

# Northern Devon Playing Pitch Strategy

## Stage C

## NEEDS ASSESSMENT

## PART 2: CRICKET, RUGBY, HOCKEY AND BOWLS

### *Final*

for

North Devon Council

Torridge District Council

See also:

- Stage C Needs Assessment - Part 1: Introduction and Football
- Full Site Overviews
- Stage B: Northern Devon PPS Appendix 1E

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prepared by

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## 4 CRICKET IN NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE

4.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for cricket in North Devon and Torrridge by presenting the following:

- An overview of pitch supply
- An overview of demand for cricket
- The pattern of play of cricket
- A review of the capacity and adequacy of current provision, including an understanding of activity at individual sites
- The future picture of provision for cricket across North Devon and Torrridge

### OVERVIEW OF PITCH SUPPLY

4.2 See Table 4.1 below. The letters in the 'Community Use' column signify the following, as set out in Sport England's latest Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013.

- A Available for community use and used
- B Available for community use and unused
- C Not available for community use, as matter of policy and practice
- D Not available as disused. Any sites where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out and remain undeveloped.

4.3 Shared sites refer to where sports in addition to cricket are played at the ground and there is shared changing.

**Table 4.1 – Cricket Pitches in North Devon**

Site Ref	Site Name	Owner/ Manager	Grass wickets	Non-turf wicket	Community use	Shared sites
NDBA.01	<b>Barnstaple &amp; Pilton CC</b>	Sports Club	11	1	A	No
NDBA.05	<b>Bratton Fleming Sports Club</b>	Sports Club	6		A	Yes: Football
NDBA.07	<b>Newton Tracey Cricket Club</b>	Private owner	6	1	A	No
NDBA.08	<b>North Devon Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	19		A	No
NDBA.12	<b>Pilton Community College</b>	Education		1	C	Yes
NDBA.13	<b>Rock Park</b>	NDC		1	D	Yes: Football
NDBA.17	<b>Park Community School Barnstaple</b>	Education		1	C	Yes
NDBA.18	<b>West Buckland School</b>	Private School	At least 2 grass – 12 each		C	Yes

Site Ref	Site Name	Owner/ Manager	Grass wickets	Non-turf wicket	Community use	Shared sites
NDBA.19	<b>Westleigh Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	9		A	No
NDBR.02	<b>Braunton Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	19		A	No
NDBR.08	<b>RMB Chivenor</b>	MoD		1	C	Yes
NDIL.04	<b>Killacleave (Ilfracombe Academy)</b>	Education		1	C	Yes
NDIL.04	<b>Ilfracombe Rugby Club</b>	Sports Club		1	A	Yes: Rugby
NDSM.01	<b>Chittlehampton Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	8		A	No
NDSM.03	<b>Chulmleigh Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	5	1	A	No
NDSM.06	<b>Filleigh Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	10	1	A	No
NDSM.07	<b>North Molton Sports &amp; Community Centre</b>	Sports Club	10		A	Yes: football
NDSM.08	<b>South Molton Community College</b>	Education		1	C	Yes

**Table 4.2 – Cricket Pitches in Torrington**

Site Ref	Site Name	Owner/ Manager	Grass wickets	Non-turf wicket	Community use	Shared sites
TOBI.02	<b>Bideford College (Moreton Park)</b>	Education		1	D	Yes
TOBI.03	<b>Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	15	1	A	No
TOBI.10	<b>King George V Playing Fields Bideford</b>	Local Authority	10	1	A	Yes: football
TOGT.01	<b>Beaford Cricket Club</b>	Sports Club	5		A	No
TOGT.05	<b>Great Torrington School</b>	Education		1	B	Yes
TOGT.06	<b>High Bickington Playing Fields</b>	Community Organisation	2		A Barely used from observation	Yes: football
TOGT.07	<b>Petrockstowe Cricket</b>	Sports Club	7		A	No

Site Ref	Site Name	Owner/ Manager	Grass wickets	Non-turf wicket	Community use	Shared sites
	<b>Club</b>					
TOGT.08	<b>St Giles in the Wood</b>	Sports Club	5		A	No
TOHO.05	<b>Holsworthy Community College</b>	Education		1 badly ripped	C	Yes
TOHO.06	<b>Shebbear College</b>	Private Education	7		A	Yes
TOHO.09	<b>Stanhope Park, Holsworthy</b>	Town Council	11		A	Yes: football

**Table 4.3 Summary of Cricket Pitches in Use in North Devon and Torridge**

Sub Area	Cricket Grounds	Grass pitches	Artificial wickets	Community use of grounds			Shared Site
				A + B	C	D	
Barnstaple Sub Area	9	6	5	5	3	1	5
Braunton Sub Area	2	1	1	1	1		1
Ilfracombe Sub Area	2	1	2	1	1		2
South Molton Sub Area	5	4	3	4	1		2
<b>TOTAL North Devon</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10</b>
Bideford Sub Area	3	2	3	2		1	2
Great Torrington Sub Area	5	4	1	5			2
Holsworthy Sub Area	3	2	1	2		1	3
<b>TOTAL Torridge</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>9</b>		<b>2</b>	<b>7</b>

4.4 Of the 12 grass cricket pitches in North Devon, 4 have an artificial wicket in addition to grass. The remaining 7 sole artificial wickets are based at schools other than the wicket at RMB Chivenor (no community use), the redundant wicket at Rock Park Barnstaple and the wicket at Ilfracombe Rugby Club (used by Ilfracombe CC). None of the artificial wickets on school sites are used by community teams

4.5 Of the 8 grass cricket pitches in Torridge, both King George V Playing Fields Bideford and Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho! Cricket Clubs have an artificial wicket in addition to grass. The other 3 artificial wickets are at schools. The only cricket facilities on a school site which are used by community teams are those at Shebbear College (independent school).

## Quality

### Rating of sites

4.6 The rating given to the overall pitch quality and shown in Table 4.4 and 4.5 below is based upon Sport England’s playing pitch strategy guidance. There are 5 different elements upon which the assessment rating is based: condition of the cricket outfield, condition of artificial wickets, condition and maintenance of grass wickets, presence of pavilion/changing rooms and the condition of non-turf cricket practice nets. Where a particular element is not present at a site, the score is averaged-out to give a comparable rating for all sites.

4.7 The non-technical site assessment provides a snapshot of pitch quality at one point in time. Evidence on quality also needs to take into account the views of the clubs using the pitches and information from Devon Cricket Board where available. This study has triangulated the available evidence on pitch quality obtained from these sources and presents them in the table below.

**Table 4.4: Quality of Cricket Pitches in North Devon**

Ref	Club/Site	Type of wicket (grass or non turf)	Potential rating (poor, standard, good)	Notes from Site Audit (VQA) and Summary of club rating & comments
NDBA.01	Barnstable & Pilton CC	Grass	Good	Club rate as good. Club say would like to have proper covers but lack of storage and frequency of vandalism prevents this
NDBA.01	Barnstable & Pilton CC	NTW	Good	
NDBA.05	Bratton Fleming Sports Club	Grass	Standard	Rated standard by PQA and good by club. PQA: practice nets need improvement; currently pieced together from many surfaces. Club say drainage is poor; need covers.
NDBA.07	Newton Tracey Cricket club	Grass	Good	PQA: good – nicely maintained but has gradient across whole site. Club rated good.
NDBA.07	Newton Tracey Cricket club	NTW	Good	
NDBA.08	North Devon Cricket Club	Grass	Good	PQA and club both good
NDBA.12	Pilton Community College	NTW	Poor	
NDBA.13	Rock Park	NTW	Poor	
NDBA.17	Park Community School Barnstaple	NTW	Standard	
NDBA.18	West Buckland School	Grass x 2	Good	

Ref	Club/Site	Type of wicket (grass or non turf)	Potential rating (poor, standard, good)	Notes from Site Audit (VQA) and Summary of club rating & comments
NDBA.19	Westleigh Cricket Club	Grass	Good	PQA and club rate as good. PQA states gradient is poor. Club say: limited facilities with no sight screens and lack of funds to maintain perimeter fencing and other elements of the ground.
NDBR.02	Braunton CC	Grass	Good	Rated standard by PQA and good by club. PQA: Poor scoring of nets decreased rating but it is a good pitch. Club: no comments
NDBR.08	RMB Chivenor	NTW	Poor	Poor quality
NBIL.03)	Killacleave Sports Field (Ilfracombe Academy)	NTW	Poor	Redundant
NDIL.04	Brimlands (Ilfracombe Rugby Club)	NTW	Standard	PQA: standard; needs some repair. Club: rate as standard.
NDSM.01	Chittlehampton CC	Grass	Standard	PQA: used for friendlies; let down by poor changing. No comments from club
NDSM.03	Chulmleigh CC	Grass	Standard	PQA: standard. Nice site generally; outfield needed cutting. Club: rated as acceptable.
NDSM.03	Chulmleigh CC	NTW	Standard	PQA: standard. Nice site generally; outfield needed cutting. Club: rated as acceptable.
NDSM.06	Filleigh CC	Grass	Standard	PQA: standard. Good facilities. Club: rate pitches as acceptable and say the club has no power (electricity).
NDSM.06	Filleigh CC	NTW	Standard	PQA: standard. Good facilities. Club: rate pitches as acceptable and say the club has no power (electricity).
NDSM.07	North Molton Sports & Community Centre	Grass	Good	PQA and club rate as good. No other comments
NDSM.08	South Molton Community College	NTW	Poor	Redundant

**Table 4.5: Quality of Cricket Pitches in Torridge**

Ref	Club/Site	Type of wicket	Potential rating (poor, standard, good)	Notes from Site Audit (VQA) and Summary of club rating & comments
TOBI.02	Bideford College (Moreton Park)	NTW	Poor	Redundant
TOBI.03:	Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho Cricket Club	Grass	Good	PQA and club rate pitch as good. Club explain that facilities are not suitable for today's game and attracting new members who require a different standard of facilities than that provided here over 40 years ago. Facilities are also in poor state of repair.
TOBI.10	King George V Playing Fields Bideford	Grass + NTW	Standard	PQA rates pitch as standard and PQA rates NTW as poor and requires urgent replacement. Club rate pitch as standard: Club say that Council contractor is performing poorly. Drainage, dog fouling, maintenance, VFM and adequacy of changing considered poor. Club unhappy with quality and level of maintenance, of both square and outfield
TOGT.01:	Beaford Cricket Club	Grass	Good	PQA rates as good: no reply from club. Poor changing detracts from otherwise good ground
TOGT.05	Great Torrington School	NTW	Poor	Redundant
TOGT.06	High Bickington Playing Fields	Grass	Standard	Barely used from observation; lots of weeds
TOGT.07	Petrockstowe Cricket Club	Grass	Good	PQA and club both rate as good. Club would like electronic scoreboard and sight screens
TOGT.08	St Giles in the Wood	Grass	Good	PQA and club both rate as good. No changing facilities
TOHO.05	Holsworthy Community College	NTW	Poor	
TOHO.06	Shebbear College	Grass	Good	
TOHO.09	Stanhope Park, Holsworthy	Grass	Good	PQA rate as good; club as standard

**Commentary**

4.8 Key points to summarise in respect of the quality of cricket pitches are:

- As with many grass pitch sports, the quality of the playing surface reflects the standard of play. This is especially true with cricket and North Devon CC's pitch at



Instow is generally considered to be the best in the area; as a result it caters for the leading team in the area as well as the most matches.

- The hierarchy of pitches continues with those larger clubs playing in the Devon league, all whose pitches were rated as being good - Barnstaple & Pilton CC, Braunton CC, and Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho! CC. The majority of North Devon League clubs also scored as having 'good' pitches, namely; Westleigh, Beaford, Petrockstowe, Newton Tracey and Holsworthy. In fact, the high incidence of 'good' scores across the area is a heartening and encouraging base for the sport's future.
- Although their community use is restricted, the two pitches at the private school at West Buckland were both considered to be excellent.
- Of the 12 grass pitches in North Devon, 8 were rated as being good and 4 as standard. Those pitches that were rated as poor were all with artificial wickets; in most (all?) instances the wickets were either confirmed as being redundant or did not appear to be sustaining much current use.
- Of the 8 grass pitches in Torrridge, all were considered to be good, other than High Bickington Playing Fields – where it was questionable whether the pitch had been used – and King George V Playing Fields Bideford. Poor pitches followed the same pattern as North Devon, i.e. artificial wickets on school sites - Bideford College (Moreton Park), Great Torrington School and Holsworthy Community College.

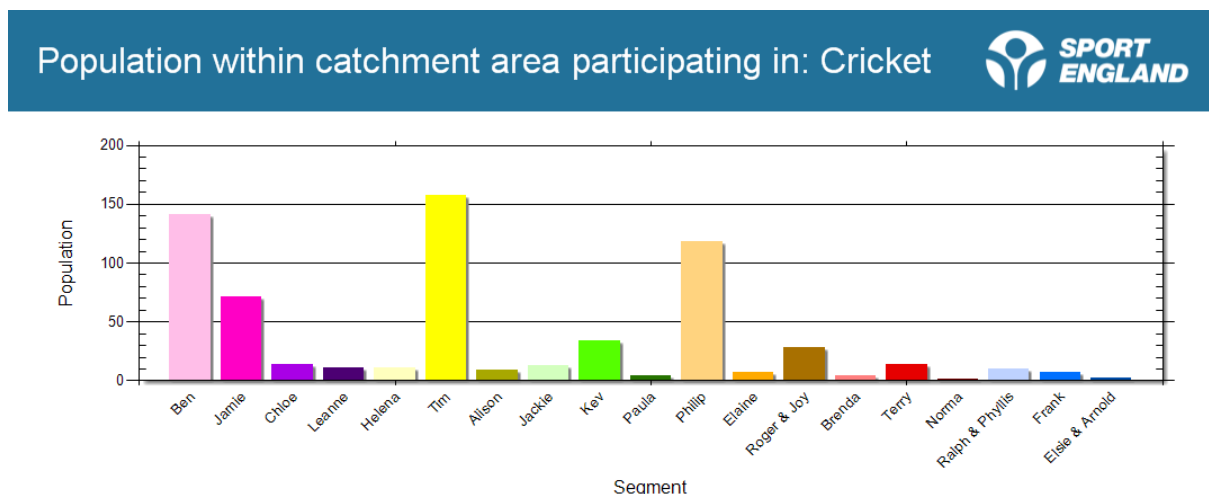
## OVERVIEW OF DEMAND

### Active People and Market segmentation

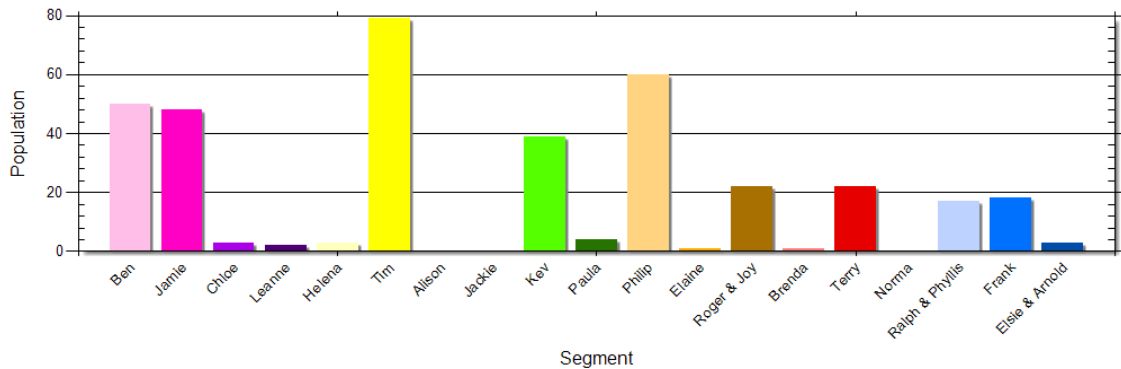
#### North Devon

4.9 From the Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data, it is possible to estimate:

- the proportion of the local adult population within each market segment group that **currently** participate in cricket, (656 people in total)
- how many adults **would like** to participate (or participate more) in cricket (ie latent demand – estimated at 372). The following figures present this information pictorially.



Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Cricket

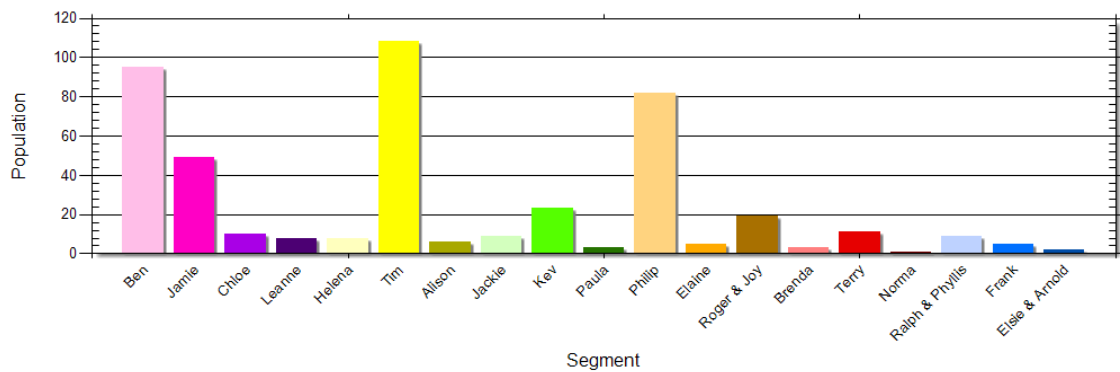


**Torrige**

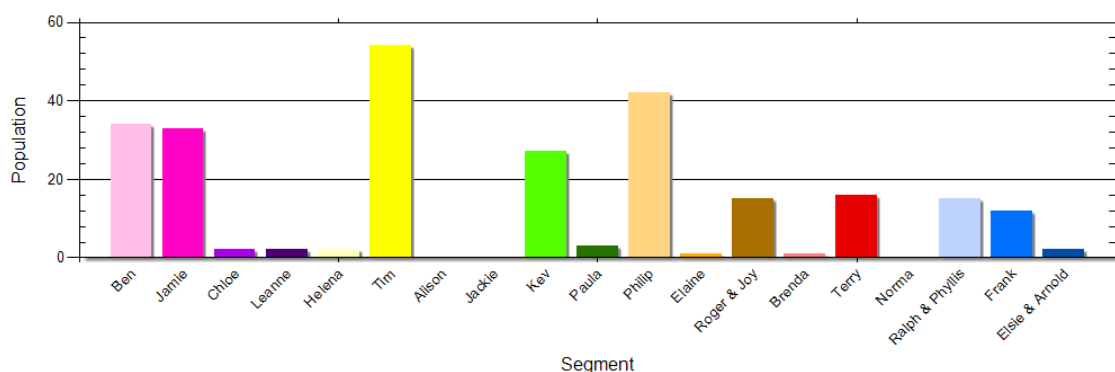
4.10 Similarly for Torrige, as set out under 'Football', from the Sport England Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data it is possible to estimate:

- the proportion of the local adult population within each market segment group that **currently** participate in cricket, (456 people in total)
- how many adults **would like** to participate (or participate more) in cricket (ie latent demand – estimated at 261). The following figures present this information pictorially.

Population within catchment area participating in: Cricket



Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Cricket



4.11 Sport England Market Segmentation data can also be used to estimate the proportion of the population that participate in cricket. The key participants in cricket in North Devon and Torridge come from those market segments groups that are most likely to play cricket 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 cricket, the main market segmentation groups in both authorities are:

- **Tim:** settling down male, mainly aged 26-45, married or single, professional.
- **Ben:** competitive male urbanite, mainly aged 18-25, single, graduate professional.
- **Philip:** comfortable mid-life male, mainly aged 46-55, married with children, full time employment and owner occupier.
- **Jamie:** sports team lad, mainly aged 18-25, single, vocational student.
- **Kev:** Blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport.
- The main female segment participating in cricket in North Devon and Torridge is Chloe: Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim.

**Clubs and Teams Playing in North Devon and Torridge**

4.12 The following clubs and teams are recorded as playing in North Devon and Torridge, together with recent trends in membership.

**Table 4.6: Cricket Clubs and Teams playing in North Devon**

Area	Club	Adult	Youth	Ladies	Total	Membership trends in last 3 years
NDBA	Barnstaple and Pilton CC	4	3		7	Decreased
NDBA	Bratton Fleming CC	2			2	
NDBA	Newton Tracey CC	4	3		7	Youth - decreased
NDBA	North Devon CC	6	8	1	15	Ladies - increased
NDBA	Pub & Club League	4			4	Increased

Area	Club	Adult	Youth	Ladies	Total	Membership trends in last 3 years
NDBA	Westleigh CC	1			1	Increase
NDBR	Braunton CC	3	4		7	
NDIL	Brimlands League	6			6	Increased
NDIL	Ilfracombe CC	1	1		2	Increased
NDSM	Chittlehampton CC	1			1	
NDSM	Chulmleigh CC	1	5		6	Decreased
NDSM	Filleigh CC	4	4	1	9	Youth - increased
NDSM	North Molton Sports Club CC	2			2	
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>69</b>	

**Table 4.7: Cricket Clubs and Teams playing in Torrington**

Area	Club	Adult	Youth	Ladies	Total	Membership trends in last 3 years
TOBI	Bideford Littleham And Westward Ho! CC	5	6		11	
TOBI	Victoria Park CC	1			1	Decreased
TOGT	Beaford CC	1			1	
TOGT	High Bickington CC	1			1	
TOGT	Petrockstowe CC	1			1	
TOGT	St Giles in the Wood CC	1			1	
TOHO	Holsworthy CC	2	1		3	
O/S	Hatherleigh CC	1			1	Team from outside district play at Beaford and Shebbear College
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>20</b>	

**Table 4.8 Summary of Clubs and Teams by Sub Area**

	Club/League	Adult Teams	Youth teams	Ladies Teams	Total
Barnstaple Sub Area	6	21	14	1	36
Braunton Sub Area	1	3	4		7
Ilfracombe Sub Area	2	7	1		8
South Molton Sub Area	4	8	9	1	18
<b>TOTAL North Devon</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>69</b>
Bideford Sub Area	2	6	6		12
Great Torrington Sub Area	4	4			4
Holsworthy Sub Area	2	3	1		4
<b>TOTAL Torridge</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>20</b>

4.13 The key points are:

- In North Devon, 11 clubs plus the Brimlands and North Devon ‘Pub and Club’ leagues field 69 teams in total, compared to 8 clubs fielding 20 teams in Torridge.
- 58% of teams in North Devon are adult (40) and 65% of Torridge teams (13). Out of 11 clubs in North Devon, 7 run junior teams, the highest number by North Devon CC (8 juniors). 2 out of the 7 Torridge clubs run juniors, the most by Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho! CC (6 youth).

4.14 Structure of cricket in the area is as follows:

*Senior play*

- The senior league for Saturday cricket in the area is the Devon League; for the 2017 season, North Devon CC will be playing in the Premier Division, Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho! CC and Filleigh in the B Division, Braunton CC in the C Division and Barnstaple and Pilton CC in the D Division. Holsworthy play in Division 4 of the Cornwall League.
- The North Devon League plays on Sunday and caters for 34 teams in 4 divisions. In addition to the clubs above who have teams in the Devon League; Bratton Fleming CC, Newton Tracey CC, North Molton Sports Club CC and Westleigh CC field teams in the North Devon League) where clubs will often have more than one team playing in different divisions. Ilfracombe CC are joining for the 2017 season.
- Some clubs, notably Chumleigh CC, choose to play friendly matches rather than have league fixtures. Midweek play is often less formal and more localised. The Brimlands League and the pub and club league are both small leagues with local teams.
- There is women’s competitive play at North Devon CC who play in Devon Division 1 and Filleigh CC.

*Junior play*

- Competitive youth cricket is played by teams in the North Devon Youth Cricket League where most of the main clubs are represented. Youth cricket is predominantly played midweek.

4.15 There is no evidence of displaced demand for cricket outside the area, and the only 'cross border' instance of displaced demand is from Hatherleigh CC (Cornwall) who play their 3<sup>rd</sup> team in the Torridge area at both Beaford CC and Shebbear College.

The only recorded instance of a club using more than one home ground is at North Devon CC where their 3<sup>rd</sup> XI play at Westleigh CC.

## PATTERN OF PLAY AND CAPACITY

### PATTERN OF PLAY

#### Matchplay

4.16 The pattern of play of cricket teams in North Devon and Torridge is shown below

**Table 4.9 Pattern of play of cricket teams in North Devon**

Sub Area	Club	Teams	Mid Week	Sat	Sun
BA	Barnstaple And Pilton CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> , Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , U15, U13, U11	3	2	2
BA	Bratton Fleming CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup>			2
BR	Braunton CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , U15, U13, U11, U10, Kelseyman	4	2	1
SM	Chittlehampton CC	1 <sup>st</sup>			1
SM	Chulmleigh CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , Colts, U15, U13, U11, U9	5		1
SM	Filleigh CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> , Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Ladies, U15, U13, U11, U9	4	2	3
IL	Ilfracombe CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , Youth	1		1
BA	Newton Tracey CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Friendlies, U15, U13, U11	4		3
BA	North Devon CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , 3 <sup>rd</sup> , Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> , Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Ladies, Midweek, Colts, U15, U13, U11, U10x2, U9x2	9	3	3
SM	North Molton Sports Club CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , Friendlies	1		1

Sub Area	Club	Teams	Mid Week	Sat	Sun
BA	Westleigh CC	1 <sup>st</sup>			1
IL	[Brimlands League]	Ilfracombe RFC, Woolacombe CC, Scaffolders CC, Turners CC, All Stars CC, Ship & Pilot CC	6		
BA	[Pub & Club League]	Jack Russell CC, Real Tuff CC, Reds CC, Buckland Brewer CC	4		
		<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>
		<b>Total Juniors</b>	<b>28</b>		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>19</b>

4.17 The summary of pattern of play according to whether teams are senior or junior is as follows:

**Table 4.10: Summary of Pattern of Play in North Devon**

	Mid week	Sat	Sun	Total
Senior teams	13 (32%)	9 (22%)	19 (46%)	41
Junior teams	28 (100%)			28

4.18 The pattern of play of cricket teams in Torridge is shown below

**Table 4.11 Pattern of play of cricket teams in Torridge**

Sub Area	Club	Teams	Mid Week	Sat	Sun
GT	Beaford CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , Hatherleigh 3 <sup>rd</sup>			2
BI	Bideford Littleham & Westward Ho! CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> , Sunday 2 <sup>nd</sup> , Midweek, U15, U13, U12, U11, U10, U9	7	2	2
GT	High Bickington CC	1 <sup>st</sup>			1
HO	Holsworthy CC	1 <sup>st</sup> , Sunday 1 <sup>st</sup> , U11	1	1	1
GT	Petrockstowe CC	1 <sup>st</sup>			1
GT	St Gilles Cricket Club	1 <sup>st</sup>			1
BI	Victoria Park CC	1 <sup>st</sup>			1

Sub Area	Club	Teams	Mid Week	Sat	Sun
		<b>Total Adults</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>
		<b>Total Juniors</b>	<b>7</b>		
		<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>9</b>

4.19 The summary of pattern of play according to whether teams are senior or junior is as follows:

**Table 4.12: Summary of Pattern of Play in Torridge**

	Mid week	Sat	Sun	Total
Senior teams	1 (8%)	3 (23%)	9 (69%)	13
Junior teams	7 (100%)			7

4.20 Although all listed as playing midweek, junior teams will occasionally play on a Saturday or Sunday morning on wickets cut on the outfield or the edge of the table. Some grounds will therefore be hosting two games on a day when there is an adult match the same afternoon. Pitches are also used by small informal leagues which are not included in the statistics.

## CAPACITY

### Capacity scores

4.21 To evaluate the adequacy of facilities for cricket, the amount of wickets available is measured against the level of use of these wickets. This is considered firstly at a site specific level and then information and issues are compiled in order to present the district wide picture. To determine the situation at individual sites, the following is evaluated;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon the site quality and the number of wickets on the square);
- how much play takes place at each site, as well as the impact of educational and informal or casual use;
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- the key issues relating to the site.

4.22 Demand is therefore measured in terms of the number of home games that each team will play per season. Only one game is traditionally played on a pitch per day, particularly for senior fixtures, due to the length of time that a game takes to finish. As well as the ability of the square to sustain the required amount of play, the capacity of a cricket club can also be affected by the amount of games that can be accommodated at any one time.



4.23 This Needs Assessment has established the quality of the grounds for capacity assessment purposes by taking into account the views of clubs and the latest ECB Pitch Quality Standards where available, and also incorporated pitch and outfield markings (ratings) from the ECB. For cricket, unlike other pitch sports, the capacity of a pitch is measured on a season rather than weekly basis and is primarily determined by the number and quality of wickets on a pitch. Play is rotated throughout the season across the number of wickets on a pitch to reduce wear and allow for repair and each wicket can accommodate a certain amount of play per season. As a guide, the ECB suggests:

4.24 A good quality wicket (which should be aspired to) should be able to take:

- 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults);
- 7 matches per season per grass wicket (juniors);
- 60 matches per season per non turf wicket (adults); and
- 80 matches per season per non turf wicket (juniors).

4.25 Following discussions with ECB, the following capacity ratings have been agreed:

- ‘good’ or ‘standard’ quality wicket – 5 matches per season per grass wicket (adults)
- ‘poor’ wicket – 3 matches per season per grass wicket (adults)
- In North Devon and Torridge, all the grass pitches have been rated as either good or standard – see Tables 4.4. and 4.5 – and have therefore been allotted 5 matches per season per wicket for capacity purposes.

### **Situation at Individual Sites**

4.26 Based upon the above parameters, Table 4.8 provides an overview of site specific activity for each of the pitches that offer community use in North Devon and Torridge. Information has been gleaned from a painstaking trawl of fixture lists to establish accurately the amount of activity at each site.

4.27 Under the Playing Pitch Methodology, sites/pitches are classified into one of three types as set out below; shorthand words are used in the table

- Potentially able to accommodate some additional play: POTENTIAL
- Being played to the level the site can sustain: SUSTAINABLE
- Being overplayed: OVERPLAYED

4.28 The following Tables 4.13 and 4.14 summarise this information

**Table 4.13: – Site Specific Usage and Capacity: Cricket pitches in North Devon**

Site	Pitch Type	No. of Wickets	Estimated Use (Matches or Match Equivalents)				Theoretical capacity for wickets	Comparison: Theoretical – Estimated Use (match equivalents)	Assessment	Notes
			Estimated number of Matches played per Season - adult	Estimated number of Matches played per Season - junior	Estimated Training Allowance (match equivalents)	Total				
NDBA.01	Barnstaple & Pilton CC	Grass 11	53		0	53	55	+2	SUSTAINABLE	Ground probably at capacity; some room for growth in midweek play but no spare capacity at peak time
NDBA.01		NTW		12	10	22	60	+38	POTENTIAL	Used by junior and pub teams & some training so takes pressure off grass wicket above.
NDBA.05	Bratton Fleming Sports Club	Grass 6	16			16	30	14	POTENTIAL	Spare capacity for Saturday and midweek play. Underused ground.
NDBA.07	Newton Tracey Cricket Club	Grass 6	23	5		28	30	+2	SUSTAINABLE	No spare capacity Sundays but Saturdays available and a little spare midweek. Number of wickets is low
NDBA.07		NTW		10	10	20	60	+40	POTENTIAL	NTW gives added capacity. Potential for additional play.

Site	Pitch Type	No. of Wickets	Estimated Use (Matches or Match Equivalents)				Total	Theoretical capacity for wickets	Comparison: Theoretical – Estimated Use (match equivalents)	Assessment	Notes
			Estimated number of Matches played per Season - adult	Estimated number of Matches played per Season - junior	Estimated Training Allowance (match equivalents)						
NDBA.08	North Devon Cricket Club	Grass 19	58	35		92	95	+3	SUSTAINABLE	Busy, well used ground approaching capacity.	
NDBA.12	Pilton Community College	NTW only									
NDBA.13	Rock Park	NTW only									
NDBA.17	Park Community School Barnstaple	NTW only									
NDBA.18	West Buckland School	2 grass x 12					2 x 60		POTENTIAL	Difficult to assess as no club use but used for county representative matches and district level trials/matches	
NDBA.19	Westleigh Cricket Club	9	60			60	45	-15	OVERUSED	Ground appears to be overused if being used 2-3 nights a week and only 9 wickets.	
NDBR.02	Braunton Cricket Club	19	44	15		59	95	+36	POTENTIAL	Spare capacity midweek and on Sundays. Well used ground but because of high number	

Site	Pitch Type	No. of Wickets	Estimated Use (Matches or Match Equivalents)				Theoretical capacity for wickets	Comparison: Theoretical – Estimated Use (match equivalents)	Assessment	Notes
			Estimated number of Matches played per Season - adult	Estimated number of Matches played per Season - junior	Estimated Training Allowance (match equivalents)	Total				
										of wickets, still spare capacity
NDBR.08	RMB Chivenor	NTW								No community use
NDIL.04	Brimlands (Ilfracombe Rugby Club)	NTW	27				60	+33	POTENTIAL	1st year of league play for adult team. NTW; considerable spare capacity on Saturdays, Sundays and midweek.
NDSM.01	Chittlehampton Cricket Club	8	5			5	40	+35	POTENTIAL	Rural cricket ground sustaining friendly team only playing occasionally. Considerable spare capacity
NDSM.03	Chulmleigh Cricket Club	Grass 5	15	5		20	25	+5	POTENTIAL	Spare capacity on grass at w/ends and during week
		NTW		10	10	20	60	+40	POTENTIAL	Some junior and Colts friendlies played on NTW. Spare capacity at w/ends and during

Site	Pitch Type	No. of Wickets	Estimated Use (Matches or Match Equivalents)				Total	Theoretical capacity for wickets	Comparison: Theoretical – Estimated Use (match equivalents)	Assessment	Notes
			Estimated number of Matches played per Season - adult	Estimated number of Matches played per Season - junior	Estimated Training Allowance (match equivalents)						
										week.	
NDSM.06	Filleigh Cricket Club	Grass 10	35	10		45	50	+5	POTENTIAL	A little spare capacity midweek but not w/ends	
		NTW	10	10	10	30	60	+30	POTENTIAL	Both seniors and juniors have used NTW for matches and training, which increases capacity. Spare capacity midweek but not w/ends	
NDSM.07	North Molton Sports & Community Centre	10	20	5		25	50	+25	POTENTIAL	Considerable spare capacity at weekends and during the week on good quality ground.	
NDSM.08	South Molton Community College	NTW								Redundant	

**Table 4.14: – Site Specific Usage and Capacity: Cricket pitches in Torridge**

Site	Pitch Type	No. of Wickets	Estimated Use (Matches or Match Equivalents)				Total	Theoretical capacity for wickets	Comparison: Theoretical – Estimated Use (match equivalents)	Assessment	Notes
			Estimated number of Matches played per Season - adult	Estimated number of Matches played per Season - junior	Estimated Training Allowance (match equivalents)						
TOBI.03	<b>Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho Cricket Club</b>	15	65	=		65	75	+10	SUSTAINABLE	Pitch has some spare capacity midweek but none at weekends. However, poor condition of ancillary facilities would suggest ground effectively at capacity.	
TOBI.10	<b>King George V Playing Fields Bideford</b>	10 + NTW	10			10	50	+40	POTENTIAL	NTW requires replacement.. Considerable spare capacity at ground.	
TOGT.01	<b>Beaford Cricket Club</b>	5	14			14	25	+9	POTENTIAL	Good rated pitch although small number of wickets but still spare capacity as only really one team playing.	

Site	Pitch Type	No. of Wickets	Estimated Use (Matches or Match Equivalents)				Total	Theoretical capacity for wickets	Comparison: Theoretical – Estimated Use (match equivalents)	Assessment	Notes
			Estimated number of Matches played per Season - adult	Estimated number of Matches played per Season - junior	Estimated Training Allowance (match equivalents)						
TOGT.05	Great Torrington School	NTW									Not used
TOGT.06	High Bickington Playing Fields	2	5			5	10	+5	POTENTIAL		Pitch could sustain 10 matches, used for friendlies only, about 5 per season. Spare capacity weekends and during the week.
TOGT.07	Petrockstowe Cricket Club	7	14			14	35	+11	POTENTIAL		Spare capacity at ground at weekends and midweek.
TOGT.08	St Giles in the Wood	5	10		5	15	25	+10	POTENTIAL		Considerable spare capacity at ground at weekends and midweek.
TOHO.05	Holsworthy Community College	NTW									Badly ripped, redundant
TOHO.06	Shebbear College	7	10						SUSTAINABLE		Education use not known but spare capacity probably limited
TOHO.09	Stanhope Park, Holsworthy	11	25			25	55	+30	POTENTIAL		Relatively high number of wickets and spare capacity at weekends and during the week.

**Commentary on Capacity**

4.29 Summary of capacity as follows:

**Table 4.14 Summary of capacity by sub area: North Devon**

Area/Rating of ground	Number of grounds	Number of wickets	Match equivalent capacity	Match equivalent played	Assessment of capacity across Sub Area
<b>Barnstaple Sub Area</b> Barnstaple & Pilton CC Bratton Fleming Sports Club Newton Tracey CC North Devon CC Westleigh CC	4	51	255	266	Overuse across sub area; 3 out of 5 grounds approaching capacity
<b>Braunton Sub Area</b> Braunton CC	1	19	95	59	1 ground well used but high number of wickets means spare capacity
<b>Ilfracombe Sub Area</b> Brimlands (Ilfracombe CC)	Artificial wicket only				Spare capacity
<b>South Molton Sub Area</b> Chittlehampton CC Chulmleigh CC Filleigh CC North Molton CC	4	33	165	115	Spare capacity at peak time at all 4 sites, other than Filleigh CC (but not at peak time)

4.30 Key Points are:

- In the Barnstaple Sub Area, there are 51 wickets in total, capable of accommodating 255 match equivalent sessions and 266 are being played. Three out of the five grounds (Barnstaple & Pilton CC, North Devon CC and Westleigh CC) are operating at the level the site can sustain. At B&P CC however the NTW gives added capacity for midweek and junior play. Bratton Fleming CC’s ground has plenty of spare capacity and Newton Tracey CC is available on Saturdays and midweek.
- There is one cricket ground in Braunton; this is well used ground but because of high number of wickets, still spare capacity midweek and on Sundays.
- In the Ilfracombe Sub Area, the only accessible ground is the non turf wicket at Brimlands which is just sustaining one team at present and has considerable spare capacity
- For the four rural clubs in the South Molton area there are just 33 wickets with a capacity of 165 match equivalents (plus NTW at Filleigh and Chulmleigh CCs) and 115 matches are being played. There is spare capacity at peak time at all 4 sites, other than Filleigh CC (but not at peak time)



**Table 4.15 Summary of capacity by sub area: Torridge**

Area/Rating of ground	Number of grounds	Number of wickets	Match equivalent capacity	Match equivalent played	Assessment of capacity across Sub Area
<b>Bideford Sub Area</b> Bideford, Littleham & Westward Ho! CC; King George V, Bideford – Victoria CC	2	25	125	75	Very low use at KGV; BLWH CC effectively at capacity
<b>Torrington Sub Area</b> Beaford CC High Bickington Playing Fields Petrockstowe CC St Giles in the Wood CC	4	19	95	48	All grounds have spare capacity
<b>Holsworthy Sub Area</b> Stanhope Park	1	11	55	30	Spare capacity

4.31 Key Points are:

- In the Bideford Sub Area; Bideford, Littleham & Westward Ho! Is fielding 65 matches off 15 wickets (technical capacity of 75) and is effectively at capacity given poor condition of ancillary facilities. The KGV NTW at King George V Playing Fields in Bideford requires replacement; this ground has considerable spare capacity with 10 matches being played off 10 wickets (50 match capacity).
- The 4 grounds in the Torrington Sub Area have just 19 wickets between them, with a total capacity of 95 matches; 48 are being played. These are all quiet rural pitches with low numbers of wickets and sustaining one team each with low number of games. All have considerable spare capacity.
- The one ground in the Holsworthy Sub Area at Stanhope Park – has a relatively high number of wickets (11) and 30 matches played, so considerable spare capacity.

**Other Factors to take into account in a consideration of capacity**

4.32 There are some other factors to take into account in considering the capacity of cricket ground. In particular, the availability of non turf practice nets and mobile net cages have an important impact in taking usage of the grass squares themselves.

4.33 3 clubs (Holsworthy CC, Ilfracombe CC and Westleigh CC) mentioned that they had experienced difficulties in obtaining suitable facilities for training. Both Ilfracombe and Westleigh stated there were limited training facilities available in their local area and Holsworthy CC mentioned their desire to have permanent nets and possibly a non turf wicket as part of the pavilion refurbishment.

4.34 The relationship between grass and non-turf facilities also has a bearing. For adult matches non-turf wickets are not desirable and their use is restricted to a very minor

level (casual matches etc.). The ECB and junior leagues look to encouraging youth play onto turf wickets at around 13 years or so. The NTWs at grounds in North Devon and Torridge – at Barnstaple & Pilton, North Devon, Filleigh and Chulmleigh CCs- for example - do add to the grounds’ capacity. The KGV NTW at King George V Playing Fields in Bideford needs replacing.

4.35 The study did not find any issues with changing facilities which impacted on site capacity for cricket.

## FUTURE PICTURE OF PROVISION

4.36 The future requirement for cricket pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;

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

4.37 The main impact from the changing population on the pitch sports is a growth in the minis and junior age ranges; minimal change in the 20-34 but some growth in the 35-45 year age ranges, and a larger drop off in the younger element of the vets pitch sport age range (46-54 years). Tables 4.17 and 4.18 present the potential impact on the number of cricket teams from projected population increases based on housing growth. It uses Team Generation Rates derived from the existing population and number of teams.

**Table 4.16 Team Generation Rates for Cricket**

	North Devon	Torridge
Senior cricket (18-55 male)	524	1048
Senior cricket (18-55 female)	n/a	n/a
Junior cricket (7-17 male)	205	565
Junior cricket (7-17 female)	n/a	n/a

**Table 4.17: New teams for cricket arising from housing growth in North Devon by Sub Area: 2016 – 2031**

2016 AGE GROUPS	2016 TEAMS	BARNSTAPLE NEW TEAMS	BRAUNTON NEW TEAMS	ILFRACOMBE NEW TEAMS	SOUTH MOLTON NEW TEAMS	EXTRA TEAMS YIELDED BY NEW POPULATION
Senior cricket (18-55 male)	39.0	3.7	0.3	1.2	1.5	7.0
Senior cricket (18-55 female)	2.0	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
Junior cricket (7-17 male)	28.0	2.7	0.2	0.9	1.1	5.1
Junior cricket (7-17 female)						
<b>NORTH DEVON CRICKET TOTAL</b>	<b>69.0</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>2.1</b>	<b>2.7</b>	<b>12.5</b>

**Table 4.18: New teams cricket arising from housing growth in Torridge by Sub Area: 2016 – 2031**

2016 AGE GROUPS	2016 TEAMS	BIDEFORD NEW TEAMS	GREAT TORRINGTON NEW TEAMS	HOLSWORTHY NEW TEAMS	EXTRA TEAMS YIELDED BY NEW POPULATION
Senior cricket (18-55 male)	13.0	2.4	0.4	0.3	3.0
Senior cricket (18-55 female)					
Junior cricket (7-17 male)	7	1.3	0.2	0.1	1.6
Junior cricket (7-17 female)					
<b>TORRIDGE CRICKET TOTAL</b>	<b>20.0</b>	<b>3.7</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>4.7</b>

**B Changes in participation trends and how the sport is played**

4.38 Changes in participation may perhaps have the most significant impact upon future demand for cricket pitches. Several clubs will be anticipating growth in junior cricket due to the emerging ‘All Stars’ programme for 5-8 year olds; in contrast, adult participation has been much more mixed.

4.39 Devon Cricket Board are focusing upon a strategy of retaining existing players and supporting increased participation where opportunities arise. They are seeking to address many of the issues currently facing cricket, including the ageing volunteer base and to support clubs to become more sustainable.

4.40 In recognition of changing lifestyle patterns and the challenges of 50 over cricket, the England Cricket Board have introduced alternative forms of the game, including T20. There is at

present a limited amount of T20 in North Devon and Torridge - mainly midweek - and this may grow in the future.

4.41 The ECB therefore currently has an overall focus on player retention and is not anticipating significant growth in club based cricket, instead highlighting potential to grow more informal formats of the game. Providing training for coaching and encouraging parents to become involved and providing equipment for youth participation e.g. larger bats and balls for younger children. This may result in the growth of more casual play and midweek leagues which may put additional pressure on some grounds within the district.

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

4.42 One of the characteristics of TGRs is that if there are no teams or a very low number of teams currently playing (so that the number required to generate one team is very high) increases in population in the relevant age playing range may not 'trigger' an extra team. With reference to female cricket, it seems likely that more women's cricket teams will develop in the future.

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

4.43 The Sport England Market Segmentation data presented earlier in this Section can also be used to estimate the proportion of the population that participate in cricket and the number of people that would like to play (or play more). Figures presented earlier suggest that there may be the potential to increase adult cricket participation in Torridge and North Devon by around 57%,(this seems very high!) with an estimated 372 residents in North Devon and 261 residents in Torridge indicating that they would like to play (or play more) cricket.

4.44 Given current TGRs, this would not result in any additional teams but may result in larger squad sizes or existing players playing more e.g. for midweek teams as well as for a Saturday league and/or a Sunday friendly side or taking up T20 or more informal formats.

4.45 Any displaced teams also need to be included but there is no evidence of any cricket teams travelling outside their home district to play their home matches. Cricket players are generally willing to travel quite far to matches.

### **D Local trends In participation and club specific development plans and aspirations**

4.46 Trends amongst cricket clubs in North Devon and Torridge suggest that demand for adult play is steady at best, however, there is an overall increase in the number of junior teams.

4.47 6 clubs out of 13 responding in the questionnaire survey said they would like to run more teams. This can provide an indication of latent demand:

- 3 more adult men's teams: Braunton CC (ND), Victoria Park CC (TO) and St Giles CC (TO)
- 2 more adult women's: Bideford Littleham And Westward Ho! CC (TO) and Holsworthy CC (HO)
- 4 more junior boys' teams: North Molton Sports CC (ND), Victoria Park CC (TO), St Giles CC (TO) and Holsworthy CC (HO)
- 2 more junior girls' teams: Bideford Littleham and Westward Ho! CC (TO), and Holsworthy CC (HO)
- Filleigh CC (ND) mentioned they would like to start a vets team.

4.48 As with football, these aspirations are considered conservatively; some of them are dependent upon access to more/better pitches and changing facilities, but others will depend on the availability of support personnel especially coaches. Some of them can be considered as thwarted or unmet demand in that the teams would run if there were pitches available; in practice this is difficult to disaggregate from future aspirations.

### Future demand

4.49 The total number of new cricket teams predicted to be generated through population growth, trends in participation, latent/unmet/displaced demand and aspirations in North Devon and Torridge is shown below:

**Table 4.19: Total number of new cricket teams projected to be generated in North Devon 2016 - 2031**

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth teams
Population growth through new housing	7	0.4	5.1
Trends in participation			+2
Latent/unmet/displaced demand	+1		
Aspirations	+1		+1
<b>TOTAL Number of new teams</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>0.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>

**Table 4.20: Total number of new teams projected to be generated in Torridge 2016 - 2031**

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth teams
Population growth through new housing	3		1.6
Trends in participation			+1
Latent/unmet/displaced demand	+1		
Aspirations	+1	+1	+3
<b>TOTAL Number of new teams (rounded)</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.6</b>

4.50 Match equivalent sessions for cricket will depend on the type of team and whether they play on Saturdays, Sundays and/or midweek and recognizing that adult and junior cricket is played on the same pitch. However, the above numbers of new teams would suggest the need for 1 new cricket pitch in each of the Barnstaple and Bideford Sub Areas (the latter to relocate and to enhance facilities for Bideford, Littleham and Westward Ho! CC in the first instance).



## 5 RUGBY IN NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE

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5.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for rugby in North Devon and Torridge by presenting the following

- An overview of pitch supply
- An overview of demand for rugby
- The pattern of play of rugby
- A review of the capacity and adequacy of current provision, including an understanding of activity at individual sites
- The future picture of provision for rugby across the district

### OVERVIEW OF PITCH SUPPLY

#### Quantity and quality ratings

5.2 The rugby pitches in North Devon and Torridge are set out in Tables 5.1, together with their quality ratings. The letters in the 'Community Use' column signify the following, as set out in Sport England's latest Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013.

- A Available for community use and used
- B Available for community use and unused
- C Not available for community use, as matter of policy and practice
- D Not available as disused. Any sites where pitches were once, but are no longer, marked out and remain undeveloped.

5.3 The score given to the overall pitch quality is based upon Sport England's playing pitch strategy guidance. There are two scores recorded on the assessment form: one is for pitch maintenance (frequency of aeration and surface dressing) and the other is for the type of drainage a particular pitch has (natural, pipe drained, pipe and slit drained, unknown). Also noted but not scored on the assessment forms are qualitative and ancillary information (length and coverage of grass, size of pitch, problem areas, condition and safety of goal posts, and availability of changing, floodlighting and car parking)

5.4 The maintenance (M) scores of the pitches are either M0 (poor) where it is indicated that required 'action is significant improvements to maintenance programme', M1 (adequate) where required 'action is minor improvements to maintenance programme' or M2 (good maintenance). The scores increase to reflect the frequency of the maintenance regime, with the maximum possible score of 15. Drainage (D) ratings are recorded as D0 (natural inadequate) where required 'action is pipe drainage system needed on pitch', D1 (natural adequate) where required 'action is pipe and slit drainage needed on pitch' or D2 (pipe drained) where required 'action is slit drainage needed on pitch'. D3 is a pipe and slit drained pitch, where no action is needed

**Table 5.1: Rugby pitches in North Devon and Torridge with quality ratings and ratings by clubs**

**Table 5.1A: Rugby pitches in North Devon with quality ratings and ratings by clubs**

Site Ref	Managed	Name	Senior rugby	Community Use	Rating D/M	Club rating/comments
NDBA.02	Sports Club	Barnstaple RFC	2	A	D1/M1	Dimensions of pitches on site: 100x67 and 90x60 (both senior), 85x55 (two pitches – junior), 25x10 (three pitches – minis) and training area 60x45. Club has groundsman for maintenance. Club state: “Dog fouling is a health and safety problem. Whilst level of maintenance is good, lack of funds stop development of main pitch becoming good.” (not qualified further)
			1 large J + Training pitch	A	D1/M1	All pitches rated
			3M	A	D1/M1	All pitches rated
NDIL.03	Sports Club	Ilfracombe RFC	1	A	D1/M1	Open site and, as a consequence, dog fouling and litter are problems. Poor drainage. Club recently taken on lease of site to include maintenance. Proving to be costly, time consuming but essential. Previous adjacent football pitch can now be coned and used for juniors and training.
NDSM.10	Sports Club	South Molton RFC - Pathfields	1	A	D1/M1	Well presented pitch. Drainage is an issue. Pitch maintenance costs are not able to be met. The maintenance therefore falls short. Investment in improved pitch surfaces required.
	Sports Club	South Molton RFC – Station Road	1	A	D0/M1	Lower lying pitch with clay based soil on flood plain. There is a big drainage issue.



Site Ref	Managed	Name	Senior rugby	Community Use	Rating D/M	Club rating/comments
NDBR.01	Academy	Braunton Academy	2		D0/M1	Pitches change with season to football (Tweedies). No recorded community use.
NDSM.05	College	Chulmleigh Community College	2		D0/M1	Pitches in separate locations. No recorded community use.
NDBR.08	MOD	RMB Chivenor	1		D1/M1	Posts in place although no pitch markings at time of visit. No recorded community use.
NDBA.12	College	Pilton Community College	1		D0/M1	No recorded community use.
NDSM.08	College	South Molton Community College	1	A	D0/M1	Used by South Molton RFC juniors and minis
NDBA.17	College	Park Community School	1		D0/M1	No recorded community use.
NDBA.18	Private School	West Buckland School	5		N/K	No recorded community use.

**Table 5.1B: Rugby pitches in North Devon and Torridge with quality ratings and ratings by clubs**

Site Ref	Managed	Name	Senior rugby	Community Use	Rating D/M	Club rating/comments
TOBI.04	Sports Club	Bideford RFC	1	A	D2/M2	Very well used pitch, which was an RFU Capital Investment Project in 2014 for drainage improvements.
TOBI.10	Sports Club	King George V Playing Fields	1	A	D1/M1	Club would like long lease on this pitch so it could assume full responsibility for maintenance. Council maintains this pitch with some assistance from the club. Open park and vulnerable to dog fouling.
TOGT.10	Sports Club	Torrington RFC - Donnacroft	1	A	D1/M1	Roped off pitch nearest changing, rated standard by PQA but poor by club. Dog fouling and pitch gradient are both issues.
TOGT.10	Sports Club	Torrington RFC - Hatchmoor	1	A	D0/M1	Pitch across the road from changing. Club maintains both pitches but have limited resources available to do so.
TOBI.02	College	Bideford College	2		D0/M1	No recorded community use.
TOGT.05	College	Holsworthy Community College	1		D0/M1	No recorded community use.
TOHO.06	Private school	Shebbear College			N/K	Numerous grass pitches with no recorded community use.

### Commentary

5.5 There are 3 rugby clubs in North Devon and, as is common with rugby clubs throughout the country, they often use more than one site in order to obtain the number of pitches they require.

- Barnstaple RFC have 2 adult, 1 full size junior, a floodlit training pitch and 3 mini pitches and training area at their Pottington Road site. The club say that overuse and standard of floodlighting prevent expansion of playing/training activities
- South Molton RFC have 2 adult pitches on private land which they lease and also use a rugby pitch at South Molton Community College. In the past they have used an additional pitch on farmer's land elsewhere
- Ilfracombe RFC uses one pitch at Brimlands, Ilfracombe and uses the adjacent football pitch, coned, for junior play

5.6 There are 2 rugby clubs in Torridge:

- Bideford RFC uses 2 pitches – one a stadium pitch at King George V Playing Fields and another pitch adjacent in the playing fields
- Torrington RFC uses two pitches on opposite sides of the road – Donnacraft (adjacent to football pitches) and Hatchmoor (which is gated)

5.7 There are several rugby pitches at schools in North Devon and Torridge, but only the one pitch at South Molton Community College is accessible for community use (and is used by the local club)

5.8 The most highly rated pitch is Bideford RFC's main ground (D2/M2 under the RFU's classification). All other pitches used by clubs are rated as D1/M1, apart from the Station Road pitch, South Molton (D0/M1). All school pitches are D0/M1, including the pitch at South Molton Community College.

5.9 The main issues with regard to the quality of the pitches fall into 4 categories:

- Drainage of pitches: .
  - Barnstaple RFC Club say that drainage is an issue. Pitch maintenance costs are not able to be met and therefore maintenance falls short. Investment in improved pitch surfaces required.
  - South Molton: pitches are low lying, clay based soils and drainage is an issue, particularly at the Station Road pitch
  - Ilfracombe: poor drainage
- Floodlighting of training areas/pitches:
  - Barnstaple RFC – poor levels restrict play and training
  - South Molton RFC: no floodlit pitches and would like floodlit training facilities
  - Bideford – lack of lights on KGV pitch; would like separate floodlit AGP surface on Bideford Cattle Market site
- Changing facilities:

- Barnstaple RFC – facilities are inadequate if several teams playing at home.
- Maintenance:
  - Barnstaple RFC have a groundsman team who maintain the pitches and they attend maintenance courses run by the RFU The club has access to aeration equipment from a local golf club
  - Bideford RFC – A very proactive club in terms of pitch maintenance, thanks to a strong volunteer team. Bideford RFC club would like long lease on the KGV pitch so could assume full responsibility for maintenance (currently maintained by Council with some assistance from club).
  - South Molton RFC – cost of maintenance is an issue
  - Torrington RFC maintain both their pitches but have limited resources to do this.
  - Ilfracombe Club recently taken on lease of site to include maintenance. Proving to be costly, time consuming but essential.
- Public open space sites where the public has access – problems with dog fouling, notably at:
  - Torrington (Donnacraft pitch)
  - Barnstaple RFC pitches at Mill Road
  - King George V Playing Fields: Bideford RFC's second pitch
  - Brimlands - Ilfracombe RFC

## OVERVIEW OF DEMAND

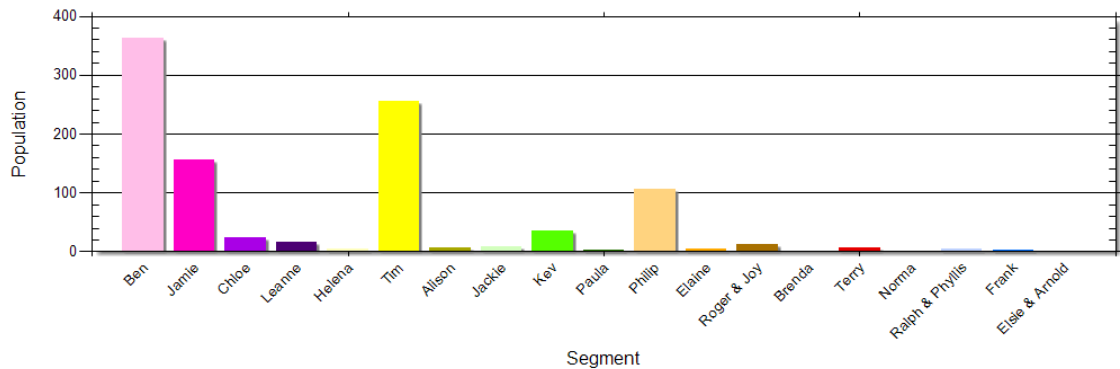
### Active People and Market Segmentation (Sport England)


#### Demand and Latent Demand for Rugby Union

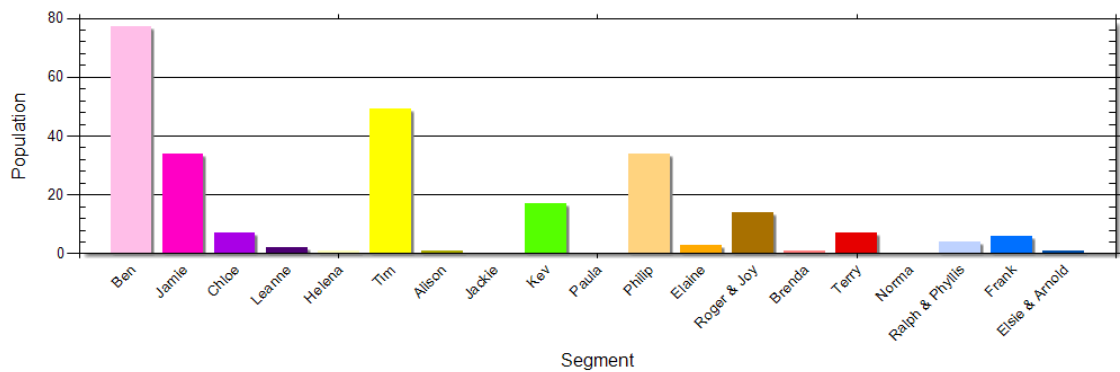
5.11 For North Devon, from the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data the charts below show:

- the numbers of the adult population within each market segment group that **currently participate** in rugby (1,008)
- the numbers of the adult population within each market segment group that **are wanting to participate** in rugby (258)

Population within catchment area participating in: Rugby Union 



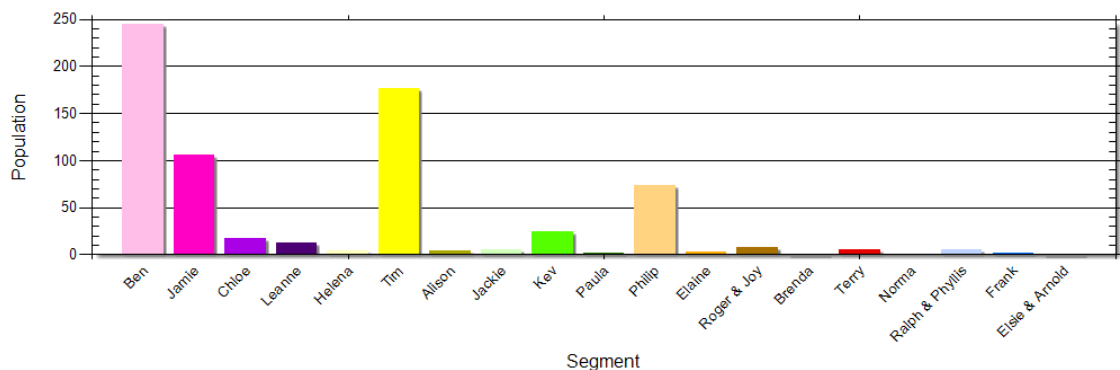
Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Rugby Union 



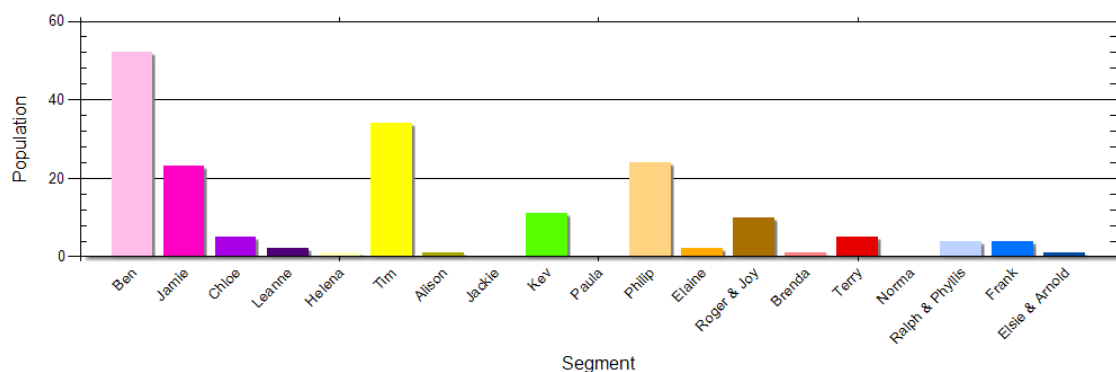
5.12 For Torrridge, from the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data the charts below show:

- the numbers of the adult population within each market segment group that **currently participate** in rugby (695)
- the numbers of the adult population within each market segment group that **are wanting to participate** in rugby (180)

Population within catchment area participating in: Rugby Union 



Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Rugby Union



5.13 The key participants in rugby in North Devon and Torridge come from those market segments groups that are most likely to play rugby 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 rugby, the main market segmentation groups in both authorities are:

- **Ben:** competitive male urbanite, mainly aged 18-25, single, graduate professional.
- **Tim:** settling down male, mainly aged 26-45, married or single, professional
- **Jamie:** sports team lad, mainly aged 18-25, single, vocational student.
- **Philip:** comfortable mid-life male, mainly aged 46-55, married with children, full time employment and owner occupier.

5.14 Table 5.2 following sets out the clubs and the teams that they run:

**Table 5.2 Rugby Clubs and Teams playing in North Devon and Torridge**

**Table 5.2A Rugby Clubs and Teams playing in North Devon**

Sub Area	Club	Adult			Youth						Mini/Midi Teams						TOTAL
		Adult MenTOTAL	Ladies TOTAL	Vets	Girls	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	U10	U9	U8	U7	
BA	Barnstaple RFC	3			1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	15
IL	Ilfracombe RFC	2								1	1	1	1	1	1	1	9
SM	South Molton RFC	2		1		1	1	1	1		1	1	1	1	1	1	13
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>7</b>		<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>37</b>

**Table 5.2B Rugby Clubs and Teams playing in Torridge**

Sub Area	Club	Adult			Youth						Mini/Midi Teams						TOTAL
		Adult MenTOTAL	Ladies TOTAL	Vets	Girls	U17	U16	U15	U14	U13	U12	U11	U10	U9	U8	U7	
BI	Bideford RFC	3	1		3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	18
GT	Torrington RFC	2		1						1							4
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>22</b>

## Commentary

5.16 In total 37 teams are recorded in North Devon (8 senior, 11 youth and 18 mini teams) and 22 in Torridge (7 adult, 9 youth and 6 mini teams). In order of size the clubs are as follows: Bideford RFC – 18 teams; Barnstaple RFC – 15 teams; South Molton – 13 teams; Ilfracombe – 9 teams, and Torrington – 4 teams (2 adults, 1 Vets and 1 x u13). All clubs run juniors. Barnstaple and Bideford RFCs run girls teams and Bideford RFC runs a Ladies team.

## PATTERN OF PLAY

### Matchplay and training

5.17 Senior men's rugby is played on Saturday afternoons. In North Devon and Torridge, youth, midis and mini predominantly play on Sunday mornings; Ladies play on Sunday afternoon.

5.18 Most clubs train either on their competition pitches or on training pitches/areas alongside. This is an important factor when considering the capacity of the pitches. Bideford RFC often train at Bideford College.

## CAPACITY

### Assessing the Supply and Demand Information and Views

5.19 For rugby, supply and demand is measured by considering;

- the amount of play that a site is able to sustain (based upon pitch quality and the facilities and pitches available);
- how much play takes place;
- whether there is any spare capacity at the site based upon a comparison between the capacity of the site and the actual usage; and
- any other key issues relating to the site which have arisen through provider and user consultation.

5.20 Both the supply of pitches and the demand for pitches is measured through the use of match equivalents to ensure that a comparison is possible. To fully understand activity on a site, consideration is given to both;

- the adequacy of pitch provision over the course of a week; and
- capacity of a site to meet additional demand at peak time.

5.21 For rugby, this analysis is based upon the following principles;

#### *Capacity over the course of a week*

- it is assumed that a team playing home fixtures every other week would generate the equivalent of 0.5 match equivalents per week (one fixture every other week). Match equivalent values are also used to measure the use of pitches for training, as well as the impact of use by educational establishments and casual access. 90 minutes of training is 1 match equivalent.
- the RFU sets a standard number of match equivalent sessions that natural grass pitches should be able to sustain without adversely affecting their current quality



(pitch carrying capacity). This is based upon the drainage system installed at the site and the maintenance programme used to prepare the pitches.

5.22 The guideline theoretical capacity for rugby pitches is summarised in Table 5.4

**Table 5.3: Theoretical Pitch Capacity Ratings (RFU)**

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

### Matchplay

5.23 The following team types and age groups have been identified. In particular, a detailed analysis of patterns of play for Barnstaple RFC and Bideford RFC are contained within the Site Summaries.

- Senior teams (19 to 45 yrs)
- Youth teams (U13 to 17yrs),
- Colts teams (U18 to U19yrs) and
- Mini/Midi teams (U7 to 12)

5.24 As youth rugby is played on a senior pitch it is categorised, for capacity assessment purposes, as equivalent to a senior match.

5.25 If a mini/midi team plays on half a senior pitch every week for half the time of a senior match then it may be appropriate to record the use as a quarter (0.25) of a senior match equivalent session a week against the senior pitches on a site. This would enable the demand to be captured against the senior pitches on a site where the play takes place while reflecting the limited impact on the quality and capacity of the pitches compared to the senior play. Usually if minis are at home one week, juniors will play away and vice versa.

### Training

5.26 Rugby union has a strong culture of training on floodlit natural grass pitches on weekday evenings; these pitches are also used for matches at weekends. As a guide:

- 2 teams training on one pitch on one evening = one match equivalent session.
- A typical floodlit pitch may be used on 3 evenings per week for training. The number of training sessions per week per pitch should be established.

5.27 Table 5.4 below sets out the capacity analysis for rugby

**Table 5.4: Rugby pitches in North Devon: Assessment of capacity**

Site	Pitches	Pitch Quality Rating	Theoretical Carrying Capacity	Match equivalent Current Community Use	Difference	Peak time spare capacity	Key Issues and Views
<b>NDBA.02 Barnstaple RFC Pitch 1</b>	1 adult	D1/M1	2 games per week	3	-1	Sat pm - 0	Pitch played on by minimum of 2 adult teams and 2 Colts - Saturday pm and Sunday morning. No peak time spare capacity. Pitches also used by schools, college, Devon RFU, sevens, tag rugby. Capacity of ground may be limited by changing or at least more changing required to meet requirements satisfactorily. Overplayed
<b>NDBA.02 Barnstaple RFC Pitch 2</b>	1 adult	D1/M1	2 games per week	2.5	-0.5	Sat pm - 0	Home pitch for 2 adult Saturday teams, 2 Sunday morning junior teams and 1 Sunday pm junior team. No peak time spare capacity. Overplayed
<b>NDBA.02 Barnstaple RFC Pitch 3</b>	1 large jnr	D1/M1	2 games per week	4.5	-2.5	Sun am - 0	Training every night – equivalent of 3 matches per week, plus overmarked for mini play when minis at home and used by juniors on alternate weeks. No spare capacity. Overplayed.
<b>NDBA.02 Barnstaple RFC</b>	Training Pitch	D1/M1	2 games per week	5	-3		Trained on every night of the week, equivalent to 5 matches
<b>NDBA.02 Barnstaple RFC</b>	3 mini	D1/M1	6 games per week	6	0	None	Minis use whole of Bridge Field, overmarking Pitch 3 and training area when at home. May be some spare capacity for juniors when juniors at home (juniors alternate with minis)

Site	Pitches	Pitch Quality Rating	Theoretical Carrying Capacity	Match equivalent Current Community Use	Difference	Peak time spare capacity	Key Issues and Views
<b>NDIL.03: Brimlands (Ilfracombe RFC)</b>	1 adult	D1/M1	2 games per week	1.75	+0.25	Sat pm - 0	One pitch hosts 2 adult and 2 youth teams as appears that younger age groups used coned area on adjacent football pitch area. Teams also train on the main pitch which means that the pitch is almost at capacity, although there is probably a little spare capacity on the pitch for additional junior/senior play outside of peak time.
<b>NDSM.10 South Molton RFC</b>	2 adult	D1/M1 (Pathfields) D0/M1 (Station Road)	3.5 games per week	4	-0.5	Sat pm - 0	Club do not have enough capacity particularly as poor pitch at Station Road. Make use of several sites, including school below. Any spare capacity is in practice taken up by other youth sides. New pitch development project ongoing.
<b>NDSM.08 South Molton Community College</b>	1 adult	D0/M1	1.5 games per week	2.5	-1	0	Any junior and mini play which cannot be accommodated on the adult pitches is played on the grass pitch here and on the AGP. Pitch also used for training. No spare capacity.

**Table 5.5: Rugby pitches in Torrridge: Assessment of capacity**

Site	Pitches	Pitch Quality Rating	Theoretical Carrying Capacity	Match equivalent Current Community Use	Difference	Peak time spare capacity	Key Issues and Views
<b>TOBI.04: Bideford RFC stadium pitch</b>	1	D2/M2	3.25 games per week	4.75	-1.50	0	There are 6 adult, 6 youth and 5 mini using 2 pitches with a total capacity of 5.25 matches per week. Senior matches are played whenever possible on the stadium pitch; youth and mini matches on the KGV pitch but this can vary Looking at club schedules number of matches per weekend vary from 13 to around 6 or 7 matches. Training also takes place on both pitches. It is apparent that both pitches are being used beyond reasonable capacity.
<b>TOBI.10: King George V Playing Fields</b>	1	D1/M1	2 games per week	3.75	-1.75	0	
<b>TOGT.10: Torrington RFC – Donnacroft</b>	1	D1/M1	2 games per week	3.5	2	1	2 pitches between them cater for 2 adult, an intermittent Vets team and an emerging u13 side, plus some training. The pitches have capacity for 3.5 games per week. There is spare capacity for more adult, youth and mini/midi teams
<b>TOGT.10: Torrington RFC – Hatchmoor</b>	1	D0/M1	1.5 games per week				

### *Assessment of Capacity*

5.28 Taking into account the above, club questionnaire returns and analysis of capacity in Table 5.4 and 5.5. above, the following is concluded:

- Barnstaple RFC's pitches, according to the PPS methodology, are all being overplayed, catering for training and matchplay. There may be some spare capacity for junior and mini play, depending on age ranges, but generally the site is at capacity.
- Ilfracombe RFC has no spare capacity for adult play but a little for junior and mini play
- South Molton RFC has insufficient capacity at its 2 adult pitches and use of school pitch; the pitches are slightly overplayed. The club would like hub for junior rugby with suitable artificial surface.
- Bideford RFC's two pitches are sustaining adult, 6 youth and 5 mini teams and are both being overplayed and being used beyond reasonable capacity. This assessment is corroborated by the RFU
- Torrington RFC's 2 pitches have spare capacity for more adult, youth and mini play.

## **FUTURE PICTURE OF PROVISION**

5.29 The future requirement for rugby pitches will be impacted by several factors, including;

- A Changes to the number of people living in the area and/or to the demographic profile of the population;
- B Changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- C Consideration of latent, unmet and displaced demand
- D 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 Future demand**

5.30 The main impact from the changing population on the pitch sports is a growth in the minis and junior age ranges; minimal change in the 20-34 but some growth in the 35-45 year age ranges, and a larger drop off in the younger element of the vets pitch sport age range (46-54 years). Tables 5.7 and 5.8 presents the potential impact on the number of rugby teams from projected population increases based on housing growth. It uses Team Generation Rates derived from the existing population and number of teams.

**Table 5.6 Team Generation Rates for Rugby**

	North Devon	Torrige
Senior rugby (19-45 male)	1652	1414
Senior rugby (19-45 female)	n/a	8773
Junior rugby (13-18 male)	456	351
Junior rugby (13-18 female)	2856	665

**Table 5.7: New teams for rugby arising from housing growth in North Devon by Sub Area: 2016 – 2031**

2016 AGE GROUPS	2016 TEAMS	BARNSTAPLE NEW TEAMS	BRAUNTON NEW TEAMS	ILFRACOMBE NEW TEAMS	SOUTH MOLTON NEW TEAMS	EXTRA TEAMS YIELDED BY NEW POPULATION
Senior rugby (19-45 male)	8	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4
Senior rugby (19-45 female)	0					
Junior rugby (13-18 male)	8	0.8	0.1	0.2	0.3	1.4
Junior rugby (13-18 female)	1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Mini-rugby (7-12 mixed gender)	20	1.9	0.2	0.6	0.8	3.6
<b>NORTH DEVON RUGBY TOTAL</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>3.5</b>	<b>0.3</b>	<b>1.1</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>6.7</b>

**Table 5.8: New teams for rugby arising from housing growth in Torrridge by Sub Area: 2016 – 2031**

<b>2016 AGE GROUPS</b>	<b>2016 TEAMS</b>	<b>BIDEFORD NEW TEAMS</b>	<b>GREAT TORRINGTON NEW TEAMS</b>	<b>HOLSWORTHY NEW TEAMS</b>	<b>EXTRA TEAMS YIELDED BY NEW POPULATION</b>
Senior rugby (19-45 male)	6	1.1	0.2	0.1	1.4
Senior rugby (19-45 female)	10	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.2
Junior rugby (13-18 male)	7	1.3	0.2	0.1	1.6
Junior rugby (13-18 female)	3	0.6	0.1	0.1	0.7
Mini-rugby (7-12 mixed gender)	5	0.9	0.1	0.1	1.2
<b>TORRIDGE RUGBY TOTAL</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>4.1</b>	<b>0.6</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>5.2</b>

5.31 One of the characteristics of TGRs is that if there are no teams or a very low number of teams currently playing (so that the number required to generate one team is very high) increases in population in the relevant age playing range may not ‘trigger’ an extra team.

5.32 However, if a club has aspirations to develop a junior section or women’s rugby, it is likely that more junior and women’s teams may develop in the future (despite the fact that the TGR suggests very little or no growth in the number of teams).

## **B Changes in participation trends and how the sport is played**

5.33 Whilst focusing on maintaining its core market of 15v15 senior teams, the RFU is actively promoting its variants of the game for younger players – touch and tag rugby and ‘7s’ and also looking to develop more recreational and social rugby during the summer. This is likely to increase the numbers of junior teams and possibly summer activity for adults, which may cascade down to increase participation during the winter months.

5.34 There are also changes in the type of facilities now being used for rugby. Clubs are aspiring to use AGPs more for training, to reduce the impact on the grass pitches for training, thus enabling grass pitches to accommodate greater intensity of match play. In addition, clubs are now considering the possibilities of using World Rugby accredited AGPs for competitive fixtures. In this instance, the increased capacity offered by an AGP would mean that current and future training needs, as well as match play could be accommodated. This has not emerged as an issue in North Devon and Torrridge

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

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

5.35 The Active People and Market Segmentation (mentioned earlier in this section) can also be used to estimate the numbers of the population who would like to play (or would like to play more) rugby. According to this 258 people in North Devon and 180 people in Torrridge would like to play (more) rugby; an increase of 26% on the numbers who currently play. This latent demand is from residents in the main market segments that currently play.

5.36 Given current TGRs, this would not result in an increase in the number of teams, but may result in larger squad sizes or existing players playing more often.

**D Trends in participation and club specific development plans and aspirations**

5.37 Rugby clubs were asked if they wanted to run more teams; they indicated as follows:

**Table 5.9: Rugby clubs’ desire to run more teams**

	Senior Men's	Senior Women's	Youth Boys	Youth Girls	Mini/midi
Barnstaple RFC	All age ranges				
Ilfracombe RFC			1-3		
South Molton RFC			1		
Torrington RFC			1		1

5.38 Some of these aspirations are dependent upon access to more/better pitches and changing facilities, but others will depend on the availability of support personnel especially coaches. Some of them can be considered as thwarted or unmet demand in that the teams would run if there were pitches available; in practice this is difficult to disaggregate from future aspirations.

**Future demand**

5.39 The total number of new rugby teams predicted to be generated through population growth, trends in participation, latent/unmet/displaced demand and aspirations in North Devon and Torridge is shown below:

**Table 5.10: Total number of new rugby teams projected to be generated in North Devon 2016 - 2031**

Reason for more teams	Men’s teams	Ladies’ teams	Youth teams	Mini Teams
Population growth through new housing	1.4		1.6	3.6
Trends in participation			1	
Latent/unmet/displaced demand				
Aspirations	1	1	3	1
<b>TOTAL Number of new teams</b>	<b>2.4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5.6</b>	<b>4.6</b>



**Table 5.11: Total number of new rugby teams projected to be generated in Torridge 2016 – 2031**

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth teams	Mini Teams
Population growth through new housing	1.4	0.2	2.3	1.2
Trends in participation			1	
Latent/unmet/displaced demand				
Aspirations			1	1
<b>TOTAL Number of new teams (rounded)</b>	<b>1.4</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>4.3</b>	<b>2.2</b>

5.40 Match equivalent sessions are estimated on basis of home/away fortnightly for adult teams and colts and slightly less for youth teams; several mini/midi matches can be played consecutively on Sunday mornings.

5.41 In all instances clubs said additional teams will be playing on existing home pitch(es), and, as the network of current pitch provision for rugby shows, new teams are generated within existing clubs and play wherever possible on their home grounds.

5.42 However, because of the lack of capacity at South Molton RFC and Bideford RFC both of these clubs would benefit from additional playing surfaces (to be met at South Molton by the new pitch development). Barnstaple may too require an additional pitch given the demand likely to be generated through the new housing developments in the sub area. The above would suggest the need for a further 3 rugby pitches in North Devon and 2 rugby pitches in Torridge to accommodate adult, youth and mini teams



## 6 HOCKEY IN NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE

6.1 This section assesses the adequacy of pitches for hockey in North Devon and Torridge by presenting the following

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

### OVERVIEW OF PITCH SUPPLY

#### Quantity and Quality

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
England Hockey Level 1	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
England Hockey Level 2	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 and schools (excluding domestic national league)
England Hockey Level 3	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	
England Hockey Level 4	All long pile (3G) surfaces	Essential  None	<b>Desirable</b> Lower level hockey (Introductory level) when no category 1-3 surface is available*

*\*We would recommend an appropriate ball to meet the standards of the player and the surface*

*\*\* EH school competition provision is likely to change in September 2017 when this guidance may be updated. It is likely that some lower levels of competitive school hockey provision within the EH competition structure will be allowed on 3G AGPs.*

6.3 Table 6.2 sets out sand based surfaces for hockey in North Devon and Torridge. Visual Site audits have been undertaken of the full size sand AGPs in the district 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.

See also Map of AGPs in North Devon and Torridge.

**Table 6.2: Hockey AGPs in North Devon and Torridge and surrounding area**

<b>NORTH DEVON Site Ref</b>	<b>Name (Year Built/Refurbished)</b>	<b>AGP type</b>	<b>Ownership/ Management Type</b>	<b>Sports Lighting</b>	<b>AGP Length</b>	<b>AGP Width</b>	<b>Indicative playing size</b>	<b>Community Use</b>	<b>Overall Pitch Quality Rating</b>
<b>NDBA.17 EX32 9AX</b>	<b>Park School (2007R)</b>	Full size sand dressed	Education Academy/School in house	Yes	100	60	Y 11v11	A	Good
<b>NDBA.12 EX31 1RB</b>	<b>Pilton Community College, Barnstaple (2003)</b>	Half size sand filled	Education Academy/School in house	Yes	60	50	7V7	A	Good
<b>NDSM.05 EX18 7AA</b>	<b>Chulmleigh Sports Centre (2006)</b>	Sand filled MUGA	Education Academy/School in house	Yes	36	18	MUGA	A	Good
<b>NDBA.18 EX32 0SX</b>	<b>West Buckland School (2004)</b>	Full size sand filled	Independent Education/School in house	Yes	100	60	Y 11v11	C	n/a
<b>TOGT.02 EX20 3EQ</b>	<b>Clinton Hall Merton (1999)</b>	Sand filled MUGA	Community Organisation	Yes	36	18	MUGA	C	Standard
<b>TOHO.05 EX22 6JD</b>	<b>Holsworthy Community School</b>	Half size sand filled	Education Academy/School in house	Yes	61	50	7v7	A	Standard
<b>TOBI.11 EX39 3LY</b>	<b>Kingsley School (2016R)</b>	Near full size sand filled	Independent Education/School in house	Yes	85	51	Y 11v11	C	n/a
<b>TOHO.06 EX21 5HJ</b>	<b>Shebbear College (2010)</b>	Full size sand filled	Independent Education/School in house	Yes	100	60	Y 11v11	C	Good

FULL SIZE FLOODLIT AGPS JUST OUTSIDE NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE									
TORRIDGE Site Ref	Name (Year Built/Refurbished)	AGP type	Ownership/ Management Type	Sports Lighting	AGP Length	AGP Width	Indicative playing size	Community Use	Overall Pitch Quality Rating
Mid Devon EX 16 6SG	Exe Valley Leisure Centre, Tiverton (2009R)	Full size sand filled	Local Authority	Yes	97	60	Y 11v11	A	n/a
Cornwall EX23 8AW	Budehaven Community School (2009R)	Full size sand dressed	Education Academy/School in house	Yes	100	60	Y 11v11	A	n/a

6.4 Salient points with regard to hockey AGPs in North Devon and Torrridge are:

- There is only one full size floodlit sand AGP available for community use at The Park Community School in Barnstaple. This is the home of Taw Valley Hockey Club and North Devon Hockey Club and is rated as a good pitch.
- There are 3 other floodlit sand based AGPs on independent schools in North Devon and Torrridge. The Kingsley School Bideford pitch is slightly under full size but has community use; the other two are effectively not available for community use (West Buckland School and Shebbear College).
- There are two half size floodlit sand AGPs – at Pilton Community College (North Devon) and Holsworthy Community College (Torrridge). There are sand MUGAs at Chulmleigh Community College (North Devon) and Merton (Torrridge). There is no recorded hockey use of these sites for training or informal play.
- The nearest floodlit full size sand based AGPs to North Devon and Torrridge are Exe Valley Leisure Centre, Tiverton and Budehaven Community College in Cornwall.

## OVERVIEW OF DEMAND

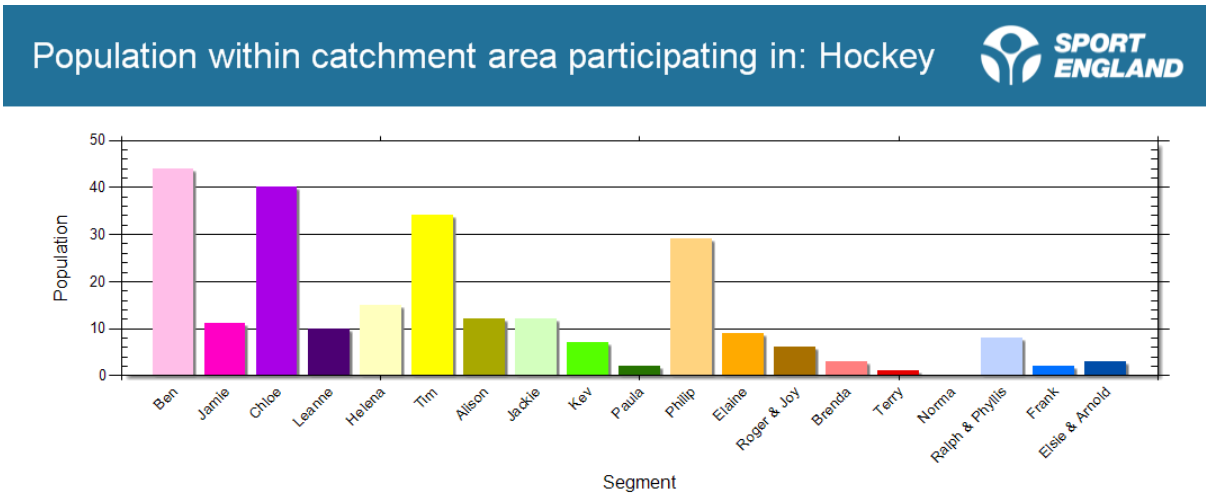
### Active People and Market Segmentation

#### Demand and Latent Demand for Hockey

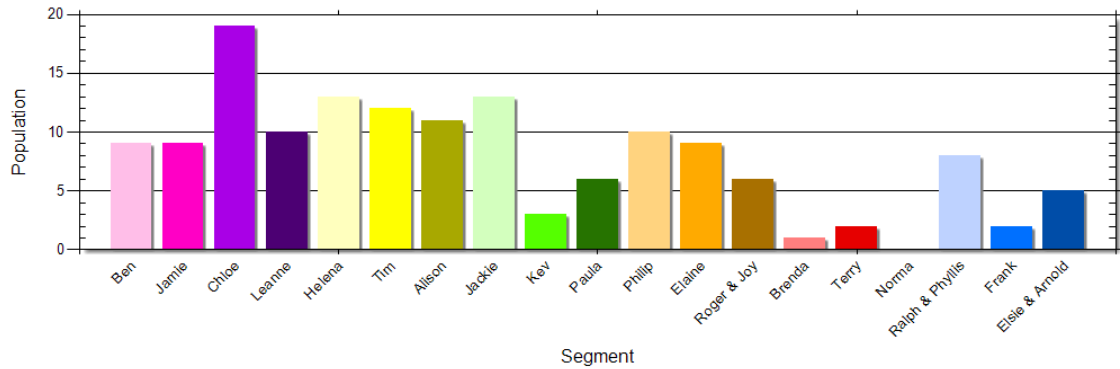
6.5 From the Active People Survey and Market Segmentation data, it is possible to estimate:

#### North Devon

- the proportion of the local adult population within each market segment group that **currently** participate in hockey (248), and
- how many adults **would like** to participate (or participate more) in hockey (ie latent demand (148)).



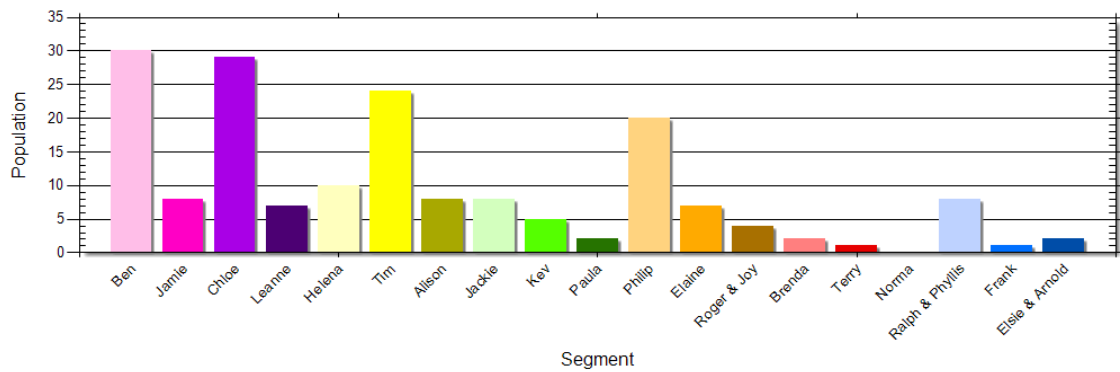
Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Hockey



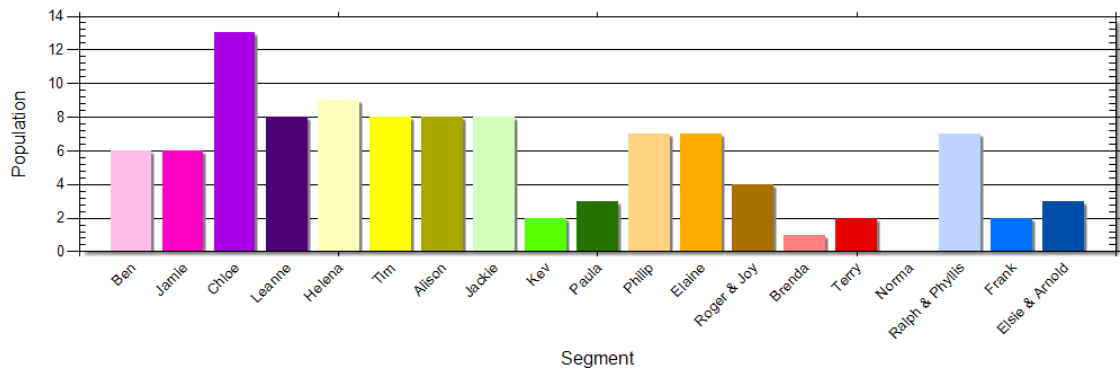
**Torridge**

- the proportion of the local adult population within each market segment group that **currently** participate in hockey (176), and
- how many adults **would like** to participate (or participate more) in hockey (ie latent demand (104)).

Population within catchment area participating in: Hockey



Population within catchment area wanting to participate in: Hockey





6.6 The key participants in hockey in North Devon and Torridge 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 both authorities are:

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

### Hockey Clubs and Teams in North Devon and Torridge

6.7 There are currently 2 England Hockey affiliated clubs based in the North Devon and Torridge District Council areas, both using The Park Community School, Barnstaple for training and matches. The following details have been provided by England Hockey for the 2016/17 season.

#### North Devon Hockey Club

<i>Affiliation status</i>	Shrinking (-12%: 2015/16 to 2016/17)
<i>Participants Senior</i>	35 members & Junior (U16) – 7 members
<i>Teams</i>	2 senior Men’s teams in The Go Crea8 Hockey League (Men’s 1 <sup>st</sup> Conference South & Men’s 2 <sup>nd</sup> – South East Div. 1 No junior teams

#### Taw Valley Ladies Hockey Club

<i>Affiliation status</i>	Shrinking (-8.33% 2015/16 to 2016/17)
<i>Participants Senior</i>	19 members
<i>Junior (U16)</i>	58 members
<i>Teams:</i>	2 senior Ladies teams in the West Clubs Women’s Hockey League: Ladies 1 <sup>st</sup> – Central Division Ladies 2 <sup>nd</sup> – Sedgemoor 1 No junior teams although run junior training sessions

6.8 Overall Hockey Affiliation Analysis for North Devon and Torridge records the following:

Players (119):

Total number of senior (16+yrs) players – 54;

Total number of junior players (u16) – 65

Teams (Adult 4): Ladies teams – 2; Men’s teams – 2; Junior teams – 1 (have put this in to reflect that there is junior activity within North Devon)

## **PATTERN OF PLAY AND CAPACITY**

### **ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY**

6.9 Hockey activity has to be based on appropriate pitches. A hockey match lasts 70 minutes; half time is around 5 minutes and generally 5 minutes warm up. Ideally 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

6.10 Educational use of AGPs takes place outside of peak hours (evenings and weekends) and there is therefore no impact upon the availability of the facilities for community hockey (as the artificial surface means that AGPs are not impacted upon by levels of use in the same way that grass pitches are).

6.11 The starting point for the assessment of provision for hockey is often the Facilities Planning Model. The FPM is a computer-based supply/demand model, which has been developed as a strategic planning tool to help assess the provision of community sports facilities in an area. It is currently applicable for use in assessing the provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls centres and artificial grass pitches. This is not currently available for North Devon and Torrington.

6.12 In the meantime, information to assess capacity has been compiled from England Hockey and from information provided by clubs and facility managers as part of this strategy research.

**Table 6.3: Summary of Pitch Usage and Capacity for Hockey in North Devon and Torridge**

Club	Pitch	Usage	League Matches per pitch/ week*	Other Usage	Analysis of capacity from review of AGP usage
<b>North Devon Hockey Club</b>	Park Community College	2 hours per week (training) 2 hours per week (matches)	1 match	Out of a possible 14 hours midweek: 4 hours used for hockey; rest for football training  Saturdays: 4 hrs hockey matches and 3 hrs football	No spare capacity for midweek training  Spare capacity for 1 more match potentially (dependent on other usage)
<b>Taw Valley Ladies Hockey Club</b>	Park Community College	3 hours per week (training) 2 hours per week (matches)	1 match	Sundays: 1 hr hockey and 1 hr football (5 hrs empty)  School use, England Hockey Player Pathway Development site	No spare capacity for midweek training  Spare capacity for 1 more match potentially (dependent on other usage)
<b>No club use</b>	Kingsley School	Opened October 2016.			Hoping to develop hockey outreach sessions linked to existing clubs.
<b>No club use</b>	Shebbear College	Intermittent community use			Capacity for occasional matches; the pitch is intermittently made available for local football club use
<b>No club use</b>	West Buckland School	No floodlights. Not available for community use			None

## Commentary

6.13 The table above demonstrates:

- The sand based AGP at The Park Community School in Barnstaple is the sole full size, England Hockey compliant venue for hockey matches and training in North Devon & Torridge.
- The new floodlit sand based AGP at Kingsley School is just undersize and whilst not appropriate for league hockey matches is suitable for use as a training facility.
- Because the facility at Park School is the only full size AGP in Barnstaple, it attracts considerable football training activity. It has no spare capacity on midweek evenings, with 10 hours of 14 'peak time' hours allocated for football, and 4 for hockey.
- Any expansion in the demand for hockey training will have to come at the expense of football and at present there are few alternative venues for football training in the area – only the half size sand AGP at Pilton Community College which similarly has little spare capacity midweek evenings. Barnstaple FC travels to the half size 3G at South Molton Community College for training.
- The Park School pitch is also used for football for 3 hours on Saturdays, with hockey matches scheduled for 4 hours. Any increase in the demand for more than 2 hockey matches (1 per club) on Saturdays will similarly only be able to be accommodated if the football use is reduced or removed.

## FUTURE PICTURE OF PROVISION

6.14 To accurately respond to the requirements for AGPs for hockey across the district 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 Changes to the number of people living in the area and/or to the demographic profile of the population;
- B General changes in participation trends and in how pitch sports are played;
- 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 Population change

6.15 The main impact from the changing population on the pitch sports is a growth in the minis and junior age ranges; minimal change in the 20-34 but some growth in the 35-45 year age ranges, and a larger drop off in the younger element of the vets pitch sport age range (46-54 years). Table 6.5 presents the potential impact on the number of hockey teams from projected population increases based on housing growth. It uses Team Generation Rates derived from the existing population and number of teams.

**Table 6.4 Team Generation Rates for Hockey**

	North Devon	Torrige
Senior hockey (16-55 male)	10726	n/a
Senior hockey (16-55 female)	10729	n/a
Junior hockey (11-15 male)	2594	n/a
Junior hockey (11-15 female)	n/a	n/a

**Table 6.5: New teams for hockey arising from housing growth 2016 – 2031 by Sub Area – North Devon**

2016 AGE GROUPS	2016 TEAMS	BARNSTAPLE NEW TEAMS	BRAUNTON NEW TEAMS	ILFRACOMBE NEW TEAMS	SOUTH MOLTON NEW TEAMS	EXTRA TEAMS YIELDED BY NEW POPULATION
Senior hockey (16-45 male)	2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
Senior hockey (16-45 female)	2	0.2	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.4
Junior hockey (11-15 male)	1	0.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.2
Junior hockey (11-15 female)						
<b>NORTH DEVON HOCKEY TOTAL</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0.5</b>	<b>0.0</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.2</b>	<b>0.9</b>

6.16 As there are no teams in Torrige and therefore no TGRs we have not computed any teams developing in Torrige. However if we apply the same North Devon rates to the expected population growth in Torrige the number of teams predicted are: 0.3 teams Senior Men; 0.3 teams Senior Women and 0.2 teams for juniors. It should be noted that using TGRs to predict future growth is not very accurate for hockey as the participation rate is low to begin with. Going forward, England Hockey wishes to focus on growth rates, England Hockey aspirations and local participation data. It is possible that some of the demand generated in Torrige may be expressed through club members joining Bude Hockey club which will be geographically nearer than travelling to Barnstaple.

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

6.17 England Hockey’s Mission going forward is to encourage ‘More, Better, Happier Players with access to appropriate and sustainable facilities’. Its club market is well structured and clubs are required to affiliate to England Hockey to play in community leagues. As a result only relatively few occasional teams lie outside the affiliation structure. Schools and Universities are the other two areas where significant hockey is played. The 3 main objectives of the facilities strategy are:

1. PROTECT: To conserve the existing hockey provision

- 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.

6.18 EH are focusing on retaining these players within the clubs by offering different competitive opportunities, apart from league hockey, like development matches and Pay and Play. It may be expected that following the success of the Women’s Team GB in the Rio Olympics, a similar increase may be witnessed. EH has seen evidence on an increase in ladies and junior members at clubs and notable signs of players returning to the sport.

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

6.19 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 around 60% in North Devon and Torridge.

6.20 There was an increase of around 30,000 registered hockey players in England following the London Olympics and England Hockey has seen a 80% increase in junior (U16) club membership since Rio 2016, and an overall increase in club membership of 36%. As part of the England Hockey Strategy 'A Nation where Hockey matters' 2017 - 2021, a long term aspiration is to double the number of people playing hockey in clubs by 2028. In North Devon & Torridge DC’s if this aspiration came to fruition this would equate to a possible future increase in club membership (based on 2016/17 affiliation data):

	2016/17	2028
Senior (16 years+)	54	108
Junior (u16)	65	130
Total	119	238

6.21 It is important to note, that the projected increase above is based on participation data and not Team Generation Rates. The increase will include league teams as well as informal hockey offer, including Back to Hockey, Pay & Play, and Walking Hockey.

6.22 There is some unmet/displaced demand moving from Torridge into North Devon as there is no team in Torridge.

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

6.23 There is capacity to expand the sport at both clubs, especially by introducing an informal offer. In Torridge where there is no community hockey club, the participation rates are lower which is mirrored by the number of people wishing to play the sport. Future provision may include a satellite club based in the district. Both clubs have capacity to expand in their junior and adult sections. There is a proportion of the population wanting to play hockey in North Devon & Torridge in nearly all age groupings. There is a genuine demand for the sport across the districts and highlighting the need for suitable AGP facilities

6.24 Although is essential that England Hockey continues to offer all versions of the game to attract new and retain current participants in all age groups, new initiatives like Pay & Play, Rush Hockey or Back to Hockey sessions targeted at the ‘Phillip’ age group may engage new participants and increase participation in the sport, especially if sessions were

organized in the day. There may also be a need to actively promote play and pay hockey sessions to meet the demands of these potential players, where their lifestyle means they would not be able to commit to regular training and matches. Currently, there is no informal hockey offer within the two districts, although both clubs have accepted the Back to Hockey informal offer and will try to start sessions soon. England Hockey is currently working with both clubs to address these issues and ultimately grow participation over the next 2-3 years. It is also essential there a hockey offer for juniors through the club base to include Quicksticks and In2Hockey with respective competitive opportunities.

6.25 Both hockey clubs in North Devon wish to run more teams; North Devon HC would like to run more men and boys teams whilst Taw Valley Ladies HC would like to run more ladies, boys and girls teams. Both clubs have the same reasons that prevent these developments from happening, namely; shortage of coaches and volunteers, cost of travelling and hiring facilities and a shortage of artificial surfaces for training.

**Future demand**

6.26 The total number of new hockey teams predicted to be generated through population growth, trends in participation, latent/unmet/displaced demand and aspirations in North Devon and Torridge is shown below:

**Table 5.10: Total number of new hockey teams projected in North Devon 2016 - 2031**

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth teams
Population growth through new housing	0.4	0.4	0.2
Trends in participation	0.5	0.5	0.5
Latent/unmet/displaced demand			
Aspirations	1	1	2
<b>TOTAL Number of new teams</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>2.7</b>

**Table 5.11: Total number of new hockey teams projected in Torridge 2016 - 2031**

Reason for more teams	Men's teams	Ladies' teams	Youth teams
Population growth through new housing	0.3	0.3	0.2
Trends in participation	0.5	0.5	0.5
Latent/unmet/displaced demand			
Aspirations			
<b>TOTAL Number of new teams</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.8</b>	<b>0.7</b>

6.27 The above would suggest that two more matches per weekend as a minimum would be forthcoming from development to 2031 and this cannot currently be accommodated on the Park Community School AGP, with the current level of football use.

6.28 Growth in the training requirements and the informal offer for hockey will also be restricted through the lack of spare capacity on weekday evenings.



## 7 BOWLS IN NORTH DEVON AND TORRIDGE

7.1 This section assesses the adequacy of bowls provision in North Devon and Torridge by presenting an overview of supply and demand, followed by an assessment of capacity and discussion of future provision. It does not form part of the prescribed Sport England Playing Pitch Guidance.

### OVERVIEW OF SUPPLY

#### Quantity

7.2 The outdoor bowling greens across North Devon and Torridge are set out in Table 7.1. There are 14 greens – 9 in North Devon and 5 in Torridge. A bowling green was also noted in Winkleigh (Torridge) which has fallen in to disrepair and is currently not in use.

**Table 7.1: Bowling Greens in North Devon and Torridge**

Ref	Name	Post code	Number of rinks	Maintenance
BN1	Barnstaple Bowling Club	EX32 8JY	7	
BN2	Barnstaple Rock Park Bowling Club	EX32 9AH	7	
BN3	Barnstaple United Services Bowling Club	EX31 1JH	6	We have a Green Committee
BN4	Braunton Bowling Club	EX33 2ES	10 (2 greens)	Club Greenkeeper in co-operation with Avon Sports Ltd
BN5	Byeways Bowling Club Fremington	EX31 2PP	7	We have a club member who is the green keeper, however we do pay for professional advice.
BN6	Combe Martin Bowling Club	EX34 0AE	6	Club
BN7	Ilfracombe Bowling Club	EX34 9LH	7	The Green-Keeper and his team who form part of our General Purposes Committee.
BN8	South Molton Bowling Club	EX36 4AS	7	
BT1	Bideford Bowling Club	EX39 2NG	7	We have a club member who is the green keeper, however we do pay for professional advice.

Ref	Name	Post code	Number of rinks	Maintenance
BT2	Bideford Victoria Park Bowling Club	EX39 2QH	7	Club members and Avon sports
BT3	Bradworthy Bowling Club	EX22 7SF	6	
BT4	Great Torrington Bowling Club	EX38 8EZ	6	A dedicated group of volunteer club members.
BT5	Holsworthy Bowling Club	EX22 6JG	6	In house green maintenance team, made up from club members.

7.3 Clubs were asked whether they desired any improvements to their facilities or had any plans:

**Table 7.2: Plans and Desired Improvements**

Club	Improvements or plans that clubs would like to see at their green
Bideford Victoria Park	Refurbishment of ditches and banks...being carried out presently
Ilfracombe	We are currently having improvements to our Fire Safety System i.e. escape lighting and alarm system. We are very much aware that we require facilities for the disabled but also that we are in the very near future going to have to replace our green which has been in use for over 50 years. Grants will have to be submitted and gained in order for any of this to be carried out.
Combe Martin	Improved playing surface
Bideford	The club has just increased the viewing area from within the club house, with decorating to complete outside. The club would like to cover the club house ceiling with "Hush Panels". This would apparently ease the problem for the hard of hearing.
Byeways	None at present apart from new gates
United Services	We are commencing extensive refurbishment to the club house, hoping to acquire an extra 5 meters of land to the rear of our club we shall apply for planning permission to go ahead, plans are drawn already and cost of the project have been agreed. This is Phase One, Phase Two would be to extend further to the rear of our club and to provide the people of Barnstaple and district with a replacement indoor bowling facility to replace the one being taken away with the demolition of the leisure centre.
Holsworthy	Improved drainage to the greens, despite many thousands of pounds spent over the years, this is an on-going problem. Ditch timber and matting needs replacing.
Braunton	Improvements to the bar area to incorporate a soft seating area This is in only at the planning stage
Great Torrington	Our green could benefit from a new surrounding fence and walkway as the concrete is breaking up. Free parking in the adjacent car park - particularly at weekends. Improved vehicular access.

## OVERVIEW OF DEMAND

7.4 Bowls as a sport is somewhat limited in its appeal outside the older demographic groups, and, according to Sport England, those market segments most likely to play are the post retirement Roger & Joy, Frank, Elsie & Arnold, and Ralph & Phyllis, of which there are high proportions in both North Devon and Torrington. Numerically, this equates to 879 adults currently playing and a latent demand from 198 people who want to participate in bowls in North Devon and 638 adults currently playing and a latent demand from 142 people who want to participate in bowls in Torrington.

7.5 Information received from the 9 clubs responding shows a total club membership in the area in excess 650 (there was no response from South Molton, Bradworthy, Barnstaple Rock Park or Barnstaple Bowling Clubs); of which some 63% are men. A very low number are under 18 years old. From the 9 clubs responding, 2 were optimistic about membership and said numbers were increasing, mainly due to existing members bringing in partners and friends. For the others, membership has either been static, or there has been some decline and it is found difficult to attract new members.

**Table 7.3 Membership Trends**

	Total	Total Male incl. jnrs	Total Female incl. jnrs	Total Juniors u18	Membership Trends
Bideford Victoria Park	100	70	30	-	Men have stayed the same. Ladies have decreased due to ill health
Ilfracombe	39	26	13	-	Ladies stayed the same. Men decreased - people moving away/dying and changing clubs
Combe Martin	80	50	30	-	Stayed the same
Bideford	87	45	22	-	Decreased - wish we knew why, apart from unfortunately ill health and death
Byeways	61	38	23	-	Increased due to public open day
United Services	108	73	35	2	Men stayed the same. Ladies increased due to people moving away or into the town is the main reason although we have had success in many important county and national games which in itself attracts others to the club
Holsworthy	40	28	12	-	Stayed the same
Braunton	98	52	46	-	Stayed the same
Great Torrington	50	34	16	1	Stayed the same. Last 3 years numbers remained the same

7.6 Clubs run a comprehensive programme of matches throughout the season. The below table shows their days of activity and the leagues and competitions in which their members play and their clubs' host.

**Table 7.4 Bowling Green Usage and Pattern of Play**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Days of play</b>	<b>Main Leagues &amp; Competitions</b>
Victoria Park, Bideford	Most days, at various times.	County Trophy, Triples Leagues, In house comps
Ilfracombe	During the summer months mens leagues are played on a Tues and Thursday evening. County Competitions are at week-ends or play-by dates any time. Ladies take part in North Devon Ladies Triples League on a Friday. Matches are held most afternoons	Mens North Devon Triples League and Ladies North Devon Triples League.
Combe Martin	Tuesday 1830 league Friday 1430 and 1830 league Any day of the week at 1430 for friendlies against local and touring teams Club competitions held any morning/afternoon/evening	County Trophy - 4 man teams with 4 rinks Mens North Devon Triples league - 3 teams with 3 man in the team in 3 rinks Ladies Triple league 1 team with 3 ladies in 3 rinks Various club competitions covering singles, pairs, triples and mixed matches
Bideford	From opening in April to closing in September we play most days and evenings. There are some fixed days of the week for league games. Friendly matches are arranged between clubs home or away and tourists account for 7 or 8 games a season	County competitions, Men's and Ladies triple leagues, other individual competitions, Club competitions and the Bideford Open Tournament held normally the first week in August.
Byeways	Mondays 6pm Any time of day from 2pm Sunday to Saturdays depending what is booked.	Ladies North Devon Triples League Men's Triples League Some County Competitions Club competitions
United Services	Any time during the day or evenings in the months from April to September	We have three men's teams and two ladies league teams at club level, We also have games at County and National levels take place with both individuals and teams, on a regular basis during the seasonal months
Holsworthy	Weekdays and weekends, depending on fixtures and friendly matches. Start times from 10.00 am - 6.00 pm	Men: North Devon triples, 71 Shield, Foxlands and top club Ladies: North Devon triples, 84 Shield, Stanford plus: internal club competitions
Braunton	Competitions weekdays 2pm & 6pm Tours & friendliest weekdays & weekends 2pm & 6pm Triple league Fridays 2pm ladies & 6pm Men	North Devon Friday Triples League County Trophy Grace Mathews In House competitions
Great Torrington	Summer Green bowling Sunday 2pm Monday 2pm and 6.30pm Tuesday 2pm Wednesday 2pm Thursday 2pm Friday 2pm and 6.30pm Saturday 2pm	Men County 2 rinks of 4 Section 1 4 rinks of 4 Foxlands 2 rinks of 4 Top Club Team of 11 North Devon Triples 6 Divisions (9in each team) Ladies Section 1 86 Shield League(2 triples) North Devon Triples League (2 triples) The 86 Top Club (7 players)

## ASSESSMENT OF CAPACITY

7.7 The following table shows whether rinks are set aside for public use and any spare capacity at the greens.

**Table 7.5 Rinks set aside for public use and spare capacity**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Rinks set aside for use by general public?</b>	<b>Spare capacity?</b>
Bideford Victoria	2 rinks for casual play allocated, small amount of use	Mornings and afternoons generally....leagues during the evening
Ilfracombe	Rinks are available most mornings for anyone who would like to play. Arrangements would be made for evening play if required provided there are no matches being played	Mornings and some evenings.
Combe Martin	Members of the public can play at any time as long as a rink is available used. This facility has very little take up	Once the season has started there is no spare capacity
Bideford	No rinks are specifically put aside for the general public. We are a private members club but will gladly provide a green, coaching and equipment for any one who wishes to learn	Lots of times but can't be specific.
Byeways	1 rink is set aside for the general public providing there are no matches being played. The rink is very rarely used	Sometimes when no matches or competitions are booked but not often.
United Services	We have a policy that our club is an open club and with an appointment we can give tuition to anybody who is not a club member, There has to be a responsible club member attending, simply because our surface is valued for insurance purposes at £100,000 and would cost about £40k to replace if extensively damaged	Some times there are three rinks when a league game is taking place, some are used for members to practice their skills
Holsworthy	One rink, very rarely used by general public	This depends on how many fixtures are in the calendar but usually one spare rink
Braunton	None	Between 10am and midday most days
Great Torrington	We have regular roll ups. Open Days. Rarely see new faces	

7.8 Generally accepted guidance suggests that a standard bowling green requires in the order of 60 members to make it viable. United Services Bowls Club has the largest membership of the clubs responding with over 100 members and Bideford Victoria Park Bowling Club have a similar number. 4 out of the 9 clubs responding have less than 60 members: Ilfracombe, Byeways (Fremington), Holsworthy and Great Torrington.

## FUTURE PROVISION

### Changes to demand

7.9 Market segmentation analysis through Sport England suggests the following for North Devon:

<b>Current Adult Participation</b>	
Current 'Bowls Age' Adult Participation (2017) • Target Bowls age group 45-80 years	44,395
Current Adult Participants in Bowls (Sport England Market Segmentation Analysis - SEMSA)	879
% of current 'bowls age' adult population participating in bowls	1.97%
<b>Potential Future Demand</b>	
Future (2031) 'Bowls Age' adult population • Target Bowls age group 45-80 years	44,079 (-316 or -1%)
Potential Future demand for bowls: Assumed % of future 'bowls age' adult population participating in bowls remains constant	1.97%
Future (2031) 'bowls age' adult population participating in bowls: 44,079 x 1.97%	868 (-11)
<b>Potential Latent Demand</b>	
Estimated Latent Demand for Bowls: Adult population wanting to participate/more in bowls (SEMSA)	194
Potential future adult participants in bowls (SEMSA)	1,062 (+21%)

7.10 Market segmentation analysis through Sport England suggests the following for Torridge:

<b>Current Adult Participation</b>	
Current 'Bowls Age' Adult Participation (2017) • Target Bowls age group 45-80 years	33,635
Current Adult Participants in Bowls (Sport England Market Segmentation Analysis - SEMSA)	638
% of current 'bowls age' adult population participating in bowls	1.89%
<b>Potential Future Demand</b>	
Future (2031) 'Bowls Age' adult population • Target Bowls age group 45-80 years	35,337 (1,702 or +5%)
Potential Future demand for bowls: Assumed % of future 'bowls age' adult population participating in bowls remains constant	1.89%
Future (2031) 'bowls age' adult population participating in bowls: 44,079 x 1.97%	668 (+30)
<b>Potential Latent Demand</b>	
Estimated Latent Demand for Bowls: Adult population wanting to participate/more in bowls (SEMSA)	142
Potential future adult participants in bowls (SEMSA)	810 (+27%)

7.11 The key findings are:

- current participation in Bowls in both North Devon and Torridge represents about 1.9% of the 'Bowls age' population (i.e. 45 – 80 age band)
- population projections suggest that target age group for bowls is likely to remain about the same in North Devon and increase 5% in Torridge over the period 2017-2031
- Sport England Market Segmentation Analysis suggests that there is some latent demand for bowls in both areas. There are an estimated 194 adults who would currently like to participate or participate more in bowls in North Devon – this represents a potential increase in participation of up to 21%.
- Similarly, there are an estimated 142 adults who would currently like to participate or participate more in bowls in Torridge – and this represents a potential increase in participation of up to 27%.

7.12 Clubs were asked if they wanted to expand their activities or run more teams and what factors would influence this.

**Table 7.6 Aspirations of clubs**

<b>Club</b>	<b>Wish to expand?</b>	<b>Factors which constrain development of the club (from a pre selected list)</b>
Bideford Victoria Park	New members always welcome	
Ilfracombe	We do need to expand our membership and there is room for additional players of Shortmat in the winter, Skittles and Snooker. We have an excellent snooker table which is used by teams in a league and we also have a Skittles League. We need more members outside/inside playing bowls. We hold Bingo Sessions monthly for the local community	Shortage of good quality indoor facilities Falling membership/shortage of members Access difficulties (cost, lack of transport) Lack of external funding (grants, loans) Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising) Shortage of volunteers
Combe Martin	Need to keep membership levels up to keep annual subscriptions down and attractive enough to enable members or recruits to renew/start playing	Falling membership/shortage of members Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising)
Bideford	We are always looking for new members. We encourage the public to participate by holding an "Open Session". Anyone can come along and they can bring their children providing they are about 9/10 years old	Falling membership/shortage of members Shortage of coaches
Byeways	Encourage membership from the local community, usually achieved by an Open Day	Lack of external funding (grants, loans) Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising) Cost of insurance Shortage of volunteers

Club	Wish to expand?	Factors which constrain development of the club (from a pre selected list)
United Services	We want to attract more youngsters to the club, and we would like to make it an "Open for all to play club" attracting partially sighted and disabled into the fold, Our refurbishment will provide facilities for all who are interested in Lawn bowling. We are upgrading our club house to facilitate for this, the project is set to cost a lot of money and we have applied to sport England for partial funding	Falling membership/shortage of members Access difficulties (cost, lack of transport) Lack of, or poor quality, changing facilities Lack of external funding (grants, loans) Lack of internal financing (subs/fund raising)
Holsworthy	More members are required for the continued survival of the club, due to ageing membership	Falling membership/shortage of members Lack of external funding (grants, loans)
Braunton	To re-form our social club/committee which folded due to lack of support	Shortage of volunteers
Great Torrington	We endeavour to recruit new members in a number of ways. Open days/ roll up events	

### Key Findings

7.13 There is no evidence based upon current participation that there is demand for additional facilities. While some greens operate a busy programme of fixtures, all clubs have capacity for additional members, and the flexibility of fixtures means that there is scope to accommodate more activity on existing greens. Assuming that each green can take at least six matches per week (12 teams assuming that teams play home and away alternately), based upon the number of teams run, no greens are at capacity.

7.14 There is not a high latent demand for bowls, and despite an ageing population, relatively few new bowlers coming through from population growth. However, there may be a larger number generated through new housing, but these will still be able to be accommodated in existing clubs.

7.15 Nationally, Bowls England are acutely aware of the issues in terms of declining membership facing bowls; [are there any initiatives in place in the Devon area specifically that attempt to address this issue?]



**INDOOR PROVISION**

7.16 There are 3 sites for indoor bowls in North Devon and Torridge. It is unlikely that facilities in neighbouring authorities would cater for the area’s residents; the nearest being in Okehampton and Tiverton.

**Table 7.7: Indoor Bowls Facilities**

Name	Rinks	Access	Ownership/Management	Year Built/Refurbished
Kingsley Indoor Bowls Club, Westward Ho!	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial	1988/ Yes
North Devon Leisure Centre, Barnstaple	4	Pay and Play	Commercial	1975/2005
Easewell Golf Course, Mortehow	2	Golf club	Commercial	n/k

7.17 No clubs specifically mentioned that their members make use of these facilities during the winter months, however, there were numerous accounts of short mat bowls being played in a variety of indoor facilities in the area, most frequently in bowling clubs’ club houses.



## 8 OTHER INFORMATION

### Playing Fields use for Other Sports

8.1 Playing fields are not just a resource for the sports of football, rugby, cricket and hockey. There are many other pitch sports which play on grass, including: American football, archery, athletics, baseball, Gaelic football, lacrosse and rugby league.

8.2 Other than athletics, which is well represented in schools as a summer, the other sports are not well represented in North Devon and Torridge. However, it is important that Northern Devon’s playing pitches meet anticipated demand for these sports, or are available for the promotion of opportunities in them. Furthermore, they offer a wonderful environment for sport for people with disabilities, being free of the restrictions of indoor facilities. This is another dimension to promoting playing fields within the Northern Devon which the Strategy wishes to embrace.

### Costs of Hiring Grass Pitches (where available)

Type of Pitch	Bideford College		Other North Devon		Other for Comparison	
	Designated Users Community per hour	Designated Users Private per hour	The Park Community School	Tarka Centre	Kingsley School, Bideford	South Somerset DC
AGP - Full Pitch	£65.00	£85.00	£52.00		£55.00	
AGP – Half size pitch						
AGP – Mini Pitch 1/3 <sup>rd</sup> of full size AGP	£27.00	£45.00	£22.00		£20.00	
Grass Adult football pitch	20.00* includes changing	32.50		£32.50* includes changing	£44.00* includes changing	£45.00* includes changing
Grass Junior football Pitch 9v9				£25.10 without changing	£22.00* without changing	£28.00* without changing
Grass Rugby						
Cricket						