

# LK2

## **SPORTS NEEDS ASSESSMENT** **West Lindsey District Council** **Holistic District-Wide Review for** **Grass Pitches and Ancillary Facilities**

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## 1. Executive Summary

This **Sports Facility Assessment** covers the core sports of Football, Rugby, Cricket and Hockey in regard to pitch provision. The assessment has been undertaken with a view to having a definitive piece of evidence to allow West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) to **make informed decisions** about the future needs and requirements.

The main purpose of this sports needs assessment is to provide WLDC with a **holistic assessment** and review of the grass pitch, FTP and ancillary facilities across the district and to position the Council with a clear understanding for their offering to the community. This assessment will provide an initial framework to understand the needs of the local population and project future needs. The assessment covers the following pitches / sports.

- Football pitches (including 3G Football Turf Pitches - FTP's)
- Cricket pitches
- Rugby Union pitches
- Hockey pitches
- Sand Based all-weather pitches

Initially, this report will assess the existing provision of mainstream pitch based sports and the current usage of these venues by local sports clubs/teams. The report will also utilise the predicted population growth and make recommendations on how provision could meet future demands within the district boundary. The resident population of West Lindsey is 94,869 (State of the District 2019) and this is predicted to increase to 115,245 by 2040. This increase needs to be factored into future provision of pitches for matches and for training venues.

The headline findings of the quantitative assessment are captured within the table below.

Sport	Team Numbers	Pitch Numbers	Future Demand Needed (2040)
<b>Football</b>	There are a total of 127 teams for football with a breakdown of 27 adult teams, 98 junior teams, which equates to circa 1176 players as of the 2019/2020 season.	There are 120 grass pitches based within West Lindsey which have a breakdown of 46 full sized adult pitches, 38 junior pitches and 16 mini soccer pitches	Based upon the current team numbers and future population projections there will be a need for a further 3.12 adult grass pitches, 7.97 youth pitches, 2.55 mini soccer pitches and 0.7 full sized 3G FTP's.
<b>Rugby</b>	There is a total of 47 rugby teams within the study area with a breakdown of 24 senior sides and 23 junior sides, this equates to roughly 940 playing members.	There is a total of 24 pitches within West Lindsey with a breakdown of 18 senior sized pitches and 6 junior pitches.	Based upon the current team numbers and future population projections there will be a need of a further 2.07 Rugby Union pitches needed up to 2040.

Sport	Team Numbers	Pitch Numbers	Future Demand Needed (2040)
<b>Cricket</b>	There is a total of 79 cricket teams within West Lindsey with a breakdown of 32 senior sides and 47 junior sides.	There are currently 17 cricket pitches in the study area	Based upon future population projections there will be a need of a further 3.15 cricket pitches needed up to 2040.
<b>Hockey</b>	There is a total of 16 teams within the study area, 11 senior sides and 5 junior sides.	There are 3 principal locations being used by the local club.	Based on future population projections there is no demand for additional pitch space.

From this assessment, we have reached the conclusion that there is **adequate sports pitch provision** currently across the local authority with the **current population** in West Lindsey. This has been based upon the team numbers and current stock of pitches within the area. However, there **will be need for future** pitches based upon the latest population projections available and the current team numbers as highlighted in the table above.

It should be noted that **further and more detailed supply and demand work** is required to identify the **quality** of the pitches. This would determine the **current carrying capacity** of each pitch. There should also be detailed consultations and development links with the National Governing Body (NGB) officers as they have their own unique and specific development plans.

In our view, a **tiered system** should be developed for the provision of pitch-based sports in the district. This will allow the **classification of each venue** into four distinct segments. Each tier will have a defined strategy as to how each venue should be considered, by the Council, in relation to its future provision.

Whilst the sports needs assessment is based on the facilities within West Lindsey, the report also recognises the wider context of Lincolnshire and ambitions of neighbouring districts. (Specifically, in relation to housing development, improvements to infrastructure, new industries and commercial developments). In all cases, the wider cross boundary, population and infrastructural growth should be considered when making decisions about future supply of services.

To cater for future population growth consideration should be given to allow for slight increases across all sports and pitch types. This growth will most likely be required in the southern part of the district in the areas surrounding Nettleham and Welton, but western areas close to Gainsborough and areas close to Market Rasen and Caistor to the East. Specific areas of focus cannot be determined at this point but should be balanced with other increases in adjoining local authorities due to cross boundary needs.

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The future predicted sport pitch adjustments is up to the year 2040 with football accounting for the highest growth with a total of 13.64 grass pitches and 0.7 (1) artificial pitches (full size). This is also dependant on other local authorities and their particular sport and planning strategies as they will affect to another. Appendix 5 illustrates the playing pitch calculator and the population inputs and outputs which equate to pitch requirements and predicted capital costs, based upon the Sport England guidance.

## 2. Introduction

West Lindsey District Council (WLDC) are currently reviewing the need and provision for key sports across the district, with a specific focus on grass pitches, all weather surfaces and artificial pitches (3G FTP). The review is being undertaken with a view to having a definitive piece of evidence to allow WLDC to make informed decisions about the future needs and requirements.

This report and associated evidence has been produced using a defined methodology and the resulting information will contribute towards the development of planning policy for the local authority moving forward.

Initially, this report will assess the existing provision of mainstream pitch based sports and the current usage of these venues by local sports clubs/teams. The report will also utilise the predicted population growth and make recommendations on how provision could meet future demands within the district boundary. The resident population of West Lindsey is 94,869 (State of the District 2019) and this is predicted to increase to 115,245 by 2040. This increase needs to be factored into future provision of pitches for matches and for training venues.

It is noted that West Lindsey has a wide range of existing facilities in the district that offer great opportunities for the community to be active and to play a number of pitch based sports. The nature of the district means that the facilities are located across a large area and that multiple facilities are located in urban areas of **Gainsborough, Market Rasen, Welton, Nettleham and Caistor**.

Whilst the sports needs assessment is based on the facilities within West Lindsey, the report also recognises the wider context of Lincolnshire and ambitions of neighbouring districts. (Specifically, in relation to housing development, improvements to infrastructure, new industries and commercial developments). In all cases, the wider cross boundary, population and infrastructural growth should be considered when making decisions about future supply of services.

The sports needs assessment will highlight opportunities, where appropriate, for investment to be made into the sporting infrastructure through developer contributions.

This study will focus on formal activity and sports grounds. It will not include open space and fallow grounds. However, where open spaces and fallow ground are linked to formal sports spaces, they will be included and considered in relation to future use.

## 3. Project Methodology

LK2 (Sports & Leisure Consultants) has used a robust methodology in order to assess the sports needs and key development opportunities within the district of West Lindsey. The methodology is set out below:

### Stage 1

Review all influencing factors including local demographics, population growth and guiding policies.

### Stage 2

Review all existing outdoor sport provision that is available to the West Lindsey community.

### Stage 3

Identify the current need and likely future demand for each pitch based sport.

### Stage 4

Identify potential key stakeholders and end users. These include clubs, leagues, communities and commercial partners and NGB's (National Governing Bodies).

### Stage 5

Review of relevant local authority strategies and policies (Local Football Facilities Plan - LFFP, Supplementary Development Plan - SDP, Local plan and sustainable urban extensions - SUE's).

### Stage 6

Collate all the raw data and complete the analysis of each of the major pitch sports (football, rugby, hockey and cricket). Created a tiered structure based on this analysis, which ranks the sites based upon certain criteria. The tiered structure provides information about each site in relation to the following sub-criteria:

- Which sites / location are already crucial to the delivery of sport in WLDC
- Which sites / location are strategically important and could be developed
- Which sites / locations are important and require ongoing maintenance.

### Stage 7

Complete spatial and drive time analysis mapping. This allows us to visually show the spread of sites.

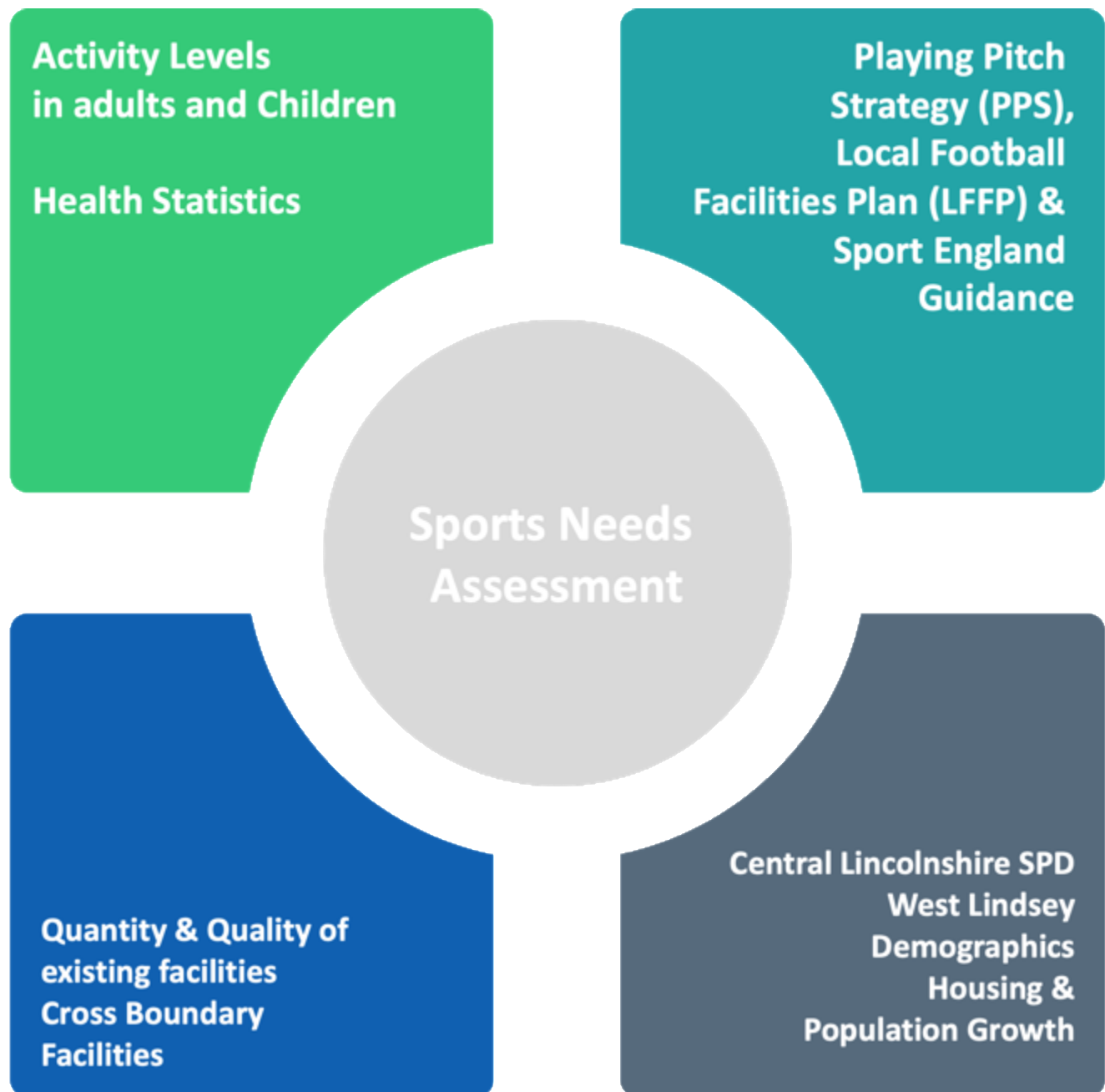
### Stage 8

Produce a detailed report that combines stages 1-7 and provides conclusions and recommends future requirements.

#### 4. Influencing factors

There are a number of factors which influence strategic decisions which may be made as a consequence of this sports needs assessment. These influences are either **direct** or **indirect**. Direct influences are known about and will have an impact on the decision-making process. Indirect influences are not yet known about and may have an impact on future decisions.

Some of these influences are highlighted in the infographic below.





## Demographics

West Lindsey is a rural district, covering 1,156km<sup>2</sup> (447 square miles) and is home to just under 95,000 people. West Lindsey shares boundaries with North Kesteven, Bassetlaw, North East Lincolnshire, North Lincolnshire, East Lindsey and the City of Lincoln. Of the 94,869 people, 48,444 are male and 46,425 are female. West Lindsey has an average age of 47, which is significantly higher than the Lincolnshire average of 41.4 and the UK average of 40.

The key demographics of the district of West Lindsey are captured in the info graphic below. These are taken from WLDC's 'State of the District 2019' document and Public Health England fingertips snapshot information.



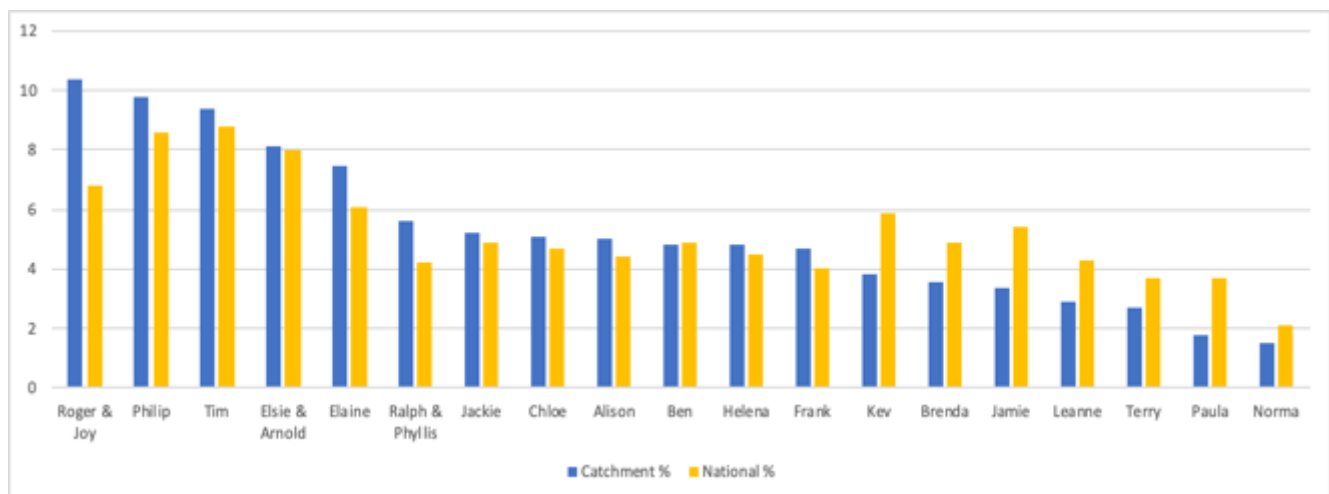
## Market Segmentation

Sport England has a very well developed Market Segmentation tool, which provides data to help to explain individuals' motivation, attitudes, behaviour and barriers towards sports and active recreation. The market segmentation is underpinned by key socio-demographic variables and therefore every adult within England has been classified into a "Sport England segment". Please see Appendix 1 for more details on Sport England segmentation.

By using this data, it is possible to demonstrate the dominant segments in a particular area / region. Accordingly, Sport England has developed nineteen sporting segments to help us understand the nation's attitudes to sport, their motivations, and barriers. These market segment characteristics are attributed to individuals and given names and relate to certain age groups.

The graph below shows the proportion of each dominant segment from the West Lindsey population (in blue). This highlights that Roger & Joy (10.4%), Phillip (9.8%), Tim (9.4%) and Elsie & Arnold (8.1%) are the dominant segments. The national picture is also highlighted within this graph (in yellow).

**Graph 1 – Dominant segments of the population (classified by Sport England) in West Lindsey.**



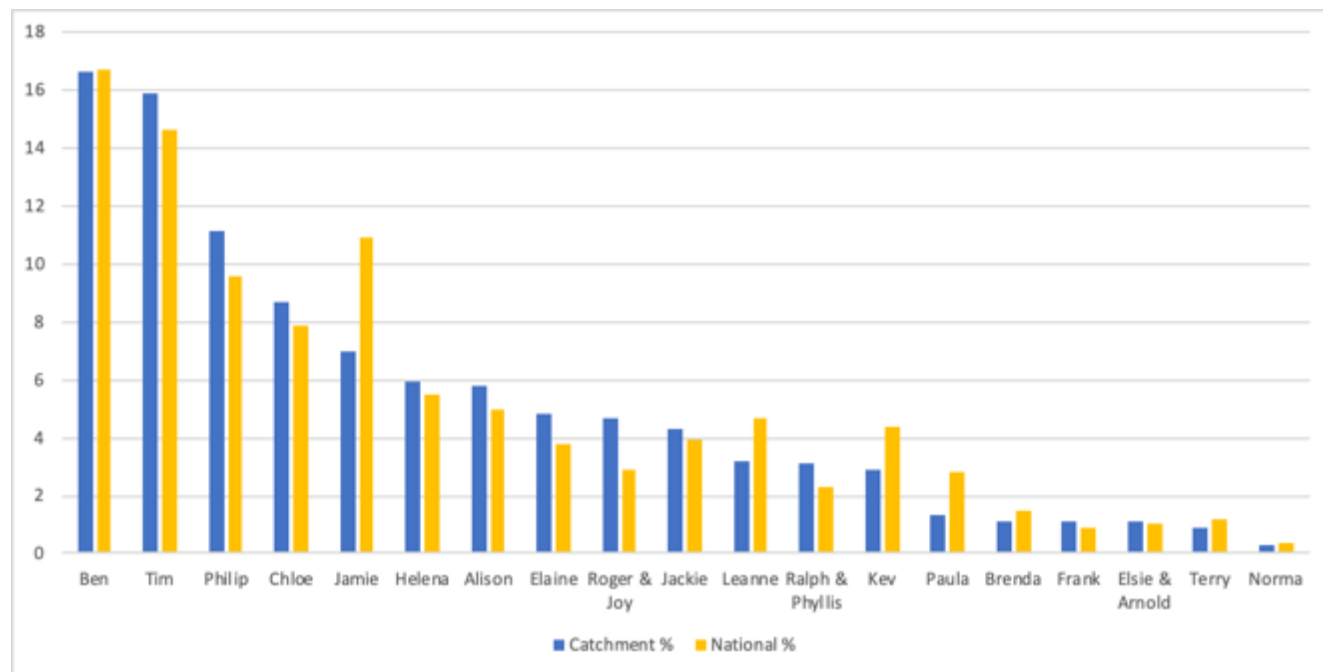
This highlights that West Lindsey has higher proportions of the dominant segments for Roger & Joy, Philip, Tim and Elsie & Arnold in the district than the national average.

In relation to the propensity to take part in pitch based, outdoor sports, the following segments are dominant in West Lindsey. The percentages represent the proportion of the segment in relation to the whole population.

- Ben 16.6%
- Tim 15.9%
- Phillip 11.1%

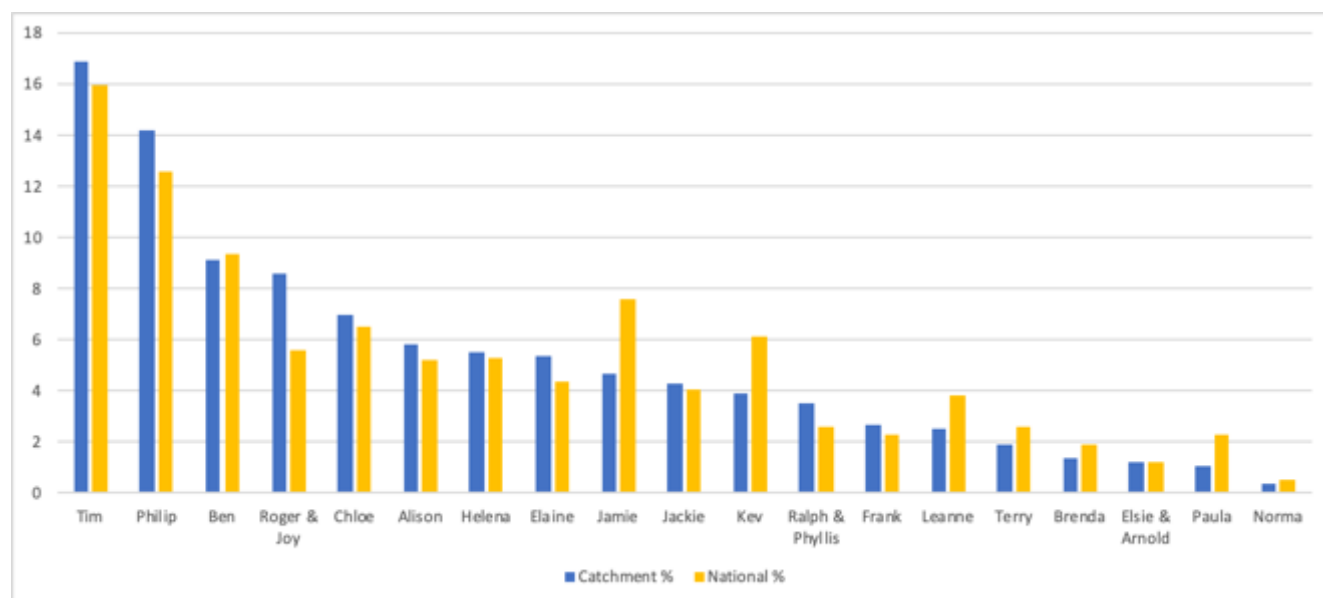
The graph below highlights the proportionate propensity from each of the market segments in relation to their likeliness to take part in pitch based sports.

**Graph 2 – Dominant segments in West Lindsey who take part in pitch based, outdoor sports.**

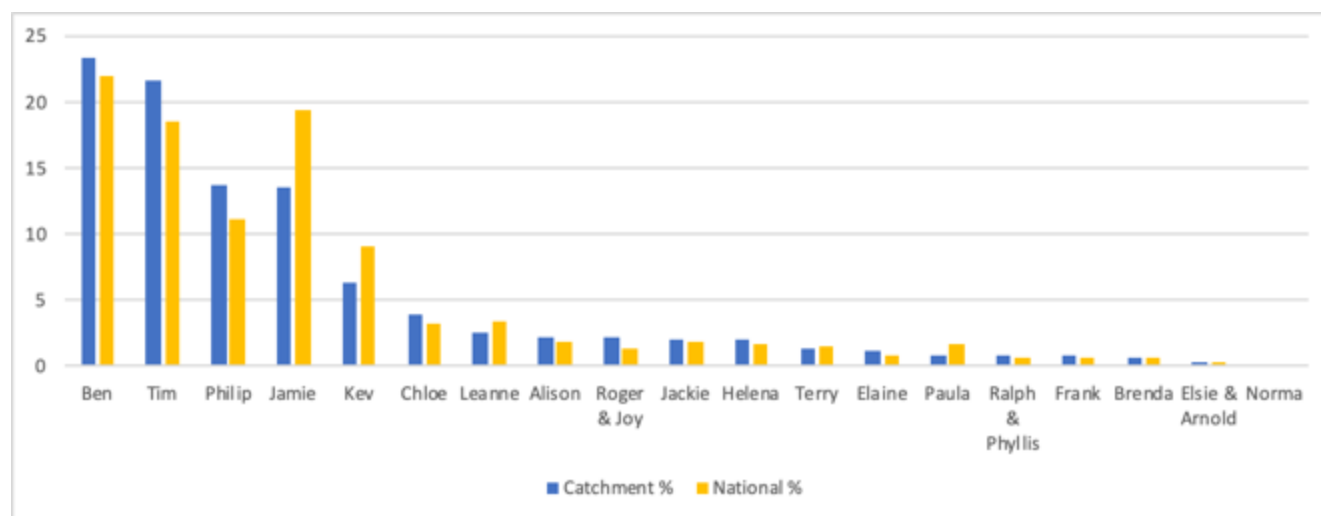


As Tim and Phillip are also ranked high in the overall dominant segments of the population, these two groups would therefore be the most prevalent in terms of users of outdoor, pitch based sports across the West Lindsey district. The prevalence of these market segments is further highlighted when looking at the outdoor sports (graph 3) and team sports (graph 4). The graphs below show similar proportionate representation of Ben, Tim and Philip.

**Graph 3 – Dominant segments in West Lindsey who take part in outdoor sports.**



**Graph 4 – Dominant segments in West Lindsey who take part in team sports.**



The market segmentation shows that whilst two of the dominant segments of the West Lindsey population are Roger & Joy and Elsie & Arnold, these segments do not appear in the likeliness to require outdoor, pitch based sports or team sports. This has a direct impact on the considerations when making decisions about what sports and leisure facilities are to be provided now and in the future.

Conversely, it is essential to consider the market characteristics and of Phillip and Tim as they are two of the dominant segments who have interest and are likely to partake in pitch based, outdoor sports.

## Population growth

Based on the local growth plan of 1325 new homes to be built in Central Lincolnshire per year until 2040, the population of West Lindsey is set to increase to 115,245. This estimate is based on 2.33 persons per household and 33% of the Central Lincolnshire housing growth to be within West Lindsey.

<b>Current Population</b>	<b>New homes per year</b>	<b>People Per Household</b>	<b>Projected Population Increase per year</b>	<b>Projected Population in 2040</b>
94869	437	2.33	1019	115,245

It is believed and projected that the trend towards an ageing population profile will continue. Linked to the analysis of the Sport England market segmentation, this means Elsie & Arnold and Roger and Joy which are two of the dominant segments in West Lindsey now, are likely to continue to be so in the future. The provision of sports and leisure facilities both indoor and outdoor should consider this when deciding the type of activities these segments are likely to participate in.

## Activity levels

The total **adult population** of the district of West Lindsey is 55,200 adults (16+). The Sport England Active Lives Survey data demonstrates the levels of activity of adults (16+) in sport and active recreation in each area. In West Lindsey, from November 2018 to November 2019, the following statistics were recorded: -

- Inactive (Less than 30 minutes a week)
- Fairly Active (30–149 minutes a week)
- Active (150+ minutes a week)

35.6% of the resident population of West Lindsey are inactive and the district has a higher inactivity rate when compared to the county (Lincolnshire – 30.2.8%) and the national (England – 24.6%) averages.

12.7% of the resident population are classified as '**fairly active**'.

51.8% of the total population are classified as being '**active**'.

In December 2018, Sport England's Active Lives Survey data was extended to Children and Young People (School Years 1 to 11). The data demonstrates levels of activity in sport and active recreation in West Lindsey from academic year 2018/19: -

- Less Active (Less than an average of 30 minutes a day)
- Fairly Active (An average of 30-59 minutes a day)
- Active Across the Week (An average of 60+ minutes a day but not every day)
- Active Every Day (60+ Minutes every day)

33.7% of children and young people in West Lindsey are classified as '**less active**' and the district is lower when compared to the county (Lincolnshire – 23.2%) and national (England – 29%) averages.

38.5% of children and young people in West Lindsey are **active every day** although the district has a lower active everyday participation rate when compared to county (Lincolnshire – 50.6%) and national (England – 46.8%) averages.

In summary, people (adults and children) living in West Lindsey are **less active** than guidelines and less active than national and regional averages.

Please see Appendix 2 for detailed information on Active Lives data.

## Sport England

The assessment of future sports facility supply in the district of West Lindsey is influenced by Sport England in relation to their involvement in the planning process. Should any facility, as a consequence of this report, require significant changes to the current offering, Sport England are likely to be involved in approving this, especially if they are being asked to provide grant funding.

The guidelines in Appendix 4, clarify exactly how WLDC would need to consult with Sport England, should this be required.

## Links to Wider Strategies

The following information has been extracted from identified strategies and studies to help lead, inform and support the potential future development of sports facilities. Please note information below comprises of verbatim extracts from relevant documentation.

### The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan and (SPD)

The Central Lincolnshire Local Plan was adopted on 24 April 2017 and provides planning policies for the growth and regeneration of Central Lincolnshire until 2036. Between the Central Lincolnshire authorities (District of Lincoln, North Kesteven and West Lindsey), a total of circa **30,000 new homes** need to be delivered. This is based on an increase of 1325 per year between 2018-2040

The Local Plan seeks to ensure that new development safeguards and enhances the area's existing Green Infrastructure by creating new and improving the quality and capacity of existing open spaces and connectivity within the network.

It is noted that developer contributions vary in size, but most levels require investment into open space or playing fields

Priorities for Strategic Playing Fields to meet the needs of Central Lincolnshire's planned new population are set out in the CL Playing Pitch Assessment. These priorities along with any other local evidence will be the basis of calculating offsite contributions and on- site provision requirements.

Village and community halls can be an important local recreational resource. This is recognised in Local Plan Policy LP15 which seeks to ensure that where possible existing community facilities are protected along with the requirement for new development to make provision either on site or off-site. LP15 and its supporting text define community facilities.

## Lincolnshire County Council Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) is a document that aims to inform and influence decisions about the commissioning and delivery of health and social care services in Lincolnshire, so that they are focused on the needs of the people who use them and tackle the factors that affect everyone's health and wellbeing. Initially created in 2013, the strategy was to cover the period up to 2018. A review process then began in 2016 to create the second phase of the strategy which began from 2018 onwards.

### The key themes of the JHWS strategy are:

#### *Aims*

*Have a strong focus on prevention and early intervention*

*Ensure a focus on issues and needs which will require partnership and collective action across a range of organisations to deliver*

*Deliver transformational change through shifting the health and care system towards preventing rather than treating ill health and disability*

*Focus on tackling inequalities and equitable provision of services that support and promote health and wellbeing*

#### *Priorities*

*Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing (children and young people)*

*Mental Health (Adults)*

*Carers*

*Physical Activity*

*Housing & Health*

*Obesity*

*Dementia*

*The strategy has identified task force groups for each of the priorities. A 'Physical Activity taskforce' therefore has been created to develop work in this strategic priority area.*



**Let's Move – Lincolnshire. A blueprint for creating a more active Lincolnshire.**

The let's move blueprint has been produced by the physical activity taskforce, a group which was identified by the JHWS.

The Lincolnshire Physical Activity Taskforce (LPAT) has a shared vision and commitment to tackling low levels of physical activity across the County.

**Vision** – to improve people's lives through habitual physical activity

**Mission** – everyone in Lincolnshire is leading a physically active life regardless of age, wealth, gender, ability or circumstance.

**Goals** – Active Society, Active Place, Active People, Active System

Within each of the goals that have been set for the strategy, a number of targets have been identified. The targets and commitments with 'active places' are particularly pertinent to this sports facility assessment.

**Active Places** – to create and maintain environments that promote and safeguard opportunities for all people, of all ages, to have equitable access to safe places and spaces, in which to engage in regular physical activity, according to ability

We will:

- Create safe, modern and well-maintained facilities and public open spaces that provide opportunities for all to enjoy walking, cycling and other active pastimes
- Promote active travel which will be an embedded feature of all future planning and transport developments
- Create areas where people can relax and enjoy physical activities safely. We will ensure that everyone can access good quality open areas, sports and leisure facilities, green networks and other recreational sites including river and coastal sites

The **Intended outcome** of the strategy is that 'Lincolnshire will become the most active county in England where physical activity is part of everyday life'.

## Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Assessment (PPS) (October 2015 update)

It is important to note that this is a high-level facility assessment and is not a replacement for a detailed playing pitch strategy. It is also important to note that the 2015 update of the Playing pitch assessment is the most recent review of this type of information.

The Central Lincolnshire PPS consists of a:

- Needs and Evidence assessment.
- Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Study.
- Informal Outdoor Sports Needs and Evidence Report.

These studies were commissioned as part of the evidence base to support the Central Lincolnshire Core Strategy and are considered by the Central Lincolnshire Authorities as evidence to support the Central Lincolnshire Local Plan.

In addition, an Open Space Provision Standard Review was prepared, which used the Playing Pitch Needs and Evidence study to identify the level of playing pitch provision and future need for playing pitches, considering future population growth, to reflect the Local Plan period up to 2036. The text below highlights the main findings from the Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Assessment in 2015.

The Central Lincolnshire Playing Pitch Assessment 2015 reveals that

Participation in activity had increased from 20.6% to 21.4% between active people surveys 1 & 6.

Sport England segmentation reveals that there are 4 dominant segments and that the age profile is pre-dominantly made up from older age groups. The top five segments are aged 46plus which does not generate a high propensity to partake in sports.

Football is amongst the five most popular sports but is below the national average for uptake in West Lindsey.

There is a negative balance of 0.6 in relation to the demand for FTP's. Currently 1.8 pitches set against the demand for 2.4, which creates a requirement of 0.6.

The assessment noted that there are 85 pitches across West Lindsey for secure community use. The pitch provision relates to 1.05 pitches per 1000 population. This is the highest in Central Lincolnshire.

There are 12 ex pitch sites that are no longer used as formal football pitches.

There is a surplus of 8.1 cricket pitches when school pitches are removed.

There is sufficient capacity for rugby pitches and there is not a demand for hockey pitches as there are no resident clubs.

## West Lindsey District Council– Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP)

The FA, in partnership with the Premier League and the Department of Culture Media & Sport (DCMS), have made a commitment to make a major investment into local football facilities over the next 10 years. LFFP's are a key priority in the National Football Facility Strategy, which aims to increase football participation by delivering:

- 1000 new 3G (FTP'S) Football Turf Pitches
- 1000 new pavilions (supporting key multi-pitch grass sites)
- 20,000 improved natural turf pitches
- New or improved access to better indoor and outdoor spaces for social and recreational football

The West Lindsey LFFP outlines the following key points and priority projects within the District:

In West Lindsey, four clubs have more than ten registered teams. These (based upon 2018-19 affiliation data) are:

- Welton FC (22 teams)
- Marshall Sports JFC (18 teams)
- Scotter Juniors FC (13 teams)
- Nettleham FC (12 teams)

The largest leagues operating across West Lindsey (2018-19) include:

Jack Kalson Junior League (Sunday) - 55 teams, offers competitive opportunities for youth players with 11 teams from West Lindsey – home and away / central venue / central venue at multiple sites

Jack Kalson Junior League (Saturday) - 50 teams, offers competitive opportunities for youth players with 12 teams from West Lindsey – home and away / central venue / central venue at multiple sites.

Liberty Merchant Bar Junior Football League - 96 teams, offers competitive opportunities for youth players with 21 teams from West Lindsey – home and away / central venue / central venue at multiple sites.

FA data states that there are currently two full size 3G FTPs in WL with a current shortfall of two full sized 3G FTPs, a development is planned at Market Rasen Leisure Centre which will reduce the shortfall by 1. It is noteworthy that this facility is now operational which reduces the shortfall to one FTP.

Existing 3G FTPs are located at Priory Pembroke Academy and Riseholme College.

The LFFP have highlighted a number of priority projects in the study area for football improvement.

**Roses Sports Ground** - Leased to Gainsborough Trinity Foundation in an area of high deprivation with the opportunity for a new 3G FTP as the site is currently already well used. There is also an opportunity to invest in the ancillary facilities for coach education and groups accessing the site.

**Caistor Grammar School** - Provide a small size 3G FTP as well as resurface of the sand dressed AGP to accommodate training demand. This development should be in conjunction with anything that will occur at Market Rasen. This project would have a particular focus on BAME, disability and lower social-economic groups.

The LFFP have also identified a number of site for grass pitch improvements including:

- Roses Sports Ground,
- Mulsanne Park,
- Rase Park,
- Scotter Playing Fields
- Saxilby Area Pitches.

## 5. Facility Assessment - Football

The national governing body of Football in the UK, the FA, has a clear intent to increase participation in football. Since 2016, the FA have been implementing a significant strategy for the development of the national game. The associated investment of £260m has focused on four key areas; **facilities, coaching, participation** and **developing the football workforce**. West Lindsey has benefitted from some of this investment already.

Alongside the FA's national game strategy, is the **pitch improvement plan (PIP)**, which has the target of improving over 20000 grass pitches nationally. As part of this review, the FA are taking the opportunity to conduct a strategic overview of grass pitch provision. It is reported that there is a significant oversupply of pitches to the current and future demand. Therefore, this project to review strategy provision of pitches in the West Lindsey has many synergies with the national FA strategy.

As football remains one of the main sports that is played across the district, with high levels of junior and adult participation, it is pivotal to this sports needs assessment and will therefore be the lead sport.

Football is the only one of the five sports in the PPS to register in the most popular sports activities. It is the third most popular activity in West Lindsey with 6.4% of the adult population participating. This is lower than the East Midlands regional and England wide percentages at 7% and 7.2% respectively.

There are no professional clubs located within the district of West Lindsey. However, Lincoln City FC is located close by within the City of Lincoln Council boundary and does have its training base in the district. The district does have a semi-professional club in Gainsborough Trinity FC and there are also a number of long-standing amateur clubs and a very rich history of successful local league structures. There are several adult weekend leagues, a very large junior league that spans the whole of Lincolnshire, an u21 midweek league, a women's league and a number of disability teams, who play across the east midlands' region.

The clubs that are based in the district predominantly use facilities that are within the West Lindsey boundary. However, it is also important to note that there are communities being served by facilities that are located outside of the district boundary. For instance, Yarborough Leisure Centre has 2 full sized pitches, 2 mini pitches and a 3G FTP. It is also home to a large junior football club, North Lindum Hawks. Many residents of West Lindsey are members of this club.

The graphic on page 16 shows the overview of the existing facility structure in the district.

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A summary of football within West Lindsey. (as at the end of 2019 season)



46 Adult Football Pitches



2 Sand Filled AGPs



4 Sunday Leagues

34 Junior 11v11 Pitches



1 Sand Dressed AGP



98 Junior Teams



4 Junior 9v9 Pitches



1 Professional Training Facility



29 Adult Teams

16 Mini Soccer Pitches



3 Junior Leagues



1176 Estimated Junior Players



3x 3G FTPs and 1 small sided 3G FTP



4 Saturday Leagues



580 Estimated Adult Players

Source: Active Places Power, FA Whole game System, desktop research and LFFP

The supply of grass pitches across West Lindsey comprises of a mixed economy in terms of ownership and management. There is also a range of pitch type and quality. As there is a multitude of different datasets available for the collation of this information, we have created a master list for all grass pitches in the district boundary. We have utilised a combination of the datasets, including the football foundation's 'Pitch Finder' website and Sport England 'Active Places Power'. The full master list is contained in Appendix 3.

### **Quantity of the pitches.**

There are 100 grass pitches based within the district of West Lindsey, the make-up of which is as follows:

- 46 x Full sized 11 v 11 grass pitches.
- 34 x Med sized 11 v 11 grass pitches.
- 4 x 9v9 sized grass pitches.
- 16 x Mini-soccer grass pitches.

Outside of the district boundary, there are an additional 25 grass pitches and 2 full size AGP's, which are strategically important to WLDC as they serve residents, even though they are located in other local districts, such as the City of Lincoln and North Kesteven.

There are a number of key challenges for the provision of grass pitches, AGP's and ancillary facilities.

- Maintenance of grass pitches is labour intensive and expensive
- Some of the existing ancillary facilities are basic.
- Some of the existing ancillary facilities are in a poor state of repair.
- Access agreements into some facilities is limited.
- Cross over between winter and summer sports within shared venues.
- Extension of playing seasons leads to conflict on shared venues. Conflict over uses of space and also due to different maintenance requirements.

At this stage, we have not completed any detailed quality assessments for pitch provision and therefore this study is based on a mixture of desktop research, visual inspection and local knowledge of the facilities.

## Football Stakeholders

There are 25 unique football clubs and organisations within West Lindsey.

Gainsborough Trinity are the highest ranked team and are currently playing in BetVictor Northern Premier league. Gainsborough Trinity also has a reserve team, foundation teams and a large junior academy.

There are three junior leagues, eight adult leagues (four Saturday leagues and four Sunday leagues), catering for 127 teams.

The largest Lincolnshire wide junior league is called the Mid-Lincs Youth League. There are several large clubs that are based within West Lindsey that play in this league. The largest clubs are as follows: -

- Welton JFC
- Nettleham JFC
- Gainsborough Trinity
- Marshall Sports JFC
- Scotter United

In addition, it is worth noting that there are also several junior clubs based on the outskirts West Lindsey but serve residents in the district.

- North Lindum Hawks – (City of Lincoln)
- Grimsby Borough
- Greenbank Juniors FC – (North Kesteven)

Lincolnshire FA are currently working with clubs to grow the game locally, in particularly through developing disabled teams and girl/women only teams.



Locations of existing grass pitch provision – (football only)



## 6. Facility Assessment - Cricket

The supply of cricket wickets across West Lindsey is limited but is driven in part by the demand. In addition, there are several other venues, located outside of the district boundary that pick-up some of the demand for West Lindsey residents. However, it should be noted that these locations are typically linked to either school sports facilities or football locations, meaning that they are not dedicated cricket venues.

Cricket within West Lindsey is by comparison relatively limited both in terms of provision and also in terms of clubs. There are

- 17 venues
- 10 clubs
- 32 adult teams
- 47 junior teams
- Estimated 1185 players

The 17 venues all offer grass cricket wickets. The ownership and management of the sites is as follows

- 4 wickets are based at school sites and are managed by Lincolnshire Country Council or the Academy. These sites have limited community use.
- 6 wickets are based on land owned by WLDC or Parish Councils and managed directly by the parish committee.
- 4 wickets are based on land owned by WLDC or Parish Council and are managed by a community organisation
- 3 wickets are based on land owned by WLDC or Parish Council and are managed by sports clubs.

Similar to other pitch based sports, there are a number of challenges in West Lindsey in the provision of grass wickets for cricket.

- Maintenance of grass wickets is labour intensive and expensive. It is frequently the case that the responsibility for maintaining cricket pitches falls to volunteers.
- Most cricket venues share provision with football pitches. This leads to conflict on the use of a shared venue, especially at the start and end of season.
- Community access to some cricket pitches is limited in some venues.
- Some facilities are in a poor state of repair and offer basic offerings to users.

Whilst we have established the number of cricket clubs, grounds and fine turf wickets within the district, we have not completed a detailed assessment of the quality of these. Ongoing maintenance by skilled grounds staff is an integral part of providing playing pitches and grounds are rated based on this. The level and quality of maintenance also denotes which standard of cricket can be played by clubs. (i.e. how high within the regional and national league structure they can be promoted) This is coupled to the attainment of clubmark status.

The Institute of Groundmanship (IOG) have been working with county cricket boards to develop a RAG rating system for existing wicket provision. The next stage of this process would be to understand the status of the sites in West Lindsey in relation to the IOG rating.

## Cricket Stakeholders

There are two key clubs in West Lindsey, who are stakeholders in this process.

Market Rasen Cricket Club - The club currently has 11 teams at the following age groups.

- Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team
- Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> Team
- Women's 1<sup>st</sup> Team
- Women's 2nd Team
- Development Team
- Westwold team
- 5x Junior teams at Under 15's,13,11,10,9

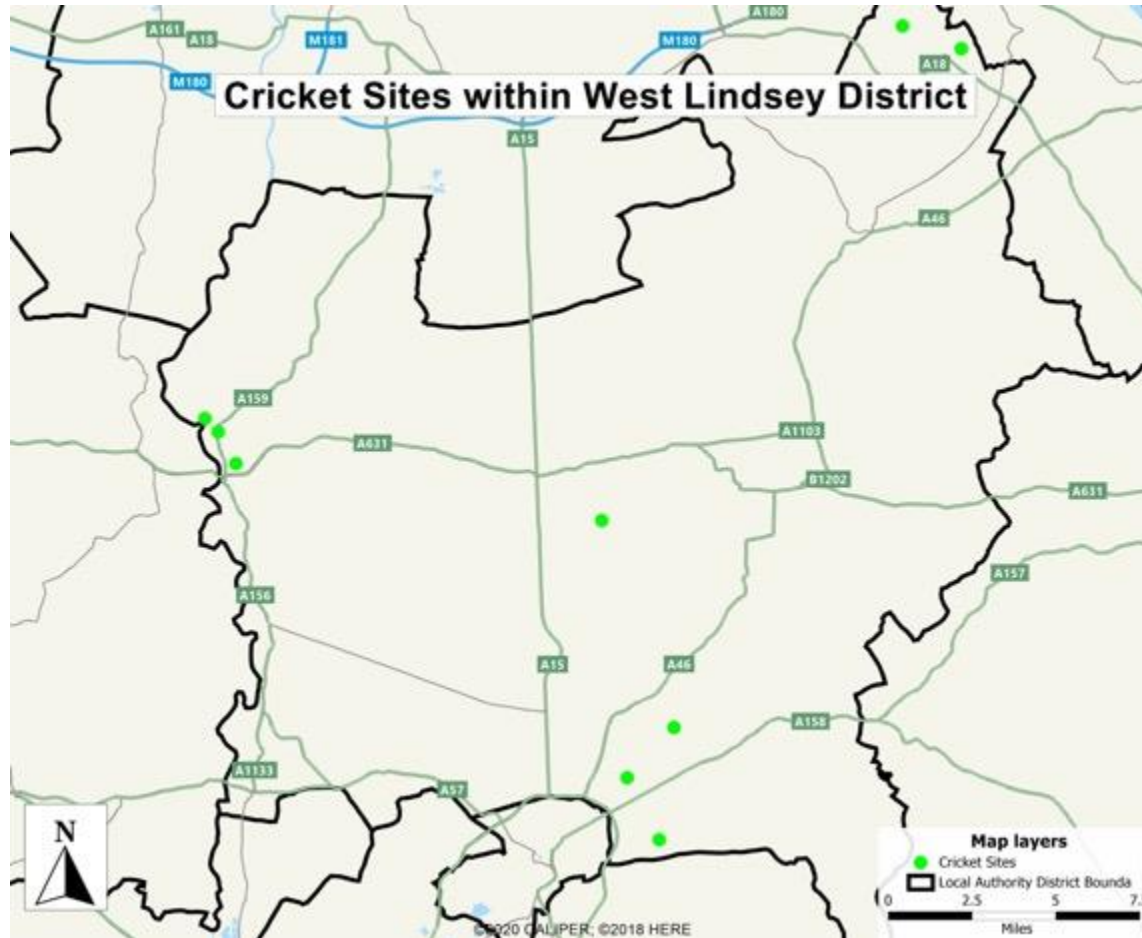
Nettleham Cricket Club - The club currently has 16 teams at the following age groups.

- Men's 1<sup>st</sup> Team
- Men's 2<sup>nd</sup> Team
- Men's Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Team
- Midweek Social Team
- 12x Junior teams at Under 19's, 15's (2teams) , 13's (2 teams), 11's (2 teams) , 10's, 9's (3 teams) and one academy team.

Both of these clubs utilise a mixture of in house space and hired indoor venues to facilitate winter and pre-season training.

It is noteworthy that Cricket across the county of Lincolnshire has a very comprehensive offer with a multitude of leagues and competitions. There are 195 registered cricket clubs with 38 different competition offers. These range from Saturday county wide leagues, Sunday local leagues, midweek indoor leagues, cup competitions, table cricket, disability cricket and junior leagues. The provision of cricket facilities across the county is mixed ranging from high quality, multi venues to single pitch sites.

Locations of existing grass pitch provision – (Cricket only)



17 grass cricket pitches

10 cricket clubs



32 adult teams

47 junior teams



1185 estimated players

## 7. Facility Assessment - Rugby

West Lindsey has a total of 24 rugby pitches and three main rugby clubs within its boundaries. These clubs are Lincoln Rugby Union Football Club (RUFC), Market Rasen RUFC and Gainsborough RUFC.

- **Lincoln Rugby Club** is based to the east of Nettleham. The club has 3 adult men's teams, a ladies team, 11 junior teams ranging from under 6's to under 16's, a junior girls' team and a colt's team.
- **Market Rasen Rugby Club** is based to the east of the town and has 3 adult men's teams.
- **Gainsborough Rugby Club** is based at the Roses sports ground and has one adult team.

Accordingly, there are three main venues that provide opportunities for Rugby in West Lindsey.

- Lincoln Rugby Club, Nettleham. This club is based at Longsdale Park and has 10 pitches in total. This is by far the largest venue in the District.
- Market Rasen RUFC, Market Rasen. This club has 3 pitches.
- Gainsborough RUFC, Roses Sports Ground, Gainsborough. This club has 1 pitch.

All three of these venues are classified as community clubs and therefore the standard of pitches is considered to be average. Lincoln rugby club is the newest venue and has higher standard of pitches than the other two venues.

In terms of ownership and management, the 24 pitches are as follows

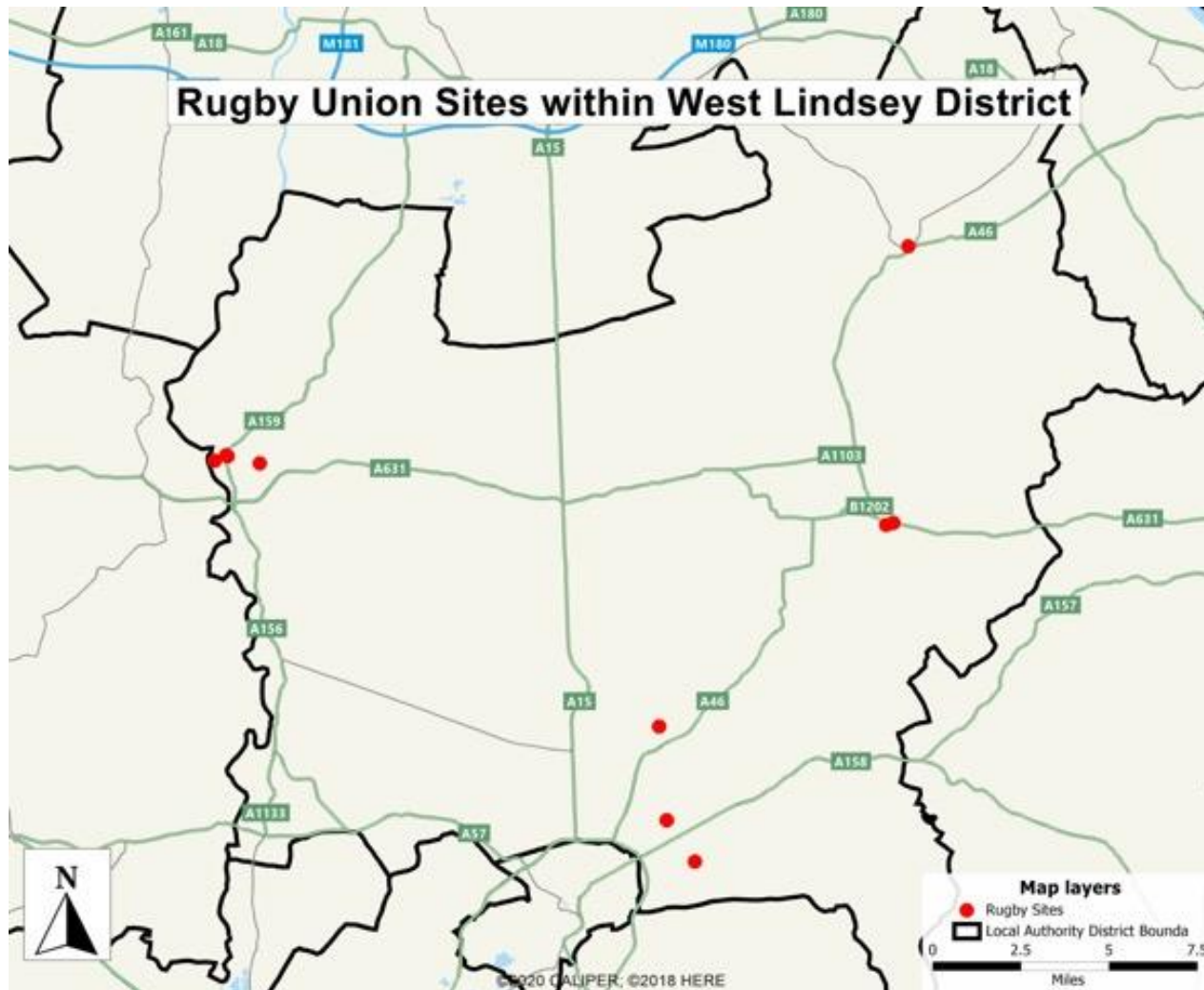
- 6 locations accounting for 10 pitches are owned and managed by schools and academies.
- 6 locations accounting for 13 pitches are owned and managed directly by sports clubs.
- 1 location accounting for 1 pitch is owned and managed by WLDC/Parish Council

### Rugby Stakeholders

The 3 clubs noted above cater for the needs of participants across adult and junior teams.

At this stage, we have not completed any detailed quality assessments for pitch provision and therefore this study is based on a mixture of desktop research, visual inspection and local knowledge of the facilities.

Locations of existing grass pitch provision – (Rugby only)



18 senior rugby union pitches

6 junior rugby union pitches



3 rugby clubs

24 adult teams



23 junior teams

940 estimated players





## 8. Facility Assessment - Hockey

The supply of playing surfaces (sand filled all-weather) across West Lindsey for hockey is very limited and is driven by the current demand for the sport in the area. There are currently no formal hockey clubs located in the district.

Facilities include:-

- Roses Sports Ground – Sand Dressed artificial pitch
- The Gainsborough Academy – Sand filled artificial pitch
- Caistor Grammar – Sand filled artificial pitch

Both the Gainsborough Academy and Caistor Grammar venues are owned and managed by the School / Lincolnshire County Council (LCC). Roses Sports Ground is owned by WLDC and managed by Gainsborough Town Council. This is sub-leased to the Gainsborough Trinity Foundation.

Lindum Hockey Club is the single largest, local hockey club for West Lindsey residents, although it is based in the City of Lincoln district boundary. Further clubs are based in Grimsby, Brigg, Horncastle and Louth. Whilst data is not available as to club membership and associated residential postcodes, it is logical that those interested in playing hockey in West Lindsey will join one of these clubs.

Lindum Hockey Club has 11 adult teams and 5 junior teams. Lindum Hockey Club was formed in 2015 and is an amalgamation of Lincoln Hockey Club and Lincoln Roses Hockey Club (Gainsborough), both of which have long histories in the sport in Lincolnshire .

Lincolnshire do have county representative sides at Men's, Ladies, Veterans, Under 12's, 13's, 15's, 17's and 21's (all age groups have male and female sides).

### Hockey Stakeholders

There is no hockey club directly catering for the needs of the sport within the district boundary.

At this stage, we have not completed any detailed quality assessments for pitch provision and therefore this study is based on a mixture of desktop research, visual inspection and local knowledge of the facilities.





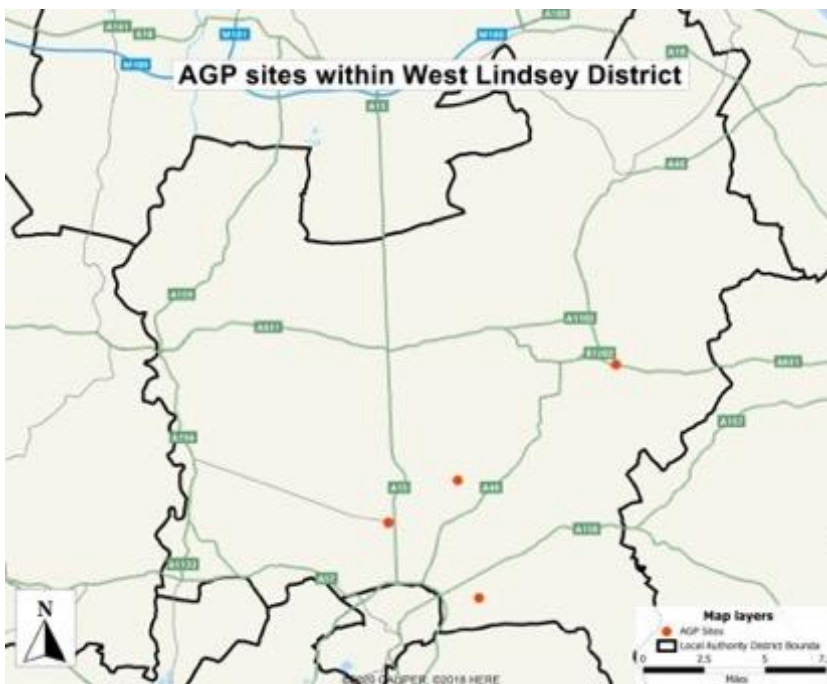
## 9. Facility Assessment - 3G Football Turf Pitch (FTP)

The development of 3G pitches in the past few years has transformed the way in which many leagues function, in particular junior football leagues. West Lindsey is starting to benefit from this increase in usage from 3G FTP's and the Co-op Mid-Lincs league in particular, has been able to grow in terms of clubs and teams. This is principally due to the changing format of the game, including mini-festivals, and also through being able to play more games per week on the 3G FTP.

There are currently three full sized 3G FTP's within the district boundary (source - active places power) with third pitch recently being added when the new facility in Market Rasen opened in 2020. Manor Park in Welton is a 3G FTP but is only half a pitch. In addition, there are a number of full sized 3G FTP 's that service West Lindsey residents. To the north of the district, residents could use Bradley Football Development Centre, which is located to west of Grimsby in North East Lincolnshire. To the south of the district, residents could use Yarborough Leisure Centre in City of Lincoln or possibly North Kesteven Sports Centre (ONE NK) based in North Kesteven.

It is also noteworthy that once the **new relief road** is opened, the facility at Cherry Willingham (The Priory Pembroke) will **widen its catchment** to residents from North Kesteven. The travel distance for residents currently living south of the river in settlements such as Heighington, Branston, Metherringham is within a 10 mile radius. However, without the relief road, the travel time at peak time could be 40 to 45 mins, as the main route would be to drive through Lincoln. The relief road will shorten this substantially, making Cherry Willingham a viable option for training and matches for clubs in these areas.

The current facilities are based at:

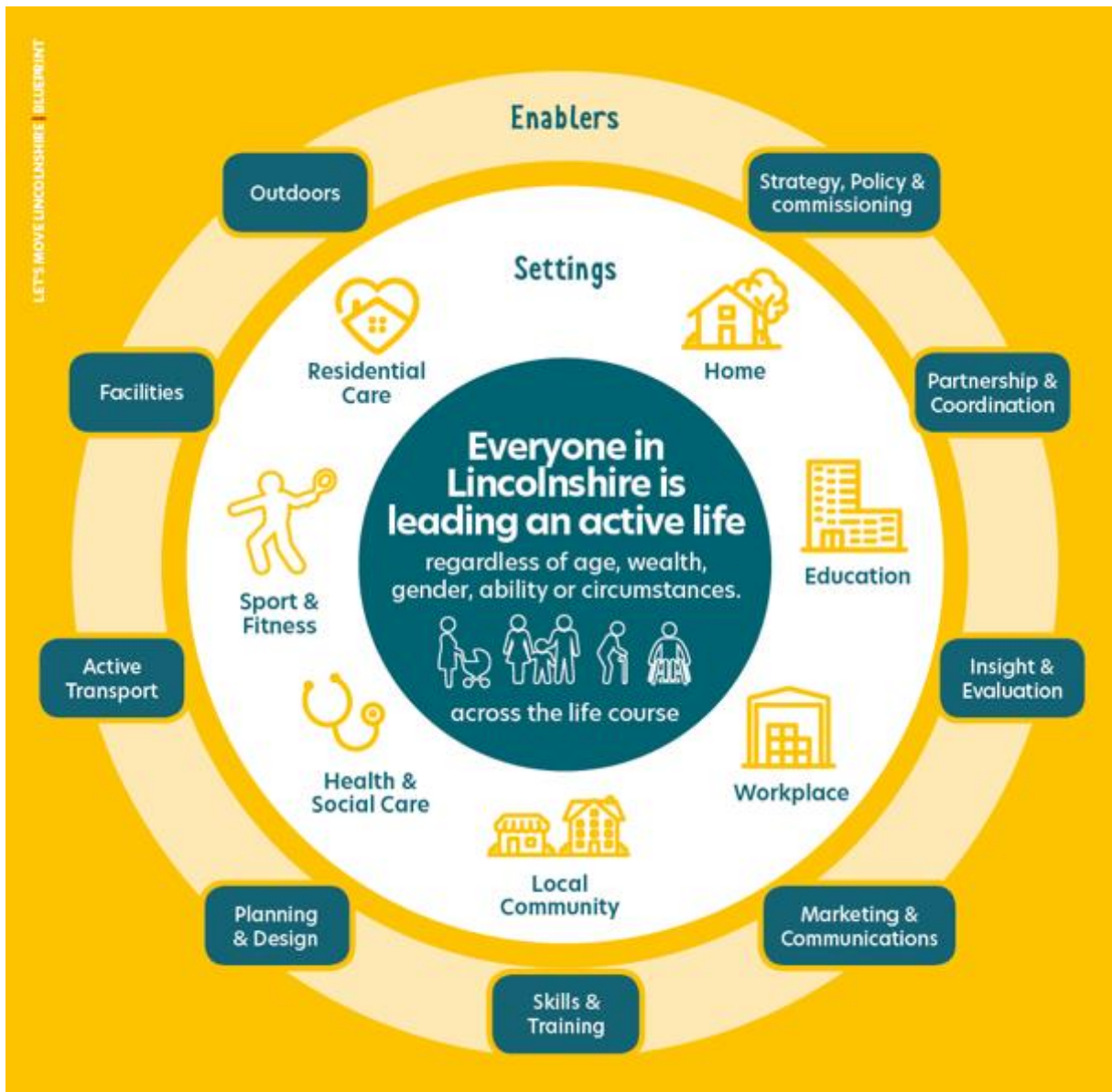


- 1) The Priory Pembroke Academy School, Cherry Willingham. **Full size**
- 2) Riseholme College, **Full sized**
- 3) Manor Park, Welton, **Half Pitch**
- 4) Market Rasen, **Full sized**

## 10. Strategic Overview – a proposed future direction

The provision of sporting venues and spaces across the district of West Lindsey now and in the future needs to link the wider physical activity strategies (Let's move) and to sports specific development plans (such as the LFFP).

In the future, a coordinated strategic approach to provision could dramatically improve the participation rates for sport, physical activity and health and wellbeing. WLDC should be at the forefront of this by providing services and/or maintaining assets that are in line with the Lincolnshire wide 'let's move' strategy. This study recognises that WLDC can only do so, once a clear evidence base has been established and also that facilities and spaces are only part of the physical activity jigsaw. The image below is central to the let's move strategy and depicts how WLDC can play their part in a multi-agency approach to improving physical activity opportunities for all.



This study has identified across the various pitch based sports the differing quantities of facilities currently available in the district boundary for the community. The study also highlights the levels of inactivity, the level of uptake into sporting activity.

In order to make sense of the provision required, we recommend that a **‘tiered approach’** is taken to classify the West Lindsey sports provision now and recommend how this might need to change in the future. The tiered approach would allow WLDC to classify facility provision, agree required support to community organisations and agree how best to support facilities not owned by WLDC.

Accordingly, we believe that the sporting venues in the future should be classified as follows:



**Tier one** – *Large multi-sport venues with indoor and outdoor sports.*



**Tier two** – *Single sport venues but with multiple pitches and or facilities.*



**Tier three** – *Small sites with two separate sport / activity offerings. i.e. Cricket wicket with football pitch alongside.*



**Tier four** – *Small single sites with only one sport / activity offering.*

At this stage, we have **categorised the sporting facilities** into the 4 tiers based on this set criteria. The full master list of facilities is attached to this report in Appendix 3. It is recommended that a **yearly ‘snapshot’ review of facilities** and pitches is undertaken for WLDC, to ascertain the movements of clubs and teams. A **full detailed, strategic review** should be carried out **every 3 years**.

It is important that the WLDC review is considered as part of a wider Lincolnshire review, especially as has been noted in this document, that provision overlaps the WLDC boundaries, most noticeably City of Lincoln and North Kesteven.

The table (over the page) highlights the proposed strategy for WLDC to adopt within each tier of facilities and highlights some example sites for each tier.

## Strategic Plan for sports provision in West Lindsey.

Tier	Typical Facility Mix	Proposed strategy	West Lindsey examples
Tier One	Multi-sport hub with indoor and outdoor facilities, multiple pitches and a 3G FTP with Floodlights	WLDC will own, manage ( or sub-contract), invest in, maintain and develop these facilities. These facilities may generate income for the Council. Where WLDC does not own the facility, it will support through community use agreements or through awareness of what activities are available.	West Lindsey Leisure Centre Market Rasen Leisure Centre
Tier Two	Multi pitch locations (including FTP and Pavilion or linked to other sports provision)	Majority of sites are owned by Parish Council or community organisations. Where WLDC does not own the facility, it will support through community use agreements or through awareness of what activities are available.	Manor Park, Welton Mulsanne Park, Nettleham Marshalls Sports Ground
Tier Three	Multi pitch locations without FTP or pavilions	Majority of sites are owned by Parish Council or community organisations. Where WLDC does not own the facility, it will support through community use agreements or through awareness of what activities are available.	Longdales Park – Lincoln Rugby Club Market Rasen Rugby Club Dunholme Playing Field
Tier Four	Single Pitch location some with shared usage	Majority of sites are owned by Parish Council or community organisations. Where WLDC does not own the facility, it will support through community use agreements or through awareness of what activities are available.	Ryland Playing Field Cherry Willingham Playing Field Saxilby Mill Lane Rase Park

The image below shows a typical example of how the tiered system could be developed.

Market Rasen Leisure Centre (MRLC) which opened in 2020 is a Tier 1 facility serving the central and eastern segment of the district. It is a Tier 1 site, as it will have a full sized 3G FTP and will offer multiple sport opportunities for the community. MRLC would be supported by a Tier 2 site at De Aston School as this offers multiple pitches and indoor sport / activity space. These facilities will be further supported by a Tier 3 at Market Rasen Rugby Club and a Tier 4 site at Rase Park.

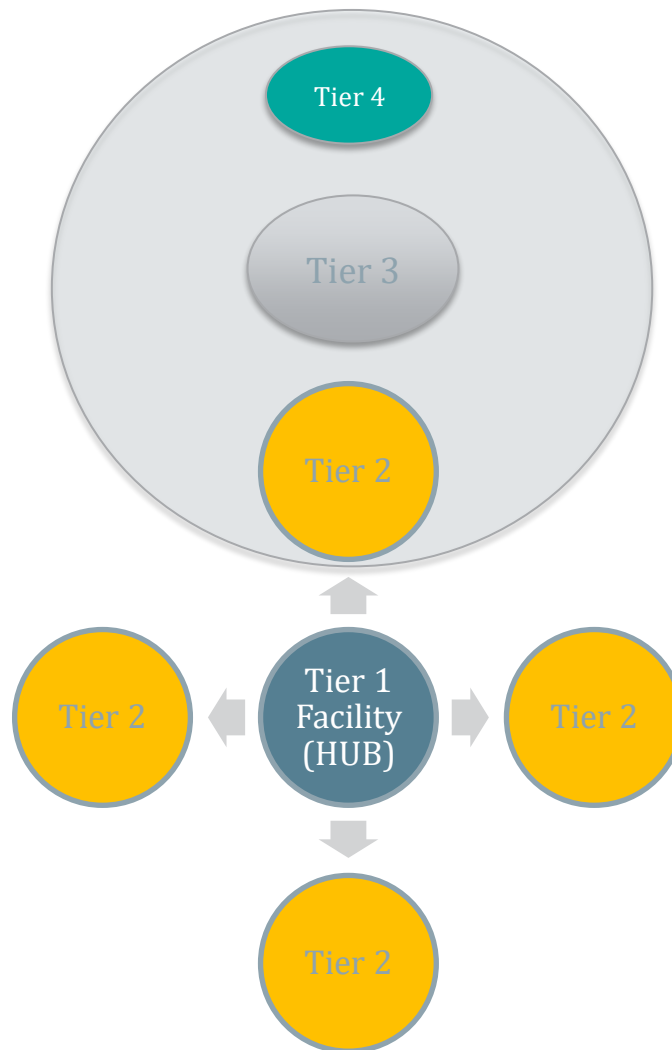


Image of the New Market Rasen Leisure Centre



Rase Park, Market Rasen

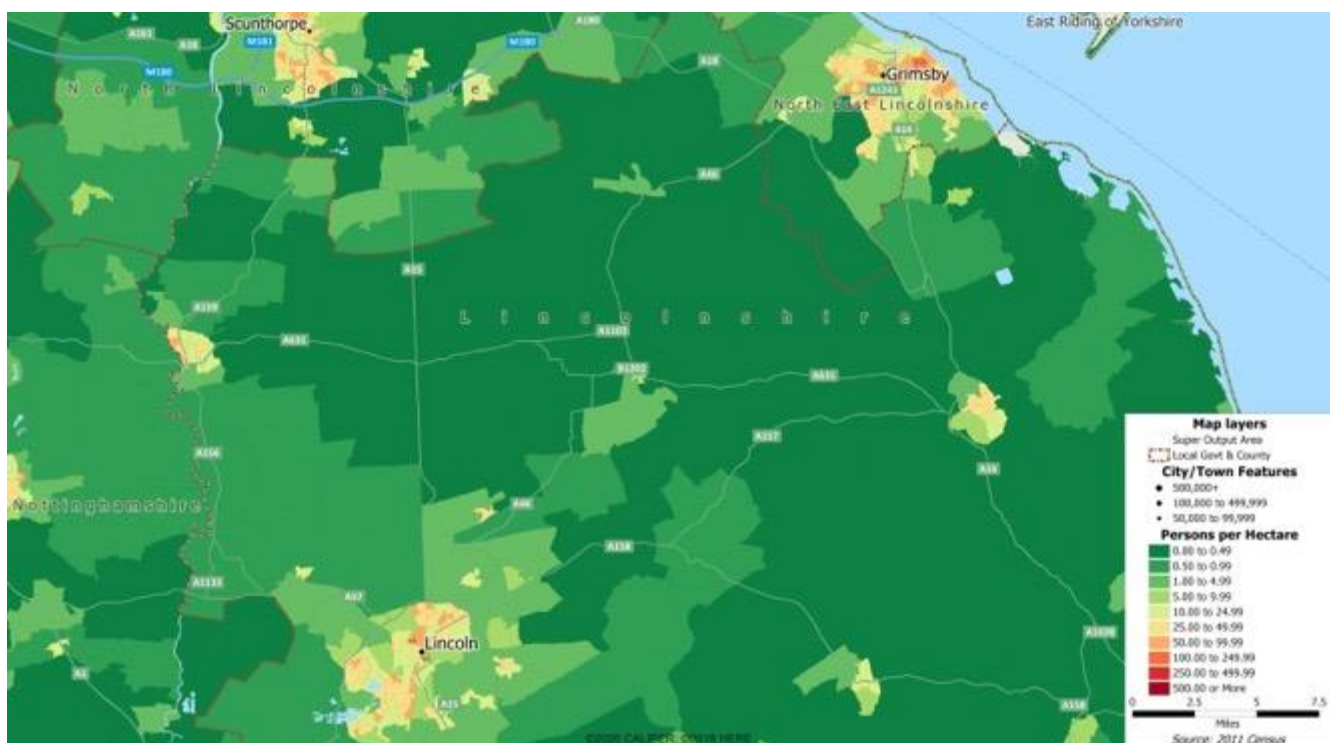


## Establishing the location of Tier One Facilities

It is important to understand the location of existing facilities in relation to how participants engage with each facility, and this can assist in future strategic planning processes. This is particularly relevant for a district such as West Lindsey, which is very large in geographical area, with multiple small sized settlements.

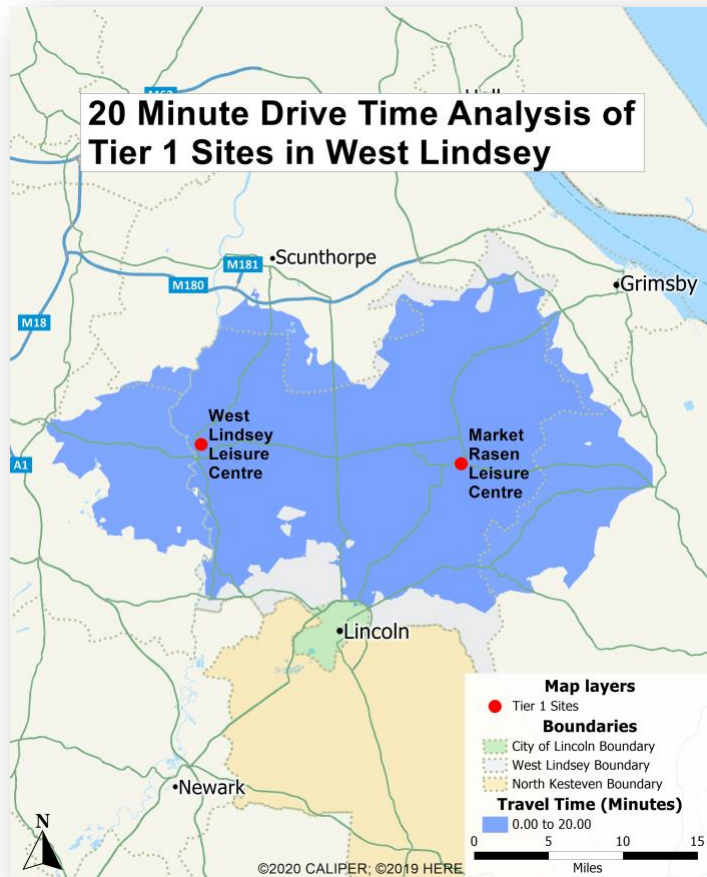
One method to establish the future need for strategically located Tier one facilities is to look at population density of West Lindsey. It is logical that the greater the population density of the area, the greater need for football facilities based on typical penetration rates for the sport. The population density map should also be overlaid with the existing facilities in the local area. This would allow for an assessment to be made about existing infrastructure and the need to link to Tier 2, 3 and 4 provision.

The map below shows the population density of the different wards in West Lindsey. There is a clear rural divide within the local authority with only a few densely populated areas within the study area.



We believe that there are currently two Tier one facilities that are already in existence within West Lindsey. These facilities require a combination of support and continued investment. The table and map on page 39 show the location for Tier 1 facilities.

## Existing Tier One Facilities



Location with West Lindsey	Tier One Facility Name
North West	West Lindsey LC
North East	None
Central	Market Rasen LC
South East	None
Out of Boundary	Yarborough Leisure Centre One NK

## All Existing Facilities



The map to the left highlights all the pitch based sports that are based in West Lindsey.

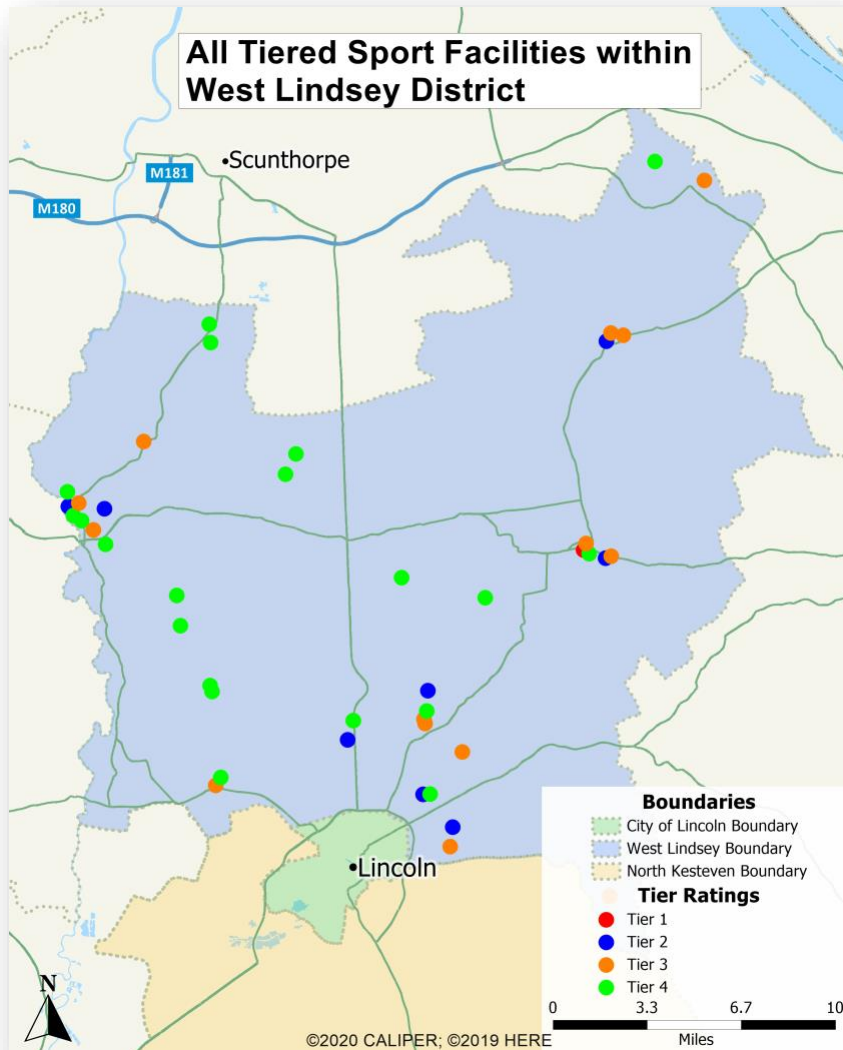
- Football venues contribute the largest proportion of single venues.
- Hockey provision is very limited
- Rugby Union provision is based in three principal locations.
- Cricket locations are frequently shared with football pitches.

It is evident that the clusters of facilities are within urban areas of the district and therefore multiple sports have provision in the same location.

It is also very evident that in order to take part in some sports, residents living in rural locations will have to travel.



The map below highlights the tier rating that has been assigned to the existing facilities.



The tier one sites are located in urban settlements, with Tier four sites are predominately more rurally located.

**Tier 1** – There are 2 existing tier one sites in West Lindsey. There are currently no Tier one sites in the Central / Eastern part of the District.

**Tier 2** – There are 8 tier two sites across the district.

**Tier 3** – There are 16 tier three sites across the district.

**Tier 4** – There are 20 tier four sites across the district.

## 11. Future Pitch Requirements

An important aspect of this project is to estimate the future need for sports pitches across the West Lindsey district as the population grows. The future need analysis starts by collating the current team numbers and existing population statistics. Once the existing picture has been established, a playing pitch calculator can be in order to predict the future supply require to meet demand. A number of elements should be taken into account when considering the future demand, such as the points below:-

- How will population change in the study area affect the demand for provision?
- How will propensity to participate in physical activity and sport change over time. What are the current trends and what are the predicted changes in how pitch sports are played. How will any changes to pitch usage affect demand?
- Are there any particular sports clubs or sites where demand is likely to increase in the future?

West Lindsey has a current population of 94,869 and this is due to rise to an estimated value of 115,245 by 2040. This population number has been generated through discussions with the local authority and also using the persons per household measure.

As part of this sports facility assessment, we have collated information in terms of the number of current teams in existence within West Lindsey. This information has been used to calculate the existing 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs) for both genders and each age group within a sport. A TGR is calculated by dividing the current population within an age group for a sport by the number of teams in the area within that age group. The NGBs have set out the relevant age groups for their sports along with the pitches they use.

TGR's, provide an indication of how many people it may take to generate a team in the future, which in turn can help estimating the change in demand for pitch sports (Football, Rugby, Hockey and Cricket).

### Team Generation Rate Example

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

### Future Need – Pitches

As a consequence of using the mechanisms noted above, are able to calculate what is potentially needed in terms of sports provision within the local authority in regard to new grass and FTP pitches. It is important to note these figures should be caveated with the fact that no quality surveys or site visits were undertaken at this stage of the assessment. If qualitative surveys were to be carried out, a more detailed assessment can be made in relation to the estimated future demand versus the existing carrying capacity. i.e. the current assets maybe capable of coping with increased demand which

negates the need to provide more pitches. Through these calculations, it may prove to be more cost effective to WLDC that instead of building new pitch provision, improvements should be made to the current stock, as this will improve the quality and overall carrying capacity.

The capital costs highlighted below are based upon the latest available estimates from Sport England in their planning and design documents. It is estimated up to 2040, West Lindsey will need a total of 18.86 new grass pitches across the core sports of football, rugby, cricket and hockey (full breakdown is highlighted below) there is also a need of 0.72 full sized 3G FTP pitches to cope with the increased training and match play demand. Please see appendix 5 for the detailed worksheets.

Total	Number of pitches required to meet the estimated demand - up to 2040.	Capital Cost (£)
Adult Football	3.12	£331,080
Youth Football	7.97	£675,673
Mini Soccer	2.55	£67,567
Rugby Union	2.07	£306,643
Cricket	3.15	£984,278
<b>Natural Grass Pitches Total</b>	<b>18.86</b>	£2,365,241
Sand Based AGP	0.00	£0
3G FTP	0.72	£757,216
<b>Artificial Grass Pitches Total</b>	<b>0.72</b>	£757,216
<b>Grass and AGP Pitch Total</b>	<b>19.58</b>	£3,122,457

Source of costs: Capital Cost - Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2020

## 12. Summary of options

The table below highlights a summary of the Tier 1 facilities. The two main leisure centres are owned by WLDC, offer multi-sport opportunities and therefore should be supported and maintained. For instance, as part of the West Lindsey commitment to get more people physical active across the district, WLDC could signpost the school facilities as places that are available for community use. This could be done through website, social media, and printed marketing material.

Location	Council owned Yes or No	Maintain	Support
West Lindsey Leisure Centre	Yes	Y	Y
Market Rasen Leisure Centre	Yes	Y	Y

The table below highlights a summary of the **Tier 2** facilities, where investment maybe considered to improve these offerings.

Location	Council owned Yes or No	Possible Tier movement	Invest	Comments
Manor Park, Welton	Parish Council	2 to 1	Y	Consider widening the offer, increasing carrying capacity, improving the existing facilities (larger 3G FTP)
Mulsanne Park, Nettleham Longsdale Park, Nettleham	Parish Council Lincoln Rugby Club	2 to 1	Y	Consider widening the offer, joining the sites, linking the social space

### 13. Conclusions & Recommendations

#### Conclusion

In response to the project brief, this report provides WLDC with a **holistic review** and quantitative **evidence base** for sports played on grass (or artificial grass) pitches across the district.

This report is the resulting outcome of **quantitative research** that has been undertaken to gather the baseline of sporting facilities in West Lindsey. Specifically, the evidence base shows the quantity of facilities for the following pitch based sports:

- Football
- Rugby
- Cricket
- Hockey

This review has been conducted in order to assist WLDC in making **informed decisions** about the future needs and requirements. The research used a **defined methodology** to ensure that a consistent approach is taken and that this report can be linked to provision in the other districts in Central Lincolnshire.

The report highlights that there are a number of **influencing factors** that affect the existing provision. These factors have been explained and analysed to demonstrate how they might impact on future provision.

Through evaluating the **quantity, community accessibility and availability** of the existing playing pitches within West Lindsey, we have been able to identify the current needs. Alongside this, we have also provided advice and insight into the existing local and national policies that influence future provision and which policies need to be adhered to within any future rationalisation.

We have summarised the **local and national sport** associated strategies, which will influence key decisions for the sports being assessed in this review and in particular we have aligned to the **Local Facilities Football Plan (LFFP)** and **Let's Move** physical activity strategy.

The **conclusions reached** within this study are as follows

1. This report has provided evidence of the existing supply of sports facilities for pitch based sports in West Lindsey. In our opinion, this is **deemed adequate** for the **current population**, based on a quantitative assessment only and calculation of available pitches for the community. This also takes into account the **presence of local sports provision in neighbouring districts** that provide

an adequate amount of facilities for the sport. For instance, there are currently no hockey clubs based in the West Lindsey boundary but a large club in City of Lincoln Council boundary caters for the demand from West Lindsey residents.

2. This facility assessment is not based on any qualitative assessment of the pitches and does not take into account the growth expectations of clubs and wider plans from national governing bodies of the pitch based sports.
3. In our view, a **tiered system** should be developed for the provision of pitch-based sports in the district. This will allow the classification of each venue into four distinct segments. Each tier will have a defined strategy as to how each venue should be considered, by the Council, in relation to its future provision. These tiers are classified as per the graphic below.



**Tier one** – *Large multi-sport venues with indoor and outdoor sports.*



**Tier two** – *Single sport venues but with multiple pitches and or facilities.*



**Tier three** – *Small sites with two separate sport / activity offerings. i.e. Cricket wicket with football pitch alongside.*



**Tier four** – *Small single sites with only one sport / activity offering.*

4. It is further believed that the tier one facilities should be **strategically located** across the district to provide a 'geographical split' based on demand, population density and available associated facilities. This should link to the 'Central Lincolnshire' sub-region that includes the sports and leisure provision in City of Lincoln and North Kesteven boundaries. The remaining tiered facilities (2,3,4) are then chosen to support the principal site in that sub-region.

## Recommendations

The **recommended** and **proposed** next steps in this process are as follows: -

### Stage One

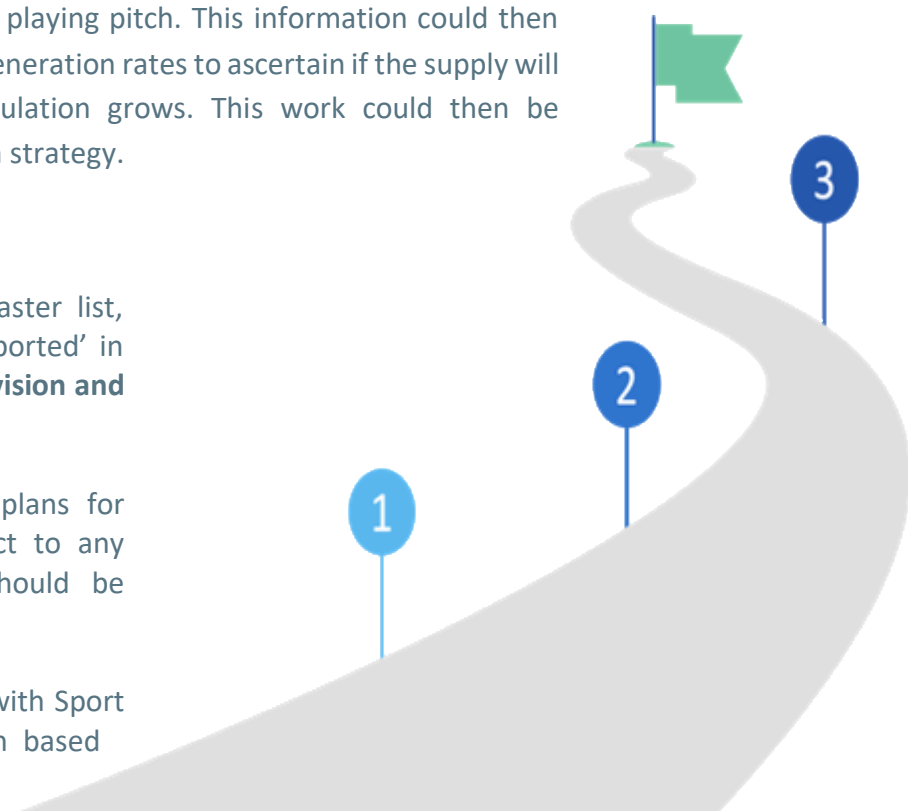
- WLDC to adopt the tiered approach, the master list of sports facilities and the contents of the evidence in this report.
- WLDC to consider the commissioning of the next stage of analysis for the sports facility assessment, which takes into account the qualitative aspects of each venue.
- WLDC to commission the detailed supply and demand work (in line with Sport England methodology) that is required to identify the current and future carrying capacity of each playing pitch. This information could then be overlayed with future team generation rates to ascertain if the supply will meet the demand as the population grows. This work could then be extended into a full playing pitch strategy.

### Stage Two

- WLDC to approve from the master list, those sites that are to be 'supported' in order to meet **physical activity vision and objectives**.
- Individual **site by site action** plans for facilities that are to be subject to any future development works, should be created.
- Consultation to be carried out with Sport England and NGB's of all pitch based sport.
- Individual site by site action plans to be created for facilities that are subject to changes in management or community access.
- Link any future changes to regional and national strategy / policy

### Stage Three

- Feasibility studies for sites where development is needed to fulfil the future provision.
- Link any developments required to WLDC funding, match funding, section 106 funding, CIL and developer contribution investments.



## 14. Appendix items

Contained in separate documents.

**Appendix 1** – Market Segmentation.

**Appendix 2** – Active Lives data.

**Appendix 3** – Master List of Facilities, pitches and clubs separate document.

**Appendix 4** – Sport England Planning Policy

**Appendix 5** – Team & Pitch Generation Calculations