

# **Epping Forest Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment**

for

Epping Forest District Council

**June 2012**

**Final report**



## Quality control

Epping Forest Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment

for

Epping Forest District Council

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## **Appendices** (bound separately)

- 1 Stakeholder feedback
- 2 Detailed policy review
- 3 Open space sample audit form and assessment criteria



## **Executive summary**

The Landscape Partnership and Ploszajski Lynch Consulting were appointed by Epping Forest District Council to produce an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment for the district in April 2012. A stakeholder group helped identify the vision and standards.

The Open Space Assessment makes the following recommendations:

### ***Managed Open space***

MO1 Seek to mitigate for accessibility deficiencies through provision where appropriate of the characteristics of 'Managed Open Space' within other typologies – notably within 'Epping Forest and its Buffer lands' and 'Woodland including semi-natural Open Space' i.e. generally in the south and central parts of the district.

MO2 Investigate the feasibility of delivering a designed park/garden in Epping Town as identified as a need by the local community

MO3 Seek additional provision in the northern part of North Weald Bassett and Tyler's Green, in association with future development where appropriate.

MO4 Work with Harlow District to identify any shortfalls in this typology which may be arising due to export of need from Harlow district to Epping district, and seek appropriate solutions to the deficiency.

MO5 Review signage and interpretation facilities across the typology and identify priorities for enhancement of on-site provision or appropriate mobile or web-based applications.

MO6 Ensure future assessments fully appraise transport access, disabled access and quality of entrances/boundaries where appropriate.

### ***Informal Recreation Grounds***

RG1 Seek solutions for enhancement of Elmsbridge Open Space at Fyfield with the local community and landowner

RG2 Review signage and interpretation facilities across the typology and identify priorities for enhancement of on-site provision or appropriate mobile or web-based applications.

RG3 Ensure future assessments fully appraise transport access, disabled access and quality of entrances/boundaries where appropriate.

### ***Woodland including Semi-natural Open space, Epping Forest and Buffer lands***

SO1 Seek enhancement of the typology in areas of deficiency either through enhancement of the ProW network in rural areas or through proposed new development where appropriate in urban areas.

SO2 Seek solutions for enhancement of Holt's Green, if appropriate, with the local community and landowner

SO3 Review signage and interpretation facilities across the typology and identify priorities for enhancement of on-site provision or appropriate mobile or web-based applications.

SO4 Ensure future assessments fully appraise transport access, disabled access and quality of entrances/boundaries where appropriate.

### ***Children's Playgrounds***

CY1 Work with local parishes to identify sites and funding, particularly for youth facilities in areas of deficiency.

CY2 Seek creation of 'natural' play areas in existing semi-natural open space (including Epping Forest and buffer lands if appropriate) in order to meet some of the existing accessibility deficiency

CY3 Seek new provision in areas of proposed residential development, where appropriate, that could also meet some of the existing deficiency.

CY4 Consider the introduction of a rolling programme of review in order to identify major changes in quality on a regular basis

CY5 Draw up feasibility study for priority equipment and planting enhancement programme for 'tired' sites, including identification of potential funding streams

CY6 Review disabled access provision in play areas across the district on a regular basis

### ***Allotments***

AT1 Work with Epping Town parish to identify a possible site for additional allotment provision.

AT2 Work with local parishes to seek possible sites for additional provision in order to meet some of the accessibility deficiency including seeking new provision in areas of proposed residential development that could meet some of existing deficiency.

AT3 Review disabled access provision and need to allotments across the district on a regular basis in association with local parishes

### ***Cemeteries and graveyards***

CG1 Work with site owners with poor quality assessments to seek improvements on key issues.

### ***Public Rights of Way***

PRoW 1: Seek further understanding of the role of PRoW system in relation to greenspace through initiation of a Green Infrastructure strategy for Epping Forest District as and when resources allow

PRoW 2: Seek enhancements to audited greenspace and links identified above through partnership with Essex County Council, Parish Councils and landowners.

PRoW 3: investigate the role the P4C fund could provide for funding enhancements to the PRoW network in Epping Forest district.

### ***Summary of playing pitch needs***

The table below summarises the additional playing pitch needs, based upon the combined effects of population and participation increases. Where the calculations have generated needs indicating a fraction of a pitch, the number of pitches required has been rounded up to the nearest whole pitch:



<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Provision in 2012</i>	<i>Needs in 2012</i>	<i>Extra needs in 2031</i>	<i>Total needs in 2031</i>
Adult football pitches	78	21	3	24
Junior football pitches	26	35	5	40
Mini-soccer pitches	13	23	3	26
Cricket pitches	32	36	5	41
Rugby pitches	16	13	2	15

A number of options are available for meeting the identified deficiencies in pitch provision, including:

- a) New provision
- b) Conversion
- c) Improved capacity
- d) Dual use of education facilities

### ***Summary of sports facility needs***

The table below summarises the current and future sports facility needs:

<i>Type of provision</i>	<i>Provision in 2012</i>	<i>Needs in 2012</i>	<i>Extra needs in 2033</i>	<i>Total needs in 2033</i>
Sports halls	6	6	1	7
Swimming pools	5	5	0.7	5.7
Athletics tracks	0	0	0	0
Synthetic turf pitches	5	5	1	6
Indoor bowling greens	7 rinks	7 rinks	1 rink	8 rinks
Outdoor bowling greens	7	7	1	8
Indoor tennis courts	11	11	1	12
Outdoor tennis courts	53	53	7	60
Squash courts	11	11	2	13
Golf courses	12	12	1.5	13.5
Golf driving ranges	7	7	1	8
Health and fitness facilities	12	12	2	14
Equestrian facilities	12	12	2	14
Airfields	3	3	0	3
Shooting facilities	5	5	0	5
Village and community halls	43	43	6	49

# 1 Introduction and context

## ***Background***

- 1.1 The Landscape Partnership and Ploszajski Lynch Consulting were appointed by Epping Forest District Council to produce an Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment for the district in April 2012. The brief for the study indicated that Epping Forest District Council required a PPG17 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 17) compliant strategy to analyse the differing needs of the population for open space, built sports facilities and recreation for those living, working and visiting the district, and to inform the plan-making process.
- 1.2 Epping Forest District Council carried out an in-house open space assessment in 2009 which looked at provision in the parishes. The following types of provision were identified and assessed:
- 1.2.1 Allotments
  - 1.2.2 Cemeteries and graveyards
  - 1.2.3 Formal playing pitches
  - 1.2.4 Alternative sites for sport and recreation
  - 1.2.5 Informal recreation grounds
  - 1.2.6 Children's Playgrounds
  - 1.2.7 Indoor facilities for high levels of use
  - 1.2.8 Community centres and village halls
  - 1.2.9 Managed open space with public access
  - 1.2.10 Woodland and semi-natural open space with public access
- 1.3 Epping Forest District Council has identified this assessment as an essential piece of evidence that will help determine future recreation provision in the district. The role of the assessment is to analyse the differing needs of the population for these facilities and inform the plan-making process.
- 1.4 The overall aims of this current study, as set out in the project brief, are:
- 1.4.1 To assess local needs and opportunities, including audit
  - 1.4.2 To set local standards
  - 1.4.3 To identify how to maintain an adequate supply of open space, sport and recreation facilities
  - 1.4.4 To identify which existing facilities need enhancement
  - 1.4.5 To plan for new facilities

## ***Scope of the study***

- 1.5 The assessment has been carried out and is presented in three separate sections: firstly the Open Space Assessment, secondly the Playing Pitch Assessment and finally the Sports Facilities Audit. Each section provides an outline of the methodology employed along with the results of the audit of sites and recommended standards for future provision.
- 1.6 In order to properly assess the sports and playing pitch typologies in line with Sport England and other sports governing bodies guidance, the following extended list of typologies has been covered by the study:

### *Open space*

- 1.6.1 Allotments
- 1.6.2 Cemeteries and graveyards
- 1.6.3 Informal recreation grounds

- 1.6.4 Children's Playgrounds
- 1.6.5 Managed open space with public access
- 1.6.6 Woodland and semi-natural open space with public access

*Playing pitches*

- 1.6.7 Adult football pitches
- 1.6.8 Junior football pitches
- 1.6.9 Mini-soccer pitches
- 1.6.10 Cricket pitches
- 1.6.11 Rugby pitches
- 1.6.12 Sports facilities

*Sports halls*

- 1.6.13 Swimming pools
- 1.6.14 Synthetic athletics tracks
- 1.6.15 Synthetic turf pitches
- 1.6.16 Indoor bowls facilities
- 1.6.17 Outdoor bowls greens
- 1.6.18 Indoor tennis courts
- 1.6.19 Outdoor tennis courts
- 1.6.20 Squash courts
- 1.6.21 Golf course
- 1.6.22 Golf driving ranges
- 1.6.23 Health and fitness facilities
- 1.6.24 Equestrian facilities
- 1.6.25 Airfields
- 1.6.26 Shooting facilities
- 1.6.27 Village and community halls

***Stakeholder Consultation***

- 1.7 The brief for the assessment included the requirement to set up a stakeholder group in order to help steer the assessment process. The function of the Stakeholders Group was to:
  - 1.7.1 Provide additional perspectives on open space, sport and recreation provision in the district and beyond.
  - 1.7.2 Define 'reasonable' local expectations on levels of provision.
  - 1.7.3 Endorse the draft vision for open space, sport and recreation provision in the district.
  - 1.7.4 Comment on the draft assessment document.
- 1.8 The stakeholder group was comprised of:
  - 1.8.1 Town and parish councils.
  - 1.8.2 Sport Essex.
  - 1.8.3 Essex Wildlife Trust.

- 1.8.4 Epping Forest Youth Council.
- 1.8.5 Lea Valley Regional Park Authority.
- 1.8.6 City of London Corporation
- 1.8.7 Sport England.
- 1.8.8 Natural England.
- 1.8.9 All the neighbouring local authorities
- 1.9 Key officers of Epping Forest District Council were also included.
- 1.10 All stakeholders were invited to a stakeholder workshop with an invitation to input into key areas. These included:
  - 1.10.1 'Are you aware of any open space sites with public access that were not included in the parish audit carried out by Epping District Council in 2009?'
  - 1.10.2 'Do you think there is too much/about right or not enough of particular types of green space (e.g. amenity green space, play areas, playing fields?)'
  - 1.10.3 'How far or for how long do you think it is reasonable to travel to reach individual types of green space (e.g. amenity green space, play areas, playing fields?)'
  - 1.10.4 'What are the key issues affecting open space, sport and recreation in the District?'
  - 1.10.5 'What are the key attributes that should inform development of a 'vision' for Epping District Council's open spaces assessment?'
- 1.11 Feedback from stakeholders has been collated and used to help develop the vision and standard-setting. A summary of stakeholder feedback can be found in Appendix 1.

#### ***Profile of the study area***

- 1.12 The area administered by Epping Forest District Council covers 33,899ha, 92.4% of which is within the Metropolitan Green Belt. Around half of the resident population lives in the south-west of the district in a conurbation comprising Grange Hill, Chigwell, Buckhurst Hill and Loughton, which covers only 5% of the overall land area. The other main population centres are Waltham Abbey, Epping and Chipping Ongar whilst the rest of the population lives in a scatter of smaller settlements.
- 1.13 The district comprises an undulating landscape of ridges and valleys and includes the heavily wooded area of Epping Forest (which is administered by the City of London Corporation). The rich soils are intensively cultivated and large cereal fields are a feature of much of the district. There are significant areas of remaining semi-natural habitat that make an important contribution to the character of the area. Parts of the Lee Valley are designated as a Ramsar site and Special Protection Area whilst Epping Forest is designated as a Special Area of Conservation. There are nine Sites of Special Scientific Interest either wholly or partly within the District and nine Local Nature Reserves.
- 1.14 The M25 and M11 motorways pass through the district, affording good vehicular access into the area. A network of more local road connections provides good linkages between the main settlements in the district and into neighbouring areas. The Central Line provides a good link to central London from eight stations in the district and there is one mainline rail station (Roydon), which links to Liverpool Street, Stansted and Cambridge.
- 1.15 The combination of high quality open countryside, proximity to several major centres of population and good transportation links makes the district an attractive destination for recreational activities, both for the resident population and visitors. This creates pressures which, if not managed appropriately, could adversely affect the character and appearance of the resources that attracted the usage in the first place.

*Population*

- 1.16 Epping Forest district has an estimated population of 124,700 (ONS mid-year estimates 2010). The study area has a relatively elderly age structure compared with the rest of Essex and the country as a whole. Population density in the wards in Epping Forest shows there is a concentration of people in the south-west of the district. The population as a whole has a relatively affluent profile. Epping Forest has the highest proportion of Black and Minority Ethnic residents in Essex (10.1%). This compares to an Essex-wide average of around 6.5%. The Office of National Statistics has published population projections to 2031, which are trend-based projections applying observed levels over the past five years. The projections for Epping Forest area show an anticipated population increase of 16,500 people, or 13.2% compared with the current population. They also reveal a trend towards an ageing population.

*The Local Economy*

- 1.17 Local economic data is provided in 'Shaping the Future' (2009), produced by One Epping Forest, the Local Strategic Partnership. This shows that the average gross weekly earnings of those working in Epping Forest are high, with the district ranking in the top 40% of districts nationally. Epping Forest is ranked 84 out of 408 districts nationally on an index of business formation and survival rates. The district has a relatively skilled workforce. Socio-economic deprivation, as measured by the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) shows that Epping Forest as a whole ranks 229<sup>th</sup> out of 354 districts nationally, placing it amongst the 40% least deprived areas of the country. However, there are some significant variations between Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the district. This identifies the main areas of deprivation in the district as being in the south-west.

*Health indices*

- 1.18 The health of people living in Epping Forest district presents a variable picture:
- a. Male life expectancy in the district is 77.9 years, with female life expectancy 82.1 years, in both cases above the respective national averages. However, there is a variation of 8.8 years in life expectancy between the more affluent wards and the more deprived areas (*Epping Forest Health Profile* - Department of Health, 2009).
  - b. 22.9% of the local adult population is classified as being obese, which is just below the national average (*Epping Forest Health Profile* - Department of Health, 2009).
  - c. 17.8% of local children in school year six are classified as being obese, compared with 16.0% in Essex as a whole (*Place Profile for Epping Forest* - Essex County Council, 2010).
  - d. The proportion of residents who smoke is 21.6%, compared with 24.1% nationally (*Epping Forest Health Profile* - Department of Health, 2009).

*The implications for open space, sport and recreation provision*

- 1.19 The implications for open space, sport and recreation provision are as follows:
- a. The attractive landscape of the district, coupled with the proximity of large urban populations and good transport links, significantly inflates demand for space-extensive recreation facilities and open space provision locally.
  - b. The relatively elderly population structure is likely to reduce relative demand in the study area for provision for formal sport and physical activity but provision will be required which is suitable for use by older users.
  - c. Whilst there are significant local variations, the socio-economic structure of the district population is skewed towards higher income groups, which typically have higher rates of participation in recreational activity.
  - d. Black and minority ethnic groups traditionally have lower rates of involvement in physical activity, so whilst slightly more than 10% of the district population is from BME groups, this figure is around the national average, so demand for open space, sport and recreation is unlikely to be affected by this factor.

- e. Population growth of 16,500 people (a 13.2% increase) by 2031 will inflate demand for open space, sport and recreation (and other local services). Existing green space may come under threat of development to accommodate new housing. However, developer contributions will provide an opportunity to fund additional provision that will demonstrably meet the needs of the new residents.
- f. The relatively high wage local economy will inflate the amount of disposable income available for discretionary spending on activities such as sport and physical activity and may therefore increase demand levels.
- g. The population that lives within the localised pockets of deprivation in the district is traditionally associated with low rates of participation in sport and physical activity. It will be important to ensure that opportunities are physically and financially accessible to people on low incomes.
- h. Whilst average life expectancy locally is above the national levels, there are significant local differences between the more affluent and the more deprived areas. Open space, sport and recreation provision therefore needs to be equitably spread to provide universal opportunities for physical activity that will improve healthy lifestyles.

#### *Sport and physical activities in the Study Area*

- 1.20 Sport England surveys and research examined participation in sport and physical activity in Epping Forest district, allowing identification of the likely patterns of demand for open space, sport and recreation in the study area. Whilst this relates primarily to formal sports activities, the results also include 'moderate intensity activity', comprising non-competitive activities such as jogging, walking and recreational cycling, which make frequent use of open spaces. The principal sources examined are:
- a. The 'Active People' surveys (2005 – 2011).
  - b. Market Segmentation data
- 1.21 To place the local results in context, the data has been assessed against three sets of comparators:
- 1.21.1 Geographical neighbours: The local authorities that physically adjoin Epping Forest, provide local geographical context and identify the likelihood of imported or exported demand from neighbouring areas.
  - 1.21.2 Demographic neighbours: The CIPFA 'Nearest Neighbour' local authorities are the six areas with the closest demographic composition to Epping Forest, in terms of a range of indices including the size and profile of their population and local economic activity. As a result, community demand for sport and physical activity in these areas (and by definition, levels of participation) are likely to be the most comparable to the study area.
  - 1.21.3 Wider comparators: National and East regional averages provide a wider geographical perspective against which to track local trends.

#### *Active People*

- 1.22 The 'Active People' survey was commissioned by Sport England in 2005 and has been repeated on five occasions since. The survey is the largest study of patterns of adult (people aged over 16) involvement in sport and physical activity ever undertaken and involved telephone interviews with a representative sample of between 500 and 1,000 residents of each local authority district in the country. Five surveys have been undertaken to date, which have enabled trends to be tracked over a seven year period. Summaries of the results are given below.
- 1.22.1 Overall participation: This is defined as 'taking part on at least three days a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least twelve days in the last four weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session'. Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity show there has been a small decrease in participation rates in Epping Forest over a survey period from 2007/8 to 2010/11, with the latest figures around the median

for geographic neighbours and demographic comparator authorities and above the national and regional averages.

- 1.22.2 Volunteering: This is defined as 'volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'. Rates of volunteer support for sport show that the rates in Epping Forest have increased during the survey period 2007/8 to 2010/11, and the latest figures are again around the median for the comparator areas.
- 1.22.3 Club membership: This is defined as 'being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks'. Membership rates for Epping Forest, along with national and regional trends, have declined during the survey period and in the most recent survey remain above the median for the neighbouring authorities, but are the lowest rates of the demographic comparators.
- 1.22.4 Receiving tuition: This is defined as 'having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'. The rates in the district have increased over the survey period and the current rates are close to the highest for the geographical neighbours and the demographic comparators.
- 1.22.5 Organised Competition: This is defined as 'having taken part in any organised competition in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'. The proportion of adults involved in organised sports competitions in the previous twelve months for the district has fallen over the survey period and whilst it is around the median for neighbouring local authorities, it is the lowest for the demographic comparators and is below the respective regional and national average figures.
- 1.22.6 Satisfaction: This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in their local area'. Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision show that the rates for the district have remained relatively consistent over the survey period at around the median for the geographical neighbours and the demographic comparators, but just below the respective national and regional averages.
- 1.22.7 Organised sport: This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who have either received tuition, taken part in organised competition or been a member of a club to play sport in the last twelve months'. The proportion of adults who comply with this definition is around the median for the geographic neighbours but below the median for the demographic comparators.

*Market segmentation data*

- 1.23 Sport England has identified 19 adult sporting market segments, to better understand specific motivations and barriers to doing sport and physical activity. The data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for activities, based upon the extent to which segments are represented in the local population. The 'dominant' market segments, defined as those with more than 7% of the local population, are detailed below. The characteristics of these groups and the types of activity that appeal most to them are as follows:

<b>Segment name</b>	<b>Characteristics</b>	<b>Activities that appeal</b>
Competitive male urbanites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 18-25</li> <li>• Single</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Employed full-time</li> <li>• No children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 40% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 19% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rugby</li> <li>• Cricket</li> <li>• Squash</li> <li>• Climbing</li> <li>• Windsurfing</li> <li>• Gym</li> <li>• Tennis</li> <li>• Football</li> </ul>
Fitness class friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 18-35</li> <li>• Single</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Employed full-time</li> <li>• No children</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Body combat</li> <li>• Netball</li> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Pilates</li> <li>• Gym</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 28% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 34% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Running</li> <li>• Tennis</li> <li>• Aqua aerobics</li> </ul>
Settling down males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 26-45</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Employed full-time</li> <li>• 50% have children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 27% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Canoeing</li> <li>• Skiing</li> <li>• Cricket</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Squash</li> <li>• Football</li> </ul>
Comfortable mid-life males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 36-65</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Employed full-time</li> <li>• 50% have children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 39% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sailing</li> <li>• Gym</li> <li>• Football</li> <li>• Jogging</li> <li>• Badminton</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Cycling</li> <li>• Cricket</li> </ul>

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Activities that appeal</i>
Empty nest career ladies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 46-55</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Employed full-time</li> <li>• No dependent children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 25% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 44% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Yoga</li> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Horse riding</li> <li>• Aqua aerobics</li> <li>• Pilates</li> <li>• Step machine</li> <li>• Gym</li> </ul>
Early retirement couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 56-65</li> <li>• Married</li> <li>• Owner-occupied</li> <li>• Retired/employed full-time</li> <li>• No dependent children</li> <li>• Social class ABC1</li> <li>• 19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>• 54% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Swimming</li> <li>• Sailing</li> <li>• Walking</li> <li>• Golf</li> <li>• Aqua aerobics</li> <li>• Shooting</li> <li>• Bowls</li> <li>• Fishing</li> </ul>

1.24 The market segments that are locally proportionately significantly lower than the national average are listed below. The respective characteristics of these groups and the types of sport that are likely to appeal most to them are as follows:

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Sports team drinkers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Age 18-35</li> <li>• Single</li> <li>• Private/council rented</li> <li>• Employed full-time/student</li> <li>• No children</li> <li>• Social class C2DE</li> <li>• 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Football</li> <li>• Basketball</li> <li>• Martial arts</li> <li>• Weight training</li> <li>• Boxing</li> <li>• Badminton</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>week</li> <li>30% do no exercise</li> </ul>	
Pub league team mates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age 26-45</li> <li>Married</li> <li>Private/council rented</li> <li>Employed full-time</li> <li>Children</li> <li>Social class DE</li> <li>19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>51% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Football</li> <li>Karate</li> <li>Weight training</li> <li>Boxing</li> <li>Fishing</li> <li>Tenpin bowling</li> <li>Cricket</li> <li>Snooker/pool</li> </ul>
Older working women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Age 46-55</li> <li>Married</li> <li>Council rented</li> <li>Employed full-time</li> <li>No dependent children</li> <li>Social class C2DE</li> <li>14% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week</li> <li>65% do no exercise</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Swimming</li> <li>Aerobics</li> <li>Utility walking</li> <li>Step machine</li> <li>Dance exercise</li> <li>Keep fit</li> </ul>

1.25 The impact of the market segmentation data on local patterns of demand for open space, sport and recreation is that:

- 1.25.1 Demand for facilities for swimming, golf and water sports is likely to be higher than the national average, as is demand for open space that provides for walking, jogging and cycling.
- 1.25.2 Demand for facilities for the martial arts is likely to be lower than the national average.

*The implications for sports facilities and open space provision*

1.26 The implications of local participation and demand patterns for open space, sport and recreation provision are as follows:

- 1.26.1 Most indices of participation in sport and active recreation in Epping Forest district are just above the median for the geographic neighbours and demographic comparator authorities and the regional and national averages. However, participation in organised competitive sport is lower than the benchmarked comparators, which suggests that provision for recreational level and informal participation is important locally.
- 1.26.2 Levels of satisfaction with local sports provision are around the median for the geographic neighbours and demographic comparator authorities, but are a little below the regional and national averages. This implies that there is some dissatisfaction with the quantity and quality of local provision.
- 1.26.3 The Market segmentation data suggests that demand for swimming, golf and water sports is likely to be higher than the national average, as is demand for open space that provides for walking, jogging and cycling. However, demand for the martial arts is likely to be lower than the national average.

**Policy Context and Guidance**

National Planning Policy Framework

1.27 In March 2012, the Government published the 'National Planning Policy Framework', setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The Framework has policies on:

- 1.27.1 Sustainable development: *'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.*
- 1.27.2 Core planning principles:
- *'In considering the future use of land, take account of its environmental quality or potential quality regardless of its previous or existing use'.*
  - *'Seek to protect and enhance environmental and heritage assets in a manner appropriate to their significance. Where practical and consistent with other objectives, allocations of land for development should prefer land of lesser environmental value'.*
  - *'Make effective use of land, promote mixed use developments that create more vibrant places, and encourage multiple benefits from the use of land in urban and rural areas, recognising that some open land can perform many functions (such as for wildlife, recreation, flood risk mitigation, carbon storage, or food production)'.*
  - *'Actively manage patterns of growth to make the fullest use of public transport, walking and cycling, and focus significant development in locations which are or can be made sustainable'.*
  - *'Take account of and support local strategies to improve health and wellbeing for all'.*
  - *'Always seek to secure a good standard of amenity for existing and future occupants of land and buildings'.*
- 1.28 In relation to open space, sports and recreational facilities the Framework identifies that
- 1.28.1 *'Access to good quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities.'*
- 1.28.2 *'The planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where activities are made easier and public health can be improved. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area.'*
- 1.28.3 *'The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of open space, sports and recreational facilities. Planning policies should protect and enhance rights of way and accesses.'*
- 1.29 The Framework reaffirms the importance of sports facilities and open space in sustainable development. The Framework confirms the need to assess local needs and opportunities for open space, sport and recreation facilities and to develop local standards of provision. Local communities will have a role to play in identifying green space of particular importance to them.
- Green Infrastructure Guidance, Natural England, 2009*
- 1.30 This guidance document provides a comprehensive overview of the concept of green infrastructure and signposts to other relevant information such as Natural England's green infrastructure definition, policy statement and track record in driving delivery. It also maps out wider policy priorities and drivers for green infrastructure. It sets out what constitutes Green Infrastructure (GI), the value of planning for GI and processes for delivering GI effectively.
- 'Nature Nearby': Accessible Natural Greenspace Guidance, Natural England, 2010*
- 1.31 This document identifies key standards for use by greenspace professionals that will deliver high quality and inspiring visitor experiences in green spaces close to where people live, and connect people with the natural environment. These standards include Access to Natural Greenspace Standard (ANGSt), which has the underlying principles of:
- 1.31.1 Improving access to green spaces.
- 1.31.2 Improving naturalness of green spaces.

- 1.31.3 Improving connectivity with green spaces.
- 1.32 ANGSt recommends that everyone, wherever they live, should have an accessible natural greenspace:
- 1.32.1 of at least 2 hectares in size, no more than 300 metres (5 minutes walk) from home;
- 1.32.2 at least one accessible 20 hectare site within two kilometres of home;
- 1.32.3 one accessible 100 hectare site within five kilometres of home; and
- 1.32.4 one accessible 500 hectare site within ten kilometres of home; plus a minimum of one hectare of statutory Local Nature Reserves per thousand population.

*Open Space Strategies: Best Practice Guidance, CABESpace, 2009*

- 1.33 This document offers guidance to local authorities and their stakeholders on how to prepare an open space strategy. It outlines reasons for preparing a strategy, as well as recommending the scope. It provides case study examples to illustrate the stages of an open space strategy identified in PPG17.

*Essex Sports Facilities Strategy*

- 1.34 '*Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020*' (2008) was produced by Sport Essex (the county sports partnership). It identifies sports facilities needs in the county and advises that the Strategy should be '*used by local authorities and key partners to help inform the level and nature of provision that is required. Critically, it should also assist in planning for provision cross boundary*'.
- 1.35 A hierarchy of provision is proposed including:
- 1.35.1 Sub-regional facilities: Facilities that serve the whole county.
- 1.35.2 District facilities: Facilities that serve a whole district, but whose catchment may also cover part of another district.
- 1.35.3 Local/neighbourhood facilities: these are facilities that serve both the rural areas and specific urban areas. As a minimum, all villages should have access to an indoor facility within the village that caters for recreational activities in which different age groups can participate. All persons living in rural areas should be no further than 20 minutes drive time from a larger leisure facility and swimming pool open to the community. In urban areas, all persons should be within 20 minutes walking time of a larger leisure centre and a swimming pool open to the community.
- 1.36 Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) estimates that the supply of sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities exceeds demand in the county, although around half of the facilities have limited access for community 'pay and play' usage. The strategy identifies no specific sports facilities deficiencies in the district.
- 1.37 The findings of the county sports facilities strategy will be taken into account in the wider assessment of need undertaken as part of this study. The local/neighbourhood facilities policies are a helpful guide to levels of provision and travel time catchments. The absence of any significant identified deficiencies in Epping Forest district provides a preliminary conclusion that levels of sports facilities provision are broadly adequate.

*Essex Rights of Way Improvement Plan*

- 1.38 The '*Essex Rights of Way Improvement Plan*' (2009) is a statutory document that sets out Essex County Council's plan for improving the provision of access to the countryside through rights of way for the next 10 years. The extent of the Rights of Way in the district is detailed and comprises 11% of the total network in Essex. The Plan objectives are:
- 1.38.1 To re-use and recycle, where feasible, and promote sustainable measures.
- 1.38.2 To incorporate approved pathways into the public rights of way network.
- 1.38.3 To better integrate rights of way with other access provision, initiatives and facilities.

- 1.38.4 To reduce fragmentation in the public rights of way network.
- 1.38.5 To improve accessibility on the public rights of way network.
- 1.38.6 To assist in providing 'safer routes to schools'.
- 1.38.7 To promote safety.
- 1.38.8 To promote improved health and quality of life through the use of the public rights of way network.
- 1.38.9 To stimulate tourism and the local economy.
- 1.38.10 To increase community involvement in the management of the public rights of way network.
- 1.39 The Rights of Way in Epping Forest district afford a valuable resource for getting access to open space, sport and recreation opportunities. The Plan objectives will be reflected in the Epping Forest district assessment.

### ***The Local context***

#### *Community Strategy*

- 1.40 '*Putting Epping Forest First*' (2010) is the community strategy produced by One Epping Forest, the Local Strategic Partnership. The Partnership is made up of representatives from local councils, education, the police, health services and business and community groups. The strategy covers the period until 2031 and provides an overarching policy framework for the district. The vision for the district is: '*Together making Epping Forest a great place to live, work, study and do business*'.
- 1.41 The objectives for the district include ensuring that (i) the protection of the Green Belt and the unique character of the district is a major priority in the Local Development Framework and (ii) a green strategy is produced which enhances environmental education and joint action between the partners. The Plan recognises the significance of the external pressures on green spaces in the district. The 'sustainable' outcome highlights the need for balance between preserving green infrastructure and meeting the need for homes and jobs. The 'healthy' outcome recognises health inequalities and implicitly the need to provide equitable access to resources like open space, sport and recreation that underpin healthy living.

#### *Corporate Plan*

- 1.42 '*The Epping Forest District Council Plan 2011 - 2015*' (2011) sets out the council's aims and priorities for the next four years. In relation to the environment, the plan notes that '*Epping Forest District is a great place to live and our residents have indicated that a major factor in people living their lives here, or aspiring to live here, is its green and unique nature and environment. .... the district must develop as the population grows and new creative and sustainable ways need to be found to meet the needs of future generations*'. In relation to demographic change and health inequality the plan states '*We will also build on work undertaken through our Active Health Programme which, over the last two years, has seen improved health and wellbeing for people over 50, through provision of walking programmes, seated exercise and allotment development*'.
- 1.43 The Plan recognises the need to accommodate additional development in '*new creative and sustainable ways*'. Tackling health inequalities will involve a multi-faceted approach, but ensuring access to green spaces to sustain initiatives such as the walking programme and allotment development, will be important elements.

#### *Epping Forest Local Plan*

- 1.44 Local planning policy in the district is contained in '*The combined Policies of Epping Forest District Local Plan (1998) and Alterations (2006)*' (2008). Policies of particular relevance to open space, sport and recreation include policies to protect the quality of the rural and built environment, to safeguard the Green Belt and Lee Valley Regional Park from inappropriate development; to protect ancient landscapes and Registered Parks and Gardens, protected lanes, commons and village greens; to conserve the historic nature and wildlife value of Epping Forest; to protect sites of

national and international importance for nature conservation, and to protect established habitats, including County Wildlife Sites, as well as replace lost habitats. In addition the local authority will promote nature conservation schemes; permit the development of additional recreational, sporting and tourist facilities in the interest of the community; support the enhancement of the Public Rights of Way network. There are specific policies on horse-keeping, play areas, allotments, playing fields and golf courses.

- 1.45 Planning policies are strongly supportive of maintaining the quality of green spaces. Strong limitations are placed on development in the Green Belt, although outdoor participatory sport and recreation are permissible exceptions. The importance of the Lee Valley Regional Park as a recreation resource is underpinned by a policy supporting developments that will '*enhance the function and enjoyment of the Park*'. There is a strong presumption against any developments that would adversely affect the landscapes of the district, with further specific protections for parkland and other publicly accessible greenspace. Conservation of wildlife habitats is a key planning policy priority. Planning policies offer positive support for sport and recreation provision that will benefit the local community. Specific policies relating to equestrian provision emphasise the importance of this activity in the district. Play areas are the subject of positive policies regarding their provision and retention.
- 1.46 There is policy support for the provision and retention of allotments. A general presumption against the loss of playing pitches, other than where specified exceptions are met, offers strong policy protection. Provision in rural settlements will need to demonstrate that there is sufficient local demand to sustain the facilities concerned. The significance of golf course provision locally is reflected in five separate policies defining the circumstances in which their provision will be permissible.

#### Epping Forest Playing Pitch Strategy

- 1.47 '*The Epping Forest Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2007) comprises an assessment of the adequacy of pitch provision in the district. Its key findings are:
- 1.48 Supply and demand: The assessed position was as follows:
- 1.48.1 *Adult football*: A surplus of 69 pitches during the peak demand period.
- 1.48.2 *Junior football*: A deficit of 15.2 pitches during the peak demand period.
- 1.48.3 *Mini-soccer*: No assessment undertaken.
- 1.48.4 *Cricket*: A surplus of 2.4 pitches during the peak demand period.
- 1.48.5 *Rugby*: A deficit of 3.5 pitches during the peak demand period.
- 1.49 The quality of most pitches assessed was judged to be 'good'.
- 1.50 The recommendations from the strategy are that the district and town councils should consider re-designating adult football pitches into other types of pitch for which there is a deficit; additional use of school pitches should be developed where this will address deficiencies; Epping Forest District Council should secure developer contributions to meet the costs of providing pitches to meet the additional needs associated with new housing developments.
- 1.51 The strategy provides a helpful snapshot of the balance between supply and demand for pitches, although will need to be updated to reflect changes since 2007.

#### Epping Forest Play Strategy

- 1.52 '*The Epping Forest Play Strategy 2007 - 2017*' was produced in conjunction with Epping Forest Play Partnership, to inform the future development and delivery of play services throughout the Epping Forest District. The strategic themes in the strategy are:
- 1.52.1 To raise awareness of the value and importance of play.
- 1.52.2 To provide high quality, safe, challenging and sustainable play facilities and opportunities.

- 1.52.3 To ensure equitable and accessible play opportunities are available to all children and young people across the District.
- 1.53 The proposed outcomes include (i) achieving long-term play provision across the whole district, (ii) the provision of more and better local and inclusive playing opportunities where they are needed, (iii) improved access to safe areas for children and young people to play and socialize, and (iv) enhancement of public space as an environment in which to play.
- 1.54 The key audit findings were:
- 1.54.1 Confirmation of a disparate range and quality of equipment. Varying levels of deficiencies were found and the audit highlighted several key locations in need of immediate attention. Although all play equipment is checked on the required basis through ROSPA, many facilities contain very old equipment, which is neither inspiring nor challenging to children.
- 1.54.2 Some Parishes are well served in terms of junior and youth play equipment and age groups catered for, however, this has only been achieved where Parish and Town Councils have adopted a proactive stance with regards to local funding opportunities.
- 1.54.3 Most areas in the district have some form of play equipment, but in the majority of cases, this is designed for 2 - 8 year olds or 5 - 11 year olds. There is a significant lack of equipment provided for older children and young people. At least 10 Parishes still require some form of Youth facility provision.
- 1.54.4 Very few playgrounds in the district include equipment suitable for children and young people with disabilities, although all new facilities are compliant with DDA. In general, access to facilities is often limited to open space and playgrounds that have hard paths, as most facilities are located within a grassed playing field area.
- 1.54.5 Some play areas have reasonable play equipment but lack in 'attraction factor' due to their location and lack of trees, bushes and other planting. These areas could be greatly enhanced through affordable planting schemes.
- 1.55 The strategy provides a framework within which play provision in the district can be assessed and prioritised. The audit findings comprise a valuable assessment of the overall state of provision for children's play in the district, which will contribute to an updated evaluation as part of the current study.

*Epping Forest Biodiversity Action Plan*

- 1.56 '*The Epping Forest District Biodiversity Action Plan 2008 - 2012*' (updated in 2010) comprises a five year Action Plan containing a range of targets aimed at conserving and enhancing biodiversity across the district. The key habitats in the district are:
- 1.56.1 Urban areas: Within the district's urban areas, public open spaces, cemeteries, allotments, derelict land and gardens all support a huge variety of wildlife.
- 1.56.2 Farmland: Around 90% of the district could still be described as countryside with agriculture being by far the largest land use. The sympathetic management of this land is vital for the effective conservation of wildlife.
- 1.56.3 Woodland: Since 1945 Essex has lost 24% of all its ancient woodland. The district is fortunate in having part of Hainault Forest and Epping Forest within its borders. As one of the UK's most coherent blocks of ancient woodland it is a hugely important site not only for the district, but nationally and internationally (hence the SAC designation).
- 1.56.4 Veteran trees: Hainault and Epping Forests include a collection of veteran trees of European importance, but such trees are by no means confined to the Forest areas.
- 1.56.5 Hedgerows: Across England since 1945 the average hedgerow loss in each parish has been around 50% and this figure can be fairly accurately applied to the district. Despite this loss the ancient nature of much of the district's landscape means that there is still a significant hedgerow network.

1.56.6 Species-rich grassland and heathland: Unimproved grassland has been the one major habitat that has seen catastrophic losses. Across the county there has been a 99% loss of all its flower rich grasslands. In Epping Forest district there are only 106.3 ha remaining equating to just 0.31% of the district's land area. The exact area of heathland that still remains is hard to calculate, but the area of stand-alone heathland sites amounts to under 3ha.

1.56.7 Ponds: Some 982 ponds were recorded in the district and are found scattered across the whole district, but many are now under threat from lack of management through land use changes.

1.57 The designation of priority habitats will help to inform the strategy for preserving and enhancing open spaces in the district.

*The implications for open space, sport and recreation provision*

1.58 The local strategic context of Epping Forest district provides the overall framework within which the open space, sport and recreation assessment will be developed and will also influence the development of standards of provision and the policy options for implementing deficiencies. In particular:

1.58.1 The Community Strategy recognises the significance of the external pressures on green spaces in the district. Its 'sustainable' outcome highlights the need for balance between preserving green infrastructure and meeting the need for homes and jobs. Its 'healthy' outcome recognises health inequalities and implicitly the need to provide equitable access to resources like open space, sport and recreation that underpin healthy living.

1.58.2 The Corporate Plan recognises the need to accommodate additional development in 'new, creative and sustainable ways'. Tackling health inequalities will involve a multi-faceted approach, but ensuring access to green spaces to sustain initiatives such as the walking programme and allotment development, is an important element.

1.58.3 The Local Plan contains policies that are strongly supportive of maintaining the quality of green spaces. Strong limitations are placed on development in the Green Belt, although outdoor participatory sport and recreation are permissible exceptions.

1.58.4 The importance of the Lee Valley Regional Park as a recreation resource is underpinned by a policy supporting developments that will 'enhance the function and enjoyment of the Park'.

1.58.5 There is a strong presumption against any developments that would adversely affect the landscapes of the district, with further specific protections for parkland and other publicly accessible greenspace.

1.58.6 Conservation of wildlife habitats is a key planning policy priority.

1.58.7 Positive support is offered for sport and recreation provision that will benefit the local community.

1.58.8 Specific policies relating to equestrian provision emphasise the importance of this activity in the district.

1.58.9 Play areas are the subject of positive policies regarding their provision and retention.

1.58.10 There is policy support for the provision and retention of allotments.

1.58.11 A general presumption against the loss of playing pitches, other than where specified exceptions are met, offers strong policy protection.

1.58.12 Provision in rural settlements will need to demonstrate that there is sufficient local demand to sustain the facilities concerned.

1.58.13 The significance of golf locally is reflected in five separate policies defining the circumstances in which their provision will be permissible.

1.58.14 The pressures for noise generating activities such as air sports, motorsports and shooting are reflected in a policy to direct them to appropriate locations.

- 1.58.15 The playing pitch strategy provides a helpful snapshot of the balance between supply and demand for pitches, although will need to be updated to reflect changes since 2007.
- 1.58.16 The audit findings in the play strategy comprise a valuable assessment of the overall state of provision for children's play in the district, which will contribute to an updated evaluation as part of the current study.
- 1.58.17 The designation of priority habitats in the district biodiversity action plan will help to inform the strategy for preserving and enhancing open spaces in the district and highlights the importance that all forms of open space can have in promoting biodiversity.

Lee Valley Regional Park Authority

- 1.59 The Lee Valley Regional Park stretches for 26 miles along the River Lea from the Thames in east London to Ware in Hertfordshire. Established by Parliament in 1967 the regional park meets the recreation, leisure and nature conservation needs of London, Hertfordshire and Essex. The current 'Lee Valley Regional Park Plan' was adopted in April 2000. The vision for the regional park is:
- 1.59.1 To be a cohesive, sustainable and valued regional green lung.
- 1.59.2 To be an area of enhanced and protected natural biodiversity for the enjoyment of all.
- 1.59.3 To achieve full utilisation of the unique land and water assets of the regional park for specialist leisure and recreational facilities developed in accordance with principles of sustainability and design excellence.
- 1.59.4 To be an accessible and permeable, integrated visitor attraction to serve the region which will include local communities.
- 1.60 The vision and core values emphasise the importance of the Lee Valley as a recreational resource, not only for Epping Forest residents, but also a much wider catchment. The policy objectives reflect the need to balance conservation with formal and informal recreation, through careful management of the landscape and natural resources.

City of London Corporation

- 1.61 The City of London Corporation is the Conservator of Epping Forest and is responsible for managing the forest. 'The Epping Forest Management Plan' (1998) sets out the basis on which its responsibilities will be discharged. This includes long term management objectives such as:
- 1.61.1 To preserve and protect the physical and biological integrity of the Forest as a unique public open space.
- 1.61.2 To ensure the sustainable use of the Forest for the recreation and enjoyment of the public.
- 1.61.3 To encourage the educational use of the Forest by the widest possible range of people
- 1.62 The management objectives include conservation and recreation components.

Neighbouring local authorities

- 1.63 Analysis of the assessments of open space, sport and recreation provision from neighbouring local authorities is as follows:

<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Surplus/adequate provision</b>	<b>Deficiencies in provision</b>
East Herts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amenity greenspace:</b> Surplus of 0.28ha.</li> <li>• <b>Allotments:</b> Supply and demand balanced.</li> <li>• <b>Swimming pools:</b> Surplus of four 4-lane 25m pools.</li> <li>• <b>Health and fitness:</b> Supply and demand balanced.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor tennis:</b> All needs are met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parks and gardens:</b> Shortfall of 0.61ha.</li> <li>• <b>Natural/semi-natural greenspace:</b> Shortfall of 0.05ha.</li> <li>• <b>Children's play:</b> Shortfall of 8.79ha.</li> <li>• <b>Sports halls:</b> Shortfall of 1 sports hall.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor bowls:</b> Shortfall of one 6/8-rink facility.</li> <li>• <b>Junior football:</b> Deficit of 56.5 pitches.</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Community halls:</b> All needs are met.</li> <li>• <b>Adult football:</b> Surplus of 33.5 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Cricket:</b> Surplus of 13.8 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Rugby:</b> Surplus of 11.5 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Artificial turf pitches:</b> Surplus of 4 pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Mini-soccer:</b> Deficit of 22.5 pitches.</li> </ul>
Chelmsford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adult football:</b> Surplus of 19.9 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Cricket:</b> Surplus of 0.9 pitches.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Junior football:</b> Deficit of 14.8 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Mini-soccer:</b> Deficit of 13.8 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Rugby:</b> Deficit of 1.5 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Hockey:</b> Deficit of 3.0 pitches.</li> </ul>
Brentwood	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parks:</b> No deficiencies.</li> <li>• <b>Natural/semi-natural greenspace:</b> No deficiencies.</li> <li>• <b>Amenity greenspace:</b> No deficiencies.</li> <li>• <b>Children's play:</b> 'No deficiencies.</li> <li>• <b>Sports halls:</b> Surplus of 1 hall</li> <li>• <b>Indoor bowls:</b> Surplus of 3 rinks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Allotments:</b> Some deficiencies.</li> <li>• <b>Swimming pools:</b> Deficit of 1 pool.</li> </ul>
Uttlesford	Most forms of sports facility and playing pitch provision in Uttlesford meet all the needs of the district's residents.	None identified
Broxbourne	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Parks and gardens:</b> Supply and demand balanced.</li> <li>• <b>Natural/semi-natural greenspace:</b> Supply and demand balanced.</li> <li>• <b>Allotments:</b> Supply and demand balanced</li> <li>• <b>Playing pitches:</b> Surplus of adult football, mini-soccer and rugby pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Community halls:</b> All needs are met.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Amenity greenspace:</b> Deficit of 0.87ha.</li> <li>• <b>Children's play:</b> Small deficit.</li> <li>• <b>Sports halls:</b> Deficit of 2 sports halls.</li> <li>• <b>Swimming pools:</b> Deficit of 0.5 of a 6-lane 25m pool.</li> <li>• <b>Indoor bowls:</b> Deficit of 1 facility</li> <li>• <b>Indoor tennis:</b> Deficit of 1 facility</li> <li>• <b>Playing pitches:</b> Deficit of junior football and cricket pitches.</li> </ul>
Redbridge	None assessed	None assessed
Waltham Forest	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Space:</b> No substantive deficits.</li> <li>• <b>Cricket:</b> Supply and demand balanced.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Adult football:</b> Deficit of 2 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Junior football:</b> Deficit of 4 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Mini-soccer:</b> Deficit of 2 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Rugby:</b> Deficit of 2-4 pitches.</li> </ul>
Harlow	None assessed	None assessed
Havering	None assessed	None assessed
Enfield	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Open Space:</b> No substantive deficits</li> <li>• <b>Adult football:</b> Surplus of 41 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Junior football:</b> Surplus of 34 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Mini-soccer:</b> Surplus of 7 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Cricket:</b> Surplus of 24 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Rugby:</b> Surplus of 7 pitches.</li> <li>• <b>Sports halls:</b> All needs are met.</li> </ul>	None assessed