

# Stroud Playing Pitch Strategy

## Stage C: FINAL NEEDS ASSESSMENT REPORT

for

**Stroud District Council**



## Section 6 Hockey

The Set of Needs Assessment documents comprises:

- Stage B Database
- Stage C Sections 1 and 2: Introduction and Strategic Context
- Stage C Section 3: Football
- Stage C Section 4: Cricket
- Stage C Section 5: Rugby
- Stage C Section 6: Hockey
- Stage C: Section 7: Tennis and Bowls
- Stage C: Section 8: Key Findings and Issues Report

**May 2019**

## 6 HOCKEY

6.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for hockey in Stroud by presenting the following

- An overview of the supply and demand for hockey
- A picture of the adequacy of current provision across the borough
- An understanding of activity at individual sites
- The future picture of provision for hockey across Stroud

6.2 Hockey is almost exclusively played on Artificial Grass Pitches and grass pitches are obsolete for competitive forms of the game. England Hockey issued their Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy in July 2016 which replaces the England Hockey '3G Policy' that existed from 2009 to 2016 as follows:

**Table 6.1 England Hockey – Summary of Artificial Grass Playing Surface Policy**

Category	Surface	Playing level – Essential	Playing level - Desirable
<b>England Hockey Level 1</b>	Water surface approved within the FIH Global/National Parameters	<b>Essential</b> International Hockey- Training and matches.	<b>Desirable</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of EH Player Pathway Performance Centres and upwards
<b>England Hockey Level 2</b>	Sand dressed surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> Domestic National Premier competition Higher levels of player pathway: Academy Centres and Upwards	<b>Desirable</b> All adult and junior League Hockey Intermediate or advanced School Hockey EH competitions for clubs & schools (excluding domestic national league)
<b>England Hockey Level 3</b>	Sand based surfaces within the FIH National Parameter	<b>Essential</b> All adult and junior club training & league Hockey EH competitions for clubs and schools** Intermediate or advanced schools hockey	
<b>England Hockey Level 4</b>	All long pile (3G) surfaces	<b>Essential</b> None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available*

- \* EH recommends an appropriate ball to meet the standards of the player and the surface

6.3 Table 6.2 sets out sand based surfaces for hockey in Stroud. Visual Site audits have been undertaken of the full size sand AGPs in the study area and rated based upon Sport England's playing pitch strategy guidance. (Less than 50 is a poor score; a standard score is 51-79 and over 80 is a good score.)

**Table 6.2: Hockey AGPs in Stroud Study area and surrounding areas**

Table 6.2 Ref No.	Name	Address	AGP type	Ownership/ Management Type	Sports Lighting	AGP Length	AGP Width	Year built/ refurb	Secure Community Use	Overall Pitch Quality Score /Rating
<b>Within Stroud District</b>										
<b>SDSV.91</b>	Stratford Park Leisure Centre	Stratford Road, Stroud, GL5 4AF	Sand dressed	Local Authority	Yes	97	61	2011R	Yes - A	Good
<b>SDWO.45</b>	Wotton Community Parc	Wotton-under-Edge, GL12 8RB	Sand dressed	Community Organisation	Yes	97	59	2013	Yes - A	Good
<b>SDST.41</b>	Wycliffe College	Bath Road, Stonehouse, GL10 2JQ	Sand dressed	Other Independent School	Yes	100	60	<b>1999</b>	A – but not secure	Good
<b>SDSV.02</b>	Beaudesert Park School	Minchinhampton, Stroud, GL6 9AF	Sand filled	Other Independent School	Yes	70	35	2011R	No	Not rated; private school; no community use
<b>SDST.41</b>	Wycliffe College Preparatory School	Ebley Road, Stonehouse GL10 2LD	Sand filled (small)	Other Independent School	No	80	40	n/a	No community use - C	Not rated; private school; no community use
<b>Outside Area</b>	St Peter's High School	Tuffley, Gloucester	Sand dressed	Education (in house)	Yes	98	60	2003/2017	Yes	Not known

6.4 Painswick Hockey Club plays matches at St Peter’s School in Tuffley, Gloucester – a full size sand based floodlit pitch with community use. At present, no other AGPs in the wider Gloucester area have been identified as being used by Stroud based hockey clubs.

6.5 The three sand based AGPs were each rated overall as good. The questionnaire survey asked clubs to indicate which aspects of the facility they had concerns about and the following points were raised:

Stroud HC – Stratford Park

- Condition of posts/nets/goals
- Evidence of glass/stones/litter
- Evidence of inappropriate use
- Floodlights not always fully working

Dursley HC – Wotton Community Parc

- Changing capacity to cater for men and women separately.

Wotton HC – Wotton Community Parc

- Line markings
- Condition of posts/nets/goals
- Evidence of glass/stones/litter
- Evidence of inappropriate use
- Evidence of damage to the surface
- Pitch not very well maintained and beginning to show age

6.6 With regard to the security of tenure for community use of the three hockey compliant full size floodlit AGPs in Stroud, the following pertains:

**Table 6.3: Community Use Agreements for Hockey**

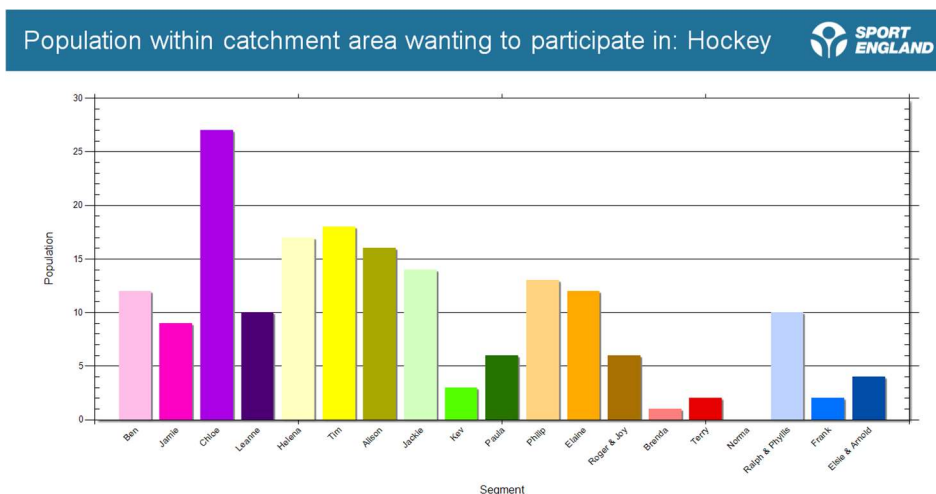
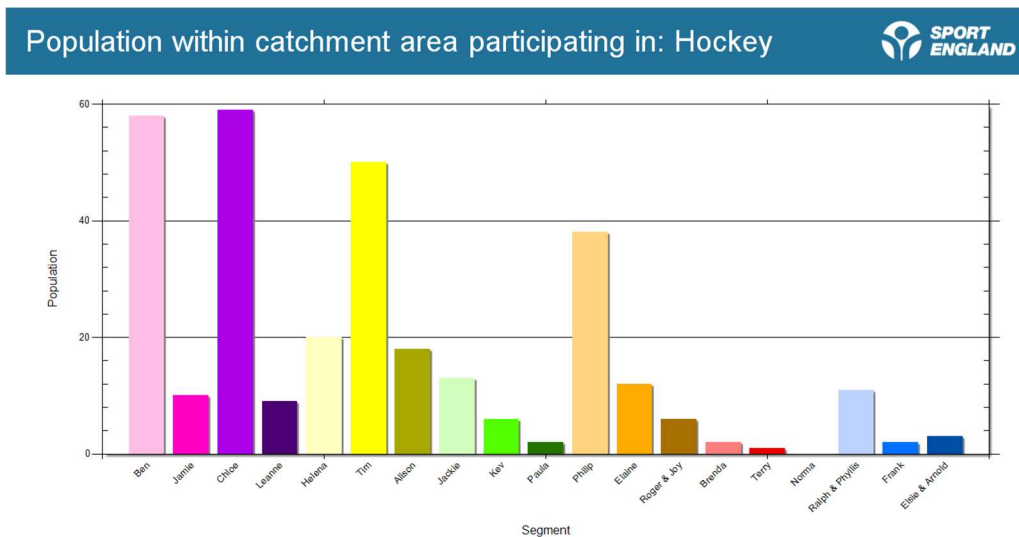
Topic	Stratford Park Leisure Centre	Wotton Community Parc	Wycliffe College
<b>Community Use Agreement in place? Hockey a priority? How long in advance agreed?. Security at site?</b>	CUA Yes. Full community use secured; principal hockey site in Stroud Town. Understand hockey is a priority sport.	Full CUA, managed by Trust. Principal hockey site in Wotton area. Hockey is a priority sport.	Hockey club hires facility and is accepted, regular user of facility for training on Wednesday nights. No CUA. Pitch not available for matchplay due to needs of College and lack of changing.
<b>Ancillary facilities for club at site</b>	Changing facilities in sports centre. No dedicated clubhouse	Changing facilities in school sports centre. No dedicated clubhouse.	Not available
<b>Sinking fund for resurface of AGP</b>	Not known.	Yes	Not known

## OVERVIEW OF DEMAND

### Demand and Latent Demand for Hockey

6.7 From the Sport England Market Segmentation data the charts below show:

- the numbers of the adult population in Stroud within each market segment group that **currently participate** in hockey (320).
- the numbers of the adult population in Stroud within each market segment group that **are wanting to participate** in hockey (182).



6.8 The key participants in hockey in Stroud come from those market segments groups that are most likely to play hockey nationally. However, the relative proportion of the population that participates from each group differs from national rates due to the make-up of the local population. For hockey, the main market segmentation groups in Stroud are:

- **Chloe:** Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim.
- **Ben:** competitive male urbanite, mainly aged 18-25, single, graduate professional

- **Tim:** settling down male, mainly aged 26-45, married or single, professional.
- **Philip:** comfortable mid-life male, mainly aged 46-55, married with children, full time employment and owner occupier.
- **Helena:** Career focused females.

## **Hockey Clubs and Teams in Stroud**

6.9 The following details on the four hockey clubs in Stroud have been provided by England Hockey for the 2018/19 season.

### **A Stroud Hockey Club**

<i>Affiliation status</i>	Growing: increase from 226 members 2016/17 to 261 members 2018/19 – a 15% increase
<i>Participants</i>	Senior – 118 members – 58 male and 60 female Junior (U16) – 143 members – 54 male and 89 female
<i>Teams</i>	<u>3x Ladies:</u> 1sts (West Women’s League – Severn Division 1) 2nds (West Women’s League – Severn Division 1) 3rds (West Women’s League – Severn Division 3) <u>3 x Men’s:</u> 1sts (The Verde Recreo Hockey League De Cymru & The Marches 2) 2nds (The Verde Recreo Hockey League The Marches 1) 3rds (The Verde Recreo Hockey League The Marches 1) <u>Junior teams</u> U12 Boys & Girls U10 Boys & Girls U8 Mixed

### **B Wotton under Edge Hockey Club**

<i>Affiliation status</i>	Growing: increase from 263 members 2016/17 to 338 in 2018/19 – a 29% increase
<i>Participants</i>	Senior – 106 members – 67 male and 39 female Junior (U16) – 232 members – 132 female and 100 male
<i>Teams:</i>	<u>3 x Ladies:</u> 1sts (West Women’s League – Berkeley Division 1) 2nds (West Women’s League – Berkeley Division 2) 3rds (West Women’s League – Berkeley Division 3) <u>4 x Men’s</u> 1sts (The Verde Recreo Hockey League Premiership) 2nds (The Verde Recreo Hockey League De Cymru & The Marches 2) 3rds (The Verde Recreo Hockey League De Cymru & The Marches 2) 4ths (The Verde Recreo Hockey League The Marches 2)

Junior teams 10 x Junior teams:

Badgers (Gloucestershire Badgers Circle)

U16 Boys & Girls

U14 Boys & Girls

U12 Boys & Girls

U10 Boys & Girls

U8 Mixed

**C Dursley Hockey Club**

*Affiliation status* Decreasing: 26 members in 2016/17; 21 in 2018/19

*Participants* Senior – 21 members – all Ladies

*Teams* 1 x Senior Ladies team (West Women's League – Berkeley Division 2)

**D Painswick Hockey Club**

*Affiliation status* Decreasing: 17 members 2016/17; now 14 – 2018/19

*Participants* Senior – 12 members – all Ladies

Junior (U16) – 2 members – both girls

*Teams* 1 senior Ladies team: (West Women's League, Severn Division 3)

6.10 Overall, the Hockey Affiliation Analysis for Stroud records the following:

- 125 adult men; 132 adult women; 154 junior boys and 223 junior girls
- 7 men's teams; 8 women's teams; 6 boys' teams; 6 girls' teams and 3 mixed teams

6.11 Clubs were asked 'Are there any factors which make it difficult for your club to accommodate all of its home matches, expand its activities and/progress to higher leagues:

- Stroud HC:
  - Lack of storage facilities (have provided own sheds one of which has been broken into)
  - Pitch needs the outer tarmac replacing
  - No on-site clubhouse (which would bring club together).
- Wotton under Edge (WUE) HC:
  - Poor line marking and state of goals frequently noted by umpires
  - Need separate changing for male and female and on-site clubhouse which is always accessible (players have to go into town for after match refreshments)

- Sometimes difficulties in gaining access to changing facilities/toilets when on site (a portaloos has now been provided by the club adjacent to the pitch and also a small hut for refreshments)

6.12 The following quality issues were raised in respect of the above sites:

- Desire for clubhouse at Stratford Park for use by hockey club
- The sand based AGP at Wotton Community Parc is of a range of facilities on this developing community sports park, which also include a smaller 3G FTP, grass football and rugby pitches, a non turf cricket wicket and tennis courts and a BMX track. Park runs also take place here and there are plans for other activities to be based here.
- Priority for WUE Hockey Club is new clubhouse/pavilion/changing facilities which can be used by all sports
- WUE currently use the adjacent small size 3G for warm ups before matches, although the surface is not appropriate. An additional facility which could be used for overflow matches and warm ups would be a great addition to facilities

## **PATTERN OF PLAY AND CAPACITY**

### **ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY**

6.13 A senior hockey match lasts 70 minutes; half time is around 5 minutes and generally 15 minutes warm up. A pitch needs to be booked for 90 minutes to accommodate a game. England Hockey guidance suggests that no AGP should be considered able to sustain more than 4 games on any one day. 4 games is the equivalent of 6 hours play i.e. from 10.00 – 4.00pm. Some leagues will allow a match to start at 4.00pm but not after this

6.14 Educational use of AGPs on state school sites usually takes place outside of peak hours (evenings and weekends) and there is therefore no impact upon the availability of the facilities for community hockey. However there are often constraints with using independent school facilities. Safeguarding concerns (around boarders in particular) may mean that pitches are not be available during the evenings, for reasons of access and floodlighting. Moreover, pitches are frequently required for the school's matches at weekends and often not available for community use (or only after 4pm/unsuitable hours).

6.15 Times and days of matches and training by the 4 clubs are summarized as follows:

**A      Stroud Hockey Club**

*Stratford Park Leisure Centre*

7.5 hours per week (3 hours per week for training (incl juniors); 4.5 hours per week for Saturday matches)

*Wycliffe College*

1 hour per week for training (incl juniors)

**B      WUE Hockey Club**

*Wotton Community Parc*



19.25 hours per week: 4.5 hours per week (senior training); 3.25 hours per week for training (juniors); 1 hour per week social play (Fridays); 1 hour per week for training (Saturday juniors); 6.5 hours per week for Saturday matches; 3 hours per week for Sunday matches

**C Dursley Hockey Club**

*Wotton Community Parc*

2.5 hours per week: 1 hour per week for training; 1.5 hours per week for Saturday matches

**D Painswick Hockey Club**

*St Peter's School, Tuffley*

1.5 hours per week for matches

*Wycliffe College*

1 hour per week for training

6.16 This information is presented in a table, according to venues used below (Table 6.4, where capacity for hockey is commented on)

**Table 6.4 Analysis of capacity for hockey at venues within Stroud**

Club	TRAINING		MATCHPLAY		Other Usage of AGP	Analysis of spare capacity for hockey from review of AGP usage
	Pitch used	Usual Time	Pitch used	Usual Time		
<b>Stroud HC – Men’s</b>	Stratford Park LC	Tues 6 – 9pm	Stratford Park	10.15/12 noon/ 1.30pm & 3pm (10.15 – 4.30pm)	Stratford Park fully used for football: Mon 6 – 10pm; Tues 9 – 10pm; Wed & Thurs 6 – 10pm (apart from a few 1/3rds) & Fri 6 – 8pm & Sun 7 – 9pm	Stratford Park LC: No spare capacity for hockey on weekday eves Appears to be spare capacity from 13.30pm on Sundays (if this fits with league fixtures schedule)
<b>Stroud HC – Women’s</b>	Wycliffe College	Wed 6-9pm	Stratford Park	& also booked from 10.30-13.30 on Sundays		
<b>Stroud HC – u16 Boys</b>	Stratford Park	Tues 6.00 – 9pm	Stratford Park			
<b>Stroud HC – u16 Girls</b>	Wycliffe College	Wed 6.00 –9pm	Stratford Park			
					Wycliffe at capacity (for football) Mon, Tues & Thurs. Spare capacity Fridays. Also used by Painswick HC for training Mon eves	No other availability at Wycliffe for training. Not available weekends as used for school fixtures and no accessible changing facilities
					As above	As above
					As above	As above

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Club	TRAINING		MATCHPLAY		Other Usage of AGP	Analysis of capacity for hockey from review of AGP usage
	Pitch used	Usual Time	Pitch used	Usual Time		
<b>WUE HC – Seniors</b>	Wotton Astro	Mon 8 - 9.30pm; Tues 8 - 9.30pm; Wed 8 – 9.30pm; Thurs 8 – 9.30pm  Fri eves – social P&P (1 hr)	Wotton Astro	Sat 10am – 6pm  Tournaments on Sun 9am – 5pm; 3 hrs per week Sundays	Wotton Astro pitch used for football 6-7pm on Mon, Tues, Weds & Sun eve 6-7.30pm Used by Dursley Hockey Club: 7 - 8pm Mon eves for training and on Sat 11.30 – 1.00pm for matches (or where can be fitted in by league)	Wotton Astro: No spare slots weekday eves. No spare slots on Sat; Some spare capacity on Sundays
<b>WUE HC - Juniors</b>	Wotton Astro	Tues 7 – 8pm; Wed 7 – 8pm; Thurs 6 – 8pm	Wotton Astro	Sat 9 – 10am (half)		No spare capacity at Wotton Astro for hockey; other slots weekday evenings used for football. Saturdays already fully used for matchplay. Some Sundays there is limited spare capacity
<b>Painswick HC</b>	Wycliffe Astro	Mon eves (1 hr)	St Peter’s School Astro, Gloucester	Saturday pms (1.5 hrs)	As above for Wycliffe. St Peter’s School not known	Currently the club is able to find the slots it needs, albeit out of the area for matchplay
<b>Dursley HC</b>	Wotton Astro	Mon 7-8pm	Wotton Astro	Sat 11:30am – 1pm Saturdays	As above	Club has to fit in around WUE HC; no astro in Dursley

6.17 Further points are:

- Painswick HC says it is able to find the slots it needs, albeit out of the area for matchplay.
- Dursley Hockey Club also uses the Wotton Community Parc pitch and comments that its matches are fitted in around WUE usage (has 1.5 hour slot on Saturdays)
- Stroud Hockey Club uses two sand based AGPs – men and ladies both play at Stratford Park and men and junior boys train there, but ladies and junior girls train at Wycliffe College.
- Stroud Hockey Club state that lack of pitch access for training is their biggest obstacle. The club would like all its teams to be based at one site. The club would like to train 3 nights a week in Stroud but at the moment they only train on one night at Stratford Park Leisure Centre
- WUE have 250 children turning up for junior tournaments and the club is expanding. It would like additional training sessions (it has split its ladies' training into 2 sessions) and states that the men's 1st XI would train twice a week if there was the capacity. Ideally the club would like a second hockey pitch at the site to offer hockey to a wider range of people, not just competitive league hockey.

6.18 In summary:

- Training for the four clubs in Stroud District can currently be accommodated on the three sand based AGPs in the district but only 3 out of 4 clubs play their matches in them. One team travels outside the district to play its matches.
- Even though hockey is the preferred usage for sand based pitches, demands for training facilities for local football clubs mean that facility providers are striking a balance between the two sports and weekday evening slots which have not traditionally been booked by hockey are now virtually full with football training and small sided soccer. There is occasionally 1/3rd of a pitch free, but this does not assist with hockey training.
- The picture is different at weekends – then there are only 2 full size sand based AGPs available as the Wycliffe College pitch is used for school matches.
- Saturdays are full up with Matchplay and Sunday mornings are also fully used. There appears to be spare capacity after 1.30pm on Sundays at Stratford Park and at Wotton Community Parc, although up to two tournaments are held each month and these are day long events. Sunday afternoons does not currently align with fixture schedules for hockey.

## **FUTURE PICTURE OF PROVISION**

6.19 To accurately respond to the requirements for AGPs for hockey across Stroud it is necessary to consider the future requirement for these facilities and the potential future demand for hockey. This will be impacted upon by several things, including;

- A General changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- B Changes to the number of people living in the area and/or to the demographic profile of the population;

- C Consideration of latent, unmet and displaced demand
- D Local trends in participation and club specific development plans and aspirations; and
- E Amendments to the current facility stock either through the provision of new pitches or the loss of current pitches.

**A General changes in participation trends and how the sport is played**

- 6.20 England Hockey's vision is for England to be a 'Nation Where Hockey Matters' and for every hockey club in England to have appropriate and sustainable facilities that provide excellent experiences for players. Its Mission is for 'More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities'
- 6.21 The three main objectives of the facilities strategy are to:
1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision
  2. IMPROVE: To improve the existing facilities stock (physically and administratively)
  3. DEVELOP: To strategically build new hockey facilities where there is an identified need and ability to deliver and maintain. This might include consolidating hockey provision in a local area where appropriate by developing multi pitch sites.
- 6.22 Much of the increasing participation in hockey has come following the London Olympics, international success and the holding of major events in the UK, such as the Vitality Hockey Women's World Cup in July 2018. Since 2012, there has been an 80% increase in the number of boys and girls in clubs, as well as a 54% increase in players over the age of 46.
- 6.23 England Hockey are focusing on retaining players within the clubs by offering different informal opportunities, apart from league hockey, such as development matches and Pay and Play. There is evidence of an increase in ladies and junior members at clubs and notable signs of players returning to the sport. Focusing on links with schools through programmes such as Quick sticks – a small-sided version of hockey for 7-11 year olds – have been very successful in allowing new players to take part in the sport from an early age
- 6.24 There are several dominant market segments for hockey in Stroud and England Hockey considers it vital that it continues to offer all versions of the game to attract new and retain current participants in all age groups. Demand in Stroud seems to be buoyant, especially among younger players so there may not be the need expressed (as there is in other areas) to actively promote play and pay hockey sessions to meet the demands of potential players whose lifestyle means they would not be able to commit to regular training and matches, but this may be a developing theme in the future.

**B Population change in Stroud**

- 6.25 The analysis of ONS population projections for Stroud shows that:
- Whilst the overall population of Stroud District is predicted to increase by 16,355 (13.7%) over the 22 year period 2018-2040, the number of people in the overall 'active participation' age group (5-69 years) is also projected to increase, but at a lower rate (i.e. by 3,954 or 4.2%).

- The age group within the 'active participation' group that are projected to see the greatest increase in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 10-19 years age group (youth/junior pitch sports), which is projected to increase by 12.2%.
- The main age band for adult pitch sports (20 – 34 years) is predicted to show an increase of 5%.
- The age group predicted to see a decline in numbers in the period to 2040 is the 46-54 years age group (adult and vets pitch sports) by -3.8%.
- The implications of these projected changes are explored further within the 'Future Demand' sections for each individual pitch sport.

#### *Team Generation Rates*

- 6.26 Team Generation Rates (TGRs) indicate how many people in a specified age group are required to generate one team. By applying TGRs to population projections, we can project the theoretical number of teams that would be generated from population growth and gain an understanding of future demand. This suggests that the predicted growth in hockey teams generated through new housing in Stroud district will be: 2 senior hockey men's teams; 2 senior hockey women's teams; and 2 junior teams
- 6.27 However, it should be noted that that measuring junior participation in particular through the number of junior teams (and then using team generation rates to predict future participation) does not accurately reflect the total amount of juniors regularly playing the game. Moreover, TGRs do not take into account the informal offer and more casual forms of hockey activity and coaching which also require access.
- 6.28 Therefore, whilst projected new teams are shown for information, further guidance is being sought from England Hockey on using population and existing team data to predict numbers of club members, rather than teams, and will be integrated within the final report. (Unlike football and cricket, we have not presented information on a cluster basis as numbers of teams are too low).

#### **C Consideration of latent, unmet and displaced demand**

- 6.29 Sport England Market Segmentation data presented earlier in this section can also be used to estimate the proportion of the population that would like to participate in hockey. This suggests that there is potential to increase adult hockey participation by over 50% in Stroud. Around 320 people currently play hockey, with about 182 residents indicating that they would like to play (or play more) hockey. Most of this latent demand is from residents in the main market segments that currently play. Whilst this may not result in new teams forming, it will increase numbers of club members.
- 6.30 As part of the England Hockey Strategy 'A Nation where Hockey Matters' 2017 - 2021, a long term aspiration was to double the number of people playing hockey in clubs by 2028. This would include the informal hockey offer, including Back to Hockey, Pay & Play, and Walking Hockey as well as league teams. Based on the numbers of club members in 2017 in Stroud (219 adults and 318 juniors), this would suggest that there would be target of at least 400 seniors and upwards of 600 juniors.

**D Local trends in participation and club specific development plans and aspirations**

6.31 Both WUE HC and Stroud Hockey Club wish to maintain and strengthen their clubs and provide a range of playing opportunities. Clubs were asked which, if any, additional teams they would like to run and what were the main reasons preventing this from happening:

*Dursley HC*

Type of team	Main reasons preventing this from happening
Adult Men	Shortage of artificial pitches for matches
Adult Ladies	Shortage of artificial pitches for training
Junior Boys	Falling membership/shortage of members
Junior Girls	

*Painswick HC*

Type of team	Main reasons preventing this from happening
Adult Ladies	Falling membership/shortage of members
Junior Girls	

*Stroud HC*

Type of team	Main reasons preventing this from happening
Adult Men	Shortage of artificial pitches for matches
Adult Ladies	Shortage of artificial pitches for training
Junior Boys	Shortage of coaches or volunteers
Junior Girls	Cost of hiring/using facilities
Mixed Teams	Shortage of suitable indoor training facilities

*Wotton under Edge HC*

Type of team	Main reasons preventing this from happening
Adult Men	Shortage of artificial pitches for matches
Adult Ladies	Shortage of artificial pitches for training
Junior Boys	Shortage of, or poor quality, changing facilities
Junior Girls	Lack of external funding (grants, loans)
Mixed Teams	Shortage of suitable indoor training facilities
Other (e.g. Vets) Vets, mixed, indoor, disabled	

**WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR HOCKEY IN STROUD?**

Further guidance is required on predicting growth in club members in Stroud from England Hockey,

- 6.32 There are 257 adult hockey club members and 377 junior hockey club members at present. A 10% growth will result in an additional 26 adult and 38 junior members; 20% increase will result in 52 adults and 76 juniors. These additional players will increase demand for both training and matchplay sessions.
- 6.33 All 4 clubs, with the possible exception of Painswick, are currently struggling to access available provision to accommodate growth and other models of hockey. Demand can only be met at present due to creative scheduling and the clubs being spread over four sites.
- 6.34 There is very limited capacity for growth in hockey activity at any of the three sand based AGPs in the district. In the first instance, squad sizes for training can be increased to cater for more participants, but once 2 new teams form, a new match slot will need to be found, which on current scheduling will be very difficult. There is very little spare capacity for hockey matchplay on Saturdays. There appears to be some availability on Sundays, although this does not align with the fixtures schedule.
- 6.35 Given the lack of spare capacity and expected growth in hockey it is projected that an additional sand based AGP will be required in the district during the life of the strategy.

#### **Other Considerations**

- 6.36 Two of the three existing sand based AGPs are on education sites (albeit one which is has secured community use through a Trust). However, the pitch at Wycliffe College does not have secured community use (although it is apparently the intention of the College to maintain this – albeit only on weekday evenings for training, not for weekend matchplay as the facilities are required by the school).

As these establishments grow or change, they may have increasing demands for pitch space and time which may restrict their ability to accommodate external hockey club use.

- 6.37 Consideration will also need to be given to the continuing viability and sustainability of the sand based pitches if more 3G FTPs are installed in Stroud This is likely to result in the transference of football teams away from the sand based pitches.
- 6.38 England Hockey is keen to develop hub sites for large hockey clubs. Such a coherent model can ensure that the majority of senior and junior teams can be wholly based at one site, sharing clubhouse and changing facilities and enabling close liaison over training and coaching. The strategy might consider where such a hub site could be developed in the study area.
- 6.39 Social facilities are an integral part of the hockey ‘mix’ providing relaxation and hospitality for visiting teams. The hockey clubhouse is a vital component of the support for a club.
- 6.40 *For list of priority issues and sites for hockey and summaries of key issues by each site, please see Section 8.***