



Cabinet Agenda

Date: Thursday 14 March 2024
Time: 6.30 pm
Venue: The Auditorium - Harrow Council Hub,
Kenmore Avenue, Harrow, HA3 8LU

Membership:

Chair: Councillor Paul Osborn (Leader of the Council) and
Portfolio Holder for Strategy

| Portfolio Holders: | Portfolio: |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Councillor Marilyn Ashton | Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Planning & Regeneration |
| Councillor David Ashton | Finance & Human Resources |
| Councillor Stephen Greek | Performance, Communications & Customer Experience |
| Councillor Hitesh Karia | Children's Services |
| Councillor Jean Lammiman | Community & Culture |
| Councillor Mina Parmar | Housing |
| Councillor Anjana Patel | Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety |
| Councillor Pritesh Patel | Adult Services & Public Health |
| Councillor Norman Stevenson | Business, Employment & Property |

| Non-Executive Members: | Role: |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Councillor Thaya Idaikkadar | Non-Executive Cabinet Member |
| Councillor Kanti Rabadia | Non-Executive Cabinet Member |
| John Higgins | Non-Executive Voluntary Sector Representative Harrow Youth Parliament Representative |

Quorum 3, including the Leader and/or Deputy Leader)

Contact: Andrew Seaman, Senior Democratic & Electoral Services Officer
Tel: 07928 512790 E-mail: andrew.seaman5@harrow.gov.uk

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Useful Information

Joining the Meeting virtually

The meeting is open to the public and can be viewed online at [London Borough of Harrow webcasts](#)

Attending the Meeting in person

Directions by car:

Go along Kenmore Avenue and head towards the Kenton Recreation Ground. When approaching the end of the Kenmore Avenue turn right before reaching the Kadwa Patidar Centre.

The venue is accessible to people with special needs. If you have specific requirements, please contact the officer listed on the front page of this agenda.

You will be admitted on a first-come-first basis and directed to seats.

Please:

- (1) Stay seated.
- (2) Access the meeting agenda online at [Browse meetings - Cabinet](#)
- (3) Put mobile devices on silent.
- (4) Follow instructions of the Security Officers.
- (5) Advise Security on your arrival if you are a registered speaker.

Filming / recording

This meeting may be recorded or filmed, and if you choose to attend, you will be deemed to have consented to this. Any recording may be published on the Council website.

Agenda publication date: Wednesday 6 March 2024

Agenda - Part I

1. Apologies for Absence

To receive apologies for absence (if any).

2. Declarations of Interest

To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary or non pecuniary interests, arising from business to be transacted at this meeting, from all Members present.

3. Petitions

To receive any petitions submitted by members of the public or Councillors.

4. Public Questions

To note any public questions received.

Questions will be asked in the order in which they were received. There will be a time limit of 15 minutes for the asking and answering of public questions.

[The deadline for receipt of public questions is 3.00 pm, Monday 11 March. Questions should be sent to publicquestions@harrow.gov.uk No person may submit more than one question].

5. Councillor Questions

To receive any Councillor questions.

Questions will be asked in the order agreed with the relevant Group Leader by the deadline for submission and there be a time limit of 15 minutes.

[The deadline for receipt of Councillor questions is 3.00 pm, Monday 11 March.]

6. Key Decision Schedule March 2024 - May 2024 (Pages 7 - 16)

7. Progress on Scrutiny Projects (Pages 17 - 18)

For consideration

Place

KEY 8. Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037 (Pages 19 - 242)

Report of the Corporate Director of Place.

KEY 9. Extension to the Property Acquisition Programme (Pages 243 - 256)

Report of the Corporate Director of Place and Director of Housing

Resources and Managing Director

KEY 10. Serious Violence Duty Strategy (Pages 257 - 344)

Report of the Assistant Director of Corporate Strategy.

KEY 11. Procurement of Revenues and Benefits Resilience Support (Pages 345 - 374)

Report of the Interim Director of Finance and Assurance

12. Strategic Performance Report Q3 2023-24 (Pages 375 - 410)

Report of the Managing Director.

13. Any Other Urgent Business

Which cannot otherwise be dealt with.

14. Exclusion of the Press and Public

To resolve that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business for the reasons stated.

| Agenda Item No | Title | Description of Exempt Information |
|----------------|--|--|
| 15 | Procurement of Revenues and Benefits Resilience Support – Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5. | Information under paragraph 3 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information). |

Agenda - Part II

15. Procurement of Revenues and Benefits Resilience Support (Pages 411 - 508)

Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 of the report from the Interim Director of Finance and Assurance

Data Protection Act Notice

The Council will record the meeting and will place the recording on the Council's website.

[Note: The questions and answers will not be reproduced in the minutes.]

| | |
|--|---------------------------------|
| Deadline for questions | 3.00 pm on 11 March 2024 |
| Publication of decisions | Friday 15 March 2024 |
| Deadline for Call in | 5.00 pm on Friday 22 March 2024 |
| Decisions implemented if not Called in | Saturday 23 March 2024 |

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London Borough of Harrow

Key Decision Schedule (March - May 2024)

March 2024

This is a list of Key Decisions which the Authority proposes to take at the above Cabinet meeting. The Cabinet agenda containing all the reports being considered will be published 5 clear days before the meeting.

↘ **A Key Decision is one which is likely to:**

- (i) result in the Council incurring expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are, significant having regard to its budget for the service or function to which the decision relates. A decision is significant if it involves expenditure or the making of savings of an amount in excess of £1m of capital or £500,000 of revenue or where savings or expenditure are less than these amounts but they constitute more than 50% of the budget attributable to the service in question; or
- (ii) be significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area of two or more wards of the Borough.

Decisions which the Cabinet intends to make in private

The Cabinet may meet in private to consider reports which contain confidential information. A private meeting of the Cabinet is open only to Members of the Cabinet, other Councillors and Council officers. This Schedule also contains non-Key Decisions which involve Cabinet meeting in private. Any person can make representations to the Cabinet if they believe the decision should instead be made in the public Cabinet meeting by emailing democratic.services@harrow.gov.uk.

The membership of the Cabinet is:

[Councillor Paul Osborn](#) (Leader), (Strategy)

[Councillor Marilyn Ashton](#) (Deputy Leader, Planning & Regeneration)

[Councillor David Ashton](#) (Finance & Human Resources)

[Councillor Stephen Greek](#) (Performance, Communications & Customer Experience)

[Councillor Hitesh Karia](#) (Children's Services)

[Councillor Jean Lammiman](#) (Community & Culture)

[Councillor Mina Parmar](#) (Housing)

[Councillor Anjana Patel](#) (Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety)

[Councillor Pritesh Patel](#) (Adult Services & Public Health)

[Councillor Norman Stevenson](#) (Business, Employment & Property)

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| Subject | Nature of Decision | Cabinet Member / Lead officer | Open or Private Meeting | Additional Documents to be submitted and any Consultation to be undertaken |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|--|
| FEBRUARY | | | | |
| Revenue & Capital Budget Monitoring Report Q3 2023-24 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To note the Revenue & Capital Budget for 2023-24 2. To approve amendments to the Capital Programme if applicable | Cllr David Ashton Sharon Daniels, Interim Director of Finance & Assurance (S151 Officer) Usha Chauhan – Service Accountant Usha.Chauhant@harrow.gov.uk | Open | |
| Final Revenue Budget 2024/25 and Medium Term Financial Strategy to 2026/27 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To approve the Final Budget for 2024/25 and MTFS to 2026/27 and recommend to Full Council. 2. To approve the Council Tax for 2024/25 and recommend to Full Council. | Cllr David Ashton Sharon Daniels, Interim Director of Finance & Assurance (S151 Officer) Sharon.Daniels@harrow.gov.uk Sharon.Daniels@harrow.gov.uk | Open | |

| Subject | Nature of Decision | Cabinet Member / Lead officer | Open or Private Meeting | Additional Documents to be submitted and any Consultation to be undertaken |
|--|---|--|-------------------------|--|
| Final Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27 | To agree the Final Capital Programme 2024/25 to 2026/27 and recommend the Capital Programme to Council. | Cllr David Ashton Sharon Daniels, Interim Director of Finance & Assurance (S151 Officer) Jessie Man – Interim Head of Strategic & Technical Finance Jessie.man@harrow.g ov.uk | Open | |
| Authority to Dispose of Assets | Decision to delegate approval of a forthcoming disposal with a value of over £250,000 to the Corporate Director, Place, pursuant to Section F6 within the Scheme of Approval and Delegation for Financial Transactions. | Cllr Norman Stevenson Dipti Patel, Corporate Director Place dipti.patel@harrow.go v.uk | Part exempt | |

| Subject | Nature of Decision | Cabinet Member / Lead officer | Open or Private Meeting | Additional Documents to be submitted and any Consultation to be undertaken |
|--|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| Treasury Management Strategy Statement including Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25 and Capital Strategy for 2024/25 | <p>To approve the report and recommend to Council that the Treasury Management Strategy Statement for 2024/25 be approved including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Prudential Indicators for 2024/25; •Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement for 2024/25; •Annual Investment Strategy for 2024/25. •Capital Strategy for 2024/25 | <p>Cllr David Ashton</p> <p>Sharon Daniels, Interim Director of Finance & Assurance (S151 Officer) Sharon.Daniels@harrow.gov.uk</p> | Open | |
| New Harrow Local Plan - approval to consult (Regulation 18 version) | <p>Cabinet to agree to consult on the draft (Regulation 18 version) of the new Harrow Local Plan.</p> <p>Delegated authority to be given to the Chief Planning Officer to enable finalisation of the document, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Planning and Regeneration.</p> | <p>Cllr Marilyn Ashton</p> <p>Emma Talbot, Director of Regeneration Programme and Sustainable Development emma.talbot@harrow.gov.uk</p> | Open | |

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| Subject | Nature of Decision | Cabinet Member / Lead officer | Open or Private Meeting | Additional Documents to be submitted and any Consultation to be undertaken |
|---|---|---|-------------------------|--|
| Energy Purchasing Strategy 2024-28 | To authorise a contract for the provision of the Council's energy supply services from 1 October 2024 for a period of four years. | <p>Councillor Anjana Patel, Councillor David Ashton</p> <p>Saeed Atlas, Safer and Stronger Communities Performance Lead Member for Scrutiny Saeed.atlas@harrow.gov.uk</p> | Part exempt | |
| Corporate Plan 2023-26: Review of first year and Flagship Actions 2024/25 | To endorse the Flagship Actions for 2024/25 and recommend to Council for adoption. | <p>Councillor Paul Osborn</p> <p>Nahreen Matlib, Senior Scrutiny Officer nahreen.matlib@harrow.gov.uk</p> | Open | |

| Subject | Nature of Decision | Cabinet Member / Lead officer | Open or Private Meeting | Additional Documents to be submitted and any Consultation to be undertaken |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| Procurement of Payroll System including potential HR option | To request an aware of contract following G-Cloud Procurement | <p>Councillor Stephen Greek, Councillor David Ashton</p> <p>Ben Goward, Director of IT Ben.Goward@harrow.gov.uk</p> | Part exempt | |
| Electric Vehicle Rapid Charging in Harrow | To procure rapid charge points at various council controlled locations in the borough. | <p>Councillor Anjana Patel</p> <p>Mehmet Mazhar, Strategic Parking Consultant, Mehmet.Mazhar@harrow.gov.uk</p> | Part exempt | |

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| Subject | Nature of Decision | Cabinet Member / Lead officer | Open or Private Meeting | Additional Documents to be submitted and any Consultation to be undertaken |
|---|---|--|-------------------------|--|
| MARCH | | | | |
| Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2023-2037 | To seek approval for the adoption of the new Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2023-2037. | Cllr Jean Lammiman Tim Bryan tim.bryan@harrow.gov.uk | Open | |
| Procurement of Revenues and Benefits Resilience Support | To authorise the procurement of a contract for Revenues and Benefits resilience support with a value range between £5m to £8m over 5 years. | Cllr David Ashton Fern Silverio, Head of Service, Collections & Benefits fernando.silverio@harrow.gov.uk | Open | |
| Serious Violence Duty Strategy | For the Serious Violence Duty Strategy to be approved. | Cllr Anjana Patel Janice Noble, Community Safety Principal, Janice.Noble@harrow.gov.uk | Open | |

| Subject | Nature of Decision | Cabinet Member / Lead officer | Open or Private Meeting | Additional Documents to be submitted and any Consultation to be undertaken |
|---|--|---|-------------------------|--|
| Extension to the Property Purchase Programme | To approve the extension of the Property Purchase Programme, to increase the supply of good quality temporary accommodation. | Cllr Mina Parmar Kulwinder Singh, Interim Head of Housing Regeneration Kulwinder.Singh- Rai@harrow.gov.uk | Open | |
| April | | | | |
| Arrangements for the Supply of Temporary Staffing Service | Award a contract for the provision of Temporary Staffing, on a Master Vendor basis for 3 years | Cllr David Ashton Sarah Wilson, Principal Lawyer - Litigation Akhil Wilson, Head of Resourcing Akhil.Wilson@harrow. gov.uk | Open | |

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PROGRESS ON SCRUTINY PROJECTS

| Review | Methodology | Type of report | Expected date for report to Cabinet | Comments |
|---|------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>North West London Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee (JHOSC)</p> | <p>Joint Committee</p> | <p>Update reports provided to Health & Social Care sub committee (for information)</p> | <p>As required</p> | <p>The North West London (NWL) JHOSC last met on 5th December 2023. Key agenda items included the Integrated Care System (ICS) Workforce Strategy; NWL Winter Resilience Plans; NWL Elective Orthopaedic Centre update and an ICS Update.</p> <p>The next JHOSC meeting is on 14th March 2024.</p> <p>There are regular update reports on the JHOSC to Harrow’s Health and Social Care Scrutiny Sub-Committee so that there is a formal feedback loop between regional and local health scrutiny. Councillor Chetna Halai, chair of Health Sub, is Harrow’s member on the JHOSC.</p> |

Contact: Nahreen Matlib, Senior Policy Officer

Email: nahreen.matlib@harrow.gov.uk

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Report for: Cabinet

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Date of Meeting: | 14 March 2024 |
| Subject: | Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037 |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Responsible Officer: | Dipti Patel, Corporate Director – Place |
| Portfolio Holder: | Councillor Jean Lammiman, Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture |
| Exempt: | No |
| Decision subject to Call-in: | Yes |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1: Equalities Impact Assessment Appendix 2: Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037 |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the objectives, strategic recommendations, and action plan detailed in the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037 and seeks approval for the Strategy and its implementation.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Approve the adoption of the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037, including the priority projects Action Plan outlined in Section 4 of the Strategy and the longer-term projects detailed in Appendix 2 of the Strategy.
2. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director of Place, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Community and Culture, to proceed with the implementation of the Action Plan provided by the Strategy and to take any action necessary.

Reason:

The Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037 will provide the strategic direction to improve Harrow's sports infrastructure and inform future investment in facilities. The Strategy will help to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Harrow by providing better access to sports facilities and increasing residents' participation in sport and physical activity.

Section 2 – Report

1. Introduction

1.1 The London Borough of Harrow has conducted a review of its indoor and outdoor sports facilities, and an analysis of need in the borough in consultation with local sports clubs and schools, Sport England, sports' National Governing Bodies, leisure operators, and facility managers. The 5 key objectives of the Strategy are outlined below:

- a) Improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities by increasing participation in sport and physical activity in the borough ensuring facilities for indoor and outdoor sports are of the appropriate quality and are available and accessible.
- b) To provide an evidence base and clear priorities for improving present provision and supporting/providing justification for new provision to inform spatial planning policy, including the development of Harrow's new Local Plan, and responses to future planning applications, capital investment plans and external funding bids for new and/or enhanced sports facilities.
- c) To inform the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
- d) Development of an Action Plan and a list of key priorities which will help to meet any current deficiencies and provide for future demands.
- e) To identify potential alternatives to the supply of provision e.g., educational sites.

1.2 The new Strategy supports the Council's vision of 'Restoring Pride in Harrow' and the Corporate Priorities:

- A Council that puts residents first
- A borough that is clean and safe
- A place where those in need are supported

The new facilities strategy will provide the strategic direction to improve Harrow's sports infrastructure to meet the needs of residents and assist in establishing how best to meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Harrow's residents. This will help to ensure that Harrow is a place where residents want to spend their time.

2. Background

2.1 The new Strategy has been produced in line with Sport England's latest guidance and forms the updated evidence base to Harrow's previous Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2018 and the Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2012 which are now out of date. Each authority in the country is encouraged to produce this evidence base to inform future decisions regarding the demand and supply of existing and new playing pitches and built facilities in a given area. A number of projects have been achieved since the previous strategies were developed:

- 8 new fine turf cricket pitches in the area and one additional non-turf pitch
- New full sized 3G artificial turf pitches have been provided at Bannister Sports Centre (partially funded by a grant award from the Premier League and the FA Facilities Fund of £400k), The Hive London and the Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club, as well as small-sided provision at Harrow High School and Centenary Sixes
- Improvements to natural turf pitches at Bannister Sports Centre and Headstone Manor Recreation Ground
- New bike pump track at Kenton Recreation Ground
- Refurbishment of 25 tennis courts across 8 parks, and the introduction of an online booking system across 36 tennis courts at 13 parks following the award of a grant from the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) of £587k.

2.2 The Vision for the new Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (IOSFS) is to ‘facilitate the creation of a sporting infrastructure across Harrow that provides residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds with the opportunity to be active and participate in indoor and outdoor sports and recreational activities.’

Any projects taken forward or supported will be assessed against the Council’s Corporate Priorities as well as the 5 key objectives as detailed in Section 1.1 of this report above.

2.3 Information on the supply of facilities contained in the Strategy has been generated through standard facility audits. Information on the demand for facilities has been generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as affiliation data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. To understand the current landscape of clubs in Harrow, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the Strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the borough – 60 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, with these clubs being compiled of both indoor and outdoor sports. A summary of the results of the club survey is detailed on pages 13-17 of the Strategy. There was also engagement with schools that had sports facilities available for community use and those that have facilities that may have the potential for community use. The latest version of the Strategy which has been signed off by Sport England the relevant National Governing Bodies (NGBs) was also circulated to those sports clubs that responded to the club survey and to the schools previously engaged with seeking any further feedback.

2.4 The study area covered the whole of Harrow, but the cross-borough boundary use of facilities has also been taken into account when considering future needs for each particular sport in terms of facilities, but also community sporting needs for Harrow residents. Demographic information, health, deprivation, and sports participation trends were also reviewed in the development of the Strategy. The Census 2021 shows that Harrow’s population is significantly higher than the predicted figures at 261,300 people, an increase of 9.3% since the 2011 Census. This increase of population indicates that the current provision of facilities for sport and physical activity in Harrow will be under pressure. Harrow performs well in comparison to the

regional and national averages for ten out of eleven of the Department of Health key health indicators, but the percentage of physically active adults is worse than the regional and national average.

2.5 The development of the Strategy has been managed by the IOSFS Steering Group which included a representative from Sport England, NGBs for key sports, and representatives from the Council's Culture and Leisure Department, Parks, Planning, and Public Health.

2.5 The following indoor and outdoor sports facility types were included in the assessment:

I. Indoor

- Swimming Pools
- Sports Halls
- Health and Fitness Suites
- Squash Courts
- Indoor Tennis Centres
- Climbing Walls/Centres
- Gymnastic Centres
- Indoor Bowls

II. Outdoor

- Athletics Tracks
- Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs)
- Cricket pitches and outdoor nets
- Outdoor playing pitches
- Bowls greens and Petanque
- Tennis and Netball Courts
- Urban/Extreme sports (i.e., BMX facilities)
- Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs) and informal facilities i.e., outdoor gym equipment

3. Current Situation

3.1 Key findings of the Assessment of Need studies for the four major playing pitch sports (cricket, football, hockey, and rugby) played in Harrow are as follows:

- For playing pitches in Harrow there will be a requirement to provide additional playing and training capacity for all 4 of the major sports, whilst maintaining capacity currently provided for minority pitch sports of Gaelic Football and American Football.
- The main characteristic of the current playing pitch supply is the substantial reduction in the number of natural turf sites and pitches with community availability and use for football over the last 10 years. This has, however, been offset to a large degree by an increase in the supply of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs).
- There has been a growth in the number of pitches available for cricket, the transfer of use of a former rugby pitch to accommodate demand for American Football, and development of the first rugby compliant AGP.
- The main change in demand since the last assessment is the continued growth in playing pitch sports at community clubs by children (including

girls), and in demand among adults to play recreational pitch sports outside the traditional sports club model.

- Fall in the number of adult men's teams in football, but growth of interest in American and Gaelic football.
- Over 40% of grass football pitches in the borough are of poor quality.

3.2 The key findings of the analysis of facility supply, demand and accessibility factors for indoor sports facilities (built facilities) by sport facility type are as follows:

- *Indoor Swimming Pools* – A high-level of Harrow's existing and projected future demand for swimming pools can be met by the existing supply available in the study area. There is, however, an over-riding need to replace or modernise the existing pool stock within Harrow, particularly the borough's ageing public pools. The borough's pools are estimated to be full in all 3 modelling runs undertaken using the Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM). More than half the total demand for swimming is met by pools located outside the borough.
- *Sports Halls* – The demand for sports halls exceeds the accessible supply of sports halls which is consistent with London as a whole. 49% of demand is met outside the borough and 51% is retained within Harrow.
- *Health and Fitness Facilities* – The distribution of health and fitness facilities across the borough is good with all residents within a 3-mile radius of a facility.
- *Squash Courts* – The level of overall supply does not meet the England squash benchmark quantitative guidance standard. Sport England's Active Lives Survey 2020/21 indicates a decrease in adult demand for squash nationally over the last three years.
- *Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities* – Overall Sport England's most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicates no significant change in adult demand for gymnastics and trampolining nationally. However, there is huge demand for provision at Harrow School of Gymnastics that they are unable to meet compared to other clubs.
- *Athletics Facilities* – The athletics facilities at Bannister Sports Centre can meet the needs for athletics/running demand in Harrow.
- *Tennis Facilities* – The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) feels that there is a strong stock of tennis facilities across both the Harrow parks and the club infrastructure to meet future demand. There had been recent investment by the LTA in all 13 park sites.
- *Netball* – the majority of courts are on education sites, with just the courts at Harrow Leisure Centre and Aspire Leisure Centre on non-educational sites.
- *Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Provision* – British Cycling's assessment is that there is a sufficient supply of significant cycling facilities which are accessible to Harrow residents.
- *Bowls Provision* – England Bowls has not identified a need for any additional facilities in the study area but improvements to the quality of greens and ancillary facilities is needed.
- *Boxing Provision* – England Boxing has not identified any facility need and feels that clubs in the area are able to meet current demand.

4. Options Considered

4.1 Option A: To adopt the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037. By adopting the strategy, the Council will have a strategic direction to improve Harrow's sports infrastructure. The strategy will inform future investment in facilities and provide an evidence base and clear priorities to inform spatial planning policy and external funding bids. The Strategy will help to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Harrow by providing better access to sports facilities and increasing residents' participation in sport and physical activity.

This option is recommended.

4.2 Option B: To continue the current situation and not adopt the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037. Under this option the Council would not have a strategic plan to ensure indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet the future community needs of the borough, with no evidence base to inform spatial planning policy and external funding bids. Sport England have signed off the Strategy and whilst not all Local Authorities formally adopt their strategies, failure to do so will weaken the position to secure Sport England support when bidding for funds.

This option is not recommended.

5. Why a Change is Needed

5.1 Section 3 of the Strategy (pages 96-99) sets out a number of overarching strategic recommendations aimed at ensuring the on-going provision of high quality, accessible playing pitches and built sport facilities and can meet the needs and demands of the borough's current and future populations. The recommendations respond to the facility needs highlighted in Section 2 i.e., the Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and the Built Facilities Strategy (part 2).

a) Planning Policy

- The need to protect and enhance the existing scale of facility provision for key facility types – pools, sports, halls, artificial and natural turf playing pitches, gymnastics centres and health and fitness facilities - remains similar to the findings of the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy in 2018 and the Outdoor Sports Strategy Background paper of 2012.
- Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current Local Plan Policies with respect to community, sport and recreation facilities – i.e. DM46 (re: new provision), DM47(re: retention of existing provision) and DM48 (re: enhancing outdoor facilities) - need to be maintained.

b) Protect

- The firm conclusion of the Strategy is that there is an identified need to retain the existing overall quantity of sports facilities within the borough whilst recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for

example, through closure of sites of poor quality or of limited value for community sport offset by new provision).

- It is therefore recommended that the broad approach and principles established in existing policies in respect of the protection of existing provision be carried forward into the new Local Plan. Specifically, the new Local Plan should establish a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a sports facility unless:
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision for that specific sport(s) in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.
- It is also recommended that the Council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of sport) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the borough where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured.
- It is recommended the Council continue to seek to influence the design and specification of any new education sports facilities and extensions to existing facilities to ensure their suitability for both education and community use (i.e., provided to Sport England and/or the relevant sport's national governing body design dimensions and standards as opposed to education dimensions and standards).
- It is further recommended that the Council negotiates secure affordable community access as a condition of planning consent (via formal Community Use Agreements) for applications from education providers.

c) *Enhance and Provide*

- It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority continue to seek the advice of appropriate sport national governing bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new sports facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for sports facilities are drafted.
- Harrow has a number of multi-sport sites which serve a wide range of sport and activity. The Playing Pitch Strategy process of consultation and analysis has highlighted a number of important improvements and potential investment needs across these sites for outdoor sport. Taking a holistic approach for all sports on site could help secure more funding or open up opportunities for more funding that could benefit a range of sports. However, the co-ordination of these opportunities (alongside the National Governing Bodies and resident sports clubs) with indoor and built facilities will remain a key priority for the Council. Whilst the specific actions and timings are dealt with in the action plan given the importance of these sites to the leading sports within the overall Indoor and Outdoor Strategy, opportunities to provide a more diverse and wider reaching range of facilities for sport and physical activity on current sites will be pursued by the Council.

5.2 As detailed in Section 2 (part 1), Playing Pitch Strategy, to meet forecast future needs to 2037, it is recommended that the following new provision should be considered subject to the availability of suitable space and feasibility assessment:

- Up to three new fine turf cricket pitches (the need is greatest in the southwest of the borough)
 - New provision of two football pitches at Bannister Sports Centre
 - New provision of changing pavilions for winter playing pitch sports at Saddlers Mead Open Space
 - New provision of changing pavilion close to ATP at Orley Farm School
 - New provision of a 3G ATP to World Rugby compliant specification at The Hive Football Complex.
 - New provision of 2 additional 3G ATPs should Whitmore High School/Avanti House be unable to register their 3G ATPs or are unavailable for FA match play.
- 5.3 The Action Plan as detailed at Figure 4.1 (Playing Pitches), and 4.2 (Built Facilities), pages 102-103 of the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (That Strategy is in Appendix 2 of this report), presents the priority projects in alphabetical order. Further longer-term projects are listed in Appendix H, figures H1 and H2, pages 2-5 of the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy (That Strategy is in Appendix 2 of this report). The action plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed, pending funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where and whom they might be developed by to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models often through engaging with either voluntary or commercial partners. Several project proposals within the strategy are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals. Sites included in the Action Plan include educational sites, Council sites, parks, and private sites. A Project Team will meet monthly to progress the delivery of the Action Plan. The Project Team will be attended by relevant Council officers from the Place, People, and Resources Directorates.

5.4 The immediate priority for Harrow, as with many local authorities at the time of this strategy, is to protect and continue to maintain the current level of facilities to ensure no loss of provision during the current challenging time for local authorities. The current pressures on public sector budgets alongside increasing operational costs and capital costs (for maintenance and new facilities) means the London Borough of Harrow must plan prudently for future needs.

5.5 The Council has a major project to consider in the future replacement of Harrow Leisure Centre subject to funding, as well as considering the longevity of Hatch End Swimming Pool. These two facilities will require considerable planning and development to ensure they can be delivered and provide the right facility mix for residents across the area.

5.6 It is recommended that the Council's Strategy Steering Group should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period. The Steering Group will include project team members, supported by external members which will include National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of the relevant sports, Sport England and Harrow's Voluntary and Community Sector.

6. Ward Councillor Comments

6.1 N/A – the recommendations in this report affect all wards.

7. Performance Issues

7.1 Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey results (Nov 2021-Nov 2022) show that more adult residents of the borough (aged 16+) are physically 'inactive' (30%) compared to the national average (25.8%) and the regional average (25%), as well as a lower-level percentage (59.8%) being classed as 'active' than the regional (64.2%) and national averages (63.1%).

7.2 The last available data from the Sport England Active Lives Children Survey for Harrow is for the 2022-23 academic year. The level of activity of children in Harrow is better than the regional and national picture. 29.9% of children are 'less active' in Harrow compared to 32.5% of children in London and 30.2% of children in England. There are also more 'active' children in Harrow (51.5%) in comparison to the regional (45.7%) and national (47%) average.

8. Environmental Implications

8.1 Delivering some of the actions listed in the Action Plan of the Strategy will result in improvements to the quality of indoor sports facilities including having more energy efficient and sustainable buildings. This will support the Council's 'Living Harrow: The London Borough of Harrow's Climate and Nature Strategy, 2023-30' to reduce carbon dioxide emissions.

9. Risk Management Implications

9.1 Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **No**

9.2 Separate risk register in place? **No** – Separate risk registers will be developed for the delivery of discrete projects.

9.3 The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below. **n/a**

9.4 The following key risks should be taken into account when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

| Risk Description | Mitigations | RAG Status |
|---|---|--------------|
| <p>1. The Action Plan is not deliverable due to a lack of funding being available and an inability to secure external funding.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Action Plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed pending funding confirmation. ▪ The delivery of the strategic recommendations of the strategy is likely to require capital investment. Each proposed project will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that it is financially viable and is subject to a funding bid in accordance with the Council’s annual budget process. ▪ External funding opportunities will be explored to minimise the need for Council borrowing. By adopting the strategy, the Council will be able to maximise its potential to secure grant funding. | AMBER |
| <p>2. Suitable Project Management arrangements are not in place to ensure that the actions in the Action Plan are progressed.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ A Project Team will be established that will meet monthly. The Project Team will be attended by relevant Council Departments including Sport and Leisure, Parks, and Public Health ▪ Specific Project Management arrangements will be put in place for specific projects as required involving key Council Officers and other stakeholders. | AMBER |
| <p>3. The audit of sports facilities becomes out of date, including changes in national priorities, and the demand for facilities by the local community changes.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group will meet annually to review and update the Action Plan and priority projects during the strategy period. | GREEN |

4. Procurement Implications

10.1 There are no procurement implications for the proposed adoption of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037. Future Procurement for Council projects that will contribute to the delivery of the Strategy Action Plan will be undertaken in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (which will be replaced by Procurement Act 2023 coming into force in October 2024).

5. Legal Implications

10.1 Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 gives the Council the statutory power, but not duty, to provide such recreational facilities as it thinks fit, including indoor and outdoor sports facilities.

Legal implications will arise from the delivery of the strategy and Action Plan, including under public procurement, property, planning and highways legislation.

12. Financial Implications

12.1 The Action Plan as detailed at Figure 4.1 (Playing Pitches) and 4.2 (Built Facilities) (pages 102-103) of the Strategy presents the priority projects, with further longer-term projects listed in Appendix H. The Action Plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed pending funding confirmation. A number of project proposals are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects, such as future plans for Harrow Leisure Centre and Hatch End Pool, feasibility testing and options appraisals.

12.2 The delivery of the strategy is likely to require capital investment to meet its objectives. Each proposed project will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to ensure that it is financially viable and is subject to a funding bid in accordance with the Council's annual budget process. External funding opportunities will be explored to minimise the need for council borrowing.

13. Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

13. 1 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EqIA) has been conducted (Appendix 1). The EqIA identified that the recommended option would have a positive impact on all ages, races and ethnicities, sexes, and those with a disability. The proposed strategy would provide the Council with a strategic plan to ensure that indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet the future community needs of all these protected characteristics. No specific negative impact has been identified for any of the protected characteristics.

14. Council Priorities

14.1 The decision sought will support the Council's Vision and Corporate Priorities. The new facilities strategy will provide the strategic direction to improve Harrow's sports infrastructure supporting the Council's Vision to 'Restore Pride in Harrow.' The implementation of the Action Plan will help deliver improved sporting facilities that residents need supporting the delivery of the priorities of 'A Council that puts residents first' and 'A borough that is clean and safe'. The delivery of the sporting facilities detailed in the Action Plan will help improve the health and well-being of residents supporting the delivery of the priority of 'A place where those in need are supported'.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Comie Campbell
Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 16/01/24

Statutory Officer: Stephen Dorrian
Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 15/01/24

Chief Officer: Dipti Patel
Signed off by the Corporate Director
Date: 12/02/24

Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta
Signed by the Head of Procurement
Date: 12/01/24

Head of Internal Audit: Neale Burns
Signed on behalf of the Head of Internal Audit
Date: 31.01.24

Has the Portfolio Holder(s) been consulted? Yes

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

EqIA carried out: YES

EqIA cleared by: Jennifer Rock

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Tim Bryan – Head of Service, Culture and Leisure. Tel. 07917076800. Email: tim.bryan@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: No

You will need to produce an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) if:

- You are developing a new policy, strategy, or service
- You are making changes that will affect front-line services
- You are reducing budgets, which may affect front-line services
- You are changing the way services are funded and this may impact the quality of the service and who can access it
- You are making a decision that could have a different impact on different groups of people
- You are making staff redundant or changing their roles

Guidance notes on how to complete an EqIA and sign off process are available on the Hub under Equality and Diversity. You must read the [guidance notes](#) and ensure you have followed all stages of the EqIA approval process (outlined in appendix 1). Section 2 of the template requires you to undertake an assessment of the impact of your proposals on groups with protected characteristics. Equalities and borough profile data, as well as other sources of statistical information can be found on the Harrow hub, within the section entitled: [Equality Impact Assessment](#) - sources of statistical information.

| Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) | | |
|--|---|--|
| Type of Decision: | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Cabinet <input type="radio"/> Portfolio holder <input type="radio"/> Other (state) | |
| Title of Proposal | Implementation of Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037 | Date EqIA created: 02/01/24 |
| Name and job title of completing/lead Officer | Tim Bryan – Head of Service, Culture and Leisure | |
| Directorate/ Service responsible | Place/ Inclusive Economy, Leisure and Culture | |
| Organisational approval | | |
| EqIA approved by the EDI Team: | Name: Jennifer Rock (Acting) Policy Officer EDI Team | Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to indicate that you have approved this EqIA Date of approval: 29.1.24 |

1. Summary of proposal, impact on groups with protected characteristics and mitigating actions

(to be completed after you have completed sections 2 - 5)

a) What is your proposal? It is proposed that the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2024-2037 is adopted by the Council. The strategy is recommended for adoption so that the Council will have a strategic direction to improve Harrow's sports infrastructure. The strategy will inform future investment in facilities and provide an evidence base and clear priorities to inform spatial planning policy and external funding bids. The strategy will help to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Harrow by providing better access to sports facilities and increasing residents' participation in sport and physical activity.

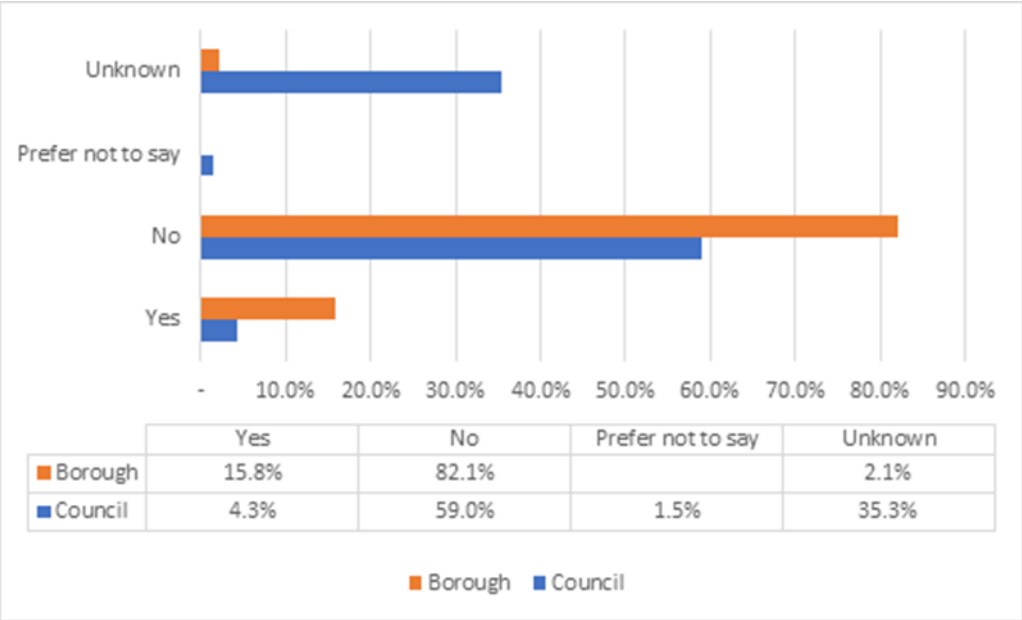
b) Summarise the impact of your proposal on groups with protected characteristics

The adoption of the proposed Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy would have a positive impact on all ages, races and ethnicities, sexes, and those with a disability as the Strategy will provide the Council with a strategic plan to ensure that indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet the future community needs of all these protected characteristics. No specific negative impact has been identified for any of the protected characteristics.

c) Summarise any potential negative impact(s) identified and mitigating actions

As detailed in b) above no specific negative impact has been identified for any of the protected characteristics from the adoption of the proposed Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

| 2. Assessing impact | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|------------------------|---------------|----------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| You are required to undertake a detailed analysis of the impact of your proposals on groups with protected characteristics. You should refer to borough profile data , equalities data , service user information, consultation responses and any other relevant data/evidence to help you assess and explain what impact (if any) your proposal(s) will have on each group. Where there are gaps in data, you should state this in the boxes below and what action (if any), you will take to address this in the future. | | What does the evidence tell you about the impact your proposal may have on groups with protected characteristics? Click the relevant box to indicate whether your proposal will have a positive impact, negative (minor, major), or no impact | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protected characteristic | For each protected characteristic, explain in detail what the evidence is suggesting and the impact of your proposal (if any). Click the appropriate box on the right to indicate the outcome of your analysis. | Positive impact | Negative impact | | No impact | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Minor | Major | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | <p>The total resident population of Harrow according to the 2021 Census was 261,203. The breakdown by age for the whole borough was as follows:</p> <table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="text-align: left;">Age Group</th> <th style="text-align: left;">Total</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-4 year olds</td> <td>15,699 (6%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>5-9 years</td> <td>16,133 (6.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>10-15 years</td> <td>19,750 (7.6%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>16-19 years</td> <td>11,772 (4.5%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>20-24 years</td> <td>15,132 (5.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>25-34 years</td> <td>38,925 (14.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>35-49 years</td> <td>58,062 (22.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>50-64 years</td> <td>45,549 (17.4%)</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | Age Group | Total | 0-4 year olds | 15,699 (6%) | 5-9 years | 16,133 (6.2%) | 10-15 years | 19,750 (7.6%) | 16-19 years | 11,772 (4.5%) | 20-24 years | 15,132 (5.8%) | 25-34 years | 38,925 (14.9%) | 35-49 years | 58,062 (22.2%) | 50-64 years | 45,549 (17.4%) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Age Group | Total | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-4 year olds | 15,699 (6%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 5-9 years | 16,133 (6.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 10-15 years | 19,750 (7.6%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 16-19 years | 11,772 (4.5%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 20-24 years | 15,132 (5.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 25-34 years | 38,925 (14.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 35-49 years | 58,062 (22.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 50-64 years | 45,549 (17.4%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>65-74 years</td> <td>21,410 (8.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>75-84 years</td> <td>13,091 (5.0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>85 years and over</td> <td>5,680 (2.2%)</td> </tr> </table> | 65-74 years | 21,410 (8.2%) | 75-84 years | 13,091 (5.0%) | 85 years and over | 5,680 (2.2%) | <p>The proposed Strategy would have a positive impact on all age groups as it will provide the Council with a strategic plan to ensure that indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet the future community needs of all ages.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|---|-------|------|------|----------------|------|-------|------|-------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 65-74 years | 21,410 (8.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 75-84 years | 13,091 (5.0%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 85 years and over | 5,680 (2.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Disability</p> | <p>According to the Annual Workforce Equalities Report 2020- 2021, 15.8% of the borough's population discloses a disability. This is indicated below:</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Yes</th> <th>No</th> <th>Prefer not to say</th> <th>Unknown</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Borough</td> <td>15.8%</td> <td>82.1%</td> <td>1.5%</td> <td>2.1%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council</td> <td>4.3%</td> <td>59.0%</td> <td>1.5%</td> <td>35.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> | | Yes | No | Prefer not to say | Unknown | Borough | 15.8% | 82.1% | 1.5% | 2.1% | Council | 4.3% | 59.0% | 1.5% | 35.3% | <p>☒</p> | <p>☐</p> | <p>☐</p> | <p>☐</p> |
| | Yes | No | Prefer not to say | Unknown | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Borough | 15.8% | 82.1% | 1.5% | 2.1% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council | 4.3% | 59.0% | 1.5% | 35.3% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------|---|-----------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---|--------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | The proposed Strategy would have a positive impact on those people with a disability as it will provide the Council with a strategic plan to ensure that indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet the future community needs of all including those with a disability. This will include ensuring that new and improvements to existing sports facilities meet the needs of people with a disability including legislative requirements. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gender reassignment | <p>The Gender identity breakdown from the 2021 Census for Harrow was as follows for the total residents of 209,901 who were eligible to complete this question was as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth</td> <td>188,901 (90.1%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given</td> <td>1,108 (0.5%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trans woman</td> <td>318 (0.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Trans man</td> <td>342 (0.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Non-binary</td> <td>57 (0.0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All other gender identities</td> <td>59 (0.0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td> <td>18,832 (9.0%)</td> </tr> </table> <p>The proposed Strategy will not have a specific impact on those people in this protected characteristic.</p> | Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth | 188,901 (90.1%) | Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given | 1,108 (0.5%) | Trans woman | 318 (0.2%) | Trans man | 342 (0.2%) | Non-binary | 57 (0.0%) | All other gender identities | 59 (0.0%) | Not answered | 18,832 (9.0%) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Gender identity the same as sex registered at birth | 188,901 (90.1%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gender identity different from sex registered at birth but no specific identity given | 1,108 (0.5%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trans woman | 318 (0.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Trans man | 342 (0.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Non-binary | 57 (0.0%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All other gender identities | 59 (0.0%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not answered | 18,832 (9.0%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Marriage and Civil Partnership | <p>The legal partnership status breakdown from the 2021 Census for Harrow was as follows for the total residents of 209,901 who were eligible to complete the question was as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Never married or never registered a civil partnership</td> <td>69,622 (33.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Married</td> <td>112,690 (53.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>In a registered civil partnership</td> <td>231 (0.1%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Separated, but still legally married or still leglly in a civil partnership</td> <td>3,783 (1.8%)</td> </tr> </table> | Never married or never registered a civil partnership | 69,622 (33.2%) | Married | 112,690 (53.8%) | In a registered civil partnership | 231 (0.1%) | Separated, but still legally married or still leglly in a civil partnership | 3,783 (1.8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | |
| Never married or never registered a civil partnership | 69,622 (33.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Married | 112,690 (53.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| In a registered civil partnership | 231 (0.1%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Separated, but still legally married or still leglly in a civil partnership | 3,783 (1.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

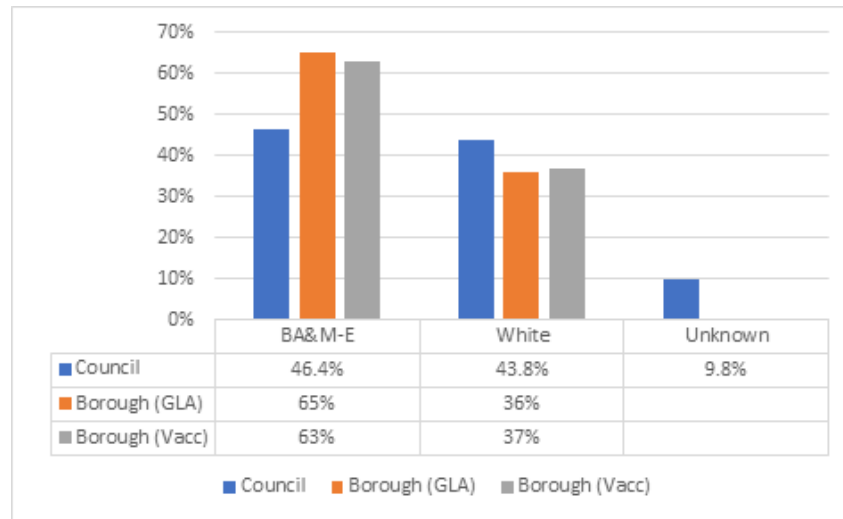
| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|--|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | Divorced or civil partnership desolved | 11,853 (5.6%) | | | | |
| | Widowed or surviving civil partner | 11,444 (5.5%) | | | | |
| | The proposed Strategy will not have a specific impact on those people in this protected characteristic. | | | | | |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | The 2020 mid-year estimates showed a decrease of 37 births (3,506 births in total) over 2019 mid-year estimates, a 1% decrease. There was a consistent increase from 2001/02 to 2012/13. | | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| | The proposed Strategy will not have a specific impact on those people in this protected characteristic. | | | | | |

**Race/
Ethnicity**

The race/ethnicity statistics from the 2021 Census for Harrow was as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh | 118,152 (45.2%) |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | 19,151 (7.3%) |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 9,833 (3.8%) |
| White | 95,233 (36.5%) |
| Other ethnic groups | 18,836 (7.2%) |

According to the Annual Workforce Equalities Report 2020- 2021 the race demographic of our resident population is as demonstrated below:



The proposed Strategy will have a positive impact on all ethnic groups as it will provide the Council with a strategic plan to ensure indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet the future community needs of all communities in Harrow. This will include ensuring that improvements to existing facilities and the development of new facilities meet the needs of specific ethnic groups.



Religion or belief

The race/ethnicity statistics from the 2021 Census for Harrow for those who responded to the question was as follows:

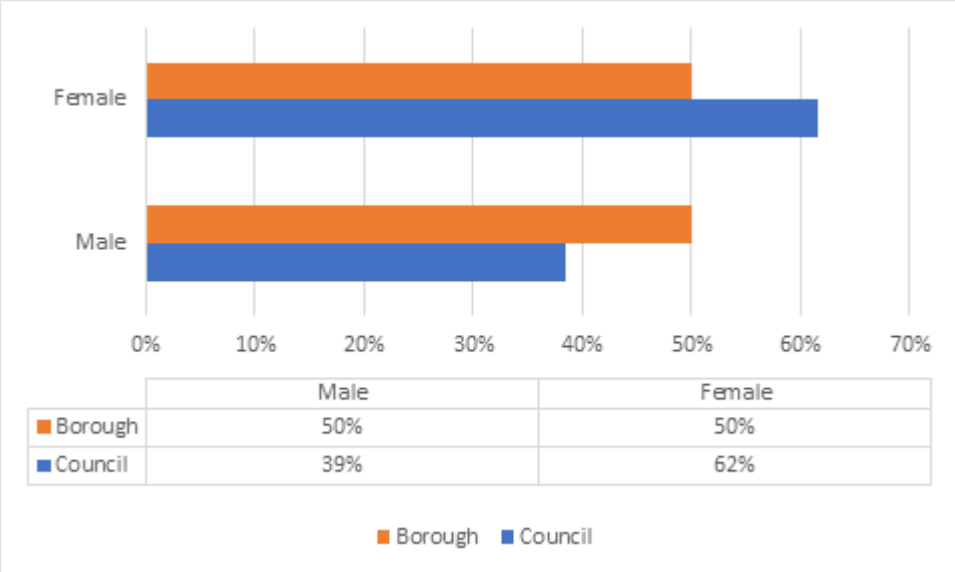
| | |
|----------------|----------------|
| Christian | 88,602 (33.9%) |
| Buddhist | 2,812 (1.1%) |
| Hindu | 67,392 (25.8%) |
| Jewish | 7,304 (2.8%) |
| Muslim | 41,503 (15.9%) |
| Sikh | 2,743 (1.1%) |
| Other religion | 7,695 (2.9%) |
| No religion | 27,748 (10.6%) |
| Not answered | 15,404 (5.9%) |

The Annual Workforce Equalities Report 2020-21 mentions that Christianity (37%), Hinduism (28%), No religion/ Atheist (13%) and Islam (12%) are the four biggest religious demographics in Harrow. Residents that are of the Jewish faith is 3% of the borough population.

The graph below illustrates this data in more detail:



| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|

| | <p style="text-align: center;"> ■ Borough ■ Council </p> <p>The proposed Strategy will not have a specific impact on those people in this protected characteristic.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|--------|------|--------|---|-----|-----|---|-----|-----|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>Sex</p> | <p>According to the 2021 Census 50.7% of Harrow’s population was female and 49.3% were male.</p> <p>The Annual Workforce Equalities Report 2020-2021 indicates that the percentage of residents within Harrow that are male and female is split evenly at 50%. As shown below:</p>  <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Male</th> <th>Female</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>■ Borough</td> <td>50%</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>■ Council</td> <td>39%</td> <td>62%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p style="text-align: center;"> ■ Borough ■ Council </p> <p>The proposed Strategy will have a positive impact on people of all sexes as it will provide the Council with a strategic plan to ensure indoor and outdoor sports facilities meet the future needs of the whole community in Harrow. This will include ensuring that</p> | | Male | Female | ■ Borough | 50% | 50% | ■ Council | 39% | 62% | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| | Male | Female | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ■ Borough | 50% | 50% | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ■ Council | 39% | 62% | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | <p>improvements to existing facilities and the development of new facilities meet the needs of different sexes.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|--|-----------------------|-----------|-------------------|---------|--------|-------|------|--|------|---------|-------|------|------|-------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|--|
| <p>Sexual Orientation</p> | <p>The sexual orientation statistics from the 2021 Census for Harrow for those who responded to the question was as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Straight or Heterosexual</td> <td>182,702 (87.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gay or Lesbian</td> <td>1,361 (0.6%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bisexual</td> <td>1,873 (0.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pansexual</td> <td>787 (0.4%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asexual</td> <td>59 (0.0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Queer</td> <td>22 (0.0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All other sexual orientations</td> <td>137 (0.1%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td> <td>22,680 (10.8%)</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Annual Workforce Equalities Report 2020-2021 indicates that the percentage of LGBTQIA+ residents within London is 4.5%. See below:</p> <div> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th></th> <th>Heterosexual/Straight</th> <th>LGB/other</th> <th>Prefer not to say</th> <th>Unknown</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>London</td> <td>88.9%</td> <td>4.5%</td> <td></td> <td>6.5%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Council</td> <td>47.5%</td> <td>1.1%</td> <td>2.2%</td> <td>49.3%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> </div> | Straight or Heterosexual | 182,702 (87.2%) | Gay or Lesbian | 1,361 (0.6%) | Bisexual | 1,873 (0.9%) | Pansexual | 787 (0.4%) | Asexual | 59 (0.0%) | Queer | 22 (0.0%) | All other sexual orientations | 137 (0.1%) | Not answered | 22,680 (10.8%) | | Heterosexual/Straight | LGB/other | Prefer not to say | Unknown | London | 88.9% | 4.5% | | 6.5% | Council | 47.5% | 1.1% | 2.2% | 49.3% | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> |
| Straight or Heterosexual | 182,702 (87.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gay or Lesbian | 1,361 (0.6%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| Pansexual | 787 (0.4%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asexual | 59 (0.0%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| | Heterosexual/Straight | LGB/other | Prefer not to say | Unknown | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| London | 88.9% | 4.5% | | 6.5% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Council | 47.5% | 1.1% | 2.2% | 49.3% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| | The proposed Strategy will not have a specific impact on those people in this protected characteristic. | | | | |
| 2.1 Cumulative impact – considering what else is happening within the Council and Harrow as a whole, could your proposals have a cumulative impact on groups with protected characteristics? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | |
| If you clicked the Yes box, which groups with protected characteristics could be affected and what is the potential impact? Include details in the space below | | | | | |
| 2.2 Any other impact - considering what else is happening nationally/locally (national/local/regional policies, socio-economic factors etc), could your proposals have an impact on individuals/service users, or other groups? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | | | | | |
| If you clicked the Yes box, Include details in the space below | | | | | |

3. Actions to mitigate/remove negative impact

Only complete this section if your assessment (in section 2) suggests that your proposals may have a negative impact on groups with protected characteristics. If you have not identified any negative impacts, please complete sections 4 and 5.

In the table below, please state what these potential negative impact (s) are, mitigating actions and steps taken to ensure that these measures will address and remove any negative impacts identified and by when. Please also state how you will monitor the impact of your proposal once implemented.

| State what the negative impact(s) are for each group, identified in section 2. In addition, you should also consider and state potential risks associated with your proposal. | Measures to mitigate negative impact (provide details, including details of and additional consultation undertaken/to be carried out in the future). If you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact, please state so and provide a brief explanation. | What action (s) will you take to assess whether these measures have addressed and removed any negative impacts identified in your analysis? Please provide details. If you have previously stated that you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact please state below. | Deadline date | Lead Officer |
|--|--|---|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
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| | | | | |
| | | | | |

4. Public Sector Equality Duty

How does your proposal meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
3. Foster good relations between people from different groups

Include details in the space below

The proposed Strategy will help to ensure that the future indoor and outdoor sports facilities community needs will be met, with the facilities being available for use by the whole community which will bring different communities together, including people of all ages, those with a disability, different ethnic groups, and all sexes. This will help to foster good relations between people from the different protected characteristics. Any new sports facilities built or refurbishment projects would be developed in accordance with legislative requirements and industry best practice. Engagement would also be undertaken with stakeholders and residents to help ensure that proposed designs would not discriminate against any particular protected group.

5. Outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) click the box that applies

Outcome 1

No change required: the EqIA has not identified any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact and all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity are being addressed

Outcome 2

Adjustments to remove/mitigate negative impacts identified by the assessment, or to better advance equality, as stated in section 3&4

Outcome 3

This EqIA has identified discrimination and/ or missed opportunities to advance equality and/or foster good relations. However, it is still reasonable to continue with the activity. Outline the reasons for this and the information used to reach this decision in the space below.

Include details here

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London Borough of Harrow
Indoor and Outdoor Sports
Facilities Strategy 2024-2037

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1. Introduction – Brief, Scope, Vision and Aims

1.1 Background

The new Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2024-2037, produced in line with Sport England’s latest guidance, forms the updated evidence based to the previous Indoor Sports Facility Strategy 2018 and the Outdoor Sports Strategy 2012.

Continuum Sport and Leisure were commissioned by the Council to lead on the production of the new strategy, following the Sport England process which has been agreed by all the key indoor and outdoor national governing bodies of sport. Each authority in the country is encouraged to produce this evidence base to inform future decisions regarding the demand and supply of existing and new playing pitches and built sports facilities in a given area. The strategy documents inform an action plan which details potential facility developments based on the demand and supply analysis. This action plan will be reviewed and amended, in partnership with stakeholders and the Strategy Steering Group where necessary on an annual basis.

Information on the supply of facilities contained in the strategy is generated through standard facility audits. This is used for all types of facility from park to elite sport, with the findings then corroborated by the relevant national governing body of that sport. Information on the demand for facilities is generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as affiliation data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. The Council’s Culture and Leisure Service has provided context and a local perspective on the overarching vision and principles driving the strategy and the outcome objectives.

The resulting action plan is a guide on how enhanced and new facilities might be developed, pending viability testing, funding confirmation and

planning permission where necessary. It also aligns where they might be developed and the lead organisation to meet the identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models.

Often projects are delivered through the Council or the sport's governing body engaging with voluntary, education or commercial partners and given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector and the increasing demands Councils are under for all of their services, especially housing and social care it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the sport specific investment needs identified within this strategy without external funding.

Each potential project identified in the action plan will be reviewed and re-evaluated considering the situation at the time. The strategy and action plan provide an overview of the position at the time of writing, factors on both the demand and supply side may change as well as the cost and viability of any project. The strategy should be reviewed and updated annually to ensure it is as up to date as possible when any individual project is being considered during the life of the strategy.

In November 2022, The Council set a new vision: Restoring Pride in Harrow and 3 new Council priorities being:

- A council that puts residents first
- A borough that is clean and safe
- A place where those in need are supported.

Through the implementation of this strategy, the Council has a major role to play in providing access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community. The council is a direct provider of entry level facilities such as free to use recreational spaces as well as pay and play summer and winter sports pitches, park tennis courts and leisure facilities with changing and toilet facilities to allow clubs to play competitively.

At the very top level, professional sports clubs based in the borough provide facilities catering for elite sport.

The strategy document comprises two parts – Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and Built Sports Facilities (part 2) – each with an action and implementation plan. The vision and key objectives for the new Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2024-2037 is outlined in section 1.4.

1.2 Why the Strategy Has Been Developed

Alongside the need for the Council to ensure an up-to-date evidence base and need within the local plan, the purpose of the strategy is to support the Council’s overarching principles of positively shaping the future of Harrow. The Sports Facilities strategy provides the strategic direction to Restore Pride in Harrow by improving Harrow’s sports infrastructure. The implementation of the action plan will help deliver the sporting facilities to improve health and well-being and deliver the corporate priority of being “a place where those in need are supported”.

A key part of the future provision is the Council’s important direct and indirect contribution to improving health and increased physical activity levels of Harrow residents. The strategy will assist in establishing how to best meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Harrow’s community clubs, organisations and residents, contributing to the priority of making Harrow a better place to live and work.

Harrow Council’s main reasons for producing this updated strategy and associated action plan are detailed below:

- o Enable and promote a network of accessible sports facilities across the borough maintaining and enhancing the borough’s built and green infrastructure.
- o Develop a hierarchy of appropriate quality facilities provided by a range of organisations.

- o Work with commercial and community partners and national governing bodies to enable and secure the development and long-term management as well as financial viability of indoor and outdoor sport facilities across the borough
- o Seek to maximise the opportunities which may arise to develop sports facilities as part of wider regeneration, education or place-based projects.
- o Provide robust evidence case to inform the Harrow Local Plan, and planning policy decisions regarding the protection, enhancement and provision of indoor and outdoor sports facilities
- o Provide the evidence base to secure developer contributions to enable the development of sports facilities to benefit residents.
- o Identify priorities for sports and leisure infrastructure spend
- o Identify and bid for external funding to support the development and delivery of new sports facilities in Harrow
- o Use the benefits of sport to bring communities together to make them stronger, reducing inequality and celebrating diversity
- o Promote indoor and outdoor sports as a key enabler to healthy and active lifestyles.

1.3 Improvement Projects Achieved

The council have achieved a number of projects since the last strategy which includes:

- o New bike pump track at Kenton Rec. Ground.
- o 8 new fine turf cricket pitches in the area and one additional non-turf pitch.
- o New full sized 3G artificial turf pitches have been provided at Bannister Sports Centre, The Hive London (3rd pitch) and Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club, as well as small sided provision at Harrow High School and Centenary Sixes.
- o Improvements to natural turf football pitches at Bannister sports Centre and Headstone Manor Rec. Ground.

- The John Lyon School developed a new sand dressed hockey pitch which provides a home facility for Harrow Hockey Club.
- The refurbishment of the park tennis courts and implementation of online booking and gate access system in all 13 sites (in progress).

1.4 Vision and Key Objectives

The vision for the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy is to facilitate the creation of a sporting infrastructure across Harrow that provides residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds with the opportunity to be active and participate in indoor and outdoor sports and recreational activities.

The 5 key objectives of the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy are as follows:

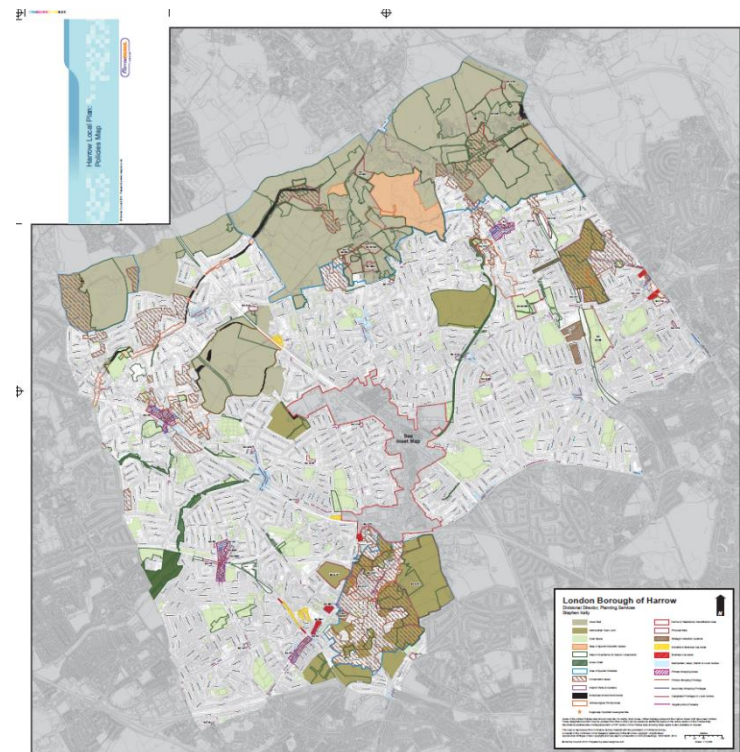
1. Improving health and well-being and reducing health inequalities by increasing participation in sport and physical activity in the borough, ensuring facilities for indoor and outdoor sports are of the appropriate quality and are available and accessible. This will support the delivery of Harrow Council’s Corporate Priority that Harrow is ‘*a place where those in need are supported*’.
2. To provide an evidence base and clear priorities for improving present provision and supporting/providing justification for new provision to inform spatial planning policy and decisions and responses to future planning applications, capital investment plans and external funding bids for new and/or enhanced indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
3. To inform the most efficient management and maintenance of playing pitch provision.
4. Development of an Action Plan and a list of key priorities which will help to meet any current deficiencies and provide for future demands.
5. To identify potential alternatives to the supply of provision e.g., educational sites.

Any projects taken forward or supported will be assessed against the Council’s Corporate priorities as well as these 5 key objectives.

1.5 The Extent of the Study Area

The study area will cover the entirety of Harrow. An important part of the Strategy will be to identify future need for pitch provisions and facilities based on population growth and areas of housing growth. Of note there are also sports teams from inside Harrow that use facilities outside of the borough boundary and others that travel from outside the borough to use Harrow facilities. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when considering future needs for each particular sport both in terms of facilities but also community sporting needs for Harrow residents.

Figure 1.1 –
Map of
Harrow



1.6 The Approach to Developing the Strategy

The strategy aims to be robust, based on local needs (currently and projections to 2037), and deliverable. This objective is assured by adhering to the 'ten steps' advocated in the current Sport England’s ‘Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance’ and the ‘Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities’. This guidance is detailed below.

Stage A - Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach

Stage B - Step 2: Gather supply information and views
 - Step 3: Gather demand information and views

Stage C - Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites
 - Step 5: Develop the current and future pictures of provision
 - Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues

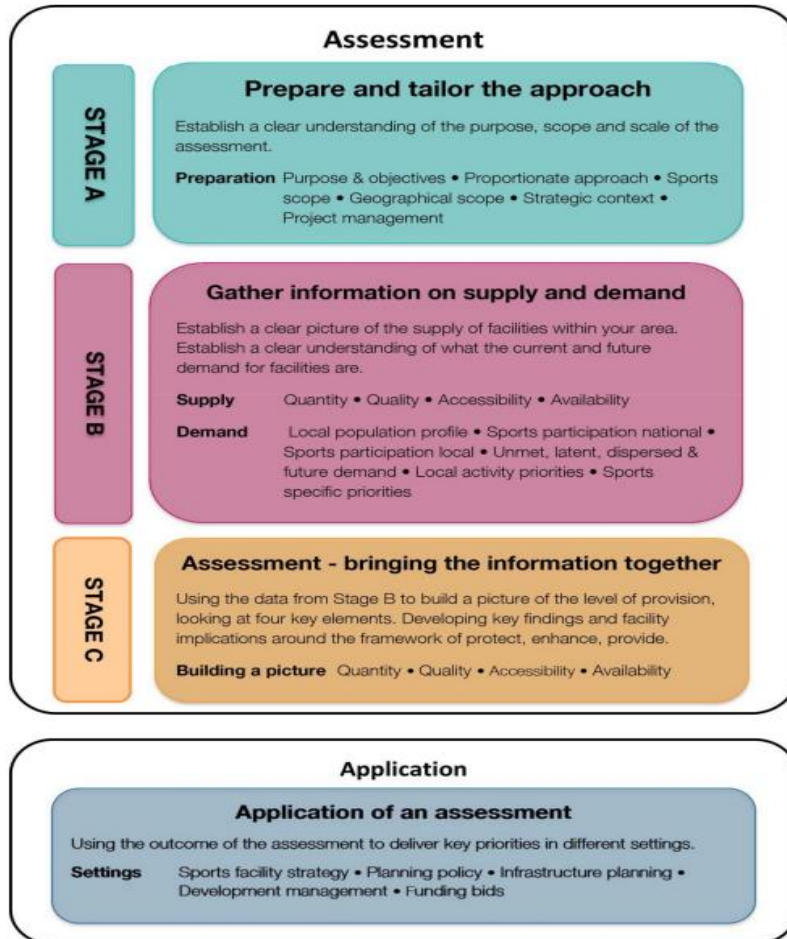
Stage D - Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan
 - Step 8: Write and adopt the strategy

Stage E - Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy
 - Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

Figure 1.2 - Ten Stage Approach to a PPS



Figure 1.3- Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (ANOG)



Stage A – Prepare and tailor the approach: Establish a clear understanding of the purpose, scope and scale of the assessment

Stage B – Gather information on supply and demand: Establish a clear picture of the supply of facilities within the area and the current and future demands for facilities.

Stage C – Assessment – Bringing the information together: Using the data from Stage B to build a picture of the level of provision, looking at four key elements. Developing key findings and facility implications around the framework of protect, enhance, provide.

Application – Application of an assessment: Using the outcome of the assessment to deliver key priorities in different settings.

National Policy Adherence

There is also a need to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Para 98 of the NPPF states: *“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.*

Sport England’s guidance highlights the importance of undertaking detailed assessments of sports facility needs and the benefits of sports and physical activity within local authority areas (as well as considering the range of possible options and scenarios for meeting priority needs and achieving positive outcomes identified through this process), before making recommendations for future action.

Specifically, the guidance recommends that local authorities:

1. *Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.*
2. *Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.*
3. *Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.*

The guidance published by Sport England also advocates that strategic recommendations and action planning consider the following hierarchy of needs:

1. **Protect** existing sports facilities where these are sustainable and continue to perform a valuable role in meeting community needs;
2. **Enhance** existing facilities that meet these criteria but need improvement to continue to be of value; and, lastly,
3. **Provide** new or extended facilities where there is found to be substantial unmet needs currently or predicted for the future.

1.7 Tailoring the Approach - What makes the study area different?

There are a number of sport specific issues which the Council had consulted with the leading NGBs on prior to the commencement of this strategy, these include:

- o Tennis – lack of floodlighting at a number of key sites hinders activity and participation.
- o Football – a large number of smaller clubs and individual teams within Harrow.
- o Cricket – well used pitches and a strong cricket structure, however quality of pitches and ancillary facilities need to be updated.

- o Access to education sites for indoor sports remains a key challenge, as for most local authorities.
- o Imported demand from outside of London coupled with the pressure on land for development within the urban fringe requires consideration for future provision and meeting demand for sport and physical activity.

Population Profile and Growth

The retention, and development opportunities, of new facilities in Harrow will need to address the needs of the borough's population, both current and forecasted. Findings from The Greater London Authority (GLA) 2020 population projections help to enable future planning for local populations in London. These figures state Harrow's population is projected to grow by just over 5% from 2021 to 2040 from 250,367 to 262,968. This increase of population indicates that the current provision of facilities for sport, physical activity, and recreation in Harrow will be under pressure in the coming years as this growth occurs.

Based on the GLA's 2020 mid-year population estimates, 50.3% of residents in Harrow are male and only 16.4% of residents are aged 65 or over. The first release of the Census 2021 data shows that Harrow's population is significantly higher than the predicted figures and was recorded as 261,300 people (50.7% female, 49.3% male), an increase of 9.3% since 2011 Census. Harrow is a largely diverse area with the majority of residents being from ethnic minorities (63.5%), where ethnic minority is defined as all people who are non-White British. The 2021 Census recorded the largest ethnic group in Harrow as Asian (Asian, Asian British, Asian Welsh) at 45.2% of residents.

Health

It is useful to understand the health profile of Harrow both in regard to identifying health issues which investment into provision can contribute to addressing, as well as understanding the propensity of a local population to be active. Harrow's Local Authority Health Profile (statistics ranging from

2017 to 2022) states that the health of residents is better than the national average with a higher life expectancy for both men and women.

Figure 1.4 provides an overview of the performance of Harrow across several Department of Health key health indicators in comparison with regional and national averages. Where figures for Harrow are highlighted in red, they are worse than the regional average.

Figure 1.4 Table of health indicators in Harrow and England

| Indicator | Harrow | London | England |
|---|--------|--------|---------|
| Deprivation (IMD Score) | 15.0 | 21.8 | 21.7 |
| % Children in low-income families (U16) | 15.4 | 16.4 | 19.9 |
| % Overweight children (including obesity (Year 6) | 25.1 | 25.8 | 23.4 |
| % Physically active adults | 62.0 | 66.8 | 67.3 |
| % Obese or overweight adults | 55.2 | 55.9 | 63.8 |
| % Estimated diabetes diagnosis rate | 89.1 | 71.4 | 78.0 |
| Life expectancy: male | 82.2 | 80.3 | 79.4 |
| Life expectancy: female | 85.7 | 84.3 | 83.1 |
| Under 75 mortality rate: cardiovascular | 62.1 | 74.3 | 76.0 |
| Under 75 mortality rate: cancer | 79.9 | 110.2 | 121.5 |
| % Estimated adult prevalence of common mental disorders (16+) | 15.6 | 19.3 | 16.9 |

Figure 1.4 shows that Harrow performs well in comparison to the regional and national averages with scores that are above the regional average for ten out of eleven health indicators. However, the percentage of physically active adults is worse than the regional and national average. Therefore, it is vital that facilities for leisure are built so they can help contribute to maintaining the positive indicators shown and reducing the levels of inactive adults. According to Sport England, sport and physical activity can help with several different physical and mental issues including reducing the risk of diabetes, heart disease, depression and many more health indicators listed previously. Therefore, by improving the indoor and outdoor sports facilities

in Harrow, the residents will have more access to the opportunity of bettering their health.

Deprivation

When planning for new provision for sport and recreation, it is important to consider deprivation levels within the borough and the surrounding catchment area. Deprivation and the social and economic factors behind the figures directly affect the propensity and ability of the catchment population to access and use facilities and be active. Investment into community facilities can also form an important element of the regeneration of deprived areas. An awareness of how deprivation affects a local population can also influence how activities are delivered and what type of initiatives are launched to increase participation.

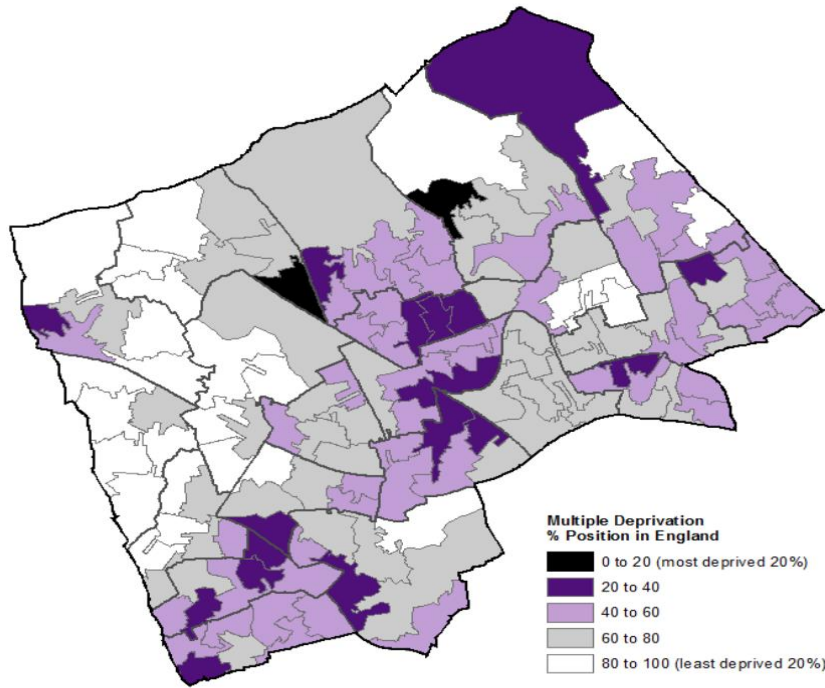
Figure 1.5 below illustrates Harrow’s deprivation rank nationally and regionally for the years 2015 and 2019. As shown on the table, for both England Rank and London Rank, Harrow’s deprivation rank has decreased from 2015 to 2019 (where rank 1 is most deprived), signaling a trend of slight decline across Harrow for those years.

Figure 1.5 Harrow National and Regional Deprivation rank

| | Harrow 2015 Rank | Harrow 2019 Rank |
|--------------|------------------|------------------|
| England Rank | 213/326 | 207/317 |
| London Rank | 28/33 | 27/33 |

Figure 1.6 shows a ward map of Harrow and the relative Indexes of Multiple Deprivation. Understanding the locations of the areas with the highest levels of deprivation will assist in indicating where valuable community leisure assets are currently based and serving those communities most in need as well as inform decisions on future investment that can add to and serve those areas which are key outcomes of the overall approach to this borough wide strategy.

Figure 1.6 Levels of deprivation across Harrow by wards



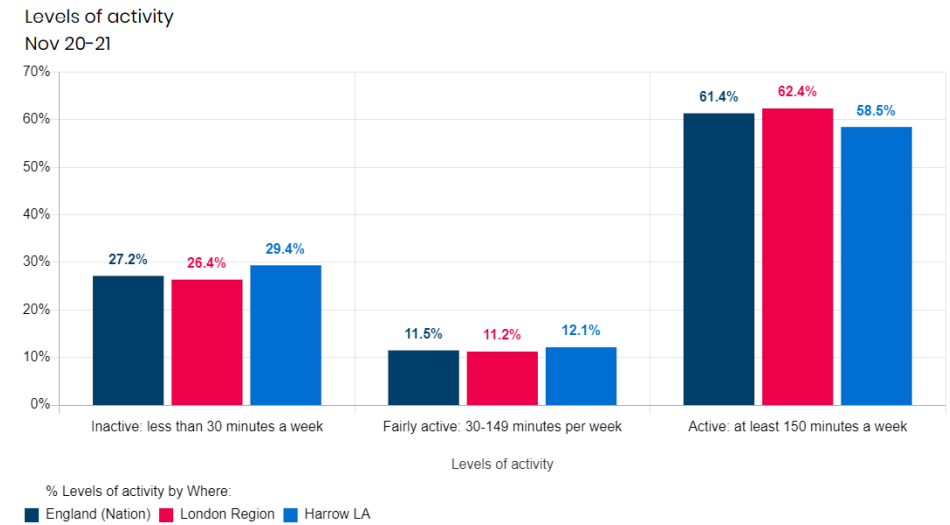
The two most deprived areas on the map (covered in black – most deprived lower super output areas within the top 20% in England) are within Stanmore Park and Hatch End. The wards in Harrow with the highest rates of health deprivation, are Greenhill followed by Wealdstone. The location of facilities within and adjacent to these neighbourhoods is an important consideration.

1.6 Tailoring the Approach - How does the population participate?

Figure 1.7, taken from Sport England’s latest Active Lives Survey results (November 2020 – November 2021), show that more adult residents of the

borough (aged 16+) are physical ‘inactive’ (29.4%) compared to the national average (27.2%) and the regional average (26.4%). As well as, a lower percentage (58.5%), being classed as ‘active’ than the regional (62.4%) and national averages (61.4%).

Figure 1.7 Levels of Activity



Regular participation – defined in the survey as participation at least twice in the last 28 days – is also lower among adults in Harrow (73.4%) than across London and nationally (75.6%) as shown in Figure 1.8 below.

Figure 1.8 Participation in the last 28 days

Participation in the last 28 days
Nov 20-21

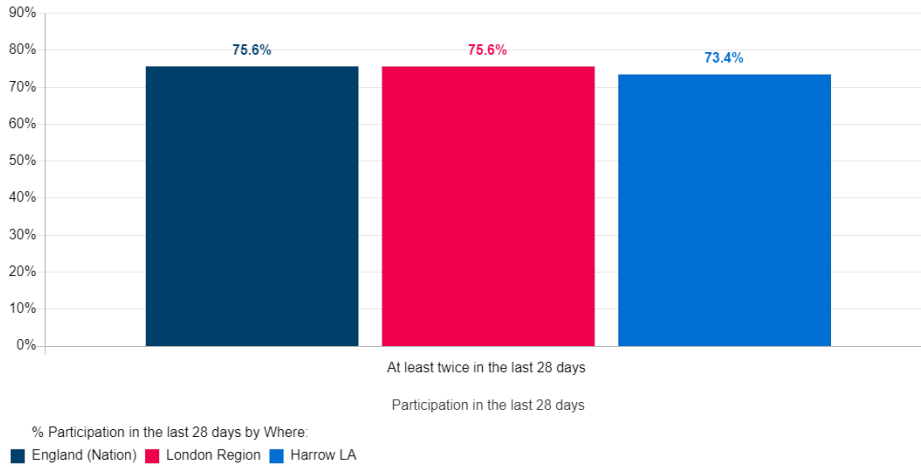
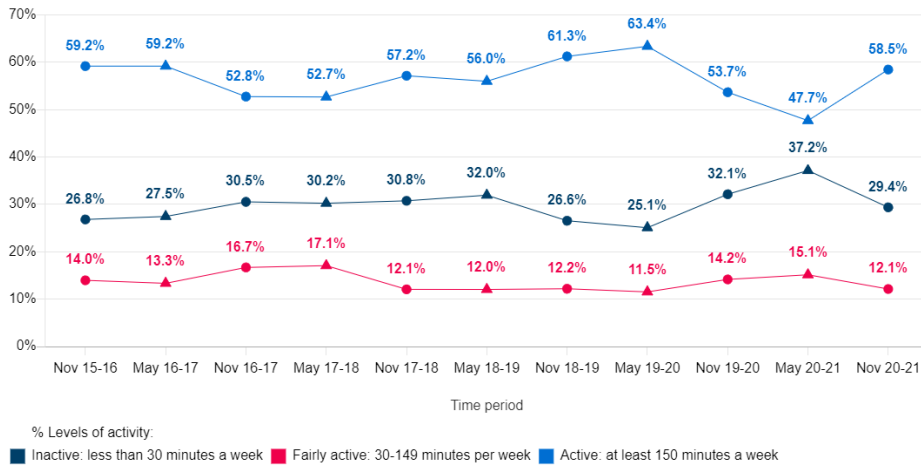


Figure 1.9 Levels of activity Participation Trends

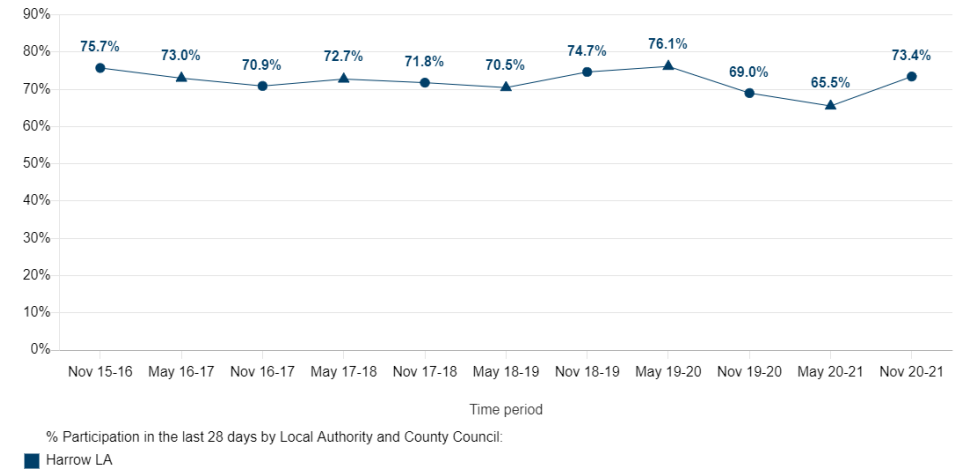
Levels of activity – Local Authority and County Council
Harrow LA



The proportion of adults in the borough classed as ‘Active’ (at least 150 minutes a week) has decreased by 0.7% (from 59.2% to 58.5%) since Nov 15-16. Over the same period, the figure for ‘inactive’ (less than 30 minutes a week) has increased by 2.6% (from 26.8% to 29.4%). Regular adult participation (at least twice in the last 28 days) has decreased since Nov 15-16 from 75.7% to 73.4%, a decrease of 2.3%.

Figure 1.10 Regular Participation Trends

Participation in the last 28 days – Local Authority and County Council
At least twice in the last 28 days



Well over a quarter of adults in the borough (29.4%) were found to be ‘inactive’ in the 2021 ALS. This emphasises the importance of providing accessible and affordable facilities for sport and active recreation in Harrow.

Figure 1.11 Levels of Children’s physical activity

Levels of activity
Academic Year 19-20

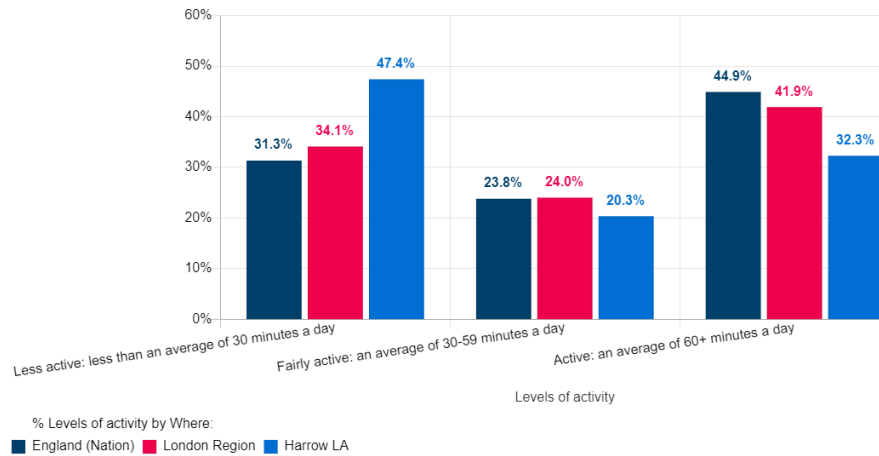
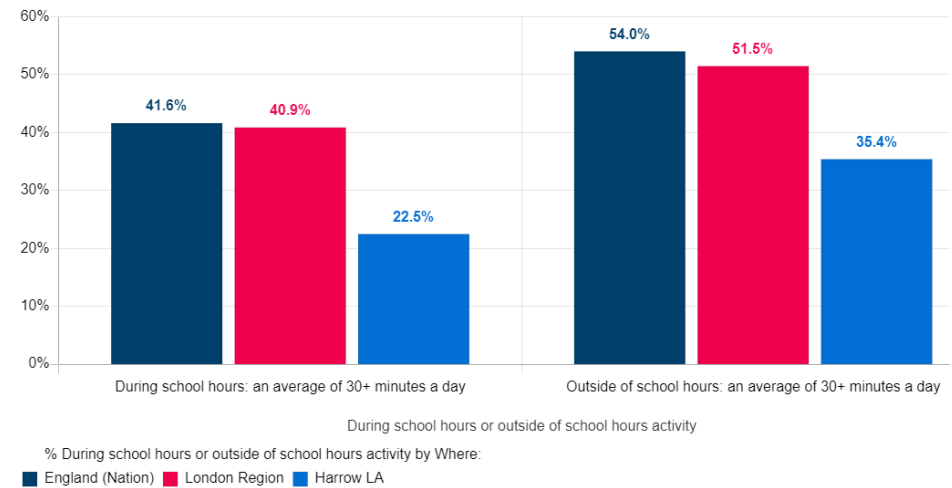


Figure 1.12 Children’s physical activity during school hours or outside school hours

During school hours or outside of school hours activity
Academic Year 19-20



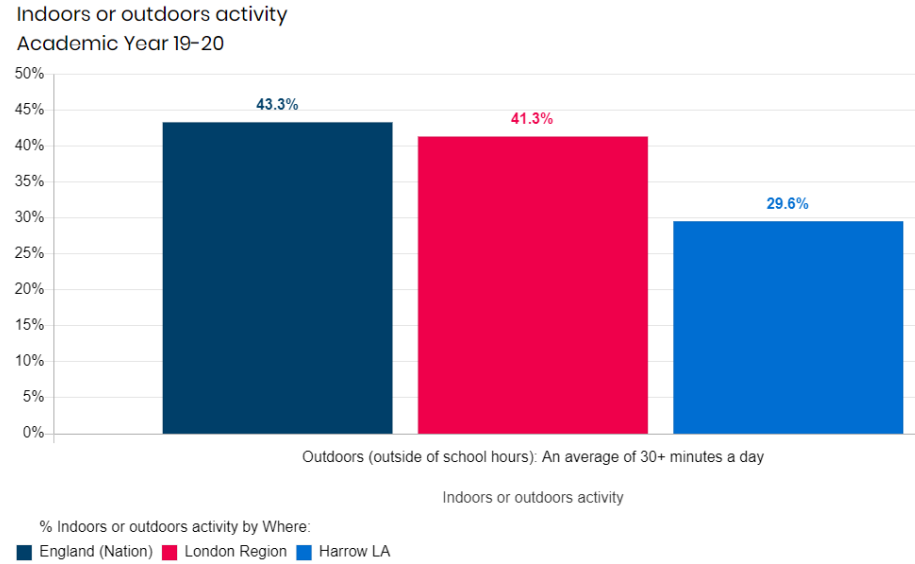
60

The last available data on the Active Lives Children & Young People Survey for the area of Harrow is the 19-20 academic year. Data at a national level and regional level is available for the academic year 21-22 but does not include data at a local authority level. Overall, the level of activity of children in Harrow is significantly lower than the regional and national picture. 47.4% of children are ‘less active’ in Harrow comparing to 34.1% of children in London and 31.3% of children in England. There are also less ‘Active’ children in Harrow (32.3%) in comparison to the regional (41.9%) and national (44.9%) average.

Figure 1.12 considers the extent of activity by children during school hours and outside of school hours. Similarly, to figure 1.11, this data shows that children in Harrow are participating significantly less in activity during school hours and outside of school hours than the regional and national averages.

During school hours, 22.5% of children participate in activity (30+ minutes a day), this is close to half the regional average (40.9%) and the national average (41.6%). Outside of school hours children’s activity in Harrow is 35.4%, this is also far lower than the average for children in London (51.5%) and the average for children in England (54%).

Figure 1.13 Children’s physical activity outdoor out of school hours



A similar analysis can be made from figure 1.13. An average of 29.6% of children in Harrow participate in outdoor activities outside of school hours, this is far lower than the regional (41.3%) and national (43.3%) averages.

The How Are You (HAY) Harrow survey of young people in 2022/23 found that one of the biggest barriers to participating in sports outside of school / college, was the lack of suitable spaces near to their home (18% of respondents) and cost (14% of respondents).

Club Survey Overview

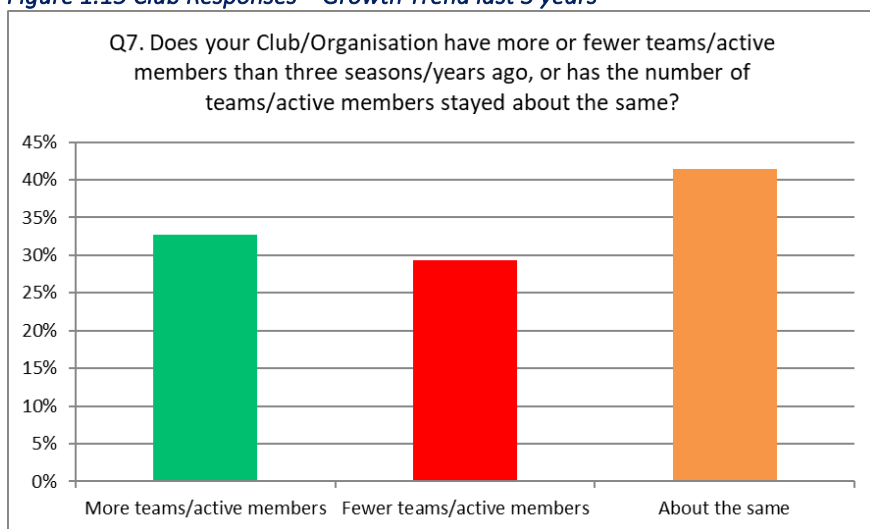
To understand the current landscape of clubs in Harrow, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the borough. By analysing the data, it provides insight into whether the current level of provision for sport and physical activity is meeting the demands of these sports, the existing and latent demand for growth as well as potential priority project developments. A summary of the results of the club survey is provided below.

Figure 1.14 Club Responses – Spread of Responses

| Answer Choices | Responses |
|-----------------------------|-----------|
| Athletics | 1 |
| Basketball | 2 |
| Bowls | 6 |
| Cricket | 14 |
| Exercise, movement or dance | 2 |
| Football | 15 |
| Gymnastics | 1 |
| Hockey | 1 |
| Judo | 2 |
| Netball | 1 |
| Rugby Union | 1 |
| Rugby League | 0 |
| Squash | 1 |
| Swimming | 3 |
| Table Tennis | 5 |
| Taekwondo | 1 |
| Tennis | 8 |
| Volleyball | 0 |
| Other (please specify) | 18 |
| Answered | 60 |

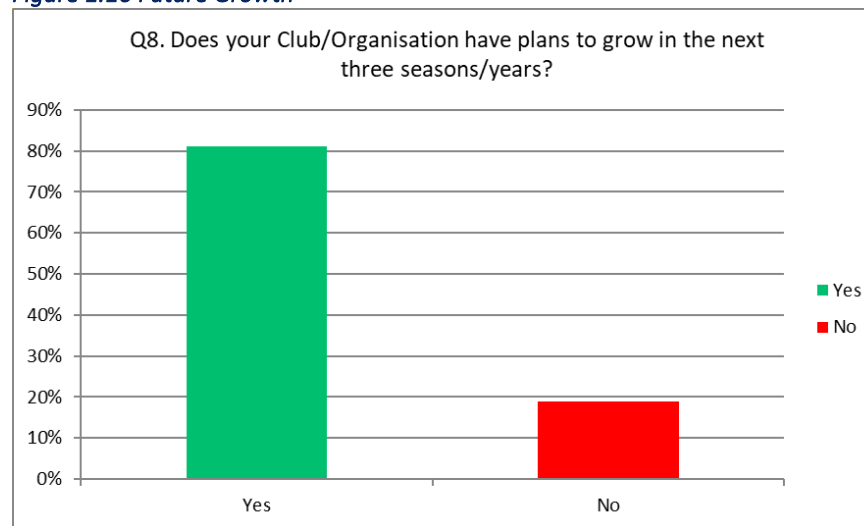
60 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, these clubs are compiled of both indoor and outdoor sports. Figure 1.14 shows the spread of responses for each sport. Those selecting others included Badminton, Health related sports activities, Boxing, Trampoline, Bridge, Archery, Korfball, Cycling, Running and Skateboarding.

Figure 1.15 Club Responses – Growth Trend last 3 years



Despite the major restrictions on movement and temporary closure of sports facilities during the Covid pandemic, the sports clubs in the area have proved resilient with the majority reporting stable membership or growth currently compared to three years/seasons ago. Over 30% of clubs (19) have grown in the last three years.

Figure 1.16 Future Growth



Looking to the future, the majority of clubs (48 clubs, 81.36%) surveyed were positive regarding plans for growth over the next three years/seasons, emphasising further the strength of the club sector in Harrow as well as likely rising demand. Whilst the rest of the respondents do not have any further plans to grow, there is a need to maintain the current provisions for these clubs to remain sustainable. Further sport and club specific needs are detailed in both the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facilities Strategy sections in the main strategy.

Figure 1.17 Club Needs – Meeting Demand

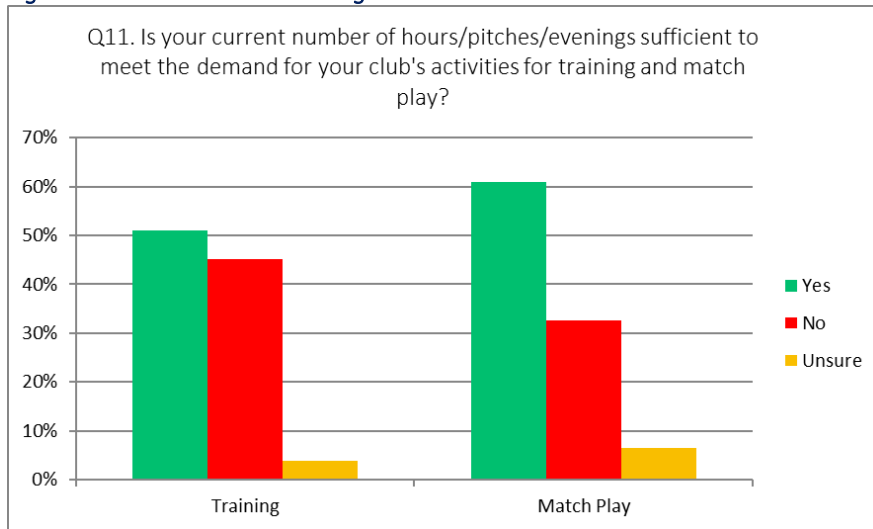
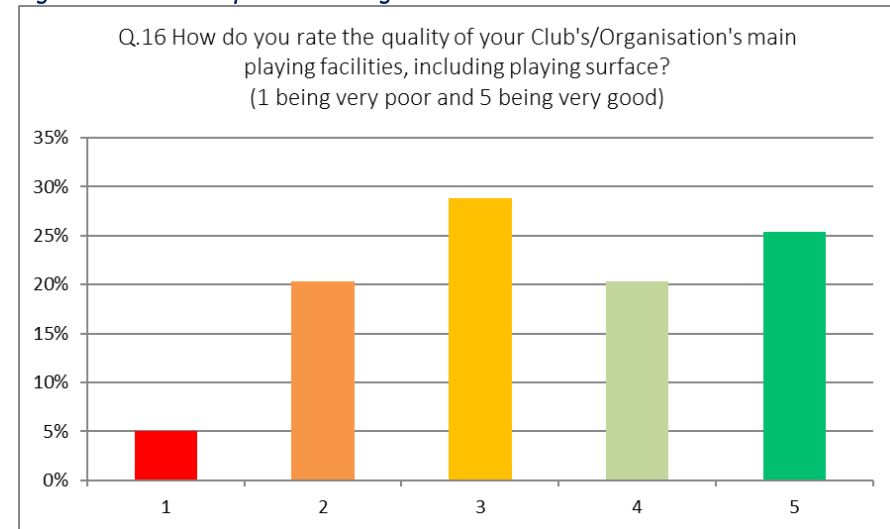


Figure 1.18 Club Response – Ratings

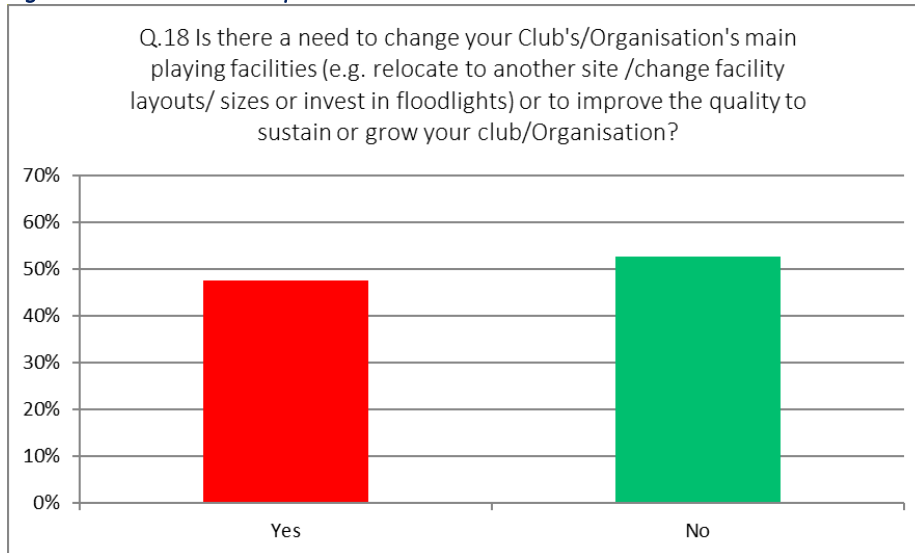


63

Just under half of all the clubs (23 clubs, 45.10%) stated that they do not have sufficient programming time available at the sporting venues they access to meet the current training demand from their memberships and nearly a third (15 clubs, 32.61%) highlighted the same issues for match play. This shows the supply or availability of facilities and resources are not meeting the current demands of all sports clubs, signaling a need to increase accessibility and capacity of sport facilities to cater for both current and future demand, particularly for training demand.

In terms of the quality of the stock of sports facilities available to the sports clubs in the area, 15 clubs (25.42%) of those surveyed rated the playing facilities they use as 'poor' or 'very poor' and 17 clubs (28.81%) as 'average'. Just under half of the clubs surveyed (27 clubs, 45.46%) consider their main playing facilities to be 'good' or 'very good'. Whilst this is a reasonably positive response, this set of data does reflect the need to upgrade facilities, improve maintenance and where possible enhance the facility stock within the borough. Site and sport specific venue needs are detailed further in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Built Facility Strategy sections.

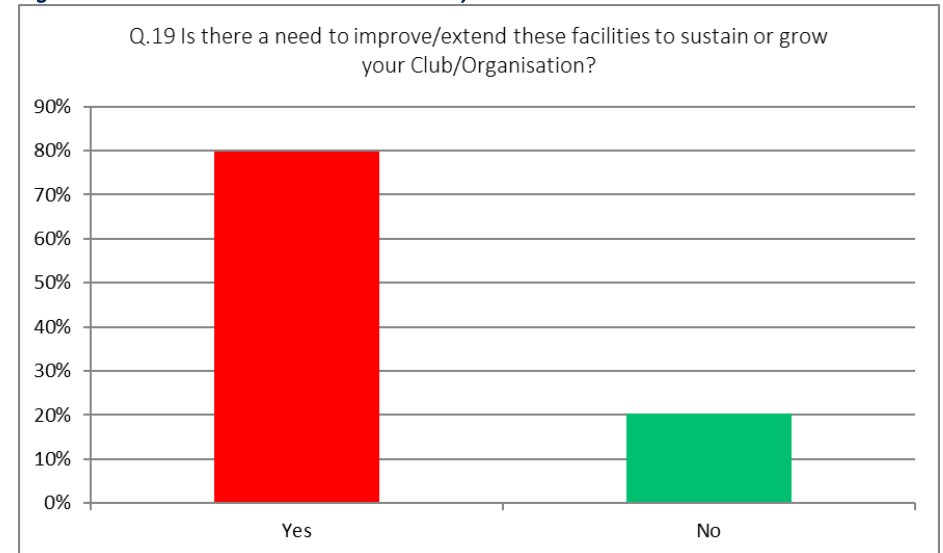
Figure 1.19 Main site – improvements



28 clubs (47.46%) of sport clubs believe they need a change or improvement to their main playing facilities to sustain or grow their club. This data shows that support is clearly needed for those clubs who are keen to promote growth and, in many cases, to ensure sustainability and longevity. Whilst the strategy will detail a number of enhancements and investment needs for sport and physical activity, the Council also acknowledges that in difficult financial times, the maintenance of the current stock of facilities is of prime importance as well as planning for the future.

The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to grow their clubs, individual club responses, from a range of sports, are included in Appendix F.

Figure 1.20 Club Growth and Sustainability



47 clubs (79.31%) responding consider they need to improve their facilities to sustain the appeal of their club to existing members and to attract new members. This is an evident issue for accommodating the growth of sports clubs as over 30% of sports clubs in the area have grown in the past three years, as identified in figure 1.15. Therefore, whilst a high majority of clubs are keen to expand further, there appears a link to the need to invest in the wider infrastructure for clubs such as ancillary / support facilities to support this. Further site and sport specific issues are detailed in the main strategy sections that follow.

Survey summary

Many clubs are looking to expand over the next three years, and they are reporting a need for further development of their facilities to achieve these goals. The data has shown that many clubs are not currently in the position they would like to be in and are not completely satisfied with the facilities that they have access to. Most clubs believe they are in need of funding to

grow for a range of reasons, many of which is linked directly to facilities and improving the accessibility of provisions for their members.

A few of the challenges surrounding the facilities in Harrow have been mentioned in the survey through an ‘additional comments’ question. Through these comments, it is clear that there are barriers surrounding the lack of facilities, preventing many clubs from growing and extending their offer. There are also challenges around the quality of facilities amongst sports clubs in Harrow and larger venues are in demand in the area as clubs grow their memberships and the need for more sessions increases. Further site specific and sport specific issues are picked up in the main strategy sections that follow.

1.7 Tailoring the Approach - Which sports to include?

The Council agreed that the sports facilities to be included in the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy section are Swimming pools, sports halls (including indoor cricket nets), Health and Fitness Suites, Squash Courts, Indoor Tennis Centres, Indoor Climbing walls/centres, Gymnastic Centres and Indoor Bowls.

It was also agreed that the facilities to be included in the Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy section are all weather Athletics tracks, Non-floodlit and floodlit 3G AGPs suitable for football and rugby, Floodlit sand dressed AGPs suitable for hockey, Cricket (fine turf and non-strips, outdoor nets), Outdoor playing pitches (including small-sided pitches), Bowls greens and Pétanque, Tennis courts (including Padel tennis – floodlit/non floodlit), Netball courts, Urban/Extreme sports (i.e. BMX facilities), MUGAs and informal facilities (i.e. outdoor gym equipment). Within these sports and facilities, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- o Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),

- o Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport’s governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- o Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

1.8 Management and Delivery

The development of the strategy has been managed by the Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group. Internal stakeholders within the steering group include representatives from Harrow’s department for Culture and Leisure, Parks, Planning, Public Health and the Leisure Contract Client.

The external stakeholders included in the Steering Group made up of representatives from Sport England, Football Foundation, Middlesex Football Association, Lawn Tennis Association, England Rugby, England Hockey, Middlesex Cricket, England & Wales Cricket Board, London Sport, England Netball, Swim England, England Athletics, British Gymnastics, England Boxing, British Judo, England Squash, Table Tennis England, Everyone Active (Harrow Council Leisure Operator) and Continuum Sport & Leisure Ltd, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendations and action plan.

As part of the process the consultant team also consulted with the following other National Governing Bodies, UK Athletics, Bowls England, British Cycling, British Gymnastics, England Netball, Swim England, Table Tennis England and British Mountaineering Council.

The views of the National Governing Bodies consulted are reflected in the sport’s specific sections. Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby in the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment of Needs Appendices and the others as part of the Built Facilities Strategy Section 2 - Sports Specific Analysis.

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London Borough of Harrow Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2024 – 2037

Section 2 (part one) – Playing Pitch Strategy

CONTINUUM
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1 - Introduction

This document is Part 1 of Harrow’s Indoor and Outdoor Facilities Strategy 2024-37 – the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The PPS, when adopted, will replace the Council’s Outdoor Sports Strategy (2012).

Consistent with the previous Outdoor Sports Strategy this PPS includes consideration of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability for the four primary playing pitch sports:

- Cricket
- Football
- Hockey
- Rugby

Within these sports, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport’s governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

In accordance with the national guidance for the development of playing pitch strategies, Chapter 2 of the Harrow PPS sets out the findings of the assessment of needs for playing pitch facilities in the study area, both currently and in the future.

The findings are presented in summary format and should be read in conjunction with separate appendices for each playing pitch sport (Appendices A – D). These documents provide the findings of the detailed research and consultation undertaken to ensure that the facility needs findings summarised in Chapter 2 are fully robust.

The chapter concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2037.

Chapter 3 of this PPS sets a range of potential future change scenarios (e.g. loss of key playing pitch sites, new provision, substantial population growth in a particular area) and strategic scenarios for addressing identified needs (e.g. change of use from one pitch sport or pitch surface to another, greater community use of education playing pitches).

The PPS scenarios considered have emerged from discussion with the members of the Harrow Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group and inform the policy recommendations and action plan that follow in Sections 3 and 4 of the overall Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

1.1 Trends in Participation in Pitch Sports

Nationally, Sport England’s Active Lives Survey (ALS) shows that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taking part at least twice in the last 28 days) in the leading playing pitch sports in England by adults (aged 16+) has generally recovered to pre covid levels (November 2021-2022).

- **Football** – has returned to pre covid levels of 4.4% from 3.2% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to Covid, regular adult football participation fell from 5.0% in 2016/17 to 4.4% in 2018/19.
- **Cricket** – has increased to 0.8% above pre covid levels of 0.7%, which matches its highest level of participation since ALS started recording figures in 15/16 at 0.8%. In the three prior to Covid, regular adult cricket participation was consistent at 0.7%.
- **Rugby Union** – has not fully recovered to pre covid levels of 0.5% but has increased to 0.4% from 0.3% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to

covid, regular adult participation dropped from 0.6% in 2016/17 to 0.5% in 18/19 was 0.5%.

- o **Hockey** – has returned to pre covid levels of 0.3% from 0.2% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult participation increased from 0.2% in 2016/17 to 0.3% in 2018/19.

In the ten years since the last playing pitch study was carried out in Harrow, there has been significant changes in the local picture of both pitch supply and pitch demand.

In the case of cricket, 8 new fine turf pitches and one additional non-turf pitch have been provided. Although the number of cricket clubs has reduced (from 28 to 23 with some smaller clubs folding due to losing players or key volunteers), there has been a significant increase in the overall number of cricket teams (from 125 teams to 167) due in large measure to growth in demand for non-traditional short form versions of the game. The largest growth has been in youth teams (+37 teams), with smaller increases in women’s (+1 teams), girls (+3 teams), and mixed teams (+7).

Football pitch supply has undergone even greater change with the provision, since 2012, of new full sized 3G artificial turf pitches at Bannister Sports Centre, The Hive London (3rd pitch) and Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club, as well as small sided provision at Harrow School, The Hive London and Centenary Sixes. In terms of natural turf sites and pitches there has been a substantial reduction in the number of sites and pitches with community availability. This change is in part is due to the changing patterns of demand for adult football and the increase in the supply of artificial pitches. Significant improvements have been made to natural turf pitches at Bannister Leisure Centre and Headstone Manor Rec. Ground.

The increase in the number of football teams over the ten years is approximately 12% (238 teams in 2022 compared to 213 in 2012) is mainly in youth teams and mini soccer teams (+43) with a decrease in adult teams (-14) which is a reflection of adult participation in football nationally.

The major change since 2012 for hockey in Harrow has been the development (in 2016) of a floodlit sand dressed hockey pitch at The John Lyon School with funding support from Sport England securing use for the Harrow Hockey Club. This has enabled growth of this key borough sports club which now has approximately 230 playing members (an increase of +50 since 2019/20 and the onset of the pandemic).

Rugby has had a change in the supply of rugby pitches with the loss of 2 grass pitches at Bannister Sports Centre, although one of these is due to be re-provided at Hatch End Playing Fields. The number of clubs (3) and adult men’s teams (5) is unchanged. There has however been some growth in the minis and age grade sections at both Harrow RFC and Pinner RFC and development of opportunities for women and girls rugby is underway at the former club with support from Saracens and the RFU.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions impacted very significantly on playing pitch sports in the 2020 season. However, demand had largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2022.

1.2 Natural Turf Playing Pitches

The sites with natural turf playing pitches in Harrow are listed in Figure 1.1.

Figure 1.1: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites – Football, Rugby & Cricket

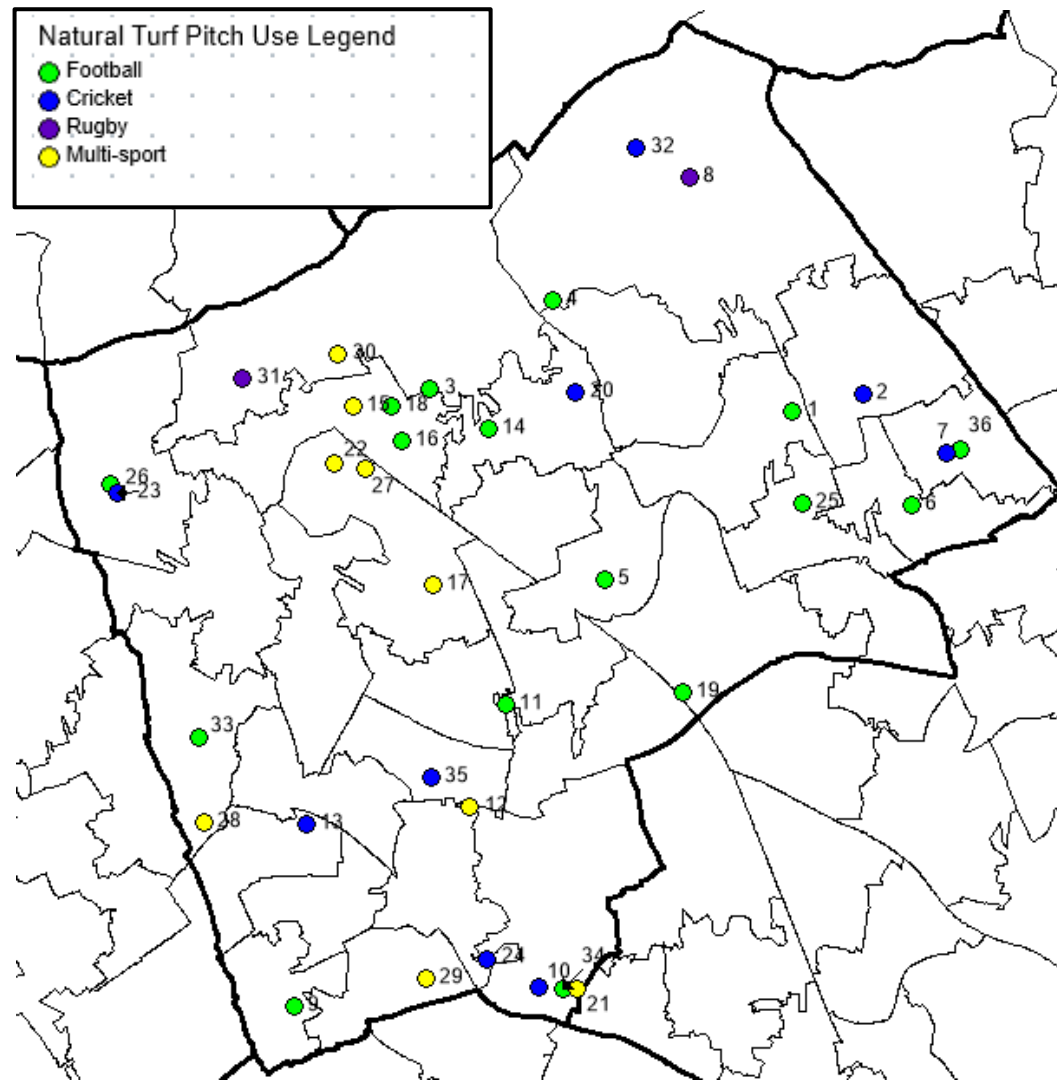
| Map Ref. | Site Name | Postcode | Sports and no. of pitches |
|----------|---|----------|---------------------------|
| 1 | AVANTI HOUSE SCHOOL (Also known as WHITCHURCH PLAYING FIELDS) | HA7 2EQ | FOOTBALL (3) |
| 2 | ARNOLD HOUSE SCHOOL | HA8 6RH | CRICKET (2) |
| 3 | BANNISTER SPORTS CENTRE | HA3 6SW | FOOTBALL (4) |
| 4 | BENTLEY WOOD HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS | HA7 3JW | FOOTBALL (1) |
| 5 | BYRON REC. GROUND | HA3 7FE | FOOTBALL (3) |
| 6 | CANNONS HIGH SCHOOL | HA8 6AN | FOOTBALL (1) |
| 7 | CHANDOS REC GROUND | HA8 6BX | CRICKET (1) |
| 8 | GROVE FIELD | HA7 4LF | RUGBY (3) |
| 9 | HARROW BOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB | HA2 8SS | FOOTBALL (1) |
| 10 | HARROW CRICKET CLUB | HA1 3PP | CRICKET (2) |
| 11 | HARROW REC. GROUND | HA1 1PB | CRICKET (2), FOOTBALL (7) |
| 12 | HARROW SCHOOL (PHILATHLETIC GROUND) | HA1 4AD | CRICKET (5), FOOTBALL (1) |
| 13 | HARROW TOWN SPORTS CLUB | HA2 9TY | CRICKET (2) |
| 14 | HARROW WEALD REC. GROUND, (Also known as BOXTREE PARK) | HA3 6JY | FOOTBALL (5) |
| 15 | HATCH END PLAYING FIELDS | HA5 4DS | CRICKET (2), FOOTBALL (4) |
| 16 | HATCH END HIGH SCHOOL | HA3 6NR | FOOTBALL (1) |
| 17 | HEADSTONE MANOR REC. GROUND | HA2 6PX | CRICKET (3), FOOTBALL (5) |
| 18 | JOHN RUMNEY PLAYING FIELDS | HA3 6PU | FOOTBALL (6) |
| 19 | KENTON REC. GROUND | HA3 8AX | FOOTBALL (10) |
| 20 | KENTON SPORTS GROUND | HA3 6UB | CRICKET (3) |

Figure 1.1: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites – Football, Rugby & Cricket

| Map Ref. | Site Name | Postcode | Sports and no. of pitches |
|----------|---|----------|------------------------------------|
| 21 | LONDON POST OFFICE SPORTS & SOCIAL ASS. | HA7 4LF | CRICKET (2), AMERICAN FOOTBALL (1) |
| 22 | MILLHILLIANS SPORTS GROUND | HA2 6NF | CRICKET (1), RUGBY (2) |
| 23 | MONTESOLE PLAYING FIELDS | HA5 3TB | CRICKET (1) |
| 24 | ORLEY FARM SCHOOL | HA1 3NU | CRICKET (1) |
| 25 | PARK HIGH SCHOOL | HA7 1PL | FOOTBALL (1) |
| 26 | PINNER WOOD SCHOOL | HA5 3RA | FOOTBALL (1) |
| 27 | RCT SPORTS AND SOCIAL GROUND | HA2 6NG | CRICKET (2), FOOTBALL (2) |
| 28 | ROXBOURNE PARK | HA5 1JF | CRICKET (1), FOOTBALL (2) |
| 29 | ROXETH REC. GROUND | HA2 8LF | CRICKET (1), FOOTBALL (2) |
| 30 | SADDLERS MEAD OPEN SPACE | HA5 4BT | CRICKET (1), FOOTBALL (2) |
| 31 | SHAFTESBURY PLAYING FIELDS | HA5 4PF | RUGBY (2) |
| 32 | STANMORE COMMON | HA7 4LB | CRICKET (1) |
| 33 | THE CROFTS PLAYING FIELD | HA5 1TR | FOOTBALL (3) |
| 34 | THE LYONIAN PAVILION | HA1 3PN | FOOTBALL (3) |
| 35 | WEST HARROW REC. GOUND | HA1 4DX | CRICKET (2) |
| 36 | WILLIAM ELLIS SPORTS GROUND | HA8 6ES | FOOTBALL (2) |

Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites across Harrow.

Figure 1.2 Map of Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites



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1.3 Artificial Turf Playing Pitches

Sites in Harrow with artificial grass playing pitches (and the sports the sites provide for) are listed in Figure 1.3.

For cricket, NTP means Non-Turf Pitch which is an artificial strip located adjacent to a fine turf table or as a standalone wicket instead of a fine turf wicket table, this type of facility is used mainly for junior and low level adult cricket.

Figure 1.3 - Harrow: ATP Sites

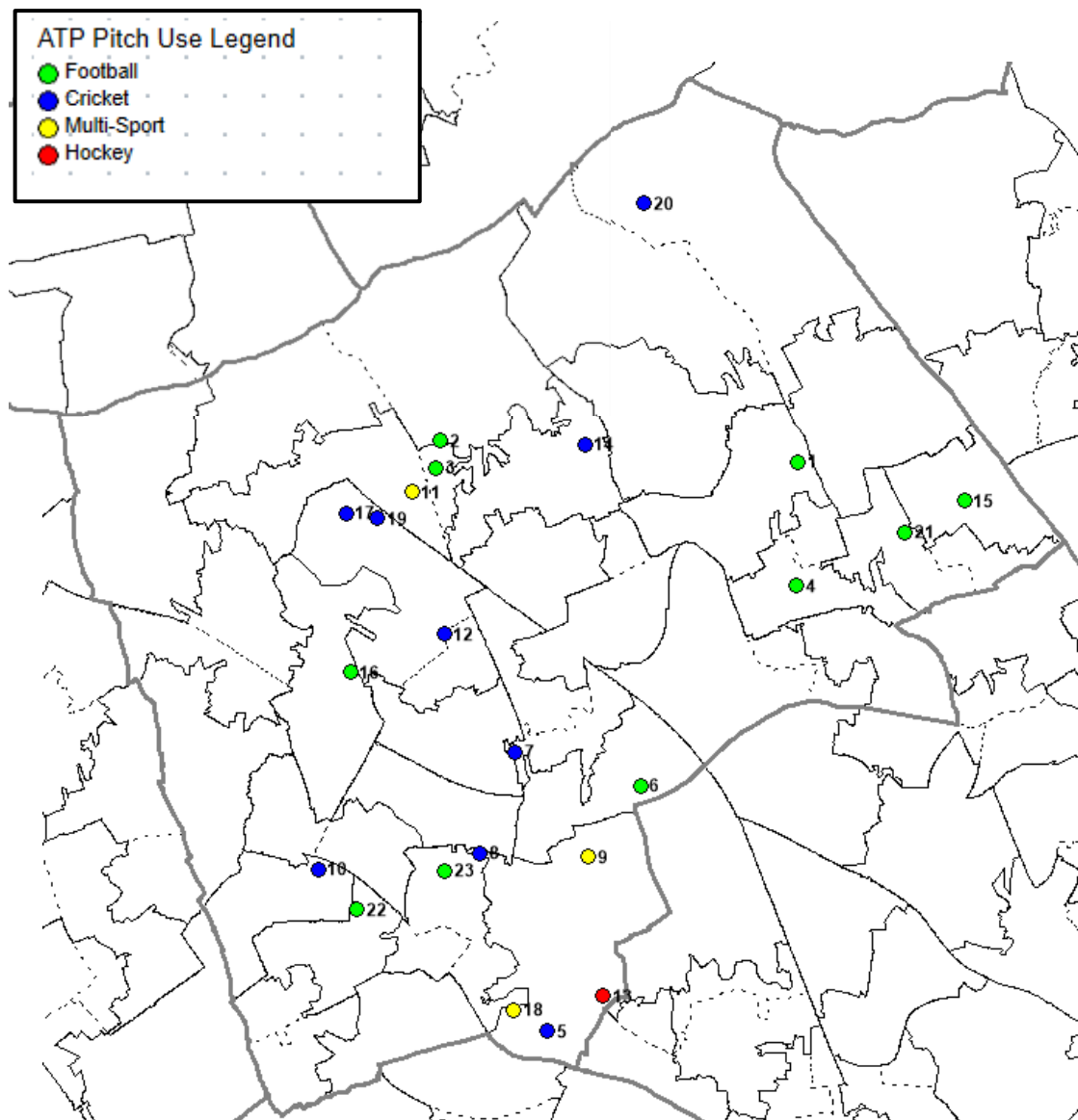
| Map ref. | Site Name | Postcode | Type | Pitch Sports |
|----------|---|----------|-----------|-------------------------|
| 1 | AVANTI HOUSE SECONDARY SCHOOL | HA7 2EQ | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 2 | BANNISTER SPORTS CENTRE | HA3 6SW | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 3 | CEDARS MYPLACE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE | HA3 6QH | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 4 | CENTENARY SIXES | HA7 2NW | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 5 | HARROW CRICKET CLUB | HA1 3PP | NTP | CRICKET |
| 6 | HARROW HIGH SCHOOL (POWERLEAGUE) | HA1 2LS | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 7 | HARROW REC GROUND | HA1 1PB | NTP | CRICKET |
| 8 | HARROW SCHOOL (PHILATHLETIC GROUND) | HA1 4AD | NTP | CRICKET |
| 9 | HARROW SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX | HA1 3GF | 3G & SAND | FOOTBALL, HOCKEY, RUGBY |
| 10 | HARROW TOWN SPORTS CLUB | HA2 9TY | NTP | CRICKET |
| 11 | HATCH END HIGH SCHOOL | HA3 6NR | SAND | FOOTBALL, HOCKEY |
| 12 | HEADSTONE MANOR REC. GROUND | HA2 6PX | NTP | CRICKET |
| 13 | JOHN LYON SCHOOL | HA1 3SB | SAND | HOCKEY |

Figure 1.3 - Harrow: ATP Sites

| Map ref. | Site Name | Postcode | Type | Pitch Sports |
|----------|-----------------------------------|----------|-----------|-----------------|
| 14 | KENTON SPORTS GROUND | HA3 6UB | NTP | CRICKET |
| 15 | KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL | HA8 6ES | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 16 | NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL | HA5 5RP | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 17 | MILLHILLIANS SPORTS GROUND | HA2 6NF | NTP | CRICKET |
| 18 | ORLEY FARM SCHOOL | HA1 3PB | SAND, NTP | HOCKEY, CRICKET |
| 19 | RCT SPORTS AND SOCIAL GROUND | HA2 6NG | NTP | CRICKET |
| 20 | STANMORE COMMON | HA7 4LB | NTP | CRICKET |
| 21 | THE HIVE LONDON | HA8 6AG | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 22 | TITHE FARM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB | HA2 0XH | 3G | FOOTBALL |
| 23 | WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL | HA2 0AD | 3G | FOOTBALL |

The locations of these artificial pitches showing their distribution throughout Harrow are in Figure 1.4.

Figure 1.4 - Distribution of ATP sites in Harrow



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PPS Section 2 – Findings and Facility Needs



2 – Findings and Facility Needs

The key findings of the detailed Assessment of Need studies for the four major playing pitch sports played in Harrow are summarised in this chapter of the PPS leading to conclusions as to the playing pitch facility needs.

Detailed Assessment of Need reports of findings (covering Stages B and C of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance) and supporting site-specific audit reports have been checked and challenged by representatives of the relevant sport's governing bodies and are appended as follows:

- Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Need and Site Audit
- Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Need and Site Audit

This chapter provides an overall summary of supply, planned and proposed changes to supply, current and latent demand covering the following leading questions as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.

- What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?
- Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
- What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

2.1 Current supply and demand

The number of playing pitch sites and playing pitches in Harrow available for community use - both currently and in 2012 (the date of the previous Outdoor Sports Strategy) - are set out in Figure 2.1 below for each pitch type (natural turf and artificial turf) and for each of the playing pitch sports for which there is a current demand in the borough.

Figure 2.1 – Supply of Community Use Pitches and Sites

| | No. of Sites | | No. of Pitches | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|------|----------------|------|
| | 2012 | 2022 | 2012 | 2022 |
| Cricket fine turf | 19 | 19 | 28 | 38 |
| Cricket NTP | 10 | 12 | 11 | 12 |
| Football grass | 26 | 18 | 106 | 64 |
| Football ATP ¹ | 6 | 13 | 8 | 29 |
| Hockey ATP | 1 | 3 | 1 | 3 |
| Rugby grass | 4 | 3 | 9 | 7 |
| Rugby ATP | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Gaelic Football ² | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| American Football grass ³ | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

The main characteristic of the current playing pitch supply is the substantial reduction in the number of natural turf sites and pitches with community availability and use for football over the last ten years. This reduction is however offset to a large degree by the over threefold increase in the same

¹ All surface types & pitch sizes, with and without lights

² No GAA provision, Parnells GAA (based in LB Brent) youth section play at Harrow RFC

³ Wembley Stallions AF team plays on former rugby pitch at London Post Office SSA

period in the overall supply of artificial grass pitches (of all surfaces and sizes) available and used for community football and for hockey.

There has also been growth in the number of pitches available for cricket (both grass and artificial turf), transfer of use of a former rugby pitch to accommodate demand from American Football and the development of the first rugby compliant artificial grass pitch in the borough at Harrow School Sports Complex (although it should be noted the pitch is not registered for ‘contact’ rugby).

In terms of expressed demand, the main changes since the last assessment are the continued growth in playing pitch sports at community sports clubs by children (including girls, most particularly in the younger age groups) and in demand among adults for opportunities to play pitch sports recreationally outside the traditional sports club model, including informal participation in small sided and shorter game formats.

In terms of sports clubs and teams, the current picture of demand in the borough in comparison with the position in 2012 is shown in Figure 2.2 below. All the pitch sports have seen growth in overall playing numbers although there has been a fall in the number of adult men’s teams in football but growth in interest in the borough (as well as in neighbouring boroughs of Brent and Ealing) in American and Gaelic football.

Figure 2.2 – Community Demand for Pitches and Sites

| | Clubs | | Teams | |
|----------|-------|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | 2012 | 2022 | 2012 | 2022 |
| Cricket | 30 | 23 | 127 (74 men, 0 women, 53 junior) | 167 (75 men, 2 women, 90 junior) |
| Football | 51 | 50 | 213 (59 men, 1 women, 153 junior) | 238 (43 men, 3 women, 192 junior) |
| Hockey | 1 | 1 | 10 (2 men, 3 women, 5 junior) | 13 (2 men, 2 women, 9 junior) |

| | | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|--|--|
| Rugby | 3 | 3 | 5 men’s teams plus boys age grade and mixed minis at 2 clubs | 5 men’s teams plus boys age grade and mixed minis at 2 clubs |
| Gaelic football | 1 | 1 | 7 youth teams | 9 youth teams |
| American football | 0 | 1 | 0 (formed in 2013) | 4 (1 men, 1 women, 2 youth) |

2.2 Is there enough provision for current demand?

Cricket - The playing capacity of the available fine-turf pitches in Harrow does not meet the current demand from Harrow based clubs and teams, due to the significant increase in junior activity. A large number of sites in the borough are either overused or at capacity, and two clubs are forced to use facilities outside of the borough.

Football - For affiliated football, there is an insufficient supply of natural turf football pitches to meet current match play demand from Harrow based clubs and teams, which could be met by improving the quality of pitches and therefore playing capacity at key sites (e.g., Kenton Rec. and Harrow Rec.) and includes accounting for the new provision available at Bannister Sports Centre from 2023/24 season and pitch quality improvements in progress at Headstone Manor.

Demand pinch points are currently experienced by several clubs, particularly on Sunday mornings for match play and midweek early evenings for squad training. This is constraining the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to unmet demand, particularly for girl's football. If the AGPs at Whitmore High School and Avanti House 3G pitches were to be added to the FA Register and floodlights installed at Nower Hill High School and/or Krishna Avanti Primary School (subject to feasibility and planning) there

would be sufficient 3G FTPs within the borough to cater for all current teams training demand and demand for with match provision at weekends.

There is enough current provision for hockey.

The growth in demand in the borough for the minority pitch sports of American Football and Gaelic Football is accommodated by pitch sharing with rugby at Harrow RFC (Grove Field) which is resulting in overuse of these pitches.

2.3 Is the provision of sufficient quality?

In addition to the sharing of the Harrow RFC pitches which impacts adversely on grass pitch quality, over a third (40%) of the grass football pitches in the borough are of a poor-quality suffering from poor natural drainage and/or compaction of the ground limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches. Improvement of the natural turf pitches at Kenton Rec. and Harrow Rec. are priorities to support the growth and development of the youth clubs using the pitches. Additional informal play areas and MUGA's in parks could also help to reduce the wear of the formal pitches.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association (through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports) would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at selected club sites supported by funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

The AGP provision is, in the main of sufficient quality, many with recently laid playing surfaces. The sand-based hockey ATP at Orley Farm School is an exception.

There are quality issues with several of the playing pitch sports pavilions which need to be addressed to better cater for demand particularly the forecast growth in demand for girls and women's football stimulated by the success and profile of the national team and the professional women's game. In particular, new provision is needed at Saddlers Mead Open Space and refurbishment at John Rumney Playing Fields, Kenton Rec. Ground and Roxbourne Park.

Similarly, there are a number of cricket sites where investment into pavilions is required including new provision at Montesole Playing Fields and Saddlers Mead Open Space and refurbishment to modernise facilities at Kenton Sports Club, Millhillians Sports Ground, RCT Sports Ground and Stanmore Common. In addition, non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at key cricket sites such as RCT Sports Ground, Harrow Rec. Ground, and Millhillians Sports Ground.

2.4 Future supply and demand

On the future supply side, there are committed projects (or current planning applications) for new and enhanced playing pitch provision at the following sites:

- Bannister Sports Centre – 4 new football pitches from 2023/24 season (committed project)
- Headstone Manor – enhanced quality and playing capacity to area covering approx. 7 pitches, based on previous configuration (committed project)
- Hatch End Playing Field – 1 new rugby pitch (committed project)
- The Hive Football Complex – 2 new floodlit 3G ATP's one of which is proposed to be rugby compliant (planning application).

In terms of future demand, to meet playing pitch demand from 9,658 additional residents by 2037 (as currently forecast⁴) and assuming current levels of demand by sport and age group for matches and training in the peak period, Sport England’s Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) indicates that the equivalent capacity of at least six additional grass playing pitches (five for winter sports and one for cricket) and the equivalent of a quarter of a full size 3G artificial turf football pitch will be needed in the borough by the end of this strategy period (see Figure 2.3).

Figure 2.3 – Estimate of Playing Pitch Demand due to Population Change

| Sport and Pitch Type | Additional Capacity Needed by 2037 |
|-------------------------|---|
| Cricket – fine turf | + 1.24 |
| Football – grass | + 4.55 (1.65 minis; 1.76 youth; 1.15 adult) |
| Football – 3G ATP | + 0.24 |
| Hockey – sand/water ATP | + 0.03 |
| Rugby - grass | + 0.26 |

However, it is important to recognise that these Playing Pitch Calculator estimates assume static demand i.e., the proportion of the population by age group and gender that currently play pitch sports will remain the same in future.

However, the overall trend takes no account of the likelihood of a substantial increase in demand for rugby, football and cricket among women and girls stimulated by recent successes of the national teams, the hosting of major tournaments such as the 2022 Women’s Football Euros and the upcoming 2025 Women’s Rugby World Cup to be held in England, together with recently announced changes to physical education policy and practice in schools aimed at equal opportunities for girls.

For this reason, it is recommended that, for the purposes of facility planning, the PPC estimates in Figure 2.3 should be considered as the minimum future requirement for additional playing pitch provision in the borough that is likely to result from population growth to 2037.

A further key consideration in the assessment of future playing pitch needs is the extent to which the clubs based in the borough achieve their development aspirations. Research and consultation for this strategy has found that a significant number of playing pitch sports clubs in the borough have embraced the youth, women and girls and recreational participation development initiatives and programmes of the national governing bodies. Accordingly, these clubs aspire to convert latent demand for their sport into new teams and/or to develop more playing opportunities at a recreational level alongside traditional league competition.

For example, in cricket, several of the clubs based in the borough – e.g., Ealing Three Bridges CC, Harrow CC, Harrow Indians CC and Kenton CC – reported aspirations to either grow the number of teams and fixtures or to introduce the ECB Dynamos or All Stars children’s cricket development initiatives.

Similarly, seven of the football clubs consulted aspire to team growth and/or supporting new FA development initiatives for women and girls, disability football or the recreational game. Most were not specific on the number of teams they wanted to grow but, typically, large community football clubs grow by between one and three new teams each season. Growth at this scale by these seven clubs would result in between 7 and 21 new teams over the next few years, which equates to around 10 new home match equivalent sessions and additional demand for up to 20 hours a week of midweek training each week in season.

⁴ GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released November 2021)

Harrow Hockey Club aspires to grow its adult section with additional teams over the next few seasons provided it can secure access to a second home ATP with changing for Saturday matches.

In rugby, two of the three Harrow-based clubs – Harrow RFC and Pinner RFC – also have current growth aspirations.

2.5 Is there enough provision to meet future demand?

The clear conclusion of the assessments of need for playing pitches in Harrow is that, by 2037, there will be a requirement to provide additional playing and training capacity for all four of the major sports – cricket, football, hockey and rugby – whilst maintaining capacity provided currently for the minority pitch sports of Gaelic Football and American Football.

The equivalent additional capacity required (as a minimum) expressed in playing pitches is shown in Figure 2.4. It should be noted that new provision of playing pitches is just one of a number of the available options in planning to provide the additional capacity required to address the forecast future needs. For example, as shown under football, strategic enhancements to the existing pitch supply of 3G ATPs and grass football pitches is likely to be sufficient to provide the required additional playing capacity without the need for new provision. The options or scenarios in Harrow for meeting the identified capacity needs are explored in more detail in the following section.

Figure 2.4 – Estimate of Minimum Future Provision Needs

| Sport | Minimum Future Provision Needs |
|----------|---|
| Cricket | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 3 fine turf pitches (each with at least 10 wickets) ○ 3 new or upgraded non-turf pitches ○ 2 replacement and 4 upgraded pavilions |
| Football | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2 3G ATPs upgraded (if needed) and registered with the FA. ○ 2 3G ATPs upgraded to provide floodlighting. ○ Improvement to grass pitches at key multi-pitch sites ○ 2 replacement and 3 upgraded pavilions |
| Hockey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 sand-based ATP upgraded with changing provision. |
| Rugby | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 1 additional grass pitch with changing provision ○ 1 rugby compliant floodlit 3G ATP |

The minimum future playing pitch requirements should be reviewed annually as part of Stage E of the Playing Pitch Strategy guidance to ensure that latent demand or increased growth in sports participation above that projected is taken into account and analysed to see if further provision is needed. This could include using the PPC to take into account accelerated future demand for specific provision, such as women and girls.

PPS Section 3 – Meeting the needs ('How to' Scenarios)

3 – Meeting the needs ('How to' Scenarios)

As part of the Strategy Development process a number of scenarios have been identified as options to meet the future facility needs summarised in the preceding chapter. The Steering Group has considered these scenarios along with their potential implications on the future picture of provision for the leading playing pitch sports in Harrow and how best to meet existing and future playing pitch facility demand. These scenarios have also been considered in relation to setting the priorities for future enhancement and provision detailed in the action plan for playing pitches in the first part of Section 5 of this Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy – i.e., the initial action plan.

3.1 Improved quality of sites

Before considering the provision of new playing fields it is important to first consider the potential for increasing capacity of existing sites (particularly those grounds owned or leased by community clubs) as these have resources and structures in place (e.g., grounds maintenance, coaching) and an established sporting identity developed over many years.

Improving the quality of ancillary facilities can also have an impact on attracting under-represented groups to all pitch sports (e.g., the provision of suitable changing provision for women and girls).

Cricket - The quality of the cricket pitches at open access Council sites such as Harrow Rec. Ground, Hatch End Playing Fields needs to be improved. The cricket squares are subject to heavy usage and the outfield areas accommodate extensive use for general recreation and dog walking as well as by other sports and events. Improved pitch maintenance and quality would increase the playing capacity enabling the cricket clubs that are based at these

grounds to continue to grow, however this is unlikely to address peak time issues.

The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at key cricket sites such as RCT Sports Ground, Harrow Rec. Ground, and Millhillians Sports Ground.

There are a number of key sites where investment into pavilions is required including new provision at Montesole Playing Fields and Saddlers Mead Open Space and refurbishment to modernise facilities at Kenton Sports Club, Millhillians Sports Ground, the RCT Sports Ground and Stanmore Common.

Football - The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at selected club sites supported by funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. For example, if the pitches at Kenton Rec. Ground currently rated as poor were improved in quality to standard, it would provide an additional 12 match equivalent sessions catering for the demand of St Joseph's Youth and some allowance for growth of the club. At Harrow Rec. Ground improvements would result in an additional 7 match equivalent sessions which means 4 pitches currently overused would then be within their carrying capacity, with 3 other pitches having capacity to accommodate growth. In youth football particularly for mini soccer and 9-a-side games clubs have greater flexibility over kick off times, which enables them to schedule games back to back, so additional pitch capacity will ensure less peak time congestion. However, this becomes more of a challenge for older age groups, who have longer game times, creating less flexibility for more than one game a day. Additional informal play areas and MUGA's in parks could also help to reduce the wear of the formal pitches.

Rugby – The maintenance at all club sites could be improved further to increase capacity, especially at Shaftesbury Avenue, where the current maintenance is rated as poor (based on RFU criteria) and improvements would ensure pitches would then be within their carrying capacity and allow from some growth. At Harrow RFC improvements in pitch maintenance would improve capacity by 2.5 match equivalents sessions but not to sufficient levels to accommodate the growth of the club. Even if the usage by Parnells GAA was discounted, there is still a need for an additional pitch to address congestion at peak times and club training need.

It should be acknowledged though that for Council pitches the fees charged for pitch hire are insufficient to meet the costs of improved maintenance and increased charges would be prohibitive to users. Therefore, funding would be needed by external bodies to enable improvements to take place.

With regard to the quality of 3G ATPs on school sites where community access is secured, the priority options should be to explore:

1. The opportunities to upgrade as necessary and add Whitmore High School and Avanti House 3G pitches to the FA Register, to facilitate additional match day provision, and
2. The feasibility of installing floodlights at Nower Hill High School and/or at Krishna Avanti Primary School to better meet demands for mini football, team training and the recreational game.

3.2 More community use at education sites

As in most areas, community use of pitches on education sites in Harrow helps to meet the demand for pitch sports. School pitches in the area are particularly important to community hockey and football.

At most of these school sites, there is no clear potential to open up community use, but four schools indicated there could be future potential of community football use working with London Sport as part of the opening

school facilities programme: Canons High School, Hatch End High School, Park High School and Pinner Wood School.

In the case of hockey, schools are critical to meeting community club demand as all three sand-based ATPs are at education sites. Harrow School Sports Complex is suitable but expensive and would not offer secure use. The resurfacing of the Orley Farm School pitch along with provision of changing rooms has the potential to meet the needs of Harrow Hockey Club for a second match play pitch on Saturdays provided this can be achieved and access secured by means of a Community Use Agreement.

3.3 Change of use from one sport or pitch type to another

The change of use of the former rugby pitch at the London Post Office Sports & Social Club sports ground to American Football following the disbanding of Sodam RFC is an example in Harrow of a successful change of use in response to a new demand.

However, at Harrow RFC's home ground, The Grove Field, the additional use of the second rugby pitch for youth Gaelic Football teams by Parnell GAA has caused over-use of this pitch impacting adversely on its quality. The current proposal to change a football pitch to rugby at Hatch End Playing Fields is unlikely to address this issue as an alternative venue to Grove Field due to the due to distance of the changing rooms and lack of social space for the Parnell GAA youth sides.

The needs assessment for cricket supports retention and expansion of the existing supply of fine turf pitches to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate forecast growth from population change and investment in developing the women and girl's game. However, now that lower league adult cricket can be played on non-turf pitches (NTPs), there is also a strong needs case for the provision of more NTPs at cricket grounds in Harrow

(either on existing fine turf cricket tables or, where there is sufficient land, as junior pitches separate from the cricket table). A well-maintained NTP has a playing capacity of up to 60 adult match equivalent sessions or 80 junior sessions in a season compared to 5 adult/7junior for a fine turf strip.

In Harrow, the priority sites for additional or upgraded NTPs are Harrow Town Sports Club, Headstone Manor, and Millhillians Sports Ground. In addition, provision of an NTP for youth cricket at Shaftesbury Playing Fields in place of a former fine turf square is an option to meet the aspirations of Pinner RFC to form a youth cricket team to offer year-round sporting opportunities.

3.4 Potential loss of availability of a key site or sites

No imminent threats to availability of key community playing pitch sites in Harrow have been identified in the course of the research and consultation for this PPS, however it should be noted The Hive’s planning application for artificial pitches if granted will result in the loss of 3 grass pitches (1 x 11v11, 2x 9v9). These pitches are not available to the community and are used exclusively by the club academy for approx. 4 hours a week.

As in most areas, the future of community hockey in Harrow relies on continued availability to school sand-based ATPs and changing facilities. The existing provision at the John Lyon School is used extensively by the borough’s hockey club for matches and training and achievement of the club’s aspirations for growth is dependent on securing availability to a second school-based pitches (Orley Farm School).

Since the last assessment of needs for rugby union in 2012, there has been a change in the supply of rugby pitches with the loss of 2 grass pitches at Bannister Sports Centre, although one of these pitches will be re-provided at Hatch End Playing Fields and a planning application is submitted for new provision of a rugby compliant ATP at The Hive Football Complex. It is

unlikely the replacement rugby pitch at Hatch End will attract regular use either for rugby or youth Gaelic Football to relieve overuse of The Grove Field due to distance of the changing rooms and lack of social space.

3.5 New pitches in borough or catchment

The proposed new provision at Bannister Sports Centre and the Hive Football Complex has potential to address a proportion of the forecast future demand for football and, potentially, for rugby training capacity and/or Gaelic Football. Relocation of the Gaelic Football or midweek rugby training from Grove Field to the Hive has the potential to relieve the overplay at the Harrow RFC home ground.

The feasibility of reopening the William Ellis Sports Ground should also be explored to provide a home base for a football club in this area.

3.6 Significant increase in demand in specific part of the borough

Allocation of housing provision is likely to be distributed relatively evenly across The London Borough of Harrow, with growth connected to the existing town centres with established supporting infrastructure – i.e., Harrow, Wealdstone, Pinner, Harrow on the Hill, Hatch End, Edgware, Stanmore. As such, at present, there is no one area where population growth will be focused to the extent that new playing pitch provision will be a particular priority.

3.7 Significant demand growth in a particular sport, gender or age group

The governing bodies of football, cricket and rugby all have a clear strategic focus on delivering more opportunities for women and girls to play and

compete. As identified in the detailed assessments of future need for each sport, it is demand growth from women and girls that is likely to be the most significant over the next planning period and place the most pressure on the available capacity in the peak hours at existing pitches – particularly football small-sided game pitches and ATPs – and on the existing stock of pavilions many of which do not have adequate changing and toilet facilities.

In hockey, equal opportunities and participation by gender is already in place at Harrow Hockey Club. The area of greatest demand growth is likely to continue to be among junior teams and in the mixed recreational game.

Harrow has community clubs in all four playing pitch sports of the necessary size and proven commitment to deliver in this key area. This is evidenced by the growth in women and girls’ teams since the last playing pitch strategy in 2012 and detailed in the assessment of need reports appended.

PPS Section 4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport

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4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport

Based on the findings of the assessment of current and future facility needs for the four major playing pitch sports summarised in chapter 2 of this strategy and detailed in sport-specific reports at appendices A to D, the following recommendations are made for strategic provision of playing pitch facilities in The London Borough of Harrow to 2037.

The recommendations assume the quantum of population growth forecast in the GLA 2020 Housing Led Projections (i.e. net growth of approximately +9,600 borough residents between 2022 and 2037) and take into consideration the range of potential scenarios available to the Council and its partner sports bodies to address the facility needs detailed in chapter 3 above.

4.1 Protect

In the context of current demand, future net population growth and the development aspirations of key sports clubs – particularly to grow opportunities for more women and girls to play pitch sports - the over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in the borough available for use as playing pitches.

Protecting the supply of playing fields, playing pitches and ancillary provision should continue to be a core principle in the planning policies of the Council in the revised version of the Local Plan.

The relevant existing planning policies for the protection of playing pitches in Harrow are detailed in Appendix G of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

Strategic recommendations aimed at maximising the effectiveness of local planning policy in Harrow and the planning process to both protect playing

fields, playing pitches, ancillary provision and to secure community access are set out in Section 3.3 of the overall Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy.

Effective use of the planning process to ensure protection of access is particularly critical in the case of community hockey as, in Harrow, this playing pitch sport is fully reliant on pitches and ancillary facilities on education sites. Secure access to school sports facilities is also key for many community football clubs in the borough that need access to school ATPs and grass pitches to run their programmes of match play and team training.

4.2 Enhance

It is recommended that a number of existing playing pitch facilities should be prioritised for investment in upgrades (subject to funding, planning and feasibility) in order to continue to meet existing demand from community teams and individuals and to ensure, where possible, that additional capacity is provided to contribute to meeting demand growth.

Greater playing capacity will be needed in future as a result of population growth and the sports development initiatives of local clubs supported by the Council and other stakeholders including the relevant sports governing bodies. Improved ancillary facilities will also be critical to attracting and retaining players, particularly women and girls who remain under-represented in cricket, football and rugby participation.

Figure 4.1 – Recommended Facility Enhancement by Sport

| Pitch Sport | Site(s) | Recommendation |
|-------------|---|--|
| Cricket | Harrow Rec. Ground Hatch End PF London Post Office Sport & Social Montesole PF | Fine turf pitch improvements |
| | Harrow Rec. Ground Millhillians SG RCT Sports Ground | Upgrade or replace NT practice nets |
| | Headstone Manor Harrow Town SC Millhillians SG | Upgrade or additional NTPs |
| | Kenton Sports Club Millhillians SG Montesole PF RCT Sports Ground Saddlers Mead OS Stanmore Common | Upgrade or replace pavilions |
| Football | Harrow RG Headstone Manor ⁵ Kenton RG Saddlers Mead OS | Grass pitch improvements |
| | Whitmore HS Avanti House | 3G ATP upgrades as necessary for FA Register as match play sites |
| | Nower Hill HS Krishna Avanti PS | Installation of floodlights to 3G ATPs |
| | John Rumney PF Kenton RG Roxbourne Park | Upgrade or replace pavilions |
| | Canons HS Hatch End HS Park HS | Work with London Sport on opening school facilities |
| | | |

| | | |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--|
| | Pinner Wood School | programme to secure community access to football pitches |
| Hockey | Orley Farm School | Resurface sand-based ATP linked to secure community access |
| Rugby | Grove Field Shaftesbury Avenue | Improved pitch maintenance |
| | | Shaftesbury Avenue |
| | Hatch End PF | Re-provision of grass pitch |

4.3 Provide

To meet forecast future needs to 2037, it is recommended that the following new provision should be considered subject to the availability of suitable space and feasibility assessment:

- Up to three new fine turf cricket pitches (the need is greatest in the south west of the borough)
- New provision of two football pitches at Bannister Sports Centre⁶
- New provision of changing pavilions for winter playing pitch sports at Saddlers Mead OS
- New provision of changing pavilion close to ATP at Orley Farm School
- New provision of a 3G ATP to World Rugby compliant specification at The Hive Football Complex.
- New provision of 2 additional 3G ATP’s should Whitmore High School / Avanti House be unable to register their 3G ATP’s with the FA or are unavailable FA match play.

⁵ Works in progress

⁶ Works in progress

PPS Section 5 – Conclusion



5 –Conclusion

The review of Playing Pitches has highlighted a number of facility investment needs for the Council and partners, bringing together the analysis, consultation and assessment work.

Harrow Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities and the needs within this section will result in the Council considering some important and key decisions to make over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the sport specific investment needs identified within this strategy and will be reliant on sport’s governing bodies providing external funding and maintenance being funded through income generating models.

Section 3 of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy that follows sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations aimed at facilitating and addressing the sports specific needs identified in this Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and in the Built Facilities Strategy that follows (part 2).

The final Section (4) is an initial prioritised Action Plan identifying priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

A close-up photograph of a swimmer in a pool, wearing goggles and having one arm raised above the water. The water is bright blue and splashing around the swimmer's head.

London Borough of Harrow
Indoor and Outdoor Sports
Facilities Strategy 2024 – 2037

Section 2 (Part 2)
Built Facilities Strategy

06

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BFS Section 1: Introduction

Section 1: Introduction

This document is Part 2 of Harrow’s Indoor and Outdoor Facilities Strategy 2024-37 – the Built Facilities Strategy. Consistent with the previous facilities strategies, Part 2 includes the following built sports facilities:

- Swimming pools
- Sports halls (and any locally relevant sport and community centres)
- Gymnastic facilities
- Indoor Bowls
- Fitness facilities (including fitness studio space and fitness gyms)
- Tennis and Netball courts
- Boxing, judo and other martial arts venues
- Squash courts
- Climbing
- Bowls and Croquet greens
- Athletics, Running and walking for leisure
- MUGAs (multi use games areas – more detail in PPS section)
- Cycling, BMX and Skate Parks

Significant specialist large-scale sports facilities in neighbouring authorities with good access for Harrow residents have been taken into consideration in determining current and future facility needs. Facility types in this category include swimming pools, indoor athletics, indoor tennis and cycling provision.

The methodology follows current national guidance published by Sport England - *Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities, Sport England (July 2014)*. In accordance with ANOG guidance, Section 2 sets out a detailed analysis of facility supply, demand and accessibility factors by sport facility type (informed by the use of available sports facility planning tools) along with a summary of consultation findings to identify club and NGB facility priorities in the study area. The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities

where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2037.

Section 3 sets out overarching sports facility planning policy recommendations. These ensure that the overall strategy (the combination of the Built Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy) continues to play a leading role in the on-going provision of high-quality built sport facilities and meet priority needs through the planning process.

Section 4 provides a delivery plan related to the potential priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation identified in Section 2. This initial action plan will be subject to periodic review and update over the life of the strategy.

BFS Section 2 - Sport Specific Analysis



Section 2 - Sport Specific Analysis

2.1 Swimming

What's changed since the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2018

With regard to the six indoor swimming pool sites in The London Borough of Harrow –Harrow Leisure Centre, Aspire Leisure Centre, Canons Sports Centre, Golds Gym, Harrow School Sports Complex, Hatch End Swimming Pool - the previous strategy identified issues of age and inefficiency, particularly at the public pool sites, and recommended further work be carried out with a view to significant refurbishment works, upgrades to the plant or full replacement.

Progress has been made with pre-planning work for enhanced public swimming pool provision to serve residents and visitors which has included site options and initial appraisals. In terms of the two public sites, this pre-planning work has focused on the flagship Harrow Leisure Centre opened in 1975. The other public pool site at Hatch End, although much older than the Harrow site (built in 1927), underwent modernisation in 2010.

Plans are also in place to replace the Harrow School Swimming Pool (built in 1985) although this project is a low priority relative to other parts of the school estate and remains an aspiration with no current timescales.

The option of replacing Harrow Leisure Centre in Wealdstone in a more central location due to the age of the facility forms the basis of a scenario tested using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM).

To update the FPM report provided in 2017 to inform the current strategy and to better understand the swimming pool needs in 2022 and future need for the period of the new Strategy to 2037, the Council commissioned a new FPM report in 2022 to include the following FPM modelling runs:

- Run 1 – a baseline assessment of swimming pools provision in 2022.
- Run 2 – a forward assessment of demand for swimming pools and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population between 2022 and 2037.
- Run 3 – an assessment of the impact of replacing Harrow Leisure Centre due to the age of the facility in meeting the demand for swimming pools and its distribution up to 2037. The Sport England modelling accounted for a new Harrow leisure Centre on a specific site as a future option.

It should be noted this is a theoretical model to determine the impact of various scenarios on the need for swimming provision across the borough.

Sport England's Facility Planning Model

The overall aims of the FPM assessments are to inform the assessment of need for swimming pools in the borough set out in this section of the documents, both currently (i.e., at 2022), and the forward assessment (up to 2037) based on the projected population change in the borough and across the study area. The forward assessment models two scenarios, the first assuming the current supply of pools, the second assuming the option of redeveloping the Harrow Leisure Centre on a different central location (targeted for 2027). In this way, the FPM analysis assesses the impact these alternative options have in terms of scale and facility mix on the supply, demand and access to swimming pools to 2037.

It is most important to state that the FPM considers local supply, demand, and accessibility factors – based on nationally researched parameters – to assist local authorities in undertaking detailed assessments of need for swimming pools in their district or borough. The FPM 'scenario studies' consider the likely impact on these factors both on projected population change and options to change the swimming pool supply (e.g., pool closures or new pool openings). The assessments are based on the catchment area, so include the swimming pools and population across the borough and the neighbouring local authorities. In determining the position across the

borough, it is important to take full account of the swimming pools and population in neighbouring local authority areas located within the travel time catchment area for Harrow residents.

Also, the most attractive (and accessible) facility for some Harrow residents may be outside the borough (known as exported demand). For residents of neighbouring local authorities, their most attractive (and accessible) swimming pool may be in Harrow (known as imported demand). To take account of these factors, the study area places Harrow at its centre and includes the neighbouring local authorities and their swimming pool supply.

Headline Strategic Overview from The FPM Analysis

The headline strategic finding is unchanged from the previous FPM assessment in July 2017. A high level of Harrow's existing and projected future demand for swimming pools can be met by the existing supply available in the study area which is well located in relation to the demand. However, there is an over-riding need to replace or modernise the existing pool stock within Harrow notably the borough's public pools which have an average of 69 years old.

Whilst a high proportion of the borough's swimming demand is met, the borough's pools are estimated to be full (i.e., used above comfortable capacity of 80% in the peak period) in all runs.

More than half total demand for swimming (between 56% and 57% across the three runs) is met by pools located outside the borough, most particularly by provision in the boroughs of Hillingdon and Ealing. In turn, just over a third of existing demand for Harrow's pools (34%) is imported, mainly from Brent. The FPM estimates the proportion of imported demand is likely to increase to 39% in the scenario of the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) due to its changed location and greater attractiveness compared to the existing outdated pools in Wealdstone.

Provision of any new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) with larger pool capacity is justified, in terms of the assessment. The centre is in an area of high demand, but the location of the existing site is marginally better than that of the proposed site.

Under all three runs, the Queensbury area is the location in the borough that can meet the most unmet demand for swimming at 143m². However, this is an insufficient total to consider building a new swimming pool and includes unmet demand from other boroughs.

The 2022 FPM report findings support interventions to address needs to:

- Meet demand for swimming pools.
- Meet more of Harrow's demand in the Borough.
- Modernise the stock (or replace existing stock on grounds of age and condition).
- Provide a new public leisure centre (subject to funding).

Achieving these needs will provide a modern fit-for-purpose stock of swimming pools and a quality swimming offer.

Supply of Swimming Pools in Harrow

Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the swimming pools available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. Supply is expressed in the number of visits that a pool can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in square metres of water. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.

The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have the most flexibility to visit. The peak period for swimming pools is one hour on weekday mornings, one hour weekday lunchtimes, five and a half hours on weekday evenings, and seven and a half hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 52.5 hours per week. The modelling and

recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access pool facilities during this weekly peak period.

The swimming pool facilities that meet the criteria to be included in the FPM modelling are listed in Figure 2.1 below and the locations of the current swimming pools (green diamonds) and potential future provision (red diamonds) in Run 3 are shown in Figure 2.2.

Figure 2.1: Details of Swimming Pools in Harrow included in Runs

| Site | Operation | Facility Type |
|--|-------------------------------------|---------------|
| Aspire Leisure Centre | Other - charity | Accessible |
| Canons Sports Centre | Educational – 3 rd party | 5-lane |
| Gold Gym Harrow | Commercial | 3-lane |
| Harrow Leisure Centre (Runs 1 & 2) | Public | 5-lane |
| | | learner |
| Harrow School Sports Complex | Educational | 6-lane |
| Hatch End Swimming Pool | Public | 4-lane |
| New Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) (Run 3) | Public | 8-lane |
| | | learner |

Figure 2.2 Location of Swimming Pool Sites in Harrow All Runs (2022 & 2037)

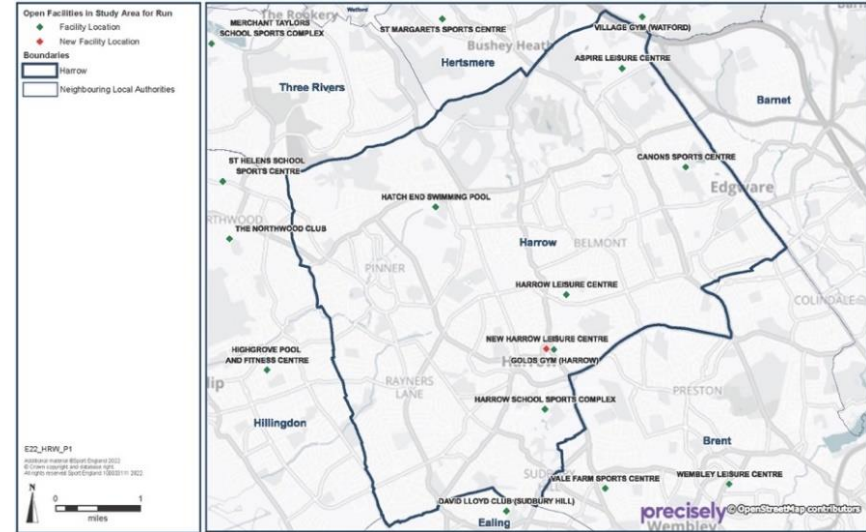


Figure 2.3: Supply of Swimming Pools in Harrow by Run

| Total Supply | RUN 1 | RUN 2 | RUN 3 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Harrow | 2022 | 2037 | 2037 |
| Number of pools | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Number of pool sites | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Supply in sqm of water | 1,743 | 1,743 | 1,808 |
| Supply in sqm of water scaled with hours available in peak period | 1,445 | 1,445 | 1,510 |
| Supply in visits per week in peak period | 12,644 | 12,644 | 13,213 |
| Average year built of sites | 43 | 58 | 49 |
| Average age of sites | 69 | 84 | 59 |

In all three runs, there are seven individual swimming pools across six sites. In Run 3, Harrow Leisure Centre is replaced by a New Harrow Leisure Centre (at a new site, subject to funding). With the model’s assessment, the current

centre is modelled to close in 2027, when the new centre opens. In Runs 1 and 2, Harrow’s water space available for community use in the weekly peak period is 1,445 sqm. In Run 3, this increases by 4% to 1,510 sqm of water because the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) is larger than the existing centre with an 8 lane 25m main pool in place of the 5 lanes at the existing Harrow Leisure Centre.

Two of the six swimming pool sites are public leisure centres – Harrow Leisure Centre and Hatch End Swimming Pool. They provide 48% of the water space available for community use in Runs 1 and 2 and 50% in Run 3.

The high average age of the pool is a key finding.

The two public pool sites provide for the following swimming activities:

- Learn to swim
- Casual recreational swimming
- Lane and fitness swimming activities
- Swimming development through clubs

The two pools on school sites (Canons Sports Centre at North London Collegiate School, and Harrow School Sports Complex) are accessible to the community through membership schemes, as is the commercial pool at Golds Gym in Harrow.

The London Borough of Harrow is unusual in having a fully inclusive leisure facility for disabled and able-bodied people; Aspire Leisure Centre in Stanmore provided by a national charity working with people with spinal cord injuries. The pool has a 25m x 13m pool with full ramped access for wheelchairs. Currently around a third of its members are disabled compared with a national average of 2-3%.

Demand for Swimming Pools

Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of Harrow’s population with the frequency of participation in

each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and square metres of water. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England’s Active Lives survey up to March 2020.

Harrow’s resident population forecast for 2037 is 262,272, an increase of 4% on 2022. Despite this growth in the size of the population, the FPM forecasts a small decrease in demand for swimming pools in the borough over this period (less than 1%). This is due to the ageing of the population in Harrow between 2022 and 2037. There will be fewer residents in the age bands with the highest swimming participation (0–15-year-olds and 25–39-year-olds) in 2037 than in 2022. This is in contrast to Brent and Ealing in particular where these younger age bands are growing.

Harrow’s demand for swimming pools in 2037 equates to 2,783 sqm of water. This is a good deal greater than the total supply located within the borough (1,743 sqm in Run 1, and 1,808 sqm in Run 3). However, this comparison takes no account of the accessible supply to Harrow residents located in neighbouring boroughs within a 20 minute travel time catchment area. Harrow has the lowest demand of neighbouring London local authority areas for swimming pools in the study area both in 2022 and 2037 (see Figure 2.4).

Figure 2.4: Demand for Swimming 2031 by Local Authority

| Demand in sqm of water considering a 'comfort' factor* | RUN 1 | RUNS 2 & 3 | % Change |
|--|-------|------------|-----------|
| Local Authority | 2022 | 2037 | 2022-2037 |
| Harrow | 2,791 | 2,783 | -0.3% |
| Barnet | 4,421 | 4,579 | 3.6% |
| Brent | 3,651 | 3,995 | 9.4% |
| Ealing | 3,810 | 4,026 | 5.6% |
| Hillingdon | 3,447 | 3,402 | -1.3% |

* The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor,’ beyond which the venues are too full. The pool itself becomes too crowded to swim comfortably, and the changing and circulation areas also become too congested. In the model Sport England assumes that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the swimming pool is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

The highest concentration of demand in Harrow is in an area of the existing leisure centre in Wealdstone. The location proposed for the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding), is the area with the second highest demand.

Figure 2.5 Demand for Swimming Pools in Harrow 2022 (Run 1)

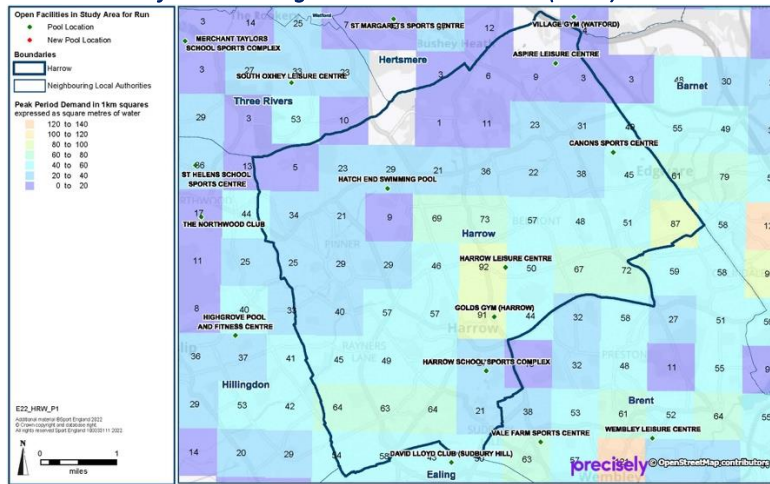
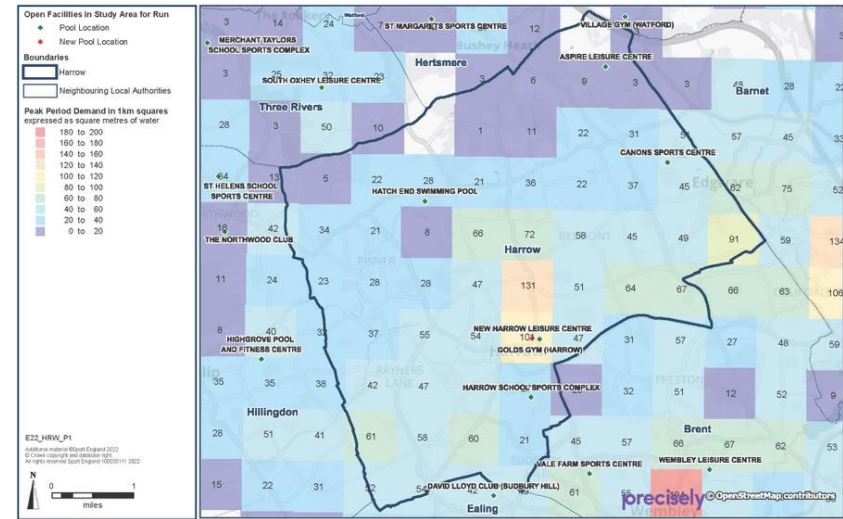
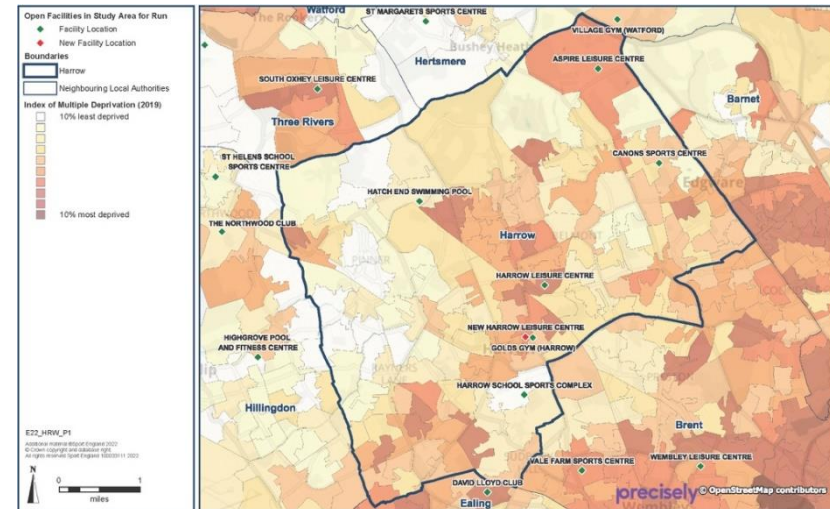


Figure 2.6 Demand for Swimming Pools in Harrow 2037 (Run 3)



In terms of relative deprivation, the existing Harrow Leisure Centre is in an area of higher deprivation than the new location (see Figure 2.7).

Figure 2.7: Deprivation in Harrow 2019 (all Runs)



Accessibility of Harrow’s swimming pools

For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport or on foot is the choice of travel. The FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a swimming pool. The travel time limits used are:

- Driving 20 minutes
- Public transport is 20 minutes (at half speed of car)
- Walking is 20 minutes (one miles)

The proportion of the resident population in Harrow who do not have access to a car is 23% which is slightly lower than the national average of 25% and much lower than the London-wide average of 40%. For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools on foot or by public transport become the choice of travel mode. In Run 1, 26% of all visits are either on foot or by public transport, decreasing slightly to 24.7% in Run 3 with the location of the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding).

Figure 2.8: Travel Modal Split of Harrow Demand to Swimming Pools by Run

| Accessibility | RUN 1 | RUN 2 | RUN 3 |
|--|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Harrow | 2022 | 2037 | 2037 |
| % of population without access to a car | 22.5% | 22.5% | 22.5% |
| % of population within a 20-minute walk of a swimming pool | 33.5% | 35.7% | 30.1% |
| % of demand satisfied who travelled by car | 74.0% | 73.7% | 75.3% |
| % of demand satisfied who travelled on foot | 13.1% | 13.4% | 11.5% |
| % of demand satisfied who travelled by public transport | 12.9% | 12.8% | 13.2% |

In Run 1, slightly more than a third (34%) of Harrow’s residents are within a 20-minute walk of a swimming pool. This increases slightly in Run 2 because

of the change in population but decreases to 30% in Run 3 because of the change in location of the Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding).

Just over a fifth of residents in Harrow do not have access to a car. An illustration of how many swimming pools can be accessed by Harrow residents, based on where they live and a 20-minute walk time (one mile) from the swimming pool locations, is set out in the map at Figure 2.9 for the provision in Runs 1 and 2 and Figure 2.10 for the provision in Run 3. Residents in areas shaded yellow are within walking distance of one swimming pool site, and residents in the small darker orange areas are within walking distance of three sites.

However, the FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. Therefore, not all residents in these areas will walk to a swimming pool and some will travel further.

Figure 2.9: Walking Access to Swimming Pools in Runs 1 and 2

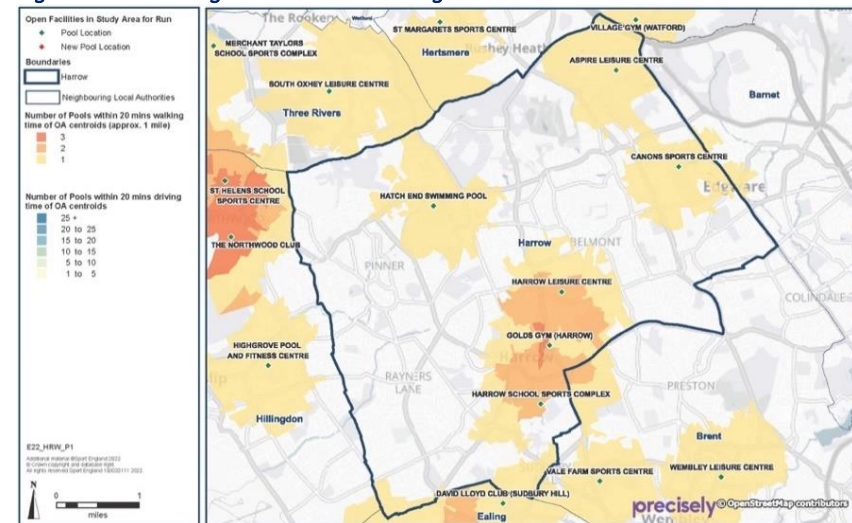
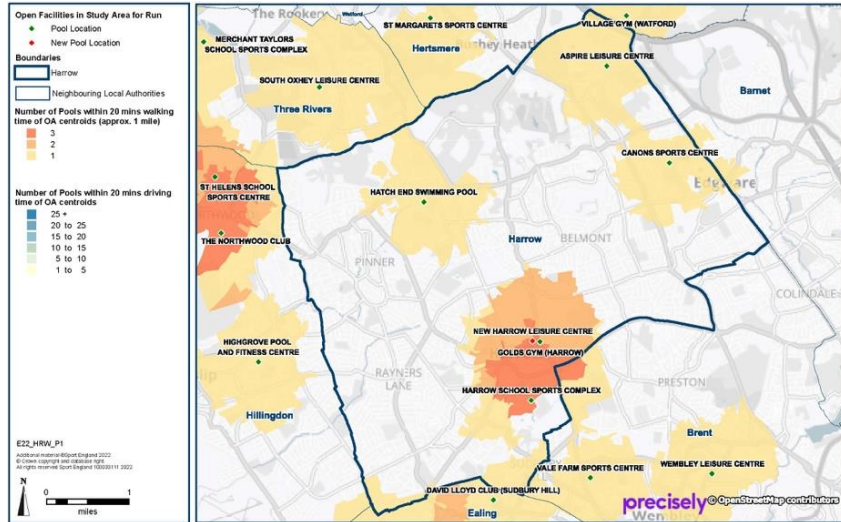


Figure 2.10: Walking Access to Swimming Pools in Run 3



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Travel by public transport to swimming pools is predicted to be the choice for 12.8% in Run 2 and slightly higher at 13.2% of all visits in run 3 with the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) location. Given the very extensive public transport network in London, there is excellent access to swimming pools by public transport. All the swimming pool sites are within a five-minute walk of a bus stop and all, except for Aspire Leisure Centre, are within 15 minutes’ walk of a railway or tube station.

Approximately threequarters of all visits to swimming pools by Harrow residents are by car. Residents who choose to travel by car have access to a very high number of swimming pools within 20 minutes’ travel time.

Satisfied Demand for Swimming Pools

Figure 2.11 shows the satisfied demand for swimming for each run. In Run 1 showing the position in 2022, 94.2% of total demand for swimming in Harrow is satisfied by the existing pool supply located either in Harrow or in

a neighbouring local authority within the driving, walking or public transport catchment areas for Harrow residents.

As a consequence of the ageing population, despite forecast population growth in the borough, the proportion of total demand that is satisfied by the existing provision in Run 2 (2037) is only marginally lower at 93.9%. In Run 3, satisfied demand is slightly lower again at 93.2% due to the fact that the proposed location for the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) is considered accessible to slightly fewer people than the current location.

More than half the total swimming demand generated by Harrow residents (56%) is met by pools in the catchment area located in neighbouring local authorities in the study area – i.e., ‘exported demand’. Whilst exported demand is a high proportion, it is clear from Figure 2.12 that this is not adversely impacting on the levels of satisfied demand in the neighbouring authorities which have rates of satisfied demand of between 87% (Brent) and 92% (Barnet).

Figure 2.11: Satisfied Demand for Swimming in Harrow by Run

| Satisfied Demand | RUN 1 | RUN 2 | RUN 3 |
|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Harrow | 2022 | 2037 | 2037 |
| Number of visits which are met per week in peak period | 15,983 | 15,887 | 15,773 |
| % of total demand satisfied | 94.2% | 93.9% | 93.2% |
| Number of visits retained per week in peak period | 7,004 | 6,886 | 6,870 |
| Demand retained as a % of satisfied demand | 43.8% | 43.3% | 43.6% |
| Number of visits exported per week in peak period | 8,979 | 9,001 | 8,903 |
| Demand exported as a % of satisfied demand | 56.2% | 58.7% | 56.4% |

Figure 2.12: Percentage of Satisfied Demand in Study Area by Run

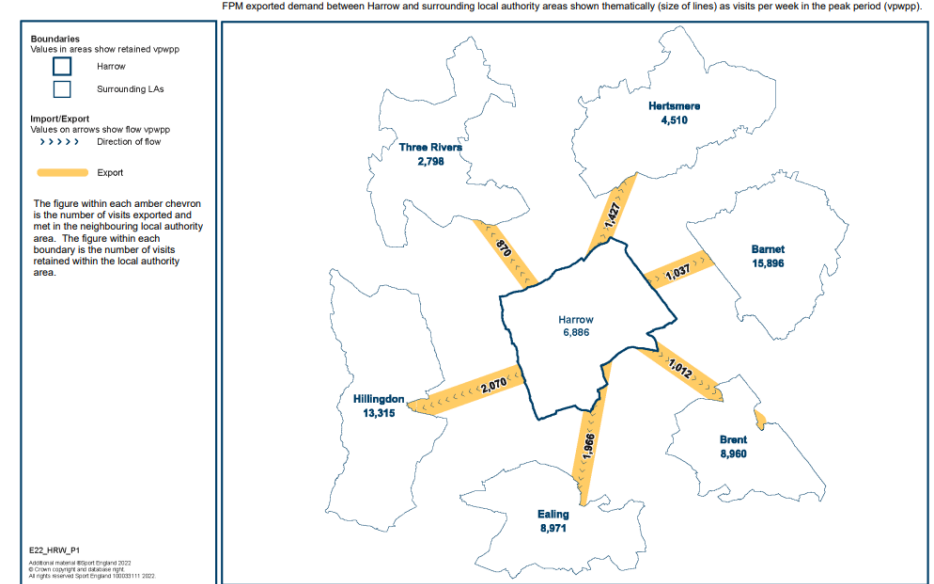
| % of Total Demand Satisfied | RUN 1 | RUN 2 | RUN 3 |
|-----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Local Authority | 2022 | 2037 | 2037 |
| Harrow | 94% | 94% | 93% |
| Barnet | 92% | 91% | 91% |
| Brent | 87% | 85% | 85% |
| Ealing | 90% | 88% | 88% |
| Hillingdon | 91% | 90% | 90% |

Retained Demand for Swimming Pools

Another key measurement is retained demand which is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of Harrow residents’ satisfied demand for swimming is retained at pools within the borough. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of the borough’s pools and residents in the borough swimming at these pools.

It is apparent that the age and quality of Harrow’s swimming pools does not make them as attractive to borough residents as newer pools in the study area. Hence, at present, the majority of Harrow’s demand is met outside the borough. The distribution of exported swimming demand from Harrow to other local authorities is illustrated in Figure 2.13 below. Hillingdon’s pools account for the most weekly swimming visits in the peak period from Harrow residents (2,070/wk) following by Ealing (1,966/wk).

Figure 2.13 Export of Harrow Satisfied Demand for Swimming Run 2 (2037)



Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools

Unmet demand is important to note as it is demand for swimming pools which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular swimming pool within its catchment area and there is a lack of capacity; or because demand is located too far away from any swimming pool.

In Harrow, unmet demand amounts to a relatively small 5.8% of total demand in Run 1, equivalent to just 162.5 sqm of water area and 6.1% of total demand in Run 2, equivalent to 170.7 sqm of water. In Run 3, with the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) in a slightly less accessible location, unmet demand is estimated at 6.8% equivalent to 189.4 sqm of water. This is shown in Figure 2.14.

Whilst this level of total unmet demand could be interpreted as an indication of a need for a further small swimming pool (e.g., a 20m 4 lane pool) in the borough, in reality the unmet demand is aggregated from across the whole borough and not concentrated in a single location.

Queensbury is the location that can meet most of the unmet demand at 143 sqm of the total of 162.5 sqm. The FPM finds that this is an insufficient total to consider building a new swimming pool and includes unmet demand from other boroughs.

Figure 2.14: Unmet Demand for Swimming in Harrow by Run.

| Unmet Demand | RUN 1 | RUN 2 | RUN 3 |
|--|-------|-------|-------|
| Harrow | 2031 | 2031 | 2037 |
| Number of visits unmet per week in peak period | 988 | 1,038 | 1,152 |
| Unmet demand as a % of total demand | 5.8% | 6.1% | 6.8% |
| Equivalent in sqm of water with comfort factor | 162.5 | 170.7 | 189.4 |
| % of unmet demand due to: | | | |
| Facility too far away: | 88.5% | 82.8% | 74.8% |
| Without access to a car | 82.8% | 77.4% | 70.0% |
| With access to a car | 5.8% | 5.4% | 4.9% |
| Lack of facility capacity: | 11.5% | 17.2% | 25.2% |
| Without access to a car | 10.1% | 15.0% | 21.8% |
| With access to a car | 1.4% | 2.2% | 3.4% |

However, it is important to note the two different types of unmet demand. Unmet demand increases slightly in Run 3 with the replacement larger pool provision for the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) due to its different location. However, the table shows that it is lack of facility capacity that is the primary source of unmet demand under this scenario and not the location (facility too far away). Some unmet demand will always exist because it is not possible to achieve complete spatial coverage whereby all

areas of an authority are within walking distance of a swimming pool providing sufficient capacity in the peak period and not everyone will want, or be able, to drive to a facility.

Figures 2.15 to 2.17 shows that unmet swimming demand in Harrow is highest in the Queensbury area on the eastern borough boundary with Brent at between 9sqm of water in Run 1, 9.9sqm in Run 2 and 10.3sqm in Run 3 with the change in location of the Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) slightly further away from Queensbury.

Finally, Figure 2.18 illustrates that there is insufficient unmet demand in any one area of the borough to justify the provision of additional pools in the study period to 2037.

Figure 2.15: Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools in Harrow in Run 1 (2022 provision)

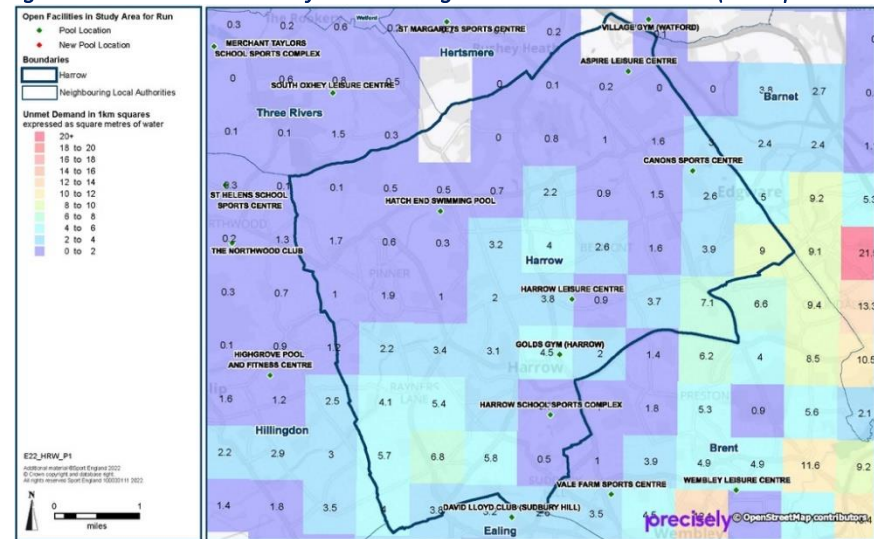


Figure 2.16: Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools in Harrow in Run 2 (population increases)

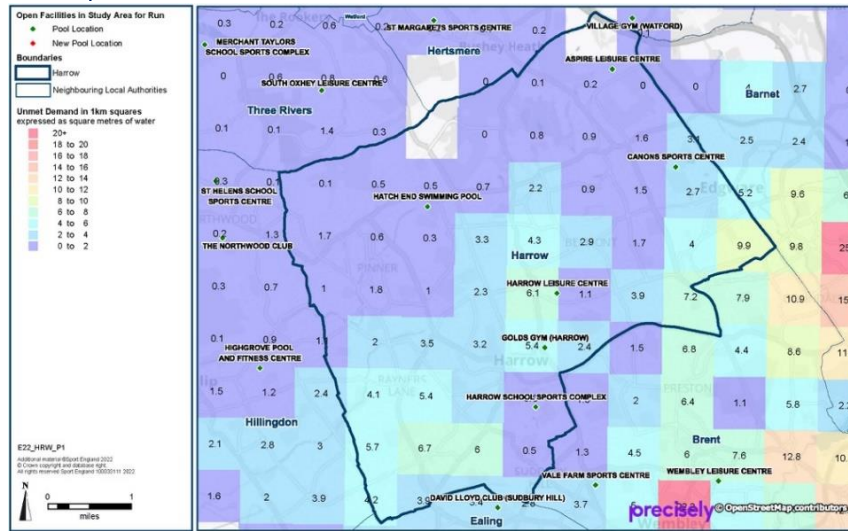


Figure 2.18: Reachable Unmet Demand for Pools in Harrow Run 3 (2037)

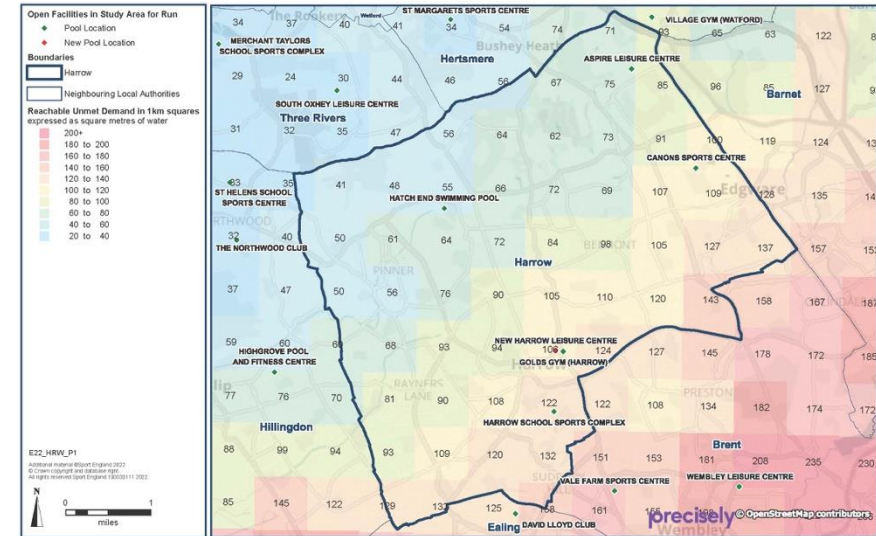
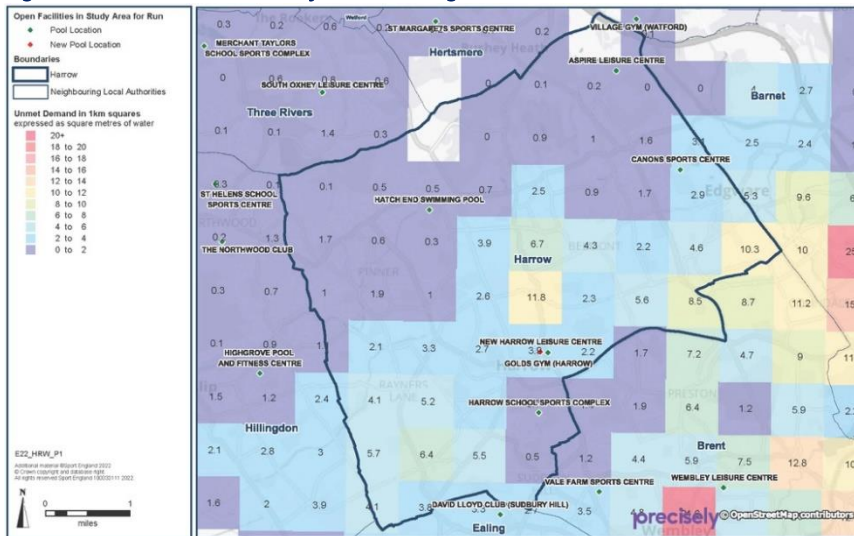


Figure 2.17: Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools in Harrow in Run 3



Used Capacity of Swimming Pools

Sport England defines used capacity as a measure of usage at swimming pools that estimates how well used or how full facilities are in the peak hours; the pools and ancillary changing rooms etc. expressed as a percentage. The assumption is that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the venue is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

The estimated used capacity of Harrow’s swimming pools in the weekly peak period across the borough is 84% in Runs 1 and 2 and 85% in Run 3.

In all three runs, the two school pools (Canons and Harrow School) which have restricted availability in the peak period both operate at 100% of capacity in these hours. So too does the commercial gym pool at Golds in Harrow which offers full availability in the peak hours but has a small water

area. The accessible pool at Aspire Leisure Centre in the north of the borough operates well within comfortable capacity in the peak.

In the case of the public pools, Hatch End pool currently is above comfortable capacity in the peak hours at 85% but used capacity is forecast to fall to 66% in 2037 due to changes in the population age profile. The existing Harrow Leisure Centre pools are full beyond comfortable capacity in the peak and are forecast to remain so in 2037 whether the existing pools are retained in Wealdstone (Run 2), or a replacement larger pool is provided in Harrow (Run 3).

It’s often a combination of factors that influence usage and these vary from one facility to another; factors include but are not limited to the type of facility - public or commercial, the level of demand within the travel time catchment from the site and reachable from other pools, hours available for community use, the type of swimming activities and classes programmed, the age and size of the swimming pool and the demand imported from surrounding areas.

Figure 2.19: Used Capacity of Swimming Pools by Run

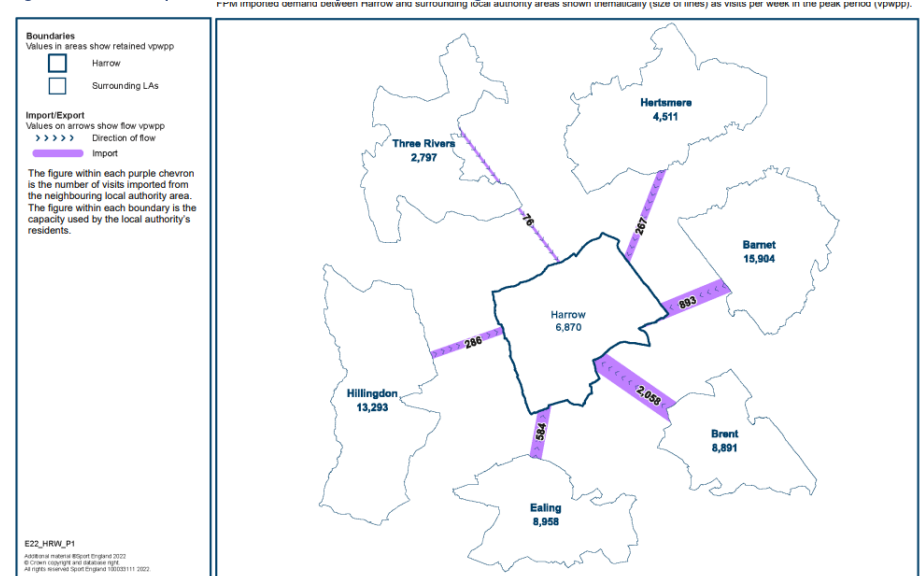
| Used Capacity | RUN 1 | RUN 2 | RUN 3 |
|---|--------|--------|--------|
| | 2022 | 2037 | 2037 |
| Number of visits used of capacity in weekly peak | 10,651 | 10,624 | 11,216 |
| % of overall capacity of pools used | 84.2% | 84.0% | 84.9% |
| Number of visits imported in weekly peak period | 3,647 | 3,738 | 4,347 |
| Visits imported as a % of used capacity | 34.2% | 35.2% | 38.8% |
| Difference of import visits versus export visits | -5,332 | -5,623 | -4,557 |

In 2037, if a new Harrow Leisure Centre was delivered (subject to funding) with a modern larger main swimming pool it will provide greater capacity. These attractiveness factors and the change in location increase the ‘draw effect’. Accordingly, the modelling estimates that the new provision will attract more usage both from Harrow residents and residents of

neighbouring boroughs within the 20 minutes travel time catchment area, most particularly from Brent.

This is illustrated in Figure 2.20 below which shows the FPM estimate of the number of visits per week in the peak period that will be attracted (i.e., ‘imported demand’) from each of the neighbouring local authority areas in 2037 with the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding).

Figure 2.20: Imported Demand for Swimming Pools to Harrow Run 3



Local Share of Swimming Pools in Harrow by Run

This measure helps show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision and is useful for looking at ‘equity’ of provision in Harrow. It considers the size, availability, and quality of facilities, as well as travel modes and decreases as facilities age. Local share is the available capacity at the locations that people want to visit in an area (taking into account deprivation), divided by the demand for that capacity in the area.

A value of 1 means that there is enough quality supply reachable by the demand. A value of less than 1 indicates a shortage of quality supply that can be reached by the demand and a value greater than 1 indicates a surplus of reachable quality supply.

Harrow has a local share of 0.86 in Run 1. This decreases to 0.53 in Run 2 because of the further ageing and decline in the attraction of the pool facilities. However, in both runs, demand is greater than supply in terms of share, across the borough.

Local share increases slightly in Run 3, to 0.56, because any new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) increases supply (a larger main pool) and is considered as far more attractive to users.

The distribution of local share varies across Harrow. In all runs, local share is poorest in Wealdstone, Harrow Town Centre, and South Harrow. In these areas, local share decreases from 0.6-0.7 in Run 1 to 0.4 in Run 2 due in large part to the further decline in the attractiveness of the aged Harrow Leisure Centre for swimming. Local share is best where demand is lowest, which is Stanmore (local share values of 1.3-1.4) and Pinner (1.2-1.3). In 2037, local share remains highest in these areas with lower values (0.8 and 0.9).

Comparative Measure of Provision

A comparative measure of swimming pool provision is water space per 1,000 population. In 2022, there is wide variation in provision across the area, ranging from 6.0 sqm of water per 1,000 population in Brent to 13.0 sqm of water per 1,000 population in Hillingdon.

As shown in Figure 2.21, In all runs, Harrow has the third-lowest provision in the study area, at 6.9 sqm of water per 1,000 population in Runs 1 and 3, and 6.6 sqm of water in Run 2. The increase in water space in Harrow

between Run 2 and Run 3 offsets the increase in population between Run 1 and Run 2.

Harrow’s provision is below the London average, which is between 9.4 sqm and 10.3 sqm of water per 1,000 population across the runs and is below the England average of between 11.2 and 11.9 sqm of water.

Figure 2.21 Water Space per 1,000 Population by Area and Run

| Water space per 1,000 population | RUN 1 | RUN 2 | RUN 3 |
|----------------------------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Local Authority | 2022 | 2037 | 2037 |
| Harrow | 6.9 | 6.6 | 6.9 |
| Barnet | 9.9 | 9.1 | 9.1 |
| Brent | 6.0 | 5.2 | 5.2 |
| Ealing | 6.3 | 5.7 | 5.7 |
| Hillingdon | 13.0 | 12.6 | 12.6 |
| London | 10.3 | 9.4 | 9.5 |
| England | 11.9 | 11.2 | 11.2 |

Whilst there are many factors that influence the level of physical activity, given Harrow’s figures indicate lower activity than both national and London coupled with lower levels of water space than the London average, consideration of investment to improve the capacity of facilities forms a central part of the strategy given the space constraints that exist in Harrow.

What next based on the FPM analysis?

The strategic theme arising from the FPM study is the need to work with providers – public, educational and (if possible) commercial – to improve the stock. The unifying feature, across all the providers, is an old and mainly unmodernised stock of swimming pools. The newest pool opened 20 years ago (Golds Gym) and only two of the six sites have been modernised – Hatch End Swimming Pool in 2010 and Aspire Leisure Centre in 1995.

Intervention requires the modernisation of the current stock to improve the offer, or replacement of the existing stock on grounds of age and condition. In respect of existing sites, the modelling supports the following interventions:

Aspire Leisure Centre:

- Currently provides the maximum hours for community use.
- Pool opened in 1990 and was modernised in 1995.
- Hugely important for disability sport.
- Further modernisation would increase its attractiveness (based on its age) and retention of Harrow residents' use.

Canons Sports Centre:

- In an area of high demand.
- Currently available for community use for 24.5 hours in the weekly peak period.
- Increasing community access where feasible would address some of the borough's unmet demand.
- Pool opened in 1993 and has not been modernised.

Hatch End Swimming Pool:

- The only site in the northwest of the Borough.
- Demand is low in this area of the Borough but on grounds of retaining access to a public leisure centre and meeting demand, the FPM assessment indicates that there needs to be a pool in this area of the Borough.
- Should there be a need to replace the pool on grounds of age and condition, then Rayners Lane or South Harrow would appear from the FPM analysis to potentially be better locations in terms of meeting demand.

Harrow Leisure Centre:

- The current is the only site with a main pool and a learner pool and therefore is critical to meeting demand.
- The FPM assessment supports provision of a new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) at the scale modelled and possibly larger.
- The assessment for the scale modelled identifies there is demand from users that would like to access the pools but are unable to do so because they are operating at full capacity.
- Expansion of the learner pool would accommodate some of this demand, subject to detailed feasibility supporting a larger learn-to-swim programme.
- Subject to feasibility and planning, there are apparent advantages to the existing site in Wealdstone compared to the site modelled. It is an area of higher deprivation, and more residents live within a 20-minute walk.
- However, the over-riding intervention need is to significantly improve the current level of provision and access.

Harrow School:

- The FPM assessment and modelling supports the development at Harrow School and with community use, albeit access will be by membership.
- It is in the south of the Borough, reasonably close to the location of the new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding), specified in the FPM assessment. However, there is sufficient demand to support both projects.

Swimming Pool Sites and Consultation

The Consultation with Swim England emphasised the need for the Council to ensure the level of provision is maintained and where possible enhanced. The priority is to plan for the replacement of Harrow Leisure Centre and extend the capacity of the water space with a more modern and flexible offer of a main 8 lane 25m pool and learner pool provision. The future of Hatch End will also need consideration in the future. Everyone Active,

operators of Harrow Leisure Centre state the plant is inefficient, and the facility is costly to repair and maintain.

Club Consultation

The Borough of Harrow Swimming Club (BHSC) is a large swimming club with a current membership of 464, catering for swimmers from 4 to 65 years. The club has seen an increase in membership in the last few years. The club would like to grow but are unable to due to the lack of pool time. The club’s activities are spread across 3 different pools; Harrow Leisure Centre, St Margaret’s Sports Centre in Bushey (Hertsmere) and St Helen’s School in Northwood (Hillingdon). The club have identified the need to improve and extend their facilities to be able to sustain and grow their club.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 3/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

Kingfisher Swimming Club is a swimming club for people with disabilities. The club has exclusive use of both pools at the Harrow Leisure Centre on a Saturday between 5-6pm. They have 72 members registered with around 30 attending each week, their membership has decreased since covid, but numbers are slowly growing back up. The members have a wide range of disabilities and whilst the club has swimming teachers / coaches present they cannot provide a 1:1 service so need family members to attend for support. The club reports staffing issues can affect their sessions, including a lack of lifeguards, meaning at times they can only use one pool. The centre has invested in new disabled changing area and upgraded the hoists.

Quality ratings – Main facility – 3/5

Survive and Save Club is a swimming and lifesaving club that has been in existence for 50 years. They have approximately 25 youth members. The club’s membership was affected by Covid and a lack of qualified teachers, previously having up to 90 members. They have a demand for adult classes and additional junior sessions and could double their membership with additional qualified teachers. The club uses Harrow Leisure Centre and runs courses for teachers to enable further growth. The club have identified a need for additional pool time if they grow above their previous pre covid membership numbers.

Quality Ratings – Main facility – 3/5 Changing facilities – 3/5

Summary

The needs for the NGB align closely with the evidence from the FPM analysis with further insight into the importance of Aspire Leisure Centre pool and its focus on disabled swimmers and participants. The demand of the club and lack of access to sites provide further evidence of the need for additional provision in the area. A new or refurbished leisure centre with an 8 lane pool provides an opportunity to accommodate the clubs demands. Further provision could also be secured by ensuring community use through the planning process at the proposed new pool at Harrow School.

Priorities and Actions - Swimming Pools

| Swimming | | |
|--|---|---|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| Protection of the current levels of water space and peak period availability at all pools including education pools within the borough and ensure that Harrow Leisure Centre can continue to operate during the next planning phases for any future replacement. | Further modification of Aspire LC pool to reduce energy costs and reduce carbon. LB Harrow to support where possible. | Subject to feasibility and funding plan for the replacement / refurbishment of Harrow Leisure Centre to provide additional water space and accommodate the demands of community clubs. Consider a future options appraisal for Hatch End Swimming Pool based on FPM recommendations. Where resources allow advise and provide support for any replacement of Harrow School pool and secure community usage. |

Swimming

Prioritised Actions:

- Set out detailed Options and Affordability assessment for replacement/ refurbishment of Harrow Leisure Centre to provide new main and learner pools providing greater capacity.
- Where possible seek to negotiate increased public availability in the peak period to the pool at Canons Sports Centre.
- Subject to resources the Council to provide advice and guidance for Aspire to improve running costs and reduce carbon.
- Consider a future options appraisal for Hatch End Swimming Pool based on FPM recommendations.

Future Delivery

- New / refurbished Harrow Leisure Centre with increased capacity (subject to funding)
- Replacement of Harrow School pool (led by school)
- Review impact of the delivered pool projects in Harrow and neighbouring authority areas on demand and supply of water space in Harrow to identify any future needs

Sports Halls

What’s changed since the Indoor Sports Facilities Strategy 2018

In common with most local authority areas, Harrow’s current supply of sports halls is predominantly on education sites with variable levels of availability to the public in the peak hours in the evenings and at weekends.

Education providers account for ten of thirteen main sports halls in Harrow including the newest ones at Salvatorian College and Whitmore High School, both 4-badminton court size sports hall opened in 2021 and 2020 respectively. The provision at Salvatorian College is available for community lettings for 29 hours a week in the peak period and Whitmore High School is available for 25.5 hours a week in the peak period.

Another school, Avanti House Secondary School, opened its 4-court sports hall just after completion of the previous strategy in 2018. Access to this sports hall is quite limited at just 15 peak hours a week.

Notwithstanding these new additions to the educational supply, as with swimming pools, the age and condition of the stock of public sports halls available at all times is the over-riding issue in Harrow, particularly at the Harrow Leisure Centre the oldest sports hall in the borough which opened in 1975. Seven of the thirteen sports halls opened before 2010 and only one of these has been modernised.

Sport England’s Facility Planning Model

To update the FPM report provided in 2017 to inform the current strategy and to better understand the sport hall needs in 2022, the Council commissioned a new FPM analysis which was completed in December 2022.

To successfully plan for the future provision of sports halls, Harrow Council used the Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM), to inform its detailed assessment of needs by modeling how demand for sports halls is met by the supply of sports halls currently (i.e., at 2022).

It is most important to state that the FPM considers local supply, demand and accessibility factors – based on nationally researched parameters – to assist local authorities in undertaking detailed assessments of need for sports halls in their district or borough. The assessments are based on the catchment area, so include the sports halls and population across the borough and the neighbouring local authorities. The FPM study provides a hard evidence base that can inform consultations, to then provide a rounded evidence base. This can then be applied in the development of the Council’s strategic planning for the provision of sports halls.

As with swimming pools, the FPM sports hall assessment for Harrow includes the sports halls and population in the borough as well as those located in neighbouring local authorities that fall within a defined travel time catchment.

Headline Strategic Overview from the FPM Analysis

The headline strategic overview is that the demand for sports halls exceeds the accessible supply of sports halls. This finding is consistent with London as a whole. In 2022, approximately 10% of the Harrow demand is not met, the equivalent of around 6.9 badminton courts not taking into account the recent opening of the Salvatorian College and Whitmore School sports hall.

Meeting demand for sports halls for community use involves both local authority leisure centres and educational sites with the main difference being that there is far greater access and more extensive programmes of use at the public leisure centre sites.

Borough-wide, there is a large reliance on sports halls on education sites (three quarters of the available supply) a number of which currently offer quite limited availability in the peak hours of community demand. When aggregated across the education sites, this results in a high level of unavailable sports hall capacity in the borough as a whole. If more access could be provided at a number of these education sites, there would be a better balance between supply and demand, but it is unlikely to eliminate unmet demand from lack of capacity.

In addition to the new Whitmore School provision, other key education sites where access for community use has potential to be increased by negotiation and agreement are: Avanti House Secondary School (built in 2018 with currently 15 hours available in the peak) and; Whitefriars Community School (opened in 2000 and located in Wealdstone - an area of high demand – providing just 5 hours availability in the peak).

Aside from these more recently built sports halls, the remainder of the halls are now relatively old and therefore increasingly unattractive to potential users. There is a need for modernisation of the pre-2010 sports halls most particularly the oldest - Harrow Leisure Centre – which opened in 1975.

Harrow Leisure Centre is critical to the supply as the only fully public site. Aspire Leisure Centre, whilst available to the community, is managed by a charity that supports people paralysed by spinal cord injury. The centre runs a full community programme with a key focus on disability sport. Cedars Youth & Community Centre is managed by Watford FC's Community Sports & Education Trust.

There is an almost an even balance between the Harrow demand exported and met outside the borough (49%) and the demand retained within Harrow (51%). This reflects the small land area of London boroughs and the close proximity of many sports hall sites. Of the unmet demand, 53% is because sports halls are too far away from where residents live and 47% because of lack of available sports hall capacity.

This finding reinforces the need to maintain access to educational sports hall sites for community use and, if possible, increase it. It also points to a potential need to plan for further sports hall provision in future. Wealdstone and Roxeth are the areas identified by the FPM as having the highest reachable unmet demand.

Supply of Sports Halls

In the FPM modelling for sports halls, there are 15 individual sports hall facilities located at 11 sites in Harrow. This report however did not take into account the recent opening of the Salvatorian College and Whitmore School sports hall. Figure 2.22 includes these two sites to provide an up to date overview of provision in the borough of 17 halls on 13 sites.

Figure 2.22: Supply of Sports Halls Harrow, 2022⁷

| Total Supply | |
|---|--------|
| Harrow | 2022 |
| Number of halls | 17 |
| Number of hall sites | 13 |
| Supply in badminton court equivalents | 71 |
| Supply in courts scaled with hours available in peak period | 45.5 |
| Supply in visits per week in peak period | 16,747 |
| Average year built of sites | 2002 |
| Average year built of public sites | 1995 |

In general, a four-court sports hall can provide for most indoor hall sports at the community level of participation. However, half of the four court halls have dimensions which are less than the Sport England and National Governing Bodies’ recommended size of 35m x 20m. Dimensions less than this, limit the run-off area between and behind courts. At two of the thirteen sites – Cedars Youth & Community Centre and St Dominic’s Sixth Form College – the halls are 3-court with dimensions of 27m x 18m which places restrictions on the range of sports activities and/or the levels of competition that these sites can accommodate.

The existing supply at Harrow Leisure Centre comprises 15 courts in total between two sports halls: a ten-court hall of 41m x 43m and a five court hall with dimensions of 41m x 21m. Any potential future provision of a new Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) should retain at least an eight-court double sports hall so as to continue to provide for multiple sports activities as well as serve as a competition and events venue. Whilst short of the current 15 courts there are a number of other potential new developments being planned in the area which could mitigate a reduction of courts, subject to them being developed.

⁷ These totals include Whitmore HS (32m x 20m) and Salvatorian RC Coll which was excluded in error from the FPM run. Based on availability these sites have a capacity for c. 1,728 vpwpp.

Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the sports halls available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. The supply is expressed in the number of visits that a sports hall can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in the number of badminton courts. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.

The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for sports halls is one hour on weekday mornings, five hours on weekday evenings and eight hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 46 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access facilities during this weekly peak period.

The number of hours available for community use at the educational sites ranges from 5 to 39 in the weekly peak period. Most of the educational sites provide between 20 and 33 hours for community use in the weekly peak period. There is scope to increase the hours for community use at these sites and increase capacity without further provision of sports halls.

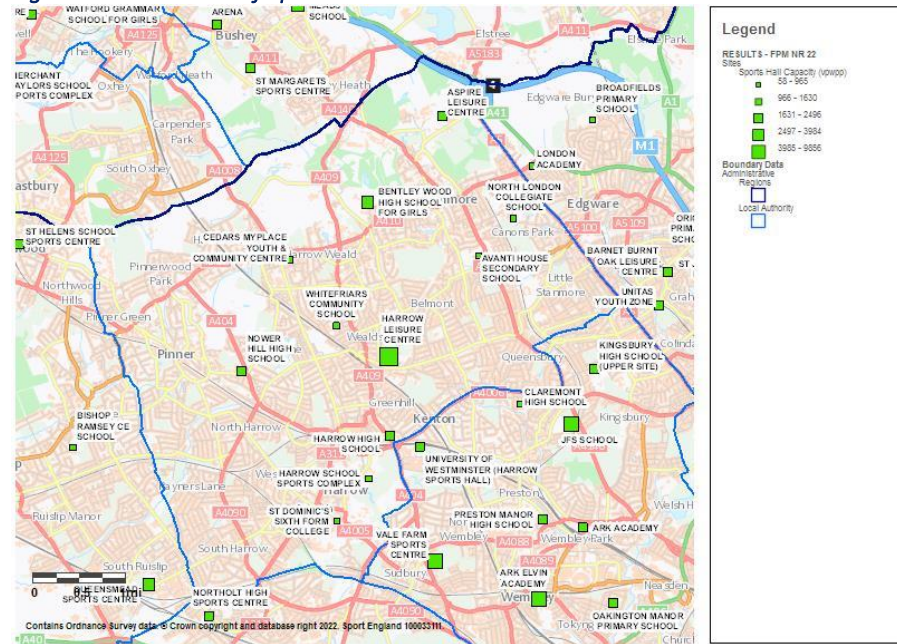
Figure 2.23: Details of Sports Halls Included in the Run

| Site | Operation | Sports Hall Type |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Aspire Leisure Centre | Other - charity | 4-court (35m x 20m) |
| Avanti House Secondary School | Educational | 4-court (33m x 18m) |
| Bentley Wood High School for Girls | Educational | 4-court (35m x 20m) |
| | | Activity (18m x 17m) |
| | | Activity (18m x 10m) |
| Cedars Youth and Community Centre | Other | 3-court (27m x 18m) |
| Harrow High School | Educational | 4-court (33m x 18m) |

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---|
| Harrow Leisure Centre | Public | 10-court (41m x 43m) 5-court (41m x 21m) |
| Harrow School Sports Complex | Educational | 4-court (33m x 18m) |
| North London Collegiate School | Educational | 4-court (35m x 20m) |
| Nower Hill High School | Educational | 4-court (33m x 18m) Activity (18m x 17m) |
| Salvatorian College* | Educational | 4-court (33m x 18m) |
| St Dominic’s Sixth Form College | Educational | 3-court (27m x 18m) |
| Whitefriars Community School | Educational | 4-court (35m x 20m) |
| Whitmore High School* | Educational | 4-court (32m x 20m) |

*Added as an addendum to the Run report as originally omitted in error.

Figure 2.24: Location of Sports Hall Sites in 2022⁸



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Demand for Sports Halls

Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of Harrow’s population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and number of badminton courts. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England’s Active Lives survey up to March 2020.

Harrow’s population in 2022 is 252,613⁹. This population produces a demand for sports halls from Harrow residents of 21,404 visits per week in the peak period. This is equivalent to 73 badminton courts with an 80% comfort factor*. This is more than the available supply which is 45.5 courts (including Salvatorian College and Whitmore High School new halls available for 29 hrs and 25.5hrs pwpp respectively) and the total supply of 71 badminton court equivalents.

*The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor’, beyond which the venues are too full. When the venues are too full, the time taken to change the sports hall programme and equipment starts to impinge on the activity time itself and the changing and circulation areas become congested. In the model, Sport England assumes that usage above 80% of capacity is busy and the sports hall is operating at an uncomfortable level.

The highest concentration of demand in Harrow is in the Wealdstone area where Harrow Leisure Centre is located at 3.7 courts per square kilometre (the two yellow squares in Figure 2.25). Demand is lowest in the north and west of the borough at less than one court per square kilometre.

⁸ Figure 2.24 does not show Whitmore School or Salvatorian College Harrow

⁹ GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released November 2021)

Figure 2.25: Demand for Sports Halls in Harrow, 2022

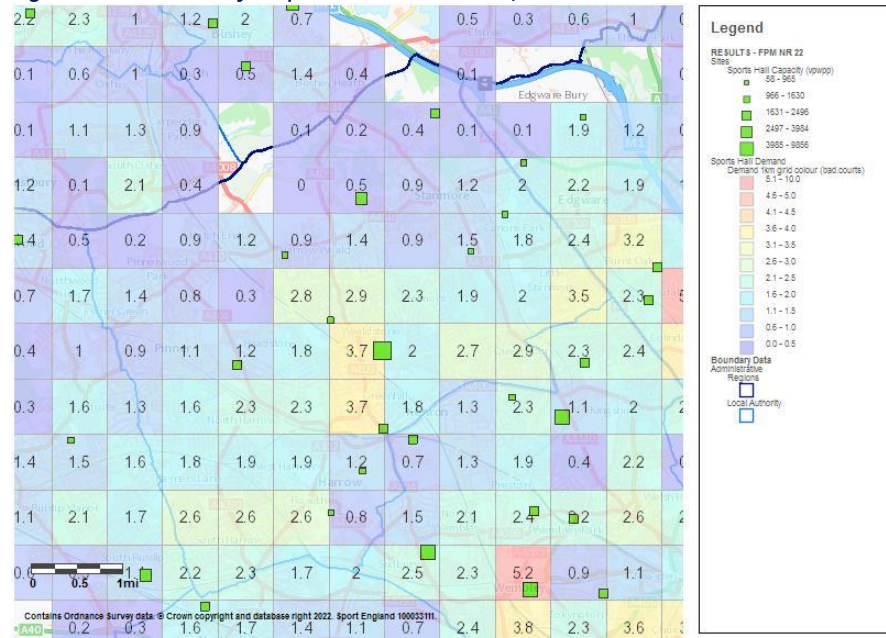
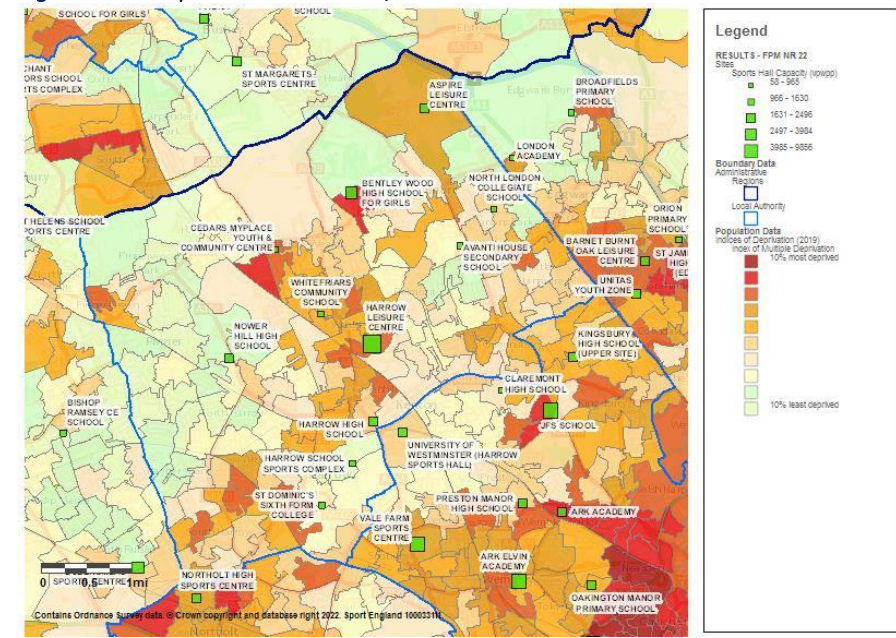


Figure 2.26: Deprivation in Harrow, 2022



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None of Harrow’s lower super output areas (LSOAs) are in the most deprived 10% nationally. However, deprivation varies across the Borough (see Figure 2.26).

Three sports hall sites are in areas of higher deprivation:

- Harrow Leisure Centre.
- Bentley Wood High School for Girls.
- Cedars Youth & Community Centre.

Accessibility of Harrow’s Sports Halls

For residents without access to a car, travel to sports halls by public transport or on foot is the choice of travel. The FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a sports hall. The travel-time limits used are:

- Driving is 30 minutes
- Public transport is 30 minutes (at half speed of car)
- Walking is 40 minutes (two miles)

The FPM findings are that 78.2% of all visits to sports halls by Harrow residents are by car, 12.1% are on foot and 9.7% are by public transport.

Therefore, more than one in five of all visits are either on foot or by public transport (see Figure 2.27)

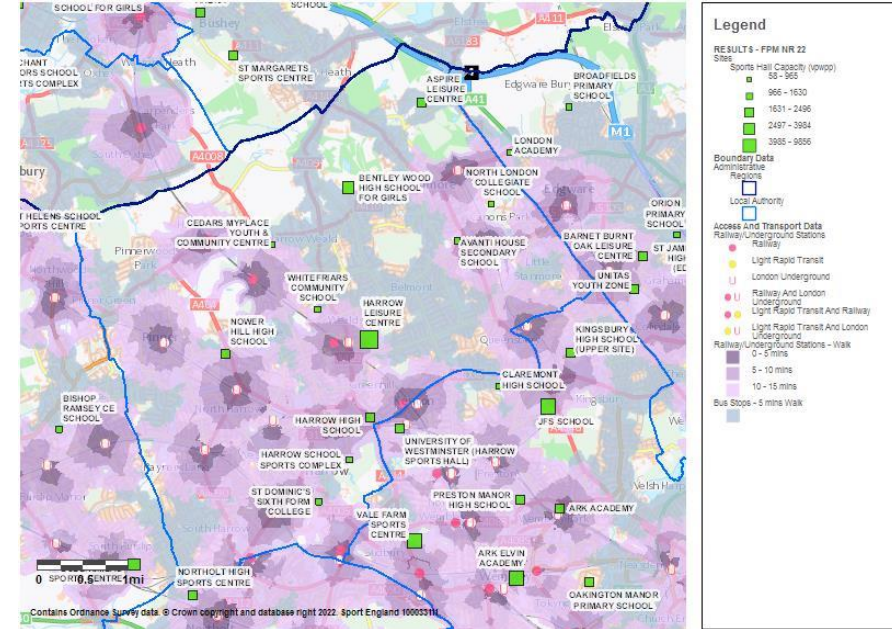
Figure 2.27: Travel Mode of Harrow Demand to Sports Halls, 2022¹⁰

| Accessibility | |
|--|------|
| Harrow | 2022 |
| % of population without access to a car | 22.5 |
| % of population within a 20-minute walk of a sports hall | 66.2 |
| % of demand satisfied when travelled by car | 78.2 |
| % of demand satisfied when travelled on foot | 12.1 |
| % of demand satisfied when travelled by public transport | 9.7 |

More than a fifth of Harrow residents do not have access to a car (22.5%). London has a very extensive public transport system and perhaps not surprisingly all the sports hall sites are located within a five-minute walk of a bus stop (grey areas in Figure 2.28).

All the sports hall sites apart from Aspire Leisure Centre and Bentley Wood High School for Girls are also within a 15-minute walk of a railway station (purple areas in Figure 2.28). Accessing sports halls by bus or by train/underground appears to be accessible across Harrow.

Figure 2.28: Walking Access to Public Transport in Harrow, 2022



Satisfied Demand for Sports Halls

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity at sports halls which are located both within and outside the borough, from Harrow residents who live within the travel time catchment area of those sports halls. The FPM analysis shows that there is enough sports hall capacity within a suitable travel time to meet more than nine out of ten desired visits to a sports hall by a Harrow resident (see Figure 2.29). It should be noted that the satisfied demand percentage in Harrow will have increased since the opening of the Salvatorian College and Whitmore School Sports Hall.

¹⁰ Excludes Salvatorian College and Whitmore High School

This level of satisfied demand is in line with the national average and well above the London average of 85%.

Figure 2.29: Percentage of Satisfied Demand for Sports Halls in Study Area, 2022¹¹

| % of Total Demand Satisfied | |
|-----------------------------|-------|
| Local Authority | 2022 |
| Harrow | 90.5% |
| Barnet | 88.0% |
| Brent | 80.3% |
| Ealing | 84.6% |
| London Region | 85.0% |
| England | 90.6% |

Retained Demand for Sports Halls

Retained demand is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of Harrow residents’ demand for sports halls is retained at sports halls within Harrow. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of Harrow’s sports halls and Harrow residents using these facilities. In 2022, 51% of satisfied demand is retained within the borough. The supply of sports hall sites in the neighbouring London boroughs is higher, especially in Barnet which has 24 sports hall sites (double the number in Harrow). It may well be that these sites are more accessible to Harrow residents, and they are choosing to use them. In 2022, 49% of the Harrow met demand is exported and met outside the Borough.

If residents in neighbouring authorities participate at a sports hall in the borough, their usage becomes part of the used capacity of the borough’s sports halls, this is known as imported demand, in Harrow this accounts for a third (33.3%) of the used capacity of sports halls in the borough. Harrow imports 4,939 visits per week in the weekly peak period and exports 9,487

visits in the weekly peak period in 2022, therefore Harrow is a net exporter of 4,548 more visits per week in the weekly peak period than it imports.

Unmet Demand for Sports Halls

Unmet demand is important to note as it is demand for sports halls which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area and there is a lack of capacity; or because demand is located too far away from any sports hall. In Harrow, unmet demand is 10% of total demand, which equates to between 6 and 7 badminton courts although it is noted that this excludes consideration of the impact of the supply at Salvatorian College and Whitmore High School which was excluded in error from the FPM run (see Figure 2.30).

Figure 2.30: Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Harrow, 2022¹²

| Unmet Demand | |
|---|-------|
| Harrow | 2022 |
| Number of visits unmet per week in peak period | 2,038 |
| Unmet demand as a % of total demand | 9.5% |
| Equivalent in courts with comfort factor | 6.9 |
| % of unmet demand due to: | |
| Facility too far away: | 52.6% |
| ○ Without access to a car | 51.1% |
| ○ With access to a car | 1.5% |
| Lack of facility capacity: | 47.4% |
| ○ Without access to a car | 44.0% |
| ○ With access to a car | 3.4% |

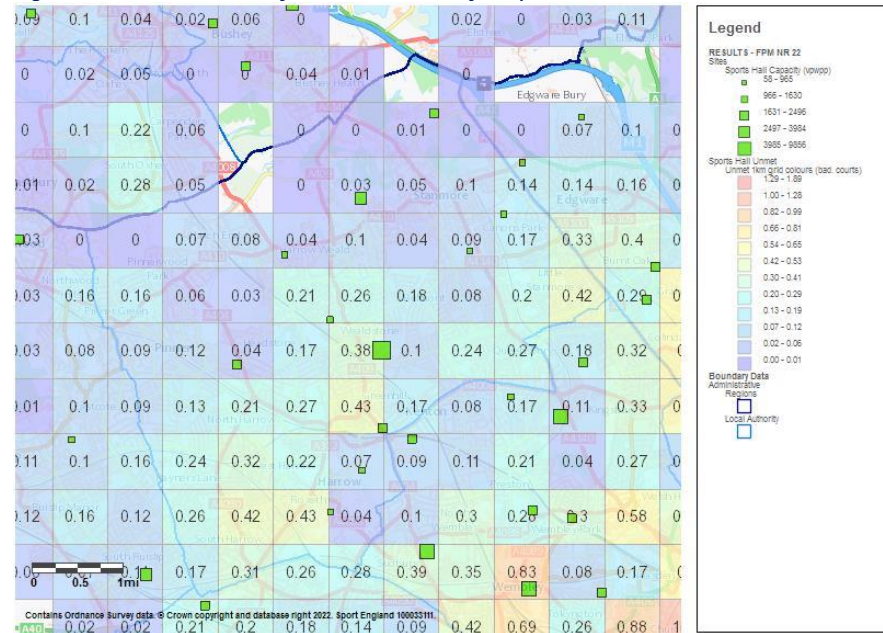
Figure 2.31 below shows that the unmet demand for sports halls is spread across Harrow at very low levels. It is lowest in the north of the borough and

¹¹ Excludes Salvatorian College and Whitmore High School

¹² Excludes Salvatorian College and Whitmore High School

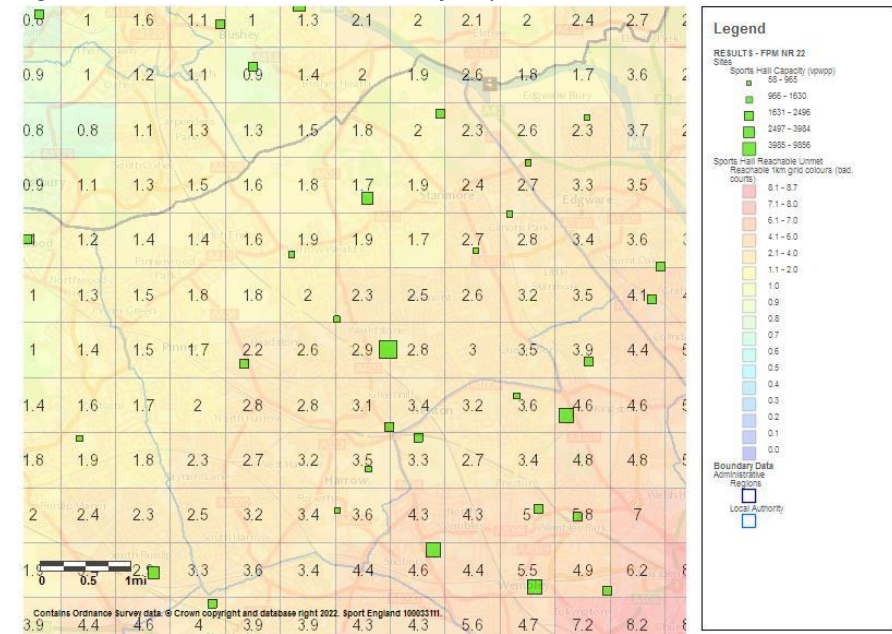
the largest amount of unmet demand per square kilometre is in the south of the borough at between 0.42 and 0.43 of a badminton court (the yellow squares).

Figure 2.31 Distribution of Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Harrow



Within the borough, east of Roxeth has the highest level of reachable unmet demand, at 3.6 courts. This area borders Brent, where reachable unmet demand is higher. While the level of reachable unmet demand does justify further provision of sports halls, the location is as likely to benefit Brent residents as Harrow residents.

Figure 2.32: Reachable Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Harrow, 2022



An analysis of the spread of unmet demand shows the level of unmet demand that would be met by a potential new facility in any given location, this is known as ‘reachable unmet demand’ and is calculated for each one-kilometre grid square shown in Figure 2.32. Accessibility is a major factor in determining reachable unmet demand so a location with a good road network and good public transport links has a higher reachable unmet demand than a facility in a geographical area which has a poor layout which makes it more difficult for people to move around and get to a sports hall location.

Used Capacity of Sports Halls

Similar to most London boroughs, the used capacity in Harrow’s sports halls is estimated by the FPM to be close to 100% full in the weekly peak period at 98.7% in 2022. Analysis by site shows that ten sites are 100% full in the peak with the sports hall at the Aspire Leisure Centre in Stanmore the only site operating at a lower level in the peak hours (88%). At all sites, this is

well above the 80% capacity level Sport England considers “comfortable”. All three neighbouring London boroughs have similar levels of estimated used capacity. The London region average is 97% of capacity used at peak times.

The model’s assessment indicates that there is greatest potential scope to increase capacity through securing longer community hours on some of the education sites, especially where there is capacity to increase community hours to include all weekday evenings and weekends. It is acknowledged that the council does not control these sites and the policy towards community use and access is determined by each educational provider. Therefore, it will involve negotiation with individual educational owners to increase access for community use.

Site Analysis and Audit

The Harrow Leisure Centre is dated and in need of modernisation to continue to provide a suitable space for multi-sports activity and it is essential that any re-provision of a new leisure centre includes at least 8 courts.

The sports hall at Harrow School Sports Complex is dated and suffering from subsidence. The school has plans to rebuild the complex which will include doubling the sports hall to 8 courts.

Cedars Youth & Community Centre Sports Hall floor and lighting was scheduled in for refurbishment at the time of the site visits.

The majority of the remaining Sports Hall are on education sites and vary in quality from good to standard. Most of these are well used for a variety of community activities. There is an opportunity to extend hours of use at Avanti House Secondary School, Whitefriars Community and Whitmore High School. Park High School are currently prevented from opening their sports hall for community use due to planning conditions but would like to

and state they have demand from clubs. Canons High School has developed masterplan proposals for new school facilities that include a 4 court Sports Hall, that will be available for community use.

Club Consultation

Ace Badminton Club (Harrow Leisure Centre) is a junior badminton club with around 50 members from U7 – U17, with an even split of male and female members. They use 10 courts at the Harrow Leisure Centre every Saturday from 3-5pm and have a waiting list of around 20. There is a demand for extra sessions and could fill 5 courts for 2 hours on a Wednesday but there is no availability. The Leisure Centre is also used for The Middlesex Junior League Tournament (7 clubs, 90 participants) once a month due to its central location and parking availability. The club has ambitions to grow but needs more coaches and court time to facilitate this. The club has identified a need for the facility to be updated.

Quality ratings – Playing surface – 3/5

Chequers Badminton Club (Cedars Comm. Centre) has around 30 members and has seen membership levels remain steady in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and are looking to enter the Middlesex County League and National Competitions. The club has identified a need for the flooring and lighting to be renewed when they answered the survey, but this has since been completed.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

Harrow Korfball Club (Harrow Leisure Centre and Whitefriars Community School) has around 30 playing members, with three U18 and the rest adult players. They have 3 teams, with two in the regional league and one in a local league. The club are aiming to grow their membership to field a fourth team and increase the number of females. Their main venue for matches is Harrow Leisure Centre, and the club funded the court markings for the hall. They use Whitefriars Community School for training sessions, although the court is not marked out. Harrow Leisure Centre is also used to host the England Korfball Association inter area youth competition for U11,13,15, and U17 age groups due to its central location. The club

have identified the need for a larger facility to accommodate a bigger court size of 40x20m.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface 2/5

Ruislip Tigers Korfbal Club (Queensmead Sports Centre, Hillingdon) has around 60 members of which they say 90% are from Harrow and also use Harrow Leisure Centre for some sessions. They have seen a decrease in members in the last few years but have ambitions to grow but struggle with indoor hall space at evenings and weekends and need a hall 44x28m for senior matches. The club have funds to build a facility but are looking for space and a long lease.

Stanmore Cricket Club (Kingsbury High School, Barnet and Avanti House) has 300 members. The club is based in Harrow but travel outside of the borough for indoor training at Kingsbury High School. They also use Avanti House for junior training. The club feel there is a lack of indoor space for cricket nets in the borough and would be interested in using Park High School if they had permission to open for community use.

Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League (Salvatorian College). The league has just over 400 registered players, from 18 clubs in the boroughs of Brent, Harrow, Hillingdon and Ealing. Eight clubs are located in Harrow, Stanmore, LCNL, Kenton, Vagabonds, Headstone, Sudbury Hill West Harrow and Apollo. The clubs use a variety of venues including schools, community centres, cricket and tennis clubs. The league use Salvatorian College once a week for junior coaching only, as it isn't suitable for adult competitive play. The league had identified a need for a venue large enough to provide multi-table training, coaching and competitive activities, with suitable flooring, lighting and storage.

Summary

The headline strategic overview of the FPM report outlined that approximately 10% of Harrow's demand is not met, the equivalent of around 6.9 badminton courts, however this does not take into account the recent opening of the Salvatorian College and Whitmore School sports hall, totalling 8 courts. This would suggest the majority of demand in Harrow is now met (subject to accessibility of travel to each location). If a new leisure

centre (subject to funding) was redeveloped it should include a minimum of 8 courts. Whilst short of the current 15 courts there are a number of other potential new developments being planned in the area which could meet this demand, as highlighted during consultation such as the proposed redevelopment and expansion of Harrow School Sports Hall (8 courts), Canons High School (4 Courts) and facilitating the opening of Park High School (4 courts). These projects are all subject to planning approval so it would be important to ensure Sports Hall provision is reviewed at the time of Harrow Leisure centre being redeveloped to ensure demand for sports hall provision is met, as any reduction in the number of courts available would need to have already been mitigated by new provision.

Sports Halls Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protection of the existing overall sports hall supply including the availability of sports halls on education sites as a minimum. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harrow Council to review educational site access and availability – engage with Avanti House Secondary School, Whitefriars Community School and Whitmore High School to look at opportunities to enhance provision and explore opportunities to allow Park High School to open for community use. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of any new Leisure Centre (subject to funding) ensure the replacement of the sports hall (8 courts) as well as the re-provision of a large hall suitable to accommodate events. Subject to resources investigate the feasibility of providing sufficient space and court time for Korfbal provision in the area. |

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Finalise Options and Affordability assessment for replacement of Harrow Leisure Centre to provide a new sports hall suitable for community sport and the hosting of indoor sports events with spectators.
- Look at opportunities to enhance community access at education sites at key strategic locations to increase access for clubs and provide more indoor cricket provision.

Sports Halls Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|---|---------|---------|
| Medium / Longer Term | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ New Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) built with re-provision of sufficient sports hall and events space. ○ Ensure community use (and indoor cricket provision) is secured through planning conditions for proposed Sports Hall new builds including Harrow School and Canons High School. ○ Review impact of the delivered sports hall projects in Harrow and neighbouring authority areas on demand and supply of court space in Harrow to identify any future needs. ○ Subject to resources the investigate the feasibility of sufficient space and court time for Korfball provision in the area. | | |

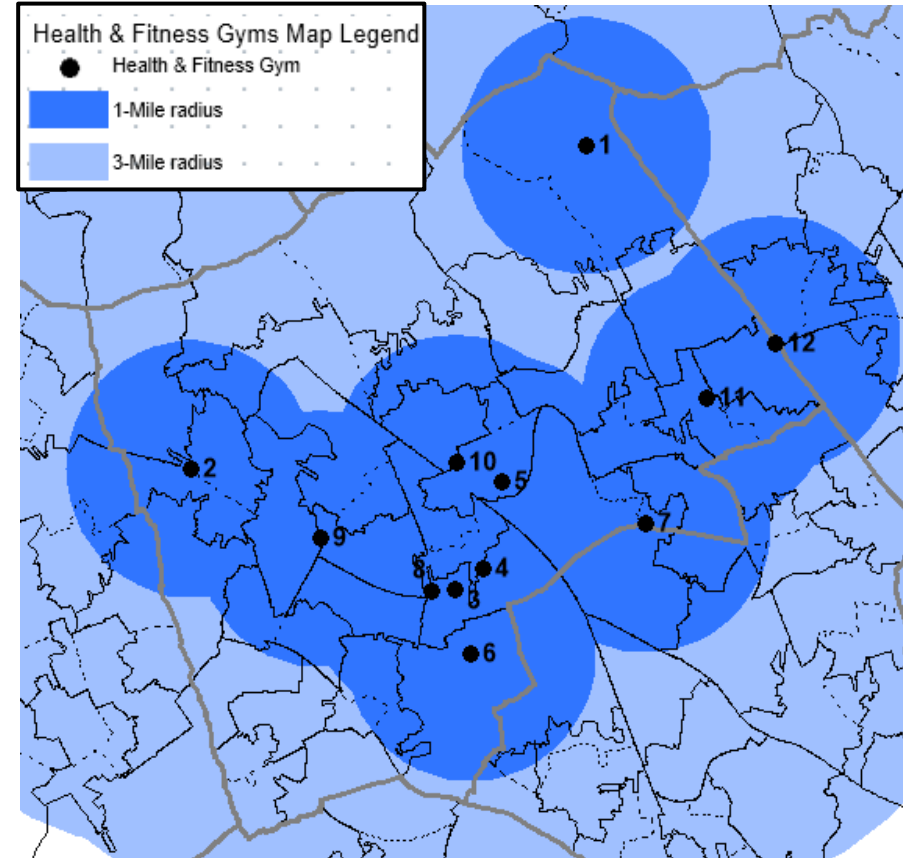
Health and Fitness Provision in Harrow

Health and fitness provision has played a key part in the Covid-19 pandemic recovery process for leisure centres and will continue to be vital in improving the health and wellbeing of local residents.

Health and Fitness Facilities

There are currently 12 sites with 25 stations or more that offer health and fitness provision. The existing provision provides accessible opportunities across the range of access types (pay and play or pay as you go, membership), budget and mid-range price points and types of provision (cardio, weights, functional fitness, circuits, exercise to music classes, studio cycling). The distribution of Health and Fitness facilities across the borough is good, with all residents within a 3 mile radius of a facility, see figure 2.33.

Figure 2.33: Health and Fitness Facilities in Harrow



There are also smaller gyms within Harrow such as Canons High School, Cedars MyPlace youth and Community centre, North London Collegiate School and the body factory and plus other gym facilities based at sports clubs primarily for the use of players/athletes. Schools with gyms for pupil use only are not included.

Figure 2.34: Health and Fitness Facilities in Harrow 30+ stations

| Key | Facility Name | Postcode | Approx. Stations | Access Type | Ownership |
|-----|---|--------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------|
| 1 | ASPIRE LEISURE CENTRE | HA7 4AP | 33 | Reg. Members Use | Trust |
| 2 | BETTER GYM (PINNER) | HA5 3HZ | 75 | Reg. Members Use | Commercial |
| 3 | BUZZ GYM (LONDON HARROW) | HA1 1AT | 200 | Reg. Members Use | Commercial |
| 4 | GOLDS GYM (HARROW) | HA1 2JN | 150 | Sports Club / Comm. Assoc. | Commercial |
| 5 | HARROW LEISURE CENTRE | HA3 5BD | 195* | Pay and play | Local Authority |
| 6 | HARROW SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX | HA1 3EA | 35 | Reg. Members use | Education |
| 7 | SNAP FITNESS (KENTON) | HA3 9DH | 37 | Reg. Members use | Commercial |
| 8 | THE GYM GROUP (LONDON HARROW ON THE HILL) | HA1 1NL | 170 | Reg. Members use | Commercial |
| 9 | THE GYM GROUP (LONDON NORTH HARROW) | HA2 6DZ | 170 | Reg. Members use | Commercial |
| 10 | THE GYM GROUP (LONDON WEALDSTONE) | HA3 5DE | 219 | Reg. Members use | Commercial |
| 11 | THE HIVE LONDON | HA8 6AG | 56 | Pay and play | Local Authority |
| 12 | XCELERATE GYM EDGWARE | HA8 5FD | 50 | Reg. Members use | Commercial |
| | | Total | 1,390 | | |

*Includes use of flexible space, such as spin studio.

Only one of the major high street budget gym companies offering low cost 24/7 access is present in the area, however they have 3 different sites offering large 24/7 gyms with a total of 559 stations at affordable prices (from £21.99 a month). In recent years, the market has seen a significant

increase in the number of low-cost 24-hour gyms that offer residents the flexibility to exercise when it is appropriate for them.

In light of the revenue contribution made by health and fitness to the financial sustainability of the area's main public leisure and sport centres, it will be important to ensure that the health and fitness offers at these centres remain competitive in relation to availability (opening hours), access (affordable membership options) and attractiveness (the quality of the studios, equipment, training and instruction).

There is a good level of health and fitness provision in the following Council owned leisure centres, including a 195-station facility at Harrow Leisure Centre and a 56-station facility at The Hive London. Everyone Active currently operates all of the main sport and leisure centres within the area.

The Hive GYM is operated by TIC Health, who provide a holistic approach across a range of clinical teams including doctors, physio, nutritionists and personal trainers to tailor lifestyle plans for each individual. There is a medical centre on site with scanning equipment for CT, MRI, Ultrasound and x ray. They offer membership plans from Just Gym Membership (£35 a month) to Health Premium (£99 a month).

A number of the public health and fitness facilities in Harrow are located on educational sites. This includes the 35-station facility at Harrow School Sports Complex, as well as a number of smaller gyms at North London Collegiate School and Canons High School. Aspire Leisure Centre is the only IFI Accredited Gym in the area.

Quality of Health and Fitness Facilities

The majority of the facilities that were assessed by the Consultant Team were of a good or a very good standard, except Aspire Leisure Centre, which whilst providing excellent disability access is dated. The gym at Harrow leisure centre was refurbished in 2018.

Health and Fitness Participation

In terms of health and fitness demand trends, the latest annual state of the industry report¹³ found that, in 2022, the penetration rate (i.e., the proportion of the adult population in the UK that were members of a gym in either the public or private sector) has dropped from 15.6% in 2019 to 14.6%. Currently in the UK, 1 in every 10 people is a member of a gym. The 2022 report highlights that the pandemic has knocked the industry back around three years and the 3-year period to the end of March 2022 has seen decreases of 2.4% in the number of fitness facilities, 4.7% in the number of members and 4.3% in market value.

This evidence of the reduction of UK health and fitness participation is supported by the findings of the Active Lives Survey for England. 7.7% of adults (16+) in England took part in a gym session at least twice in the previous 28 days in 2020/21 i.e., 3,528,000 people. This has decreased from 13.3% in 2018/19, due to the Covid-19 pandemic. The number of people taking part in a fitness class was higher at 12.1% (5,526,000 people), which is a decrease from 14% in 2019/20, the first time there has been a reduction in participation since the start of the survey in 2015/16.

Everyone Active reported running a total of 84 group exercise classes a week, with a 90% uptake, however overall membership is still down on pre covid levels. Aspire Leisure centre also reported membership levels have not fully recovered. The industry is taking time to recover to pre pandemic levels as consumers adapt to new exercise habits, including online and hybrid models. Group exercise remains popular for its social aspects and providers need to adapt and diversify their offers to ensure membership levels return.

Health and Fitness Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community health and fitness facilities through planning policy and to ensure its leisure management service provider maintains the facilities and equipment to a good quality standard whilst offering and affordable pricing. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the demand and feasibility of modernising and diversifying the health and fitness provision as part of any redevelopment of Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review health and fitness facility and equipment needs with the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply (e.g., 24/7 budget gyms and high street / retail town centre provision), fitness participation and industry trends and population growth. |

| Prioritised Actions |
|--|
| <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a community focused presence within the market of health and fitness provision in the area. |
| <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the demand and feasibility of modernising and diversifying the health and fitness provision as part of any redevelopment of Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding). |

¹³ 2022 state of the UK Fitness industry report, The Leisure Database Company

Squash Provision in Harrow

Introduction

The summary below provides the assessment of squash provision in Harrow alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities to be adopted for squash provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Squash Facilities

There are currently 6 squash courts in Harrow, which have remained popular and well used at the leisure centre site.

Figure 2.35: Squash Facilities in Harrow

| Site Name | Postcode | No of courts | Court type | Ownership Type | Management Type |
|-----------------------|----------|--------------|------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Harrow Leisure Centre | HA3 5BD | 6 | Normal | Local Authority | Leisure Company |
| TOTAL COURTS | | 6 | | | |

The level of overall supply does not meet the England Squash benchmark quantitative guidance standard of 1 court per 10,000 people. Based on a supply of 6 accessible courts, the level of provision in Harrow falls well below this benchmark at approximately 1 court per 42,000 (approx.) people, which will only increase with population changes.

Location of Squash Facilities in Harrow

The current facilities located in a central part of the borough providing relatively good access for most of the population, however with only one site it is imperative that the current site is maintained, and the provision of more courts is considered in the future, if deemed feasible.

Quality of Squash Facilities

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the squash facilities in the study area and gave it a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.36.

Figure 2.36: Quality of Squash Facilities in Harrow

| Squash Facilities | Quality Rating |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Harrow Leisure Centre | Standard |

The standard of facilities in the area is sufficient but needs to be maintained on a regular basis to ensure the current level of activities can be continued.

Squash Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

There are a number of facilities located in neighbouring boroughs that are likely to attract residents of Harrow. These include 2 courts at Vale Farm Sports centre and 2 Courts at Wembley and Sudbury Squash Club (Brent).

Squash Participation

Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁴ indicate a decrease in adult demand for squash nationally over the last three years. 0.2% of adults (16+) in England played at least twice in the last 28 days in 2020/21 i.e., 105,600 people. This represents a significant decrease of -0.8% since the benchmark ALS in 2015/16.

Harrow Squash Club is based at Harrow Leisure Centre, they utilise 5 of the 6 squash courts for their activities, leaving one for pay as you go customers. The club has seen a decline in junior and adult membership due to Covid. The adult participation is showing signs of recovery; however, the junior membership is half of the figures 3 years ago, reasons ranging from fear of a future virus, found other activities to poor health / injury. The club runs

¹⁴ Active Lives Adult Survey November 20/21 Report, Sport England (April 2022)

Squash Stars, a 6 week programme for 5-9 year olds to attract new members to the sport.

England Squash has a number of engagement programmes aimed at encouraging more people to become involved with the sport, helping to create thriving communities including Squash 101 programmes - Squash Stars, Junior 101, Adult 101, Squash 57 and Squash Girls Can. For these programmes to be successful facilities need to be well maintained to provide a positive experience along with a partnership approach between the various clubs/ centre management teams.

Club Consultation

Harrow Squash Club has over 90 members and has seen a decrease in membership in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and is seeking funding to support school outreach programmes. The club has identified a need to improve the heating / air conditioning system to ensure the courts are kept at a suitable temperature.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

Squash Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community squash facilities through this strategy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the ventilation system at Harrow Leisure Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider options for enhancing the Squash provision e.g., providing glass back and potentially with a moveable side wall within the feasibility assessments and future plans for Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding). Regularly review squash facility needs with England Squash and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the ventilation system at Harrow Leisure Centre.

Longer Term

- Ensure the current level of facilities is maintained as a minimum.
- Consider options for enhancing the Squash provision e.g., providing glass back and potentially with a moveable side wall within the feasibility assessments and future plans for the replacement of Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding).

Gymnastics and Trampolining Provision in Harrow

Introduction

The summary below provides the assessment of gymnastics and trampolining provision within the study area alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities to be adopted for gymnastics and trampolining provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities

In Harrow there are 4 gymnastics/trampolining clubs, with only one having a dedicated facility, with the others operating from leisure centres or educational facilities.

Figure 2.37: Facilities in Harrow used by Gymnastics clubs

| Site Name | Postcode | Facility Type |
|------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Harrow School of Gymnastics | HA3 5BD | Large, dedicated venue |
| Harrow Trampoline Club | HA3 5BD HA7 4SQ | Leisure Centre x2 |
| North London Gymnastics Club | HA7 4AP HA7 4SQ | Leisure Centre x2 |
| Stanmore Gymnastics | HA7 3JW | Education |

Harrow School of Gymnastics has a large, purpose-built facility which was completed in 1991 and was refurbished in 2020 with new equipment and layout. The club leases the site, which currently runs until 2029 and is responsible for the maintenance of site. The club has over 1,000 members and offers a wide range of classes for children and adults from grassroots to elite competitive gymnastics at National and International level. They offer free access for local special needs schools and offer play gym sessions. They have ambitions to extend their facility or relocate to a larger premises which would enable them to offer gymnastics to more local people, including disability and adult specific classes.

Harrow Trampoline Club is based at Harrow Leisure Centre and Canons Sports Centre (North London Collegiate) offering opportunities from 2 years to adult, beginner to elite as well as SEN session.

North London Gymnastics Club has is based across 4 sites, 2 in Harrow - Aspire Leisure Centre, and Canons Sports Centre (North London Collegiate) - one just outside of the borough at Stonegrove Community Centre (Barnet) and one over an hour away in Islington. They cater for children of all ages and abilities.

Stanmore Gymnastics club are based at Bentley Wood School, running classes on a Saturday morning for boys and girls from 4-14 years.

Quality of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits at most of the facilities in the area currently used for gymnastics and trampolining. Each facility was given a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.38.

Figure 2.38: Quality of Gymnastic Facilities

| Gymnastic Facilities | Quality Rating |
|--|----------------|
| Aspire Leisure Centre | o Standard |
| Cannons Sports Centre (Harrow Trampoline Club / North London Gymnastics Club) | o Not audited |
| Harrow School of Gym | o Good |
| Harrow Leisure Centre (Harrow Trampoline Club) | o Standard |
| Bentley Wood School (Stanmore Gymnastics) | o Standard |

Harrow School of Gym has been recently refurbished and is in good condition with sprung floors and specialist equipment. The clubs using Leisure Centre and School facilities use standard sports hall space, with mats, springboards, and trampolines.

Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in Neighbouring Authorities

There are several gymnastics clubs in the neighbouring boroughs, but they all rely on the hire of school facilities or leisure centres, the nearest club with dedicated facilities is Hendon Gymnastics Club (Brent).

Gymnastics Participation

Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicated no significant change in adult demand for gymnastics and trampolining nationally from November 2015/16 to November 2018/19. However, in the most recent Active Lives Survey there has been a slight decrease in the level of participation, which is due to the impact from the Covid-19 pandemic causing the sport and leisure facilities to close. In the most recent Active Lives Study 0.3% of adults (16+) in England participated in gymnastics or trampolining at least twice in the last 28 days in 2020/21 i.e., 134,800 people. However, it should be noted that adult data is of limited value in estimating overall demand for the sport of gymnastics as most participation is by children under 16 excluded from this data source.

The Active Lives Children and young people data shows 28.7% of young people (2,097,900) participated in Gymnastics, trampolining or cheerleading in the last 7 days during the academic year of 21-22, this is slightly lower than previous years (prior to covid) 31.3% in 17-18, 32.6% in 18-19 and 29.8% in 19-20 but an increase from 25.6% in 20-21.

British Gymnastics state the main issue for gymnastic development is having access to sufficient dedicated space for clubs to grow and extend their programmes. In comparing the membership numbers and waiting list from clubs (see figure 2.38) there is a huge demand for provision at Harrow School of Gymnastics that they are unable to meet compared to other clubs. The NGB are in support of the clubs’ need to increase their facilities in order to accommodate demand.

Figure 2.39: Membership numbers and waiting list

| Site Name | Membership No | Waiting List |
|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|
| Harrow School of Gym | 758 | 3000 |
| Harrow Trampoline Club | 21 | 10 |
| North London Gymnastics Club | 146 | 100 |
| Stanmore Gymnastics | 9 | 10 |

Club Consultation

Harrow School of Gymnastics has over 1,000 members and has maintained a similar number of members in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and has a waiting list but are limited by their physical capacity. The club has identified a need to extend their facilities or relocate to a new, larger premises.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

Harrow Trampoline Club has seen a decrease in membership numbers in the last few years, but the club has plans to grow their sessions at Harrow Leisure Centre. The club has not identified any additional facility needs.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

Gymnastics and Trampolining Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for gymnastics and trampolining through planning policy and this strategy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities when required in order to maintain the current level of provision. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review gymnastics and trampolining facility needs with British Gymnastics, and the clubs based in the study area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

| Gymnastics and Trampolining Recommendations | | |
|---|---------|--|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to feasibility, funding and planning, support where possible the extension/ enhancement of Harrow School of Gym. |
| Prioritised Actions Short Term (1-2 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities when required in order to maintain the current level of provision. Medium / Longer Term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to feasibility, funding and planning, support where possible the extension / enhancement of Harrow School of Gym as part of the options for Byron Park and wider site regeneration. The area adjacent to the gym club is largely redundant as a former MUGA which is no longer used. | | |

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Athletics Facilities in Harrow

Harrow has two outdoor synthetic tracks with field athletics facilities for training and competition, one at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre and one at Harrow School. Bannister is managed by Everyone Active and has a floodlit, eight-lane 400m athletics track, as well as throw zones for the hammer, shot putt, discus, and javelin. The facility provides a home venue for Harrow Athletics Club and the site is deemed to be of strategic importance for the sport by England Athletics. The second at Harrow School includes an eight-lane 400m track, but it is not floodlit, used by the school during the week with some community access at weekends.

Harrow Athletics Club has 300 members registered to England Athletics (although total membership is likely to be nearer to 500 members), providing sessions for all ages from U7 to adults, including male and female provision and older adults. They also run a ‘turn up and play’ coaching

sessions for U11 on the fundamentals of movement which are oversubscribed. The club has nominated training evenings and is the primary club user for these nights (Mon to Thurs), they also hire the site for individual competition fixtures. The club is not responsible for the maintenance of the facilities but has had to take up some activities in order to keep the site usable and presentable, due to Everyone Active having to balance rising costs and the maintenance and upkeep.

Metros Running Club has around 40 members registered to England Athletics but have a total active adult membership of 230, plus 35 over 70 and 25 under 16, with a relatively even split between male and female. They have members of all abilities and organise 8 sessions each week across the borough. They have sole use of the track at Harrow School on a Thursday evening and use the Scout Hut at Roxbourne Park and Lowlands Tennis Club as a base for toilets and refreshments post sessions, all other sessions involve meeting on the street with no storage or toilet access. They run a couch to 5k for beginners every Spring, host a summer league event at Headstone Manor and organise the Harrow Hill 10K which starts and finishes at Harrow School, with surplus from the event going to charity.

There are no indoor athletics facilities located within Harrow, but most of the population are within a 25–40-minute drivetime of neighbouring facilities at Brunel university, Stonex Stadium and Willesden.

Quality of Athletics Facilities in Harrow

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the athletics facilities in the area. The Athletics Track at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre is an important facility as the main public athletic track in the area and being well placed to meet the needs of athletics/ running demand in Harrow. The track is well used and in a reasonable condition but needs investment and upgrading. An inspection was carried out by Labosport in February 23, short term the track requires some patch repairs, but the top layer will need refurbishing in the

next 3-5 years. Everyone Active has stated that they are looking at funding opportunities for this. The facility is working towards the UKA TrackMark accreditation but needs to full complete units 3 and 4 by April 2023 to demonstrate compliance with UKA Standards and to host UKA competition. The track at Harrow School is in good condition but has not started working towards UKA TrackMark accreditation and would need to complete units 1-4 by April 2023 if it is to host licensed competition.

Parkruns

Harrow AC started the Harrow Parkrun in 2015, it takes place at Harrow Recreation Ground every Saturday at 9am. The average attendance is 175 finishers across 336 weekly runs. There is another parkrun at Cannons Park at the same time, with the average attendance across 267 weekly runs being 136 finishers. There are two junior parkrun's run every Saturday in the area, one at Pinner Village Gardens (67 average finishers across 50 events) and one at Kenton Rec (20 average finishers across 148 events).

Participation in Athletics and Running

Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁵ indicate a slight decrease in adult demand for running, athletics or multi sports nationally in the last year compared to a relatively stable period prior to this. 13.7% (down from 15.6%) of adults (16+) in England went running or took part in track or field athletics at least twice in the last 28 days in 2020/21 (i.e., over 6.2 million people), which is now higher than gym-based health and fitness membership.

Walking

The NHS provides evidence of countless health benefits to walking, centred around heart health, general fitness levels and burning excess calories. Beyond medical benefits the NHS recommend walking as one of the cheapest and easiest ways to become healthier. Whilst physical and mental

health is key to the promotion of walking, the environmental benefits are vast in terms of reduced transport by other means and therefore cleaner air and reduced pollution. Harrow's open spaces and parks provide excellent opportunities for walking and good quality and safe walking routes are part of the wider picture for better provision for physical activity. In 2019 Harrow published their Walking, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Strategy, which includes an objective to improve the health of borough residents by promoting healthy walking and encouraging active travel and recreational walking (walking objective 3). Harrow Health Walks is a free programme of walks aimed at anyone that wants to improve their wellbeing and health, meet new people and explore Harrow's hidden gems. The scheme is part of the Ramblers Wellbeing Walks, led by qualified leaders and includes 14 different sessions ranging from easy to moderate to difficult.

Club Consultation

Harrow Athletics Club has around 500 members and has seen a steady level of members in the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and recruit through schools in Harrow and surrounding boroughs. The club has identified a need for the track and equipment to be refurbished to enable athletics events to continue and for better changing and spectating facilities.

Quality ratings - Track surface - 2/5 Changing facilities - 1/5

Metros Running Club has around 275 members, which has returned to pre pandemic levels from an initial drop in numbers. The club has plans to retain their identity as a family running club and is looking to get more children or adult members attending sessions, as well as encouraging parents of children at junior parkrun to come along. The club has identified the need for a consistent programme of pavement improvement and improved lighting in parks as well as access to safe low-cost, long-term storage.

Quality ratings – Track surface – 5/5

¹⁵ Active Lives Adult Survey November 20/21 Report, Sport England (April 2022)

Summary

England Athletics state the facility at Bannister stadium is well placed to meet the needs of athletics/running demand in Harrow and should be protected. Investment is required to resurface the track and make repairs to the track surface floodlighting. There is a need to work with Everyone Active to explore opportunities to increase footfall/revenue at the site by considering a ClubSpark gate access system to encourage more casual use of the track during non-club times.

| Athletics Recommendations | | |
|---|--|--|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the existing athletics facilities and ensure that the venue achieves and maintains UKAs TrackMark accreditation. Ensure the lighting, waymarking and other signage along pavements, footpaths and in parks used for jogging and walking for health, are maintained to a good standard. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with England Athletics, Everyone Active and Harrow Athletics Club to support the ongoing refurbishment of facilities at Bannister Outdoor SC. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the provision of infield lighting to meet UKA TrackMark accreditation. Identify funding to enable the track at Bannister Outdoor SC to be refurbished by 2026. Consider implementing a ClubSpark gate access system at Bannister Outdoor SC. Subject to resources investigate the feasibility to provide new spectator and changing facilities. Regularly review athletics and running facility needs with England Athletics, clubs and the leisure management service providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

| Athletics Recommendations | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| <p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the existing athletics facility and ensure that the track at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre achieves and maintains UKAs TrackMark accreditation. Work with EA to look at options for essential upgrade of track at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre. Consider ClubSpark gate access system at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the provision of infield lighting at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre to meet UKA TrackMark accreditation. Identify funding to enable the track at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre to be refurbished in 2026- 2028. Subject to resources investigate the feasibility of providing new spectator and changing facilities at Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre. | | |

Tennis provision in Harrow

The section below provides the assessment of tennis provision within Harrow alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The priorities to be adopted for tennis provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Tennis Facilities in Harrow

There are 24 sites that offer accessible tennis courts in the area, with a total of 99 outdoor tennis courts. There are 33 floodlit courts in the study area all on club / education sites, figures 2.39.2.40 and 2.41 shows the sites.

There are no indoor dedicated tennis venues in Harrow. The area has been identified as one of eight London Boroughs as a target location for the creation of an indoor tennis facility, their analysis overlays population data against the locations of existing indoor tennis facilities and is part

of the LTA’s strategic approach to indoor investment A specific site has yet to be identified. Harrow leisure center has one sports hall which is marked out and used for tennis and pickleball occasionally.

Tennis Clubs in Harrow

There are a total of 11 tennis clubs located within the study area and are listed in figure 2.40. These account for 63 (32 floodlit) of the total courts within the study area.

Figure 2.40 Club Tennis Sites in Harrow

| Site | No. Courts | Floodlit |
|--|-------------|-----------|
| Acorn Lawn Tennis Club (Arnold House School) | 6 | 0 |
| Harrow Baptist Tennis Club | 4 | 0 |
| Harrow LTC (Harrow School) | 12 | 3 |
| Harrow Town Sports Club | 4 | 2 |
| Harrow Weald LTC | 5 | 5 |
| Hatch End LTC | 7 | 4 |
| Headstone Tennis Club | 5 | 2 |
| Kenton Sports Club | 6 | 4 |
| Pinner LTC | 6 (+1 mini) | 6 |
| Pinner West End LTC | 6 | 6 |
| Vagabonds Tennis Club | 2 | 0 |
| Total | 63 | 32 |

Acorn LTC is based on the Arnold school site and they use of 6 artificial courts which are in good condition and kept secure. The club has no security of tenure and books the facilities on a weekly basis around the schools’ activities. They usually run two midweek morning sessions for social play and if the courts are not available, they book elsewhere. They have around 100 members, mainly adults, and have 3 men’s and 1 women’s team playing in Middlesex Div 2.

Harrow Baptist TC has four hard courts and is a private members club. They run year-round junior and adult coaching programmes for members and field teams in the Middlesex LTA tennis leagues.

Harrow LTC is based at Harrow School with 12 courts and a small pavilion. They welcome members of all ages and abilities, including those with disabilities. They hold in house tournaments and box leagues and enter up teams in the Middlesex summer league, the daytime spring and autumn charity ladies league, Middlesex winter floodlit league and Vets league.

Harrow Town Sports Club has 4 courts, two of which are floodlit. They conduct and participate in social tennis days, friendly tournaments and competitive tournaments throughout the year providing something for players of all levels.

Hatch End Tennis Club describes themselves as a friendly and informal club, welcoming new members of all ages and standards. They have seven courts, with floodlights on four courts enabling year-round tennis and coaching up to 9:30pm. They have approximately 300 members, with a growing junior section.

Harrow Weald LTC has 5 floodlight courts and a permanent outdoor table tennis table. The club has 200 members with around 90 junior members and the rest adults. They run Easter and Summer holiday programmes and junior coaching and club nights. They are currently looking to upgrade their floodlights to LED and have identified a need to update the clubhouse and changings rooms. The courts are regularly maintained, with one court resurfaced last year and the rest due in 5 years’ time.

Headstone LTC has 5 tennis courts, two of which are floodlit. They run cardio tennis sessions to improve fitness and encourage people to play tennis, mini tennis and have started an academy for those new to tennis or coming back to the sports after a break. They have around 120 members, 40 juniors and

80 adults, and aim to attract new members from the Kodak housing development by regularly holding open days. The pavilion has a reasonably sized community area where they hold yoga sessions and table tennis matches. There are some large trees behind the facility that are causing damage to two of the courts with their roots.

Kenton Tennis Club has 6 tennis courts which have been recently relaid, four of the courts are floodlit. The club has 300 members, with a relatively even split between adults and juniors. The changing facilities are in need of refurbishment as they are dated with communal showers and are not accessible. The club also has a table tennis section with 49 members with 35 adult and 14 junior members, they are looking to grow their youth section in the future.

Pinner LTC has 6 floodlight tennis courts and 1 mini court, at the time of the site visit the club where in the process of refurbishing one of the courts and had just changed three of the courts lighting to LED. The mini court is of poor quality and needs resurfacing. The club has 185 members, mostly adults with around 35 juniors. They are working on links with local schools and run turn up and play and recreational sessions to encourage new members. The club have ambitions to extend their provision into the field next door and would like to build an indoor court and a padel court.

Pinner West End LTC has 6 floodlight courts, two with lighting suitable for match play and the others with lower level lighting for training purposes as part of planning conditions. The club has a nursery occupying the bottom of the clubhouse during the week to help sustain the club and have a sinking fund in place to replace the court surfaces when needed. The clubhouse was refurbished 3 years ago.

Vagabonds LTC has a current membership of around 50 adults and 40 junior players. They have two courts and provide social and competitive tennis and coaching. They have two men’s teams competing in the Middlesex Summer

and Winter Floodlight leagues.

Park Tennis Sites

In public parks and recreation grounds there are 36 courts all of which are available for public hire on a pay and play basis with some free coach led sessions at each of the 13 parks, see figure 2.41. There is currently no community accessible floodlight provision across the area.

Figure 2.41: Park Tennis Sites

| Site | No. Courts | Floodlit |
|-----------------------------|------------|----------|
| Byron Rec. Ground | 3 | 0 |
| Centenary Park | 2 | 0 |
| Chandos Rec. Ground | 2 | 0 |
| Harrow Rec. Ground | 4 | 0 |
| Harrow Weald Rec. Ground | 4 | 0 |
| Headstone Manor Rec. Ground | 6 | 0 |
| Kenton Rec Ground | 2 | 0 |
| Montesole Playing Fields | 2 | 0 |
| Pinner Village Gardens | 2 | 0 |
| Queensbury Rec. Ground | 2 | 0 |
| Rayners Mead | 2 | 0 |
| Roxeth Rec. Ground | 2 | 0 |
| West Harrow Rec. Ground | 3 | 0 |
| Total | 36 | 0 |

The LTA have identified that 13 of the park’s sites have a penetration level of over 1,000 according to the Periscope data that has informed the LTA’s strategy for parks investment, highlighting a high level of demand in the borough.

In addition to the tennis clubs and park tennis court sites in Harrow there are also 17 tennis courts on educational sites. Whilst none are being used for community use currently, they could have the potential to be available in the future.

Figure 2.42: Educational Tennis Sites

| Site | No. Courts | Floodlit |
|---|------------|----------|
| Avanti House Secondary School | 3 | 0 |
| Canons Sports Centre (North London Collegiate School) | 8 | 0 |
| Nower Hill School | 6 | 0 |
| Total | 17 | 0 |

Quality of Tennis Courts in Harrow

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the following tennis facilities in the study area. Each facility visited was given a quality rating of Poor, Standard or Good. The ratings at the time of the visits (June-October 2022) can be seen in figure 2.43. Not all tennis court sites were visited for a range of reasons including those courts at private members’ clubs where courts were assumed to be of good quality, those on school sites with limited community use and single courts with no ancillary facilities.

Figure 2.43: Quality of Tennis Courts audited.

| Tennis Courts | Quality Rating |
|-------------------------------|------------------|
| Avanti House Secondary School | o Standard (2) |
| Byron Rec. Ground | o Unplayable (3) |
| Centenary Park | o Unplayable (2) |
| Harrow Rec. Ground | o Poor (4) |
| Harrow Weald Rec. Ground | o Standard (4) |
| Harrow Weald LTC | o Good (5) |

| | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Harrow School | o Good (6) Standard (6) |
| Headstone Manor Rec. Ground | o Unplayable (6) |
| Headstone LTC | o Good (5) |
| Kenton Rec. Ground | o Poor (2) |
| Kenton Tennis Club | o Good (6) |
| Montesole Playing Fields | o Standard (2) |
| Pinner LTC | o Good (6) Poor (mini court) |
| Pinner Village Gardens | o Good (2) |
| Pinner West End LTC | o Good (6) |
| Roxeth Rec. Ground | o Standard (2) |
| West Harrow Rec Ground | o Good (3) |

The non-technical site assessments highlight that the tennis courts within the area vary in quality, with the club courts being in a good or standard condition in the main, whilst the park facilities are of a lesser quality with several unplayable or in a poor condition (five sites) and the others standard. There is also a lack of floodlighting (no courts floodlit) in the park facilities, resulting in a lack of year-round tennis in this environment. The customer journey for the park tennis courts is currently poor, as there is currently no booking system and gate access system or equivalent system that is in use, to ensure that people can book and get onto the courts in an efficient way.

The LTA ClubSpark booking system, along with an access system in place means people can access the courts through a coded gate access system, which also provides security for court users and helps protect the courts. The smart gate access system allows people to book a court for a specific time and helps prevent vandalism and unauthorised use.

The LTA is investing into all 13 parks through their park’s scheme, the investment will consist of eight park sites (25 courts) being renovated through a combination of court resurfacing or reconstruction and new

fencing and all 13 parks having gate access technology installed, the works started in March 2023 and will be completed by August 2023. A tennis operator will be in place by the end of June 2023 with an online booking system.

Padel

The LTA also oversees the running of Padel, a new sport which is growing fast across the country that provides an exciting addition to the traditional game of tennis, enjoyed by both existing players and complete beginners. Already popular across Europe, a wave of new Padel facilities are being built in parks and other settings and, in some cases, traditional tennis courts are being converted into Padel courts.

There are currently no padel courts in Harrow and the LTA would support the provision of a court. To capitalise on this wave of interest and the potential benefits to residents that might be available from commercial operators in this market, subject to resources the council to endeavor to explore what opportunities there might be to partner with a Padel operator to develop new sports facilities in an easily accessible central location which will potentially encourage non active people to try a new version of a traditional sport.

Tennis Participation

Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁶ indicate there has been a decrease in adult demand for tennis nationally over the last year. 1.4% of adults (16+) in England participated in tennis at least twice in the last 28 days in 2020/21 i.e., 641,800 people. This represents a significant decrease of -0.6% since the benchmark Active Lives Survey in 2015/16. Whilst there was a post covid resurgence of demand for outdoor park tennis this has not however been converted into regular participation.

Overall, the LTA feels there is a strong stock of tennis facilities across both the parks landscape (local authority owned tennis facilities) and club infrastructure to accommodate future demand. Geographically speaking there is a good spread of facilities with slightly less concentration in the North of the borough and some small gaps in the North-East area. The LTA feel the future priorities for the area once the parks facilities have been upgraded would be to introduce padel in the borough and add floodlighting to park tennis courts.

Club Consultation

Acorn LTC has around 100 members and has seen an increase in the last few years. The club has no plans to grow further. The club has not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

Harrow Weald LTC has around 200 members, which has been relatively stable over the last few years. The club has plans to grow, aiming to attract new members to the club. The club has identified a need to update the club house and to improve the changing rooms.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

Pinner LTC has around 185 members. Membership numbers have remained relatively stable over the last few years. The club has ambitions to grow and hope to increase their membership by 50, targeting 15-25 year old boys and girls. The club have identified a need to replace all the floodlights to LED and improve courts surfaces.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities – 4/5

Pinner West End LTC has around 250 members, which has remained similar over the last few years. The club is concentrating on maintaining its current membership levels rather than growth. They have identified a need to improve the floodlighting

¹⁶ Active Lives Adult Survey November 20/21 Report, Sport England (April 2022)

for match play but are unable to due to planning regulations. The club are also looking to develop similar sports such as pickleball and table tennis.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities – 4/5

Kenton Tennis Club has around 300 members and has seen a growth in members in the last few years. The club has ambitions to grow, they have invested in resurfacing the courts recently. The club have identified a need to refurbish the changing facilities in particular the toilets and showers, and to floodlight the remaining 2 courts.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities – 3/5

Headstone LTC has around 120 members and has seen a growth in the last few years. The club has ambitions to grow further and has started an academy for beginners and those coming back to the game. The club has identified the need to invest in floodlights for a third court.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities – 5/5

Tennis Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|-----------------------------|---------|--|
| quality standard (club led) | | based in the area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- o Work with the LTA to refurbish the park tennis courts across the borough and implement an online booking and gate access system in all 13 sites.
- o Subject to resources the investigate the feasibility of providing Padel courts in Harrow.
- o Subject to resources work with the LTA to provide support for tennis clubs in the area to enhance and increase their facilities further.

Longer Term

- o Subject to resources the investigate the feasibility of providing a community indoor tennis facility in the area

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Tennis Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for tennis through planning policy. o Following investment, the Council should maintain courts, fencing and nets in parks. o Club sites to be maintained to a good | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Work with the LTA to refurbish the park courts and implement an online booking and gate access system. o Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis clubs in the area to enhance and increase their facilities further. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Investigate the feasibility of providing Padel courts in an easily accessible central location. o Subject to resources investigate the feasibility of providing a community indoor tennis facility in the area. o Regularly review tennis and padel facility needs with the LTA, the tennis clubs |

Netball Provision in Harrow

Harrow has a total of 30 courts across 9 different facilities. There are 21 outdoor courts and 9 indoor courts in the study area.

Figure 2.44 Netball Sites in Harrow

| Site | No Courts | Indoor | Outdoor |
|------------------------------------|-----------|----------|-----------|
| Aspire Leisure Centre | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Avanti House Secondary School | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Bentley Wood High School for girls | 5 | 1 | 4 |
| Canons Sports Centre | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Harrow Leisure Centre | 2 | 2 | 0 |
| Hatch End High School | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Nower Hill High School | 7 | 1 | 6 |
| Salvatorian College | 1 | 1 | 0 |
| Whitmore High School | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| Total | 30 | 9 | 21 |

The majority of the courts are on education sites, with just the courts at Harrow Leisure Centre and Aspire Leisure Centre on non-educational sites. Only the outdoor courts at Whitmore High School are floodlit. Those at Avanti House, Bentley Wood High School and Nower Hill are not floodlit so whilst the school hires other facilities for community use these are either not in demand or keep for school use only.

There is a Back to Netball Programme running at Harrow Leisure Centre which attracts 14-20 attendees weekly. England Netball are looking to prioritise the area for new programmes due to the growth of the Back to Netball Programme. They have identified a need for the lines at Harrow Leisure centre to be remarked, as they are very faded which makes it difficult for beginners to play the game.

There does not seem to be any active clubs based in Harrow although there are two facilities just outside of Harrow which are likely to cater for some of the demand in the area, St Helen’s School Sports Complex (Hillingdon) has an air dome covering two netball courts, which is used by a number of clubs and Vale Farm Sports centre (Brent) runs a Walking Netball programme.

| Netball Recommendations | | |
|--|---|--|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for netball through planning policy. Ensure the courts, fencing and nets at all venues are maintained to a good quality standard. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Everyone Active and England Netball to assess the feasibility and costs of remarking the courts at Harrow Leisure Centre. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball, clubs and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. Subject to resources work with England Netball to grow programmes and club infrastructure in the area. Ensure the current provision for netball is reprovided as part of any development of the Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding). |
| Prioritised Actions | | |
| Short Term | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with Everyone Active and England Netball to assess the feasibility and costs of remarking the courts at Harrow Leisure Centre. | | |
| Long Term | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure the current provision for netball is reprovided as part of any development of the Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding). | | |

Cycling, BMX and Stake Park Provision in Harrow

Introduction

The summary below provides the assessment of cycling provision within Harrow alongside the leading outcomes from the consultation process which has informed this study. The proposed priorities to be considered for cycling provision are then provided at the end of this assessment.

Cycling Facilities

There are two BMX facilities in the area, the BMX pump track at Kenton Rec. Ground and the Harrow Skate Park at Byron Rec. Ground. The Harrow Skate Park at Byron Rec. ground is part of an area which includes Harrow Leisure Centre, Herga Indoor Bowls, Harrow School of Gymnastics, and recently refurbished tennis courts. The Skate Park, also known as ‘Solid Surf’ was built in 1978 and is iconic for its age and design. The condition of the facility is deteriorating, and a user group was set up in 1997 to protect the facility and look into the options for it to be rebuilt. Despite the age and condition of the facility there is still demand from local residents and even further afield to use the facility. The Skate Park and neighbouring leisure assets are adjacent to Byron Quarter an identified regeneration site.

The BMX pump track at Kenton Rec was opened in October 2020, it is supported by Access Sport and is home to Harrow bike club, a voluntary led community group running regular sessions including afterschool and Saturday club sessions.

Cycling Provision in Neighbouring Local Authorities

British Cycling deem there to be a sufficient supply of significant cycling facilities which are accessible to residents in Harrow within a reasonable drive time in the surrounding areas, including Hillingdon Cycle Circuit and the new Cycle hub being developed in St Albans.

Road and Track Cycling

There are two British Cycling and/or Cyclists’ Touring Club affiliated road cycling clubs;

Kenton RC who organises regular club rides as well as competitive sessions in time trails, road racing and track racing. There groups rides leave from Kenton Library.

Harrow Cycle Hub provides learn to ride and confidence builder for cycling in Harrow and run Wheels for All sessions for people with disabilities and health conditions at Harrow Leisure Centre. The club aims to enable more people to cycle, especially women, ethnic communities and people with disabilities. They currently use the Civic Centre car parks for mainstream coaching on Saturdays but are looking for a more permanent base, where they can store equipment and develop a cycle repair workshop. They also train volunteers to lead rides on other during the week.

Participation in Cycling

Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁷ indicate a change in adult demand for cycling for leisure and sport nationally over the last year, since a significant increase likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic. 14.2% of adults (16+) in England participated in cycling at least twice in the last 28 days in 2020/21 i.e. 6,479,900 people, down from 16% in 2019/20 but higher than the previous year of 13.4% in 2018/19.

British Cycling are actively working across North London to work with council’s to access funding to create funded staff positions to increase opportunities for Women and Girls, Children and young people, disability groups and ethnic communities through their Breeze and guided rides programmes. They are also encouraging Council’s to consider opportunities to run a Pedal Party (traffic free events and fun activities for children to

¹⁷ Active Lives Adult Survey November 20/21 Report, Sport England (April 2022)

develop their skills on a bike) for families at park sites near leisure centres.

The recent inclusion of skateboarding in the Olympics in 2020 and the success of British riders in both skateboarding and BMX riding has seen the sports grow in popularity, especially for girls.

Cycling for community and active travel purposes

Cycling forms part of the active travel offer in Harrow which includes walking to school, cycling to work or other everyday journeys, which can offer a convenient, accessible and affordable way to move more. Helping residents get moving through walking and cycling can make a powerful, lasting difference to their physical and mental health and well-being. The Harrow Walking, Cycling and Sustainable Transport Strategy (2019) looks to improve and extend the borough cycle network and cycling infrastructure to create a comprehensive network of comfortable and attractive cycle routes (cycling objective 3). Harrow Council through the maintenance of parks, cycle routes and investment into a more active environment will continue to encourage people to choose more active modes of transport in the area.

Club Consultation

Harrow Cycle Hub is a new club which has grown its membership over the last few years. The club has plans to grow further and is looking to introduce a Wheels for All session for people with disabilities. The club has identified a need for a permanent base, where they can store equipment.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities – N/A

| Cycling | | |
|---|--|---|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to protect dedicated cycling facilities through planning policy. The council to endeavor to ensure that existing cycle paths, cycle routes, lighting, waymarking and other signage are maintained to a good standard. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council to endeavor to investigate opportunities with British Cycling to establish a funded staff position and/or a pedal party in the borough. Work with schools to link to national cycling networks and promote opportunities for active travel. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to endeavor to with Harrow Cycle Club to identify a base for the club. The council to support the User Group to work with Skateboard GB, Sport England, London Sport, and other potential external funders to identify funding sources to rebuild Harrow Stake Park Regularly review cycling facility needs with British Cycling and local clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

| Prioritised Actions |
|--|
| <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensure through planning conditions that any new developments create the conditions for active travel between all locations. Subject to resources work with Harrow Cycle Club to identify a base for the club Investigate the opportunity to work with British Cycling to establish a funded staff position and/ or establishing a pedal party in the borough. <p>Long Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council to support the User Group to work with Skateboard GB, Sport England, London Sport, and other potential external funders to identify funding sources to rebuild Harrow Stake Park Working with transport, parks and planning to look at sustainable ways to improve route marking and promotion of more off-road routes |

Bowls provision in Harrow

There are 8 bowls clubs in Harrow area affiliated to the Middlesex bowling Association and Bowls England and one Indoor Bowls club.

Herga Indoor Bowls Club. The club has 6 rinks, restaurant area, bar and small social space. The club has around 300 members with the majority aged over 55 years. The club has their own parking area, but it is limited to 20 spaces. The council spaces are now on a meter, with the first 3 hours free but games can take over 3 hours and as a result of this the club has seen a reduction in membership levels. The club were in discussion with the council about the provision of a new facility. The club is aiming to grow and has promoted the facility as a warm space during the winter to support the community during the cost of living crisis.

West Harrow Bowling Club is based West Harrow Rec. Ground. The club with maintains the bowling green to a reasonable standard based on what is affordable for the club. Their pavilion is a very old wooden pavilion that needs updating to improve the facilities and enable space for social activities.

Harrow Bowls Club is based in Harrow Rec. Ground and has just over 100 club members which includes non-playing members who join social events and watch activity. The clubhouse has three changing rooms, and separate male, female, and disabled toilets. The club has developed a team of 15 volunteers to look after the green and surrounding areas. The club house is secured by shutters and an alarm system, but they would also like to install CCTV. The club struggles for parking on a match day with other park users and shoppers taking up the spaces.

Stanmore Bowls Club has around 135 members with the majority 60% coming from areas outside of Harrow such as Barnet, Brent and Herts. They have 7 rinks, in reasonable condition, however the green suffered due to

the drought over the summer. They have 27 years left on their lease. The club run three sessions a day for members and encourage non-members to join in too.

Pinner Bowls Club has recently signed a new lease on their facilities and have 21 years remaining. The have 6 rinks and are satisfied their facilities meet their current needs for matches and training.

Harrow Weald Bowling Club has 6 rinks which they maintain through an external contractor. Their changing facilities are basic but large enough for their requirements, however they have no running hot water or cooking facilities. They have 5 years left on their lease are looking at ways to keep fees as low as possible for members.

England Bowls have not identified a need for any additional facilities in the area but improvements to the quality of greens and ancillary provision is needed as well as support for clubs to increase membership levels through promotion and recruitment.

Club Consultation

Herga IBSC Ltd has around 300 members and has seen a reduction in numbers over the last few years. The club has plans to grow and aims to hold open days with guidance from the EIBA. The club has identified a need for a larger lounge area to accommodate other functions and corporate events.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5

West Harrow Bowling Club (West Harrow Rec. Ground) has around 35 members and has seen a reduction in membership numbers in the last few years. The club has plans to grow and run turn up and play sessions and open days. They have identified a need for a new clubhouse to improve the current facilities and accommodate social activities.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities - 1/5

Harrow Bowls Club (Harrow Rec Ground) has just over 100 members and has seen an increase in members in the last few years. The club has plans to grow and run annual open days and regular social events. They have identified a need for CCTV and increased car parking.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5

Stanmore Bowls Club has around 135 members and has seen an increase in membership in the last few years. The club are looking to grow their membership to 150 playing members and 50 social members. They have identified a need to replace the crazy paving paths and are exploring the option to add a timber building for visiting teams.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

Pinner Bowls club (Pinner Memorial Park) has around 67 members, which has stayed relatively constant over the last few years. The club is looking to grow and regularly run open days. The club have not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

Harrow Weald Bowling Club (Harrow Weald Rec. Ground) has 34 members and has seen a decrease in numbers in the last few years, the club has ambitions to grow and is looking to recruit new members. The club has identified the need for running hot water and cooking facilities to improve the facilities for members.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

Bowls Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|---|---|--|
| for bowls through planning policy. ○ In liaison with clubs, seek to ensure the existing facilities for bowls continue to be maintained to a good quality standard. | provision needs to be improved. ○ Investigate the viability of retaining on site or reproviding indoor bowls provision as part of the future development of Byron Park and wider site regeneration. ○ Support clubs where possible to recruit new members through promotion of open days. | Indoor Bowls Association, and the established bowls clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Subject to resources work closely with Bowls England and clubs to review key grounds where the ancillary provision needs to be improved.

Long term

- Investigate the viability of retaining on site or reproviding indoor bowls provision as part of the future development of Byron Park and wider site regeneration.

Bowls Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|--|--|---|
| ○ The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities | ○ Subject to resources work closely with Bowls England and clubs to review key grounds where the ancillary | ○ Regularly review bowls facility needs in the area with the Bowls Development Alliance, England Bowls, England |

Climbing Provision in Harrow

There is a large indoor bouldering centre in Harrow. HarroWall is one of only five British Mountaineering Council (BMC) National Performance Centres in the UK and opened in 2018. It is part of a group of London Climbing Centres, with 8 across the capital that members can use. They offer classes for adults and children, with Krazy climb sessions and Caving adventures starting from 6 years upwards. They also have a yoga area, function room, café and shop.

Sport climbing made its Olympic debut at the 2020 Olympics (2021) with 3 disciplines: speed climbing, bouldering and lead climbing. British Mountaineering has seen a large demand for bouldering and entry level activities such as clip and climb centres for families. As a National Performance Centre, HarroWall offers London and Southern based GB team members a centre of excellence for training and runs BMC competitions.

There is a nine meter bouldering and climbing wall located in Harrow Leisure Centre and one within the sports hall of Harrow School Sports Complex, with the opening of Harrow Wall, Everyone Active reported that usage and interest for the climbing facilities at the leisure centre declined, but as the Harrow Wall Centre is mainly bouldering there is still remains a small demand especially for high rope climbing and they have instructors going through the process to deliver course based activity.

There is also a small climbing wall at Cedars MyPlace Community Centre but this is not available to hire due to the level of insurance costs and it only being able to accommodate 2 people at a time.

There are no BMC affiliated clubs in Harrow, the nearest being in Hillingdon, who meet at the Brunel University Climbing Wall, Uxbridge.

Climbing Recommendations

| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Subject to resources, the council to endeavor to work with the facility providers to protect the availability of community facilities for climbing through planning policy. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The council and facility providers to ensure the existing facilities continue to be maintained to a good standard. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review the climbing facilities in the area with the BMC and the providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

Prioritised Actions

Long Term

- To regularly review the climbing facilities in the area with the BMC and the providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.

Judo Provision in Harrow

There are no British Judo affiliated clubs in Harrow with the nearest ones being in surrounding boroughs in Ealing (Ealing Judo Club, West Acton Community Centre), in Hillingdon (Hillingdon Judo Club, Harefield Community Centre) and in Watford (Iruka Judokwai, Watford Field School Annex).

Paul Adala, former British Champion is the head coach at Harrow Boys School and also offers private tuition and small group sessions through Judo Ajala

There is also a junior judo sessions running at Harrow RFC and Cedars MyPlace Community Centre.

| Judo Recommendations | | |
|--|---|---|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for judo through planning policy and, in liaison with the facility providers seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good standard. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for judo and other martial arts clubs based in the area and British Judo in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for judo in the area with British Judo in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

Boxing Provision in Harrow

There are currently three clubs in Harrow affiliated to England Boxing, with another club in the process of affiliating. Harrow & District ABC (23 active boxers, 80 members, 5 qualified coaches), Tully’s Boxing Club (17 active boxers, 70-100 members, 2 qualified coaches), New Kings ABC (ProAm) (no listed boxers, 2 coaches). Harrow & District ABC has a 23 year lease on their premises and are currently in the process of extending their facility to allow more space for their current membership. They are also currently assisting another group to establish an additional boxing club within their premises, which will see the venue used for more hours during the week and an increase in participants.

There are a number of amateur boxing clubs in the surrounding boroughs close to the border. England Boxing report that Amateur boxing, especially recreational (non contact) boxing training has become very popular, and this has seen demand increase in most London boroughs. England Boxing has not identified any facility needs and feels the clubs in the area are able to meet the current demand in the area.

Club Consultation

Harrow Boxing Club has around 80 members and has seen membership levels stay the same over the last few years. The club has plans to grow, through development and progression. The club has identified a need to extend their building to allow more space for members and are in the process of completing this work.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5

| Boxing Recommendations | | |
|--|---|---|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for boxing through planning policy and, in liaison with the local clubs, seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good quality standard. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible provide advice and guidance where needed to Harrow ABC to enhance and extend their facilities. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for boxing in the area with the clubs based in the area and England Boxing in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. |

| Prioritised Actions |
|--|
| <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Where possible provide advice and guidance where needed to Harrow ABC to enhance and extend their facilities. |

Archery Provision in Harrow

There are two Archery clubs in Harrow. Pinner Archers is based at Tithe Farm Social Club, where they shoot indoors during the winter and outdoors in the summer. They have around 40 members and run beginners’ courses throughout the year. North Harrow Archers are based at Pinner View Sports Club (previously Old Lyonians Sports and social club).

Bowmen of Harrow has just over 100 members and was based at John Lyon School Playing Fields with their own dedicated indoor range. However, they are now looking for a new premises in order to continue their activities as their lease contract agreement ran out in December 2022. The club are currently looking for a new ground, to prevent the club from folding, they require a field size of 150 x 80 yards and ideally indoor space of 30 x 22 yards.

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| Archery Recommendations | | |
|---|---------|---|
| Protect | Enhance | Provide |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for archery through planning policy and, in liaison with the local clubs, seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good quality standard. | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review facility needs for archery in the area with the clubs based in the area and Archery GB in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. The Council to endeavor to liaise with Bowmen of Harrow on options for a new base for their activities. |
| Prioritised Actions | | |
| Short Term (1-2 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council to endeavor to liaise with Bowmen of Harrow on options for a new base for their activities. | | |

BFS Section 3: Conclusion

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3 - Conclusion

The review of Built Sports Facilities has highlighted a number of facility investment needs for the Council and partners bringing together the analysis, consultation and assessment work.

Harrow Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities and the needs within this section will result in the Council considering some important and key decisions to make over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the sport specific investment needs identified within this strategy.

Section 3 of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy that follows sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations aimed at facilitating addressing the sports specific needs identified in this Built Facilities Strategy (part 2) and in the preceding Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1).

The final Section (4) is an initial prioritised Action Plan identifying priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

London Borough of Harrow
Indoor and Outdoor Sports
Facilities Strategy 2024 – 2037

Section 3 Strategic Recommendations

3. Strategic Recommendations

3.1 Introduction

This section of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy sets out a number of overarching strategic recommendations, endorsed by the Strategy Steering Group, aimed at ensuring the on-going provision of high-quality, accessible playing pitches and built sport facilities and can meet the needs and demands of the borough's current and future populations. The recommendations respond to the facility needs highlighted in Section 2 i.e. the Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and the Built Facilities Strategy (part 2).

3.2 Planning Policy

The need to protect and enhance the existing scale of facility provision for key facility types – pools, sports, halls, artificial and natural turf playing pitches, gymnastics centres and health and fitness facilities - remains similar to the findings of the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy in 2018 and the Outdoor Sports Strategy Background paper of 2012.

Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current Local Plan Policies with respect to community, sport and recreation facilities – i.e. DM46 (re: new provision), DM47(re: retention of existing provision) and DM48 (re: enhancing outdoor facilities) - need to be maintained.

These planning policies are set out in full at Appendix G to this document.

3.3 Protect

Harrow Council has undertaken an Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy and assessed existing and future needs for all provision across the borough. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain the existing overall quantity of sports facilities within the borough whilst

recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for example, through closure of sites of poor quality or of limited value for community sport offset by new provision). This headline finding and recommendation is also applicable when examined at the LPA level.

It is therefore recommended that the broad approach and principles established in existing policies in respect of the protection of existing provision be carried forward into the new Local Plan. Specifically, the new Local Plan should establish a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a sports facility unless:

- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision for that specific sport(s) in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location.

Should a current or newly created sports facility exist in The London Borough of Harrow that is not mentioned in this Facilities Strategy and appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.

It is also recommended that the Council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England, National Governing Bodies of sport and London Sport) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the borough where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured.

Where sports facility sites are in the Council's ownership, the policy of securing community access through asset transfer to community clubs and/or sports associations should be applied, provided that they are able to demonstrate their ability to manage the facilities and or can help improve facilities where the council does not have resources. It is recommended that the terms of future transfer agreements include incentives for the clubs to

deliver sports development outcomes (e.g. grow numbers of teams, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for under-represented groups).

It is recommended the Council continue to seek to influence the design and specification of any new education sports facilities and extensions to existing facilities to ensure their suitability for both education and community use (i.e., provided to Sport England and/or the relevant sport’s national governing body design dimensions and standards as opposed to education dimensions and standards).

It is further recommended that the Council negotiates secure affordable community access as a condition of planning consent (via formal Community Use Agreements) for applications from education providers of sports facilities relating to:

- i) Extending hours of permitted use
- ii) Extensions to existing sports facilities
- iii) Provision of new sports facilities

3.4 Enhance and Provide

It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority continue to seek the advice of appropriate sport national governing bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new sports facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for sports facilities are drafted. This to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that any maintenance plans meet any relevant Performance Quality Standards.

For all developments involving the creation of one or more residential units, contributions should be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards the delivery of 'off site' priority projects as identified in the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy within the locality of (or

easily accessible without a car from) the proposed development. Appropriate contributions should also continue to be sought for ongoing maintenance of any new sports facilities.

The priority projects are those set out in the Action Plan current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial Action Plan is in Section 4 of this document.

The priority projects include sites in private ownership and on school sites outside the control of the Council. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the Action Plan along with the key supporting agencies.

For strategic scale proposals comprising 300 or more dwellings, on-site provision may be sought in place of securing contributions towards off-site projects. On-site provision will be promoted instead in those instances where there is no existing sports provision within the locality which is easily accessible to the site and is capable of absorbing the additional demand arising from the development, and where the site is physically able to accommodate appropriate facilities. This process will be guided by the needs identified in the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy. On-site provision will typically be secured via a legal agreement and contributions may be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards its delivery and maintenance.

The latest version of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) and Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tools should be used to scope the appropriate scale and approximate costs of new built sports and playing pitch facilities provision respectively. (For example, if 1,500 new dwellings are proposed at an average of, say, 2.4 persons per dwelling, the additional population total to enter into the Sports Facility Calculator will be 3,600). The figure per dwelling can be adjusted based on local factors and specific development

details. The sports facility needs assessment findings and resulting action plans should be used to inform the calculation of the Council’s Community Infrastructure Levy tariffs. In this context, it should be noted that facility cost estimates provided in the SFC and PPC can help inform the calculation of the Council’s Community Infrastructure Levy tariffs.

It is recommended that in the case of all planning applications with implications for sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor), the latest version of Sport England’s Model Planning Conditions should be used as appropriate. Current model conditions cover the following:

1. Protection/New Provision of Sport & Recreation Facilities;
2. Compensatory Provision, Continuity of Use and Phasing of Development;
3. Built Design and Layout;
4. Playing Field Provision;
5. Operational Matters.

Harrow will also consider financial viability as part of the assessment.

Harrow has a number of multi-sport sites which serve a wide range of sport and activity. The Playing Pitch Strategy process of consultation and analysis has highlighted a number of important improvements and potential investment needs across these sites for outdoor sport. Taking a holistic approach for all sports on site could help secure more funding or open up opportunities for more funding that could benefit a range of sports. However, the coordination of these opportunities (alongside the National Governing Bodies and resident sports clubs) with indoor and built facilities will remain a key priority for the Council. Whilst the specific actions and timings are dealt with in the action plan set out below given the importance of these sites to the leading sports within the overall Indoor and Outdoor Strategy opportunities to provide a more diverse and wider reaching range of facilities for sport and physical activity on current sites will be pursued by the Council.

It is recommended that the Council’s Strategy Steering Group should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period.

London Borough of Harrow
Indoor and Outdoor Sports
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Section 4 Action Plan

Section 4 – Action Plan

This section of the strategy provides an initial plan related to the potential development and delivery of the priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation as set out in the previous sections.

Figure 4.1 (playing pitches) and 4.2 (built facilities) presents the priority projects in alphabetical order with a reference to their potential to be progressed either in the short term (defined as within 2 years approximately) the medium term (defined as within 2-5 years) or longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large-scale review of options, feasibility and viability. Further longer term projects are listed in Appendix H, Figure H1 and H2 including those which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports (Figure H3) and sites that are not identified either in Fig 4.1/4.2 (for enhancement or new provision) or H3 (opportunity sites) but are in need of protection for community sport through the planning system (H4). The omission of any playing pitch site from this Strategy is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.

The updates to the Action Plan should in turn inform periodic updates of the Council's priorities for investment and future decision on funding either through capital grant and / or financing and budgetary planning.

The action plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed, pending funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where and whom they might be developed by to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models often through engaging with either voluntary or commercial partners. Any projects taken forward or supported will be

assessed against the Council's Corporate priorities as well as these 5 key objectives of the strategy. A number of project proposals within the strategy are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals.

Each potential project must be evaluated considering the current situation, as the strategy and action plan set out the position at the time of writing; factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered within the lifespan of this strategy. The action plan should be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis by the Strategy Steering Group to ensure these factors are taken into consideration.

The immediate priority for Harrow, as with many local authorities at the time of this strategy, is to protect and continue to maintain the current level of facilities to ensure no loss of provision during the current challenging time for local authorities. The current pressures on public sector budgets alongside increasing operational costs and capital costs (for maintenance and new facilities) means Harrow Council must plan prudently for future needs.

The Council has a major project to consider in the future replacement of Harrow Leisure Centre (subject to funding) as well as considering the longevity of Hatch End Swimming Pool. These two facilities will require considerable planning and development to ensure they can be delivered and provide the right facility mix for residents across the area.

Figure 4.1 Leading Priorities and Actions in Harrow (Playing Pitches)

| Site | Facility type | Timescale | Priority Actions | Lead | Partners |
|--------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--|--------------|----------------|
| Avanti House | Football | Short | Work with the school to investigate the options to register the 3G ATP with the FA for match play. | LBH / FA | School |
| Bannister Sports Ground | Football | In progress | Establish four new football pitches at Bannister Sports Centre. | LBH | FA |
| Canons High School | Football | Med | Work with school to understand new proposed site strategy for sport and opportunity for future community use. | LBH / School | FA |
| Grove Field | Rugby | Med | Improve the maintenance of grass pitches | Club / RFU | LBH |
| Harrow Rec. Ground | Cricket / Football | Med | Improve the maintenance of grass pitches Upgrade or replace NT practice nets Investigate the feasibility to install a MUGA to reduce recreational use of formal pitches. | LBH | ECB / FA |
| Hatch End High School | Football | Short | Work with London Sport on the opening school facilities programme to secure community access to football pitches | School / LS | LBH / FA |
| Hatch End Playing Fields | Cricket / Rugby | Short / Med | Re-provision of rugby pitch Improve the maintenance of grass pitches | LBH | ECB / FA / RFU |
| Headstone Manor | Football / Cricket | In progress / Med | Install new drainage for grass pitches to improve pitch quality. Upgrade or additional NTPs | LBH | ECB / FA |
| Kenton Rec. Ground | Football | Med | Improve the maintenance of grass pitches. | LBH | FA |
| Pinner Wood School | Football | Short | Work with London Sport on opening school facilities programme to secure community access to football pitches | School / LS | LBH / FA |
| Saddlers Mead Open Space | Cricket / Football | Med | Improve maintenance to grass pitches | LBH / Club | ECB / FA |
| Shaftesbury Avenue | Rugby / Cricket | Med | Improve maintenance to grass pitches | LBH / Club | RFU / ECB |
| The Hive | Football / Rugby | Short | Subject to planning conditions ensure the community use of proposed new pitches for football and rugby clubs in the borough. | LBH | FA / RFU |
| Whitmore High School | Football | Short | Work with the school to investigate the options to register the 3G ATP with the FA for match play. | LBH / FA | School |

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Figure 4.2 Leading Priorities and Actions in Harrow (Built Facilities)

| Site | Facility type | Timescale | Priority Actions | Lead | Partners |
|---------------------------------|--|---------------|--|--------------------------|----------|
| Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre | Athletics | Short | Ensure the venue achieves and maintains the UKA’s TrackMark accreditation including the provision of infield lighting. | Everyone Active | LBH |
| Canons Sports Centre | Swimming | Short | Seek to negotiate increased public availability in the peak period to the pool at Canons Sports Centre. | Canons Sports Centre | LBH |
| Harrow ABC | Boxing | Short | Provide advice and guidance where needed to Harrow ABC to enhance and extend their facilities | Harrow ABC | LBH |
| Harrow Gymnastics Club | Gymnastics | Medium / Long | Subject to feasibility, funding and planning, support the extension / enhancement of Harrow School of Gym as part of the options for Byron Park and wider site regeneration. | Harrow Gymnastics Club | LBH |
| Harrow Leisure Centre | Sports Hall, Swimming, Fitness, Squash | Short | Continue to operate and maintain the facility until the development of the new facility to ensure no loss of provision. Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the ventilation system. | Everyone Active | LBH |
| Harrow Leisure Centre | Sports Hall, Swimming, Fitness, Squash | Medium / Long | Review the options, funding and viability of redeveloping Harrow Leisure Centre with increased pool capacity, at least an 8 court Sports Hall, event space and reprovision of current fitness offer. Consider options for enhancing the Squash provision e.g. providing glass back and potentially with a moveable side wall within the feasibility assessments. | LBH | |
| Herga Indoor bowls | Bowls | Medium / Long | Investigate the viability of retaining on site or reprovding indoor bowls provision as part of the future development of Byron Park and wider site regeneration. | Herga Indoor Bowls / LBH | |
| Tennis courts in parks | Tennis | Short | Work with the LTA to refurbish the park tennis courts across the borough and implement an online booking and gate access system in all 13 sites. | LTA / LBH | |
| Various Educational Sites | Sports Hall | Short | Review educational site access and availability of Sports Halls, work with Avanti House Secondary School, Whitefriars Community School and Whitmore High School to look at opportunities to enhance provision and explore opportunities to allow Park High School to open for community use. | Education sites | LBH |
| Venue to be decided | Tennis | Short | Investigate the feasibility of providing Padel courts in an easily accessible central location. | LBH | LTA |

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London Borough of Harrow
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Section 5 Summary

Section 5 - Summary

Throughout the development of this strategy Harrow Council and key partners have continued to emphasise the importance of facilities for sport and physical activity to the health and wellbeing of the local population. Alongside this is the recognition of the vital contribution these facilities make to the local economy and quality of life for all residents, communities and visitors.

The Council has a number of key challenges to enhance the main leisure facility offer in the area. Through this strategy a number of priorities have emerged including the need to replace or refurbish Harrow Leisure Centre, and consider the longer-term viability of Hatch End pool. Alongside these are a number of leading indoor sports projects for Gymnastics, Tennis and Indoor Bowls.

Progress on both these leading projects had slowed in the past two years due in the main to the challenging financial environment exacerbated by the impacts of the Covid pandemic and the energy crisis but are still ongoing and plans being considered.

The growing (and changing) population and ageing facilities puts pressure on the current facility stock and means a notable number of opportunities exist for new and continued investment in built sports facilities within the local authority.

The primary needs are clearly to protect the overall quantity, maintain the quality and secure availability for the wider community to the existing supply of sports facilities. Within Harrow, like many local authorities, the majority of sports halls are located on school sites and where possible community use agreements need to be developed with academy sites to protect future usage and extend community access where possible.

The analysis from Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model swimming pools report shows demand for pools are greater than the current supply coupled with concern over ageing facilities. The strategy recommends that a replacement or refurbishment of Harrow Leisure Centre should be the priority as well as ensuring sustainable provision of all water space in the borough.

Alongside direct provision Harrow Council also plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by considering the opportunity to engage and empower community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate facilities funded through partnerships with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport as well as other funding organisations.

The Playing Pitch Strategy (Part 1) also highlights a number of priority projects for the Council to consider and plan for.

Football and Cricket are popular team sports in Harrow and the council plays an important role in providing winter and summer grass sports pitches for local clubs to use. There is a need to improve pitch maintenance at a number of key sites to facilitate the growth of larger clubs in the area, as well as a need to provide up to three new fine turf cricket pitches. Rugby clubs in the area need improved pitch quality and additional facilities for training. Hockey has sufficient facilities for matches and training.

As the country and the public sector, as a key provider of these essential services for leisure and physical activity, continues to recover from the pandemic, and now grapples with the rise in utilities and the cost-of-living crisis for many of its services, business and residents, the important role physical activity has in positively impacting on the health of the nation is even more evident. Investment into the future health and wellbeing of Harrow’s residents will be impacted very positively by the priorities highlighted within this part of the strategy. This will be in the form of both

protecting the current facility stock for both indoor and outdoor sport as well as investing in improved and new facilities where the opportunities arise.

Harrow Council has always recognised and must continue to do so, despite the ongoing challenges, the importance of protecting and investing in accessible and sustainable community sports facilities which play a critical role in providing activities and opportunities and improving the lives and wellbeing of all of their residents.



CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD



London Borough of Harrow
Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 Appendix A
Assessment of Need Report Cricket

Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Needs (Stages B & C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for cricket facilities in the London Borough of Harrow are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Affiliated cricket clubs registered to Harrow and playing their home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment either by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. All clubs were contacted as part of the consultation process, the response rate from clubs represents 88% of teams playing cricket in the area.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2012 there has been some significant change in the supply of cricket pitches in Harrow, with 8 new fine turf pitches and one additional non-turf pitch. The number of cricket clubs in the area has reduced from 28 to 23 with some smaller clubs gradually declining over the period usually due to player availability or losing key volunteers, however, there has been a significant increase in teams since the last PPS from 125 teams to 167. The largest growth has been in youth teams (+37 teams), with smaller increases in women's (+1 teams), girls (+3 teams), mixed teams (+7).

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions impacted very significantly on community cricket in the 2020 season. However, cricket demand largely recovered in 2021 and summer 2022 saw most larger clubs recover to pre-pandemic levels.

1. Cricket Supply (Step 1)

The findings of the assessment of supply of cricket facilities in Harrow are summarised in this section and detailed by site both for fine turf pitches and for non-turf artificial grass pitches. The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the ECB in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) augmented by consultation with the Council's Sports Team, Middlesex Cricket, the ECB and user clubs.

1.1 Cricket Pitches in Harrow

38 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket in the Harrow in 2022 on 19 playing pitch sites. There are 12 non-turf pitches available for use across 11 sites.

There has been an increase in the number of fine turf pitches available for cricket since the last PPS where 30 pitches were available across Harrow, as well as one additional non-turf pitch.

1.2 Junior Pitches

In general, the clubs with junior sections set aside one strip on the main square for junior matches requiring shorter dimensions and/or use non-turf pitches where these are available on their grounds.

At most sites, Kwik cricket for younger children is generally played on temporary pitches set up on a mown strip in the outfield (or several strips around the outfield in the event of Kwik cricket tournaments and festivals).

1.3 Closed Sites

There are no closed sites in the borough.

1.4 Non-Turf Pitches (NTPs)

In the younger age groups (U10 to U13), some hardball match play takes place on non-turf pitches (NTPs). NTPs are also used for training and adult play including most short format friendly games between non-traditional single team clubs without a secured home ground. Twelve NTPs are provided at 11 playing field sites in Harrow compared to 11 NTPs at 10 sites in 2012.

- Harrow Cricket Club (Standard)
- Harrow Recreation Ground (Poor)
- Harrow School, Philathletic Ground (Good)
- Harrow Town Sports Club (Poor)
- Headstone Manor x 2 (Poor)
- Kenton Sports Ground (Standard)
- Millhillians Sports Ground (Standard)
- London Post Office Sport & Social Assoc. (Standard)
- Orley Farm School Grass pitches (Standard)
- RCT Sports Ground (Standard)
- Stanmore Common (Standard)

1.5 Non-Turf Practice Nets

There is a mix in provision of non-turf practice nets, some clubs with their own grounds have functioning outdoor practice net systems e.g., Harrow CC, others rely on mobile net cages such as Bessborough CC. Many others at open council sites are in poor condition and have been subject to damage and vandalism such as Harrow Rec. Ground (home to Ealing Three Bridges

CC). The cost of maintaining and inspecting nets systems is an issue on open access sites.

Figure 1.1 – Non-turf permanent net systems: locations, number of lanes and quality

| Location | No. | Quality |
|-----------------------------|-----|--|
| Arnold House School | 3 | Good |
| Harrow Cricket Club | 3 | Good |
| Harrow Rec. Ground | 2 | Poor & Damaged |
| Harrow School – Main Ground | 8 | Good but not available for community use |
| Harrow Town Sports Club | 3 | Good |
| Kenton Sports Club | 3 | Good – installed in 2021 |
| Millhillians Sports Ground | 3 | Poor |
| Montesole Playing Fields | 2 | Standard |
| Orley Farm School | 2 | Good |
| RCT Sports Ground | 2 | Poor |
| Stanmore Common | 4 | Standard |

1.6 Indoor Practice Nets

Pull out cricket nets are available and well used in the sports halls at the following education sites: Nower Hill High School, Harrow High and Salvatorian College. Stanmore CC currently use Avanti House Secondary School for Junior Training and travel outside of Harrow to use indoor nets at Kingsbury High in Brent. They have expressed interest in using Park High School Sports Hall for indoor training, but the school currently does not have planning permission to hire their facilities.

Indoor sports hall space is in high demand across the area so the main constraint on cricket hires is the competing demand from sports hall team sports and badminton, these are all year-round activities whereas demand for indoor cricket nets is generally limited to peak evening or weekend slots from January to March and therefore disruptive to the core programme and income.

The nearest dedicated indoor cricket facility is approximately 20 minutes away in Barnet at the Middlesex Indoor Cricket School.

1.7 Facilities for Non-Traditional Forms of Cricket

The strategic aims of Middlesex Cricket are to sustainably grow cricket participation in the county. In 2022 Middlesex launched their new charitable arm, Middlesex in the Community, with the purpose to promote community participation and engagement in cricket by providing and assisting in the provision of facilities (land, buildings & equipment) and activities that promote the advancement of health, education, community development and recreational sport for people residing, working, in education or visiting the boroughs that form the Cricket County of Middlesex.

Non traditional facilities range from non-turf pitches (NTPs) for organised cup and league 20 over matches and 'Last Man Stands' (games of 75 minutes approximately for teams of 8 players played in public parks) down to hard-court Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) for informal games of 'Cage Cricket' using a softball or tapeball (a tennis ball wrapped in tape). There is a 'Last Man Stands' league for Harrow in Northwick Park (Brent) which is on the border of Harrow.

1.8 Ownership and Security of Access

Cricket pitches in Harrow fall into one of five different categories of ownership. Overall, clubs benefit from good security of access on their home grounds e.g. on club owned sites or council facilities with long leases or have established hire / maintenance agreements with the local authority, however a number of clubs annually hire their facilities or only have short leases which impact on their ability to apply for grants, e.g. Middlesex Titans (3 years).

- **Club owned sites** - The most secure type of provision is those cricket grounds where the home club either owns the freehold or has a long lease (over 90 years), such as Harrow Cricket Ground (Harrow CC), Harrow Town Sports Club (Harrow Town CC), Kenton Sports Club (Kenton CC), Stanmore Common (Stanmore CC).
- **Council leased sites** - Harrow owns and leases a number of the borough's playing fields to community cricket clubs (or to larger community sports organisation with cricket sections), such as Headstone Manor (Bessborough CC, West Harrow CC), Montesole Playing Fields (Pinner CC), RCT Sports Ground (Raghuvanshi Charitable Trust, Headstone Manor CC), Saddlers Mead Open Space (Parkfield & Headstone CC),
- **Park sites** - The following sites are open access park sites owned by the London Borough of Harrow and used for cricket; Chandos Rec Ground (CRS Cardinals CC), Harrow Rec Ground (Ealing Three Bridges, Metropolitan CC, Burhani CC), Hatch End Playing Fields (Pinner CC, Harrow St Mary's CC, West Harrow CC), Roxbourne Park (Harrow Lions CC), Roxeth Rec Ground (South Harrow CC), West Harrow Rec. Ground (Yarl CC, Lankians CC).

On the park sites with fine turf, the squares are generally roped off when not in use to actively discourage informal use and damage from general park users. These pitches are available to hire on an annual agreement or a pre-booked pay and play basis. The Council operates a priority booking system with preference given to those clubs that are locally based and previously used the facility.

- **Private Ownership** – London Post Office Sports & Social Assoc. (Middlesex Titans CC), Old Millhillians Sports Ground (Harrow St Mary CC).
- **School owned sites** - Generally, community cricket clubs that are reliant on education pitches as their home ground do not have security beyond one season as the school could cease to offer the facilities to hire at any time or increase hire/rental fees. No clubs in Harrow rely on Education sites as their main ground. Harrow School have extensive cricket facilities but only the Philathletic Ground is available for community use. This however is limited to July and August only and prohibitively expensive for most clubs. Harrow CC use Orley Farm School pitches for junior and girl’s activity (Harrow CC) and Arnold House School is available for use by clubs.

1.9 At Risk Sites

No sites in the area have been identified as being at risk to development.

1.10 Opportunity Sites for Cricket

Harrow St Mary’s are interested in expanding their facilities to create a second square on the Pinner Park Farm site, and have expressed interest to the Council.

Pinner Rugby FC are in discussions about forming a youth cricket team at Shaftesbury Playing Fields which would involve reinstating a previous square between the rugby pitches.

1.11 Pitch Quality

The table below shows the quality of pitches within Harrow based on their operation.

Figure 1.2 – Pitch square and outfield quality and operation (S = Square O = outfield)

| Rating | Club | | Council | | School | | Other (Private) | | Totals |
|-----------------|------|----|---------|---|--------|---|-----------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | S | O | S | O | S | O | S | O | |
| Good | 3 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 8 | 0 | 0 | 11 squares; 13 outfields = good |
| Standard | 12 | 12 | 8 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 21 squares; 17 outfields = standard |
| Poor | 0 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 3 squares; 5 outfields = poor |

The pay and play council managed pitches are a lower quality overall than the club and school-maintained pitches. The open access public park setting, typically multisport sites, tend to face more incidences of damage and acts of vandalism than are experienced on club and school sites where access is controlled. This places pressure on grounds maintenance budgets

making pay and play cricket the least cost effective playing pitch sport for councils to provide.

In theory, there is scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the council run sites although, in practice, it is wear due to heavy demand and use of these pitches along with damage caused by other park users (as opposed to lack of maintenance) that impacts on the quality of the parks pitches. Details on individual sites can be found in Figure 6 (separately appended).

1.12 Distribution of Cricket Sites

Figure 1.3 shows the distribution of cricket sites across Harrow. This shows that most of the residents of Harrow will be within a reasonable journey time (estimated at 20 minute drive time or 30 minute public transport journey) of a cricket pitch, either a community club pitch (restricted to club members and guests) or a park-based pitch available on a play and play basis.

1.13 Ancillary facilities

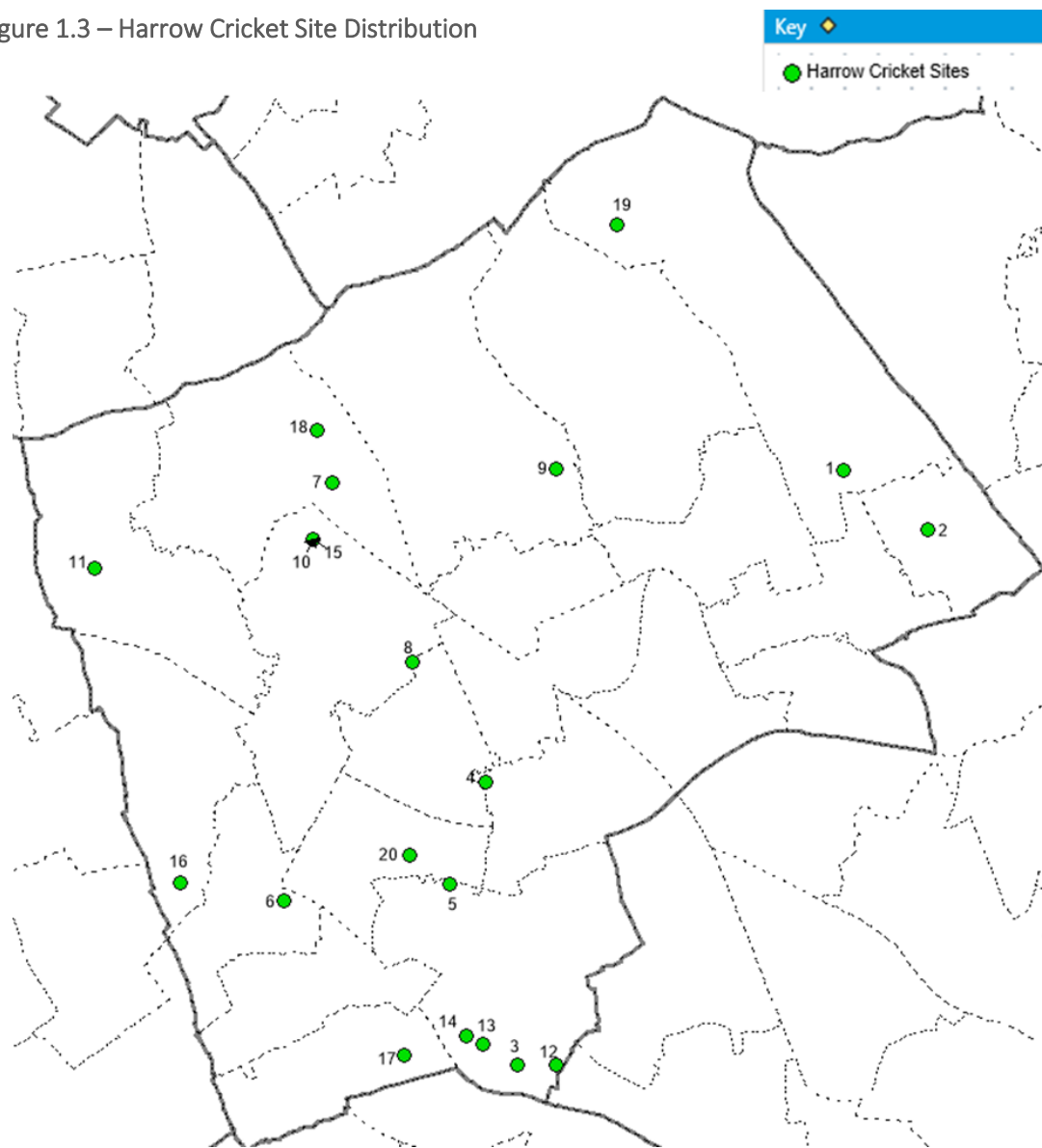
The ancillary facilities at most sites are generally sufficient for clubs, but in need of some ongoing general refurbishment to keep them up to standard. There are however there are several sites where more significant investment into pavilions and changing provision is required. The changing rooms at Montesole Playing Fields do not meet ECB requirements and there are issues with the roof and subsidence. The pavilion is currently used by Pinner CC at the weekend and as a social space for the local community weekday evenings. The clubhouse and changing rooms at Saddlers Mead Open Space is dated with issues of subsidence due to tree roots growing under the building. Parkfield Sports Club are currently in contact with their insurers to cover the cost of repairs. The changing provision at Kenton

Sports Club, Millhillians Sports Ground, the RCT Sports Ground and Stanmore Common needs to be refurbished to modernise the facilities to better cater for junior and female provision.

1.14 Cricket Supply of Relevance in Neighbouring Local Authorities

The nearest pitches with secured community access for cricket clubs are between 5 and 18 miles away from Harrow in Brent at Northwick Park to the Southeast, in Hillingdon at Eastcote CC to the West and in Hertfordshire at Hatch End CC (Elstree CC) to the North East.

Figure 1.3 – Harrow Cricket Site Distribution



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| Cricket Sites | | | |
|---------------|--|---------------------|----------|
| Key | Name | Address | Postcode |
| 1 | Arnold House School | Donnefield Ave | HA8 6RH |
| 2 | Chandos Rec Ground | Merlin Cres | HA8 6BX |
| 3 | Harrow Cricket Club | Wood End Rd | HA1 3PP |
| 4 | Harrow Recreation Ground | Roxbourne Rd | HA1 1PB |
| 5 | Harrow School | Philathletic Ground | HA1 4AD |
| 6 | Harrow Town Sports Club | Rayners Lane | HA2 9TY |
| 7 | Hatch End Playing Fields | Uxbridge Road | HA5 4DS |
| 8 | Headstone Manor | Pinner View | HA2 6PX |
| 9 | Kenton Sports Club | Kenton Park Rd | HA3 6UB |
| 10 | Millhillians Sports Ground | Headstone Lane | HA2 6NF |
| 11 | Montesole Playing Fields | Antoneys Close | HA5 3TB |
| 12 | London Post Office Sport & Social Assoc. | Greenfold Rd | HA1 3QL |
| 13 | Orley Farm School Grass Pitches | South Hill Ave | HA1 3PB |
| 14 | Orley Farm School | South Hill Ave | HA1 3NU |
| 15 | RCT Sports Ground | Headstone Lane | HA2 6NF |
| 16 | Roxbourne Park | Cannon Lane | HA5 1JN |
| 17 | Roxeth Rec. Ground | Kingsley Road | HA2 8LF |
| 18 | Saddlers Mead Open Space | Saddlers Close | HA5 4BT |
| 19 | Stanmore Common | The Common | HA7 4LB |
| 20 | West Harrow Rec. Ground | Butler Road | HA1 4DX |

2. Cricket Demand (step 2)

Findings relating to cricket pitch demand in Harrow are summarised below.

2.1 Cricket Clubs and Teams

In the 2022 cricket season, 23 clubs were identified through the consultation as being active in Harrow, between them entering 45 adult men’s sides in affiliated Saturday cricket leagues, there are 27 Sunday/friendly/ veteran’s teams with two clubs offering women’s adult cricket. There has been a reduction in the number of clubs in the borough, but adult participation has increased slightly (77 teams, compared to 74 in 2012), and there has been a significant growth in youth teams (90 teams compared to 53 in 2012), with the largest growth in teams at the following clubs – Harrow CC, Harrow St Mary CC, Stanmore CC. Other clubs have also increased junior activity, with either formal teams, junior coaching or by providing All Stars or Dynamos sessions. Where possible, the clubs use their outfield and NTPs to cater for this demand.

In addition, demand for junior and youth cricket in the borough there has been an introduction of a 'transition' team structure by Middlesex Cricket (with competitions for u19 and u21 sides and a youth cup for boys and girls) to bridge the link between colts cricket and adult club cricket, 11 transition teams were identified during consultation.

There has also been a slight increase in Women and girls’ provision with 2 women’s teams and 6 girls teams compared to 1 women’s and 3 girls teams in 2012. In total it is estimated that, in the 2022 season, there were 72 men's teams (aged 18+), 3 mixed adult teams, 2 women's teams; 80 boys’ teams (aged 7-18), 6 girls’ teams (7-18yrs) and 4 mixed junior teams playing cricket matches in the site area mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these

teams also train on a midweek evening in season. Most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.

Figure 2.1- Cricket Expressed Demand

| Cricket clubs and teams | Home ground(s) | Other grounds used |
|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Bessborough CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4 Sat Adult Male teams o 4 Sun Adult Male teams o 1 U19 T20 team o 7 Junior teams from U10's-U17's | Headstone Manor | |
| Bharat Olympians Sports Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 3 Sun Adult Mixed teams | RCT Sports Ground | Metropolitan Bushey (Hertfordshire) |
| Burhani CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1 Sat Adult Male team o 1 Adult friendly team | Harrow Rec Ground | |
| Chelsea Arts (Unaffiliated) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1 Sunday Adult team | Harrow School – Philathletic Ground | |
| CRS Cardinals CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1 U16 Junior team | Chandos Rec Ground | |
| Ealing Three Bridges <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 1 Sat Adult Male team o 1 Sun Adult Male team | Harrow Rec. Ground | |
| Harrow CC <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 Women’s team o U19 & U21 teams o 16 Junior teams (inc 3 girls, 2 mixed) | Harrow Cricket Club | Orley Farm School pitches (for juniors / girls) |

| Cricket clubs and teams | Home ground(s) | Other grounds used |
|--|----------------------------|---|
| Harrow Indians CC o 1 Sat Adult Male teams o 2 Adult Friendly teams | Rectory Park (Ealing) | Harrow Rec. Ground |
| Harrow Lions CC o 2 Sat Adult Male teams | Roxbourne Park | |
| Harrow St Marys CC o 4 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 Sun Adult Male team o 1 Women's team o 1 Vets Team o 1 U21 team o 16 Junior teams (inc. 2 mixed teams) | Millhillians Sports Ground | RCT Hatch End Playing Fields Harrow School – Philathletic Ground |
| Harrow Town CC o 4 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 Sun Adult Male team o 4 Junior teams | Harrow Town Sports Ground | |
| Headstone Manor CC o 4 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 Sun Adult Team o 7 Junior teams (inc. 1 girls) | RCT Sports Ground | |
| Kenton CC o 4 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 U19 T20 team o 1 Sun Adult Male teams o 5 Junior teams (inc. 1 girls) | Kenton Sports Club | |
| Larkians CC o 1 Sat Adult Male team o 1 Adult friendly team | West Harrow Rec Ground | |

| Cricket clubs and teams | Home ground(s) | Other grounds used |
|---|--|---|
| Metropolitan CC o 1 Sun Adult Male team | Harrow Rec. Ground | |
| Middlesex Titans CC o 4 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 U19 T20 Team o 2 Sun Adult Male teams o 4 Junior teams U10-U17 | London Post Office Sport & Social ass. | |
| Old Harrovians (Harrow School Old Boys – Unaffiliated) o 1 Friendly Adult team | Harrow School Main Ground | |
| Parkfield & Headstone CC o 2 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 Sun Adult Male Team | Saddlers Mead Open Space | |
| Pinner CC o 3 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 Sun Adult Male team o 7 Junior teams | Montesole Playing Fields | Hatch End Playing Fields |
| South Harrow CC o 1 Sat Adult Male team o 1 Sun Adult Male team | Roxeth Rec Ground | |
| Stanmore CC o 2 Sat Adult Male teams o 1 Sun Adult Male team o 1 U19 T20 team o 17 Junior teams (inc 1 girls) | Stanmore Common | Chandos Rec Ground Avanti School (Junior training) |
| West Harrow CC o 3 Sat Adult Male teams o 6 Junior teams (U7-U12) | Headstone Manor | Hatch End Playing Fields. |
| Yarl CC o 1 Adult friendly team | West Harrow Rec Ground. | |

2.2 Active People Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (Nov 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in cricket in England by adults (aged 16+) increased 0.1% from 0.4% between Nov 2019 - Nov 2020 to 0.5% between Nov 2020 and Nov 2021.

If cricket participation in Harrow was at the national average in Nov 2019-2020 (i.e. 0.4%), this would indicate around 392 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play cricket out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 98,059. At the 2020/21 national 16+ cricket penetration rate of 0.5%, this would suggest circa 490 over 16-year-olds in Harrow play cricket.

With approximately 77 adult teams currently, the 'adult' cricket club playing membership in the area is close to 1,155 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). This highlights that adult cricket participation in clubs in Harrow is double the pre-pandemic national average of 0.5%, without taking account of activity taking place outside clubs (i.e. informal games in family groups and among groups of friends and work colleagues in parks). This shows a high demand for Cricket in the area.

2.3 Casual Cricket Demand

Demand for less formal forms of play - using free to use net systems and non-turf facilities in public parks, as well as hard-surface areas such as MUGAs, streets, footpaths and hard standing areas on housing estates - is a growing feature of cricket demand nationally, particularly among teenagers and young adults in the Black, Black/British, Asian and Asian/British minority ethnic (BME) communities.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2020/21, Sport England, (October 2022)

Harrow has one of the most ethnically diverse populations in the country, with Asian/Asian British/ Asian Welsh group the largest ethnic group. This would suggest a case for the Council to retain and continue to maintain existing facilities for informal forms of cricket in the borough (NTPs) and net systems for pay and play for competitive league fixtures outside the traditional English cricket club and ECB league model as well as other informal cricket games for family groups and groups of friends.

2.4 Displaced and Imported Demand

In the consultations carried out, one club was identified as being displaced outside of the area, Harrow Indians CC, who use Rectory Park in Ealing as their main ground. The club are looking for support from the Council to hire quality sites for matches and training in the borough. Bharat Olympians also use Metropolitan Bushey in Hertfordshire for matches when other sites have limited availability, they state their members are not prepared to play on poor facilities and may have to disband due to lack of suitable facilities.

There is also evidence of imported demand with Ealing Three Bridges CC travelling into Harrow to play matches at Harrow Rec. Ground and Burhani CC also playing at Harrow Rec. Ground indicated in their survey response that only 20% of their membership comes from the Harrow area.

2.5 Trends in Demand for Team Cricket

Nationally the ECB has reported a growth in teams in all areas with the greatest growth in the last few seasons in the youth / colts age groups where the development of junior coaching and introduction of the ECB's Cricket All Stars (5-8yr olds) and Dynamos (8-11yr olds) initiatives for primary age children have boosting demand. This is reflected in Harrow

with the large growth in junior teams and clubs reporting involvement in All Stars and Dynamos programmes. There has been an increased focus by the ECB for Women’s and girl’s cricket, and again this is reflected in the increase in women’s, girls, and mixed teams in the area, however it is likely there is further demand to be satisfied in the area. The ECB and Middlesex CCC have compared the number of Women and girl’s teams in the area, to the recent growth in other areas and have predicted there is a likely future growth of an additional 11 teams.

2.6 Unmet Demand

Figure 2.2 summarises the self-reported plans of clubs for growing the number of teams they run to meet perceived unmet demand. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from July 2022 to January 2023 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed a questionnaire. Conversion of this perceived unmet demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period.

It is apparent from the consultation with clubs and considering the number that are planning for growth, that there is unmet demand in the borough especially for youth, and women and girl’s cricket.

Figure 2.2: Harrow – Clubs Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

| Club | Growth Aspirations / comments |
|-------------------------|--|
| Ealing Three Bridges CC | Add a new team. Subscribe to Dynamos or ECB all stars |
| Harrow CC | More matches per age group, especially for girls, but would need another ground. |
| Harrow Indians CC | Going to manage 3-4 teams with Recreation programmes & training camps. |
| Harrow St Mary’s CC | We are almost full to capacity at our current ground so will need to source very local venues for the future |
| Kenton CC | More girls and junior sports. |
| Middlesex Titans | To attract more of the local community |
| Pinner CC | New cricket nets, NTP and clubhouse development |
| South Harrow CC | To proactively concentrate on recruitment to increase membership |
| West Harrow CC | To expand our colts’ teams |

3. The Situation at Individual Cricket Sites (Step 4)

The fine turf cricket pitches were assessed during the 2022 season. All of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the ECB in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment.

The findings of the site-specific audit assessments (as set out in Figure 6 separately appended) were reviewed with representatives of Middlesex Cricket and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e. site carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

It was agreed with the ECB representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments in other areas:

Figure 3.1: Cricket Pitch Carrying Capacity

| Pitch Quality Rating | Carrying Capacity - Match equivalent sessions per prepared fine turf wicket (strip) per season |
|----------------------|--|
| Good | 5 |
| Standard | 3 |
| Poor | 1 |

Figure 6 (separately appended) details the situation at each cricket site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e. its carrying capacity for community use).
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e. the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training.
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain, or
 - **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls significantly below the carrying capacity)

The following 4 sites are highlighted here from Figure 6 as RED rated sites where the available fine turf cricket pitches are considered to be played over and above their estimated carrying capacity based on the size of the square (i.e., number of wickets/strips) and the assessed quality of the square.

- Harrow Recreation Ground
- Headstone Manor (Southern Part)
- Montesole Playing Fields
- London Post Office Sport & Social Assoc.

A further 6 sites from Figure 6 are AMBER rated indicating that the available fine turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Headstone Manor (Bessborough CC -self-contained part)
- Harrow Cricket Club
- Kenton Sports Club
- Millhillians Sports Ground
- RCT Sports Ground
- Stanmore Common

The ancillary facilities, pavilions / changing rooms at each site were reviewed where the consultant team could get access, along with providers and clubs being consulted on the condition and availability, this is noted in the column headed 'pavilion / changing rooms.

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Cricket (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that the playing capacity of the available fine-turf pitches in Harrow does not fully meet the current demand from Harrow based clubs and teams, due to the significant increase in junior activity. A large number of sites in the borough are either overused or at capacity, and two clubs are forced to use facilities outside of the borough.

Despite the provision of several new fine turf pitches since 2012, capacity issues remain for clubs to accommodate all their teams especially those with large junior sections and offering short format cricket. Additional or upgraded NTPs could help to alleviate some of this pressure at Headstone Manor and Millhillians Sports Ground.

The supply of accessible indoor practice nets in Harrow is also an issue with clubs using facilities outside the area. Park High School would like to hire out their Sports Hall and Stanmore CC have expressed an interest in using it but the school currently do not have planning permission to do so.

The quality of the cricket pitches at open access Council sites such as Harrow Rec. Ground, Hatch End Playing Fields needs to be improved. The cricket squares are subject to heavy usage and the outfielders accommodate extensive use for general recreation and dog walking as well as by other sports and events. Improved pitch maintenance and quality would increase

the playing capacity enabling the cricket clubs that are based at these grounds to continue to grow.

The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at key cricket sites such as RCT Sports Ground, Harrow Rec. Ground and Millhillians Sports Ground.

There are a number of key sites where investment into pavilions is required including new provision at Montesole Playing Fields and Saddlers Mead Open Space and refurbishment to modernise facilities at Kenton Sports Club, Millhillians Sports Ground, the RCT Sports Ground and Stanmore Common.

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2037 on the need for cricket pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used.

To meet cricket demand from 9,658 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +1.24 additional cricket pitches will be needed in the borough.

When the clubs' aspirations for team growth and the impact of cricket development initiatives with regard to primary age children, women and girls' cricket and under-represented ethnic minority groups are added, it is estimated that there is a need for an additional 3 pitches with at least 10 wickets in the area to cater for demand.

² GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released Nov. 2021)

5. Key Findings and Issues for Cricket (Step 6)

Figure 5.1 - Cricket Key Findings and Issues

| Cricket | |
|---|---|
| <p>The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision</p> | <p>38 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket in the borough of Harrow in 2022, on 19 playing pitch sites. There are 12 non-turf pitches available for use across 12 sites. There has been an increase in the number of pitches available for cricket the last PPS where 30 pitches were available as well one additional non-turf pitch.</p> <p>23 clubs were identified in Harrow through the consultation, there are 45 adult men’s sides entered to compete in affiliated Saturday cricket leagues cricket in 2022, 2 clubs have female specific adult cricket and there are 27 Sunday/ friendly/ veteran’s teams. There has been a significant growth in youth teams (93 compared to 53 in 2012), with the largest growth in teams at Harrow CC, Harrow St Mary CC, Stanmore.</p> <p>In total it is estimated that, in the 2022 season, there are 72 men's teams (aged 18+), 3 mixed adult teams, 2 women's teams, 80 boys’ teams (aged 7-18), 6 girls’ teams (7-18yrs) and 4 mixed junior teams playing cricket matches in Harrow mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season. Most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.</p> |
| <p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</p> | <p>Two clubs are playing matches outside of Harrow, Harrow Indians, at Rectory Park in Ealing and Bharat Olympians who use Metropolitan Bushey in Hertfordshire as well as sites in Harrow. Stanmore CC also travel outside of Harrow to use Kingsbury High, in Brent for training.</p> <p>Overall, clubs benefit from good security of access on their home grounds e.g. on club owned sites or council facilities with long leases or have established hire / maintenance agreements with the local authority, however a number of clubs annually hire their facilities or only have short leases which impact on their ability to apply for grants, e.g. Middlesex Titans (3 years).</p> <p>The assessment of facility needs shows that the playing capacity of the available fine-turf pitches in Harrow does not meet the current demand from Harrow based clubs and teams, due to the significant increase in junior activity. A large number of sites in the borough are either overused or at capacity, and two clubs are forced to use facilities outside of the borough.</p> |

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Cricket

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

Despite the provision of several new fine turf pitches since 2012, capacity issues remain for clubs to accommodate all their teams especially those with large junior sections and offering short format cricket. Additional or upgraded NTPs could help to alleviate some of this pressure at Headstone Manor and Millhillians Sports Ground.

The quality of the cricket pitches at open access Council sites such as Harrow Rec. Ground, Hatch End Playing Fields needs to be improved. The cricket squares are subject to heavy usage and the outfielders accommodate extensive use for general recreation and dog walking as well as by other sports and events. Improved pitch maintenance and quality would increase the playing capacity enabling the cricket clubs that are based at these grounds to continue to grow.

The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at key cricket sites such as RCT Sports Ground, Harrow Rec. Ground, and Millhillians Sports Ground, and there are a number of sites where investment into pavilions is required including new provision at Montesole Playing Fields and Saddlers Mead Open Space and refurbishment to modernise facilities at Kenton Sports Club, Millhillians Sports Ground, RCT Sports Ground and Stanmore Common.

What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?

To meet cricket demand from 9,658 additional residents (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of cricket demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +1.24 additional cricket pitches will be needed in the borough.

In addition, a number of cricket clubs (Ealing Three Bridges, Kenton CC, Harrow St Mary's CC, South Harrow CC, Stanmore CC) have aspirations to grow their junior sections or offer sessions for women and girl's cricket with support from the Council, the ECB and Middlesex Cricket.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

There is a need for an additional 3 fine turf pitches (with at least 10 wickets) in Harrow to meet future demand. The location of these will depend on securing available space but the demand from clubs are greater in the South west area of the borough.

Additional or upgraded NTPs are needed at Harrow Town Sports Club, Headstone Manor, and Millhillians Sports Ground and investment into pavilions is required at Montesole Playing Fields, Saddlers Mead Open Space, Kenton Sports Club, Millhillians Sports Ground, the RCT Sports Ground and Stanmore common.

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³ GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released November 2021)

London Borough of Harrow
Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 Appendix B
Assessment of Need Report Football

Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Needs (Stages B & C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of football facilities in the London Borough of Harrow are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. FA affiliated football clubs registered to Harrow and playing home fixtures in the borough have contributed to this assessment by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs consulted with represents 52% of teams playing football in the area.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2012 there has been a vast change in both the supply of football pitches in the study area and in football demand. On the supply side, there has been the provision of new full sized 3G artificial turf pitches at Bannister Sports Centre, The Hive London (3rd pitch) and Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club, as well as small sided provision at Harrow School, The Hive London and Centenary Sixes. There has been a reduction in the number of natural turf pitches, mainly adult pitches in line with demand and improvements have been made to natural turf pitches at Bannister Leisure Centre and Headstone Manor Rec. Ground.

There has been an increase in demand of football, with an increase of 25 teams – nearly 12% since the previous audit in 2012 (238 teams compared to 213). This increase is mainly in youth teams and mini soccer teams (+43) with a decrease in adult teams (-14) which is a reflection of adult participation in football nationally.

The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions also impacted very significantly towards the end of season 2019/20 and throughout 2020/21.

However, football demand has largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels during 2021/22.

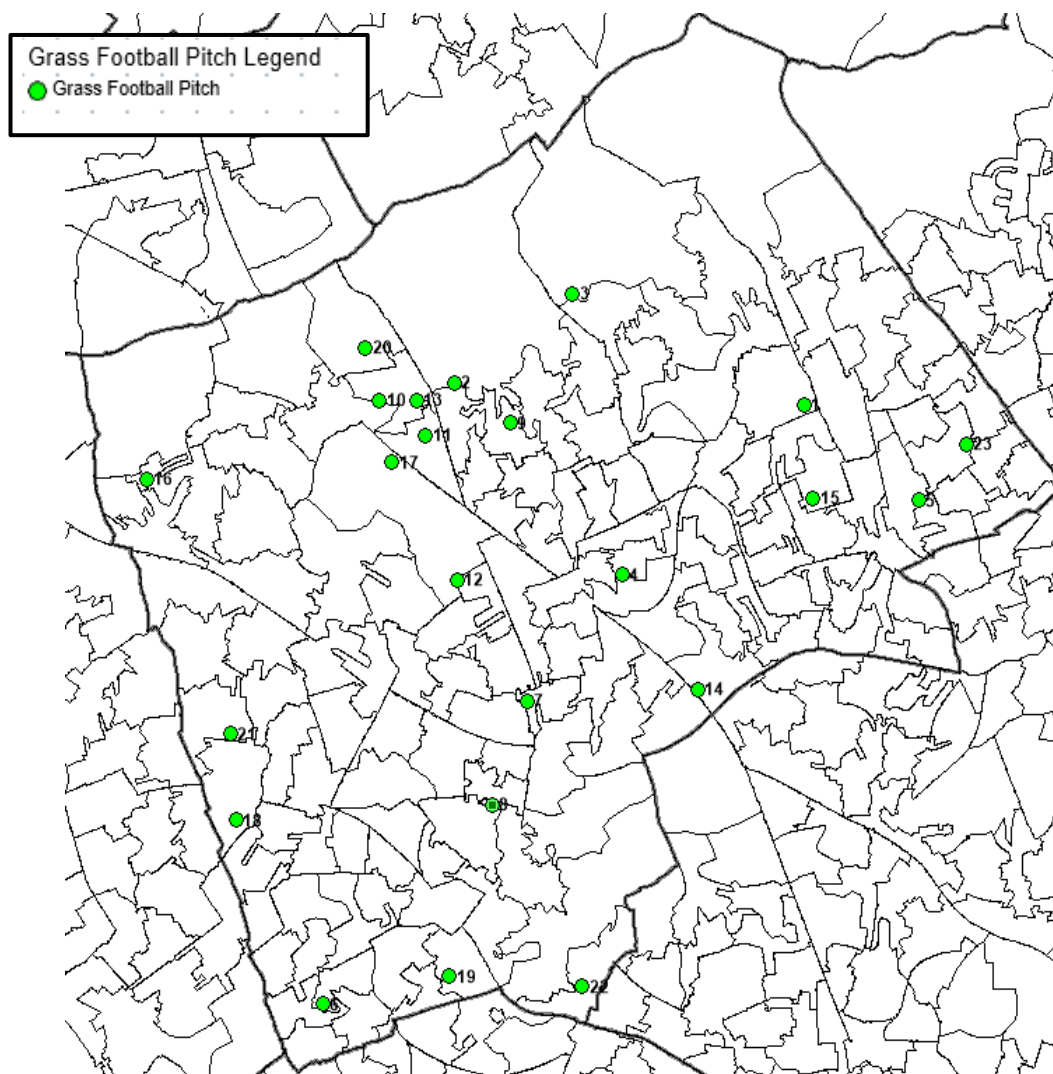
2. Football Supply (Step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of football facilities in Harrow are summarised in this section and detailed by site both for grass pitches (in the supporting additional appendices) and for artificial turf pitches. The supply side information is generated through standard facility audits based on the visual assessment, grading and playing capacity guidance (as set out by Sport England and the FA in the national guidance for the development of playing pitch needs assessments) augmented by consultation with the Council's Sports Team, Middlesex County FA, Amateur FA, London FA and user clubs.

2.1 Distribution of Football Supply

Figure 2.1 and 2.2 shows the distribution of football sites across the London Borough of Harrow.

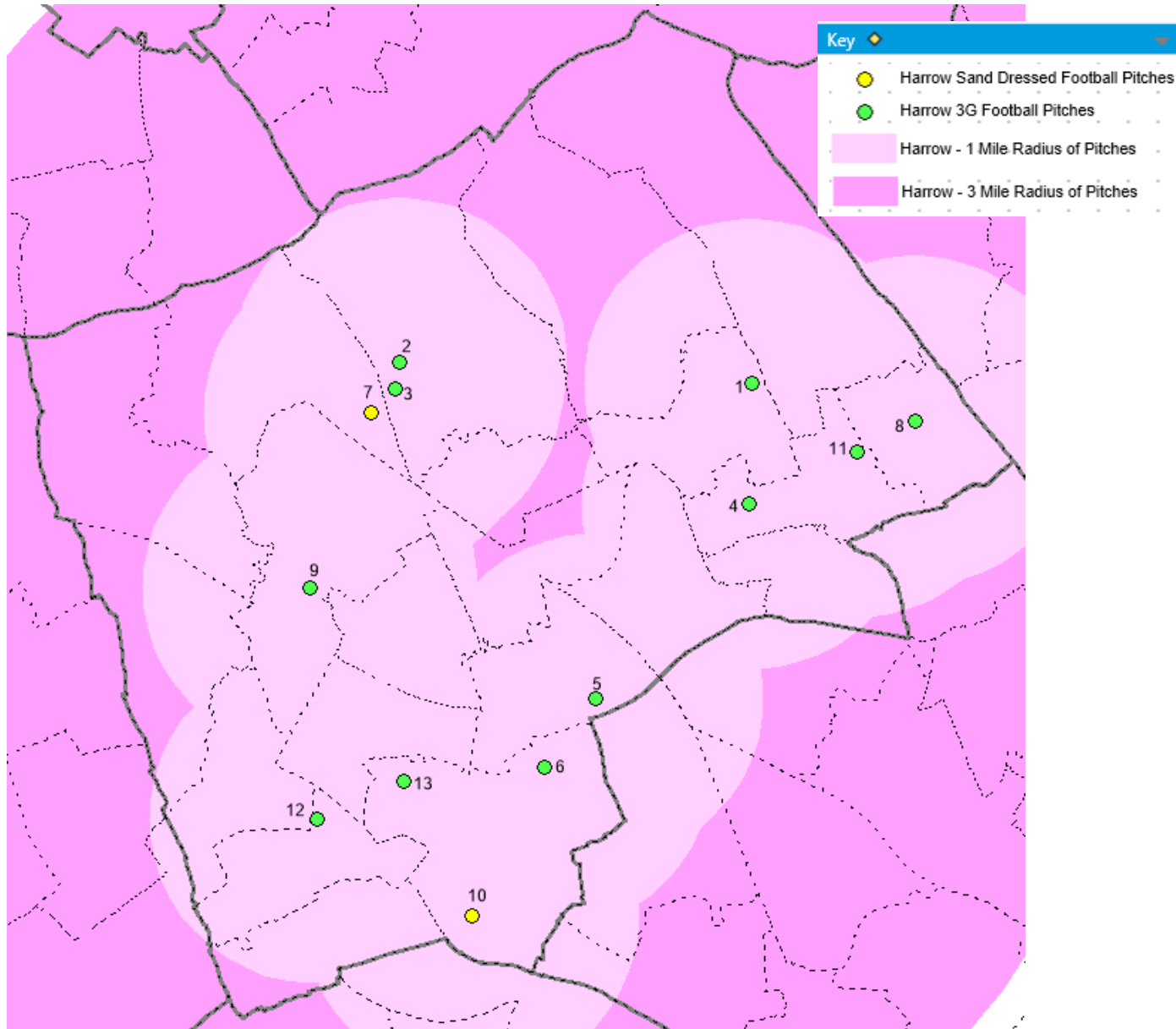
Figure 2.1 - Distribution of grass football pitch sites in Harrow



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| <i>Harrow: Grass Football Pitch Sites</i> | | | |
|---|---|-----------------------|----------|
| Figure 2.1 Key | Site Name | Address | Postcode |
| 1 | AVANTI HOUSE SECONDARY SCHOOL (Also known as WHITCHURCH PLAYING FIELDS) | WEMBOROUGH RD | HA7 2EQ |
| 2 | BANNISTER SPORTS CENTRE | UXBRIDGE RD | HA3 6SW |
| 3 | BENTLEY WOOD HIGH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS | CLAMP HILL | HA7 3JW |
| 4 | BYRON REC. GROUND | | HA3 7FE |
| 5 | CANNONS HIGH SCHOOL | SHALDON RD | HA8 6AN |
| 6 | HARROW BOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB | CARYLON AVE | HA2 8SS |
| 7 | HARROW REC. GROUND | ROXBOURNE RD | HA1 1PB |
| 8 | HARROW SCHOOL | (PHILATHLETIC GROUND) | HA1 4AD |
| 9 | HARROW WEALD REC. GROUND, (Also known as BOXTREE PARK) | BOXTREE LANE | HA3 6JY |
| 10 | HATCH END PLAYING FIELDS | UXBRIDGE ROAD | HA5 4DS |
| 11 | HATCH END HIGH SCHOOL | HEADSTONE LANE | HA3 6NR |
| 12 | HEADSTONE MANOR REC. GROUND | PINNER VIEW | HA2 6PX |
| 13 | JOHN RUMNEY PLAYING FIELDS | UXBRIDGE RD | HA3 6PU |
| 14 | KENTON REC. GROUND | CARLTON AVE | HA3 8AX |
| 15 | PARK HIGH SCHOOL | THISTLECROFT GARDENS | HA7 1PL |
| 16 | PINNER WOOD SCHOOL | LATIMER GARDENS | HA5 3RA |
| 17 | RCT SPORTS AND SOCIAL GROUND | HEADSTONE LN | HA2 6NG |
| 18 | ROXBOURNE PARK | CANON LANE | HA5 1JF |
| 19 | ROXETH REC. GROUND | KINGSLEY ROAD | HA2 8LF |
| 20 | SADDLERS MEAD OPEN SPACE | SADDLERS CLOSE | HA5 4BT |
| 21 | THE CROFTS PLAYING FIELD | CANNONBURY AVE | HA5 1TR |
| 22 | THE LYONIAN PAVILION | S. VALE | HA1 3PN |
| 23 | WILLIAM ELLIS SPORTS GROUND | CAMROSE AVE | HA8 6ES |

Figure 2.2- Distribution of ATP football pitch sites in Harrow



| <i>Harrow: ATP Sites</i> | | | |
|--------------------------|---|----------------|----------|
| Figure 2.2 Key | Site Name | Address | Postcode |
| 1 | AVANTI HOUSE SECONDARY SCHOOL | WEMBOROUGH RD | HA7 2EQ |
| 2 | BANNISTER SPORTS CENTRE | UXBRIDGE RD | HA3 6SW |
| 3 | CEDARS MYPLACE YOUTH & COMMUNITY CENTRE | CHICHELEY RD | HA3 6QH |
| 4 | CENTENARY SIXES | CENTENARY PARK | HA7 2NW |
| 5 | HARROW HIGH SCHOOL (POWERLEAGUE) | GAYTON ROAD | HA1 2LS |
| 6 | HARROW SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX | GARLANDS LN | HA1 3GF |
| 7 | HATCH END HIGH SCHOOL | HEADSTONE LN | HA3 6NR |
| 8 | KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL | CAROSE AVE | HA8 6ES |
| 9 | NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL | GEORGE V AVE | HA5 5RP |
| 10 | ORLEY FARM GRASS PITCHES | S HILL AVE | HA1 3PB |
| 11 | THE HIVE LONDON | CAMROSE AVE | HA8 6AG |
| 12 | TITHE FARM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB | RAYNERS LN | HA2 0XH |
| 13 | WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL | PORLOCK AVE | HA2 0AD |

2.2 Grass Football Pitches in Harrow

In total there are 103 grass pitches on 43 sites used for football in Harrow, of these 33 pitches (20 sites) are football pitches on school playing fields in the borough that are not currently available for and have no known history of community use. Consultation with these sites indicates that there is no clear potential to open up for community use on these school playing fields in future. These include:

- Arnold House School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Aylward Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- Camrose Primary School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Cannon Lane Primary School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Glebe Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- Grimsdyke first & Middle School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Harrow School sports complex (8x 11v11, 4x 11v11 youth pitches)
- Heathlands School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- John Lyon School (1x 11v11, 1x 9v9 pitches)
- Longfield Primary School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Orley Farm School (1x 11v11, 1 x 11v11 youth pitches)
- Pinner Park Primary School (1x 9v9 pitch)
- Priestmead School (1x 9v9, 1x7v7 pitches)
- St Dominic Sixth Form College (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- St John's COE Primary School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Stage Lane Primary School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- Stanburn Primary School (1x 11v11 youth pitch)
- The American School (London) (1x 1v11 pitch)
- Vaughan Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)
- West Lodge Primary School (1x 7v7 pitch)

Pitches identified as available for community football in Harrow or with the potential to be available for community use in the near future (at Bannister Sports Centre) number 70 grass pitches, on 23 sites and are listed in figure 2.1.

- Bannister Sports Centre grass pitches (2x 11v11, 1x 9v9, 1x7v7) are currently being established but are due to be available for community use from 2023/24 season.

A number of sites/ pitches listed in figures 2.1 have been excluded from the supply and demand calculations, as they are either not currently available for community use but have been listed as, following consultation, it has been established they could have potential to be used in the near future. These include:

- Canons High School (1x 11v11 pitch) – no current community use but school is drawing up a new site strategy for sports use.
- Hatch End High School (1x 11v11 pitch) – a new pitch currently being established. The school has other facilities available for community use and is open to making this available for community use in the future.
- Headstone Manor Rec. Ground, a large area of the ground has been subject to significant flood alleviation works, the council is hopefully the area will be available for football for the 2023/4 season, the specific configuration of pitches is unknown but previously accommodated 7 pitches of various sizes.
- Park High School (1x 11v11 youth pitch) – pitch established but drainage can be an issue and currently no ancillary facilities on site.

- Pinner Wood School (1x 11v11 youth pitch) – school currently hires field out rather than the pitch, but there could be an opportunity for community use.
- William Ellis Sports Ground – (1x 11v11, 1x 7v7) The ground has two pitches and a large sports pavilion on site. It is currently closed and was previously the home of Belmont Youth FC.

When these unavailable and closed football sites are excluded, the number of pitches currently available for community football in Harrow is reduced from 70 on 23 sites to 64 across 18 sites.

Figure 2.3 below shows the number of secured pitches currently available compared with the number of FA affiliated teams by age group in October 2022.

Comparison of current team numbers with the currently available supply of natural turf pitches shows that there is triple the number of teams in Harrow for all pitch types, whilst small-sided pitches have greater capacity for play than senior pitches (due to lower wear and tear by mini-soccer and youth players compared to heavier adult players), the additional demand has been catered for in the area by the use 3G artificial grass pitches for matches by a number of clubs including adult teams and multi team youth clubs such as Belmont Bees, Panethera FC and Hendon United FC.

Figure 2.3: Pitch Size / Team Comparison

| Pitch Type | Available Pitch Supply | | Teams playing in Harrow** | |
|---|------------------------|-----|---------------------------|-----|
| 11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17) | 16 | 25% | 59 | 25% |
| Youth 11v11 & 9v9 (u11 - u16) | 25 | 39% | 93 | 39% |
| Mini 7v7 & 5v5 (u5 - u10) | 23 | 36% | 86 | 36% |
| Total | 64 | | 238 | |

** Source: Middlesex FA/Amateur FA/London FA affiliation data (October 22)

2.3 Local Authority Owned Sites with Grass Football Pitches for Hire:

The following sites with grass football pitches within the study area are available to community clubs to book and hire from the Council:

- **Bannister Sports Centre** (4 pitches)
- **Bryon Rec. Ground** (3 pitches) – M-H FC
- **Harrow Rec. Ground** (7 pitches) – Harrow St Mary’s FC
- **Harrow Weald Rec. Ground** (5 pitches) – Kodak FC
- **Hatch End Playing Fields** (4 pitches) – Headstone Manor FC
- **Headstone Manor Rec. Ground** (5 pitches) – Headstone Manor FC, Pinner Albion FC
- **Kenton Rec Ground** (10 pitches) – St Joseph’s Youth 88
- **Roxbourne Park** (2 pitches) – Pinnstars FC
- **Roxeth Rec. Ground** (2 pitches) – Ava FC
- **Sadlers Mead Open Space** (2 Pitches) – Parkfield FC
- **The Crofts Playing Field** (3 pitches) – Pinnstars Fc, Pinner Athletic FC

These playing fields offer a total of 47 pitches for clubs to hire.

2.4 Council Owned Grass Pitches with Leases or Management Agreements:

The council plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and enabling community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities. The following playing field sites with football pitches owned by Harrow are leased to individual community sports clubs to manage and maintain:

- **John Rumney Playing Fields** (6 pitches) – Parkfield Youth FC
- **RCT Sports and Social Ground** (2 pitches) – Parkfield Youth Old Boys Vets

2.5 Sports Association/Charity Owned Grass Football Pitches:

The following sites in sports association or recreation charity/ trust ownership have pitches that are used extensively by community football clubs:

- **Harrow Borough FC** (1 pitch)– Harrow Borough FC

2.6 Football Pitches on Education Sites:

Harrow based community football clubs currently play on pitches on the following education sites:

- **Avanti House Secondary School** (3 Pitches) – Harrow Stars FC
- **Bentley Wood High School for Girls** (1 pitch) – Wisla Krakow UK Harrow
- **Harrow school (Philathletic Ground)** (1 pitch) – Old Harrovians
- **The Lyonian Pavilion** (3 pitches) – Old Lyonians

The clubs using pitches on education sites have little security of access as continued access from one season to the next depends on the consent of the site's management (head teacher, board of governors, management company and/or governing trust). Whilst none of these education providers

has indicated any intention to stop allowing access in future, without agreements in place for longer than a single season, security of access for football clubs at these sites must be considered a risk.

As stated above, further youth and mini-soccer pitches (or space to accommodate pitches) exist in the borough on playing fields at other school sites across the borough. Whilst there may be potential to negotiate some access at weekends to some of these playing fields, the majority are primary schools able to offer little or no access to ancillary facilities. Arranging future access to these pitches at weekends at reasonable cost while safeguarding the security of the schools' buildings would be difficult to achieve in most cases.

2.7 Closed grass football pitch sites at risk

William Ellis Sports Ground is currently closed and could be at risk of development.

2.8 Facilities for Informal Football

Most of the parks and larger public open spaces in the study area provide flat grass areas suitable for casual recreational games of football and kick-about.

There is an open access multi use games area (MUGA) at the Beacon Centre, which is well used. At Tith Farm Sports and Social Club, the MUGA is subject to hire and has little use.

2.9 Commercial Football Centres

Powerleague are based in Harrow at Harrow High School and The Hive London, they manage the facilities and operate their own small sided leagues. Centenary Sixes have two 30x20m floodlit pitches in Centenary park, available for hire but do not run small sided leagues.

2.10 Quality

The table below summaries the standard of the pitches assessed. The ratings attributed to each pitch are detailed in the audit spreadsheet appended. These were informed by a combination of visual assessment on site visits, as well as feedback from consultation with user clubs and the Council's Sports Team. The audit was also subject to a check and challenge process with the Middlesex FA.

Figure 2.4 – Harrow pitch quality

| | Total | Percentage |
|--------------|------------|------------|
| Good | 4 | 6% |
| Standard | 39 | 61% |
| Poor | 21 | 33% |
| Total | 64* | |

* This final number will vary due to overmarking, and pitches closed / being improved at time of audit

A third (33%) of pitches in the study area that have been assessed are of poor quality, and over half the stock (61%) of grass football pitches accessible for community use in Harrow are rated as 'standard' (i.e., providing a playing capacity for up to two match equivalent sessions a week on average for adults), 4 football pitches in Harrow are rated as good, these are based at Bannister Sports Centre and are new provision for season 2023/24.

Poor natural drainage and compaction of the ground are issues at a high proportion of the football pitch sites. These are common issues in this area partly due to the high clay content in the soil and few local authorities or their contractors have the resources of trained staff and specialist

equipment necessary to carry out drilling at the frequencies required to aerate the ground and de-compact the playing surface. There is also evidence of overuse on a large number of sites especially those home to clubs with large youth sections.

2.11 Un-Booked Use of Formal Pitches by Teams

Unauthorised use of the maintained pay and play pitches in Harrow as well as use of pitches in parks intended for informal recreational use is a growing challenge for the Council's Parks Service. A number of clubs take advantage of these sites especially for early and late season training when there is sufficient daylight on weekday evenings.

This leads to reduced pitch quality for those that do book and pay for using the pitch. The Council strives to address this whether it is by FA/County FA affiliated football teams, private soccer schools or independent schools by aiming to monitor the situation and contacting teams when armed with evidence. The Council also direct people to use other open spaces and not the formal pitch spaces.

2.12 Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) in Harrow

In total, there are 13 sites in Harrow with artificial turf surfaces suitable for football play at some level (i.e., either 3G preferred football surface, a rugby compliant surface or a sand-dressed hockey compliant playing surface), as summarised in figure 2.5. The sites marked by an asterisk are on the FA register as suitable for affiliated football league match play (either adult or youth as indicated). Those sites without floodlights are in Italics.

There is a total of 7 FA compliant 3G pitches in the area, with high levels of community usage both for training and matches, of these 7 only 3 are on FA Register as suitable for match play, with one of the pitches at The Hive London having a recently expired certification.

If these pitches were to be assessed, upgraded if necessary and added to the register this would provide an opportunity to cater for more of the demand for affiliated league match play for youth and mini-soccer teams.

Further detail on age and condition of each site is provided in Figure 4.2.

Figure 2.5- Artificial Grass Pitches with Football use in Harrow

| ATP Type | AGP sites in Harrow | Total |
|-----------------|---|----------------|
| Full sized 3G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bannister Sports Centre * ○ Harrow School Sports Complex ○ The Hive London (x3) (1*) ○ Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club * ○ Whitmore High School | 7 |
| Full sized SD | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Harrow School Sports Complex ○ <i>Orley Farm School</i> | 2 |
| Medium sided 3G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Avanti House Secondary School (low level floodlights) ○ <i>Krishna Avanti Primary School</i> ○ <i>Nower Hill High School</i> | 3 |
| Small sided 3G | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cedars Myplace Youth & Community Centre * ○ Centenary Sixes (x2) ○ Harrow High School (x4) ○ The Hive London (x9) | 16 |
| Small SD MUGA | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hatch End High School | 1 |
| Total | 13 sites | 29 ATPs |

Note *: pitches on FA compliance register, Italics – designates pitch is not floodlit.

The nearest alternative full size floodlit 3G ATPs in neighbouring boroughs within a 20 minute drive (5 mile catchment area) based on application of the Active Places Power area access analysis mapping tool are as follows:

- Ark Academy (Brent)
- Northolt High Sports Centre (Ealing)
- Wembley High Technology College (Brent)

2.13 ATPs at risk

There are no ATPs identified as being at risk of development in Harrow.

2.14 Proposed New ATPs

There is a current planning application to install 2 additional artificial 3G pitches at The Hive, one of which would be specifically for rugby, but could still accommodate some football training if needed, depending on the level of rugby usage identified.

2.15 Ancillary Facilities

The ancillary facilities across the borough varied in quality with most being sufficient for club use on match days, but in need of ongoing general refurbishment to keep them up to standard. There are however a number of sites that require further investment to accommodate for existing demand and better cater for growth in women and girl’s football, these include new provision needed at Saddlers Mead Open Space and refurbishment at John Rumney Playing Fields, Kenton Rec. Ground and Roxbourne Park.

3. Football Demand (Step 3)

The findings relating to football pitch demand in Harrow are summarised in this section of the report.

3.1 Clubs and Teams

In October 2022, Harrow had a total of 50 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Middlesex FA, Amateur FA or London FA with 238 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the study area. This is an increase in demand of football, with an increase of 25 teams – nearly 12% since the previous audit in 2012 (238 teams compared to 213). This increase is mainly in youth teams and mini soccer teams (+43) with a decrease in adult teams (-14) which is a reflection of adult participation in football nationally.

Of the 238 FA affiliated teams playing in Harrow, 43 are adult men's teams (U19 + including veterans & walking football), 3 women's teams (U19+ including veterans), 106 youth teams (comprising of 80 boys' teams, 2 girls' teams and 24 mixed teams) and 86 mini-soccer teams.

7 of the clubs have youth sections with 10 or more age group teams. Of these clubs 3 have over 20 teams, Hendon United with 28, Parkfield Youth with 21, St Joseph's Youth '88 with 24. Hendon United's teams are all based at The Hive, Parkfield Youth and St Joseph's have a home base on grass pitches but struggle to accommodate all their teams on the one site.

19% are adult teams (down from 28% in 2016), 45% are youth teams (up from 44%) 36% are mini-soccer teams (up from 28%).

3.2 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (November 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football in England by adults (aged 16+) slightly increased – 0.2% from 3.0% between November 2019 - November 2020 to 3.2% between November 2020 and November 2021.

If football participation in Harrow was at the national average in November 2019-2020 (i.e., 3.0%), this would indicate around 2,941 adults (aged 18+) living in Harrow play football out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 98,059. At the 2020/21 national 16+ football penetration rate of 3.2%, this would suggest circa 3,137 over 18-year-olds in Harrow play football.

With approximately 46 adult teams currently, plus 5 affiliated u18 sides, the 'adult' football club playing membership in the borough is close to 765 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult football participation in Harrow is in line with the current national average of 3.2%, this suggests that as much as 76% of all regular adult football played in the borough is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games, or park kick-about.

3.3 Expressed Demand

Expressed demand in the borough for all levels and types of football is summarised in this section. Sources of demand information include FA

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2020-21, Sport England, (September 2022)

databases, club and league websites, club survey returns, and information gathered from site visits and meetings.

Open Age Men's Football – A number of clubs in Harrow play in the National League System (NLS) and therefore needs to comply with the FA's minimum Ground Grading Guidelines to maintain their league status. One club plays at Step 1 Barnet FC, one at Step 3 Harrow Borough FC, one at Step 5 Broadfields United FC and one at Step 6 Rayners Lane FC. Progression in the NLS is dependent on a club's home ground meeting the ground grading requirements at each 'Step'.

Figure 3.1: Senior Adult Football League Clubs

| Senior Football Clubs | League | Home Ground | Training Ground |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| NLS Step 1 | | | |
| Barnet FC | Vanarama National League | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| NLS Step 3 | | | |
| Harrow Borough FC | Southern League Premier South | Harrow Borough FC | Whitmore School |
| NLS Step 5 | | | |
| Broadfields United FC | Combined Counties Premier Div North | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| NLS Step 6 | | | |
| Rayners Lane FC | Combined Counties FL Div One | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |

Other adult clubs based in the borough and playing within the FA affiliated leagues below the NLS that have been identified are:

Figure 3.2: Men's Adult League Clubs

| Other Adult Men's League Clubs | League(S) | Home Ground | Training Ground |
|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|---|
| Ava FC | Middlesex County FL | Roxeth Rec Ground | <i>Kingsbury High School</i> |
| Barnet FC U19 | National League U19 Alliance | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Barnet Walking Football | Middlesex FA Walking FL | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Elite Football Club London | Harrow Sunday Challenge Lge | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Greenhill Rangers | Harrow Sunday Challenge Lge | Harrow Weald Rec. Gound | Harrow Weald Rec. Gound |
| Harrow Borough FC U23's | Suburban Football League North Division | Harrow Borough FC | Whitmore School |
| Harrow St Mary's Sunday (x2) | Harrow Sunday Challenge Lge | Harrow Rec. Ground | Cedars Myplace Youth and Com. Centre |
| Highgate & Muswell Hill (x2) | Maccabi GB Southern FL | The Hive London | <i>Powerleague Soccer Centre (Finchley)</i> |
| Kodak Harrow (x3) | Middlesex County FL | Harrow Weald Rec Ground | Harrow Weald Rec Ground |
| London Irish Walking Football (x2) | Middlesex FA Walking FL | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| Maxwell Pricemann | Harrow Sunday Challenge Lge | Saddlers Mead Open Space | <i>Vale Farm Sports Centre (Brent)</i> |

| | | | |
|------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|
| Middlesex University | BUCS Men's League | The Hive London | <i>The Fitness Pod</i> |
| North West London FC | Harrow Sunday Challenge Lge | Harrow Rec Ground | Harrow Rec. Ground |
| NUFC Oilers (x2) | Southern Amateur FL | The Hive London | <i>St Pauls Rec. Ground (Southwark)</i> |
| Old Harrovians (x3) | The Arthurian League | Harrow School (Philathletic Ground) | Harrow School |
| Old Lyonians (x4) | Southern Amateur FL | The Lyonian Pavilion | The Lyonian Pavilion |
| Parkfield FC (x2) | Amateur Football Combination | Sadlers Mead Open Space | Sadlers Mead Open Space |
| Parkfield Youth Old Boys Vets | Middlesex County Cup | RCT Sports and Social Ground | RCT Sports and Social Ground |
| Pro Direct West London (x2) | SCL Youth Dev Lge, Tactic Lge | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| Rayners Lane Veterans | London Vets Ballerz | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| Scrabble Veterans A | Maccabi Masters | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| St John Woods Tigers (Vets) | Maccabi Masters | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Surely Wood FC | Harrow Sunday Challenge Lge | Saddlers Mead Open Space | Saddlers Mead Open Space |
| Watford FC CSE Trust Whitmore (x2) | National Football Youth Lge, EFL Com. & Ed. Football Alliance | Bannister Sports Centre | Whitmore School |

| | | | |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Wealdstone FC Walking Football | Middlesex FA Walking FL | Whitmore School | Whitmore School |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|

Youth football - There are 7 youth football clubs in Harrow with 10 or more teams playing in affiliated leagues. The three largest clubs – Hendon United youth, Parkfield Youth and St Joseph's Youth 88 regularly put out between 20 and 28 youth teams.

Figure 3.3: Youth and Mini Soccer Clubs

| Youth & Mini soccer Football Clubs (Teams) | League(S) | Home Ground(S) | Training Ground(S) |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| Alyth Belsize (Youth) (x2) | Watford Friendly League | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Ava FC Youth (x3) | Middlesex YL | Roxeth Rec. Ground | Roxeth Rec. Ground |
| Barnet Azzurri (x3) | Watford Friendly Lge | The Hive London | <i>Powerleague Finchley</i> |
| Barnet FC (x2) | Harrow YL Tactic League | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Belmont Bees (x7) | Harrow Soccer Combination Harrow YFL | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Brondesbury Park Rangers (x2) | Maccabi Youth League | The Hive London | <i>North West London Jewish School</i> |
| Club SFC (x8) | Watford Friendly League | Avanti House Secondary School | <i>Powerleague (Mill Hill)</i> |
| Edgware Tigers (Youth) (x2) | Watford Friendly League | The Hive London | <i>Powerleague (Mill Hill)</i> |

| | | | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Elite Football Club London (x6) | Middlesex YL | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Harrow St Mary's Youth (x13) | Harrow Soccer Combination Harrow YL | Harrow Rec. Ground | Harrow Rec. Ground, Harrow School Sports Complex |
| Harrow Stars (x7) | Watford Friendly League | Avanti House Secondary School | Avanti House Secondary School |
| Hendon United (Youth Interschools) (x28) | Watford Friendly League | The Hive London | <i>Powerleague (Mill Hill)</i> <i>Woodhouse College (Finchley)</i> |
| Headstone Manor Youth (x14) | Harrow Soccer Combination, Harrow YL | Hatch End Playing Fields | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| HGS Soccer School (x4) | Watford Friendly League | The Hive London | <i>Christ's college, Finchley</i> |
| Highgate & Muswell Hill Youth (x2) | Watford Friendly League | The Hive London | <i>Powerleague Soccer Centre (Finchley)</i> |
| Kodak Youth (x4) | Harrow Soccer Combination, Harrow YL | Harrow Weald Rec Ground | Harrow Weald Rec Ground |
| M-H FC (x2) | Middlesex YL | Bryon Rec. Ground | Bryon Rec. Ground |
| Panethera FC (x12) | Watford Friendly Lge | The Hive London | <i>Whitefield School (Barnet)</i> |
| Parkfield Youth (x21) | Harrow Soccer Combination, Harrow YL | John Rumney Playing Fields | Hatch End High School, The Hive |

| | | | |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | | London, Bannister Sports Centre |
| Pinner Albion (x5) | Harrow Soccer Combination, Middlesex YL | Headstone Manor Rec. Ground | Headstone Manor Rec. Ground |
| Pinner Athletic (x3) | Harrow Soccer Combination, | The Croft | |
| Pinnstars (x4) | Harrow YL | Roxbourne Park | Roxbourne Park |
| Rayners Lane (x2) | Junior Premier Lge, Allied Counties YFL | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| SpiderOne FC (x4) | Middlesex YL | Centenary Park | Centenary Park |
| St Joseph's Youth 88 (x22) | Harrow Soccer Combination Harrow YL | Kenton Rec. Ground | Kenton Rec. Ground |
| Venceremos (x2) | Harrow YL | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| Wisla Krakow UK Harrow | Middlesex YL | Bentley Wood High School for Girls | Tithe Farm Sports and Social Club |
| Young Guns FC | Harrow YFL | The Hive London | <i>Barnet Oak LC</i> |

Women's and Girls' Football – Women's football in Harrow has developed further since the last PPS with three Women's clubs compared to just one club in 2012, however girls' football has stayed the same at four teams. These are listed below. Hounslow Women FC are FA accredited 'Wildcats' centre offering sessions of non-competitive football for girls aged 5-11 at Bannister Sports Centre. The club also hosts an open access recreational session for Women at Harrow School Sports Complex.

Figure 3.4: Clubs with Women and Girl's Teams

| Women And Girls' Teams | Leagues | Home Ground | Training Grounds |
|---------------------------|---|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| London Bees WFC | FA Women's Nat. Lge Southern Prem. Div (Tier 3) | The Hive London | The Hive London |
| Hounslow Women FC | FA Women's Nat. Lge Div One South East (Tier 4) | Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club | Harrow School Sports Complex |
| Headstone Manor Ladies | Greater London Women's FL | Saddlers Mead Open Space | Cedars Myplace Youth & Com. Centre |
| Club SFC (x2) | Girls Super Lge London | Avanti House Secondary School | Powerleague (Mill Hill) |
| St Joseph's Youth 88 (x2) | Capital Girls League | Kenton Rec. Ground | Kenton Rec. Ground |

Disability Football – The Aspire Leisure Centre is linked with Aspire Power Chair Sports Club which has 4 powerchair football clubs playing at Oaklands College (Herts). They cater for anyone of any age who suffers from a physical disability and wants to play Powerchair Football. The teams take part in the South East Regional League.

3.4 Soccer Schools

There is also significant demand for playing space for children's football coaching in Harrow, whether from commercial soccer schools or coaching schools organised by local community football clubs.

Several youth football clubs based in the borough run development sessions for u5s and u6s and/or soccer schools in the school holidays to generate income for their clubs and as a pathway to feed new teams.

Some examples of commercial providers include Super Skills offers afterschool sessions at Avanti House Primary School and evening coaching sessions for 6-15 year olds at Centenary Park. Youngs Football Academy offering 4-5 year olds sessions at Stanburn Primary School and 7-11 years old at Avanti High School.

3.5 Casual Demand

Casual football play among groups of children and adults, using free to use open access grass and non-turf facilities in public parks continues to be a major feature of football demand. Indeed, the Active Lives Survey data suggests that as much as three quarters of all regular adult football played in the study area is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-about.

As identified in the supply section of the report, Harrow provides for this demand by providing open areas of grass in parks and there is one open access MUGA. The lack of informal play areas provided in parks are likely to mean increased recreational use of formal pitches designated for match play and unauthorised use by organised teams and soccer schools for training and coaching. Additional informal play areas and MUGAs could help to reduce wear of the formal pitches.

3.6 Unmet Demand

Figure 3.5 summarises the self-reported plans of clubs for growing the number of teams they run to meet perceived unmet demand. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from July 2022 to January 2023 and therefore only includes those clubs that

completed a questionnaire. Conversion of this perceived unmet demand into new teams will depend on these clubs engaging sufficient volunteer team managers and coaches as well as securing suitable pitches to play and train on in the peak period.

It is apparent from the consultation with clubs and considering the number that are planning for growth, that there is unmet demand in the borough for youth football and specifically girl’s football, considering the small number of teams in the area and the recent the success of the England Women’s team and the FA’s increased focus and promotion of Wildcats and Squad girls programmes, this is potentially a large area of unmet demand.

Figure 3.5: Harrow - Self-Reported Team Growth Plans

| Club | Growth Aspirations |
|----------------------------|--|
| Belmont Bees | The club have joined with Barnet FC which they hope will help them grow as a club. |
| Elite Football Club London | We are looking to extend to have teams for all ages up to the senior team, including 2 senior teams (one in Saturday league with the youngest ones and the other one in Sunday league for veterans). |
| Harrow St Mary’s FC | The club would like to run additional teams at all age groups and re start girls’ teams. |
| Headstone Manor Youth FC | The club would like to start new teams and if possible, a girls team. |
| Kodak FC | The club aim to run more teams. |
| Parkfield Youth FC | The club aim to grow more teams following the partnership with Bannisters. |
| St Joseph’s Youth 88 | The club aims to grow the number of female teams to 4 next season, as well as increase the number of teams at U11 and U7 to 2 teams. |

| Club | Growth Aspirations |
|----------------------------|--|
| Watford FC Community Trust | Watford FC CT have applied to the FA, to run a girls skills centre within the Emerging Talent programme. |

3.7 Displaced and Imported Demand

The research and consultation show that as far as match play is concerned, there is minimal displaced demand of football - i.e., teams of clubs based in Harrow having to travel outside the study area to find pitches to play home fixtures.

There is however evidence of imported demand with clubs travelling into Harrow to play matches at the Hive but training elsewhere, e.g. Middlesex University, campus located in Barnet, HGS Soccer Schools (Camden) Hendon United (Barnet), Highgate and Muswell High (Haringey/ Barnet).

A few clubs travel to train on artificial grass pitches out of the borough - e.g., AVA FC at Kingsbury High School in Brent, Maxwell Pricemann at Vale Farm in Brent, Club AFC at Powerleague (Mill Hill) and Young Guns FC at Barnet Oak LC, in Barnet. - (shown in italics in Figure 3.2) and it would seem a number of youth teams train on grass such as St Joseph’s Youth 88 and Kodak FC, which would impact on the capacity for matches.

4. The Situation at Individual Football Sites (Step 4)

4.1 Grass Pitch Sites

The grass football pitches were assessed in September/October of the 2022/23 season. Most of the sites were assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the FA in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance and Appendices (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment. Middlesex FA have reviewed the findings of these site-specific assessments (as set out in the appended dataset to this report) and agreed the quality ratings as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site can accommodate (i.e., 'carrying capacity') against the amount of play that takes place. Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use. The following pitch carrying capacities have been used consistent with the PPS Guidance methodology.

Figure 4.1: Grass Football Pitch Carrying Capacity

| PPS Guide ratings | Adult Football | Youth Football (9v9, 11v11) | Mini Soccer (5v5, 7v7) |
|--|----------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|
| Number of match equivalent sessions a week | | | |
| Good | 3 | 4 | 6 |
| Standard | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Poor | 1 | 1 | 2 |

The full pitch audit (separately appended), details the situation at each individual football site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use);
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand where known) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training;
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - o **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - o **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - o **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

The following 2 sites are highlighted here from the site audit spreadsheet sub-appendix (separately appended) as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf football pitches are overplayed.

- o Harrow Recreation Ground
- o Saddlers Mead Open Space

A further 5 sites from the full site audit (separately appended) are **AMBER** rated indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- o Hatch End Playing Fields
- o John Rumney Playing Fields
- o Kenton Rec. Ground
- o Roxbourne Park
- o The Lyonian Pavilion

The ancillary facilities at each site were reviewed where the consultant team could get access, along with providers and clubs being consulted on the condition and availability.

4.2 Artificial Turf Pitch Sites

The current site-specific situation with regard to the 3G artificial grass pitches in the borough is detailed in Figure 4.2. The availability of the pitches for community use during peak hours is noted in column headed 'Peak Hours Available'. Use in the available peak hours is expressed as a percentage of the available hours in the peak in the column headed 'Est'd use in peak hours', with the estimate being as accurate as possible based on the information and data available as to actual use at the time of collection following consultation with providers and clubs.

Figure 4.2: 3G ATPs - Situation at Individual sites

| Site | AGP Size & Type | Date Built (Last Refurbished) | Rating | On FA Reg. | Ancillary Facilities | Security Of Access | Peak Hours Available | Est'd use in Peak Hours | RAG | Comments/Assumptions |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------|--|--|--|-------------------------|--------|--|
| AVANTI HOUSE SECONDARY SCHOOL, HA7 2EQ | 60 x 42m 3G pitch, with low level floodlights | 2018, floodlights added this year. | Good | Not listed | Changing in main building | Education site - Unsecured | Available 5:30-8:30pm | 95% | Red | Only hired to youth teams U16. Used by SFC Academy for matches. Demand for more space, considering an additional smaller pitch and looking at raising money. Hours restricted due to local residents. |
| BANNISTER SPORTS CENTRE, HA3 6SW | Full sized Floodlit 3G AGP | 2021 | Good | Yes | Changing in Leisure Centre | Council facility managed by Everyone Active | Available 9am - 10pm Mon - Sat, 10am - 10pm Sun | 95% | Red | At capacity. Usage for matches by Parkfield Youth (U16), Watford FC CSE Trust Whitmore (Adult-wedx2), Training Parkfield Youth |
| CEDARS MYPLACE YOUTH & COM. CENTRE, HA3 6QH | 55 x 25m Floodlit 3G | 2012 Scheduled to be refurbished 2022 | Standard Club (WFC) rate 5/5 | Yes | Changing within centre Club (WFC) rate 3/5 | Managed by Watford FC on long lease until 2043 from Council. | Centre closes at 9pm M-F, 5pm Saturday and all day Sunday. | 90% | Yellow | Club training use (Harrow St Mary's Youth, Headstone Manor Ladies), Watford FC usage PL Kicks and Mini Kicks, pay and play, PL primary stars & inspires, walking football. |
| CENTENARY SIXES, HA7 2NW | 2 x (30 x 20m) Floodlit 3G | 2017 | Good | N/A | Changing rooms next to café in park | Council land but managed by Centenary Sixes under lease | M-F 2:45pm - 10:30pm. S&S 8:30am-10:30pm | 85% | Yellow | Surface in good condition. Mixture of clubs, youth coaching organisations and individuals use the facilities. Increased girls' activity. Needs a footpath around entrance to avoid contamination of surface. Demand high and would like to resurface tennis court to have a third pitch. |
| HARROW HIGH SCHOOL, HA1 2LS | 4 x 5-A-Side (18x 33m) 3G pitches | Opened 2020 | Good | Not listed | Changing available | Education site managed by Powerleague - unsecured | M-F 5:30-9:30 Sat 9:30-4:30pm | 65% | Green | Site managed by Powerleague evenings and weekends. Pitches are available for hire and 3 small sided leagues are currently running. |

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| Site | AGP Size & Type | Date Built (Last Refurbished) | Rating | On FA Reg. | Ancillary Facilities | Security Of Access | Peak Hours Available | Est'd use in Peak Hours | RAG | Comments/Assumptions |
|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-----|---|
| HARROW SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX, HA1 3GF | Floodlit full size Rugby 3G | Unknown | Good | Not listed | Changing in Sports Complex | Education site - Unsecured | Unknown | 50% | | Training - Harrow St Mary's YFC, Hounslow Women FC (and recreational open access football session) |
| KRISHNA AVANTI PRIMARY SCHOOL, HA8 6ES | 70 x 45m 3G pitch (Not floodlit) | 2010 | Standard | Not listed | Changing in school building | Education site - Unsecured | No current community use. | 0% | | Pitch located at the back of the school site. Pile quite flat but school has no plans to re surface yet. Used to be hired by Belmont Youth (who were based on William Ellis Sports ground, behind school) but issue arose so no longer hired out. |
| NOWER HILL HIGH SCHOOL, HA5 5RP | 80m x 50m 3G pitch (Not floodlit) | 2015 | Standard | Not listed | Changing in school building | Education site - Unsecured | Sat 9am - 5pm Sun 9am - 1pm | 70% | | Pitch wraps around building, pile a little flat, but ok. Not floodlit, school feels might be difficult due to local residents, but no formal application made. |
| THE HIVE LONDON, HA8 6AG | Full sized Floodlit 3G AGP | 2021 | Good Club (BB) rate 4/5 | Not listed | Changing available Club (BB) rate 3/5 | Barnet FC managed by Powerleague | M-S 8am - 11pm | 95% | | Refused access to visit. Match & Training usage by Barnet Walking football, Barnet FC (U16, U17), Belmont Bees (8 youth teams), Youth Guns FC (U13), Barnet Azzurri (u12, U15, U18), Panthera FC (10 youth teams), Elite FC London (adult + 6 youth teams), Middlesex Uni (adult). |
| THE HIVE LONDON, HA8 6AG | Full sized Floodlit 3G AGP | 2021 | Good | Expired but likely still used for matches. | Changing available | Barnet FC managed by Powerleague | M-S 8am - 11pm | 95% | | Scrabble Vets, Alyth Belsize (U13,U17), Edgware tigers (U15,U17) St Johns Wood Tiger Vets, Brondesbury park Rangers (U10,U7), Hendon United (28 Teams U10-U16), HGS Soccer School (U9, U10x2, U11), Highgate & Muswell Hill (U9,U10, First & tigers), NUFC Oilers (1st & Reserves). Parkfield Youth FC (Training) |

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| Site | AGP Size & Type | Date Built (Last Refurbished) | Rating | On FA Reg. | Ancillary Facilities | Security Of Access | Peak Hours Available | Est'd use in Peak Hours | RAG | Comments/Assumptions |
|--|--|-------------------------------|----------|------------|---|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|--------|--|
| THE HIVE LONDON, HA8 6AG | Full sized Floodlit 3G AGP (FIFA 2 STAR) | 2021 | Good | Yes | Stadia Pitch | Barnet FC | M-S 8am - 11pm | 85% | Yellow | Usage by Barnet FC, Barnet FC U19, London Bees (Women's National League) |
| THE HIVE LONDON, HA8 6AG | 9 x 5v5 (30x20m) Floodlit 3G AGP | 2021 | Good | N/A | Changing available | Barnet FC managed by Powerleague | M-S 8am - 11pm | 50% | Green | Likely some of youth games played for younger ages groups played on these pitches |
| TITHE FARM SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB, HA2 0XH | Full sized Floodlit 3G AGP | 2018 | Good | Yes | Changing facilities within sports club. | Trust has freehold of land | 8am - 10pm | 95% | Red | Home to Rayner Lane FC (step 6, U18 + Vets) and Broadfields FC (Step 5) At capacity with every evening booked out. Other users include Chesham Utd, Northwood FC, Venceremos FC, Headstone Manor Youth, Aspire Development, Jason Roberts Foundation, Simply Football Ltd, Beyond Education Sports Foundation, CSR Academy, Future Football Stars, SH Academy, Stanmore Jeffreys FC, Irish Walking Football. |
| WHITMORE HIGH SCHOOL, HA2 0AD | Full sized Floodlit 3G ATP | 2011 | Standard | Not listed | Changing available | Education site - Unsecured | M-F 9:30pm, Sat 6-9am-5pm Sun closed | 50% | Green | Usage Wealdstone FC Walking football, Watford FC Girls U16, Boys U18, Harrow Borough FC, school BTEC programme ran by Watford FC, Harrow St Mary adult team. |

Figure 4.3: Hockey AGPs also used for football - Situation at Individual Sites

| Site | AGP Size & Type | Date Built (Last Refurbished) | Rating | Ancillary Facilities | Security Of Access | Peak Hours Available | Estimate Use in Peak Hrs | RAG | Comments/Assumptions |
|---|--|-------------------------------|--------|--|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------|--|
| HARROW SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX HA1 3GF | Floodlit Full sized sand dressed | Resurfaced in 2018 | Good | Changing in Sports Complex | Education site - Unsecured | Unknown | 50% | Green | School hockey teams x 7, Harrow Hockey Club on occasion. |
| HATCH END HIGH SCHOOL, HEADSTONE LN, HA3 6NR | Floodlit Sand dressed 5-A-side MUGA | 2011 | Good | Changing in sports hall area if needed | Education site - Unsecured | M-T 6- 9:30pm, F 6-11pm, S&S 8am-11pm | 40% | Green | Used by Stanmore Jefferys Muslim Ladies, Parkfield YFC. |
| ORLEY FARM GRASS PITCHES, S HILL AVE, HA1 3PB | 96 x 60m Sand Dressed ATP (not floodlit) | 2002 | Poor | No Changing room access close to pitch | Education site - Unsecured | Weekends | 70% | Yellow | Pitch hard and lines faded, but drainage poor and sliding down hill on the face side. Usage by Harrow CC, Harrow HC, occasional football teams. School creating masterplan for school with focus on outside areas, which could include resurface (sand dressed) & floodlights for the pitch. |

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4.3 The FA National Football Facilities Strategy

In 2018, in partnership with the Football Foundation and Sport England, the Football Association developed a ten-year investment plan in facilities for grass roots football - *The National Football Facilities Strategy 2018-2028*. The facilities strategy aims to ensure that by 2028:

- Every FA-affiliated club has access to a 3G artificial pitch for training and potentially matches.
- Accelerated improvements are made to the key grass pitch sites across England to reduce fixture cancellations.

To support delivery of the National Game Strategy aims, Middlesex FA - in partnership with the Football Foundation and the county local authorities - is focused on:

- Supporting the development of *Football Hubs*² in strategic locations
- Supporting an agreed portfolio of priority projects for new and improved facilities in each local authority area that will have a significant impact on participation and provide capacity for growth, activated through new *Local Football Facility Plans* (LFFPs), a ten-year vision for football facilities.

4.4 Harrow Local Football Facilities Plan

A Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Harrow was published by the Football Foundation in June 2019 informed by consultation with the Council, Middlesex FA and the large community football clubs based in the borough.

The priorities for Harrow still to be delivered are for 4 full sized floodlit 3G AGPs at Kenton Rec. Ground, Headstone Manor Rec. Ground, Roxbourne Park, South Harrow (specific location not identified).

² Football Hubs serve major towns and cities with multiple pitches and modern pavilion facilities based around a minimum of 2 full size artificial turf football pitches (FTPs).

Six prioritised projects remain for improvement to grass pitches, at Kenton Rec. Ground, Roxbourne Park, Harrow Rec. Ground, Hatch End Playing Fields, William Ellis Sports Ground, and three key changing rooms projects at Kenton Rec. Ground, Roxbourne Park, Hatch End Playing Fields.

The Playing Pitch Strategy methodology is more detailed than that used to inform the LFFP investment priorities. Accordingly, whilst in most instances there is a good deal of commonality between the PPS and LFFP in terms of the conclusions reached, this is not always the case. The LFFP does not provide an evidence base to inform the development planning process, so the PPS should be referred to as the evidence base and be used to inform future iterations of the LFFP.

4.5 FA Training Scenario for 3G AGP Assessments of Need

The FA has designed a model scenario to help with understanding what demand there may be for full size³ equivalent floodlit 3G AGPs if increased amounts of play were to take place on them. The scenario question tested is: *How many full size floodlit 3G AGPs may be required to meet demand within the borough if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G FTP to train on once a week?*

The answer to this scenario question for Harrow is set out below based on **three** full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G FTPs on the FA Register, plus the **one** pitch at the Hive (FA register certification recently expired) which have full community use for football during peak periods⁴.

As a guide the FA suggest that one full size floodlit 3G FTP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams. The information from

³ A full size 3G FTP measures 106m x 70m including run off/safety margins.

⁴ Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

the assessment indicates that there are 238 teams playing competitive football in Harrow. The 1:38 ratio suggests that 6 full size equivalent floodlit 3G FTPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the study area. This does not take into account other demand in the peak period for small-sided leagues, recreational play and targeted community football development programmes outside the affiliated league structure, however Harrow has a number of small sided pitches to accommodate recreational demand. It should also be noted that the club training scenario calculation also takes no account of the accessibility of the available AGPs to the clubs nor cost / affordability issues.

Notwithstanding these factors, it would suggest a further two accessible full size 3G ATPs are needed. However, there are several full sized (or near full sized) 3G pitches in the area that are either not on the FA Register or do not have floodlights. If the AGPs at Whitmore High School and Avanti House 3G pitches were to be upgraded/extended to the standard required to be added to the FA Register and floodlights installed at Nower Hill High School and/or Krishna Avanti Primary School (subject to feasibility and planning), there would be sufficient 3G FTPs within the borough to cater for all team training demand.

5. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Football (Step 5)

5.1 Grass pitches

The total football play on natural grass pitches in the peak period (weekends and evenings) compared against available capacity across all the football playing field sites in the areas suggested a positive supply balance (i.e., unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the area as a whole, however a number of playing field sites in Harrow are being played to capacity or overplayed. These in the main are sites that are the home ground for youth football clubs with multiple teams, such as Kenton Rec. Ground (St Joseph's Youth 88) and Harrow Rec. Ground (Harrow St Mary's Youth FC).

There are also a number of youth clubs training on grass pitches which then affects their capacity for matches as well as a high demand for recreational use in the area. The distribution of use of pitches across the borough is relatively even but usage at sites fluctuates due to the number of teams the club based at the location has, with it being easier for clubs to manage games on one site, as the club grows the intensity of use of the same pitches increases creating overuse. Demand appears to have recovered from the Covid 19 pandemic and restrictions in season 2021/22.

It appears that, for affiliated football, there is sufficient supply of natural turf football pitches in the study area to meet current match play demand from teams, subject to improved quality at key sites and accounting for the new provision available at Bannister Sports Centre from 2023/24 season and improvements in progress to pitch quality at Headstone Manor.

If the pitches at Kenton Rec. Ground currently rated as poor were improved in quality to standard, it would provide an additional 12 match equivalent sessions catering for the demand of St Joseph's Youth and some allowance for growth of the club. At Harrow Rec. Ground improvements would result in an additional 7 match equivalent sessions which mean 4 pitches currently overused would then be within their carrying capacity, with 3 other pitches having capacity to accommodate growth.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at selected club sites supported by funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. Additional informal play areas and MUGA's in park's could also help to reduce wear of the formal pitches.

There is a need to protect the current supply of pitches to cater for the growth aspirations of clubs, the high demand for recreational football and unmet demand, particularly for women and girl's football.

ATPs

The demand trends in football point to the continuing growth in the recreational game including walking football and women's recreation provision and, among the affiliated clubs, for more small-sided football teams among the younger age groups, especially girls' football, as such additional provision of full size 3G football AGP's would help to meet the needs of the large youth clubs for training and matches.

To contribute to the FA's strategic priorities, there is a need to improve the supply of FA registered 3G pitches by encouraging existing sites to register and investigating the feasibility of floodlights at two sites. This would reduce

the need for training on grass pitches and accommodate match play by youth teams reducing the number of overused natural turf pitches.

5.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2037 on the need for football pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used.

To meet football demand from 9,658 additional residents (as currently forecast⁵) and assuming current levels of football demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +1.65 mini soccer pitches, +1.76 youth football pitches and +1.15 adult football pitches will be needed in the area (totaling +4.55 natural turf pitches) as well as +0.24 additional 3G pitches.

Potential effect of demand trends (how pitch sports are played) – Among adults, national trends show a reduction in interest in taking part in sports that demand a commitment to regular attendance, in favour of a more casual involvement. This national picture is reflected in Harrow where FA adult team affiliations have decreased (from 60 in 2012 to 46 in 2022) despite an increase in Walking football (+4 teams), Veterans Teams (+1 team) and in women's team (+2 teams).

Youth football continues to show a growth trend, but this growth is hard to sustain through the older youth age groups from age 15yrs when exams and other interests tend to impact. The biggest growth in Harrow has been in

mini soccer teams with an additional 27 teams (from 59 in 2016 to 86 in 2022).

Following the success of the England Women's team in the European championships and the FA's investment in development programmes such as the girls football school's partnership and Wildcats and Squad Girls at club level there is likely to be a further increase in demand for girls' football in particular, especially as the number of teams in the area is relatively small at present.

Seven of the clubs consulted had aspirations for team growth and/ or supporting development initiatives, most were not specific on the number of teams they wanted to grow but on average these types of clubs grow 2-3 new teams a year, so over the next 3 years this could result in between 14 and 21 new teams in the area, which equates to around 10 new match equivalent sessions.

It will be important to secure addition 3G AGP capacity for training and youth matches, improve the quality of current grass pitches to increase capacity, open closed sites and secure additional community use on education sites to cater for future demand.

⁵ GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released November 2021)

6. Key findings and Issues for Football (Step 6)

Figure 6.1: Football Key Findings and Issues

| | Football |
|--|---|
| <p>The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision</p> | <p>There have been changes to the facilities for football in Harrow since the last facility review in 2012 with the provision of new full sized floodlit 3G Artificial turf pitches at Bannister Sports Centre, The Hive London (3rd pitch) and Tithe Farm Sports & Social Club. There has been a reduction in the number of natural turf pitches, mainly adult pitches in line with demand and improvements have been made to natural turf pitches at Bannister Leisure Centre and Headstone Manor Rec. Ground.</p> <p>64 grass pitches are identified as available for community football across Harrow, on 18 operational playing pitch sites.</p> <p>There are further pitches on school playing fields in the borough. At most of these school sites, there is no clear potential to open up community use, but four schools indicated there could be future potential of community use (Canons High School, Hatch End High School, Park High School and Pinner Wood School).</p> <p>Key trends in football demand include sustained growth in the recreational game (including veteran and walking football) and in youth football and mini-soccer with increasing numbers of girls playing particularly in mixed mini-soccer teams. The Covid 19 pandemic and the resulting restrictions also impacted very significantly towards the end of season 2019/20 and throughout 2020/21. However, football demand largely recovered to pre-pandemic levels in 2021/22.</p> <p>In October 2022, Harrow had a total of 50 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Middlesex FA, Amateur FA or London FA with 238 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the borough. This is an increase of 25 teams - nearly 12% - since the previous audit in 2012 when 213 affiliated teams were registered to Harrow.</p> |

| | Football |
|---|---|
| <p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</p> | <p>For affiliated football, there is sufficient supply of natural turf football pitches in the study area to meet current matchplay demand from teams, subject to improved quality and playing capacity at key sites (Kenton Rec. and Harrow Rec.) and accounting for the new provision available at Bannister Sports Centre from 2023/24 season and improvements in progress to pitch quality at Headstone Manor.</p> <p>Pinch points continue to be experienced by several clubs, particularly on Sunday mornings for match play and midweek early evenings for squad training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to unmet demand, particularly for girl's football. If the AGPs at Whitmore High School and Avanti House 3G pitches were to be added to the FA Register and floodlights installed at Nower Hill High School and/or Krishna Avanti Primary School (subject to feasibility and planning) there would be sufficient 3G FTPs within the borough to cater for all team training demand.</p> |
| <p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p> | <p>The football AGPs are good quality, many with newly laid playing surfaces. Over a third (40%) of the grass pitches are of a poor-quality suffering from poor natural drainage, compaction of the ground and overuse, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale it would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches. Improvement of the natural turf pitches at Kenton Rec. and Harrow Rec. are priorities. Additional informal play areas and MUGA's in park's could also help to reduce wear of the formal pitches.</p> <p>The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at selected club sites supported by funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.</p> <p>New, or upgraded pavilions are required at a number of sites to accommodate existing demand and better cater for growth in women and girl's football. These include new provision needed at Saddlers Mead Open Space and refurbishment at John Rumney Playing Fields, Kenton Rec. Ground and Roxbourne Park.</p> |
| <p>What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?</p> | <p>Future demand for football facilities is likely to grow increasing pressure on the existing supply. By 2037, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth, application of Sport England's Playing</p> |

| | Football |
|--|---|
| | <p>Pitch Calculator tool indicates there will be a requirement to accommodate approximately 5 more match equivalent sessions a week in season plus around 9 additional weekly training slots.</p> <p>The growth plans of the borough-based football clubs will also place further pressure on pitch supply. Seven clubs responding to survey in 2022 indicated they aspire to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons provided the necessary volunteer time and pitches for matches and training can be secured, this could equate to 10 additional match equivalent sessions.</p> |
| <p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?</p> | <p>Over the period of the strategy to 2037, to address forecast population growth, unmet demand identified by clubs including particularly for women and girls’ football, and to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured provision of 3G ATP pitches will be needed.</p> <p>Access to additional full-sized FA registered 3G ATP’s is needed to facilitate training and match play demands of large youth clubs there are several full sized (or near full sized) 3G pitches in the area that are either not on the FA Register or do not have floodlights. The priority should be to explore:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The opportunities to upgrade as necessary and add Whitmore High School and Avanti House 3G pitches to the FA Register, to facilitate additional match day provision, and 2. The feasibility of installing floodlights at Nower Hill High School and/or at Krishna Avanti Primary School. <p>If these enhancements were achieved, there would be sufficient 3G FTP provision within the borough to cater for estimated demand to 2037.</p> <p>The current supply of natural turf pitches across the borough should be protected and improved where necessary as well as exploring the options to secure additional community use at education sites to accommodate the growth plans of clubs and future demand of population growth. Working with the Active Partnership as part of the opening school facilities programme Canons High School, Hatch End High School, Park High School and Pinner Wood School, should be targeted. The feasibility of reopening the William Ellis Sports Ground should also be explored to provide a home base for a club in the area.</p> |

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CONTINUUM
SPORT & LEISURE LTD

London Borough of Harrow
Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 Appendix C
Assessment of Need Report Hockey

Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Needs (Stages B & C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for hockey facilities in the London Borough of Harrow are summarised in this appendix of the main Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS).

There is only one hockey club based in the borough – Harrow HC. The club does not have home facilities in its ownership but hires a home pitch from The John Lyon School at Sudbury Fields, Sudbury Hill, Harrow HA1 3SB together with use of a clubhouse with bar within the school’s Lyonian Pavilion located at the bottom of the playing field (South Vale, HA1 3PN).

The club has contributed information and views on hockey facility needs via online survey returns and direct consultation.

Since the last assessment for the 2012 PPS, the hockey pitch at The John Lyon School was built, funded by Sport England, in 2016 with Harrow HC as the partner club.

1. Hockey Supply (Step 2)

1.1 Hockey Pitches in Harrow

There are currently three full sized sand based artificial grass pitches (AGP) in Harrow available and used for community hockey:

- **The John Lyon School** – A floodlit sand dressed hockey pitch built in 2016 that is in a good condition. It is the home pitch for Harrow HC.

- **Harrow School Sports complex** – A floodlit sand-based pitch, built in 2003 and last resurfaced in 2018. The pitch is in good condition and used for school activities (7 teams), with occasionally community hockey use.
- **Orley Farm School** – A dated sand-based pitch, with no floodlights. The pitch is in need of resurfacing and is used for by Harrow HC in the summer when the John Lyon School AGP is used for Tennis. There is no changing room access for community hockey users.

There is one other small sand-based pitch in Harrow at Hatch End School, which is used for school activities and football, with no community hockey use.

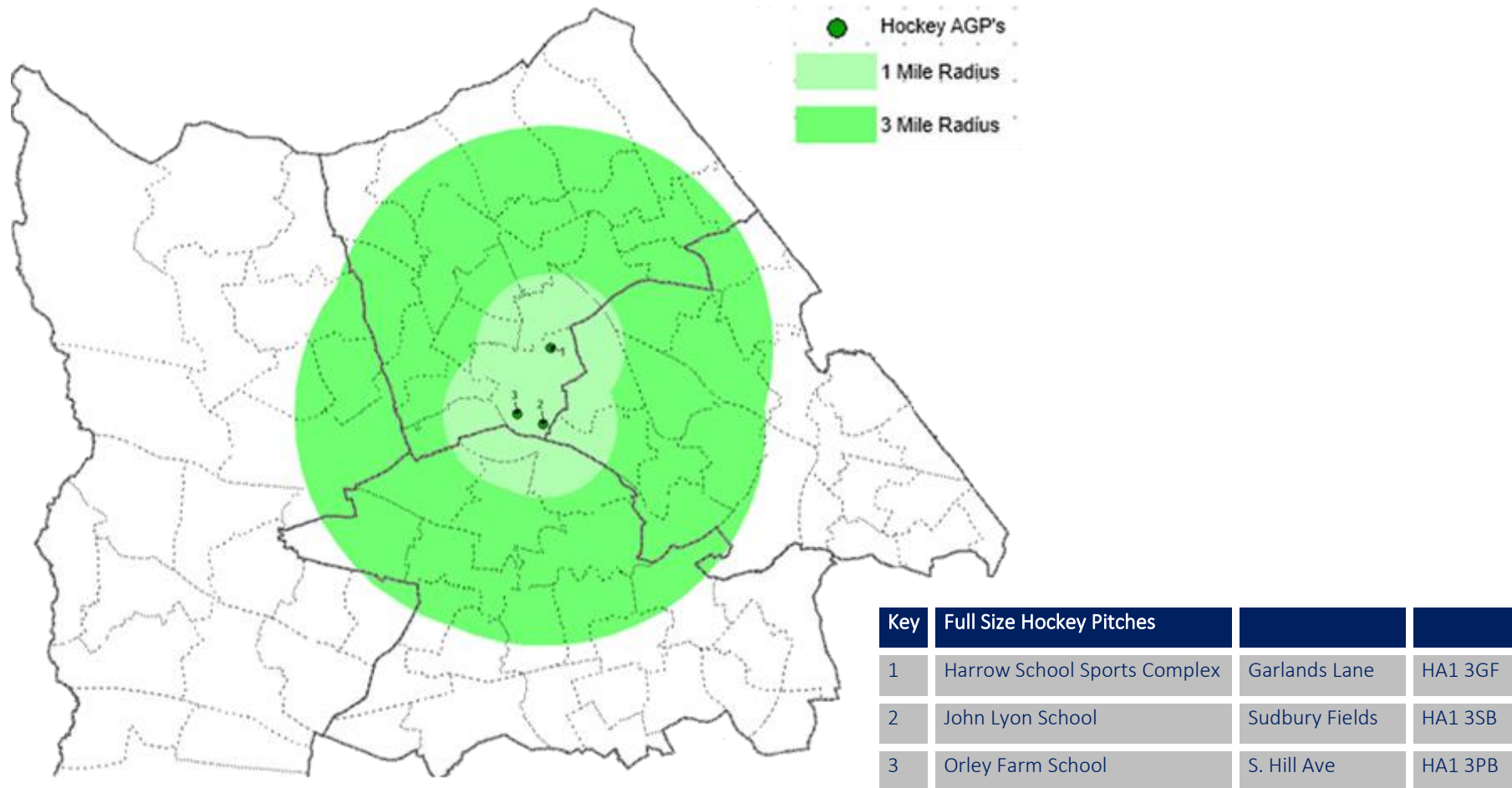
Indoor Hockey

There are no sports halls in the borough suitable for competition indoor hockey. The England Hockey Super 6s men’s competition is hosted by the Whitgift School in Croydon in South London, the women’s competition by Repton School in Derbyshire with the finals hosted at the Copper Box Arena in East London. Go Mammoth indoor hockey league for London uses three venues – Clapham Junction (St John Bosco College SW11), Hackney (The City Academy, E9) and Hammersmith (Latymer Sports Centre, W6).

1.2 Distribution of Hockey AGP Sites

Figure 1.1 shows the distribution of full-size hockey AGP sites across Harrow. This shows that whilst the majority of the borough is within reach of a Hockey AGP site, as all three pitches are located in the south of the borough there is a gap in the north of the borough.

Figure 1.1 - Distribution of Hockey AGPs



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1.3 Hockey Pitches in Neighbouring Boroughs

There are no hockey AGP pitches with secured community access in neighbouring local authority areas within a 20-minute drive time of Central Harrow. The nearest alternative clubs to Harrow HC are located in the neighbouring London boroughs to the south, east and west of Harrow and all three use school pitches. These are:

South – 7 miles away in Ealing at St Benedicts School (Ealing HC)

East – 8 miles away in Waltham Forest at Whitefield School (West Hampstead HC)

West – 9 miles away in Hillingdon at Kings College Playing Fields (Eastcote HC).

To the north, the nearest hockey clubs are located 8 miles from Central Harrow at The New Field Playing Field, Watford (West Herts HC) and 10 miles away at Rickmansworth Sports Club, Park Road in Three Rivers District (Rickmansworth HC). Both clubs have secured community access to these pitches. It is likely that some hockey demand from the northern part of Harrow borough is exported to these clubs.

Generally, hockey players (and parents of junior players) are prepared to travel some distance to access good quality facilities, coaching and standards of match play.

1.4 Ownership, Operation, Quality and Access

The John Lyon School pitch and the associated Lyonian Pavilion are managed by John Lyon School and Harrow HC have a seasonal hire agreement. The facility was grant funded by Sport England with Harrow HC as the partner club, a condition of funding would be continued community

use for a 25-year period, which provides security for Harrow HC on this facility until 2041.

The other pitches are also on education sites and used by the school for hockey, with some hockey community use, but also use by football clubs for training.

1.5 At Risk Sites

No sites are at risk to development, but there is a risk of Orley Farm School being declared unfit for use in the future due to subsidence issues. The school is looking at developing a masterplan for the whole site to concentrate on the outdoor areas.

1.6 Proposed New Supply

There is no proposed new supply in the area.

2. Hockey Demand (Step 3)

Findings relating to hockey pitch demand in Harrow are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and Teams

There is currently one hockey club based in the area – Harrow HC.

- **Harrow Hockey Club** serves both adult and junior players across the area. The club state they have 60 adult members and 157 junior members with 60% of their membership coming from Harrow and 40% from other areas. The club has 4 adult teams playing every Saturday, 2 men's and 2 women's teams and a large junior section with squads at U8, U10, U12, U14 for girls and U8, U10, U12, U14 and U16 for boys.

2.2 Club Players - Demand Trend

Player affiliation data by age provided by England Hockey in recent seasons shows demand for hockey participation has grown beyond the pre-covid levels for affiliated players.

- 2022/23 – Under 18 - 162 members, over 18 - 68 members total 230.
- 2019/20 – 180 total members

2.3 Displaced Demand

The location of the Harrow HC is in the south of the borough, only players in the north of the borough would be likely to travel outside of the borough potentially to Rickmansworth HC or West Herts HC. The hockey clubs in the adjacent boroughs to the South, East and West are at capacity. None of the clubs in the borough or the surrounding area is accredited or working

towards accreditation that would be likely to attract ambitious talented players from the area.

2.4 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (November 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in hockey in England by adults (aged 16+) remained the same at 0.2% between November 2019 - November 2020 and November 2020 and November 2021.

If hockey participation in the area were at the pre-pandemic national average (i.e., 0.2%), this would indicate around 196 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play hockey out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 98,059.

With 4 adult teams currently, the 'adult' hockey club playing membership in Harrow is close to 60 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming adult hockey participation in Harrow is in line with the national average of 0.2%, this suggests that as much as 70% of all regular adult hockey played by residents of Harrow is either 'displaced' to venues outside of the area (e.g., at other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as Back2Hockey which is played at Harrow HC and neighbouring area clubs such as Ealing HC.

2.5 Club Aspirations - Hockey Development Priorities and Facility Needs

Harrow HC have plans to grow over their adult section over the next 3 years, however this would mean they would need a second venue for Saturday matches.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2020/21, Sport England, (October 2021)

3. The Situation at Individual Hockey Sites (Step 4)

The pitches were quality-assessed during the 2022 season on the basis of site visits and informed by consultation surveys with the user clubs and with England Hockey. The findings are set out in Figure 3.1. The availability of the pitches for community hockey use are usually dependant on bookings by other sports (e.g., football, touch rugby, lacrosse, tennis). For each site, following consultation with providers and clubs this is noted in column headed 'Estimate use in peak hours', with the estimate being as accurate as possible based on the information and data available at the time of collection.

The Red Amber Green (RAG) rating refers to whether, in the peak period in a typical week in the main hockey season, there is considered to be:

- Unused capacity for hockey – **Green**,
- The available peak slots for hockey are used close to capacity - **Amber**,
or
- The available peak slots for hockey are at capacity - **Red**.

The ancillary facilities at each site were reviewed where the consultant team could get access, along with providers and clubs being consulted on the condition and availability. This is noted in the column headed 'ancillary facilities'.

Figure 3.1: Situation at Individual Sites

| Site | AGP Size & Type | Date built (last refurbished) | Ancillary facilities | Security of access | Management of site | Rating | Peak hours available | Estimate use in peak hours | RAG | Comments/ Assumptions |
|--|---|-------------------------------|--|--|----------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|--|
| HARROW SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX, HA1 3GF | Floodlit Full-sized (100 x 63m) sand based | Resurfaced in 2018 | Changing in Sports Complex | Education site - Unsecured | In house leisure facilities team | Good | Eves and weekends | 70% | | School usage 7 teams, Harrow HC uses pitch on occasion for matches when home venue is not available but is expensive. |
| HATCH END HIGH SCHOOL, HA3 6NR | Floodlit (30 x 20m) sand based MUGA | 2011 | Changing in sports hall area if needed | Education site - Unsecured | In house by school | Good | M-T 6-9:30pm, F 6-11pm, S&S 8am-11pm | 40% - football | | Used for football - Stanmore Jeffreys Muslim Ladies, Parkfield FC., not aware of any hockey usage. |
| 208 THE JOHN LYON SCHOOL 1 3SB & 208 DNIAN PAVILION, HA1 3PN | Full sized (100 x 60m) Floodlit Sand dressed Hockey Pitch | 2016 | Pavilion with Changing Rooms Club (HHC) rate 3/5 | Education site - Secured via SE funding agreement with Harrow HC partner club. | In house by school | Good Club (HHC) rate 4/5 | Capacity for hockey match play | 95% | | School refused access to visit. Pitch has exclusive use by Harrow Hockey club (17 teams, 2 male, 2 female + youth) and school only. Club uses Sat PM after 1pm, Sun AM - 2pm, Tues & Wed eve 6:30-9:30pm Club (HHC) state some wear and tear but up to standard. Pitch used for Tennis in summer, so club moves training to Orley Farm. |
| ORLEY FARM SCHOOL PITCHES, HA1 3PB | 96 x 60m Sand based ATP (not floodlit) | 2002 | No Changing room access close to pitch | Education site - Unsecured | In house by school | Poor | Weekends | 70% - some football | | Pitch hard and lines faded, drainage poor and sliding down hill on the far side. Usage by Harrow CC, Harrow HC. School creating masterplan for school with focus on outside areas, which could include floodlights for the pitch. Club (HHC) state pitch not up to standard for match play and needs replacing. Club would like to use as a second venue. Not aware of a CUA in place. |

4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Hockey (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Since the last assessment of hockey facility needs in 2012, the main changes of relevance are:

- The addition of a full-sized floodlit sand dressed hockey pitch at The John Lyon School funded by Sport England in 2016.
- The growth in the junior section of Harrow HC since their return to the borough – with over 100 additional junior members.

Current priority facility issues facing the sport of hockey in Harrow are:

1. The deterioration of the playing surface at Orley Farm School and the lack of floodlights and changing facilities to enable it to be used as a second site for the club.

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2037 on the need for hockey pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used.

To meet hockey demand from 9,658 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of hockey demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +0.03 additional sand based artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey will be needed in the area.

² GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released November 2021)

Whilst the club has aspirations to grow, there are alternative facilities to accommodate growth. As such, there is no demand for additional pitches to be provided. The clear priority needs are to protect the existing pitches and to enhance the hockey facilities at Orley Farm School.

4.3 Conclusion

To better meet current and likely future needs for the sport of hockey in Harrow, the strategy should seek to:

- Support the resurface of Orley Farm School to provide a second venue suitable for Harrow HC matches and ensure sufficient access to changing rooms.
- Protect existing sand-based pitch provision in the borough.

5. Key Findings and Issues for Hockey (Step6)

Figure 4: Key Findings and Issues

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision</p> | <p>There are three full sized sand based artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Harrow currently available and used for community hockey. The John Lyon School pitch and associated Lyonian Pavilion, which is the home venue for Harrow HC, Harrow School Sports Complex and Orley Farm School.</p> <p>Since the last assessment for the 2012 PPS, the hockey pitch at John Lyon School was built, funded by Sport England in 2016 with Harrow HC as the partner club.</p> <p>Player affiliation data provided by England Hockey in recent seasons suggests demand for hockey has grown beyond pre-covid levels.</p> <p>There is only one hockey club in the area Harrow HC which caters for both youth and adult players, the club has 4 adult teams and a large junior section of 157 members. The club trains and plays most of its matches at John Lyon School but uses Harrow School Sports Complex for matches when the John Lyon School pitch is unavailable and Orley Farm School for summer training.</p> |
| <p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</p> | <p>There is sufficient provision in the area to meet current demand, whilst Harrow HC hire the facilities on an annual basis, the facility was grant funded by Sport England with Harrow HC as the partner club with continued community use a condition of funding for a 25 year period until 2041.</p> |
| <p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p> | <p>The pitch at Orley Farm School is dated, of poor quality and in need of resurfacing. There is also no changing provision close to the pitch. This facility once resurfaced , with better changing provision could provide an ideal second match day venue for Harrow HC.</p> |
| <p>What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?</p> | <p>The club have plans to grow over the next 3 years, which would require a second match day venue.</p> <p>Forecast population growth to 2037 of over 9,658 based on 2020 GLA housing-led projections, is estimated to generate little demand for additional pitches.</p> |

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Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

Whilst the club has aspirations to grow, which would require a second match day venue, there are alternative facilities to accommodate their growth. Harrow Sports Complex is suitable but expensive and would not offer secured use. If Orley Farm School was resurfaced and a community use agreement put in place this would support the club's growth plans and additional demand from housing growth.

The strategy should also seek to protect the current supply of sand based pitches within the area to support delivery of school activity and outreach work.

London Borough of Harrow
Playing Pitch Strategy 2024 Appendix D
Assessment of Need Report Rugby

Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Needs (Stages B & C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for rugby facilities in the London Borough of Harrow are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Site visits have been made to the home grounds used by the clubs in Harrow and club officials/site managers have been consulted regarding floodlit training provision and use.

Since the last assessment of needs for rugby union in 2012, there has been a change in the supply of rugby pitches with the loss of 2 grass pitches at Bannister Sports Centre, although one of these is due to be re-provided at Hatch End Playing Fields.

A facility audit compiled from the research, consultation and site visits was reviewed by the RFU Facility Development Team and is included in this report (Figure 3.1).

1. Rugby Pitch Supply (Step 2)

There are three rugby clubs based on playing field sites in Harrow with rugby pitches – Harrow RFC, Old Millhillians RFC and Pinner RFC and one site – London Post Office Sports & Social Association (LPOSSA) in Greenford Road, Wembley - with a rugby pitch being used for American Football.

Distribution of Rugby Sites

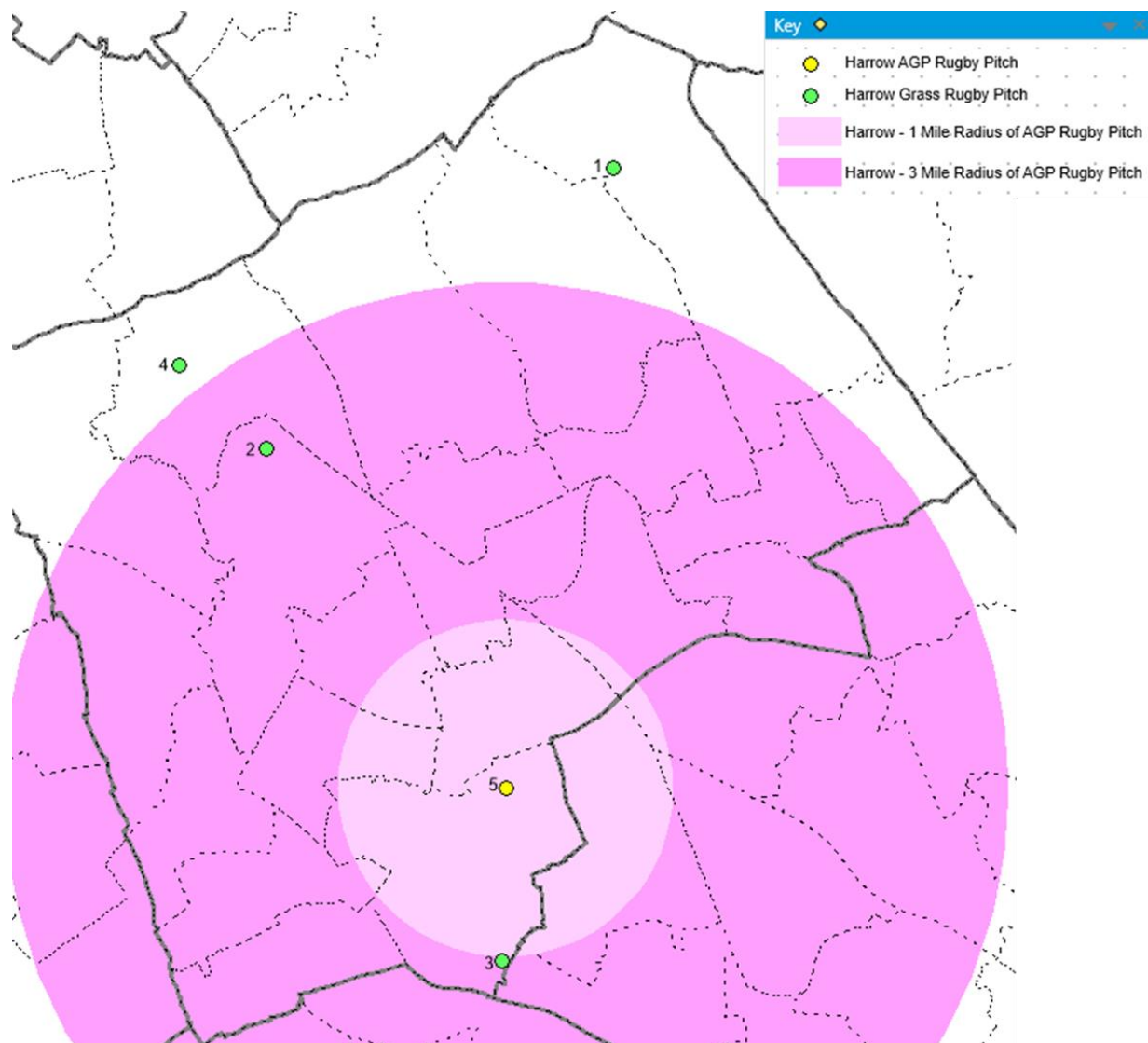
Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of grass and artificial rugby pitch sites across Harrow. The location of community grass pitches is predominately in the north of the borough, with the artificial AGP towards the south but accessible to most of the borough within a 20 minute drive time.

Figure 1.1 – Harrow facilities

| Harrow - Rugby facilities (Grass and compliant AGPs*) | | | |
|--|---|----------------|----------|
| Map 1 Key | Site | Address | Postcode |
| 1 | Grove Field (Harrow RFC) | Wood Lane | HA7 4LF |
| 2 | Millhillians Sports Ground (Old Millhillians RFC) | | HA2 6NF |
| 3 | London Post Office Sports & Social Association | Greenford Road | HA1 3QL |
| 4 | Shaftesbury Playing Fields (Pinner RFC) | Colburn Ave | HA5 4PF |
| 5 | Harrow School Sports Complex (Grass & AGP) * | Garlands Lane | HA1 3GF |

*Denotes compliant AGP although not registered for contact rugby.

Figure 1.2 – Harrow Rugby Site Distribution



1.1 Rugby Pitches in Harrow

In the 2021/22 season, Harrow had a total of 8 adult size grass rugby pitches marked out with posts in situ, available for community use. There is also one rugby-compliant floodlit training AGP in Harrow.

- **Grove Field** – Grove field is the home of Harrow RFC and has three rugby pitches, two of which have floodlights and are also used for training. There is a small, grassed floodlight area in front of the clubhouse that is also used for training
- **Millhillians Sports Ground** – This site is leased to Harrow St Mary Cricket Club and home to Old Millhillians RFC. The site has two full-sized rugby pitches
- **London Post Office Sports & Social Association** – One rugby pitch previously used by Sodam RFC until they disbanded and now used for American Football
- **Shaftesbury Playing Fields** – This site is home to Pinner RFC. The site has 3 rugby pitches but only two of the three are marked out for use. One of the pitches is floodlit
- **Harrow School Sports Complex** – The school has an artificial AGP suitable for Rugby, although it is not registered for contact rugby. The pitch is predominately used for school rugby and community football training. The school also has 14 grass pitches used for football or rugby, none of which are available for community hire.

There is an additional grass pitch due to re-provided at Hatch End Playing Fields to replace the previous pitch at Bannisters Sports Centre. At the time of the site visits this was not marked out as the site is currently

accommodating football pitches due to drainage works at Headstone Manor.

1.2 Ownership and Security of Access

The rugby clubs based in the area have good security of access to the facilities they use for home matches.

Harrow RFC own their clubhouse and lease the pitches from the Council they have approximately 12 years left on a 25-year lease.

Pinner RFC also own their own clubhouse and lease the pitches from the Council.

Old Millhillians RFC sub lease pitches from Harrow St Mary Cricket Club.

1.3 Pitch Quality – Maintenance & Drainage

The responsibility for maintenance of grass rugby pitches in Harrow varies by site as follows,

- **Grove Field** – Harrow RFC maintain the pitches.
- **Millhillians Sports Ground** – Harrow St Mary Cricket Club as the main tenant of the ground undertake the maintenance.
- **London Post Office Sports & Social Association** – The association have a full-time groundsman responsible for maintaining the site.
- **Shaftesbury Playing Fields** – The Council are responsible for maintenance and the club undertake additional works on occasion.

As shown in figure 1.1 the maintenance of all sites could be improved to increase capacity.

Figure 1.1 – Pitch Maintenance & Drainage Ratings from Site Visits and Club Consultation.

| Number of pitches | | Maintenance | | | |
|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|-------|
| | | Poor (M0) | Adequate (M1) | Good (M2) | Total |
| Drainage | Natural Inadequate (D0) | | | | 0 |
| | Natural Adequate (D1) | | 2 | | 2 |
| | Pipe Drained (D2) | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| | Pipe and Slit Drained (D3) | 2 | 1 | | 3 |
| | Total | 4 | 4 | 0 | |

Details on individual sites can be found in Figure 3.1.

Harrow School Sports Complex AGP is in good condition.

1.4 Park Pitches

Shaftesbury Playing Fields is a Council maintained open access rugby site in Harrow. The pitch closest to the park area is subject to recreational usage which provides additional wear to the pitch.

1.5 At Risk Sites

None of these sites are identified as at risk of loss in the short to medium term.

1.6 Proposed New Supply

There is an additional grass pitch due to re-provided at Hatch End Playing Fields to replace one of two pitches previously marked out at Bannisters Sports Centre and there is a current planning application to provide a rugby compliant artificial pitch at The Hive Stadium site in Canons Park owned by Barnet FC. There is also space for a third pitch to be marked out at Shaftesbury Playing Fields should additional need arise. However, Pinner RFC are in discussions about forming a youth cricket team which would involve reinstating a previous square where this third rugby pitch would be located.

1.7 Ancillary facilities

The ancillary facilities at each site are generally sufficient for most clubs needs except for the provision at Shaftesbury Playing Fields. Pinner RFC have identified a need for a new pavilion and changing rooms as the current building is suffering from subsidence issues and has an old heating system that needs replacing. Harrow RFC invested in refurbishing its clubhouse at Grove Field in 2020 to provide updated showers and a weights room. The ancillary facilities at Hatch End Playing Fields are located at the Harrow arts centre which is quite a distance from the pitches and does not include social space which is likely to be a barrier to clubs using the site for match play when the rugby pitch at this site is re-provided.

1.8 Rugby Supply in Neighbouring Boroughs

The following rugby clubs have home grounds within reach of residents of Harrow and would cater for any additional demand:

- Old Merchant Taylor FC – to the North, in Hillingdon
- Grasshoppers RFC – To the South, in Hounslow
- Millhill RFC - To the east, in Barnet

It is expected some of these clubs have members from Harrow in particular female players as there are no formal girls or women’s teams in the area, so players would need to travel to Grasshoppers RFC.

2. Rugby Pitch Demand (Step 3)

Findings relating to rugby pitch demand in Harrow are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and Teams

Between the three Harrow based clubs, there are a total of 5 regular adult men’s Saturday league sides (see Fig 2.1). Harrow RFC also has a full junior section offering both youth boys age grade rugby and mixed mini rugby. They are working with Saracens to grow a girl’s section and then a women’s section. Pinner RFC has around 80 juniors (U12/U13).

Figure 2.1: Table of senior rugby club information

| Ruby Clubs | 2022/23 League(S) | Home Ground | Training Ground |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|
| Harrow RFC 1 st XV Harrow RFC 2 nd XV | Counties 2 Herts/Middx Middlesex Merit Tables Div 4 | Grove Field HA7 4LF | Grove Field HA7 4LF |
| Old Millhillians 1 st XV Old Millhillians 2 nd XV | Counties 3 Herts/ Middx Middlesex Merit Tables Div 4 | Millhillians Sports Ground, Headstone Lane, HA2 6NF | Allianz Park, NW4 1RL (Barnet) |
| Pinner RFC | Herts/ Middx Middlesex Merit Tables 4 SW | Shaftesbury Ave, HA5 4PF | Shaftesbury Ave, HA5 4PF |

2.2 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ (Nov 2021) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in rugby in England by adults (aged 16+) stabilises at 0.3% between Nov 2019 - Nov 2020 to between Nov 2020 and Nov 2021.

If rugby participation in the Harrow is at the 2019-2020 and 2020-2021 average (i.e., 0.3%), this would indicate around 294 adults (aged 18+) living in the area plays rugby out of an 18+ adult population of approximately 98,059.

With approximately 5 teams of players aged 16+ currently, the 'adult' rugby club playing membership in Harrow is close to 100 players (assuming an average of 20 squad players per team). Assuming adult rugby participation in Harrow is in line with the pre-pandemic national average of 0.3%, this suggests that as much as 60% of all regular adult rugby played by residents of Harrow is either 'displaced' to venues outside of the area (e.g., at other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as Touch at clubs and parks in Harrow and/or outside the borough.

2.3 Imported and Displaced Demand

The clubs reported no imported demand on rugby pitches in Harrow and none of the clubs identified a need to use pitches outside of the area for matches. There is exported training demand as Old Millhillians train outside of Harrow in Barnet.

From the Active People Survey findings above it is likely that clubs outside of the area meet some rugby demand from Harrow, especially for Women’s Rugby.

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2020/21, Sport England, (October 2022)

3. The Situation at Individual Sites for Rugby (Step 4)

The pitches were assessed during October in the 2021/22 season. These assessments were reviewed in discussion with the RFU and ratings for each agreed as a basis for comparison of the amount of play each site could accommodate (its carrying capacity) against the amount of play that takes place.

Carrying capacity is a measure of the number of match equivalent sessions per season for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

It was agreed with the RFU representative to adopt the following pitch carrying capacities according to each quality rating to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments across the country:

Figure 3.1: Rugby Pitch Carrying Capacity

| Match Equivalent Sessions a week | | Maintenance | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|---------------|-----------|
| | | Poor (M0) | Adequate (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 |

Figure 3.2 below summarises the situation at each rugby site with regard to:

1. *Pitch supply* (including the quality ratings) and conclusions reached as to the amount of play a site can accommodate (i.e., its carrying capacity for community use);
2. *The amount of play that takes place at each site* (i.e., the expressed demand) adjusted to reflect any casual or education use in addition to club use for matches and training;
3. *The comparison* (shown as a RAG rating) as to whether, for each pitch type it contains, a site is:
 - o **RED** - Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - o **AMBER** - Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - o **GREEN** - Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

The ancillary facilities at each site were reviewed where the consultant team could get access, along with providers and clubs being consulted on the condition and availability, this is noted in the column headed 'ancillary facilities'.

Figure 3.2: The Situation at Individual Site

The main characteristics of the current rugby facility supply and demand balance at each site are summarised as follows:

| Site | Pitch | Rating | Ancillary facilities | Security of access | Pitch capacity | Estimated use | RAG | Comments/assumptions |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------|---|--|----------------|--|-------|--|
| GROVE FIELD (HARROW RFC), HA7 4LF | P1 (Main pitch, middle - floodlit) | M1/D3 | Large car park and clubhouse, with function area, bar, small kitchen, toilets, 4 CR's, officials, disabled toilets, weights room. Club rate 3/5 and have invested in refurbishing clubhouse during Covid, new showers, weights room, but facility old and requires constant investment. | Club own clubhouse but lease land and pitches from Council, halfway through 25-year lease. | 3 | Matches 0.5 (one team) | Green | Primary & Secondary drainage under main pitch, use shock breaker on pitch. Club has 2 adult teams (2nd XV play elsewhere) and junior section (6 youth, 9 mini). Struggling with decreasing volunteer and player base. Club dependant on hire of facilities but that has reduced due to Covid and cost of living. Identified a need for more junior pitches. Training Tues & Thurs. Working with Saracens to grow a girl's section and then women's section. Club rate pitches 3/5 stating main pitch is excellent/ second pitch ok, third poor. Club have identified a need for more training facilities either additional floodlights or AGP. |
| | | | | | | Training 2 - Tues and Thursday eves (senior teams) | | |
| GROVE FIELD (HARROW RFC), HA7 4LF | P2 (LHS) | M1/D1 | | | 2 | Matches 3.5 | Red | Good natural drainage, occasional issues when water table high. Used by Parnells GAA Youth teams (9 teams U6 - U18- assumed 5 teams using whole pitch, 4 teams 1/2 pitch) |
| GROVE FIELD (HARROW RFC), HA7 4LF | P3 (RHS, lights down one side plus overspill from main pitch) | M1/D1 | | | 2 | Matches 4 | Red | Good natural drainage, occasional issues when water table high. Pitch undulating, wear patches but has been reseeded. Old wall foundations under pitch in top left-hand corner, noticeable when ground is dry. Pitch has lights down inside and main pitch lights cover other side. Used for Junior matches and training. |
| | | | | | | Training 6 | | |

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| Site | Pitch | Rating | Ancillary facilities | Security of access | Pitch capacity | Estimated use | RAG | Comments/assumptions |
|---|-----------------------------------|--------|---|--|----------------|-------------------------|-----|---|
| GROVE FIELD (HARROW RFC), HA7 4LF | Grass area in front of clubhouse | N/A | | | N/A | Training 4.5 | | Grassed area in front of clubhouse used for youth training. Assumed mini teams train here |
| MILLHILLIANS SPORTS GROUND (OLD MILLHILLIANS RFC) HA2 6NF | P1 (nearest clubhouse) | MO/D3 | Large clubhouse / pavilion | Site leased by Harrow St Mary Cricket Club; Rugby club sub let | 2 | 0.5 | | Club has 2 teams, loss few players during Covid and struggle to get second team out occasionally. Aiming to sustain team and increase number of players. Cricket club is the main tenant of the ground and responsible for maintenance, carries out aeration, fertilisation, sand dressing and weeding once a year. Club has no issues with facilities and no needs reported. |
| MILLHILLIANS SPORTS GROUND (OLD MILLHILLIANS RFC) HA2 6NF | P2 (furthest clubhouse) | MO/D3 | | | 2 | 0.5 | | Club trains at Mill hill (easier for players) |
| LONDON POST OFFICE SPORT & SOCIAL ASS. HA1 3QL | P1 | MO/D2 | Large clubhouse with 4 changing rooms and social space | Run by Sports Association | 1.75 | 4 | | No rugby usage, used by Wembley Stallion American Football Team (1 x Men's, 1x Ladies, U19 & U16 youth). |
| SHAFTESBURY PLAYING FIELDS (PINNAR RFC), HA5 4PF | P1 (nearest clubhouse - floodlit) | MO/D2 | Small clubhouse on site built in 2000, main room, bar, 4 CR's with showers, but has old heating system that needs replacing and suffering from subsidence issues. Small car park. | Council site. Club own clubhouse but lease land and pitches | 1.75 | Matches 0 Training 2 | | Club has 1 adult team (had 2 pre covid) and 80 juniors (U12/U13). Main pitch floodlit, pitch is uneven with has a number of wear patches with ruts and slits in pitch. Had grant from RFU 15 years ago for primary drainage, but council is responsible for maintenance and did not follow up with required works. Really only cut and line mark pitch. Club has done additional works on occasion but not regularly. Pitch also suffers from recreational use as closest to park area. |

| Site | Pitch | Rating | Ancillary facilities | Security of access | Pitch capacity | Estimated use | RAG | Comments/assumptions |
|--|--|--------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|-----|---|
| SHAFTESBURY PLAYING FIELDS (PINNER RFC), HA5 4PF | P3 (furthest away) | M0/D2 | | | 1.75 | Matches 1.5 | | Good grass coverage, no wear, flat, goals ok. |
| HARROW SCHOOL SPORTS COMPLEX, HA1 3GF | Full Sized Floodlit 3G ATP – Rugby Shock pad in place although not registered for ‘contact’ rugby. | N/A | Changing in sports complex | Education site | Pitch available eves and wkends | 70% capacity usage | | School has 22 rugby teams. AGP used by school and community football teams. Not aware of community rugby use. |

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4. The Current and Future Picture of Provision for Rugby (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, there are sufficient rugby pitches in Harrow to meet current rugby match play and training demand. However when use of the rugby pitches by other playing pitch sports, namely Gaelic Football (Grove Field) and American Football (LPOSSA), is included there is a need for additional provision to accommodate demands for these three pitch sports when considered together.

Grove Field, home to Harrow RFC has the greatest demand having 2 adult rugby teams and a full mini and junior rugby section using the site as well as Parnells GAA Youth teams for home games. The club has floodlights covering two pitches and a grassed area in front of their clubhouse. The club identified a need for a larger on-site training space. The club takes the view that the nearest compliant artificial pitch at Harrow School is too far away from the club to access and, in any event, the club would lose the benefit of the social aspects and secondary spend after training if it were to train off-site.

The location of facilities is well spread across the borough, with the grass pitches predominately in the north of Harrow.

4.2 Future

Planned growth – Harrow RFC have ambitions to establish a women and girl's section and are working with Saracens to grow a girl's section in the first instance. The site is over capacity with the current combined rugby and GAA usage, additional investment in pitch maintenance would

improve capacity by 2.5 match equivalent sessions but not to sufficient levels to accommodate growth of the club. Even if the usage by Parnells GAA was discounted, there is still a need for an additional pitch to accommodate potential growth in the future. There is also significant demand on the pitches for training.

Pinner RFC is looking to grow their youth section and get back to having 2 adult teams. They have an option to make use of an additional pitch on their site but are considering using this area to reinstate a cricket square and form a youth team. The two pitches on the site could accommodate their growths plans with an improvement in maintenance.

Old Millhillians have no growth plans and are just looking to sustain both their current teams.

Potential effect of population change - To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2037 on the need for rugby pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used.

To meet rugby demand from 9,658 additional residents (as currently forecast²) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +0.26 additional natural turf full size equivalent rugby pitches for matches will be needed in Harrow with sufficient floodlit provision to accommodate an additional 0.29 hours a week of training use.

² GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released November 2021)

This does not include a likely increased demand for Women and girls' rugby in future, following the announcement that England will host the 2025 women's Rugby World Cup.

The Rugby ATP at Harrow School Sports Complex is currently limited in terms of availability for community use and its location is not ideal to support the clubs' increased training demand that is likely to result from future increased membership as a consequence of population growth. The is also not currently registered for contact rugby.

The provision of an additional grass pitch at Hatch End Playing Fields, with suitable changing facilities and the proposal of a rugby specific artificial pitch at the Hive could help accommodate the rugby demand in the borough if clubs would be prepared to train away from their club ground.

5. Key Findings and Issues for Rugby (Step 6)

| | Rugby |
|--|---|
| The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision | <p>Since the last assessment of needs for rugby union in 2012, there has been a change in the supply of rugby pitches with the loss of two rugby pitches at Bannister Sports Centre, although one of these is due to be re-provided at Hatch End Playing Fields although demand for use at this site maybe limited sue to the distance of the changing rooms and lack of social space.</p> <p>Between the three rugby clubs playing in Harrow, there are a total of 5 regular adult men’s Saturday league sides. Harrow RFC has a full junior section offering boys age grade rugby and mixed mini rugby for approximately 150 children and young people. Pinner RFC has around 80 juniors at U12/U13. There is currently no provision for women and girls’ rugby but Harrow RFC is working with Saracens to grow a girls’ section. It is likely the demand from Harrow for women and girls' rugby is displaced outside of the borough to Grasshoppers RFC in Hounslow.</p> |
| Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand? | <p>The rugby clubs based in the area have good security of access to the facilities they use for home matches, with all 3 clubs having a lease on their facilities. Overall, there are sufficient rugby pitches in Harrow to meet current rugby match play and training demand. However when use of the rugby pitches by other playing pitch sports, namely Gaelic Football (Grove Field) and American Football (LPOSSA), is included there is a need for additional provision to accommodate demands for these three pitch sports when considered together.</p> |
| Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained? | <p>Whilst the drainage is good, the maintenance at all the club sites could be improved further to increase capacity, especially at Shaftesbury Avenue (Pinner RFC). Harrow RFC’s pitches are overused for match play and training for rugby and GAA together which affects the quality of the pitches.</p> <p>There is also a need for a new pavilion and changing rooms for Pinner RFC as the current building is suffering from subsidence issues.</p> |

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| Rugby | |
|--|--|
| <p>What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?</p> | <p>To meet rugby demand from 9,658 additional residents (as currently forecast³) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in the peak period, the equivalent capacity of +0.26 additional natural turf full size equivalent rugby pitches for matches will be needed in Harrow with sufficient floodlit provision to accommodate an additional 0.29 hours a week of training use.</p> <p>Harrow RFC have ambitions to establish a women and girl’s section and are working with Saracens to grow a girl’s section in the first instance. The site is over capacity with the current usage, additional investment in pitch maintenance would improve capacity by 2.5 match equivalent sessions but not to sufficient levels to accommodate growth of the club. Even if the usage by Parnells GAA was discounted (for example if alternative provision were made for GAA), there is still a need for an additional pitch in the area for Harrow Rugby Club to accommodate potential growth in the future. Pinner RFC has capacity to accommodate its growth ambitions with improved maintenance.</p> |
| <p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?</p> | <p>There is no need for additional pitches to accommodate match day and training provision, subject to the provision of an additional grass pitch at Hatch End Playing Fields and a rugby specific artificial pitch at the Hive, which could help accommodate the rugby training demand in the borough if clubs would be prepared to train away from their club ground.</p> |

³ GLA 2020- based housing-led population projections (Released November 2021)

London Borough of Harrow
Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facility Strategy
2024 - 2037

Appendix E Sport England FPM reports:
Swimming Pools and Sports Halls
– Provided under separate cover.



London Borough of Harrow
Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy
2024 - 2037
Appendix F – Club Aspirations



Appendix F- Club Aspirations

To understand the current landscape of clubs in the Harrow area, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the area. 54 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, these clubs provide opportunities for both indoor and outdoor sports. A summary of the results of the club survey is provided in the strategy Introduction. The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to assist in growing and developing their respective clubs. A number of these have been considered during the formation of the strategy action plan in discussion with the steering group, however not all of these needs were considered as priorities at the time of the strategy being developed. The table below outlines the full extent of the clubs aspirations and facility demands gathered as part of the survey process for reference and information.

Playing Pitch Sports

| Club/Sport | Aspirations/Demands |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| AVA FC | To be able to extend and grow the Club we would need assistance to get our own training ground. |
| Bharat Olympians Sports Club | We need facilities but currently none are available. As a club, we will have to shut down as members are not prepared to play in poor facilities. |
| Ealing Three Bridges Cricket Club | We need better facilities to accommodate ECB all stars and dynamos. |
| Elite Football Club London | We would like in the future to have our own location for trainings and for matches as other clubs from the area. We want to expand more, as our goal is to offer quality for children and adults. |
| Harrow Cricket Club | Second ground for more training and matches |
| Harrow Hockey Club | Orley Farm pitch is in need of replacing - we use it in the summer for training only. If our club grows it would be good to use this all year round as a 2nd pitch option. |
| Harrow Indians Cricket Club | We need Harrow Council to provide us support to hire main quality sites for training & main matches |
| Harrow RFC | New club house, another set of floodlights together with an AGP to take the pressure off the grass areas. Require a 99 year peppercorn lease in order for the club to invest properly in our facilities. |
| Harrow St Marys Cricket Club | we need better facilities both to continue to provide a good level of service for our existing members as well as the need to cater for even greater numbers in the future. |

| Club/Sport | Aspirations/Demands |
|---------------------------------------|--|
| Harrow St Marys Football Club | We can't relocate as we have a lease on a pavilion on site but urgently need investment into the grass pitches on site |
| Headstone Manor Ladies | Current lay of out pitches doesn't make for a good quality of football and as the club aspires to attract better players to work up the Women's Football Pyramid, we would need to look for a more alternative suitable venue. |
| Headstone Manor Youth FC | Very rarely do we get games played between December and the end of March, improvements would allow us to play all season through. |
| Kodak F.C | Pitches need work |
| Middlesex Titans Sports & Social Club | We would like the support to find a suitable location to call our home ground. We have well wishers and life members who are keen to support for the growth of the club which was formed in 1989. |
| Parkfield Youth FC | We need help in making the pitches better so the playing surfaces are a good standard. Clubhouse building works are needed to modernise the building and make it more user friendly to both male and female players. |
| South Harrow Cricket Club | Heaven rolling, crass cover, protection of square and security of the park. Gates need to be closed at night. |
| St Joseph's youth football club | Maintenance of area - rotivating of soil would improve the quality of the pitches markedly. We would also like a larger storage availability, a second container to store equipment and goals would be much appreciated. Changing rooms are not suitable for children (particularly girls) to use. This is our biggest growth area in terms of participant numbers |
| West Harrow Cricket Club | We need to improve the facilities of our clubhouse. We need to create Nets to provide training for our players .(adults and Colts) |

Built Facilities

| Club/Sport | Aspirations/Demands |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Ace Badminton Club | The club has a waiting list with demand to run additional sessions on a Wednesday evening but no availability. |
| Chequers badminton Academy | Badminton has a great following and participation in Harrow. There is a need to develop a performance centre to develop younger players and attract higher standard County and National players. Floor and lighting renewal is required to improve the facilities. |
| Harrow Athletic Club | The club needs to have greater input and control over the track and its use as the current situation is becoming increasingly unworkable. The Club is currently unable to host National League competition because the facilities are deemed inadequate by the national league committee. If this position was reversed it would lead to a "tourist boost" for the Boroughs businesses over that weekend. |
| Harrow Bowls Club | In an ideal world it would be brilliant if we could have a bigger clubhouse so we could accommodate more players. We would also benefit from a CCTV system. However, our main concern, particularly on match days against other teams is the lack of parking. We believe that there is adequate room in the park to move the children's play area and extend the car park - probably double it. |
| Harrow Boxing club | We are in the process of extending the building however this was time consuming and challenging |
| Harrow Cycle Hub | We need a permanent site where we can store equipment securely near the training area as well as develop a cycle repair workshop. We would like to recycle bikes and sell them at low cost to get more people cycling. |
| Harrow Korfbal Club | The club needs a larger court (40mx20m) to enable them to progress to higher levels. They currently have two teams in regional leagues and one at local level, they are looking to grow membership to create an additional team. |
| Harrow School of Gymnastics | We are keen to work with Harrow Council and others to explore how we can expand our facility so we can offer gymnastics to up to 1,000 more local people, including children, young people and adults. We also wish to offer a greater variety of gymnastics including disability and adult specific classes. |
| Harrow Squash Club | The facility needs heating during winter months and air con for the summer. It would be helpful if we were at least on the Everyone Active app or included in a promotion. |
| Harrow Weald Bowling Club | No hot water only the use of kettles. No cooking facilities Grants for these would be good. This is such a good pastime for older people - social contact, exercise etc. Please help us to improve our facilities and reduce the membership fees. |
| Harrow Weald Lawn tennis Club | Change the existing light bulbs lighting the courts to LED lights. Refurbish the club house. The artificial surface on the courts will need completely need relaying again in the next few years. |
| Hatch End Lawn Tennis Club | Our immediate priority is to get planning permission to build an 8th court. Also, to have floodlights on 4 additional courts, refurbish the clubhouse. |
| Herga IBSC Ltd | Needs a larger lounge area to accommodate other functions. Hall hire and corporate events |

| Club/Sport | Aspirations/Demands |
|---|--|
| Metro Running Club | To get more people running - and walking - we need well paved, well-lit streets. We only use parks during daylight, they do not seem safe spaces when it is dark. For most working people the only time to run is evenings so for most of the year this means on road. Sadly, many of us now run in the roads as pavements are poorly maintained in many areas and only roads are well lit. We also need access to safe low-cost, long-term storage. |
| Kenton Table Tennis Club | It would be lovely to have a dedicated and larger facility, but this is most unlikely as the sport does not have the resources, so we are content with what we have got (including recently improved floor and painted walls). |
| Kenton Tennis Club | Extra lights to increase evening capacity State of toilets/changing facilities deters potential members Electricity supply is unreliable Disabled access poor |
| Kingfisher Swimming Club | The facility is old and the centre struggle with operational issues, such as lights not being turned when needed, disabled car parking bays being blocked by deliveries and other centre users invading sessions and lack of lifeguard staff, all of which impact on club members and volunteers. |
| Pinner Lawn Tennis Club | Ideally, we would like to build an indoor court and a padal court. But we have insufficient space. The field adjoining the club is left fallow buy the farm, but Harrow Council advised we could not build a court on these lands. |
| Ruislip Tigers Korfbal Club | Improve existing facilities to attract and retain people to sport. We have funds to build a sports hall of 44m x 28m but do not have a place to build it. If the council can lease a site for 50 plus years we will build a community sports hall run by the community for the community. |
| Stanmore Bowls Club | Exploring adding timber building for visiting teams. Replacement of 180metre crazy paving paths which is the responsibility of London Borough of Harrow legal dept-confirm. |
| Survive & Swim Club | The club has demand to grow sessions but is lacking qualified swim teachers despite running its own courses each year. The changing rooms at Harrow LC put some people off so could be improved and there is a need for additional parking when events are scheduled at Bryon Hall. |
| Watford FC Community Trust | Re-lay of sports hall floor and 3G pitch to take place this year |
| Wembley & Harrow Table Tennis League | Our main issue is finding a venue large enough to provide multi-table training, coaching and competitive activities, with suitable flooring and lighting, storage space, at a reasonable cost AND which is available. |
| West End Lawn Tennis Club (Pinner) Ltd. | Option of better floodlights not possible/likely because of site in suburban street. Development of similar sports (eg pickle ball, table tennis) under consideration. |
| West Harrow Bowling Club | A larger club house to accommodate some extra social activities and a improved site layout to maybe allow outdoor seating areas |



CONTINUUM
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Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy
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Appendix G – Existing Planning Policies

Appendix G – National, Regional and Local Planning Policy: Sport and Recreation Facilities

National Planning Policy

The relevant policy protecting existing sports facilities and land in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2021 is at paragraphs 98 and 99:

Para 98 -

'Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.'

Para 99 -

'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- *An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- *The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- *The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.'*

Regional Planning Policy

The London Plan (March 2021) recognises in policy S5 (below) that sports and recreation facilities are important parts of social infrastructure, providing a range of social and health benefits for communities and neighbourhoods. Part C of the policy regarding protection of existing

recreational land and facilities mirrors the national policy.

Policy S5 - Sports and Recreation Facilities

- A. *'To ensure there is sufficient supply of good quality sports and recreation facilities, boroughs should:*
 1. *Prepare Development Plans informed by needs assessments for sports and recreation facilities. Needs should be assessed at local and sub-regional level. Needs assessments should include an audit of existing facilities*
 2. *Secure sites for a range of sports and recreation facilities in Development Plans, as justified by the needs assessment*
 3. *Maintain, promote and enhance networks for walking, cycling and other activities including the Walk London Network.'*
- B. *'Development proposals for sports and recreation facilities should:*
 1. *Increase or enhance provision of facilities in accessible locations, well-connected to public transport and link to networks for walking and cycling*
 2. *Maximise the multiple use of facilities and encourage the co-location of services between sports providers, schools, colleges, universities and other community facilities*
 3. *Support the provision of sports lighting within reasonable hours, where there is an identified need for sports facilities and lighting is required to increase their potential usage, unless the lighting gives rise to demonstrable harm to the local community or biodiversity.'*
- C. *'Existing sports and recreational land (including playing fields) and facilities for sports and recreation should be retained unless:*
 1. *An assessment has been undertaken which clearly shows the sports and recreational land or facilities to be surplus to requirements (for the existing or alternative sports and recreational provision) at the local and sub-regional level. Where published, a borough's*

assessment of need for sports and recreational facilities should inform this assessment; or

2. *The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
3. *The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.'*

D *'Where facilities are proposed on existing open space, boroughs should consider these in light of policies on protecting open space (Policy G2 London's Green Belt, Policy G3 Metropolitan Open Land and Policy G4 Open Space) and the borough's own assessment of needs and opportunities for sports facilities, and the potential impact that the development will have'.*

Local Planning Policy

The London Plan legally forms part of Harrow's Development Plan, sitting alongside the Local Plan, and planning decisions must have regard to both.

Harrow Council's Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted in February 2012) and its Development Management Policies (adopted in July 2013), cover the period 2009 to 2026. Work is now underway on preparing a new Local Plan to 2041 to coincide with the new London Plan. The proposed timetable in the Council's Local Development Scheme (V8 – November 2019) was for adoption of the revised plan in Spring 2023. This programme has slipped in light of the Covid pandemic and other factors.

The assessment of needs and opportunities for indoor and outdoor sports facilities which inform this Strategy is a key part of the first stage of work to

¹ A network of interlinked multi- purpose open spaces with good connections to the areas where people live and work, public transport, the green belt and the Thames.

provide an updated evidence base that will underpin the policies for sports and recreation facilities to be included in the new Local Plan as it is developed.

At the time of publication of this study (Spring 2023), and pending the adoption of a new Local Plan, the operational Local Plan within Harrow comprises a suite of existing development plan documents. Those of most relevance to this study include:

- The Local Plan Core Strategy (adopted February 2012) which sets out a vision for the future development of the borough covering the period from 2009 to 2026.
- The Site Allocations Local Plan (adopted July 2013) which gives effect to the spatial strategy and principles set out in the Core Strategy.
- The Development Management Policies Local Plan (also adopted in July 2013) which sets out criteria-based policies against which planning applications will be assessed.

As part of the annual review of the Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy the most relevant policies and any subsequent changes will be applied to the Council's strategy and re-issued accordingly.

Although Open Spaces fall outside the scope of this Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, it is recognized that access to suitable open space is critical to community health and wellbeing. Furthermore, the provision of traffic free links between open spaces in order to create a Green Grid¹ provides a valuable resource for a range of free to access sports and recreation activities including walking, horse riding and cycling.

The Harrow Core Strategy recognizes the key role of open spaces to sport and recreation through clear commitment to implementing Green Grid

projects as stated in Overarching Policy F as follows:

Core Policy CS1

F. *'Harrow's open spaces and green grid will be managed as an interconnected, multifunctional environmental resource that contributes to biodiversity, adaptation to climate change, and to people's health and wellbeing. The quantity and quality of the Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land, and existing open space shall not be eroded by inappropriate uses or insensitive development. The reconfiguration of existing open space may be permitted where qualitative improvements and/or improved access can be secured without reducing the quantity of the open space. The provision of new open space will be sought as part of major development proposals, and to deal with identified deficiencies, such as in the provision of play areas for both children and young people.'*

The Council's overarching policies for the provision of new community, sport and education facilities - and for the retention and enhancement of existing provision - are set out in the following three development management policies:

Policy DM 46: New Community, Sport & Education Facilities

- A. *'Proposals for the refurbishment and re-use of existing premises for community, sport and educational facilities will be supported.*
- B. *Proposals for the provision of new community, sport and educational facilities will be supported where:*
 - a) *they are located within the community that they are intended to serve;*
 - b) *subject to (a) they are safe and located in an area of good public transport accessibility or in town centres; and*
 - c) *there would be no adverse impact on residential amenity (see Policy DM1) or highway safety.*

- C. *New education and indoor sport development should make provision for community access to the facilities provided.*
- D. *Proposals for the conversion of employment floorspace to community and educational uses will be considered having regard to:*
 - a) *the principle of the loss of employment floorspace space in accordance with Policy DM31: Supporting Economic Activities and Development & DM32: Office Development;*
 - b) *the impact of the use upon on other legitimate uses within the building and neighbouring buildings; and*
 - c) *the adequacy of parking and access arrangements.*
- E. *Proposals that would compromise any component of this policy will be refused.'*

Policy DM 47: Retention of Existing Community, Sport & Education Facilities

- A. *'Proposals involving the loss of an existing community, sport or educational facility will be permitted if:*
 - a) *there is no longer a need for that facility (having regard to the amount of local patronage, the quality of facilities offered and the duration and extent of marketing); or*
 - b) *there are adequate similar facilities within walking distance which offer equivalent provision; or*
 - c) *the activities carried on are inconsistent and cannot be made consistent with acceptable living conditions for nearby residents, or*
 - d) *the redevelopment of the site would secure an over-riding public benefit.*
- B. *Proposals for the redevelopment of community or educational facilities that secure enhanced re-provision on the site, or on another site which improves accessibility, will be supported.'*

Policy DM 48: Enhancing Outdoor Sports Facilities

- A. *Proposals that would increase the capacity and quality of outdoor sport facilities, and those that would secure community access to private facilities, will be supported provided that:*
 - a) *there would be no conflict with Green Belt, Metropolitan Open Land and open space policies (see NPPF paragraphs 87-89, London Plan Policies 7.16 and 7.17, and Policy DM18: Protection of Open Space);*
 - b) *the proposal would not be detrimental to any heritage or biodiversity assets within or surrounding the site (see Policies DM7: Heritage Assets, DM20: Protection of Biodiversity and Access to Nature & DM21: Enhancement of Biodiversity and Access to Nature); and*
 - c) *there would be no adverse impact on residential amenity (see Policy DM1) or highway safety.*
- B. *Proposals for uses that would support outdoor sporting uses will be supported where they are:*
 - a) *ancillary in terms of size, frequency, use and capacity; and*
 - b) *do not displace or prejudice facilities needed for the proper functioning of the principal outdoor sports uses.*
- C. *Proposals for floodlighting will be supported where it would enhance sport facilities and would not be detrimental to the character of the open land, the amenity of neighbouring occupiers nor harmful to biodiversity.*

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Appendix H – Action Plan

Appendix H- Action Plan

The main strategy includes a list of projects to be delivered in Harrow as a priority (Section 4, figure 4.1 and 4.2). The tables below (Figure H1 and H2) outlines a number of other longer term projects that were identified as needed but deemed less of an immediate priority due to either the need for wider feasibility and viability testing, the level of funding required or the facility ownership being outside of Council control. Figure H3 lists sites which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports

and Figure H4 list sites that are not identified either in Fig 4.1/4.2 (for enhancement or new provision) or H3 (opportunity sites) but are in need of protection for community sport through the planning system (H4). It should be noted that the omission of any playing pitch site from this Strategy or its appendix is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.

Figure H1 Longer Term Priorities and Actions in Harrow (Playing Pitches)

| Site | Facility type | Timescale | Priority Actions | Lead | Partners |
|--|---------------------------------|-------------|--|------------|-----------|
| Harrow Town Sports Club | Cricket | Med | Club to investigate opportunity and funding to upgrade the NTP | Club | LBH / EBC |
| John Rumney Playing Fields | Football | Long | Work with the club to investigate the feasibility of upgrading the pavilion. | LBH / Club | FA |
| Kenton Rec. Ground | Football | Long | Investigate the feasibility to install a MUGA to reduce recreational use of formal pitches. Investigate the feasibility of upgrading or replacing the pavilion. | LBH | FA |
| Kenton Sports Club | Cricket | Long | Work with the club to investigate the feasibility of upgrading the pavilion. | LBH / Club | ECB |
| Krishna Avanti Playing Fields | Football | Long | Investigate the feasibility to install floodlights to the 3G ATP to accomodate community use | School | LBH / FA |
| London Post Office Sport & Social Ass. | Cricket American Football | Med | Work with the club to improve the maintenance of the fine turf pitch | LBH / Club | ECB |
| Millhillians Sports Ground | Cricket | Med Long | Upgrade or replace NT practice nets Upgrade or additional NTPs Work with the club to investigate the feasibility of upgrading the pavilion | LBH / Club | ECB |
| Montesole Playing Fields | Cricket | Long | Work with the club to improve the maintenance of the fine turf pitch Work with the club to investigate the feasibility of replacing the pavilion | LBH / Club | ECB |
| Nower Hill High School | Football | Long | Investigate the feasibility to install floodlights to the 3G ATP to increase community use | School | LBH / FA |

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Figure H1 Longer Term Priorities and Actions in Harrow (Playing Pitches)

| Site | Facility type | Timescale | Priority Actions | Lead | Partners |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------|--|------------|-----------------|
| Orley Farm School | Hockey | Long | Resurface sand-based ATP linked to secure community access Investigate the feasibility and funding to provide changing provision near to the sand-based ATP to facilitate hockey matches. | School | LBH / EH / Club |
| Park High School | Football | Long | Work with school to investigate the feasibility of providing ancillary facilities on sports field to enable community use of site. | School | LBH / FA |
| RCT Sports Ground | Cricket | Med Long | Upgrade or replace NT practice nets Work with the club to investigate the feasibility of upgrading the pavilion | LBH / Club | ECB |
| Roxbourne Park | Cricket / Football | Long | Investigate the feasibility of upgrading the pavilion | LBH | ECB /FA |
| Saddlers Mead Open Space | Cricket / Football | Long | Investigate the feasibility of replacing the pavilion | LBH / Club | ECB / FA |
| Shaftesbury Avenue | Rugby / Cricket | Med Long | Improve maintenance to grass pitches Work with club to investigate the feasibility and funding to replace the pavilion Investigate the feasibility of reinstating the fine turf pitch or an NTP to facilitate new junior Cricket activity. | LBH / Club | RFU / ECB |
| Stanmore Common | Cricket | Long | Work with the club to investigate the feasibility of upgrading the pavilion | LBH / Club | ECB |
| William Ellis Sports Ground | Football | Long | Investigate the feasibility of reopening the site for community use. | LBH | FA |
| Sites to be identified | Cricket | Long | Investigate the feasibility and suitability of locations for 3 new fine turf pitches in the borough to suit the growth demand of clubs (the need is greatest in the south west of the borough) | LBH / ECB | Clubs |

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Figure H2 Longer Term Priorities and Actions in Harrow (Built Facilities)

| Site | Facility type | Timescale | Priority Actions | Lead | Partners |
|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|---|-------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bannister Outdoor Sports Centre | Athletics Other sports | Medium / Long | Identify funding to enable the track to be refurbished in 2026. Investigate the feasibility of providing new spectator and changing facilities. Investigate opportunities to add additional facilities on site. | LBH | UK Athletics |
| Canons High School | Sports Hall | Medium / Long | Ensure community use is secured through planning conditions and a community use agreement for the proposed new sports hall build. | Canons High School | LBH |
| Harrow School Sports Complex | Sports Hall, Swimming, Fitness | Medium / Long | To complete the rebuild of the Sports Complex increasing the Swimming provision by adding a learner pool and the Sports Hall provision by 4 courts (8 courts in total). Ensure community use is secured through planning conditions and a community use agreement. | Harrow School | LBH |
| Harrow Skate Park | Skate Park | Long | The council to support the User Group to work with Skateboard GB, Sport England, London Sport, and other potential external funders to identify funding sources to review options to rebuild Harrow Stake Park | LBH, User Group | Skateboard GB, SE London Sport |
| Hatch End Pool | Swimming | Long | Consider a future options appraisal for Hatch End Swimming Pool based on FPM recommendations | LBH | |
| Venue to be decided | Tennis | Medium / Long | Investigate the feasibility of providing a community indoor tennis facility in the area. | LBH | LTA |
| Venue to be decided | Cycling | Medium / Long | Work with Harrow Cycle Hub to identify a base for the club and possible closed road circuit. Investigate options and feasibility at Kenton Rec. Ground. | Harrow Cycle Club / LBH | British Cycling |
| Venue to be decided | Archery | Medium / Long | Liaise with Bowmen of Harrow to identify a new base for their activities. | Bowmen of Harrow / LBH | Archery UK |
| Venue to be decided | Korfball | Medium / Long | Investigate the feasibility of sufficient space and court time for Korfball provision in the area | LBH, Korfball Teams | Korfball GB |

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Figure H3 Opportunities for providing or extending community sports opportunities to be investigated further at the following sites, all pending funding and relevant permissions; all potential opportunities listed are dependent on the support of the site owners/operators

| Site | Facility Type | Timescale | Potential actions | Partners |
|------------------|----------------------|---------------|--|---------------------------|
| New School Sites | Sports Hall. Pitches | Medium / Long | Ensure community use of facilities is included as part of any new development through planning policy. | LBH / Education providers |

Figure. H4 Other Playing Pitch Sites for Protection

| Site | Sport |
|------------------------------------|----------|
| Arnold House School | Cricket |
| Bentley Wood High School for Girls | Football |
| Byron Recreation Ground | Football |
| Chandos Recreation Ground | Cricket |
| Harrow Borough Football Club | Football |
| Harrow Cricket Club | Cricket |
| Harrow Weald Recreation Ground | Football |
| The Crofts Playing Field | Football |
| The Lyonian Pavilion | Football |
| West Harrow Recreation Ground | Cricket |

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Report for: Cabinet

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Date of Meeting: | 14 March 2024 |
| Subject: | Extension to the Property Acquisition Programme |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Responsible Officer: | Dipti Patel Corporate Director Place David McNulty Director of Housing |
| Portfolio Holder: | Councillor Mina Parmar Portfolio Holder for Housing Councillor David Ashton Portfolio Holder Finance and Human Resources |
| Exempt: | No |
| Decision subject to Call-in: | Yes |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Enclosures: | None |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out a proposal to extend the Property Acquisition Programme (PAP) to purchase up to 50 additional properties to be used as temporary accommodation (TA) as an alternative to expensive Bed & Breakfast (B&B) accommodation. To acquire up to 50 properties in 2024/25 and 2025/26, with a total estimated capital cost of £20.62m.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Delegate authority to the Corporate Director Place, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources, to acquire up to 50 additional properties on the open market to provide temporary accommodation, at a maximum cost of £20.62m to include the purchase price, all costs associated with the acquisition and initial repairs and refurbishment.
2. Authorise the Corporate Director of Place, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources, to negotiate the purchase of properties at a reasonable price given the prevailing market conditions at the time of purchase, supported by a valuation report.
3. Delegate authority to the Director of Housing Services, following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Housing, to determine the most efficient way to manage the property acquisition programme and invite and evaluate quotes and tenders and award contracts for any services, including repairs and maintenance contracts, necessary for the programme within the agreed budget.

Reason: To extend the Property Acquisition Programme to provide additional local, good quality TA and deliver additional Bed and Breakfast cost avoidance in line with the approved budget and MTFS.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

It is a key council priority to be a place where those in need are supported, including making a difference to vulnerable households and families in Harrow. This report proposes to do this by increasing the supply of affordable housing to meet households' needs, which the Council has accepted a duty to house. The decision being sought, to extend the Property Acquisition Programme, will deliver additional good quality local Temporary Accommodation to homeless households, including families, as an alternative to Bed and Breakfast (B&B) accommodation.

Options considered

The council is using expensive B&B accommodation as TA for increasing numbers of families, which is of a lower quality than self-contained flat or house. Therefore, options to increase the supply of TA as an alternative to expensive B&B accommodation have been considered.

These are:

1. Through the Council's Help2Let scheme we work with landlords to increase the number of privately rented properties available to households in housing need. This includes offering incentives and payments to privately leased properties, as well as grants to enable landlords of empty properties to bring properties up to a lettable condition in return for nomination rights. However, due to the overall shortage of supply it is becoming increasingly difficult to source private rented properties locally and on current projections we do not consider these options alone will be sufficient to meet demand and reduce reliance on expensive B&B accommodation.
2. Purchase and letting of additional properties. This option has the advantage of providing a new and secure supply source of TA and can be relatively quick to implement.
3. Building temporary recyclable homes on vacant council land. This option relies on finding suitable land which would need to be provided at no cost. It will take time to implement as planning permission etc would be required similarly to building permanent housing.
4. Continue to use B&B accommodation which is costly to the Council.

This report presents the business case to proceed with option 2 to purchase additional properties for letting as Temporary Accommodation.

1. Background

- 1.1. The provision of temporary accommodation is currently the highest spending area of Housing Services. Based on the net number of people entering and leaving temporary accommodation per year, if there is no change in current practices the number of households in temporary accommodation will continue to grow.
- 1.2. Temporary accommodation supply is becoming increasingly difficult to source to meet demand, as private sector rents increase, and a number of factors are causing landlords to cease to provide accommodation for rent. These changes have had a big impact on the Council's ability to retain existing temporary accommodation. Landlords and agents through whom the Council leases its TA are actively seeking rent increases on their properties, and some have requested their properties back. Housing Benefit rules require that the Council can only charge a rent equal to 90% of the 2011 Local Housing Allowance rate. This means that there is a shortfall between the rent that will be paid to landlords and the rent the Council receives from the tenant, with the balance being borne by the General Fund.
- 1.3. In all London boroughs average rents are now higher than pre-pandemic levels, with fewer landlords willing to rent properties at Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates. This creates a funding gap that will only increase the top up borne by the council unless new ways of funding and delivering services are put in place. Acquiring our own stock will enable us to reduce costs by having greater control over setting rents at the current LHA.
- 1.4. This will increase the supply of properties that can be used to move people out of costly temporary accommodation thereby avoiding the top up borne by the Council.
- 1.5. The Council has submitted a funding bid of £85,000 per property to the GLA's Council Homes Acquisition Programme for a total of £4.25million. If successful, the capital investment required will reduce from £20.619m to £16.369m. This would also result in a reduction of the capital financing costs.
- 1.6. Applications for further funding bids such as the third round of the Local Authority Housing Fund (LAHF) will be made when the opportunity arises, and the business model will be updated.
- 1.7. The Property Acquisition Programme (PAP) was first introduced in 2015/16 and a summary of all previous PAPs is provided below.

| Programme | Year | No. of Properties acquired | Capital Budget | Interest rate applied |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------------------|
| PAP 1 | 2015-2019 | 100 | £30m | 2.75% |
| PAP 2 | 2019-2021 | 42 | £15m | 3% |
| PAP 3 | 2021-2022 | 16 | £8.5m | 3% |
| PAP 4 | 2022-2023 | 13 | £5.95m | 3% |

1.8. The ongoing PAP 5 23/24 initiative started in September 2023 to acquire 16 homes. Currently, 11 properties, a combination of 2-bedroom and 3-bedroom homes, are in the process of acquisition. Three have been completed, while offers for 8 others are accepted and are in advanced stages. Efforts are actively underway to agree and finalise offers for the remaining 5 properties. The funding source is a mixture of Harrow Capital of £5.95m and Local Authority Housing Fund 2 (LAHF) of £1.748m.

2. Current situation

- 2.1. There are currently over 1100 households in temporary accommodation, with an increase in the use of nightly paid and B&B accommodation. Some homeless households are offered accommodation outside of London due to the shortage of local affordable housing. There are 367 households in B&B of which 4 households are in commercial hotels.
- 2.2. Due to the small social housing stock in the borough, Private Rented Sector accommodation (PRS) is the main housing solution. Loss of PRS accommodation is the most common cause of homelessness in Harrow.
- 2.3. Changes to the welfare provision have reduced the degree of support available to households reliant on Housing Benefit to pay for all or some of their rent.
- 2.4. The benefit cap restricts the overall rent support a household can receive.
- 2.5. In April 2024, the LHA will be reset to match the 30th percentile of local rents in September 2023 – an average rise of 16 per cent across Broad Rental Market Areas (BRMAs), equivalent to £25 per week – meaning that the cheapest 30 per cent of rents in an area should be affordable to people claiming Universal Credit. The Localism Act introduced an option for local authorities to discharge their duty to homeless households through the offer of a 12-month tenancy in the Private Rented Sector (PRS) - thus increasing demand for PRS in the

borough and giving Private Sector landlords power to demand higher rents/incentives for tenants to remain.

2.6. The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, which came into effect from 3 April 2018, imposes responsibilities on local authorities to take more preventative actions when dealing with those at risk of becoming homeless.

3. This report presents the business case to proceed with option 2, to purchase additional properties for letting as TA with a budget of up to £20.619m. It offers the following benefits:

3.1. It increases the supply of TA stock within the borough and reduces the uncertainty of availability. We will be less reliant on the vagaries of supply in the private rented market.

3.2. It is a far better-quality housing solution to B&B for families in housing need, providing good quality housing in Harrow.

3.3. It delivers a substantial cost avoidance on projected B&B costs.

3.4. It is a relatively quick option to deliver. The programme assumes 25 properties in the next two years. We will launch the programme to leaseholders and if we receive a positive response with a large number of properties the programme will be accelerated to reduce B&B costs quicker.

3.5. There will be long-term capital asset value which can be realised in future years for the ultimate benefit of the Council.

4. Why a change is needed.

4.1. Analysis shows that the most expensive form of TA to the Council is commercial hotels and nightly lets.

4.2. In 2023 the average cost per day for commercial hotels was £241.18 and £47.48 for nightly lets. This equates to approx. 25% of the total cost of TA in 2017/18. The Housing Benefit subsidy system discourages the use of B&B emergency accommodation by limiting the recoverable subsidy payments. Less Housing Benefit subsidy is receivable for larger families.

4.3. Based on the pressures detailed above, it is clear that demand will continue to outstrip supply and the Council needs to find an alternative to TA supply to mitigate the cost of expensive B&B accommodation and minimise the financial impact to the wider Council. Having control of TA through ownership of the 100 homes has improved our position alongside the use of Council stock, hostels, and Housing Association Leasing Schemes.

4.4. The additional properties will be purchased in Harrow.

- 4.5. The properties will be managed in-house as TA within the Housing Needs team.

5. Implications of the Recommendation

Costs and financial modelling

- 5.1. Based on financial modelling assumptions of all 50 properties being acquired and being operational from year 1 (2026/27) gives a net annual cost of £443,676 compared to a cost of £733,321 for B&B (net of Housing Benefit). There is a cost saving of £289,645 in year 1. The reduction of cost by using the PAP properties instead of B&B increases each year and by year 8 the cost reduction is estimated to be £451,675.
- 5.2. The net annual cost of £443,676 for the 50 PAP properties is arrived at by taking year 1 net rent (less voids) income is (£918,692). Operating costs of £228,325 which assumes deductions for management and maintenance, major repairs and headlease charges. The Net rent income after costs is (£690,367). Capital Financing costs required for borrowing funds to acquire the PAP properties is £1.134m.
- 5.3. Rental income is based on charging the rents at the updated Local Housing Allowance rate that applies from the 1 April 2024. There is a void allowance of 7% but properties acquired will need to be operational as soon as possible to reduce the numbers of households in B&B. Delays in the properties being available for use will result in pressures on increased numbers placed in B&B and higher overall temporary accommodation costs. The capital financing charge assumes MRP over 50 years with interest at 3.5% charged which gives an annual cost of £443,676.
- 5.4. The MTFs assumes savings of £1.134m to cover the £20.619m borrowing capital financing costs. This will be over 2 years £543,015 in 2025/26 and a further £591,030 in 2026/27. The properties will all be held in the Council General fund for temporary accommodation use so no Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital receipts funding is applicable.
- 5.5. Grant funding of up to $50 \times £85,000 = £4.25m$ has been applied for from the GLA which if successful would reduce the amount of borrowing and resulting capital financing costs required by the Council improving the business case further.
- 5.6. The Council is expecting to receive an indicative allocation from the Department for Levelling Up and Communities for property acquisitions which was announced in the Autumn Statement. The specific conditions and amounts are not known at this stage but if this settlement is more generous than any GLA grant the Council will look to maximise the number of new homes delivered under the programme while minimising borrowing costs within the overall envelope agreed £20.619m.

Staffing/workforce

The costs of an additional officers to acquire the properties, together with administration support and management costs are factored into the business plan assumptions.

Ward Councillors' comments

Affects all wards.

Performance Issues

Homelessness numbers remain high due to the crisis in housing availability in Harrow and the wider region; although the council is still performing well in terms of prevention, the unprecedented demand and supply situation meant there were still 358 households (88 shared and 270 self-contained) in B & B at the end of December 2023 in comparison with 164 households (48 shared and 114 self-contained) at the end of March 2019, presenting significant challenges to the council in meeting our statutory duty and in meeting the council's objective of protecting the vulnerable and families.

Environmental Implications

Improvements will be made to the properties acquired under this programme to bring them up to the Decent Homes standard. Works may include the replacement of boilers with energy efficient models where necessary to meet current regulations.

Data Protection Implications

There are no GDPR implications associated with this proposal.

Risk Management Implications

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? **No**

Separate risk register in place? **Yes**

The following key risks should be taken into account when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

| Risk Description | Mitigations | RAG Status |
|------------------|-------------|------------|
|------------------|-------------|------------|

| | | |
|---|---|--------------|
| Unable to source a suitable supply of properties at the target prices to purchase in Harrow | Areas close to, but outside, Harrow to be considered. | AMBER |
| Property Acquisition scheme revenue costs prove to be more expensive than B & B, as a result of changes in the Housing Benefit subsidy which may reduce the amount of subsidy payable on the assumed rental income. | Dispose of properties and offset with capital growth or flip to market private rent. | GREEN |
| Proposed legislative changes to be introduced by the Government | Lobbying with other local authorities (e.g. London Councils), ultimately properties can be sold or turned to market private rent if absolutely necessary | GREEN |
| Reputational risk and resistance from homeowners | Target purchase of ex LA properties, avoid over concentration in particular streets/areas and procure over a 2-year period. | GREEN |
| House Price inflation lower than modelled | This will not affect the projected revenue savings but would reduce the projected capital growth. It is unlikely there will be zero house price inflation over the life of the business plan. | GREEN |
| Interest Rate increases | Interest rates charged for the capital financing is 3.5% over 50 years. This internal rate used is not expected to change. Additionally grant funding applied for from the GLA. If approved this would reduce the amount of borrowing required by the Council thus lower the overall cost of interest rates | GREEN |
| Delays in PAP use once purchased | Ensure properties are pre inspected and works specified before completion and ensure an Operating Level Agreement is in place with the internal voids team for 28 days. | GREEN |
| Repair, Maintenance and Major works cost increases | Inflation on the cost of materials and fulfilling required work would increase overall costs. The operation costs include an annual allowance or sinking fund to be built up to meet these costs. | GREEN |
| Extended time conveyancing times may deter vendors | Internal legal conveyancing teams being lined up and co-ordinated to deliver at pace. | AMBER |

Procurement Implications

The purchase or sale of a property, interest in land, transaction in land and or lease transaction are out of scope of the Contract Procedure Rules. but this must be authorised in accordance with the requirements set out in the Constitution and, specifically, the Management of Asset, Property and Land Rules.

Any other aspect of these recommendations that require procurement will follow the council procurement procedures to ensure compliance and value.

Legal Implications

Part 7 of the Housing Act 1996 imposes statutory duties on the Council to provide temporary accommodation to homeless applicants in a number of situations. These include when it is assessing a homeless application of a person who it has reason to believe may be eligible for assistance, may be homeless and may be in priority need and when it has completed an assessment and concluded that an applicant is owed the full housing duty.

Section 206 Housing Act 1996 states that a local housing authority may discharge their housing functions under Part 7 of the Act only in the following ways—

- (a) by securing that suitable accommodation provided by them is available,
- (b) by securing that he obtains suitable accommodation from some other person, or
- (c) by giving him such advice and assistance as will secure that suitable accommodation is available from some other person.

Section 208(1) Housing Act 1996 provides that so far as reasonably practicable a local housing authority shall in discharging their housing functions under Part 7 of the Act secure that accommodation is available for the occupation of the applicant in their district.

Section 210(1) states that in determining whether accommodation is suitable for a person, the local housing authority shall have regard to Parts 9 and 10 of the Housing Act 1985 (slum clearance and overcrowding) and Parts 1 to 4 of the Housing Act 2004 (houses in multiple occupation). The Secretary of State may, by order, specify circumstances in which accommodation is or is not to be regarded as suitable for a person, and matters to be taken into account or disregarded in determining whether accommodation is suitable for a person.

The Secretary of State has done so by the following Orders:

- Article 2 of Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) Order 1996 provides that in determining whether accommodation is suitable for a person there shall be taken into account whether or not the accommodation is affordable for that person. Articles 3 & 4 of the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2003 provide that B & B accommodation is not to be regarded as suitable for an applicant with a family except where no accommodation other than B & B accommodation is available for occupation and the applicant

occupies B & B accommodation for a period, or a total of periods, which does not exceed 6 weeks.

- The Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012 states that in determining whether accommodation is suitable for a person, the local housing authority must take into account the location of the accommodation, including—
 - (a) where the accommodation is situated outside the district of the local housing authority, the distance of the accommodation from the district of the authority;
 - (b) the significance of any disruption which would be caused by the location of the accommodation to the employment, caring responsibilities or education of the person or members of the person's household;
 - (c) the proximity and accessibility of the accommodation to medical facilities and other support which—
 - (i) are currently used by or provided to the person or members of the person's household; and
 - (ii) are essential to the well-being of the person or members of the person's household; and
 - (d) the proximity and accessibility of the accommodation to local services, amenities and transport.

The Department of Communities and Local Government has also published Supplementary Guidance on the homelessness changes in the Localism Act 2011 and on the Homelessness (Suitability of Accommodation) (England) Order 2012. The combined effect of the above homelessness legislation is that accommodation provided or arranged to meet a homeless duty must be affordable for the homeless applicant. Accommodation is not affordable if the applicant would require the local authority to contribute towards the cost of the accommodation. Where affordable accommodation is not available in the borough the local authority must provide affordable accommodation out of borough.

The Council can rely upon its investment powers in section 12 Local Government Act 2003 and upon section 120 Local Government Act 1972 to acquire these properties. Section 120 Local Government Act 1972 states that for the purpose of any of their functions under this or another other enactment, or the benefit, improvement or development of their area, a principal council may acquire by agreement any land, whether situated inside or outside their area. Further, the Council can rely upon those sections of the Housing Act 1996 referred to above to provide temporary accommodation.

S.149 Equality Act provides that the Council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to—

- (a) eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under this Act;
- (b) advance equality of opportunity between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it;
- (c) foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristic and persons who do not share it.

Financial Implications

Council capital funding of £20.619m is available and GLA grant of £4.25m has been applied for and if successful this grant funding would reduce the amount of Council capital funding required. This reduced council capital borrowing would also result in the capital financing costs being less.

Financial monitoring of temporary accommodation cost savings resulting from acquiring the 50 properties will require continuous monitoring. This is to ensure costs avoided by using these properties instead B&B to meet homelessness needs can be used to offset the savings requirements in the MTFS. The savings target of £1.134m outlined within this report is over two years £0.543m 2025/26 and £0.591m 2026/27.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The proposal is not expected to have any negative impact on any protected characteristics. The proposal is expected to have a positive impact on homeless households, including families. The proposal will assist the council in meeting the Public Sector Duty by advancing equality of opportunity, removing or minimising disadvantages, and taking steps to meet the needs of homeless households.

Council Priorities

The proposal meets the council's priority to be a place where those in need are supported. The proposal will provide additional good quality Temporary Accommodation to homeless households, as an alternative to expensive and unsuitable B&B accommodation. This will support vulnerable homeless households and families in Harrow whose housing needs cannot be met by the housing market.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Comie Campbell
Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer
Date: 09.02.24

Statutory Officer: Amanpreet Lally
Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer
Date: 12.02.24

Chief Officer: Dipti Patel
Signed off by the Corporate Director
Date: 15.02.24

Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta
Signed by the Head of Procurement
Date: 09.02.24

Head of Internal Audit: Neale Burns
Signed on behalf of the Head of Internal Audit
Date: 09.02.24

Has the Portfolio Holder(s) been consulted? Yes

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

EqlA carried out: YES

EqlA cleared by: Jennifer Rock

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Kulwinder Singh-Rai Kulwinder.singh-rai@harrow.gov.uk
Comie Campbell comie.campbell@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: No

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Report for: Cabinet

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting: | 14 of March |
| Subject: | Serious Violence Strategy 2024 - 2027 |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Responsible Officer: | Shumaila Dar, Assistant Director of Corporate Strategy |
| Portfolio Holder: | Cllr Anjana Patel Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety |
| Exempt: | No |
| Decision subject to Call-in: | Yes |
| Wards affected: | All |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1 – Draft Harrow Serious Violence Strategy Appendix 2 – Serious Violence Strategic Needs Assessment Appendix 3 – Equality Impact Assessment |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report contains the Serious Violence Strategy 2024 – 2027 for the borough. This Strategy has been designed through extensive consultation with our communities, partners and stakeholders and has been reviewed by Harrow’s Community Safety Partnership (Safer Harrow) prior to preparing the final draft contained within this report. To confirm, Harrow has met their statutory duty and have published a draft version of the Serious Violence Strategy on Harrows website on the 31st January 2024.

Recommendations: That

1. Harrow’s Serious Violence Strategy be approved so a final version of the Serious Violence Strategy can be published
2. It be agreed that each annual review falls under the annual consideration of the Community Safety Strategy

Reason: (for recommendations)

This strategy is a statutory requirement in accordance with the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022 (the 2022 Act).

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

The report attached as an Appendix presents the Harrow Serious Violence Strategy 2024 - 2027.

The 2022 Act creates a duty for specified authorities (local authorities, probation, youth justice, integrated care board, local health board, police and fire and rescue service) to plan to exercise their functions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area. This includes the need to identify the kinds of and causes of serious violence and prepare and implement a strategy for exercising functions to prevent and reduce serious violence.

There is a statutory responsibility to consult educational authorities, prison and youth offending authorities within the local area. Through extensive consultation, active engagement with local communities, and capturing the perspectives of young people, we have access to first-hand understanding of their concerns and the actions they desire to enhance the quality of their neighbourhoods.

A summary of the consultation processes undertaken and feedback received is below. A detailed list can be found in Appendix 1 (pg. 22):

- Serious Violence Youth Survey 2023 on the MyHarrow Talk platform

- Fortnightly Task & Finish group sessions with all statutory partners (June 2023 – November 2023)
- 1 to 1 consultation with all statutory partners and Harrows voluntary and community sector organisations who work closely within this field
- Town Centre Consultation (in partnership with NOMAD) with Harrows Voluntary and Community Sector Organisations, young people and residents to discuss their concerns around Serious Youth Violence
- Safer Spaces Survey 2023 captures concerns of women and girls in Harrow and helps the council identify areas of concerns within the borough.

These concerns, along with insights gained from lessons learned, successes, and best practices from previous strategies, have significantly contributed to the latest strategic assessment. This ensures that the priorities we have identified are shaped by the input of Harrow’s residents.

Whilst there is a statutory duty to prepare and publish a strategy, there is an element of flexibility within the legislation to take account of local need, including in relation to defining what serious violence is in the context of Harrow. It was agreed at the Safer Harrow Board in 2023, that Harrow would adopt the London guidance definition of Serious Violence (See Appendix 1). The statutory guidance confirms that there is flexibility for the specified authorities to determine how to work together, including whether to utilise existing multi-agency arrangements. Through the analysis of the Strategic Needs Assessment and the consultation findings, the following priorities have been agreed:

- To reduce Serious Violent Crime with young people below the age of 25 within Harrow
- To tackle Violence against Women and Girls
- To encourage a Community Approach to tackling Serious Youth Violence in Harrow (under 25)

The evidence/performance measures used to arrive at these priorities are:

- Demographic Data (Census 2021, GLA population projections)
- Police Data (Anti-Social Behaviour Call Outs, Sanction Detection)
- Youth Offending Data
- Health Care Data (A&E Attendance and Hospital Admissions)
- Social Care Data
- Education Data (DfE)
- Public Health Profiles
- Office for National Statistics
- GIS Mapping
- Young Persons Insights – October 2023 Survey on the MyHarrow Talk Platform circulated to all 17 Secondary Schools/Colleges in Harrow with 983 young people taking part.

In June 2023, the Community Safety Strategy (2023 – 2026) was approved by Cabinet. This strategy outlined six priority areas for Harrow which are highlighted below:

- Tackling and reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG)
- Reducing incidents of burglary / motor vehicle crime / robbery
- Reducing the number of violent incidents in the borough
- Tackling and reducing offences and harm caused by drugs.
- Tackling Hate Crime
- Perception of Crime

The Safer Harrow Partnership will undertake a monitoring role for the Harrow Serious Violence Strategy, The specified authorities must collectively keep the strategy under review and from time to time prepare and implement a revised strategy.

To embed a co-ordinated and effective approach to reducing incidents of Serious Violence in the borough, the Safer Harrow Partnership will undertake a monitoring role and be leading on the implementation of the Serious Violence Strategy. The progress of this strategy and the objectives set out within it will be reviewed quarterly through the Community Safety Delivery Plan via the Safer Harrow Board, which is chaired by the Portfolio Holder.

More specifically, the Serious Violence Strategy priority areas will feed into three workstreams within the Community Safety Strategy Delivery Plan:

Workstream 2: Tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG)

Workstream 4: Reducing the number of violent incidents on the Borough

Workstream 5: Perception of crime and anti-social behaviour and hate crime

The Senior Responsible Officers for the workstreams detailed in bold above will provide progress reports to the Safer Harrow Board every quarter and will make recommendations on revisions to the strategy (if any). Alongside the Community Safety Strategy, the Serious Violence Strategy will report to Cabinet on an annual basis (2024 – 2027) to provide progress updates and recommended revisions (if any). In accordance with the statutory duty an annual review of the strategy will be undertaken.

Options considered.

The Council has a statutory duty to prepare and publish a strategy alongside other specified authorities. There is an element of flexibility within the legislation to take account of local needs, including in relation to defining what serious violence is in the context of Harrow. The statutory guidance confirms that there is flexibility for the specified authorities to determine how to work together, including whether to utilise existing multi-agency arrangements. The Council has chosen to use the existing Safer Harrow Partnership, although aspects of the Strategy and the actions sitting beneath it will be relevant to other multi-agency partnerships, including the health and wellbeing board, multi-agency risk assessment conference, domestic abuse local partnership

board, multi-agency public protection arrangements and multi-agency safeguarding partnerships.

Ward Councillors' comments

Not applicable as the strategy relates to all wards.

Risk Management Implications

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register. **Yes**

Separate risk register in place? **No**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarised below.
N/A

The following key risks should be taken into account when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

| Risk Description | Mitigations | RAG Status |
|--|--|--------------|
| Failing to meet the legal duties under the 2022 Act and not publishing the final version of the Serious Violence Strategy | This risk can be mitigated by approving the strategy, as per the above recommendation. | Green |
| The Serious Violence Strategy fails to deliver the Council's priority of a safer borough | The actions in the strategy were identified and formulated through consultation with the appropriate Portfolio Holder and relevant council officers (Public Health, Youth Offending Team, Children Services, Community Safety) and specified and responsible authorities (Harrow Probation, NHS, Transport Police, Metropolitan Police, London Fire Brigade). This included an assessment of financial viability and timescales for deliverability. Delivery against the Serious Violence Strategy will be routinely reviewed, and progress reported quarterly, enabling adjustments or remedial action to be taken. | Green |

Procurement Implications

There are no direct procurement implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. However, any procurement that is required to deliver the actions detailed in the Community Safety Strategy will be conducted consistent with the Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contract Regulations 2015 (PCR15) or the Procurement Act 2023 which is due to replace the PCR15 in October 2024. Procurement activity required as a result of the recommendations set out in this report will be supported by the Corporate Procurement Team.

Legal Implications

The 2022 Act creates a serious violence duty requiring partnership working with local authorities, police, fire and rescue authorities and others, to work together. This involves partners sharing information, intelligence and knowledge to prevent and reduce serious violence. Essentially, this means the requirement to conduct a strategic needs assessment and prepare and implement a strategy, which should be reviewed on an annual basis.

Violence is defined as including domestic abuse, sexual offences, violence against property and threats of violence, but does not extend to terrorism. When determining whether violence amounts to serious violence, account must be taken of the maximum penalty, impact of the violence on any victim, prevalence of violence in the area and impact of the violence on the local community.

Prior to approving a strategy, the specified authorities must ensure that each educational authority, prison authority and youth custody authority for the area are consulted. A strategy may specify an action to be carried out by any of these responsible bodies.

The existing duties of partners forming the Safer Harrow Partnership have been extended to include formulating and implementing a strategy for preventing people from becoming involved in serious violence in the area and reducing instances of serious violence in the area.

Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 has been amended to require the partner authorities to exercise their functions with due regard to consider the effect of and need to prevent serious violence in the local area.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications of developing the Serious Violence Strategy. The Council will receive £79,000 over three years for discharging the Serious Violence Strategy and delivering the priorities within it. There are existing budgets within the council that are directly and indirectly attributed to aspects of the delivery of this Strategy.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

The Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have due regard to:

- I. the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Equality Act 2010;
- II. the need to advance equality of opportunity between persons who share protected characteristics and those who do not, and;
- III. foster good relations between those who have protected characteristics and those who do not.

Note: 'Protected characteristics' are age, sex, race, disability, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnerships, religion or belief, pregnancy and maternity and gender reassignment.

The Council is committed to all of the above in the provision, procurement and commissioning of its services, and the employment of its workforce. In addition, the Council is also committed to improving the quality of life and wellbeing for all Harrow residents in respect of socioeconomics and health determinants.

The Serious Violence Strategy recognises that women and girls are disproportionately affected by Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls and that men, boys and non-binary people are also affected by issues which encompasses Domestic Abuse and Violence Against Women and Girls. Therefore, a key priority area within this strategy is tackling Violence against Women and Girls via a coordinated community response that focuses on preventative initiatives and programmes and more effective reporting and referral pathways.

The Serious Violence Strategy does specifically address recognising the disproportionate over representation of Black Caribbean Young men within the Criminal Justice System as a whole and within London and indeed within Harrow. One of the priorities in the strategy is to attempt to find ways to seek to address this disproportionality by encouraging a holistic partnership approach focusing on early intervention and prevention. It also highlights the importance of taking a community approach to tackle Serious Youth Violence which involves:

- Greater engagement and collaboration with our Voluntary and Community Sector as well as our residents to shape Harrow's strategy going forward.
- Greater involvement of young people within local violence prevention work
- Working with young people to create opportunities for development and to support positive aspirations and role models.

The Equality Impact Assessment is appended at Appendix 3.

Council Priorities

Please identify how the decision sought delivers this priority.

1. A borough that is clean and safe

This strategy supports the council's priority of a safe and clean borough as it outlines how Harrows Community Safety Partnership can better work together to tackle Serious Youth Violence and ultimately make the Borough a safer place for all.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Jessie Man

Signed on behalf of the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 14.02.24

Statutory Officer: Sarah Wilson

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 15.02.24

Chief Officer: Alex Dewsnap

Signed by the Managing Director

Date: 16.02.24

Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta

Signed by the Head of Procurement

Date: 12.02.24

Head of Internal Audit: Neale Burns

Signed on behalf of the Head of Internal Audit

Date: 13.02.24

Has the Portfolio Holder(s) been consulted? Yes

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

EqIA carried out: YES

EqIA cleared by: Jennifer Rock 14.02.24

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Janice Noble, Head of Community Safety
Janice.noble@harrow.gov.uk

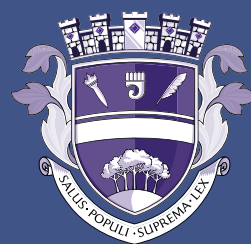
Background Papers: None

Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: NO

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SERIOUS VIOLENCE STRATEGY

2024-2027



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

DRAFT

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Foreword

Thank you for taking the time to read the London Borough of Harrow's Serious Violence Strategy.

We recognise the trauma victims of serious violence feel. Violence can impact any resident at any time. We need to act at the earliest stage to prevent acts of serious violence.

The Serious Violence Strategy aligns with our Community Safety Strategy. It builds on the work we are already doing to continue to be one of the safest boroughs in London. This work includes prevention and an intelligent and data-led approach to reducing violence.

The council is part of a multi-agency partnership. We will continue to work with our partners on how to address and reduce violence in Harrow. We will be agile, aspirational, and imaginative in our approach with partners.

We all have a part to play, as a community, in reducing violence. We ask that you will be supportive and proactively hold us to account, joining us to tackle violence in our community.

Cllr Anjana Patel

Portfolio Holder for Highways, Infrastructure and Community Safety

Introduction

In 2022, the Government issued guidance on implementing a Serious Violence Duty, outlining commitments and responsibilities for both Central and Local Government, as well as designated partners such as the police, justice (Youth Justice and Probation), health, education, and fire and rescue. This new Duty mandates specified authorities to coordinate efforts and strategize to prevent and reduce Serious Violence.

In this endeavour, local areas are encouraged to adopt a public health approach, focusing on:

- A specific population.
- Collaboration with and for communities.
- The generation of both short-term and long-term solutions.
- Utilisation of data and intelligence to identify population burdens and inequalities.
- Rooting strategies in evidence of effectiveness to address the issue.

Harrow's Serious Violence Strategy aligns with these core principles. It acknowledges that a sole reliance on law enforcement may not yield the necessary long-term solutions to Serious Violence. The strategy underscores a commitment towards prevention and early intervention while providing support and protection to those deemed at risk of Serious Violence within the community. This strategy presents Harrow's understanding and approach to delivering interventions that prevent and respond to incidents of Serious Violence.

In addition to the statutory requirements for Community Safety Partnerships to conduct strategic assessments and formulate plans addressing issues of crime in their respective areas, the recent implementation of the Serious Violence Duty imposes additional obligations on local boroughs to develop a dedicated focus and plan specifically targeting Serious Violence.

Our partnership, Safer Harrow, has proactively taken measures to prepare for this new Duty, against a backdrop of recent knife-related incidents in Harrow over the past year. The partnership remains dedicated in its commitment to addressing knife crime, aiming to prevent serious injury or worse, the loss of life.

Through extensive consultation, active engagement with local communities, and capturing the perspectives of young people, we have access to first-hand understanding of their concerns and the actions they desire to enhance the quality of their neighbourhoods. These concerns, along with insights gained from lessons learned, successes, and best practices from previous strategies, have significantly contributed to the latest strategic assessment.

This ensures that the priorities we have identified are shaped by the input of Harrow's residents.

Our Vision

The London Borough of Harrow's vision is to restore pride in Harrow. By working with key partners in the borough, Harrow's ambition is for Harrow to be a place where individuals, families and communities thrive, making the most of the opportunities to live, learn and work free from the fear of violence. In taking this forward, one of our main priorities is to create a borough that is clean and safe. In doing so, we will:

Focusing on the prevention of violence - by implementing preventative interventions and diversions at the earliest opportunity

Tackle inequalities – challenging and taking action to address the root causes of violence

Build on community assets – recognising individual and community strengths and how this can build a whole system's approach to reduce violence

Work collaboratively – making sure everyone is playing their part and sharing responsibility through the concept of contextual safeguarding

Be led by intelligence – using data and intelligence to shape our approach and response to violence

[OBJ]

OBJ

Definition of Serious Violence

Harrow's Community Safety Partnership, Safer Harrow, has adopted the London Guidance and has defined Serious Violence for the purposes of the Serious Violence Duty as

“Any violence and exploitation affecting young people under the age of 25, domestic abuse, and sexual violence. Within the context of these types of violence, it encompasses homicide, grievous bodily harm, actual bodily harm, rape, assault by penetration, sexual assault, personal robbery, threats to kill and violence against property caused during the commission of one of these offences”

Domestic abuse is as defined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.

| The following non-domestic crime categories are included in Serious Violence: | The following non-domestic crime categories are included in Sexual Violence: |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Actual Bodily Harm- Attempted Murder- Grievous Bodily Harm- Homicide- Kidnapping- Personal Robbery- Strangulation- Threats to Kill- Wounding | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Rape- Assault by penetration- Sexual Assault |

The key focus of the Serious Violence Duty is on public space youth violence (under 25). Knife crime and areas of criminality where serious violence or its threat is inherent, such as in county lines drug dealing, modern slavery and criminal and sexual exploitation are also included.

Harrow's strategic assessment also includes data on domestic abuse and violence. This flagged set of offences includes all crime categories where domestic element has been identified by the police (irrespective of age).

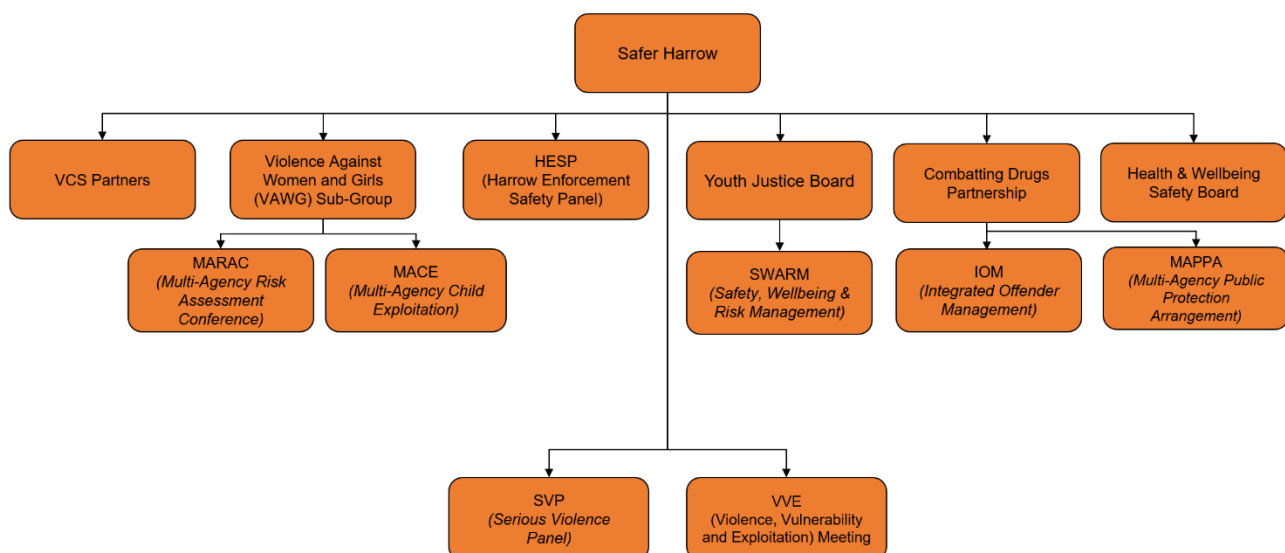
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Governance, Partnerships, and Interdependencies

Facilitating a collaborative partnership approach to address Serious Violence is imperative for the successful execution of this strategy, recognising that no single organisation can resolve the issue on its own.

In the London Borough of Harrow, we confirm that we are following the London guidance and the Community Safety Partnership, Safer Harrow (see Appendix 1), and this partnership will be the lead in implementing and ensuring compliance with the duty.

Figure 1: Current Governance Structure



The Serious Violence Panel in Harrow will take on the crucial role of ensuring effective supervision of responses to serious violent crime and overseeing the implementation of measures, which integrate prevention, early intervention, and safeguarding into our responses throughout the London Borough of Harrow. This group will supervise the execution of the Serious Violence Duty, employing a public health approach and actively promoting partnership collaboration to ensure coherence in areas such as safeguarding. Oversight of the Serious Violence Panel will be under the purview of Safer Harrow.

There are several established partnerships that interrelate with the priorities of the Serious Violence Strategy. Harrow continue to work collaboratively with partners from Community Safety Partnerships, Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Sub-group, Health and

Wellbeing Safety Board, Children's Safeguarding partnerships and Youth Justice Board to ensure we align our strategic priorities to reduce the impact of Serious Youth Violence in our communities.

This strategy acknowledges the influence of further key elements on Serious Violence and links to other cross-cutting strategies to which this one is aligned can be found below:

Community Safety Strategy 2023 – 2026 which includes six key priority areas: Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG), Burglary and Motor Vehicle Crime, Violence and Violent Incidents, Drugs, Hate Crime and Perception of Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour.

Harrow Youth Justice Plan 2022 – 2024 which highlights a 'Child-First' approach with three key focus areas: Disproportionality, Early Intervention and Prevention and Representation (voice of the child).

Combatting Drugs Partnership Delivery Plan 2022 – 2025 which includes three key commitments: breaking the drugs supply chain, delivering a world-class treatment and recovery system, and achieving a generational shift in the demand for drugs.

Harrow Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 – 2030 that aims to improve the health and wellbeing of the local community and reduce inequalities for all ages. It includes the wider issues that influence health and wellbeing such as education and skills, employment, and surroundings.

Harrow's population is growing and aging. The 2021 Census estimated Harrow had 261,300 usual residents with 78,390 (30%) under 25 years old. Across London, rates of population movement are high, especially among younger adults. Data from the 2021 Census shows that 10.0% of Harrow residents had moved into the area in the previous year - 8.6% from other parts of the UK and 1.4% from abroad.

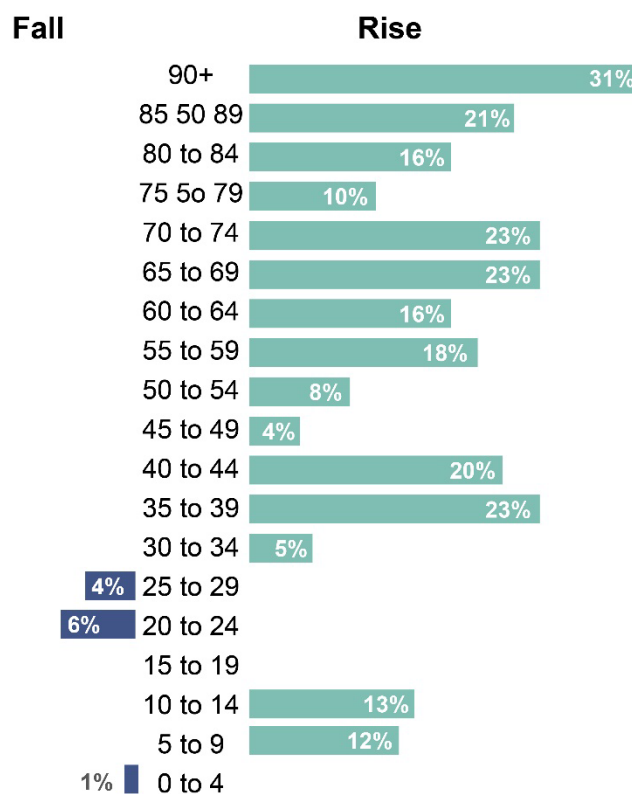
Population movement can influence a resident's sense of belonging in their community. Other data shows¹ that in areas of Harrow, such as parts of Headstone, Greenhill, and Harrow on the Hill, over half the population changed during the period 2011 to 2020.

Harrow is ethnically diverse, with at least 285 different ethnic identities reported in the 2021 Census. In 2021, 45% of the population identified as "Asian or "Asian British", which ranks 3rd nationally; 8.6% identified as "Black, Black British, Caribbean or African"; 3.8% identified themselves within mixed or multiple ethnic groups; 36.5% identified as "White"; 7.2% identified themselves within "Other" ethnic groups.

Nationally, Harrow is home to the largest population of Sri Lankan born (4.1%) and Romanian born (8.1%) communities and has the 4th largest Afghan born (1.8%) population in the country. Compared with other Local Authorities, Harrow has the highest percentage its population reporting Romanian as a main language (7.5%, 19,000) and there are over 155 languages spoken in Harrow schools.

The 2021 Census reports that 12% of people in Harrow are disabled under the Equality Act definition and 18,747 (21%) households include one person who has a disability.

Figure 3: % change in age of population



¹ [CDRC Residential Mobility Index | CDRC Data](#)

Schools in Harrow perform well in comparison to national and statistically similar local authorities. The vast majority of primary schools and secondary schools are judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by Ofsted. Harrow also has among the lowest levels in London of young people (aged 16-17) not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

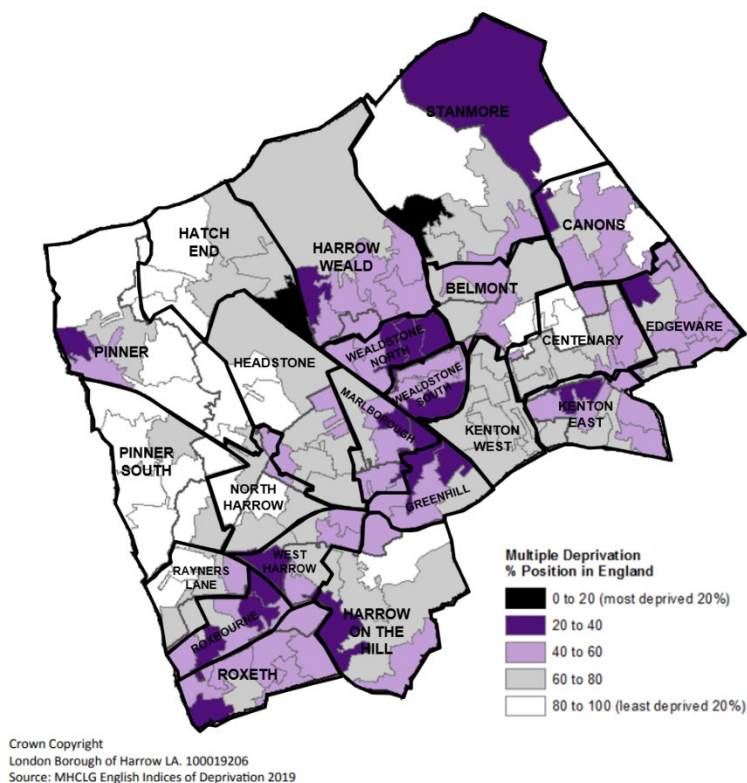
Harrow is the 7th least deprived London Borough in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation². Harrow's most deprived LSOA is in Stanmore ward (E01002227) and is the area covering the Woodlands and Cottesmore Estates. The second most deprived LSOA is in Hatch End ward (E01002151) and includes parts of the Headstone and Headstone Lane Estates.

As with London, The London Borough of Harrow faces some economic challenges. Based on an annual gross income of under £15,000 in 2021, Roxbourne (16.1%), Wealdstone (15%) and Marlborough (14.1%) have the highest proportion of households with low incomes at ward level. The rankings remain the same based on a £20,000 low-income threshold, but proportions are considerably higher (Roxbourne (25.9%), Wealdstone (24.7%) and Marlborough (23.7%))³.

Unemployment in Harrow however remains below the London average but has more than doubled since the pandemic. In June 2019, 1.8% of working age residents aged 16 to 64 were out of work, this rose to 3.8% in April 2023⁴.

17.4% of Harrow residents have no qualifications. This is higher than the London average.

Figure 4: Multiple Deprivation % in Harrow



² Harrow is ranked 27th out of the 33 London Boroughs in the 2019 IMD

³ 2021 CACI Paycheck Data and 2011 census

⁴ Source: ONS claimant count

Overview of Serious Violence in Harrow



Less than 2% of serious violence in London occurs **in Harrow**.



Harrow has the **3rd lowest** rate of Serious Violence in London



Although the overall rate is low, in the year to September 2023, Harrow had one of the **highest increases** in serious violence in London.



Those involved in '**county lines**' crime in Harrow were more likely to be male and **aged 16 to 17**. Over two thirds showed links to at least one other county.



20% of those committing serious violence were assessed as having a **high mental health need**.



80% of all 10- to 17-year-old perpetrators of serious violence had been **excluded or suspended from school**. 73% had persistent absences.



29% of all 10- to 17-year-old perpetrators have experienced or witnessed **domestic abuse**.



Just under a **quarter** had **gang associations** or associated with others known to have gang associations.

Crime in Harrow

Harrow is one of the safest Boroughs in London. The overall crime levels in Harrow are consistently low when compared to other London Boroughs.

Looking at crime types, although a small reduction (-1%) violence against the person remains the highest volume crime type in Harrow, 28% of all recorded crimes in twelve months up to September 2023. This increases to 44% for offences involving under 25s. Theft, including theft from person, and “other” theft is still the second highest recorded crime type (18% of all recorded crime). Drugs offences are the only crime type to significantly reduce in the 12 months up to September 2023 (down 20%). Possession of weapons has seen slight decrease during this period (down 3%).

There was a reduction in the level of youth offending. From 2021/22, there were 251 offences which fell to 181 offences in 2022/23. Levels of juvenile first-time entrants to the criminal justice system are reducing (27% reduction between 2021 and 2022), and consistently lower than the London average, although this gap is narrower since 2020. Although there has been a downward trend of comparatively low volumes, youth offending has become increasingly complex, more serious and undertaken by young people with higher levels of vulnerability as well as risk.

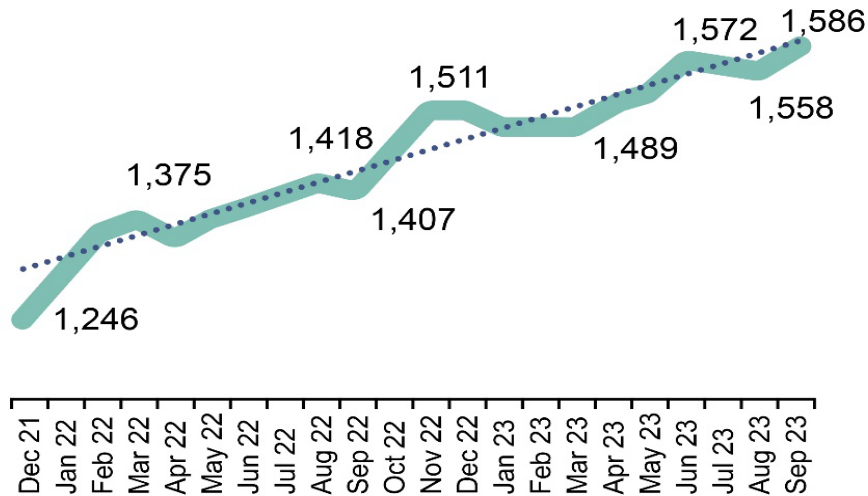
The Nature of Serious Violence in Harrow

The vast majority of residents in Harrow have not directly experienced Serious Violence, with less than 2% of London’s Serious Violence in occurring in Harrow⁵. Although this equates to the 3rd lowest rate, Harrow has had one of the highest rate increases of recorded Serious Violence offences in London in the last twelve months up to September 2023.

Serious Violence is not distributed evenly across the population and significant inequalities exist. Certain groups and geographical areas within Harrow are at higher risk of exposure to and involvement in Serious Violence. There were 1,598 Serious Violence offences recorded in Harrow in the twelve months up to September 2023, this represents a rate increase of 14% from the previous period. This is higher than the year-on-year increase across London (+5%). Police records show that at around one in three of all offences involved a person under the age of 25.

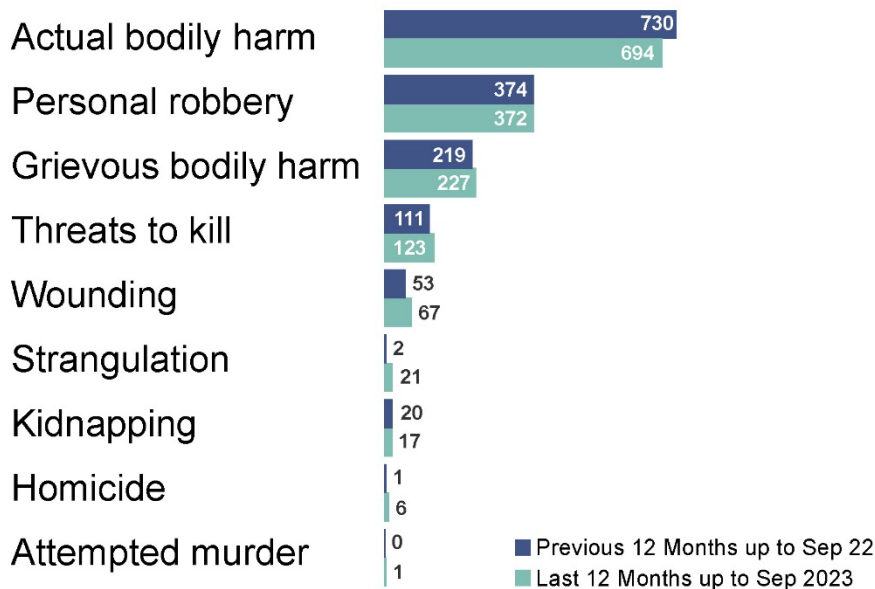
⁵ Source Met Police; October

Figure 5: Recorded Offences (Dec 2021 - Sept 2023)



Nearly 50% of all Serious Violence offences in Harrow are categorised as Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), and 23% as robbery. 220 (14%) of all Serious Violence offences in Harrow, in the twelve months up to September 2023, were identified by the Police as a Hate Crime.

Figure 6: Breakdown of Offence Type



At the time of writing the Serious Violence Strategic Assessment, Harrow had the 4th highest annual homicide rate in London with six homicides involving young people in the twelve months up to September 2023. Accident & Emergency (A&E) admissions due to violence have increased in Harrow from 249 in the 12 months up to August 2022 (rolling year) to

297 July 2023 (rolling year). 36% of these in the twelve months up to July 2023 were under 25 years old,

“Gang flagged” offences have fallen over the last few years with less than 20 recorded in Harrow the twelve months up to September 2023. Knife carrying among young people has anecdotally been linked to self-preservation and fear of victimization, rather than links with gangs⁶.

The proportion of crime in Harrow that is recorded involving a knife is less than 2% (including knife injury, knife threatening or intimidation). However there has been a 48% increase in knife crime offences (between the twelve months ending September 2023 to the previous twelve months) mostly attributed to the possession of knives. During this same period the Police stopped and searched 678 people in Harrow for suspicion of carrying a weapon, finding 48. These are the lowest levels in London.

There has been an upward trajectory in non-domestic Knife crime with injury since March 2021. In the twelve months up to September 2023 there 81 recorded offences compared to 56 in the previous period. Overall, the monthly trends show that non-domestic Serious Violence fluctuates across the year with no significant peak months or seasonality observed. However, data does show that Serious Violence in Harrow commonly occurs in the daytime towards and into the evening (between 9am-7pm and 9pm to 11pm) and more frequently between the hours of 4-6pm.

Offences are not spread around the Borough, and there are many areas where few or no offences have occurred at all. There is however a concentration of offences that have occurred around Harrow Bus Station and Harrow on the Hill train station. There are also higher than average occurrences near Harrow & Wealdstone train station, around South Harrow tube station and the Roxeth/Sudbury Hill area. Over 75% of serious violence in Harrow takes place in a public space or is considered as non-domestic.

High socio-economic costs are associated with serious violence. In the twelve months up to September 2023 homicide, robbery, serious sexual offences, and violence resulting injury, is estimated to have cost over £20,000,000 to the criminal justice system alone

⁶ Youth Select Committee (2019) Our Generation's Epidemic: Knife Crime; UK Parliament

County Lines

County lines is a form of Child Criminal Exploitation. It is a term used to describe the activities of gangs and organised criminal networks who are involved in exporting illicit drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "deal line". Offences involve the exploitation children and vulnerable adults to move (and store) drugs and money, often using coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons.

County Lines data shows that across London a total of 339 referrals were received by the Rescue and Response Project between April 2021 to March 2022. This is a 43% reduction when compared to the same period last year (598). During this period, with 26 referrals, Harrow ranked 10th highest out of the 32 London Boroughs (2021/22). Also, 1,301 individuals were identified or suspected as having a link to County Lines. This was a 27% reduction when compared to the same period last year (1,784). Harrow ranked 9th lowest 2021/22 with 24 linked individuals. From April 2022 to October 23 in Harrow a further 17 referrals and 15 individuals identified or suspected as having a link to County Lines. All individuals involved in county lines in Harrow were more likely to be Male and between the ages of 16-17.

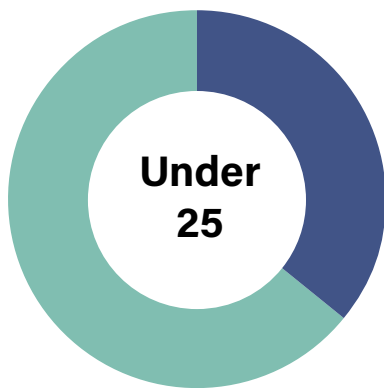
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Victims



One in three of victims of serious violence are under 25 years old (35%)

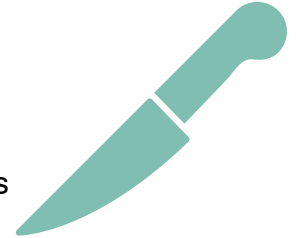
67% of victims of non-domestic serious violence were male. This increased to 73% in the under-25s.



of all victims of Actual Bodily Harm are under 25

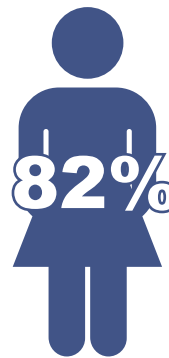
Violence against women and girls

2.2% of violent offences against women and girls involved a knife.



Monthly* data shows that violent offences against women and girls averages at nearly

250 per month



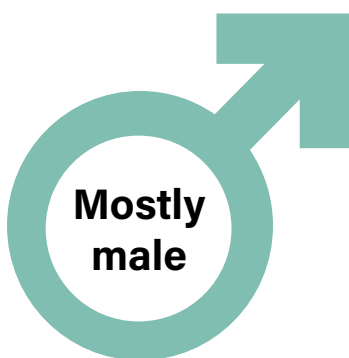
82% victims of sexual offences were women or girls, of these 50% were under the age of 25 (in the 12 months to June 2023).

Around 60 women and girls per year present to Health services in Harrow with female genital mutilation

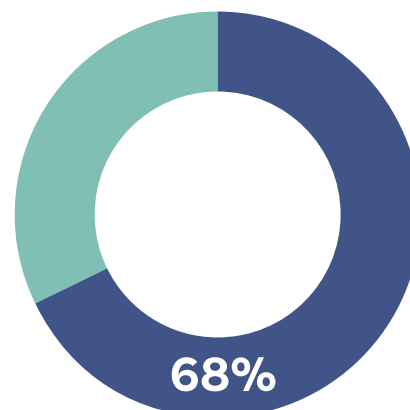


*in the twelve months up to Sep 2023

Domestic violence



Almost all of those accused of domestic abuse were male (98%) (in the 12 months up to June 2023).



Survivors of domestic abuse in Harrow are more likely to be women and girls (68% in the twelve months up to June 23).

Victims of Serious Violence – (In the twelve months up to June 2023)

One in three victims of Serious Violence are under 25 years old (35%). 36% of all victims of Actual Bodily Harm are under 25, which matches the proportion of under 25s A&E admissions due to violence.

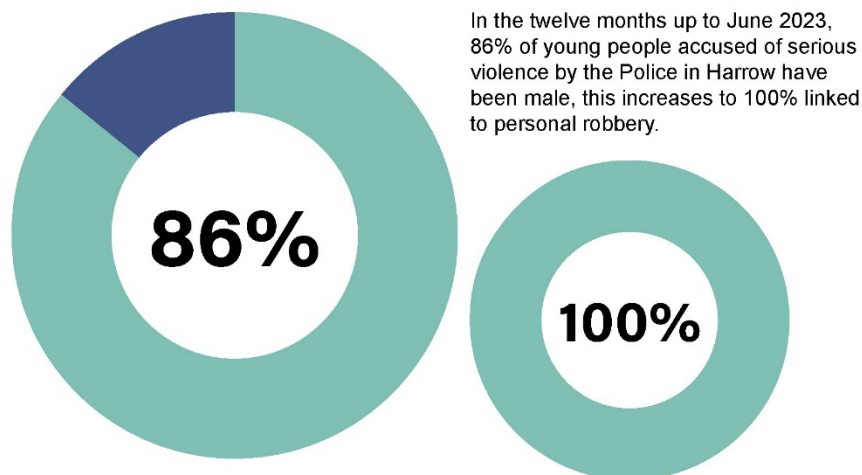
A higher proportion of victims of Serious Violence were male (67% male, 31% female) and this increases for victims under 25s (73% Male, 27% female).

33% of Serious Violence victims' ethnicity was recorded as White; this proportion increases to 39% for victims under 25. The proportion of victims whose ethnicity was recorded as Black was the same for under 25s as it was all victims (36%). The proportion of victims whose ethnicity was recorded as Asian was less for under 25s (18%) than all victims (23%). The data does not include a breakdown of victims/survivors from mixed or multiple ethnic groups.

Perpetrators of Serious Violence

Figure 7

Accused



In the twelve months up to June 2023, 86% of young people accused of serious violence by the Police in Harrow have been male, this increases to 100% linked to personal robbery.

Frequently occupations of those suspected of serious violence were not recorded by the Police (88%), however the second most common occupation status was 'unemployed' (5%),

and the third were occupations in the night-time economy (5%) (in the twelve months up to June 2023).

A significant proportion (56%) of suspects non-domestic serious violence were recorded with a disability (in the twelve months up to June 2023). This proportion increases to 86% for suspects recorded as female. The most common disability was recorded was 'mental health issues' for 39% of all suspects, and secondly 'learning difficulty' for 10% of all suspects.

Youth offending (10-17s)

The proportion of Serious Violence offences shows an upward trend over a 2.5-year period (April 2021- Sept 2023). 73 Serious Violence offences (13% of all offences) were committed by 41 young people, an average of 1.8 offence per offender. 58% of the young people committed only one Serious Violence offence in the 2.5 years, 32% committed 2-3 offences and 10% committed over 4 offences. There were also an additional 114 other less Serious Violence against the person offences, 21.2% of all offences. These offences were committed by 87 young people 36.7% of all offenders.

Youth offending data (10-17s) shows that the youngest age for committing a Serious Violence offence was 12, with the majority of young people being aged between 14 and 16 years old (80%).

Over this 2.5-year period, a higher proportion of young people (10-17s) committing Serious Violence offences were male (88%). All Serious Violence offences for females were Assault with Injury.

There is an observed ethnic disproportionality as for a third of young people who were sentenced for Serious Violence their ethnicity was recorded as Black or Black British despite accounting 7.3% of the population⁷. Just over one fifth of the perpetrators were identified as Mixed (22%) followed by smaller than population proportions categorised White (20%), Asian or Asian British (17%), and Chinese or Other (5%).

Risk factors

Looking at both victims and perpetrators, 14–17-year-old boys are most at risk of being involved in Serious Violence in Harrow. A further look at some of the known risk factors for

⁷ Census 2021 ONS

young people offending was conducted for those 41 young people who committed a Serious Violence offence over the 2.5-year period.

On average each young person had 5.7 risk factors. Within this group for young people classed as the most serious re-offenders, the average number of risk factors increased to 8.8.

Between April 2023 and September 2023, over 80% of all 10–17-year-olds had been excluded or suspended from school, and 73% had persistent absences (although sometimes this was after the offending).

20% of all 10–17-year-olds who committed Serious Violence, were assessed by Youth Justice Service to have a high mental health need.

Just under a quarter were identified as having gang associations or associating with others known to have gang associations.

Other common risk factors amongst this group were children's services involvement, Pupil Referral Unit attendance (46%) missing episodes (34%) and experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse (29%).

Domestic Abuse

The number of recorded domestic abuse offences in Harrow has fluctuated in the last three years. In 2021/22 there were 2,254 recorded offences this reduced to 1,978 in April 2022/23. In the twelve months up to September 2023 the level of recorded domestic offences stood at 2186.

After a downward trend in the proportion of domestic offences resulting in injury – from 26% (July '22) to 20% (June '23) the level of then increased in the twelve months up to September 2023 to 26%.

The main forms of domestic abuse experienced by survivors are violence without Injury, Actual Bodily harm, and other Injury, Stalking and Harassment.

Higher rates of domestic abuse occur in Wealdstone South, Marlborough and Greenhill with around 14 offences per 1,000 population, compared to 7.7 in the Borough as a whole (in the twelve months up to September 23).

Survivors of domestic abuse in Harrow are more likely to be women and girls (68% in the twelve months up to June 23). Domestic abuse however impacts all age groups, with 54%

of survivors aged 25-44 and 25% of survivors aged 55-64 recorded as survivors of abuse. A further 7% were aged 65 plus (in the twelve months up to June 23).

The ethnic profile of survivors recorded by the Met Police shows that record Harrow's white population were impacted most by domestic abuse. The second largest group affected were Asian, followed by Black African and Caribbean.

Almost all of those accused by the Police of domestic abuse were male (98%) in the twelve months up to June 2023. Frequently occupations of those accused not recorded by the Police (85%), however the second most common occupation status was 'unemployed' (10%).

Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuse types that affect more women and girls than men and boys. These include domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and harassment in work and public life.

In line with the national picture, in Harrow women are more likely than men to experience domestic and sexual violence. In the twelve months up to June 2023 women and girls were the victims of a proportionate number of violent offences in Harrow (52%). However, this increases to a significantly disproportionate number of violent domestic offences (78%). 2.2% of violent offences against women and girls during this period involved a knife. There have been no domestic homicides recorded in Harrow during this period.

Monthly data shows that violent offences against women and girls averages at nearly 250 per month with peaking in May (266), June (276) and July (296) months and lowest levels in February (172). There was also a peak in November 22 of 270 offences.

Within 2023, the peak days for violent offences against women and girls (including sexual offences) reported to the police within the Borough of Harrow are Friday and Saturday, with higher-than-average levels also on Wednesdays and Thursdays. The peak time for the same offences is between 8am-9am, rising in the afternoon at midday, with another peak from 3pm until 5pm/6pm.

The peak times tend to reflect the busiest times on the streets, with the largest peak being at 4pm, after students are leaving school. These peak times also align with peak times of other types of crime. It is important to note that this data fluctuates and is seasonal, so this does vary throughout the year.

There were 422 sexual offences that took place within Harrow during the twelve months up to June 2023, and for 347 (82%) of these offences the victims were women or girls, of these 50% were under the age of 25. For the 179 rape offences during this period, 91% of victims were women or girls, 63% was classified as non-domestic rape and 37% was flagged as domestic abuse.

A fifth of all non-domestic sexual offences against women and girls take place in Greenhill or Roxeth. Whereas domestic sexual offences against women and girls are more likely to take place in Edgware (10%) Roxeth (10%) and Greenhill (9%).

NHS digital data shows that during 2021/22 and 2022/23 levels of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remained the same with 60 women and girls FGM was identified, presenting at around 415 health service attendances. Half of the women and girls in 2022/23 were newly identified. Most frequently the age at which FGM was carried out was not recorded (66%) but most the common recorded age was between the ages of 5–9-year-old (25%).

Views from Harrow's communities

Along with obtaining the views of key partner organisations, it is also important to include the views of Harrow's young people to support and encourage the development and creation by young people of a counter narrative to Serious Violence issues.

Therefore, to assist in the development of the Strategic Needs Assessment, the council engaged with young people across the borough on the subject of violence and crime. This included a discussion on, but not limited to how concerned young people were about Serious Violence in the borough, the effects they think Serious Violence has on the wider borough and their opinions on what interventions may help to tackle Serious Violence in Harrow.

Serious Violence Youth Survey 2023

A survey was conducted in October 2023 and was disseminated across all 17 Secondary Schools/Colleges across Harrow with the purpose of seeking young people's views on the causes and impact of violence.

This research consists of the voices and views of over 950 young people across Harrow and sought to understand the drivers of recent increases in Serious Violent crimes. Included in this research was a specific focus on the experiences of young adults and young people (aged 10 – 25) about their perceptions and fears in relation to violence in Harrow.

During this research we found that:

- 10% of respondents reported that they have been subjected to violence or threat of violence in Harrow.
- 13% of respondents were very concerned and 23% were concerned about violence in Harrow. The general trend shows the older the age range, the more concerned the respondents were of violence or threat of violence.

Harrow (VAH), Harrow College, Young Harrow Foundation (YHF), Ignite Youth, Harrow Law Centre, Harrow Association of Somali Voluntary Organisations (HASVO), Harrows Business Improvement District (ha1BID), the Metropolitan Police alongside over 20 young people who regularly attend sessions run by NOMAD.

Key Highlights from Consultation:

- Young people suggesting the need to build better relationships between parent and children/ younger generations as young people cannot go to their parents and share their worries or concerns. They felt that parents needed support with knowing what is available to them.
- Young people also raised the influence of social media and how it plays a role in exacerbating peer pressure, toxic masculinity, and impetus to react immediately.
- The need for safe places in Harrow for young people to hang out and build relationships in a safe environment.
- Young people also highlighted poverty and employability as causal factors of crime and violence.
- The need to improve relationships between police and communities. Insufficient neighbourhood policing leads to lack of mutual trust, respect, and positive relationships especially for young people. Consequently, young people feel reluctant to report crimes to the police.

In the recent *How Are You Harrow?*⁸ Survey 38% of young people said there are areas of Harrow where they feel unsafe, with 44% saying they felt unsafe in the areas that they some or all or the time. Furthermore, a fifth of the young people said they have been in a physical fight in the last 12 and a third said they had witnessed someone get physically hurt by someone in the last 12 months.

⁸ The *How Are You Harrow?* (HAY) survey is a collaboration between CNWL, Harrow Council and the Young Harrow Foundation, investigating the health and wellbeing of young people living across Harrow. The survey ran from November 2022 to March 2023 with 6809 young people taking part between the ages of 9-18.

Safer Spaces Survey 2023

The London Borough of Harrow's Safer Spaces Survey was designed to give a better understand of the concerns, perceptions and experiences of women and girls in Harrow and identify public spaces of concern, what improvements are needed and to communicate what will be done to alleviate these problems.

During the first tranche of the survey from October 2022 to December 2022, there were 318 responses with over 2,000 people visiting the website. Common themes raised were, unwanted verbal behaviour and feeling intimidated, due to persons loitering (youths, street drinkers, outside betting shops / licensed premises / busy transport hubs); drug dealing and signs of drug use and paraphernalia; and poorly lit and isolated walkways or alleyways.

Since then, until July 2023, 474 people responded with over 4,000 people visiting the website. Analysis over this longer trend shows the key common themes centred around feeling intimidated and the fear of being followed. Since the survey began, the areas where most people said they felt unsafe were, Roxeth, Wealdstone south and Greenhill.

The Public Attitude Survey

The Public Attitude Survey has shown that in London, trust and confidence in the police have seen sustained downwards trajectories over recent years, reaching particularly low levels at the end of 2021-2022. However, trust and confidence measures in Harrow has improved and are consistently above London levels,

In quarter 2 of 2023-24, 82% of Harrow Residents believed the Metropolitan Police Service is an organisation they can trust (69% for London), Whilst 63% of residents felt the police do a good job in their local area, (48% for London) improving by 12 percentage points from the same period last year. 76% of residents felt the Police listen to concerns (57% for London), improving by six percentage points. Also, in Q2 2023/24, Harrow had the highest level of residents in London who agree that the Police treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are (85%, (London average 63%)).

In quarter 2 of 2023-24, Harrow residents were less confident about feeling informed about local police activities (23%, (London average 28%)), declining by 12 percentage points from the same period last year. Harrow residents were least confident in how to contact their ward

officer (12%, (London average 14%)), declining by 16 percentage points over this same timeframe.

Harrow residents are less likely to feel worried about knife crime and compared with Londoners as a whole. In quarter 2 of 2023-24, 32% of Harrow residents were worried about knife crime compared to 49% of Londoners, ranking Harrow residents' level of concern as the lowest in London.

Key findings from Engagement

The key concerns that emerged from the totality of responses/conversations with young people are as follows:

- There is an urgent need to create safe places and strong relationships to divert young people from Serious Youth Violence.
- Social media is viewed as amplifying and exacerbating violent conflict.
- Vulnerability and fear are important drivers in the increase in young people carrying weapons.
- There is a lack of trust between police and communities.

Summary of Current Provision

Work is already being undertaken by Safer Harrow in response to Serious Youth Violence. As part of the Serious Violence Strategy, a mapping exercise of services working to reduce Serious Youth Violence across the borough was undertaken. This has enabled us to better understand what is currently on offer across the partnership to ensure better co-ordination. The following provision is currently available:

VAWG

Perpetrator Programs:

- Culturally Informed Family Approach (CIFA) Perpetrator 2-year Programme - This project provides a focused & coordinated family & community approach for marginalised groups to identify issues and need through a specialised suitability assessment and interventions.
- DRIVE Pan-London Perpetrator 2-year Programme – 10 spaces made available for Harrow where 12-month support is provided for perpetrators

Harrow Domestic Abuse Offer:

- In 2023, the council invested £431,000 over three years in Domestic Abuse services through the councils' contract with Hestia. This includes Community based support as well as Housing support.
- The service works in tandem with and signposts victims to other services provided by council departments and externally through the voluntary and community sectors.

Complex Needs Program:

- This is a consortium program run with Ealing, Slough, and Hestia. The council received £131,000 over two years to assist 80 victims of domestic abuse with multiple and complex needs across Ealing and Harrow to access safe and appropriate accommodation

VoiceBox

- In 2023, the council collaborated with Voicebox who will offer assemblies and drama-based workshops across 12 schools in Harrow. The goal is to address issues such

as misogyny, VAWG and mental health by examining the role of masculinity in these problems. This hopes to reach 1300 male high-school students in Year 9 and Year 10.

Safer Spaces Survey

- In 2023, the council launched its 'Safer Spaces' webpage where residents are encouraged to tell us not only where they feel safe and unsafe in Harrow, but why. This engagement exercise will help us develop actions to deliver practical, community-led responses based on the key locations, types of activity, environment and violence reported, and what we learn about the experiences of key demographics such as women and young people.
- This is now being rolled out via QR code/app and due to be circulated through to the Harrow residents and visitors through social media, newsletters, and posters. The information collected from the survey will be reviewed at the monthly Police Tactical Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG), quarterly Safer Harrow and quarterly VAWG Sub-Group, as well as shared ad hoc with partners to address patterns of concerns and potential identified hotspot areas.

"Safe Spaces" UK Says No More Campaign

- The Safe Spaces scheme aims to reduce fear by providing a safe space within public and commercial premises for those who feel threatened on the street. In conjunction with Public Protection, our Community Safety teams work to carry out environmental visual audits and make physical changes to minimise the risk of crime and the perception of that risk in an area.

Early Intervention and Prevention

Strong partnerships have been maintained and many service providers already commissioned by the council have been extended. This includes:

- MIND – mindfulness sessions for Harrows young people
- Cedars Youth and Community Centre – offers Premier League funded programme called 'Chances' for young people who are at risk of offending or reoffending
- Street Doctors – provide sessions for young people around life-saving emergency first-aid techniques based on peer associations.

- SPEAR – delivers employability improvements to young people through providing opportunities for acquiring foundational skills and facilitating work placements and apprenticeship opportunities

Other Services:

- Project Engage – Youth Work within Custody + up to 3 Community-Based Sessions
- Turnaround Programme – Up to 12 months of Early Help and Prevention focused work for Youth following on from Project Engage
- Your Choice – (Cognitive Behavioural Therapy interventions) research base for Youth Justice Service
- No Knives, Better Lives – A weapons awareness course run jointly with the Metropolitan Police
- Crime Presentation and Trauma Management presentations – interactive presentations to primary/secondary schools in Harrow delivered by The Josh Hanson Trust
- Early Intervention Youth Project – sports-based interventions delivered by Ignite Youth for young people aged 11 to 18
- Compass Harrow (substance misuse provider) – undertake engagement and educational sessions with schools across Harrow

Key Priorities and Actions

Developing resilience, supporting positive alternatives and offering timely interventions are essential to prevent people from committing Serious Violence. Prevention and early intervention are at the heart of our approach to tackling Serious Violence and based on the insights and evidence set out in Harrow's Strategic Needs Assessment. This chapter proposes universal and targeted (selective and indicated) interventions to intervene and stop people from getting involved in and committing serious violent offences.

Taking account of the Strategic Needs Assessment, the local partnership has agreed the following strategic objectives for the next 12 months to prevent and reduce Serious Violence.

Harrow's Key Priorities

Through the analysis of the Strategic Needs Assessment and the consultation findings, the following priorities have been agreed:

- To reduce Serious Violent Crime with young people below the age of 25 within Harrow
- To tackle Violence against Women and Girls
- To encourage a Community Approach to tackling Serious Youth Violence in Harrow (under 25)

Priority Area 1: To reduce Serious Violent Crime with young people below the age of 25 within Harrow

Serious violence requires a holistic partnership approach which cannot be effectively tackled in isolation. Our strategy emphasises prevention strategies that target the various risk indicators which can be the causation of violence. While also promoting protective factors to mitigate both perpetrators and vulnerable victims. The Safer Harrow partnership will concentrate on deterrents and protective measures, and will work across individuals, statutory and voluntary services within the community.

Objectives:

- To reduce the number of Serious Youth Violence Incidents
- To reduce incidents of Knife Crime (including possession)

- To increase Early Intervention and Prevention measures
- To strengthen the restorative and rehabilitative approach to our enforcement practice throughout Harrow

Interventions/Actions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- Positive youth activities (including outreach) for all young people, before and at the point at which they show signs of needing support, with a focus on communities most affected by Violent crime.
- Work with education settings (including primary, secondary, alternative provision, further education, and pupil referral units) to keep pupils safe and reduce the likelihood of fixed term and permanent exclusions
- Mentoring, coaching or other forms of targeted interventions with children and young people at risk of involvement in violence or knife carrying
- Bring about improvements to the use of information and data from a range of sources to enable a more intelligence-led operational response as well as regular mapping and targeting of priority areas and people

Priority Area 2: Tackling Violence against Women and Girls

Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) constitutes a fundamental violation of human rights, detrimentally impacting the lives of millions. Recognised as a global issue of epidemic proportions, it is acknowledged that, on a national scale, an average of two women are tragically killed every week by a current or former partner, with one in four women experiencing some form of domestic abuse in their lifetime⁹. However, VAWG is not confined to a national context; it is an issue affecting Harrow, estimated to impact approximately one in three women and girls at some point in their lifetime.

Despite instances of VAWG often remaining concealed and underreported, it is not an inevitable phenomenon, and collectively, we possess the capacity to bring it to an end. This strategy sets out the role each of us can play in ending VAWG, forming an integral part of our coordinated community response.

⁹ [The Facts - Refuge](#)

Objectives:

- The reduction in Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) and Domestic Abuse (DA) incidents across the Borough
- To increase reporting from Women and Girls on feeling Safe in the Borough
- To increase Awareness of risks to Safety
- To positively change male attitudes towards VAWG through education and awareness raising

Interventions/Actions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- Collaborate as a partnership to increase the number of safe spaces in Harrow to support victims of VAWG and Domestic Abuse, and share data with partners and publicise key messages to residents
- Work to address perpetrators through the Criminal Justice System or other Preventative Initiatives and programmes
- Ensure Safe reporting and support are available for all victims and survivors
- Enable victims and/or survivors to access support services to receive the required help they need by including the production of a directory of VAWG services for professionals, to ensure awareness of referral pathways as well as adding this onto Harrow's webpage to raise public awareness around all types of VAWG and where to access support.
- Preventative work with young people in Harrow to challenge problematic misogynistic attitudes and behaviour.
- Bystander Intervention campaign to increase public and professional awareness, and training for Council staff and members, especially to target hotspot areas identified within the Safer Spaces survey

Priority Area 3: To encourage a Community Approach to tackling Serious Youth Violence in Harrow (under 25)

Harrow has a rich and diverse voluntary and community sector and there are several organisations delivering outstanding interventions with children, young people, and families across our borough, often in very challenging circumstances and with limited budgets. Any attempts to bring out significant changes to the attitudes and behaviour of our local communities in relation to Serious Youth Violence needs to include Voluntary and Community Sector organisations at its core.

Objectives:

- Ensure that Harrow's Voluntary and Community Sector are fully engaged in contributing to and shape Harrow's strategy to address Serious Youth Violence
- Greater involvement of Voluntary and Community Sector in finding place-based solutions to issues in their communities
- Assist Voluntary and Community Sector partners in attracting financial investment from external sources, including by endorsing programmes with strong evidence of impact on our young people in the Borough.

Interventions/Actions to be implemented to tackle this priority:

- Involve young people within local violence prevention work, through both established forums such as youth councils/parliaments, youth Independent Advisory Groups and informal grassroots pathways including through social media platforms
- Work with communities and other partners in local areas to develop capacity building to support incident response in the community, through robust partnership approach, and to increase trust and collaboration between local communities, stakeholders, key local institutions, and statutory partners.
- Work with children and young people and community members to create opportunities for development and the option to pursue alternatives to criminal activities. Partnerships should help to support positive aspirations and promote positive role-models.
- Re-introduce the Serious Violence Panel - which links in with SWARM/MACE forums but focuses on children nearing 18 and those over 18 and facilitates their transition to adult services.

Measures of Success

Key to the successful implementation of this strategy is ensuring that we connect the strategic priorities and principles with operational staff across the partnership. This will assist in embedding a co-ordinated and effective approach to reduce incidents of Serious Violence.

In order to comply with the Serious Violence Duty, this strategy will be reviewed on an annual basis. Progress of this strategy and the objectives set out within it will be reviewed quarterly through the Community Safety Delivery Plan and the Safer Harrow Board.

Specifically, in:

Workstream 2: tackling Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

Workstream 4: reducing the number of Violent Incidents on the Borough

Workstream 5: perception of crime and ASB and hate crime

This will enable us to respond to any emerging trends or patterns relating to Serious Violence and confirm that our response remains effective.

We will measure the effectiveness of our response by embedding a performance framework focusing on the following areas:

- Harm reduction – we will monitor data (primarily A&E Admissions and MPS) related to rates of serious violent offences and homicides
 - A reduction in hospital presentations and admissions for assaults with a knife or sharp object and especially among those victims aged under 25
 - A reduction in knife-enabled serious violence and especially among those victims aged under 25
 - A reduction in all non-domestic homicides and especially among those victims aged under 25 involving knives.
 - A reduction in the severity of Serious Violence incidents
 - A reduction in the fear of knife crime and Serious Violence across all of our communities
- Communities – we will consistently seek the views of young people to understand how safe, supported, respected and hopeful they feel in our communities.
 - This will be done via our annual Residents Survey where individuals will have an opportunity to inform the council on safety and their perceptions of safety across the Borough

- We will also introduce an annual Youth Survey which will be disseminated to all young people in the Borough in order to capture their views on Serious Violence in Harrow

- Safety perception – we will continue to seek people’s views of how safe they feel
 - This will be done via the Harrow Safer Spaces Consultation, which is regularly monitored, with the results being reviewed at the monthly Police Tactical Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG), quarterly Safer Harrow and quarterly VAWG Sub-Group, as well as shared ad-hoc with partners to address patterns of concerns and potential identified hotspot areas.
 - Results from the survey will feed into the VAWG Sub-Group's working action plan, which is reviewed and updated regularly.
 - Partners will work in collaboration to address areas of concern and provide feedback to residents on the actions taken.

- Delivery of our commitments – we will review and report back on how we have delivered our commitments contained within this strategy.
 - The Serious Violence Strategy deliverables will be embedded within the Community Safety Delivery Plan. This will be reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure progress is being made as well as to ensure we, as a council, are being reactive to any changes in the Borough. The Strategy will also be reviewed at the Safer Harrow Board on a quarterly basis where updates will be provided, and progress will be monitored by stakeholders.

Declaration

This strategy has been co-produced and will be co-delivered by the London Borough of Harrow in partnership with required authority partners.



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

National
Probation
Service



Safer Harrow
Community Safety Partnership



LONDON FIRE BRIGADE



youngharrow
foundation

iGNITE!

engage empower transform



MY YARD

HARROW
TOWN CENTRE
Business Improvement District



TRUST



NOMAD
SHAPING OUR WORLD



**Harrow Association
of Somali Voluntary
Organisations**

wish
centre



North West London
Integrated Care System



North West London

Appendix 1: List of Agencies Involved in the Safer Harrow Partnership



Appendix 2: Sources of Funding for Harrow's Serious Violence Strategy

Below is a list of actual and potential funding sources that can be used to deliver on the specific priorities and themes contained within this strategy.

- Youth Offending Team Funding: MoJ / MOPAC
- VRU Funding
- Critical Incident Fund
- Capacity Building Funding

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SERIOUS VIOLENCE

Strategic Need Assessment

Executive Summary



LONDON BOROUGH OF
HARROW

Serious violence in Harrow



Less than 2% of serious violence in London occurs **in Harrow**



Harrow has the **3rd lowest** rate of Serious Violence in London



Although the overall rate is low, in the year to September 2023, Harrow had one of the **highest increases** in serious violence in London



Those involved in '**county lines**' crime in Harrow were more likely to be male and **aged 16 to 17**.



20% of those committing serious violence were assessed as having a **high mental health need**



80% of all 10- to 17-year-old perpetrators of serious violence had been **excluded or suspended from school**. 73% had persistent absences



29% of all 10- to 17-year-old perpetrators have experienced or witnessed **domestic abuse**



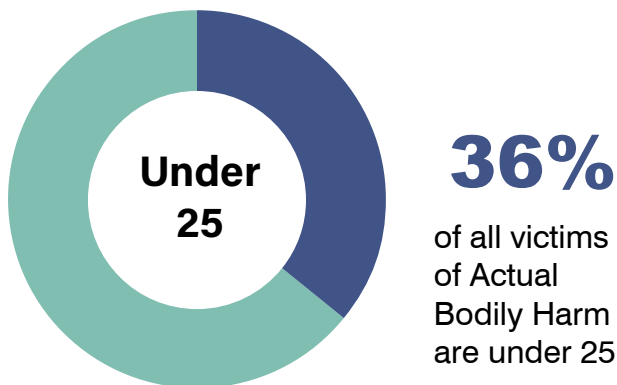
Just under a **quarter** had **gang associations** or associated with others known to have gang associations.

Victims



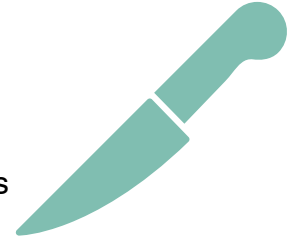
One in three of victims of serious violence are under 25 years old (35%)

67% of victims of non-domestic serious violence were male. This increased to 73% in the under-25s.



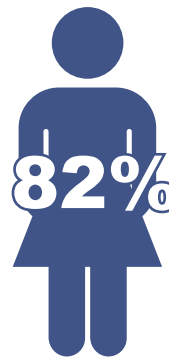
Violence against women and girls

2.2% of violent offences against women and girls involved a knife.



Monthly* data shows that violent offences against women and girls averages at nearly

250 per month



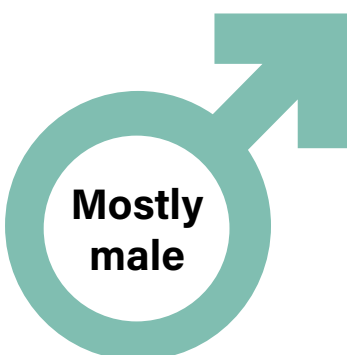
82% victims of sexual offences were women or girls, of these 50% were under the age of 25 (in the 12 months to June 2023).

Around 60 women and girls per year present to Health services in Harrow with female genital mutilation

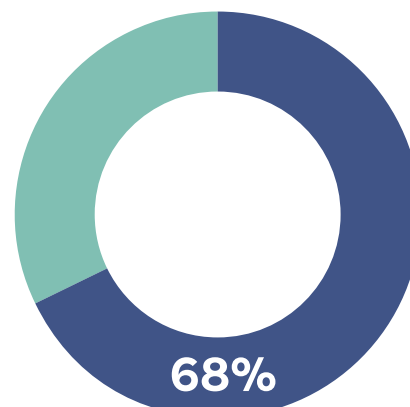


*in the twelve months up to Sep 2023

Domestic violence



Almost all of those accused of domestic abuse were male (98%) (in the 12 months up to June 2023).



Survivors of domestic abuse in Harrow are more likely to be women and girls (68% in the twelve months up to June 23).

Executive Summary

2023

The Safer Harrow Community Safety Partnership regularly carries out a strategic assessment of crime and disorder in Harrow. This process keeps the Safer Harrow Partnership informed of any crime and anti-social behaviour issues, trends and emerging themes.

Harrow is divided into 22 wards. Transport hubs include one main Bus station in Harrow Town Centre, three London Overground stations, ten tube stations and around 430 bus stops. There are also 36 parks and open spaces, which are distributed relatively evenly across the borough and most of which are accessible, within 10-15mins of walking from a resident's home.

Harrow's population is growing and aging. The 2021 Census estimated Harrow had 261,300 usual residents with 78,390 (30%) under 25 years old. Across London, rates of population movement are high, especially among younger adults. Data from the 2021 Census shows that 10.0% of Harrow residents had moved into the area in the previous year - 8.6% from other parts of the UK and 1.4% from abroad.

Population movement can influence a resident's sense of belonging in their community. Other data shows¹ that in areas of Harrow, such as parts of Headstone, Greenhill and Harrow on the Hill, over half the population changed during the period 2011 to 2020.

In the latest census, around 125,100 Harrow residents said they were born in England. This represented 47.9% of the local population. The

¹ [CDRC Residential Mobility Index | CDRC Data](#)

figure has decreased from just over 128,400 in 2011, which at the time represented 53.7% of Harrow's population.

India was the next most represented, with just under 26,400 Harrow residents reporting this country of birth (10.1%). This figure was up from around 21,500 in 2011, which at the time represented 9.0% of the population of Harrow.

The number of Harrow residents born in Romania rose from around 4,800 in 2011 (2.0% of the local population) to just under 21,100 in 2021 (8.1%).

Harrow is ethnically diverse, with at least 285 different ethnic identities reported in the 2021 Census. In 2021, 45% of the population identified as "Asian or "Asian British", which ranks 3rdnd nationally; 8.6% identified as "Black, Black British, Caribbean or African"; 3.8% identified themselves within mixed or multiple ethnic groups; 36.5% identified as "White"; 7.2% identified themselves within "Other" ethnic groups.

Nationally, Harrow is home to the largest population of Sri Lankan born (4.1%) and Romanian born (8.1%) communities and has the 4th largest Afghan born (1.8%) population in the country. Compared with other Local Authorities, Harrow has the highest percentage of its population reporting Romanian as a main language (7.5%, 19,000) and there are over 155 languages spoken in Harrow schools.

The 2021 Census reports that 12% of people in Harrow are disabled under the Equality Act definition and 18,747 (21%) households include one person who has a disability.

Schools in Harrow perform well in comparison to national and statistically similar local authorities. The vast majority of primary schools and secondary schools are judged 'good' or 'outstanding' by OfSTED. Harrow also has among the lowest levels in London of young people (aged 16-17) not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET).

Residents of Harrow are relatively less socio-economically deprived overall than those in most other London boroughs. Harrow is the 7th least deprived London Borough in the Indices of Multiple Deprivation².

² Harrow is ranked 27th out of the 33 London Boroughs in the 2019 IMD

However along with other Borough's across London, the London Borough of Harrow faces some economic challenges. The number of pupils eligible for free school meals has increased from 4,331 (11.4%, 2019/20 (academic) (17.6%) to 6,907 (17.6%, 2022/23 (academic)).

Harrow's most deprived LSOA³ is in Stanmore Park ward (E01002227) and is the area covering the Woodlands and Cottesmore Estates. The second most deprived LSOA is in Hatch End ward (E01002151) and includes parts of the Headstone and Headstone Lane Estates.

Based on an annual gross income of under £15,000 in 2021, Roxbourne (16.1%), Wealdstone (15%) and Marlborough (14.1%) have the highest proportion of households with low incomes at ward level. The rankings remain the same based on a £20,000 low-income threshold, but proportions are considerably higher (Broxbourne (25.9%), Wealdstone (24.7%) and Marlborough (23.7%))⁴.

Unemployment in Harrow however remains below the London average but has more than doubled since the pandemic. In June 2019, 1.8% of working age residents aged 16 to 64 were out of work, this rose to 3.8% in April 2023⁵.

17.4% of Harrow residents have no qualifications. This is higher than the London average. Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic residents are more likely to experience barriers to employment due to lack of entry level qualifications and functional skills, English language, and digital skills.

Crime in Harrow

Harrow is one of the safest Boroughs in London. The overall crime levels in Harrow are consistently low when compared to other London Boroughs.

Looking at crime types, although a small reduction (-1%) violence against the person remains the highest volume crime type in Harrow, 28% of all recorded crimes in twelve months up to September 2023. This increases to 44% for offences involving under 25s. Theft, including theft

³ Lower Super Output Area – a geographical unit of approx 1000 to 3000 population, 400 to 1200 households

⁴ 2021 CACI Paycheck Data and 2011 census

⁵ Source: ONS claimant count

from person, and “other” theft is still the second highest recorded crime type (18% of all recorded crime). Drugs offences are the only crime type to significantly reduce in the 12 months up to September 2023 (down 20%). Possession of weapons has seen slight decrease during this period (down 3%).

There was a reduction in the level of youth offending from 2021/22, in which there were 251 offences to 181 offences in 2022/23. Levels of juvenile first-time entrants to the criminal justice system are reducing (27% reduction between 2021 and 2022), and consistently lower than the London average, although this gap is narrower since 2020. Although there has been a downward trend of comparatively low volumes, youth offending has become increasingly complex, more serious and undertaken by young people with higher levels of vulnerability as well as risk.

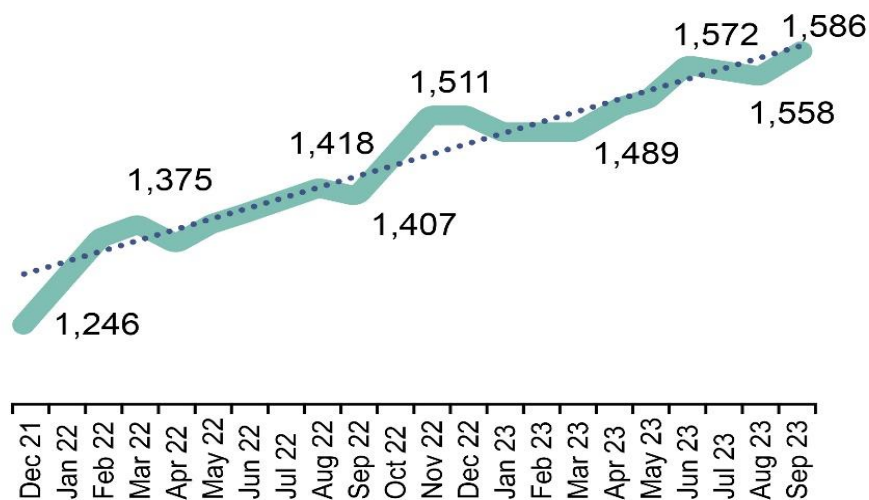
In 2022/23 there were 383 pupils of secondary schools and colleges suspected of committing a criminal offence⁶. There were also 569 pupils of secondary schools and colleges in Harrow recorded as victims of crime.

⁶ Source Met Police; Northwest BCU analysis – Academic year 2022/23

The Nature of Serious Violence in Harrow

The vast majority of residents in Harrow have not directly experienced serious violence with less than 2% of London’s serious violence in occurring in Harrow⁷. Although this equates to the 3rd lowest rate, Harrow has had one of the highest rate increases of recorded serious violence offences in London.

Figure 1: Recorded Offences (Dec 2021 - Sept 2023)



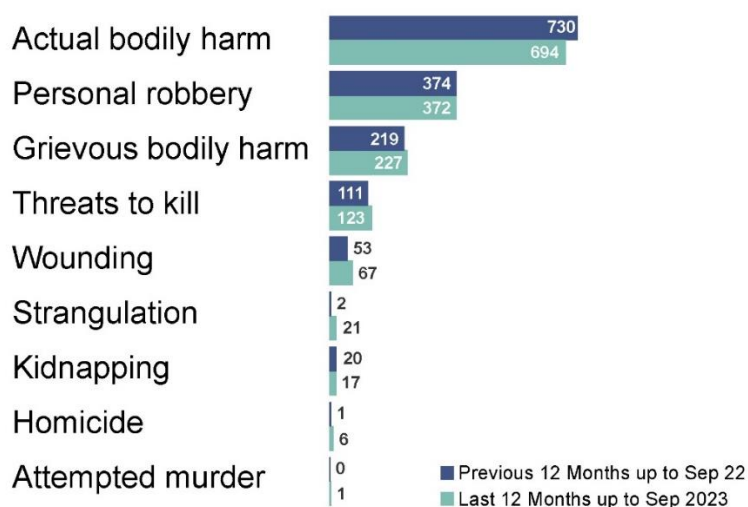
Serious violence is not distributed evenly across the population and significant inequalities exist. Certain groups and geographical areas within Harrow are at higher risk of exposure to and involvement in serious violence.

There were 1,598 serious violence offences recorded in Harrow in the twelve months up to September 23, this represents a rate increase of 14% from the previous period. This is higher than the year-on-year increase across London (+5%). Police records show that at around one in three of all offences involved a person under the age of 25.

early 50% of all serious violence offences in Harrow are categorised as Actual Bodily Harm (ABH), and 23% as robbery. 129 (8%) of all serious violence offences in Harrow, in the twelve months up to September 23, were identified by the Police as a Hate Crime, this makes up 31% of all Hate Crime offences.

⁷ Source Met Police; October

Figure 2: Breakdown of Offence Type



At the time of writing the Serious Violence Strategic Assessment, Harrow had the fourth highest annual homicide rate in London with six homicides involving young people in the twelve months up to September 2023. A&E admissions due to violence have increased in Harrow from 249 in August 23 (rolling year) to 297 July (rolling year). 36% of these in the twelve months up to July 23 were under 25 years old.

There are high socio-economic costs associated with serious violence. In 2018 the Home Office updated their estimates for the economic costs of crime. This enables an approximation of the costs of Serious Violence in Harrow to the Criminal Justice system. In the twelve months up to September 2023 homicide, robbery, serious sexual offences, and violence resulting in injury, in Harrow, is estimated to have cost over £20,000,000 to the criminal justice system alone.

“Gang flagged” offences have fallen over the last decade with less than 20 recorded in Harrow the twelve months up to September 23 compared to around 40 per year in 2013/14. Knife carrying among young people has anecdotally been linked to self-preservation and fear of victimization, rather than links with gangs⁸.

The proportion of crime in Harrow that is recorded involving a knife is less than 2% (including knife injury, knife threatening or intimidation).

⁸ REF!

However there has been a 48% increase in knife crime offences (between the twelve months ending September 2023 to the previous twelve months) mostly attributed to the possession of knives. During this same period the Police stopped and searched 678 people in Harrow for suspicion of carrying a weapon, finding 48. These are the lowest levels in London.

There has been an upward trajectory in non-domestic Knife crime with injury since March 2021. In the twelve months up to September 2023 there 81 recorded offences compared to 56 in the previous period.

Overall, the monthly trends show that non-domestic serious violence fluctuates during the year with no significant peak months or seasonality observed. However, data from the twelve months up to August 2023 shows that non-domestic serious violence in Harrow commonly occurs in the daytime and in the evening between 9am-7pm and 9pm to 11pm – but occurs more commonly between the hours of 4-6pm⁹.

Offences are not spread around the Borough there are many areas where few or no offences have occurred at all. There is however a concentration of offences that have occurred around Harrow Bus Station and Harrow on the Hill train station. There are also higher than average occurrences near Harrow & Wealdstone train station, around South Harrow tube station and the Roxeth/Sudbury Hill area.

County Lines

County lines is a form of Child Criminal Exploitation. It is a term used to describe the activities of gangs and organised criminal networks who are involved in exporting illicit drugs into one or more importing areas (within the UK), using dedicated mobile phone lines or other forms of "deal line". Offences involve the exploitation children and vulnerable

⁹ Source: Met Police data

adults to move (and store) drugs and money, often using coercion, intimidation, violence (including sexual violence) and weapons¹⁰

County Lines data¹¹ shows that across London a total of 339 referrals were received by the Rescue and Response Project between April 2021 to March 2022. This is a 43% reduction when compared to the same period last year (598). During this period with 26 referrals, Harrow ranked 10th highest out of the 32 London Boroughs (2021/22). Also 1,301 individuals were identified or suspected as having a link to County Lines. This was a 27% reduction when compared to the same period last year (1,784). Harrow ranked 9th lowest in 2021/22 with 24 linked individuals. From April 2022 to October 23 in Harrow a further 17 referrals and 15 individuals were identified or suspected as having a link to County Lines. Individuals involved in county lines in Harrow were more likely to be male and between the ages of 16-17.

¹⁰ ([County lines: criminal exploitation of children and vulnerable adults, Home Office 2018](#)).

¹¹ The CLICM data comprises individuals up to the age of 25 years who have been identified from various sources such as MPS intelligence systems, county police forces, the Local Authority and referrals to the Rescue and Response Project.

Victims of Serious Violence – (In the twelve months up to June 2023)

One in three victims of non-domestic serious violence are under 25 years old (35%). 36% of all victims of Actual Bodily Harm are under 25, which matches the proportion of under 25s A&E admissions due to violence.

In the twelve months up to June 2023, Met Police data shows that 18% of victims of non-domestic serious violence experienced moderate to serious injuries (including 0.12% fatal), 34% experienced minor injuries and 44% were recorded as experiencing no injury.

A higher proportion of victims of non-domestic serious violence were male (67% male, 31% female) and this increases for victims under 25s (73% Male, 27% female).

Ethnicity: 33% of non-domestic serious violence victims' ethnicity was recorded as White. This proportion increases to 39% for victims under 25. The proportion of victims whose ethnicity was recorded as Black was the same for under 25s as it was for all victims (36%). The proportion of victims whose ethnicity was recorded as Asian was less for under 25s (18%) than all victims (23%). The data does not include a breakdown of victims/survivors from mixed or multiple ethnic groups.

There has been an upward trajectory in the number of non-domestic victims of Knife crime with injury who were under 25 years old in Harrow, increasing to 36 victims in the twelve months up to September 2023, from 20 victims in the previous period. Harrow ranks the 11th lowest in London, but rates (0.13) are higher than the neighbouring borough average (0.10).

Perpetrators of Serious Violence

Suspects are more likely to be male, with 86% of those suspected by the Police of non-domestic serious violence in Harrow recorded as male (in the twelve months up to June 2023). This increases slightly to 87% for under 25s. For robbery during this period, 100% of suspects were male (at all ages).

Frequently occupations of those suspected of serious violence were not recorded by the Police (88%), however the second most common occupation status was 'unemployed' (5%), and the third were occupations in the night-time economy (5%) (in the twelve months up to June 2023).

A significant proportion (56%) of suspects of non-domestic serious violence were recorded with a disability (in the twelve months up to June 2023). This proportion increases to 86% for suspects recorded as female. The most common disability was recorded was 'mental health issues' for 39% of all suspects, and secondly 'learning difficulty' for 10% of all suspects.

Youth offending (10-17s)

The proportion of non-domestic serious violence offences shows an upward trend over a 2.5-year period (April 22- Sept 223). 73 serious violence offences (13% of all offences) were committed by 41 young people, an average of 1.8 offence per offender. 58% of the young people committed only one serious violence offence in the 2.5 years, 32% committed 2-3 offences and 10% committed over 4 offences. There were also an additional 114 other less serious violence against the person offences, 21.2% of all offences. These offences were committed by 87 young people 36.7% of all offenders.

Youth offending data (10-17s) the youngest age for committing a serious violence offence was 12 with the majority of young people being aged between 14 and 16 years old (80%).

Over this 2.5-year period, a higher proportion of young people (10-17s) committing serious violence offences were Male (88%). All serious violence offences for females were Assault with injury.

There is an observed ethnic disproportionality as for a third of young people who were sentenced for serious violence their ethnicity was recorded as Black or Black British despite accounting 7.9% of the population¹². Just over one fifth of the perpetrators were identified as Mixed ethnicity (22%) followed by smaller than population proportions categorised White (20%), Asian or Asian British (17%), and Chinese or Other (5%).

Risk factors

Risk factors for youth offending and violence exist on many levels: at the individual level (e.g. gender or having learning difficulties), within the family (e.g. family breakdown or abuse) or at a wider environmental level (such as deprivation or homelessness). Risk factors do not exist in isolation; they interact with each other and can be cumulative, and as such a young person may experience multiple risk factors at any given time.

Looking at both victims and perpetrators, 14–17-year-old boys are most at risk of being involved in serious violence in Harrow. A further look at some of the known risk factors for young people offending was conducted for those 41 young people who committed a serious violence offence over the 2.5-year period.

On average each young person had 5.7 risk factors. Within this group for young people classed as the most serious re-offenders the average number of risk factors increased to 8.8.

Between April 2023 and September 2023, over 80% of all 10–17-year-olds had been excluded or suspended from school, and 73% had persistent absences (although sometimes this was after the offending).

20% of all 10–17-year-olds who committed serious Violence, were assessed by Youth Justice Service to have a high mental health need.

Just under a quarter were identified as having gang associations or associating with others know to have gang associations.

¹² ONS, Census 2021

Other common risk factors amongst this group were children's services involvement, Pupil Referral Unit attendance (46%) missing episodes (34%) and experiencing or witnessing domestic abuse (29%).

Domestic Abuse

The number of recorded domestic abuse offences in Harrow has fluctuated in the last three years. In 2021/22 there were 2,254 recorded offences this reduced to 1,978 in April 2022/23. In the twelve months up to September 2023 the level of recorded domestic offences stood at 2186.

There has been an overall upward trend in incidents flagged as domestic since November 2020. After a downward trend in the proportion of domestic offences resulting in injury – from 26% (July '22) to 20% (June '23) the level of was then increased in the twelve months up to September 2023 to 26%.

The main forms of domestic abuse experienced by survivors include Assault without Injury, Actual Bodily harm, and other Injury, Stalking and Harassment.

Higher rates of domestic abuse occur in Wealdstone South, Marlborough and Greenhill with around 14 offences per 1,000 population, compared to 7.7 in the Borough as a whole (in the twelve months up to September 23).

Survivors of violent domestic abuse in Harrow are more likely to be women and girls (68% in the twelve months up to June 23). Domestic abuse however impacts all age groups, with 54% of survivors aged 25-44 and 25% of survivors aged 55-64 recorded as survivors of abuse. A further 7% were aged 65 plus (in the twelve months up to June 23).

The ethnic profile of survivors recorded by the Met Police shows that Harrow's white population were impacted most by domestic abuse. The second largest group affected were Asian, followed by Black African and Caribbean¹³.

¹³ (Police ethnicity data is limited, and no further breakdowns are available)

Almost all of those accused by the Police of domestic abuse were male (98%) in the twelve months up to June 2023. Frequently occupations of those accused not recorded by the Police (85%), however the second most common occupation status was 'unemployed' (10%).

Violence Against Women and Girls

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) is an umbrella term used to cover a wide range of abuse types that affect more women and girls than men and boys. These include domestic homicide, domestic abuse, sexual assault, abuse experienced as a child, female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage and harassment in work and public life.

In line with the national picture, in Harrow women are more likely than men to experience domestic and sexual violence. In the twelve months up to June 2023 women and girls were the victims of a proportionate number of violent offences in Harrow (52%). However, this increases to a significantly disproportionate number of violent domestic offences (78%). 2.2% of violent offences against women and girls during this period involved a knife. There have been no domestic homicides recorded in Harrow during this period.

Monthly data shows that violent offences against women and girls average at nearly 250 per month peaking in May (266), June (276) and July (296). The lowest levels were in February (172). There was also a peak in November '22 of 270 offences.

There were 422 sexual offences that took place within Harrow during the twelve months up to June 2023, and for 347 (82%) of these offences the victims were women or girls, of these 50% were under the age of 25. For the 179 rape offences during this period, 91% of victims were women or girls, 63% was classified as non-domestic rape and 37% was flagged as domestic abuse.

A fifth of all non-domestic sexual offences against women and girls take place in Greenhill or Roxeth. Whereas domestic sexual offences against women and girls are more likely to take place in Edgware (10%) Roxeth (10%) and Greenhill (9%).

NHS Digital data shows that during 2021/22 and 2022/23 levels of Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) remained the same with 60 women and girls identified having been victim to FGM, presenting at around 415

health service attendances.¹⁴ Half of the women and girls in 2022/23 were newly identified. Most frequently the age at which FGM was carried out was not recorded (66%) but most the common recorded age was between the ages of 5–9-year-old (25%).

¹⁴ Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) comprises all procedures involving the partial or total removal of the external female genitalia or any other injury to the female genital organs for non-medical reasons.

Views from Harrow's communities

To assist in the development of the Serious Violence strategy a survey was conducted in October 2023, with the purpose of seeking young people's views on the causes and impact of violence.

Just under 1000 young people took part, from all 17 Secondary Schools/Colleges across Harrow, with majority aged 12 –15. The survey found that 10% of respondents reported that have been subjected to violence or threat of violence in Harrow.

13% of respondents were very concerned and 23% were concerned about violence with males are slightly more very concerned than females. The general trend shows the older the age range, the more concerned the respondents were of violence or threat of violence.

"Anger," "Gangs", "Adults drinking", "Bad influence", "Race & culture" were among the most common answers for respondents views the causes of violence. "Crime", "PTSD", "Stigma", "Anxiety" , "Fear" were among the most common answers for views on the impact on the community. When asked about how to tackle serious violence "Communities taking action", "Strengthening Young People's skills...& education", "support for parents and families" were among the most common answers.

Similar feedback around the how to tackle serious violence was raised by residents at the recent NOMAD – Town Centre Consultation¹⁵, with young people suggesting the need to build better relationships between parent and children/ younger generations, as young people cannot go to their parents and share their worries or concerns. They felt that parents needed support with knowing what is available to them. Young people also raised the influence of social media and lack of safe spaces, and

¹⁵ Nation of Migration Awakening The Diaspora (NOMAD), Town Centre consultation took place in November 2023

highlighted poverty and employability as causal factors of crime and violence.

In the recent *How Are You Harrow?*¹⁶ Survey 38% of young people said there are areas of Harrow where they feel unsafe, with 44% saying they felt unsafe in the areas that they some or all or the time. Furthermore, a fifth of the young people said they have been in a physical fight in the last 12 and a third said they had witnessed someone get physically hurt by someone in the last 12 months.

Results for Q2 2023-24 *Public Attitude Survey*¹⁷ show that the majority of Londoners feel safe waiting for public transport alone in their local area both during the day (98% for bus, train and tube) and after dark (82% bus, 85% train and 87% tube).

The proportion of Londoners feeling safe walking alone in their local area after dark increased this quarter to 76% (+6pp.). Large gender gaps remain here, with levels standing at 65% for females compared to 87% for males.

The London Borough of Harrow's Safer Spaces Survey was designed better understand the concerns, perceptions and experiences of women and girls in Harrow and identify public spaces of concern, what improvements are needed and to communicate what will be done to alleviate these problems.

During the first tranche of the survey October 2022 to December 2022 there were 318 responses with over 2000 people visiting the website. Common themes in the issues raised were; unwanted verbal behaviour

¹⁶ The *How Are You Harrow?* (HAY) survey is a collaboration between CNWL, Harrow Council and the Young Harrow Foundation, investigating the health and wellbeing of young people living across Harrow. The survey ran from November 2022 to March 2023 with 6809 young people taking part between the ages of 9-18.

¹⁷ The Public Attitude Survey (PAS) - a survey of 19,200 London residents per year capturing a wide range of perception data conducted by [Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime \(MOPAC\)](#).

and feeling intimidated, due to persons loitering (youths, street drinkers, outside betting shops / licensed premises / busy transport hubs); Drug dealing and signs of drug use and paraphernalia; and poorly lit and isolated walkways or alleyways.

Since then, until July 2023, 474 people responded with over 4,000 people visiting the website. Analysis over this longer trend shows the key common themes centred around feeling intimidated and the fear of being followed. Since the survey began, the areas where most people said they felt unsafe were, Roxeth, Wealdstone south and Greenhill.

The *Public Attitude Survey* has shown that in London trust and confidence in the police have seen sustained downwards trajectories over recent years, reaching particularly low levels at the end of 2021-2022. However, results in Harrow, for six out of the eight the measures, have improved are consistently above London levels.

Q2 23-24, 82% of Harrow Residents believed the Metropolitan Police Service is an organisation they can trust (69% for London), Whilst 63% felt the police do a good job in their local area, (48% for London) improving by 12 percentage points from the same period last year. There were 76% felt the Police listen to concerns (57% for London), improving by six percentage points. Also, in Q2 2023/24, Harrow had the highest level of residents in London who agree that the *Police treat everyone fairly, regardless of who they are* (85%, (London average 63%)).

Q2 2023/24, Harrow residents were less confident about *feeling informed about local police activities* (23%, (London average 28%)), declining by 12 percentage points from the same period last year. Harrow residents were least confident in *how to contact their ward officer* (12%, (London average 14%)), declining by 16 percentage points over this same timeframe.

Harrow residents are less likely to feel worried about knife crime and compared with Londoners as a whole. Q2 23-24, 32% of Harrow residents were worried about knife crime compared to 49% of Londoners, ranking Harrow residents' level of concern as the lowest in London.

Summary of Current Provision

There is already work being undertaken by the Safer Harrow Board in response to Serious Youth Violence. As part of the Serious Violence Strategy, a mapping exercise of services working to reduce Serious Youth Violence across the borough was undertaken. This has enabled us to better understand what is currently on offer across the partnership to ensure better co-ordination.

VAWG:

Perpetrator Programs:

- Culturally Informed Family Approach (CIFA) Perpetrator 2-year Programme - This project provides a focused & coordinated family & community approach for marginalised groups to identify issues and need through a specialised suitability assessment and interventions.
- DRIVE Pan-London Perpetrator 2-year Programme – 10 spaces made available for Harrow where 12-month support is provided for perpetrators

Harrow Domestic Abuse Offer

- In 2023, our Council invested £431,000 over three years in Domestic Abuse services through the Councils' contract with Hestia. This includes Community based support as well as Housing support.
- The service works in tandem with and signposts victims to other services provided by Council departments and externally through the voluntary and community sectors.

Complex Needs Program

- This is a Consortium program run with Ealing, Slough, and Hestia. The Council received £131,000 over two years to assist 80 victims of domestic abuse with multiple and complex needs across Ealing and Harrow to access safe and appropriate accommodation

VoiceBox

- In 2023, our Council collaborated with Voicebox who will offer assemblies and drama-based workshops across 12 schools in Harrow. The goal is to address issues such as misogyny, VAWG and mental health by examining the role of masculinity in these problems. This hopes to reach 1300 male high-school students in Year 9 and Year 10.

Safer Spaces Survey

- In 2023, our Council launched its 'Safer Spaces' webpage where residents are encouraged to tell us not only where they feel safe and unsafe in Harrow, but why. This engagement exercise will help us develop actions to deliver practical, community-led responses based on the key locations, types of activity, environment and violence reported, and what we learn about the experiences of key demographics such as women and young people.
- This is now being rolled out via QR code/app and due to be circulated through to the Harrow residents and visitors through social media, newsletters, and posters. The information collected from the survey will be reviewed at the monthly Police Tactical Tasking Coordination Group (TTCG), quarterly Safer Harrow and quarterly VAWG Sub-Group, as well as shared ad hoc with partners to address patterns of concerns and potential identified hotspot areas.

“Safe Spaces” UK Says No More Campaign

- The Safe Spaces scheme aims to reduce fear by providing a safe space within public and commercial premises for those who feel threatened on the street. In conjunction with Public Protection, our Community Safety teams work to carry out environmental visual audits and make physical changes to minimise the risk of crime and the perception of that risk in an area.

Intelligence Gaps

Data capture of victim and suspect profiles in relation to; protected characteristics employment; injury level; and relationship of suspect to victim, is incomplete. Increasing the confidence in this data will further support impact assessment findings.

Further insight is required to measure the extent of repeat victimisation of violent offences and associated risk factors.

Further insight is required to measure identify any overlapping of victim and suspect cohorts and associated risk factors.

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You will need to produce an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) if:

- You are developing a new policy, strategy, or service
- You are making changes that will affect front-line services
- You are reducing budgets, which may affect front-line services
- You are changing the way services are funded and this may impact the quality of the service and who can access it
- You are making a decision that could have a different impact on different groups of people
- You are making staff redundant or changing their roles

Guidance notes on how to complete an EqIA and sign off process are available on the Hub under Equality and Diversity. You must read the [guidance notes](#) and ensure you have followed all stages of the EqIA approval process (outlined in appendix 1). Section 2 of the template requires you to undertake an assessment of the impact of your proposals on groups with protected characteristics. Equalities and borough profile data, as well as other sources of statistical information can be found on the Harrow hub, within the section entitled: [Equality Impact Assessment](#) - sources of statistical information.

Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA)

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Type of Decision: | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Cabinet <input type="radio"/> Portfolio holder <input type="radio"/> Other (state) | |
| Title of Proposal | Serious Violence Strategy | Date EqIA created 13.02.24 |
| Name and job title of completing/lead Officer | Mira Chauhan, Policy Officer | |
| Directorate/ Service responsible | Community Safety Team, Corporate Strategy | |
| Organisational approval | | |
| EqIA approved by | Name: Jennifer Rock (Acting) Policy Officer EDI Team | Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to indicate that you have approved this EqIA 14.2.24 |

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1. Summary of proposal, impact on groups with protected characteristics and mitigating actions

(to be completed **after** you have completed sections 2 - 5)

a) What is your proposal?

The London Borough of Harrow's vision is to restore pride in Harrow. By working with key partners in the borough, Harrow's ambition is for Harrow to be a place where individuals, families and communities thrive, making the most of the opportunities to live, learn and work free from the fear of violence. In taking this forward, one of our main priorities is to create a borough that is clean and safe.

The Serious Violence Duty¹ was introduced under the Police, Crime, Sentencing and Courts Act 2022. The Council is a statutory duty holder and has until 31 January 2024 to demonstrate compliance with the requirement of the Duty to the Home Office.

The requirements for duty holder authorities are to:

- undertake an evidence-based analysis of the causes of serious violence in their area (and have effective data sharing to enable this)
- produce a strategic needs assessment based on the analysis.
- produce and implement a strategy with solutions to prevent and reduce serious violence in their area, which will need to be reviewed every year.

These requirements of the Serious Violence Duty have been completed and the Serious Violence Strategy is the outcome of the in-depth analysis contained within the serious violence needs assessment. The recommendations have been approved by the Safer Harrow Board, alongside extensive consultation with other stakeholders in the borough.

There are three outcomes that the Serious Violence Strategy will achieve to reduce the impact and prevent serious violence in Harrow. These align with the existing outcomes in the Community Safety Strategy 2023 - 2026 2021/26

These are:

- To reduce Serious Violent Crime with young people below the age of 25 within Harrow
- To tackle Violence against Women and Girls
- To encourage a Community Approach to tackling Serious Youth Violence in Harrow (under 25)

b) Summarise the impact of your proposal on groups with protected characteristics

The Serious Violence Strategy aims to support groups from all protected characteristics and ensure a positive impact where possible. Some of the strategy's priorities will, by their very nature, impact some groups with protected characteristics more specifically than other priorities.

b) Summarise any potential negative impact(s) identified and mitigating actions

-

| 2. Assessing impact | | What does the evidence tell you about the impact your proposal may have on groups with protected characteristics? Click the relevant box to indicate whether your proposal will have a positive impact, negative (minor, major), or no impact | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------|----------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|---------|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| You are required to undertake a detailed analysis of the impact of your proposals on groups with protected characteristics. You should refer to borough profile data , equalities data , service user information, consultation responses and any other relevant data/evidence to help you assess and explain what impact (if any) your proposal(s) will have on each group. Where there are gaps in data, you should state this in the boxes below and what action (if any), you will take to address this in the future. | | Positive impact | Negative impact | | No impact | | | | | | | | |
| Protected characteristic | For each protected characteristic, explain in detail what the evidence is suggesting and the impact of your proposal (if any). Click the appropriate box on the right to indicate the outcome of your analysis. | | Minor | Major | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | <p>There has been an increase of 19.4% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 7.8% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 7.5% in children aged under 15 years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Age Groups (C 2021)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>0-17 years</td> <td>58,366</td> </tr> <tr> <td>18-64 years</td> <td>162,658</td> </tr> <tr> <td>65+ years</td> <td>40,177</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of Harrow increased by two years, from 36 to 38 years of age. This area had a higher average (median) age than London as a whole in 2021 (35 years) but a lower average (median) age than England (40 years). The median age is the age of the person in the middle of the group, meaning that one half of the group is younger than that person and the other half is older. The number of people aged 35 to 49 years rose by just under 8,000 (an increase of 15.9%), while the number of residents between 20 and 24 years fell by just under 950 (5.8% decrease).</p> <p><u>Impact</u></p> | Age Groups (C 2021) | | 0-17 years | 58,366 | 18-64 years | 162,658 | 65+ years | 40,177 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Age Groups (C 2021) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 0-17 years | 58,366 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 18-64 years | 162,658 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 65+ years | 40,177 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Serious Violence Strategy sets out how we will work with our partners to deliver a safer Harrow, in keeping with our corporate priority of a clean and safe borough. This will improve the safety of Harrow residents across all demographic groups. Surveys such as the 'Serious Violence Youth Survey' which was aimed at all secondary school children in Harrow and the Safer Spaces survey have identified concern about crime and feelings of safety across a range of age groups. By outlining how we will work with partners to reduce crime in the borough, including a focus on the perception of crime, the strategy aims to contribute to enhanced feelings of safety for young people in Harrow. This will include aiming to reduce high volume and high harm crimes which impact feelings of safety. As a result, it is hoped that all age groups will feel safer. | | | | |
| Disability | <p>In 2021, 5.9% of Harrow residents were identified as being disabled and limited a lot. This figure decreased from 8.2% in 2011. These are age-standardised proportions.</p> <p>In 2021, 7.3% of Harrow residents were identified as being disabled and limited a little. This makes for 13.2% of Harrow residents being disabled, a decrease from 17.5% in 2011.</p> <p>Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived their health status and activity limitations, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.</p> <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> While working to improve the safety of all residents and visitors to Harrow, the strategy is prioritising hate crime as an area of focus. As such this will impact those with a disability with the definition of a hate crime being a criminal offence that is motivated by, amongst others, disability or perceived disability. Encouraging more people to report hate crimes, including disability hate crime, will challenge this behaviour. The Domestic Abuse service has approximately 20% of clients who have been diagnosed with mental health issues and service user data from 2021-22 shows 8% of female and male victims with physical disabilities/mobility issues were supported through the Independent Domestic Violence Advocate (IDVA) service. | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| Gender reassignment | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 90.12% of Harrow residents described themselves as having the same gender identity as sex registered at birth (<i>188,901 respondents</i>) - 0.53% of Harrow residents described themselves as having a gender identity which differs to the sex registered at birth, but gave no specific identity (<i>1,108 respondents</i>) - 0.15% of Harrow residents described themselves as a Trans woman (<i>318 respondents</i>) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| | | | | | |
|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <p>- 0.16 of Harrow residents described themselves as a trans man (342 respondents) - 0.03% of Harrow residents described themselves as non binary (57 respondents) - 0.03% of Harrow residents described themselves as 'All other gender identities' (59 respondents) -8.98% of Harrow residents did not respond (18,832 respondents)</p> <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> This protected characteristic is also covered by the legal definition of hate crime. Therefore, steps outlined that aim to address hate crime will be of benefit to this group. | | | | |
| <p>Marriage and Civil Partnership</p> | <p>The increase in the percentage of people aged 16 years and over who had never been married or in a civil partnership was greater across England (3.3 percentage points) than in Harrow (1.0 percentage points). In Harrow, the percentage of adults who had never been married or in a civil partnership increased from 32.3% in 2011 to 33.2% in 2021. During the same period, the percentage across England increased from 34.6% to 37.9%. The percentage of adults who were married or in a civil partnership in Harrow increased from 53.8% to 53.9%, while the percentage of adults who had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership increased from 5.4% to 5.7%. These figures include same-sex marriages and opposite-sex civil partnerships in 2021, neither of which were legally recognised in England and Wales in 2011. Same-sex marriages have been legally recognised in England and Wales since 2014 and opposite-sex civil partnerships have been recognised since 2019.</p> <p>The percentage of adults who had never married or registered a civil partnership in Harrow increased by 1.0 percentage points</p> <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The aims of the strategy to make Harrow safer for all residents is applicable regardless of marital status. Furthermore, the actions to address hate crime should have a positive impact on same sex couples (again, regardless of marital status). Acknowledging the risk of domestic abuse within marriages and civil partnerships, this specific issue is considered in more depth below in the section addressing the protected characteristic of sex. Likewise, the potential for LGBTQIA+ couples to be the victims of hate crime is also addressed more specifically below in the section for sexual orientation. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------|-------|----------------|---------------------|---------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| <p>Pregnancy and Maternity</p> | <p>ONS births figures show Harrow as having 3,312 live births in 2021. 14 live births per 1000 population is higher than the England & Wales average of 10.8 -The borough has a higher-than-average infant mortality rate in London, at a rate of 3.9 deaths per 1000 live births, which is an indicator of poverty and inequality in the borough.</p> <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As with all of the other protected characteristics the strategy is targeting a safer borough for all residents. This is a high-risk group in relation to domestic abuse with pregnancy and maternity being a significant risk factor for victimisation. As such, the prioritising of tackling and reducing Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) through the provision of a Domestic Abuse service will work to increase safety for this protected characteristic. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Race/ Ethnicity</p> | <p>In 2021, 7.2% of Harrow residents identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group"), up from 2.9% in 2011. The 4.3 percentage-point change was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area. Across London, the percentage of people from the "Other ethnic groups" ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group") increased from 3.4% to 6.3%, while across England the percentage increased from 1.0% to 2.2%. In 2021, 45.2% of people in Harrow identified their ethnic group within the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" category (compared with 42.6% in 2011), while 36.5% identified their ethnic group within the "White" category (compared with 42.2% the previous decade). The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African" category decreased from 8.2% in 2011 to 7.3% in 2021. There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing ethnic composition of England and Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses.</p> <p>The race/ethnicity statistics from the 2021 Census for Harrow for those who responded to the question was as follows:</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh</td> <td>118,152 (45.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African</td> <td>19,151 (7.3%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Mixed or multiple ethnic groups</td> <td>9,833 (3.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>White</td> <td>95,233 (36.5%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other ethnic groups</td> <td>18,836 (7.2%)</td> </tr> </table> | Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh | 118,152 (45.2%) | Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | 19,151 (7.3%) | Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 9,833 (3.8%) | White | 95,233 (36.5%) | Other ethnic groups | 18,836 (7.2%) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh | 118,152 (45.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | 19,151 (7.3%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 9,833 (3.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| White | 95,233 (36.5%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other ethnic groups | 18,836 (7.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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|---------------------------|--|-----------|----------------|----------|--------------|-------|----------------|--------|--------------|--------|----------------|------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As above, all of the priorities and work identified in the Serious Violence Strategy aim to make Harrow safer and feel safer for all residents and visitors. It is anticipated that working to address hate crime and promote community cohesion will have a specific benefit to members of the community who may be targets for race hate, such as those from Black Asian and Multi-ethnic backgrounds. Harrow Council will continue to work with partners to promote the reporting of hate crimes, either to the police or Stop Hate UK. In addition, some of the work to tackle and reduce VAWG is targeted specifically for survivors / victims from Black, Asian and Multi-ethnic backgrounds. This includes a IDVA service for Black African and Caribbean survivors / victims, along with offering expertise in supporting victims of honour-based violence, FGM, modern slavery and trafficking, and those with No Recourse to Public Funds. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Religion or belief | <table border="1"> <tr><td>Christian</td><td>88,602 (33.9%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Buddhist</td><td>2,812 (1.1%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Hindu</td><td>67,392 (25.8%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Jewish</td><td>7,304 (2.8%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Muslim</td><td>41,503 (15.9%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Sikh</td><td>2,743 (1.1%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Other religion</td><td>7,695 (2.9%)</td></tr> <tr><td>No religion</td><td>27,748 (10.6%)</td></tr> <tr><td>Not answered</td><td>15,404 (5.9%)</td></tr> </table> | Christian | 88,602 (33.9%) | Buddhist | 2,812 (1.1%) | Hindu | 67,392 (25.8%) | Jewish | 7,304 (2.8%) | Muslim | 41,503 (15.9%) | Sikh | 2,743 (1.1%) | Other religion | 7,695 (2.9%) | No religion | 27,748 (10.6%) | Not answered | 15,404 (5.9%) | | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian | 88,602 (33.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buddhist | 2,812 (1.1%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hindu | 67,392 (25.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jewish | 7,304 (2.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muslim | 41,503 (15.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sikh | 2,743 (1.1%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other religion | 7,695 (2.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No religion | 27,748 (10.6%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not answered | 15,404 (5.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <p>In 2021, 15.9% of Harrow residents described themselves as Muslim, up from 12.5% in 2011. The rise of 3.4 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in Harrow. Because the census question about religious affiliation is voluntary and has varying response rates, caution is needed when comparing figures between different areas or between censuses. Across London, the percentage of residents who described themselves as Muslim increased from 12.6% to 15.0%, while across England the percentage increased from 5.0% to 6.7%. In 2021, 33.9% of people in Harrow described themselves as Christian (down from 37.3%), while 25.8% described themselves as Hindu (up from 25.3% the decade before). There are many factors that can cause changes to the religious profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----|--|---|---|---|---|
| | <p>by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses. Religious affiliation is the religion with which someone connects or identifies, rather than their beliefs or religious practice.</p> <p>In 2021, 15.9% of usual residents in Harrow described themselves as Muslim</p> <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All of the priorities and work identified in the Serious Violence Strategy aim to make Harrow safer and feel safer for all residents and visitors. It is intended that working to address hate crime and promote community cohesion will have a specific benefit to members of the community who are from Black Asian and Multi-ethnic backgrounds and are part of Harrow's religious diversity. - The Domestic Abuse service ensures frontline workers are trained to support victims, irrespective of their religion and to deliver support in a culturally sensitive way, for example the understanding and sensitivity surrounding cultural norms such as arranged marriage. | | | | |
| Sex | <p>According to the 2021 Census 50.7% of Harrow's population was female and 49.3% were male.</p> <p>Impact</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritising the reduction of VAWG incidents is intended to have a positive impact on female residents and visitors to Harrow. This includes increasing safety and the feeling of safety through surveys and targeted initiatives that are promoted widely through partnership working. • An important part of the work to address VAWG is the Domestic Abuse service, and this supports victims irrespective of their sex. Service user data shows that women are disproportionately impacted by domestic abuse (for example, in 2021/2022 98% of victims that accessed the service were female). • It should be noted that Metropolitan Police data on recorded domestic abuse offences for 2021/22 indicated that 25% (500) of domestic abuse victims were male¹. There is no, or very limited refuge and safe accommodation provision for male victims in Harrow. The intention going forward is to strengthen our response and ensure that male victims are supported. | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

Sexual Orientation

The 2021 Census shows that 4.27 % of Londoners identify as LGBTQIA+, the highest of any UK region¹. 1.65% of Harrow residents identify as LGBTQIA+, this is approx. 4k people². This is reflected in more detail in the table below

| | |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Straight or Heterosexual | 182,702 (87.2%) |
| Gay or Lesbian | 1,361 (0.6%) |
| Bisexual | 1,873 (0.9%) |
| Pansexual | 787 (0.4%) |
| Asexual | 59 (0.0%) |
| Queer | 22 (0.0%) |
| All other sexual orientations | 137 (0.1%) |
| Not answered | 22,680 (10.8%) |



Impact

- While working to improve the safety of all residents and visitors to Harrow, the strategy is prioritising hate crime as an area of focus. As such it is intended to have a positive impact on members of the LGBTQIA+ community with the definition of a hate crime being a criminal offence that is motivated by, amongst others, sexual orientation, or perceived sexual orientation. Encouraging more people to report hate crimes, including homophobic hate crime, will challenge this behaviour.
- The Domestic Abuse service provides support to all victims, irrespective of their sexual orientation. The service provider will also ensure that LGBTQIA+ victims are supported to access specialist services where required and if requested.

¹ Source: 2021 Census

² Source: 2021 Census

2.1 Cumulative impact – considering what else is happening within the Council and Harrow as a whole, could your proposals have a cumulative impact on groups with protected characteristics?

Yes No

If you clicked the Yes box, which groups with protected characteristics could be affected and what is the potential impact? Include details in the space below

2.2 Any other impact - considering what else is happening nationally/locally (national/local/regional policies, socio-economic factors etc), could your proposals have an impact on individuals/service users, or other groups?

Yes No

If you clicked the Yes box, Include details in the space below

.

3. Actions to mitigate/remove negative impact

Only complete this section if your assessment (in section 2) suggests that your proposals may have a negative impact on groups with protected characteristics. If you have not identified any negative impacts, please complete sections 4 and 5.

In the table below, please state what these potential negative impact (s) are, mitigating actions and steps taken to ensure that these measures will address and remove any negative impacts identified and by when. Please also state how you will monitor the impact of your proposal once implemented.

| State what the negative impact(s) are for each group, identified in section 2. In addition, you should also consider, and state potential risks associated with your proposal. | Measures to mitigate negative impact (provide details, including details of and additional consultation undertaken/to be carried out in the future). If you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact, please state so and provide a brief explanation. | What action (s) will you take to assess whether these measures have addressed and removed any negative impacts identified in your analysis? Please provide details. If you have previously stated that you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact, please state below. | Deadline date | Lead Officer |
|--|--|--|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | |

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

4. Public Sector Equality Duty

How does your proposal meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
3. Foster good relations between people from different groups

The Strategy sets out its three priority areas in order to reduce instances of Serious Youth Violence in the Borough. It encourages a holistic partnership approach focusing on early intervention and prevention. It also highlights the importance of taking a community approach to tackle Serious Youth Violence which involves:

- Greater engagement and collaboration with our Voluntary and Community Sector as well as our residents to shape Harrow's strategy going forward.
- Greater involvement of young people within local violence prevention work
- Working with young people to create opportunities for development and to support positive aspirations and role models.

We will review and report back on how we have delivered our commitments contained within this strategy. The Serious Violence Strategy deliverables will be embedded within the Community Safety Delivery Plan. This will be reviewed on a monthly basis to ensure progress is being made as well as to ensure we, as a council, are being reactive to any changes in the Borough. The Strategy will also be reviewed at the Safer Harrow Board on a quarterly basis where updates will be provided, and progress will be monitored by statutory partners.

5. Outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) click the box that applies

Outcome 1

No change required: the EqIA has not identified any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact and all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity are being addressed

Outcome 2

Adjustments to remove/mitigate negative impacts identified by the assessment, or to better advance equality, as stated in section 3&4

Outcome 3

This EqIA has identified discrimination and/ or missed opportunities to advance equality and/or foster good relations. However, it is still reasonable to continue with the activity. Outline the reasons for this and the information used to reach this decision in the space below.

Include details here



Report for: Cabinet

| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Date of Meeting: | 14 March 2024 |
| Subject: | Procurement of Revenues and Housing Benefits Processing Support Contract |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Responsible Officer: | Sharon Daniels – Interim Director of Finance and Assurance and S151 Officer, Resources Directorate |
| Portfolio Holder: | Councillor David Ashton – Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources |
| Exempt: | No, except for Appendices 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 which are exempt by virtue of Paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 because they contain information relating to the financial and business affairs of the Council. |
| Decision subject to Call-in: | Yes |
| Wards affected: | All Wards |
| Enclosures: | Exempt Appendix 1 – Tender Evaluation Methodology Exempt Appendix 2 – Tender Pricing Schedule Exempt Appendix 3 – Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) Exempt Appendix 4 – Service Specification Revenues and Benefits Exempt Appendix 5 – Service Specification Housing Benefits Overpayments Appendix 6 – Equality Impact Assessment |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report requests authorisation to procure and award a Resilience contract for Revenues and Housing Benefits Service Delivery Support, having regard to the options appraisal set out within this report.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

1. Authorise the procurement of a resilience contract for Third Party Support for the Revenues and Housing Benefits Service for an initial term of five years with options to extend for a further three years and then a further one year and an estimated procurement total value of £9.2m, including £2.25m of extra headroom to cater for potential additional work deriving from DWP initiatives.
2. Approve the draft tender documents.
3. Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources, to make any necessary changes to the tender documents following approval.
4. Delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources, to award the new contract to the successful bidder.

Reason: (for recommendations)

The Revenues and Benefits Service is responsible for the annual collection of £210m Council Tax, £50m Business Rates, £13m Housing Benefit Overpayments, the payment of £90m Housing Benefit and £19m in Council Tax Support.

The services concerned are of significant importance to the financing and delivery of London Borough of Harrow services and impact upon most households and businesses within the Borough. Customer perception of the Authority may often be influenced by customer experiences of those services. Consequently, the processing timescale and accuracy of work performed for the services in scope, is likely to shape customer perception of the organisation and the extent to which the core value of “putting residents first” is achieved. Activities for the services in scope are currently performed by the London Borough of Harrow and Capita Business Services Ltd under a contractual agreement that will expire on 31st March 2025. Consequently, there is a need to determine and agree how the services concerned should be delivered beyond that time, to facilitate effective planning and resourcing of them.

Not procuring an external partner, would potentially leave London Borough of Harrow with limited capability to process work in relation to the above services and which in turn would affect collections and payments and impact adversely on the Council’s budget, ability to pay and provide services and its residents and business rate payers.

Cabinet authorisation of the proposed procurement is required to comply with the Council’s Contract Procedure Rules.

1. Introduction

This report considers and evaluates options for delivery of the Council Tax, Benefits, Housing Benefit Overpayments and Business Rates Services when the existing contractual arrangements with Capita Business Services Ltd (“Capita”) cease on 31st March 2025 and makes recommendations accordingly.

- 1.1 There is no further contractual provision for extension when the existing agreement expires and therefore a decision needs to be taken in sufficient time to implement the preferred option to ensure a seamless delivery of the services in scope.
- 1.2 A lead in time of up to 12 months is required to implement the agreed option and to ensure service continuity. An options appraisal has therefore been undertaken to evaluate the relative merits of future service delivery models including in house, shared service and a retender of similar arrangements.
- 1.3 The Council Tax and Business Rates services, impact upon all households and businesses within the Borough. In the case of Benefits and Housing Benefit Overpayments, they affect some of the most financially vulnerable residents within the Borough. Consequently, the delivery of those services will impact upon the London Borough of Harrow vision and priorities of “putting residents first” and being “a place where those in need are supported”.
- 1.4 The options appraisal conducted, has indicated that a retender of the Revenues and Benefits Third Party Support is likely to offer and secure the best performance prospects through increased resilience and therefore ensures that there is less service failure risk arising from that perspective to London Borough of Harrow.
- 1.5 Whilst an in-house processing service would potentially offer greater flexibility in terms of implementing a more corporate approach to debt recovery and application of the Authority’s Digital Strategy, the risks associated with recruitment and retention of employees and the cost of their associated training and development, particularly for “niche” services such as Business Rates, Valuation and Housing Benefit Overpayments for example, would appear to outweigh the benefits.

2. Current Situation

- 2.1 At present, Business Rates and Valuation Work (i.e. activities associated with the compilation and maintenance of the Valuation List and Local Rating List) component of Council Tax and Business Rates service delivery, are delivered by way of an outsourced service arrangement. Housing Benefit Overpayment collection and recovery is also delivered as an outsourced service. However, Council Tax and Benefits service delivery are delivered under a “resilience” arrangement, whereby a contractually defined “core” volume of work per annum is allocated to the supplier with London Borough of Harrow employees processing the remainder.

- 2.2 Arrangements for both the resilience and outsourced service activities, are currently enshrined within a single contract package and delivered by a single service provider. (i.e. Capita Business Services Limited).
- 2.3 Within the outsourcing marketplace for Revenues and Benefits Services, there are two known active service providers (Capita Business Services Ltd and Liberata). Within the resilience marketplace, there are currently at least five known service providers (i.e. Capita Business Services Ltd, Liberata, Civica, Meritec and NEC).
- 2.4 London Borough of Harrow currently retains responsibility for the following key activities affecting the services in scope primarily due to statutory provisions, administrative ease and financial implications:
- IT Systems Administration and provision of service e-forms
 - Council Tax and Business Rates Recovery and Enforcement (i.e. summons and liability order applications and ancillary activities, committal and all other court activities, appointment, and contract management for Civil Enforcement Agents)
 - Property Inspections
 - Service of Completion Notices
 - Annual Billing
 - Achievement of targets for in year and arrears collection for Council Tax and Business Rates
 - Implementation of Central Government Initiatives and other changes affecting the services in scope.
 - Government returns for the services in scope
 - Discretionary discounts and rate reliefs for the services in scope
 - Approval of Benefit awards, as prescribed by statute.
 - Determination as to whether a Housing Benefit Overpayment is recoverable and whether to recover that Overpayment.
 - Assessment and awards of Discretionary Housing Payments.
 - Housing Benefit disputes and appeals.

2.5 Options Appraisal

Option 1 - Do Nothing

Whilst “Do Nothing” is an option, it is not a practical one as the existing service agreement expires on 31st March 2025 and there is no provision for further extensions. Additionally, the work activities currently performed under the agreement could not be performed directly by London Borough of Harrow employees without additional resourcing and arrangements in place.

Consequently, it is not proposed that this option be progressed.

2.6 Option 2 - Single Agreement for Resilience Services

If the current services in scope were to be procured exclusively as resilience services, the level of competition is anticipated to be greater than that for a combined resilience and outsourced service package, and pricing would be likely to reflect the level of competition.

However, attainment of the above, would require additional resource capacity to be created directly by London Borough of Harrow (LBH), as insufficient capacity exists at present to support this option. In particular, Housing Benefit Overpayments, Business Rates, and Valuation work activities associated with Council Tax and Business Rates, are not currently resourced directly by LBH.

The roles that would need to be created by LBH to support this option, would be relatively small in number, as the caseload for the services concerned is small. They would, however, principally be “niche” roles, with the consequence that recruitment and retention of employees with the associated knowledge and experience necessary to perform those services, is anticipated, from experience, to be challenging and was one of the key reasons for recommending the outsourcing of those service activities previously.

Suppliers that deliver such “niche” services, are often able to recruit suitably experienced employees to operate across multiple contracts, thereby securing levels of resilience and a more efficient cost allocation than London Borough of Harrow would be likely to achieve for direct in-house provision.

In view of the proportion of time that may currently be spent on London Borough of Harrow contract work by such “niche” resources, there is the potential risk that there may be insufficient employees that would transfer to LBH under the Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations (“TUPE”) in relation to this option.

Consequently, the option of creating a single resilience service contract for delivery of the services in scope, is not proposed.

2.7 Option 3 - Separate Outsourcing and Resilience Service Agreements

Consideration has also been given to separating currently outsourced service activities from those of resilience work. However, that would be impractical, as data, work activities and IT systems operated, are intrinsically linked and often interdependent, with the consequence that such an approach could result in two separate suppliers processing related work under separate contract agreements for a single customer.

The administrative arrangements and client management arrangements required for such an approach, would be unduly onerous and would result in a less efficient application of management effort than would be the case under a single agreement.

Consequently, the option of having separate contractual agreements for outsourcing activities and resilience work activities respectively, is not proposed.

2.8 Option 4 - Return of Outsourcing and Resilience Activities to In-House Provision

Consideration has also been given to returning both outsourced service activities and resilience activities to direct in-house provision. However, there is a potential risk that insufficient employees would transfer to London Borough of Harrow under TUPE in relation to this option and that London Borough of Harrow would be unable to successfully recruit and retain the number and quality of personnel needed to establish and sustain an acceptable level of performance both at the service commencement date and beyond.

In particular, some of the roles that would need to be recreated in house to achieve this option, would be “niche” roles, often requiring small numbers of full-time equivalent personnel. Recruitment and retention of employees with the associated knowledge and experience necessary to perform those services, is anticipated, from experience, to be challenging and was one of the key reasons for outsourcing those service activities previously.

Additionally, an analysis of the most recent collection rates published, (i.e. 2020/21 and 2021/22), indicates that for London Authorities with an outsourced service arrangement, particularly in relation to Business Rates, the average collection performance is 2% higher than that experienced on average for direct in-house provision.

Consequently, the option of returning the services in scope to direct in-house provision is also discounted.

2.9 Option 5 - Shared Service Arrangement with another Local Authority

Consideration has been given to a shared service arrangement with a neighbouring Local Authority. In particular, London Borough of Hillingdon was considered as an option, as its Revenues and Benefits Service operates both the NEC Revenues and Benefits core IT applications and the Civica Electronic Document Management System that London Borough of Harrow also uses. However, they have recently completed a procurement for their third-party agreement with a renewed term commencing 1st June 2024.

Whilst other neighbouring Local Authorities have been considered, they have not been progressed. This is because they either operate different service delivery arrangements such that there would be reduced opportunities for any significant synergies, or their core values / priorities do not currently align with those of London Borough of Harrow.

Consequently, the option of a shared service arrangement for the services in scope is not proposed.

2.10 Option 6 - Single Outsourced Service and Resilience Service Activities Agreement

If combined resilience and outsourcing activities were to be retendered under a single agreement, potential interest would be limited to those companies operating within both the outsourcing and resilience market with pricing of tenders, representative of the level of competition.

However, it is anticipated that there would be interest from the suppliers in that marketplace and that seamless delivery of the services in scope could be effectively achieved within the required timescale.

It is also anticipated that the risk of having insufficient resource available at the contract commencement date arising from the effects of TUPE, could be more effectively mitigated by a third-party supplier.

For the above reasons, it is proposed that the existing service agreement be packaged and retendered in a similar format to that currently operated.

The use of a framework agreement for this proposed option has been considered. However, as such a framework for the services in scope and the nature and extent of the work activities concerned, does not exist, that approach has been discounted.

3. Why a change is needed

The proposed retender of the services in scope, will facilitate the achievement of seamless and continuous service delivery, that will in turn, contribute to the maintenance of Revenues collection performance and Benefit claims administration currently experienced.

4. Legal Implications

Under Section 3 of the Local Government Act 1999, Local Authorities are under a general duty to secure Best Value services. The duty is to “make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness.” The recommendations in this report will assist with the achievement of Best Value.

Under Section 111 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to do anything that is calculated to facilitate, or which is conducive or incidental to, the discharge of any of their functions. The recommendations in this report are in accordance with this power.

The value of this contract over its lifetime exceeds the financial threshold for Services/Supplies under The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 (PCR 2015) and therefore the Council must adhere to the requirements of the PCR 2015, in addition to ensuring compliance with its Constitution, which encompasses the Contract Procedure Rules (CPR).

As the estimated value of the procurement exceeds £500,000, approval to procure must be obtained by way of a Cabinet Report and a Cabinet decision

must be obtained prior to any tender activity commencing (Table 1: Authorisation and Acceptance Thresholds, CPR). When delegated authority to award has been approved by Cabinet then the Corporate Director that has been given the delegation to award must do so in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for the service area and the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources.

The contract must be in a form approved by legal services (HB Public Law) on behalf of the Director of Legal and Governance. Given the value of the contract and in accordance with CPR Paragraph 9.1.3, the contract must be sealed. Once the contract is awarded and finalised, HB Public Law will process the contract through sealing. Regulation 108 PCR 2015 requires the Council to publish contract award information on Contracts Finder within a reasonable time of the award of contract.

Public Sector Equality Duty

The public sector equality duty, as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010, requires the Council, when exercising its functions, to have “due regard” to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited under the Act, and to advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between those who have a “protected characteristic” and those who do not share that protected characteristic. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, and sexual orientation.

This includes enquiring into whether and how a proposed decision disproportionately affects people with a protected characteristic and the need to consider taking steps to meet the needs of persons who share a protected characteristic that are different from the needs of persons who do not share it. This includes removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by persons who share a protected characteristic that are connected to that characteristic.

In considering the recommendations submitted within this report, an Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken to ensure that any potential adverse impact to groups sharing a protected characteristic has been identified, evaluated, and mitigated wherever possible. The analysis has not identified the potential for an adverse impact at this stage.

However, any equalities implications arising from the individual recommendations will continue to be considered and assessed as further data/information is obtained or becomes available during the decision-making process.

TUPE and Pensions

As there is no proposal to transfer work currently carried out by existing Council employees to a third-party supplier, TUPE shall not affect any Council employees. However, in the case of work activities currently carried out by the existing supplier’s employees, TUPE and Pensions implications are anticipated,

that will need to be addressed through the procurement arrangements and contract documentation for retender of the service, should the recommendations in this report be agreed. If TUPE is deemed to apply, it will apply as a matter of law.

Public Services (Social Value) Act

The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012 requires the Council, when procuring services, to consider whether it can achieve an improvement to the economic, social, and environmental well-being of an area as part of the procurement of those services. If so, the social value objectives identified must be written into the procurement process. This must be achieved with regard to value for money and in a way that is compliant with public procurement law.

Appendix 1 to this report provides for the inclusion of Social Value within the price and quality weightings proposed and in accordance with the recommendations set out within Section 1 of this report. It is proposed within Appendix 1, that a Social Value weighting of 10% is applied for the purposes of the tender evaluation.

Contracting out Regulations and Orders

The Local Authorities (Contracting out of Tax Billing, Collection and Enforcement Functions) Order 1996 applies to the administration of Council Tax and Business Rates services and clarifies the roles and responsibilities reserved for a Local Authority and those that may be provided by a service provider.

The Contracting Out (Functions of Local Authorities: Income-Related Benefits) Order 2002, similarly clarifies the roles and responsibilities reserved for a Local Authority and those that may be provided by a service provider.

Procurement Implications

4.1 Procurement

The estimated total procurement value of the Service contract recommended to be subject to procurement is £9.2M and is higher than the current financial threshold for services under The Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The procurement will therefore be subject to the full application of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The award of the contract is also subject to the Council's own Standing Orders in respect of High Value contracts and Financial Regulations. As a result, Cabinet approval will be required for the award of the contract and a mandatory ten calendar day standstill period will be applicable to the contract award. This report requests approval to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources, to award the new contract to the successful bidder.

It is proposed to re-procure third party support for the Revenues and Benefits Service following the Open Procedure but reserving the option to move to the Competitive Procedure with Negotiation in the event that non-compliant bids should be received. That approach would permit negotiation, in the event that

the procurement could not be effectively concluded from the initial tenders submitted.

The proposed procurement, if agreed, will incorporate the flexibility needed to respond to changing work levels over the contract term. Additionally, potential value for any increased processing activity has been accounted for within the tender contract value and will be included in the tender notices accordingly.

The contract will be awarded for a 5-year term from 1st April 2025, with an option to extend for a further 3 years up to 31st March 2033 followed by a further option to extend for 1 year up to 31st March 2034. This contract duration has been chosen to strategically align London Borough of Harrow with London Borough of Hillingdon contracts, to allow for the option of a future joint procurement, should both parties wish.

The top-level evaluation criteria are proposed as follows:

Price 50%

A 50% weighting for price is considered to be appropriate for securing value for money in respect of the proposed procurement. There is a niche market consisting of two known providers for this type of work.

Quality 40%

Quality is considered a key criterion for the services in scope and has been allocated 40% of the overall score. This is due to the necessity of delivering a customer focused service that underpins the London Borough of Harrow's core values and priorities. Additionally, service quality levels have a direct influence on performance in terms of cash collection and Benefits subsidy amounts received from Central Government.

Social Value 10%

As required under existing Council policy, 10% of the proposed weighting has been allocated to Social Value.

The proposed specification documents are included as exempt background papers and Appendix 1 (exempt) comprises the proposed evaluation weightings and criteria and sub criterion weightings for tender evaluation purposes. This report also requests to delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer following consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Finance and Human Resources, to make any necessary changes to the tender documents following approval.

5.0 Financial Implications

As the contracted services have not been subject to a recent competitive procurement, there is a risk that tenders received, may be higher than the existing budgetary provision available.

The contract value for this procurement is anticipated to be £9.2m over the full contract term potentially available under the proposed procurement (i.e. 9 years). This includes £2.25m (or £250k per annum) for extra headroom to cater for additional work deriving from DWP initiatives such as VEP (Verification of Earnings and Pension (“VEP”) activities) and HBAA (Housing Benefit Award Accuracy Initiative).

6.0 Performance Issues

This report seeks authority to procure third party processing support for Revenues and Benefits services that will influence Revenues collection and Benefits administration functions. Procurement and performance of the services concerned, will therefore have an influence on cash collection rates achieved for Business Rates, Council Tax and Housing Benefit Overpayments, as well as Benefit awards determined, and average processing times experienced in relation to Housing Benefit and Council tax Support. These are key indicators monitored locally and published nationally each year.

Not procuring a supplier to deliver the services concerned, would adversely impact upon Harrow’s in-year collection rates, cash flow management arrangements, Benefit processing timescales and potentially, its reputation with stakeholders. It may also have the effect of restricting / preventing compliance with statutory obligations concerning the prompt issue of bills and benefit determination notices.

Resources, costs

The cost of resourcing the project will be managed within existing service budgets. The project is likely to cost approximately £20,000 taking existing staff costs / time into account.

Staffing / Workforce

There are no currently anticipated implications upon Harrow staffing or its workforce arising from the recommendations proposed within this report.

A project team to be comprised of subject matter experts will be established for the purposes of the procurement if the recommendations within this report are agreed.

It is anticipated that TUPE (The Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment) Regulations 2006) will apply to the recommendations proposed within this report, as a matter of law.

7.0 Risk Management Implications

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk register? Yes

Separate risk register in place? No

A separate risk register will be established and maintained in relation to the procurement project subject to approval of the report recommendations.

The key risks currently anticipated from the recommendations set out within this report, are anticipated to be as follows:

| Risk Description | Mitigations | RAG STATUS |
|--|---|-------------------|
| 1. There is a limited response to the Invitation to Tender advert. | Ensure that potential tenderers are aware of the procurement and timescales. | AMBER |
| 2. Tenders received are not compliant with Invitation to Tender requirements. | Ensure that the parameters and Council requirements are clear. | GREEN |
| 3. Tender prices are above the budgetary provision available. | Provide the budget window in the Selection Questionnaire to clarify compliance prior to opening tenders. | AMBER |
| 4. A legal challenge is received in relation to the procurement process conducted. | A project team comprising of subject matter experts representing key areas underpinning the service contract will be established, incorporating Legal Services, Procurement, GDPR, IT Security and Revenues and Benefits to ensure that the project is conducted in a transparent and compliant format. | GREEN |

8.0 Environmental Implications

There are no significant environmental impacts currently anticipated from the recommendations contained within this report. However, subject to approval of the recommendations in this report, tenderers will be requested to submit proposals that have a positive impact for the local environment and that shall be evaluated for the purposes of determining the most economically advantageous tender(s).

9.0 Data Protection Implications

There are direct data protection impacts anticipated from the recommendations contained within this report. In particular, a third-party supplier will be required to comply with the provisions of the General Data Protection Regulation and associated requirements set out within the proposed contractual agreement.

To mitigate risks associated with Data, a technical requirement will be included within the Selection Questionnaire for an organisation to hold either Cyber Essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus certification. Where a supplier does not hold Cyber Essentials or Cyber Essentials Plus they must be able to demonstrate equivalent controls are in place through other means. It is also proposed that Data and IT Security be one of the qualitative criteria evaluated for the purposes of determining the most economically advantageous tender ("MEAT").

10.0 Equalities implications

An equalities impact assessment has been conducted and there are no Equalities implications currently anticipated from this report.

11.0 Council Priorities

The services in scope are fundamental in supporting the corporate priorities listed below, as they represent a key element of the Council's overall budget. In the case of Council Tax and Business Rates, they directly impact upon all residents / businesses within the Borough and in the case of Benefits, residents in receipt of low incomes are supported through the award of permitted financial support towards rent and Council Tax payments.

1. A Council that puts residents first.
2. A Borough that is clean and safe.
3. A place where those in need are supported.

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Sharon Daniels

Signed off by the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 05 March 2024

Statutory Officer: Melissa Trichard

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 16 February 2024

Chief Officer: Sharon Daniels

Signed off by the Interim Director

Date: 16 February 2024

Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta

Signed by the Head of Procurement

Date: 05 February 2024

Head of Internal Audit: Neale Burns

Signed on behalf of the Interim Head of Internal Audit

Date: 15 February 2024

Has the Portfolio Holder(s) been consulted? Yes

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: NO, as it impacts on all Wards

EqIA carried out: Yes

EqIA cleared by: Jennifer Rock

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

Fern Silverio (Head of Service – Collections & Housing Benefits),

Tel: 020-8736-6818 / email: fern.silverio@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

- Equalities Impact Assessment
- Specification documents – Exempt

Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: NO

Appendix 6 - Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) Resilience Procurement



You will need to produce an Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) if:

- You are developing a new policy, strategy, or service
- You are making changes that will affect front-line services
- You are reducing budgets, which may affect front-line services
- You are changing the way services are funded and this may impact the quality of the service and who can access it
- You are making a decision that could have a different impact on different groups of people
- You are making staff redundant or changing their roles

Guidance notes on how to complete an EqIA and sign off process are available on the Hub under Equality and Diversity. You must read the [guidance notes](#) and ensure you have followed all stages of the EqIA approval process (outlined in appendix 1). Section 2 of the template requires you to undertake an assessment of the impact of your proposals on groups with protected characteristics. Equalities and borough profile data, as well as other sources of statistical information can be found on the Harrow hub, within the section entitled: [Equality Impact Assessment](#) - sources of statistical information.

| Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) | | |
|---|--|--|
| Type of Decision: | <input checked="" type="radio"/> Cabinet <input type="radio"/> Portfolio holder <input type="radio"/> Other (state) | |
| Title of Proposal | Procurement for provision of Third Party Support for Revenues and Benefits Services, incorporating Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Benefit, Council Tax Support and Housing Benefit Overpayments. | Date EqIA created: 30th January 2024 |
| Name and job title of completing/lead Officer | Neil Gann – Revenues Service Manager | |
| Directorate/ Service responsible | Collections & Benefits | |
| Organisational approval | | |
| EqIA approved by Directorate Equalities Champion | Name: Jennifer Rock (Acting) Policy Officer EDI team | Signature <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Tick this box to indicate that you have approved this EqIA Date of approval: 22.2.24 |

| |
|--|
| <p>1. Summary of proposal, impact on groups with protected characteristics and mitigating actions (to be completed after you have completed sections 2 - 5)</p> |
| <p>a) What is your proposal? To retender third party support services for the services indicated in the title above.</p> |
| <p>b) Summarise the impact of your proposal on groups with protected characteristics.</p> <p>There is no impact currently anticipated as regards the proposal. The services in scope are already subject to a service agreement procured in 2018 and the intention is to retender the services as the current arrangements are due to expire and there is no further provision for extension,</p> |
| <p>c) Summarise any potential negative impact(s) identified and mitigating actions</p> <p>There is no adverse impact currently anticipated as the service requirements will be specified and will replicate existing arrangements.</p> |

| 2. Assessing impact | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|-----------------|-------------------|-----------|--------------------|---------|------------------|--------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| You are required to undertake a detailed analysis of the impact of your proposals on groups with protected characteristics. You should refer to borough profile data , equalities data , service user information, consultation responses and any other relevant data/evidence to help you assess and explain what impact (if any) your proposal(s) will have on each group. Where there are gaps in data, you should state this in the boxes below and what action (if any), you will take to address this in the future. | | What does the evidence tell you about the impact your proposal may have on groups with protected characteristics? Click the relevant box to indicate whether your proposal will have a positive impact, negative (minor, major), or no impact | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protected characteristic | For each protected characteristic, explain in detail what the evidence is suggesting and the impact of your proposal (if any). Click the appropriate box on the right to indicate the outcome of your analysis. | Positive impact | Negative impact | | No impact | | | | | | | | |
| | | | Minor | Major | | | | | | | | | |
| Age | <p>There has been an increase of 19.4% in people aged 65 years and over, an increase of 7.8% in people aged 15 to 64 years, and an increase of 7.5% in children aged under 15 years.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th colspan="2">Age Groups (C 2021)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td><u>0-17 years</u></td> <td>58,366</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>18-64 years</u></td> <td>162,658</td> </tr> <tr> <td><u>65+ years</u></td> <td>40,177</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Between the last two censuses, the average (median) age of Harrow increased by two years, from 36 to 38 years of age. This area had a higher average (median) age than London as a whole in 2021 (35 years) but a lower average (median) age than England (40 years). The median age is the age of the person in the middle of the group, meaning that one half of the group is younger than that person and the other half is older.</p> <p>The number of people aged 35 to 49 years rose by just under 8,000 (an increase of 15.9%), while the number of residents between 20 and 24 years fell by just under 950 (5.8% decrease).</p> | Age Groups (C 2021) | | <u>0-17 years</u> | 58,366 | <u>18-64 years</u> | 162,658 | <u>65+ years</u> | 40,177 | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Age Groups (C 2021) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>0-17 years</u> | 58,366 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>18-64 years</u> | 162,658 | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <u>65+ years</u> | 40,177 | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>There is no age data held for Council Tax or Business Rates purposes although all Council Tax Payers must, by law, be aged 18 or over. Age data may be held for “attainers” (i.e. persons that will be aged 18 within the next 12 months) where it will affect the liability for Council Tax due to the presence of a discount for example.</p> <p>Benefit entitlement is determined having regard to household composition with applicable amounts and personal allowances being determined by central government or approved by L B Harrow full Council in the Localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme. The Council Tax Support scheme for pension credit age claimants, is subject to central government prescribed requirements, meaning that Local Authorities must adhere to the regulations for that cohort, with only the requirements for working age claimants being subject to Local Authority determination.</p> <p>As the above are all pre-determined for the purposes of the procurement and Council Tax Support has already been subject to an EqlA in its own right for which a Service Provider must comply with the scheme requirements, there is no currently anticipated adverse impact arising from the proposed retender of third party support.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Disability</p> | <p>In 2021, 5.9% of Harrow residents were identified as being disabled and limited a lot. This figure decreased from 8.2% in 2011. These are age-standardised proportions.</p> <p>In 2021, 7.3% of Harrow residents were identified as being disabled and limited a little. This makes for 13.2% of Harrow residents being disabled, a decrease from 17.5% in 2011.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <p>Census 2021 was undertaken during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. This may have influenced how people perceived their health status and activity limitations, and therefore may have affected how people chose to respond.</p> <p><u>Impact</u></p> <p>Council Tax and Benefit claims may have regard to disability. However, such data is not held unless an application has been received either for that purpose, or for another purpose which makes reference to a disability in it. (e.g. Council Tax Support / Housing Benefits or Disabled Person's Reduction).</p> <p>Subject to meeting statutory qualifying criteria, if a domestic property is occupied solely by a resident or residents that are severely mentally impaired or full time students, a full exemption from payment can be awarded. There are currently 451 households where that exemption applies.</p> <p>Additionally, where a domestic household has other adult residents, in some circumstances, a discount may be awarded to the Council Tax Payer if some (but not all) of the residents are either severely mentally impaired or "disregarded" for another statutorily prescribed reason.</p> <p>The calculation of Housing Benefit is prescribed by statute with different applicable amounts and personal allowances based upon the circumstances of the claimant and their household. The calculation of Council Tax Support for which the scheme is approved by the Council, is also subject to different applicable amounts and personal allowances, similar to those applied for Housing Benefit.</p> <p>As the above are all predetermined requirements, there is no currently anticipated adverse impact arising from the proposed retender of third party support.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Gender reassignment</p> | <p>- 90.12% of Harrow residents described themselves as having the same gender identity as sex registered at birth (188,901 respondents)</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <p>- 0.53% of Harrow residents described themselves as having a gender identity which differs to the sex registered at birth, but gave no specific identity (1,108 respondents)</p> <p>- 0.15% of Harrow residents described themselves as a Trans woman (318 respondents)</p> <p>- 0.16 of Harrow residents described themselves as a trans man (342 respondents)</p> <p>- 0.03% of Harrow residents described themselves as non binary (57 respondents)</p> <p>- 0.03% of Harrow residents described themselves as 'All other gender identities' (59 respondents)</p> <p>-8.98% of Harrow residents did not respond (18,832 respondents)</p> <p>Impact Gender reassignment data is not held for Council Tax, Business Rates or Benefits purposes, as it is not applicable to any of the services in scope. However, it is not currently anticipated that there would be any adverse impact that may arise from the proposed procurement.</p> | | | | |
| <p>Marriage and Civil Partnership</p> | <p>The increase in the percentage of people aged 16 years and over who had never been married or in a civil partnership was greater across England (3.3 percentage points) than in Harrow (1.0 percentage points).</p> <p>In Harrow, the percentage of adults who had never been married or in a civil partnership increased from 32.3% in 2011 to 33.2% in 2021. During the same period, the percentage across England increased from 34.6% to 37.9%.</p> <p>The percentage of adults who were married or in a civil partnership in Harrow increased from 53.8% to 53.9%, while the percentage of adults who had divorced or dissolved a civil partnership increased from 5.4% to 5.7%.</p> <p>These figures include same-sex marriages and opposite-sex civil partnerships in 2021, neither of which were legally recognised in England and Wales in 2011.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <p>Same-sex marriages have been legally recognised in England and Wales since 2014 and opposite-sex civil partnerships have been recognised since 2019.</p> <p>The percentage of adults who had never married or registered a civil partnership in Harrow increased by 1.0 percentage points</p> <p>Impact Liability for Council Tax and Business Rates is defined by statute and is a shared responsibility in the case of married couples, couples living together as husband and wife, civil partners and couples living together as civil partners as well as those having a joint legal interest in a property. There is no similar requirement for Business Rates although joint occupiers and owners may be held jointly and severally liable for payment.</p> <p>In the case of Benefits, applicable amounts and personal allowances are based upon the circumstances of the claimant and their household and are prescribed by the Government or set by the Council within the localised Council Tax Reduction Scheme.</p> <p>As the above information is prescribed by statute, there is no currently anticipated adverse interest that may arise from the proposed procurement.</p> | | | | |
| Pregnancy and Maternity | <p>ONS births figures show Harrow as having 3,312 live births in 2021. 14 live births per 1000 population is higher than the England & Wales average of 10.8. The borough has a higher-than-average infant mortality rate in London, at a rate of 3.9 deaths per 1000 live births, which is an indicator of poverty and inequality in the borough.</p> <p>Impact Pregnancy and maternity data is not held for Council Tax, Business Rates or Benefits purposes, as these are not applicable to any of the services in scope. However, it is not currently anticipated that there would be any adverse impact arising from the proposed procurement.</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

Race/
Ethnicity

In 2021, 7.2% of Harrow residents identified their ethnic group within the "Other" category ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group"), up from 2.9% in 2011.

The 4.3 percentage-point change was the largest increase among high-level ethnic groups in this area.

Across London, the percentage of people from the "Other ethnic groups" ("Arab" or "Any other ethnic group") increased from 3.4% to 6.3%, while across England the percentage increased from 1.0% to 2.2%.

In 2021, 45.2% of people in Harrow identified their ethnic group within the "Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh" category (compared with 42.6% in 2011), while 36.5% identified their ethnic group within the "White" category (compared with 42.2% the previous decade). The percentage of people who identified their ethnic group within the "Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African" category decreased from 8.2% in 2011 to 7.3% in 2021.

There are many factors that may be contributing to the changing ethnic composition of England and Wales, such as differing patterns of ageing, fertility, mortality, and migration. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses.

The race/ethnicity statistics from the 2021 Census for Harrow for those who responded to the question was as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh | 118,152 (45.2%) |
| Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African | 19,151 (7.3%) |
| Mixed or multiple ethnic groups | 9,833 (3.8%) |
| White | 95,233 (36.5%) |
| Other ethnic groups | 18,836 (7.2%) |



| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|---|-----------|----------------|----------|--------------|-------|----------------|--------|--------------|--------|----------------|------|--------------|----------------|--------------|-------------|----------------|--------------|---------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <p>Impact</p> <p>Race / ethnicity data is not held for Council Tax, Business Rates or Benefits purposes, as these are not applicable to any of the services in scope. However, it is not currently anticipated that there would be any adverse impact arising from the proposed procurement.</p> <p>The contract will require regular awareness training on equality and diversity to ensure that where appropriate, staff are skilled to ensure any customers within this protected characteristic are not disadvantaged and are given the necessary support and assistance.</p> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| <p>Religion or belief</p> | <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Christian</td> <td>88,602 (33.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Buddhist</td> <td>2,812 (1.1%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hindu</td> <td>67,392 (25.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Jewish</td> <td>7,304 (2.8%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Muslim</td> <td>41,503 (15.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sikh</td> <td>2,743 (1.1%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other religion</td> <td>7,695 (2.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No religion</td> <td>27,748 (10.6%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td> <td>15,404 (5.9%)</td> </tr> </table> <p>In 2021, 15.9% of Harrow residents described themselves as Muslim, up from 12.5% in 2011. The rise of 3.4 percentage points was the largest increase of all broad religious groups in Harrow. Because the census question about religious affiliation is voluntary and has varying response rates, caution is needed when comparing figures between different areas or between censuses.</p> | Christian | 88,602 (33.9%) | Buddhist | 2,812 (1.1%) | Hindu | 67,392 (25.8%) | Jewish | 7,304 (2.8%) | Muslim | 41,503 (15.9%) | Sikh | 2,743 (1.1%) | Other religion | 7,695 (2.9%) | No religion | 27,748 (10.6%) | Not answered | 15,404 (5.9%) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Christian | 88,602 (33.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Buddhist | 2,812 (1.1%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hindu | 67,392 (25.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Jewish | 7,304 (2.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Muslim | 41,503 (15.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sikh | 2,743 (1.1%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Other religion | 7,695 (2.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| No religion | 27,748 (10.6%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not answered | 15,404 (5.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|---------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | <p>Across London, the percentage of residents who described themselves as Muslim increased from 12.6% to 15.0%, while across England the percentage increased from 5.0% to 6.7%.</p> <p>In 2021, 33.9% of people in Harrow described themselves as Christian (down from 37.3%), while 25.8% described themselves as Hindu (up from 25.3% the decade before).</p> <p>There are many factors that can cause changes to the religious profile of an area, such as a changing age structure or residents relocating for work or education. Changes may also be caused by differences in the way individuals chose to self-identify between censuses. Religious affiliation is the religion with which someone connects or identifies, rather than their beliefs or religious practice.</p> <p>In 2021, 15.9% of usual residents in Harrow described themselves as Muslim</p> <p>Impact Religion or belief data is not held for Council Tax, Business Rates or Benefits purposes, as these are not applicable to any of the services in scope. However, it is not currently anticipated that there would be any adverse impact arising from the proposed procurement.</p> | | | | |
| Gender | <p>According to the 2021 Census 50.7% of Harrow's population was female and 49.3% were male.</p> <p>Impact The title of a resident debtor may be held in relation to the name of the Council Tax or Business Rates Payer or Benefit claimant or members of their household, where appropriate for the calculation of liability or assessment of Benefit entitlement. In such instances, that data would be available to the Service Provider. However, as liability for Council Tax and Business Rates is defined by statute and is a shared one in the case of married couples, couples living together as husband and wife, civil partners and couples living together as civil partners as well as those having a joint legal interest in a property, there is therefore no</p> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------|--------------|----------|--------------|-----------|------------|---------|-----------|-------|-----------|-------------------------------|------------|--------------|----------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| | currently anticipated adverse impact that could arise from the proposed procurement. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Sexual Orientation | <p>The 2021 Census shows that 4.27 % of Londoners identify as LGBTQIA+, the highest of any UK region¹. 1.65% of Harrow residents identify as LGBTQIA+, this is approx. 4k people².</p> <p>This is reflected in more detail in the table below.</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Straight or Heterosexual</td> <td>182,702 (87.2%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gay or Lesbian</td> <td>1,361 (0.6%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Bisexual</td> <td>1,873 (0.9%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pansexual</td> <td>787 (0.4%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Asexual</td> <td>59 (0.0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Queer</td> <td>22 (0.0%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>All other sexual orientations</td> <td>137 (0.1%)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not answered</td> <td>22,680 (10.8%)</td> </tr> </table> <p>Impact This information is not held as it is not applicable to any of the services in scope. However, there is no currently anticipated adverse impact that will arise from the proposed procurement.</p> | Straight or Heterosexual | 182,702 (87.2%) | Gay or Lesbian | 1,361 (0.6%) | Bisexual | 1,873 (0.9%) | Pansexual | 787 (0.4%) | Asexual | 59 (0.0%) | Queer | 22 (0.0%) | All other sexual orientations | 137 (0.1%) | Not answered | 22,680 (10.8%) | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| Straight or Heterosexual | 182,702 (87.2%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gay or Lesbian | 1,361 (0.6%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bisexual | 1,873 (0.9%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pansexual | 787 (0.4%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Asexual | 59 (0.0%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Queer | 22 (0.0%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| All other sexual orientations | 137 (0.1%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Not answered | 22,680 (10.8%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

¹ Source: 2021 Census

² Source: 2021 Census

2.1 Cumulative impact – considering what else is happening within the Council and Harrow as a whole, could your proposals have a cumulative impact on groups with protected characteristics?

Yes No

If you clicked the Yes box, which groups with protected characteristics could be affected and what is the potential impact? Include details in the space below

2.2 Any other impact - considering what else is happening nationally/locally (national/local/regional policies, socio-economic factors etc), could your proposals have an impact on individuals/service users, or other groups?

Yes No

If you clicked the Yes box, Include details in the space below

3. Actions to mitigate/remove negative impact

Only complete this section if your assessment (in section 2) suggests that your proposals may have a negative impact on groups with protected characteristics. If you have not identified any negative impacts, please complete sections 4 and 5.

In the table below, please state what these potential negative impact (s) are, mitigating actions and steps taken to ensure that these measures will address and remove any negative impacts identified and by when. Please also state how you will monitor the impact of your proposal once implemented.

| State what the negative impact(s) are for each group, identified in section 2. In addition, you should also consider and state potential risks associated with your proposal. | Measures to mitigate negative impact (provide details, including details of and additional consultation undertaken/to be carried out in the future). If you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact, please state so and provide a brief explanation. | What action (s) will you take to assess whether these measures have addressed and removed any negative impacts identified in your analysis? Please provide details. If you have previously stated that you are unable to identify measures to mitigate impact please state below. | Deadline date | Lead Officer |
|--|--|---|---------------|--------------|
| | | | | |
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4. Public Sector Equality Duty

How does your proposal meet the Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) to:

1. Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Equality Act 2010
2. Advance equality of opportunity between people from different groups
3. Foster good relations between people from different groups

The contract terms will require the Service Provider to deliver the service in accordance with all applicable equality law (whether in relation to race, sex, gender reassignment, age, disability, sexual orientation, religion or belief, pregnancy, maternity or otherwise), our equality and diversity policy and any other requirements and instructions which we may reasonably impose and that we are required to comply with under applicable equality law.

The Service Provider will also be required to take all necessary steps, and inform us of the steps taken, to prevent unlawful discrimination designated as such by any court or tribunal, or the Equality and Human Rights Commission or (any successor organisation) and to comply with the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Service Provider must also undertake, or refrain from undertaking, such acts as we may request so as to enable us to comply with obligations under the Human Rights Act 1998.

The Service Provider must comply with the Equality Act 2010, having regard to our own procedures for monitoring representation among its own employees and must submit an annual report demonstrating its compliance with the above and including such additional information as we may reasonably require for the purpose of assessing their compliance with it.

5. Outcome of the Equality Impact Assessment (EqIA) click the box that applies

Outcome 1

No change required: the EqIA has not identified any potential for unlawful conduct or disproportionate impact and all opportunities to advance equality of opportunity are being addressed

Outcome 2

Adjustments to remove/mitigate negative impacts identified by the assessment, or to better advance equality, as stated in section 3&4

Outcome 3

This EqlA has identified discrimination and/ or missed opportunities to advance equality and/or foster good relations. However, it is still reasonable to continue with the activity. Outline the reasons for this and the information used to reach this decision in the space below.

Include details here



Report for: Cabinet

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Date of Meeting: | 14 March 2024 |
| Subject: | Strategic Performance Report Q3 2023-24 |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Responsible Officer: | Alex Dewsnap, Managing Director |
| Portfolio Holder: | Cllr Stephen Greek, Portfolio Holder for Performance, Communications and Customer Experience |
| Exempt: | No |
| Decision subject to Call-in: | No |
| Wards affected: | All wards |
| Enclosures: | Appendix 1 – Strategic Performance Report Appendix 2 – Corporate Scorecard |

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report summarises Council and service performance for Quarter 3 against key measures and draws attention to areas requiring action.

Recommendations:

That

1. Portfolio Holders continue to work with officers to achieve improvement against identified key challenges (Appendix 1)
2. Cabinet notes the report and identifies any changes it wishes to see in future reports

Reason: (for recommendations)

To enable Cabinet to be informed of performance against key measures and to identify and assign corrective action where necessary.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

Appendix 1 to this report addresses performance against the objectives and Flagship Actions in the Council's corporate plan 'Restoring Pride in Harrow', arranged by the three priorities:

- A council that puts residents first
- A borough that is clean and safe
- A place where those in need are supported.

Options considered.

Whilst there is no legal requirement to formally report performance data, as part of compliance with the Council's best value duty, the Council should make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in service performance and this requires an organisation wide approach with frequent monitoring, performance reporting and updating of corporate and improvement plans. The Council should also have an outward facing, transparent and open culture with a commitment to promoting transparency and sharing information with the public. As such it is recommended to have formal, public reporting of performance to Cabinet.

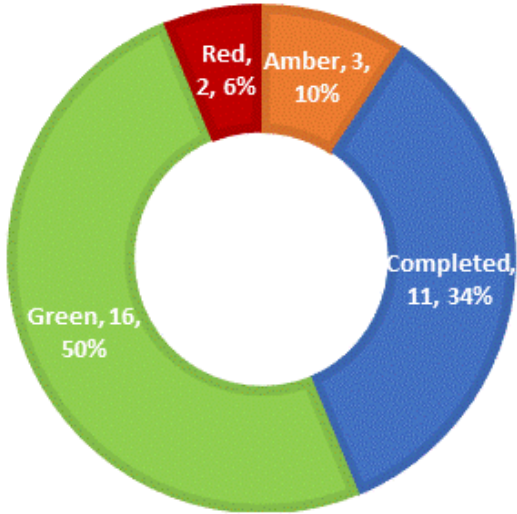
Summary of Performance

Note that the status of both Flagship Actions and performance indicators is reported and summarised here as at the end of Q3, 31st December 2023. The status of some of these will have changed in the monthly monitoring since the end of Q3. For Cabinet Reporting, the quarterly position is shown, noting that there is ongoing monitoring which will be reflected in the next quarterly report.

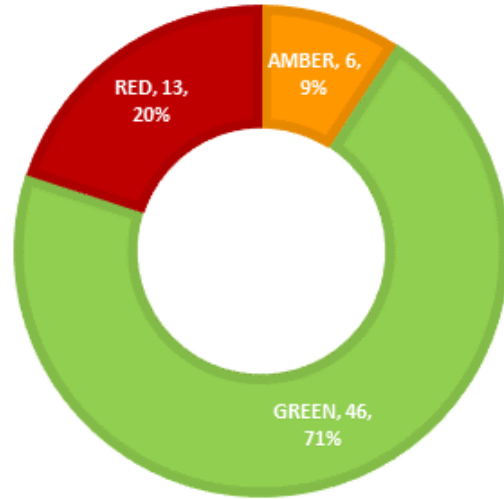
Overall Performance at end of Quarter 3, December 31st 2023:

All Flagship Actions (FA)

*(note total is more than the original 24 FAs as some actions are split for reporting purposes)

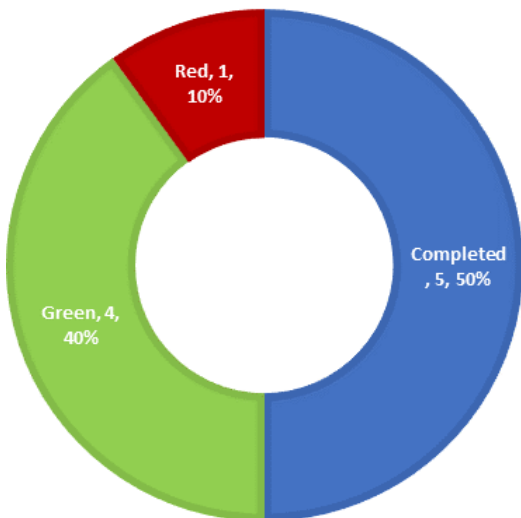


All Performance Indicators (PI)

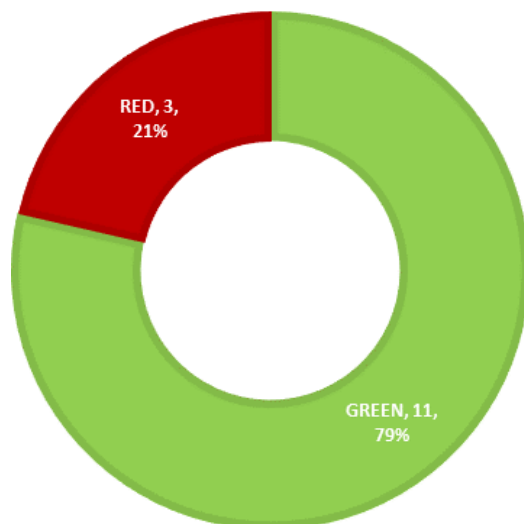


Performance by Priority: A council that puts residents first

Flagship Actions



Performance Indicators



Key achievements in the quarter included:

- Successful implementation of the new planning system with an enhanced customer portal
- Resurfacing of footways and highways, and a week of action in Rayners Lane, installation of CCTV and delivery of Family Hubs

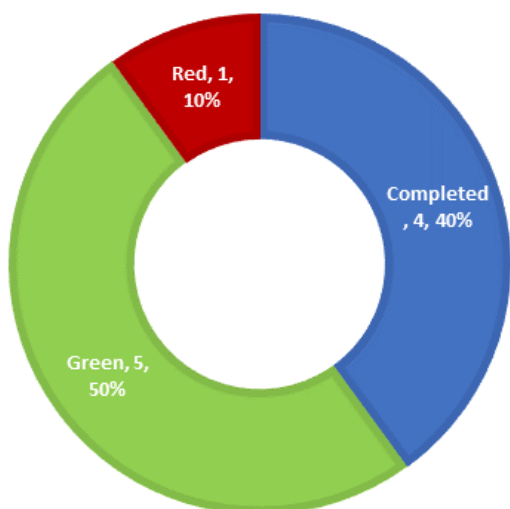
- Remembrance events at the Civic Centre and St John's in Stanmore
- The annual canvas by Electoral Services has improved the accuracy of the electoral register, promoted registration and responded to Elections Act changes

Areas for improvement included:

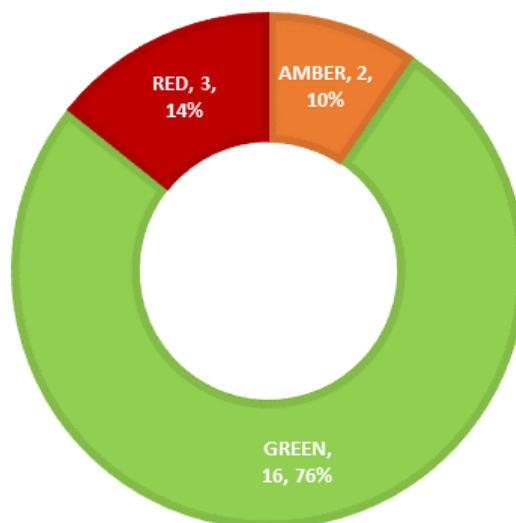
- Installation of full fibre internet to all Council homes, which has been delayed due to financial issues in the industry
- Improving waiting times before telephone calls are answered
- Responding to Freedom of Information requests within 20 days

Performance by Priority: A borough that is clean and safe

Flagship Actions



Performance Indicators



Key achievements in the quarter included:

- Reduction in catalytic converter theft, due to targeted operations with the police and other local organisations
- Safer Spaces website – resulted in 100 responses and 1400 views and is helping to make Harrow safer for women and girls
- Improved recycling rates, reduced residual waste
- Grange Farm Phase One was completed – delivering 89 new homes
- Improvements in building safety compliance and turnaround times for council houses
- Higher rates of homelessness prevention, in top 5 for London
- Lower high street vacancies, and improved public areas in the town centre
- Events at the Harrow Arts centre, including cultural heritage events and the annual pantomime, which sold 13,600 tickets, the highest number ever

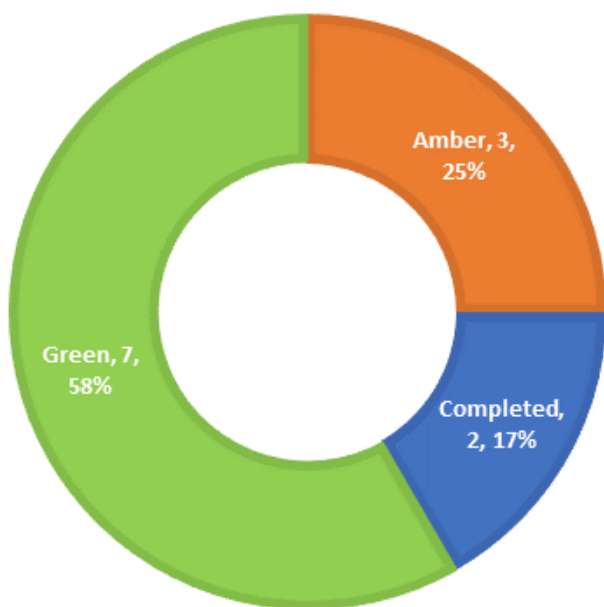
- BALI¹ Award in Nature, Conservation and Biodiversity Enhancements for Headstone Manor Museum
- Exceeded targets in finding employment for local residents – with the best performance in London

Areas for improvement included:

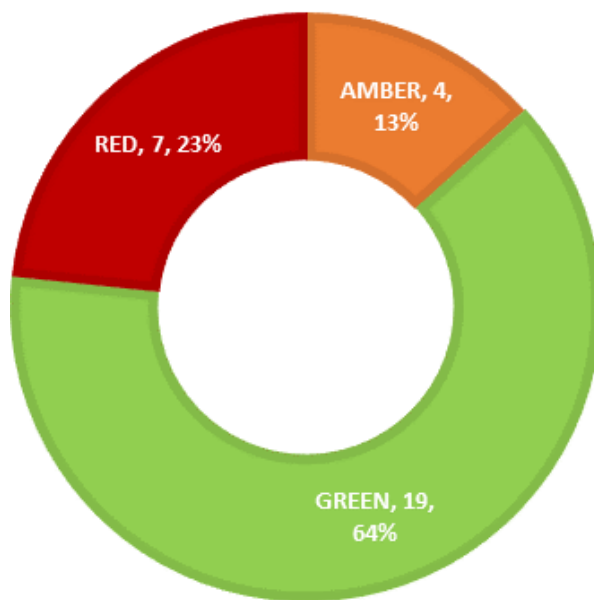
- Grange Farm Phases 2 and 3 – delayed and under review, likely to start later in 2024
- Increased number of anti-social behaviour incidents
- Highway defects rectified within timescale
- Footfall in the town centre
- Electrical safety checks in council houses

Performance by Priority: A place where those in need are supported

Flagship Actions



Performance Indicators



Key achievements in the quarter included:

- Provision of 25 warm hubs, providing health advice, exercise classes and a hot meal
- Providing opportunities for residents to be connected to others via the 'Feeling Connected over Winter' campaign
- Delivery of Fit4Life charters to 40 primary schools – to improve the health of Harrow's pupils
- Launch of the hospital discharge bridging service
- Free school meals delivered to over 6000 children in each of the October half term and Christmas holidays

¹ British Association of Landscape Industries

- 1500 vouchers and over 9000 food packages distributed to residents via Help Harrow
- Corporate support for 2 further years of Conversation Café - with extended offer including Citizens Advice for carers, disabled and vulnerable residents

Areas for improvement included:

- Improvements at some of Harrow's Neighbourhood Resource Centres
- Children's social care assessment timeliness
- Absence rates in local schools
- Exclusions from local schools
- Timeliness of Education, Health & Care Plans for Children with SEND²

More detail on Q3 performance and Flagship Actions can be found in the appendices, along with a key to RAG (Red-Amber-Green) ratings.

Ward Councillors' comments

Not applicable

Performance Issues

The report deals in detail with performance issues.

Data Protection Implications

Personal data is protected when reporting performance through aggregation of data, anonymisation and suppression of low numbers that might enable individuals to be identified.

Risk Management Implications

The risks arising from the Performance Report will be measured through the Council's Corporate and Directorate level Risk Registers.

Risks included on corporate or directorate risk registers?

Yes

Separate risk register in place? **No**

The relevant risks contained in the register are attached/summarized below.

N/A

The following key risks should be taken into account when agreeing the recommendations in this report:

² Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

| Risk Description | Mitigations | RAG Status |
|---|--|--------------|
| Corporate performance information is not reported in a timely manner and this may prevent remedial action being taken promptly (where appropriate) in key areas | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Performance scorecards exist at service and Directorate level which include all the indicators in the Corporate Scorecard • Managers receive real time data in critical areas e.g, outstanding assessments • Service and Directorate level scorecards are considered in performance sessions with managers that occur soon after the period end – when the data becomes available, usually monthly. • Information is available quickly and action is taken to address performance issues as they arise. | Green |

Procurement Implications

None

Legal Implications

The Council has a duty under s.3 of the Local Government Act 1999 to make arrangements to secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. Draft guidance on compliance with this duty was published for consultation over the Summer of 2023. Whilst still in draft, the contents set out the Government’s expectations in terms of compliance.

The draft guidance refers to the role of the Office of Local Government whose objective is to increase transparency of performance in the local government sector. The guidance contains details on the characteristics of a well-functioning authority, which includes frequent monitoring, performance reporting and updating of the corporate and improvement plans, ensuring that plans are evidence based, current, realistic and enable performance to be measured, there should be alignment with the financial strategy, actual outcomes should be measured effectively and frequently interrogated, performance should be regularly reported to the public to ensure citizens are informed of the quality of services being delivered and there should be opportunities for resident and partner engagement in developing, monitoring and managing performance.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

S.149 of the Equality Act 2010 requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation, and any other

conduct that is prohibited, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a protected characteristic and those who do not. This requires the Council to collect, monitor and manage equality data and consider the impact of its decisions on different parts of the community. The Council should consider its equality duties in all aspects of its decision-making and has specific duties to publish equality objectives and information to demonstrate compliance with the s.149 duty.

Council Priorities

The performance report is arranged according to the 3 council priorities:

1. **A council that puts residents first**
2. **A borough that is clean and safe**
3. **A place where those in need are supported.**

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory Officer: Sharon Daniels

Signed off by the Chief Financial Officer

Date: 22 February 2024

Statutory Officer: Sarah Wilson

Signed on behalf of the Monitoring Officer

Date: 22 February 2024

Chief Officer: Alex Dewsnap

Signed by the Managing Director

Date: 22 February 2024

Head of Procurement: Nimesh Mehta

Signed by the Head of Procurement

Date: 22 February 2024

Head of Internal Audit: Neale Burns

Signed on behalf of/by the Head of Internal Audit

Date: 22nd February 2024

Has the Portfolio Holder(s) been consulted? Yes

Mandatory Checks

Ward Councillors notified: No, as it impacts on all Wards

EqlA carried out: No

Not required for the quarterly performance report

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: David Harrington david.harrington@harrow.gov.uk
07714 089170

Background Papers:

None

Call-in waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee: NO

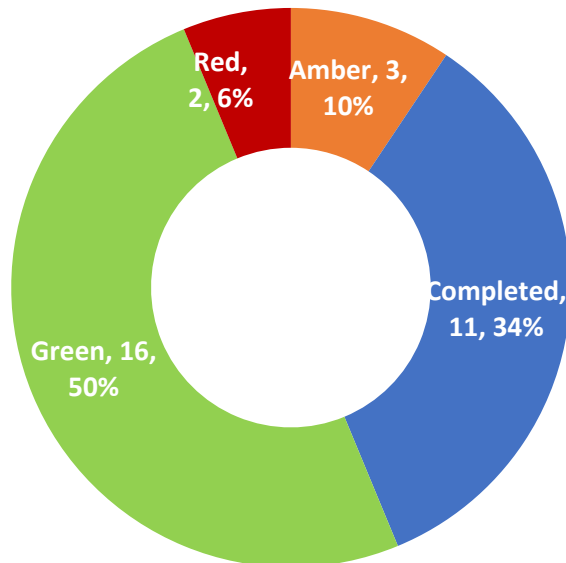
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APPENDIX 1 - STRATEGIC PERFORMANCE REPORT Q3 2023-24

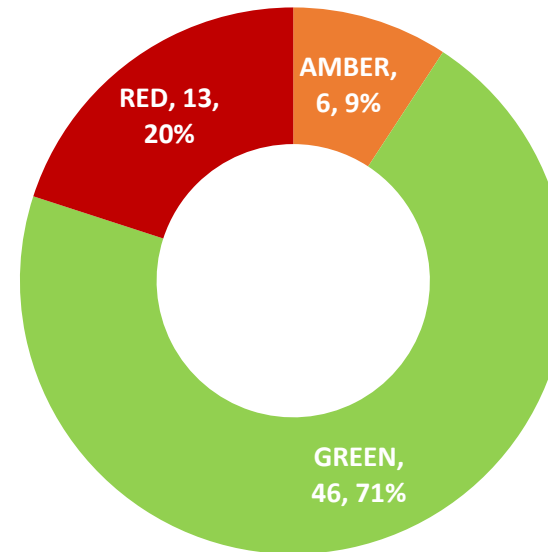
This report summarises progress against the Corporate Plan ‘Restoring Pride in Harrow’ and specifically tracks performance against the Flagship Actions, alongside a set of key performance indicators, which constitute the Corporate Performance Scorecard. Performance is reported in line with the three Priorities identified in the plan, namely

- **A council that puts residents first**
- **A borough that is clean and safe**
- **A place where those in need are supported**

RAG summary Q3 – all Flagship Actions



RAG Summary Q3 – all performance indicators



Due to division of Multiple Flagship Actions into multiple entities and each assigned RAG rating, the total count of FAs is now 31 FA vs. the original 24 Flagship Actions

Key to RAG (Red-Amber-Green) ratings can be found at the end of this appendix

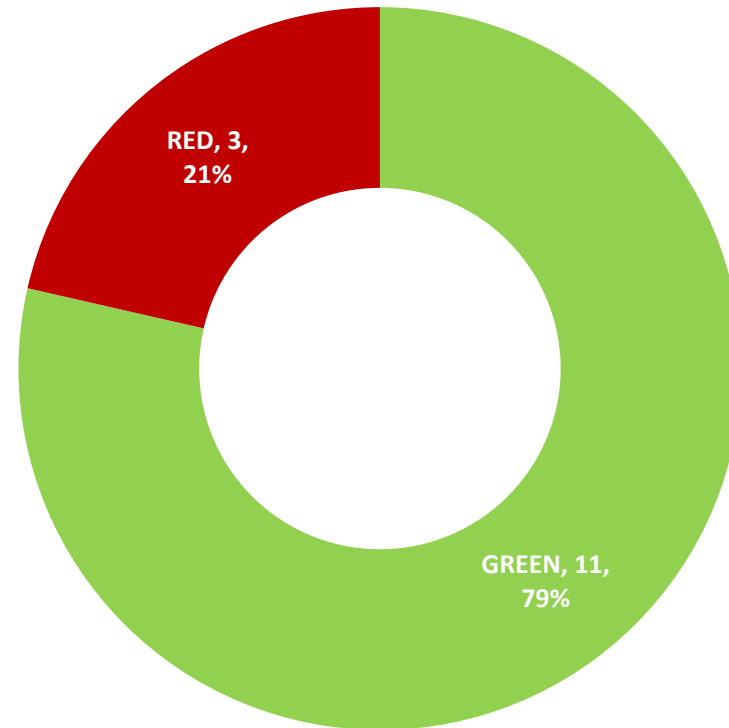
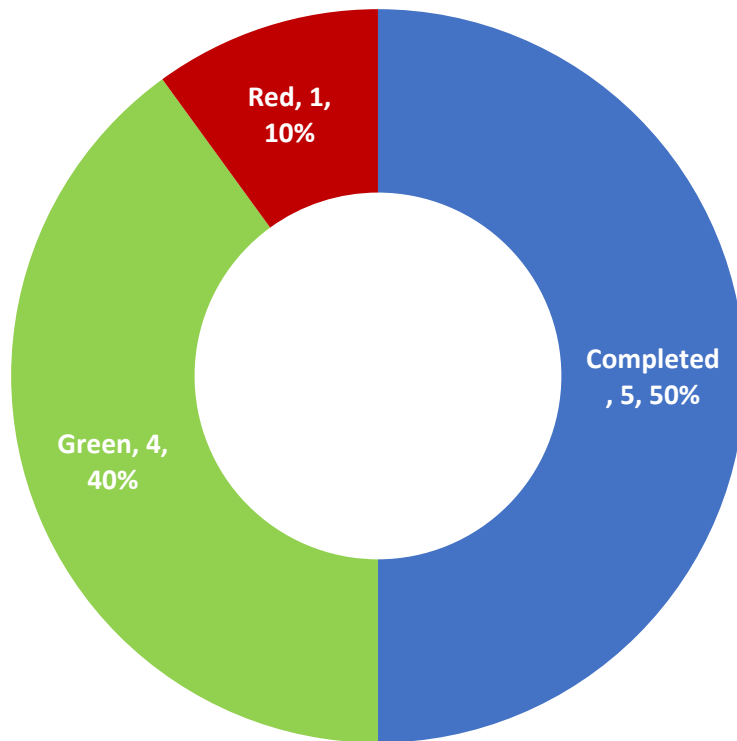


Achievements

- **Average Wait Times** for calls re Revenues & Benefits fell throughout November and December to under three minutes.
- **Resident satisfaction** with the telephone service hit its highest level at 91% in December with the quarterly average reaching 87%.
- Physical assessments for **Blue Badges** have restarted in Civic 5/6. These will ensure that the applicants receive a more detailed assessment of their needs.
- In October a **new planning IT system** was implemented in close partnership with the service, this introduced new back-office processes and an enhanced customer portal, addressing very longstanding issues with the existing technology and process.
- **MyHarrow Talk**, our consultation platform, hosted 15 consultations including the 2024/25 Budget consultation and the North Harrow and Pinner cycle route. MyHarrow Talk attracted **10,730 visitors, with 818 contributions**.
- Our Flagship campaigns this quarter centred around **resurfacing footways and highways**; the second **week of action in Rayners Lane** (and the actions coming from the activity); **CCTV** and **Family Hubs**.
- An **Emergency Rest Centre live exercise**, “Exercise Brisbane”, was held this period. Over 70 participants attended from the council’s Duty Silver Officers, West London emergency planning and response officers, and multi-agency partners. Overall, the day was judged to be a success by observers from the London Resilience Group.
- Successfully recruited **3 Governance Apprentices** for the Legal & Governance Directorate, and these posts are within the existing budget.
- Successfully maintained the **Lexcel (Law Society) accreditation**, after a face to face 3 day audit in November.
- Organised one of the most successful **remembrance Sunday events** that we have held, attended by both the members of the public, and public officials. This was also the last event to be held at the Civic Centre. Battle of Britain Service held at St. Johns Church in Stanmore.
- Electoral services delivered the **annual canvas** which has increased the accuracy of the electoral register and worked with number of voluntary and community sector organisations to promote electoral registration and respond to changes in the Elections Act.

Residents First – Flagship Actions Q3

Residents First – indicator RAG Q3



387

Flagship Actions – Residents First Q3

088

| A COUNCIL THAT PUTS ITS RESIDENTS FIRST | |
|---|---|
| | Completed |
| ● | Adopt new planning protections to restrict tall buildings in our suburbs |
| ● | Better control conversions from houses into flats to preserve the character of Harrow. |
| ● | Install FFTP Grange Farm Community Hall and Northolt Road Community Hall by the end of March 2024 |
| ● | Launch a new consultation called 'My Harrow Talk' keeping the views of residents at the heart of decision making. |
| ● | Deliver a new planning website by the end of the summer, making it easier for our residents to apply or look up and comment on planning applications Note: this entails a complete replacement of planning backoffice systems. |
| | Green |
| ● | Create safe and secure cycle parking at Harrow on the Hill station by May 2024 , encouraging more active travel and healthier lifestyles |
| ● | Improve our website and create a more personalised service through the MyHarrow Account, the ability to track progress of reported items online and enhance the customer experience |
| ● | Respond to 90% of complaints in 15 working days, improving our responsiveness and customer experience. |
| ● | Rollout the first car parking spaces for car clubs in our car parks by May 2024, helping reduce the number of cars and emissions on our roads by giving residents easier access to cars when they need it, at a reasonable rate. |
| | Red |
| ● | Install full fibre internet to all council homes End date April 2025 |

Performance Indicators – Residents First Q3

| Indicator Description | | Polarity: High ▲ or Low ▼ is 'good' | Target Q3 2023/24 | Actual Q3 2023/24 |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ● | % of customer calls successfully answered (<10% abandoned) (Revs & Bens) | ▲ | 90% | 93% |
| ● | % of customer calls successfully answered (>90% answered) | ▲ | 90% | 94% |
| ● | % of employees trained in the Customer Excellence Academy | ▲ | 15% | 15% |
| ● | % operating time without active P1 incidents | ▲ | 100% | 100% |
| ● | % operating time without active P1 or P2 outages on customer facing systems | ▲ | 98% | 99% |
| ● | Complaints answered within timescale | ▲ | 90% | 94% |
| ● | PM1 Average time for processing new benefits claims (days) | ▼ | 25 | 24.03 |
| ● | PM5 Average time for processing changes of circumstances (days) | ▼ | 12 | 9.29 |
| ● | Proportion of staff trained in information security | ▲ | 90% | 91% |
| ● | Self service as a proportion of overall contact | ▲ | 95% | 95% |

689

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|------|------|
| ● | Total of all IT incidents raised during reporting period | ▼ | 4500 | 3650 |
| ● | Average Wait Time (seconds) before a telephone call is answered | ▼ | 120 | 189 |
| ● | % FOI responses within 20 working days | ▲ | 90% | 83% |
| ● | Average Wait Time (seconds) before a telephone call is answered (Revs & Bens) | ▼ | 180 | 192 |

Key actions over the next quarter

- The **Careline service** will undergo the UK Telecommunications (Security) Act (TSA) accreditation process in February.
- Although live, the Digital team will continue to improve the **Planning Portal** to enhance the resident experience.
- The next iteration of the **Customer Experience Action Plan** for 2024 – 2026 will be signed off with a Cabinet target date of June.
- The final steps in the Phase 1 rollout and cutover plan for the new Civica CX **Housing IT system** will be completed, ahead of a planned go-live from 11 April.
- Work on **community reassurance** in relation to the Middle East crisis continues to take place including police and council outreach and reassurance work.
- We are working with Brent to prepare for the **GLA election** in May and preparing for the **General Election** in 2024.

OG3,

A borough
that is clean
and safe

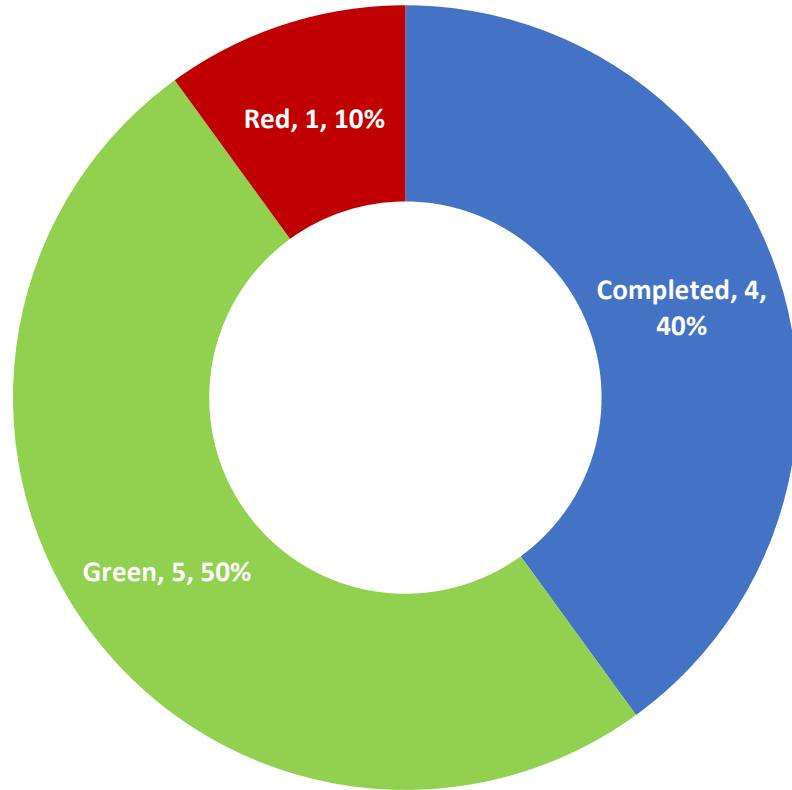


Achievements

- **Catalytic Converter Thefts** - there has been sharp and continued downward trend in Catalytic Converter offences in the last 18 months. Due to targeted operations and work with police and other local organisations.
- Multi-agency **night of action in Wealdstone**. Using Police and Council Safer Streets data, officers were able to target known hot spot areas.
- **Domestic Abuse** - After a long upward trend Domestic offences are now reducing. Rates (8.1) remain lower than the London average (11.1) and the 4th lowest in London.
- **Violence Against Women and Girls Safer Spaces Survey** launched in October 2023 on Harrow web. The survey has received over 100 responses and over 1400 views.
- Improvements in **recycling** continue, now at 33%.
- **Residual waste** has also seen a decrease in quarter 2 to 159kg compared to 171kg the previous quarter.
- 3 new **recycling officers** recruited. The team has continued their engagement in the town centre, with schools and places of worship.
- **Housing Emergency repairs** – continue complete over the 90% target of emergency repairs jobs to timescales - with over 97% year to date (Q3) completed on time.
- **Building Safety Compliance** – Significant improvements in this area since the same period last year. Q3 data showing almost all areas at 100% compliance (*Fire Risk Assessments, Lift safety, Asbestos management, Water Hygiene*). Plans for turning around electrical safety performance are on track to exceed target of 2000 electrical checks by end of 2023/24.
- **Housing Stage 1 complaints** 93% responded to on time in Q3, exceeding target.
- **Housing voids turnaround times** – Q3 performance (52 days) exceeding target, significant improvement since the same period last year (73 days) and below the London average (68 days).
- **Homelessness prevention** – Despite rising cases, the Housing Needs team are successfully preventing more homelessness - exceeding monthly targets throughout Q3 (72.1%) with preventions performance in the top five for London Boroughs (London average 44%).
- **High street vacancies have reduced** this quarter to from 8.3% in Q2 to 7.5% in Q3.
- **Headstone Harrow Museum (HMM)** activity targets continue to be exceeded - **Harrow Arts Centre (HAC) hosted their 18th Panchamukhee Durga Utsav Festival** in October, with a free 5 days of events, promoting the arts and cultural heritage of Indian subcontinent.
- **The annual pantomime at HAC** -*Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, sold over 13,600 tickets (20% increase from 2022)- **the most successful show to date**.
- Designs for the **Meanwhile Use in Greenhill Place**, the Kiosks in St Ann's Rd and public realm improvements in Harrow Town Centre were completed.

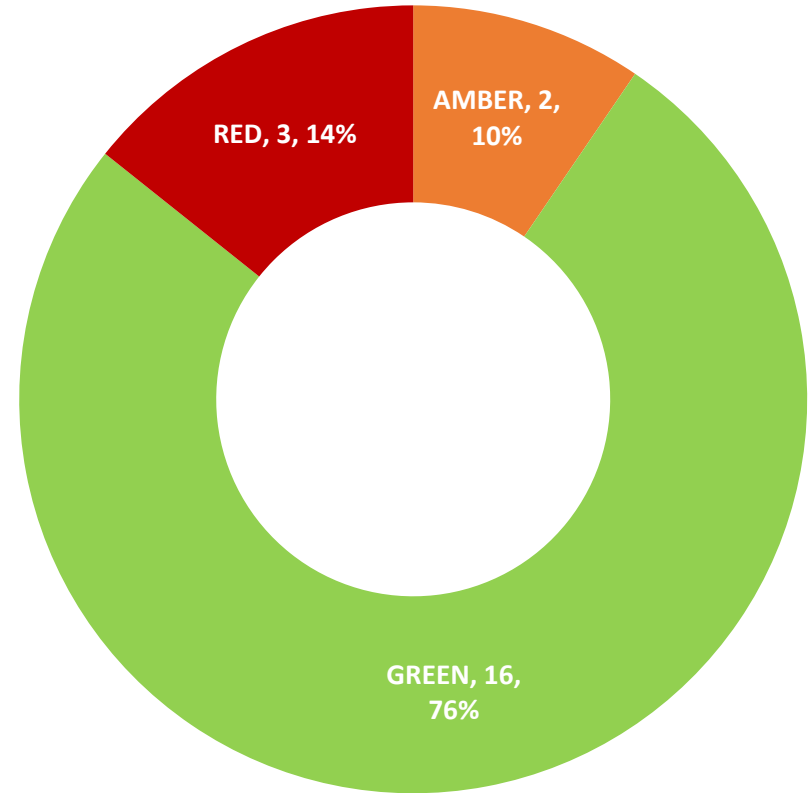
- The **consultation on the Harrow Metropolitan Town Centre** enhancements was successfully completed.
- **Tender completed for Supply Ready project** which aims to help Harrow businesses secure contracts with the public sector.
- **Xcite employment support** – Harrow is best performing West London borough, securing 108% of its target, the next best borough only pulled down 52% of targeted job outcomes.
- **Local plan** preparation continues to progress with a successful Planning Policy Advisory Panel review of the draft Local Plan vision and strategic policies which were well received.
- Early engagement on the **Harrow Town Centre masterplan** took place which will inform future masterplan development.
- **Headstone Manor Recreational Ground** won the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI) **Principal Award for Nature Conservation & Biodiversity Enhancement**. This recognised the project as demonstrating a significant contribution to conservation or enhancement of biodiversity.
- Secured £100,000 from the **Planning Delivery and Skills grant**, with £50k for backlog clearance and £50k for skills funding for urban design
- The public consultation on the **Council's Climate and Nature Strategy 23-30** was completed and approved by Cabinet in November.
- The Council appointed a Nature Recovery Ranger to assist with the implementation of **UKSPF funded project (until March 2025) to deliver biodiversity and habitat improvements in parks and open spaces**. The role will also help run volunteering sessions for residents in our nature reserves & work with Harrow Nature Conservation
- Harrow **London-wide Annual Borough Conference for the One World Living Programme (reducing consumption emissions)**, as part of Circular Economy Week.

Clean & Safe – Flagship Actions Q3



393

Clean & Safe – indicator RAG Q3



Flagship Actions – Clean and Safe Q3

| A BOROUGH THAT IS CLEAN AND SAFE | |
|----------------------------------|---|
| | Completed |
| ● | Deliver Phase One (89 new homes) of the Grange Farm regeneration - Harrow's Largest estate regeneration - by the end of 2023 |
| ● | Refurbish 36 tennis courts in harrow parks and open spaces by 2025, delivering good quality courts and a new booking system |
| ● | Ensure good quality open spaces for our residents, through the reaccreditation of our 6 green flag parks |
| ● | Identify 3 more parks to become accredited to green flag status by 2024/2025 |
| | Green |
| ● | Double the number of council provided electric charging points for the public in the next 12 months, helping residents who have or will choose hybrid or electric vehicles in the future, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality |
| ● | Hold at least 4 weeks of action, bringing together council and partners to deal with particular areas of anti-social behaviour and fly tipping. |
| ● | Identify unauthorised beds in sheds and other environmental issues through a new approach which includes heat maps |
| ● | Install at least 15 mobile CCTV cameras in the areas of Harrow most targeted for fly tipping and ASB.(Anti-Social Behaviour) |
| ● | Resurface over 60 carriageways and footways over the next 12 months through our improved highway maintenance programme. |
| | Red |
| ● | By April 2024 we will determine the planning application for Grange Farm Phase Two and Three |

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Performance Indicators – Clean and Safe Q3

395

| Indicator Description | | Polarity: High ▲ or Low ▼ is 'good' | Target Q3 2023/24 | Actual Q3 2023/24 |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| ● | % of repeat locations for ASB complaints | ▼ | 10% | 9% |
| ● | % Homes with valid gas certificate | ▲ | 100% | 100% |
| ● | % of buildings that have had all the necessary fire risk assessments | ▲ | 100% | 100% |
| ● | % of domestic properties with EICR certificates | ▲ | 40% | 57% |
| ● | % of existing council homes with an EPC rating of C+ | ▲ | 38% | 38% |
| ● | % of homes in buildings that have had necessary asbestos management surveys or re-inspections | ▲ | 100% | 100% |
| ● | % of homes that have had all the necessary Lift safety checks | ▲ | 100% | 100% |
| ● | % of homes that have had all the necessary water safety checks | ▲ | 100% | 100% |
| ● | % of vacant high street premises in Harrow Town Centre (based on empty units) | ▼ | 8% | 8% |
| ● | Catalytic Converter Theft (rolling year) | ▼ | 330 | 49 |
| ● | Number of enforcement actions commenced (including FPNs) - fly tips | ▲ | 60 | 277 |
| ● | Number of FPNs issued - (tri-borough contract) | ▲ | 900 | 2040 |
| ● | Percentage of household waste sent for recycling (Oflog) | ▲ | 0% | 33% |
| ● | Percentage of land assessed for litter that falls below an acceptable standard - Litter, Detritus, Graffiti, Fly-posting. | ▼ | 0% | 0% |
| ● | Repeat web contact ASB complaints (over 12 months) | ▼ | 9% | 9% |

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------|--------|
| ● | Residual household waste per household (kg/household) (Oflog) | ▼ | 172.5 | 158.95 |
| ● | % of homes not meeting the Decent homes standard | ▼ | 12% | 12% |
| ● | Fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people | ▼ | 11 | 11.42 |
| ● | Footfall in Harrow town centre (year on year % change) | ▲ | 2% | 0% |
| ● | Number of anti-social behaviour incidents | ▼ | 972 | 1365 |
| ● | Percentage of actionable highway defects rectified within timescale (either reported or found during cyclic inspections) | ▲ | 87% | 76% |

Key actions over the next quarter

396

- **Garden Waste 2024/25** sign up phase opens to residents (January 2024), with delivery of the service from April 2024 onwards.
- Rolling out **450 Electric Vehicle trickle charging units**.
- **Transport Strategy** – public consultation.
- Adoption of the **Harrow Strategic Development Partnership (HSDP) Business Plans** to enable schemes at Byron Quarter and Poets Corner to progress
- Application to Homes England for **Brownfield Land Release grant** to support Poets Corner
- Scoping of **Harrow Town Centre Masterplan** in Q4 to enable preparation and future consultation
- Recommencement of **Grange Farm, phase 2**
- **New Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) standards** – consultation with Residents Board (March 2024)
- **Housing Annual Report** – first publication of performance data for residents
- **The Regulator of Social Housing consultation on Awaab’s Law**, (including proposed new repairs timescales & Changes to Decent Homes criteria) – closes March 2024
- **Strategic Asset review of Sheltered Housing**
- Tender and contract award for the construction of the **Meanwhile Space in Greenhill Car Park** and the **Kiosks in St Ann’s Road**
- The procurement for delivery of **Learn Harrow’s sub-contracted provision** for the 2024/25 academic year.
- **Delivery of UKSPF Employment and Skills project** commence.
- **The spring Xcite Job Fair**

- **Super Traders Group meeting** with the police and Traders Associations
- **Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy, 2023-2037** going to Cabinet in March 2024 seeking approval for the adoption of the Strategy following Sport England sign off in Q3.
- Harrow has been flagged as a model borough for the UKSPF Communities and Place programme. We will share our best practice and case studies with other London boroughs at a **UKSPF networking meeting in January**.
- **Harrow Energy Advice and Support project** targeted at voluntary organisations
- Procurement will take place in Q4 for a supplier to deliver **solar installations at five further council sites**
- Recommendations to be brought to cabinet for **renewal of council's energy contracts** for the period 24-28.
- Investigation of **Green Car Benefit Scheme** for staff (salary sacrifice low emission vehicle leasing)
- **Serious Violence Duty** - strategy has been completed and published on the LB Harrow website on the 31st January. The Serious Violence Duty is due to be presented to Cabinet in March.
- **Future day and nights of action** - to be scheduled with partners and VCS professionals using data to inform hotspot areas/targeted at peak times.

A place where
those in need
are supported



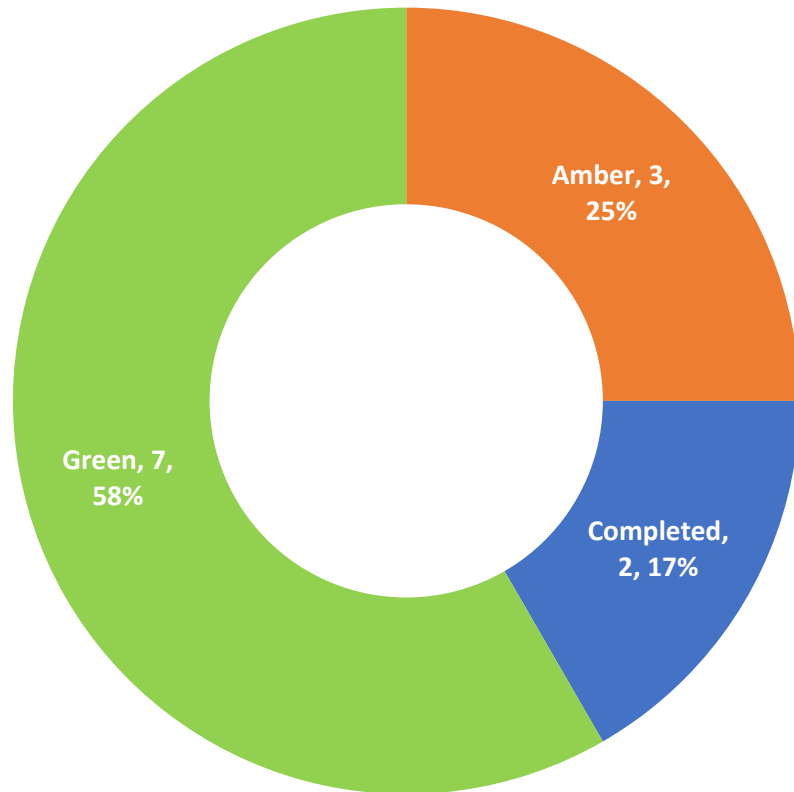
Achievements

- Public Health have funded over 25 **warm hubs** to provide a community space for residents over the winter period, with many providing a range of activities such as access health advice, exercise classes and a hot meal.
- For our 0-19 service (including **Health Visiting and School Nurses**), Harrow is the only service to be in either 1st or 2nd place vs our comparator group¹ and rated 'green' for all four indicators
- We led a **Feeling Connected over Winter** campaign by liaising with local services and organisations to highlight opportunities for Harrow residents to be connected to others to support their mental health and wellbeing
- Creation and delivery of the **Fit4Life Charters to all 40 primary schools** to support the delivery of Healthy Schools London.
- Secured a grant of £192k to support with Public health **tobacco control initiatives** e.g., smoking cessation, illegal tobacco management
- The Household Support Fund provided **free school meals** to **6,634 children** during October half term and **6,338 children** over the Christmas holidays. **1,500 vouchers** were issued to residents and **9,227 food packages** were distributed through Help Harrow.
- **Citizens Advice Harrow** were funded to provide advice and signposting alongside council services at **Conversation Café**, which received another 2 years of support focusing on carers, disabled and vulnerable residents
- We successfully welcomed 46 individuals via the **Homes for Ukraine Programme**. Over the last few months, we hosted a Christmas Event to celebrate with Ukrainian families in Harrow and successfully supported 11 families with moving into private rented accommodation.
- Successfully launched the **Hospital Discharge Bridging Service**
- **EHCP²s Annual Reviews** – improvement from 5.8% processed within statutory 4 weeks in summer term 2023 to 58% in autumn term 2023.
- 3 Department of Education officials visited 2 Harrow schools to understand **local SEND provision**. Reported very positively on the experience and welcome they received.
- Review of **SEND Local Offer** taking place with plans to recreate the site. Large participation from partners and community in feedback.

¹ A group of similar authorities, known as our 'statistical neighbours'

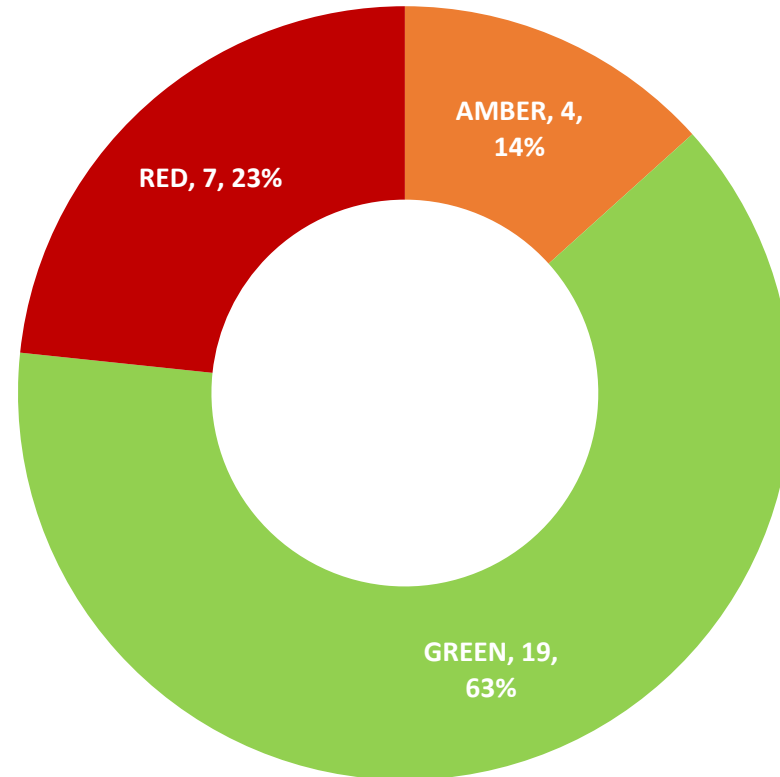
² Education, Health and Care Plans for children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)

Supporting those in Need – Flagship Actions Q3



399

Supporting those in Need – indicator RAG Q3



Flagship Actions – Supporting those in Need Q3

| A PLACE WHERE THOSE IN NEED ARE SUPPORTED | |
|---|--|
| | Completed |
| ● | Development of our new customer centre at Gayton road for people at risk of homelessness or concerns about vulnerable residents |
| ● | Work with residents, community groups and the voluntary sector to create a new adult social care and mental health service by July |
| | Green |
| ● | Launch a skills and employment programme for our most vulnerable young people before the summer of 2024, including our care leavers, with applications launching by March 2024 |
| ● | Help with the cost of living crisis we will deliver another year of free school meals during school holidays (subject to household support fund 4 guidance) |
| ● | Upgrade the councils 10 children centres into family centres, which will deliver more integrated services for residents which includes early years and health |
| ● | Start construction on Milton road, resulting in 100% high quality, affordable housing which includes family sized homes. |
| ● | Doubling the number of Harrow Council Apprenticeships in the borough for external candidates by the end of the year. |
| ● | Doubling the number of Harrow Council Apprenticeships internally in the borough by the end of the year. |
| ● | Wiseworks-Improve our neighbourhood resource centres into true adult social care and well being hubs |
| | Amber |
| ● | Vaughan-Improve our neighbourhood resource centres into true adult social care and well being hubs |
| ● | New bentley -Improve our neighbourhood resource centres into true adult social care and well being hubs |
| ● | Kenmore-Improve our neighbourhood resource centres into true adult social care and well being hubs |

400

3

³ Due to division of Multiple Flagship Actions into multiple entities and each assigned RAG rating, the total count of FAs for Clean & Safe is now 12 vs. the original 8 Flagship Actions

Performance Indicators – Supporting those in Need Q3

401

| Indicator Description | | Polarity: High ▲ or Low ▼ is 'good' | Target Q3 2023/24 | Actual Q3 2023/24 |
|-----------------------|---|--|----------------------|-------------------------|
| ● | % of CPP for 2nd or subsequent time | ▼ | 20 | 16.7 |
| ● | % of Re-referrals that are repeat within 12 months | ▼ | 19 | 14.5 |
| ● | % of births that receive a face to face New Birth Visit within 14 days by a Health Visitor | ▲ | 90% | 90% |
| ● | % of people from total eligible population invited for a Health Check | ▲ | 15% | 18% |
| ● | Annual rate of Primary, Secondary & Special School Permanent Exclusions as % of Harrow school population | ▼ | 0.10% | 0.09% |
| ● | Annual rate of Secondary School Permanent exclusions as % of Harrow school population | ▼ | 0.20% | 0.19% |
| ● | CQC rating "requires improvement" of Homecare Providers used | ▼ | 17.50% | 12.10% |
| ● | Domestic (flagged) offences (rolling 12 months) | ▼ | 2230 | 2134 |
| ● | Homelessness prevention (%) | ▲ | 52% | 72% |
| ● | Key Stage 4 & Special Educational Needs The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap based on average attainment across 8 GCSE subjects at the end of Key Stage 4 | ▼ | 24.8 | 23.5 |
| ● | Proportion of new sign ups in at least one of our target groups (e.g. ethnic minority, from deprived community) | ▲ | 18 | 70 |
| ● | Reablement - % of new people completed reablement (no ongoing support required) (OfLoG) | ▲ | 80% | 83% |
| ● | Safeguarding - of those asked, % of people with goals met | ▲ | 90% | 98% |
| ● | Safeguarding - where risk identified, was reduced or removed | ▲ | 86% | 87% |

402

| | | | | |
|---|--|---|-------|--------|
| ● | The percentage of Young People with a SEND who are in mainstream education and training, ISPs or supported internships in the National Curriculum Years 12 to 16+ (age 16 - 24) | ▲ | 52.2% | 53% |
| ● | Total No of enrolments in Adult Community Learning (combined) | ▲ | 625 | 887 |
| ● | Total number of residents supported into employment; Xcite, Learn Harrow, Supply Chain and Section 106 | ▲ | 290 | 438 |
| ● | Total % private rented accomodation procured within 35 miles of Harrow | ▲ | 0.995 | 0.996 |
| ● | Key Stage 2 & Special Educational Needs Achievement gap between pupils with special educational needs and their peers, based on % of pupils achieving the national standard in reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) at the end of key stage 2 | ▼ | 52% | 50% |
| ● | % of eligible Care Leavers (aged 19/21) in education, employment or training | ▲ | 65% | 66.80% |
| ● | Domestic abuse with injury offences (rolling 12 months) | ▼ | 497 | 501 |
| ● | Number of households in temporary accommodation | ▼ | 1075 | 1115 |
| ● | Total number of residents provided with information and advice in employment or training | ▲ | 200 | 191 |
| ● | % of assessments completed within 45 working days | ▲ | 90% | 55.4 |
| ● | Annual rate of overall absence in primary schools | ▼ | 4% | 6% |
| ● | Annual rate of overall absence in secondary schools | ▼ | 4% | 10% |
| ● | Annual rate of Primary, Secondary & Special School Permanent Exclusions of Pupils with a Special Education Need (SEN) as % of Harrow school population with the same SEN status | ▼ | 0% | 0% |
| ● | Annual rate of Primary, Secondary & Special School Suspensions as % Harrow school population | ▼ | 2% | 3% |
| ● | Special Educational Needs – Education, Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks (all such EHCP, including exceptions) | ▲ | 59% | 33% |
| ● | Special Educational Needs – Education, Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks (excluding exception) | ▲ | 59% | 30% |

Key actions over the next quarter

- Notification received from Care Quality Commission for forthcoming **adult social care inspection** which is tabled for April. Preparations for readiness are already in place.
- **Recruitment campaign** for Occupational Therapists and Social Workers
- The **backlog of Care Act reviews** which are over 18 months out of date will be addressed by the commissioning of an external agency to undertake an agreed set of reviews.
- Continued improvement on **Carers assessments and implementation of the Carers Strategy**
- January launch of the three **Adult Social Care Integrated Neighbourhood Teams**
- **Property Acquisition Programme** - to purchase 50 additional properties to be used as temporary accommodation (TA) as an alternative to expensive Bed & Breakfast (B & B) accommodation.
- **Homelessness prevention** - Engagement/ outreach work with resident groups – to continue to impact improvement in homelessness prevention.
- **Family Hubs** on track to go live by end of March 2024
- Working to achieve **an additional 292 special school places** within the Borough.
- Recruit **HIV post-diagnosis support worker** to be integrated with the sexual health contract to address the social and wider determinant issues these patients face
- On-going targeted community engagement, including a **health panel for the Romanian community**
- As part of the **Combating Drugs Partnership** delivery plan, there will be a focus on continuity of care and numbers in treatment.

**Key to RAG Flagship Actions:
Indicators:**

| | RED = High Risk | AMBER = Medium Risk | GREEN = Low Risk |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|
| RAG INDICATORS | A significant forecast overspend | Some forecast overspend against the budget | A forecast expenditure is on budget |
| | Delays against key milestones | Delays against key milestones | Project on plan to complete on time |
| | Problems with quality that lead to significant additional costs/delay | Problems with quality but not causing delay | Quality at expected levels |
| | Significant lack of resources | Lack of resources - being addressed/mitigated | No resource problems |
| | Dissatisfaction or resistance from stakeholders that mean acceptance may be delayed/all the benefits not achieved | Dissatisfaction or resistance from stakeholders being addressed | Stakeholders satisfied with the outcome |

Key to RAG Performance

| |
|--|
| G - Green - Has exceeded target |
| A - Amber - Just off target by less than 5% |
| R - Red - off target by 5% or more |

Appendix 2 - Corporate Scorecard 2023-24



| Ref to service s/card | Indicator Description | Polarity: High ▲ or Low ▼ is 'good' | Bench Mark if Available (Statistical Neighbours unless otherwise indicated) | Target Q3 2022/23 | Actual Q3 2022/23 | RAG Q3 -22/23 | Target Q2 2023/24 | Actual Q2 2023/24 | RAG Q2 2023/24 | Target Q3 2023/24 | Actual Q3 2023/24 | RAG Q3 2023/24 | Trend vs previous Quarter Q2 vs Q3 | Management Commentary Q3 23/24 | Portfolio Holder |
|---|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| RESIDENTS FIRST | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Deliver the Council's new Customer Experience strategy | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RES1. | % of customer calls successfully answered (>90% answered) | ▲ | N/A | 90% | 98% | GREEN | 90% | 95% | GREEN | 90% | 94% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES2. | Average Wait Time (seconds) before a telephone call is answered | ▼ | N/A | 120 | 97 | GREEN | 120 | 165 | RED | 120 | 189 | RED | DECLINING | Managing demand for Housing continues to be challenging with the new system implementation being pushed back until April. AWT excluding Housing stands at 111 seconds for the quarter | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES3. | % of customer calls successfully answered (<10% abandoned) (Revs & Bens) | ▲ | N/A | 90% | 97% | GREEN | 90% | 93% | GREEN | 90% | 93% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES4. | Average Wait Time (seconds) before a telephone call is answered (Revs & Bens) | ▼ | N/A | 180 | 174 | GREEN | 240 | 277 | RED | 180 | 192 | RED | IMPROVING | An increase in recovery throughout October saw an increase demand and wait times which pushed the overall wait time just over the target of 180 seconds | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES6 | Complaints answered within timescale | ▲ | N/A | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | 90% | 94% | GREEN | 90% | 94% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| Deliver service improvements that contribute to a positive customer experience | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RES12 | PM1 Average time for processing new benefits claims (days) | ▼ | N/A | 25 | 18.37 | GREEN | 25 | 23.01 | GREEN | 25 | 24.03 | GREEN | SIMILAR | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES13 | PM5 Average time for processing changes of circumstances (days) | ▼ | N/A | 12 | 8.01 | GREEN | 12 | 9.8 | GREEN | 12 | 9.29 | GREEN | IMPROVING | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES39 | % FOI responses within 20 working days | ▲ | N/A | 90% | 75% | RED | 90% | 79% | RED | 90% | 83% | RED | IMPROVING | The successful training of new recruits and backlog clearance have resulted in commendable improvements in our overall response times this quarter. However, it's important to note that recent changes in other teams have introduced delays in responding to information requests, impacting Freedom of Information (FOI) request timelines. We are actively addressing these challenges to ensure sustained efficiency and timely responses moving forward. | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| Ensure a seamless customer journey through up-to-date and connected IT | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RES36 | Total of all IT incidents raised during reporting period | ▼ | N/A | 7200 | 4808 | GREEN | 4500 | 3640 | GREEN | 4500 | 3650 | GREEN | DECLINING | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES41 | % operating time without active P1 incidents | ▲ | N/A | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | 99.50% | 99.94% | GREEN | 99.50% | 99.92% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| RES42 | % operating time without active P1 or P2 outages on customer facing systems | ▲ | N/A | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | 97.50% | 96.58% | AMBER | 97.50% | 99.37% | GREEN | IMPROVING | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| Ensure that the digital experience promotes digital as the channel of choice | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RES5. | Self service as a proportion of overall contact | ▲ | N/A | 0.95 | 96.00% | GREEN | 0.95 | 95.40% | GREEN | 95% | 95.30% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| Ensure culturally aware customer care that enables outstanding service delivery to residents from all backgrounds. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| New | % of employees trained in the Customer Excellence Academy | ▲ | N/A | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | New in 2023/24 | 15% | 12% | RED | 15% | 15% | GREEN | IMPROVING | | ClIr Stephen Greek |
| Additional RF Indicators | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Res 29 | Proportion of staff trained in information security | ▲ | N/A | 95% | 85.00% | RED | 90% | 90% | GREEN | 90% | 91% | GREEN | IMPROVING | | ClIr Stephen Greek |

| Ref to service s'card | Indicator Description | Polarity: High ▲ or Low ▼ is 'good' | Bench Mark if Available (Statistical Neighbours unless otherwise indicated) | Target Q3 2022/23 | Actual Q3 2022/23 | RAG Q3 -22/23 | Target Q2 2023/24 | Actual Q2 2023/24 | RAG Q2 2023/24 | Target Q3 2023/24 | Actual Q3 2023/24 | RAG Q3 2023/24 | Trend vs previous Quarter Q2 vs Q3 | Management Commentary Q3 23/24 | Portfolio Holder |
|--|---|-------------------------------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|----------------|---|---|----------------|------------------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| CLEAN & SAFE | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Increase resident's perception of being safe in Harrow' | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Csafe 1 | Number of anti-social behaviour incidents | ▼ | 1500 | | | | 1299 | 1319 | AMBER | 972 | 1365 | RED | DECLINING | Q3 Levels of ASB incidents in Harrow (1365) have increased from last quarter (1319) and from the equivalent period last year (1079). Harrow's rate is ASB per 1,000 population is the 7th lowest in London. Action: Partnership working between Local Authority, Police and other stakeholders continues to target responsible persons / premises using ASB tools and influences available. | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| Csafe 2 | % of repeat locations for ASB complaints | ▼ | Local | | | | 10% | 8% | GREEN | 9.5% | 9.3% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| Csafe 3 | Repeat web contact ASB complaints (over 12 months) | ▼ | Local | | | | 10% | 7.0% | GREEN | 9.0% | 8.7% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| Csafe 6 | Catalytic Converter Theft (rolling year) | ▼ | TBC | | | | 414 | 91 | GREEN | 330 | 49 | GREEN | IMPROVING | | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| Take enforcement action to protect residents and the environment | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ENV 1 | Number of enforcement actions commenced (including FPNs) - fly tips | ▲ | Local | 60 | 275 | GREEN | 60 | 394 | GREEN | 60 | 277 | GREEN | DECLINING | Performance remains above target for quarter 3. Action: Head of Service and Team Leader have weekly meetings in place with a focus on improving performance in this area. | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| ENV 2 | Number of FPNs issued - (tri-borough contract) | ▲ | Local | 900 | 2625 | GREEN | 900 | 1635 | GREEN | 900 | 2040 | GREEN | IMPROVING | This work is carried out by the contractor. Performance in quarter 3 has improved and is above target. | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| ENV 3 | Fly-tipping incidents per 1,000 people | ▼ | 48 (Defra 2022/23 annual) | 10.1 | 8.08 | GREEN | 12 | 12.12 | AMBER | 11 | 11.42 | AMBER | IMPROVING | Quarter 3 sees a decrease in the number of incidents compared to the previous quarter. Quarter 3 has a target to reduce the rate of flytips further from 12 to 11 per 1000 people. | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| Implement a new approach to a well maintained highway network | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ENV 13 | Percentage of actionable highway defects rectified within timescale (either reported or found during cyclic inspections) | ▲ | Local | 100% | 90% | RED | 87% | 87.50% | GREEN | 87% | 76% | RED | SIMILAR | This work is carried out by the contractor. Quarter 3 sees a decline in performance. Contractor staffing together with lining completion being more challenging during winter months due to damp road conditions has impacted adversely on performance. Action: Formal monthly meetings led by the Head of Service require the contractor to report on progress made in meeting timescales and where further improvement is needed confirmation that there are effective performance improvement plans in place to make these improvements. | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| ENV 18 | Percentage of land assessed for litter that falls below an acceptable standard - Litter, Detritus, Graffiti, Fly-posting. | ▼ | 10.08% (L) 13.76% (D) 7.91% (G) 3.34% (FP) (KBT 2022/23) | *7.7% (L) 9.54% (D) 7.75% (G) 3.25% (FP) | 6% (L) 0% (D) 7% (G) 1% (FP) | GREEN | - | - | - | *7.7% (Litter) 9.54% (Detritus) 7.75% (Graffiti) 3.25% (Fly Posting) | 5% (Litter) 4% (Detritus) 9% (Graffiti) 0% (Fly Posting) | GREEN | DECLINING | Inspection undertaken in October shows all areas remain within target with the exception of graffiti. However there has been a decline from the previous inspection in quarter 1. *Performance trend is Qtr 1 vs Qtr 3. Action: This area will continue to be monitored by the service and findings from the inspection used to deliver improvements. | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| 406 | Provide excellent green and cultural spaces for our residents | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Qualitative update only</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Protecting the character of Harrow | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Qualitative update only</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Invest in the physical infrastructure of Harrow | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | <i>Qualitative update only</i> | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Improve business engagement | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| CLIE 4 | Footfall in Harrow town centre (year on year % change) | ▲ | 5% | | | | 2% | 2.30% | GREEN | 2% | 2.80% | RED | IMPROVING | Q3: There has been a reduction in the footfall in Harrow BID throughout the quarter when compared to the same monthly periods last year. Action: The Future High Streets Fund proposals aim to increase connectivity by Improving pedestrian links to the town centre and station. Proposals to increase footfall and spend also include Provision of new Kiosks in St Ann's Road and the introduction of Meanwhile Uses on Greenhill Way car park following the closure of Debenhams. | Cllr Norman Stevenson |
| CLIE 5 | % of vacant high street premises in Harrow Town Centre (based on empty units) | ▼ | 11.40% | | | | 8% | 8.30% | AMBER | 8% | 7.50% | GREEN | IMPROVING | | Cllr Norman Stevenson |
| Embed effective responses to climate change and enable the recovery | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| ENV 19 | Percentage of household waste sent for recycling (Oflog) | ▲ | 32.7% (Defra 2021/22 annual) | 50%* | 29.83% | RED | 33%* | 32.7% | GREEN | 33%* | 33.04% | GREEN | IMPROVING | Quarter 2 shows further improvement. Target of 33% is annual target. Performance for this indicator is reported quarterly in arrears. Q2 performance is therefore reported in Q3. | Cllr Stephen Greek |
| ENV 20 | Residual household waste per household (kg/household) (Oflog) | ▼ | 543kg (Defra 2021/22 annual) | 135* | 180.54 | RED | 172.5 | 171.5 | GREEN | 172.5 | 158.95 | GREEN | IMPROVING | Quarter 2 shows improvement and remains within the target. Annual target is 690kg. Performance for this indicator is reported quarterly in arrears. Q2 performance is therefore reported in Q3. | Cllr Stephen Greek |
| Enable more new Homes to be available in Harrow | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Look after and make best use of the Council's estate. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hsg 2 | % of homes not meeting the Decent homes standard | ▼ | 15% (GLA survey - 2019) | | | | 12% | 11.8% | GREEN | 11.60% | 11.8% | AMBER | SIMILAR | | Cllr Mina Parmar |
| Hsg 3 | % Homes with valid gas certificate | ▲ | 99.5% (Mar 23) | | | | 99.50% | 99.89% | GREEN | 99.50% | 99.74% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | Cllr Mina Parmar |
| Hsg 4 | % of buildings that have had all the necessary fire risk assessments | ▲ | 100% (21/22) | | | | 100% | 100% | GREEN | 100% | 100% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | Cllr Mina Parmar |
| Hsg 5 | % of homes in buildings that have had necessary asbestos management surveys or re-inspections | ▲ | 100% (21/22) | | | | 100% | 100% | GREEN | 100% | 100% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | Cllr Mina Parmar |
| Hsg 6 | % of homes that have had all the necessary water safety checks | ▲ | 100% (21/22) | | | | 100% | 100% | GREEN | 100% | 100% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | Cllr Mina Parmar |
| Hsg 7 | % of homes that have had all the necessary Lift safety checks | ▲ | 100% (21/22) | | | | 100% | 100% | GREEN | 100% | 100% | GREEN | SIMILAR | | Cllr Mina Parmar |

| Ref to service s'card | Indicator Description | Polarity: High ▲ or Low ▼ is 'good' | Bench Mark if Available (Statistical Neighbours unless otherwise indicated) | Target Q3 2022/23 | Actual Q3 2022/23 | RAG Q3 -22/23 | Target Q2 2023/24 | Actual Q2 2023/24 | RAG Q2 2023/24 | Target Q3 2023/24 | Actual Q3 2023/24 | RAG Q3 2023/24 | Trend vs previous Quarter Q2 vs Q3 | Management Commentary Q3 23/24 | Portfolio Holder |
|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|-------------------|------------------------|---------------|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------------------|----------------|------------------------------------|--|--------------------|
| Reducing Health Inequalities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | % of births that receive a face to face New Birth Visit within 14 days by a Health Visitor | ▲ | 87.8% (21/22) | | | | 90% | 88% | AMBER | 90% | 90% | GREEN | IMPROVING | | Cllr Pritesh Patel |
| | % of people from total eligible population invited for a Health Check | ▲ | 16.2% of total eligible population (TEP) 18/19 - yearly data | | | | 10% | 10% | AMBER | 15% | 18% | GREEN | IMPROVING | Public Health have continued to work hard to produce regular league tables for practices, visit GP practices and attend regular meetings to keep the NHS Health Check programme in practices' minds. | Cllr Pritesh Patel |
| | Proportion of new sign ups in at least one of our target groups (e.g. ethnic minority, from deprived community) | ▲ | N/A | | | | 54 | 42 | RED | 18 | 70 | GREEN | IMPROVING | Q3 numbers adjusted to include missing data from Q2. Data missing due to error when analysing data. Numbers show that we have exceeded our targets significantly for our progress this year. | Cllr Pritesh Patel |
| Additional STMIN indicators | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Csafe 4 | Domestic (flagged) offences (rolling 12 months) | ▼ | 10.7 per 10000 pop (RY May 23) | | | | 2214 | 2186 | GREEN | 2230 | 2134 | GREEN | IMPROVING | | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| Csafe 5 | Domestic abuse with injury offences (rolling 12 months) | ▼ | 24.4% (RY May 23) | | | | 500 | 537 | RED | 497 | 501 | AMBER | IMPROVING | | Cllr Anjana Patel |
| Edu 16 | Special Educational Needs – Education, Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks (excluding exception) | ▲ | 2022 57.3% - SN 54.7% - London 49.1% - National | 65% | 9.5% | RED | 59% | 35% | RED | 59% | 30% | RED | SIMILAR | Harrow is now being monitored by the DfE. Timeliness: 30% Q3 (35% in Q2)/Q3 is 30% but January 2024 of Q4 is 50%. Where plans can be issued on time - where advice is received on time and there is a school to name - plans are being issued on time. We still have a fair bit of late advice from health. Also, in Q3, it was more difficult to name schools as the Christmas break meant that there was a 2 week period where we could not finalise. This period is also the one where the summer holiday delays would be noted. Requests for new plans are up 11% on this time last year and 15% more plans have been issued than this time last year. 57% of Annual Reviews are on time to date in this Quarter compared to 5.9% in Q1. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | | | | 36 under 20 weeks 67 over 20 weeks | | | | | | | |
| Edu 408 | Special Educational Needs – Education, Health Care Plans (EHCP) issued within 20 weeks (all such EHCP, including exceptions) | ▲ | 2022 50.8% - SN 51.9% - London 47.6% - National | 65% | 9.5% | RED | 59% | 35% | RED | 59% | 33% | RED | SIMILAR | The service continues to see an increase in the number of requests for assessment. This impacts on actuals in the following quarter. Number of EHC Plans which attracted exceptions: The service worked well with parents and educational professionals to achieve conclusions to placements but due to professionals' commitments, additional meetings and lack of special school places we were unable to work within the reduced 20 week period framework for a number of cases. School places, especially special, are very limited and therefore officers have to consult with a number of schools and schools and other LA's are not responding within timeframe. Following consultation costs need to be compared and agreed by the LA. The service will aim to issue draft EHC Plans by the 16 week timescale. The managers to ensure that for complex cases, where possible, meetings are set up in advance. Officers to make telephone contact with families/schools. Naming of mainstream schools whilst waiting for a special school. SEND Strategy to focus on place planning for CYP who require a special school. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| Edu 18 | The percentage of Young People with a SEND who are in mainstream education and training, ISPs or supported internships in the National Curriculum Years 12 to 16+ (age 16 - 24) | ▲ | December 2023 47.3% - SN 39.9% - London 52.2% - England | - | 57.3% | - | 34% | 20% | RED | 52.2% | 53.2% | GREEN | IMPROVING | The percentage of Young People with a SEND EHCP (Education, Health Care Plan) age 16 to 24 has increased to 53.2% in December 2023 from 20.0% in September 2023. Harrow's latest outcome is higher than the national, London and SN outcomes. September is very much a transition month, so a great many YP will be in the "not known" category as they are still being tracked to their current destination. This is how the data should be managed and treated as per DfE guidelines so not too much notice should be made around these figures, hence why the target months are December, January & February. All regions and areas will be reporting the same. For example, all Yr 11 leavers are given a destination of Yr 11 transition, which is a "not known" destination until they are confirmed in their new destination. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | June 2022 (cohort 800) | | | September 2023 (cohort 599) | | Above national | December 2023 (cohort 601) | | | | |
| Edu 32 | Key Stage 2 & Special Educational Needs Achievement gap between pupils with special educational needs and their peers, based on % of pupils achieving the national standard in reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) at the end of key stage 2 | ▼ | 2022-23 51.7% - SN 48.9% - London 50.3% - National | - | 48.4% | - | Gap lower than SN 52.5% | 52.3% | GREEN | 51.7% | 49.9% | GREEN | IMPROVING | In 2022-23 75.9% of children with No SEN Provision (78.0% in 2021-22) attained the KS2 national standard in RWM compared to 26% of pupils with a SEN (25.7% in 2021-22) attaining the national standard. Harrow's gap this year of 49.9% is narrower than the national gap 50.3%, statistical neighbours 51.7% but slightly higher than London 48.9% Harrow's SEN result of 25.9% is higher than the national average of 20.0%. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | Final results | | 2018-19 Final result | | | 2021-22 Final result | | Gap lower than SN | 2022-23 Final Result | | | | |

| Ref to service s'card | Indicator Description | Polarity: High ▲ or Low ▼ is 'good' | Bench Mark if Available (Statistical Neighbours unless otherwise indicated) | Target Q3 2022/23 | Actual Q3 2022/23 | RAG Q3 -22/23 | Target Q2 2023/24 | Actual Q2 2023/24 | RAG Q2 2023/24 | Target Q3 2023/24 | Actual Q3 2023/24 | RAG Q3 2023/24 | Trend vs previous Quarter Q2 vs Q3 | Management Commentary Q3 23/24 | Portfolio Holder |
|-----------------------|---|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---|---------------|------------------------------|--|----------------|-------------------|---|----------------|------------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Edu 38 | Key Stage 4 & Special Educational Needs The Special Educational Needs (SEN)/non-SEN gap based on average attainment across 8 GCSE subjects at the end of Key Stage 4 | ▼ | 24.8 - SN 22.7 - London 22.1 - National | Gap lower than SN SN 24.5 | 24.5 | GREEN | Gap lower than SN SN 25.6 | 22.4 | GREEN | 24.8 | 23.5 | GREEN | SIMILAR | The average Attainment 8 score of Harrow's pupils with a SEN in 2022-23 is 31.4 (35.1 in 2021-22), which is lower than the score of 54.9 (57.5 in 2021-22) of the pupil's with no SEN, resulting in a 23.5 gap (22.4 in 2021-22 & 24.5 in 2018-19). Harrow's gap is wider than the national and London gap and narrower than the statistical neighbours gap. Harrow's SEN score of 31.4 is above the national score of 28.1 but below the statistical neighbour score of 32.4 and London score of 31.8. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | 2022-23 Final result | | 2018-19 Final result | | | 2021-22 Final result | | Gap lower than SN | 2022-23 Final result | | | | |
| Edu 7 | Annual rate of Secondary School Permanent exclusions as % of Harrow school population | ▼ | 2021-22 0.12% - SN 0.09% - London 0.16% - National | 0.20% | 0.09% | GREEN | 0.20% | 0.13% | GREEN | 0.20% | 0.19% | GREEN | SIMILAR | Harrow's secondary school permanent exclusions have increased from 15 (0.10%) in 2020-21 to 32 (0.19%) in 2022-23, this is at pre-covid levels such as 30 (0.22%) in 2018-19. For 2021-22 Harrow's secondary school exclusions were above both the 2021-22 statistical neighbours outcome (0.12%) and London (0.09%) but below the national position (0.16%). Harrow was in a better position than the nation (thus GREEN) but did less well regionally. Harrow's 2022-23 data will be compared when the 2022-23 data has been published nationally. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | 2019-20 13 exclusions DfE data | | | 2021-22 21 exclusions DfE data | | | 2022-23 32 exclusions Harrow data | | | | |
| Edu 8 | Annual rate of Primary, Secondary & Special School Permanent Exclusions as % of Harrow school population | ▼ | 2021-22 0.06% - SN 0.04% - London 0.08% - National | 0.10% | 0.04% | GREEN | 0.10% | 0.06% | GREEN | 0.10% | 0.09% | GREEN | SIMILAR | Permanent exclusions increased from 0.03% (11) in 2020-21 to 0.09% (37) in 2022-23, this is at pre-covid levels such as 33 (0.09%) in 2018-19. Harrow's 2021-22 exclusions are the same as the 2021-22 outcomes of our statistical neighbours (0.06%), above than London (0.04%) but below than national (0.08%). Harrow's 2022-23 data will be compared when the 2022-23 data has been published nationally. Harrow's permanent exclusions targets are challenging as they set to be in-line with the national averages. In small authorities like Harrow small numbers can impact progress against the target significantly. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | 2019-20 15 exclusions DfE data | | | 2021-22 24 exclusions DfE data | | | 2022-23 37 exclusions Harrow data | | | | |
| Edu 10 | Annual rate of Primary, Secondary & Special School Permanent Exclusions of Pupils with a Special Education Need (SEN) as % of Harrow school population with the same SEN status | ▼ | 2021-22 0.14% - SN 0.10% - London 0.22% - National | 0% | 0.19% | RED | 0% | 0.16% | RED | 0% | 0.49% | RED | SIMILAR | In-line with the total number of permanent exclusions increasing, the exclusions given to pupils with a SEN has also increased. In 2022-23, of the 37 exclusions, 21 were given to pupils with SEN Support and 5 to pupils with an EHCP. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | 2019-20 9 exclusions DfE data | | | 2021-22 8 exclusions DfE data | | | 2022-23 26 exclusions Harrow data | | | | |
| 409 Edu 11 | Annual rate of Primary, Secondary & Special School Suspensions as % Harrow school population | ▼ | 2021-22 3.66% - SN 4.34% - London 6.91% - National | 1.92% | 1.60% | GREEN | 1.92% | 2.62% | RED | 2.12% | 3.19% | RED | SIMILAR | The RAG for this indicator is red because the target set for Harrow is in-line with Harrow's exclusions rates in 2018-19. Harrow's performance is better than both regional and national outcomes and if compared to any of the national or regional benchmarks Harrow would be rated Green. Harrow's exclusions targets are challenging as they were set to be in-line with Harrow's previous best outcomes. In small authorities like Harrow small numbers can impact progress against the target significantly. The number of Suspensions have increased from 547 (1.44%) in 2020-21 to 1,249 (3.19%) in 2022-23 and are higher than the pre-covid 2018-19 number of 789 (2.12%). Harrow's 2021-22 outcome is significantly below the 2021-22 outcomes of our statistical neighbours (3.66%), London (4.34%) and nationally (6.91%). | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | 2019-20 606 suspensions DfE data | | | 2021-22 1,007 suspensions DfE data | | | 2022-23 1,249 suspensions Harrow data | | | | |
| Edu 12 | Annual rate of overall absence in primary schools | ▼ | 2021-22 6.0% - SN 5.9% - London 6.3% - National | 4.0% | 3.8% | GREEN | 4.0% | 5.6% | RED | 4.0% | 6.00% | RED | SIMILAR | Harrow's performance is better than both statistical neighbours and national outcomes, against any of the national or regional benchmarks Harrow would be rated Green. The annual rate of absence has declined from 3.3% in 2020-21 to 6.0% in 2022-23. Absence in Harrow's primary schools for the previous four years is 4.1% in 2015-16 and 3.8% in both 2016-17 and 2017-18 and 3.8% in 2018-19. 2019-20 only has attendance for the autumn term due to Covid related school closures. The 'Harrow data' is local data and provisional, which we suspect may have a recording issue and we continue to monitor. In 2021-22 Harrow's primary school's absence rate is better than the statistical neighbour, London and national averages. The Attendance Intervention Model (AIM) is now in use by all schools (including Academies). It is contributing to a positive impact on attendance overall. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | Autumn term only 2019-20 DfE data | | | 2021-22 DfE | | | 2022-23 Harrow data | | | | |
| Edu 14 | Annual rate of overall absence in secondary schools | ▼ | 2021-22 7.3% - SN 7.4% - London 9.0% - National | 4.0% | 4.5% | RED | 4.0% | 7.0% | RED | 4.0% | 9.7% | RED | SIMILAR | The annual rate of absence in Harrow's secondary schools has declined from 5.0% in 2020-21 to 9.7% in 2022-23. Absence in our high schools for the last four years is 4.5% in 2015-16, 4.7% in both 2016-17 and 2017-18 and 4.8% in 2018-19. 2019-20 only has attendance for the autumn term due to Covid related school closures. The 'Harrow data' is local data and provisional, which we suspect may have a recording issue and we continue to monitor. In 2021-22 Harrow's secondary school's absence rate is below the statistical neighbour London and national averages. The Attendance Intervention Model (AIM) is now in use by all schools (including Academies). It is contributing to a positive impact on attendance overall. | Cllr Hitesh Karia |
| | | | | | Autumn term only 2019-20 DfE data | | | 2021-22 DfE | | | 2022-23 Harrow data | | | | |

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