar School in particular.</p> <p>Secure access to Queen Elizabeth High School (Gainsborough)</p>
Football	Support the creation of new facilities where unmet demand is identified / and or where facilities are at capacity. This situation may arise for a variety of reasons including a shortage of pitches in quantitative terms (either current or projected), poor quality facilities meaning that pitches are not fit for purpose or a lack of facilities of appropriate size to meet the	<p>Promote the use of school facilities in Gainsborough and longer term, secure the use of Queen Elizabeth School in Gainsborough to increase the capacity of the pitch stock in the area.</p> <p>Support an increase in provision in the Nettleham and Saxilby</p>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
	<p>needs of certain clubs.</p> <p>Deficiencies should be addressed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>expanding existing sites;</li> <li>securing community use of existing school sites;</li> <li>formalising existing informal pitches into more formal pitches where they are appropriately located – this may require qualitative improvements;</li> <li>and providing new facilities (in particular new facilities to facilitate club development).</li> </ul>	<p>areas through extensions to existing sites and / or new provision (or community use of school sites).</p> <p>The creation of SUE in Gainsborough will create the requirement for an additional 3 adult pitches, 3 junior pitches and 3 mini pitches</p>
Football	<p>Support the introduction of new forms of the game introduced through the FA youth review by supporting the provision of appropriate pitches to meet new size guidelines. These new forms of the game are designed to make the transition between junior and adult football easier and to maximise technical improvements.</p>	<p>Junior pitches should be converted into 9 v 9 pitches. Circa 5 pitches will be required, depending upon arrangements for 9 v 9 pitches agreed with the league. This play can take place on grass or 3g pitches. The location of clubs requiring 9 v 9 pitches means that it is likely that a pitch will be required on each home ground. Circa 4 pitches will be required.</p>
Football	<p>F4: Seek to provide changing facilities of appropriate quality at all sites accommodating adult football and a minimum standard of toilets and wash facilities at sites for junior and mini football.</p>	<p>Key Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cherry Willingham Community School</li> </ul> <p>Other needs;</p> <p>Bardney Playing Fields</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li></li> </ul>

Sport	Strategic Recommendation	Site specific implications
Football	F5: Improve the short and longer term quality of pitches by securing levels of investment to ensure that maintenance regimes appropriate to the pitch and its' usage are adopted. Key priorities include drainage and improvements to the pitch surface.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mulsanne Park - drainage</li> <li>• William Street Saxilby – drainage.</li> <li>• Hickman Bacon - drainage</li> <li>• Roses Sports Ground – Playing Surface</li> <li>• Rase Park - drainage</li> </ul> <p>Other needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Blyton - uneven pitch</li> <li>• Marton Playing Fields - uneven</li> <li>• Newtoft - drainage</li> <li>• Welton - grass coverage and drainage</li> <li>• </li> </ul>
Football	F6: Support the growth and development of football clubs by improving access to training facilities for football clubs across Central Lincolnshire.	Provide a new 3g surface in Gainsborough. This could be delivered by resurfacing the existing sand based facility at Trent Valley Academy which is not required for hockey.
Football	F7: Support interventions to increase participation in football across Central Lincolnshire and to reduce the current decline.	Note there are several former playing pitch sites that are no longer in use. These sites offer the potential to re-invigorate activity in these areas.

