

Cabinet

Date: **26 June 2025**

Time: **2.00pm**

Venue: Council Chamber, Hove Town Hall

Members: **Councillors:** Sankey (Chair), Taylor (Deputy Chair), Alexander, Allen, Daniel, Miller, Muten, Robins,

Rowkins and Williams

Contact: John Peel

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Chief Executive Hove Town Hall Norton Road

CH GIBBONS

Hove BN3 3BQ

Date of Publication - Wednesday, 18 June 2025

AGENDA

Part One Page

1 PROCEDURAL BUSINESS

- (a) **Declarations of Interest:** Statements by all Members present of any personal interests in matters on the agenda, outlining the nature of any interest and whether the Members regard the interest as prejudicial under the terms of the Code of Conduct.
- (b) **Exclusion of Press and Public:** To consider whether, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, the press and public should be excluded from the meeting when any of the following items are under consideration.

Note: Any item appearing in Part Two of the agenda states in its heading the category under which the information disclosed in the report is exempt from disclosure and therefore not available to the press and public.

A list and description of the exempt categories is available for public inspection at Brighton and Hove Town Halls and online in the Constitution at Part 3E

2 MINUTES To Follow

To consider the minutes of the meeting held on 15 May 2025

3 CHAIR'S COMMUNICATIONS

4 CALL OVER

5 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

To consider the following matters raised by members of the public:

(a) **Petitions:**

To receive any petitions presented by members of the public.

(b) Written Questions:

To receive any questions submitted by the due date of 12 noon on the 20 May 2025

(c) **Deputations:**

To receive any deputations submitted by the due date of 10am on the 20 May 2025.

6	ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS				
	To consider the following matters raised by Members:				
	(a) Written Qu To conside	uestions: er any written questions			
7	MATTERS REFERRED TO THE EXECUTIVE				
8	REPRESENTATIONS FROM OPPOSITION MEMBERS				
9	RESPONSE TO TRECOMMENDAT	THE SHORT TERM LETS TASK & FINISH GROUP	7 - 48		
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10	PLAYING PITCH STRATEGY 2025 - 2041		49 - 202		
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12 TARGETED BUDGET MANAGEMENT (TBM) PROVISIONAL

OUTTURN 2024/25

Contact Officer: James Hengeveld Ward Affected: All Wards The City Council actively welcomes members of the public and the press to attend its meetings and holds as many of its meetings as possible in public. Provision is also made on the agendas for public questions to committees and details of how questions can be raised can be found on the website and/or on agendas for the meetings.

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Further information

For further details and general enquiries about this meeting contact John Peel, (01273 291058), email john.peel@brighton-hove.gov.uk) or email democratic.services@brighton-hove.gov.uk

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- Do not re-enter the building until told that it is safe to do so

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet Agenda Item 9

Subject: Short Term Lets

Date of meeting: Thursday, 26 June 2025

Report of: Chair of Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

Lead Officer: Name: Corporate Director- Operations

Contact Officer: Name: Nicola Hurley

Tel: 07783657194

Email: nicola.hurley@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: No

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 As a council, we are committed to developing a flourishing and inclusive local economy that is a distinctive place for people to visit. Alongside this, we want to be a fair and inclusive city for residents where everyone has access to decent quality affordable housing. As a tourist destination, short term lets have been a feature for many years, and in many areas. We want to take a balanced approach to this complex and important issue that both supports our tourist and visitor economy, and prevents negative impacts to the city's housing supply.
- 1.2 At the 1st October 2024 Place Overview & Scrutiny committee meeting, members agreed to establish a Task & Finish group to explore issues relating to short term lets in the city. The findings and recommendations from the Task & Finish group were presented and endorsed at the Place Overview & Scrutiny committee on the 25 March 2025.
- 1.3 This report to Cabinet sets out the recommendations made by the Task & Finish Group. It is for Cabinet to decide whether it wishes to accept each recommendation. The Task & Finish Group recommendations have been discussed with the relevant Cabinet member(s) and with team across the council to determine whether it would be desirable and/or feasible to implement them. Cabinet is asked to agree responses to the Task & Finish Group recommendations which are listed in part 3 (paragraphs 3.23 3.36) of this report.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Cabinet agrees the recommendations as set out in section 3 of the report.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 Short Term Lets are a traditional feature of many areas and can have a positive impact on the visitor economy in the city by people visiting the city and spending money and generating income for businesses
- 3.2 Visit Brighton during the Task & Finish Group sessions reported that short term lets have long been a significant feature of the city's accommodation offer, although the emergence in recent years of online booking platforms, such as Airbnb and booking.com has increased their visibility and resulted in a significant growth in the short term let sector. Short term lets are particularly popular with families, which can offer more flexibility than hotels. Whilst evidence on the number of short term lets in the city is unclear, it is thought that there is a relatively wide dispersal of short term lets across the city compared with hotels and guest houses, giving visitors a richer experience of Brighton & Hove and spreading economic benefits across the city. Short term lets also provide significant additional bed capacity, which is particularly important at times of high demand. The 2023 Economic Impact of Tourism study estimated that there were 4 million overnight stays in the city across the year, averaging 10,958 per night.
- 3.3 However, there are also potential negative consequences of a growing short term let sector, including impact on housing supply; nuisance and antisocial behaviour; impacts on the existing visitor economy and accommodation; and problems in ensuring that short term lets have the appropriate fire and gas safety measures in place, are properly registered as businesses, and are using commercial waste services.
- 3.2 At the 1st October 2024 Place Overview & Scrutiny committee meeting, members agreed to establish a Task & Finish group to explore issues relating to short term lets in the city.
- 3.2 The Task & Finish group consisted of Councillors Amanda Evans (Chair), Amanda Grimshaw, Bridget Fishleigh, Anne Meadows. Jackie O'Quinn, Kerry Pickett as well as Mark Strong (Community & Voluntary Sector representative) and Doug Thompson (Older People's Council representative).
- 3.3 The Task & Finish group held a number of evidence-gathering meetings between November 2024 and February 2025.
- 3.4 In February 2025, the Task & Finish Group agreed a report which included a series of detailed recommendations, which it considered merited consideration. The recommendations were presented to the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee on the 25th March 2025. Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee agreed to refer the recommendations to Cabinet.
- 3.5 A copy of the Place Overview & Scrutiny committee report is attached as Appendix 1.A copy of the Report of the Short Term Lets Task & Finish Group is attached as Appendix 2.

- 3.6 The recommendations of the Task & Finish Group cover a number of areas including lobbying of central government, improving information on the Council's website, and a number of areas for further consideration in respect of planning, licensing and parking permits.
- 3.7 One of the main issues with Short Term Lets currently, is that in the absence of a licensing scheme and the lack of certainty that all short term lets require planning permission, there is a lack of information of how many short term lets there are in the city.
- 3.8 The previous Government carried out a consultation that examined the possibility of introducing a licensing scheme and to introduce a new planning use for short term lets. The consultation received 4000 responses with support for a light touch registration system. The licensing/registration scheme or a specific short term lets planning use class were not introduced before the General Election in 2024. The current Government has confirmed that it plans to introduce similar measures and both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government are currently working on the issue. In addition, Rachael Maskell MP for York, has recently put forward a Private Member's Bill to better regulate short term Lets. The current Government have acknowledged the impact short term lets can have and are considering their options regarding a licensing scheme and the introduction of a new use class.
- 3.9 The council has recently expressed interest in participating in a short term lets registration research project with Government
- 3.10 The recommendations of the Task & Finish group reflect the current legislative situation and are outlined below.

3.11 Recommendation 1:

To lobby the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a new planning use class for short-term lets with no permitted development rights.

3.12 Recommendation 2:

To lobby the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a licensing scheme with conditions on the operator to provide evidence that the property meets health and safety standards, is registered correctly as a business with the right arrangements in place regarding waste management, tax and business rates, parking and insurance; and to have good financial penalties for breaches.

3.13 Recommendation 3:

To lobby the Secretaries of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for

any licensing/registration scheme to permit data sharing (of owners and addresses of STLs etc.) across public authorities and local statutory partners.

3.14 Recommendation 4:

To support the government's introduction of a registration or licensing scheme (pending details) to help the Council and other statutory bodies—such as Environmental Services, the Fire Service, and Sussex Police—gather accurate data on the number and locations of STL properties in the city, facilitating enforcement when needed, and to register as soon as possible.

3.15 Recommendation 5:

Additional resources for planning enforcement investigations once registration or a licensing scheme is in place (subject to funding becoming available – e.g. from a licensing scheme that enables the council to recover costs).

3.16 Recommendation 6:

To allocate a named officer with Cabinet member oversight, to have responsibility for short-term lets as a point of contact and to get involved in pilot projects if the government is introducing this.

3.17 Recommendation 7:

To look at initiatives from other local authorities, such as East Lothian Council, who have introduced specific parking permits for short-term lets that is a new funding stream for the council.

3.18 Recommendation 8:

To consider and investigate through the development of City plan 2041, add a clause in leases for new builds and conversions that they cannot be used as full time short-term lets.

3.19 Recommendation 9:

To consider and investigate through the development of City Plan 2041, the introduction of zones in the city where STL development would be permitted or restricted.

3.20 Recommendation 10:

To consider and investigate through the development of City Plan 2041 flexibility in planning permission for hotels and guesthouses to re-classify as residential.

3.21 Recommendation 11:

To update and improve information available on the Council's website and to include in any communications campaign in relation to short-term lets, including:

- Information and guidance for operators on their responsibilities, such as employing a commercial waste service, registering for business rates, applying for the correct insurance/s, and ensuring health and safety standards for fire, gas, water and electricity. To make it clear that they are breaking the law if these conditions are not met.
- To look at and update the planning guidance for short-term lets on the website
- Links to relevant websites

3.22 Recommendation 12:

To work with STL providers to provide an out of hours phone number for residents to call if STLs are causing nuisance in the neighbourhood and direct them to any employed security companies and/or the police if necessary

- 3.23 Review & Comments of the Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration
- 3.24 The Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration has reviewed the recommendations and has commented as follows:
- 3.25 Recommendation 1:

Recommendation Agreed

3.26 Recommendation 2:

Recommendation Agreed

3.27 Recommendation 3:

Recommendation Agreed

3.28 Recommendation 4:

Recommendation agreed subject to sufficient resource in place to support the introduction of a licensing scheme for teams across the Council.

3.29 Recommendation 5:

Recommendation on hold subject to a licensing scheme being introduced and subject to budget setting process.

3.30 Recommendation 6:

The Council have recently registered an interest in participating in a pilot for short term lets registration scheme.

3.31 Recommendation 7:

Recommendation requires further investigation and consideration. While introducing a short-term visitor permit is theoretically feasible, further analysis is necessary to understand the possible negative impact of revenue loss from on-street parking or car park usage. Additionally, it would need to be established that the proportion of visitor permits does not interfere with existing residents' parking or their ability to obtain permits.

3.32 Recommendation 8:

Recommendation requires amendment.

As part of the review for City Plan, this request can be investigated. A policy will only be able to be put forward if there is evidence to justify the policy. Further evidence gathering can be undertaken and will be discussed at the Planning Policy Member Advisory Group.

It would be beyond the remit of planning to require clauses are added to a lease for new builds and conversions to restrict use as full time short-term lets. However, if a new policy could be included in City Plan – a condition or a s106 agreement could be attached to the planning decision restricting the use of short term lets.

3.33 Recommendation 9:

Recommendation requires further investigation and consideration

As part of the review for City Plan, this request can be investigation. A policy will only be able to be put forward if there is evidence to justify the policy. Further evidence gathering can be undertaken and will be discussed at the Planning Policy Member Advisory Group.

3.34 Recommendation 10:

Recommendation requires further investigation and consideration

As part of the review for City Plan, this request can be investigation. A policy will only be able to be put forward if there is evidence to justify the policy.

A study looking at visitor accommodation which will look at the need and supply will be required to be undertaken as part of City Plan Review. The findings of the study will be discussed at the Planning Policy Member Advisory Group.

3.35 Recommendation 11:

Recommendation agreed in respect of updating the planning pages with further discussions required to create a specific webpage that covers all teams in the council and to introduce a one-council approach for members of the public to raise issues with short term lets.

3.36 Recommendation 12:

Recommendation agreed subject to introduction of a licensing scheme as this could be a stipulation of a licensing scheme that operators provide this.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 These are the findings of the Task & Finish Group that looked at a number of options during their investigation into short term lets.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The Task & Finish Group held 5 evidence gathering meetings.
- 5.2 The group spoken to 34 officers from Westminster, Camden and Blackpool Councilors. The Task & Finish Group also spoke with Edinburgh City Council and Gwynedd Council.
- 5.3 The Task & Finish Gorup also spoke to Councillor Gill Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing & New Homes, ward councilors and a range of city council officers to get a sense of the positive and negative impacts of short terms lets in the city.
- 5.4 Outside of the council, the group also spoke with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, a representative of local hoteliers, with representatives from the short term let industry, including Airbnb, the national Short Term Accommodation Association, with local STL providers and with a security firm that offers services to short term let operators. In addition, the Task & Finish Group spoke to Rachael Maskell MP and to officers from the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government.
- 5.5 The Task & Finish Group also featured members representing the local community and voluntary sector and older people in the city.

6. Financial implications

6.1 Additional resources for planning enforcement would be subject to the introduction of a licensing scheme to fund the resources required and future years budget setting processes, though it would be assumed at this early stage that licensing scheme revenue streams would support these costs. Officer time for implementing other recommendations would be contained within existing Development Planning budgets, however outcomes from some recommendations such as introductions of short term let zones and other local authority initiatives including short term let visitor permits will require separate approval from cabinet as options are assessed.

Name of finance officer consulted: John Lack Date consulted 01/05/2025:

7. Legal implications

7.1 The recommendations in Appendix 1 to this report, if taken forward, need to be compatible with the relevant planning legislation. To date, the recommendations are not in conflict with the legislation and this will need to be carried through in any subsequent stages of the overall project.

Name of lawyer consulted: Katie Kam Date consulted 28/04/2025:

8. Risk implications

8.1 Housing delivery is a key priority for the Council and a key goal in the Council Plan within outcome 2 'a fair and inclusive city' includes the objective a 'home for everyone.' The increase in short term lets reduces the available housing stock in the city. If the recommendations are not agreed and implemented some of the short term measures that do not require a licensing scheme or a change in planning will result in a potential loss of more homes to short term lets.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 It is currently not possible to accurately ascertain where in the city short term lets are situated and where any growth in the conversion of residential properties to short term lets is taking place. The Task & Finish Group's recommendations around registration and licensing are intended to address this.
- 9.2 With more accurate data, the council would be in a better position to understand what impact the growth of short term lets is having on housing supply in the city particularly for those residing in temporary accommodation. The availability of more date would also help to understand if and how short term lets have a disproportionate impact on people with protected characteristics

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 Traditional hotel and guest house accommodation is focused in the city centre, making it relatively attractive for visitors to travel to and within the city by public transport. Short term lets tend to be spread more evenly across cities. There is consequently a risk that growth in short term lets may lead to more car journeys to and within Brighton & Hove, with negative impacts on carbon emissions. The recommendations of the Task & Finish Group relating to registration or licensing schemes are intended to help the council gather data on the prevalence and spread of short term lets so we are in a better position to consider mitigations. Furthermore, a licensing scheme could look to require standards such as minimum EPC levels to ensure the quality of the accommodation and improve sustainability levels.

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 Short term lets can be a source of alleged noise nuisance and other associated anti-social behaviour linked to the properties which can affect the wellbeing of neighbouring residents. This can include late-night noise, criminal activities, illegal parking and anti-social behaviour. Other examples of nuisance being reported were fleets of taxis in the street and rubbish being left out. The recommendations of the Short Term Lets Task & Finish Group are intended to assist with improving information and management of short term lets given the lack of registration that currently exists.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

12.1 None

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 Short term lets can be a source of alleged noise nuisance and other associated anti-social behaviour linked to the properties. One significant difference between short term lets and hotels/guesthouses is that short term lets have no one on the premises to manage anti-social behaviour if it does occur. The recommendations of the Short Term Lets Task & Finish Group are intended to assist with improving information and management of short term lets given the lack of registration that currently exists.

14. Conclusion

14.1 To conclude the Cabinet is asked to agree the recommendations put forward by the Short Term Let Task & Finish Group as set out in section 3 of this report.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

- 1. Overview & Scrutiny Committee Report from the 25 April 2025
- 2. Report of the Short Term Lets Task & Finish Group

Brighton & Hove City Council

Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Agenda Item

Subject: Report of Short Term Lets Task & Finish Group

Date of meeting: 25th March 2025

Report of: Chair of Place Overview & Scrutiny

Contact Officer: Name: Giles Rossington, Scrutiny Manager/Natalie Sacks-

Hammond, Overview & Scrutiny Officer

Email: giles.rossington@brighton-hove.gov.uk

natalie.sacks-hammond@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: No

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

1.1 This report presents the report of the Short Term Lets Task & Finish Group (TFG) for consideration and review by Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee. The TFG

report is included as Appendix 1.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee notes the Task & Finish Group report on Short Term Lets attached as Appendix 1; and
- 2.2 Refers the findings of the Task & Finish Group report on Short Term Lets to Cabinet for consideration.

3. Context and background information

3.1 **Task & Finish Groups**

- 3.1.1 Brighton & Hove City Council's constitution permits Overview & Scrutiny Committees to establish informal task & finish groups (TFGs) to look in depth at specific issues.
- 3.1.2 At the 01 October 2024 Place O&S committee meeting members agreed to establish a TFG to explore issues relating to short term lets in the city.

3.1.3 TFGs typically hold a series of meetings with witnesses, potentially including council officers, executive members, other councils and public sector partners, businesses, academic experts and members of the public. Using the evidence gathered, the TFG agrees a report with recommendations which is then submitted for consideration, initially by the parent O&S committee. If the parent O&S so decides, the TFG report is then referred to the appropriate decision-making body, such as Cabinet or Council consideration.

3.2 The Short Term Lets TFG

- 3.2.1 The Short Term Lets (STL) TFG consisted of: Cllrs Amanda Evans (Chair), Amanda Grimshaw, Bridget Fishleigh, Anne Meadows, Jackie O'Quinn, Kerry Pickett; Mark Strong (Community & Voluntary Sector representative) and Doug Thompson (Older People's Council representative).
- 3.2.2 The TFG held a series of evidence-gathering meetings between November 2024 and February 2025. In February 2025, TFG agreed a report which included a series of detailed recommendations, which it considered merited consideration by Cabinet (Appendix 1).

3.3 Issues with Short Term Lets and TFG witnesses

- 3.3.1 The TFG defined Short Term Lets (STL) as whole properties solely used as short term lets (not including people renting out only part of their property or renting their main residence for short periods of time). STLs are a traditional feature of many local tourism economies. However, recent years have seen significant growth in the STL sector, driven by the emergence of online booking platforms such as Airbnb and booking.com. STLs can provide substantial benefits to the local tourism economy, delivering additional visitor bed capacity and generating income for the local area. However, there are also potential negative consequences of a growing STL sector, including impact on housing supply; nuisance and antisocial behaviour; impacts on the existing visitor economy; and problems in ensuring that STLs have the appropriate fire and gas safety measures in place, are properly registered as businesses, and are using commercial waste services.
- 3.3.2 These negative impacts have been recognised by Government, and the previous Government had announced plans to introduce a Bill to better regulate STLs. However, this was not introduced before the July 2024 General Election. The current Government has confirmed that it plans to introduce similar measures, and both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Housing, Communities and Local Government (DHCLG) are currently working on the issue. In addition, Rachael Maskell, MP for York, has recently put forward a Private Member's Bill to better regulate STLs. The TFG spoke to Rachael Maskell MP and to officers from DCMS. DHCLG was not able to offer a meeting within the timeframe of the TFG but has offered to meet with the council in May 2025.
- 3.3.3 In the absence of new legislation, a number of local authorities have adopted innovative approaches to managing their STL sectors. The TFG

spoke to officers from Westminster LBC, Camden LBC, and Blackpool Borough Council. The TFG also spoke with Edinburgh City Council and with Gwynedd council. It should be noted that local authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and London all operate under slightly different legal frameworks.

3.3.4 The TFG also spoke to Cllr Gill Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing & New Homes, to ward councillors, and to a range of city council officers to get a sense of the positive and negative impacts of STLs on the city. The Group also spoke with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service which has a particular interest in ensuring that STLs follow fire and gas safety regulations; with a representative of local hoteliers; and with representatives from the STL industry, including Airbnb, the national Short Term Accommodation Association, with local STL providers, and with a security firm that offers services to STLs.

3.4 The TFG report

- 3.4.1 The Government plans to introduce new measures to help regulate STLs and a view could be taken that we should simply wait for these measures to be announced rather than undertaking local initiatives. However, the TFG believe that there is value in looking at STLs now. This is so we can try to influence the Government's thinking while its plans are still in development: the TFG report includes recommendations to lobby Government on issues including licensing and registration schemes. It is also because it may be some time before legislation or a national STL registration scheme is in place, and there are local measures that could be introduced in the interim. Finally, there are measures we could take locally which the Government plans are unlikely to cover, such as ensuring that we have a suite of information and advice available to encourage local STL operators to follow best practice.
- 3.4.2 The TFG has made 10 recommendations. These are:

BHCC Lobbying

- To lobby the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a new planning use class for short-term lets with no permitted development rights.
- To lobby the Secretary of State for the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government for a licensing scheme with conditions on the operator to provide evidence that the property meets health and safety standards, is registered correctly as a business with the right arrangements in place regarding waste management, tax and business rates, parking and insurance; and to have good financial penalties for breaches.
- To lobby the Secretaries of State for Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government and for the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for any licensing/registration scheme to permit data sharing (of owners and addresses of STLs etc.) across public authorities and local statutory partners.

BHCC internal processes

- To support the government's introduction of a registration or licensing scheme (pending details) to help the Council and other statutory bodies—such as City Clean, the Fire Authority, and Sussex Police gather accurate data on the number and locations of STL properties in the city, facilitating enforcement when needed, and to register as soon as possible.
- Additional resources for planning enforcement investigations once registration or a licensing scheme is in place (subject to funding becoming available – e.g. from a licensing scheme that enables the council to recover costs)
- To allocate a named officer with Cabinet member oversight, to have responsibility for short-term lets as a point of contact and to get involved in pilot projects if the government is introducing this
- To look at initiatives from other local authorities, such as East Lothian Council, who have introduced specific parking permits for short-term lets that is a new funding stream for the council

BHCC Planning

- To consider and investigate through the development of City Plan 2041:
 - To add a clause in leases for new builds and conversions that they cannot be used as full time short-term lets
 - To investigate the introduction of zones in the city where STL development would be permitted or restricted
 - To provide flexibility in planning permission for hotels and guesthouses to re-classify as residential

BHCC external

- To update and improve information available on the Council's website and to include in any communications campaign in relation to short-term lets, including:
 - Information and guidance for operators on their responsibilities, such as employing a commercial waste service, registering for business rates, applying for the correct insurance/s, and ensuring health and safety standards for fire, gas, water and electricity. To make it clear that they are breaking the law if these conditions are not met.
 - To look at and update the planning guidance for short-term lets on the website
 - Links to relevant websites
- To work with STL providers to provide an out of hours phone number for residents to call if STLs are causing nuisance in the neighbourhood and direct them to any employed security companies and/or the police if necessary
- 3.4.3 The TFG report (Appendix 1) provides more information and context for each of these recommendations.
- 4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 Having noted this report, the Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee could choose not to refer the findings of the TFG report to Cabinet.

5. Community engagement and consultation

5.1 The TFG included members representing local Community & Voluntary Sector organisations and older people in the city.

6. Financial implications

6.1 There are not financial implications arising from this process.

Name of finance officer consulted: I CHAGONDA Date consulted (03/03/25):

7. Legal implications

7.1 The informally constituted Task & Finish Group has delivered on its remit by carrying out a detailed piece of work on the topic of Short Term Lets, including by proposing recommendations for review. This Report is 'for noting' only by Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee. As a result, a detailed analysis of potential legal implications has not been carried out at this stage.

Name of lawyer consulted: Victoria Simpson Date consulted 3.03.2025

8. Equalities implications

8.1 It is currently not possible to accurately ascertain where in the city STLs are situated and where any growth in the conversion of residential properties to STLs is taking place. The Task & Finish Group's recommendations around registration and licensing are intended to address this. With more accurate data, the council would be in a better position to understand what impact the growth of STLs is having on housing supply in the city, and particularly if and how this has a disproportionate impact on people with protected characteristics.

9. Sustainability implications

9.1 Traditional hotel and guest house accommodation is focused in the city centre, making it relatively attractive for visitors to travel to and within the city by public transport. STLs tend to be spread more evenly across cities, including in areas without good public transport links. There is consequently a risk that growth in STLs may lead to more car journeys to and within Brighton & Hove, with negative impacts on carbon emissions. The TFG recommendations relating to registration or licensing schemes are intended to help the council gather data on the prevalence and spread of STLs so we are in a better position to consider mitigations.

10. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

10.1 None identified.

Other Implications

11. Procurement implications

11.1 None identified.

12. Crime & disorder implications:

12.1 In some parts of the UK (e.g. Blackpool) the growth of the STL market is associated with an increase in antisocial behaviour. This is not necessarily the case

everywhere, but one significant difference between STLs and hotels or guesthouses is that STLs have no one on the premises to manage antisocial behaviour if it

does occur. The TFG heard about various practices instituted by the STL industry to address this issue, including security patrols or a hotline number.

13. Conclusion

13.1 The committee is asked to refer the findings of the Task & Finish Group Short Term Lets report to Cabinet for consideration. The TFG recommendations are based on a robust process of hearing and evaluating evidence from a number of expert witnesses.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

- 1. Short Term Lets Task & Finish Group report.
- 2. Appendix 1: Minutes from TFG meetings
- 3. Appendix 2: Data sources

REPORT OF SHORT TERM LETS TASK & FINISH GROUP

Reporting to:

Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee, 25/03/2025

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1. Chair's Foreword

Most residents of Brighton & Hove are aware that it's a special place. Our vibrant south-coast city with its sparky and diverse population punches well above its weight financially with thousands of creative micro-businesses and tech companies, a hugely successful football club embedded in the community and a brilliant retail, hospitality, events and entertainment offer.

All this also combines to give us a thriving tourist economy that is the envy of many other seaside destinations. And gives rise to numerous conversations about how we can keep growing the number of beds available and therefore of visitors who stay for a night, a weekend, a week, rather than just coming for a day trip.

While holiday apartments have always existed in a small way alongside the more traditional hotels and guesthouses, the inexorable rise of Short Term Lets through booking platforms like Airbnb has seemed to provide an answer to some of those tourism questions.

However, we're also a city with a deep-rooted housing crisis and pockets of severe deprivation that are only worsened by the shortage of properties to rent or buy, and consequent sky-high price of what little is available. And the exponential rise of the number of whole properties previously used as main dwellings (whether rented or owned) that have been turned over to STL use has to have some impact both on that crisis and on community cohesion, particularly in some concentrated areas. Not that we can really quantify the effects clearly, since we have so little agreed data, and very few powers to regulate or manage this growing industry.

So, this is the circle that our task-and-finish group set out to square – to come up with a set of recommendations that would help all of us who live here, while not harming the visitor economy so many depend on. We talked to residents, councillors representing some saturated areas, trade bodies representing STL owners, representatives of booking platforms and traditional hotels, planning officers from our own and other councils who do things differently. We have looked at the work being done by two government departments on this topic, spoken to civil servants and to Rachael Maskell MP about her private members bill, and also to police, fire and waste service representatives. In short, we have talked to everyone we could with expertise in this subject, and it has been fascinating and highly educational.

It only remains for me to thank the other members of the TFG, all of whom have brought differing perspectives and asked excellent, searching questions of our witnesses; thanks to our brilliant scrutiny officers Natalie, Giles and Luke; and to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who came to talk to us either in person or online.

Anada

Cllr Amanda Evans – Chair of Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee.

2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Task & Finish Group (TFG) has been scrutinising the impact of Short Term Lets (STLs) in Brighton & Hove. STLs have been defined by the TFG as whole properties used exclusively for short-term lets. This does not include people renting out only part of their property or renting their main residence for short periods of time while they are away.

While contributing to the local economy and tourism, issues have been raised about STLs regarding housing availability, community impact, safety standards, and the challenges they pose to traditional accommodation providers. The TFG, formed in October 2024, worked from November 2024 to February 2025 to assess these issues. It gathered insights from other local authorities, the STL industry, public services, and other stakeholders, including those developing national legislation.

2.1 Key Findings

Data Issues

A lack of reliable data poses significant challenges in managing STLs. The actual number of STLs in the city is uncertain, with estimates ranging from 2,000 to 6,000 properties¹. Data-sharing restrictions, including GDPR, further inhibits the ability to gather accurate data on STLs. Local authorities find it difficult to monitor the locations, ownership, and occupancy frequency of STLs; and consequently struggle to ensure compliance with regulations on safety standards, waste management, taxes, and insurance.

Fire Safety

Although STLs are required to comply with the Fire Safety Order, there are difficulties in tracking which properties are STLs, making it challenging to conduct inspections for all STLs within the Fire Authority's remit². Without mandatory registration, it is unclear how many STL operators adhere to safety regulations, including the need for insurance and updated fire risk assessments.

Business Rates and Tax Compliance

While we know that there has been a substantial rise in the number of STLs in Brighton & Hove, only 443 operators in 2024/25 were registered to pay business rates³. Many operators lack incentive to apply unless they qualify for small business rates relief, as paying council tax is often cheaper. Rachael Maskell MP estimates £6 billion in undeclared tax from the STL sector nationally⁴, highlighting the need for proper registration.

Waste Management

All properties acting as businesses should pay for commercial waste collection; however, City Clean believe that many STLs do not. City Clean reports that STL operators also often produce more refuse than regular residential properties, and because visitors are unfamiliar with the city, rubbish or recycling is often left out inappropriately⁵. City Clean would like to have accurate location data on STLs to help with enforcement.

Parking

The rising number of STLs has exacerbated parking difficulties in Brighton & Hove, especially with limited parking spaces and high demand. There have been reports of illegal sales of visitor permits to STL guests and potential instances of illegal parking.

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¹ See section 5.1.2

² Tom Glandfield, ESFRS, TFG meeting 10.01.25, Appendix 1

³ Graham Bourne, BHCC; TFG meeting 10.01.25, Appendix 2

⁴ Rachael Maskell, MP; TFG meeting 13.12.24, Appendix 1

⁵ See section 6.4.1

East Lothian Council has introduced a special holiday parking permit system⁶ which could be something Brighton & Hove City Council could consider as a new income generating stream.

• Noise and Anti-Social Behaviour

Noise complaints and anti-social behaviour linked to STLs have been a significant concern. While there are few formal complaints reported by local authorities⁷, it is thought that residents report disruptive incidents directly to STL providers and also to local councillors. The TFG heard from representatives in the industry who have introduced noise monitoring devices in STLs and use security firms who respond to a 24-hour helpline and conduct evictions when necessary⁸. The TFG believes that all STL operators should have a management plan in place to address noise and antisocial behaviour, as the lack of on-site staff in STLs increases the risk of escalating incidents.

Amateur and Rogue Operators

Many STL operators lack awareness of safety and compliance requirements, often leading to violations. There is a call for more support and education for operators, including sharing information on their responsibilities. The TFG suggests that the council could provide better resources on their websites for STL owners and operators to encourage compliance.

Economic Impact of STLs

STLs are a significant contributor to Brighton & Hove's economy, offering essential bed spaces, particularly during peak times⁹. While some cities, like Barcelona, consider banning STLs¹⁰, this is not something the group would be in favour of as they appreciate the positive impact the industry has on the city. STLs contribute millions in local spending, with some hosts relying on the extra income.

• Impact on the Hotel Industry

Brighton & Hove hosts major events that require additional bed space, making STLs crucial for meeting accommodation demand. However, their popularity is impacting traditional hotels, which must comply with more regulations, like business rates and commercial waste services, while STLs often avoid these costs, which makes it difficult for hotels to compete in the market.

Housing Market

The impact of STLs on housing stock and prices in Brighton & Hove is unclear. The city's high house and rental prices may in part be due to many larger properties being used as STLs instead of family homes, which reduces housing availability for residents, including key workers¹¹. Although some studies suggest the impact on housing from STLs is minimal compared to other factors¹², such as inflation, income growth, the city's two universities and proximity to London, the city still faces a housing crisis and needs to build more affordable homes. The council may want to explore policies to ensure new homes are used as permanent residences rather than holiday lets.

Resources for Enforcement: There was a lack of resources for enforcement in all
public services that the TFG spoke to. For this reason, councils are keen on a
licensing scheme which would allow for a fee to be charged which would cover

⁹ Julia Gallagher, Visit Brighton; Appendix 2

⁶ https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/east-lothian-short-term-lets-could-face-ps750-charge-for-parking-permits-4975683

⁷ BHCC Environmental Health data; Complaints data, Appendix 2

⁸ See section 7

¹⁰ Barcelona set to ban short-term rentals - Cities Today

¹¹ See section 11.3

¹² EY report; EY report finds Airbnb has little to no significant impact on UK housing

- enforcement costs. Whilst a registration scheme would provide agencies with potentially valuable information about STLs, it is not clear that there would be sufficient resource to make the best use of this additional data.
- Council powers, planning and enforcement: STLs should be regulated to ensure safety and manage impacts, but local councils lack enforcement power without central government action. London councils like Camden and Westminster struggle with enforcing the 90-day rule¹³ and support a licensing system. Blackpool has imposed fines and created a "holiday area" for STLs which has been somewhat successful. The Welsh government introduced a new planning use class but faces enforcement challenges. Edinburgh's STL regulations have been contested via judicial review which has led to a strain on resources¹⁴.
- Registration vs Licensing: To gather accurate data on STLs, either a registration or licensing scheme could be implemented. Registration would require all STLs to record their data, allowing councils to communicate with owners and enforce regulations. However, such a scheme must be mandatory to be effective. A licensing scheme provides more benefits by ensuring compliance and generating revenue for enforcement. The TFG favours a mandatory licensing scheme as it offers more control and the ability to enforce regulations like health and safety standards.
- Government plans: The TFG spoke to civil servants from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) about the national registration scheme for STLs, which is in development. The scheme's first phase is complete, and the next phase, involving public testing and further policy work, could take about two years 15. The DCMS team faced challenges in finding the right contacts within local authorities, as responsibilities for STLs are often spread across multiple departments. They emphasised the need for a designated contact person in each council to streamline the process.

2.2 Conclusion

The TFG acknowledges that STLs are important for Brighton & Hove's economy but stresses the need for regulation to address issues like housing, safety, anti-social behaviour, and community impact. Responsible STL operators already address these concerns, so would not be negatively impacted by increased regulation. Indeed, since they incur costs that less responsible operators currently avoid, they should welcome moves to make good practice mandatory. The TFG supports a level playing field between STLs and the hotel industry, especially regarding health and safety standards. While the government plans to introduce a registration scheme, the TFG suggests a licensing scheme would be more effective for enforcement. The TFG also advocates for a specific planning use class for STLs and better data to manage their growth. The TFG plans to share their findings with relevant authorities and to encourage local involvement in future regulatory developments.

3. Recommendations

BHCC Lobbying

- 1. To lobby the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a new planning use class for short-term lets with no permitted development rights.
- 2. To lobby the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a licensing scheme with conditions on the operator to provide evidence that the

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¹³ See section 12.2

¹⁴ Elizabeth McCarroll, Edinburgh Council; TFG meeting 22.01.25, Appendix 1

¹⁵ Flora Loughridge, DCMS; meeting 10.02.25, Appendix 1

- property meets health and safety standards, is registered correctly as a business with the right arrangements in place regarding waste management, tax and business rates, parking and insurance; and to have good financial penalties for breaches.
- 3. To lobby the Secretaries of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and for Culture, Media and Sport for any licensing/registration scheme to permit data sharing (of owners and addresses of STLs etc.) across public authorities and local statutory partners.

BHCC internal processes

- 4. To support the government's introduction of a registration or licensing scheme (pending details) to help the Council and other statutory bodies—such as City Clean, the Fire Authority, and Sussex Police—gather accurate data on the number and locations of STL properties in the city, facilitating enforcement when needed, and to register as soon as possible.
- 5. Additional resources for planning enforcement investigations once registration or a licensing scheme is in place (subject to funding becoming available e.g. from a licensing scheme that enables the council to recover costs)
- 6. To allocate a named officer with Cabinet member oversight, to have responsibility for short-term lets as a point of contact and to get involved in pilot projects if the government is introducing this
- 7. To look at initiatives from other local authorities, such as East Lothian Council, who have introduced specific parking permits for short-term lets that is a new funding stream for the council

BHCC Planning

- 8. To consider and investigate through the development of City Plan 2041:
 - a. To add a clause in leases for new builds and conversions that they cannot be used as full time short-term lets
 - b. To investigate the introduction of zones in the city where STL development would be permitted or restricted
 - c. To provide flexibility in planning permission for hotels and guesthouses to reclassify as residential

BHCC external

- 9. To update and improve information available on the Council's website and to include in any communications campaign in relation to short-term lets, including:
 - a. Information and guidance for operators on their responsibilities, such as employing a commercial waste service, registering for business rates, applying for the correct insurance/s, and ensuring health and safety standards for fire, gas, water and electricity. To make it clear that they are breaking the law if these conditions are not met.
 - b. To look at and update the planning guidance for short-term lets on the website
 - c. Links to relevant websites, such as ESFRS, STAA
- 10. To work with STL providers to provide an out of hours phone number for residents to call if STLs are causing nuisance in the neighbourhood and direct them to any employed security companies and/or the police if necessary

4. Introduction

4.1 Purpose of the Task & Finish Group

- 4.1.1 Brighton & Hove has long been a popular visitor destination due to its rich cultural heritage, historic seafront and architecture, and unique shopping, eating and entertainment offer, attracting people from across the UK and beyond. Short-term Lets (STLs) have been a feature of many local tourism economies, alongside the more traditional hotels and guesthouses, for many years. However, more recent years have seen very significant growth in the STL sector, driven by the emergence of online booking platforms such as Airbnb and booking.com.
- 4.1.2 STLs can provide substantial benefits to our city's tourism economy, delivering additional visitor bed capacity and generating income for the local area. However, there are also potential negative consequences of a growing STL sector, including impact on housing supply and follow-on impact on housing cost, community cohesion and increases in the number of young families moving out of the city and steep decrease in school places required; nuisance and antisocial behaviour; impacts on the existing visitor economy; and problems in ensuring that STLs have the appropriate fire and gas safety measures in place, are properly registered as businesses, and are using commercial waste services.
- 4.1.3 The issue of STLs was raised by members at the July 2024 Place Overview & Scrutiny planning meeting. It is a Council Plan priority to increase the supply of new homes in the city. There are concerns nationally and locally about the number of STLs increasing at the expense of homes for people to rent or buy.
- 4.1.4. At the 1st October 2024 Place Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting members agreed to establish a Task & Finish Group (TFG) to explore issues relating to short term lets in the city.

4.2 The Short Term Lets TFG

- 4.2.1 The STL TFG consisted of: Cllrs Amanda Evans (Chair), Jackie O'Quinn, Amanda Grimshaw, Bridget Fishleigh, Anne Meadows, Kerry Pickett; Mark Strong (Community & Voluntary Sector representative) and Doug Thompson (Older People's Council representative).
- 4.2.2 The TFG defined Short Term Lets (STL) as whole properties solely being used as full time short term lets. This does not include people renting out only part of their property or renting their main residence for short periods of time while they are away.
- 4.2.3 The TFG held a series of evidence-gathering meetings between November 2024 and February 2025. The group met with a wide range of witnesses including ward councillors in heavily affected areas, Cllr Gill Williams, Cabinet Member for Housing & New Homes and a range of city council officers from planning, waste management, revenues and benefits, environmental health, parking and Visit Brighton, to get a sense of the positive and negative impacts of STLs on the city.
- 4.2.4 The TFG also spoke with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service which has a particular interest in ensuring that STLs follow fire and gas safety regulations; with a representative of local hoteliers; and with representatives from the STL industry, including Airbnb, the national Short Term Accommodation Association (STAA), local STL providers, and a security firm that offers services to STLs.

- 4.2.5 The TFG also met with planning officers from other Local Authorities, which have adopted interesting or innovative approaches to managing their STL sectors. The TFG spoke to officers from Westminster London Borough Council, Camden London Borough Council, Blackpool Borough Council, Edinburgh City Council and Gwynedd Council. It should be noted that local authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and London all operate under slightly different legal frameworks, so some of the approaches adopted by a particular local authority may not work elsewhere.
- 4.2.6 The previous Government had passed legislation to enable a registration scheme for STLs in the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. This Act allowed the introduction of a STL registration scheme following a public consultation and the passing of secondary legislation with details of the scheme. At the time of the 2024 General Election the government had not responded to the consultation or passed the required secondary legislation. The current Government has confirmed that it plans to introduce similar measures, and both the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) and the Department for Housing, Communities and Local

Government (DHCLG) are currently working on the issue. In addition, Rachael Maskell, MP for York, has recently put forward a Private Member's Bill to better regulate STLs. The TFG spoke to Rachael Maskell MP and to officers from DCMS. by to offer a meeting at this time.

5. Data issues

5.1 Lack of data

- 5.1.1 The lack of reliable data available on STLs became apparent throughout the conversations with witnesses. It is simply impossible to gain the information needed on STLs in order to properly manage the sector. Local authorities do not know where the STLs are, exactly how many are in each area, who owns them, how frequently they operate, whether they follow safety standards, or whether they are set up as businesses with the proper arrangements in place for waste management, taxes, and insurance.
- 5.1.2 During the evidence gathering meetings, the group was informed that there were between 2,000¹⁶ and 6,000¹⁷ STLs in Brighton & Hove but that there was a lot of confusion around the data available and how reliable it was. Planning Officers at Brighton & Hove City Council (BHCC) and Visit Brighton have used AirDNA data¹⁸ and LightHouse data¹⁹ to get a snapshot of the STL situation in the local area. From July 2023 to June 2024 AirDNA data shows that there were 6848 STL properties listed over the year; 78% of these were for entire homes, 22% for rooms within a home. The average occupancy rate was 54%, the average stay 3 days, and the average daily charge £176.
- 5.1.3 The TFG heard about a data-scraping company called 'Talk & Code' from the London authorities who use it to give an estimate of the scale of STLs in their areas. Camden Council used it on an annual basis, scraping data from 6 sites estimating 6,000 properties, although the number is likely to be higher²⁰. They then used the

¹⁹ LightHouse data Appendix 2

¹⁶ Steve Taggart STAA; TFG meeting 27.11.24, Appendix 1

¹⁷ Julia Gallagher, Visit Brighton, Air DNA data; Appendix 2

¹⁸ Air DNA data; Appendix 2

²⁰ Elizabeth Beaumont, Camden Council; TFG meeting 12.12.24, Appendix 1

data to identify problem areas, for example, an entire block of 52 flats all being used as STLs.

5.1.4 It was acknowledged that data scraping services are not 100% reliable. This is because there are as many as 40 online STL booking platforms, with many properties listed on multiple sites²¹. These data companies claim to "de-duplicate" properties across platforms but it is unclear how successful this de-duplication is in practice.

5.2 Data sharing issues

- 5.2.1 In addition, GDPR rules make it difficult to share data between partners that might help with identifying the STL locations. For example, the Short-Term Accommodation Association (STAA) have set up a voluntary registration scheme with the Office for National Statistics (ONS), but they cannot share the data more widely due to GDPR²²
- 5.2.2 Airbnb reported having "very stringent rules and requirements, about what we can share regarding personal data, unless it's in the form of a legal request or court order. But if you had a registration scheme, straight away you could go on and you could find out."
 - "One of the recommendations that we as Airbnb made to central government on the design of the registration scheme is to put in place some form of data sharing arrangement with the premium online booking platforms to automatically share any occupancy data that would be associated with any property that has a registration number." Carl Thomson, Airbnb²³
- 5.2.3 TFG members agree that, whilst a national mandatory STL registration or licensing scheme would be a step forward, such a scheme will only have a limited impact if there are restrictions on data sharing between the relevant authorities.

Recommendation:

• To lobby the Secretaries of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and for Culture, Media and Sport for any licensing/registration scheme to permit data sharing (of owners and addresses of STLs etc.) across public authorities and local statutory partners.

6. Safety standards, nuisance and compliance

STLs have been linked to various disturbances within local communities, including late-night noise, criminal activities, illegal parking, and anti-social behaviour. Other examples of nuisance being reported were fleets of taxis in the street, rubbish being left out attracting seagulls, and lots of strangers around at night, making residents feel unsafe. Additionally, serious concerns have been raised regarding safety standards in some of these properties, highlighting the necessity for operators to understand and comply with their obligations.

²³ Ibid

²¹ Andy Fenner, STAA; TFG meeting 27.11.24 Appendix 1

²² Ibid

6.2 Fire safety

- 6.2.1 The TFG met with Tom Glandfield from East Sussex Fire and Rescue Service (ESFRS) to discuss fire safety regulations for STLs. All STLs fall under the Fire Safety Order and are therefore subject to the authority's regulatory oversight. This regulation applies to all properties used for short-term accommodation, ranging from large hotels to individual flats rented out as STLs.
- 6.2.2. Due to lack of available data to inform which properties are STLs, the Fire and Rescue service is unable to conduct inspections for all STL properties within its remit²⁴. A key challenge is that without some sort of compulsory licensing or registration scheme, resources are too limited to investigate the locations of these properties, making it difficult to triage and register them for fire safety compliance. As a result, much of the authority's work in this area is reactive, responding to complaints and engaging with property owners after fire-related incidents.
- 6.2.3 By contrast, Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) are required to be registered, allowing the Fire Authority to contact owners and ensure compliance with fire safety regulations, including conducting fire risk assessments. Tom Glandfield noted that if STLs were subject to a similar registration process, it would enable the Fire Authority to proactively disseminate fire safety information to property owners. An accreditation or registration system for STLs would significantly improve regulatory oversight and compliance.
- 6.2.4 STL operators must have appropriate insurance and up to date fire risk assessments, which are required by law. It is unclear how many STLs have these in place because they are not registered as businesses and there is no mechanism to check. It is also unclear how many are aware that they are in breach of this legislation. It is possible that the majority do not have correct insurance and valid fire risk assessments and, without these, insurers may deny claims in the event of a fire. Steve Taggart, owner of "My Getaways," highlighted the availability of specialised insurance products for STLs, noting that they are only marginally more expensive than standard domestic policies. Responsible property owners would be willing to pay a little more money to ensure their property and their guests were safe.

"If that registration process included even some sort of flyer from ourselves, just saying these are the things that we expect of you as a short term letter then that would be really useful and it would certainly make our lives easier if there was some form of accreditation or application process." - Tom Glandfield, East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service²⁵

Recommendation:

 To support the government's introduction of a mandatory registration or licensing scheme (pending details) to help the Council and other statutory bodies—such as City Clean, ESFRS, and Sussex Police—gather accurate data on the number and locations of STL properties in the city, facilitating enforcement when needed, and to register as soon as possible.

²⁵ Ibid

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²⁴ Tom Glandfield, ESFRS; TFG meeting 10.01.25, Appendix 1

6.3. Business rates

- 6.3.1 The TFG spoke to Graham Bourne, Head of Welfare Revenues and Business Support at BHCC, whose remit covers council tax and business rates. Since April 1st 2023 any STL owner who wants to be considered as a business for non-domestic rates must apply to the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) for change of status who then notify any changes to BHCC. There is little incentive for operators to apply to the VOA unless they are entitled to small business rates relief but often it is cheaper to continue to pay council tax as normal. If registering as a business, they would also then have to declare income and pay tax. While it is again unclear how many STL owners are aware that they are in breach of legislation covering the safety and insurance of their properties, they are presumably aware that they are not declaring taxable income or paying the correct kind of rates.
- 6.3.2 The table below²⁶ shows the number of STLs who were registered as a business in Brighton & Hove over the last 7 years. It shows a sharp increase in the numbers, which demonstrates the surge in STLs. It had been previously reported to the group that there were between 2000 and 6000 STLs in the city but the numbers paying business rates is far fewer, which indicates that most STLs are not paying the correct rates. Rachael Maskell MP has estimated that "there is around £6bn of undeclared tax in the UK from the short term let sector." This further demonstrates the need for mandatory registration.

Tax year	STL	
2018-19	161	
2019-20	228 (67)	
2020-21	289 (61)	
2021-22	363 (74)	
2022-23	429 (66)	
2023-24	485 (56)	
2024-25	443 (-42)	

6.4. Waste Management

6.4.1 City Clean, the BHCC waste management service, reported that littering and fly tipping were problems caused by STLs who should be using commercial waste collection and not the communal bins in the street. No waste generated from a business should be using residential services and the owner must have a contract with a waste disposal service and receive a 'Duty of Care' to demonstrate they have the correct arrangements in place. They can be charged a £300 penalty notice if not. These properties typically produce more refuse than a normal residential property and they should be paying higher disposal costs. There are additional issues with STL guests not recycling properly which adds extra pressure to the waste collection services. City Clean would like to be able to do targeted communications to STL owners informing them of their expectations on waste management. City Clean have the resources to go out and investigate when they are notified of an STL and would

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²⁶ Graham Bourne, BHCC; TFG meeting 10.01.25, Appendix 2

welcome better sharing of information and a registration scheme that would allow them to know where these properties are.

"In an ideal world the service would have the information they need to know where these properties are. It would make it easier to enforce and if all owners were paying correct business rates, there would be more money to put towards resources." - Max Smith, Environmental Enforcement Manager²⁷

6.5 Parking

- 6.5.1 Parking is already an issue in the city with limited street parking, high costs and waiting lists for permits. The influx of STLs increases the demand for parking spaces in the city, which is causing nuisance to residents, and there have been reports of visitor permits being sold illegally with "free parking" being advertised on STL sites. The Parking Team at BHCC are in control of the city's CCTV, which is something that could be utilised for enforcement. They report that it is very difficult for a STL guest to get a visitors' parking permit, but the owner could do so very easily, although they are limited in number and only valid for one day. There are zones in the city with no ability to pay to park so it is likely that some guests may be parking illegally. It noted that many STLs are in the city centre so guests are more likely to be was by public transport; however, those staying on the outskirts of the city are travelling to travel by car and would require parking. more likely
- 6.5.2 East Lothian Council in Scotland are looking to put in place special holiday parking permits within their control zone in the town of North Berwick. These would be charged at £30 per week and limited to 25 weeks a year. The council estimates that they have 445 STL properties in the controlled parking zone. If all were to take up the full complement that would bring in £333,750, which is a good income stream for the Council and something that BHCC could consider.²⁸

Recommendation:

To look at initiatives from other local authorities, such as East Lothian Council, who
have introduced specific parking permits for short-term lets that is a new funding
stream for the council, and consider whether such a scheme could be successful in
B&H, particularly at such time as a registration or licensing scheme comes into force.

7. Noise and anti-social behaviour

7.1 Cllr Alison Thomson, (Regency Ward) told the group that there are frequent complaints from residents in her ward about STLs.

"The city needs an STL market, but it needs to be managed properly to ensure that the poor behaviour of a minority of visitors does not blight the lives of residents" - Cllr Thomson, Regency Ward²⁹

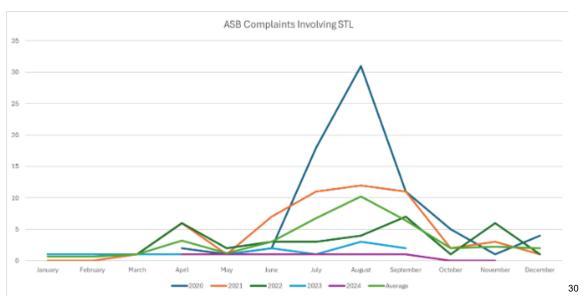
7.2 The increase in transient visitors can disrupt community cohesion with strangers coming and going who have less respect for the neighbourhood. There are reports of late-night parties preventing neighbours from sleeping and some criminal activity such as drug dealing, prostitution and modern-day slavery. Sussex Police and the Environmental Health Team reported that they do not get many complaints regarding

²⁷ Max Smith, City Clean; TFG meeting 10.01.25, Appendix 1

²⁸ https://www.edinburghnews.scotsman.com/news/east-lothian-short-term-lets-could-face-ps750-charge-for-parking-permits-4975683

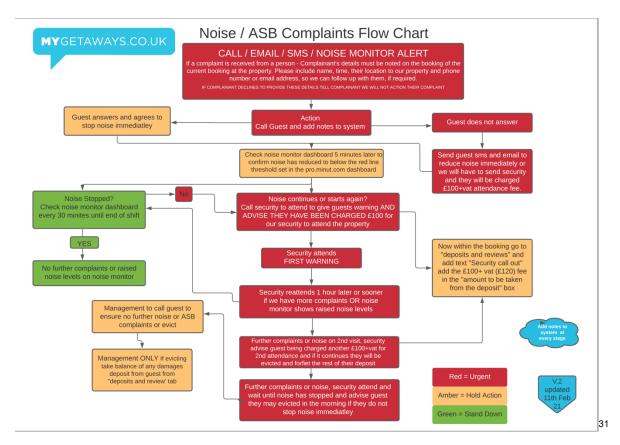
²⁹ Cllr Thomson; TFG meeting 27.11.24, Appendix 1

STLs and deduced that residents may be complaining direct to the STL provider, as demonstrated in the graph below. The data only includes instances where it has been specifically stated by the complainant that the property was a STL, which can be confused with HMOs where large groups of students often live.



7.3 Andy Fenner from the STAA stated that rogue operators are not welcome in their association and owners need to adhere to safety standards and have a management plan in place to be listed on their platforms. The association uses noise-monitoring technology in their houses and have a 24-hour phone number for residents to report issues which are then dealt with promptly by a mobile team. Below is the process flow chart that 'My Getaways' uses on how they respond to these kinds of issues.

³⁰ BHCC Environmental Health data; Complaints data, Appendix 2



- 7.4 Catherine Lane, a local resident and owner of "My Holiday Let", Brighton's longest established holiday let company, spoke to the TFG about her concerns regarding the management of anti-social behaviour by guests of STLs in Brighton. Unlike hotels, STLs typically do not have an on-site management presence and even when they do, the owner does not always know what to do if something goes wrong.
- 7.5 Catherine employs a security company called Consec, who offer a particular service to STL owners, providing a welcome briefing on arrival to go over "house rules" and check guests are who are expected. They will speak with neighbours and ensure they are aware to call them if there are problems. They patrol all night and will attend any incidents on behalf of the owners, operating a three-strike rule, with eviction taking place on the third visit. They work closely with the Business Crime Reduction Partnership and Sussex Police and reported evicting STL guests every weekend in Brighton due to anti-social behaviour³². There is a charge for the service that it is taken from the guests' security deposit at no extra cost to the owner. Employing a security company and/or having a management plan in place could be a condition of any licensing scheme that might be introduced.

"All properties should have to communicate the numbers of these security firms on the properties for neighbours to use if there were any problems." - Catherine Lane, My Holiday Lets³³

"I think that residents also need access to a central phone number through which they would be able to complain." - Rachael Maskell, MP³⁴

³² Peter Miles, Consec; TFG meeting 27.01.25, Appendix 1

³¹ Steve Taggart, 'My Getaways'

³³ Catherine Lane, "My Holiday Lets"; TFG meeting 27.01.25, Appendix 1

³⁴ Rachael Maskell, MP; TFG meeting 13.12.24, Appendix 1

7.6 STLs differ from hotels and guest houses in having no permanent on-site staffing. Whilst the customers of STLs may be no more likely to engage in nuisance behaviour than people staying in other types of accommodation, there is consequently a much greater risk that incidents of antisocial behaviour in STLs will not be addressed in a timely way and may escalate. The TFG believes it is important that this risk is addressed, and that this is something that all responsible STL operators should plan for.

Recommendation:

 To work with STL providers to provide an out of hours phone number for residents to call if STLs are causing nuisance in the neighbourhood and direct them to any employed security companies and/or the police if necessary

8. Amateur and rogue operators

8.1 Tom Glandfield from the Fire Authority commented that often he found that there is a lack of information for operators, many of whom are amateurs and are simply not aware of what they should be doing in terms of safety standards and compliance as a business. Both Tom Glandfield and colleagues from City Clean were keen to share information directly with the STL owners around what is expected of them. Blackpool Council has a lot of information on their website for potential STL owners, current operators and neighbours³⁵, which is something BHCC could do to help inform those who want to comply.

Recommendation:

- To update and improve information available on the Council's website and to include in any communications campaign in relation to short-term lets, including:
 - Information and guidance for operators on their responsibilities, such as employing a commercial waste service, registering for business rates, applying for the correct insurance/s, and ensuring health and safety standards for fire, gas, water and electricity. To make it clear that they are breaking the law if these conditions are not met.
 - To look at and update the planning guidance for short-term lets on the website
 - Links to relevant websites such as ESFRS, STAA

9. Impact of STLs on the local economy

- 9.1 STLs bring in a lot of money for the local economy and are a positive feature of a tourist city like Brighton & Hove, providing much needed bedspaces, particularly at key times of the year. Whereas some international cities, such as Barcelona, want an all-out ban³⁶, this is not something the group would be in favour of as they appreciate the positive impact the industry has on the city.
- 9.2 Visit Brighton reported that STLs have long been a significant feature of the city's accommodation offer, although the emergence in recent years of online booking platforms has increased their visibility. STLs are particularly popular with families, offering more flexibility than hotels, sometimes at a cheaper price. There is a relatively wide dispersal of STLs across the city compared with hotels and guest

³⁵ Nicola Rigby, Blackpool Council; TFG meeting 27.01.25, Appendix 1

³⁶ Barcelona set to ban short-term rentals - Cities Today

houses, giving visitors a richer experience of Brighton & Hove and spreading economic benefits across the city. STLs also provide significant additional bed capacity, which is particularly important at times of high demand³⁷. The 2023 Economic Impact of Tourism study estimated that there were 4 million overnight stays in the city across the year, averaging 10,958 per night.

- 9.3 Steve Taggart, who owns "My Getaways," the largest holiday firm in the city, employs 14 people directly and supports the employment of many more. The firm had around 25K visitors last year, with an average spend of £180 per night and 57% occupancy. "My Getaways" has recently conducted an economic impact statement, showing that their guests are responsible for around £10M spend in the local economy³⁸.
- 9.4 Airbnb reported that at the start of last year, there were just over 273,000 guest arrivals to the city through the platform. Airbnb said that a typical host earns around £5,500 per year although AirDNA data shows this being closer to £28,300 on average. Four in 10 of Airbnb hosts report that the money is crucial for them to be able to afford to stay in their homes³⁹. Some owners rely on this extra income, particularly in an expensive city like Brighton & Hove and will rent out their property during the week if they are working elsewhere and it is vacant. STLs are not only used by tourists but also university professors who stay in the city for 2 –3 months and those who need short term accommodation if there is significant work being done on their homes. They provide a convenient, flexible, and often cheaper alternative to a hotel.

10. Hotel industry

- 10.1 Brighton & Hove hosts major events like conferences, live music, sports, and festivals such as the Brighton Festival and Pride, attracting performers, audiences, and crews who require accommodation for multiple nights. Therefore, additional bed space capacity is important to enable these large income generating events to take place.
- 10.2 Data from Visit Brighton shows that there are approximately 4,700 hotel and guest house rooms in Brighton & Hove. Assuming there are an average of 2 beds per room, this means that there are around 9,400 hotel and guest house beds available at any given time, with a gap between demand and supply of around 1500 beds⁴⁰.

These are average figures, and demand will be much higher at certain points, so it is clear that STLs play a major role in meeting visitor demand.

There is '...a strong market for short-term holidays lets in Brighton & Hove. The holiday letting agencies in the city reported high demand for weekend breaks in smaller holiday let properties and strong weekend demand for group houses from stag and hen parties and other group bookings. They also reported good midweek demand for short-term holiday lets from business visitors, contractors, conference delegates, language students, and for short breaks and holidays in the summer months.' - Brighton & Hove Visitor Accommodation Study Update 2018⁴¹

38 Steve Taggart, "My Getaways"; TFG meeting 27.11.24, Appendix 1

⁴⁰ Julia Gallagher, Visit Brighton; TFG meeting 27.11.24, Appendix 1

³⁷ Julia Gallagher, Visit Brighton; Appendix 2

³⁹ Carl Thomson, Airbnb; TFG meeting 10.01.25, Appendix 1

⁴¹ Microsoft Word - BRIGHTON & HOVE VISITOR ACCOMMODATION STUDY UPDATE 2018 - FINAL REPORT - 25 APRIL

10.3 Herve Guyat, a representative from the local hotelier sector, said it was clear that the popularity of STLs was affecting the business for traditional hotels and guesthouses. Hotels are required to comply with safety standards, pay business rates and use commercial waste services whereas many STLs continue to use residential bins, and pay council tax, often with a single person discount, which creates unfair competition with hotels. here are some measures that hotels and guest houses can take to compete, such as moving to an 'aparthotel' serviced apartment model, but this may not always be possible, particularly for more traditional guest houses.

"It is important that there is flexibility for guest houses to re-classify as residential properties where they need to. The council needs to recognise that this may be the only option for some guest houses." - Herve Guyat, Hotel Representative⁴²

10.4 The TFG recognises that STLs present an increasingly popular accommodation model and one that is here to stay. However, it is important that there is a level playing field and that the traditional hotel and guest house sector is not subject to necessary costs and regulations that the STL sector is able to avoid, hence the TFG recommendations around greater regulation of the STL sector, and stronger powers to enforce existing legislation. However, even with a more level playing field, strong consumer preference for the STL model may mean that some traditional visitor accommodation is no longer tenable. It is important that hotels and guest houses are accorded maximum flexibility to meet changing consumer demand; and where this is not possible, it is important that more traditional operators are not stuck in a situation where they are unable to re-classify their businesses for residential use.

Recommendation:

- To consider and investigate through the development of City Plan 2041:
 - To provide flexibility in planning permission for hotels and guesthouses to reclassify as residential

11. Housing market

11.1 It is unclear what the impact of STLs have been on housing stock or prices in Brighton & Hove. The Brighton & Hove Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) from August 2023 reported on the city's high house prices in comparison to its neighbouring authorities. Although STLs were cited as a possible influence, it is very difficult to gauge the extent of this without understanding more about the size and the spread of the STL sector.

"In the year to March 2022 the median house price in Brighton and Hove was £392,556. As such, the median house price in Brighton and Hove is above that of its neighbouring county authorities East and West Sussex and the South East region and significantly above the median house price for England as a whole (£270,000)." - Brighton & Hove SHMA⁴³

11.2 Rental prices in the city are also very high, with properties in demand from university students alongside a shortage of rental housing stock in the city. Landlords can demand increasingly high rents as they seek to pass on the cost of mortgage/interest rate increases to renters⁴⁴.

⁴² Herve Guyat, Hotel Representative; TFG meeting 27.11.24, Appendix 1

⁴³ Strategic Housing Market Assessment - August 2023

⁴⁴ Ibid

11.3 Using these properties as STLs further constricts the market and adds to demand. Many larger properties with more than 3 bedrooms that could be used for family homes are being used as STLs instead, catering for large groups. In Brighton & Hove, the high cost of living has meant that many families cannot afford to live in the city and have left the area. This has resulted in 22% less children aged between 1-5 years, as shown in the recent national census, and this has impacted on schools with lower numbers attending primary school in the first instance, which will work its way through to secondary schools eventually. This figure is in sharp contrast to the much lower national fall of 6%⁴⁵. There is also a lack of keyworkers, such as nurses, junior doctors and teachers, who cannot afford to live where they work and are not in jobs where they can work from home.

"A nurse can't afford to live in York, so they move to Leeds, but then to help with the cost of commuting they decide to work in Leeds." - Rachael Maskell MP⁴⁶

"STL is an uncontrolled housing market disrupter, reducing the available housing stock for sale and rent in the context of entire-home letting". - Academic research on Airbnb⁴⁷

- 11.4 This issue is a global concern, with several major cities in Spain taking steps to reduce the number of licensed short-term rentals. In the near future, they plan to address this by not renewing existing licenses and halting the issuance of new ones. Barcelona has adopted the most assertive approach in implementing these measures.⁴⁸
- 11.5 In contrast, Airbnb cited research by EY which suggested that STLs have limited impact on housing affordability or availability. According to EY, STLs make up around 0.7% of UK properties, and only 0.17% of those are let for more than 90 nights. The study concluded that "over 95 percent of house price increases can be attributed to factors unrelated to short-term rentals, such as increases in income and inflation" and "that the UK has failed to build enough homes to keep pace with demand pressures for years" Whilst this may be true for the UK as a whole, it is not necessarily so for places with a much larger than average STL market, including tourist cities such as York or Brighton & Hove.
- 11.6 Brighton & Hove currently has a housing crisis, and the council will need to build 2,498 new homes per year to meet demand⁵⁰. New homes are vital for the city but if many are bought as second homes, or by investors here or abroad who use them as holiday lets, the benefits of building new homes will be much reduced. Therefore, action needs to be taken to ensure that new homes remain for that purpose and are not lost from the housing stock. Brighton & Hove currently do not have a Principal Residence Policy, which could be explored via the City Plan 2041 which is currently in development.

"Covenants in new developments is important. At the moment it is up to leaseholders and management companies. A lot of new developments are sold to the foreign

⁴⁶ Rachael Maskell, MP; TFG meeting 13.12.24, Appendix 1

^{45 2021} Census Census results 2021

⁴⁷ Airbnb - another argument for a revised, not compromised, spatial management approach, Adam Sheppard, Harry West and Stroma Cola, Town and Country Planning 90(5/6) July 2021)

⁴⁸ Barcelona set to ban short-term rentals - Cities Today

⁴⁹ EY report; EY report finds Airbnb has little to no significant impact on UK housing

⁵⁰ as calculated through the government's new standard method for determining minimum housing need, which was adopted in December (<u>Brighton and Hove needs almost 40,000 new homes by 2040, says report – Brighton and Hove News)</u>

market or for short term lets and are therefore not really adding to the housing numbers." - Rachael Maskell MP⁵¹

Recommendation:

- To consider and investigate through the development of City Plan 2041:
 - To add a clause in leases for new builds and conversions that they cannot be used as full time short-term lets

12. Council powers, planning and enforcement

12.1 TFG members and the witnesses agreed that there needs to be some kind of regulation and enforcement for STLs to access reliable data, ensure safety standards and to reduce negative impacts as discussed in this report. Local authorities have little power to enforce and are reliant on central government to introduce measures and/or delegate powers to councils to enact. In the absence of new legislation, some local authorities have adopted innovative approaches to managing their STL sectors. It should be noted that local authorities in England, Scotland, Wales and London all operate under slightly different legal frameworks.

12.2 England

- 12.2.1 The TFG spoke to planning officers from two London authorities: Camden and Westminster. In 2015 there was a de-regulation of STLs in London which allowed properties to be rented out for a maximum of 90 days per year on a short-term basis. Any property used for short term lettings for a total of more than 90 nights in a calendar year must have planning permission from the local borough council in which it is based. The law considers that this is a material change of the use of the property, but this rule has not been fully enforced and it is unknown how many properties are breaching it⁵².
- 12.2.2 Initially, the TFG assumed that limiting the number of days a STL could operate was a positive thing. However, the London councils reported that the 90-day rule is too complicated to enforce and they would not recommend it being extended to other council areas. In order to investigate, they needed to look at the websites and feedback reviews to see how many nights people had stayed for and if it went over the 90-day rule, they would serve planning contravention notices. Owners would play the system and rent their property out for 89 nights on one platform and then move another to advertise a further 89 nights⁵³.
- 12.2.3 Roald Piper from Westminster Council reported that before deregulation, if a property was used as a holiday let for one night then that would be a breach and the Council could act. The problem with the 90-day rule is they now must gather 90 days' worth of evidence to demonstrate the change of use. The rule is only valid for one calendar year so the 90 days resets on 1st January. They can only serve notices with evidence and it becomes onerous.⁵⁴
- 12.2.4 Elizabeth Beaumont from Camden Council agreed that it was hard to prosecute because even when an enforcement notice has been issued, the owner will stop operating for the rest of the year but can then start the 90 days again the following

⁵¹ Rachael Maskell, MP; TFG meeting 13.12.24, Appendix 1

⁵² Camden Council research; <u>Half of short term lets in Camden exceeded the 90-night legal limit in</u> 2019

⁵³ David Campbell, DCMS; Meeting 10.02.25, Appendix 1

⁵⁴ Roald Piper, Westminster Council; TFG meeting 12.12.24, Appendix 1

- year, and this does not solve issues of antisocial behaviour or disturbance in the neighbourhood.
- 12.2.5 Both London authorities were in favour of a licensing scheme that is set up in the same way as for HMO licensing. They also believed that STLs should have their own planning use class. Currently, residential properties are in use class C3 and STLs outside of use classes and are categorised as "Sui Generis" which means "of its own
 - kind". Once a council is notified of a STL, they need to conduct a "fact and degree" investigation to dentify whether the property has had a material change in use, which is determined by a number of factors. If the property is deemed as no longer residential then the owner needs to apply for planning permission to continue to operate.
- 12.2.6 Blackpool Council has interpreted current powers differently and decided on a policy (through their city plan) that all full-time STLs were 'Sui Generis' as there was a change of use from a dwelling, and they served Planning Enforcement Notices (PENs) to operators who had not applied for planning permission. Owners were expected to provide evidence of key certificates and documents for safety standards. They were strictly enforcing these regulations and issuing fines for those who were not complying. There have been a number of appeals from STL owners, all of which the council have won at the time of writing⁵⁵.
- 12.2.7 Blackpool has a designated "holiday area" in the city where hotels are concentrated and new STL applications are more likely to be approved than in a purely residential area. The impact has been a reduction in the number of STLs of around 200 in 2 years and they felt this was due to some naturally leaving the market but others had closed due to enforcement⁵⁶. Brighton & Hove has a "hotel zone" in the city centre which could be utilised in a similar way to manage growth in the number of

STLs.

12.2.8 Blackpool Council had been against the idea of the government introducing a new use class with permitted development rights because that would take control away from the council. The planning officers were adamant that a new use class must have planning permission requirements.

12.3 Wales

12.3.1 The TFG spoke to planning officers from Gwynedd Council in Wales. In October 2022, the Welsh government made amendments to the town and country planning use class order, creating three new use classes that differentiate from England. C3 is now a main place of residence, C5 use in Wales is now defined as being second homes and C6 use is now defined as being short term holiday lets, with permitted development between the use classes. Permitted development rights can be stopped with an "Article 4 Directive", which Gwynedd has obtained, meaning planning permission is now required. The officers reported that the number of applications had reduced and there was an assumption against applications for a change from C3 dwelling to a C6 STL, but the Article 4 Directive had only been in place for a few months. There wasn't much the council could do for those areas that already had high numbers of STLs other than stop creep into neighbouring areas. This was because the new rules could not be applied retrospectively. Gwyned Council had

⁵⁵ Nicola Rigby, Blackpool Council; TFG meeting 27.01.25, Appendix 1

⁵⁶ Ibid

successfully lobbied their government for the change of use class but warned that the Article 4 Directive was resource intensive.

12.4 Scotland

- 12.4.1 The TFG spoke to Edinburgh City Council whose STL regulations had ended up in a judicial review. On 5th September 2022, the whole of Edinburgh City Centre became a STL control area, which meant any STL in that area had to apply for planning permission as it was deemed a material change of use. At the same time changes to civic licensing were going through the Scottish Parliament that meant STLs would have to obtain a licence with a mandatory condition that meant the applicant had to either have made an application or obtain planning permission where required. The STL industry were unhappy and challenged this via a judicial review in 2023 on the basis that the council were applying the short-term let control area retrospectively. The Court decision agreed with the petitioners that the conditions of the control area cannot be applied to existing uses. These operators can now apply for a Certificate of Lawfulness, but these need to be considered on a case-by-case basis which generates a lot of work⁵⁷.
- 12.4.2 Over the last 2 years, there have been around 1800 applications, most for certificate of lawfulness. Local news reports that nearly 90% of applications for new STLs have been refused⁵⁸ and that there are not enough bed spaces in the city to cater for the Edinburgh Festival anymore. More recently, it has been reported⁵⁹ that Edinburgh Council are looking to temporarily row back on some of their licensing measures as they are set to remove spare rooms and main homes from needing safety certificates during the Edinburgh Festival. This could be interpreted that the regulations put in place have resulted in too few available bed spaces at key times and the reduction of STLs has had a negative effect on tourism, at least at peak times.

"Changing use class without having planning permission would be a disaster and would result in losing housing stock.... Short-term lets need their own use class, and a licensing scheme that is set up in the same way as HMOs." - Roald Piper, Westminster Council⁶⁰

12.4.3 The TFG believes that the current situation where there is no use class for STLs makes it difficult for councils to understand the STL market or to manage its growth. A new use class for STLs, as introduced in Wales, would help here. However, to be effective in giving councils the ability to limit the growth of STLs in areas where there is already saturation, any new use class should not have permitted development rights: it should not be the default position that a property owner is simply permitted to change the use of a property from residential to STL.

Recommendations:

- To lobby the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a new planning use class for short-term lets with no permitted development rights.
- To consider and investigate through the development of City Plan 2041:
 - To investigate the introduction of zones in the city where STL development would be permitted or restricted

⁵⁷ Elizabeth McCarroll, Edinburgh Council; TFG meeting 22.01.25, Appendix 1

⁵⁸ insider.co.uk Half of short term lets in Camden exceeded the 90-night legal limit in 2019

⁵⁹ Scottish Housing News, Edinburgh agrees changes to short-term lets licensing policy | Scottish Housing News

⁶⁰ Roald Piper, Westminster Council; TFG meeting 12.12.24, Appendix 1

13. Resources

13.1 There was a lack of resources for enforcement in all public services that the TFG spoke to, including the fire authority and most local councils. For this reason, councils are keen on a licensing scheme which would allow for a fee to be charged which would cover enforcement costs. Whilst a registration scheme would provide agencies with potentially valuable information about STLs, it is not clear that there would be sufficient resource to make the best use of this additional data. A licensing scheme allowing for a small fee to be charged would be a more effective option.

Recommendations:

• Additional resources for planning enforcement investigations once registration or a licensing scheme is in place (subject to funding becoming available – e.g. from a licensing scheme that enables the council to recover costs)

14. Registration vs Licensing

- 14.1 To ensure authorities have accurate data on STLs, either a registration or licensing scheme could be introduced. Registration would mean all STLs are obliged to record their data on a system managed either centrally by Visit England or delegated to the local authority. All of this data would be made available to the council which would make it easier to communicate with the owners and for enforcement if needed. Registration could impose conditions on the owners that the property must comply to safety standards and be correctly set up as a business. However, the scheme would need to be mandatory to be effective: a voluntary scheme would simply not catch rogue operators.
- 14.2 A licensing scheme offers greater benefits by not only ensuring compliance but also generating revenue through fees, which could fund enforcement efforts.
- 14.3 This is the current arrangement in London, which could be replicated nationally. The London STL owners are required to obtain a license from their local borough council, which is between £200 and £450 for a 3-year license, depending on the borough. The license mandates them to provide evidence and documentation before they are allowed to operate.
- 14.4 These are as follows:61
 - Safety certificates: fire risk assessment, gas safety, electrical installation report,
 - Carbon monoxide detectors
 - Furniture to comply with fire safety regulations (permanently attached label)
 - Proof of ownership when applying for planning permission
 - Public liability insurance
 - Noise management plan (for some)
 - Must declare rental earnings to HMRC
 - Operators must tell mortgage lenders and insurance providers about use of property as a STL
 - ASB regulations
 - Data protection laws
 - Pay business rates/ correct council tax

⁶¹ New Rules for Short-term Rentals for London [2024 Update]

14.5 The majority of witnesses participating in the TFGs agreed that a mandatory licensing scheme would be their ideal outcome with "the same controls as hotels in terms of safety standards which would be certified on an annual basis" - Roald Piper, Westminster⁶².

"This would not only give the details of STLs but provide additional resources." - Nicola Rigby, Blackpool Council⁶³

"I believe that we need a proper licensing scheme rather than a registration scheme as the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act allows for. A licensing scheme would allow enforcement of things such as environmental standards and health & safety, it would give methods that local authorities can utilise to change behaviour such as fines or removing licenses." - Rachael Maskell, MP⁶⁴

Recommendation:

 To lobby the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government for a licensing scheme with conditions on the operator to provide evidence that the property meets health and safety standards, is registered correctly as a business with the right arrangements in place regarding waste management, tax and business rates, parking and insurance; and to have strong financial penalties for breaches.

15. Government plans

- 15.1 The TFG spoke to civil servants from the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, who are enacting the previous government's plans for a national registration scheme for STLs. At the same time Matthew Pennycook MP, Minister of State for Housing & Planning in the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, is working to see what additional measures are required to manage these properties and what additional powers local authorities need.
- 15.2 The first phase of digital development for the registration scheme is now complete and they are moving on to the "beta phase" and looking to expand engagement with local authorities, possibly via a 'steering group.' The next phase of the project will start over the next couple of months, followed by a period of public testing with other work continuing alongside this such as writing policy, working out how to enforce, fee structures, and secondary legislation that will bring the scheme to life. The timeline is likely to be 2 years as they want to ensure that it is being done properly, is robust and does what it needs to do⁶⁵.
- 15.3 The DCMS team struggled to identify the right point of contact within local authorities regarding STLs. While some councils had dedicated teams, others spread the responsibility across various departments like planning, policy, and housing. They noted that having a designated contact person would be beneficial—an issue that other witnesses had also highlighted.

"It would also be helpful if there was a settled point of contact within the council for the STL sector – the council has a complicated structure, and departments do not necessarily talk to each other effectively." - Andy Fenner (STAA)⁶⁶

⁶² Roald Piper, Westminster Council; TFG meeting 12.12.24, Appendix 1

⁶³ Nicola Rigby, Blackpool Council; TFG 27.01.25, Appendix 1

⁶⁴ Rachael Maskell, MP; TFG meeting 13.12.24, Appendix 1

⁶⁵ Flora Loughridge, DCMS; meeting 10.02.25, Appendix 1

⁶⁶ Andy Fenner, STAA; TFG meeting 27.11.24, Appendix 1

"Having named officers would help with identification and policing." - Rachael Maskell MP⁶⁷

Recommendation:

 To allocate a named officer with Cabinet member oversight, to have responsibility for short-term lets as a point of contact and to get involved in steering groups or pilot projects if the government is introducing this

16. Conclusion

- 16.1 The TFG agree that STLs are vital for the local tourism economy in Brighton & Hove, bringing visitors into the city and generating income. However, this cannot be to the detriment of local residents who are impacted by high numbers of visitors staying overnight in their neighbourhoods. The TFG agree that there is a need for regulation of the sector including addressing the impacts on the community, housing supply, anti-social behaviour, lack of safety standards and data issues. The group agree that the sector needs to be on a level playing field with the hotel and guesthouse industry, particularly in relation to health and safety standards. The STL industry agreed with this and were keen to work better alongside councils to ensure all STLs were up to standard, refusing to include them on their platforms if they are not.
- 16.2 The Government plans to introduce new measures to help regulate STLs in the form of a registration scheme⁶⁸. However, all public authorities suffer from a lack of resources and a licensing scheme that would generate funds for enforcement activity would be a better option. Having a use class specifically for STLs would make understanding and managing the growth of the STL market easier, particularly if there is no automatic assumption that an application to convert from residential to STL would be granted. There is an overwhelming need to have accurate data on the STLs which will allow for easier dissemination of information to operators and for enforcement if needed.
- 16.3 Whilst the Government is planning to introduce new measures on STLs, it may be some time before legislation is in place, and there are local measures that could be introduced in the interim, such as ensuring that there is a suite of information and advice available to encourage local STL operators to follow best practice, as well as existing health & safety, waste management and business rates legislation.
- 16.4 The TFG would like to influence the Government's thinking while its plans for regulation are still in development: the Group has agreed to share this report with DCMS, Rachael Maskell MP and any other group that would benefit from the insights gained from this piece of work. Pending any decision by Place O&S Committee and Cabinet, BHCC may wish to become part of any pilot project or steering group set up for the development of the registration scheme, or for the work that Rachael Maskell is doing with Matthew Pennycook of MHCLG.

Acronyms

STL Short-Term Lets
TFG Task & Finish Group
O&S Overview & Scrutiny

⁶⁷ Rachael Maskell, MP; TFG meeting 13.12.24, Appendix 1

⁶⁸ Flora Loughridge, DCMS; meeting 10.02.25, Appendix 1

BHCC	Brighton & Hove City Council
STAA	Short Term Accommodation Association
DCMS	Department for culture, media and sport
MHCLG	Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government
GDPR	General Data Protection Regulations
ONS	Office of National Statistics
HMO	House of Multiple Occupancy
VOA	Valuation Office Agency
PEN	Penalty Enforcement Notice
ESFRS	East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service

Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet Agenda Item 10

Subject: Brighton and Hove City Council Playing Pitch Strategy

Date of meeting: 26 June 2025

Report of: Cabinet Member for Sports & Recreation

Contact Officer: Name: Mike Harris, Head of Parks & Leisure

Email: mike.harris@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

Key decision: No

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The Brighton & Hove Playing Pitch Strategy 2025-2041 (PPS) is a comprehensive plan to protect and enhance the city's playing pitch infrastructure. The strategy supports delivery of the Council Plan, Outcome 1, A city to be proud of, by further developing Brighton & Hove as a place where people want to live, work and learn, and where they can live happy, healthy and fulfilling lives. The provision of good quality community sports and physical activity facilities are vital for improving the health and wellbeing of residents, and in making an important contribution to the local economy.
- 1.2 Sport England recommends every local authority to produce an evidence base strategy to inform future decisions regarding the development of existing and new playing pitches. It further guides and prioritises investment and acts as acentral document to support funding bids for pitch improvements and new facilities. The strategy focuses on four primary sports cricket, football, hockey, and rugby and includes the analysis and review of supply, demand, accessibility and availability. The strategy's methodology and sport selection are delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance. It replaces the previous strategy developed in 2016.
- 1.3 The strategy builds on the findings of the 2021 Sports Facilities Investment Plan and the 2024 'Let's Get Moving' physical activity strategy. It has been developed in partnership with key national and county-level sporting governing bodies (NGBs), Sport England and services across the council including parks & leisure, education, planning and healthy lifestyles
- 1.4 A detailed action plan accompanying the strategy outlines priority projects and facility needs for each sport. It emphasises the importance of protecting existing facilities, investing in new and improved facilities, and ensuring equitable community access including to educational playing pitch facilities.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves and adopts the Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 2041 as set out in **Appendix 1**.
- 2.2 That cabinet approves all of the recommendations (set out in 4.6 below), including the longer term need for more pitch provision, in all future place planning.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The last playing pitch needs assessment, and plan was undertaken in 2016. As part of the councils overall strategic planning for sport, 'Continuum Sport and Leisure' were commissioned to lead on a production of a new Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 2041, replacing the previous 2016 strategy.
- 3.2 The strategy includes analysis and review of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability for the four primary playing pitch sports of cricket, football, hockey and rugby.
- 3.3 The strategy has been agreed by each primary sport's associated National Governing Body and in partnership with Sport England.
- 3.4 The strategy's supply information is generated through standard facility audits used for all levels of facility from parks to elite sport.
- 3.5 The strategy's demand information is generated from surveys of current users including local community sports clubs, club and team data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and council sport booking data where available.
- 3.6 All level of sports clubs including grassroots and across deprived areas were engaged with as a part the survey which also captured team classification in terms of adult, youth, women & girls or disabled.
- 3.7 Through the strategy, the council aims to deliver pavilion and facility improvements across the city, introduce further community asset transfers and encourage community use agreements across education sites. Pavilion and facilities improvements to address increasing demand alongside providing fit for purpose ancillary facilities. Community asset transfer to provide future financial sustainability and provision of facilities which can better support their local communities. Lasty, community use agreements will maximise community access at educational sporting facilities to aid increase demand levels.
- 3.8 The strategy is delivered in accordance with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance which details a 13-stepped approach, separated into five distinct sections:
 - Stage A: Prepare and tailor the approach
 - Stage B: Gather information and views on the supply of and demand for provision

- Stage C: Assess the supply and demand information and views
- Stage D: Develop the strategy
- Stage E: Deliver the strategy and keep it robust and up to date
- 3.9 Implementation of the strategy's recommendation can assist in reducing inequalities, improving inclusivity of facilities and increase physical activity participation.
- 3.10 The Health Counts 2024 Health & Wellbeing survey reports 53% of adults did less than 30 minutes per week of sport or fitness activity in the past 7 days, 11% between 30-149 minutes and 36% 150 minutes or more. The playing pitch strategy directly correlates with health lifestyles objectives and promotes increased fitness through length of match play.
- 3.11 The strategy will be made available on the council's website including an executive summary platform.

4. Review findings and strategy objectives

- 4.1 The review conducted by 'Continuum Sport and Leisure' and engagement through a steering group for the strategy development, delivered the following findings as part of the analysis of current supply, demand and future need for playing pitches.
- 4.2 Since the previous review in 2016, demand across all sports has increased with notable increase in women and girl's participation across cricket, football and rugby. In cricket, there has been a total increase of 57 cricket teams with the greatest increase in adult women's teams from 2 to 7 teams (350%) and youth girls teams growing from 6 to 12 teams (100%) since 2016. Across football, there has been an increase of 45 women's and girl's teams representing an increase of 433% since 2016. Rugby has experienced growth in youth rugby with 11 new teams including 2 new girls teams. It is also anticipated there will be an increase in women and girls rugby following the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup which Brighton & Hove is one of the host cities. To facilitate this demand and support further growth, additional pitches and improvements to ancillary facilities are recommended.

4.3 Cricket:

There are currently 14 fine turf pitches and 10 non-turf pitches available for community use. The majority of pitches are at or over capacity, with clubs requiring additional facilities, indicating a high level of demand for cricket pitch space. One additional pitch is required to meet current demand level and a further one fine turf pitch of 12 wickets is needed to meet future demand in 2041

4.4 Football:

There are 101 grass pitches and 25 artificial grass football pitches (AGPs) available in the city. There is a shortfall of pitches for youth football, with many pitches being overplayed at peak periods. Eight natural turf pitches and one full sized 3G pitch is required to meet current demand levels. An

additional 7 natural turf pitches and 0.35 full-size AGP are needed to meet future demand in 2041

4.5 Hockey:

There are four full-sized sand-based AGPs available in the city. Most pitches are at capacity for matches, with clubs requiring additional facilities. To meet current demand levels, all existing pitches require resurfacing. An additional 0.15 full-size AGP is needed to meet future demand in 2041.

4.6 Rugby:

There are 10 adult-size grass pitches available for community use. Pitches are significantly overplayed, with clubs requiring additional facilities. Six additional pitches are required to meet current demand and one additional full-size floodlit natural turf pitch is needed to meet future demand in 2041.

- 4.7 Based on the findings of the review the strategy proposes the following key objectives for the 2025 2041 period:
 - a) Ensure protection of existing playing pitches and facilities through the emerging City Plan 2041.
 - b) Continue to seek community use agreements at education sites.
 - c) Support community asset transfer of sporting facilities.
 - d) Significant maintenance improvement is required at many sites to improve capacity.
 - e) Investment is required to meet existing demand and to provide additional capacity to meet future demand growth.
 - f) Ancillary facilities, in particular changing room pavilions, require refurbishment to support inclusivity and the growth of women & girl's sporting demand.

The strategy also includes an advisory site-specific action plan.

5. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

5.1 If the Playing Pitch Strategy is not adopted there will be no clear action plan for management and enhancement of playing pitch sports facilities. Through the implementation of this strategy, the council has a leading role in enabling access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community.

6. Community engagement and consultation

6.1. Consultation has been undertaken as per sections 3.4 and 3.5 of this report and the inclusion of relevant councilors during production and finalisation.

7. Financial implications

7.1 There are financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report, which are yet to be quantified. The paper sets out a list of potential capital investment opportunities to deliver on the strategy, each area of investment will require individual business cases to be presented to and considered by Cabinet, this will include all revenue and capital implications

ensuring Value for Money is achieved. The outcome of these business cases will be included in future iterations of the councils Medium Financial Plan.

- 7.2 The business cases will also require consideration to be given regarding the expectations of what can be achieved within the resources available, and it will be important to have clear list of priorities to ensure resources are maximised in delivery of the strategy. The recommendations to approve and adopt the playing strategy and all the accompanying recommendations set out n 4.6 of the report does not commit the council to delivering on all recommendations, moreover it outlines the councils' aspirations and priorities to deliver on the strategy.
- 7.3 The council's capital programme already includes a level of capital budget to deliver against some of the priorities but will not be sufficient for all of them. This budget is currently funded from corporate borrowing budgets and is included in the councils MTFP. Implementing the strategy will provide the clarity and a degree of certainty for external funding bids to be made and contribute to either reducing the financing costs associated with the existing capital budget or unlock further investment beyond that approved budget.
- 7.4 Monitoring of all revenue and capital budgets will be undertaken in line with the councils' financial regulations and procedures.

Name of finance officer consulted: Craig Garoghan Date consulted: (09/06/2025)

8. Legal implications

8.1 The Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 empowers local authorities to provide recreational facilities, and this report sets out the options as perceived by its consultants for furthering the provision of and securing specific sporting facilities for the future needs of the City. There are no direct legal implications arising from this report but if further contracts or projects arise as a result of adopting the recommendations in this report, the attendant legal implications will need to be considered.

Name of lawyer consulted: Katie Kam Date consulted (02/06/2025):

9. Risk implications

9.1 There is limited risk in the adoption of the strategy. There will be an expectation to work through the advisory action plan which the council are already implementing. This will be subject to project feasibilities, resource and budgets.

10. Equalities implications

10.1 The council seeks to provide a range of opportunities and provision for all residents to participate in sport and community activities across Brighton & Hove. The strategy has helped to identify the city's poor quality ancillary

- facilities as a key barrier to the growth of women, girls & disability participation and recommended future investment.
- 10.2 Future investment is proposed through the Pavilion Programme with objectives to increase accessibility and inclusivity to the council managed changing room facilities. Each capital project will consider feasible options to increase access to all on a site and project specific basis and follow industry guidance where achievable including Sport England's accessible and inclusive sports facilities design guidance. The Equality and Human Rights Commission Code of Practice for services, public functions and associations is currently being updated following the Supreme Court ruling on sex in relation to the Equality Act 2010. We will consider how to implement this to meet our statutory duties once this information is available.
- 10.3 The councils Community Asset Transfer Policy 2018 and associated Self Managed Sport Facilities appendix outlines that community group proposals for self management must include how under represented groups will be encouraged to use facilities.

11. Sustainability implications

11.1 The advisory action plan recommends investment in ancillary facilities including changing rooms and new artificial turf pitches which will have sustainability implicants. New and existing pitch improvements and developments will have their own site-specific sustainability implications that will need to be addressed on an individual basis to minimise and reduce environmental, biodiversity and flood risk impacts. Delivery of actions within the PPS will be aligned with the Council's approach to net zero and biodiversity.

12. Other Implications

Social Value and procurement implications

12.1. N/A

Crime & disorder implications:

12.2. N/A

Public health implications:

12.3. The adoption of the strategy will assist in the health and wellbeing of the public and support the council's Corporate Plan 2023-2027, Outcome 3 a healthy city where people thrive.

13. Conclusion

13.1 The adoption of the Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 – 2041 aims to create a sustainable and good quality community sports infrastructure that meets the

needs of the city's residents. By implementing the strategy's recommendations and action plan, the health and wellbeing of the community will be enhanced through improved access to playing pitch sports facilities.

Supporting Documentation

- 1. Appendices
- 1. Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 2041



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Abbreviations

3G Third Generation (artificial grass pitch)

AGP Artificial Grass Pitch ALS Active Lives Survey

B&HCC Brighton & Hove City Council

BACA Brighton Aldridge Community Academy

BC Borough Council
BME British Minority Ethnic

CC Cricket Club

CIL Community Infrastructure Levy

COE Church of England

CUA Community Use Agreement

DC District Council

ECB England and Wales Cricket Board

EH England Hockey
FA Football Association
FC Football Club
FL Football League
FTP Fine Turf Pitch (Cricket)

HC Hockey Club

IMD Indices of Multiple Deprivation

LA Local Authority
LED Light Emitting Diode
LFFP Local Football Facility Plan
LSOAs Lower Layer Super Output Areas

LPA Local Planning Agency
MES Match Equivalent Sessions
MUGAs Multi Use Games Areas
NGB National Governing Body

NPPF National Planning Policy Framework

NTP Non Turf Pitch (Cricket)

OHID Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

ONS Office of National Statistics
PQS Performance Quality Standard

PP PitchPower

PPC Playing Pitch Calculator **PPS** Playing Pitch Strategy RAG Red Amber Green Roman Catholic RC RFL Rugby Football League RFU Rugby Football Union **RFC** Rugby Football Club Sussex Cricket Foundation SCF SD Sand Dressed (Hockey)

SE South East S106 Section 106 U Under

WRC World Rugby Compliant



1. Introduction – Brief, Scope, Vision and Aims

1.1 Background

- a. Brighton & Hove City Council are committed to ensuring residents have sufficient access to high quality sport and leisure facilities. As part of the council's overall strategic planning for sport they commissioned Continuum Sport and Leisure to lead on the production of a new Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 2041 (PPS), replacing the previous 2016 PPS. Consistent with the previous strategy this PPS includes analysis and review of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability for the four primary playing pitch sports of Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby.
- b. The leading priorities set out in this study aim to complement the findings of the 2021 Sports Facilities Investment Plan and the 2024 'Let's Get Moving' physical activity and sport strategy provide a clear direction for improvements to the sport and physical activity infrastructure throughout the City.
- c. This strategy has been agreed by all the key playing pitch strategy National Governing Bodies (NGBs) of sport in partnership with Sport England. Each local 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 in a given area. The strategy document informs 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.
- d. The supply side information contained in the strategy is generated through standard facility audits used for all levels of facility from parks to elite sport, with findings then validated by the relevant NGB of that sport. The demand side information is generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as club and team data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. The council's Planning Policy, Healthy Lifestyles team, City Parks, and Leisure Contracts Service have provided context and a local perspective on the overarching vision and principles driving the strategy and the outcome objectives.
- e. 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, where they might be developed and the lead organisation to meet identified demand, address 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. 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 a 'snapshot' of 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 during the life of the strategy.
- f. When applying for funding to develop new facilities or improve current facilities, Sport England, NGBs, and most other funding organisations, require evidence of the current demand and supply of facilities in an area to justify the proposed project. This strategy developed and agreed in partnership with these same organisations is the document that provides this information on playing pitches and ancillary facilities and is vital to the success of any funding bid.
- g. Through the implementation of this strategy, the council has a leading role to play in enabling access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community. Rottingdean Parish Council, the only parish Council in the City, has a supporting role to play in the provision of casual



football pitches and community access park tennis courts. Although they are not directly responsible for the provision and maintenance of the pitches in their Parish Council, they provide support to the clubs in the area.

h. The council play a leading role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities.

1.2 Why the strategy has been developed

- a. 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 Brighton & Hove. 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 Brighton & Hove residents. The strategy will assist in establishing how to best meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of Brighton & Hove's community clubs, organisations, and residents, contributing to the priority of making the City of Brighton & Hove a better place to live and work.
- b. The council's main rationales for producing this updated strategy and associated action plan are detailed below:
 - To evaluate the current quantity, quality and accessibility (including disability, gender, youth etc) of playing pitches in Brighton & Hove
 - To assess the future needs of playing pitches over the plan period.
 - To provide a robust and up to date assessment of sports pitch provision in the City to assist with future City-wide development plans
 - To provide up to date strategic evidence of need in the prioritisation and implementation of playing pitch development projects.

1.3 Vision and key deliverables

- a. The vision for the Brighton & Hove Playing Pitch Strategy is to provide an assessment of the needs for playing pitches, management of public parks, and opportunities for new provision. The assessment should identify specific needs and quantitative and/ or qualitative deficits or surpluses of playing pitches across Brighton & Hove.
- b. The key deliverables of the Brighton & Hove Playing Pitch Strategy are as follows:
 - Assess current sport pitch provision by reviewing existing supply and demand through site audits and stakeholder consultation.
 - Identify future demands aligned to population growth, housing projections and strategic needs of sport, health and wellbeing outlined in the Local Development Plan.
 - Provide strategic sport by sport recommendations for improvements, maintenance, and development (Protect/ Enhance/ Provide).
 - Provide strategy recommendations with site specific action plans addressing key issues.
 - Identify supply and demand for facility type either changing rooms, toilets or clubhouse/ café.
 - Note specific locations for accessible, women and girls or youth demand for facilities.
 - Provide site prioritisation list for future enhancements or additional provisions required for BHCC community use pavilions.

1.4 The approach to developing the strategy

a. The strategy aims to be robust, based on local needs (currently and projections to 2041), 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.

Figure 1.1 - Ten stage approach to a PPS



- 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.
- b. This 10 step approach is split into 5 key stages of the strategy process. This report covers stages A D, with Stage E, the application, delivery, and renewal of the strategy, being the responsibility of the council, with support from the playing pitch NGBs, Sport England, and wider funding partners.
- c. In accordance with the national guidance for the development of playing pitch strategies, section 3 of the Brighton & Hove PPS sets out the findings of the assessment of needs for playing pitch facilities in the study area, both currently and in the future.
- d. 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 section 3 are fully robust.
- e. Section 4 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).
- f. The PPS scenarios considered have emerged from discussion with the members of the Brighton & Hove Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group and inform the policy recommendations (section 5) and action plan that follows in section 7.
- g. Strategy 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 2041.

National policy adherence

- h. There is also a need to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Para 103 of the NPPF 2024 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".
- i. 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.
- j. 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.

1.5 Tailoring the approach- Which sports to include?

- a. The council agreed that the playing pitch sports facilities to be included in the strategy are:
 - Football
 - Rugby (Union & League)
 - Cricket
 - Hockey
 - Other playing pitch sports
- b. Within these sports and facilities, 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.

1.6 Management and delivery

- a. The development of the strategy has been managed by the Brighton & Hove Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group. Internal stakeholders within the steering group include representatives from Brighton & Hove Council's Sport and Leisure, Parks, Sports Facilities, Public Health and Planning teams.
- b. The external stakeholders included in the Steering Group are made up of representatives from Sport England, Football Foundation, Sussex Football Association, England Rugby, England Hockey, Sussex Cricket Foundation, England & Wales Cricket Board, and Continuum Sport & Leisure Ltd, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendations and action plan.
- c. As part of the process the consultant team also consulted with the following other National Governing Bodies: Rugby Football League, and American Football.



Brighton & Hove City Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 – 2041

Section 2: The Study Area



2. The Study Area

2.1 The extent of the study area

a. The study area will cover the entirety of Brighton & Hove, as well as the University of Brighton and University of Sussex sport campuses which are located just outside of the city boundaries but are used by clubs and residents in the city. As an important part of the Strategy will be to identify future need for pitch provisions based on population growth and areas of housing growth as identified in the ongoing development of the new Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Throughout the strategy, the study area is split into East, Central, and West analysis areas to match with the split of the City in the previous 2016 Local Plan.

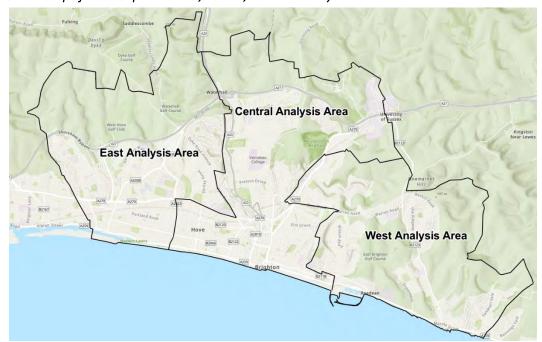


Figure 2.1 – Map of B&HCC split into East, Central, and West analysis sub-area

b. There are also sports teams from inside Brighton & Hove that use facilities outside the City boundary as well as teams from neighbouring local authority areas that use facilities in Brighton & Hove. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when considering future needs for each particular sport both in terms of specialist and strategic facilities that serve a sub-regional catchment area, and the local community sporting needs for Brighton & Hove residents

2.2 Tailoring the approach- What makes the study area different?

- a. In tailoring the approach, it is important to understand the following unique aspects of the area.
 - Brighton & Hove is largely urban in character, with a built-up seafront and City centre, but does include some areas of rural land, particularly in the north and east of the City.
 - 44% of the City is part of the South Downs National Park and is protected.
 - Brighton & Hove were reported to have the highest proportion of physically active residents of any local authority in the country¹.
 - The council is committed to helping to improve welfare and wellbeing, as demonstrated in the council's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (2019-2030). Sport has an important part to play in welfare and wellbeing, with access to sport facilities, and suitability of sports facilities for all

¹ Sport England Active Lives Adult Survey, November 22-23





- is an important consideration, including minority groups, those with disabilities, females and the older generation.
- Brighton & Hove City Council, Healthy Lifestyles team have set up a Club Development Network to ensure clubs have a direct line of contact with the Council, and vice versa. Other subgroups formed as part of 'Let's Get Moving' are: Children and Young People's Alliance, Active Ageing Alliance and Active Environments.

Population profile and growth

b. Any playing pitches or ancillary facilities which are developed from the study will need to meet the needs of Brighton & Hove's future populations as well as its current population. Figure 2.2 summarises the most up to date population projections which are available for Brighton & Hove. These projections are from 2022 to 2041 and demonstrates that Brighton & Hove's population is projected to grow by 4.5% from 2022 to 2041, this is lower than the national average of 7.1%. Although the projected population increase is lower than the national average, an increase of over 12,000 residents will greatly increase the demand for sport and recreation pitches in the City.

Figure 2.2 Population projection for Brighton & Hove 2022 – 2041 (B&HCC strategic housing market assessment)

	2022 Population	2041 Population	% increase
Brighton & Hove	280,187	292,683	4.5%
England*	57,282,105	61,353,965	7.1%

^{*} ONS population projections

Health

- c. It is useful to understand the health profile of Brighton & Hove both in regard to identifying health issues which new or improved facilities can contribute to addressing and with regards to understanding the propensity of a local population to be active. Brighton & Hove's Local Authority Health Profile (statistics ranging from 2019 to 2022) states that the health of residents is comparable to the national average.
- d. Figure 2.3 provides an overview of the performance of Brighton & Hove across several Department of Health key health indicators in comparison with regional and national averages. Where figures for Brighton & Hove are highlighted in red, they are worse than the national average, where they are highlighted green, they are better, and where they are orange, they are comparable. This shows that Brighton & Hove performs well in comparison to the national averages for both childhood and adult obesity rates and comparably for life expectancy.

Figure 2.3 Table of health indicators in Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, and England (OHID LA health profiles)

	Brighton & Hove	East Sussex	England
% Obese children (Year 6) (2023/24)	15.2	18.1	23.4
% Obese or Overweight adults (2022/23)	57.3	62.7	63.8
Life expectancy: male (2022)	79.2	79.1	79.3
Life expectancy: female (2022)	83.0	82.9	83.2
Under 75 mortality: all causes (2023)	347.1	342.7	341.6
Under 75 mortality: cardiovascular (2023)	60.5	65.6	77.4
Under 75 mortality: cancer (2023)	128.2	118.4	120.8



e. It is vital that there is a sufficient supply of good quality community playing pitches so they can help contribute to maintaining the positive indicators reported and improving poor health indicators. Sport England research has found that increased physical activity can help reduce the risk of developing a range of negative health risks, therefore providing ample supply of accessible, high-quality sports pitches is essential to protecting the health of Brighton & Hove residents.

Deprivation

- f. 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 sports facilities can also form an important element of the regeneration of deprived areas and provide more accessible opportunities for movement and physical activity. 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.
- g. Figure 2.4 illustrates Brighton & Hove's deprivation rank against other areas within the region for the years 2015 and 2019. As shown on the table, Brighton & Hove's deprivation rank has improved from 2015 to 2019 (where rank 1 is most deprived), signalling an improved state of deprivation in the area over the past 4 years. That being said, Brighton & Hove is the most deprived local authority of all surrounding local authorities.

Figure 2.4 Brighton & Hove and neighbouring areas deprivation rank (ONS English indices of deprivation 2019, ONS English indices of deprivation 2015)

	IMD 2015	IMD 2019
Brighton & Hove	109	140
Lewes	201	194
Mid Sussex	321	311
Adur	150	164
Worthing	172	174

h. Figure 2.5 shows a map of Brighton & Hove split up into analysis sub areas and Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) with different colours outlining their relative Index of Multiple Deprivation (The darker blue areas are the most deprived Local Super Output Areas, whilst light green are the least deprived). Understanding the most deprived areas of Brighton & Hove is helpful in knowing the neighbourhoods which may have the most difficulties accessing sport and leisure facilities due to their lack of resources. The most deprived areas on the map are within Hangleton and Knoll, Whitehawk, and Moulsecoomb. These are neighbourhoods to consider when looking at the development of sports facilities and initiatives to increase participation and accessibility.



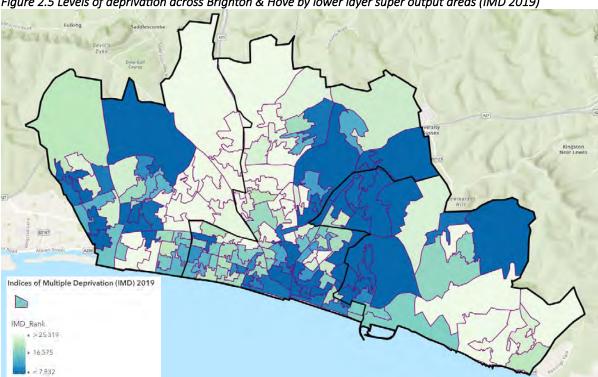


Figure 2.5 Levels of deprivation across Brighton & Hove by lower layer super output areas (IMD 2019)

How does the population participate?

- Sport England's Active Lives Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of physical activity and sports participation at a local authority, county, regional and national level. Active Lives measures a range of performance indicators including activity rates, indoor and outdoor activity, and satisfaction with local sports provision. Active Lives also provides analysis of activity across a range of demographics including, gender, deprivation levels and age.
- j. Figure 2.6 outlines the percentage of the population of Brighton & Hove, East Sussex, and Nationally who are physically active (150+ minutes per week), fairly active (30-149 minutes per week), and inactive (less than 30 minutes per week). The graph shows that Brighton & Hove reports significantly more active residents(79.0%) than the county average (66.2%) and national average (63.4%). An activity rate of 79.0% makes Brighton & Hove, the most active Local Authority in the country, suggests that residents in Brighton & Hove have a very high propensity for physical activity and are more active than all other local authorities in the region. Physical activity rates may increase following the development of new or improved playing pitches.

Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories) Nov 22-23 79.0% 80% 66.2% 70% 63.4% 60% 50% 40% 30% 25.7% 22.0% 20% 11.8% 11.1% 10.9% 10.0% 10% 0% Inactive: less than 30 minutes a week Fairly active: 30-149 minutes a week Active: at least 150 minutes a week

Figure 2.6 Activity levels in Brighton & Hove, East Sussex County Council and England 2022-23 (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)

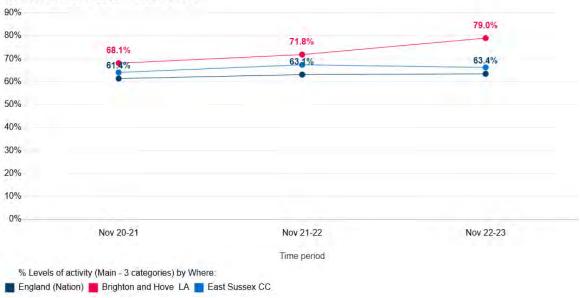
k. Figure 2.7 shows that Brighton & Hove reported a significant increase in physically active residents from November 2020-21 to 2022-23, recording a 10.9% increase in active adults, which is significantly greater than both county and national average. This suggests that there is an increased propensity to exercise and remain physically active in Brighton & Hove, which should be capitalised on in the Playing Pitch Strategy.

Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories)

% Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories) by Where:

■ England (Nation) ■ Brighton and Hove LA ■ East Sussex CC





I. Children's physical activity rates in Brighton & Hove have dropped below the regional and national average in the last year with the proportion of physically active children in area (43.2%) lower than the regional (48.2%) and national (47.8%) rates (figure 2.8).

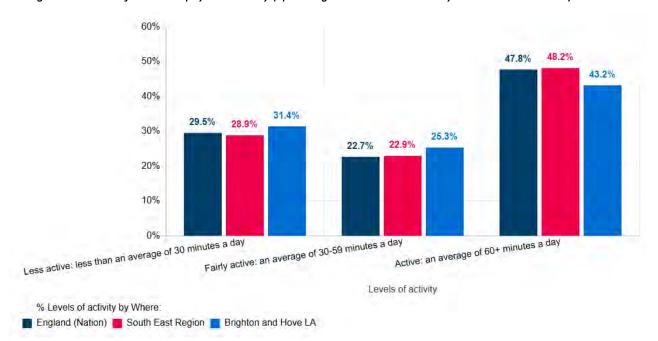
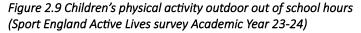
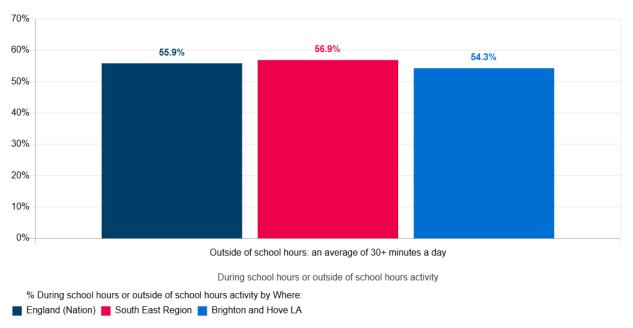


Figure 2.8 Levels of children's physical activity (Sport England Active Lives survey Academic Year 23-24)

m. The majority of children's physical activity outside of school hours in Brighton & Hove takes place outdoors at 54.3% (figure 2.9). This proportion is just below the rates in the South East Region (56.9%) and the national average (55.9%). This highlights the importance of providing and maintaining high quality community outdoor sports facilities, including playing pitches, in ensuring children can be physically active.





2.3 Trends in participation in pitch sports

- a. Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2024 and covering the 12 months from November 2022 to November 2023 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 recovered to pre covid levels and in some sports continuing to grow.
- b. **Football** recovered to pre covid levels of 4.4% in 2021/22 and has continued to grow to 4.6% in 2022/23, which is higher than levels previously recorded in 2017/18 at 4.5%. The highest level of participation recorded was in 2015/16 at 5.2% and 2016/17 at 5.0%. The FA's insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% per annum. Section 4 looks at a number of scenarios including (4.6) a significant increase in demand by an age group or sport.
- c. **Cricket** has declined slightly in the last year from 0.8% in 2022/23, its highest level of participation, to pre covid levels of 0.7%. Generally excluding 2019/20 and 2020/21 due to Covid, regular adult cricket participation has been consistent at 0.7%.
- d. **Rugby Union** has recovered to pre covid levels of 0.5% in 2022/2023 an increase from 0.4% in 2021/22. The highest level of participation recorded was in 2015/16 and 2016/17 at 0.6%.
- e. **Hockey** returned to pre covid levels of 0.3% in 2020/21 and has continued to grow to 0.4% in 2022/23, matching its highest level of participation previously recorded in 2015/16.
- f. In the eight years since the last update of the playing pitch strategy in Brighton & Hove, there has been significant changes in the local picture of both pitch supply and pitch demand including the successful delivery of a number of playing pitch project priorities identified.
- g. On the <u>supply</u> side, for **cricket** the level of fine turf provision remains the same, but there has been a reduction in the number of NTP's available for community use in the area. There are plans in place with Sussex cricket for the provision of 3 new NTP's to be provided for the City.
- h. For **football** there has been significant additional provision across the area with new full sized 3G AGPs at Hove Park School (2021), Patcham High School (2021), the University of Sussex (2019) and Portslade Sports Centre as well as a 70x31m 3G AGP at Hove Park (2018) with LED sports lighting installed in 2021. In addition, the AGPs at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, and the 60x40m 3G AGP at the University of Sussex have all been resurfaced. There are also 4 new small-sided 3G AGP's at Withdean Sports Complex and a full-size pitch at Cardinal Newman School being completed ready for the 24/25 season.
- i. There has been some change to grass **football** pitch provision with new youth grass pitches developed at Happy Valley Rec. ground, improvements to pitch maintenance at Aldrington Rec ground (Wish Park), Greenleas Rec ground, Happy Valley Rec ground and Nevill Playing Fields and at the time of reporting the youth pitches at Mile Oak Rec ground and one of the adult pitches at Nevill Playing Fields were being renovated.
- j. For the sport of **hockey**, the sports lighting at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre and both hockey pitches at Blatchington Mill School were upgraded in 2023 and 2024 respectively but there has been a loss of one full sized pitch in the area.
- k. For **rugby union** there are fewer senior grass pitches available across the area but improvements have been made to the two senior pitches at Hove Rugby Club to increase the carrying capacity of



the pitches. The 3G pitch at Brighton Rugby Club is no longer World Rugby Compliant (WRC), meaning no contact rugby can take place.

- I. With regard to <u>demand</u> for playing pitches, in the case of **cricket**, whilst there has been a decrease in the number of clubs in the area the number of teams have increased from 92 to 149 teams. The number of adult male teams have increased by 23 teams (a 52% increase), there are an additional 5 women's teams (+250%) and 7 mixed teams, a category not previously recorded in the last Playing Pitch Strategy. The number of youth teams has also grown with an additional 16 boy's teams (+40%) and 6 girl's teams (+100%).
- m. Football demand in the City has increased to 326 teams since the previous audit in 2016 when 260 affiliated teams were registered in the City, an increase of 66 teams. There has been a reduction in adult male teams (-12) and an increase in adult female teams (+19 teams, including small sided), youth football (+22) and mini soccer (+37) teams.
- n. With regard to **hockey**, Brighton & Hove HC is a large well established community club and they report a growth in playing membership.
- o. The community **rugby union** clubs in Brighton & Hove are well established and support large playing memberships and multiple teams. There has been a reduction in the number of adult male teams since 2016 but a large increase in the number of age grade teams (+ 11) and mixed mini squads (+12).



3 Findings and Facility Needs

- a. Detailed Assessment of Needs reports were undertaken for each of the 4 key playing pitch sports, which assessed the current supply, demand, and future needs for facilities across the City. These reports are summarised in this section, leading to conclusions on playing pitch needs. These reports (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 Report
 - Appendix B: Football- Assessment of Need Report
 - Appendix C: Hockey- Assessment of Need Report
 - Appendix D: Rugby- Assessment of Need Report
- b. 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 <u>current</u> 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?

3.1 Club consultation

a. To understand the current landscape of clubs in Brighton & Hove, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the playing pitch sports clubs in the City. 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. 51 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey. Figure 3.1 below shows the team response rate for affiliated clubs of each key playing pitch sport identified in the strategy brief.

Figure 3.1 Team response rate for affiliated clubs of each steering group sport

Sport	Response rate
Football	83%
Rugby Union	100%
Hockey	100%
Cricket	95%

- b. The club survey also received responses from wider playing pitch sports clubs, including:
 - American Football
 - Australian Rules Football
 - Baseball
 - Outdoor Fitness and Training
 - Gaelic Football
 - Rugby League
 - Softball
- c. A summary of findings from the club consultation process is provided in figure 3.2 below.



Figure 3.2 Summary of the club survey findings

Statement	% of total club	Impact and considerations
	responses	
The club has more teams	62.75%	Two thirds of clubs report an increase in active
or active members than 3		members, suggesting a significant increase in demand
years / seasons ago		for pitches and ancillary facilities over the last 3 years.
The club have plans to	86.00%	Nearly all of the clubs surveyed have plans to increase
grow in the next 3		their number of teams or members over the next 3
seasons		years, which could further increase demand for pitches
		and ancillary facilities.
The current facilities are	61.22%	There is a need for further facilities to support club
not sufficient to meet		training. This may include additional floodlit pitch
demand for the club's		provision, AGP availability, or practice facilities such as
training		cricket nets.
The current facilities are	54.90%	More than half the surveyed clubs do not have sufficient
not sufficient to meet		access to pitches to meet their demand for matches.
demand for the club's		
match play		
There is a need to change	89.90%	Almost 90% of clubs feel they need to improve or change
or improve the playing		their playing pitches to sustain or grow their club,
pitch facilities used by the		suggesting the growth of community sport in Brighton &
club to sustain or grow		Hove may be stunted if playing pitch facilities aren't
the club		supported.
There is a need to change	75.00%	Three quarters of clubs feel that their supporting
or improve the clubhouse		facilities aren't suitable to sustain or grow the club.
and/or changing room		These ancillary facilities are important for providing
facilities used by the club		inclusive, safe, sports facilities for all.
to sustain or grow the		
club		
The club rate the playing	67.35%	Over two thirds of clubs believe the quality of playing
pitch facilities as 'average'		pitch facilities are either 'average' or worse quality,
quality or worse		suggesting that improvements to maintenance and
		programming may be needed.

3.2 Changes since the last strategy

Clubs and teams

- a. In terms of expressed demand, the main changes since the last assessment is the continued growth in playing pitch sports at community sports clubs by children (including girls, most particularly in the younger age groups) at the City's leading cricket, football, hockey and rugby clubs. There has also been an increase in demand among adults for opportunities to play pitch sports recreationally outside the traditional sports club model, including participation in less formal small-sided games and shorter formats.
- b. In terms of sports clubs and teams, the current picture of demand in the City in comparison with the position in 2016 is shown in figure 3.4 below. All the pitch sports have seen growth in overall numbers and diversity of teams although several of the smaller football and cricket clubs have folded (some due to the pandemic) and there has been a fall in the number of adult men's teams in football and rugby. Cricket has seen a growth across all formats of the game and hockey has seen growth in adult and youth girls teams. The fall in adult men's teams is outstripped by growth in women and girls and mixed provision in football and rugby.

Figure 3.4 – Community demand for pitches and sites

	Teams						
	2016 2024 Change						
	Mens / Mixed	44	74	+30			
Cricket	Womens	2	7	+5			
Cricket	Youth Boys / Mixed	40	56	+16			
	Youth Girls	6	12	+6			
	Mens / Mixed	83	71	-12			
Football	Womens	5	24	+19			
FOOLDAII	Youth Boys / Mixed	108	104	-4			
	Youth Girls	13	39	+26			
	Mens / Mixed	8	13	+5			
Hockey*	Womens	6	13	+7			
Поскеу	Youth Boys / Mixed**	5	5	0			
	Youth Girls**	4	5	+1			
	Mens / Mixed	12	7	-5			
Pughy	Womens	1	2	+1			
Rugby	Youth Boys / Mixed	11	20	+9			
	Youth Girls	1	3	+2			

		Clubs					
	2016	2016 2024 Change					
Cricket	25	17	-8				
Football	83	65	-18				
Hockey	3	3	0				
Rugby	2	2	0				

Playing pitches

c. The number of playing pitch sites and playing pitches in Brighton & Hove available for community use- both in 2024 and in 2016 (the season the needs assessment was carried out for the previous PPS)- are set out in figure 3.5 below for each pitch type (natural turf and artificial turf) and for each of the major playing pitch sports for which there is a current demand in the City.



^{* 310} junior members

^{**} Based on club survey responses

Figure 3.5 – Supply of community pitches and sites

	No. of	sites	No. of pitches		
	2024	2016	2024	2016	
Cricket fine turf	12	12	14	14	
Cricket NTP	9	14	10	17	
Football grass	42	63	101	106	
Football AGP*	16	8	21	8	
Hockey AGP **	3	4	4	5	
Rugby grass	7	12	11	17	
Rugby AGP	1	1	1	1	

^{*}includes small sided provision including new pitches at Withdean Sports Complex (4x small sided).

- d. The most significant changes in playing pitch supply in the City over the last eight years include the significant additional provision across the area of new full sized 3G AGPs at Hove Park School (2021), Patcham High School (2021), University of Sussex (2019), Portslade Sports Centre (2019), a 70x31m 3G AGP at Hove Park (2018) as well as 4 new small-sided 3G AGP's at Withdean Sports Complex and a full-size pitch at Cardinal Newman School being completed ready for the 24/25 season.
- e. There has been grass pitch improvements made to a number of football sites (Aldrington Rec ground (Wish Park), Greenleas Rec ground, Happy Valley Rec ground, Nevill Playing Fields, Mile Oak Rec ground) and the two senior pitches at Hove Rugby Club which will help to increase the carrying capacity of the pitches.
- f. The 3G pitch at Brighton Rugby Club is no longer World Rugby Compliant, meaning no contact rugby can take place and there has been a reduction in the number of rugby grass pitches available for community use.

3.3 Current supply

Natural turf pitches

a. The sites with natural turf playing pitches in Brighton & Hove are listed in figure 3.6 and figure 3.7 and shows the distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites across the City.



^{**}only pitches large enough for match play counted.

Figure 3.6 Natural turf playing pitches with community use in Brighton & Hove.

No	Site name	Postcode	Sport(s)
1	ALDRINGTON RECREATION GROUND (WISH PARK)	BN3 4LN	Football, Cricket
2	BALFOUR JUNIOR SCHOOL	BN1 6NE	Football
3	BENFIELD VALLEY RECREATION GROUND	BN3 7GE	Football, Cricket
4	BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL	BN3 7BW	Football
5	BRAYPOOL RECREATION GROUND	BN1 8ZH	Football, Cricket
6	BRIGHTON ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY	BN1 9PW	Football, Cricket
7	BRIGHTON FOOTBALL RUGBY CLUB	BN1 8YR	Rugby
	BRIGHTON HOVE & SUSSEX SIXTH FORM COLLEGE		
8	SPORTS CENTRE	BN2 5UA	Rugby
9	CARDEN PARK	BN3 6EG	Football
10	COTTESMORE ST. MARY'S RC PRIMARY SCHOOL	BN3 6ND	Football
11	DYKE ROAD PARK	BN1 5AS	Football
12	EAST BRIGHTON PARK	BN2 5TS	Football, Cricket
13	EASTHILL PARK	BN41 2FA	Football
14	GREENLEAS	BN3 8AN	Football
15	HAPPY VALLEY RECREATION GROUND	BN2 6LA	Football
16	HERTFORD JUNIOR SCHOOL	BN1 7FP	Football
17	HILL PARK	BN2 8HJ	Football
18	HOLLINGBURY PARK (BRENTWOOD ROAD)	BN1 7EX	Football
19	HORSDEAN RECREATION GROUND	BN1 8UA	Football, Cricket
20	HOVE PARK	BN3 6BG	Football
21	HOVE PARK SCHOOL- NEVILL CAMPUS	BN3 7BN	Football
22	HOVE PARK SCHOOL- VALLEY CAMPUS	BN3 8AD	Football, Cricket
23	HOVE RECREATION GROUND	BN3 6LL	Cricket, Rugby
24	KNOLL PARK	BN3 7JG	Football
25	LONGHILL SPORTS CENTRE	BN2 7FR	Football
26	MILE OAK RECREATION GROUND	BN41 2WF	Football
27	NEVILL PLAYING FIELDS	BN3 7QD	Football, Cricket
28	NUFFIELD PLAYING FIELDS	BN2 6DX	Football
29	PATCHAM JUNIOR SCHOOL	BN1 8PB	Football
30	PATCHAM PLACE RECREATION GROUND	BN1 8ZF	Football, Cricket
31	PORTSLADE ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY	BN41 2WS	Football
32	PRESTON PARK	BN1 6SD	Football, Cricket
33	ROTTINGDEAN CRICKET & FOOTBALL CLUB	BN2 7DA	Football, Cricket
34	ROTTINGDEAN RECREATION GROUND	BN2 7DA	Football
35	SOUTHWICK HILL REC GROUND	BN42 4QU	Football
36	ST BERNADETTE CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL	BN1 6UT	Football
37	THE CREW CLUB	BN2 5QW	Football
38	THE MANOR ROAD GYM	BN2 5EA	Football
39	UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON	BN1 9PH	Cricket, Rugby
40	UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX	BN1 9PL	Football, Cricket
41	VARNDEAN HIGH SCHOOL	BN1 6NP	Football, Cricket
42	VICTORIA RECREATION GROUND	BN41 1UB	Football
43	WATERHALL SPORTS GROUND	BN1 8YR	Football, Rugby
44	WHITEHAWK FOOTBALL CLUB (THE ENCLOSED GROUND)	BN2 5TS	Football
45	WILD PARK	BN1 9JS	Football
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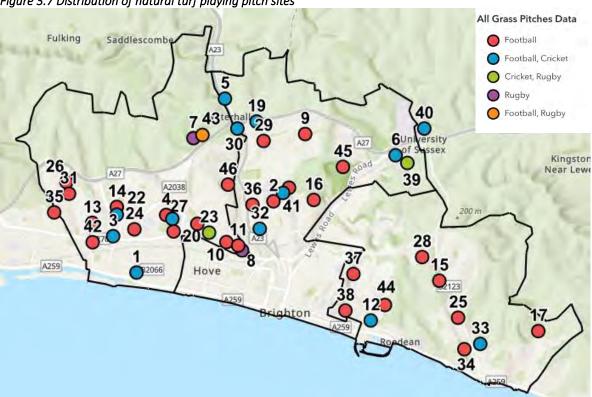


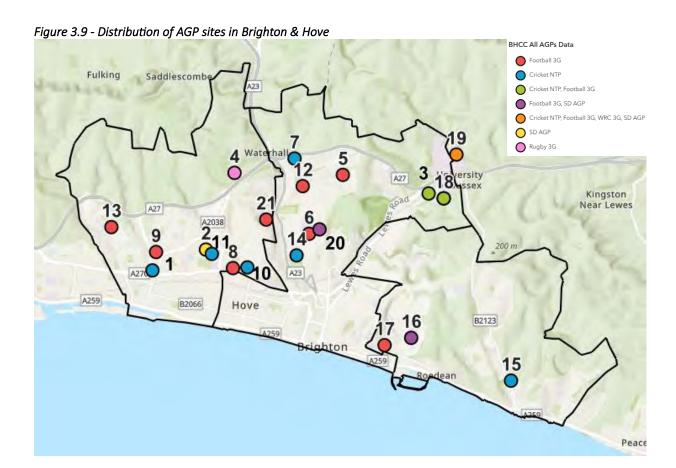
Figure 3.7 Distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites

Artificial turf playing pitches

a. Sites in Brighton & Hove with artificial grass playing pitches (and the sports the sites provide for) are listed in Figure 3.8. The locations of these artificial pitches showing their distribution throughout the City are in Figure 3.9. 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 cricket and for recreation level adult cricket and practice.

Figure 3.8 – Artificial Turf Playing Pitches with community use in Brighton & Hove

No	Site Name	Post Code	Sports / Facility Type
1	BENFIELD VALLEY RECREATION GROUND	BN3 7GE	Cricket NTP
2	BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL	BN3 7BW	SD AGP
3	BRIGHTON ALDRIDGE COMMUNITY ACADEMY	BN1 9PW	Cricket NTP, Football 3G
4	BRIGHTON FOOTBALL RUGBY CLUB	BN1 8YR	Rugby 3G (not WRC)
5	CARDINAL NEWMAN CATHOLIC SCHOOL	BN1 8LU	Football 3G
6	DOROTHY STRINGER SCHOOL	BN1 6PZ	Football 3G
7	HORSDEAN RECREATION GROUND	BN1 8UA	Cricket NTP
8	HOVE PARK	BN3 6BG	Football 3G
9	HOVE PARK SCHOOL- VALLEY CAMPUS	BN3 8AD	Football 3G
10	HOVE RECREATION GROUND	BN3 6LL	Cricket NTP
11	NEVILL PLAYING FIELDS	BN3 7QD	Cricket NTP
12	PATCHAM HIGH SCHOOL	BN1 8PB	Football 3G
13	PORTSLADE SPORTS CENTRE	BN41 2WS	Football 3G
14	PRESTON PARK	BN1 6SD	Cricket NTP
15	ROTTINGDEAN CRICKET & FOOTBALL CLUB	BN2 7DA	Cricket NTP
16	STANLEY DEASON LEISURE CENTRE	BN2 5PB	Football 3G, SD AGP
17	THE MANOR ROAD GYM	BN2 5EA	Football 3G
18	UNIVERSITY OF BRIGHTON	BN1 9PH	Cricket NTP, Football 3G
19	UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX	BN1 9PL	Cricket NTP, Football 3G, WRC 3G, SD AGP
20	VARNDEAN SCHOOL	BN1 6NP	Football 3G, SD AGP
21	WITHDEAN SPORTS COMPLEX	BN1 5JD	Football 3G



3.4 Is there enough provision for current demand?

- a. Cricket No. The assessment of facility needs shows that the majority of fine turf pitches in the City are either over played or used to capacity, despite a number of sites having NTPs to support fine turf capacity. Many of the larger clubs utilise secondary sites to ensure all their teams have pitches at the weekends, with Portslade CC, Rottingdean CC, St Peters CC, and Brighton & Hove CC all using secondary sites to supplement the facilities at their main site. Many council owned sites are shared between clubs with 2 or 3 clubs regularly playing matches at the sites. There are 2 sites under capacity which may be able to cater for some of this demand, as well as NTP's and grass pitches on education sites which are not used.
- **b.** Overall, the cricket clubs in Brighton & Hove benefit from good security of access on their home grounds, however Palmers CC are reliant on a 5-year rolling agreement and Portslade CC's lease on Benfield Valley Recreation Ground is expiring in 2026.
- c. Football No. A number of playing field sites in Brighton & Hove have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for large youth clubs with a number of teams and a limited number of pitches. The sites with large youth clubs that are overplayed are:
 - Braypool Recreation Ground Hollingbury Hawks (also used by Sussex Sunday League)
 - Hill Park Saltdean United FC
 - Nevill Playing Fields Various youth clubs
 - Nuffield Playing Felds Woodingdean Wanderers
 - Waterhall Sports Ground- Hollingbury Hawks (also used by Sussex Sunday League)
 - Wild Park Coldean Colts



- **d.** There is no spare capacity for adult 11v11, youth 11v11, or youth 9v9 pitches in the peak period based on discounting poor quality pitches and those that are unsecured from the supply. These pitches are discounted as they are less attractive to clubs due to their quality and uncertainty over long term community access. There is sufficient spare pitch capacity currently for Mini Soccer (7v7 and 5v5 pitches).
- e. There are shortfalls in provision of floodlit 3G pitches to meet training demand. There are several clubs who travel outside of the area for training or use sand-based pitches or grass areas for training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand. The FA training scenario suggests one full sized floodlit 3G AGP can accommodate the training demand from 38 teams, based on this there is a shortfall in <u>current</u> supply, with investment needed in the provision of one more full size equivalent 3G football AGPs across the area. This should be strategically located in the East of the City to support the larger youth clubs enabling them to meet the needs of their teams for training and matches.
- f. Hockey No. Although there is capacity at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, the playing surface is in poor condition and needs resurfacing. This limits the amount of play it can receive and its attractiveness to community clubs to use for matches with clubs preferring to play elsewhere. Other sites are at capacity for matches, requiring careful scheduling to accommodate all fixtures.
- g. Rugby No. Overall, the rugby pitches in Brighton & Hove are over-used and cannot sustain the current demand for training and matches. The two clubs (Brighton RFC and Hove RFC) manage the quality of their pitches through careful operational management and are often required to cancel training and matches to protect the pitches for future use.
- h. This is particularly problematic for Hove RFC at Hove Recreation Ground as the pitches on site are particularly overused, especially the two training pitches. Whilst the pitches at Brighton RFC are overused, this is to a lesser extent as non-contact training can take place on their 3G pitch. Should this pitch be resurfaced and made World Rugby Compliant (WRC) again, this would further reduce the over play on their grass pitches. The WRC 3G pitch at the University of Sussex is good quality, however, it hosts limited community use due to the amount of student sport it accommodates. There is some spare capacity at the site, however not enough to satisfy the training demands of either club. The 3G pitch developed at Cardinal Newman School during the course of this study is proposed to be suitable for rugby, subject to testing. This would be an ideal location to absorb some training demand from Hove RFC, being less than a mile from the club. Additional capacity could also be accommodated by exploring regular community access to education sites across the City which are within suitable catchment of each club, including:
 - Dorothy Stringer School
 - Hove Park School Nevill Campus
 - Varndean High School
 - Cardinal Newman School
- i. All of these schools listed above are within a 10-minute driving catchment of at least one of Brighton RFC or Hove RFC and have rugby pitches which are not currently used by community groups. If community use was secured at all the schools listed, an additional 5 grass pitches could be added to the supply of community rugby pitches.
- **j.** Both clubs have secure use of their sites, with long term leases in place at both Hove Recreation Ground (80+ years) and Brighton RFC (90+ years), although only the pavilion is covered under the lease at Brighton RFC with the pitches being under annual license.



3.4 Is the provision of sufficient quality?

- a. Cricket No. The club managed fine turf cricket pitches across the City are mostly maintained to a 'good' level, whereas the council managed pitches were mostly rated as 'standard' or 'poor' leaving some opportunities to improve pitch quality thereby increasing playing capacity. Opportunity to secure ECB funding for pitch quality improvement on shared football/cricket sites is available under the new joint FA/ECB PitchPower initiative. This funding would support the required improvement to the maintenance regime of council owned pitches. As highlighted above, many clubs use council owned pitches as secondary sites, often with multiple clubs playing regularly on the pitches. The high level of usage on the pitches may be a contributing factor to the generally 'poor' or 'standard' quality, suggesting that the scheduling of matches and allocation of secondary sites should be investigated.
- b. There are some NTPs which have lost community use due to their poor condition (ie University of Brighton and Longhill Sports Centre), but those NTP wickets which are available for community use are generally good quality. The non-turf practice net systems are in good or standard condition with only the nets at the University of Sussex in need of upgrading.
- c. Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at a number of sites, where the current provision is inadequate or failing into disrepair. These sites are:
 - Braypool Recreation Ground
 - Preston Park (Cricket Pavilion)
 - Patcham Place Recreation Ground (permanently closed)
- d. Football No. The majority of AGPs in the area are good quality, with newly laid playing surfaces, however two are poor and no longer meet FA standards, requiring resurfacing (Brighton RFC and the University of Brighton. A number of grass pitches (21%) are of poor quality and suffer 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. It is noted that due to the pressure which the council budget is under, this may not be possible for all sites. The council should consider exploring options of alternative management models for sites, such as asset transfers or support from volunteers, in order to improve the quality of sites and mitigate budget restrictions.
- e. The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the recent Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at the sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes with club sites with secure usage potentially being supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.
- f. The ancillary facilities supporting community club football across the City are generally poor quality with several sites needing improvement. The facilities at Patcham Place Recreation Ground and Waterhall Sports Ground are currently closed due to vandalism and damage, the facilities at Easthill Park are also closed. There were ongoing works to the ancillary facilities at Hill Park during site visits, as part of the improvements undertaken by Saltdean United FC. There is a lack of basic changing or toilet facilities at Hollingbury Park (Brentwood Road) and a further three sites (listed below) only have public toilets available with no changing or shelter for matches. This limits their usage, particularly by women and girls' teams and ideally dedicated toilet provision and some shelter should be provided at each site.



- Southwick Hill Recreation Ground
- Rottingdean Recreation Ground
- Wild Park
- g. Improvements to the current provision is also needed at the following sites to modernise facilities and make them fit for purpose to accommodate women and girls and provide disability access:
 - Aldrington Recreation Ground (Wish Park)
 - Braypool Recreation Ground
 - Greanleas Recreation Ground
 - Happy Valley
 - Nuffield playing Fields
 - Victoria Recreation Ground
- h. **Hockey No.** The playing surfaces on the artificial grass pitches at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre and University of Sussex are of poor quality and need resurfacing. The pitches at Blatchington Mill School will also require resurfacing in 2-3 years time and should have an independent assessment now to confirm the pitch conditions and timescales for resurfacing.
- i. The clubhouse and changing facilities at Blatchington Mill School, the home site for Brighton & Hove HC, are poor and in need of improvement. The school support proposals for a new clubhouse and changing rooms but is dependent on the club lease being extended beyond its current duration.
- j. Rugby No. Drainage to half of the city's naturally drained rugby pitches available for community rugby is classified as 'inadequate' with only two pitches having engineered drainage systems in place (Hove Recreation Ground). The maintenance regimes of pitches are generally 'Poor' with 6 of the 10 pitches being maintained to a 'Poor' standard. Hove RFC are currently accessing Football Foundation funding to improve their pitch maintenance having undertaken Pitch Power Assessments which rated all pitches as 'Basic'. Whilst more investment in pitch maintenance has potential to deliver quality improvement (and thereby increase playing capacity by reducing cancellations), this is challenging in the current financial climate and the pressures on local authority and sports club budgets.
- k. If the necessary funding could be secured, the installation of engineered drainage to the pitches would be beneficial. Installing pipe drainage to an adequately maintained pitch would increase its playing capacity by 0.5 'Match Equivalent Sessions' (MES) each week, whilst a more sophisticated pipe & slit drainage system would increase the weekly playing capacity of each pitch by one full MES.
- I. The 3G pitch at Brighton RFC was previously WRC and suitable for contact rugby to be played, being utilised for matches by the 1st and 2nd teams. However, the surface is now no longer WRC due to the poor quality of the surface and cannot be used for any contact training or matches. The club currently use the pitch for non-contact training. Resurfacing this pitch and maintaining it to a good quality would allow the club to significantly reduce the overplay of their grass pitches for both training and match play.

3.5 Future supply and demand

- a. **Planned new supply** On the future supply side, there are committed projects (or current planning applications) for new and enhanced playing pitch provision in the City which, taken together, will address much of the current need for additional playing pitch capacity. These 'pipeline' projects are:
 - **Hill Park** Saltdean United FC are currently developing a new 3G stadia pitch, replacing their current stadia grass pitch, alongside wider ancillary projects.



- Toads Hole Valley A new full size 3G pitch has been proposed as part of a housing development in the area.
- Moulsecoomb B&HCC are working to develop a 7v7 3G pitch with WRC surface in the area. Although this pitch would be too small to meet demands for rugby matches, it could absorb some training demand.
- Longhill Sports Centre The sports centre is exploring options to develop a full size 3G pitch with WRC surface.
- St Andrew CE Primary School The school have been granted planning permission for a new 3G pitch.
- Varndean College The school have been granted planning permission for a new 3G pitch.
- Aldrington Recreation Ground (Wish Park) The council are seeking to develop a new cricket NTP at the site, creating a new pitch, subject to planning.
- **Braypool Recreation Ground-** The council are seeking to develop a new cricket NTP at the site, creating a new pitch.
- East Brighton Park- The council are seeking to develop a new cricket NTP at the site, extending the current pitch
- b. **Population growth-** In terms of estimating <u>future</u> demand for community playing pitches, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth (+12,477) people resident in Brighton & Hove City by 2041²), application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool indicates a potential need to secure more playing pitch capacity. This additional capacity will need to be achieved through a combination of investment in new provision, enhancement of existing pitches and negotiating and securing more community access to existing and any planned new school and college playing pitches.
- c. As football is the most popular pitch sport, the additional demand for football pitches generated by the impact of population growth will be by far the largest. The PPC indicates there will be a requirement to provide an additional 7 natural turf pitches (+2 adult football pitches, +4 youth football pitches and +1 mini soccer pitches) plus around 14 additional weekly training slots on a 3G artificial pitch, equivalent to 0.35 additional full size floodlit AGPs.
- d. Population growth will also create need for additional playing pitch capacity for cricket, rugby and hockey although at a much lower level than for football (see Figure 3.10).

Figure 3.10 – Additional capacity needed by 2041- Population change only: Sport England playing pitch calculator planning tool

Sport and pitch type	Additional capacity needed by 2041 (pitches) due to forecast population growth (i.e. assuming static demand)
Cricket – fine turf	+ 1 (12 wickets of good quality)
Football – grass	+ 7 (1 mini; 4 youth; 2 adult)
Football – 3G AGP	+ 0.35
Hockey – sand/water AGP	+ 0.15
Rugby	+1

e. In considering future playing pitch capacity needs, it is important to note that the run of the Playing Pitch Calculator shown in figure 3.10 above that this additional capacity does not account for improvements made to existing provision, which could increase the capacity of pitches and reduce

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² Population change from 2022 to 2041 based on B&HCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment

the need for new pitches. The calculation also assumes 'static demand' i.e., the proportion of the population by age group and gender that currently play pitch sports stays the same.

- f. Recent trends suggest further growth in demand to play rugby, football and cricket among women and girls stimulated by recent successes of the national teams, the hosting and winning 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, of which Brighton & Hove is one of the host Cities, together with recently announced changes to physical education policy and practice in schools aimed at equal opportunities for girls. Football is the playing pitch sport where demand increase is likely to be the greatest and have the most impact on future playing pitch needs. England Hockey have a strategic focus on 5-11 years and will be hosting the EuroHockey Championships in 2027 which is likely to increase demand.
- g. For this reason, it is recommended that, for the purposes of facility planning, the PPC estimates in figure 3.10 should be considered as the <u>minimum</u> future requirement for new playing pitch capacity that is likely to result from population growth to 2041. Scenarios to illustrate the impact on the future pitch needs of a large scale increase in demand in women's and girl's rugby, football, cricket and hockey are explored in section 4 of this study (using Sports England's Playing Pitch Calculator). Actual growth should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth or participation growth scenarios outlined in section 4 are proving to be accurate. Future needs should be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure facilities are planned accordingly.
- h. A further key consideration in the assessment of future playing pitch needs is the extent to which the clubs based in the City deliver on their development aspirations. Research and consultation for this strategy has found that a significant number of playing pitch sports clubs in the area 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 provided that required pitch capacity can be secured along with the additional volunteer coaches/ team managers needed to run the additional teams and activities.

3.6 Is there enough provision to meet future demand?

- a. The clear conclusion of the assessments of need for playing pitches in Brighton & Hove is that, by 2041, there will be a need to provide additional playing and training capacity for all four major playing pitch sports.
- b. Cricket No. There is not sufficient accessible and secured community use provision in the City to meet future demand. There is a need for a minimum of 12 additional good quality grass wickets in the area, which could be met satisfied by developing 1 large square (12 wickets) or 2 smaller square (2x 6 wickets). Due to the lack of space in Brighton & Hove however, the planned new supply detailed above (see para 3.5a), to develop an additional 3 NTP wickets across Aldrington Recreation Ground (Wish Park), Braypool Recreation Ground, and East Brighton Park will be able to contribute toward meeting this demand and provide new standalone pitches at both Aldrington Recreation Ground and Braypool Recreation Ground, subject to planning. These NTPs, whilst a positive addition to the supply, will not however address the full demand and growth projections for cricket in Brighton & Hove.



- c. To provide further capacity, the council should seek to explore options for community use at the 4 education sites which currently do not have community use (Brighton College, Lancing College Preparatory School, Roedean School, and Mile Oak Primary School).
- d. In relation to meeting demand, pitches rated as poor quality are deemed to not have any capacity for cricket by the ECB, so it is important that the square at Patcham Place is improved to at least standard quality. For those pitches that are standard quality there is some scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches used by cricket clubs and teams based in Brighton & Hove, but these are mainly council sites and would require an increase in maintenance budget which is already under significant pressure due to the wider budget pressures on local authorities.
- e. PitchPower (and ECB funding) is available to cricket clubs as of April 2024, providing potential for joint PitchPower and Football Foundation projects for sites with both football and cricket facilities. This could open an avenue to increased capacity and quality at joint sports sites such as Braypool Recreation Ground, Horsdean Recreation Ground and Rottingdean Cricket and Football Club which are used at or above capacity.
- f. There are also opportunities to increase the utilisation of council owned sites which are currently used by community clubs. East Brighton Park currently has a total surplus of 40 MES, which will be further increased should the council realise their proposed development of an additional NTP on the site. There are some limitations to the amount of peak period use the pitch can receive as, despite having 24 grass wickets, there is only 1 pitch which limits the pitch to one match at a time.
- g. Investment into pavilions is required in the area including new or refurbished provision at many sites across the City. Clubs have noted that their current facilities are either not suitable for women's and girl's teams or are insufficient for any further growth of the club. Many pavilions were rated 'Poor' and have been included as projects in the action plan (section 7) including those at:
 - Aldrington Recreation Ground (Wish Park)
 - Braypool Recreation Ground
 - Patcham Place Recreation Ground Currently closed
 - Preston Park (Cricket Pavilion)
- h. The key pavilion projects across all sports are highlighted in Section 7 of this strategy in the Action Plan to assist the council in prioritising the leading pavilion projects and those which will have the most positive impact on community sports.
- i. **Football No.** By 2041 additional grass pitches and artificial pitches will need to be developed to address forecast population growth, unmet and latent demand identified by clubs.
- j. To continue to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces and meet the needs of clubs and players for improved facilities further secured provision of 3G AGP pitches is needed. Investment in at least 1 additional full-size FA registered floodlit 3G AGP's is needed to cater for current demand plus an additional 0.35 full sized pitch equivalent for the demand generated by future population growth. This totals a need for 1.35 full sized 3G FTPs in the City, equivalent to 1 full size AGP and a 7v7 AGP. There are already proposals to deliver 2 new full-sized pitches at Saltdean FC (East) and Toad Hole Valley (Central), and a small pitch (60x40m) at Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre (East), which would meet this demand. The council should also engage with the stakeholders managing and operating 3G pitches which are in a poor condition to encourage and support them in resurfacing their facilities.



- k. Additional natural turf pitches are needed for adult 11v11, youth 11v11 and youth 9v9 for match play by 2041 in light of the scale of forecast population growth and demand. Given the lack of space within the City to provide further grass pitches the council should look to improve the quality of pitches in the area to provide additional capacity, consider reconfiguring spare 7v7, 5v5 pitches to accommodate larger pitch sizes, investigate options to increase community use on education sites in the area, or consider the development of additional 3G AGP's to cater for this shortfall.
- I. Transferring match play onto 3G pitches should also be explored at sites where there is capacity to accommodate this as well as making improvements to pitch quality on key grass football sites to increase capacity, such as Braypool Recreation Ground and Wild Park.
- m. Ongoing assessments of team generation rates in line with population growth should be completed due to the high rates of year-on-year growth found by the FA insights. This will ensure that pitch requirement figures can be updated in line with concurrent data.
- n. **Hockey No.** There is spare capacity at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, but the facility needs to be resurfaced to be of sufficient quality to accommodate future demand. The location of the pitch in relation to the current clubs is not ideal but is within Sport England's recommended minimum drive time of 20 minutes. There are no other sites within the City which have surplus match capacity, with clubs having to carefully plan schedules to meet the current level of match and training demand.
- o. The majority of current supply is secured, with Brighton & Hove HC co-owning the facility at Blatchington Mill School, with a lease agreement in place with 8 years remaining. Stanley Deason Leisure Centre is council owned and secure, however the University of Sussex does not have a Community Use Agreement in place and this should be secured as part of any future resurface of the pitch. Southwick HC also has no security of tenure on their current facility just outside of the City in Steyning, should they be displaced from this site then there would be further demand on the facilities in the area.
- p. Improvements to changing provision is needed at Blatchington Mill School and the council support proposals to develop a new clubhouse with changing rooms, but this is dependent on the school extending the clubs lease past its current 8 years and sufficient funding being sourced by the club and school.
- q. **Rugby No.** There is currently insufficient provision for rugby to meet future demand. Improvement to the maintenance and drainage at all pitches would increase the number of match equivalent sessions in the City, but this is likely to be difficult due to the pressures on council and club budgets and would still not bring all the pitches within their carrying capacity due to amount of training demand.
- r. Additional capacity could also be accommodated by exploring regular community access to the pitches at Dorothy Stringer School (1), Hove Park School (1), University of Sussex (2), Brighton College (1), Varndean High School (1), and Cardinal Newman Catholic School (2).
- s. The current capacity deficit in Brighton & Hove is 12 MES including training sessions. To accommodate this on natural turf pitches (assuming adequate natural drainage and adequate maintenance) would require 6 natural turf pitches. Due to the lack of alternative green space which would be suitable for developing additional grass pitches, this demand may be reduced by considering enhanced maintenance and drainage of current rugby pitches.
- t. The overuse of grass pitches is mainly due to the level of training demand. Whilst Brighton RFC currently use their 3G pitch for non-contact training, there is a need for this pitch to be resurfaced



in order to comply with World Rugby regulations. If resurfaced and certified for contact rugby, it could accommodate some of the clubs training demand and match demand. This is a priority project for the area, ensuring there is appropriate management of the facility, community use is secured and a sufficient sinking fund is in place for a future resurface.

- u. The 3G pitch developed at Cardinal Newman School during the process of this study is proposed to be suitable for rugby, subject to testing, this would be an ideal location to absorb some of the training demand and possible youth match demand for Hove RFC, especially as it is less than a mile from the club. The new facility is subject to a community use agreement, and this should be monitored by the council to ensure there is good community access and that a sinking fund is in place for a future resurface.
- v. The council are also exploring options to develop a small sized WRC 3G AGP at Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre which may also be able to accommodate some youth training demand from each club.

Figure 3.11 – Estimate of minimum future additional playing pitch capacity needs to 2041 to meet current and future demands based on current unmet demand and future population growth

Jacare aerman	stare demands based on earrent annet demand and jutare population growth		
Sport	Additional playing capacity equivalent to:		
Cricket	• +2 fine turf pitches (12 good quality wickets)		
	Non Turf Pitches at Aldrington Rec, Braypool Rec, and East Brighton Park		
Football	• +1 floodlit full size or equivalent 3G Football Turf Pitch		
	+7 natural turf pitches		
Hockey	+0.15 full size floodlit hockey AGP		
Rugby	+7 natural turf pitches (minimum of one to be floodlit)		

w. The options or scenarios in Brighton & Hove for meeting the identified capacity needs are explored in more detail in the following section.



Brighton & Hove City Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 – 2041 Section 4: Meeting the Needs ('How to' Scenarios)



4 - Meeting the needs ('How to' scenarios)

a. 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 section. 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 Brighton & Hove 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 section 7 of this Playing Pitch Strategy – i.e., the initial action plan.

4.1 Improved quality of sites

- a. 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.
- b. Improving the quality of ancillary facilities such as practice, changing and social provision can also have an impact by sustaining and retaining existing demand and on attracting under-represented groups (e.g., the provision of suitable changing provision for women and girls).
- c. Cricket As set out above in para. 2.5, the existing 'poor' and 'standard' quality fine turf cricket pitches at key cricket sites in the City also used for football e.g. Patcham Place Rec, Braypool Rec, Aldrington Rec, and East Brighton Park have potential to secure ECB funding via a new joint PitchPower football and cricket pitch improvement programme to be launched in 2024. Improving the quality of these four fine turf pitches at key sites from 'standard', or 'poor' in Patcham Recreation Ground's case, to 'good' quality would increase the total playing capacity by approximately 133 match equivalent sessions a season (i.e. +2 MES per season x 39 'standard' strips/wickets + 5 MES per season x 11 'poor' strips/wickets). It should be noted that this includes the 24 wicket square at East Brighton Park, which although has significant capacity for matches in theory, can only accommodate 1 match at a time, therefore the actual increase in MES is lower than the 133 in practice.
- d. Other improvement priorities for cricket in Brighton & Hove relate to ancillary facilities which are important both to sustain existing membership and participation and to meet the quality expectations of potential new players including women and girls, a priority for the ECB and the council. The priority sites for cricket pavilion improvements are detailed in the recommendations (section 7).
- e. Football-The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports to 27 pitches at 5 key football sites in the City (e.g. Braypool Rec, Happy Valley Rec, Nevill Playing Fields, Victoria Rec, and Aldrington Rec) 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 existing 'standard/basic' or 'poor' quality assessed pitches were all upgraded to good/high this would create an additional capacity of +40 MES a week. This would meet the identified need to 2041 of additional natural turf football pitches. Outside of the key sites identified above, there are an additional 12 pitches that are rate 'poor' or 'basic' by Pitch Power reports that, if improved, would further increase playing capacity in the City.
- f. However, in light of the high playing capacity of floodlit 3G pitches relative to natural turf, the quality improvement that would have the greatest positive impact on football in the City is resurfacing the



playing surface at Brighton RFC to ensure it passes FA regulations for match play. Although this pitch would be primarily used by Brighton RFC for training and matches, it would still provide opportunities for football clubs in the area. As identified above in paragraph 2.4a, there are a number of pipeline 3G pitch projects being assessed which may be realised over the strategy period, providing further 3G pitch provision.

- g. There are a number of football changing pavilions (some serving both football and cricket) that need substantial quality improvement or replacement in order to sustain and grow participation particularly among women and girls aligning with FA and council priorities. The priority projects are set out in the action plan (section 7).
- h. **Hockey** The clear quality enhancement priority to sustain existing hockey participation in Brighton & Hove is to upgrade the worn playing surfaces to the sand based AGPs at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre and University of Sussex, as well as carry out an independent assessment of Blatchington Mill School to confirm the pitch conditions and timescales for resurfacing.
- i. A key project for Hockey in Brighton & Hove is the development of a new pavilion and changing rooms at Blatchington Mill School, home of Brighton Hockey Club. The current ancillary facilities available to the club at the school were rated poor and not sufficient for the club.
- j. **Rugby** As set out in para. 3.4j, half of the naturally drained rugby pitches in the City are classified as having 'inadequate' drainage. If the necessary funding could be secured, which is unlikely in the current financial climate, the installation of engineered drainage to these pitches would increase the playing capacity by 0.5 '*Match Equivalent Sessions*' (MES) each week per pitch (assuming installation of a pipe system), whilst a more sophisticated pipe & slit system would increase the weekly playing capacity of each pitch by one full MES.
- k. There is a need for the 3G AGP pitch at Brighton RFC to be resurfaced so that it can be used for contact training and matches. Currently, the pitch surface is not deemed suitable for contact rugby and is only used for none contact training. Should the pitch be resurfaced, this would help reduce the current overplay on grass pitches at the club and may provide opportunities to cater for some football demand.
- I. In 2022, PitchPower assessments were made available to rugby clubs. These assessments provide pitch maintenance recommendations, support, and funding if applications are successful. This process can help guide and support both clubs in improving the quality and capacity of their playing pitches. Priority sites for PitchPower assessments and associated maintenance actions are highlighted in the action plan (Section 7).

4.2 More community use at education sites

a. Whilst the Government seeks to widen access to sports facilities on school premises as part of the Department for Education's School Sport and Physical Activity Action Plan, investment available from its Opening Schools Facilities Fund has been restricted to revenue spending on capacity building, sports leaders/coaches, equipment to deliver community activities out-of-hours specifically targeted at under-represented groups in sport and physical activity living in areas of relative deprivation. Whilst the Opening Schools Fund is scheduled to end in early 2025, should it be extended Active Sussex should consider the findings of this strategy to increase community access of sports facilities at school sites. A priority for further exploration in Brighton & Hove should be St Margaret's COE Primary School. Consultation during this study has identified that the schools' 7v7 football pitch is available for hire but has not received any enquiries from clubs.



- b. Varndean High School find themselves in a similar situation to St Margaret's, with their senior rugby pitch being available for community use, but no clubs are currently hiring the facility. Given the significant demand for additional rugby pitches in the City and the school's proximity to both Hove RFC and Brighton RFC, the use of this pitch could help reduce the overplay at either club site, subject to suitable ancillary facilities being available.
- c. The education sites highlighted above have specifically expressed an interest in hiring out their pitches for community use, however further opportunities to increase community access to education facilities in strategic locations (detailed in Section 7) should be explored by the council to help meet the current and future surplus demand highlighted in Section 3.

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

- a. The most common scenarios involving change of pitch type are:
 - Upgrading natural turf pitches to 3G artificial football turf and to rugby turf
 - Resurfacing sand-based hockey AGPs as 3G football turf.
- b. The first scenario has potential to make a significant impact on meeting existing and future capacity shortfalls for football and for rugby in Brighton & Hove. Whilst the current proposals to address the demand for football by developing additional AGPs on natural turf pitches identified in section 3.5, and AGP proposals which may support rugby usage at Cardinal Newman School and Longhill Sports Centre, the resurfacing of the current AGPs at Brighton RFC should be the key priority.
- c. None of the sand-based hockey AGPs used by the hockey clubs in the City are currently considered at risk of loss due to change of playing surface. Any proposed future changes would need to ensure Sport England and England Hockey are consulted.

4.4 Potential loss of availability of key sites

- a. Little imminent threat to availability of key community playing pitch sites in Brighton & Hove has been identified in the course of the research and consultation for this PPS. The rugby pitch at Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College is being considered for replacement by the college, with discussions around developing a MUGA in its place. This pitch is largely unused due to its significant slope and is no longer used by Hove RFC, however consultation would be needed with Sport England to determine the new provision would be suitable mitigation for loss of a rugby pitch.
- b. Nevertheless, in the absence of either a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA) or binding grant funding conditions, there is always a risk of loss of availability of education pitches for community club use. This loss of availability is potentially a concern in Brighton & Hove for clubs as CUAs or grant conditions are not in place with a number of schools in the City that hire pitches to these clubs on a seasonal or term by term basis. Examples include Hove Park School, University of Sussex, and Longhill Sports Centre.
- c. There is little to no mechanisms in place in Brighton & Hove to manage those CUAs that are in place, which could mean that key facilities are lost to community use or the full level of access required by planning conditions is not provided. The council should consider ways to manage this going forwards as effectively as possible.
- d. The over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in the City available for use as playing pitches, so it will be important to try to secure these education pitches for community use where possible.

4.5 New or reinstated pitches in Brighton & Hove



- a. As detailed in para. 3.5 above under the heading 'Planned Provision', there are advanced plans for a number of new or reinstated playing pitches in the City that will impact substantially on addressing the overall future needs identified in figure 3.10.
- b. The proposed projects more than cater for the 1.35 additional full size floodlit 3G AGPs needed by 2041, many of which have already been granted planning permission. Where possible football use of sand dressed AGPs should be moved to new 3G AGPs to enable growth of hockey on site.
- c. The 3 NTPs planned for development at Braypool Rec, Aldrington Rec, and East Brighton Park will provide additional capacity for cricket, with the NTPs at Braypool Rec and Aldrington Rec creating additional pitches, however these pitches are generally used to complement natural turf wickets. The demand for 12 additional natural turf wickets is unlikely to be met by developing new pitches due to the lack of land available in the City, it may be more realistic to meet this demand by improving maintenance to 'poor' and 'standard' quality pitches in the City, as discussed in section 4.1 above.
- d. In the 2023/24 season, new junior football grass pitches were developed at Happy Valley Recreation Ground. The pitches are open to all clubs to book and are currently used by Woodingdean Wanderers. There are no additional plans to develop new natural turf pitches in the City.
- e. There are no proposed new Hockey AGPs in the City. The movement of football training from Hockey AGP's to new 3G pitches should be a priority on key hockey sites.
- f. Finally, in the case of rugby, Cardinal Newman School have recently developed a new 3G AGP which will be available for rugby clubs to use for training on and includes a rugby specific shockpad, however at the time of this report is subject to testing to confirm world rugby compliance, if approved this allow contact rugby and could be used for some matches. The school is with easy reach of Hove RFC being only half a mile away. Longhill Sports Centre are exploring options to develop a new 3G pitch with WRC shockpad, providing facilities which could be used for training and contact matches. The sports centre has been in discussions with Hove Rugby Club and Lewes Rugby Club about their appetite for training use. Longhill Sports Centre is located in the East of the City, 10.2 miles from Hove RFC and 8.2 miles from Brighton RFC, so may not be an ideal location for training for either club. Brighton & Hove City Council are exploring options to develop a 7v7 3G AGP at Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre which would have a World Rugby Compliant surface. This would be too small to satisfy match demand but with the Leisure Centre between 4 and 5 miles away from each rugby club but could be a suitable facility to satisfy some youth training demand from either club.

4.6 Significant increase in demand by an age group or sport

a. Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2024 suggests that participation in all four key playing pitch sports has returned to, and in some cases exceeded, levels of participation prior to COVID-19. In the 5 years following the pandemic, participation in all sports has been increasing year on year, with hockey recording it's highest levels of participation since the data started being collected. The focus of England Hockey on youth hockey (5-11 years) and hosting the EuroHockey Championships in 2027 will continue to drive demand in all age groups. The FA report that youth football is growing at 3.09% per annum, and the growth in number of junior teams identified in figure 3.4 shows that there has been a strong growth in junior sports participation across the City. Figure 3.4 also identifies a significant growth in women's and girls' teams across all playing pitch sports.



- b. While hockey participation is already evenly split between the genders, 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.
- c. This demand growth is particularly evident in **football** and, if sustained, will place additional demand pressure on the available stock of youth and mini soccer pitches and 3G AGPs as well as on the existing stock of pavilions many of which do not have adequate changing and toilet facilities.
- d. The FA's insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% year on year. Brighton & Hove's previous strategy in 2016 predicted a growth of 22 teams based on population rates to 2030, this number has already been exceeded in 2024 by an extra 44 teams in the City, which is a growth rate of 3.15% per year.
- e. In view of these demand pressures, a further run of the Playing Pitch Calculator has been made to show the possible impact on pitch needs with an adjusted demand rate of 69% for youth football (3.15% iterative increase per year over 16 years).
- f. To meet football demand from 12,477 additional residents and adjusting demand for a growth of 69% in youth football for matches and training in the peak period until 2041, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +2 adult football pitches, +6 youth football pitches and +3 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totalling +11 natural turf pitches) as well as 20 hours of training on a 3G pitch equivalent to half an additional AGP needed.
- g. The needs for additional playing pitch capacity for community football in the area by 2041, identified in figure 3.11 in the above section, should therefore be considered as a minimum requirement as they take no account of any increase in the rate of demand within the area population. The adjusted needs based on this scenario for football are as outlined in figure 4.1.

Figure 4.1 – Estimate of impact on pitch needs of a demand growth scenario for youth football

Sport	Additional playing capacity equivalent to:		
Football	• +1.5 floodlit full size equivalent 3G Football Turf Pitches		
	+11 natural turf pitches		

- h. Brighton & Hove are one of the City hosting the 2025 Womens Rugby World Cup and are part of the RFU's Impact 25 programme. The programme will see over £12 million invested nationally into community rugby clubs to upgrade facilities and make them more inclusive for women and girls as well as supporting female coaches and match officials. Funding has been allocated to Brighton & Hove RFC for toilet and sanitary provision upgrades. It is anticipated that the World Cup and the Impact 25 programme will increase the participation of women and girls nationally, and especially within Brighton & Hove as a host City. As such, the estimated facilities needed to cater for future demand outlined in figure 2.4 should be treated as the minimum required.
- i. Actual team generation rates should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth or participation growth scenarios outlined above are proving to be accurate. Future pitch capacity and demand should be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure provisions are planned accordingly.





5. Strategic Recommendations

5.1 Introduction

a. This section of the Playing Pitch 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 that can meet the needs and demands of the city's current and future populations. The recommendations respond to the facility needs highlighted in section 3 of this Playing Pitch Strategy.

5.2 Planning policy

- a. The need to protect the existing scale of facility provision for artificial and natural turf playing pitches remains similar to the findings of the previous strategy in 2017 but with the growth in demand across all sports the requirement to provide further enhancements to facilities to accommodate this demand has increased.
- b. Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current Local Plan Policies with regard to community, sport and recreation facilities i.e., policies CP7 (Infrastructure and Contributions), CP16 (Open space), and CP17 (Sports Provision) need to be maintained but updated as part of the new City Plan to reflect current Sport England Playing Fields guidance.
- c. These current planning policies established in the City Plan for Brighton & Hove (2016) are set out in full at Appendix F to this document. A review of the City Plan focusing on the strategic policies in City Plan 1 has commenced. The new plan will be known as City Plan 2041. The first stage of public consultation takes place from 4 November 2024 to 20 January 2025.
- d. The strategic recommendations of the Brighton & Hove City Council's Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group for playing pitches are set out in the following paragraphs. The recommendations are based on the Needs and Opportunities Assessment completed in 2024 reported in this document and its appendices, as agreed by the Steering Group.

5.3 Protect

- a. This Playing Pitch Strategy has assessed existing and future needs for all provision across the area. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain the existing **quantity** of sports facilities within the City whilst recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for example, through any change of sites of poor quality or of limited value for community sport being offset by new provision). This headline finding and recommendation remains applicable in relation to any examination at LPA level.
- b. It is therefore recommended that, in line with Sport England's playing fields policy and as proposed, the new Local Plan should continue to maintain a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a playing field or sports facility unless:
 - The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better
 provision in terms of quantity and quality in a location well-related to the users of the existing
 facility; or
 - The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss or,
 - The development is for a small part of the site that does not affect or prejudice the use of playing pitch provision or,
 - where it has been demonstrated that it will result in an enhanced sport or recreational facility.



- c. Should a current or newly created sports facility exist in Brighton & Hove City Council that is not mentioned in this 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.
- d. 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 City where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured (i.e. by means of Community Use Agreements).
- e. 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 continue to be applied, provided that:
 - The facilities are assessed as 'good' quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to transfer, and
 - The transferee is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to maintain the facilities to good quality (and this forms part of any service level agreement). 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).
- f. 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).
- g. 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:
 - Extending hours of permitted use
 - Extensions to existing sports facilities
 - Provision of new or enhanced sports facilities

5.4 Enhance and provide

- a. 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 is 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.
- b. 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 sports and recreation infrastructure projects as identified in the Playing Pitch Strategy in locations well-related to the proposed development. Appropriate contributions should also continue to be sought for ongoing maintenance of any new sports facilities.
- c. 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 at Section 7 of this document. The priority projects include

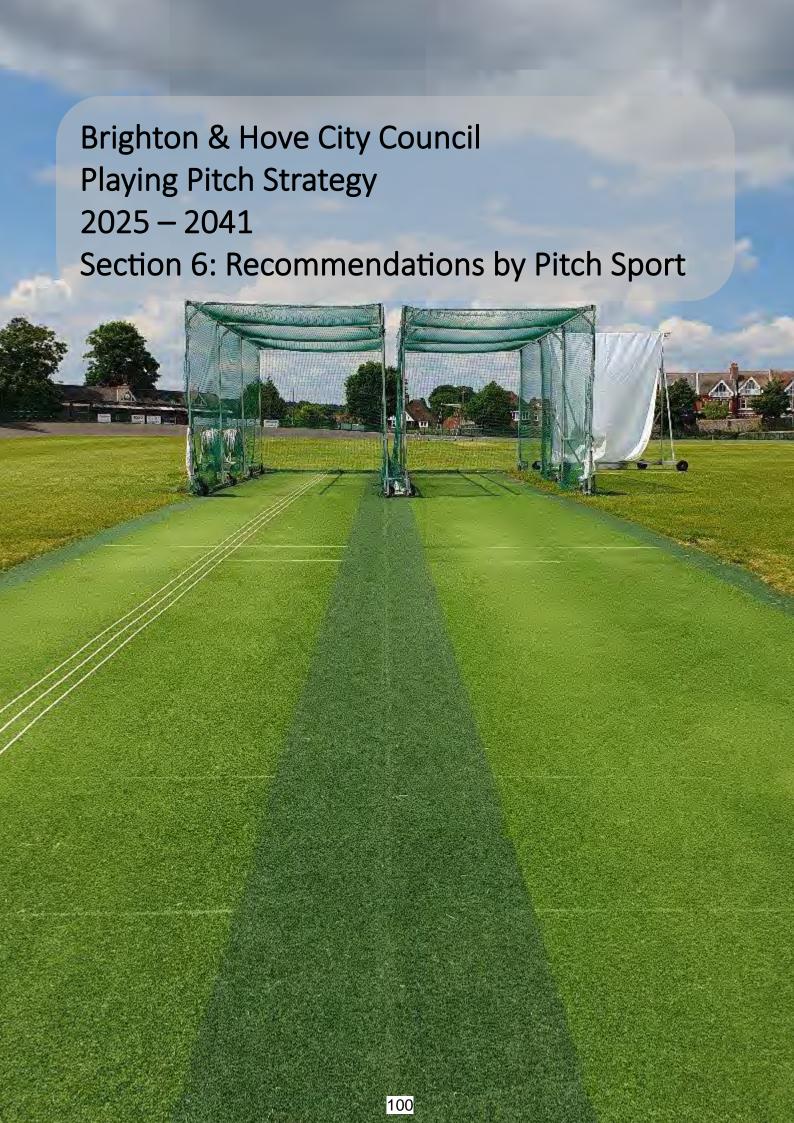


sites in private ownership and on school sites outside the council's control. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the Action Plan along with supporting agencies.

Where a site specific policy in the Local Plan allocates the provision of sports facilities and open space facilities. 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.

- d. The latest version of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator planning tools should be used, as appropriate, to scope the appropriate scale and approximate costs of new provision and to provide the starting point for project specific negotiations of \$106 and/or CIL developer contributions. (For example, if 500 new dwellings are proposed at an average of 2.4 persons per dwelling, the additional population total to enter into the Calculator will be 1,200). The figure per dwelling can be adjusted based on local factors and specific development details.
- e. 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:
 - I. Protection/New Provision of Sport & Recreation Facilities;
 - II. Compensatory Provision, Continuity of Use and Phasing of Development;
 - III. Built Design and Layout;
 - IV. Playing Field Provision;
 - V. Operational Matters.
- f. It is recommended that the council's Strategy Steering Group, comprising of membership from Sport England, and the NGB's, should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period. In line with Sport England guidance a full review of the strategy will be required after 5 years. If no annual monitoring takes place a full review is required after 3 years.





6 - Recommendations by Pitch Sport

- a. Based on the findings of the assessment of current and future facility needs for the four major playing pitch sports summarised in section 3 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 Brighton & Hove to 2041.
- b. The recommendations assume the quantum of population growth forecast in B&HCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2023 i.e. +12,477 additional residents by 2041 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 section 4 above.

6.1 Protect

- a. 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 cricket, football and rugby- the over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in the City available for use as playing pitches.
- b. Protecting the supply of playing fields, playing pitches and ancillary provision should continue to be a core principle in the planning policies of Brighton & Hove City Council in its emerging Local Plan.
- c. The relevant existing planning policies for the protection of playing pitches in Brighton & Hove are detailed in Appendix F of this Playing Pitch Strategy.
- d. Strategic recommendations aimed at maximising the effectiveness of local planning policy in Brighton & Hove and the planning process to both protect playing fields, playing pitches, ancillary provision and to secure community access are set out in Section 5 above.
- e. Effective use of the planning process to ensure protection of access to education playing pitches is particularly critical to community sport. Continued access to school and college playing fields at weekends is key to many community football clubs in the City to deliver their programmes of match play for growing numbers of youth and mini-soccer teams.

6.2 Enhance and provide

- a. 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.
- b. Greater playing capacity will be needed in future as a result of population growth and as a consequence of demand growth stimulated by the sports development initiatives of local clubs supported by the council and other stakeholders including the relevant sport's governing bodies. Improved safeguarding and accessibility at 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.
- c. The assessment of needs and the possible scenarios to address the needs has established that the additional playing pitch capacity that is likely to be needed over the strategy period will not be achievable without significantly improving the maintenance of many sites.



d. Figure 6.1 below summarises the strategic recommendations for enhancement of existing playing field sites and for new provision.

Figure 6.1 – Recommended facility enhancement and new provision by sport

Sport	e 6.1 – Recommended Jacility enhancement and net Site(s)	Recommendation
	Aldrington Rec, Braypool Rec, East Brighton Park	Develop NTPs
	Database Dana Danastias Crausad	Commission joint ECB/FA Pitch Power assessment and deliver
	Patcham Place Recreation Ground	recommendations to raise quality from poor
	Benfield Valley Rec	Renew club lease to secure future community use
	Nevill Playing Fields, University of Sussex	Provide new or upgraded non turf practice net systems
Cricket	Preston Park	Investigate options to safeguard against ball strikes
	Education sites	Explore options for community use
	Braypool Rec	Explore the feasibility of self-management opportunities with local sports clubs
	Aldrington Rec, Braypool Rec, Nevill Playing Fields, Patcham Place Rec, Preston Park (Cricket	Repair/upgrade/replace pavilions as necessary (e.g. replacement roofs, improved security, enhanced facilities for
	Pavilion)	women & girls, disabled access)
	Key natural turf sites (e.g. Braypool Rec, Happy Valley Rec)	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement
	Longhill Sports Centre, Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre, Toads Hole Valley	Investigate the feasibility of proposed 3G projects and deliver planned 3G pitch projects
	Brighton RFC, Dorothy Stringer School, University of Brighton	Support resurfacing of 3G pitches, where the surface is coming to the end of its usable life.
Careball	St Margarets C of E School	Support the school in hiring out their pitch to community clubs
Football	Aldrington Rec, Braypool Rec, Greenleas, Happy Valley Rec, Nuffield Playing Fields, Patcham Place Rec, Preston Park, Victoria Recreation Ground, Waterhall Sports Ground (bottom area), Withdean Sports Complex, Wild Park	Repair/upgrade/replace pavilions as necessary (e.g. replacement roofs, improved security, enhanced facilities for women & girls, disabled access)
	Withdean Sports Complex	Upgrade sports lighting to LED
	Braypool, Hapy Valley, Waterhall Sports Ground (bottom area)	Explore the feasibility of self-management opportunities with local sports clubs
Hockey	Blatchington Mill School	Support the school in developing a new clubhouse and changing rooms Support BHHC in extending their lease at the school Support resurfacing of both existing pitches
	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, University of Sussex.	Resurface the existing pitch
	Brighton RFC	Resurface existing AGP to meet World Rugby regulations for contact play
	Waterhall Sports Ground (bottom area)	Repair/upgrade/replace pavilions as necessary (e.g. replacement roofs, improved security, enhanced facilities for women & girls, disabled access)
Rugby	Hove Recreation Ground	Investigate options to install engineered drainage on the 2 remaining pitches with natural drainage
	Education Sites	Explore options for community use
	Cardinal Newman School, Varndean High School	Support the school in hiring out their pitch to community clubs
	Hove Recreation Ground, Waterhall Sports	Undertake Pitch Power assessments and action recommended
	Ground (top area)	maintenance



Section 7 – Action Plan

- a. This section of the strategy provides an outline action 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.
- b. Figures 7.1 7.3 presents the projects split by analysis area, 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. Figure 7.4 that follows highlights a number of sites which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports. These sites sit outside of the main action plan as further work is required to investigate relevant permission, access, suitability, and funding.
- c. Figure 7.5 identifies those sites that are not identified in figures 7.1 7.3 (for enhancement or new provision) or 7.4 (opportunity sites) but are in need of protection for community sport through the planning system. 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.
- d. 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. A number of project proposals within the strategy are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals.
- e. 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; so, 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.
- f. The immediate priority for Brighton & Hove City Council, 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 council must plan prudently for future needs.
- g. 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.



Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Aldrington Rec	Short	Cricket	Complete development of new NTP, subject to planning.	В&НСС	ECB / SCF
	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	В&НСС	FA
	Medium	Cricket, Football	Complete proposed pavilion refurbishment.	В&НСС	ECB / SCF / FA
Benfield Valley Rec	Short	Cricket	Renew club lease to secure future community use	В&НСС	Club
	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	В&НСС	FA
Blatchington Mill	Short	Hockey	Support Brighton & Hove HC in extending their lease at the site	B&HCC / School	Club
School	Short	Hockey	Undertake an independent survey to determine the current condition of the facilities and timescale for resurfacing.	School / Club	B&HCC / EH
	Medium	Hockey	Support the resurfacing of both SD pitches.	School / Club	B&HCC / EH
	Long	Hockey	Develop a new clubhouse and changing rooms at the hockey pitches.	School / Club	B&HCC / EH
Brighton RFC	Short	Rugby	Deliver PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	Club / B&HCC	RFU
	Medium	Rugby, Football	Resurface the AGP to WRC standards to allow for contact rugby training and matches, and football usage.	Club / B&HCC	FA / RFU
Easthill Park	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	В&НСС	FA
	Medium	Football	Investigate options to repair and refurbish changing rooms to reinstate usage.	В&НСС	FA
Greenleas Rec	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	В&НСС	FA
	Long	Football	Investigate options to refurbish poor quality changing rooms and showers.	В&НСС	FA
Hove Park School – Valley Campus	Long	Football, Cricket	Ensure the protection of existing 3G pitch and Cricket nets on site should proposals to close the school site go ahead.	B&HCC	FA / ECB / SCF
Hove Rec	Short	Rugby	Deliver PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	Club	В&НСС
	Medium	Rugby	Investigate options to install engineered drainage on the 2 remaining pitches with natural drainage	Club / B&HCC	RFU
Cardinal Newman School	Short	Football, Rugby	Support the school in providing community use to the new 3G pitch on site.	B&HCC / School	FA / RFU
Nevill Playing Fields	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	Club	В&НСС
	Short	Cricket	Deliver upgraded NTP practice nets	Club / B&HCC	ECB / SCF

Figure 7.1 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Brighton & Hove (West)						
Site Timescale Facility type		Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners	
	Short	Cricket, Football Hockey	Refurbish existing changing room to improve layout and quality	Club / B&HCC	ECB / SCF / FA / EH	
Toads Hole Valley	Long	Football	Proceed to deliver the 3G pitch proposed within the housing development planning application	B&HCC	FA	
Victoria Rec	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement B.		FA	
	Short	Football	Explore usage of recently developed changing facilities at the bowls pavilion.	В&НСС	FA	
	Long	Football	Explore options to refurbish poor quality pavilion.	В&НСС	FA	
Waterhall Sports Ground	Short	Football, Rugby, Aussie Rules	Deliver PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	В&НСС	FA, RFU	
(bottom area)	Short	Football, Rugby	Explore the feasibility of self-management opportunities and FA home advantage programme with local sports clubs	B&HCC / FA	RFU	
	Medium	Football, Rugby, Aussie Rules	Explore options to refurbish or redevelop pavilion to reinstate community use.	B&HCC	FA, RFU	
Withdean Sports	Short	Football	Upgrade sports lighting to LED	B&HCC	FA	
Complex	Short	Football	Carry out and deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement.	В&НСС	FA	
	Medium	Football	Investigate options to refurbish changing rooms and showers to meet ground grading requirements.	В&НСС	FA	

Figure 7.2 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Brighton & Hove (Central)						
Site	Timescale	Facility type	riority actions Lead			
Braypool Rec	Short Cricket Complete development of new NTP.		B&HCC	ECB		
	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	в&нсс	FA	
Medium Cricket, Football Explore the feasibility of self-management opportunities and FA home advantage program with local sports clubs					ECB / SCF	
	Long	Cricket, Football	Refurbish pavilion to improve quality and provide additional showers and accessible W/Cs to allow women and girls, youth teams, and adult male teams to use the pavilion simultaneously	B&HCC	ECB / SCF / FA	
Dorothy Stringer School	Medium	Football	Support resurfacing of 3G pitches, where the surface is coming to the end of its usable life to ensure the facility can met FA pitch register requirements.	School	B&HCC / FA	
Moulsecoomb Community LC	Short	Football	Deliver proposed 7v7 3G pitch	В&НСС	FA	



Figure 7.2 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Brighton & Hove (Central)						
Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners	
Patcham Place Recreation Ground			Commission joint ECB/FA Pitch Power assessment and deliver recommendations to raise quality from poor.	B&HCC, ECB / SCF	FA	
	Long	Cricket, Football	Repair and reinstate usage of the pavilion. Develop additional security measures to deter vandalism of the pavilion.	B&HCC	ECB / SCF / FA	
Preston Park	ston Park Short Cricket Investigate options to safeguard against ball str		Investigate options to safeguard against ball strikes	Club / B&HCC	ECB / SCF	
	Long	Cricket	Investigate options to upgrade the cricket pavilion	Club / B&HCC	ECB / SCF	
University of Brighton	Medium	Football	Resurface poor quality 3G pitch to achieve FA 3G Pitch Register standards	University	B&HCC / FA	
University of Sussex	Medium	Cricket	Upgrade the current NTP practice nets	University	B&HCC / ECB / SCF	
Varndean High School	Short	Rugby	Investigate options to extend the community use of the pitch.	B&HCC / RFU / School		
Wild Park Short Football Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report		Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	B&HCC	FA		
	Long	Football	Explore feasibility of developing changing rooms on site.	В&НСС	FA	

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions L		Partners		
Bevendean Recreation Ground	Short	Football	Review appropriateness of retaining formal sports provision, if not viable, retain as open space for informal recreation.	B&HCC	FA		
East Brighton Park	Short	Cricket	omplete development of new NTP. B&HCC				
Happy Valley Rec	Short	Football	Commission FA Pitch Power assessment covering the recently developed youth pitches and deliver recommendations for both adult and junior pitches		FA		
	Medium	Football	Explore the feasibility of self-management opportunities and FA home advantage programme with local sports clubs	B&HCC	FA		
	Medium	Football	Explore feasibility of redeveloping pavilion using S106 monies.	В&НСС	FA		
Longhill Sports Centre	Medium	Football	Support the development of a 3G pitch subject to satisfactory resolution of outstanding planning issues.	B&HCC	FA		
	Long	Rugby	Explore rugby club interest in use for training to justify WRC surface being funded as part of the project.	Sports Centre/ RFU	FA / B&HCC		
	Short	Football	Encourage club to complete a FA Pitch Power assessment to improve pitches further.	B&HCC / FA			



Figure 7.3 Priorities and actions for playing pitches in Brighton & Hove (East)						
Site	Timescale	Facility type	prity actions Lead		Partners	
Nuffield Playing	Long	Football	Support club in discussions with landowner to explore options to develop a new pavilion on	Club / B&HCC /		
Fields			site	FA		
Stanley Deason	Short	Hockey	Resurface existing SD AGP and restore surrounding fence.	B&HCC / Leisure	EH	
Leisure Centre				Provider		
St Margarets C of E	Short	Football	Support the school in hiring out their pitch to community clubs	B&HCC / FA /		
School				School		

Figure 7.4 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	Timescale	Facility type	Analysis area	Potential actions	Partners	
Brighton College	Short	Cricket	Central	Explore options to secure further community use of playing pitches	B&HCC, ECB / SCF	
Cardinal Newman School	Short	Rugby	West	Explore options to secure further community use of playing pitches	B&HCC, RFU	
Dorothy Stringer School	Short	Rugby	Central	Explore options to secure further community use of playing pitches	B&HCC, RFU	
Hove Park School – Nevill Campus	Short	Rugby	West	Explore options to secure further community use of playing pitches	B&HCC, RFU	

Figure. 7.5 Other playing pitch sites for protection						
Analysis area- East						
Site	Sport					
Bevendean Primary School	Football					
Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	Cricket, Football					
Hamilton Lodge School and College for Deaf Children	Football, Hockey					
Portslade Sports Centre	Football					
Roedean School	Football, Cricket, Hockey					
Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club	Football, Cricket					
Rottingdean Recreation Ground	Football					
Saltdean Oval Park	Football					
The Crew Club	Football					
The Manor Road Gym	Football					
University of Brighton	Rugby					



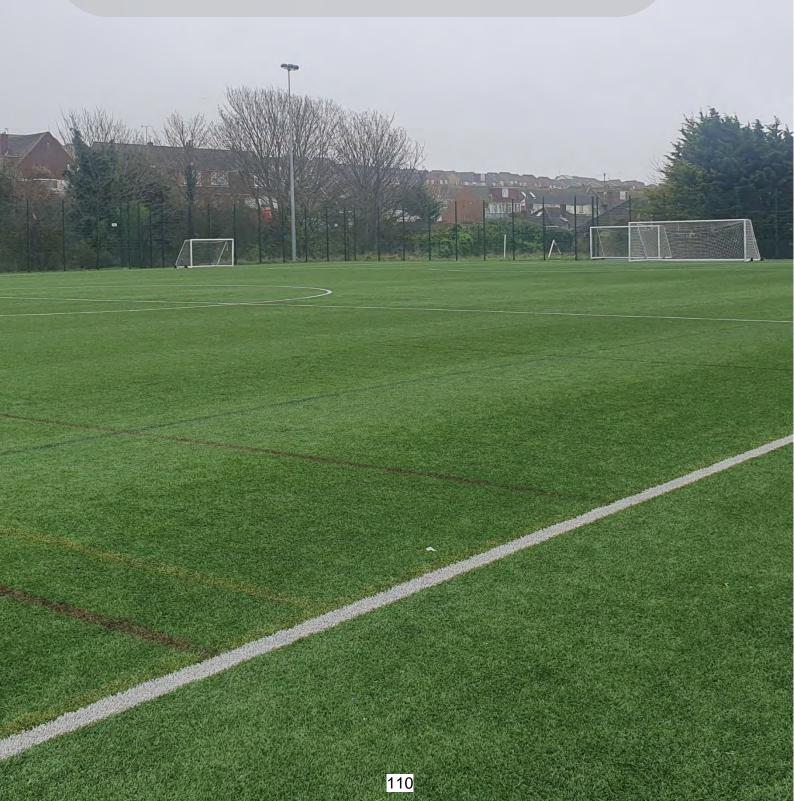
Figure. 7.5 Other playing pitch sites for protection					
Whitehawk Football Club (The enclosed ground)	Football				
Analysis area- Central					
Site	Sport				
Balfour Junior School	Football				
Carden Park	Football				
Hertford Junior School	Football				
Hill Park	Football				
Hollingbury Park (Brentwood Road)	Football				
Horsdean Recreation Ground	Football, Cricket				
Patcham High School	Football, Cricket				
Patcham Junior School	Football				
St Bernadette Catholic Primary School	Football				
University of Sussex	Football, Cricket				
Varndean High School	Football, Cricket				
Wild Park	Football				

Analysis area- West					
Site	Sport				
Benfield Valley Recreation Ground	Football, Cricket				
Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College Sports Centre	Rugby				
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	Football				
Cottesmore St. Mary's RC Primary School	Football				
Dyke Road Park	Football				
Hove Park	Football				
Hove Park School- Nevill Campus	Football				
Knoll Park	Football				
Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	Football				
Portslade Sports Centre	Football				
Mile Oak Recreation Ground	Football				
Withdean Sports Complex	Football				
Nuffield Playing Fields	Football				
Southwick Hill Rec Ground	Football				
Waterhall Sports Ground (top area)	Baseball				



Brighton & Hove City Council Playing Pitch Strategy 2025 – 2041

Section 8: Summary



Section 8- Summary

8.1 Summary

- a. Throughout the development of this strategy Brighton & Hove City Council and key partners have continued to emphasise the importance of facilities for sport and physical activity to improve 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.
- b. Through this strategy a number of priorities have emerged for the area for the council to consider and plan for. Football has grown significantly since the last strategy putting pressure on the facilities in the area. There is a clear need to provide more artificial grass pitches across Brighton & Hove, this includes continuing to progress the current planned AGP pitches as well as new ones identified, there is the evident need to improve existing grass pitch sites as well introduce or extend community use at education sites. For cricket there is a need for at least one new fine turf pitches (of 12 wickets) as well as additional NTP's alongside pitch improvements to support the clubs especially those with large junior sections. The key priority for hockey is the resurfacing of the pitches at Blatchington Mill School and Stanley Deason Leisure Centre. The rugby clubs in the area have high levels of demand for matches and training, with identified pitch improvements that will improve capacity as well as resurfacing the WRC AGP at Brighton RFC.
- c. As well as the investment needs identified the overarching need is for the council to protect the overall quantity, maintain the quality and secure availability for the wider community to the existing supply of sports facilities. Within Brighton & Hove, like many local authorities, many playing pitches are located on education sites which require new or on-going community use agreements to protect future usage and extend community access where possible.
- d. Alongside direct provision Brighton & Hove City Council also plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to potentially independently manage and operate facilities funded through partnerships with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport as well as other funding organisations.
- e. As local authorities continue to manage difficult budget decisions and the challenges of providing both statutory and critical non-statutory services, 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 Brighton & Hove's residents will be impacted very positively by the priorities highlighted within this strategy. This will be in the form of both protecting the current playing pitch facilities as well as investing in improved and new facilities where the opportunities arise.
- f. Brighton & Hove City 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.





Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for cricket facilities in Brighton & Hove City Council are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). Affiliated cricket clubs in Brighton & Hove 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. The number of clubs that responded to consultation as part of this process represent 94% of teams playing cricket in the area.

The last playing pitch assessment carried out in 2016 recorded 14 fine turf wickets on 12 sites available for community use, the same level of provision recorded for this strategy. There has been a change in supply of Non Turf Cricket Pitches (NTP's) with the previous strategy recording a total of 14 NTP's available for community use, which has reduced to just 10 NTP's, with a number of NTP's on education sites being no longer available for community use or, have not been maintained or replaced, and are no longer fit for use.

Sussex Cricket Foundation, via its devolved ECB County Grants Fund, has invested almost £35,000 into Brighton & Hove Clubs in the last 3 years, with the aim to create welcoming environments, provide enhanced facilities and playing opportunities, and to tackle [the impact of] climate change. The four club projects were St Peters CC (2021) towards a social space refurbishment, Brighton & Hove CC (2022) for shower and toilet improvements, Rottingdean CC (2023) for electric mower and Scarifier and Brighton & Hove CC for digitalising project.

1. Cricket supply (Step 1)

The findings of the assessment of supply of cricket facilities in Brighton & Hove are summarised in this section and detailed by site, both for fine turf pitches and for non-turf artificial grass pitches (NTP's). 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) supported by consultation with the Council, Sussex Cricket and user clubs.

1.1 Cricket pitches in Brighton & Hove

A total of 14 fine turf pitches are identified as available for community cricket in the area in 2024, on 12 playing pitch sites.

The Sussex County Cricket Ground and indoor school is also located within the city. The facility provides a base for the Sussex Cricket Foundation whose aim is to actively change lives through cricket and whilst a significant site for Cricket in the area, it is excluded from the data as it is not available for community use.

There are a further 4 fine turf pitches on education sites not available for regular community use (Brighton College x2, Lancing College Prep and Roedean School).

There are 10 non-turf pitches on 9 sites currently available for community use, with a further 5 NTP's on education sites not available for community use (Brighton College, Longhill Sports Centre (poor condition) Roedean School (x2) and Varndean High School).



Figure 1.1: Fine turf cricket sites in Brighton & Hove

Site name & address	Ownership / management	Access security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT nets	Pavilion / changing rooms	Pitch & outfield rating	Pavilion rating	Fine turf capacity (MES pa)	Fine turf use (MES pa)	Peak use (%)	Supply/ demand balance	RAG
Aldrington Rec. Ground (Wish park), BN3 4LN	Council	Secured	1 (12)	None	None	2 changing rooms with 1 open shower block shared between changing rooms. 1 w/c. No accessible or ambulant facilities.	Standard (P & O) Club rate 2/5	Poor	36	30	83%	6	
Benfield Valley Recreation Ground, BN3 7GE	Council / Portslade CC	Club has 2 yrs left on 25 yr lease	1 (8)	1 Good	None	Pavilion with changing, social space bar and kitchen	Good (P) Standard (O)	Standard	40	40	100%	0	
Braypool Recreation Ground, BN1 8ZH	Council	Secured	1 (7)	None	None	Large changing rooms (x10), open shower room with kitchen and large club room. External male and female w/c. No accessible or ambulant facilities.	Standard (P & O)	Poor	21	21	100%	0	
Brighton Aldridge Com. Academy, BN1 9PW	Education	Secured - Education	1 (12)	1 Good	Indoor - 3x Good	High spec gym and indoor cricket facility with changing rooms	Good (P) Good (O)	Good	60	60	100%	0	
Ast Brighton Park, BN2 5TS	Council	Secured	1 (24)	None	None	Designated male and female changing rooms (2x each) with associated showers and w/c.	Standard (P) Standard (O)	Standard	70	30	43%	40	
Horsdean Recreation Ground, BN1 8UA	Horsdean Com. Sports Ass. (Patcham Utd FC, Brighton & Hove Cres. CC)	25 year lease joint with Football club.	1 (14)	1 Standard	None	Pavilion with 2 small changing rooms. Recently renovated.	Good (P) Standard (O) Club rate 4/5	Good	70	70	100%	0	
Hove Recreation Ground, BN3 6LL	Council / Palmers CC	Rolling 5 yr license	1 (10)	1 Good	None	Use Hove RFCs pavilion and changing facilities and paying an affiliate fee.	Good (P) Standard (O) Club rate 4/5	Standard	50	36	72%	14	
Nevill Playing Fields, BN3 7QD	Council / Brighton & Hove CC	Ground on licence, building leased to 2034	2 (13 & 6)	2 Good	3x Standard	Pavilion with 4 changing rooms, basic recently repainted, separate showers in poor condition. No accessible toilet	Good (P) Good (O) Club rate 4/5	Standard	95	100	105%	-5	

Site name & address	Ownership / management	Access security	Pitches / wickets	NTP	NT nets	Pavilion / changing rooms	Pitch & outfield rating	Pavilion rating	Fine turf capacity (MES pa)	Fine turf use (MES pa)	Peak use (%)	Supply/ demand balance	RAG
Patcham Place Recreation Ground, BN1 8PB	Council	Secured	1 (11)	None	None	Pavilion closed due to damage and vandalism. 4 changing rooms with open shower w/cs and officials changing.	Poor (P & O) Club rate 3/5	Poor	0	30	N/A	-30	
Preston Park, BN1 6SD	Council / St Peters CC	Club has long term lease on Pavilion	2 (10 & 13)	1 Good	2x Good	Pavilion is dated and in need of improvement. Lack of storage.	Good (P&O)	Poor	115	115	100%	0	
Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club, BN2 7DA	Rottingdean Cricket Club	Secured 21 years remaining	1(11)	1 Standard	3x Standard	Basic pavilion facilities which are not suitable for the women and girls game.	Good (P) Good (O) Club rate 4/5	Standard	55	55	100%	0	
University of Brighton, BN1 9PH	University	Education - unaware of CUA	None	1 standard 1 Not in use	None	Large changing block with 8 changing rooms	Good (O)	Good	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	
niversity of ussex, BN1 9PL	University	Secured - Education	1(9)	1 Poor	2x Poor	9 changing rooms - 4 designated male/female, 5 shared. Part of the Falmer Sports Complex	Good (P) Good (O)	Standard	27	40	148%	-16	

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 of the 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). Most sites with NTP wickets have different markings for each age group to allow for regulation bowling lengths.

1.3 Closed sites

There is one site in the city, at Victoria Rec which previously had a cricket square that was removed prior to 2018.

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). Currently, all of the clubs with youth sections in the city have access to an NTP wicket to support their youth teams.

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. There are 10 NTP's across the city. The majority are in a good condition allowing up to 60 match equivalent sessions (MES) for adults, with the exception of the NTP at University of Sussex which is in a poor condition and needs upgrading. Not included in the number above is one of the NTP's at University of Brighton, which is not in use due to its condition and NTP's at Brighton College, Longhill Sports Centre (poor condition) Roedean School (x2) and Varndean High School which all have no community use.

1.5 Non-turf practice nets

There is a mix in provision of non-turf practice nets which are available at 7 sites in city, a number of these are education sites without a fine turf square or NTP, such as Cardinal Newman Catholic School, Hove Park School – Valley Campus and Patcham High School (where new nets are in development). The nets at Hove Park School – Valley Campus are not ECB approved as they are shorter than the minimum length. Brighton & Hove CC has planning permission to extend their nets at Nevill Playing Fields from 3 to 5 lanes. Clubs without non-turf net systems rely on mobile net cages for practice on the NTP on the square or on one of the fine turf strips. The majority of net systems are in a good or standard condition, however the nets at the University of Sussex are in a poor condition and need upgrading.

Figure 1.2 – Non-turf permanent net systems: locations and quality

Location	No. of lanes	Quality
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	4	Standard
Hove Park School - Valley Campus	4	Good – but not ECB approved.
Nevill Playing Fields	3	Standard
Patcham High School	3	Good
Preston Park (St Peters CC)	2	Good
Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club	3	Standard
University of Sussex	2	Poor
Total	21	

1.6 Indoor cricket and practice nets

There is multiple indoor cricket net provision used by clubs throughout the city, based on a mixture of education and council run leisure centre sites (Kings School, Longhill Sports Centre, Portslade Sports Centre, Stanley Deason Leisure Centre and Varndean High School).



Brighton Aldridge Community Academy has an indoor cricket centre with three full cricket lanes, a bowling machine, high specification gym and physio room. The facility is home to the Aldridge Cricket Academy and Sussex Women and Girls Cricket.

Indoor sports hall space is in high demand across the area as 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.

1.7 Facilities for non-traditional forms of cricket

Sussex Cricket is working along with the ECB towards the aim to inspire a new generation to say that 'Cricket is a game for me', with one of their aspirations by 2028 to become the most inclusive team sport.

Sussex Cricket Foundation created a 5- year urban plan for cricket in Greater Brighton in 2021, in partnership with B&HCC and Adur District Council. The plan provides a number of strategic action plan priorities including supporting the growth and development of friendly cricket, to improve access to ethnic minority groups, increase the numbers of participants of all ages and to provide additional facilities for summer use.

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 in the city at Hove Rec.

1.8 Ownership and security of access

Cricket pitches in the study area fall into one of two categories of site ownership where community access is considered to be 'secured':

- **Council owned** Grounds owned by the council are considered to be secured for community use and are hired out by the council to clubs and teams either on a match-by-match pre-booked letting basis or under terms of a seasonal agreement.
- Council owned with club lease arrangement Grounds owned by the council leased to clubs. A number of clubs have lease arrangements including Brighton & Hove Crescent CC (25 year joint lease under sports association), Brighton & Hove CC (10 years remaining on pavilion, ground on licence) Portslade CC (2 years on 25 year lease remaining), Rottingdean CC (21 years remaining) and St Peters CC (long lease on pavilion).

Community club access and use of privately owned or education sector playing fields is deemed 'unsecured' where a club has no legally enforceable right of access agreement in place for more than a year. None of the educational sites in B&HCC provide a permanent home ground to cricket clubs, however some are available for community bookings, and some provide nets for training.

1.9 At risk sites

There are no pitches in Brighton & Hove deemed to be at risk of being lost.

1.10 Opportunity sites for cricket

B&HCC are working with Sussex Cricket to deliver three new NTPs at Aldrington Recreation Ground, Braypool Recreation Ground, and East Brighton Park. The proposed NTPs at Aldrington Recreation



Ground and Braypool Recreation Ground will create new pitch provision. The East Brighton Park NTP will be located at the end of the existing square replacing one of the fine turf strips.

1.11 Pitch quality

The table below shows the quality of pitches within the study area based on their operation.

Figure 1.3 – Pitch square and outfield quality and operation

Rating	Club managed Council managed Education managed		managed	Total				
	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield	Pitch	Outfield
Good	8	5	0	3	2	2	10	10
Standard	0	0	4	4	0	0	4	4
Poor	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
						Total	14	14

The cricket pitches (squares) and outfields in the city are, in the main, maintained to a good quality standard (assessed by means of a combination of visual inspection, umpire ratings and club survey feedback) with council managed sites to a standard quality. There is one pitch deemed to be in poor condition at Patcham Place Rec. ground.

Where pitches are good, but outfields are rated as 'standard quality' this is partly due to shared use with football or rugby or issues with dogs or other animals or informal use on open access recreation grounds (e.g., Benfield Valley Rec Ground, Horsdean Rec Ground and Hove Rec Ground).

Generally, where clubs are responsible for maintaining a square and have access to a trained professional or experienced volunteer grounds person, the pitch quality tends to be a higher than at council maintained sites. Similarly, the open access / shared use nature of recreation ground sites renders cricket pitches on these sites more vulnerable to incidences of damage and acts of vandalism than at sites where access is controlled.

Pitches rated as poor quality are deemed to not have any capacity for cricket, so it is important these squares are improved. For those pitches that are generally maintained to a standard quality there is some scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches used by cricket clubs and teams based in Brighton but this would require an increase in maintenance budget which is already under significant pressure due to the wider budget pressures on local authorities.

1.12 Distribution of cricket sites

Figure 1.4 shows the distribution of fine turf and non turf pitch cricket sites across Brighton & Hove which are available for community use. This shows that there are cricket facilities in each of the area analysis areas and most of the residents live within a reasonable distance of a community cricket pitch.



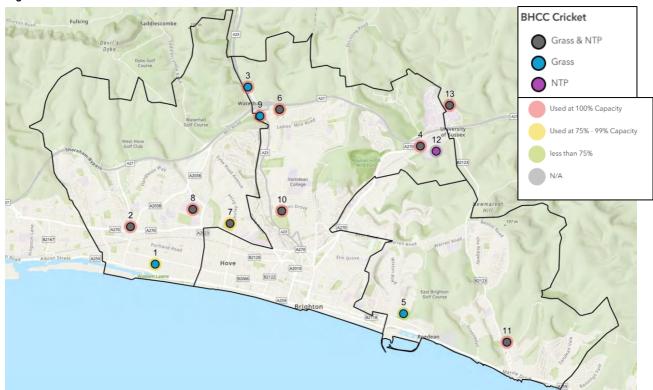


Figure 1.4 – B&HCC cricket site distribution

Key	Site	Postcode
1	Aldrington Recreation Ground (Wish park)	BN3 4LN
2	Benfield Valley Recreation Ground	BN3 7GE
3	Braypool Recreation Ground	BN1 8ZH
4	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	BN1 9PW
5	East Brighton Park	BN2 5TS
6	Horsdean Recreation Ground	BN1 8UA
7	Hove Recreation Ground	BN3 6LL
8	Nevill Playing Fields	BN3 7QD
9	Patcham Place	BN1 8PB
10	Preston Park	BN1 6SD
11	Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club	BN2 7DA
12	University of Brighton	BN1 9PH
13	University of Sussex	BN1 9PL

1.13 Cricket supply of relevance in neighbouring local authorities

There are a number of other cricket pitches with community access within a 20-minute drivetime (5 mile catchment area) of the B&HCC boundary based on a review of the Active Places Database and these are shown in figure 1.5 below. Some cricket demand from Brighton & Hove is exported to community cricket sites further afield, which is detailed further in Section 2.

Figure 1.5 – Cricket supply in neighbouring local authorities

Neighbouring venues	LA	Quantity	Accessibility
Southwick Green	Adur	1 pitch	Council site – located to the North
Spen Cama Memorial Ground	Hassocks	2 pitches	Sports Club – to the Northwest
Stanley turner Ground	Lewes	1 pitch	Council site – located to the East

2. Cricket demand (step 2)

Findings relating to cricket pitch demand in Brighton & Hove are summarised below.

2.1 Cricket clubs and teams

In the 2024 cricket season, 17 clubs were identified through consultation as being active in Brighton & Hove. These clubs, their teams and where they play are shown in figure 2.1.

Figure 2.1- Open age cricket expressed demand in B&HCC

Cricket clubs	Adult teams	Youth teams	Home ground(s)	Other grounds used
Alternatives CC	1 Male	N/A	No main site but Aldrington Rec (Wish Park) preferred.	
Brighton Brunswick CC	1 Male	N/A	University of Sussex	
Brighton & Hove Crescent CC	6 Male	N/A	Horsdean Rec Ground	
Brighton & Hove CC	6 Male, 3 female	13 Youth, 3 Girls	Nevill Playing Fields	Brighton Uni, Patcham Place, Horsdean Rec Ground
Brighton Xiles	1 Male	N/A	East Brighton Park	
Brighton Malayalee Association	5 Male	N/A	Patcham Place	Braypool Rec Ground
Dome Mission CC	2 Male	N/A	Braypool Rec Ground	Aldrington Rec (Wish Park)
Hove Unicorns	2 Male	N/A	Hove Rec Ground	
Palmers CC	10 Male, 2 Mixed	N/A	Hove Rec Ground	
Portslade CC	6 Male	6 Youth	Benfield Valley Rec, Aldrington Rec (Wish Park) – 3 rd & 4th	
Preston Park CC	3 Male	N/A	None play away games only	
Rottingdean CC	6 Male, 2 female, 5 Mixed	11 Youth, 4 Girls	Rottingdean CC & FC East Brighton Park – 3 rd & 4 th	Teams, Sussex University
St Matthias CC	5 Male	10 Youth	Horsdean Rec Ground	Sussex University
St Peter's CC	10 Male, 2 Female	16 Youth, 5 Girls	Preston Park (within the Velodrome)	Brighton Aldridge Comm. Acad. (Junior use), Uni of Brighton, Braypool, Patcham Place
Sussex Ukrainians CC	1 Male	N/A	Uses a variety of grounds outside B&HCC	
The Greys	1 Male		St James's Montefiore (Mid Sussex DC)	
Zambuca Tigers	1 Male		Hove Rec Ground	Wivelsfield Green (Lewes), East Brighton Park, Firle (Lewes), Aldrington Rec (Wish Park), Patcham Place

Five clubs provide opportunities for juniors to play competitive cricket – Brighton & Hove CC, Portslade CC, Rottingdean CC, St Matthias CC and St Peters CC. Three clubs provide girls specific teams Brighton & Hove CC, Rottingdean CC and St Peters CC. All these clubs provide junior 'All Stars' and/or 'Dynamos' sessions supported by Sussex Cricket, or a similar club based junior programme.

There has been a decrease in the number of clubs in the area from 25 to 17 however the number of teams across all formats of the game has increased significantly from 92 teams to 149 teams. The number of adult male teams have increased by 23 teams (a 52% increase), there are an additional 5 women's teams (+250%) and 7 mixed teams, a category not previously recorded in the last Playing Pitch Strategy. The number of youth teams has also growth with an additional 16 boy's teams (+40%) and 6 girl's teams (+100%).

In total it is estimated that, in the 2024 season, there were 67 men's teams (aged 18+), 7 women's teams, 7 mixed adult teams, 56 boys'/mixed teams (aged 7-18), and 12 youth girls teams (aged 7-18),

playing cricket matches in Brighton & Hove mainly at weekends. A large proportion of these teams also train on a midweek evening in season and most of the senior teams will also train indoors pre-season in January/February.

2.2 Active lives survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ 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+) has decreased from 0.8% in November 2021-2022 to 0.7% in November 2022-2023. If cricket participation in the study area was at the national average (i.e., 0.7%), this would indicate around 1,457 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play cricket out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 208,187. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Brighton & Hove residents who participate outside of the city.

With approximately 81 adult teams currently, the 'adult' cricket club playing membership in the area is close to 1,215 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). Assuming the total adult cricket participation in Brighton & Hove is in line with the national average of 0.7%, this suggests that approximately 17% of total regular adult cricket participation is either through informal activity outside of a club environment (i.e., through informal games with family, friends and/or work colleagues in parks) or exported to other clubs outside of the city.

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 the use of 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.

Whilst the population of Brighton & Hove is predominately White British (85.4%)², the provision of facilities for free to access casual play across the area could help to increase cricket activity among all types of diverse participant groups and groups of friends and families. The parks and green spaces across Brighton & Hove provide opportunities for informal cricket participation, with many areas not being marked for sports use such as Withdean Park and Hollingbury Park. There are also areas of public parks that are used for grass pitch sports which are unmarked and provide opportunities for informal use such as Preston Park and Hove Park.

The NTPs and practice net facilities at cricket sites are all owned and operated by either the cricket club or by B&HCC. There is currently provision for informal forms of cricket in the area on NTPs at Benfield Valley Rec Ground, Horsdean Rec Ground, Hove Rec Ground and Preston Park, but these are all clubs' sites, so availability is limited by club activities. Use of these NTPs can be booked for public use either through B&HCC Sports Bookings or by speaking to the cricket club. The only publicly accessible cricket nets available are at Preston Park, with other provision based on education sites, public use of these facilities would need to be booked directly with the club or school.

It would be worth the council investigating the feasibility of providing more publicly accessible provision for casual cricket particularly in more diverse areas of the City.



¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2022-23, Sport England

² 2021 census

2.4 Displaced / Imported demand

From the consultation carried out, it was found that three clubs based in Brighton & Hove are reliant on using facilities outside of the city. Preston Park CC only play away games due to a lack of home ground, The Greys play the majority of games at St James's Montefiore in Mid Sussex and Sussex Ukrainians CC use a variety of grounds outside of the city. Zambuca Tigers also play some games outside of the city in Lewes.

2.5 Unmet / Latent demand

There was no identified unmet demand in the area, but clubs highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision was available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from March to July 2024 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent 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.

7 clubs outlined their aspirations to grow their club in the next 3 years. Figure 2.2 outlines the growth aspirations of these clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the city for youth and girls cricket.

Figure 2.2: B&HCC cricket clubs - Self-reported team growth plans

Club	Growth aspirations
Brighton & Hove	Looking to grow the club in a small way, by increasing players and organising more
Crescent CC	games
Brighton & Hove CC	Growing the Junior Section with teams increasing season on season through good
brighton & nove cc	management and coaching of teams
Brighton Malayalee	Planning to add a junior team and women's team
Association CC	Flaming to add a junior team and women's team
Palmers CC	No details provided
Preston Park CC	Aiming to start a second XI
Rottingdean CC	No details provided
St Matthias CC	Looking to start a girls/women's section

2.6 Trends in demand for team cricket

Nationally the ECB has reported significant growth in women and girls participation between 2019-2022, with clubs who have an existing women's section reporting a growth of 50% and double the amount of fixtures. Sussex Cricket report growth in all areas of the game, including disability cricket.

This is reflected in Brighton & Hove with the increase in teams in the area and several clubs reporting growth in their junior section, including women and girls as well as introducing midweek formats and mixed teams with friendly only fixtures to provide more flexible formats of the game, catering for people's busy lifestyles. Since the previous strategy there has been a total increase of 57 cricket teams across Brighton & Hove, with the greatest increase being reported in adult women's teams (growing from 2 teams in 2016 to 7 teams in 2024, a 350% increase) and youth girls teams (growing from 6 teams in 2016 to 12 teams in 2024, a 100% increase).

3. The situation at individual cricket sites (Step 4)

The fine turf cricket pitches were assessed during the 2024 season. All 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.

Two sites within the city had a PitchPower assessment by the County Pitch Advisor, Braypool Rec Ground and Aldrington Rec Ground (Wish Park), both were graded as Basic under the PitchPower PQS measurements, equivalent to Standard in the PPS pitch quality rating.

The findings of the site-specific audit assessments were reviewed with representatives of Sussex 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

- , , ,	Carrying capacity - Match equivalent sessions per
Pitch quality rating	prepared fine turf wicket (strip) per season
Good	5
Standard	3
Poor	0

The site-specific audit assessments (figure 1.1) 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., it's 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)

Nine sites (listed below) are highlighted from the audit as a **RED** rated site where the available fine turf cricket pitches are considered to be played at or over their estimated carrying capacity based on the size of the square (i.e., number of wickets/strips) and the assessed quality of the square.

- Benfield Valley Rec ground
- Braypool Rec Ground
- Brighton Aldridge Community Academy
- Horsdean Rec Ground
- Nevill Playing Fields

- Patcham Place Rec ground
- Preston Park
- Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club
- University of Sussex

Two sites (listed below) from the audit are rated as AMBER indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played very close to their playing capacity:

- Aldrington Rec ground (Wish Park)
- Hove Rec ground



4. The current and future picture of provision for cricket (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the assessment of facility needs shows that the majority of fine turf pitches in the area are largely played at or over their estimated capacity and that clubs require additional facilities to cater for current demand. Only three sites in the city have capacity to cater for additional usage based on current demand and playing facilities available at each site, Aldrington Rec ground (+6 MES), East Brighton Park (+40 MES), Hove Rec ground (+14 MES), although it should be noted this capacity is not available during peak times. The square at Patcham Place was rated as poor and as such is deemed to have no capacity for use, in addition the pavilion on this site is also closed meaning there is no access to toilets or changing rooms. There are also a number of clubs also playing outside of the city highlighting a need for additional cricket facilities in the area to cater for this demand.

The supply of accessible indoor practice nets in the study area is insufficient with a number of clubs identifying a need for more provision and some travelling outside of the city to train (e.g. The Alternatives CC use Newbury Indoor Nets in Lancing). The non-turf practice net systems in the area are generally good, however public access is limited.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at a number of sites, listed below, where the current provision is inadequate or failing into disrepair. The pavilion at Patcham Place is permanently closed.

- Aldrington Rec Ground (Wish Park)
- Braypool Rec Ground
- Nevill Playing Fields
- Patcham Place
- Preston Park (pavilion adjacent to the velodrome / cricket pitch)

Following site visits to assess ancillary facilities, it was identified that many of the ancillary facilities in the area are unsuitable for women's and girls' cricket and may be preventing further growth of female cricket at clubs. Some clubs have noted that improvements are needed to their pavilion to accommodate women and girls provision such as providing additional changing rooms to allow men's and women's matches to be played at the same time or improved privacy and access to showers and toilet facilities. Pavilions with unsuitable floor plans (e.g. shared shower blocks between changing rooms), unsafe access, or lines of sight from the changing rooms restrict women's and girls' teams from using the facilities and prevent clubs from providing equal opportunities for all.

4.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2041 on the need for cricket pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the demand likely to be generated in the future based on population growth. To meet cricket demand from 12,477 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 57 MES is needed, equivalent to 1 pitch with 12 wickets of a good quality. (figure 4.2)

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³ Population change from 2022 to 2041 based on B&HCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment

Figure 4.2: Demand from population growth

	Match equivalent sessions (MES)	Estimated demand for new grass pitches (match & training demand)
Cricket (open age & junior)	57	1.26
Total	57	1 pitch (12 wickets of good quality)

7 of the clubs surveyed during the consultation process stated that they are striving to grow their club over the next 3 seasons, with 3 of these clubs looking to specifically grow their women and girls or junior sections. With many 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 noted that there may be higher than expected growth rates in these groups, leading to a greater demand for additional fine turf pitches.

5. Key findings and issues for cricket (Step 6)

Figure 5.1 - Cricket key findings and issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision

Fourteen grass pitches are identified as available for community cricket across Brighton & Hove in 2024, on 12 playing pitch sites. There are 10 non-turf pitches on 9 sites available for community use. Since the last assessment was carried out in 2016 there has been little change in the supply of cricket pitches in the area, with the same number of fine turf pitches, however the availability of NTP facilities is less with a number of NTP's on education sites being no longer available for community use or, have not been maintained or replaced, and are no longer fit for use.

Seventeen clubs were identified in Brighton & Hove through the consultation with a total of 149 teams (67 men's, 7 women's, 7 mixed adult, 56 boys/mixed teams and 12 girls' teams). Five clubs provide opportunities for juniors to play competitive cricket – Brighton & Hove CC, Portslade CC, Rottingdean CC, St Matthias CC and St Peters CC. Three clubs provide girls specific teams Brighton & Hove CC, Rottingdean CC and St Peters CC.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?

<u>No</u> - The assessment of facility needs shows that there is not sufficient fine turf pitches in the area to cater for the demand of clubs in the area, with several playing outside of the city and the majority of fine turf pitches in the area being played to their maximum. There are only three sites in the city that have capacity Aldrington Rec ground (+6 MES), East Brighton Park (+40 MES), Hove Rec ground (+14 MES), although none of this capacity is available for peak adult Saturday provision and would only be suitable for midweek or youth cricket. In total an additional 50 MES (for 5 teams) is needed to accommodate current demand which is currently exported outside of the city.

Overall, the cricket provision in Brighton & Hove is secured with 10/12 cricket sites being owned by the council, with some leased to cricket clubs. A number of clubs have lease arrangements in need of review to clarify the maintenance arrangements and some such as Portslade CC, who have only two years remaining, needs review. A few clubs hire annually facilities from the council and the council should look to formalise arrangements to provide clubs longer leases where possible to enable them to grow provision.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

<u>No</u> – The cricket pitches (squares) and outfields in the city vary in quality with club sites maintained to a good quality standard in the main and council managed sites to standard quality, there is however one site at Patcham Place rated as poor, which needs improving to at least a standard quality level. The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the PitchPower pitch assessment reports would help to improve the playing capacity at the site assessed.

There are some NTPs which have lost community use due to their poor condition (i.e. University of Brighton and Longhill Sports Centre), but those NTP wickets which are available for community use are generally good quality, with 6/10 available being graded as 'good' quality, 3 being rated as 'standard' and 1 as poor at the University of Sussex.

The non-turf practice net systems are in good or standard condition with only the nets at the University of Sussex in need of upgrading. Patcham High School are in progress of constructing new 3 lane nets and Brighton & Hove CC has planning permission to extend their nets at Nevill Playing Fields to 5 lanes.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at a number of sites, where the current provision is inadequate or failing into disrepair. The pavilion at Patcham Place is permanently closed.

What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?

To meet cricket demand from 12,477 additional residents 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 a minimum one additional (12 wicket) cricket pitch will be needed in the study area.

In addition, club consultation highlighted that seven clubs have aspirations to grow their clubs over the next three years. Should this growth be achieved, future demand for pitches is likely to grow significantly.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?

<u>No</u> - There is not sufficient_accessible and secured community use provision in Brighton & Hove to meet future demand.

Pitches rated as poor quality are deemed to not have any capacity for cricket, so it is important the square at Patcham Place is improved to at least standard quality. For those pitches that are standard quality there is some scope to increase the playing capacity of the existing supply by improving the quality of the pitches used by cricket clubs and teams based in Brighton & Hove but these are mainly council sites and would require an increase in maintenance budget which is already under significant pressure due to the wider budget pressures on local authorities.

PitchPower (and ECB funding) is due to be available to local authorities and cricket clubs, providing potential for funding pitch improvements either through the ECB or the Football Foundation for sites with both football and cricket facilities. This could open an avenue to increased capacity and quality at joint sports sites such as Braypool Rec. ground, Horsdean Rec ground and Rottingdean Cricket and Football Club which are used at or above capacity.

Overall, there is a shortfall of two fine turf pitches, but due to the lack of space in the city to provide additional fine turf pitches the council should seek to try and increase community use at the 4 education sites without community use (Brighton College, Lancing College Preparatory School, and Roedean School).

B&HCC have committed to developing an additional 3 NTP wickets in partnership with the ECB and Sussex Cricket, one at each of Braypool Rec. ground, East Brighton Park, and Aldrington Rec. ground, subject to planning. These developments are expected to be available for use in 2025. The NTP's at Braypool and Aldrington Rec. ground, subject to planning, will be new pitch provision which will have provision to cater for up to 60 MES for adult use at each site.

There are also opportunities to increase the utilisation of council owned sites for midweek and junior provision such as at East Brighton Park which has a total of 40 MES surplus.





Appendix B: Football - Assessment of needs (Stages B and C)

1. Introduction

The findings of the assessment of football facilities in Brighton & Hove are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. FA affiliated football clubs registered to Sussex FA and playing home fixtures in the area have contributed to this assessment by submitting an online club survey and/or through in person consultation during site visits. The number of clubs that responded to consultation as part of this process represents 83% of teams playing affiliated football in the area.

Since the last assessment was carried out in 2016 there have been changes in both the supply of football pitches in Brighton & Hove and in football demand. On the supply side, there has been additional provision of new full sized 3G AGPs at Hove Park School (2021), Patcham High School (2021), University of Sussex (2019), and Portslade Sports Centre (2019) as well as a 70x31m 3G AGP at Hove Park (2018) with LED floodlights installed in 2021. In addition, the AGPs at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, and the 60x40m 3G AGP at the University of Sussex have all been resurfaced. There are also 4 new small-sided 3G AGP's at Withdean Sports Complex and a full-size pitch at Cardinal Newman School being completed ready for the 24/25 season. At the time of reporting there are a number of 3G AGP projects which have been granted planning permission including a new stadia 3G pitch at Hill Park (Saltdean United FC) due to be installed in 2025 and a full size AGP at Toads Hole Valley as part of housing development, in addition the council are looking to apply for funding to develop a 3G 7v7 pitch in Moulsecoomb.

There has been some change to grass pitch provision with new youth grass pitches developed at Happy Valley Rec. ground, improvements to pitch maintenance at Aldrington Rec ground (Wish Park), Greenleas Rec ground, Happy Valley Rec ground and Nevill Playing Fields and at the time of reporting the youth pitches at Mile Oak Rec ground and one of the adult pitches at Nevill Playing Fields were being renovated.

There has been an increase in demand, as the number of football teams in Brighton & Hove has increased to 326 teams. This represents an increase of 66 teams (26%) since the previous audit in 2016 when 260 affiliated teams were registered in the city. There has been a change in football provision with a reduction in adult male (-12 teams) and an increase in adult female teams (+19 teams, including small sided), youth football (+22) and mini soccer (+37) teams.

2. Football supply (Step 2)

The findings of the assessment of supply of football facilities in Brighton & Hove are summarised in this section and detailed by site for both grass and artificial turf pitches. The supply 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), supported by consultation with the Council, Sussex FA, and user clubs. At a number of key football sites, more detailed pitch quality assessments were undertaken using the Football Foundation's 'PitchPower' methodology. At these sites, the estimates of playing capacity are informed by the results of the PitchPower assessments and Performance Quality Standards (PQS) ratings provided by the Grounds Maintenance Association (GMA). It should be noted that in some cases the pitch grading used was different to the PitchPower assessment, based on the current pitch condition and agreed by Sussex FA, in these cases the quality used is highlighted in bold with PP rating also noted (see Figures 2.5 and 2.6).

2.1 Distribution of football supply

Figures 2.1 and 2.2 show the distribution of key football sites across Brighton & Hove in each analysis area.

2.2 Grass football pitches in Brighton & Hove

In total there are 134 grass pitches across 64 sites in Brighton & Hove, of these 31 pitches (20 sites) are on school playing fields and either are not currently available for community use or have no known history of community use. These include:

- Bevendean Primary School 2 pitches (2xMini 7v7)
- Carden Primary School 1 pitch (Mini 7v7)
- Cardinal Newman Catholic School 1 pitch (Youth 11v11)
- Coldean Primary School 1 pitch (Youth 9v9)
- Dorothy Stringer School 2 pitches (Adult 11v11, Youth 9v9)
- Goldstone Youth School 2 pitches (2x Mini 7v7)
- Hamilton Lodge School and College for Deaf Children 1 pitch (Youth 9v9)
- Kings School Hove 1 pitch (Youth 11v11)
- Lancing College Preparatory School 3 pitches (Adult 11v11, Youth 11v11, Mini 7v7)
- Mile Oak Primary School 1 pitch (Mini 7v7)
- Moulsecoomb Primary School 2 pitches (Mini 7v7, Youth 9v9)
- Saltdean Primary School 3 pitches (2x Mini 5v5, Mini 7v7)
- St Andrews COE Primary School 1 pitch (Youth 9v9)
- St John the Baptist RC School 1 pitch (Youth 9v9)
- St Nicolas COE Junior School 1 pitch (Youth 9v9)
- University Brighton 3 pitches (Adult 11v11)
- Varndean College 1 pitch (Adult 11v11)
- West Blatchington Primary School -1 pitch (Youth 9v9)
- Westdene Primary School 2 pitches (Mini 7v7, Youth 9v9)
- Woodingdean Primary School 1 pitch (Mini 7v7)

An additional mini 7v7 pitch at St Margaret's COE Primary School, although not currently hired by any community clubs, would be available for hire if the school received assistance with marking out the pitch. Bevendean Rec. ground previously had one adult 11v11 pitch, however due to badger damage, a closed pavilion and poor access this site is not suitable for match play. These two sites and the education sites listed above have been excluded from the supply and demand calculations, as they are not currently available for community use.



This means the number of secured grass pitches available for community football in Brighton & Hove is 101 pitches on 42 sites (figure 2.1) and the number of AGP pitches is 25 across 15 sites (figure 2.2). Further details of these facilities can be found in figures 2.5 - 2.8 and 2.10 - 2.11.

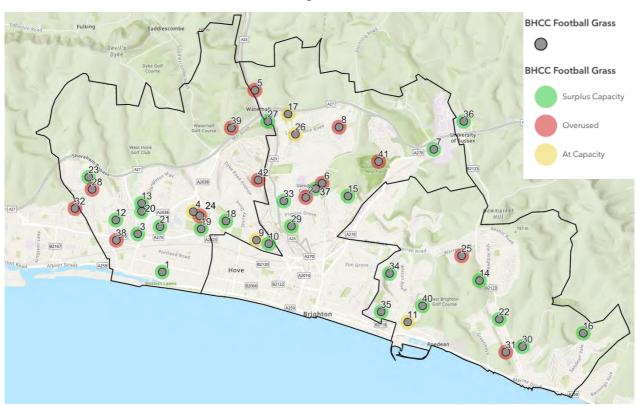


Figure 2.1 - Distribution of grass football pitch sites in Brighton & Hove

Key: Grass pitch Sites					
No Site name		Postcode	No	Site name	
1 Aldrington Recreation (Wish park)	Ground	BN3 4LN	22	Longhill Sports Centre	
2 Balfour Junior School		BN1 6NE	23	Mile Oak Recreation Ground	
3 Benfield Valley Recreat	ion Ground	BN3 7GE	24	Nevill Playing Fields	
4 Blatchington Mill School	ol	BN3 7BW	25	Nuffield Playing Fields	
5 Braypool Recreation G	round	BN1 8ZH	26	Patcham Junior School	
6 Hollingbury Park (Bren	twood Road)	BN1 7EX	27	Patcham Place Recreation Ground	
7 Brighton Aldridge Com Academy (BACA)	munity	BN1 9PW	28	Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	
8 Carden Park		BN3 6EG	29	Preston Park	
9 Cottesmore St. Mary's School	RC Primary	BN3 6ND	30	Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club	
10 Dyke Road Park		BN1 5AS	31	Rottingdean Recreation Ground	
11 East Brighton Park		BN2 5TS	32	Southwick Hill Recreation Ground	
12 Easthill Park		BN41 2FA	33	St Bernadette Catholic Primary School	
13 Greenleas		BN3 8AN	34	The Crew Club	
14 Happy Valley Recreation	n Ground	BN2 6LA	35	The Manor Road Gym	
15 Hertford Junior School		BN1 7FP	36	University of Sussex	
16 Hill Park		BN2 8HJ	37	Varndean High School	
17 Horsdean Recreation G	iround	BN1 8UA	38	Victoria Recreation Ground	
18 Hove Park		BN3 6BG	39	Waterhall Sports Ground	
19 Hove Park School - Nev	rill Campus	BN3 7BN	40	Whitehawk Football Club (The enclosed ground)	
20 Hove Park School - Val	ey Campus	BN3 8AD	41	Wild Park	
21 Knoll Park		BN3 7JG	42	Withdean Sports Complex	1

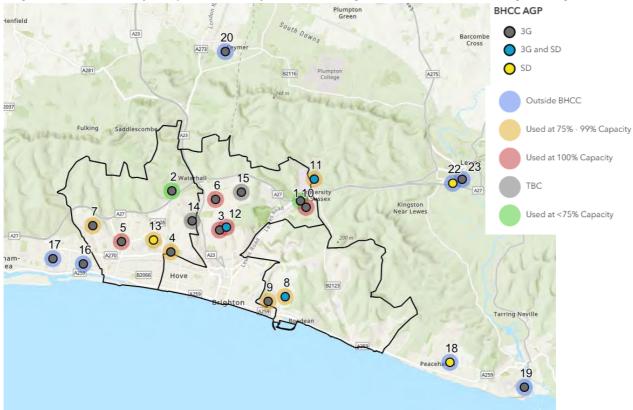


Figure 2.2- Distribution of AGP pitch sites used for Football in Brighton & Hove and those in neighbouring areas.

SD = Sand Dressed Artificial Grass Pitch, 3G = Third Generation Artificial Grass Pitch

Key: A	artificial pitch sites	
No	Site name	Postcode
1	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy (BACA)	BN1 9PW
2	Brighton Football Rugby Club	BN1 8YR
3	Dorothy Stringer School	BN1 6PZ
4	Hove Park	BN3 6BG
5	Hove Park School - Valley Campus	BN3 8AD
6	Patcham High School	BN1 8PB
7	Portslade Sports Centre	BN41 2WS
8	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre*	BN2 5PB
9	The Manor Road Gym	BN2 5EA
10	University of Brighton	BN1 9PH
11	University of Sussex	BN1 9PL
12	Varndean School	BN1 6NP
13	Blatchington Mill School	BN3 7BW
14	Withdean Sports Complex**	BN1 5JD
15	Cardinal Newman Catholic School**	BN1 8LU
	Sites outside of B&HCC	
16	Southwick Leisure Centre	BN42 4NT
17	Shoreham Academy	BN43 6YT
18	Peacehaven Community School	BN10 8RB
19	Fort Road Recreation Ground	BN9 9DL
20	Hassocks Sports Centre	BN6 8LP
22	Southdown Sports Club	BN7 3PR
23	Lewes FC (The Rockery 3G)	BN7 2XA

^{*}The 3G pitch at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre is used to 82% of capacity whereas the SD pitch is used to only 29%. Site is marked as used at 75% - 99% capacity in figure 2.2 as the 3G pitch is the primary football surface.

^{**} Sites are in development at the time of reporting and do not yet have confirmed usage schedules, however it has been confirmed that the facilities will offer community bookings.



Figure 2.3 shows the number of secured pitches currently available compared with the number of FA affiliated teams by age group in June 2024. Comparison of current team numbers with the available supply of natural turf pitches shows that there is a relatively even distribution of pitches with 2-3 teams per pitch for adult 11v11, 9v9, 7v7, and 5v5 pitches. There are over 7 teams for each Youth 11v11 pitch, meaning some will play on full sized pitches.

There are few youth pitches within Brighton & Hove which are overmarked for smaller sided games, with 3 pitches being overmarked for smaller sided football matches and 1 being overmarked with a Gaelic Football pitch. This can be an effective way to manage demand in areas of concentrated youth football but can lead to overplay, as is evident at Hill Park and Waterhall Sports Ground.

Figure 2.3: Pitch size / Team comparison

Pitch type	Available	pitch supply	Teams playing in	Brighton & Hove
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	37	37%	90	29%
Youth 11v11 (U13 - U16)	10	9%	73	24%
Youth 9v9 (U11 – U12)	21	21%	58	19%
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9 - U10)	22	22%	55	18%
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U6 – U8)	11	11%	31	10%
Total	101		307	

2.3 Local authority owned sites with grass football pitches for hire:

Brighton & Hove City Council (B&HCC) own 76 grass pitches throughout the city, two thirds of which are available to hire through their booking system whilst others are leased or managed by sports clubs, sports associations, community groups, or commercial companies. Figure 2.4 below outlines the management of council owned pitches.

Figure 2.4: Management agreements of council owned pitches

Ownership agreement	Grass pitches			
Managed by B&HCC	51	66%		
Lease / licenced to Sports Clubs	26*	33%		
Tenancy at Will	1	1%		
Total	78			

^{*}Includes 2 pitches sublet by Rottingdean CC to Rottingdean FC. Rottingdean CC have a 20+ year lease for the pitches with B&HCC and 2 pitches at Southwick Hill Rec ground just outside the Council boundary but owned by the Council and on an annual recurring licence to Mile Oak Wanderers Youth FC.

2.4 Grass football pitches with other ownership agreements:

There are four pitches at Nuffield Playing Fields in commercial ownership with Nuffield Hospital, this site is used by Woodingdean Wanderers FC on an annual hire basis. There is also a 7v7 grass pitch at The Manor Gym, as council site currently managed by The Manor Community company (figure 2.7)

2.5 Football pitches on education sites:

Brighton & Hove based community football clubs currently play on pitches at several education sites, as listed in figure 2.8. The clubs using pitches on education sites have little security of access as continued use 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). The majority of education sites do not have community use agreements in place and whilst none of these education providers has indicated any intention to stop allowing access in future, without specific agreements in place for longer than a single season, security of access for football clubs at these sites must be considered a risk. It should also be noted that the capacity of pitches on education sites are typically influenced by school use including PE activity, extra-curricular use and playtimes.

Further youth and mini-soccer pitches (or space to accommodate pitches) exist in the area on playing fields at other school sites across the city, as listed in section 2.2. However, the majority are single pitch sites at primary schools which 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.

2.6 Changes to grass football pitch provision

The pitches at Aldrington Rec Ground (Wish Park) are due to be reconfigured.

2.7 Facilities for informal football

Most of the parks and larger public open spaces in the city provide flat grass areas suitable for casual recreational games of football and kick-abouts. Many open spaces across Brighton & Hove also offer a fenced but open access multi use games area (MUGA) and/or a smaller ball court (for football/basketball/skate), some of which are floodlit. Examples identified include:

- Hangleton Park Poor quality sand based MUGA for football and basketball.
- Knoll Park Poor quality sand based MUGA for football and basketball.
- Crew Club 2 recently refurbished hard court MUGAs for football and basketball.
- Preston Park 3 MUGAs for football and basketball.
- Saunders Park 1 large MUGA with 2 basketball courts.
- Stoneham Park 1 hard court MUGA for basketball.
- Carden Park 1 hard court MUGA for basketball.
- East Brighton Park 1 hard court MUGA for football.
- Saltdean Oval Park 1 hard court MUGA for football and basketball.

2.8 Commercial football centres

There are no commercial football centres in Brighton & Hove, however a number of five a side providers do operate leagues using 3G AGP's in the area, often securing peak evening slots which reduces the availability for club training use.

Providers operating in the area include Power League at Stanley Deason on a Monday, Wednesday and Thursday (men's and women's), Hove Park School (Monday), Portslade Sports Centre (Wednesday) and Withdean Sports Complex (Tuesday & Wednesday starting Sept 24). Play Football at Dorothy Stringer School (Monday) and 5's football at Dorothy Stringer School (Tuesday, women) Hove Park (Sundays), Manor Road Gym (Tuesday and Thursday, men and women) and Patcham High School (Monday).



Figure 2.5: Council owned sites with grass football pitches for hire:

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
		Youth 11v11	N	Clubs rate 3/5, 2/5 Standard PP - Good	Significant graffiti. Poor public toilets with signs of damage. B&HCC plan to refurbish		2	1.75	0.25	
Aldrington Rec.	DNID ALNI	Youth 11v11	N	PP - Good	facilities, which received support from SFA	C	4	2.25	1.75	
Ground (Wish Park)	BN3 4LN	Youth 9v9	N	PP - Basic	and Sussex Cricket. 2 changing rooms and 1	Council owned	2	3.25	Estimated use Demand balance R 1.75 0.25	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard PP - Good	open showers, no privacy screen. No accessible or ambulant facilities.		4	2.75		
		Mini 5v5	N	PP - Poor			2	1.75	0.25	
Braypool Rec.	DN/4 0711	Adult 11v11	N	League rate 3/5. Club rate 3/5 PP - Poor	Poor facilities. 10 large changing rooms with open showers, kitchen, and club room. No	Committee	1	2.5	-1.5	
Ground	Fround Adi You	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Poor	accessible or ambulant facilities. Evidence of	Council owned	1	2	-1	
		Youth 9v9	N	PP - Basic	non-booked use by football clubs.		2	3	-1	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Basic			2	2	0	
Carden Park	BN3 6EG	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Poor	None	Council owned	1	2	-1	
Dules Dand Dank	DNI1 FAC	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	Name	Council owned	2	1.75	Demand balance 0.25 1.75 -1.25 1.25 0.25 -1.5 -1 -1 0 -1 0.25 2.25 0 0 3 1.5 1 1.5 1 1.5 2 0.5	
Dyke Road Park	BIVI SAS	Mini 7v7	N	Standard	None	Council owned	4	1.75		
East Brighton Park	BN2 5TS	Adult 11v11	N	Clubs rate 1/5, 2/5 PP - Poor	Separated men's and women's changing rooms and showers. No accessible or	Council owned	1	1	0	
J		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Basic	ambulant facilities.		2	2	0	
Easthill Park	BN41 2FA	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Good	Changing rooms closed due to deterioration. Public and accessible w/c to the rear.	Council owned	3	0	3	
Greenleas	DNIO ONNI	Adult 11v11	N	Standard PP - Good	Poor facilities. 4 changing rooms, 2 communal showers, public toilet facilities. Rarely used.	Council owned	2	0.5	1.5	
Greenleas	DINO OAIN	Youth 9v9	N	Standard PP - Good	Showers, public tollet facilities. Nately used.	Council owned	2	1	1	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Basic			2	0.5	1.5	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Basic	1		2	0.5	1.5	
Happy Valley	BN2 6LA	Youth 11v11	N	PP - Basic	2x changing rooms, 1 shower block, storage, and public toilets. No accessible or ambulant	Council owned	2	0	2	
Recreation Ground	DIVZ OLA	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	facilities.	Council owned	2	1.5	0.5	
	Adult 11v11	Standard			4	1.5	2.5			
		Mini 5v5	N	Standard	7		4 2 4 1 2 2 4 1 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2 2	0.5	3.5	

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
Harris Bards	DNI3 CDC	Mini 7v7	N	PP - Basic	Cafe, and public toilets (poor) on site.		4	2	2	
Hove Park	BN3 6BG	Mini 7v7	N	PP - Poor		Council owned	2	1.5	0.5	
W 115 1	DN12 716	Mini 7v7	N	PP - Basic	2 pavilions, one leased by bowls, one by the		4	2.5	1.5	
Knoll Park	BN3 7JG	Mini 5v5	N	PP - Basic	youth club which the football club have informal access to.	Council owned	4	2	2	
Patcham Place Rec.		Youth 9v9	N	Standard	Pavilion closed due to vandalism and damage		2	1.5	0.5	
Ground	BN1 8ZF	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	4 changing rooms, communal showers and w/cs. No accessible or ambulant facilities.	Council owned	2	0.5	1.5	
		Mini 5v5	N	Standard	Café, public toilets, and 4x first floor changing		4	1.75	2.25	
Preston Park	BN1 6SD	Mini 7v7	N	Standard	rooms. Male, female, and accessible public	Council owned	4	1.25	2.75	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard	toilets.		4	1.25	2.75	
Rottingdean	DN 2 7D 4	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	No changing facilities, but 2 toilets on site,	Committee	2	2.25	-0.25	
Recreation Ground	BN2 7DA	Mini 7v7	N	Poor	one out of order.	Council owned	2	2.25 -0.25 2.25 -0.25 1 1		
		Mini 7v7	Y - 5v5	Poor	2	1	Demand balance 2 0.5 1.5 2 0.5 1.5 2 2.25 2.75 2.75 -0.25 -0.25			
The Crew Club	BN2 5QW	Youth 9v9	N	Poor	Changing block with self-contained showers	Council owned	1	1	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	0.5	1.5	
Victoria Recreation		Adult 11v11	N	League rate 1/5 PP - Basic	Bowls Pavilion 2 changing rooms (+ officials changing) are in very good condition and		2	2	0	
Ground	BN41 1UB	Adult 11v11	N	PP - Basic	haven't been used since it was developed. The main pavilion is very poor. 4 changing	Council owned	2	2	0	
		Adult 11v11	N	PP - Basic	rooms (+ referees changing), 2 shower units (communal), and male/female toilets.		2	2.5	-0.5	
		Adult 11v11	Gaelic Football	League rate 2/5Poor			1	2.75	-1.75	
Waterhall Sports		Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Pavilion has been closed for 2-3 years 16 changing rooms and 2 sets of communal		2	2.75	-0.75	
Ground	BN1 8YR	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	showers, male toilets internally. Male and female public toilets externally. Large	Council owned	2	2.75	-0.75	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard	clubroom.		2	2.75	-0.75	
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	2.75	-0.75	

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
		Mini 5v5	N	Poor			2	1.75	0.25	
	Wild Park BN1 9JS	Mini 7v7	N	Poor			2	2.25	-0.25	
Wild Park BN1 9JS	Youth 9v9	N	Poor	One accessible public W/C and Café within pavilion. No changing room facilities on site.	Council owned	1	1.25	-0.25		
		Youth 9v9	N	Poor			1	1.25	-0.25	
		Adult 11v11	N	Poor			1	3.25	-2.25	
Withdean Sports Complex	BN1 5JD	Adult 11v11 stadia pitch	N	Standard Club rate 3/5	Modular building separate to leisure centre for changing and clubhouse of pitch. Repairs needed council looking at options for replacement. Public address system floodlights need upgrading.	Council facility, managed by Freedom Leisure, clubs have no SoT	2	2.5	-0.5	

Figure 2.6 Council owned grass pitches with lease / licence agreements:

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
Benfield Valley	BN3 7GE	Youth 11v11	N	Standard PP - Good	Pavilion with changing, social space bar and kitchen Significant graffiti on the outside of	Leased by Portslade CC - 2	4	0.5	3.5	
Recreation Ground	BNS 7 GE	9v9	N	Standard PP - Good	pavilion.	years remaining on 25-year lease	4	0.5	3.5	
Hollingbury Park (Brentwood Road)	BN1 7EX	Youth 11v11	N	Standard	None	Hollingbury Hawks lease	2	2.75	-0.75	
	,	Adult 11v11	N	Club rate 4/5 PP - Basic	Standard/good quality clubroom with bar. Good changing facilities (2 changing with	Saltdean Utd own buildings	2	2.5	-0.5	
Hill Park BN2 8HJ	Youth 11v11	9v9	PP - Poor	integrated showers. + refs changing room. Planning permission has been granted	and main pitch. 22-year lease	1	3	-2		
		Mini 7v7	N	PP - Basic	to further improve the facilities.	from B&HCC	4	3	1	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard Club rate 3/5			4	2	2	
Horsdean		Mini 7v7	N	Standard		25-year lease	4	1.5	2.5	
Recreation Ground	BN1 8UA	Mini 7v7	N	Standard	Pavilion with changing recently renovated	under sports ass	4	1.5	2.5	
		Mini 7v7	N	Standard			4	1.5	2.5	
	Mini 5v5	N	Standard	7		4	1.5	3.5		

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG					
		Adult 11v11 stadia pitch	N	Standard		25-year lease on	2	3	-1						
Mile Oak Recreation	BN41 2WF	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	Pavilion average condition but needs work to	main pitch,	2	1	1						
Ground		Mini 7v7	N	Standard	be more energy efficient and improve layout.	licence on youth	4	2.5	1.5						
		Mini 5v5	N	Standard		p	4	1.5	2.5						
		Adult 11v11	N	Standard Clubs rate 3/5- 5/5 PP - Poor			2	3	-1						
		Youth 9v9	N	PP - Basic	Pavilion with 4 changing rooms, basic,	Brighton & Hove	2	5.5	-3.5						
Nevill Playing Fields	BN3 7QD	Youth 11v11	N	PP - Basic	recently repainted, separate showers in poor	CC have ground	2	4.25	-2.25						
iveviii i laying i leius	BN3 /QD	Youth 9v9	N	PP - Basic	condition. No accessible toilet	on licence, lease	2	5.25	-3.25						
	<u> </u>				 		Mini 7v7	N	Standard PP - Poor	condition. No accessible tollet	on building	4	2.25	1.75	
		Adult 11v11 N Standard PP - Poor		2	5.25	Demand balance -1									
Rottingdean Cricket	BN2 7DA	Adult 11v11	N	Club rate 4/5 PP - Good	Standard quality pavilion shared with Rottingdean CC. 2x separate changing is	Sublet from Rottingdean CC.	3	3.5	-0.5						
& Football Club	BNZ 7DA	Mini 5v5	N	Standard	available to the football club, separate showers. Pavilion is step 7 compliant.	21 years remaining	4	3	1						
Southwick Hill	BN42 4QU	Youth 11v11	N	Poor	No ancillary facilities or toilets available	Recurring annual licence	1	1.5	-0.5						
Recreation Ground	51142 400	Youth 9v9	N	Poor	The arisinary racinities of conets available	to Mile Oak Wanderers	1	1.5	-1 1 1.5 2.5 -1 -3.5 -2.25 -3.25 1.75 -3.25 -0.5 1 -0.5 -0.5						
Whitehawk FC (The enclosed ground)	BN2 5TS	Adult 11v11	N	Club rate 2/5 Standard	Changing rooms and showers need refurbishing. Licensed bar.	Club 90+ year lease	2	1.5	0.5						

Figure 2.7 Grass football pitches with other ownership agreements:

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
No.fficial District		Youth 11v11	N	Club rate 3/5 Standard	Poor. Container unit on site with changing	None.	2	4.5	-2.5	
Nuffield Playing	Fields BN2 6DX	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	space and small kitchen area, no mains water	commercial ownership. Club	2	3.75	-1.75	
Fields		Mini 7v7	N	Standard	(just outside tap) and composing toilets.	annual hire	4	3.75	0.25	
		Mini 5v5	N	Standard	Damage to flooring and issues with mice.	agreement	4	3	1	

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
The Manor Road Gym	BN2 5EA	Mini 7v7	N	Poor	Changing and toilets in community centre.	Council site Tenancy at Will	2	0.5	1.5	

Figure 2.8 Football pitches on education sites:

Site	Postcode	Pitches by size	Overmarked ?	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Capacity	Estimated use	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
Balfour Junior School	BN1 6NE	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	None	Education unaware of CUA	2	3	-1	
Blatchington Mill School	BN3 7BW	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Toilet access for football clubs but changing not available	CUA in place	2	2	0	
Brighton Aldridge	BN1 9PW	Adult 11v11	N	Good	Use of toilets and changing rooms at request	Education	3	1.5	1.5	
Comm. Academy	BINT SPVV	9v9	5v5	Good	of the hiring clubs	unaware of CUA	4	1.5	2.5	
Hertford Junior School	BN1 7FP	Youth 11v11	N	Standard	Unknown	Education unaware of CUA	2	2	0	
Hove Park School -	BN3 7BN	Adult 11v11	N	Club rate 5/5 Standard	Changing available in school	Education unaware of CUA	2	2	0	
Nevill Campus		Adult 11v11	N	Standard			2	1	1	
Hove Park School - Valley Campus	BN3 8AD	Mini 7v7	N	Standard	Changing available in school	CUA in place	4	0.5	3.5	
Longhill Sports	DN12 75D	Adult 11v11	N	Club rate 2/5 Standard	Character and table to make a set of	CUA in place –	2	2.5	-0.5	
Centre	BN2 7FR	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	Changing available in sports centre	expires August 2025	2	0.5	1.5	
		Youth 7v7	N	Standard			4	0.5	3.5	
Patcham Junior School	BN1 8PB	Youth 9v9	N	Standard	Unknown	Education unaware of CUA	2	2	0	
Portslade Aldridge Com. Academy	BN41 2WS	Adult 11v11	N	Poor	Changing available in school	Education unaware of CUA	1	3	-2	
St Bernadette	BN1 6UT	Mini 5v5	N	Poor	Access to changing facilities if peeded	Education	2	0.5	1.5	
Catholic Prim School	BIAT OOL	Mini 5v5	N	Standard	- Access to changing facilities if needed	unaware of CUA	4	0	4	
		Adult 11v11	N	Good	9 changing rooms – 4 designated	Education	3	1.5	2.5	
University of Sussex	BN1 9PL	Adult 11v11	N	Good	male/female (2 male, 2 female), 5 with shared showers. Roof repairs ongoing	unaware of CUA	3	1.5	2.5	
Varndean High School	BN1 6NP	Adult 11v11	N	Standard	Toilets and changing facilities available upon request	Education unaware of CUA	2	1.5	0.5	

2.9 Quality

The table below summaries the standard of the pitches assessed. The ratings attributed to each pitch are detailed in the audit spreadsheet. These were informed by a combination of visual assessment on site visits and PitchPower assessments as well as feedback from consultation with user clubs and the Council. It should be noted that in some cases the pitch grading used was different to the PitchPower assessment, based on the current pitch condition, in these cases the quality used is highlighted in bold with PP rating also noted and includes pitches at the following sites Aldrington Rec. ground, Greenleas, Benfield Valley Rec. ground and Nevill Playing Fields (Figures 2.5 and 2.6). This audit data was agreed with the Sussex FA.

Figure 2.9 – Brighton & Hove grass football pitch quality

	Total	Percentage
Good	7	7%
Standard / Basic (PP)	73	72%
Poor	21	21%
Total	101	

^{*} This final number will vary due to overmarking, and pitches closed / being improved at time of audit

21% of pitches in the area that have been assessed are of poor quality, with the majority (72%) of the available grass football pitches accessible for community use in Brighton & Hove rated as 'standard' (i.e., providing a playing capacity for up to two match equivalent sessions a week on average for adults). Only 7% of pitches are rated as good.

Inadequate natural drainage and compaction of the ground are issues at some of the football pitch sites, due to the largely clay soils of much of the area. Brighton & Hove City Council have received funding from the Football Foundation for specialist equipment to improve the drainage of grass pitches and regular PitchPower assessments are being done to monitor the impact of this.

Thirty seven pitches (on 14 sites) in Brighton & Hove have been assessed using the Football Foundation's PitchPower assessment and reporting tool. The PitchPower report findings for these sites identify the maintenance needs required together with budget costs. These sites are identified in Figures 2.5-2.8 with 'PP' in brackets next to their pitch rating.

2.10 Informal and unauthorised use of formal pitches by teams

Informal recreational use and unauthorised use of the maintained pitches in Brighton & Hove parks is a challenge for the Council. Clubs tend to 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 the pitch. The Council strive to address this whether it is by FA affiliated football teams, private soccer schools or independent coaches by aiming to monitor the situation and contacting teams when armed with evidence as well as directing people to use other open spaces and not the formal pitch spaces.

2.11 Artificial grass pitches (AGPs) in Brighton & Hove

In total, there are 25 pitches of various sizes across 15 sites with artificial grass surfaces suitable for football play at some level (i.e., either 3G preferred football surface or a sand-dressed multi use playing surface), which are available for community use. There are 10 FA compliant 3G pitches in the area (although the pitch at Dorothy Stringer School is due to expire in May 2025, at the time of this report), 7 of these are on education sites with high levels of community usage both for training and matches. The 3G pitches at Brighton Aldridge Community Academy and Brighton RFC and the SD pitches at Blatchington Mill School, Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, and Varndean School have some capacity. The pitch at Brighton RFC is primarily used by the rugby club for rugby training and is not FA Registered due to the poor condition of the pitch. At the time of visit, the SD pitch at Varndean School, the new 3G



pitch at Cardinal Newman School and the 4 small sided 3G pitches at Withdean Sports Complex were being developed so do not currently have any community use, however all sites are committed to community use once they are opened.

Over half (64.3%) of all the football clubs consulted (12 clubs, 141 teams) stated that the current number of hours available to them for training did not meet their demand and had the following comments.

- We cannot welcome new players and teams due to a lack of training and match space.
- We need more 11 v 11 and 7 v 7 pitches.
- Training facilities are limited by lack of 3G availability.
- The cost of training slots on floodlit 3G pitches is too high.
- Availability of 3G pitches does not meet levels of demand.
- Teams have to travel significant distances across the city as there are no suitable 3G pitches in our area for winter training.

There are a number of alternative full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G AGPs in neighbouring boroughs within a 20-minute drive (5-mile catchment area) based on a review of Active Places data as shown in Figure 2.2. A further full size 3G AGP is due to be developed at the Russel Martin Foundation site in Southwick, which is expected to be open in 2025. The future demand for 3G artificial pitches is outlined in Section 5 of this document.

There are also several artificial grass pitches in the city with sand-based playing surfaces designed for hockey as the main sport, but which also accommodate a large amount of demand for small sided football and club training, as detailed in figure 2.11.

2.12 AGPs at risk

There are no AGPs known to be at risk, however there is no known sinking fund in place at the University of Brighton, which could affect the ability to resurface the pitches when needed. At Brighton RFC the value of the sinking fund at the club is not enough to cover the resurfacing due to the increase in costs.

2.13 Proposed new AGPs

Saltdean United FC have received planning permission to install a new full sized, stadia 3G pitch in place of their current main 11v11 pitch, which is due to be completed in time for the start of the 2025/26 season. A full size 3G AGP is due to be provided at Toads Hole Valley as part of housing development and the council are looking to apply for funding to develop a 3G 7v7 pitch in Moulsecoomb. Longhill Sports Centre are exploring options to develop a full sized 3G AGP with potentially a rugby shock pad, but this is subject to funding and planning permission. St Andrews Primary School and Varndean College have been granted planning permission for new 3G pitches.



Figure 2.10: 3G AGPs - Situation at individual sites

Site	Postcode	AGP size & type	Date built (refurbished)	Rating	On FA 3G Reg. Apr 24	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Peak hrs available ¹	Est. use in peak hours	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	BN1 9PW	100m x 60m Floodlit 3G	2013	Standard	Yes	Use of toilets and changing available at request	Education unaware of CUA - Sinking fund in place	31 hrs	22hrs (71%) Football	9	
Brighton Football Rugby Club	BN1 8YR	119m x 69m Floodlit 3G	2005	Poor	No - Not passed test	6 changing rooms, 2 showers, 200-person capacity clubhouse. Club rate 3/5 90+ year lease for clubhouse.	Annual lease for the pitches. Sinking fund amount requires clarification	34 hrs	17hrs (47%) (estimated) Rugby 11 hrs Other 5hrs	20	
Cardinal Newman Catholic School	BN1 8LU	94x56m 3G	2024 due to open Sept 24	Good	Yes	New 4 team changing facilities.	CUA being drafted at time of reporting		lopment at time c available for comr		ill be
Dorothy Stringer School	BN1 6PZ	88m x 56m (9v9) Floodlit 3G	2015	Standard Club rate 4/5	Yes - Expires May 2025	Changing in school block	Education funded through FF - Sinking fund in place.	34 hrs	34 hrs (100%)	0	
Hove Park	BN3 6BG	70m x 31m Floodlit 3G	2018	Good	Yes	None but public toilets available	Russel Martin Foundation - 9 yrs of 15-year lease left. Sinking fund required as part of lease.	34 hrs	29 hrs (85%)	5	
Hove Park School - Valley Campus	BN3 8AD	100m x 63m Floodlit 3G	2021	Good	Yes	Changing in school if needed	Education site with	29 hrs	29 hrs (100%)	0	
Patcham High School	BN1 8PB	100m x 63m Floodlit 3G	2021	Good	Yes	Changing rooms separate to school for ease of comm use.	Education site with CUA	25.5 hrs	25.5 hrs (100%)	0	
Portslade Sports Centre	BN41 2WS	100m x 60m Floodlit 3G	1990 (2019)	Good	Yes	Changing in leisure Centre	Operated by Freedom Leisure. Sinking Fund and CUA in place	34 hrs	32 hrs (94%)	2	
Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	BN2 5PB	95m x 60m Floodlit 3G	1994 (2021)	Good	Yes	Changing and toilet facilities in the leisure centre	Operated by Freedom Leisure. Sinking Fund in Place	34 hrs	28hrs (82%)	6	
The Manor Road Gym	BN2 5EA	50m x 35m Floodlit 3G	2016	Standard	N/A	Changing and toilets in community centre.	Managed by community org. Insufficient sinking fund in place.	34 hrs	28 hrs (82%)	6	

¹ Peak hours = M-Th 5-9pm, Fri 5-7pm, S&S 9-5pm = 34hrs

Site	Postcode	AGP size & type	Date built (refurbished)	Rating	On FA 3G Reg. Apr 24	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Peak hrs available ¹	Est. use in peak hours	Supply / Demand balance	RAG
Withdean Sports Complex	BN1 5JD	4 x small sided 3G courts	2024 due to open 9th April	Good	N/A	Changing in leisure Centre / outdoor modular building	Operated by Freedom Leisure.	In development at time of audit but will be available for community use			ill be
Varndean School	BN1 6NP	74m x 35m Not Floodlit (portable floodlights) 3G	2002 (2014)	Standard	N/A		Education unaware	29 hrs	29 hrs (100%)	0	
		9v9 3G Not Floodlit 2024 Good N/A upon request of CUA	OT CUA	29 hrs	29 hrs (100%)	0					
		60m x 40m Floodlit 3G	2016 (2019)	Good	Yes	9 changing rooms - 4 designated male/female, 5 shared	Education unaware of CUA	34 hrs	27 hrs (80%)	7	
University of Sussex	BN1 9PL	105m x 70m Floodlit 3G WRC	2019	Good	Yes			34 hrs	27 hrs (80%)	7	
		60m x 40m Floodlit 3G	2016 (2019)	Good	Yes			34 hrs	27 hrs (80%)	7	
University of Brighton	BN1 9PH	115m x 76m Floodlit 3G	2007	Poor	Expired	Large Changing block with 8 changing rooms	Education unaware of CUA - not aware of sinking fund	34 hrs	34 hrs (100%)	0	

Figure 2.11: Hockey sand based AGPs available for football training - Situation at Individual Sites

Site	Postcode	AGP size & type	Date built (refurbished)	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Peak hours available	Est. use in peak hours	Supply / Deman balance	RAG
Blatchington Mill	DNI2 70W/	97m x 62m Floodlit SD ATP (North)	2012	Standard	Changing rooms in school for hockey club use, as well as	Pitches co-owned by B&HCC - agreement in place - sinking	32 hrs	25hrs (78%) (24 hrs hockey, 1 hr football)	7	
School	- I BN3 /BW	fund in place	32 hrs	16.5 hrs (52%) (10.5 hockey, 6 football)	15.5					
Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	BN2 5PB	100m x 60m Floodlit SF	1994	Poor	Changing available in Leisure Centre	Council owned, operated by Freedom Leisure.	34 hrs	10 hrs 29% (8 hrs football, 2hr other events / rugby tots)	24	
University of Sussex	BN1 9PL	97m x 60m SD Floodlit	1999 (2009)	Standard	9 changing rooms - 4 designated male/female, 5 shared	Education unaware of CUA	34 hrs	34 hrs (100%) 33 hrs hockey 1 hr football	0	
Varndean School	BN1 6NP	50m x 30m SF Not Floodlit	2000 (2024)	Good	Toilets and changing available upon request	Education unaware of CUA	In develop	oment at time of audit b community u		ilable for

2.14 Ancillary facilities

The ancillary facilities across the city are generally poor quality with several sites needing improvement. Figures 2.5-2.8 detail the situation at each site. Ancillary facilities are closed at Patcham Place Recreation Ground and Waterhall Sports Ground due to vandalism and damage to the facilities and the changing rooms at Easthill Park are also closed. There was ongoing works at the ancillary facilities at Hill Park during site visits, with new facilities being developed as part of Saltdean FC's ongoing improvements. There is a lack of basic changing or toilet facilities at Hollingbury Park (Brentwood Road) and no changing facilities at Rottingdean Recreation Ground and Southwick Hill Recreation Ground, although public toilets are available. The facilities at many sites are rated poor and require modernisation to accommodate women and girls and provide disability access. These sites are detailed in figure 2.12 below.

Figure 2.12 – Brighton & Hove ancillary facility issues

Site	Ancillary facility issues
Aldrington Recreation Ground (Wish Park)	Public toilets are in poor conditions. No accessible or ambulant facilities. Showers not working.
Braypool Recreation Ground	Poor quality facilities with minimal maintenance schedule. No accessible or ambulant facilities.
Easthill Park	Changing rooms closed due to deterioration
Greenleas Recreation Ground	Poor quality changing and shower facilities.
Hollingbury Park (Brentwood Road)	No changing facilities or toilets
Happy Valley	No accessible or ambulant facilities. Public toilets are in poor condition.
Nuffield Playing Fields	Changing facilities in a storage container with no mains water. Damage to flooring and issues with mice.
Patcham Place Recreation Ground	Pavilion closed due to vandalism and damage.
Preston Park	Work ongoing to fix holes in the roof. Changing rooms all on the 1st floor with no disability access.
Southwick Hill Recreation Ground	No changing facilities
Victoria Recreation Ground	Main pavilion has poor quality changing and shower facilities. Public toilets closed due to damage.
Waterhall Sports Ground	Pavilion closed due to vandalism and damage.

3. Football demand (Step 3)

The findings relating to football pitch demand in Brighton & Hove are summarised in this section of the report.

3.1 Clubs and teams

In the 2023/24 season, Brighton & Hove had a total of 65 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Sussex FA with 326 teams all playing home fixtures on pitches in the city. The total of 326 teams is an increase of 66 teams - 26% - since the previous audit in 2016 when 260 affiliated teams were registered to Brighton & Hove.

Of the 326 Sussex FA affiliated teams in Brighton & Hove, 71 are adult men's teams (U19 + including veterans and walking football teams), 24 women's teams (U19+ including veterans and small sided), 143 youth teams (U10 – U18) comprising of 48 mixed teams, 56 boys' teams and 39 girls' teams and 88 mini-soccer teams (U6 – U10) of which 50 are mixed, 23 are boys' teams, and 15 are female.

29% of teams in the city are adult teams (down from 34% in 2018), 44% are youth teams (down from 47%) 27% are mini-soccer teams (up from 20%). There has been an increase of 60 women's and girl's teams within the city since the previous report in 2016, an increase of 433%.

14 of the clubs in Brighton & Hove have youth sections with 10 or more age group teams. Of these clubs 4 have over 20 teams, Withdean Youth FC with 32 teams, Hove Park Colts with 26 teams, Mile Oak FC with 25 teams and Woodingdean Wanderers with 24 teams. Withdean Youth FC mostly play home fixtures on 3G pitches available at education sites (Varndean School, Dorothy Stringer and Stanley Deason) but say they are having to turn new players away due to lack of facilities. Hove Park Colts are spread across several sites throughout the city including Nevill Playing Fields, Hove Park (3G), Dyke Road Park, Hove Park Lower School (3G), Greenleas Recreation Ground, and Patcham Place. Mile Oak FC have a 25 year lease on Mile Oak Recreation Ground from the council which covers the main pitch, and a license for use of the youth pitches. They also use the 3G pitch at Portslade Sports Centre for training and occasional matches, however the club state that the hours available to them for training and matches does not meet their demand. Woodingdean Wanderers use a couple of sites throughout the city, with their main ground being Nuffield Playing Fields, which has poor ancillary facilities with no running water. In the 2023/24 season the council developed new youth pitches at Happy Valley for the club to help accommodate their demand for pitches, however, they still require additional facilities to be able to maximise these pitches such as goals for larger pitches, or a secure storage area. All 4 clubs state they need access to more training and match day provision to support the continued growth of their clubs.

3.2 Active Lives Survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey² (November 2023) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days) in football within England by adults (aged 16+) increased by 0.2% from 4.4% between November 2021 -November 2022 to 4.6% between November 2022 - November 2023.

If football participation in the city were at the national average in November 2023 (i.e., 4.6%), this would indicate around 10,497 adults (aged 16+) living in Brighton & Hove play football out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 238,562. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Brighton & Hove residents who participate outside of the city.

² Active Lives Adult Survey November 2022-23, Sport England, (April 2024)





The 'adult' football club playing membership in the city is approximately 1,700 players (Sussex FA player registration estimate). Assuming adult football participation in Brighton & Hove is in line with the current national average of 4.6%, this suggests that 84% of total regular adult football participation is either through informal activity outside of a club environment (i.e., through informal games with family, friends and/or work colleagues in parks) or exported to other clubs outside of the city.

3.3 Expressed demand

Expressed demand in the city for all levels and types of football is summarised in this section. Sources of demand information include FA databases, club and league websites, club survey returns, and information gathered from site visits and meetings.

Open age men's football – There are 7 men's teams based in Brighton & Hove who play within the National League System. Brighton & Hove Albion FC play at the highest level in the Premier League followed by Whitehawk FC at Step 3. These clubs must comply with the FA's minimum Ground Grading Guidelines to maintain their league status, promotion from their current division / league requires the club's home ground to meet the requirements of the corresponding ground grading at each 'Step'.

Figure 3.1: Senior adult football league clubs

Senior football clubs	League(s)	Home ground	Training ground
Premier League			
Brighton & Hove Albion FC	Premier League	American Express Community Stadium	AMEX Elite Football Performance Centre, Lancing
Step 3	•		
Whitehawk FC	Isthmian Football League	The Enclosed Ground (Whitehawk FC)	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre Brighton Aldridge Community Academy Dorothy Stringer School
Step 5			
AFC Varndenians	Southern combination Football League, Premier Division	Withdean Sports Complex	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy Cardinal Newman School
Saltdean United FC	Southern combination Football League, Premier Division	Hill Park	Newhaven Brighton Aldridge Community Academy University of Sussex
Step 6			
Mile Oak FC	Southern combination Football League, Division One	Mile Oak Recreation Ground	Mile Oak Recreation Ground Portslade Sports Centre
Step 7 (Regional feeder leagu	ıe)		
Brighton Electricity FC	Southern combination Football League, Division two	Withdean Sports Complex	Hove Park
Rottingdean Village FC	Southern combination Football League, Division two	Rottingdean Cricket Club	Rottingdean Cricket Club Rottingdean Recreation Ground Stanley Deason Leisure Centre

Other adult clubs based in the city and playing within the FA affiliated leagues that have been identified are detailed in Figure 3.2 below.

Figure 3.2: Men's adult league clubs

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Other adult men's league clubs	League(S)	Home ground	Training ground
AFC Manor • 2 teams	Sussex Sunday League	East Brighton Park	Unknown
AFC Stanley Old Boys	Sussex Sunday League	Victoria Recreation Ground	Victoria Park (Grass)

Other adult men's league clubs	League(S)	Home ground	Training ground
AFC Varndeanians • 4 teams	Sussex Sunday League Mid Sussex Football League Friendlies / Training Only	University of Brighton Withdean Sports Complex	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy, Cardinal Newman
Aldrington Rangers	Sussex Sunday League	Victoria Recreation Ground	Waterhall (Grass)
B Town • 2 teams	Sussex Sunday League	Brighton RFC Victoria Recreation Ground	Unknown
BHASVIC • 2 teams	ECFA Men's League	BHASVIC	BHASVIC
Bison Beer • 2 teams	Sussex Sunday League	Braypool Recreation Ground Waterhall Sports Ground	Hove Park
BLAGSS	Friendlies / Training Only	Withdean Sports Complex	
BN3 United	Sussex Sunday League	Aldrington Recreation Ground (Wish Park)	Unknown
Boys Brigade Old Boys	Brighton, Worthing & District Football League	Brighton RFC	Brighton RFC
Brighton & Sussex Medical School	Mid Sussex Football League	University of Brighton	University of Brighton
Brighton Aces	Sussex Sunday League	Patcham Place Rec. Ground	Unknown
Clarendon Athletic	Brighton, Worthing & District Football League	Patcham Place Rec. Ground	Unknown
Crew Club Hawks Athletic	Sussex Sunday League	The Crew Club	The Crew Club
Diversity United	Brighton, Worthing & District Football League	Preston Park	Unknown
East Brighton Wanderers	Sussex Sunday League	East Brighton Park	Unknown
East Sussex Seagulls	Sussex Sunday League	Patcham Place Recreation Ground	Unknown
Garden Bar	Sussex Sunday League	Aldrington Recreation Ground	Unknown
Hove • 2 teams	Sussex Sunday Football League	Victoria Recreation Ground	Hove Park School – Valley Campus
Hove Lawns	Sussex Sunday Football League	Aldrington Recreation Ground	Unknown
Hove Lions	Sussex Sunday Football League	Nevill Playing Fields	Portslade Sports Centre
Hove Park Rangers	Sussex Sunday Football League	Victoria Recreation Ground (Portslade)	Hove Park School – Valley Campus
Hove Park Wednesday	Sussex Sunday Football League	Nevill Playing Fields	Hove Park School – Valley Campus
Kingston Broadway	Sussex Sunday Football League	Longhill Sports Centre	Unknown
Knollenton Oak	Sussex Sunday Football League	Victoria Recreation Ground (Portslade)	Unknown
Mile Oak ● 2 teams	Southern Combination Football League	Mile Oak Recreation Ground	Mile Oak Recreation Ground (Grass) Portslade Sports Centre
Ovingdean	Brighton, Worthing & District Football League	Longhill Sports Centre	Unknown
Patcham United	Sussex Sunday Football League	Patcham High School	Patcham High School
Portslade Athletic • 2 teams	Mid Sussex Football League	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	Hove Park School
Preston Dynamos 1958	Sussex Sunday Football League	Rottingdean Football	Unknown
Preston Manor Royals	Mid Sussex Football League	Portslade Sports Centre	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy
Preston Park	Brighton, Worthing & District Football League	Waterhall Sports Ground	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy
Queens Park	Sussex Sunday Football League	East Brighton Park	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy

Other adult men's league clubs	League(S)	Home ground	Training ground
Saltdean United FC	Southern Combination Football League	Hill Park	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
Scape	Brighton, Worthing & District Football League	Preston Park	Aldrington Rec. Ground, The Manor Road Gym
Sporting Hand in Hand	Sussex Sunday Football League	Victoria Recreation Ground	Hove Park School – Valley Campus
SSB Unity	Brighton, Worthing & District Football League	Preston Park	Unknown
The View • 2 teams	Mid Sussex Football League	Waterhall Sports Ground	Unknown
University of Brighton • 4 teams	BUCS Men's Football	University Of Brighton	University Of Brighton
Varndean College ◆ 2 teams	ECFA Men's League	Varndean College	Varndean College
West Hove Jaguars	Sussex Sunday Football League	Victoria Recreation Ground (Portslade)	Portslade Sports Centre
Whitehawk Rangers	Sussex Sunday Football League	East Brighton Park	Dorothy Stringer
Withdean Youth	Sussex Sunday Football League	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre Varndean School
Woodingdean Wanderers 4 teams	Sussex Sunday Football League	Happy Valley Recreation Ground Longhill Sports Centre Rottingdean Football	Various 3G pitches across area

Youth football - There are 21 youth football clubs in Brighton & Hove, 10 of these have 10 or more teams playing in affiliated leagues. The two largest youth clubs, Withdean Youth FC and Hove Park Colts FC regularly put out 32 teams and 26 youth teams respectively.

Figure 3.3: Youth and mini Soccer clubs (boys/ mixed)

Youth and mini soccer	League(s)	Home ground	Training ground
teams	3 ()		
AFC Varndeanians	Mid Sussex Youth FL	Brighton Aldridge Community	Brighton Aldridge Community
• 2 teams	Southern Combination FL	Academy	Academy, Cardinal Newman
Coldean Colts	Mid Sussex Youth FL	Wild Park	Brighton Aldridge Community
• 11 teams		VVIIQ Park	Academy
Crew Club Hawks	Mid Sussex Youth FL	The Crew Club	The Crew Club
• 3 teams	Mid Sussex Fodtii FL	The crew club	The crew club
Goldstone Valley	Mid Sussex Youth FL	Nevill Playing Fields	Portslade Sports Centre
• 1 team	Wild Sussex Todtil FE	Nevill Flaying Fleius	Fortsiade Sports Centre
	Mid Sussex Youth FL	Knoll Park	
Hangleton Rangers Yth	Sussex Sunday Youth FL	Nevill Playing Fields	Blatchington Mill School
• 14 teams	Sussex Sullday Toutil FL	Hove Park School – Valley	Portslade Sports Centre
		Campus	
		Braypool Recreation Ground	Preston Park (Grass),
Hollingbury Hawks Colts &	Mid Sussex Youth FL	Hollingbury Park	Hollingbury Park (Grass),
Youth	Sussex Sunday Youth FL	Patcham Place Rec. Ground	Dorothy Stringer, Stanley
9 teams		Preston Park	Deason Leisure Centre,
		The Manor Road Gym	Varndean School
Hove	Conservation Versity El	Hove Park	Have Deals Calcad Mallan
	Sussex Sunday Youth FL	Victoria Recreation Ground	Hove Park School – Valley
• 3 teams	Mid Sussex Youth FL	(Portslade)	Campus
Hove Park Colts	Sussex Sunday Youth FL	Dyke Road Park	Hove Park School – Valley
	Mid Sussex Youth FL	Hove Park	Campus, Hove Park
• 17 teams	IVIIU SUSSEX YOUTII FL	Nevill Playing Fields	Council rec grounds (Grass)

Youth and mini soccer teams	League(s)	Home ground	Training ground
Hove Rivervale Youth 4 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL	Benfield Valley Recreation Ground Braypool Recreation Ground	University Of Brighton
Mile Oak • 23 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL Mid Sussex Youth FL	Mile Oak Recreation Ground Portslade Sports Centre Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	Mile Oak Recreation Ground Portslade Sports Centre
Moulsecoomb & Bevendean • 2 teams	Mid Sussex Youth FL	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	Unknown
Patcham United • 16 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL Mid Sussex Youth FL	Carden Park Horsdean Rec. Ground	Carden Park, Horsdean Rec. Ground (Grass), Patcham High School
Poets Corner • 10 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL Mid Sussex Youth FL	Aldrington Recreation Ground Hove Park School – Valley Campus	Aldrington Recreation Ground (Grass), Hove Park School – Valley Campus, Portslade Sports Centre
Rottingdean Village • 9 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL Mid Sussex Youth FL	Rottingdean Football	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
Saltdean United FC • 13 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL Mid Sussex Youth FL	Hill Park Saltdean Park	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
Sussex Girls JPL RTC • 5 teams	Junior Premier League	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
Sussex Lionesses • 1 team	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	
West Hove Dynamos • 6 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth Football League	Aldrington Recreation Ground	Aldrington Recreation Ground (Grass) Blatchington Mill School
Whitehawk ● 2 teams	Mid Sussex Youth FL Isthmian Youth FL	East Brighton Park The Enclosed Ground	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
Withdean Youth • 19 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL Mid Sussex Youth FL Junior Premier League	Dorothy Stringer School (3G)	Varndean School
Woodingdean Wanderers • 17 teams	Sussex Sunday Youth FL Mid Sussex Youth FL Junior Premier League	Nuffield Hospital Happy Valley Rec Ground Longhill High School	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre

There are two women's teams who play within the tier system 1-5, Brighton & Hove Women's at the highest level in the Women's Super league and Saltdean United FC Women playing Tier 5. The other senior women's teams play at Tier 7 County league level.

Figure 3.4: Senior Women's Teams

Figure 5.4: Senior Women's Teams				
Senior football clubs	League(s)	Home ground	Training ground	
Tier 1 National				
Brighton & Hove Albion Women's	Women's Super League	Broadfield Stadium, Crawley American Express Community Stadium	AMEX Elite Football Performance Centre, Lancing	
Tier 5 Women's regional le	ague			
Saltdean United FC Women	London and South East Regional Women's FL	Hill Park	Newhaven Brighton Aldridge Community Academy, University of Sussex	
Tier 7 Women's county lea	Tier 7 Women's county leagues			
Saltdean United FC Women Development	Sussex County Women FL	Hill Park Portslade Sports Centre	Newhaven Brighton Aldridge Community Academy University of Sussex	

Brighton Seagals	Sussex County Women FL	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	Portslade Sports Centre Blatchington Mill School
Hollingbury Hawks Women	Sussex County Women FL	Braypool Recreation Ground	Preston Park, BHASVIC Dorothy Stringer, Hollingdean
Mile Oak FC Women	Sussex County Women FL	Mile Oak Recreation Ground	Mile Oak Recreation Ground Portslade Sports Centre
Whitehawk Women	Sussex County Women FL	The Enclosed Ground (Whitehawk FC)	Stanley Deason Brighton Aldridge Community Academy Dorothy Stringer School
Woodingdean Wanderers Women	Sussex County Women FL	Longhill Sports Centre	Nuffield Playing Fields Happy Valley recreation Ground

There are a total of 55 women's and girl's teams (including friendly / training only teams) affiliated to the Sussex FA. Those outside of the Tier system are listed below.

Figure 3.5: Clubs with women and girl's teams

Other women and girls' teams	Leagues	Home ground	Training ground
5s Football • 12 teams	Small sided league	The Manor Road Gym	
AFC Varndeanians Vets • 1 team	Friendlies / Training Only	N/A	Withdean Sports Complex
BHASVIC U19 • 1 team	ECFA Women's League	Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College Sports Centre	Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College Sports Centre
Brighton Seagals Recreational	Friendlies only	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy	Blatchington Mill School
Coldean Colts4 teams (U10, U12x2, U13)	Friendlies / Training Only Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Wild Park	Brighton Aldridge Community Academy
Hangleton Rangers Youth 2 teams (U10,U12)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Nevill Playing Fields Hove Park School – Valley Campus	Blatchington Mill School Portslade Sports Centre
Hollingbury Hawks Youth 5 teams (U9, U11,U14,U15,U16)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Braypool Recreation Ground Brentwood Road Patcham Place Recreation Ground The Manor Road Gym	Preston Park (Grass), Hollingbury Park (Grass), Dorothy Stringer, Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, Varndean School
Hove Park Colts • 9 teams (U9-U15)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Dyke Road Park Nevill Playing Fields	Hove Park School – Valley Campus Hove Park Council rec grounds (Grass)
Mile Oak • 3 teams (U9,U14,U16)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Mile Oak Recreation Ground Portslade Sports Centre Portslade Aldridge Community Academy	Mile Oak Recreation Ground Portslade Sports Centre
Poets Corner 2 teams (U12, U15)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Aldrington Recreation Ground	Aldrington Recreation Ground (Grass), Hove Park School – Valley Campus, Portslade Sports Centre
Saltdean United FC • 2 teams (U9, U13)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League London and SE Regional Women's Football League	Hill Park Saltdean Park	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
Socialball	Sussex County FA Women's Walking Football	Portslade Sports Centre	
Sussex Girls JPL RTC • 5 teams (U12-U18)	Junior Premier League	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre
Sussex Lionesses (U10)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre	

Other women and girls' teams	Leagues	Home ground	Training ground
University of Brighton	BUCS Women's Football	University Of Brighton	University Of Brighton
Withdean Youth ■ 14 teams (U9-U16)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Dorothy Stringer School (3G)	Varndean School
Woodingdean Wanderers • 7 teams (U9-U15)	Sussex County Women & Girls Football League	Nuffield Playing Fields	Stanley Deason Leisure Centre

Disability football – There is one affiliated disability specific team in Brighton & Hove playing powerchair football run by Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation, but the foundation run a comprehensive disability programme with over 400 members accessing sessions each week. There are a further eight disability teams from the area that play at a central venue in Lancing.

3.4 Soccer schools

There is significant demand for playing space for children's football coaching in Brighton & Hove, whether from commercial soccer schools, coaching providers or coaching organised by local community football clubs. Several youth football clubs based in the city 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.

Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation, Brighton Galaxy Girls Football, and The Russell Martin Foundation are key providers of coaching provision within Brighton & Hove offering football sessions across the whole city for a broad range of demographics.

Brighton & Hove Albion Foundation offer a wide range of sporting opportunities which are specifically tailored to different demographic groups. They provide opportunities for children and young people, women and girls, and offer a range of different disability sessions. Their main weekly sessions (hub activity, pathway centres and holiday provision) all taking place mainly on 3G pitches at Dorothy Stringer School (Mon, Wed, Fri) and Patcham High School (Tues, Thurs) as well as using their out of area training ground at Lancing. They run a Kick's inclusion programme at The Manor and use the University of Sussex and BACA for their girls and disability sessions.

Brighton Galaxy Girls Football runs after school and academy provision with up to 15 sessions each week for over 300 girls, they link with Withdean youth to provide girls with an opportunity to play regular matches within the club's girls' section. They use facilities at Balfour Primary School, Blatchington Mill School, Varndean School, and Varndean College.

The Russell Martin Foundation supports young people 4-19 years and runs a number of academy courses at the Hove Park 3G and BACA as well as sites outside of the city.

3.5 Casual demand

Casual football play among groups of children and adults, using free to use open access grass and MUGA in public parks continues to be a major feature of football demand. Indeed, the Active Lives Survey data suggests that 90% of all regular adult football played in the area is unaffiliated football within small-sided leagues, friendly games or park kick-abouts.

As identified in the supply section of the report, Brighton & Hove provides for informal football demand by maintaining open areas of grass in parks and open spaces, open access MUGAs or single sets of small size goalposts (such as Hangleton Park). Where these informal play facilities are provided in parks alongside formal pitches designated for match play, they help to reduce wear of the formal pitches.



However, it has been identified that formal pitches in the area are subject to unauthorised use by organised teams and soccer schools for training and coaching.

3.6 Unmet / Latent demand

One club reported unmet demand with Mile Oak FC stating that they have demand for up to 10 boys' teams and 3 girls' teams, based on interest and those training with the club but the lack of facilities prevents them from being able to accommodate extra teams. Other clubs and leagues highlighted ambitions for growth to meet perceived latent demand, e.g., teams that could be created if additional pitch provision were available. This information is drawn from the club consultation surveys carried out from March to July 2024 and therefore only includes those clubs that completed the survey. Conversion of this perceived latent 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. Figure 3.6 outlines the growth aspirations of clubs, and it is apparent that there is latent demand in the city for all formats of football from youth to adult football including women and girl's provision. This demand is explored further in Section 5 which outlines the effect of these potential demand trends.

Figure 3.6: Brighton & Hove football clubs - Self-Reported team growth plans

Club	Growth aspirations
AFC Varndeanians	We want to start a women's team.
BHAFC Foundation	No details provided
Brighton, Worthing and District Football League	No details provided
Clarendon Athletic	Develop youth teams
Coldean Colts FC	Continuing growth from the last 3 years
Hangleton Rangers FC	More Girls teams
Hollingbury Hawks Youth & Colts FC	Through the development of the Wildcats and Saturday morning sessions, there is greater interest including from mums and dads
Hove Park Colts FC	We plan to increase the size of the club having two teams at each age group.
Mile Oak FC	Our objective within the next 36 months is to have the volume of boy's teams mirrored by girls' teams and bring our total youth structure closer to 50 teams.
Ovingdean FC	No details provided
Patcham United	Running girls only sessions with the local school to encourage more girls to join a team and play football
Poets' Corner FC	New Under 7s teams
Rottingdean Village FC	We expect sustained but gradual growth of youth football in particular to fill the age groups where we do not currently have teams.
Saltdean United FC	No details provided
Scape FC	No details provided
Sussex Girls JPL RTC	We would like our own ground and also develop a grassroots programme for development
Sussex Sunday Youth FL	No details provided
Sussex Sunday FL	League grows by around 5 teams per year on average
The Caxton Arms FC	We would like to create a reserve team to our first team.
Whitehawk Football Club	Continue to expand youth, women, disability and vets' teams.
Woodingdean Wanderers Football Club	We need help to find/secure additional suitable facilities, in our area, to help us accommodate the steady growth of the Club.

3.7 Displaced and imported demand

The research and consultation show that as far as match play is concerned, there is some displaced demand of football - i.e., teams of clubs based in Brighton & Hove having to travel outside the area to find pitches to play home fixtures or for training. Brighton & Hove Albion Women's FC play the majority of their games at the Broadfield Stadium in Crawley and train at the club's training ground in Lancing.

The club are actively seeking a suitable site to develop a specific stadium for the Women's team. Saltdean United reporting they travel to Newhaven 3G (Lewes) for training as well as using facilities in Brighton & Hove.

There is imported demand from clubs from outside the city using the facilities for training. Two clubs at the University of Sussex, Montpelier Villa FC (Adur) and Crawley Town (Crawley), one club at University of Brighton, Peacehaven and Telscombe Rangers FC (Lewes) and two clubs at Blatchington Mill School, Fishergate Flyers (Adur), and Southwick Youth (Adur).

Eight clubs in the area have teams training on sand dressed artificial pitches (A&R United, Hangleton Rangers, Hollingbury Hawks, West Hove Dynamos, Saltdean Utd, Seagulls, Sussex Girls JPL RTC and Woodingdean Wanderers youth) and some clubs report using grass pitches for training throughout the season (Hollingbury Hawks, Hove Park Colts, Mile Oak, Patcham United, Poets Corner and West Hove Dynamos). It is likely other youth training takes place on grass pitches particularly in the lighter evenings and at weekends. Adult Sunday teams will typically train on grass pitches in the early season then either stop training, utilise artificial pitches where space allows or play within a 5-a-side league.

4. The situation at individual football sites (Step 4)

4.1 Grass pitch sites

The grass football pitches were assessed in March of the 2023/24 season, with most of the sites assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the FA in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment. Fourteen of the grass pitch football sites had a more in-depth assessment using the Football Foundation's PitchPower methodology and reporting. Sussex FA have reviewed the findings of these site-specific assessments 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 week for community use each pitch can take without adversely affecting its quality and use.

The following pitch carrying capacities have been used and are consistent with the PPS Guidance methodology, informed (where applicable) by the Performance Quality Standard ratings (from Poor to High) in the PitchPower Assessment Reports.

Figure 4.1: Grass football pitch carrying capacity

PPS guide ratings/ PitchPower PQS ratings	Adult football	Youth football (9v9, 11v11)	Mini soccer (5v5, 7v7)
	Number of match equivalent sessions a week		sions a week
Good / High or Advanced	3	4	6
Standard / Basic or Good	2	2	4
Poor / Poor	1	1	2

The full pitch audit 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:
 - RED Being overplayed (current use exceeds the carrying capacity)
 - AMBER Being played to the level the site can sustain (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - GREEN Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are twelve sites highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf football pitches are overplayed.

- Balfour Junior School
- Braypool Rec. ground
- Carden Park
- Hill Park
- Hollingbury Park (Brentwood Road)
- Nevill Playing fields
- Nuffield Playing Fields

- Portslade Aldridge Community Academy
- Rottingdean Rec ground
- Southwick Hill Rec ground
- Waterhall Sports Ground
- Wild Park
- Withdean Sports Complex



Five sites from the full site audit are AMBER rated where the majority of the natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity:

- Blatchington Mill School
- East Brighton Park
- Hertford Junior School
- Patcham Junior School
- Victoria Rec. ground

The table below compares estimates of the total football play on natural grass pitches in the peak period (weekends and evenings) against available capacity across all the football playing field sites in the areas.

Figure 4.2: Grass pitches supply / demand balance –community football sites

Pitch Type	Capacity (MES / Week)	Estimated use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand balance
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	72	75	-3
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	22	22.5	-0.5
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12	40	42.25	-2.25
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	78	39.5	38.5
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	38	17.25	20.75
Total	250	196.5	53.5

The table shows that there is a positive supply balance (i.e., unused capacity) of natural turf pitches for football in the area for Mini Soccer. However, not all of this accounts for actual spare capacity in peak periods (Saturday PM and Sunday all day for adult football, Sunday all day for youth boys / girls' football), some sites may be managed to below capacity to account for recreational / friendly matches, others do not have secured community use e.g., education sites and pitches rated as poor quality should also be discounted. It should also be noted that as shown earlier there are 73 youth teams (U13-U16) playing in the area (figure 2.3) equating to 37 MES but estimated use above equates to 22 MES, a difference of 15 MES. Whilst some of this use may be on 3G artificial pitches it is likely some matches are either played on the wrong size pitch creating additional pressure on adult 11v11 pitches.

Figure 4.3 lists the natural turf playing pitch sites with capacity to determine if this capacity is available in the relevant peak period and secured.

Figure 4.3 - Does the potential to accommodate additional play equate to spare capacity?

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch type	Total pitch capacity surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/Rationale
	N	N	Y 11v11	2	2	0	Pitches available during peak times for youth football due to
Aldrington Rec.			7v7	1.25	1	0.25	flexible kick off times. 5v5 pitch capacity discounted due to
Ground (Wish Park)			5v5	0.25	0	0.25	poor pitch condition. 0.25 discounted as 0.5 minimum for match use.
Benfield Valley Rec	N	N	Y 11v11	3.5	3.5	0	Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times.
Bennela valley Rec			9v9	3.5	3.5	0	
Brighton Aldridge	N	N	A 11v11	1.5	0	1.5	Pitches available but discounted as unsecure with no known
Comm. Academy			9v9	2.5	0	2.5	CUA in place.
Duka Dark Daad	N	N	9v9	0.25	0	0.25	Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times. 0.25
Dyke Park Road			7v7	2.25	2	0.25	discounted as 0.5 minimum for match use.
Easthill Park	N	N	A 11v11	3	2	1	Adult pitch available for 2 MES in peak period due to flex kick off times.
0 1	N	N	A 11v11	1.5	1.5	0	Pitches available during peak times due to flexible kick off
Greenleas			9v9	1	1	0	times
	N	N	A 11v11	3	3	0	Pitches available during peak times due to flexible kick off
Hanna Valla Dan			Y 11v11	2	2	0	times
Happy Valley Rec.			9v9	0.5	0.5	0	
Ground			7v7	2.5	2.5	0	
			5v5	3.5	3.5	0	
Hill Park	N	N	7v7	1	1	0	Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times
Horsdean Rec	N	N	7v7	9.5	9.5	0	Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times
Ground			5v5	3.5	3.5	0	
Hove Park	N	N	7v7	3.5	1.5	0	Some capacity discounted due to one pitch being poor quality
Hove Park School – Nevill Campus	N	N	A 11v11	1	1	0	CUA agreement in place
Hove Park School – Valley Campus	N	N	7v7	3.5	0	3.5	Pitches available but discounted as unsecure with no known CUA in place.
	N	N	7v7	1.5	1.5	0	Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times
Knoll Park			5v5	2	2	0	
Longhill Sports	N	N	9v9	1.5	0	1.5	Pitches available but discounted as unsecure with no known
Centre			7v7	3.5	0	3.5	CUA in place.
NA'L O L C	N	N	9v9	1	1	0	Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times
Mile Oak Rec.			7v7	1.5	1.5	0	·
Ground			5v5	2.5	2.5	0	
Nevill Playing Fields	N	N	7v7	1.75	1.5	0.25	Youth pitches are available due to flexible kick off times. 0.25 discounted as 0.5 minimum for match use.

Pitch sites with spare capacity	Is there any reason why additional play could not take place (Y/N)?	Are all the pitches for the particular pitch type used during the relevant peak period (Y/N)?	Pitch type	Total pitch capacity surplus	Spare capacity in peak (MES)?	Capacity discounted	Comments/ Rationale
Nuffield Playing	N	N	7v7	0.25	0	0.25	Capacity discounted as provision not secured.
Fields			5v5	1	0	1	
Patcham Place Rec	N	N	A 11v11	1.5	1.5	0	Pitches are available due to flexible kick off times
Ground			9v9	0.5	0.5	0	
Preston Park	N	N	7v7	5.5	5.5	0	0.25 discounted as 0.5 minimum for match use.
Presion Park			5v5	2.25	2	0.25	
Rottingdean Cricket and FC	N	N	5v5	1	1	0	Pitches are available due to flexible kick off times
St Bernadette Catholic P. School	N	N	5v5	5.5	0	5.5	Pitches available but discounted as unsecure with no known CUA in place.
The Court Chale	N	N	A 11v11	1.5	1.5	0	Pitches are available due to flexible kick off times
The Crew Club			7v7	1	1	0	
The Manor Road Gym	N	N	7v7	1.5	0	1.5	Capacity discounted due to poor pitch condition.
University of Sussex	N	N	A 11v11	5	0	5	Pitches available but discounted as unsecure with no known CUA in place.
Varndean High School	N	N	A 11v11	0.5	0	0.5	Pitches available but discounted as unsecure with no known CUA in place.
Whitehawk FC	N	Y	A 11v11	0.5	0	0.5	Pitch managed to accommodate senior football.
Wild Park	N	N	5v5	0.25	0	0.25	0.25 discounted as 0.5 minimum for match use.

Figure 4.4 below summarises the final capacity in the peak period across each type of natural turf pitch after discounting capacity due to unavailability in peak period or pitches being unsecured or of poor quality.

Figure 4.4: Grass pitches supply / demand balance -community football sites

Pitch type	Capacity (MES / Week)	Estimated use (MES/ Week)	Supply / Demand balance	Capacity discounted	Capacity in peak period	Pitch equivalent*
11v11 (Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	72	75	-3	-8.5	-11.5	-5
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	22	22.5	-0.5	0	-0.5	0
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12	40	42.25	-2.25	-4.25	-6.5	-3
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	78	39.5	38.5	-10	28.5	7
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	38	17.25	20.75	-7.25	13.5	3
Total	250	196.5	53.5	-30	24.5	2

^{*}based on standard pitch ratings rounded down to whole number.

It should be noted that whilst the overall supply and demand balance appears to show a large surplus in match equivalent sessions (MES) per week, when this is converted into pitch equivalents (based on a standard pitch quality e.g. 2 MES for adult 11v11, 2 MES for youth 11v11/ 9v9, 4 MES for 7v7/5v5), it shows clear need to provide more 9v9 and adult 11v11 pitches, there is also a need for more youth 11v11 provision given the number of teams in the area and the lack of pitches, resulting in some teams using the wrong size pitch. This could be partly achieved by reconfiguring some of the spare 7v7 and 5v5 pitches into larger sizes, but this would still not cater for the number of pitches needed. For example, 2 x 7v7 pitches would be required for an adult 11v11 and 2 x 5v5 pitches for a 9v9 pitch. This also does not cater for future demand for pitches covered in section 5.2.

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 FA's new national strategy titled 'A Thriving Grassroots Game', Sussex FA - in partnership with the Football Foundation and the county local authorities - is focused on the following interventions in relation to the overarching priority to **Build more and improve existing facilities:**

Transform grass pitch quality

- Engage with organisations to create a pipeline of projects
- Provide post award support to organisation receiving Grass Pitch Maintenance funding Support the development of more 3G pitches
- Encourage organisations to deliver the 3G projects identified in the Local Football Facility Plans
- Specific goal of seeking partnerships which could facilitate a Sussex County FA run facility in the east of the county



Create inclusive and accessible facilities

- Ensure all planning application projects are welcoming, inviting and feel safe for women and girls
- Ensure each Football Foundation project is community led Improvement environmental sustainability
- Embrace the Football Foundation Energy Fund

4.4 Brighton & Hove Local Football Facilities Plan

A Local Football Facilities Plan (LFFP) for Brighton & Hove was published separately by the Football Foundation in May 2019 informed by consultation with the Council, Sussex FA and the large community football clubs based in the city.

The priorities for Brighton & Hove were the delivery of four additional full size floodlit 3G AGPs (at Patcham High School, Portslade Sports Centre, Toads Hole Valley, and Waterhall Sports Ground) and three small sided 3G AGPs (Withdean Sports Complex, Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre, University of Brighton). The full sized pitches at Patcham High School and Portslade Sports centre have been delivered along with the small sided pitches at Withdean Sports Complex. The Toads Hole Valley 3G is due to be provided as part of housing development and the council are currently developing an application for a small sided pitch at Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre.

Twelve projects were prioritised for the improvement of grass pitches. Improvements are in progress or have been carried out at 5 of the 12 sites (Aldrington Rec ground, Greenleas Rec. ground, Happy Valley Rec. ground, Mile Oak Rec. ground, and Nevill Playing Fields). An updated LFFP is scheduled to be prepared and published in 2025.

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.

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 size 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 city if all teams playing competitive football had access to a full size floodlit 3G AGP to train on once a week?

The answer to this scenario question for Brighton & Hove is set out below based on the current 6 full size (or near full size) floodlit 3G AGPs on the FA Register which have community use for football during peak periods³ (Brighton Aldridge Community Academy, Hove Park School – Valley Campus, Patcham High School, Portslade Sports Centre, Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, Uni of Sussex), as well as the following 3 smaller sized pitches on the FA Register (Dorothy Stringer School-9v9, Uni of Sussex-7v7 and Hove Park-7v7), equating to one further full sized pitch and a new full sized pitch which has recently been completed at Cardinal Newman School. Making a total of 8 full sized pitches or equivalent in the city.

Two full sized pitches in the area have been discounted due to their poor condition. The pitch at Brighton RFC, which is predominately for Rugby and the pitch at the University of Brighton, both pitches are not on the FA Register but still cater for some club training. There are also a number of smaller facilities discounted that cater for recreational provision including student use, 5-aside matches and

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³ Weekdays 17:00 - 21:00 (or 19:00 on Fridays) and 09:00 - 17:00 on weekends.

coaching programmes of which there is significant demand for in Brighton & Hove (The Manor Road Gym, Varndean School, Withdean Sports Complex, University of Sussex).

As a guide the FA suggest that one full size floodlit 3G AGP could potentially accommodate the training demand from 38 teams. The information from the assessment indicates that there are 326 teams playing competitive football in Brighton & Hove and as such the 1:38 ratio suggests that 9 (rounded up from 8.6) full size equivalent floodlit 3G AGPs would be required to meet 100% of team football training on 3G within the city. As such there is a need for a minimum of one further accessible full sized pitch in the area to support current training and match play demands.

The majority of full sized 3G pitches are used to capacity during peak hours, with little free time. It should also be noted that some of the facilities across Brighton & Hove have limited hours for community use either due to school access up to 6pm or floodlighting restrictions on evening and weekend use for example Patcham High school is only available for 25.5 peak hours out of a maximum of 34. The club training scenario calculation also takes no account of the accessibility of the available AGPs to clubs nor cost / affordability issues.

5. The current and future picture of provision for football (Step 5)

5.1 Grass pitches

A number of playing field sites in Brighton & Hove have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, these are either sites that are the home ground for clubs with a large number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Hill Park (Saltdean United), Nuffield Playing Fields (Woodingdean Wanderers FC), Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club and Rottingdean Rec. ground (Rottingdean FC) and Wild Park (Coldean Colts) or those with good maintenance with additional clubhouse facilities which make them popular (Nevill Playing Fields, Withdean Sports Complex) or have poor maintenance and limited capacity and used for adult football (Braypool Rec Ground, Carden Park, Waterhall Sports ground).

There is a shortfall of pitches for Youth 9v9, Youth 11v11 or Adult 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those unsecured are discounted, there is some capacity for Mini Soccer 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, but this is likely to be needed in the future with the increasing demand for youth football.

The PitchPower report findings for the sites in Brighton & Hove identifies the potential for enhanced quality and playing capacity at a number of sites if the ongoing pitch maintenance can be improved.

AGPs

The trends in football point to the continuing growth in the recreational game including walking football, small sided and women's recreation provision as well as youth, mini soccer and girls' football, the provision of more full size 3G football AGPs on the FA Register with large youth clubs as the primary user will help to accommodate training and match day provision reducing the need for training on grass pitches, as well as the number of over-marked or overused natural turf pitches.

5.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2041 on the need for football pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the number of teams likely to be generated in the future based on population growth.

To meet football demand from 12,477 additional residents (as currently forecast⁴) 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 +2.06 adult football pitches, +3.39 youth football pitches and +1.26 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totaling +6.71 natural turf pitches) as well as +13.42 hours of estimated demand for training per week, equivalent of a third of a full sized (0.35) AGP, see figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Demand from population growth

Football	No of pitches to meet demand			
Adult	2.06			
Youth	3.39			
Mini	1.26			
Total grass pitches	6.61			
Training	13.42 (Hours)			
Total AGP	0.35			

⁴ Population change from 2022 to 2041 based on B&HCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment





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 more casual involvement. This national picture is reflected in Brighton & Hove where Sussex FA adult team affiliations has decreased by 12 teams (from 83 in 2016 to 71 in 2023/24). Youth football continues to show a growth trend, but this growth slows through the older youth age groups when exams and other interests tend to impact. The biggest growth in Brighton & Hove has been in mini soccer teams with an additional 37 teams (from 51 in 2016 to 88 in 2023/24). Clubs through their survey returns have indicated further growth aspirations for adult and youth teams. A total of 19 clubs and two leagues in the area outlined growth aspirations, as outlined in Section 3, figure 3.5, and whilst clubs are reliant on volunteers to deliver this growth it is reasonable to suggest that with sufficient facilities each club could grow by 1-2 teams a year, resulting in a possible additional 19-38 teams a year. There is also likely to be a further increase in demand for girls' football following the success of the England Women's team and the FA's investment in development programmes such as the girls football school's partnership and Wildcats and Squad Girls at club level.

The FA's insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% year on year. Brighton & Hove's previous strategy in 2016 predicted a growth of 22 teams based on population rates to 2030, this number has already been exceeded in 2024 by an extra 44 teams in the city, which is a growth rate of 3.15% per year.

In view of these demand pressures, a further run of the Playing Pitch Calculator has been made to show the possible impact on pitch needs with an adjusted demand rate of 69% for youth football (3.15% iterative increase per year over 16 years).

Figure 5.2: Demand from population growth and increase in youth football demand

Football	No. of pitches to meet demand	Rounded
Adult	2.06	2
Youth	5.72	6
Mini	2.14	3
Total grass pitches	9.92	11
Training	19.84 (Hours)	20
Total AGP	0.52	0.5

To meet football demand from 12,477 additional residents and adjusting demand for a growth of 69% in youth football for matches and training in the peak period until 2041, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +2 adult football pitches, +6 youth football pitches and +3 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totaling +11 natural turf pitches) as well as 20 hours of training on a 3G pitch equivalent to half an additional AGP needed. Figure 5.3 outlines the effects of future demand on pitch capacity based on population growth and adjusted demand.

Figure 5.3 Changes in capacity after accounting for future growth and demand.

Ditab true	Pitch equivalent	Demand (pitch equivalent)		
Pitch type	capacity in peak period	Future demand	Total	
11v11	-5	3	-7	
(Open Age, Veterans, U19, U18, U17)	-5	۷	-7	
Youth 11v11 (U13-U16)	0	6		
Youth 9v9 (U11-U12	-3	6	-9	
Mini Soccer 7v7 (U9-U10)	7	2	_	
Mini Soccer 5v5 (U7-U8)	3	3	/	
Total	2	11	-9	

6. Key findings and issues for football (Step 6)

Figure 6.1: Football key findings and issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision

There have been significant changes to the facilities for football in Brighton & Hove since the last facility review in 2016. On the supply side, there has been additional provision of new full sized 3G AGPs at Hove Park School (2021), Patcham High School (2021), and the University of Sussex (2019) as well as a 70x31m 3G AGP at Hove Park (2018) with LED floodlights installed in 2021. In addition, the AGPs at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, Portslade Sports Centre, and the 60x40m 3G AGP at the University of Sussex have all been resurfaced. There are also 4 new small-sided 3G AGP's at Withdean Sports Complex and a full size pitch at Cardinal Newman School being completed ready for the 24/25 season.

There has been some changes to grass pitch provision with new youth grass pitches developed at Happy Valley Recreation Ground, improvements to pitch maintenance at Aldrington Rec Ground (Wish Park), Greenleas Rec Ground, Happy Valley Recreation Ground and Nevill Playing Fields, and the youth pitches at Mile Oak Rec ground, and one of the adult pitches at Nevill Playing Fields being renovated.

101 grass pitches are identified as available for community football across the city, on 42 operational playing pitch sites. Along with 10 FA compliant 3G pitches in the area of various sizes.

Key trends in football demand identified in 2016 have continued to impact and Brighton & Hove have seen a growth in all areas except adult male football, with the biggest growth being in women and girls' football and mini soccer teams.

In the 2023/24 season, Brighton & Hove had a total of 65 affiliated clubs (including separately constituted youth sections of adult clubs) registered to Sussex FA with 326 teams playing home fixtures in the area. This is an increase of 66 teams - 26% - since the previous audit in 2016 when 260 affiliated teams were registered to Brighton & Hove. There is also significant demand for small sided, recreational and informal formats of the game across the city.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?

<u>No</u> - A number of playing field sites in Brighton & Hove have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, these are either sites that are the home ground for clubs with a large number of teams and a limited number of pitches, such as Hill Park (Saltdean United), Nuffield Playing Fields (Woodingdean Wanderers FC), Rottingdean Cricket & Football Club, and Rottingdean Rec. ground (Rottingdean FC), and Wild Park (Coldean Colts) or those with either good maintenance with additional clubhouse facilities which make them popular (Nevill Playing Fields, Withdean Sports Complex) or have poor maintenance and limited capacity and used for adult football (Braypool Rec Ground, Carden Park, Waterhall Sports ground)

There is a shortfall of pitches for Youth 9v9, Youth 11v11 or Adult 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those unsecured are discounted, there is some capacity for Mini Soccer 7v7 and 5v5 pitches, but this is likely to be needed in the future with the increasing demand for youth football.

There are shortfalls in provision of 3G pitches to meet training demand. There are several clubs who travel outside of the area for training or use sand based pitches or grass areas for training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand. To meet the shortfall in current supply investment is needed in the provision of one more full size 3G football AGP in the area which should be strategically located in the East to support youth clubs in this area to meet the needs of their teams for training and matches.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

<u>No</u> - The majority of AGPs in the area are of good quality, with newly laid playing surfaces, however two are poor and no longer meet FA Standards (Brighton Football Rugby Club and University of Brighton). A number of grass pitches (21%) 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 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.

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 the sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

The ancillary facilities across the city are generally poor quality with several sites needing improvement. The facilities are closed at Patcham Place Recreation Ground and Waterhall Sports Ground due to vandalism and damage to the facilities and the changing rooms at Easthill Park are also closed. There was ongoing works at the ancillary facilities at Hill Park during site visits, with new facilities being developed at Hill Park as part of Saltdean FC's ongoing improvements. There is a lack of basic changing or toilet facilities at Hollingbury Park (Brentwood Road) and Southwick Hill Recreation Ground and no changing facilities at Rottingdean Recreation Ground and Wild Park. The facilities at many sites are rated poor and require modernisation to accommodate women and girls and provide disability access.

What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?

Future demand for football facilities will put increasing pressure on the existing supply. Application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool indicates there will be a requirement to provide 7 additional natural turf pitches plus an additional 13.5 hours of weekly training slots on a 3G artificial pitch by 2041, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecasted population growth.

The growth plans of the football clubs based in Brighton & Hove will also place further pressure on pitch supply. 19 clubs and two leagues responded to the survey indicating they have aspirations to increase the number of teams they run over the coming seasons, provided they have sufficient volunteers and pitches for matches and training can be secured.

This combined with the previous level of growth across the city of 3.15% per year means it is likely provision will increase above the usual rate. When adjusting for this increase in demand in youth football, the PPC indicates a need for 11 additional natural turf pitches as well as 20 additional hours for training on a 3G pitch, equivalent to half a pitch.

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

<u>No</u> - Over the period of the strategy to 2041, to address forecast population growth, unmet and latent demand identified by clubs and to continue to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured provision of 3G AGP pitches is needed.

Investment in at least 1 additional full sized FA registered 3G AGP is needed to cater for current demand plus an additional 0. 5 full sized pitch equivalent for future population growth and demand, resulting in a need for a minimum of an additional 1.5 3G AGP's in the area. There are already proposals to deliver 2 new full sized pitches at Saltdean FC (East), Toad Hole Valley (Central) and a small pitch (60x40m) at Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre (East), which would meet this demand. The council should also



engage with the stakeholders managing and operating 3G pitches which are in a poor condition to encourage and support them in resurfacing their facilities.

Additional natural turf pitches are needed for adult 11v11, youth 11v11 and Youth 9v9 for match play by 2041 in light of the scale of forecast population growth and demand. Given the lack of space within the area to provide further grass pitches the Council should look to improve the quality of pitches in the area to provide additional capacity, consider reconfiguring spare 7v7, 5v5 pitches to accommodate larger pitch sizes, investigate options to increase community use on education sites in the area or consider the development of additional 3G AGP's to cater for this shortfall.



Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of needs (Stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment of needs for hockey facilities in Brighton & Hove are summarised in this appendix of the main Playing Pitch Strategy.

There is two main Hockey clubs based in the area – Brighton & Hove HC and Brighton Rogues HC. Both clubs have contributed information and their views on hockey facility needs via online survey returns and in liaison with England Hockey.

Since the last assessment in 2016, there has been a change in supply with a loss of a sand dressed pitch at Portslade Sports Centre, which has been converted to 3G. There has been an additional pitch developed in the area at Roedean School in 2018, however it is not available for community use.

1. Hockey supply (Step 2)

1.1 Hockey pitches in Brighton & Hove

There is currently four full sized floodlit sand based artificial grass pitches (AGP) in the area currently available for community hockey;

- Blatchington Mill School x2, home site for Brighton & Hove HC
- Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, occasional use by Brighton Rogues HC
- University of Sussex, home site for University of Sussex and Brighton Rogues HC.

There are a further two full sized (or near full sized) pitches, on education sites in the area but these are almost exclusively used by the schools with no or very little community use (Brighton Girls School - Radinden Site, which is not floodlit and Roedean School), as well as small sided pitches on education sites not suitable for match provision.

The pitches were quality-assessed during the 2023/24 season on the basis of site visits and informed by consultation surveys with the user clubs and insight from England Hockey. Figure 1.1 details the situation at each site.

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, this is noted in column headed estimated use in peak hours.

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 matches- Green
- The available peak slots for hockey matches are used close to capacity Amber, or
- The available peak slots for hockey matches are at capacity Red.

Indoor hockey

Brighton & Hove HC have an indoor men's team, who train at University of Sussex, Falmer Sports Centre.



Figure 1.1: Situation at individual sites available for community use

Site	AGP size and type	Floodlights LUX level	Date built (last refurb)	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Management & ownership of site	Pitch rating	Peak hours available ¹	Est'd use in peak hours ²	Supply/ Demand balance	RAG ³
BLATCHINGTON	Sand dressed, 97x62m	LED installed 2024 500 Lux	2012	Poor quality changing facilities BHHC 8-year		Education (LEA)	Standard, club rate 3/5	31	28.5 hrs (92%) 27.5 hrs hockey (T- 17.5, M- 10) 1 hr football	2.5	
MILL SCHOOL, BN3 7BW	SD 97x62m	LED installed 2024 500 Lux	2012	and clubhouse. Club rate 2/5	lease School managed	Standard, club rate 3/5	31	21.5 hrs (68%) 14.5 hrs hockey (T-7.5, M -7) 7 hrs football	9.5		
STANLEY DEASON LEISURE CENTRE, BN2 5PB	Sand Filled 100x60m	LED installed 2023 550 Lux	1994	Changing facilities	Secured, Council facility	Council site Freedom Leisure operator	Poor	31	14 hours (41%) 1 hr hockey (T) 11 hrs football - 2 hrs rugby -	17	
UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX, BN1 9PL	SD 97x60m	Unknown	1999 (2009)	Changing available. Club rate 4/5	Education, Unaware of any CUA	Education University Managed	Standard club rate 5/5	31	31 (100%) 30 hours hockey (T-16, M-14) 1 hour football	0	



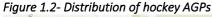
¹ Peak hours = M-Th 6-9:30pm, Fri 6-9pm, S&S 10-5pm = 31hrs

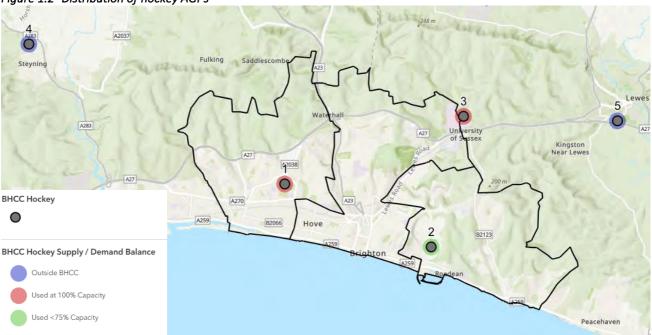
² T = Training, M = Match use

³ RAG based on availability for Saturday match use

1.2 Distribution of hockey AGP Sites

Figure 1.2 shows the distribution of full-sized (or near full sized) hockey AGP sites available for community use in Brighton & Hove. The distribution of sand based AGP sites is relatively well spread across the city, with at least one pitch in each analysis area, although the pitch at the University of Sussex is on the very edge of the borough.





Key	Site name	Postcode
1	BLATCHINGTON MILL SCHOOL,	BN3 7BW
2	STANLEY DEASON LEISURE CENTRE,	BN2 5PB
3	UNIVERSITY OF SUSSEX,	BN1 9PL
4	STEYNING GRAMMER SCHOOL	BN44 3RX
5	SOUTHDOWN SPORTS CLUB	BN7 3PR

1.3 Hockey AGP's in neighbouring boroughs

The nearest alternative full size floodlit hockey pitch in the neighbouring boroughs within a 20-minute drive (5-mile catchment area) based on review of the Active Places Power data is at Southdown Sports Club (Lewes DC) to the East and Steyning Grammer School (Horsham DC) to the Northwest. The nearest Hockey clubs between 20-30 minutes' drive away are Lewes Hockey Club (Lewes DC) to the East, Mid Sussex HC (Mid Sussex DC) to the North, Southwick HC (Horsham DC) and Phoenix HC (Adur DC and Worthing BC) to the West.

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, but Sport England and England Hockey recommend facilities should be within a 20-minute drive at peak time.

1.4 Ownership, operation, quality and access

Brighton & Hove HC have security on the site at Blatchington Mill School with the pitches being coowned by the club and a lease in place which has 8 years remaining. The University of Sussex have their own facilities at Falmer Sports Ground. Only Brighton Rogues HC has no long-term security and annually hires facilities. The pitch at Blatchington Mill School is in a standard condition with the facility, having had 8 years of regular use, there is currently no damage to the surface carpet, but it is likely to need replacing in the next 2-3 years. England Hockey would recommend an independent assessment of the facility to confirm its condition and the timescales for resurface. The school have a sinking fund in place for a resurface of both pitches and the floodlights have been upgraded with LED lights for the 24/25 season.

The pitch at the University of Sussex is in standard condition and is also likely to need resurfacing in the next few years based on the age of the pitch.

The pitch at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre needs replacing urgently. The pitch was independently assessed in August 2023 and the report concluded that the carpet had 12-18 months life left with some of the seams starting to lift and patch repairs already in place. It was also highlighted that the fencing needs replacing. The floodlights for the facility were upgraded to LED in 2023. Whilst the facility has limited club use it is used significantly during the day by Brighton College.

Changing facilities across the area are varied. The provision at the University of Sussex and Stanley Deason Leisure Centre are good. The facilities used by Brighton & Hove HC consist of changing rooms at the school site and clubhouse where they serve post-match teas and hospitality at Nevill Playing Fields Pavilion. The facilities are poor and the club has ambitions to build their own clubhouse.

1.5 At risk sites

There are no current community sites known to be at risk of development.

1.6 Proposed new supply

There are no new sites proposed in the area

2. Hockey demand (Step 3 and 4)

Findings relating to hockey pitch demand in Brighton & Hove are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and teams

There are currently two main hockey clubs based in the area, as well as the University of Sussex, with student teams and Southwick HC, who were previously based in Brighton and are now located just outside the city.

- Brighton & Hove HC provide both adult and junior hockey provision for males and females. They have 20 adult teams (9 male, 1 male masters hockey, 8 female, 1 female veterans and 1 mixed team) and a large junior section with 11 teams, boys x5 (U10, U12, U14, U16x2), girls x5 (U10, U12, U14, U16x2) and 1 mixed U10 team. They state all of their members come from within the Brighton & Hove area. The club report a growth in membership over the last few years with an increase of 50 members.
- Brighton Rogues HC has one adult female team and offer a back to hockey programme. They state 80% of their members come from the Brighton & Hove area, with the remaining 20% from the Worthing and Lewes areas. They have had a stable number of members the last few years.
- University of Sussex has five teams made up of university students (2 male and 3 female).
- Southwick HC was previously based in Brighton at Portslade Sports Centre and relocated to Steyning Grammer School. The club has 2 adult male teams and 2 adult female teams, and it is likely the club has a number of members from the Brighton & Hove area. The club has no security of tenure on this site.

2.2 Club players - Demand trend

Player affiliation data in Figure 2.1 provided by England Hockey for this season shows demand for hockey participation totaling 653 affiliated players for the 2024/25 season a decline of 98 players since the 2023/24 season. However, through consultation, Brighton & Hove HC have reported a growth in membership in the past three years with an additional 50 players, whereas Brighton Rogues HC reports their numbers are about the same. There has been a decline in junior players, with 71% of the decline over the last year being attributed under 18 players.

Figure 2.1 Club affiliation data

Club	202	4/25	2023/24		
	Under 18	Over 18	Under 18	Over 18	
Brighton & Hove HC	230	294	310	323	
Brighton Rogues HC	0	19	0	23	
University of Sussex	10	100	0	95	
Totala	240	240 413		441	
Totals	6	53	751		

2.3 Imported and displaced demand

Lewes HC use the facility at the University of Sussex on a Saturday for matches as a secondary pitch and Halisham HC also use the facility. It is likely these clubs may attract members from the East of Brighton & Hove and as mentioned in Section 2.1 Southwick HC is likely to have members from the West of Brighton & Hove.

2.4 Active Lives Survey

Adults: The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey⁴ (November 2022-2023) showed that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taken part at least twice in the last 28 days)



⁴ Active Lives Adult Survey November 2022-23, Sport England

in hockey in England by adults (aged 16+) had increased from 0.3% to 0.4% between November 2022 and November 2023.

If hockey participation in the area were at the national average (i.e., 0.4%), this would indicate around 833 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play hockey out of the 16+ adult population of approximately 208,187. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Brighton & Hove residents who participate outside of the city.

With 26 adult teams currently in the city, plus an additional 2 teams (assuming 50% of the membership of Southwick HC is from Brighton & Hove), the 'adult' hockey club playing membership is close to 420 players (assuming an average of 15 squad players per team). If we then assume adult hockey participation in Brighton & Hove is in line with the national average of 0.4%, this suggests that 51% of all regular adult hockey played by residents in Brighton & Hove is either 'displaced' to venues outside of the area (e.g., at other clubs) or takes place in informal, social game formats such as Back 2 Hockey.

2.5 Club aspirations - Hockey development priorities and facility needs

The clubs in Brighton & Hove have ambitions to grow and have reported the following facility needs,

- Brighton & Hove HC are looking to grow but need access to a secondary facility to accommodate
 matches. The club have ambitions to build a clubhouse and state they need better changing
 facilities.
- **Brighton Rogues HC** have ambitions to grow but needs additional affordable facilities close to public transport to expand to.

3. The current and future picture of provision for hockey (Step 5)

3.1 Current

Since the last assessment of hockey facility needs in 2016, the main changes of relevance are the loss of a sand dressed pitch at Portslade Sports Centre in 2019 and the upgrade of floodlights to LED at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre in 2023 and at Blatchington Mill School in 2024.

The current priority facility issues facing the sport of hockey in Brighton & Hove is that the majority sites are at capacity for match use. The pitch at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre is currently used extensively by Brighton College during education hours and has capacity for clubs but needs refurbishing. The location of the pitch however is not ideal for the clubs who have identified the need for additional facilities. Through consultation, Brighton & Hove HC noted that they require a second facility within close distance to their current venue, they are currently located 5.5 miles from the leisure centre, which is not an acceptable travel time for members during peak drive times. Brighton Rogues HC have ambitions to grow but have stated a need for affordable facilities with good transport links. Although Stanley Deason Leisure Centre is serviced by a bus stop, its nearest train station is over a 50-minute walk away.

The pitches at Blatchington Mill School will require resurfacing in 2-3 years' time and the current changing provision for Brighton & Hove HC needs improving. The club require access to new dedicated clubhouse and improved changing facilities to help generate secondary income and attract commercial revenue to make them more sustainable in the future.

3.2 Future

To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2041 on the need for hockey pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool has been used to determine the demand of new teams and junior training squads likely to be generated in the future based on population growth (figure 3.1)

Figure 3.1 Future demand.

Age	Match equivalent sessions (MES)	Training demand hours on AGP	Estimated demand for new AGP
Adult	0.59	1.77	0.15
Junior and Mixed	0	0.26	0.13
Total	0.59	2.03	0.15

To meet hockey demand from 12,477 additional residents (as currently forecast⁵) 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 +0.15 additional sand based artificial grass pitches suitable for hockey will be needed in the area based on the need for 0.59 additional match equivalent sessions and a total of 2.03 training hours per week.

There is capacity in the area for club's aspirations to grow and to meet future demand at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre if the facility is resurfaced. There is a need to protect the existing quantity of pitch supply in the area and look to improve club house and changing provision for Brighton & Hove HC.



⁵ Population change from 2022 to 2041 based on B&HCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment

3.3 Conclusion

To better meet current and likely future needs for the sport of hockey in Brighton & Hove, the strategy should seek to:

- Protect the current supply of sand based artificial pitches in the area.
- Undertake an independent assessment of the pitches at Blatchington Mill School to confirm the pitch condition and timescales for resurface.
- Resurface the pitch at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre and work with England Hockey to establish a schedule of activities.
- Resurface the pitch at University of Sussex and secure the facility with a community use agreement.
- Improve the current changing provision at Nevill Playing Fields.
- Investigate the feasibility to develop a new clubhouse and changing facilities at Blatchington Mill School.
- Support Brighton & Hove Hockey Club to extend their lease in order to maintain security on their facility and enable them to seek funding opportunities.

4. Key findings and issues for hockey (Step 6)

Figure 4.1: Key findings and issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision

There is currently four full sized (or near full sized) floodlit sand based artificial grass pitches in the area currently available for community hockey. Since the last assessment in 2016 there has been a change in supply with the loss of one pitch at Portslade Sports Centre.

There are two main hockey clubs in the area as well as the University of Sussex, with 4/5 student teams and Southwick HC (2 male and 2 female teams), previously based in Brighton and now located just outside the city in Steyning. Brighton & Hove Hockey Club has 20 adult teams (9 male, 1 male veterans, 8 female, 1 female veteran's and 1 mixed team) and a large junior section with 11 teams, boys x5 (U10, U12, U14, U16x2), girls x5 (U10, U12, U14, U16x2) and 1 mixed U10 team. Brighton Rogues Hockey Club have one adult female team.

Club consultation suggests participation numbers have increased slightly, with Brighton & Hove Hockey Club recording a growth in playing members, however England Hockey affiliation data reports a decline in membership across the two clubs of 114 members.

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

<u>No</u> – Although there is surplus capacity at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, the surface is in a poor condition and the location of the site does not support use by current clubs due to travel times in peak hours. Other sites in the city are at capacity for matches which requires careful scheduling to accommodate all fixtures.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

<u>No</u> - The pitches at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre and University of Sussex needs resurfacing. The pitches at Blatchington Mill School will also require resurfacing in 2-3 years' time and should have an independent assessment now to confirm the pitch condition and timescales for resurface.

The current changing provision for Brighton & Hove HC is poor and needs improving. The club require access to new dedicated clubhouse and improved changing facilities to make them more sustainable in the future.

What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?

Both clubs have ambitions to grow over the next 3 years. Brighton & Hove HC report requiring access to another pitch to support the growth of their club within reach of their current facility. There is capacity in at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, however the location is not within recommended travelling times for the club and the surface needs to be replaced.

The pitches at Blatchington Mill need to be protected and maintained within the anticipated timelines to ensure continued use. An independent survey should be carried out to determine the timescale for resurfacing.

The forecast population growth to 2041 of over 12,477 additional residents is estimated to generate little demand for additional pitches in the area, however with England Hockey's strategic focus on 5-11 year olds and the EuroHockey Championships 2027 being hosted in England further demand is likely to be generated.

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

<u>No</u> - There is spare capacity at Stanley Deason Leisure Centre, but the facility needs to be resurfaced to be of sufficient quality to accommodate future demand. The location of the pitch in relation to the current clubs is not ideal but is within Sport England's recommended minimum drive time of 20 minutes. There are

no other sites within the city which have surplus match capacity, with clubs having to carefully plan schedules to meet the current level of match and training demand.

The majority of current supply is secured, Brighton & Hove Hockey Club have a lease agreement in place at Blatchington Mill School with 8 years. Stanley Deason Leisure Centre is council owned and secure, however the University of Sussex does not have a Community Use Agreement in place and this should be secured as part of any future resurface of the pitch. Southwick Hockey club also has no security of tenure on their current facility just outside of the city in Steyning, should they be displaced from this site then there would be further demand on the facilities in the area.



Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of needs (stages B and C)

The findings of the assessment for needs for rugby facilities in Brighton & Hove are summarised in this appendix to the Playing Pitch Strategy. Site visits to the home grounds used by clubs in Brighton & Hove have been made and club officials/site managers have been consulted regarding floodlit training provision and match use.

Consultation with Rugby Football League (RFL) suggests there is one club in the area, Brighton & Hove Rugby League, who operate a men's team playing in the London Premier Division and a women's team playing in League 1 South East. Sussex is an area which the RFL are looking to develop teams in in the future, as the nearest affiliated clubs are based in South London (Bromley Bengals, South London Silverbacks), Maidstone (Invicta Panthers), and Portsmouth (US Portsmouth Seahawks). These clubs are all approximately 40 miles from Brighton & Hove. There is also an Australian Rules Football team based in Brighton & Hove, the Sussex Swans who have one male adult team playing at Waterhall Sports Ground (bottom area).

Since the last assessment of Rugby Union in 2016, there has been a significant change in the total supply of rugby pitches available for community use. There has been a loss of community use on both junior and mini pitches in the city, with Patcham High School and Longhill High School now being the sole users of their rugby pitches. Dorothy Stringer School, Hove Park School, Varndean High School, University of Sussex, Brighton College, and Cardinal Newman Catholic School do not receive any community use on their pitches, with only Varndean High School (who currently advertise bookings on their school website) expressing interest in providing community use if there is sufficient demand. This results in a total of 10 senior pitches (11 including Varndean High School) available for community use, 6 fewer than reported in the 2016 study.

Following the assessment report in 2016, the 3G pitch at Brighton Rugby Club is no longer World Rugby Compliant, meaning no contact rugby can take place on the facility, but improvements to the two senior pitches at Hove Rugby Club were made to increase the carrying capacity of the pitches.

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 two rugby clubs in Brighton & Hove based on playing field sites with rugby pitches – Brighton RFC and Hove RFC.

Distribution of rugby sites

Figure 1.1 shows the distribution of grass rugby pitches in Brighton & Hove. Four of the 5 rugby sites are located in the West of the City (Brighton Rugby Football Club, Brighton Hove and Sussex Sixth Form College, Hove Recreation Ground, and Waterhall sports Ground), with one being located in the East (Brighton University) and one in the centre of the city (Varndean High School).

1.1 Rugby pitches in Brighton & Hove

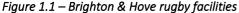
In the 2023/24 season, Brighton & Hove had a total of 10 adult size grass rugby pitches marked out with posts in situ available for community use. It should be noted that whilst available for community use the pitch at Varndean High School it is currently only used by the school. There are additional pitches at Dorothy Stringer School (1), Hove Park School (1), University of Sussex (2), Brighton College (1), and Cardinal Newman Catholic School (2) but these are not currently available for regular community use.

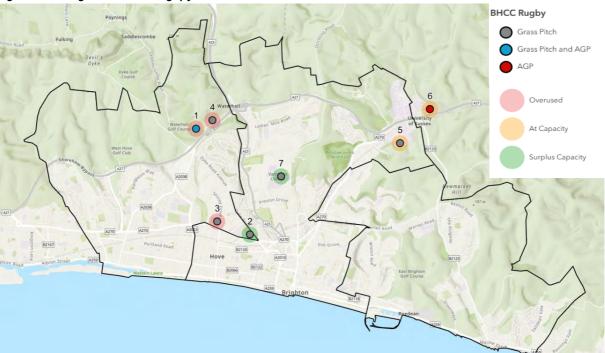


The city has one AGP pitch in the area which is World Rugby compliant (WRC) at the University of Sussex, however this is used mainly for student rugby and football training. The AGP at Brighton Rugby Club is no longer compliant due to the condition of the pitch. There are 3 floodlit natural turf pitches at Brighton Rugby Club (1) and Hove Recreation Ground (2), with Brighton RFC also using the 3G for noncontact training. Details on individual sites can be found in figure 1.3.

1.2 Ownership and security of access

Brighton RFC are the sole users of the rugby pitches at their site and use the pitches for home matches and training. The club have a lease with Brighton & Hove City Council for 90+ years for the use of the clubhouse and hire the pitches at Waterhall Sports Ground (top area) annually. The club occasionally use the pitch at Waterhall Sports Ground (bottom area) as a secondary site. Hove RFC have an 80 year lease for the pitches, clubhouse, and outlying buildings at Hove Recreation Ground.





Key	Site	Postcode
1	Brighton Rugby Football Club	BN1 8YR
2	Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College Sports Centre	BN2 OAL
3	Hove Recreation Ground (Hove RFC)	BN3 6LL
4	Waterhall Sports Ground	BN1 8YR
5	University of Brighton	BN1 9PH
6	University of Sussex	BN1 9PL
7	Varndean High School	BN1 6NP

1.3 Pitch quality – Maintenance and drainage

The public pitch maintenance in Brighton & Hove is mostly the responsibility of the city council, who maintain the pitches at Brighton RFC, Hove Recreation Ground, and Waterhall Sports Ground. Whilst the council are mainly responsible for maintenance, both clubs carry out additional maintenance at their own expense to ensure pitches are suitably maintained. Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College and University of Brighton both maintain their own sites. As shown in figure 1.2 the maintenance of grass pitches varies between poor and adequate across the city.

Figure 1.2—Pitch maintenance and drainage ratings from site visits and club consultation

		Maintenance			
	Number of pitches	Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)	Total
Drainage	Natural Inadequate (D0)	3	1		4
	Natural Adequate (D1)	1	3		4
	Pipe Drained (D2)				
	Pipe and Slit Drained (D3)	2			2
	Total	6	4		10

1.4 Park pitches

All 3 public access sites (Brighton RFC, Hove Rec., Waterhall Sports Ground) receive frequent recreational use from walkers, joggers, and dog walkers. There is significant use of the Waterhall Brighton RFC pitches by dog walkers, with one large commercial company using it as the main site for its dog walking operations and it is a key event site. Baseball is also played at Waterhall Sports Ground (top area).

1.5 At risk sites

The pitch at Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College is being considered for replacement by the college, with discussions around developing a MUGA in its place. This pitch is largely unused due to its significant slope and is no longer used by Hove RFC, however consultation would be needed with Sport England to determine the new provision would be suitable mitigation for loss of a rugby pitch. Brighton & Hove Rugby League Club have a 1 year rolling agreement for use of the pitch at the University of Brighton, which whilst it's not at risk, is unsecured community use.

1.6 Proposed new supply

Cardinal Newman School have recently developed a new 3G AGP which will be available for rugby clubs to use for training on and includes a rugby specific shockpad, however at the time of this report is subject to testing to confirm world rugby compliance, if approved this allow contact rugby and could be used for some matches. The school is with easy reach of Hove RFC being only half a mile away.

Longhill Sports Centre are exploring options to develop a new 3G pitch with WRC shockpad, providing facilities which could be used for training and contact matches. The sports centre has been in discussions with Hove Rugby Club and Lewes Rugby Club about their appetite for training use. Longhill Sports Centre is located in the East of the city, 10.2 miles from Hove RFC and 8.2 miles from Brighton RFC, so may not be an ideal location for training for either club.

Brighton & Hove City Council are exploring options to develop a 7v7 3G AGP at Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre which would have a World Rugby Compliant surface. This would be too small to satisfy match demand but with the Leisure Centre between 4 and 5 miles away from each rugby club, It could be a suitable facility to satisfy some youth training demand from either club.

1.7 Ancillary facilities

Brighton RFC currently have a 90+ year lease on their clubhouse, which has 6 changing rooms, 2 shower blocks, and a 200 person capacity clubroom. The club have aspirations to increase the capacity of the changing facilities so they can cater for more than 3 matches at once. Brighton RFC have fully accessible ancillary facilities with an outside bar, lift up to the club room, and accessible toilets.

Hove RFC have a large pavilion with 4 changing rooms (2 of the larger changing rooms can be divided in half to create 6 in total) which the club state are in good condition.

The pavilion at Waterhall Sports Ground (bottom area) has been permanently closed following significant vandalism and damage to the interior in 2021. Although this pavilion was not previously used for Rugby, with a single rugby pitch on site, there is potential for the pavilion to also be used by a rugby union or rugby league clubs if the pavilion was reinstated.

1.8 Rugby supply in neighbouring boroughs

The following rugby clubs have home grounds within reach of residents in Brighton & Hove:

- Shoreham RFC To the West, Adur
- Lewes RFC To the East, Lewes
- Plumpton RFC To the North, Lewes
- Ditchling Wild RFC To the North, Lewes
- Burgess Hill RFC To the North, Mid Sussex

It is expected that some of these clubs may have members from Brighton & Hove particularly Shoreham RFC from the far West of the City and Lewes RFC from the East of Brighton & Hove where there is limited rugby provision.



Figure 1.3: The situation at individual sites

Figure 1.3: The situation at individual sites Strand Pitch Constitution of Supply / Demand Page Supply / Dem								
Site	Pitch	Rating	Ancillary facilities	Security of access	Pitch capacity	Estimated use 23/24	balance	RAG
Brighton RFC	P1 - In front of Rugby Club building (floodlit)	M1/D0	Clubhouse and pavilion on site. 6 changing rooms, 2 showers, and a 200 person capacity clubhouse. Club rate the quality of facilities as 3/5 and would like to increase the changing room capacity to facilitate more matches at once.	90+ year lease with Brighton & Hove City Council for the clubhouse. The club hire pitches annually.	1.5	Matches 1.5 (3 adult teams) Training 1 (adult) Total 2.5	-1	
	P2 - Northeast corner	M1/D1			2	Matches 3 (Juniors) Total 3	-1	
	P3 – North of pavilion (training)	M1/D1			2	Training 1.5 (Juniors) Total 1.5	0.5	
	P4 - AGP	Full sized Floodlit 3G Poor – Not WRC			NA	Only used for non-contact training	NA	
Brighton Hove & Sussex Sixth Form College	P1 - Full-size Main pitch	M0/D1	Unused changing and clubroom facilities. Poor condition.	Half the pitch is on Council land, the other half is on school owned land. Pavilion is owned by the school.	1.5	Training 0.5 (Try Tag Rugby) Total 0.5	1	
Hove Recreation Ground (Hove RFC)	P1 – Main pitch	M0/D3	Changing provision in pavilion with 4 main changing rooms. The two larger changing rooms can be divided to make 6 changing rooms in total. The club rate the facility qualities 4/5.	80 year lease from the Council for the pitches, clubhouse, and outlying buildings.	2	Matches 3.5 (3 adult male, 2 adult female) Total 3.5	-1.5	
	P2 – Floodlit training pitch	M0/D3			2	Training 5 (adult teams) Total 5	-3	
	P3 – Grass pitch	M0/D0			0.5	Matches 4 (juniors / vets / BHSS) Total 3	-2.5	
	P4 – Grass pitch	M0/D0		4/5.	0.5	Training 4 (juniors/minis)	-3.5	
Waterhall SG (bottom area)	P1 – Main pitch	M0/D0	Pavilion was permanently closed in 2021 due to damage from vandalism.	Brighton & Hove City Council owned site	0.5	Matches 1 (Sussex Swans Australian Rules Football Club) 0.5 (BRFC) Total 1.5	-1	
University of Brighton	P1 – Main pitch	M1/D1	Large changing block with 8 changing rooms, all of which are standard quality.	1 year rolling agreement between the university and Brighton & Hove Rugby League Club.	2	Total 2	0	
University of Sussex	P1 - AGP	Full Sized Floodlit 3G Good-WRC	9 changing rooms - 4 designated male/female, 5 shared	Education unaware of CUA	34 peak hours	Used 27 hours (80%) (student rugby use and football matches / training	7 hours	

2. Rugby pitch demand (Step 3)

Findings relating to rugby pitch demand in Brighton & Hove are summarised below.

2.1 Clubs and teams

Brighton RFC have two regular men's Saturday league teams, one social team and a full junior section offering both youth boys age grade rugby and mixed mini rugby. Hove RFC have 4 men's teams, 3 who play regular league matches, a social team, a veteran team, 2 women's teams, and a full junior section.

Figure 2.1: Table of senior rugby club information

Ruby clubs	2023/24 league(S)	Youth teams	Home ground	Training ground
		(squads)		
Brighton RFC 1st XV Men's	London & SE Division –	U7 (3)		
	Regional 1 South Central	U8 (3)		
		U9 (3)		
		U10 (3)		
Brighton RFC AS XV Men's	London & SE Division –	U11 (3)		
	Counties 2 Sussex	U12 (1)	Dui-latan DEC	Dui-litin DEC
		U13 (1)	Brighton RFC	Brighton RFC
Brighton RFC Social	Training Only	U14 (1)		
		U15 (1)		
		U16 (1)		
		U18 (2)		
Hove RFC 1 st XV Men's	London & SE Division –	U7 (2)		
	Counties 1 Surrey/Sussex	U8 (2)		
		U9 (2)		
Hove RFC 2 nd XV Men's	Harvey's Brewery Counties 3	U10 (2)		
	Sussex	U11 (2)		
		U12 (3)		
Hove RFC Beefeaters	Harvey's Brewery Counties 3	U13 (3)		
	Sussex	U14 (3- 2B &1G)	Hove Recreation	Hove Recreation
		U15 (1)	Ground	Ground
Hove RFC Vets	Friendlies	U16 (3 - 2B &1G)		
		U18 (3 - 2B &1G)		
Hove RFC Women's 1st XV	Women's Championship			
	South East 2			
Hove RFC Women's 2 nd XV	Maman's NC 2 South Foot			
Hove KFC Women's 2"4 XV	Women's NC 2 South East			
	(South)			

2.2 Active lives survey

The most recently published findings of the national Active Lives Adult Survey¹ 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+) increased from 0.4% in November 2021-22 to 0.5% in November 2022-23, an increase in participation of 0.1%. If rugby participation in the city were at the national average (i.e., 0.5%), this would indicate around 1,041 adults (aged 16+) living in the area play rugby out of a 16+ adult population of approximately 208,187. This playing population considers both regular club participation and regular informal recreational play in parks and hired facilities, and Brighton & Hove residents who participate outside of the city.

With approximately 9 senior rugby teams based in Brighton & Hove, the adult rugby club playing memberships in the city is roughly 315 players (assuming an average squad size of 35 players per team). Assuming that adult rugby participation in Brighton & Hove is in line with the national average of 0.5%, this suggests that over a two thirds of adults (70%) play rugby at clubs outside of the area (displaced

¹ Active Lives Adult Survey Nov 2022/23, Sport England.





demand) or participate in informal, social game formats such as Touch Rugby at clubs and parks within Brighton & Hove and outside the city.

2.3 Casual rugby demand

Demand for less formal forms of play – such as non-contact Touch or Try rugby - is a growing in popularity as it provides flexibility to be able to enjoy the game and stay active without the pressure of the regular commitment or risk of injury.

TryTag Rugby Brighton runs two mixed adult social leagues in Brighton & Hove. The activity launched in April 2023 and already attracts up to 150 people each week, over two evenings. They use Hove Park in Summer and in the Winter have used Brighton Rugby Club and Southwick FC in the past but are now moving to use of the new 3G at Cardinal Newman School for two nights a week from September 2024.

2.4 Imported and displaced demand

There is no imported or displaced demand for match or training sessions from rugby clubs outside of the city, although Lewes RFC have been in discussions about potential training demand if Longhill Sports Centre are to develop a WRC 3G pitch.



3. The situation at individual sites for rugby (Step 4)

The pitches were assessed during March of the 2023/24 season, with the sites assessed using the methodology established by Sport England and the RFU in the published Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (2013) - i.e., a non-technical visual site assessment. Hove RFC have undertaken PitchPower Assessments, which rated all their pitches as Basic. 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 (it's 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 according to each quality rating was used to be consistent with the approach adopted in similar assessments across the country:

Figure 3.1: Rugby pitch carrying capacity

		Maintenance			
Mato	ch equivalent sessions a week	Poor (M0)	Adequate (M1)	Good (M2)	
a)	Natural inadequate (D0)	0.5	1.5	2	
rainage	Natural adequate (D1)	1.5	2	3	
)rail	Pipe drained (D2)	1.75	2.5	3.25	
	Pipe and slit drained (D3)	2	3	3.5	

- 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 (current use matches the carrying capacity), or
 - GREEN Potentially able to accommodate some additional play (current use falls below the carrying capacity)

There are 3 sites, highlighted from the site audit spreadsheet as **RED** rated sites where the majority of the available natural turf rugby pitches are overplayed.

- Brighton RFC,
- Hove Recreation Ground,
- Waterhall Sports Ground (bottom area),

One site is rated as AMBER indicating that the majority of the available natural turf pitches are played at (or very close to) their playing capacity.

• University of Brighton's pitch

Brighton Hove and University of Sussex's pitch was rated as **GREEN** indicating that their natural turf pitch has spare carrying capacity.

4. The current and future picture of provision for rugby (Step 5)

4.1 Current

Overall, the rugby pitches in Brighton & Hove are currently overused or at capacity for the amount of demand for training and matches, with 7/10 community pitches being used in excess of their carrying capacity. The location of facilities is concentrated in the West of the city, with 8/10 pitches located in the West. Although the facilities in the West are no more than a 30-minute drive from residents in the East, some players may travel outside of the city to clubs such as Lewes RFC.

4.2 Future

Planned/expected growth – Brighton RFC reported a growth of adult teams whereas Hove RFC reported a loss of adult players since COVID-19 but a significant growth in junior and social teams. Both clubs are looking to grow in the next three seasons with Brighton RFC looking to grow the number of teams they have across adult and junior sections, specifically focussing on women's and girl's, whilst Hove RFC are planning a senior player recruitment drive.

Potential effect of population change — To estimate the potential impact of population growth over the strategy period to 2041 on the need for rugby pitch capacity in the peak period, Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) has been used to determine the demand likely to be generated in the future due to population growth (figure 4.1).

Figure 4.1: Future demand.

Sport	Match equivalent sessions (MES)	Training demand MES on floodlit natural pitch	Estimated demand for new grass pitches (match & training demand)
Rugby Union	0.74	0.89	0.74
Rugby League	0.06	0.06	0.06
Total	0.80	0.95	1 (rounded up)

To meet rugby demand from 12,477 additional residents (as currently forecasted²) and assuming current levels of rugby demand by age group for matches and training in peak period, the PPC indicates that the equivalent capacity of +1 additional full size natural turf pitches is needed to accommodate the additional demand. Pitches will require sufficient floodlighting to accommodate training demand for new teams.

There is also likely to be an increased demand for women and girls' rugby as England will host the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup, with some games being played in Brighton & Hove at Brighton & Hove Albion FC's stadium. As such the above future demand should be considered the minimum amount of additional provision needed when planning future provisions.

² Population change from 2022 to 2041 based on B&HCC Strategic Housing Market Assessment





5. Key findings and issues for rugby (Step 6)

Figure 5.1 - Rugby key findings and issues

The main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision

Since the last assessment of needs for rugby union in 2016, there has been a change in the total supply of rugby pitches available for community use. There has been a loss of community use at six pitches across the city, all of which are located on education sites, with only students using the pitches. Varndean High School expressed an interest in providing community use if there was sufficient demand for the pitch. Hove RFC previously hired the pitch at Brighton College but have not in the 2023/24 season and will not be hiring it in the future due to parking requirements and pitch quality.

There are two clubs based in Brighton & Hove, Brighton RFC and Hove RFC, with 3 and 4 adult male teams respectively. Hove RFC also have two women's team. Both clubs have full junior and mini sections offering age grade rugby. There is also a Rugby League and Australian Rules Football team playing in the city using rugby pitches.

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

<u>No</u> - Overall, the rugby pitches in Brighton & Hove are overused and cannot maintain the current demand for training or matches. Clubs in the area manage the quality of their pitches through careful operational management and are often required to cancel training and matches to protect the pitches.

Both clubs have secure use of their sites, with long term leases in place at both Hove Recreation Ground (80+ years) and Brighton RFC (90+ years), although only the pavilion is covered by the lease at Brighton RFC whilst the pitches are under annual license.

There is significant overplay on the pitches at Hove Recreation Ground (Hove RFC), particularly on the two training pitches. Whilst the pitches at Brighton RFC are largely used above capacity, this is to a lesser extent than those at Hove Recreation ground as non-contact training can take place on their 3G pitch. Should this pitch be resurfaced and approved for contact rugby again, this would further reduce the overuse of grass pitches at the site.

Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?

<u>No</u> - The 8 naturally drained rugby pitches across Brighton & Hove are split evenly between 'Natural Adequate' and 'Natural Inadequate', with only 2 pitches having a built drainage system (Hove Recreation Ground). The maintenance of pitches is generally poor, improvements to the maintenance of pitches would greatly increase the playing capacity of pitches but this is likely to be difficult due to the pressures on council and club budgets.

Hove RFC are currently accessing Football Foundation funding to improve their pitch maintenance having undertaken Pitch Power Assessments, which rated all pitches as Basic. Improved maintenance of the 6 pitches rated poorly to an adequate rating would, in most cases, increase the carrying capacity of pitches by 1 match equivalent session per week. This would result in additional capacity for 5.5 MES per week across the city. Improving the maintenance of pitches at Hove Recreation ground wouldn't completely offset the current level of demand but would reduce the overuse from 10.5 MES to 6.5 MES. At Waterhall Sports Ground, improved maintenance would balance out the current overuse of 1 MES per week.

A capital scheme to develop engineered drainage may be a further solution to increasing the capacity of rugby pitches in Brighton & Hove. Developing pipe drainage at adequately maintained pitches increases their capacity by 0.5 MES, whilst developing pipe & slit drainage increases MES capacity by 1.



What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?

To meet rugby demand from the projected population growth of 12,477 additional residents (as currently forecasted) and assuming levels of rugby demand for matches and training remain at the current levels, the equivalent capacity of +1 additional floodlit natural turf pitch would be required in the city.

It is anticipated that women's and girls' participation for rugby will increase as England are set to host the Women's Rugby World Cup in 2025, with games taking place in the city creating additional demand for matches and training provision. The RFU have launched Impact 25, a legacy programme for the 2025 Women's Rugby World Cup which has committed funding to facility development, coaching and match officials, playing and volunteering, and community and fan engagement. This programme aims to grow women's rugby to 100,000 female players by 2027. Sport England's Active Places Survey suggests that 0.1% of the female population regularly participate in rugby union, roughly 30,400 participants. Should the RFU achieve the ambitions set out in Impact 25, female participation nationally could increase by roughly 70,000 over the next 3 years.

Both clubs are looking to grow in the next three seasons with Brighton RFC looking to grow the number of teams they have across adult and junior sections, specifically focussing on women's and girl's, whilst Hove RFC are planning a senior player recruitment drive.

Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?

<u>No</u> - There is currently insufficient provision for rugby to meet future demand. Improvement to the maintenance and drainage at all pitches would increase the number of match equivalent sessions in the city, but this is likely to be difficult due to the pressures on council and club budgets and would still not bring all the pitches within their carrying capacity due to amount of training demand.

Additional capacity could also be accommodated by exploring regular community access to the pitches at Dorothy Stringer School (1), Hove Park School (1), University of Sussex (2), Brighton College (1), Varndean High School (1), and Cardinal Newman Catholic School (2).

The current capacity deficit in Brighton & Hove is 12 MES including training sessions. To accommodate this on natural turf pitches (assuming adequate natural drainage and adequate maintenance) would require 6 natural turf pitches. Due to the lack of alternative green space which would be suitable for developing additional grass pitches, this demand may be reduced by considering enhanced maintenance and drainage of current rugby pitches.

If it is assumed that the maintenance of all poorly maintained pitches can be improved, the deficit is reduced to 6.5 MES, requiring 3 new pitches plus 1 for future demand. An alternative method of increasing MES capacity is to develop engineered drainage systems such as pipe or pipe & slit drainage. Assuming all naturally drained pitches in the area have pipe drainage installed, the surplus MES demand is reduced to 5, and if all naturally drained pitches have pipe & slit drainage installed, the surplus demand falls to 2.5 MES. Whilst enhanced maintenance and drainage could considerably reduce the pitch deficit across the City, it is likely not feasible to undertake these enhancements at all sites due to the financial demand on the council. A targeted approach to improving the maintenance and drainage at sites which are heavily used, such as Hove Recreation Ground, may be more feasible.

The overuse of grass pitches is mainly due to the level of training demand. Whilst Brighton RFC currently use their 3G pitch for non-contact training, there is a need for this pitch to be resurfaced in order to comply with World Rugby regulations. If resurfaced and certified for contact rugby, it could



accommodate the clubs training demand and match demand of up 4 MES across adult and youth teams. This is a priority project for the area, ensuring there is appropriate management of the facility, community use is secured and a sufficient sinking fund is in place for a future resurface.

The 3G pitch developed at Cardinal Newman School during the process of this study is proposed to be suitable for rugby, subject to testing, this would be an ideal location to absorb some of the training demand and possible youth match demand for Hove RFC, especially as it is less than a mile from the club. The new facility is subject to a community use agreement, and this should be monitored by the council to ensure there is good community access and that a sinking fund is in place for a future resurface.

The council are also exploring options to develop a small sized WRC 3G AGP at Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre which may also be able to accommodate some youth training demand from each club.

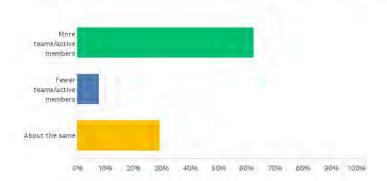


Appendix F- Club consultation and aspirations

To understand the current landscape of clubs in the Brighton & Hove area, data was collected from a survey distributed to the sports clubs in the area. 51 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey. A summary of the club survey results is provided in the strategy introduction with this appendix providing the results of key questions asked and details of clubs aspirations for improved facilities.

Figure F.1 Club responses – Growth trend last 3 years

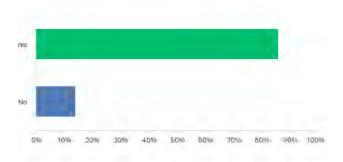
Q8 Does your Club/Organisation have more or fewer teams/active members than three seasons/years ago, or has the number of teams/active members stayed about the same?



Two thirds of sports clubs (62.75%) reported an increase in active members from three years ago, with 29.41% of clubs reporting similar levels of active members. This growth of active members suggests a significantly greater demand for playing pitch and ancillary facilities to support club's growth in playing memberships.

Figure F.2 Future growth

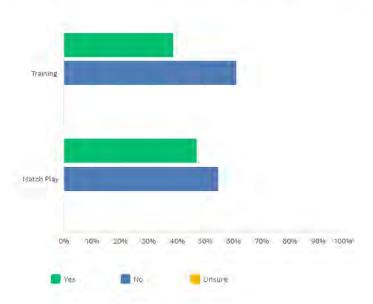
Q10 Does your Club/Organisation have plans to grow in the next three seasons/years?



Looking to the future, over 85% of the clubs surveyed were positive regarding plans for growth over the next three years/seasons, emphasising further the strength of the club sector in Brighton & Hove as well as likely rising demand. The remaining 14% of the respondents do not have any further plans to grow, signalling a need to maintain the current provisions for these clubs to remain sustainable.

Figure F.3 Club needs - Meeting demand

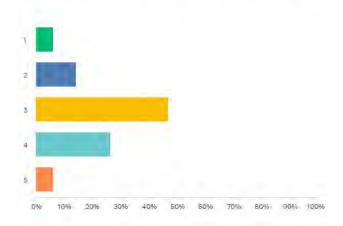
Q13 Is your current number of hours/pitches/evenings sufficient to meet the demand for your Club's/Organisation's activities for training and match play?



Nearly two thirds of clubs responded that they do not have sufficient programming time available at the sporting venues they access to meet current training demand from their memberships and 54.9% for match play. This shows the supply or availability of facilities and resources is not meeting the demands of the sports clubs, signalling a potential need to increase accessibility and capacity of sport facilities.

Figure F.4 Club response – Playing pitch ratings

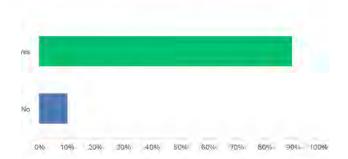
Q22 How do you rate the quality of your Club's/Organisation's main playing pitches? (1 being very poor and 5 being very good)



In terms of the quality of sports facilities available to the sports clubs in the area, nearly 50% of respondents rated their playing facilities as 'average', with only 32.65% rating their facilities as 'good' or 'very good'. This is a largely positive response, suggesting that the current quality of sports facilities in Brighton & Hove is suitable for the clubs and organisations that use them, with only 20.41% of respondents rating their facilities as 'poor' or very poor'. There is however a clear need to upgrade these facilities rated as Poor as well as trying to improve average pitches to a good quality.

Figure F.5 Main site – Playing pitch improvements

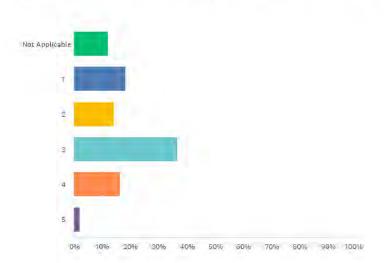
Q23 Is there a need to improve or change the playing pitches to sustain or grow your Club/Organisation (ie improved maintenance, engineered drainage, develop additional pitches etc)?



The majority of clubs (89.80%) believe they are in need of change or improvements to their current 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 or in many cases to ensure sustainability and longevity. Whilst the strategy details 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.

Figure F.6 Main site – Ancillary facilities rating

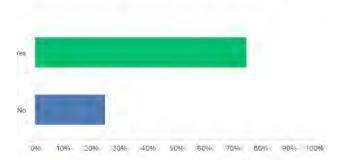
Q24 How do you rate the quality of the clubhouse/changing rooms at your Club's/Organisation's main site? (1 being very poor and 5 being very good).



Only 18.37% of clubs rated the ancillary facilities (clubhouse, changing rooms, social spaces etc) at their main site as 'good' or 'very good', with 69.39% rating their facilities as 'average' or worse (12.24% of clubs responded that this question was not applicable to them). This highlights a clear need for the ancillary facilities at club sites across Brighton & Hove to be enhanced.

Figure F.7 Main site – Ancillary facilities improvement

Q25 Is there a need to improve or change the clubhouse and/or changing rooms to sustain or grow your Club/Organisation (ie additional changing rooms or showers, general refurbishments, reconfiguring the layout etc)?



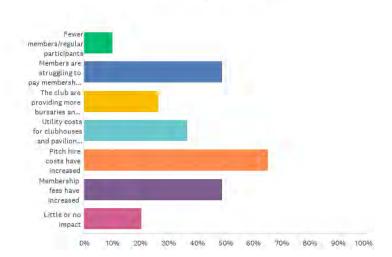
75% of the respondent clubs consider they need to improve or change their ancillary facilities to sustain the appeal of their club to existing members and to attract new members. This is key to accommodating the growth of sports clubs and noting that two thirds of sports clubs in the area have grown in the past three years, as identified in figure F.2 the demand on facilities is under pressure. Therefore, whilst a high majority of clubs are keen to expand further, there appears a need to invest in the wider infrastructure for clubs such as ancillary / support facilities to support this.

The impact of cost of living on clubs and organisations

It is important to investigate how the economic environment is affecting clubs and participants so that they can be supported. Significant financial impacts may reduce clubs' ability to operate sustainably, and negatively impact members ability to continue participating. The 49 responses to Q9, 'What impact (if any) do you think the 'cost of living crisis' will have on your club/organisation are summarised in figure F.8 below.

Figure F.8 Key themes of the impact of cost of living on clubs and organisations

Q9 What impact (if any) do you think the increased 'cost of living' is having on your Club/Organisation?



The most common impact of increased cost of living was that the cost of pitch hire has increased, this along with increased utility costs, has a knock-on effect on membership prices. Clubs are often forced to increase membership prices to cover increasing costs, this is observed in the responses received from clubs in Brighton &Hove with nearly 50% of clubs increasing their membership fees. Nearly 50%

of responding clubs have stated that members are struggling to pay membership fees. Some clubs (26.53%) are offering members bursaries to help support them, ensuring they can still afford memberships and are able to participate in the club activities. Initiatives like these need to be protected to ensure physical activity rates are protected across the district and residents in areas of high deprivation have access to organised sport and physical activity.

Survey summary

Many clubs are looking to grow over the next three years, and they are reporting needs for further development of facilities to achieve these goals. The data has shown that the majority of clubs are not satisfied with the facilities that they have access to, highlighting a need for improvements. Most clubs believe they are in need of funding to grow for a range of reasons, many of which are linked directly to facilities and improving the accessibility of provisions to members.

Club aspirations and demands for facility improvements

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 and therefore have not been included in the action plan. The table below illustrates the aspirations provided by the responding clubs, in their own words, as part of the survey process for reference and information.

Figure F.9 Club aspirations and demands for facility improvements

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
AFC Varndeanians	Improved maintenance on the Withdean pitch will help with more usage and enhance the playing experience. The pitch is not at a satisfactory standard
Brighton & Hove Cricket Club	Growth in demand from the community and schools to use our facilities. We need to upgrade showers and toilets to a modern standard as they are currently 40 years old. Our ambition is to support disability sports groups but we do not have a disability toilet?
Brighton & Hove Scorpions AFC	Marked pitches reduce coaches time and allows more accurate officiating. Currently use unmarked rugby pitch we manually set up with cones. Would reduce cancellations due to bad weather.
Brighton & Hove Hockey Club	Replace surface and do some repairs. To grow we need another pitch. We are trying to build a clubhouse that we will manage and clean but we need permission to use the land owned by Brighton & Hove City Council.
Brighton Baseball Club	Need to develop an additional diamond and improve fencing & seating areas for fans around the existing 2 diamonds.
Brighton F.C. (Rugby Club)	Greater investment in pitches will allow for greater use; also ATP needs investment to enable rugby to be replayed on the facility. The clubhouse was built circa 1994, and needs significant development to cater for additional players, different sexes and accessibility. There is a pavilion (on the lower Waterhall site) that the club could, with support of the Council, assimilate into its management structures to redevelop, not just for its growing rugby participants, but for a range of other sports, such as football, cricket etc.
Brighton Malayalee Ass. Cricket Club	Proper maintenance is required Pavilion facilities need to be improved.
Brighton Rogues Hockey	We want to reach out to women in vulnerable groups to help them with finding better wellbeing in sports
Brighton, Worthing and District FL	Action is needed as poor pitches and facilities are driving teams away and extortionate prices given the facilities
Clarendon Athletic	To allow safe play for youth teams and enough time for matches during the season, pitches need more care
Coldean colts	There is an additional area at the top of the park that could sustain another pitch with some work done to it. We could benefit with some external storage of which we wouldn't be against paying for or contributing to. There also needs to be additional toilets as 1 toilet

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
	isn't enough. Disabled access down to the pitches would help as the park is surrounded by
	steep banks. The club could double in size in the next 3 years if we had the facilities.
Hollingbury Hawks	More teams in general, more cancellations due to weather and very importantly fewer sites
Youth & Colts FC	with toilet access which affects all female matches. There is a need to improve council
Toutif & colta i c	changing rooms. We currently don't have a base only a garage lock up.
	Our girls section is continuing to grow and the need for specific changing facilities/toilets
	limits the availability of pitches. With climate change the winters have become wetter
Hove Park Colts FC	which has led to the cancellation of lots of games. This has put a lot of strain on the clubs
	arranging fixtures at end of the season. Better maintained pitches with drainage would
	allow more games to be played. We had lots of council pitches pulled but were able to play
	on our main pitches due to better maintenance.
Hove Rugby Football	Overall increase in demand for both training and playing surfaces, due to increased
Club	numbers of youth (both male and female) and social teams. We desperately need two additional changing with private showers.
	Mile Oak FC requires a 3G pitch at the recreation ground to allow for all the teams who
	wish to play on the site throughout the week. This would allow all day matches on Sunday,
	training on Saturdays and mid weeks for our youth teams growth. Our main objective is to
	grow the girls game at the site as well as further youth boy teams, allowing for more teams,
Mile Oak FC	more space and greater impact. The club would also like to start up a Ladies Vets football
	team and football for disabilities. The next change would be to have cubicle showers in the
	changing rooms, to allow for the Ladies and Girls game to change and get clean and dry
	after use.
Palmers CC	Better outfield maintenance. We would like a tea room and scorers covered area.
Patcham United	More pitches are required for 9v9 matches and there is a need generally to have greater
Patchain Onited	number of 3G pitches as weather has a major impact on grass pitches
Poets' Corner	maintenance - lawn mowing, drainage, goal post sockets
Football Club	
Preston Dynamos	The pitch is prone to flooding and games are moved to council pitches for roughly 2 months
1958	of our playing season.
Preston Park Cricket	Suitable well maintained pitches with changing and tea facilities not available. If we had
Club	access to suitable local facilities we could grow/expand.
Rottingdean CC	Additional changing rooms for Ladies and youths. Our planned increase in players and teams will put increased demand on existing pitches
Rottingdean Village	which are barely fit for purpose. We would be interested in discussing with the council how
FC	we might take over responsibility for pitch maintenance.
Saltdean United FC	We would like to develop the top pitches further to allow more space.
Saltacali Offica i C	The cricket clubhouse at Preston Park is in need of significant improvements in all areas
	(changing rooms, shower/toilets, layout, functionality, space for activity, storage space,
St Peters Cricket	disability access). The ground may also benefit from installing artificial pitches on both
Club	squares to help meet demand. There is a need for more storage facilities that are fit-for-
	purpose and appropriately located to ensure equipment can be stored and accessed more
	easily and efficiently.
St. Matthias CC	Insufficient pitches for training as ground is used by 3 clubs
	We need a base to enable our program to improve, we need better opportunities to enable
Sussex Girls JPL RTC	us to give girls better facilities and pitches and somewhere to socialise. including changing
	rooms and showering facilities.
Sussex Sunday	Growth of teams and rules requiring changing room and toilets
Football League	
Sussex Sunday	The FA recommend the different sizes in Goal posts for the various age groups but clubs
Youth FL	need to provide their own for any 5 v 5 area and for u13s teams upwards they only have
	pitches with full size adult goals to play on.
Sussex Swans	
Australian Rules	Approval to put in posts and mark up oval and need for access to changing facilities.
Football Club	

Club/Sport	Aspirations/Demands
The Alternatives	Improved council pitches in terms of quality and availability would help encourage players'
Cricket Club	involvement.
The Caxton Arms FC	Team are now required to have changing rooms at all home games. This means Waterhall will be unusable for all teams creating a greater demand for other pitches. This is unsustainable.
Try Tag Rugby Brighton & Hove	If we had access to more central venues all year round with better facilities, I think we would be able to grow at a faster rate than last year. It is very helpful to have access to a toilet for those who need it. Our venue over winter was only accessible by bike/car, so not having public transport was an issue for a lot of our members. We saw a drop off during winter. If we had floodlights on our central venues that would really help with safety and people being able to reach the venue.
West Hove	Growth of teams, improved maintenance, pitch layout needs revising due to increased
Dynamos FC	demand
Whitehawk Football Club	Growth of teams, especially women teams. Ideally grass pitch would be replaced with 3G to support number of teams for training and matches and grow community outreach. Showers and toilets in need of refurbishment.
Woodingdean Wanderers Football Club	We have outgrown the Site we are on and cannot improve the facilities or gain funding because we don't have a lease. We have no running water & no flushing toilets.
Zambuca Tigers Cricket Club	Better pitches make better cricket and safer. Proper kitchen, new changing rooms and showers and more secure.



Appendix F – National, regional and local planning policy: Sport and recreation facilities

National planning policy

The relevant policy <u>promoting healthy and safe communities</u> in the government's National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2024 is at paragraphs 96 and 98:

Para 96 -

Planning policies and decisions should aim to achieve healthy, inclusive and safe places which:

- a) promote social interaction, including opportunities for meetings between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other for example through mixed-use developments, strong neighbourhood centres, street layouts that allow for easy pedestrian and cycle connections within and between neighbourhoods, and active street frontages;
- b) are safe and accessible, so that crime and disorder, and the fear of crime, do not undermine the quality of life or community cohesion for example through the use of well-designed, clear and legible pedestrian and cycle routes, and high quality public space, which encourage the active and continual use of public areas; and
- c) enable and support healthy lives, through both promoting health and preventing ill-health, especially where this would address identified local health and well-being needs and reduce health inequalities between the most and least deprived communities for example through the provision of safe and accessible green infrastructure, sports facilities, local shops, access to healthier food, allotments and layouts that encourage walking and cycling.

Para 98 -

To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

- a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- b) take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- c) guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community's ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- d) ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- e) ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

The relevant national planning policy <u>protecting existing sports facilities and land</u> is at paragraphs 103 and 103 of the NPPF 2024:

Para 103 -

Access to a network of high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. 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 104 -

'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields and formal play spaces, 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 of the current or former use.'

Regional and sub regional planning policy

The last Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for the South East of England - The South East Plan (published in May 2009) – had previously set out a vision and strategic framework for growth to 2026.

The overall spatial vision set out in The South East Plan 2009-2026 had a focus on health and climate change:

A socially and economically strong, healthy and just South East that respects the limits of the global environment. Achieving this will require the active involvement of all individuals to deliver a society where everyone, including the most deprived, benefits from and contributes to a better quality of life. At the same time the impact of current high levels of resource use will be reduced and the quality of the environment will be maintained and enhanced.

The Government has subsequently revoked the South East Plan.

Local planning olicy

The current adopted statutory development plans for Brighton & Hove City Council Local Planning Authority Area are made up of:

- Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 1 adopted on 24 March 2016. The plan provides the overall strategic and spatial vision for the future of Brighton & Hove through to 2030.
- Brighton & Hove City Plan Part 2 adopted on 20 October 2022 which builds on the strategic policy framework set out in City Plan part One, allocates additional development sites and sets out a detailed policy framework to assist in determining planning application.
- East Sussex, South Downs and Brighton & Hove waste and minerals local plan
- **Neighbourhood plans** These are prepared by neighbourhood forums/parish councils to set a locally specific development framework to guide development in their area. Currently there are two Neighbourhood Plans that have been 'made' and form part of the development plan for their areas. These are **Hove Station and Rottingdean Parish**, both formally made on 28 March 2024. In addition to this **Shoreham Harbour** have a Joint Area Action Plan adopted on 24 October 2019.

The existing Local Plan

Brighton & Hove City Plan Part One (2016) and Part Two (2022) provide the overall strategic and spatial vision for the future of Brighton & Hove through to 2030.

It provides a policy framework that plans for new development to deliver the following vision that has been developed alongside the City's Sustainable Community Strategy, other city wide plans and strategies.

By 2030, Brighton & Hove will have a sustainable, resilient low carbon economy with sufficient jobs at all levels. Local residents will have the skills to enable them to progress through the labour market and earn incomes to help them live successfully within the city. New housing of different types, including



affordable housing, will be provided in suitable locations to match a range of requirements and lifetime needs.

Towards achieving this vision, the City Plan includes key planning policies relating to proposals for new sport and recreation facilities and proposals involving the loss of facilities. The current key Local Plan policies of relevance are as follows:

CP7- Infrastructure and developer contributions

To meet the needs of Brighton & Hove and the wider sub-region the council will work with partners to ensure that the necessary social, environmental and physical infrastructure is appropriately provided in time to serve the development. This will be achieved through the following:

- 1. Preparing, regularly updating and facilitating the implementation of an Infrastructure Delivery Plan for the city that will set out the infrastructure to be provided in the city by infrastructure partners including the public sector and utilities, to meet future needs.
- 2. Investigation into the possible implementation of a locally adopted Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) to provide for infrastructure with contributions that will deliver strategic infrastructure to support wider area development. The cumulative impact of all development and differing needs for infrastructure provision will be reflected in the CIL tariff.
- 3. To make development acceptable and enable the granting of planning permission, inadequacies in infrastructure arising from proposed development will be required to be mitigated through s.106 Planning Obligations via a legal agreement and will be sought where they meet the statutory tests of being:
 - necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms;
 - directly related to the development; and
 - fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

CP16 - Open space

The council will work collaboratively to safeguard, improve, expand and promote access to Brighton & Hove's open spaces (public and private) and the diverse range of experiences offered by these spaces. Retaining and enhancing open space

1. The council will require the retention of and seek better, more effective and appropriate use of all existing open space, as shown on the policies map, having regard to the Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study and the Open Space Update Study.

Planning permission resulting in the loss of open space, including the beach, will only be granted where:

- a) The loss results from a development allocation in a development plan and regard has been given to maintaining some open space (physically and visually); or
- b) The site is not part of a playing field (current or historical) and the loss is necessary to bring about significant and demonstrable long term enhancements to the city's public open space offer as a whole; or
- c) The proposed development is ancillary to the use of the open space and will result in only a small loss of open space, provides improvements to and better use of the remaining space and optimises public access; or;
- d) The site is:
 - physically incapable of meeting the city's wider open space needs;
 - is not part of the beach or a playing field (current or historical); and,
 - in accordance with the Open Space Study Update 2011 (or subsequent approved revisions), is



of a poor quality without potential for improvement (current and potential) and there is an identified surplus (current and future) in all types of open space within the locality (ward and sub area). In order to test the importance of the site to the local community the site must be actively marketed at a price that reflects its use, condition and local market prices for at least a year with no success before alternative proposals can be considered.

CP17 – Sports provision

To facilitate the council's aspiration to increase participation in sports and physical activity, the council will safeguard, expand, enhance and promote access to Brighton & Hove's sports services, facilities and spaces through the following:

- 1. Support for the delivery of the replacement and enhancement of sports provision currently provided at the King Alfred (see SA1).
- 2. Require the retention, seek the enhancement and more effective use of existing indoor and outdoor sports facilities and spaces in accordance with the Sports Facilities Plan and the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study and subsequent approved revisions, audits and strategies recognising the importance of major sporting venues such as the American Express Community Stadium, County Cricket Ground, Withdean Sports Complex and Brighton Racecourse. Planning permission resulting in the loss of indoor and outdoor sports facilities and spaces will not be granted except where:

In respect of buildings:

- The building has been demonstrated to be redundant for a sports use and marketed for at least 18 months at a price that reflects its condition and market value, any loss in the surrounding space is minimised and necessary to provide improvements to and better use of the remaining space in accordance with the Open Space policy (CP16); or,
- the facilities are to be replaced by improved facilities that help meet the sporting needs of the city and optimises access by sustainable transport modes.

In respect of outdoor sports facilities and spaces

• The land has been marketed as detailed above and the proposal complies with the Open Space policy (CP16).

Emerging local plan policy

A review of the City Plan focusing on the strategic policies in City Plan 1 has commenced. The new plan will be known as City Plan 2041. The first stage of public consultation took place from 4 November 2024 to 20 January 2025.

The council has recognised the need to update CP17 Sports Provision stating that

'The need to safeguard, expand, enhance and promote access to sports service still remains and reflects current council strategies and plans. The evidence base which underpins the standards for indoor and outdoor sports provision is out of date and a policy review will enable further consideration of more recent national standards and emerging council strategies.'

In developing new policies, the council should engage with Sport England to ensure the policies meet their Playing Fields Policy Guidance to ensuring playing pitches are protected from development.¹

¹ Sport England – Playing Fields Policy and Guidance March 2018





Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet Agenda Item 11

Subject: Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2024-2030

Date of meeting: Thursday, 26 June 2025

Report of: Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Public Health and

Service Transformation

Lead Officer: Name: Corporate Director for Families, Children and

Wellbeing

Contact Officer: Name: Caroline Vass

Email: caroline.vass@brighton-hove.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards);

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1. Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 This paper presents Reducing Harms from Drugs and Alcohol, the Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2024-2030.
- 1.2 Brighton & Hove residents experience significant harms associated with drugs and alcohol. Drug and alcohol use can increase inequalities in health outcomes; reduce the number of years we spend in good health; exacerbate poor mental health; and negatively impact on all areas of life including relationships with family and friends, employment and housing.
- 1.3 The global availability and threat from drugs is higher than ever before and impacts on our communities, with the exploitation of children and vulnerable people by organised crime gangs.
- 1.4 This paper summarises the Reducing Harms from Drugs and Alcohol Strategy and sets out how this will enable the council and partners to deliver the Council Plan to create a better Brighton & Hove for all, specifically through Outcome 2 and Outcome 3 to achieve a fair and inclusive city for all, and a healthy city where everyone can thrive, respectively.
- 1.5 The Council Plan Outcomes 2 and 3 are delivered through the strategy which reflects the aims to ensure that we fight discrimination, embrace diversity and reduce inequalities. The Drug and Alcohol Strategy specifically identifies the risk factors associated with drug and alcohol harms and aims

to address the barriers that some people experience in accessing treatment services. We will continue to work with our partners and services to continue to reduce the harms experienced from drug and alcohol use. Outcome 2 also commits the Council to developing a Combatting Drugs Partnership to support a multi-agency collaborative approach to addressing harms from drugs and alcohol, including accessible treatment and recovery services, community safety and managing anti-social behaviour. This Partnership has been established and has oversight of the strategy and the workstreams identified in it. The specified workstreams expressly address our aims and objectives to ensure a city where people feel safe, included and welcome.

1.6 The strategy was developed by the multi-agency Combating Drugs Partnership board and informed by a needs assessment, consultation and discussion with service users, and a wider public consultation. The strategy was also presented in draft form at People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, the recommendations of which have also been included in the Strategy.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet approves 'Reducing Harms from Drugs and Alcohol' a Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2024-2030 (Cabinet paper appendix)
- 2.2 Cabinet supports the approach that the Brighton & Hove Council Strategy is best delivered in partnership with the multi-agency Combatting Drugs Partnership Board, and that this Board retains oversight to the effective implementation and monitoring of the strategic aims and action planning to deliver the strategy aims.

3. Context and background information

- 3.1 The global availability of drugs is at a record high, and Brighton & Hove experiences considerable harms from drugs and alcohol, including high rates of drug deaths.
- 3.2 In Brighton & Hove we have:
 - The 7th highest age standardized rates of drug misuse deaths in England
 - An estimated 3030 people using opiates and /or crack cocaine, significantly higher than in the rest of the South East
 - More than double the England average rate of alcohol specific mortality rates
 - 10% of secondary school pupils admitting to getting drunk at least once or twice a month
 - 20% of 14-16 year olds report trying cannabis
 - 991 police recorded drug offences
 - Approx 1500 drug litter incidents managed by the Council
- 3.3 The strategy acknowledges and reflects the multiple and complex risk factors associated with harmful drug and alcohol use, and which can be both

causes of drug and alcohol use or exacerbated by drug or alcohol use. Of particular note in Brighton & Hove is:

- Housing insecurity and homelessness: the cost of housing and access to housing, leads to housing insecurity, a risk factor for drug and alcohol use, exacerbated by harmful drug and alcohol use leading to antisocial or offending behaviours, which impacts on communities and housing options.
- The number of residents experiencing multiple compound need, that is experiencing 3 or more of drug or alcohol use, poor mental health, poor physical health, domestic abuse, offending behaviours, and homelessness.
- Co-occurring drug and alcohol use with unmet need around poor mental health
- 3.4 In 2022, Brighton & Hove established a multi-agency partnership board, the Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP), to take a collaborative and whole systems approach to addressing the harms from drug and alcohol use.
- 3.5 The CDP comprises leaders from different organisations across the city who have a key role in tackling drug and alcohol related harms. This includes representatives from the Council, including elected members, Police, Probation service, NHS, treatment and recovery services, treatment providers, mental health providers, community and voluntary sector, and people with lived experience.
- 3.6 The strategy sets out the vision for changing the culture around drug use and reducing harms from drugs and alcohol in the city. Although there is a focus on both drugs and alcohol, it is not a comprehensive alcohol strategy. Alcohol is included where there is alignment with drug harms in the management of these harms: in community safety, treatment and recovery services, and the cultural approach to alcohol and drug use in Brighton & Hove. The strategy does not review alcohol licensing policy as this is undertaken within a separate workstream.
- 3.7 The strategy leads with the vision to make Brighton & Hove a place where everyone will be safe from the harms caused by drugs and alcohol.
- 3.8 Our three strategic priorities aim to deliver the strategy vision as follows:
- 3.9 Priority one to disrupt the local drugs and alcohol supply chain, reduce the availability of drugs and tackle and disrupt drug and alcohol related crime.
 - To work collaboratively across the community safety teams, police and communities to disrupt local drug supply chains and alcohol and drug related crime to create safe and thriving communities. The overarching objectives which inform the workstream one action planning are:
 - Disrupt the flow of drugs into the city
 - Prevent children and young [people form becoming involved with organized crime groups
 - Safeguard children, young people and adults who are being exploited

- Work towards a thriving nighttime economy free from drug and alcohol related violence
- Increase support and communications to communities experiencing drug and alcohol related crime and antisocial behaviour
- Improve pathways between the criminal justice system and treatment services.
- 3.10 Priority two to deliver a world class treatment and recovery service
 - To enhance both the quality and the capacity of our drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service, to provide person-centred support to everyone who needs it, focusing on those at higher risk. The overarching objectives which inform the workstream two action planning are:
 - Increase access to structured treatment for people with drug or alcohol treatment needs
 - Improve the capability of services to support clients with multiple needs
 - Improve access to and the experience of services for adults an children and young people, especially from under-served cohorts
 - Enhance the harm reduction provision for people using drugs and alcohol
 - Develop an integrated response for people with co-occurring substance use with other needs, including poor mental health, housing issues, neurodiversity, etc.
 - Develop a better understanding of emerging drug trends and higher risk drugs.
- 3.11 Priority three to achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs and alcohol
 - We will challenge the normalisation of drug and alcohol use, and address
 the causes of harmful drug and alcohol use, for example untreated mental
 health conditions, housing issues or homelessness, domestic abuse or the
 impact of trauma. The overarching objectives which inform the workstream
 three action planning are:
 - Challenge the normalisation of all drug and alcohol use in children and young people and adults, and raise awareness of the detrimental impact of use
 - Promote healthy lifestyles in children and young people and families
 - Improve awareness of and access into a range of services to support children and young people eg: mental health pathways.
- 3.12 The Strategy was developed by the CDP and the priorities and their objectives are delivered by three workstreams. Each workstream has developed and agreed a number of objectives with associated action plans to deliver on each objective. Since the establishment of the CDP the workstreams have monitored actions for a full year and this has provided a benchmark of activity to take this work forwards, in line with the strategic aims.

- 3.13 The strategy and action plans are supported by analytical input to develop a monitoring process to enable the CDP to review progress according to clear expectations of outcomes.
- 3.14 The CDP comprises representatives from multiple boards and achieves full reach across the system to ensure that all partners are fully engaged in the programme of work
- 3.15 In approving the strategy Cabinet will support the next phase in the programme to reduce harms from drugs and alcohol in Brighton & Hove, and the delivery of the three priority areas, with the CDP to provide oversight to this work.

4. Analysis and consideration of alternative options

4.1 This programme of work is part of the prescribed responsibility of the public health function in Brighton & Hove. Some of these elements would be delivered regardless of the structure proposed in the strategy, however the strategy ensures a whole system approach, which is required to manage the complexity of the issues reflected here.

5. Community engagement and consultation

- 5.1 The first step to developing the strategy was to undertake a needs assessment and to review the strategies of all partners to identify those objectives aligned to the three priority areas for action. (Strategy appendix 4)
- 5.2 Elected members sit on the Partnership Board and although lead members have changed over the past two years, there has always been significant interest and engagement, including wider discussion at People Overview and Scrutiny Committee (POSC) which received the report in 2024. The strategy has been shared widely and an all-Councillor briefing is planned. The Health and Wellbeing Board will also receive the Strategy in July.
- 5.3 At the start of the strategy development, the CDP undertook a series of engagement and consultation sessions with people currently accessing services, or who had previously accessed services, to hear views and these are reflected in the strategy. (Strategy appendix 3)
- 5.4 This work was invaluable to the development of our understanding and commitment to engaging with people with experience of the harms we are aiming to address. We have subsequently formalized this engagement using supplementary funding to commission Common Ambition to support a programme of engagement, to ensure that we can continue to benefit from people's experiences and that they can benefit from our support. This also supports those areas identified in the Equalities Impact Assessment such as understanding better the experience of communities with complex intersections of disadvantage.

- 5.5 In addition, work with community forums on drug harms and the community impacts also fed into the strategy development and understanding of where community responses and partnerships could be strengthened
- 5.6 Following the significant engagement with a range of groups, a further public consultation was held in early 2025, using the Council Your Voice platform, in which we received 64 responses. Most responses reflected the strategy content, which is unsurprising since the final draft had already been consulted widely on. However, given the feedback, the strategy was further strengthened to reflect the impact of neurodivergence and care experience as risk factors for drug and alcohol harms, and also community safety aspects.
- 5.7 There was limited engagement with people with lived experience from Black or Racially Minority (BRM) groups. Sessions were set up with the aim of consulting with specific cohorts, however there was very little uptake. The CDP is committed to exploring better ways to consult and engage with all groups, and specifically BRM cohorts.
- 5.8 The development of the strategy also had minimal input and engagement from children and young people and this is a focus area going forwards.
- 5.9 It should be noted that the artwork in the drugs and alcohol strategy was provided by the art group of Cascade Creative Recovery, a lived experience recovery group, that supports people on their recovery journey.

6. Financial implications

- 6.1 The Combatting Drugs Partnership and the services delivered are via multiple agencies and partners. In addition to other partners' funding arrangements, the Public Health team funding comprises a core grant element and additional supplementary drug and alcohol treatment funding from The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). The supplementary element is predicated on retaining the core grant budget for the drug and alcohol programme.
- 6.2 The total funding available for this programme in 2025/26 is £10.480m of which £5.821m is allocated from the core Public Health Grant and £4.659m from external sources including DHSC, NHS, and other partners.

Name of finance officer consulted: Dave Ellis Date consulted (05/06/25):

7. Legal implications

7.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012, associated Regulations and Government Guidance provide for the local authority to have strategies in place to prevent and reduce drug and alcohol related harm, commission relevant services and engage in multi-agency working.

Name of lawyer consulted: Sandra O'Brien Date consulted (22/05/25):

8. Risk implications

8.1 This is a complex programme of work, and requires significant commitment from multiple partners. The current financial landscape for all partners may impact on the ability to deliver wholly the aims and objectives.

9. Equalities implications

- 9.1 A full EIA has been completed, and is attached as an appendix to the cabinet paper. In summary the EIA identifies the impacts of drug and alcohol harms on multiple cohorts who may experience inequalities of outcomes, or vulnerability, and particularly considers complexity associated with intersectional vulnerabilities.
- 9.2 The EIA notes that the Strategy has well considered many cohorts' inequalities and noted their risk factors, and mitigations required, and the EIA has additionally informed actions and recommendations to further mitigate any disproportionate impacts.
- 9.3 There is particular acknowledgement that vulnerabilities in experience of drug and alcohol harms or access to services are linked to: age, disability including poor mental health and neurodiversity, our diverse population, trans peoples' experience, sexuality, parents, carers, being care experienced, domestic or sexual abuse survivors, and homelessness. It is also noted that there is increased complexity of experience when considering intersectionality.
- 9.4 The strategy and EIA noted that there was limited engagement with people with lived experience from Black or Racially Minority groups. Sessions were set up with the aim of consulting with specific cohorts, however there was very little uptake. The CDP is committed to exploring better ways to consult and engage with all groups, and specifically BRM cohorts.
- 9.5 The development of the strategy also had minimal input and engagement from children and young people and this is a focus area going forwards.

10. Sustainability implications

10.1 None identified

11. Health and Wellbeing Implications:

11.1 Health and wellbeing implications, social value, and reducing inequalities have informed the development of the strategy, including the principles to reduce stigma, be guided by best practice and the evidence base, and target resource to need.

Other Implications

12. Procurement implications

12.1 Not applicable

13. Crime & disorder implications:

13.1 Community safety, addressing anti-social behaviour, and reducing the harms from drugs and alcohol crime are integral to the strategy. The Combatting Drugs Partnership Board includes representation from the Police, PCC, and Community Safety.

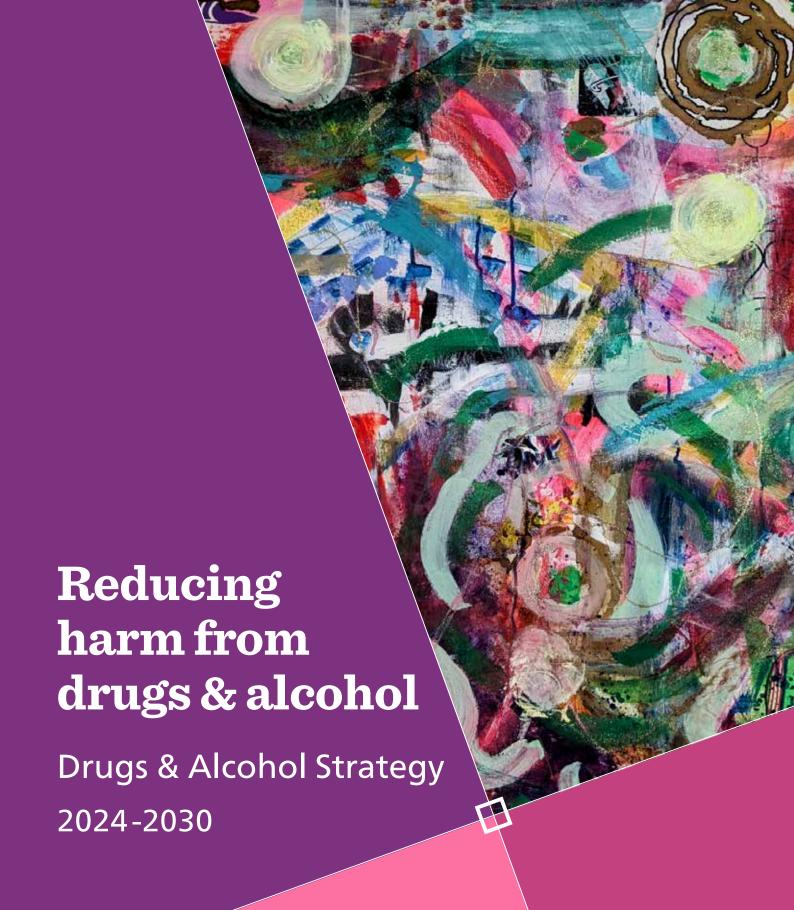
14. Conclusion

14.1 Cabinet is asked to approve 'Reducing Harms from Drugs and Alcohol' a Drugs and Alcohol Strategy 2024-2030 (Cabinet paper appendix 1). This will support the ongoing work by partners to address harms experienced by residents and communities.

Supporting Documentation

1. Appendices

- 1. 'Reducing Harms from Drugs and Alcohol' strategy including appendices
- 2. Equalities Impact Assessment





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Foreword



Cllr Mitchie Alexander Cabinet member for Communities, Equalities, Public Health & Adult Social Care

Brighton & Hove has high rates of drug deaths, I see daily the harms associated with drug and alcohol use and the impact on individuals and their friends, families, and communities.

Drug and alcohol use can increase inequalities in health outcomes. It reduces the number of years we spend in good health. It exacerbates poor mental health. It can also lead to insecure housing, estrangement from family or friends, and employment issues.

As a city council intent on advancing health equity, reducing the harms of drug and alcohol are a priority area for focusing our resources This strategy is our multiagency approach to reducing harms from drugs and alcohol use.

This strategy brings together many partners and organisations including: the council's housing, community safety and public health teams; the NHS; treatment and recovery services; the police and probation services; employment services; children's and adult services; and the voluntary and community sector. We've come together with people with direct experiences of drug use and harms, to develop this strategy.

Our approach to reducing the harms from drugs and alcohol are 3-pronged. We aim to:

- provide safe, supportive, and stigma-free access to treatment and recovery services for people experiencing harms from drugs and/or alcohol.
- reduce the supply of illegal drugs into our city, and
- help address the primary causes of drug and alcohol use.

I am writing this foreword, as the Brighton & Hove City Council member with responsibility for Public Health, but it could just have easily been any or all of our partners in the collaboration we have here in Brighton & Hove.

This strategy builds on the successful partnership working of the past 2 years. In that time we have:

- undertaken a needs assessment to understand our population better,
- drilled down into the existing activity of all partners to help address the issues relating to drug and alcohol harms,
- taken stock of our work and how we assess progress,
- started to rebuild some of the services affected by previous funding cuts.

We will use this strategy and its objectives to inform detailed action plans across the system to continue improving the health and wellbeing outcomes for people affected by drug and alcohol harms across the city.

Councillor Mitchie Alexander

Introduction

This draft strategy for Brighton & Hove, describes how the Brighton & Hove Combatting Drugs Partnership will deliver locally the ambitions in the national strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. The strategy describes the longer-term vision to 2030 to reduce harms from drugs and alcohol for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Brighton & Hove.

The Brighton & Hove strategy has been developed by the multi-agency Combatting Drugs Partnership, made up of leaders from different organisations across the city who have a key role in tackling drug and alcohol related harms. This includes representatives from the Council, Police, Probation service, NHS, treatment and recovery services, treatment providers, mental health providers, community and voluntary sector, and people with lived experience.

This strategy is a high-level document that sets out the Combatting Drugs Partnership's vision for changing the culture around drug use and reducing harms from drugs and alcohol in the city. Although there is a focus on both drugs and alcohol, this reflects the alignment of drug and alcohol treatment services and the management of community safety. The strategy does not include an assessment of licensing policy.

Our Vision

Our vision is to make
Brighton & Hove a place
where everyone will be safe
from the harms caused by
drugs and alcohol.



The strategy should be read in conjunction with other key stakeholders' strategies, please see appendix four.

Our strategic priorities

 Disrupt the local drug and alcohol supply chains, reduce the availability of drugs, and tackle/disrupt drug and alcohol related crime

We will work collaboratively across the community safety teams, police and communities to disrupt local drug supply chains and alcohol and drug related crime to create safe and thriving communities.

2. Deliver a world-class treatment and recovery service

We will enhance both the quality and the capacity of our drug and alcohol treatment and recovery service, to provide personcentred support to everyone who needs it, focusing on those at higher risk.

3. Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs and alcohol

We will

- a) challenge the normalisation of drug and alcohol use and
- b) address the causes of harmful drug and alcohol use, for example untreated mental health conditions, housing issues or homelessness, domestic abuse or the impact of trauma.

We will incorporate the following principles in everything we do:

- Reduce stigma
- Target resource according to need
- Be guided by the latest research and best practice, local data and intelligence to make best use of our resources and evaluate services and projects
- Work in partnership with people with lived experience of drug and alcohol harms
- Work collaboratively across organisations to support people and communities as effectively as possible

Stigma

Many people who experience harms directly or indirectly from drugs or alcohol use may be affected by stigma when seeking help or accessing services. This could be in the form of direct judgement from other people or health care providers, expectations of stigma, or self-stigma.

This strategy takes a compassionate and non-judgemental approach.

The policy context

In Brighton & Hove many people sign up to our drug and alcohol services every year. However, drug and alcohol use still harms individuals, families and communities in our City.

The global availability of drugs is at a record high¹. The UK is now Europe's largest market for heroin and is a target for Organised Crime Groups (OCGs)¹¹. The drugs market continues to evolve and present new challenges in tackling the supply chain of drugs. These challenges include the use of illegal online markets and the increasing availability of synthetic opioids, such as nitazenes and fentanyl.

In 2021 the Government launched a 10-year strategy 'From Harm to Hope' iii. The strategy commits the Government to reduce crime and save lives by:

- Breaking the drugs supply chain
- Delivering a world class treatment and recovery service and,
- Achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs and alcohol.

Addressing the harms from drugs and alcohol use is a complex issue. Often harmful drug and alcohol use is found alongside risk factors such as untreated mental health conditions, chronic pain, poor physical health, neurodiversity, homelessness, or experience of trauma. Such factors may be both the drivers and consequences of drug and alcohol use. They require a multi-agency approach to reduce harms from, change perceptions of, and address the availability of drugs in the city.

The Partnership will be responsible for overseeing the implementation of the strategy.

What we know about Brighton & Hove

About Brighton & Hove

Brighton & Hove is a unique and diverse city:



of residents are from a

Black or Racially Minoritised (BRM) group

 higher than the Southeast average of 21%.





One in 5

residents are born outside of the UK

 which is significantly higher han the South East average.



of residents, identify as gay, lesbian, bisexual or as another minority sexual identity

- compared to 3% in England).





We have a higher percent of people who identify as trans or gender diverse (TGD) (1% compared to 0.5% in England).

In Brighton & Hove we have:

man estimated 3030 people who use opiate and/or crack cocaine in 2019/20.

This is a significantly **higher rate** compared to the South East and England.

This breaks down as follows:

- 1,564 people opiates only
- 477 people crack only
- 989 people opiates and crack

20% of 14-16 year olds report trying cannabis and 8% report trying other drugs vii

Alcohol specific hospitalisations in children and young people are higher than the England average

(53 per 100,000 compared to 29 per 100,000) (2018-21)

...the **7th** highest age standardised mortality rate of drug misuse deaths in England, at 12.7 per 100,000 people.

More than double the rate in England

(5.2 per 100,000) (2020-22)

... **9%** of young people in treatment cited benzodiazepines as their primary substance of concern.

This is significantly higher than the England average of 1%.

A significantly higher rate of alcohol specific mortality compared to England.
21.8 per 100,000 people.

More than double the rate in England (5.2 per 100,000) (2020-22) ^v

... 10% of secondary school pupils who completed the safe & well at school survey report admit to getting drunk at least once or twice a month



In Brighton there were:



Approx 1,500
reported drug litter incidents, subsequently disposed of by the council

Service activity

• 111 under 18-yearolds received specialist drugs and alcohol treatment in the year 2023/24 compared to 95 in 2022/23. • 2,776 adults were in structured treatment, including 1,098 adults in treatment for opiates (as at February 2024)

 As of January 2024, Change Grow Live (CGL) have a rate of 63% continued care for people who have been released from prison against a national average of approximately 48%.

How we engaged with communities and partners and what we found out

A 2023 Brighton & Hove City Council drug related harm survey and a community forum on drug harms found that drug dealing and drug taking are ranked as top concerns for our communities, and that:

- Over 50% of over 400 survey respondents felt that drug dealing or drug taking was a very big problem in their neighbourhoods.
- Residents were not always confident in the response of the Council or Police when they reported drug related incidents.
- Some residents felt unsafe reporting drug related incidents.
- A culture of normalisation around drug use had developed leading to open drug dealing, drug taking and associated drug litter.

How we engaged with people with lived experience of drug or alcohol harm and what we found out

Between January and March 2024 we heard from approximately 50 adults, who have experience of accessing drug and alcohol services. We heard from people of different ages, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. It is important to note that the people we spoke with may not be representative of the wider population of those with experience of drug or alcohol harm, and as such we cannot generalise these findings. We did not reach as many people from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds as we had hoped and were not able to engage with children and young people. We will undertake further engagement with these groups as a priority. We have committed to continue to work with people with lived experience on the strategy and its implementation.

We heard many experiences, with some clear themes coming out of the discussion, and these have informed the development of the strategy and in particular strategic priority 2: to deliver a world-class treatment and recovery service, and strategic priority 3 addressing the causes and risk factors for drug use. These themes are summarised on the next page (appendix 3 provides further information on the discussions).



Summary of key themes from discussion with people with lived experience

Barriers to accessing support

- Missed referral opportunities by services
- Attitude of professionals
- Stigma
- Unaware of support available
- Specific barriers for trans people

What has worked well

- Access to meaningful activities in recovery
- Group specific spaces/services
- Peer support and diverse workforce
- Access to a wide range of support based on individual need

Drivers to accessing support

- Significant life events
- The role of a champion or respected key worker, friend or advocate
- 'Hitting rock bottom'

What could be improved

- Secure and appropriate housing
- Extended outreach for people who may be less able to engage
- Improved cross agency working
- More opportunities for meaningful activity
- More accessible and inclusive support

Risk factors for harmful drug and alcohol use

There are many factors that are known to increase the risk of harmful drug and alcohol use:

Housing insecurity and homelessness

- Housing in Brighton and Hove has become increasingly unaffordable for a significant proportion of the population. The average cost of renting privately per month is £1,300 compared to £850 in England and £1,050 in the Southeast on average (September 2023).
- Demand for social housing in Brighton and Hove outstrips supply significantly.
- Rough sleeping appears to be increasingbetween November 2023 and March 2024 there have been recorded between 21 and 52 people sleeping rough in the City.



Unmet mental health needs

- In 2020, it was estimated that around 42,000 adults in Brighton and Hove have a common mental health disorder, such as anxiety or depression
- 61% of young people in drug and alcohol treatment also reported a mental health problem
- 64% of adults in drug treatment and 63% of people in alcohol treatment had co-occurring mental health needs

Multiple Compound Needs

- Brighton and Hove have high levels of residents experiencing multiple compound need, this is defined as having experience of three or more of the following:
 - drug or alcohol use, mental health need, poor physical health, domestic abuse, offending behaviours, and homelessness.
- The Brighton and Hove Multiple Compound Need (MCN) programme estimated 521 people experiencing multiple disadvantage who might benefit from engagement with the MCN programme (Q2, 2023/2024).

Multiple Compound Need Programme

The reducing harms from drugs and alcohol strategy recognises the significant health inequalities faced by people with multiple compound needs and the principles of integrated working set out in the aims of the MCN transformation programme.



Workstream 1:

Disrupt the local drug supply chains, reduce the availability of alcohol, and tackle/ disrupt drug and alcohol related crime

Why this is important

The global availability of drugs is higher than ever before and the threat from drugs continues to evolve, with the emergence of highly potent synthetic opioids and access to drugs via online illegal markets. Organised crime groups criminally exploit children, young people and other vulnerable groups to move and distribute drugs. Breaking drug supply chains will reduce availability of drugs and associated violence and exploitation.

Workstream one is focused on disrupting What we will do the supply chain of drugs, improving community safety and supporting people who commit crimes related to drug or alcohol use into treatment and support. This Workstream is co-led by Sussex Police and the Council's Safer Communities team

Why this is important

This priority is delivered collaboratively across a range of organisations including: the Police, probation services, and the local authority community safety team.

We want to:

- reduce drug and alcohol related crimes
- protect vulnerable children and adults
- work closely with our communities
- support people convicted of drug or alcohol related crimes into treatment and recovery

1.1 Disrupt the flow of drugs into the city

- Tackle and disrupt organised crime groups
- Target county lines drug activity
- Work closely with other police forces outside of Sussex
- Directly target heroin and crack cocaine drug dealing

1.2 Prevent children, young people and adults from becoming involved with organised crime groups

- Work with the Community and Voluntary Sector, Children's services and Sussex Police on interventions such as 'Brighton Streets' and 'Fresh Youth Perspectives' aimed at preventing young people becoming involved in organised crime.
- Work with school services and the children and young people's substance use service, RUOK? to reduce school suspensions, number of pupils on reduced hours and school avoidance, to prevent exploitation opportunities.

1.3 Safeguard children and young people and adults who are being exploited

- Work across the police, community safety teams, safeguarding agencies to deliver a multi-agency approach to cuckooing and child criminal exploitation.
- Take a partnership approach to supporting vulnerable groups including the homeless community, those in supported accommodation, families and carers, and people who are care experienced.
- Provide a safe and effective pathway to enable children, young people, and vulnerable adults to exit involvement with organised crime.

1.4 Work towards a thriving night-time economy free from drug and alcohol related violence

- Retain or develop further nighttime economy safeguarding activities: for example security patrols, Safe Space, 'Ask for Angela', taxi marshals, Get Me Home Safely campaign.
- Increase sign-up to Sensible On Strength campaign.
- Refresh Licensing policy in 2025.
- Undertake drug test swabbing of local venues.



1.5 Increase support and communications to communities experiencing drug and alcohol-related crime and anti-social behaviour

- Establish a multi-agency drug related harm meeting to focus on specific neighbourhoods where drug related incidents are a concern and put in place appropriate support, facilitate sharing of intelligence between partners and develop consistent messages between agencies.
- Strengthen information sharing between agencies to ensure a joined up response to fatal and non-fatal overdoses.
- Work closely with communities to respond to and address community concerns relating to drug and alcohol use and associated anti-social behaviour.
- To understand how police presence can be strengthened in identified hotspots.

1.6 Improve pathways between the criminal justice system and treatment services

- Develop further the Test On Arrest programme to support people into treatment who are arrested for trigger offences (theft, robbery, burglary, misuse of drugs, fraud) and who test positive for illicit substances.
- Support the multi-agency youth disposal pathway to include the specific Brighton and Hove initiative of an out of court pathway for young people to guide them into treatment.
- Review the eligibility threshold for people using drugs to increase referrals to Change Grow Live (CGL). Increase the use of Community Sentence Treatment Requirements as a sentence from Court to divert people convicted of drug or alcohol related offences from short custodial sentences and into treatment for mental health, drug and alcohol issues.



Workstream 2:

Improve the quality, capacity and outcomes of our drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services.

Workstream two aims to improve service capacity and capability to support people with a substance use need into treatment and recovery. This workstream is co-led by the adult drug and alcohol treatment service CGL and the Council's Public Health Team and comprises representation from the children and young people's drug and alcohol treatment service (RU-OK), and the NHS, including primary care.

Children's and adults' drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services have benefited from substantial additional supplementary funding grants between 2022 and 2025. In 2024/25 this amounted to approximately £4.4m. This funding is in place until March 31st 2025. Currently, it is unclear what additional funding streams may come into place from April 2025. Current service capability and capacity has been significantly increased with these grants.



Why this is important

Improving the capacity of drug and alcohol treatment services is essential to address historic disinvestment which has led to reduced capacity in the drug and alcohol treatment service. Alongside this we need to improve the skill mix and capability in the service, to meet the increasing complexity of casework. The supplementary funding has started to address this historic disinvestment and outcomes are beginning to improve.

Further enhancing services will continue to address these gaps, improving public health, safety, and productivity, and ultimately foster stronger, more resilient communities.

We want to:

- Increase numbers of people in treatment
- Expand the capacity of the treatment service
- Increase the capability and skill mix of professionals
- Improve integration between services to provide pathways into treatment for people with co-occurring needs.

What we will do

2.1 Increase access to structured treatment for people with a drug or alcohol treatment need

- Recruit to additional posts in the drug and alcohol treatment service enabling more people to access the service, and reduce caseloads for key workers.
- Explore the feasibility of a seven-daya-week drug and alcohol service.
- Improve access and waiting times to community and inpatient detox, residential rehab and short-term structured treatment options.
- Increase access to Buvidal (novel longacting opioid substitution treatment).

2.2 Improve the capability of services to support clients with multiple needs

- Recruit to specialist posts to ensure provision of targeted support and skills for complex case management.
- Improve and increase the knowledge, skills and confidence of the workforce to enable a practiced trauma informed approach.
- Improve the skillset and ability of the workforce to be aware of the impact of neurodiversity as a risk factor for harmful substance use.
- Improve the knowledge and skills of frontline criminal justice workers to reduce stigma and increase referrals into treatment.
- Improve the knowledge skills and confidence of the workforce to support pathways for those affected by violence against women and girls.

2.3 Improve access to, and experience of, services for adults and children and young people, especially from under-served cohorts

- Focus on under-served cohorts, for example LGBTQ+, women, young carers, people who are neurodiverse and people from black and racially minoritised backgrounds.
- Ensure an integrated approach between service providers to improve the transition for young people into adult services, especially for high priority groups such as care leavers.
- Improve the referral pathway between youth offending services into RUOK? treatment services.
- Expand outreach services to ensure accessible support, promote early intervention, and enhance recovery outcomes.
- Use health promotion techniques to connect people with an unmet substance use need to structured treatment, including LGBTQ+ young people.
- Ensure an integrated approach between partner agencies to support those involved in the criminal justice system to ensure access to specialised service provision in custodial settings and engagement in treatment for those leaving custodial settings, including youth justice settings.

2.4 Enhance the harm reduction provision for people experiencing harm from alcohol and drug use

- Increase access to evidence-based harm reduction interventions, such as needle exchange.
- Explore innovative harm reduction interventions, using best available evidence and learning from other areas.
- Appoint a Naloxone lead to develop and deliver evidence based training according to priority need to include police, custody suites and friends and families.

 Use the drug deaths audit to inform cross-agency recommendations to reduce risk of drug deaths.

2.5 Develop an integrated response for people with co-occurring substance use and other needs

- Explore the development of a joint working protocol between mental health and drug and alcohol services.
- Support the development of the new Neighbourhood Mental Health Teams in partnership with Integrated Community Teams (ICT) to effectively support and provide treatment for people with co-occurring mental health and substance use needs.
- Better understand co-occurring needs for people with a substance use need including neurodiversity, housing issues, trauma, physical health needs, caring responsibilities.
- Continue to ensure a joined-up approach to complex cases and multiple compound need (people experiencing homelessness, violence against women and girls, involvement with the criminal justice system and those with mental health needs).

2.6 Develop a better understanding of higher risk drugs and emerging drug trends in the community to manage the associated harms

- Proactively monitor and address emerging threats posed by synthetic drugs, and changing supply trends, through timely intelligence sharing and harm reduction initiatives that address these specific threats.
- Develop a targeted approach to managing the spread of new synthetic opioids.
- Undertake research into the supply and illicit use of prescription drugs including benzodiazepines and 'Z' drugs to reduce illicit use.





Workstream 3:

Achieve a generational shift in demand for drugs and alcohol

Workstream three is a longer-term objective to reduce the demand for drugs and alcohol.

There are two approaches to reducing the demand for drugs and alcohol:

- Challenge the normalisation and cultural environment with regards to substance use
- Treat the causes of substance use, for example untreated poor mental health, homelessness, or the impact of trauma experience

This workstream area will focus on reducing demand for drugs and alcohol amongst children and adults, through attitudinal shifts, as well as addressing the risk factors. This priority is led by the Trust for Developing Communities and the Council's Adolescent Services.

Why is this important

The use of drugs has grown over a decade, especially among young people, risking individual and community harms.

We want to:

- stop children and young people starting to use drugs and alcohol
- address the risk factors associated with drug and alcohol use, such as mental health conditions, insecure housing, homelessness, poverty, domestic violence and abuse, being care experienced or the impact of trauma.

What we will do

- 3.1 Challenge the normalisation of all drugs and alcohol use in children and young people and adults, including cannabis, and alcohol consumption, and raise awareness of the detrimental impact of use.
- Develop consistent and evidence-based communications on the harms of drug and alcohol use.
- Use data and intelligence from children and young people including the Safe and Well at School Survey.
- Develop opportunities to ensure that we hear the voice of children and young people.
- Engage with schools and youth services to deliver targeted interventions around drug safety and exploitation.

3.2 Promote healthy lifestyles in children and young people and families

 Increase access to the Parenting Our Children and Accessing Recovery (POCAR) programme to support parents in treatment.



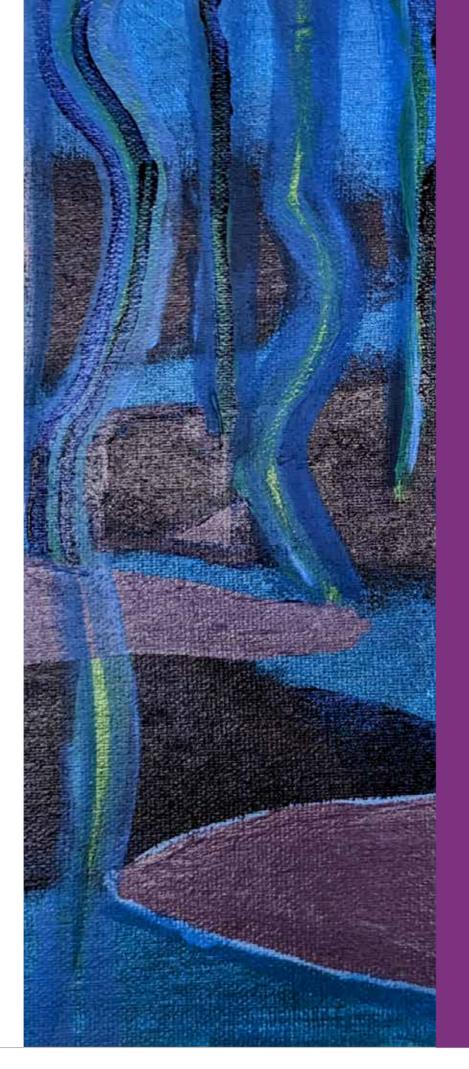
- Continue to engage with children and young people and Families via services, schools and family hubs and through bespoke engagement activity to understand better attitudes to drug and alcohol use.
- Continue to develop the Personal, Social, Health and Economic (PSHE) agenda to reflect the latest evidence and engagement with children and young people.
- Work with the Active for Life team, the voluntary sector and school-based services to promote and encourage activities relating to improved physical and mental health and wellbeing.

3.3 Improve awareness of and access into the range of services to support children and young people

- Raise awareness of mental health support and the pathways into mental health services with all agencies working with children and young people.
- Influence other service strategies to raise awareness of and improve support for factors associated with drug and alcohol use, such as mental health conditions, insecure

housing, homelessness, domestic abuse, or the impact of trauma.





Delivering the strategy

We have a strong foundation for this strategy, based on existing partnerships, good collaboration across partners, and a commitment to reduce drug and alcohol related harm for our residents.

The Combatting Drugs Partnership provides the leadership to this programme and comprises professionals from across the council and multiple agencies including the NHS, providers, and the criminal justice system, as well as people who have lived experience of the harms of drugs and alcohol. A full list of contributors is available at appendix one.

In late 2022, the Combatting Drugs Partnership approved the establishment of three subgroups to take forward the three priorities as workstreams of the national strategy.

Over the period to April 2024 the 3 workstream sub groupshave been reviewing existing strategies and plans (see appendix four) that contribute to the combatting drugs programme, and how these translate into action. This has enabled us to develop a comprehensive picture of existing objectives and targets, and benchmarked activity which inform this strategy's ongoing and additional activity.

Our headline outcome measures

Our headline outcome measures reflect the national priorities. Under these will sit detailed outcome measures to support the action planning and progress monitoring:

- Reduce overall drug use
- Reduce drug-related crime
- Reduce drug related deaths and harms
- Reduce the levels of drug supply
- Improve recovery outcomes
- Increase engagement in treatment

Detailed action plans will be developed to sit underneath each strategic priority. They will form the basis for an outcomes monitoring framework. The actions and targets will be SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely, and will be developed to meet short term, medium term and longer-term needs.

The priorities, strategic objectives and the outcomes monitoring framework will be regularly reviewed by the Combatting Drugs Partnership to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our population, to reflect any changes in national policy, and accommodate funding changes (the current supplementary substance misuse treatment and recovery grant (SSMTRG) ends in March 2025).

Governance

This strategy reflects the collaboration between partners in Brighton & Hove with the aim of reducing harms from drugs and alcohol. The Combatting Drugs Partnership (CDP) provides the structure to the collaboration and comprises multiple organisations with their own specific organisations' governance arrangements and oversight boards. The CDP is supported by a multi-agency steering group.

The CDP Board receives regular updates from the three priority work steams and provides oversight to these workstreams.

The CDP expect to provide annual updates on progress to the National Joint Combatting Drugs Unit, and to the Brighton & Hove Health and Wellbeing Board.

Appendices

Appendix 1 - contributors

The partners and stakeholders involved in the development of the strategy include members of the CDP, priority workstreams and people with lived experience comprising representation from:

- Brighton & Hove City Council officers in Public health, housing, community safety, children and young people, and adult social care teams
- Brighton & Hove City Council elected members
- Treatment and recovery providers of adults' services and services for families and young people: CGL, Oasis, RU-OK?
- Cascade Creative Recovery
- The Police and Police and Crime Commissioner's office
- Probation service and Secure Estate
- NHS Sussex and Integrated Care Board.
- The coroner's office
- Voluntary sector organisations, eg: Kennedy Street Recovery Hub, Transober

There is a planned public consultation which will further refine the strategy.



Appendix 2 -

Equalities Impact Assessment summary

BHCC undertook an extensive Equalities Impact Assessment.

In summary, the Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) assesses the impact that the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy for Brighton and Hove may have on diverse protected characteristics and different communities, based on our current knowledge and assessment.

A range of barriers to accessing services and support was identified. Some of them are likely to affect all groups equally:

- Missed opportunities by services such as a GP, to identify a drug or alcohol treatment need.
- A lack of compassion from a range of professionals.
- Shame and stigma as a barrier for seeking help.
- Lack of awareness of drug and alcohol support and services available - by professionals and people supported by services.

Background

The drug and alcohol strategy describes the longer-term vision to 2030, to reduce harms from drugs and alcohol for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Brighton & Hove. The Brighton & Hove strategy will be delivered in partnership by multiple organisations.

The strategy has been developed by the multi-agency Combatting Drugs Partnership, comprising leaders from different organisations across the city who have a key role in tackling drug and alcohol related harms. This includes representatives from the Council, Police, Probation service, NHS ICB, mental health providers, treatment and recovery services, community and voluntary sector and people with lived experience.

This strategy is a high-level document that sets out the Combatting Drugs Partnership's vision for changing the culture around drug use and reducing harms from drugs and alcohol in the city. Although there is a focus on both drugs and alcohol, the alcohol elements reflect where there is alignment between drug and alcohol treatment and management. It does not include an assessment of licencing policy.

Consultation

The EIA describes how partners and residents were consulted and reflects the engagement with people with lived experience of drug and alcohol harms, the work of the Combatting Drugs Partnership board in developing the strategy, the input at draft stage of multiple partner boards, for example the Child Safeguarding Board, the Drug Related Harm group, Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, People Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and Mental Health Oversight Board. At the time of writing the EIA further consultation is planned, including a public consultation via the Council Your Voice portal.



Characteristics reviewed to understand the impact of the strategy

The EIA uses demographic data to understand better the impact of the strategy on specific population cohorts, with a view to ensuring that disproportionate impacts are mitigated.

The EIA considers:

Age, disability, ethnicity, religion and beliefs, gender identity, gender reassignment, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and parents, Armed forces personnel and veterans, expatriates, migrants and asylum seekers, Carers, looked after children and people with care experience, domestic or sexual abuse survivors, deprivation, homelessness, human rights, people with lived experience, vulnerable people, and people with co-occurring needs.

Monitoring

Detailed action plans will be developed to sit underneath each strategic priority. They will form the basis for an outcomes monitoring framework. The priorities, strategic objectives and the outcomes monitoring framework will be regularly reviewed by the Combatting Drugs Partnership

The EIA goes on to describe how the data are collected, noting gaps where data collection should be improved, eg: for armed forces personnel.



Impact assessment

The headline data show the following for each characteristic – please see the full EIA for comprehensive detail:

Age

The 35-54 age range is disproportionately represented in drug deaths, and in children and young people there were disproportionate needs reflected for benzodiazepine use compared to England averages

Children and young people are particularly vulnerable to exploitation relating to involvement with drugs including involvement in gangs or county lines. 13% of first-time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 years have committed offences relating to drugs. Children and young people affected by drugs and alcohol use in the family are also noted to have worse health, wellbeing and educational outcomes than other children. Many children and young people also have co-occurring vulnerabilities such as poor mental health or exposure to domestic violence.

The team conducted a series of workshops to engage with people with lived experience (PWLE) of involvement with drugs and alcohol and support services to better understand their needs. Approximately 50 adults participated, with representation across an age range of 16 to 74 years. The strategy recognises however, that there was no similar engagement with children and young people via focus groups or workshops. Objectives relating to the needs of children and young people are identified within the strategy and will be engaged with going forwards with the implementation of the strategy.

Disability

The 2021 Census ONS data shows that nearly one in five residents (19%) are disabled as defined by the Equality Act. Among residents without a disability, 8% have a long term physical or mental health condition.

Of the 23 participants in the PWLE workshops for whom disability data was captured, 20 self-identified as having a disability or long-term condition. Themes from the workshops identified disability as a trigger influencing drug and alcohol use. Accessibility of services, including accessible spaces, was identified as a barrier for disabled users. Better mental health provision was identified as an area for improvement.

Further engagement with people with lived experience is planned via the Drug and Alcohol Lived Experience Programme, of which the needs of disabled people will be a focus.

Recognition of disability and unmet physical and mental health needs as risk factors for drug and alcohol use, and as barriers to accessing services, is reflected in the strategy. Priorities relating to this include:

- Improve the capability of services to support clients with multiple needs
- Improve access to, and experience of, services for adults and children and young people, especially from underserved cohorts (eg: people who are neurodiverse)
- Develop an integrated response for people with co-occurring substance use and other needs, including mental and physical health needs and neurodiversity.

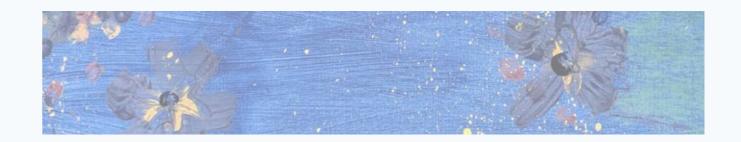
Ethnicity

More than a quarter (26%) of residents of Brighton and Hove are from a Black and Racially Minoritised group (non-White UK/ British). Amongst users of drug and alcohol treatment services in 2021-22, 11% were from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds.

Unfortunately, the people with lived experience (PWLE) workshops did not reach as many people from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds as hoped, even though these were prioritised. The strategy acknowledges this and commits to undertake further engagement with these groups as a priority. This reflects a focus within the strategy of improving access to and experience of services for underserved cohorts including people from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services which should be considered in the implementation and delivery of services may include:

- Information not being accessible to people for whom English is a second language or who face literacy barriers. Content not being provided in plain English, use of complex terminology and professional jargon can form a barrier to access.
- Lack of interpretation services and information not available in multiple languages.
- Cultural stigma within certain communities.
- Lack of culturally competent services.



Religion and beliefs,

The development of the strategy did not explicitly consult on data relating to religion.

Based on 2021 ONS Census data, 55% of residents have no religion or belief. 30.9% identified as Christian, 0.9% as Buddhist, 0.9% as Jewish, 0.8% as Hindu, 0.1% as Sikh, and 1% as other religions. 7.1% did not answer the voluntary question.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data relating to Gender Identity and Sex from the Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022). The data shows that 63% of all Servi

Data on religious identity was captured as part of the PWLE workshops, with participation of a range of people who identified as having a particular religion or none.

It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to religion, belief, spirituality, faith or atheism. However, barriers to accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services should be considered in service development and may include:

- Possible conflict between religious beliefs and certain treatment approaches.
- Lack of consideration for religious dietary requirements in residential recovery settings.
- Lack of awareness of cultural stigma around drugs and alcohol within certain religious communities.
- Lack of culturally competent services.
- Lack of same-sex support when required for religious reasons.
- Services not accommodating people's religious-based preferences in service delivery or interactions.

Gender identity, gender reassignment,

Data from the 2021 ONS Census shows that 51% of residents are female, and 49% are male.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data relating to Gender Identity and Sex from the Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022). The data shows that 63% of all Service Users in 2021/22 were male. However, women may find it harder to access drugs and alcohol treatment due to specific concerns such as fear of losing their children, or accessing often male-dominated environments due to disproportionate experiences of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence.

Inpatient episode rates of intentional selfpoisoning are significantly higher for women in Brighton and Hove (62.8 per 100,000) compared to England (38.6 per 100,000).

Feedback identified the importance of allfemale service and activity spaces to enable Service Users to feel safe and comfortable.

Recognition of specific vulnerabilities and barriers to access relating to Gender Identity and Sex is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on underserved cohorts and a priority area led by the women's drug and alcohol treatment service, Oasis. Amongst the specific priorities is a focus on developing an integrated response for people with cooccurring substance use and other needs, including:

- Improving the knowledge and confidence of the workforce to support pathways for those affected by violence against women and girls
- Ensure a joined up approach to complex cases and multiple compound need (for example violence against women and girls)

In 2021 a new question on gender identity was included in the Census. The five local authorities with the highest proportion of the population aged 16 years and over who identified as non-binary were all outside London. Brighton & Hove had the highest percentage (0.35%).

Data from the Safe and Well at School survey suggests 17% of pupils who did not or did not always identify with their gender registered at birth had tried drugs, compared to 12% of those who did, and

Of the 23 participants in the PWLE workshops for whom this information was captured, seven participants identified as trans. Feedback identified specific barriers for trans people in accessing drugs and alcohol support, in particular where accessing treatment may impact on gender reassignment treatment. It also highlighted the importance of specific trans-inclusive spaces to facilitate access to support, including diversity of staff and volunteers.

Recognition of the specific barriers and needs of trans and gender diverse people is reflected in the strategy, which includes a priority of improving access to and experience of services, especially from underserved cohorts including LGBTQIA+ people.

Sexual orientation,

2021 Census data suggests the proportion of adults identifying with an LGB+ orientation (10.6%) in Brighton and Hove is three times higher than in the rest of the South East and England. The Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022) estimates that in 2021-22 18% of Service Users were from the LGBT community.

Data from the SAWSS shows that pupils who are LGBTQIA+, unlabelled, or unsure of their sexuality are statistically significantly more likely to have tried drugs (15% compared to 12%)

Additionally, of the 23 participants in the PWLE workshops for whom this information was captured, 6 participants identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or another sexual identity. Feedback included the value of group-specific safe spaces and sessions, including for LGBTQ+ groups.

Recognition of specific vulnerabilities and barriers to access relating to sexual orientation is reflected in the strategy.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Fear of discrimination and homophobia.
- Lack of safe, non-judgmental spaces.

Marriage and civil partnership,

The development of the strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to marriage or civil partnership status. It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to this.

Pregnancy and parents

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data from the Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022), which recognises the specific needs of and barriers to parents and families in accessing drug and alcohol services. This is reflected in the strategy, which includes a priority area led by the women's drug and alcohol treatment service, Oasis.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services which should be considered and mitigated may include:

- Fear of social care involvement and of children being removed from the family home
- Feeling of stigmatisation and that the system will impact them negatively
- Increased experience of domestic violence and sexual assault amongst pregnant people, which may make them less likely to access services

Armed forces personnel and veterans,

The development of the strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to the armed forces or veterans. It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to this group. However, we note that this cohort may experience barriers to accessing treatment, such as stigma, PTSD, availability linked to duty requirements. We will explore potential barriers and ensure the action planning reflects these.

Further work is identified for this cohort

Expatriates, migrants and asylum seekers,

ONS Census data (2021) suggests one in five residents of Brighton and Hove (54,343 people, 20%) were born outside of the UK. This is a higher proportion than seen in the South East (16%) and England (17%).

The strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to this group. Engagement with certain groups has been limited, and there is a focus on collaboration with underserved cohorts as a priority.

Carers

Carer status was also recorded for participants in the PWLE workshops. Of the 23 participants for whom this information was captured, five identified as parents or carers. Participants identified being an unpaid carer as a life stressor that is a risk factor in drug and alcohol use.

Being a young carer is also a risk factor for drug and alcohol use. The SAWSS reports that 22% of young carers are likely to have tried drugs (as against 12% of other pupils). There are also challenges associated with being a carer for or supporting someone experiencing harmful substance use. This is reflected in the strategy, which includes priority areas to develop an integrated response for people with co-occurring substance use and other needs such as being a carer. It also aims to improve access to and experience of services for young carers.

Looked after children and people with care experience,

We know that people who are care experienced are disproportionately represented in drug deaths in Brighton & Hove, and the strategy and work planning reflects this.

Data from the SAWSS shows that adopted children are statistically significantly more likely to have tried alcohol than children who are not (51% vs 43%), as well as being more likely to have tried drugs (31% vs 12%).

The strategy recognises that there was limited engagement with children and young people via focus groups or workshops, and this includes looked after children. There is a commitment to further engage with children and young people. The strategy also includes priority areas to ensure an integrated approach to improving the transition for care leavers into adult services.

Domestic or sexual abuse survivors.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data from the Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022), which reflects the particular vulnerabilities and needs of survivors of Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence, particularly in accessing services in male-dominated environments. Domestic violence is also a risk factor for involvement with drugs and alcohol; in 2021/22, 27% of young people in treatment were affected by domestic violence.

This is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on addressing the causes of harmful drug and alcohol use including domestic violence and abuse, and improving awareness of, and access into services for people with experience of domestic abuse. The Oasis service works with women experiencing domestic abuse.

Deprivation,

The strategy was informed by data relating to socio-economic disadvantage from the Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022) particularly as it relates to housing issues and homelessness and educational outcomes for children. 17% of the population live in the 20% most deprived areas in England, and 15% of under-16 year olds live in income deprived households. In the year ending September 2022 the unemployment rate in Brighton and Hove was 3.5%.

This is reflected in the focus within the strategy on addressing the risk factors associated with drug and alcohol use including poverty..

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Low-income households may struggle to access services due to transportation expenses, or the inability to take time off work.
- Competing financial priorities, such as securing basic needs like food and housing.
- Individuals experiencing homelessness or insecure housing are disproportionately affected by substance use disorders, and their unstable living conditions often act as a barrier to accessing long-term care and recovery services.
- Stigma and discrimination

- Educational barriers: People with lower levels of education/literacy may lack awareness of available services, how to access them, or the benefits of treatment programmes.
- Complex intersections of disadvantage: Socio-economic disadvantage often intersects with age, disability, ethnicity, creating additional layers of exclusion.

Homelessness,

There is a high rate of homelessness according to the Brighton & Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022). In 2021/22 26% of people in drug treatment had housing difficulties.

Recognition of specific vulnerabilities and barriers to access relating to homelessness is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on addressing the causes of harmful drug and alcohol use including housing issues or homelessness.

The development of the strategy and action plans will be developed closely with partners working in relevant Housing and homelessness teams, and there is homelessness representation on the CDP steering group.

A dedicated Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant held by the adult treatment and recovery service CGL, which delivers support and treatment for people roughsleeping or at risk of rough sleeping

Human rights,

The development of the strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to Human Rights. It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to this.

People with lived experience, vulnerable people, and people with co-occurring needs.

Complex intersections of disadvantage: Socio-economic disadvantage often intersects with age, disability, ethnicity, creating additional layers of exclusion. The EIA considered in addition:

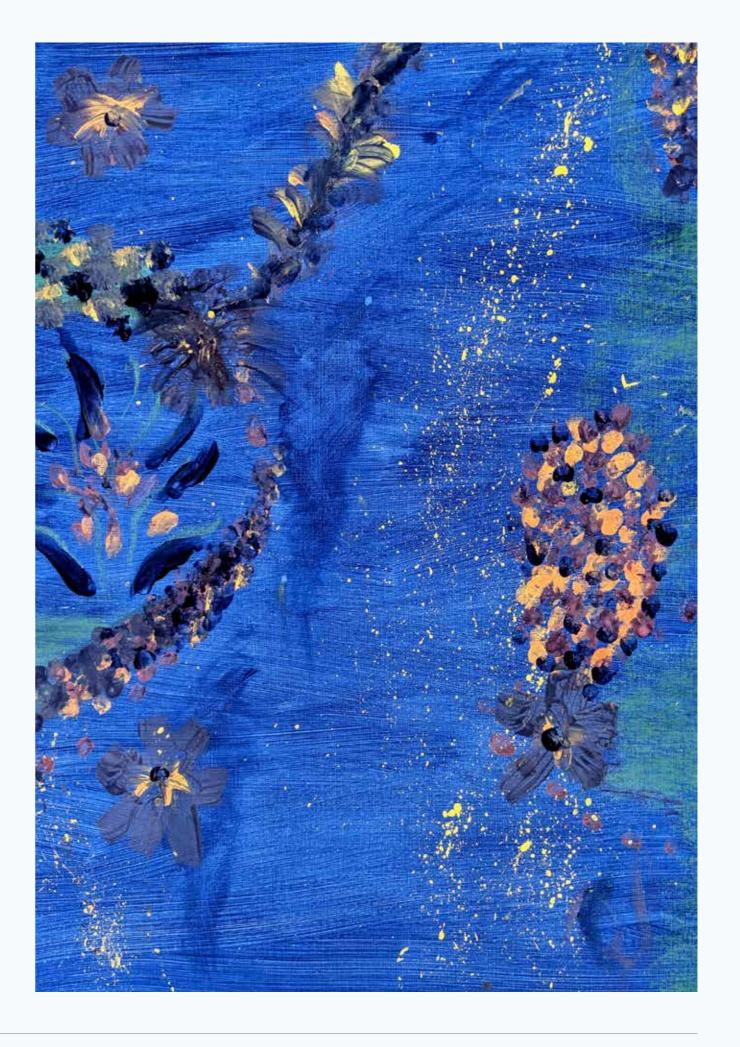
- Co-occurring mental health need the needs assessment showed 61% of young people in drugs and alcohol treatment had a mental health condition, while 64% of adults in drug treatment and 63% in alcohol treatment had co-occurring mental health needs. A particular barrier faced for people with mental health needs is in accessing mental health services, particularly whilst still experiencing substance use issues.
- Co-occurring and multiple compound needs – the strategy recognises the high rates of co-occurring and multiple compound need and the impact of this on drug and alcohol use.
- Cuckooing occurs when a criminal befriends an individual who lives on their own to use their house as a base to operate unlawful activity, victims can experience isolation, coercion and manipulation. Often this can be associated with exploitation and sexual assaults. Cuckooing is often associated with exploitation of vulnerable people by supplying them with drugs and alcohol. In 2021/22 there were 28 new cuckooed properties identified.

Actions

The Combatting Drugs Partnership Board and the Drug and Alcohol programme board will oversee the monitoring of actions and recommendations that fall out of the Strategy including where the EIA has proposed mitigations these include:

- 1. To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly from groups with unmet need in order to inform the further development and implementation of the strategy.
- 2. To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly from groups with unmet needs, children and young people, black and racially minoritised populations, and veterans.
- 3. To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- 4. To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.





Appendix 3 - Listening to people with lived experience of drug or alcohol harm

Between January and March 2024, we undertook a series of events with people with lived experience of drug and alcohol use to listen to their experiences of trying to access drug and alcohol treatment services in Brighton & Hove.

We held five sessions:

- for anyone with personal experience of accessing treatment and recovery support in Brighton and Hove, advertised across our treatment and recovery providers
- for women and non-binary people
- for trans and non-binary people
- attended two service and recovery sessions including to gather informal feedback.

We heard the experiences of approximately 50 people of different ages, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability. This helped us to understand the experiences of people in accessing treatment and the unique and complex intersectional issues which can be significant challenges to accessing treatment.

We did not reach as many people from BRM backgrounds as we had hoped and we will explore how best to expand our engagement to include people from a range of backgrounds to better represent the population in Brighton and Hove. We also need to ensure that we engage with young people accessing treatment in the future as we were not able to engage with this group in the timeframes available.

We are committed to continuing to collaborate with people with lived experience, not only in the development of the strategy but also in its implementation.

The themes arising from the discussions to date include:

1. Influences on drug and/or alcohol use

Several risk factors were identified by participants that influenced their drug and/or alcohol use:

- Trauma, especially in childhood.
- Poor mental health.
- Parental use of drug and alcohol uses.
- Life stressors, such as being an unpaid carer or having a high stress job.
- Normalisation of drug and alcohol use.
- Managing undiagnosed neurodivergence.
- Social isolation

2. Barriers to accessing support

Participants outlined a range of barriers to accessing services and support:

- Missed opportunities by services e.g. a GP, to identify a drug or alcohol treatment need.
- A lack of compassion from a range of professionals.
- Shame and stigma as a barrier for seeking help.
- Judgements based on the perception of 'what an addict looks like'.
- Lack of awareness of drug and alcohol support and services available- by professionals and service users.
- Specific barriers for trans people related to both a safe environment in which to seek help, and the potential impact of seeking help on their ongoing transition needs.

3. Drivers to accessing support

There were some recurring themes that participants talked about that were drivers to accessing help:

- Significant life events, such as becoming pregnant.
- The role of a champion: someone who has gone the extra mile in supporting the treatment and recovery journey. This might be a key worker, probation officer, or friend.
- Hitting 'rock bottom' as a catalyst including:
 - Mental health crises
 - Losing their home.
 - Significant health impacts.
 - Involvement with the criminal justice system, such as being arrested.
 - A child being removed from their care.

4. Where people would like to see improvements

There were a range of factors that would help people to access and stay in treatment, and support the journey through recovery:

- Secure and appropriate housing options for people at different stages in their treatment and recovery
- Extended outreach services
- Improved cross agency working to support for those with co-occurring needs, especially around accessing mental health support.
- A personalised care offer, recognising that there isn't a 'one size fits all' approach to treatment and recovery
- Opportunities for meaningful activity
- More accessible and inclusive drug and alcohol support spaces.
- Improved understanding of the detox and residential rehab offer and pathways, including support during waiting times

- Improved education of drug and alcohol harms for children and young people.
- Greater awareness of referral routes into drug and alcohol treatment services by other services
- A workforce that reflects the diverse population of Brighton and Hove

5. What has worked well

There were many aspects of people's treatment and recovery that worked well:

- Having meaningful activities built into a routine supports long term, sustainable recovery, including creative activities, community work, and opportunities for employment
- People valued group-specific safe spaces and sessions, including female only spaces, young people's groups, LGBTQ+ groups, and trans/non-binary groups
- Peer support, lived experience, and a diverse workforce in service providers was highly valued
- Online sessions enabled people with mobility issues or anxiety to participate in the treatment group work
- Being able to access a wide range of support according to individual need, including eg: mental health support

These experiences have helped to refine our strategic objectives and will inform the subsequent action plans.



Appendix 4 - Existing strategies, plans and programmes of work that support the drugs and alcohol agenda

Specific alcohol and drug-related objectives from strategies that include Brighton & Hove residents:

Existing strategy		Strategic objectives relating to drug/ alcohol harm
A better Brighton & Hove for all		 Enable people to live healthy, happy and fulfilling lives; work with local partners to develop plans to reduce the harm from [tobacco], alcohol and drugs Tackle crime and antisocial behaviour: develop a multi-agency combatting drugs strategy to address supply, demand and recovery services
Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019-2030	brighton-hove- health-wellbeing- strategy-2019- 2030-26-july-19. pdf	 Key areas for action in the strategy related to drugs and alcohol use include: challenge the normalisation of substance use and excessive alcohol consumption raise awareness of the detrimental impact reduce the associated harm, including physical and mental health problems and the exploitation of young or vulnerable people Promote Healthy lifestyles and resilience, including in school and other education settings, address parental substance use Provide Information, advice and support to help people to drink less.
Improving Lives Together – Sussex Delivery Plan	Improving-Lives- Together-Shared- Delivery-Plan.pdf (ics.nhs.uk)	This Sussex wide strategy includes a section for Brighton and Hove, including some key priorities: Integrated Community Teams frontrunner implementation Mental health in adults and children Multiple long-term conditions (MLTCs) Health inequalities Cancer Children and Young People



Community Safety and Crime Reduction Strategy 2023-26	Community safety and crime reduction strategy 2023 to 2026 (brighton-hove. gov.uk)	The Community Safety Partnership's overarching duty is to: • reduce crime and disorder • improve community safety • reduce re-offending in Brighton and Hove The strategy describes the Partnership's plans for the next three years in relation to five priorities: • serious violence • drugs and exploitation • domestic and sexual violence/abuse and other violence against women and girls • anti-social behaviour, hate incidents and crimes • Prevent
Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner: Police and Crime Plan 2021/24	SPCC - Police and Crime Plan (sussex- pcc.gov.uk)	 Relentless disruption of serious and organised crime focussed on o Tackling and disrupting organised crime groups behind county lines drug gang activity. o Recognise the exploitation of children and young people and continue to identify and safeguard those most at risk. Allocate further community safety funding to support the drug intervention programmes delivered throughout Sussex to tackle and address the harms caused by substance misuse. National Crime and Policing Measures: Disrupt drugs supply and county lines From Harm to Hope: a 10-year plan

Violence and exploitation reduction action plan 2022-23 i		Overall aim: To reduce the harm caused to individuals and communities in our city by serious violence, knife crime, organised crime, drugs, and exploitation Outcome 1 (Prevention): Fewer people harmed by serious violence and prevent vulnerable people from becoming involved with organised crime networks Outcome 2 (Safeguarding): Safeguard vulnerable people who are being exploited and provide a safe effective pathway to enable vulnerable people to exit involvement with organised crime networks Outcome 3 (Communications): Community to be free of the fear of violence, drugs, and exploitation, have confidence to report and an increase in awareness of all forms of exploitation, drug harm and serious violent crime Outcome 4 (Nighttime Economy): A thriving night-time economy free from drug and alcohol-related violence Outcome 5 (Data): A stronger preventative approach to serious violence and exploitation and a decrease in drug-gang related activity through the use of all available data and intelligence The Preventing Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy 2024- 2027 will be published later in 2024.
Homes for everyone (Draft) 2024	7975 Housing strategy consultation - Accessible 0.pdf (brighton-hove. gov.uk)	 The strategic priorities include: Improve housing quality, safety and sustainability Deliver the homes our city needs Prevent homelessness and meet housing need Support independence and improved health and wellbeing for all Provide resident focused housing services



Licensing (Statement of Licensing Policy 2021)	Statement of Licensing Policy 2021 (brighton-hove.gov.uk)	The revised Statement of Licensing Policy was published in 2021. Special policies remain in place to reduce the availability of alcohol within the city centre area or cumulative impact zone. Current actions include: • Sensible on Strength (SoS) scheme • Safeguarding initiatives within the night-time economy. • Test purchase operations are undertaken with the police
Brighton & Hove Mental Health and Housing Plan Place-based plan	attachment.pdf (sussexpartnership. nhs.uk)	 Priority 5: Develop accommodation and support services to meet the needs of people with coexisting conditions and multiple and compound needs Particular focus on complexity including people with mental health need who also have Autistic Spectrum Condition and/or Substance Misuse needs.

- HM Government, "From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives," 2021
- "HM Government, "From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives," 2021
- "HM Government, "From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives," 2021
- ^{iv} Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Public Health Profiles. Drug related deaths. Available at: Public health profiles OHID (phe.org.uk)
- [∨]OHID, Alcohol profile, 2022
- ^{vi} Brighton and Hove City Council, "Safe and Well at School Survey 2023".
- vii Brighton and Hove City Council, "Safe and Well at School Survey 2023".
- Wiii Brighton and Hove City Council, "Draft housing strategy for consultation. [Online]. Available: 7975 Housing strategy consultation Accessible_0.pdf (brighton-hove.gov.uk) [Accessed 29 July 2024].
- ix How we help people living on the streets in the city (brighton-hove.gov.uk)
- * Mental health and wellbeing in Brighton and Hove, Mental health JSNA 2022 full report FINAL.pdf (brighton-hove.gov.uk)
- Brighton and Hove City Council. Brighton & Hove Drugs and alcohol needs assessment, 2022. Brighton Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment.pdf (brighton-hove.gov.uk)
- xii Brighton and Hove City Council. Brighton & Hove Drugs and alcohol needs assessment, 2022. Brighton Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment.pdf (brighton-hove.gov.uk)
- xiii Brighton and Hove Multiple Compound Needs Board Business Case, 2024
- xiv HM Government, "From Harm to Hope: A ten-year drugs plan to cut crime and save lives," 2021





Acknowledgment: The art used in the strategy was provided by Cascade Creative Recovery and represents some of the works created by members of the Cascade art group. Cascade Creative Recovery aims to support connections with others to prevent isolation and relapse on the recovery journey. The art group enables conversations while creating to help build human connections, recovery capital, and resilience in a supportive but informal environment.















General Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) Form

Support:

An <u>EIA toolkit</u>, <u>workshop content</u>, and guidance for completing an <u>Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) form</u> are available on the <u>EIA page</u> of the <u>EDI Internal Hub</u>. Please read these before completing this form.

For enquiries and further support if the toolkit and guidance do not answer your questions, contact your Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion (EDI) Business Partner as follows:

- Economy, Environment and Culture (EEC) Chris Brown,
- Families, Children, and Learning (FCL) <u>Jamarl Billy</u>,
- Governance, People, and Resources (GPR) Eric Page.
- Health and Adult Social Care (HASC) Zofia Danin,
- Housing, Neighbourhoods, and Communities (HNC) Jamarl Billy

Processing Time:

- EIAs can take up to 10 business days to approve after a completed EIA of a good standard is submitted to the EDI Business Partner. This is not considering unknown and unplanned impacts of capacity, resource constraints, and work pressures on the EDI team at the time your EIA is submitted.
- If your request is urgent, we can explore support exceptionally on request.
- We encourage improved planning and thinking around EIAs to avoid urgent turnarounds as these
 make EIAs riskier, limiting, and blind spots may remain unaddressed for the 'activity' you are
 assessing.

Process:

- Once fully completed, submit your EIA to your EDI Business Partner, copying in your Head of Service, Business Improvement Manager (if one exists in your directorate), Equalities inbox, and any other relevant service colleagues to enable EIA communication, tracking and saving.
- When your EIA is reviewed, discussed, and then approved, the EDI Business Partner will assign a
 reference to it and send the approved EIA form back to you with the EDI Manager or Head of
 Communities, Equality, and Third Sector (CETS) Service's approval as appropriate.
- Only approved EIAs are to be attached to Committee reports. Unapproved EIAs are invalid.

1. Assessment details

Throughout this form, 'activity' is used to refer to many different types of proposals being assessed.

Read the EIA toolkit for more information.

Name of activity or proposal being assessed:	Reducing Harm from Drugs and Alcohol: Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Strategy (2024-2030)
Directorate:	Housing, Care and Wellbeing
Service:	Public Health
Team:	Drugs and Alcohol



Is this a new or existing activity?	New
Are there related EIAs that could	No
help inform this EIA? Yes or No (If	
Yes, please use this to inform this	
assessment)	

2. Contributors to the assessment (Name and Job title)

Responsible Lead Officer:	Caroline Vass interim Director of Public Health
Accountable Manager:	Fran Piccoletti Drug and Alcohol Programme Manager
Additional stakeholders collaborating or contributing to this assessment:	Combatting Drugs Partnership Board

3. About the activity

Briefly describe the purpose of the activity being assessed:

The Drugs and Alcohol Strategy for Brighton and Hove describes how the Brighton and Hove Combatting Drugs Partnership will deliver locally the ambitions in the national strategy 'From Harm to Hope'. The strategy describes the longer-term vision to 2030, to reduce harms from drugs and alcohol for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Brighton and Hove. It is a multi-agency strategy, with multiple organisations taking on responsibility for its objectives.

The strategy has been developed by the multi-agency Combatting Drugs Partnership, comprising leaders from different organisations across the city who have a key role in tackling drug and alcohol related harms. This includes representatives from the Council, Police, Probation service, NHS ICB, mental health providers, treatment and recovery services, community and voluntary sector and people with lived experience.

This strategy is a high-level document that sets out the Combatting Drugs Partnership's vision for changing the culture around drug use and reducing harms from drugs and alcohol in the city. Although there is a focus on both drugs and alcohol, it is not a comprehensive alcohol strategy.

The strategy will be underpinned by the principles to:

- Reduce stigma
- Target resource according to need
- Be guided by the latest research and best practice, local data and intelligence to make best use of our resources and evaluate services and projects
- Work in partnership with people with lived experience of drug and alcohol harms
- Work collaboratively across organisations to support people and communities as effectively as possible

This Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) will be assessing the impact that the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy for Brighton and Hove may have on diverse protected characteristics and different communities, based on our current knowledge and assessment.

A range of barriers to accessing services and support was identified. Some of them are likely to affect all groups equally:

- Missed opportunities by services such as a GP, to identify a drug or alcohol treatment need.
- A lack of compassion from a range of professionals.



- Shame and stigma as a barrier for seeking help.
- Lack of awareness of drug and alcohol support and services available by professionals and people supported by services.

What are the desired outcomes of the activity?

The desired outcome is to make Brighton and Hove a place where everyone will be safe from the harms caused by drugs and alcohol. The three key priority areas or strategic workstreams are:

- Disrupt the local drug supply chains, reduce the availability of alcohol and tackle/disrupt drug and alcohol related crime.
- Improving the quality, capacity and outcomes of our drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services.
- Achieving a generational shift in demand for drugs.

Which key groups of people do you think are likely to be affected by the activity?

All residents of Brighton & Hove, including children and young people and also people receiving support from drug and alcohol services.

4. Consultation and engagement

What consultations or engagement activities have already happened that you can use to inform this assessment?

• For example, relevant stakeholders, groups, people from within the council and externally consulted and engaged on this assessment. **If no consultation** has been done or it is not enough or in process – state this and describe your plans to address any gaps.

The Public Health team consulted with individuals who have experience using drug and alcohol services in Brighton and Hove through workshops and focus groups to shape the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy.

This engagement informed some of the objectives and framing of the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy. These key stakeholders will be re-engaged as the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy goes out to consultation, as well as throughout the delivery of the strategy.

The draft strategy has been developed by the multi-agency Combatting Drugs Partnership, made up of leaders from different organisations across the city who have a key role in tackling drug and alcohol related harms. This includes representatives from the BHCC, Sussex Police, Probation service, treatment and recovery services, community groups and people with lived experience. All partners have been consulted, and their feedback was taken onboard when developing the strategy.

Partner colleagues from across different organisations have been part of the initial consultation and it has been presented to the Integrated Care Board (ICB) Child Safeguarding Board, the Brighton and Hove Health and Care Partnership Board, the Police-led Drug Related Harm Group, The Sussex Criminal Justice Board, and the Primary Care Network (PCN) Health Inequality Group.

Within BHCC, the draft strategy has been presented for feedback to the Community Safety Partnership, Safeguarding Adults Board, and Mental Health Oversight Board. Further consultation is planned with the BHCC Safeguarding Children Board, Multiple Complex Needs Steering Group, and the Family Help Partnership.

In addition, the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy public consultation opened on 5th December 2024 and will run until 12th January 2025, to engage with residents from Brighton and Hove and beyond.



This EIA also refers to the Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS) 2023. This is an anonymous online survey conducted by Brighton and Hove City Council Public Health team in partnership with the University of Sussex, engaging with students across primary and secondary schools in the city. A total of 7,802 young people aged 11-16 took part, and 5,807 8–11-year-olds took part, a total of 13,609 young people.

5. Current data and impact monitoring

Do you currently collect and analyse the following data to enable monitoring of the impact of this activity? Consider all possible intersections.

(State Yes, No, Not Applicable as appropriate)

Age	YES
Disability and inclusive adjustments, coverage under equality act and not	YES
Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers)	YES
Religion, Belief, Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism	YES
Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and Intersex people)	YES
Gender Reassignment	YES
Sexual Orientation	YES
Marriage and Civil Partnership	Not applicable
Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum)	YES
Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans	YES
Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees	Partially
Carers	YES
Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people	YES
Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections)	YES
Socio-economic Disadvantage	YES
Homelessness and associated risk and vulnerability	YES
Human Rights	Not applicable
Another relevant group (please specify here and add additional rows as needed)	Ex-offenders, Lone parents, People experiencing homelessness, People experiencing cuckooing or exploitation, People with experience of or living with a substance use disorder (SUD), Sex workers, People experiencing mental health needs



Additional relevant groups that may be widely disadvantaged and have intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers may include:

- Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
- Lone parents
- People experiencing homelessness
- People facing literacy, numeracy and /or digital barriers
- People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
- People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)
- People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery
- People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
- Sex workers

If you answered "NO" to any of the above, how will you gather this data to enable improved monitoring of impact for this activity?

Data about these groups is collected and analysed by and from services and partner organisations delivering the strategy. In some cases, this may not be comprehensive and we will work towards improving this, noting in particular gaps in data for armed forces personnel.

What are the arrangements you and your service have for monitoring, and reviewing the impact of this activity?

Detailed action plans will be developed to sit underneath each strategic priority. They will form the basis for an outcomes monitoring framework. The actions and targets will be SMART: specific, measurable, achievable, realistic and timely, and will be developed to meet short-term, medium-term and longer-term needs.

The priorities, strategic objectives and the outcomes monitoring framework will be regularly reviewed by the Combatting Drugs Partnership to ensure it continues to meet the needs of our population, to reflect any changes in national policy, and accommodate funding changes (the current supplementary substance misuse treatment and recovery grant [SSMTRG] ends in March 2025).

6. Impacts

Advisory Note:

Impact:

- Assessing disproportionate impact means understanding potential negative impact (that may cause direct or indirect discrimination), and then assessing the relevance (that is: the potential effect of your activity on people with protected characteristics) and proportionality (that is: how strong the effect is).
- These impacts should be identified in the EIA and then re-visited regularly as you review the EIA every 12 to 18 months as applicable to the duration of your activity.
- <u>SMART Actions</u> mean: Actions that are (SMART = Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, T = Time-bound)
- Cumulative Assessment: If there is impact on all groups equally, complete only the cumulative assessment section.

Data analysis and Insights:

- In each protected characteristic or group, in answer to the question 'If "YES", what are the
 positive and negative disproportionate impacts?', describe what you have learnt from your
 data analysis about disproportionate impacts, stating relevant insights and data sources.
- Find and use contextual and wide ranges of data analysis (including community feedback) to describe what the disproportionate positive and negative impacts are on different, and



- intersecting populations impacted by your activity, especially considering for <u>Health</u> <u>inequalities</u>, review guidance and inter-related impacts, and the impact of various identities.
- For example: If you are doing road works or closures in a particular street or ward look at a variety of data and do so from various protected characteristic lenses. Understand and analyse what that means for your project and its impact on different types of people, residents, family types and so on. State your understanding of impact in both effect of impact and strength of that effect on those impacted.

Data Sources:

- Consider a wide range (including but not limited to):
 - Census and local intelligence data
 - Service specific data
 - Community consultations
 - Insights from customer feedback including complaints and survey results
 - Lived experiences and qualitative data
 - Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) data
 - Health Inequalities data
 - Good practice research
 - National data and reports relevant to the service
 - Workforce, leaver, and recruitment data, surveys, insights
 - Feedback from internal 'staff as residents' consultations
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on intersectionality, accessibility, sustainability requirements, and impacts.
 - Insights, gaps, and data analyses on 'who' the most intersectionally marginalised and excluded under-represented people and communities are in the context of this EIA.
- Learn more about the <u>Equality Act 2010</u> and about our <u>Public Sector Equality Duty</u>.

6.1 Age

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to any particular Age group? For example: those under 16,	
young adults, with other intersections.	
17 - 7	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data relating to Age from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (D&ANA, 2022), the Brighton and Hove Audit of Drug Deaths 2024, and from the Safe and Well at School Survey (SAWSS) 2023 which pertains specifically to school-age children and young people.

Of 138 drug-related deaths in Brighton and Hove over a three year period between 2020 and 2023, over half (57%) were in people aged 35-54 years of age. This age group is disproportionately affected, despite making up only 28% of the total population of the city. 23% of deaths were in the 15-34 age group (which makes up 32% of the total population), and 21% in people aged 55 and over (which makes up 26% of the total population).

The SAWSS reports that 3% of 11 to 14 year olds and 20% of 14 to 16 year olds have tried cannabis, while 2% of 11 to 14 year olds and 8% of 14 to 16 year olds had tried other drugs. According to the Needs Assessment there were 88 under 18 year olds receiving specialist drugs and alcohol treatment in



2021-2022. Of these, 9% reported their primary substance of concern as Benzodiazepines, which is significantly higher than the England average of 1%. The alcohol specific hospital admission rate for Children and Young People is higher at 53 per 100,000 than the England average of 29 per 100,000.

Data from the Needs Assessment also highlighted that children and young people are particularly vulnerable to exploitation relating to involvement with drugs including involvement in gangs or county lines. 13% of first-time entrants to the youth justice system aged 10 to 17 years have committed offences relating to drugs. Children and young people affected by drugs and alcohol use in the family are also noted to have worse health, wellbeing and educational outcomes than other children. Many children and young people also have co-occurring vulnerabilities such as poor mental health or exposure to domestic violence.

The team also conducted a series of workshops to engage with people with lived experience (PWLE) of involvement with drugs and alcohol and support services to better understand their needs. Approximately 50 adults participated, with representation across an age range of 16 to 74 years. The strategy recognises however, that there was no similar engagement with children and young people via focus groups or workshops.

Age-specific aims are reflected in the strategy, which will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

These aims include:

- A commitment to further engagement with children and young people
- Work with the Community and Voluntary Sector, Children's services, Sussex Police, school services and the children and young person drug and alcohol service, RUOK?, to prevent involvement of children and young people with organised crime groups, and to prevent exploitation opportunities
- Work with Police, community safety teams and safeguarding agencies to safeguard children and young people who are being exploited
- Support the multi-agency youth disposal pathway to include an out of court pathway for young people to guide them into treatment.
- Improve access to, and experiences of, services for children and young people, including improving the transition for young people into adult services
- Promote healthy lifestyles in children and young people, via engagement with school-based services, family hubs, and supporting parents in treatment via the Parenting Our Children and Accessing Recovery Programme
- Stop children and young people starting to use drugs and alcohol

Older adults might also experience specific barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services. Those barriers include:

- Isolation.
- Difficulty accessing services due to failing physical health and mobility issues.
- Digital exclusion or due to information being aimed mainly at younger people to prevent them from starting to take drugs and smoking, which can be excluding older generations who are already doing this.

The following measures can be implemented to address disproportionate impact relating to age:

- Expanding the existing Outreach offer this is a task team which engages with groups who have difficulties accessing community services, such as older adults with mobility issues, and provides at-home support
- Targeting the Outreach offer towards the age group most affected by substance-related death
- Expanding training and supply of Naloxone nasal spray for families, carers and young people over 16 years.
- To ensure that all materials are fully accessible for people of all ages. To provide materials in a variety of accessible formats.



- To ensure that all venues are as accessible as possible in line with known restrictions.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly
 from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and
 underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to
 understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics
 and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for
 underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

6.2 Disability:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to <u>Disability</u>, considering our <u>anticipatory duty</u>?

YES

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data relating to Disability and long term conditions. The 2021 Census ONS data shows that nearly one in five residents (19%) are disabled as defined by the Equality Act. Among residents without a disability, 8% have a long term physical or mental health condition.

The team also engaged with people with lived experience. Of the 23 participants in the PWLE workshops for whom this information was captured, 20 self-identified as having a disability or long-term condition. Themes from the workshops identified disability as a trigger influencing drug and alcohol use. Accessibility of services, including accessible spaces, was identified as a barrier for disabled users. Better mental health provision was identified as an area for improvement.

Further engagement with people with lived experience is planned via the Drug and Alcohol Lived Experience Programme, of which the needs of disabled people will be one of three focussed 'design sprints' (see section 7).

Recognition of disability and unmet physical and mental health needs as risk factors for drug and alcohol use, and as barriers to accessing services, is reflected in the strategy. Priorities relating to this include:

- Improve the capability of services to support clients with multiple needs
- Improve access to, and experience of, services for adults and children and young people, especially from underserved cohorts (which includes people who are neurodiverse)
- Develop an integrated response for people with co-occurring substance use and other needs, including mental and physical health needs and neurodiversity

These high-level strategic aims will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Information not being available in accessible formats,
- Lack staff training in various accessible communication methods.
- Inaccessible venues.
- · Lack of flexibility in service delivery to accommodate fluctuating conditions.



• Lack of service provision tailored to meet the needs of people with learning disabilities.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

- Expanding the existing Outreach offer to support disabled people that make it challenging to access community services
- Use of in-person and telephone interpreters where there is an additional communication need
- To ensure that all materials and media are fully accessible and available in a variety of formats, such as for example large print, Easy Read and British Sign Language.
- To ensure that all venues are as accessible as possible, in line with known restrictions
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly
 from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and
 underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to
 understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics
 and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for
 underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

What <u>inclusive adjustments</u> are you making for diverse disabled people impacted? For example: D/deaf, deafened, hard of hearing, blind, neurodivergent people, those with non-visible disabilities, and with access requirements that may not identify as disabled or meet the legal definition of disability, and have various intersections (Black and disabled, LGBTQIA+ and disabled).

The strategy will be designed by the design team to be accessible and will be uploaded in an accessible format for screen readers.

6.3 Ethnicity, 'Race', ethnic heritage (including Gypsy, Roma, Travellers):

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to ethnicity?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data relating to Ethnicity from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022). More than a quarter (26%) of residents of Brighton and Hove are from a Black and Racially Minoritised group (non-White UK/British). 2021 ONS Census data shows that of Black and Racially Minoritised residents, 37% are other White, 18% are of mixed ethnicity, 18% are Asian, 8% are Black, and 4.2% are from Arab backgrounds. Amongst users of drug and alcohol treatment services in 2021-22, 11% were from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds.

Unfortunately, the people with lived experience (PWLE) workshops did not reach as many people from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds as hoped. The strategy acknowledges this and commits to undertake further engagement with these groups as a priority. This reflects a focus within the strategy of improving access to and experience of services for underserved cohorts including people from Black and Racially Minoritised backgrounds.



Further engagement with people with lived experience is also planned via the Drug and Alcohol Lived Experience Programme (see section 7).

The output of these planned programmes will inform the development of action plans underpinning the strategy.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Information not being accessible to people for whom English is a second language or who face literacy barriers. Content not being provided in plain English, use of complex terminology and professional jargon can form a barrier to access.
- Lack of interpretation services and information not available in multiple languages.
- · Cultural stigma within certain communities.
- Lack of culturally competent services.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

- Continued work of existing team of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Recovery Coordinators
 working in the adult treatment service who work with Black and Racially Minoritised people and
 people for whom English is their second language, with experience of substance use.
- To ensure that all materials are available in multiple languages.
- To provide content in plain English.
- To provide access to interpreting services.
- To ensure services are culturally sensitive.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly
 from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and
 underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to
 understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics
 and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for
 underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

6.4 Religion, Belief, Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to Religion, Belief, Spirituality, Faith, or Atheism?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The development of the strategy did not explicitly consult on data relating to religion.

Based on 2021 ONS Census data, 55% of residents have no religion or belief. 30.9% identified as Christian, 0.9% as Buddhist, 0.9% as Jewish, 0.8% as Hindu, 0.1% as Sikh, and 1% as other religions. 7.1% did not answer the voluntary question.

Data on religious identity was captured as part of the PWLE workshops, with participation of a range of people who identified as having a particular religion or none.



It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to religion, belief, spirituality, faith or atheism. However, we note that barriers to accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Possible conflict between religious beliefs and certain treatment approaches.
- Lack of consideration for religious dietary requirements in residential recovery settings.
- Lack of awareness of cultural stigma around drugs and alcohol within certain religious communities.
- Lack of culturally competent services.
- Lack of same-sex support when required for religious reasons.
- Services not accommodating people's religious-based preferences in service delivery or interactions.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

- To ensure services are culturally sensitive and respectful of people's preferences related to their religious identity.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly
 from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and
 underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to
 understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics
 and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for
 underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

6.5 Gender Identity and Sex:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to Gender Identity and Sex (including non-binary and intersex	
people)?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

Data from the 2021 ONS Census shows that 51% of residents are female, and 49% are male, with a relatively even distribution of males and females across all ages up to 75, with the exception of ages 19 to 21 where 56% (9,900 people) are female and 44% male (7,900 people). The difference is likely due the higher proportion of female students to male students attending Brighton University and Sussex University.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data relating to Gender Identity and Sex from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022). The data shows that 63% of all Service Users in 2021/22 were male. However, women may find it harder to access drugs and alcohol treatment due to specific concerns such as fear of losing their children, or stigma. They may also find it difficult to access man-dominated environments due to disproportionate experiences of Domestic Abuse and Sexual Violence. From hospital admission data, inpatient episode rates of intentional self-poisoning are significantly higher for women in Brighton and Hove (62.8 per 100,000) compared to England (38.6 per 100,000).

Data from the Safe and Well at School survey suggests 17% of pupils who did not or did not always identify with their gender registered at birth had tried drugs, compared to 12% of those who did.



Of the 23 participants in the PWLE workshops for whom this information was captured, there was representation from participants who self-identified as Woman (n=6), Man (n=11), Non-binary (n=less than 5) and In Another Way (n=less than 5).

Feedback identified the importance of all-female service and activity spaces to enable Service Users to feel safe and comfortable.

Further engagement with people with lived experience is planned via the Drug and Alcohol Lived Experience Programme, of which the needs of women is one of three focussed 'design sprints' (see section 7).

Recognition of specific vulnerabilities and barriers to access relating to Gender Identity and Sex is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on underserved cohorts and a priority area led by the women's drug and alcohol treatment service, Oasis. Amongst the specific priorities is a focus on developing an integrated response for people with co-occurring substance use and other needs, including:

- Improving the knowledge and confidence of the workforce to support pathways for those affected by violence against women and girls
- Ensure a joined up approach to complex cases and multiple compound need (for example violence against women and girls)

The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Other barriers to access to drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Childcare responsibilities and lack of childcare provision.
- Underrepresentation of men in seeking help due to societal expectations.
- Inadequate considerations of gender-specific issues in service delivery.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

- There is an existing dedicated women's service, Oasis, which offers treatment and recovery to
 women experiencing problematic drug and alcohol use, as well as providing support in matters
 relating to involvement with social care and safeguarding, such as support attending court cases,
 and support for women experiencing domestic violence. There is also a dedicated outreach
 worker for sex workers.
- To signpost parents to available childcare options, including a creche service run by Oasis
- To reduce stigma around men seeking help by providing services in a sensitive and empathetic way.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly
 from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and
 underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to
 understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics
 and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for
 underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of
 accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the
 delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.



6.6 Gender Reassignment:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to Gender Reassignment?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

In 2021 a new question on gender identity was included in the Census. It was added to provide the first official data on the size of the transgender population in England and Wales.

The question was voluntary and was only asked of people aged 16 years and over. People were asked "Is the gender you identify with the same as your sex registered at birth?" and had the option of selecting either "Yes" or "No" and writing in their gender identity. The five local authorities with the highest proportion of the population aged 16 years and over who identified as non-binary were all outside London. Brighton and Hove had the highest percentage (0.35%).

Based on a voluntary question from the 2021 Census:

- In Brighton & Hove a total of 220,742 residents (93.8%) of the population aged 16 years and over answered the question.
- A total of 218,401 residents (92.8%) answered "Yes", indicating that their gender identity was the same as their sex registered at birth.
- A total of 2,341 residents (1.0%) answered "No", indicating that their gender identity was different from their sex registered at birth. Within this group:
- 476 (0.2%) answered "No" but did not provide a write-in response
- 362 (0.1%) identified as a trans man
- 329 (0.1%) identified as a trans woman
- 1,174 (0.5%) wrote in a different gender identity

Of the 23 participants in the PWLE workshops for whom this information was captured, seven participants identified as trans. Feedback identified specific barriers for trans people in accessing drugs and alcohol support, in particular where accessing treatment may impact on gender reassignment treatment. It also highlighted the importance of specific trans-inclusive spaces to facilitate access to support, including diversity of staff and volunteers.

Recognition of the specific barriers and needs of trans and gender diverse people is reflected in the strategy, which includes a priority of improving access to and experience of services, especially from underserved cohorts including LGBTQIA+ people.

The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Fear of discrimination and transphobia.
- People feeling discomfort in gendered spaces in residential recovery settings.
- Lack of understanding and awareness from staff and other Service Users.
- Fear of potential impact of seeking help on people's ongoing transition needs.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers

- Continued work of the existing team within the adult treatment and recovery service which is trained in and dedicated to supporting people experiencing substance use from the LGBTQ+ community
- To create safe, non-judgmental, trans-inclusive spaces to facilitate access to support, including diversity of staff.
- Use inclusive language and diverse imagery in all materials and communications.
- Ensure respect for people's chosen names and pronouns.



- Ensure that people's ongoing transition needs are part of support planning and delivery.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly
 from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and
 underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to
 understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics
 and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for
 underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

6.7 Sexual Orientation:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to <u>Sexual Orientation</u> ?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

2021 Census data suggests the proportion of adults identifying with an LGB+ orientation (10.6%) in Brighton and Hove is three times higher than in the rest of the South East and England. The Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022) estimates that in 2021-22 18% of Service Users were from the LGBT community.

Data from the SAWSS shows that pupils who are LGBTQIA+, unlabelled, or unsure of their sexuality are statistically significantly more likely to have tried drugs (15% compared to 12%)

Additionally, of the 23 participants in the PWLE workshops for whom this information was captured, 6 participants identified as gay, lesbian, bisexual or another sexual identity. Feedback included the value of group-specific safe spaces and sessions, including for LGBTQ+ groups.

Further engagement with people with lived experience is planned via the Drug and Alcohol Lived Experience Programme (see section 7).

Recognition of specific vulnerabilities and barriers to access relating to sexual orientation is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on underserved cohorts including LGBTQ+ people. The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Fear of discrimination and homophobia.
- Lack of safe, non-judgmental spaces.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

- Continued work of the existing team within the adult treatment and recovery service which is trained in and dedicated to supporting people experiencing substance use from the LGBTQ+ community
- To create safe, non-judgmental, inclusive spaces to facilitate access to support, including diversity of staff.
- Use inclusive language and diverse imagery in all materials and communications.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly
 from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and
 underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to
 understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics



- and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

6.8 Marriage and Civil Partnership:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	See below
to Marriage and Civil Partnership?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The development of the strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to marriage or civil partnership status.

ONS census data shows that one third of residents aged 16 or older are married or in a civil partnership. Of these, 5% are in a same sex marriage or civil partnership. Proportionally, Brighton and Hove have the highest number of residents in a same-sex marriage or civil partnership in England.

It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to this. However, we note that there can be specific barriers related to marriage and civil partnership, such as potential lack of family-oriented support services and lack of inclusive language and imagery (for example relating to single people and families) in promotional materials.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers

- To ensure that family-oriented support (via The Family and Carers (FACT) Service) is available when needed.
- Use inclusive language and diverse imagery in all materials and communications.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

6.9 Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption, Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum):

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to Pregnant people, Maternity, Paternity, Adoption,	
Menopause, (In)fertility (across the gender spectrum)?	



If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022), which recognises the specific needs of and barriers to parents and families in accessing drug and alcohol services.

This is reflected in the strategy, which includes a priority area led by the women's drug and alcohol treatment service, Oasis. The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Fear of social care involvement and of children being removed from the family home
- Feeling of stigmatisation and that the system will impact them negatively
- Increased experience of domestic violence and sexual assault amongst pregnant people, which may make them less likely to access services

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

 The Oasis service works with pregnant people and parents to support them in accessing treatment, trauma-informed care, psychological support, and for those working with social workers. The service operates within a safe space separated from the mainstream drug and alcohol services.

6.10 Armed Forces Personnel, their families, and Veterans:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	See below
to Armed Forces Members and Veterans?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The development of the strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to the armed forces or veterans.

It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to this group. However, we note that this cohort may experience barriers to accessing treatment, such as stigma, PTSD, availability linked to duty requirements. We will explore potential barriers and ensure the action planning reflects these.

Further work is identified for this cohort

6.11 Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum Seekers, and Refugees:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to Expatriates, Migrants, Asylum seekers, Refugees, those	
New to the UK, and UK visa or assigned legal status?	
(Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and	
various intersections)	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?



Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

ONS Census data (2021) suggests one in five residents of Brighton and Hove (54,343 people, 20%) were born outside of the UK. This is a higher proportion than seen in the South East (16%) and England (17%).

Despite the overall number of residents only increasing by 1%, the number of residents born outside of the UK has increased by 27% (11,456 people) since 2011, with the proportion increasing from 16% to 20%.

Two out of five of residents (23,104 people, 42%) born outside of the UK were born in the EU. This is a higher proportion than in the South East and England.

Among residents born in the EU, nearly two thirds 65% were born in EU countries who have been members since before 2004 (EU 14). This is significantly higher than seen in the South East (47%) and England (44%).

A half of all residents born outside of the UK were born outside of Europe (27,670 people, 51%). This is a lower proportion than seen in the South East (57%) and England (59%).

Among residents born outside of Europe, nearly a half (12,517, 45%) were born in the Middle East and Asia and over a quarter (7,863 people, 28%) born in Africa.

The strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to this group.

As above, the strategy reflects a recognition that engagement with certain groups has been limited, and there is a focus on collaboration with underserved cohorts as a priority.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Concerns relating to disclosure of immigration status, and understanding of available services.
- Information not being accessible to people for whom English is a second language or who face literacy barriers. Content not being provided in plain English, use of complex terminology and professional jargon can form a barrier to access.
- Lack of interpretation services and information not available in multiple languages.
- Cultural stigma within certain communities.
- Lack of culturally competent services.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

- Continued work of existing team of Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Recovery Coordinators
 working in the adult treatment service who work with Black and Racially Minoritised people and
 people for whom English is a second language, with experience of substance use
- Continued use of trauma-informed support in treatment and recovery services
- To ensure that all materials are available in multiple languages.
- To provide content in plain English.
- To provide access to interpreting services.
- To ensure services are culturally sensitive.
- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly from groups with unmet needs, to inform the further development of the strategy and underpinning action plans and also to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for underserved cohorts.
- To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of
 accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the
 delivery of the service.
- To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.



6.12 Carers:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to <u>Carers</u> (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language,	
and various intersections).	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022).

Carer status was also recorded for participants in the PWLE workshops. Of the 23 participants for whom this information was captured, five identified as parents or carers. Participants identified being an unpaid carer as a life stressor that is a risk factor in drug and alcohol use.

Being a young carer is also a risk factor for drug and alcohol use. The SAWSS reports that 22% of young carers are likely to have tried drugs (as against 12% of other pupils).

There are also challenges associated with being a carer for or supporting someone experiencing harmful substance use.

This is reflected in the strategy, which includes priority areas to develop an integrated response for people with co-occurring substance use and other needs such as being a carer. It also aims to improve access to and experience of services for young carers. The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Insufficient support or respite from caring responsibilities to attend treatment and recovery services – either as someone experiencing substance use problems themself, or looking after someone experiencing them
- Fear of social care involvement and of loved ones being removed from the family home

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

• To ensure that support for carers supporting loved ones experiencing harmful substance use (via The Family and Carers (FACT) Service) is available when needed.

6.13 Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced people:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating to Looked after children, Care Leavers, Care and fostering experienced children and adults (Especially considering for age, ethnicity, language, and various intersections).	YES
Also consider our Corporate Parenting Responsibility in connection to your activity.	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.



Data from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022) recognises the specific challenges and vulnerabilities faced by care-experienced children and young people.

We know that people who are care experienced are disproportionately represented in drug deaths in Brighton & Hove, and the strategy and work planning reflects this.

Data from the SAWSS shows that adopted children are statistically significantly more likely to have tried alcohol than children who are not (51% vs 43%), as well as being more likely to have tried drugs (31% vs 12%)

As discussed above, the strategy recognises that there was limited engagement with children and young people via focus groups or workshops, and this includes looked after children.

A commitment to further engagement with children and young people is reflected in the strategy. The strategy also includes priority areas to ensure an integrated approach to improving the transition for care leavers into adult services. This and other high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Instability in home arrangements which can disrupt continuity of access to services
- · Complex needs including experiences of trauma

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

Trauma-informed service provision

6.14 Homelessness:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to people experiencing homelessness, and associated risk	
and vulnerability? (Especially considering for age, veteran,	
ethnicity, language, and various intersections)	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

There is a high rate of homelessness according to the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022). In 2021/22 26% of people in drug treatment had housing difficulties.

Recognition of specific vulnerabilities and barriers to access relating to homelessness is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on addressing the causes of harmful drug and alcohol use including housing issues or homelessness. The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multiagency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

The development of the strategy and action plans will be developed closely with partners working in relevant Housing and homelessness teams, and there is homelessness representation on the CDP steering group.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Lack of awareness of services available
- Stigma and previous negative experiences
- Complex needs including co-occurring mental health needs, physical conditions and experiences
 of trauma

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The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

 A dedicated Rough Sleepers Drug and Alcohol Treatment Grant held by the adult treatment and recovery service CGL, which delivers support and treatment for people rough-sleeping or at risk of rough sleeping

6.15 Domestic and/or Sexual Abuse and Violence Survivors, people in vulnerable situations:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to Domestic Abuse and Violence Survivors, and people in	
vulnerable situations (All aspects and intersections)?	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

To inform the development of the strategy, the Public Health team used data from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022), which reflects the particular vulnerabilities and needs of survivors of Domestic and Sexual Abuse and Violence, particularly in accessing services in mandominated environments. Domestic violence is also a risk factor for involvement with drugs and alcohol; in 2021/22, 27% of young people in treatment were affected by domestic violence.

This is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on addressing the causes of harmful drug and alcohol use including domestic violence and abuse, and improving awareness of, and access into services for people with experience of domestic abuse. The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Fear of contact with perpetrator in mainstream services
- Stigma around experience of domestic violence or sexual assault

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

 The Oasis service works women experiencing domestic abuse and violence to support them in accessing treatment, trauma-informed care and psychological support. The service operates within a safe space separated from the mainstream drug and alcohol services

6.16 Socio-economic Disadvantage:

Does your analysis indicate a disproportionate impact relating	YES
to Socio-economic Disadvantage? (Especially considering for	
age, disability, D/deaf/ blind, ethnicity, expatriate background,	
and various intersections)	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The strategy was informed by data relating to socio-economic disadvantage from the Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022) particularly as it relates to housing issues and homelessness and educational outcomes for children. 17% of the population live in the 20% most deprived areas in England, and 15% of under-16 year olds live in income deprived households. In the year ending September 2022 the unemployment rate in Brighton and Hove was 3.5%.



This is reflected in the focus within the strategy on addressing the risk factors associated with drug and alcohol use including poverty. The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multiagency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

Barriers in accessing drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services may include:

- Financial Barriers: Low-income households may struggle to access services due to transportation expenses, or the inability to take time off work. Individuals from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds often face competing financial priorities, such as securing basic needs like food and housing.
- Housing and homelessness: Individuals experiencing homelessness or insecure housing are
 disproportionately affected by substance use disorders, and their unstable living conditions often
 act as a barrier to accessing long-term care and recovery services. Lack of a permanent address
 or safety can make attending regular appointments or following treatment plans difficult.
- Stigma and discrimination: People from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds often face stigma associated with both poverty and substance use. This may deter them from seeking treatment, as they fear being judged or treated differently by healthcare providers or the broader community.
- Educational barriers: People with lower levels of education/literacy may lack awareness of available services, how to access them, or the benefits of treatment programmes. This can result in a gap in knowledge about where or how to seek help.
- Complex intersections of disadvantage: Socio-economic disadvantage often intersects with age, disability, ethnicity, creating additional layers of exclusion. For example, older adults with low income may face age-related mobility issues, while individuals from ethnically minoritised groups may encounter language barriers, cultural misunderstandings, or a lack of culturally sensitive services. Individuals who are disabled or experience sensory loss may have difficulty accessing services that are not designed to accommodate their specific needs.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

- Offer transportation vouchers or community transport programmes to ensure people experiencing poverty can attend appointments regularly.
- Implement outreach programmes in deprived areas to raise awareness about available services, breaking down stigma and educating people about how to access treatment.

6.17 Human Rights:

Will your activity have a disproportionate impact relating to Human Rights?	See below
Traman Rights:	

If "YES", what are the positive and negative disproportionate impacts?

Please share relevant insights from data and engagement to show how conclusions about impact have been shaped. Include relevant data sources or references.

The development of the strategy was not explicitly informed by data relating to Human Rights.

It is not envisaged that the detailed action plans underpinning the strategy will cause any disproportionate impact relating to this.

6.18 Cumulative, multiple <u>intersectional</u>, and complex impacts (including on additional relevant groups):

What cumulative or complex impacts might the activity have on people who are members of multiple Minoritised groups?

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- For example: people belonging to the Gypsy, Roma, and/or Traveller community who are also disabled, LGBTQIA+, older disabled trans and non-binary people, older Black and Racially Minoritised disabled people of faith, young autistic people.
- Also consider wider disadvantaged and intersecting experiences that create exclusion and systemic barriers:
 - People experiencing homelessness
 - People on a low income and people living in the most deprived areas
 - o People facing literacy, numeracy and/or digital barriers
 - Lone parents
 - People with experience of or living with addiction and/ or a substance use disorder (SUD)
 - Sex workers
 - o Ex-offenders and people with unrelated convictions
 - o People who have experienced female genital mutilation (FGM)
 - o People who have experienced human trafficking or modern slavery

Complex intersections of disadvantage: Socio-economic disadvantage often intersects with age, disability, ethnicity, creating additional layers of exclusion. For example, older adults with low income may face age-related mobility issues, while individuals from ethnically minoritised groups may encounter language barriers, cultural misunderstandings, or a lack of culturally sensitive services. Individuals who are disabled or experience sensory loss may have difficulty accessing services that are not designed to accommodate their specific needs.

Additional relevant groups:

Co-occurring mental health need

This is recognised as a particular intersecting factor. According to the D&ANA 2022, 61% of young people in drugs and alcohol treatment had a mental health condition, while 64% of adults in drug treatment and 63% in alcohol treatment had co-occurring mental health needs.

Recognition of unmet mental health needs as a risk factor for substance use and barrier to accessing support is reflected in the strategy.

A particular barrier faced for people with mental health needs is in accessing mental health services, particularly whilst still experiencing substance use issues.

The following measures can be implemented to address these barriers:

 The commissioned Adult Treatment and Recovery Service CGL employs healthcare professionals, including Mental Health Liaison nurses, a psychology team, and addiction psychiatrist who work with people with experience of substance use

Cuckooing:

An additional relevant group are People experiencing Cuckooing or other forms of exploitation. Cuckooing occurs when a criminal befriends an individual who lives on their own to use their house as a base to operate unlawful activity, victims can experience isolation, coercion and manipulation. Often this can be associated with exploitation and sexual assaults.

Cuckooing is often associated with exploitation of vulnerable people by supplying them with drugs and alcohol. In 2021/22 there were 28 new cuckooed properties identified.

Training on how to recognise the signs of cuckooing can support people accessing service, especially for outreach tasked team, as well as prevent reoccurrence.

Co-occurring and compound needs:

The Brighton and Hove Drugs and Alcohol Needs Assessment (2022) recognises the high level of residents experiencing co-occurring and multiple compound needs and the impact of this on drug and alcohol use.



This is reflected in the strategy, which includes a focus on people experiencing multiple disadvantages via the Multiple Compound Need Programme. The high-level objectives in the strategy will be underpinned by multi-agency action plans and assessed against SMART objectives.

A range of barriers to accessing services and support was identified. Some of them are likely to affect all groups equally:

- Missed opportunities by services such as a GP, to identify a drug or alcohol treatment need.
- A lack of compassion from a range of professionals.
- Shame and stigma as a barrier for seeking help.
- Lack of awareness of drug and alcohol support and services available by professionals and Service Users.

7. Action planning

What SMART actions will be taken to address the disproportionate and cumulative impacts you have identified?

- Summarise relevant SMART actions from your data insights and disproportionate impacts below for
 this assessment, listing appropriate activities per action as bullets. (This will help your Business
 Manager or Fair and Inclusive Action Plan (FIAP) Service representative to add these to the
 Directorate FIAP, discuss success measures and timelines with you, and monitor this EIA's
 progress as part of quarterly and regular internal and external auditing and monitoring)
- 1. To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly from groups with unmet need in order to inform the further development of the strategy and underpinning action plans.

The Brighton & Hove Drug and Alcohol Lived Experience Programme is a project commissioned to bring together people with lived experience of Multiple Compound Needs, service providers and commissioners in a safe space in order to facilitate the co-production of effective services.

The service will recruit a wide variety of participants with lived experience from drug and alcohol services and volunteer sectors within Brighton & Hove. It will recruit participants that are representative of the demographics of people accessing drug and alcohol services in the city.

The service will be reported on quarterly and is a pilot project for the financial year 2024-2025.

The project will inform the development and implementation of the Drugs and Alcohol Strategy for Brighton & Hove.

- To increase engagement with diverse people with lived experience of using services, particularly from groups with unmet needs, to gather feedback to help Combatting Drugs Partnership to understand further potential negative impact of barriers on people with protected characteristics and intersecting identities, as well as to improve access to and experience of services for underserved cohorts.
- 3. To improve data collection and analysis to enhance understanding of people's experience of accessing and using drug and alcohol treatment and recovery services and to routinely inform the delivery of the service.
- 4. To ensure that culturally sensitive comprehensive equalities training, guidance and support is available to all staff and that their training and support is regularly monitored.

Which action plans will the identified actions be transferred to?



• For example: Team or Service Plan, Local Implementation Plan, a project plan related to this EIA, FIAP (Fair and Inclusive Action Plan) – mandatory noting of the EIA on the Directorate EIA Tracker to enable monitoring of all equalities related actions identified in this EIA. This is done as part of FIAP performance reporting and auditing. Speak to your Directorate's Business Improvement Manager (if one exists for your Directorate) or to the Head of Service/ lead who enters actions and performance updates on FIAP and seek support from your Directorate's EDI Business Partner.

The	Drug and	Alcohol tea	m and the	 Combatting 	Drugs I	Partnershi	board

8. Outcome of your assessment

What decision have you reached upon completing this Equality Impact Assessment? (Mark 'X' for any ONE option below)

Stop or pause the activity due to unmitigable disproportionate impacts because the evidence shows bias towards one or more groups.	
Adapt or change the activity to eliminate or mitigate disproportionate impacts and/or bias.	
Proceed with the activity as currently planned – no disproportionate impacts have been identified, or impacts will be mitigated by specified SMART actions.	
Proceed with caution – disproportionate impacts have been identified but having considered all available options there are no other or proportionate ways to achieve the aim of the activity (for example, in extreme cases or where positive action is taken). Therefore, you are going to proceed with caution with this policy or practice knowing that it may favour some people less than others, providing justification for this decision.	Х

If your decision is to "Proceed with caution", please provide a reasoning for this:

We need to note and ensure that the needs of Armed Forces Members and Veterans and expatriates, migrants and asylum seekers and refuges are adequately met.

Summarise your overall equality impact assessment recommendations to include in any committee papers to help guide and support councillor decision-making:

As abo	ove		

9. Publication

All Equality Impact Assessments will be published. If you are recommending, and choosing not to publish your EIA, please provide a reason:

10. Directorate and Service Approval

Signatory:	Name and Job Title:	Date: DD-MMM-YY
Responsible Lead Officer:	Caroline Vass, interim DPH	01/10/24



		City Cour
Accountable Manager:	Fran Piccoletti, Drug and Alcohol Programme Manager	06/01/2025
lotes, relevant information, and re lanager submitting this assessme	equests (if any) from Responsible Lead ent:	l Officer and Accountab
EDI Review, Actions, and A	approval:	
Equality Impact Assessment sign-	off	
	HASC72-11-Dec-24-EIA-Drugs-and-Alcoh -Home-Energy-Saving-Landlord-Scheme	•
	against aims of the equality duty, public sand refer to relevant internal checklists a	
U	considered the equalities impact to provid	e first level approval for b
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BHCC-General-Equality-Impact-Assessment-Form-2023



Brighton & Hove City Council

Cabinet Agenda Item 12

Subject: Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Provisional Outturn

2024/25

Date of meeting: Thursday, 26 June 2025

Report of: Cabinet Member for Finance & City Regeneration

Contact Officer: Name: Haley Woollard, Deputy Chief Financial Officer

Tel: 01273 291233

Email: <u>haley.woollard@brighton-hove.gov.uk</u>

Ward(s) affected: (All Wards)

Key Decision: Yes

Reason(s) Key: Expenditure which is, or the making of savings which are,

significant having regard to the expenditure of the City

Council's budget, namely above £1,000,000 and is significant in terms of its effects on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more electoral divisions (wards).

For general release

1 Purpose of the report and policy context

- 1.1 The Targeted Budget Monitoring (TBM) report is a key component of the council's overall performance monitoring and control framework. This report sets out the provisional outturn position (i.e. Month 12 year-end) on the council's revenue and capital budgets for the financial year 2024/25.
- 1.2 The final outturn position is subject to the annual external audit review of the council's accounts. The final position will be shown in the council's unaudited financial statements which are due for publication by 30th June 2025 and must be signed by the Chief Finance Officer (CFO) and will ultimately be reflected in the audited set approved by the Audit & Standards Committee, due to be published by 27th February 2026.
- 1.3 The provisional outturn is a £1.091m underspend on the General Fund revenue budget. This is an improvement of £4.401m from Month 9, mainly due to significant improvements in the City Operations outturn. An improvement of £1.985m (including £0.496m Business Rates Levy) from the Month 9 position was assumed when setting the 2025/26 budget and therefore the outturn position represents an additional improvement of £2.416m compared to the assumed outturn of resources available. Section 11 sets out proposals for the allocation of this additional resource.
- 1.4 The report outlines that the reported underspend has been achieved through several measures. This includes the implementation of strict vacancy and spending controls, and the receipt of some significant one-off resources which have supported the General Fund revenue outturn position. A

reported underspend represents a favourable position. However, this is not withstanding the significant financial challenges and risks that the authority faces, particularly in respect of temporary accommodation where increases in demand are significant and unsustainable. This is discussed further in sections 4 and 19.

1.5 The report also indicates that £4.760m (20%) of the substantial savings package in 2024/25 of £23.627m was not achievable largely due to exceptional inflationary pressures experienced during the year.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet notes that the provisional General Fund outturn position is an underspend of £1.091m and that this represents an improvement of £2.416m compared to the projected and planned resource position at Month 9 and taken into account when setting the 2025/26 budget.
- 2.2 Cabinet approves General Fund carry forward requests totalling £4.283m as detailed in Appendix 5 and assumed within the provisional outturn.
- 2.3 Cabinet approves the proposed allocation of additional resources as set out in paragraph 11.3.
- 2.4 Cabinet notes the provisional outturn for the separate Housing Revenue Account (HRA), which is a break-even position.
- 2.5 Cabinet notes the provisional outturn position for the ring-fenced Dedicated Schools Grant, which is an overspend of £0.680m.
- 2.6 Cabinet notes the provisional outturn position on the Capital Programme which is an underspend variance of £4.025m.
- 2.7 Cabinet approves the capital budget variations and re-profiling requests set out in Appendix 7.
- 2.8 Cabinet approves new capital schemes requested in Appendix 8.
- 2.9 Cabinet notes the Treasury Management end of year review 2024/25 as set out in Appendix 10.

3 Context and background information

Targeted Budget Management (TBM) Reporting Framework

- 3.1 The TBM framework focuses on identifying and managing financial risks on a regular basis throughout the year. This is applied at all levels of the organisation from Budget Managers through to Cabinet. Services monitor their TBM position on a monthly or quarterly basis depending on the size, complexity or risks apparent within a budget area. TBM therefore operates on a risk-based approach, paying particular attention to mitigation of growing cost pressures, demands or overspending through effective financial recovery planning together with more regular monitoring of high risk demand-led areas as detailed below.
- 3.2 The TBM report is normally split into the following sections:
 - i) General Fund Revenue Budget Performance
 - ii) Housing Revenue Account (HRA) Performance
 - iii) Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) Performance

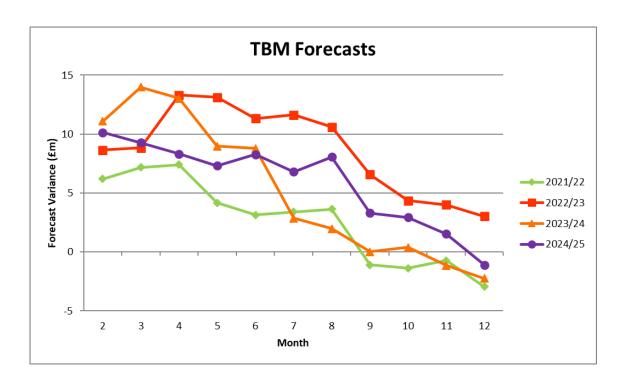
- iv) S75 Partnership Performance
- v) Capital Investment Programme Performance
- vi) Capital Programme Changes
- vii) Implications for the Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)
- viii) Comments of the S151 Chief Financial Officer

4 General Fund Revenue Budget Performance (Appendix 4)

4.1 The table below shows the provisional outturn for council-controlled revenue budgets within the General Fund. These are budgets under the direct control and management of the Corporate Leadership Team. More detailed explanation of the variances can be found in Appendix 4.

Forecast Variance Month 9		2024/25 Budget Month 12	Provisional Outturn Month 12	Provisional Variance Month 12	Provisional Variance Month 12
£'000	Directorate	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
(973)	Families, Children & Wellbeing	72,692	71,630	(1,062)	-1.5%
2,357	Homes & Adult Social Care	118,117	120,548	2,431	2.1%
(977)	City Operations	40,814	37,017	(3,797)	-9.3%
735	Central Hub	30,513	30,470	(43)	-0.1%
1,142	Sub Total	262,136	259,665	(2,471)	-0.9%
2,168	Centrally-held Budgets	(56,753)	(55,373)	1,380	2.4%
3,310	Total General Fund	205,383	204,292	(1,091)	-0.5%

- 4.2 The General Fund includes general council services, corporate budgets and central support services. Corporate Budgets include centrally held provisions and budgets (e.g. insurance) as well as some cross-cutting value for money savings targets. Note that General Fund services are accounted for separately to the Housing Revenue Account (Council Housing). Note also that although part of the General Fund, financial information for the Dedicated Schools Grant is shown separately as this is ring-fenced to education provision (i.e. Schools).
- 4.3 The chart below shows the monthly forecast variances for 2024/25 and the previous three years for comparative purposes.



Overview: General Fund Revenue Budget Performance & Risks

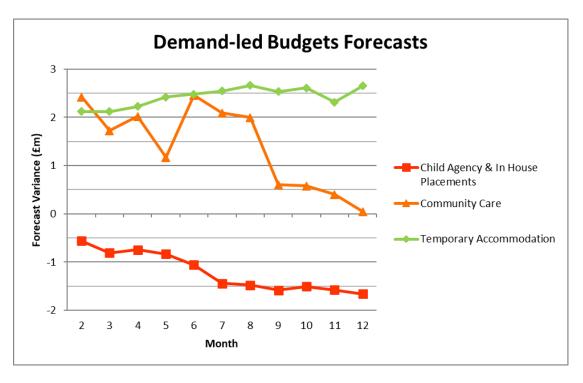
- 4.4 The above graph illustrates that the TBM forecast position during 2024/25 has varied from a peak of £10.137m at TBM2 (May) to the provisional outturn of a £1.091m underspend. The underspend has been achieved as a result of a number of measures, one of which has been strict vacancy and spending controls. These controls were implemented in November 2025, and further strengthened in January 2025 following the deterioration of the forecast at TBM8 (December). Whilst the spending controls have had a significant positive impact on the outturn position, the approach has an impact on service delivery across the council and is not a sustainable method for managing the financial challenges that the organisation faces in the long term.
- 4.5 Of the total 2024/25 savings package of £23.627m, a total of £4.760m (20%) were not achieved. This may add further pressure on 2025/26 revenue budget where there is already further significant savings of £15.799m to deliver during 2025/26.
- 4.6 Furthermore, the provisional outturn includes some considerable overspends in areas which carry high levels of future risk for the organisation. For example, as described in 4.9, Temporary Accommodation has incurred an overspend of £2.652m as a result of the high, and increasing, numbers of households in Temporary Accommodation. This trend is continuing into 2025/26 and therefore likely to be at risk of further overspend in the current financial year.
- 4.7 Therefore it's important to recognise that whilst an underspend is a positive position to have achieved, further work needs to be undertaken to ensure the council reaches a position where key financial challenges can be met in a sustainable way.

Demand-led Budgets

4.8 There are a number of budgets that carry potentially higher financial risks and therefore could have a material impact on the council's overall financial position. These are budgets of corporate significance where demand or activity is difficult to predict and where relatively small changes in demand can have significant implications for the council's budget strategy. These can include income related budgets. These therefore undergo more frequent and detailed analysis.

Forecast Variance Month 9		2024/25 Budget Month 12	Provisional Outturn Month 12	Provisional Variance Month 12	Provisional Variance Month 12
£'000		£'000	£'000	£'000	%
	Child Agency & In House Placements	27,575	25,914	(1,661)	-6.0%
604	Community Care	79,271	79,320	49	0.1%
2,535	Temporary Accommodation	6,526	9,178	2,652	40.6%
1,554	Total Demand-led Budget	113,372	114,412	1,040	0.9%

The chart below shows the monthly forecast variances on the demand-led budgets for 2024/25.



TBM Focus Areas

- 4.9 There are clearly ongoing pressures across many areas of the council, particularly front-line, demand-led areas which is a clear indicator of the inflationary and demand pressures driven by current economic conditions. Key areas of pressures are outlined below:
- 4.10 **Children's Services:** The final outturn position showed significant cost pressures: £0.721m on Home to School transport, and a shortfall in Public Health Funding of £0.350m. This together with underspends on Children's

Placements of (£1.661m), and other underspends of (£0.472m) result in a year-end underspend of (£1.062m). Key drivers of the outturn position were as follows:

• Home to School Transport: There were several factors contributing to the overspend in Home to School Transport. These include increased demand on the service (both at 5-16 ages, and 16 up until 19th birthday), increased numbers of children requiring single occupancy journeys, lack of local SEND school sufficiency, and increased numbers of routes required to accommodate individual post 16 learners' timetables. Market forces within SEND transport are also contributed to the overspend in Home to School Transport. The service was increasingly impacted by local driver, vehicle passenger assistant, vehicle shortages and increased running costs. There was also a lack of competition in the transport market, particularly minibus providers, which is pushed up contract prices still further.

There was increasingly less capacity in the local system to meet demand, not just in the numbers of children requiring transport but the nature of the transport requirements. There was also an increase in solo routes being created, both to educational provisions where they were the only children attending and using HTST. Since September, 12 routes were created and 10 of those were solo.

Schools' Budgets

At the end of the 2024/25 financial year there is a net deficit school balances position of £2.623m. This represents a worsening of the financial position of £2.904m when compared to the net surplus position of £0.281m at the end of 2023/24. There are 30 schools (out of a total of 55 maintained schools) that have overspends at the end of the 2024/25 financial year. This represents 55% of all schools. Draft school budget plans for 2025/26, which accommodate estimated carry forwards from 2024/25 continue to show a worsening financial position for the city's schools.

The outturn position of the 2024/25 central Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is an overspend of £0.680m. It is also important to note that the central DSG budget for 2024/25 includes the one-off funding from the underspend of £1.275m carried forward from 2023/24. This means there is an in-year overspend of £1.955m. The DSG position is described in more detail in Appendix 4.

4.11 **Adults Services:** The service faced significant challenges in 2024/25 in mitigating the risks arising from increasing demands from client needs, supporting more people to be discharged from hospital when they were ready and maintaining a resilient local provider market. It is to be noted that this is after applying service pressure funding of £10.302m in 2024/25 which has been used to fund budget pressures resulting from the increased complexity and costs of care.

The 2024/25 savings plan for Adult Social Care totalled £4.541m. There were continued actions focussing on attempting to manage demand on and costs of community care placements across Assessment Services and making the most efficient use of available funds.

The service had a Modernisation Programme which aimed to implement a consistent strengths-based approach across key work streams, ensuring robust pathways were in place, developing a community reablement offer and re-designing the front door service. The Health & Social Care system continues to be under considerable pressure, and this generated additional costs for the council due to:

- Pressures on the system due to short-term grant monies and an unresolved national, long-term funding solution;
- Significant pressures on the acute hospital resulting in increased costs to support timely discharge into residential, nursing and home care;
- Pressures on NHS outreach and other preventative services including community nursing (known as Integrated Primary Care Teams);
- Workforce capacity challenges across adult social care services.

The funding of all care packages was scrutinised for Value for Money, ensuring that eligible needs were met in the most cost-effective manner which not always met people's aspirations. Established safeguards were in place to provide assurance within this process.

In respect of financial recovery and the management of Community Care Budget pressures, a monthly savings and efficiencies meeting provided rigorous monitoring and oversight of the Adult Social Care & Health savings progress. Additionally, each month the top ten spends on placements and packages of care were reviewed to ensure immediate remedial action was undertaken to look at options and, wherever possible, reduce the cost of care whilst meeting the assessed need. Negotiations were also held with Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust regarding addressing the high spending commitment within the Mental Health s75 arrangements.

Housing Services and Temporary Accommodation (TA): The current overspend is due to increased demand for temporary accommodation since December 2023, along with a rise in rental costs. This is a national issue; however, Brighton & Hove have seen a 3% increase compared to 10% nationally. As a result, the temporary accommodation service overspent by £2.652m, with £1.146m of savings not met.

A Temporary Accommodation (TA) Reduction Plan has been developed, setting out a range of activities to either reduce the number of households entering TA; assist households to move on from TA, or reduce the cost of the TA we are using. As a broad overview, these actions can be categorised as Prevention, Move-On's to sustainable accommodation, cost reduction measures, and increasing income through improved collection and reducing void turnaround times.

The overspend relates to the following elements:

Emergency nightly booked (Spot Purchased): The budget was set for an average of 160 households per night for the year. However, since April 2024, the council has supported an average of 337 households per night, an increase of 155 compared to the previous financial year. The service aims to reduce the average nightly cost wherever possible, but greater demand, increased costs, and the continuous decline of temporary accommodation leased properties pose significant challenges. Consequently, this budget has overspent by £1.719m.

The underlying trend is that the number of households using nightly booked accommodation is increasing due to changes in the private rented sector. Over the past year, many landlords have exited the market due to cumulative external events beyond the control of the local authority, such as increases in landlord taxes, rising mortgage rates, and the threat of impending legislation. The private rented sector is also the greatest means of preventing homelessness

Booked Accommodation: The service is facing significant pressures on the overall costs of Block Booked accommodation. The budget anticipated a reduction of 88 units during 2024/25, however, due to increased demand and the limited opportunities for move households onto social housing and the private rented sector, there has been an increase of 138 units. Additionally, the council is experiencing substantial increases in contract prices, resulting in an overspend of £0.758m. The council is about to trial a pilot which would separate the leasing of the property from its management. It is anticipated this could result in annual savings of £0.345m, as well as improving the service to residents.

Private Sector Leased (PSL) TA: The service is underspent by £0.123m, driven by fewer leased properties as landlords withdraw from the rental market. There are 52 fewer properties now than in April 2024, with many renewal contracts still under negotiation. The downward trend has slowed as the service has been successful over recent months enabling more leases to be renegotiated. A marketing campaign is underway to inform potential landlords of the benefits of leasing to the council. Unsurprisingly, the new leases are commanding a higher rate and shorter terms. The reduction in private sector leased properties contributes to the increased use of nightly booked and block booked accommodation

The service is actively seeking measures to reduce the number of households in temporary accommodation by exploring innovative and alternative provision methods and move-on options as part of the Temporary Accommodation Reduction Action Plan. The service has improved its processes to reduce the use and length of stay in temporary accommodation by enhancing homeless prevention and facilitating moves to more sustainable accommodation. This is particularly challenging in a city where private sector rents are very high, supply is limited, and benefit levels remain static. Although Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates have been increased for 2024/25, the Housing Benefit rate for those in temporary accommodation remains at the 2011 level. Further efficiencies are being sought by continuing to improve homelessness prevention, identifying additional move-on opportunities, securing the best prices for all temporary and nightly accommodation, improving void turnaround times, and enhancing income collection, thereby continuing to reduce costs in line with the budget strategy

The Housing Options Service also completed a Service Redesign in May 2024. As well as achieving an annual saving of £0.285m, this now provides a far greater focus on homelessness prevention. Following transition to this new operating model we are now seeing improvements in terms of a reducing rate of households coming into TA, less complaints and improved decision making.

4.12 City Operations: The Directorate has substantial income budgets for parking, planning and venues. All of which are dependent on visitor numbers, commercial activity and the general economy. There were challenging savings targets in-year of which most related to efficiency savings by providing services in a different way as well as generating additional income. Of the £6.071m savings planned for the 2024/25 financial year, £4.742m was achieved against original aims or where they are not achievable have been mitigated via alternative measures, with the remaining £1.329m at risk. The most significant areas of shortfall are £0.357m for parking tariff and permit fees increases, £0.300m for increased planning fees, £0.355m release of heritage legacy funds and £0.287m for increased traded Digital Innovation income.

Services are starting to see a steady return to pre pandemic levels of activity, this being in line with city recovery. The savings targets can only be achieved if demand exceeds pre-2019 levels for key income areas such as paid parking, commercial activities and Planning & Building Control fee incomes. In-year pressures have been mitigated by reductions in supplies & services and holding vacant posts to reduce staffing costs, but this directly affects service delivery and has a visible impact on the city.

City Operations has been working on financial recovery plans and measures to mitigate the forecasted overspends, this includes the implication of the spend controls which remain in place across the council.

The overall position for City Operations is a net £3.797m underspend at outturn, a net increase to the underspend of £2.820m since Month 9 reflecting improvements in income collection and the continued actioning of financial recovery plans and measures. There are pressures within the outturn which have been identified in year including the pressure of £0.540m relating to the NJC arrangements with the Royal Pavilion Museums Trust, increased costs identified in Environmental Services resulting in a £0.577m overspend, a significant pressure relating to Planning fees of £1.184m. Offsetting these pressures is an underspend in the forecast for City Infrastructure of £3.302m and underspends on staff costs across the service.

The movement from month 9 is a £2.820m improvement, relating to improvements in paid parking incomes, lower than forecasted parking contract costs, coast protection grant received, 50% share of the successful Business Rates appeal for the Brighton Centre and release of surplus management fee income to revenue. In addition there has been delayed spend and further eligible capitalisation within Digital Innovation and City Infrastructure, further incomes for Brighton Centre, Seafront rents and Trade and Garden Waste. These underspends have been offset by further reductions in planning incomes, increases in BikeShare pressures and reductions in Architect internal fee incomes as a result of a reduced capital programme.

4.13 **Centrally-held Budgets:** There is an overall overspend of £1.380m. Of this £1.365m relates to the additional cost of the 2024/25 pay award in excess of the amount provided for in the budget.

There is also a pressure of £0.764m on Insurance budgets caused by an increase in the value of claims paid.

There is a final pressure of £0.896m on the Housing Benefit Subsidy budget. The main element of this is a pressure of £1.038m on a certain benefit type for vulnerable tenants which is not fully subsidised. This pressure has continued to rise since last year but is being investigated to assess what steps can be taken to reduce it. This pressure has been partially offset by a surplus of £0.178m on the net position of the recovery of overpayments.

The corporate 'Organisational Redesign' saving of £2.475m is also held in this area. The redesign has now been completed and the new organisational structure came into force on 1 January 2025. As noted previously, an additional vacancy target was applied council-wide, generating savings of £1.271m to recognise the lead-in time to implement the redesign. A risk provision of £1.000m was also set aside to mitigate this risk and these two measures substantially cover the savings target.

There is an underspend of £1.131m on financing costs (an increase of £0.384m from TBM9) which mostly due to increased investment income as a result of higher balances than forecast and long-term borrowing being delayed until next year.

There has also been an increase of £0.238m in the Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove LLP distributable profit recognised for the financial year ending 31 March 2024, following the final sign off of the Statement of Accounts for 2023/24.

Surplus income of £0.496m was received in respect of distributed Business Rate Levy surplus.

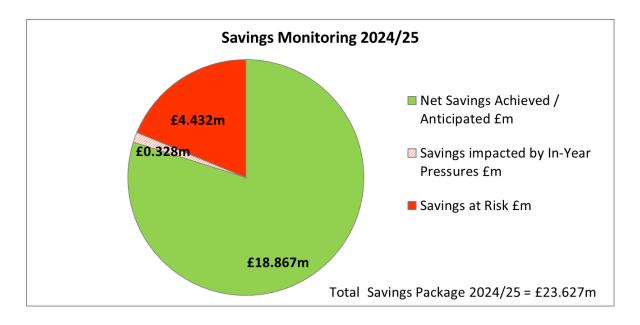
Carry Forward Requests (Appendix 5)

- 4.14 Under the council's Financial Regulations, the S151 Chief Finance Officer may agree the carry forward of budget of up to £0.050m per member of the Corporate Leadership Team (up to a maximum of £1m in total) if it is considered that this incentivises good financial management. However, due to the challenging financial situation, all requests are being presented to Cabinet for consideration. Similarly, carry forwards have only been proposed where there is clear evidence of a fully-funded, prior commitment that was not able to be completed or undertaken by the end of the financial year. This will normally be supported by a contractual or purchase order commitment.
- 4.15 Carry forward requests include grant funded and non-grant funded carry forwards totalling £4.283m which have been assumed in the outturn figures above. An analysis of these is provided in Appendix 5 split into two categories as follows:
 - The <u>non-grant funded</u> element of carry forwards totals £1.321m. These items have been proposed where funding is in place for contractual commitments, existing projects or partnership working that cross over financial years and it is therefore due to a timing issue that this money has not been spent in full before the year-end.
 - The <u>grant funded</u> element of carry forwards totals £2.962m. Under current financial reporting standards, grants received by the council that

are unringfenced or do not have any conditions attached are now recognised as income in the financial year in which they are received rather than in the year in which they are used to support services. Carry forward is therefore required to ensure the grants are available to fund the commitments against them next year.

Monitoring Savings

- 4.16 The savings package approved by full Council to support the revenue budget position in 2024/25 was £23.627m. This followed directly on from a £14.173m savings package in 2023/24 and 14 years of substantial savings packages totalling over £232m since government grant reductions commenced in 2010, and which have been necessary to enable cost and demand increases to be funded alongside managing the reductions in central government grant funding.
- 4.17 Appendix 4 provides a summary of savings in each directorate and indicates in total what has been achieved, what has been offset by in year pressures and the net position of unachieved savings. Appendix 5 summarises the position across all directorates and presents the entire savings programme. The graph below provides a summary of the position as at Month 12 and shows that gross savings of £19.195m have been achieved but that inflationary pressures (exceptional price increases) have reduced this by £0.328m. Including other unachievable savings of £4.432m, this means that a total of £4.760m (20%) was unachieved in 2024/25.



5 Housing Revenue Account Performance (Appendix 4)

The Housing Revenue Account (HRA) is a separate ring-fenced account which covers income and expenditure related to the management and operation of the council's housing stock. The majority of expenditure is funded by Council Tenants' rents and housing benefit (rent rebates). The provisional outturn is breakeven, this position includes an overspend of £0.150m across service areas offset by an underspend against the capital financing budgets. The outturn includes pressures arising from the Large

Panel Systems (LPS) emergency response, as well as variances within specific service areas, details of which are provided in Appendix 4.

HRA Risks

- 5.1 The HRA is entering into a period of significant uncertainty regarding the financial position, there are major risks that need to be addressed and monitored to ensure that the position remains stable. These risks include but are not limited to:
 - Health & Safety compliance
 - Building Safety compliance
 - Disrepair claims
 - · Rent arrears and collection rate

6 Dedicated Schools Grant Performance (Appendix 4)

- 6.1 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ring-fenced grant within the General Fund which can only be used to fund expenditure on the Schools' Budget. The Schools Budget includes elements for a range of services provided on an authority-wide basis including Early Years education provided by the Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) sector, and the Individual Schools Budget (ISB) which is divided into a budget share for each maintained school. The provisional outturn is currently an overspend of £0.680m and more details are provided in Appendix 4.
- 6.2 Currently, the government is providing legislation known as the Statutory Override facility that means any deficit associated with the Central DSG is excluded from the council's general fund financial position at the end of a financial year. The regulations require the negative balance (central DSG deficit) be held in an unusable reserve which remains there for the lifetime of the regulations. The override facility is currently due to expire in March 2026 and an announcement is expected in the near future where the government will set out their future intentions relating to the Statutory Override. This means that a negative unusable reserve of £0.680m has been established at 31 March 2025.

7 S75 Partnership Performance (Appendix 4)

7.1 The Section 75 Services represent those services delivered by local NHS Trusts and the Council under Section 75 Integrated Agreements. Services are managed by Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (SPFT) and the Council and include health and social care services for people whose primary support reason (PSR) is Adult Mental Health and Memory and Cognitive Support Services. The spend reflects the totality of people with a PSR of Mental Health and Memory and Cognitive Support, most of which is within the S75 arrangement, but some of which is within other assessment teams, such as the Hospital Discharge Team and Locality Teams for older adults. The provisional outturn is an overspend of £1.712m and more details are provided in Appendix 4.

8 Capital Programme Performance and Changes

- 8.1 The Capital programme spans more than one financial year and therefore monitoring is different to that of the revenue budget. Performance needs to be looked at from 5 different viewpoints at the end of the year as follows:
 - i) Variance: The 'variance' for a scheme or project indicates whether it has broken-even, underspent or overspent. If the project is completed, any underspend or overspend will be an outturn variance. Generally, only explanations of significant forecast variances of £0.100m or greater are given.
 - ii) Budget Variations: These are changes to the project budget within year, requiring members' approval, and do not change future year projections. The main reason for budget variations is where capital grant or external income changes in year. Some variations may also be an increase in budget for additional funding received to cover additional costs.
 - Slippage: This indicates whether or not a scheme or project is on schedule. Slippage of expenditure from one year into another will generally indicate overall delays to a project although some projects can 'catch up' at a later date. Some slippage is normal due to a wide variety of factors affecting capital projects, however substantial amounts of slippage across a number of projects could result in the council losing capital resources (e.g. capital grants) or being unable to manage the cashflow or timing impact of later payments or related borrowing. Wherever possible, the council aims to keep slippage below 5% of the total capital programme.
 - iv) Reprofiling: Reprofiling of budget from one year into another is requested by project managers when they become aware of changes or delays to implementation timetables due to unforeseeable reasons outside the council's direct control. Reprofiling requests are checked in advance by Finance to ensure there is no impact on the council's capital resources before they are recommended to Cabinet.
 - v) IFRS changes: These accounting adjustments are only applied at year-end and are necessary for the council to comply with International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) for the Statement of Accounts. This concerns the determination of items of expenditure as either capital or revenue expenditure. Only items meeting the IFRS definition of capital expenditure can be capitalised; expenditure not meeting this definition must be charged to the revenue account.

For many capital schemes there may be instances where some of the costs are of a day-to-day servicing nature and are not true capital expenditure. It would be impractical for an authority to assess every item of expenditure when it is incurred as to whether or not it has enhanced an asset. A practical solution is therefore applied instead and as part of the closure of accounts process an assessment is made by capital programme managers and Finance to determine the correct classification of capital or revenue. Where

an element of the scheme is deemed to be revenue, the capital budgets are reduced by the same amount as the items that are subsequently charged to the revenue account to ensure no overall budgetary impact. These changes are designated as 'IFRS Adjustments' in Appendix 7.

8.1 The table below provides a summary of capital programme performance by Directorate and shows that there is an overall underspend of £4.025m which is detailed in Appendix 7.

Forecast		Reported		Provisional	
Variance		Budget	Outturn	Variance	Variance
Month 9		Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Month 12
£'000	Directorate	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
0	Families, Children & Wellbeing	13,434	13,434	0	0.00%
93	Homes & Adult Social Care	6,874	6,874	0	0.00%
0	City Operations	46,030	46,013	(17)	0.00%
0	Central Hub	4,023	3,845	(178)	-4.40%
(2,281)	Housing Revenue Account	74,784	70,954	(3,830)	-5.10%
(2,188)	Total Capital	145,145	141,120	(4,025)	-2.80%

(Note: Summary may include minor rounding differences to Appendix 7)

8.2 Appendix 7 shows the changes to the 2024/25 capital budget. Cabinet's approval for these changes is required under the council's Financial Regulations. The following table shows the movement in the capital budget since approval of the Month 9 report.

Summary of Capital Budget Movement	Reported Budget Month 12 £'000
Budget approved as at TBM month 9	163,600
Reported at Other Committees/IFRS Changes	(5,776)
New schemes in 2024/25 (for approval – Appendix 8)	75
Variations to budget (for approval – Appendix 7)	7,831
Reprofiling of budget to later years (for approval – Appendix 7)	(14,954)
Slippage (for noting only)	(5,631)
Total Capital	145,145

8.3 Appendix 7 also details any slippage into next year. At this stage project managers have forecast that £5.631m of the capital budget will slip into the next financial year and this equates to approximately 3.88% of the capital budget.

9 Implications for the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS)

9.1 The council's MTFS sets out resource assumptions and projections over a longer term. It is periodically updated including a major annual update which is included in the annual revenue budget report to full Council. This section highlights any potential implications for the current MTFS arising from the 2024/25 financial year and details any changes to financial risks together with any impact on associated risk provisions, reserves and contingencies. Details of Capital Receipts and Collection Fund performance are also given below because of their potential impact on future resources.

Capital Receipts Performance

- 9.2 Capital receipts are used to support the capital programme and transformation programmes. For 2024/25 there was a total of £10.389m capital receipts (excluding 'right to buy' (RTB) sales and other HRA receipts), which includes the transfer of two properties to the HRA and the land at Moulsecoomb Hub. Other disposals include 2-3 Pavilion Buildings, 43 Shirley Street and 39a George Street. There were also receipts for lease extensions, loan repayments, deposits and the release of a restrictive covenant.
- 9.3 The Government receives a proportion of the proceeds from 'right to buy' sales with a proportion required by the council to repay debt; the remainder is retained by the council and used to fund the capital investment programme. The total net usable receipts for 'right to buy' sales in 2024/25 was £2.855m including £2.313m available for replacement homes. There was also a total of £0.163m receipts for the HRA for non RTB sales including the sale of a property and some land.

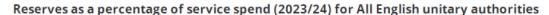
Collection Fund Performance

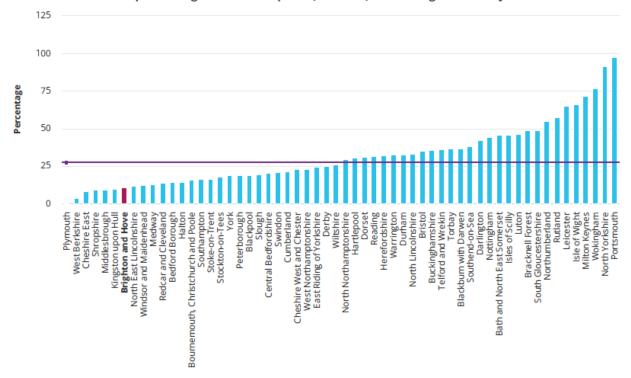
- 9.4 The Collection Fund is a separate account for transactions in relation to council tax and business rates. Any deficit or surplus forecast on the collection fund relating to council tax is distributed between the council, Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner and East Sussex Fire Authority, whereas any forecast deficit or surplus relating to business rates is shared between the council, East Sussex Fire Authority and the government.
- 9.5 The Collection Fund for council tax closed with an overall deficit position of £2.475m. The main drivers for this deficit are backdated student exemption cost £1.014m, increased Severely Mentally Impaired (SMI) exemption cost £0.768m, increased council tax reduction (CTR) claimant numbers £0.698m and reductions in anticipated collection £0.310m. This is partly offset by additional council tax premium income. The council's share of the deficit is £2.094m and represents a decrease of £0.110m from the position previously reported and this will be incorporated into the surplus / deficit position for the 2026/27 budget.
- 9.6 The collection fund for business rates closed with an overall deficit position of £5.124m (£2.306m brought forward and £2.818m in-year). The cost of successful appeals against the 2017 rating list was the main reason for the brought forward deficit. The in-year deficit position was due to significantly higher than anticipated appeal costs against the 2017 rating list, which was £4.911m above the level anticipated. In addition, the anticipated growth in

the overall taxbase was £1.714m less than forecast and there was £1.362m higher empty property relief than forecast. Offsetting these cost increases is significant additional income as the result from a backdated increase to the rateable value of a single assessment amounting to £4.836m. The council's share of the £5.124m deficit position is £2.511m. After allowing for section 31 compensation grants and contributions from the collection fund section 31 adjustment reserve the council's net share is £1.520m. This represents an increase of £0.585m from the position previously reported and this will be incorporated into the surplus / deficit position for the 2026/27 budget.

Reserves, Budget Transfers and Commitments

- 9.7 The creation or re-designation of reserves, the approval of budget transfers (virements) of over £1 million, and agreement to new financial commitments of corporate financial significance require Cabinet approval in accordance with the council's Financial Regulations and Standard Financial Procedures. There are no items requiring approval at this stage.
- 9.8 A new DSG Non useable reserve has been created reflecting the DSG deficit position detailed in 6.2.
- 9.9 The council's reserves and provisions have been fully reviewed as part of the annual closure of accounts process and a schedule of the reserves is shown at Appendix 9.
- 9.10 The current recommended minimum General Fund working balance is £9.000m. The working balance was drawn down in 2022/23 by £3.376m to fund the general fund revenue overspend, and a strategy is in place to replenish over a 3 year period to 2026/27. The recommendations within this report will bring the working balance to £7.840m as at 31 March 2025.
- 9.11 The graph below demonstrates that the council's reserves and balances are at minimal sustainable levels and remain low compared to similar sized authorities. The Medium Term Financial Strategy will be refreshed and an approach proposed for increasing the council's minimum working balance to improve financial resilience.





10 Treasury Management End of Year Review 2024/25

- 10.1 The 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy, including the Annual Investment Strategy was approved by full Council on 22 February 2024.
- 10.2 The CIPFA Treasury Management Code requires the performance of the treasury management activity against the strategy and key prudential and treasury indicators to be reported at least twice a year, to be presented to Cabinet as part of the TBM process.
- 10.3 The treasury management activity for the second half of 2024/25 is provided in Appendix 10. The main points are:
 - Investment balances have continued to reduce as the council maintains a strategy to maximise the use of internal reserves and balances to temporarily finance the borrowing need in the capital programme.
 - The highest risk indicator on investments during the period was 0.006% which is well below the maximum benchmark of 0.050%.
 - The return on investments has slightly exceeded the benchmark rates for the period.
 - The council entered into two tranches of new PWLB borrowing for the HRA totalling £60m in the last 6 months of 2024/25. This borrowing was undertaken in response to interest rate reductions to reduce the HRA under-borrowing position.
 - The two borrowing limits approved by full Council have not been exceeded.
 - The Annual Investment Strategy parameters have been met throughout the 6-month period.

11 Proposed allocation of available outturn resources

11.1 The outturn position of £1.091m underspend represents an improvement of £2.416m compared to the projected and planned resource position at Month 9 as outlined in the 2025/26 General Fund Budget Report, which included the assumption that the following allocation of one-off resources would be required to maintain a balanced budget position for 2024/25:

One-off Item/Allocation	£m
Reprofiled 2024/25 repayment of Working Balance	1.125
Reduced 2024/25 Waste PFI contribution	0.200
Assumed one off resources to be applied to 2024/25	1.325

- 11.2 The improvement in the TBM outturn position has resulted in these one-off allocations not being required.
- 11.3 The outturn underspend of £1.091m provides additional one-off resources. This allows the council to make an early contribution to replenish the working balance. Work is currently being undertaken to formulate a Financial Sustainability Strategy which will be presented to Cabinet in July 2025. An early working balance contribution is solid progress towards this objective and strategy.

12 Analysis and consideration of alternative options

- 12.1 The provisional outturn position on council-controlled budgets is an underspend of £1.091m. This is an improvement of £4.401m compared with the projected position at Month 9 and an improvement of £2.416m on the position assumed in the budget setting process.
- 12.2 The underspend provides available resources for which the basic options are to:
 - Replenish the Working Balance toward the minimum recommended level (£9m) as far as possible, following its reduction in respect of the overspend in 2022/23;
 - ii) Hold the resources in whole or in part as a separate risk provision to support the sustainability of the 2025/26 budget position given the large savings programme of £15.789m;
 - iii) Allocate the resources in whole or in part to identified priorities.
- 12.3 The proposed allocation at 11.3 above prioritises i) on the basis of the issues outlined in Section 19.

13 Community engagement and consultation

13.1 No specific consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report.

14 Financial implications

14.1 The financial implications are covered in the main body of the report.

Financial performance is kept under review on a monthly basis by the

Corporate Leadership Team and members and the management and

treatment of strategic financial risks is considered by the Audit, Standards &

General Purposes Committee.

Finance Officer consulted: Jeff Coates Date: 19/05/2025

15 Legal implications

- 15.1 Decisions taken in relation to the budget must enable the council to meet its legal duty to achieve best value by securing continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised, having regard to a combination of economy, efficiency and effectiveness. The council must also comply with its general fiduciary duties to its Council Tax-payers by acting with financial prudence, and bear in mind the reserve powers of the Secretary of State under the Local Government Act 1999 to limit Council Tax & precepts.
- 15.2 The Treasury Management actions reported in the review document at Appendix 10 are carried out in accordance with the powers conferred by Part 1 of the Local Government Act 2003, which permit local authorities to invest for the purposes of the prudent management of their financial affairs. Regard must be had to statutory guidance in the form of the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The Council's approach is considered to be consistent with that Code and the requirements of the Act.

Lawyer consulted: Elizabeth Culbert Date: 15/05/2025

16 Equalities implications

16.1 There are no direct equalities implications arising from this report.

17 Sustainability implications

17.1 Although there are no direct sustainability implications arising from this report, the council's financial position is an important aspect of its ability to meet Corporate Plan and Medium-Term Financial Strategy priorities. The achievement of a break-even position or better is therefore important in the context of ensuring that there are no adverse impacts on future financial years from performance in 2024/25.

18 Health and Wellbeing Implications:

18.1 The council's budget includes many statutory and preventative services aimed at supporting vulnerable children and adults. The budget prioritises support to these core and critical services including management of any emerging in-year pressures to minimise impacts on statutory provision.

19 Conclusion and comments of the Chief Finance Officer (Section 151 Officer)

19.1 The achievement of an outturn underspend is a favourable position, particularly when compared to early forecasts in the year which indicated pressures of over £10 million. However, alongside normal financial management actions across services, this has required the use of strict council-wide vacancy and spending controls to support the position for most of the year, which has had unavoidable impacts on some service delivery. The position has also been supported by significant one-off resources including a returned distribution from the Business Rate levy, increased investment income from high cash balances resulting from delayed capital

- project spending, a successful Business Rates appeal for the Brighton Centre, and review and release of grants and provisions where appropriate.
- 19.2 The Council's financial sustainability is a critical concern due to the very low level of reserves balances. The LGA peer challenge fed back that "The Council has very little, to no, tolerance in its financial resilience... it needs to prioritise a plan to increase the overall level of reserves at pace", and the Council's External Auditors noted in their annual opinion "a significant weakness in arrangements for financial sustainability remains". This outturn position enables the Council to begin to address these concerns. The target general fund reserves position of £9m itself is very low when looking at available benchmarks, this will need to be increased in an updated Medium Term Financial Strategy early in 2025/26.
- 19.3 The underlying position is therefore very challenging which has been recognised in the 2025/26 budget process resulting in the need to provide for around £24 million additional service pressure funding, contributing to a large savings requirement in 2025/26 of nearly £16 million.
- 19.4 The proposed allocation of the surplus resources as outlined in 11.3 to replenish the working balance is key in helping the authority move towards a more sustainable financial position.

Supporting Documentation

Appendices

- 1. Financial Dashboard Summary
- 2. Revenue Budget Movement Since Month 9
- 3. Revenue Budget Performance RAG Rating
- 4. Revenue Budget Performance
- 5. Carry Forward Requests
- 6. Summary of 2024/25 Savings Progress
- 7. Capital Programme Performance
- 8. New Capital Schemes
- 9. Schedule of Reserves
- 10. Treasury Management Update





Central Hub

Red = overspent.
Green = Underspent.
Size of bubble indicates scale of under or overspend.
If a directorate is not shown then a break even position is forecast.

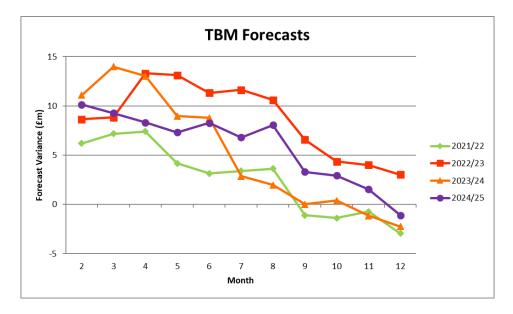


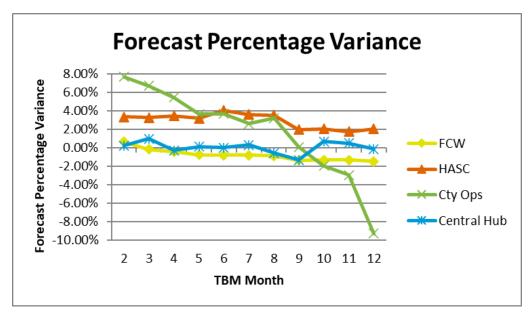


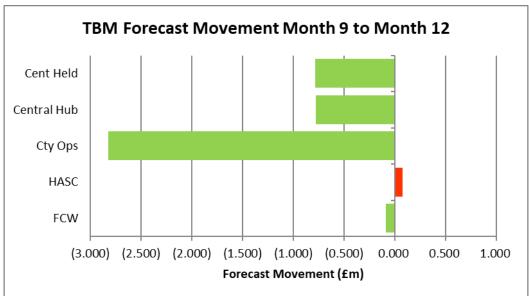
Direction of Travel

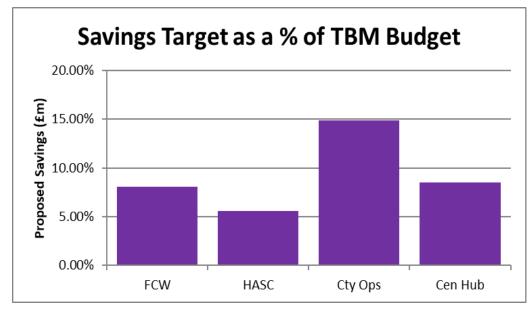
Direction of fravor					
Directorate/Fund	Provisional Variance Month 12	Provisional Variance Month 12	Change From Month 9	RAG Rating Month 12	
	£'000	%			
General Fund Services:					
Families, Children & Wellbeing	(1,062)	-1.5%	↑	Green	
Homes & Adult Social Care	2,431	2.1%	\downarrow	Red	
City Operations	(3,797)	-9.3%	↑	Green	
Central Hub	(43)	-0.1%	↑	Green	
Centrally-held Budgets	1,380	2.7%	\uparrow	Red	
Total General Fund	(1,091)	-0.5%	\uparrow	Green	
Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	680	53.4%	\uparrow	Red	
Housing Revenue Account	0	0.0%	=	Green	
A language to a section 1 Manager					

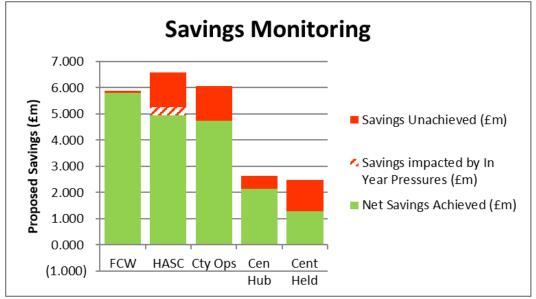
 \uparrow = Improving position, \downarrow = Worsening position











Appendix 2 – Revenue Budget Movement Since Month 9

	Forecast	Provisional		
	Variance	Variance		
	Month 9		Movement	
Service	£'000	£'000		Explanation of Main Movements
Commissioning & Communities	542	300		Underspend identified within the General Fund element of
Commissioning & Communities	0 12		(2 12)	the VAWG budget.
Education & Learning	236	576	340	Shortfall in expected contributions from Public Health.
Family Help & Protection	(1,751)	(1,938)	(187)	Reduction in placement costs for Children with Disabilities and additional savings from recruitment controls.
Public Health	0	0	0	
Total Families, Children & Wellbeing	(973)	(1,062)	(89)	
Adult Social Care	(1,087)	(1,445)	(358)	Mainly the result of achieved savings from the Direct Payments review.
S75 Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)	1,522	1,712		Increase in Section 75 related staffing costs and high number of mental health placements.
Integrated Commissioning	120	(229)		Reduced use of Crossroads contract & Direct payments as well as vacancies and frozen recruitment Improvement also due to additional Health income, including the Better Care Fund risk share.
Housing People Services	2,127	2,347		The adverse financial position is primarily attributed to last minute claim from suppliers and dilapidation costs.
Homes & Investment	(9)	46		Unachieved savings for fine income partially offset by staffing costs.
Further Financial Recovery Measures	(316)	0	316	Changes reflected in outturn above.
Total Homes & Adult Social Care	2,357	2,431	74	
City Infrastructure	(1,653)	(3,302)		Improved income in Parking and Highways and savings against the NSL contract performance. Increased staff costs capitalised against eligible capital programmes and release of grant and initiatives budgets.
Environment & Culture	223	(993)		Receipt of one-off income from a rebate of Business rates at the Brighton Centre, improved levels of income from seafront services, the leisure management contracts and additional s106 monies eligible to support revenue costs. Greater than expected Impact of spend controls and

Appendix 2 – Revenue Budget Movement Since Month 9

	Forecast	Provisional		
	Variance	Variance		
	Month 9		Movement	
Service	£'000	£'000		Explanation of Main Movements
				decisions made at year end regarding reserve and provision contributions.
Environmental Services	269	577		Costs relating to the spot hire of vehicles, essential PPE and senior management overheads. Offset in part by an improvement in cost of agency resulting from the spending controls in place during the year.
Place	389	324		Reduced income generation within Planning and Architects offset by the release of initiative and reserve contribution budgets following year-end review of the reserve levels held.
Digital Innovation	(205)	(403)		Improvement in the contract and termination fees. Reduced professional fees cost relating to upgrades and delay in planned work and increased level of eligible capitalised costs.
Total City Operations	(977)	(3,797)	(2,820)	
Cabinet Office	(7)	(248)		Increased receipt of income within tourism, released initiative budgets, particularly UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) and the Hothouse project. Improved position in staffing budgets.
Corporate Leadership Office	62	109		Senior Management recruitment costs and essential Staff Training costs.
Finance & Property	882	703		Increased costs relating to the waking watch at New England House, increased maintenance costs and reduced income across corporate buildings. These were offset by income received for contributions to social value pledge as well as other income contributions for WRBS and underspends across service budgets.
Governance & Law	(350)	(648)	(298)	Improved income for legal services and land registry. Impact of spend controls across all service areas greater than anticipated.

Appendix 2 – Revenue Budget Movement Since Month 9

	Forecast	Provisional		
Service	Variance Month 9 £'000	Variance	Movement £'000	Explanation of Main Movements
People & Innovation	146	83		Improvement in innovation underspends in initiatives and staffing budgets.
Contribution to Orbis	2	(42)		An improvement in the overall partnership results mainly due to underspends on IT&D, Internal Audit, Finance and Treasury partially offset by an overspends in Insurance and Procurement.
Total Central Hub	735	(43)	(778)	
Bulk Insurance Premia	700	764	64	Increase in the number and value of claims settled.
Capital Financing Costs	(747)	(1,131)		Accrued interest of (£0.413m) on a loan to BDBF has now been recognised as payable. Other net movements totalling £0.029m relating to other treasury activity.
Levies & Precepts	0	0	0	
Unallocated Contingency & Risk Provisions	0	0	0	
Unringfenced Grants	(13)	(509)	(496)	Distribution of Business Rate Levy surplus of £0.496m.
Housing Benefit Subsidy	1,039	896	(143)	The net position on the recovery of overpayments improved by £0.357m. There was an increase of £0.198m in the pressure in respect of a certain benefit type for vulnerable tenants which is not fully subsidised. Other minor adverse movements of £0.016m.
Other Corporate Items	1,189	1,360		£0.106m contribution to corporate bad debt provision. £0.098m writing off historic unrecovered salary overpayments. £0.033m other minor movements.
Total Centrally-held Budgets	2,168	1,380	(788)	
Total General Fund	3,310	(1,091)	(4,401)	

Appendix 3 – Revenue Budget RAG Ratings

RAG Rating Key:	RAG for Service Areas	RAG for Directorates ⁽¹⁾	RAG for General Fund
Red	Forecast overspend of 5% or more or £0.100m whichever is lower	Forecast overspend of 5% or more or £0.250m whichever is lower	Forecast overspend of 0.5% or more or £1.000m whichever is lower
Amber	Forecast overspend of less than 5% of budget or £0.100m, whichever is lower.	Forecast overspend of less than 5% of budget or £0.250m, whichever is lower.	Forecast overspend of less than 0.5% of budget or £1.000m, whichever is lower.
Green	Breakeven or forecast underspend	Breakeven or forecast underspend	Breakeven or forecast underspend

	2024/25 Budget	Provisional Variance	Provisional Variance	
	Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Rating
Service	£'000	£'000	%	Month 12
Commissioning & Communities	17,348	300	1.7%	Red
Education & Learning	2,922	576	19.7%	Red
Family Help & Protection	50,747	(1,938)	-3.8%	Green
Public Health	1,675	Ô	0.0%	Green
Total Families, Children & Wellbeing	72,692	(1,062)	-1.5%	Green
Adult Social Care	83,401	(1,445)	-1.7%	
S75 Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)	20,492	1,712	8.4%	Red
Commissioning & Partnerships	5,412	(229)	-4.2%	Green
Housing People Services	12,229	2,347	19.2%	Red
Homes & Investment	(3,417)	46	1.3%	Amber
Total Homes & Adult Social Care	118,117	2,431	2.1%	Red
City Infrastructure	(5,614)	(3,302)	-58.8%	
Environment & Culture	7,113	(993)	-14.0%	Green
Environmental Services	28,167	577	2.0%	Red
Place	2,435	324	13.3%	Red
Digital Innovation	8,713	(403)	-4.6%	
Total City Operations	40,814	(3,797)	-9.3%	
Cabinet Office	2,660	(248)	-9.3%	
Corporate Leadership Office	855	109	12.7%	
Finance & Property	4,700	703	15.0%	Red
Governance & Law	4,728	(648)	-13.7%	Green
People & Innovation	14,638	83	0.6%	Amber
Contribution to Orbis	2,932	(42)	-1.4%	Green
Directorate wide	0	Ó	0.0%	Green
Total Central Hub	30,513	(43)	-0.1%	Green
Sub Total	262,136	(2,471)	-0.9%	
Bulk Insurance Premia	3,822	764	20.0%	
Capital Financing Costs	(4,575)	(1,131)	-24.7%	
Levies & Precepts	242	Ó	0.0%	Green
Unallocated Contingency & Risk Provisions	0	0	0.0%	Green
Unringfenced Grants	(32,556)	(509)	-1.6%	Green
Housing Benefit Subsidy	399	896	224.6%	Red
Other Corporate Items	(24,085)	1,360	5.6%	Red
Total Centrally-held Budgets	(56,753)	1,380	2.4%	Red
Total General Fund	205,383	(1,091)	-0.5%	

Appendix 3 – Revenue Budget RAG Ratings

Service	2024/25 Budget Month 12 £'000	Provisional Variance Month 12 £'000	Variance Month 12	RAG
Repairs & Maintenance	18,603	210	1.1%	Red
Tenancy Services	14,981	306	2.0%	Red
Housing Management & Support	6,660	543	8.2%	Red
Housing Investment & Asset Management	2,956	394	13.3%	Red
Housing Strategy & Supply	1,344	(91)	-6.8%	Green
Council-owned Temporary Accommodation	958	447	46.7%	Red
Rent & Service Charges	(73,473)	(1,959)	-2.7%	Green
Capital Financing Costs	11,687	166	1.4%	Red
Direct Revenue Funding	16,284	(16)	-0.1%	Green
Total Housing Revenue Account	0	0	0.0%	Green
Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	146,337	0	0.0%	Green
Early Years Block (incl delegated to Schools)	27,460	(564)	-2.1%	Green
High Needs Block (exc delegated to Schools)	32,986	1,066	3.2%	Red
Exceptions and Growth Fund	3,483	178	5.1%	Red
Grant Income	(208,992)	0	0.0%	Green
Total Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	1,274	680	53.4%	Red

⁽¹) In the above tables the Dedicated Schools Grant and Housing Revenue Account are treated as Directorates for the purposes of RAG rating.

Families, Children & Wellbeing (FCW)

Revenue Budget Summary

Forecast		2024/25	Provisional	Provisional	Provisional	2024/25	Net	Net
Variance		Budget	Outturn	Variance	Variance	Savings	Savings	Savings
Month 9		Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Proposed	Achieved	Unachieved
£'000	Service	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000
542	Commissioning & Communities	17,348	17,648	300	1.7%	1,000	1,000	0
236	Education & Learning	2,922	3,498	576	19.7%	467	467	0
(1,751)	Family Help & Protection	50,747	48,809	(1,938)	-3.8%	4,241	4,163	78
0	Public Health	1,675	1,675	0	0.0%	171	171	0
(973)	Total Families, Children & Wellbeing	72,692	71,630	(1,062)	-1.5%	5,879	5,801	78

Explanation of Key Variances (Note: FTE/WTE = Full/Whole Time Equivalent)

Key Variances		
	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
Commissio	ning & Communities	
(227)	Community Cohesion	Underspend within the general fund element of services for Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG)
721	Home To School Transport	For 2024/25 the overspend for Home to School Transport was £0.721m. The overspend was mainly due to increased costs re hired and post 19 transport. The final year position showed 528 children being transported to school at an average unit cost of £9,282 p.a. and 111 post 16 pupils being transported with an average unit cost of £10,830 p.a. and 49 post 19 pupils at an average cost of £12,495 p.a. There were several factors contributing to overspends in Home to School Transport. These included increased demand on the service (both at 5-16 ages, and 16 up until 19th birthday), increased numbers of children requiring single occupancy journeys, lack of local SEND school sufficiency, and increased numbers of routes required to accommodate individual post 16 learners' timetables. Market forces within SEND transport are also contributed to the overspend. The service was increasingly impacted by local driver, vehicle passenger assistant, vehicle shortages and increased running costs. There was also a lack of competition in the transport market, particularly minibus providers, which pushed up contract prices still further. There was increasingly less capacity in the local system to meet demand, not just in the

Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget Performance

		Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget Performance
Key		
Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
		numbers of children requiring transport but the nature of the transport requirements. There
		was also an increase in solo routes being created, both to educational provisions where
		they are the only children attending and using HTST. Since September, 12 more routes
		were created and 10 of those were solo.
(177)	Safeguarding & Performance	Mainly related to vacant posts in the independent Reviewing Team.
(17)	Other	Minor variances.
Education	& Learning	
347	PFI	Due to higher PFI contractor costs and higher inflationary rates than allowed for in PFI
		budget model
350	Public Health Shortfall	Shortfall in budgeted contributions from Public Health to Families, Children and Wellbeing
		General Fund budgets
(62)	Council Nurseries	Underspend in council nursery budgets linked to higher levels of funding for free
		entitlement provision
(59)	Other	Other compensating variances
Family Hel	p & Protection	
(1,661)	Demand Led - Children's	There are ongoing significant issues with sufficiency of foster carers and other placement
	Placements	types making placing children difficult and driving up unit costs. In addition the post
		pandemic period has seen children with increasingly complex needs coming into care.
		However, the significant success of ongoing initiatives and alternative service offers,
		attempting to reverse the trend of reducing foster carer numbers and address the complex
		needs of the children being referred, has meant that it is anticipated that placements for
		children in care and care leavers remained within budget in 2024/25.
(178)	Section 17	Income received from ICB for children with ongoing mental health needs, plus tight controls
(10)		on expenditure throughout the year and reduced spending on NRPF.
(99)	Other	Mainly relating to staff vacancies.

Homes & Adult Social Care (HASC)

Revenue Budget Summary

Forecast Variance Month 9		2024/25 Budget Month 12			Variance	Savings		Net Savings Unachieved
£'000	Service	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000
(1,087)	Adult Social Care	83,401	81,956	(1,445)	-1.7%	4,282	3,777	505
1,522	S75 Sussex Partnership Foundation Trust (SPFT)	20,492	22,204	1,712	8.4%	0	0	0
120	Commissioning & Partnerships	5,412	5,183	(229)	-4.2%	259	259	0
2,127	Housing People Services	12,229	14,576	2,347	19.2%	1,992	846	1,146
(9)	Homes & Investment	(3,417)	(3,371)	46	1.3%	50	50	0
2,673	Total Homes & Adult Social Care	118,117	120,548	2,431	2.1%	6,583	4,932	1,651
(316)	Further Financial Recovery Measures (see below)	-	0	0	-	•	•	-
	Residual Risk After Financial Recovery Measures	18,117	120,548	2,431	2.1%	6,583	4,932	1,651

Explanation of Key Variances

Key		
Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
Adult Social	al Care	
247	Demand-Led Community Care - Physical & Sensory Support and Substance Misuse	The overspend is the result of high unit costs and activity being above budgeted levels within nursing care provision.
(653)	Assessment teams	This is due to a number of temporary vacancies and delayed recruitment which was frozen across the Assessment teams as well as an increase in income.
934	In-house provision Adult LD	Overspends within in-house provision for adults with Learning Disabilities due to the need to use agency and sessional staff in particular to cover long term and regular sickness.
(1,909)	Demand-Led Community Care - Adult LD	This underspend relates to Direct Payments and Supported Accommodation activity being less than budgeted.

Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget Performance

		Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget Performance
Key Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
(103)	In-House Community Reablement	Increased client income above budget
65	Community Equipment Store	The overspend is due to the usage of more expensive equipment and backdated charges.
	Resource Centres Older People	Due to staffing costs above budget and a shortfall in income
	LD Assessment Teams	Vacancies within the staffing teams and frozen recruitment
. ,	Hostel Accommodation	Additional income above budget for Glenwood House and New Steine Mews plus temporary vacancies as a result of the recruitment freeze.
S75 Susse	x Partnership Foundation Trust (SF	
		The overspend is the result of high unit costs within nursing care provision and Supported Accommodation
906	Demand-Led - Mental Health Support	The overspend is the result of high unit costs within nursing care provision.
246	Staffing teams	Due to Operations Manager posts that are not within the budgeted establishment and a post regrading. The outturn includes increased cost of joint funded with Health Partners.
Commissio	ning & Partnerships	
(218)	Commissioning	Outturn includes Better Care Fund risk share adjustment and temporary vacancies within staffing teams
(11)	Contracts	One-off underspends against variable ASC contracts
Housing Pe	eople Services	
	Temporary accommodation (TA)	Temporary Accommodation (TA) was overspent by £2.652m for 2024/25. Nightly accommodation (spot purchased) was budgeted for an average of 160 households per night for the year. However, since April 2024, the council has supported an average of 337 households per night (172 in 2023/24), an increase of 155 compared to the previous financial year. The service aims to reduce the average nightly cost wherever possible, but greater demand, increased costs, and the continuous decline of Temporary Accommodation leased properties pose significant challenges. Consequently, this budget has been overspent by £1.719m. The service is implementing additional measures to reduce the number of households accommodated as part of the financial recovery plan and future budget strategy.
		Block Booked - The service is facing significant pressures on the overall costs of Block Booked accommodation. The budget anticipated a reduction of 88 units during 2024/25, but due to increased demand, there has been an increase of 138 units. Additionally, the

		Appendix 4 – Revende Budget i enormance
Key		
Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
		council is experiencing substantial increases in contract prices, resulting in an overspend of £0.758m.
		Private Sector Leased TA is underspent by (£0.123m). This is partly driven by lower numbers of leased properties being used for TA as landlords withdraw their properties from the rental market. There are 52 fewer properties now than in April 2024. This is part of the reason for the increased numbers Block Booked accommodation. The service has been working to improve empty property turnaround times and as a result has also seen an improvement in the void rent loss. The new leases are also commanding a higher rate and shorter terms. Future costs for the authority will depend on the prices associated with any new contracts agreed with landlords as and when new contracts are agreed. The temporary accommodation staffing costs came in on budget due additional income
(5.5.1)		received from grant.
(204)	Commissioned Rough Sleeper and Housing related Support Services	This underspend relates an inflationary increase to part of this budget that was not required this year due to the scheduling of re-commissioning due on 1 st April 2026.
42	Homemove	The overspend is attributed to delays in concluding the Home Connection service.
(221)	Housing Options	There are various underspends on staffing budgets. Budget realignment is required following the restructure.
78	Travellers	The main reasons for the overspend is security costs. The service is looking to reduce the amount of security needed next financial year.
0	Seaside Homes	Breakeven has been achieved as major repairs are now funded from the Major Repairs Reserve.
Homes & II	nvestment	
30	Housing Strategy and Enabling	Increased staffing costs.
	Private Sector Housing	Unachieved savings for fine income of £0.052m partially offset by a vacancy within the Adaptations team.

City Operations

Revenue Budget Summary

Forecast		2024/25	Provisional	Provisional	Provisional	2024/25	Net	Net
Variance		Budget	Outturn	Variance	Variance	Savings	Savings	Savings
Month 9		Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Proposed	Achieved	Unachieved
£'000	Service	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000
(1,653)	City Infrastructure	(5,614)	(8,916)	(3,302)	-58.8%	1,036	679	357
223	Environment & Culture	7,113	6,120	(993)	-14.0%	817	432	385
269	Environmental Services	28,167	28,744	577	2.0%	2,137	2,137	0
389	Place	2,435	2,759	324	13.3%	1,432	1,132	300
(205)	Digital Innovation	8,713	8,310	(403)	-4.6%	649	346	303
(977)	Total City Operations	40,814	37,017	(3,797)	-9.3%	6,071	4,726	1,345

Explanation of Key Variances

Key	
Variances	
£'000 Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
City Infrastructure	
(202) Director of City Infrastructure	Achieved through releasing of surplus Consultancy and Initiative budgets
(512) Parking Services	Parking Services is reporting a surplus position of £0.512m underspend against a £28.310m net income budget.
	Parking permits is £1.101m (8.67%) underachieved compared to its budget of £12.696m. This reflects changes in consumer demand for short term and cheaper products, reduction in demand in residents and visitor permits across zones and the loss of parking capacity due to active travel proposals along with many other factors.
	On-street paid parking is £0.910m (6.13%) underachieved compared to its budget of £14.800m. £0.300m of which is driven by the removal of previously agreed zone changes last year, with a further £0.070m a result of the proposal to convert free parking bays to paid parking bays which was removed this year. Off-Street Parking underachieved by £1.060m (11.42%). Leased Car parks have been reviewed and £0.335m pressure was driven by reduced activity, resulting in poor projected profits. There are also corrective adjustments for prior year activity which contributed £0.095m to this pressure.

		Appendix 4 – Revende Budget Ferformance
Key Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
		This underachievement is offset by surplus income for Parking Suspensions of £0.877m (67.2%). In addition, there are underspends in Parking costs of £0.725m which are primarily driven by surplus Unsupported borrowing budgets in year and reductions in Staffing costs of £0.250m as a result of vacancies held in year. PCN income is set to overachieve by £1.925m from increased levels of payments particularly in relation to CCTV bus lane enforcement. This represents the switch this year to better enforcement strategies and new traffic schemes. However, there are concerns around the team staff resource to collect this debt, with increased costs in debt recovery and provisions for bad debt.
370	Concessionary Bus Fares	Concessionary travel is £0.370m overspent which reflects fixed deals for the year. The fixed deals are in response to the increases in the Government Reimbursement Tool which would have seen an overspend of £0.648m if used.
(706)	Network Management	Road Works Permit income is £0.158m less than budgeted but is comparable to previous year actual income which was supported by reserve that is now fully utilised. Other pressures are around Highway agreements which are reporting £0.290m below budgeted targets due to decreased activity for developments in the city. These pressures are offset by underspends of £0.250m from spending controls including lighting, highways and winter service. Additional underspends of £0.047m for vacancies held in year, £0.021m for Drainage underspends, £0.270m generated from increased hoarding income owing to new large hoarding licences being issued and other network management incomes above target of £0.252m.
(1,985)	Transport Projects and Engineering	Payments to Bus Operators for both base and enhanced services funded by the DfT Bus Service Improvement Plan grant where services are enhanced released £0.785m underspend in year. £0.220m underspend within Flood Risk Management. £0.478m underspend within Coast Protection as a result on staffing vacancies but also grant released to revenue supporting prior year revenue costs that were contained within budget allocations. Bus Shelters are £0.204m underspent largely due to increased advertising incomes and lower replacement and maintenance costs. £0.060m underspend on unsupported borrowing in year due to S106 monies being applied against the principle last year for cycle hangars. £0.078m surplus on Transport Projects as a result of utilisation of grants. Civil Engineers is £0.389m in surplus due to increased capital works recharges. Spending controls have resulted in more work going through capital projects over revenue maintenance. These underspends are offset by pressure in BikeShare of £0.144m from unsupported borrowing not fully covered by share of incomes.

		Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget Performance
Key		
Variances		
	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
(267)	Regulatory Services	Net underspend across the service, largely as result of staffing vacancies and spending controls.
Environme	nt & Culture	
68	Director of Environment & Culture	Costs of Service Transformation Officer and management training.
(114)	Arts, Culture & Creative Industries	Underspend from release of initiatives as a result of spending controls.
(495)	Venues and Events	£0.375m share of successful Business Rates appeal covering the 2017/18 to 2021/22 periods. Surplus incomes offsetting increased electricity costs and 1% turnover target greater than actual vacancies.
540	Museum and Culture	Pressure relating to the NJC arrangements with the Royal Pavilion Museums Trust under a contractual obligation.
(697)	Sport and Leisure	Release of £0.076m initiatives budget in response to spending controls. Underspends of £0.041m on Golf Course contracts, £0.413m underspend on sports facilities mostly around contract variation fees including releasing Leisure Management fee and other leisure provision incomes to revenue. £0.170m underspend within Seafront Services from surplus rents supporting the cost of the service.
(295)	City Parks	Underspends within Arboricultural services. Vacancies within wider city parks, use of S106 supporting management costs of projects and other expenditure reductions releasing further underspends as a result of spending controls. Offset by £0.310m pressure in Bereavement Services mostly due to reduced number of cremations from chapel closure for repairs affecting income.
Environme	ntal Services	
141	Director of Environmental Services	Net outturn following interim director and organisational redesign.
, ,	Environmental Services	£0.175m deficit within Environment Enforcement income. This pressure is offset by £0.230m underspend in public conveniences and £0.284m underspend in collections as a result of held vacancies and spending controls. Deferring litter picking on the A27 and A23 as well as other expenditure controls has brought the Street Cleansing Service to an £0.087m underspend position. There are surpluses of £0.468m in commercial and green waste collections due to increased customers.
1,527	Fleet & Maintenance	Overspend on Refuse/Recycling collection vehicle hire of £0.745m in addition to ongoing maintenance charges and other vehicle costs in keeping an ageing fleet operational. Pressure of £0.201m for ensuring Hollingdean Depot remains operational due to the state

		Appendix 4 – Nevende Budget i enformance
Key		
Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
		of the site. Revised forecasts of essential PPE to ensure service operates. An action plan
		is being developed to take longer term actions to address spend in this area and deliver a
		more resilient service for residents.
(197)	Strategy and Service	Underspends as a result of held vacancies and spending controls including waste
	Improvement	composition analysis not completed in year.
0	Waste Disposal	Break even.
Place		
	Director of City Operations	Overspend relating to staffing costs.
14	Director of Place	Legal fees in relation to i360
239	Development Planning	Underachievement of Planning and Building Control income of £1.184m due to uncertainty
		in the development and finance markets. Also, legal fee overspends of £0.140m relating to
		The Gasworks appeal. This is offset mostly by staffing underspends of £0.653m, release in
		year of planning reform initiatives and other stopped spend as part of spending controls.
	Regeneration	Black Rock borrowing costs offset by S106 revenue funding for Elder Place Corridor spend
	Net Zero	Initiatives budgets and vacancies held as part of spending controls.
	Architecture & Design	Shortfall on fee income as a result of a reduced capital programme.
Digital Inno	pvation	
(403)	Digital Innovation	At outturn, IT & Digital are underspent by £0.403m which is an improvement of £0.198m
		from Month 9. This is due to some negotiation with our South East Grid Supplier to reduce
		expected termination fees for cancelled services and a reduction in spend on a system
		upgrade. The service had reduced spend and delayed some planned work as much as
		possible in line with the spending controls. It has also capitalised the first-year licence
		costs for Microsoft Co-Pilot licences. IT&D had implemented a recruitment freeze within
		the whole of the service from 1 April 2024 to help mitigate the Traded Services saving
		target which has helped the position but is having a detrimental impact on the service
		provision, including chargeable work for Schools. Traded Services had to absorb additional
		costs relating to school closures and mergers. The service achieved some in-year savings
		on telephony spend following the migration of services to a cloud platform, however, are
		experiencing continuing pressures with inflation increases on contracts and services which
		are mitigated as much as possible by reviewing licences and usage.

Central Hub

Revenue Budget Summary

Forecast		2024/25	Provisional	Provisional	Provisional	2024/25	Net	Net
Variance		Budget	Outturn	Variance				
Month 9		Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Proposed	Achieved	Unachieved
£'000	Service	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000
(7)	Cabinet Office	2,660	2,412	(248)	-9.3%	0	0	0
62	Corporate Leadership Office	855	964	109	12.7%	0	0	0
882	Finance & Property	4,700	5,403	703	15.0%	1,890	1,442	448
(350)	Governance & Law	4,728	4,080	(648)	-13.7%	355	355	0
146	People & Innovation	14,638	14,721	83	0.6%	374	340	34
2	Contribution to Orbis	2,932	2,890	(42)	-1.4%	0	0	0
735	Total Central Hub	30,513	30,470	(43)	-0.1%	2,619	2,137	482

Explanation of Key Variances

Key	
Variances £'000 Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
Cabinet Office	
(248) Cabinet Office	There is a net underspend of £0.248m for the service, the underspend is largely a result of a combination of £0.061m UK Shared Prosperity Fund income released to revenue and £0.045m Hothouse project underspend released to revenue as project was completed in 2024/25. There were underspends in marketing expenditure of £0.069m and other small underspends across the service of £0.067m offset by a shortfall in income from other stakeholders of £0.052m.
Corporate Leadership Office	
109 Corporate Leadership Office	The overspend mainly relates to recruitment costs of £0.019m in the last quarter, staff training of £0.020m and staffing overspends of £0.082m relating to a redesign of the service.
Finance & Property	
282 Finance	The overspend is mainly due to 151% increase on the price relating to the national audit contract (£0.283m) offset by small income amounts and savings within the service.

		Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget Performance
Key Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
	WRBS	The underspend is a combination of net staffing cost savings £0.124m, underspends on initiatives budgets due to spend controls £0.160m, underspends in computer licencing as a result of restructuring of service invoicing, a £0.147m rebate income from Lloyds bank from previous financial periods overcharges, other non-government income of £0.324m from UK Power Networks and Southern Gas Network for warmth for wellbeing and a £0.070m income contribution towards Social Value Pledge released to revenue that has been offset by small overspends across the service.
1,288	Estate Management	The overspend is a combination of a decline in expected rental income, an increase in insurance costs and other overspends following a further review of costs in service. Vacant Properties within both the In-house & Commercial portfolios have caused pressures from the loss of rental income and the additional premises related costs whilst void, resulting in budget pressures. There is a pressure of £0.524m regarding the letting of Barts House 3rd and 4th floors regarding current rents and unachieved savings target for the financial year. Agricultural Estates £0.221m overspend is a result of greater than forecast supplies and services and an unachieved rent income forecast. A further £0.212m overspend from New England House mainly caused by unavoidable fire waking watch costs. There is an overspend of £0.187m in respect of Phoenix House.
	Building and Surveying	The overspend is a combination of £0.184m overspend on Royal Pavilion Museum Trust (RPMT) to ensure provisions held are in line with the signed agreement, and other small overspends in the service offset mainly by underspends (£0.146m) in Surveyors' technical service which resulted from more service fees being capitalised than forecast at Month 9.
(47)	Education Property Management	Underspends in maintenance as spending was limited to essential and reactive maintenance following spending controls.
(30)	Procurement	Underspend from Procurement rebate income £0.024m and underspends in computer hardware spend.
Governanc	e & Law	
, ,	Legal Services	An improvement in external income generation and vacancy control as a result of imposed spending controls.
	Democratic Services	Overspend due an increase in member allowances due to the changes in governance structures. This has been partially offset by an improvement in staffing costs.
(490)	Elections, Registrars & Local Land Charges	The net underspend for the service resulted mainly from Local Land Charges income of £0.244m due to increased searches prior to implementation of stamp duty and the delay in transfer of services to His Majesty's Land Registry (HMLR). There were also staffing underspends of £0.147m across Registrations services and an underspend of £0.104m in

		Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget i chomiane
Key		
Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
		Elections which includes £0.065m new burdens funding. The Elections underspend was not included in the Month 9 forecast due to incomplete central government election accounts which resulted in limited ability to accurately forecast extent of underspend at Month 9.
People & Ir	nnovation	
44	Strategic Communication & Engagement	Overspends in staffing cost due to unachieved savings from 2023/24.
(257)	Innovation	The underspend is driven by staffing vacancies, reduction in process improvement development work, stoppage of overtime, reduction in consultant support and reduction in training, voluntary temporary reduction in hours and other miscellaneous costs.
(29)	Human Resources & Org Development	The net underspend is mainly driven by staffing underspends and external income.
325	Facilities & Building Services	Overspend is mainly related to essential only responsive repairs functions due to rising costs and conditions of facilities of £0,358m. Post Room services show an overspend of £0.045m due to additional surcharges from Royal Mail whilst the service is not barcode compliant. Work is underway to ensure the council is compliant to mitigate costs in 2025/26. There is also a £0.095m increase in cost of alarm lines. These overspends are partly offset by underspends in security costs of £0.095m and corporate recycling service of £0.052m within Facilities & Building Services
Contributio	n to Orbis	
(42)	Orbis partnership	The Orbis forecast improved to an underspend of £0.386m on the overall partnership budget. This is due to underspends on IT&D, Internal Audit, Finance and Treasury partially offset by an overspends in Insurance and Procurement. The Council's share of this is £0.096m. The council's budget for the partnership is £2.932m but the projected full year cost is £2.986m leaving an overall forecast underspend of £0.042m.

Centrally-held Budgets

Revenue Budget Summary

Forecast		2024/25	Provisional	Provisional	Provisional	2024/25	Net	Net
Variance		Budget	Outturn	Variance				
Month 9		Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Month 12	Proposed	Achieved	Unachieved
£'000	Service	£'000	£'000	£'000	%	£'000	£'000	£'000
700	Bulk Insurance Premia	3,822	4,586	764	20.0%	0	0	0
(747)	Capital Financing Costs	(4,575)	(5,706)	(1,131)	-24.7%	0	0	0
0	Levies & Precepts	242	242	0	0.0%	0	0	0
0	Unallocated Contingency & Risk	0	0	0	0.0%	0	0	0
	Provisions							
(13)	Unringfenced Grants	(32,556)	(33,065)	(509)	-1.6%	0	0	0
1,039	Housing Benefit Subsidy	399	1,295	896	224.6%	0	0	0
1,189	Other Corporate Items	(24,085)	(22,725)	1,360	5.6%	2,475	1,271	1,204
2,168	Total Centrally-held Budgets	(56,753)	(55,373)	1,380	2.4%	2,475	1,271	1,204

Explanation of Key Variances

Key	
Variances	
£'000 Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
Bulk Insurance Premia	
764 Insurance claims.	Settlement of insurance claims was higher than previous years and includes two claims
	costing £0.100m each. The final overspend was £0.764m
Capital Financing Costs	
(166) Investment income	Higher expected investment income due to higher balances and interest rate than forecast.
(552) Interest on borrowing	Delay in long term borrowing until next year by using cash balances and short term
	borrowing
(413) Interest from third parties	Accrued interest on third party loan.
Unringfenced Grants	
(13) Transparency Code New	This grant was received in March 2025. The provisional Local Government Finance
Burdens	settlement announced it would be rolled into the Revenue Support Grant from next year.
(496) Business Rate Levy	Distribution of Business Rate Levy surplus.
Housing Benefit Subsidy	

		Appendix + Nevende Budget i enformance
Key Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance or Financial Recovery Measure Description
896	Housing Benefit Subsidy	Based on the final subsidy claim submitted to DWP there was an outturn pressure of
		£0.896m. The main element of this is a pressure of £1.038m on a certain benefit type for
		vulnerable tenants which is not fully subsidised. This has continued to rise since last year
		but is being investigated to assess what steps can be taken to reduce it. This overspend
		has been partially offset by the net position on the recovery of overpayments which has
		overachieved budget by £0.178m. The were other minor adverse variances of £0.036m.
	orate Items	
,	Corporate Pension Costs	An underspend of £0.090m relating to an overpayment on the 2023/24 unfunded pension costs budget. Over achievement of £0.046m on National Insurance savings on AVC scheme.
1,327	Organisational Redesign savings	A programme of work to undertake Phase 2 of the Organisational Redesign is underway alongside reviews of some functions to explore savings through functional alignment and other changes. Savings will be part-year in 2024/25 in most cases but the council will utilise unilateral spending and vacancy controls to ensure the saving is met this year in lieu of full-year savings being identified and realised in 2025/26. As a contribution towards this a 1% reduction has been applied on a one-off basis to salary budgets in 2024/25 which has generated an in year saving of £1.271m. Also includes £0.123m of residual unachieved 2022/23 savings.
1,365	2024/25 Pay Award	Additional cost of 2024/25 pay award above amount provided for in budget.
(238)	Homes for the City of Brighton &	An increase in the Homes for the City of Brighton & Hove LLP distributable profit
	Hove	recognised for the financial year ending 31 March 2024, following the final sign off of the Statement of Accounts for 2023/24.
(1,135)	General Reserves	Release of the £1.000m risk provision held to mitigate risks within the overall savings package, particularly the Organisational Redesign savings target of £2.475m which was expected to have a longer lead-in time for delivery, together with the release of the other unallocated items held in reserve.
106	Corporate bad Debt provision	Increased contribution to the corporate bad debt provision.
	Historic Salary Overpayments	Historic salary over payments written off
(27)	Other minor variances	Minor variances.
()	Guidi illinoi varianeee	Willier Variabless.

Housing Revenue Account (HRA)

Revenue Budget Summary

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000		2024/25 Budget Month 12 £'000	Provisional Outturn Month 12 £'000	Provisional Variance Month 12 £'000	Provisional Variance Month 12 %
(960)	Repairs & Maintenance	18,603	18,813	210	1.1%
137	Tenancy Services	14,981	15,287	306	2.0%
589	Housing Management & Support	6,660	7,203	543	8.2%
	Housing Investment & Asset Management	2,956	3,350	394	13.3%
(56)	Housing Strategy & Supply	1,344	1,253	(91)	-6.8%
	Council-owned Temporary Accommodation	958	1,405	447	46.7%
(539)	Rent & Service Charges	(73,473)	(75,432)	(1,959)	-2.7%
(229)	Service Area Total	(27,971)	(28,121)	(150)	-0.5%
202	Capital Financing Costs	11,687	11,853	166	1.4%
27	Direct Revenue Funding	16,284	16,268	(16)	-0.1%
0	Total Housing Revenue Account	0	0	0	0.0%

Explanation of Key Variances

Key		
Variances		
£'000	Subjective Area	Variance Description
Repairs & N	Maintenance	
(1,652)	Employees	Increased capitalisation of salary costs, largely in respect of the Electrical Installation Condition Reports (EICR) programme (£1.300m), plus underspend against the net staffing budget as a result of vacancies across the year. The underspend equates to approximately 22% of the net salary budget.
415	Premises - Business as Usual	There was an overspend against the subcontractor business as usual budget. A proportion of this spend relates to the disrepair claims, which continues to be a source of financial pressure for the HRA.
976	Premises - Repairs backlog	These costs were planned to be set against the earmarked reserve for this financial year. Given the significant improvement in the rents and service charge income forecast from

		Appendix 4 – Revenue Budget Performance
Key		
Variances		
£'000	Subjective Area	Variance Description
		Month 9 (due to 53 Mondays in the financial year) it has been possible to fund these costs in-year. This will ensure that there is a healthy earmarked reserve available for 2025/26 to fund further anticipated costs in addressing the backlog and provide some much needed flexibility in the HRA budget.
517	Supplies and Services	The service continues to experience significant costs arising from disrepair claims. A new legal resource is in place to manage the claims early in the process, enabling better management of spend and a designated team to focus on disrepair was included in the budget for 2025/26.
(46)	Other	Minor variances.
Tenancy S	ervices	
(24)	Employees	Minor variances.
237	Premises	There was an overspend of £0.143m across the service on cleaning costs, of which half is in Sheltered services. An overspend of £0.098m on clearance of rubbish, linked to fire safety measures.
102	Supplies & Services	Higher than budgeted costs for payments from the prevention fund of £0.037m and discretionary payments of £0.028m. Other net variances across the service accounting for the remainder.
(9)	Other	Minor variances.
Housing M	anagement & Support	
260	Employees	There was a net overspend on staffing costs, as a result of the recruitment of an Interim Programme Director of Housing Regulatory Response and an increase in support service charges.
81	Supplies & Services	There was an overspend against professional fees, mainly due to increased costs in Housing Ombudsman Service membership subscription.
202	Support Services	The HRA has seen an increase in the housing buildings insurance premiums, due to a change in valuation methodology as required by our insurers.
Housing In	vestment & Asset Management	
	Employees	There was an underspend against staffing costs, mainly due to a number of vacancies across the service.
323	Premises	Additional contractor capacity was procured, via a waiver, to provide new water risk assessments and there was also additional spend in relation to fire safety works.
1,060	Large Panel Systems - revenue costs	Enhanced building safety measures for the eight Large Panel System blocks, with significant costs arising from the introduction of a 24-hour security service to help manage items being taken into the building and to support with floor walks and maintaining clear

	_	Appendix 4 – Neveriue Budget Performance
Key		
Variances		
£'000	Subjective Area	Variance Description
		egress and exits to the building. The spend includes the impact of introducing 24-hour
		CCTV provision, replacing the staffing costs for 24-hour security. It also includes the cost of
		a dedicated Fire Safety consultant, weekend floor-walks, temporary plant hire, rubbish
		clearance and additional temporary staffing resources.
	Supplies & Services	Minor variances.
(935)	Income	Leaseholder service charge income was higher than budgeted, due to increased costs of
		insurance and repair costs being higher than estimated. There was also additional
		professional fee income in respect of Leasehold extension matters.
	rategy & Supply	
(137)	Employees	An increase in capitalised salaries for housing new supply was offset by a reduced level of
		capitalised salaries against ICT budgets. The delivery of new software is entering into a
		new phase which will require costs associated with business as usual to be met from
		revenue budgets.
46	Supplies & Services	An overspend against software costs, due to the change in providers. It is anticipated that
		in future years there will be a saving in relation to software costs.
	ned Temporary Accommodation	
492	Premises	Council-owned Temporary Accommodation can by its nature be volatile. There was a
		significant overspend in respect of empty properties and repairs costs.
, ,	Supplies and Services	There was an underspend against the Transfer Incentive Scheme budget.
	Employees	The recharge of staffing costs from the General Fund was slighter higher than budgeted.
	vice Charges	
(1,970)	Rents & Service Charges	There was a significant net overachievement in rents and service charge income,
		predominantly from 53 Mondays in the financial year; accounting for £1.3m of additional
		income. The balance relates to new housing supply and fewer homes sold under the Right
		to Buy scheme.
28	Empty Property rent loss	Minor variances.
	Garages & Car Parks	Minor variances.
Capital Fina	ancing Costs	
166	Capital Financing costs	There was a slight increase in the level of financing costs, owing to the timing of when HRA
		borrowing was undertaken during the year.
Direct Reve	enue Funding	

Key	
Variances	
£'000 Subjective Area	Variance Description
(16) Contribution to Reserves	As per the 2024/25 budget paper, £3.266m was contributed to reserves to fund future years pressures. The in-year budget variance of (£0.016m) has resulted in an increase to assist with future years pressures.

Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)

Revenue Budget Summary

Forecast Variance Month 9 £'000		2024/25 Budget Month 12 £'000	Provisional Outturn Month 12 £'000	Provisional Variance Month 12 £'000	Provisional Variance Month 12 %
0	Individual Schools Budget (ISB)	146,337	146,337	0	0.0%
,	Early Years Block (excluding delegated to Schools) (This includes Private Voluntary & Independent (PVI) Early Years 3 & 4 year old funding for the free entitlement to early years education)	27,460	26,896	(564)	-2.1%
1,451	High Needs Block (excluding delegated to Schools)	32,986	34,052	1,066	3.2%
33	Exceptions and Central Services	3,483	3,661	178	5.1%
0	Grant Income	(208,992)	(208,992)	0	0.0%
1,276	Total Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG)	1,274	1,954	680	53.4%

Explanation of Key Variances

Key		
Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance Description
Early Years	Block (including delegated to Sch	ools)
(380)	Early years free entitlement	Underspend on early years free entitlement budgets based on position following latest early
	budgets for Under 2s, 2-year-olds	years census in January 2025.
	and 3 and 4-year olds	
(173)	Additional support funding	Lower than budgeted expenditure on additional support funding for early years children.
(11)	Other	Minor variances.
High Needs	s Block (excluding delegated to Sch	nools)
98	Post-16 High Needs	There has been a significant increase in the number of high needs learners accessing FE
		colleges in the last year. There has also been a movement of high needs learners moving
		into the city with responsibility for education falling to Brighton and Hove.
176	Children with Medical Needs	The Children with medical needs budget was increased by a further £0.250m in 2024/25
		but is still showing an overspend of £0.176m. There is a continued significant increase in
		the number of pupils receiving education through bespoke tuition due to their medical
		needs.

Key		
Variances		
£'000	Service Area	Variance Description
218	Independent non maintained	The Independent non-maintained school agency placements budget continues to be under
	school agency placements	pressure due to increasing demand, higher unit costs and a lack of suitable local provision.
262	Special School Placements	Placements in the city's special schools for new academic year in excess of commissioned
		numbers.
336	Mainstream School Top-up	Increase in the unit costs and number of children with Education Health and Care plans in
	Funding	mainstream schools since April 2024
(24)	Other	Other variances.
Exceptions	and Growth Fund	
178	Other	Unfunded pressure relating to school premature retirement costs in the Central Schools
		Services Block

Directorate Non Grant Funded Areas	Unit	Details	Proposed Carry Forward Amount £'000
FCW	Commissioning & Communities	BHCC host the Brighton & Hove Safeguarding Children Partnership (BHSCP) budget. The local authority, NHS Sussex and Sussex Police provide the majority of the budget funding. The budget pays for the business support team functions, training, independent scrutiny costs and independent practice review work. The Lead partners agreed a supplemental MOU (in addition to the BHSCP's published arrangements) which enable a budget carry forward per annum.	78
HASC	Commissioning and Partnerships	The Brighton and Hove Safeguarding Adults Board (BHSAB) budget has continued to be funded via multi agency contributions from the three statutory partners; BHCC, Sussex Police & Brighton & Hove ICB. Carry forward is required to meet ongoing commitments and in accordance with the partnership.	162
City Operations	Place	Grant from Central Government has been used to cover staff and external support costs in implementing Biodiversity Net Gain (BNG). This has released £0.080m of core budget that will be needed to cover the project costs of new software and its implementation to assist with BNG in 2025/26.	80
City Operations	Place	Partners contributions for the renewal of our UNESCO designation (Greater Brighton Economic Board, Lewes District Council, B&H City Council)	28
City Operations	Place	External Partners contributions to the Biosphere programme (Sussex wildlife Trust)	31
Central Hub	Cabinet office	Circular Economy. Request to carry forward remaining funding to reflect upcoming publication of Circular Economy Action Plan and need to commence implementation of the plan. This funding will be used to support project delivery.	14
Central Hub	Cabinet office	Greater Brighton Economic Board (GBEB) funds are made up of funding contributions from the constituent Board members, i.e. the 7 local authorities, the educations providers, business partners and the South Downs National Park. The pooled contributions, (which are held on behalf of GBEB by BHCC) represent funds that support the GBEB five-year plan. This request is to ensure that this pooled funding is safeguarded as it will be used to deliver a number of identified work streams and the GBEB 5-year strategy action plan.	298
Central Hub	WRBS	A report to March 2025 Cabinet approved an initial £0.551m Fairness Fund carry forward into 2025/26, including approval of the use of those funds. A further £0.079m is unutilised to be carried forward against immediate cost of living priorities.	630

			Proposed Carry Forward Amount
Directorate	Unit	Details	£'000
Total Non Grant Funded areas			1,321
Grant Funded Areas			
FCW	Education & Learning	The underspend of the NHS grant funding relates to the inability to recruit to supervisor Education Mental Health Practitioner (EMHP) posts. Currently only two are qualified within the service to undertake the regular supervision that the EMHP's require. To elevate this pressure there is a business plan in place to ensure the underspend is used to cover the training of an additional supervisor. It will also be used to cover higher than provided for pay awards and to ensure increments are adequately costed on current staff. Family support hours will be increased and mentoring commissions currently in place will continue. Though the NHS have guaranteed the continuation of this grant, the training costs of EMHP's will not be continued so the underspend will go towards the costs of trainee EMHP's, if required. The grant funding is ringfenced for Mental Health Service Teams only and comes direct from the NHS. NHS have confirmed that the funding can be carried forward.	285
FCW	Family Health & Protection	Family Networks Pilot Grant 2023/24 allocation. Delays in finalising the approval structure and monitoring framework have resulted in underspend at year end 2024/25. The DfE have given authority to carry any underspend remaining into 2025/26 to meet planned commitments. The current commitment is to ensure that all remaining funds will be fully spent in 2025/26.	361
FCW	Public Health	Following delayed or suspended programmes during the pandemic period, the public health budget showed an underspend of just over £3m which was carried forwards into the financial year 2024/25. For the year 24/25 we reprofiled this underspend against one-off commitments to be delivered during the 2024/25 and 2025/26. These commitments included fixed term contracts to support the planning of the tobacco control supplementary grant, Dementia posts and maternity leave. The funding re-profile also included suicide and drug death audits, Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JNSA) programmes, Marmot planning, Family Hubs support, UOK support, and the flu vaccination programme. These were delivered in 2024/25 and where commitments continue into the second year 2025/26 these funds will be reflected as part of the underspend showing in 2025/26 year. In some cases where reprofiling had yet to be committed (e.g. Marmot planning) this was repurposed to other areas of the council to support the immediate opportunities to reduce pressure on the General Fund. In addition to	1,459

Directorate	Unit	Details	Proposed Carry Forward Amount £'000
		the commitments showing in the carry forward, the service is holding a 2% contingency against programme delivery and a further contingency, enabled by a grant uplift in December 2024 to offset NHS cost pressures, that ensures it can meet the full year budget savings as required by the MTFS.	
City Operations	City Infrastructure	2025/26 Consolidated Active Travel Fund (CATF) non ringfenced grant received in 2024/25. The grant is part of the wider CATF with capital elements to be received in 2025/26. Revenue funding is to provide funding certainty and enable planning work to commence in order to deliver the capital works.	228
City Operations	Environmental Services	DEFRA Food Waste Transitional revenue funding for 2024/25. The grant is non ringfenced and was received late in 2024/25 but the costs of transitioning will be incurred in 2025/26. Without this funding it will not be possible to deliver food waste collection by the government deadline and 2025/26 savings will be at risk.	469
City Operations	Digital Innovation	Geoplace grant - funding support for Data Cooperation Agreement (DCA) authorities received in 2022/23. Unspent element to be used to procure consultancy for upgrades. Initial scoping discussions have taken place but other Idox-related changes were necessarily prioritised over the practical delivery. Work is expected to resume in 2025/26.	8
Central Hub	People & Innovation	Assessed and Supported Year in Employment (ASYE) (DfE and DHSC) and Daily Placement Fees (DHSC via Universities of Brighton and Sussex). ASYE funding is received to support Assessed & Supported Year in Employment for newly qualified social workers in children's and adult services. Daily Placement fee funding from the DHSC paid via the universities of Brighton and Sussex for supporting students on placement. Funding year runs from September to August.	80
Central Hub	People & Innovation	DfE Teaching Partnership funding - funding received via ESCC as a result of successful bid to DfE for Teaching Partnership funding for social work education. Partnership includes ESCC (lead partner), BHCC, University of Sussex and University of Brighton.	19
Central Hub	People & Innovation	DfE Step Up to Social Work funding - funding received from DfE for Cohort 8 of Step-Up programme. This funding is for Step Up PGDip qualifying programme fees through the university of Sussex final fees due to be paid in May 2025 for Cohort 8; partnership includes BHCC (lead partner), ESCC and University of Sussex.	53
Total Grant Funded Are	as		2,962

			Proposed
			Carry
			Forward
			Amount
Directorate	Unit	Details	£'000
Total Carry Forward Requests			4,283

Savings Monitoring 2024/25

Divertents	2024/25 Savings Proposed	Gross Savings Achieved	In Year Pressures	Net Savings Unachieved	Savings Unachieved As A % Of Net Budget
Directorate	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Families, Children & Wellbeing	5,879	5,801	U	78	0.1%
Homes & Adult Social Care	6,583	5,260	(328)	1,651	1.4%
City Operations	6,071	4,726	0	1,345	3.3%
Central Hub	2,619	2,137	0	482	1.6%
Centrally-held Budgets	2,475	1,271	0	1,204	-5.1%
Total Directorate Savings	23,627	19,195	(328)	4,760	2.2%

Explanation and Mitigation of Unachieved Savings

	Unachieved	
Directorate	Savings	
£'000		Explanation and Mitigation Strategy
Families, Children & Wellbeing	78	98.7% of savings within Families, Children & Wellbeing have been achieved. There
		has been some small savings which have proved difficult to deliver, however, these
		have been compensated by underspends achieved across the service.
Homes & Adult Social Care	1,651	ASC £0.505m relates to the following. Target diversion rate 75%, only 69%
		achieved, delays in negotiating Sharelink only provided part year saving, 65+ for
		long term placement target not reached, full saving to be achieved in 25/26 for in-
		house premises budget due to delays in moving out of building and higher than expected run off costs of Cromwell Road and In-House Support Service following
		facility closures. £1.146m of savings were not achieved within Housing General
		Fund budgets due to the rising demand for homelessness and rising cost of
		accommodation.
City Operations	1,345	The unachieved savings primarily relate to income generation. Price increases
		have been applied, however the anticipated income was not achieved as they were
		dependent on demand including visitor numbers for Parking Services as well as
		residential demand for Planning Incomes. Release of heritage legacy funds was
		not achieved due to an increased claim on the NJC arrangements with the RPMT,
		however there is an ongoing review to challenge and mitigate this potential
		pressure during 2025/26 including negotiating new fee terms. These savings have been offset by underspends realised during the year across the service.
Central Hub	182	People & Innovation - £0.023m - Negotiation with unions has restored 0.5 FTE per
Central Flab	702	union resulting in 0.5 FTE reduction in saving opportunity in Corporate Services
		and City Services. £0.011m unachieved saving in communications.
		Finance - £0.128m – unachieved in financial services with respect to charges for
		services.
		Property – unachieved savings primarily relating to lease on Bartholomew House.
		These savings have been offset by underspends realised during the year across
		the service.
Centrally-held Budgets	1,204	A programme of work to undertake Phase 2 of the Organisational Redesign is
		underway alongside reviews of a number of functions to explore savings through
		functional alignment and other changes. Savings will be part-year in 2024/25 in
		most cases, but the council will utilise unilateral spending and vacancy controls to

Appendix 6 – Summary of 2024/25 Savings Progress
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	Appendix 0 – Summary of 2024/23 Savings i Togress
	ensure the saving is met this year in lieu of full-year savings being identified and realised in 2025/26.
Total General Fund	4,760

Families, Children & Wellbeing – Capital Budget Summary

Forecast		Reported	Reported at Other Committees/		Variations,	Reported			
Variance		Budget		New	•			Provisional	Provisional
Month 9		Month 9	Changes	Schemes	Reprofiles	Month 12	Outturn	Variance	Variance
£'000	Unit	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
0	Family Help and Protection	2,326	0	0	78	2,404	2,404	0	0.0%
0	Education and Learning	12,192	85	0	(2,546)	9,731	9,731	0	0.0%
	Schools	1,401	0	0	(102)	1,299	1,299	0	0.0%
0	Commissioning and Communities	15	0	0	(15)	0	0	0	0.0%
	Total Families, Children &								
0	Wellbeing	15,934	85	0	(2,585)	13,434	13,434	0	0.0%

Details of Variation requests and explanations of significant Forecast Variances, Slippage or Reprofiles are given below:

Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
	and Protection		
Variation	100	HSEND Residential Project Ireland Lodge	Budget contributions from Planned Maintenance (£0.035m) and Asset Management Fund (£0.65m) towards project costs.
Reprofile	(22)	Various	Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m: (£0.024m) Residential Project Ireland Lodge £0.002m Brighton Youth Centre
Education a	nd Learning		
IFRS Changes	139	Devolved Capital Adjustments	See paragraph 8.1 of the main report for a general explanation of IFRS changes.
IFRS Changes	(54)	Education Capital Maintenance	See paragraph 8.1 of the main report for a general explanation of IFRS changes.
Reprofile	(1,030)	Education Capital Maintenance 2024/25	Some Education Capital maintenance projects span the 12-month financial year in which they are approved by the committee. Others extend over two to three years due to the complexity and nature of the work. To ensure their completion, the remaining work requires a reprofiling of funds into 2025-26.

Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
71			
Reprofile	(458)	Education Capital Maintenance 2023/24	Some Education Capital maintenance projects span the 12-month financial year in which they are approved by the committee. Others extend over two to three years due to the complexity and nature of the work. To ensure their completion, the remaining work will need to be reprofiled into 2025-26.
Reprofile	(206)	High Needs Provision Capital	A budget reprofiling has occurred due to underspending on several ongoing projects within the capital programme. The majority of this investment has already been reprofiled into 2025/26.
Reprofile	(185)	Devolved Formula Capital Additional 2022/23	Devolved Formula Capital is a financial resource from the Government, allocated to schools by the Local Authority. Schools have the option to accrue these funds for up to three years and can request their allocation at any time. Funds not drawn down within the year are reprofiled for use in future years.
Reprofile	(116)	Devolved Formula Capital 2024/25	Devolved Formula Capital is a financial resource from the Government, allocated to schools by the Local Authority. Schools have the option to accrue these funds for up to three years and can request their allocation at any time. Funds not drawn down within the year are reprofiled for use in future years.
Reprofile	(116)	Childcare Expansion Capital Grant	Bids from providers received and assessed too late in year to allow allocation of funding.
Reprofile	(115)	Various	Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m: (£0.072m) Devolved Formula Capital 2023/24 (£0.032m) Devolved Formula Capital 2022/23 (£0.011m) New Pupil Places
Slippage	(230)	Education Capital Maintenance 2022/23	Some Education Capital maintenance projects extend over the 12-month financial year in which they are approved by the committee. Some of them have a lifespan of two to three years due to the complexity and nature of the work. The remaining work requires reprofiling into 2025-26 to ensure completion.
Slippage	(90)	Various	Slippage of less than £0.100m: (£0.089m) Capital Maintenance 2020/21

Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
			(£0.001m) Improvements to Early Years Settings
Schools			
Slippage	(103)	Cardinal Newman 4G Pitch & Changing Rooms	The final retention amount is to be paid in July/August this year circa £0.061m including fees.
Variation	1	Longhill School - New Computers	Variation to budget of less than £0.100m
Commission	ing and Commu	nities	
Slippage	(15)	Libraries Self-Service Renewal	Slippage of less than £0.100m

Homes & Adult Social Care (excluding Housing Revenue Account) – Capital Budget Summary

Forecast Variance Month 9		Reported Budget Month 9		New Schemes	Variations, Slippages & Reprofiles	Reported Budget	Provisional	Provisional Variance	Provisional Variance
£'000	Unit	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
93	Adult Social Care	3,552	1,102	0	(858)	3,796	3,796	0	0.0%
0	Homes & Investment	2,645	0	0	(257)	2,388	2,388	0	0.0%
0	Housing People Services	500	0	0	190	690	690	0	0.0%
	Total Homes & Adult Social								
93	Care	6,697	1,102	0	(925)	6,874	6,874	0	0.0%

Details of Variation requests and explanations of significant Forecast Variances, Slippage or Reprofiles are given below:

Detail	Amount		
Type	£'000	Project	Description
Adult Social	Care		
Reported at Other Committee	1,102	Knoll House Building Works	Budget had been originally set at £9.370m but later recommendations submitted to committee in July 2021 had increased this to £10.5m to account for revised contingency costs. This was not reflected in the budget at the time, therefore this adjustment brings the budget in line with the recommendations.
Reprofile	(1,030)	Knoll House Building Works	Adjustment to budget due to subsequent recommendations (see above) has led to a reprofile of budget to 2025/26.
Variation	172	Various	Variation to budget of less than £0.100m: £0.082m Adaptations to Homes of Disabled People £0.066m Telecare £0.024m Relocation of Independence at Home Service
Homes and	Investment		
Reprofile	(202)	Disabled Facilities Grants	An additional one-off grant payment was received late in March 2025, therefore will be utilised in 2025/26.

Variation	(55)	Various	Variation to budget of less than £0.100m: (£0.091m) Disabled Facilities Grants £0.035m Housing IT Strategy £0.001m Warm Safe Homes Grant
Housing Pe	ople Services		
Variation	189	3	Additional capital works to a number of Seaside Homes properties
		Community Homes (B&HSCH)	occurred later in year than were originally expected.
Variation	1	Travellers Site Fund	Variation to budget of less than £0.100m

City Operations – Capital Budget Summary

Forecast Variance Month 9	Budget Month 9	Changes	New Schemes	•	Budget Month 12		Variance	Provisional Variance
£'000 Unit	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
0 City Infrastructure	20,268	650	75	(4,826)	16,167	16,150	(17)	-0.1%
0 Digital Innovation	6,510	0	0	(993)	5,517	5,517	0	0.0%
0 Environment and Culture	15,115	0	0	(416)	14,699	14,699	0	0.0%
0 Environmental Services	6,925	0	0	(1,830)	5,095	5,095	0	0.0%
0 Place	5,692	0	0	(1,140)	4,552	4,552	0	0.0%
0 Total City Operations	54,510	650	75	(9,205)	46,030	46,013	(17)	0.0%

Details of Variation requests and explanations of significant Forecast Variances, Slippage or Reprofiles are given below:

	Amount		
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description
City			
Infrastructure			
Reported at	650	Brighton Marina to River Adur	This budget was addressed in the financial implications of the separate
Other		Works	report that went to Cabinet for this project.
Committee			
Reprofile	(1,262)	Seafront Heritage Lighting Renewal Programme	A reprofile of budget is required due to a number of delays to the project including increased scrutiny from Historic England as the project is involved with the refurbishment of listed heritage assets. Delays in the procurement of the pilot scheme due to challenges from suppliers following the selection of the preferred supplier. Specialist lifting equipment has also been required which has had to be designed, manufactured and tested to ensure suitability, plus there have been challenges in booking road space to undertake the works

Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
Reprofile	(1,066)	Integrated Transport Schemes (LTP)	Covers various small LTP projects that will be separated out into new capital cost centres as part of 2025/26 budget monitoring. This mostly relates to the A23/A259 Cycling project that obtained funding late in the year, but hasn't started works.
Reprofile	(893)	Real Time Bus Information	A new contractor has been installing these signs but there has been some issues with the first batch, therefore spending has been delayed until the issues are resolved before continuing to install the rest. This has stalled the programmes spend.
Reprofile	(848)	Bus Service Improvement Scheme	Ringfenced Bus Service Improvement Programme, monies cannot be applied to anywhere else, full balance to be rolled into 2025/26 to support ongoing projects
Reprofile	(587)	A270 Wild Park Rainscape	Work has commenced and will be continuing into next year, CNF elements should have already been spent on this and the project should finish some time in 2025/26.
Reprofile	(231)	Local Safety Schemes (LTP)	There is surplus on this budget that the service will be looking to reapply across other LTP funded capital projects that contain an element of approved safety schemes.
Reprofile	(210)	Active Emergency Travel Fund - Tranche 2	Also relates to the A23 active travel scheme, works started late in the year, budget was raised to match funds available. Budget is separated in this fashion due to ATF reporting requirements
Reprofile	(204)	Active Emergency Travel Fund - Tranche 3	To be reprofiled into 2025/26, represents full funding available and work is to start at some point next year
Reprofile	(140)	CCTV Expansion & Upgrade	Reprofile into 2025/26 represents a rolling balance that matches the life of the CCTV maintenance contract
Reprofile	(139)	On Street Residential Charge-point Scheme	Budget in line with actual grant funding available and held on balance sheet. Grant is ringfenced and cannot be spent on other projects, to be reprofiled into 2025/26.
Reprofile	(124)	Citywide Strategic Transport Model	Reprofile into 2025/26 works have commenced and are due to finish in first half of the financial year.

	Amount		
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description
Reprofile	(122)	Safer Road Fund Round 3 - A2010 Brighton	Reprofile into 2025/26, represents full funding available and work is to continue into next year
Reprofile	(116)	Brighton Marina to River Adur Works	Additional earmarked budget of £0.650m had been addressed in the separate report that went to Cabinet, although this was not fully utilised in 2024/25 and therefore is to be reprofiled into 25/26
Reprofile	702	Valley Gardens Phase 3 (LTP)	The project is proceeding as expected, however as this is budgeted from multiple sources, with different timings of when funding is available, this has caused slippage which will need to be addressed by reprofiling in 2025/26.
Reprofile	462	Bridge Strengthening and Assessment	Programme has progressed faster which has resulted in 2025/26 funding to be applied during 2024/25
Reprofile	(405)	Various	Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m: (£0.087m) Valley Gardens Phase 1&2 (LTP) (£0.085m) Structural Maintenance of Carriageways (£0.075m) Brighton Surface Water Management Assets (£0.060m) Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant (£0.038m) Safer Streets (£0.035m) Covered Cycle Racks (£0.030m) Active Emergency Travel Fund - Tranche 4 (£0.029m) Air Quality Monitoring & Public Engagement (£0.024m) Middle Street SuDs in Schools (£0.002m) DfT Challenge Fund - Western Road (£0.007m) Street Lighting Maintenance (LTP) (£0.004m) Major Projects (LTP) (£0.001m) Safer Routes to Schools £0.092m National Highways A27 Diversion Improvement
Slippage	(207)	Various	Slippage of less than £0.100m: (£0.081m) Ultra Low Emissions Taxi Infrastructure Scheme (£0.073m) School Streets (£0.035m) Traffic Signal Carbon Reduction Programme

Datail Toma	Amount	Project	Description
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description (£0.016m) Determining Emission Category Citywide Vehicle Fleet (£0.001m) Sustainability & Carbon Reduction Investment Fund - Transport (£0.001m) Preston Park Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS)
Variation	401	Valley Gardens Phase 3 (LTP)	Reallocation of budget from other LTP projects to help cover additional spend, plus Section 106 funding for additional works incorporated as part of the project.
Variation	199	Ultra Low Emissions Taxi Infrastructure Scheme	Budget amended to reflect actual grant funding that is available and held on the balance sheet.
Variation	(113)	Structural Maintenance of Carriageways	Reallocation of budget to cover overspends on other LTP projects.
Variation	77	Various	Variations to budget of less than £0.100m: (£0.030m) Integrated Transport Schemes (LTP) £0.030m School Streets £0.027m Eldred Avenue Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS) £0.016m Intelligent Transport Systems Phase 2 £0.016m Controlled Parking Schemes £0.006m National Highways A27 Diversion Improvement £0.005m Elm Grove / Queens Park Road £0.004m Concrete Road - Lifecycle Extension Programme £0.003m Middle Street SuDs in Schools
Variance	(17)	Brighton Bikeshare Replacement Programme	Variance of less than £0.100m
Digital Innovati	on		
Reprofile	(117)	Wide Area Network - The Link	Awaiting project completion and final charges from Supplier & ESCC.
Reprofile	75	Customer Digital	Reprofile of budget less than £0.100m
Slippage	(224)	IT&D FIT Programme	Delays on the telephony migration project has resulted in some costs slipping to 2025/26. The i-phone replacement and back up projects have both been slipped to 2025/26.

Detail Tyme	Amount	Duningt	Description
Detail Type	£'000	•	Description Project change multiple years and will continue into 2025/26. Further
Slippage	(129)	Laptop Refresh	Project spans multiple years and will continue into 2025/26. Further funding due in 2025/26 to complete rollout.
Slippago	(187)	Various	Slippage of less than £0.100m:
Slippage	(107)	Vallous	(£0.073m) Customer Digital Programme - Comms website
			(£0.069m) IT&D Data Program
			(£0.040m) IT Equipment for Members
			(£0.005m) IT&D Projects
Variation	(411)	Customer Digital	Amendment to budget for revenue costs that were originally accounted for
	,	9	within the capital budget.
Environment a	nd Culture		
Reprofile	(351)	Withdean Sports Complex	Delay due to other partners and third parties. Works had been instructed
		Swimming Pool	and will be delivered via external consultants to inform the necessary RIBA
			stages.
Reprofile	(177)	Brighton Museum & Art Gallery	The project involves other partners/funders - ACE & RPMT. Delay to
		Works	project caused by novation of ACE grant.
Reprofile	(110)	Seafront Railings Upgrade	Elected Members have requested officers develop a Seafront
			Maintenance plan which will address wholesale refurbishment of the
			Seafront railings, shelters and benches. It is proposed to use the existing
			£0.280m capital allocated to fund a Project Management resource
			required to deliver this plan over a 4 year rolling programme. If approved
Reprofile	(102)	Various	by Members, first phase of works would start in Spring 2026. Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m:
Kepronie	(102)	Vallous	(£0.075m) Brighton Centre Essential Maintenance
			(£0.028m) Pavilion and Mess Room Refurbishment Programme
			£0.001m Downland Initiative Programme
			20.00 mm Downland militative i regiamme
Slippage	(370)	Royal Pavilion Estate Development	Project had been reprofiled earlier in the year to account for planning
	` ,	(Phase 2 Gardens)	delays however further slippage due to project resources available, further
			time to allow detailed design and delays to appointment of lead
			consultants for Procurement tender.

	A		
Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
Slippage	(215)	Prince Regent Capital Works	Project resources have been focussed on essential programmes including income generating projects. The budget will be reprofiled for 2025/2026.
Slippage	(117)	Parks and Open Spaces Investment	Slippage due to available resources to deliver programme in year.
Slippage	(575)	Various	Slippage of less than £0.100m: (£0.092m) Playground Refurbishment programme (£0.077m) Seafront Facilities Improvements (£0.074m) Withdean Sports-Soft play Development (£0.073m) Volks Railway Disabled Access Carriage (£0.070m) Withdean Sports Complex MUGA (£0.061m) Withdean Sports Complex - 3G Development (£0.050m) Moulsecoomb Community Leisure Centre 3G Pitch (£0.050m) Stanley Deason Leisure Centre – All Weather Pitch (£0.016m) Sports Facilities LED Lighting Scheme (£0.008m) Seafront Railings & Beach Hut Replacement (£0.002m) Woodland Creation Scheme (£0.001m) Electrical Vehicle for Waterhall (£0.001m) Rewilding Residents of Brighton & Hove
Variation	977	Levelling Up Fund - Kingsway to the Sea	Contract variations that are still in dispute have resulted in project overspends. This has been funded through the use of CIL as agreed in March 2025 Cabinet rather than use of further borrowings.
Variation	399	Royal Pavilion Estate (Phase 1)	A scheme update report is planned for July Cabinet which will outline the latest position for this scheme. The additional expenditure in 24/25 was for essential Health & Safety works and to ensure the building can operate safely whilst the final list of works required to complete the project are being identified and costed.
Variation	175	King Alfred Main Pool Reinforcement	Additional grant funding of £0.149m received plus extra revenue contributions of £0.026m to fund overspend on project.
Variation	50	Various	Variations to budget of less than £0.100m: (£0.008m) Parks and Open Spaces Investment

	Amarint		
Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
Detail Type	2.000	Project	£0.029m Levelling Up Fund - Kingsway to the Sea £0.010m Royal Pavilion Estate Development (Phase 2 Gardens) £0.004m Tennis Courts Upgrade Programme £0.004m Stanmer Depot relocation £0.004m Brighton Museum & Art Gallery Works £0.003m Stanmer Park Offices £0.002m Prince Regent Capital Works £0.001m Stanmer Park Road £0.001m West Hove Seafront
Environmental	 Services		
Reprofile	(1,050)	Procurement of Vehicles	Review of vehicle approach to waste collection and implementation of environment act delayed the procurement of new vehicles. A consolidated vehicle replacement programme to bring the age of fleet back on track has been agreed at May 2025 Cabinet.
Slippage	(290)	Public Conveniences	Phase 2 of public conveniences complete, however phase 3 was profiled incorrectly and there was not enough project resource to progress with phase 3 in 24/25. The budget will be reprofiled for 2025/2026 and 2026/27.
Slippage	(246)	On-Street and Communal Bin Infrastructure	The bin infrastructure programme has not progressed due to lack of project resource to further this work. Project resources have been focussed on essential programmes including introduction of in cab technology, food waste and other projects. The budget will be reprofiled for 2025/2026.
Slippage	(122)	Improving the Communal Bin System	The bin infrastructure programme has not progressed due to lack of project resource to further this work. Project resources have been focussed on essential programmes including introduction of in cab technology, food waste and other projects. The budget will be reprofiled for 2025/2026.

	Amount		
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description
Slippage	(134)	Various	Slippage of less than £0.100m: (£0.090m) Hollingdean Depot Office Accommodation (£0.034m) City Clean Modernisation Scheme (£0.009m) Improving WEEE recycling (£0.001m) City Parks Diesel Reduction Programme
Variation	12	Various	Variations to budget of less than £0.100m: (£0.001m) On-Street and Communal Bin Infrastructure £0.008m Hollingdean Depot HGV EV Infrastructure £0.004m Citywide Street Investment £0.001m Seafront Lockup Health and Safety Works
Place			
Reprofile	(1,857)	Madeira Terraces Regeneration - Project Support	Other additional funding sources, including external funding from Historic England, was prioritised for expenditure in 2024/25 following a request from our funding partners contributing to an apparent slippage of about £1M +. The sequencing of works following TBM 9 was also changed from the original contract programme with higher value items, such as repair of the cast iron, not starting until the following financial year resulting in some need to reprofile.
Reprofile	(326)	New England House	Fire safety issues identified in the building resulting in reprofiling the project into future years as part of the Future of New England House. Next steps for works awaiting outcome of options appraisal due to be considered by Cabinet in Autumn 2025.
Reprofile	(113)	Black Rock Enabling Works	Substantial delays associated with Southern Water's works, which involved over-pumping to permit the diversion of their infrastructure delayed completion of the Black Rock Enabling works requiring reprofiling.
Reprofile	34	Various	Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m: (£0.002m) King Alfred Swimming Pool Redevelopment £0.036m King Alfred Leisure Centre Regeneration Project

	Amount		
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description
Variation	494	New England House	Variation of £0.494m from New England House City Deal funding to
			support in year costs on the future of New England House plus SIF Legal
			fees.
Variation	440	Contribution to Housing JV	Change to project cash-flow and loan repayment time-scales.
Variation	188	Various	Variations to budget of less than £0.100m:
			£0.093m Brighton Research & Innovation Fibre Ring
			£0.028m i360 Project
			£0.023m King Alfred Leisure Centre Regeneration Project
			£0.014m Eastern Seafront Masterplan
			£0.012m Seafront Investment Programme Landscaping
			£0.010m Madeira Terraces Regeneration - Project Support
			£0.003m King Alfred Swimming Pool Redevelopment
			£0.003m Elder Place Corridor
			£0.002m Black Rock Enabling Works

Central Hub – Capital Budget Summary

Forecast	Reported	Reported at Other Committees/		Variations, Slippages	Reported			
Variance	Budget		New			Provisional		
Month 9	Month 9	Changes	Schemes	Reprofiles	Month 12	Outturn	Variance	Variance
£'000 Unit	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	%
0 Finance and Property	7,677	0	0	(3,708)	3,969	3,791	(178)	-4.5%
0 People and Innovation	177	0	0	(123)	54	54	0	0.0%
0 Total Central Hub	7,854	0	0	(3,831)	4,023	3,845	(178)	-4.4%

Details of Variation requests and explanations of significant Forecast Variances, Slippage or Reprofiles are given below:

Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
Finance and		Froject	Description
		Maulagaamh Hub and Hausing	Dudgete had been reprefiled earlier in the year to account for delays in
Reprofile	(641)	Moulsecoomb Hub and Housing –	Budgets had been reprofiled earlier in the year to account for delays in
		Workstyles 4	appointing a contractor for demolition. Use of the building in that time
			supported decants of other corporate office locations. Delays around
			Section 77 required to move the project forward took time to gather
			evidence and submit to the Government.
Reprofile	(380)	3/7 Preston Circus	This funding was allocated to be released over a 6-month period which
	, ,		overlapped two accounting years. It is subject to ongoing monitoring of the
			progress of the works on site to which there is another 4 instalments left to
			be released.
Reprofile	(326)	Various	Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m:
			(£0.093m) Workstyles Phase 4
			(£0.078m) Madeira Terrace Structural Repairs
			(£0.043m) Corporate Landlord Essential works

	Amount		
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description
Detail Type	2 000		(£0.041m) Corporate Fire Risk Assessments
			(£0.028m) Asbestos Surveys
			(£0.027m) 3rd & 4th Floor Barts House
			(£0.027m) Hollingdean Lane Phase 1 Repair Wall
			(£0.020m) Access Improvements to Corporate Buildings
			(£0.018m) Park residential property repairs
			(£0.010m) Cemeteries Structural Works
			(£0.010m) Statutory DDA Access Works Fund
			(£0.004m) Barts House Trickle Vent Installation
			(£0.004m) Legionella Works
			£0.077m Solar Panels Corporate Buildings
Slippage	(698)	Carbon Reduction Measures to	Energy efficiency projects, including LED lighting retrofits to proceed to
		Operational Buildings	tender stage in Summer 2025.
Slippage	(569)	Commercial Asset Investment Fund	Structural works to Pavilion Buildings have taken longer to secure as
			detailed structural advice and solutions required as well as Listed Buildings
O.I.	(105)	0016	Consent.
Slippage	(125)	26 King Street	All involved parties not yet at an agreement though the intent is still to
	(122)		proceed. More details as terms finalised
Slippage	(123)	Decarbonised Heat Pilots/Heat	Scheme did not proceed to delivery stage as tender prices were
		Pumps	substantially higher than pre-tender estimates.
Slippage	(121)	Computer Aided Facilities	The CAFM system project is complex, and the associated budget was
		Management (CAFM) System	based upon an estimated project timespan of 18 months covering both
			system provider implementation and associated internal staffing costs.
			Timescales/milestones are unpredictable to several project unknowns and
			dealing with vast amounts of 'unclean' data, which impacts forecasting
Clinness	(400)	Enough Contificator Company	ability.
Slippage	(120)	Energy Certificates Corporate	Procurement of Energy Certificates has been undertaken. This sum should
		Buildings	be retained to support ongoing energy certificate procurement, energy
			efficiency improvements to Corporate Buildings and other priorities within
			Estates.

	Amount		
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description
Slippage	(621)	Various	Slippage of less than £0.100m: (£0.081m) BTH - PMB contribution to refurbishment (£0.075m) Schools Energy Efficiency Reinvestment fund (£0.069m) Misc Internal Refurbishments (£0.064m) Hove Town Hall PMB (£0.062m) St Lukes Swimming Pool PMB (£0.057m) New England House Fire Improvements (£0.052m) Imperial Arcade PMB (£0.043m) Mechanical Boiler Replacement (£0.032m) Barts House Mechanical Ventilation (£0.024m) Water Efficiency Fund (£0.020m) Industrial House PMB (£0.016m) Historic Madeira Lift PMB (£0.010m) Mile Oak Community Centre PMB (£0.003m) Fire Safety Improvements (£0.003m) King Alfred Leisure Centre PMB (£0.003m) Crowhurst Road PMB (£0.002m) Equality Act Improvements (£0.001m) Hove Library Phased Repairs (£0.001m) Building Security
Variation	(261)	Moulsecoomb Hub and Housing – Workstyles 4	Budget amendment for misallocation of Asset Management Fund earlier in year related to Workstyles team.
Variation	250	Workstyles Phase 4	Budget amendment for misallocation of Asset Management Fund earlier in year related to Workstyles team.
Variation	27	Various	Variations to budget of less than £0.100m: (£0.063m) Commercial Asset Investment Fund (£0.055m) Hove Library Phased Repairs (£0.047m) Decarbonised Heat Pilots/Heat Pumps (£0.033m) Asbestos Surveys (£0.033m) Corporate Fire Risk Assessments

	Amount		
Detail Type	£'000	Project	Description
Detail Type	2.000		(£0.023m) Energy Certificates Corporate Buildings (£0.014m) Hollingdean Depot Health & Safety (£0.004m) Brighton Centre Lift Refurbishment (£0.002m) Legionella Works (£0.002m) Barts House - Cladding & Window Replacement £0.002m Victoria Fountain Repairs £0.003m Commercial Portfolio Energy audits & improvements £0.004m Stanmer Park Agricultural Buildings £0.006m Enterprise Resource Planning Programme £0.013m Moulsecoomb Hub and Housing – Workstyles 4 £0.013m External Improvement Works £0.023m Passenger Lift H&S Works £0.027m Royal Pavilion External Repairs PMB £0.058m South Downs Riding School – Environmental Management £0.059m Commercial Property Portfolio Repairs
			£0.095m Electronic Document Management Replacement System
Variance	(167)	Purchase of Phoenix House	Project specification had included surveyor costs for 23/24 that were allocated to revenue rather than capital. The project has completed and accrued for retentions with the remaining variance being the final project costs coming in under budget
Variance	(11)	Mechanical Boiler Replacement	Variance of less than £0.100m.
People and I	nnovation		
Reprofile	(123)	Replacement Learning Management System	Funding agreed over a 3 year period, however, budget needs to be reprofiled in line with planned expenditure levels across the 3 years of the project.

Homes & Adult Social Care (Housing Revenue Account HRA) – Capital Budget Summary

Forecast			Reported at Other Committees/		Variations, Slippages				
Variance Month 9		Budget Month 9		New Schemes	& Reprofiles		Provisional Outturn		Provisional Variance
	Unit	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000		%
(483)	Housing Regeneration	36,692	(7,613)	0	1,659	30,738	30,144	(594)	-1.9%
(1,798)) Homes & Investment	41,913	0	0	2,133	44,046	40,810	(3,236)	-7.3%
(2,281)	Total Homes & Adult Social) Care - HRA	78,605	(7,613)	0	3,792	74,784	70,954	(3,830)	-5.1%

Details of Variation requests and explanations of significant Forecast Variances, Slippage or Reprofiles are given below:

Detail	Amount		
Туре	£'000	Project	Description
Housing Reg	generation		
IFRS	(7,320)	Moulsecoomb Hub - Housing	See paragraph 8.1 of the main report for a general explanation of IFRS
Changes			changes. In this case the adjustment is in relation to the appropriation of
			two properties from the General Fund to the HRA.
IFRS	(700)	House Purchase Scheme	See paragraph 8.1 of the main report for a general explanation of IFRS
Changes			changes. In this case the adjustment is in relation to the appropriation of
			two properties from the General Fund to the HRA.
Reported	215	Oakley House	New scheme (non-key decision) budget provision to complete design work
at Other		-	and submit planning application. To include Planning fees and required
Committee			consultancy.

Detail	Amount		
Type	£'000	Project	Description
Reported at Other Committee	192	Swanborough Drive	New scheme (non-key decision) budget provision to complete design work and submit planning application. To include Planning fees and required consultancy.
Reprofile	(650)	Moulsecoomb Hub - Housing	Full project budget approval for this scheme was granted at January 2025 Cabinet. Budget is being reprofiled to accord with an updated programme.
Reprofile	(233)	Rotherfield Crescent	A revised project delivery timeline has led to a need to reprofile approved budget to future years. The project remains within the original budget approval given.
Reprofile	(160)	Housing Joint Venture Purchase	The approved budget needs to be reprofiled to match the actual spend.
Reprofile	(113)	Eastergate Road	A revised project delivery timeline has led to a need to reprofile approved budget to future years. The project remains within the original budget approval given.
Reprofile	385	House Purchase Scheme	Budget to be reprofiled from 2025/26 to reflect updated spend profile.
Reprofile	187	Frederick Street	Budget to be reprofiled from 2025/26 to reflect updated spend profile.
Reprofile	146	Windlesham Close	Budget to be reprofiled from 2025/26 to reflect updated spend profile.
Reprofile	146	Hollingbury Library	Budget to be reprofiled from 2025/26 to reflect updated spend profile.
Reprofile	116	Palace Place Redevelopment	Budget to be reprofiled from 2025/26 to reflect updated spend profile.
Reprofile	116	Converting Spaces in Existing Buildings	Budget to be reprofiled from 2025/26 to reflect updated spend profile.
Reprofile	(96)	Various	Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m: (£0.056m) Oakley House (£0.048m) Hereford Court (£0.037m) Swanborough Drive (£0.035m) Victoria Road (£0.014m) LPS Project (£0.004m) Portslade Village Centre £0.098m Feasibility & Design - Housing Investment
Variation	1,750	House Purchase Scheme	The council were successful in receiving an additional allocation of Local Authority Housing Fund grant to deliver an additional 7 units for Temporary Accommodation use and Resettlement.
Variation	65	Kubic Apartments	Variation to budget of less than £0.100m.

Deteil	Amarint		
Detail Type	Amount £'000	Project	Description
Variance	(574)		The acquisition of 21 Homes took place this year. Minimal works were necessary. The underspend is largely a result of SDLT not being payable, due to the funding of homes from £0.021m of RTB receipts.
Variance	(20)	Various schemes	Variances of less than £0.100m: (£0.009m) Selsfield Drive (£0.007m) Oxford Street conversion (£0.004m) Housing First
Housing Re	venue		
Reprofile	(306)	Roofing	Our roofing contractor's performance and ability to complete works that are on site diminished beginning of March and on April 1st they appointed administrators. The works required to complete the programmes are less than 4 weeks work and arrangements are being made to novate the contract to a new entity or arrangements put in place to complete the works outside the contract, both of which cannot take place until after April 14th.
Reprofile	(141)	Doors	Programme was impacted by Building Safety Case applications being necessary for high rise blocks. The programme has been adjusted for 2025/26 to bring in low and medium rise blocks which do not require a BSR application.
Reprofile	(125)	Various	Reprofiles of budget less than £0.100m: (£0.096m) New Housing Works Management System (£0.029m) Upgrading Residential CCTV Systems
Variation	692	EICR Compliance Programme	It has been necessary to enhance our programme spend this financial year, taking the opportunity to add smoke detection in a number of dwellings.
Variation	390	Kitchens	There was an increase in both works programmed and ad-hoc replacements identified by responsive repairs teams, compared to budget setting assumptions.

Detail	Amount		
Type	£'000	Project	Description
Variation	282	Domestic Rewire	The nature and scope of works required, following electrical inspection have been more expensive than originally anticipated when the budget was set.
Variation	259	External Decorations & Repairs	Additional works were required to essential fire safety related blocks.
Variation	227	Windows	Overspend as a result of joint works with our external decorations and repairs planned works team to urgent required projects, involving fire safety.
Variation	183	Communal Fire Alarms (Fire Systems)	Additional works were required to essential fire safety related blocks.
Variation	177	HRA Disabled Adaptations	The final programme of works were slighter higher than budgeted.
Variation	134	Fire Safety	Work continues at pace on a programme of works to ensure regulatory compliance, including completion of fire remediation actions arising from the outcomes of our most recent Fire Risk Assessments.
Variation	361	Various	Variations to budget of less than £0.100m: £0.076m Bathrooms £0.056m Feasibility & Design £0.056m Domestic Boiler and System installation £0.048m Empty Properties £0.046m Ventilation £0.036m Environmental Improvements (EDB) £0.023m Sheltered Schemes Equipment £0.014m Door Entry Systems & CCTV £0.006m Service Risers
Variance	(540)	Home Energy Efficiency & Renewables	There was also a plan to fund insulation works linked to the planned external decorations programme and repairs and maintenance works that did not materialise in the period. There was also an underspend relating to decarbonisation studies which were previously forecast to be completed Jan-March 2025.

Detail	Amount		
Type	£'000	Project	Description
Variance	(460)	Communal Rewire	This is due to leasehold consultation & BSR application taking longer than anticipated.
Variance	(459)	Asbestos Removal Programme	This was a new work stream, where both a programme and procurement of contractors was necessary, resulting in limited spend this financial year.
Variance	(314)	Gutter Clearance	There was a managed underspend against the planned programme for this financial year.
Variance	(269)	Citywide Loft Conversions & Extensions Projects	The underspend relates to a change in delivery of planned projects during the financial year.
Variance	(237)	Cavity Wall Insulation	There was a managed underspend against the planned programme for this financial year.
Variance	(176)	Structural Repairs	The requirement to submit a BSR application for high rise blocks has impacted on project timescales, the anticipated time for approval has extended from 12 weeks to 40 weeks.
Variance	(139)	Senior Housing Improvements	There was an underspend against the planned budget.
Variance	(104)	Cold Water Tanks	There was an underspend against the planned budget.
Variance	(104)	Communal Boilers	There was an underspend against the planned budget.
Variance	(100)	New Housing Works Management System	Revised timelines for implementation of new system.
Variance	(334)	Various schemes	Variances of less than £0.100m: (£0.094m) Solar PV City Wide (£0.055m) Lifts Refurbishment (£0.050m) Main Entrance Doors (£0.039m) Condensation & Damp Works (£0.031m) HRA Owned Playgrounds Refurbishment (£0.029m) Car Parks & Garages (£0.022m) Fencing (£0.014m) Minor Capital Works

New schemes added to the Capital Programme after TBM9 for 2024/25 to be approved

New Capital Project Approval Request				
Directorate:	City Services			
Unit:	Transport			
Project Title:	Brighton Surface Water Management			
Total Project Cost (All Years) £:	£300,000			

Purpose, Benefits & Risks:

The Local Flood Risk management team have been successful in an application to the Environment Agency (EA) for £0.300m worth of grant funding to cover a feasibility study into Citywide Surface Water management systems. After a Procurement exercise the work has been awarded to Haskoning DHV UK Ltd and a £0.270m purchase order has been raised on the Flood Risk revenue code. The Review will make up part of applications to Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the EA for further funding to build new assets to manage surface water in the city, and £0.030m surplus funding from the original £0.300m will be used to support that.

Capital Expenditure Profile (£'000):						
Funding Source (see guidance below)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total All Years
Environment Agency — Flood & Coastal Risk Management grant	75	225				300
Total Estimated Costs & Fees	75	225				300

Financial Implications:

There will be further applications for spending and funding for this so there is a requirement for this to be on the capital programme. The funding will come from a combination of DEFRA and EA applications, however it is all work for the same assets. Therefore the request is for one Capital project code to cover this, which will be updated as and when new funding is made available

The first £0.300m is the Flood and Coastal Risk Management Capital Grant, it will be paid over in instalments, of £0.075m every 3 months, the expenditure on the PO should mirror the payments which creates the spend profile above.

New schemes to be added to the Capital Programme for 2025/26 to be approved

New Capital Project Approval Request				
Directorate:	City Services			
Unit: Property & Design				
Project Title:	PSDS – Peter Gladwin Primary School – Decarbonisation			
Total Project Cost (All Years) £:	£386,352.00			

Purpose, Benefits & Risks:

Match funding received from Salix Finance for the decarbonisation of the heating system at Peter Gladwin Primary School. The funding bid encompassed the installation of air source heat pumps, hot water cylinder, emitters, distribution pipework along with the replacement of fluorescent lighting with LED equivalent. This project was prioritized due to recurring failures in the heaters, which raised health and safety concerns regarding the consistent delivery of heating, as well as hot and cold water. Since their renewal was necessary, we opted for a decarbonized heating solution rather than a like-for-like replacement. The alternative would have limited opportunities for future upgrades for the next 20 years.

Capital Expenditure Profile (£'000):						
Funding Source (see guidance below)	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	Total All Years
Grant - 2024/25 Education Capital		266				266
Maintenance						
Contribution - Salix Finance (2025-26)		120				120
Total Estimated Costs & Fees		386				386

Financial Implications:

The cost will be covered by a government-provided education capital grant and contributions from Salix Finance. Future expenses will remain consistent with current system maintenance costs, funded through school contributions via the Service to Schools agreement. There will be no revenue implications, as repairs—up to a certain amount—will be managed by the school.

Appendix 9 – Schedule of Reserves

	Opening Balance as at 1st April 2024 £'000		Closing Balance as at 31st March 2025 £'000
General Fund Reserves			
General Fund Working Balance - General Reserves	5,624	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	
General Fund Working Balance - Held for Specific Future	2,579	-2,168	411
Commitments			
Capital Reserves (GF)	559		691
Library PFI Reserve	802		
Waste PFI Project Reserve	7,799	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	9,013
Section 106 Receipts (Revenue)	516		492
Section 106 Interest	530		5
Brighton Centre Redevelopment Reserve	6	-6	0
Customer Access & Accommodation Strategies & The Link	25	-25	0
Network Upgrade Reserve			
ICT Investment Reserve	494		472
Environmental Enforcement Reserve	1	0	1
IT Helpdesk Reserve	33		33
Winter Maintenance	540		540
Dome Planned Maintenance	178		195
Hove Park 3G Pitch Renewal	15	32	47
Surface Water Management Reserve	343	39	382
Community Equipment Reserve	146	-146	
BikeShare Scheme Reinvestment Reserve	71	-71	0
Sports Facilities Reserve	479	-25	454
Licensing - other reserve	18	7	25
Taxi Licensing	61	21	82
Trading Standards Seized Goods	7	-7	0
Stanmer Park Parking Surplus	250	-250	0
East Brighton Parking Surplus	70	0	70
Preston Park Parking Surplus	360		
Overdown Rise Footpath Maintenance	20		20
Departmental Carry Forward	1,751	-42	1,709
HMO Licensing Fees Reserve	522	137	659
Phoenix House Sinking Fund	60	-60	0
Damage Deposit Guarantee Scheme	94	0	94
RP&M Trust Sinking Fund	429		201
HMO Additional Licensing Fees (4)	0	826	
Selective Licensing Fees	0	1,546	1,546
Cemeteries Maintenance Reserve	62	3	65
Travellers Site Capital Reserve	79		79
Revenue Grants Reserve	4,877	-2,303	2,574
Revenue Grants Reserve - DSG	1,275		0
Collection Fund S31 adjustment reserve	130	861	991
Schools LMS Balances	281	-2,904	-2,623
Portslade Adult Learning	20	-20	0
Restructure Redundancy Reserve	55	71	126
Total General Fund Reserves	31,161	-3,122	28,039

Appendix 9 – Schedule of Reserves

	Opening Balance as at 1st April 2024 £'000		Closing Balance as at 31st March 2025 £'000
Capital Receipts & Unapplied Contributions	<u> </u>		
Capital Receipts Reserve	13,590	-1,295	12,295
CIL - Neighbourhood reserve	552	-169	383
CIL - Strategic reserve	2,987	-1,770	1,217
Government Grants Unapplied	147	-56	91
Other External Contributions Unapplied	1,434	-689	745
Developer Contributions Unapplied (S106 Capital)	159	330	489
Total Capital Receipts & Unapplied Contributions	18,869	-3,649	15,220
Total General Fund including Capital Receipts & Contributions	50,030	-6,771	43,259
HRA Reserves			
HRA Working Balance	4,120	7,537	11,657
EDB Reserves	263	-81	182
Rent Support Reserve	611	-611	0
Responsive Repairs Catch Up Works	1,005	0	1,005
Sustainability works and retrofit reserve	5,210	-5,210	0
Total HRA Reserves	11,209	1,635	12,844
Total Reserves	61,239	-5,136	56,103

Treasury Management - 2024/25 End of Year review

1 Introduction & Background

- 1.1 This appendix provides a review of treasury management activity for the second half of 2024/25 as required by the Treasury Management Code. It reports the performance against the Treasury Management Strategy and key Prudential and Treasury Indicators for the second half of the year.
- 1.2 The 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS), which includes the Annual Investment Strategy (AIS), was approved by Budget, Strategy, Finance & City Regeneration Committee on 8 February 2024 and full Council on 22 February 2024 as part of the Budget Report. The Treasury Management Strategy sets out the role of Treasury Management, the strategy for Treasury Management activity in 2024/25, and the key parameters and indicators for investing council cash balances and undertaking borrowing for the year.
- 1.3 The council is required to operate a balanced budget, which broadly means that cash raised during the year will meet cash expenditure. Part of the treasury management operation is to ensure that this cash flow is adequately planned, with cash being available when it is needed. Effective cash flow planning enables surplus monies to be invested in counterparties (financial institutions) or financial instruments commensurate with the council's risk appetite, providing adequate cash availability (liquidity) is maintained.
- 1.4 The second main function of the treasury management service is the funding of the council's capital plans. These capital plans provide a guide to the borrowing need of the council, essentially the longer-term cash flow planning, to ensure that the council can meet its capital spending obligations. This management of longer-term cash may involve arranging long or short-term loans or using longer-term cash flow surpluses. On occasion, when it is prudent and economic, any debt previously drawn on may be restructured to meet the council's risk or cost objectives.
- 1.5 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance & Accountancy (CIPFA) defines treasury management as:

"The management of the local authority's borrowing, investments and cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions, the effective control of the risks associated with those activities and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks."

2 Economic Background

- 2.1 The expectation for interest rates when the 2024/25 Treasury Management Strategy was set, based on external advice, was that Base Rate had peaked, and a number of rate reductions were forecast during the year. However, concerns of elevated inflation and wider economic uncertainty meant that cuts were not as fast and deep as previously forecast. The expectation is that the Bank of England Base Rate will continue to be reduced steadily further during 2025/26.
- 2.2 A full summary of the economic background for 2024/25 has been provided by the council's treasury management advisors, MUFG Corporate Markets (MUFG formerly Link Asset Services), at **Annex 2**.

3 Treasury Management Activity

- 3.1 Within the year, the council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements with regards to treasury management. A summary of the actions taken in the 6 months to March 2025 is provided within this appendix. The main points are:
 - Investment balances have continued to reduce as the council maintains a strategy to maximise internal reserves and balances to temporarily finance the borrowing need in the capital programme.
 - The highest risk indicator on investments during the period was 0.006% which is below the maximum benchmark of 0.050%.
 - The return on investments has slightly exceeded the benchmark rates for the period.
 - The council entered into two tranches of new HRA PWLB borrowing totalling £60m in the last 6 months of 2024/25 in response to interest rate reductions to reduce the HRA under-borrowing position.
 - The two borrowing limits approved by full Council have not been exceeded.
 - The Annual Investment Strategy parameters have been met throughout the 6-month period.
- 3.2 The following table summarises the treasury activity in the half year to March 2025 compared to the corresponding period in the previous year. The final column shows the full year activity for 2024/25.

Treasury Activity	Oct - Mar 2022/23	Oct - Mar 2023/24	Oct - Mar 2024/25	Full Year 2024/25
Long-term borrowing raised (General Fund)	(£0.0m)	(£0.0m)	(£0.0m)	(£0.0m)
Long-term borrowing raised (HRA)	(£0.0m)	(£0.0m)	(£60.0m)	(£60.0m)
Long-term borrowing repaid (General Fund)	£5.3m	£4.2m	£0.6m	£7.2m
Long-term borrowing repaid (HRA)	£5.4m	£4.2m	£0.0m	£7.0m
Short-term borrowing (raised)/repaid	(£0.5m)	(£25.0m)	(£1.0m)	£18.0m
Investments made	£314.9m	£334.6m	£375.2m	£710.3m
Investments maturing	(£397.4m)	(£407.0m)	(£374.7m)	(£765.6m)

- 3.3 The Financing Costs budget variance in 2024/25 was a £1.131m underspend. This is primarily due to lower than anticipated borrowing costs where the council has maintained a strategy to utilise internal borrowing as much as possible, as well as investment rates being greater than anticipated as Base Rate reductions were not as fast and deep as previously forecast. In addition, the council recognised one-off interest payable of £0.413m relating to an external loan that became payable during the year.
- 3.4 The table below summarises how the day-to-day cash flows in the second half-year have been funded compared to the same period in the previous two years, with the final column showing the full year cashflows for 2024/25. There has been a significant reduction in investment balances over the last three years mainly because of a significant increase in under-borrowing, using the council's own internal reserves and balances to temporarily finance the borrowing need in the capital programme. In addition, the council has undertaken long-term PWLB borrowing in the year to reduce the HRA under-borrowing position in response to interest rates reductions and reducing cash balances.

Appendix 10 - Treasury Management - End of Year Review

	Oct - Mar 2022/23	Oct - Mar 2023/24	Oct - Mar 2024/25	Full Year 2024/25
Net cash flow (shortage)/surplus	(£72.1m)	(£88.0m)	(£57.0m)	(£77.5m)
Represented by:				
Increase/(reduction) in long-term	(£10.7m)	(£8.4m)	£59.4m	£45.9m
borrowing				
Increase/(reduction) in short-term	£0.5m	£25.0m	(£1.4m)	(£23.9m)
borrowing				
Reduction/(increase) in investments	£82.5m	£73.4m	(£0.5m)	£55.3m
Reduction/(increase) in bank balance	(£0.2m)	(£1.0m)	(£0.5m)	£0.2m

4 Investment Strategy

- 4.1 All parameters in the Annual Investment Strategy have been complied with in full.
- 4.2 No new counterparties have been added to the approved counterparty list during the year.
- 4.3 A summary of investments made by the in-house team and outstanding as at 31 March 2025 is set out in the table below and shows that investments continue to be held in good quality, short-term instruments in line with the approved strategy.

Summary of Investments as at 31 March 2025		
'AAA' rated money market funds	£11.7m	37%
'AA' rated institutions*	£0.0m	0%
'A' rated institutions	£10.7m	34%
'BBB' rated institutions	£0.0m	0%
Unrated Funds	£9.3m	29%
Total	£31.7m	100%
Period – less than one week	£21.1m	67%
Period – between one week and one month	£5.6m	18%
Period – between one month and three months	£0.0m	0%
Period – between three months and 1 year	£0.0m	0%
Period – more than 1 year**	£5.0m	15%
Total	£31.7m	100%

^{*} For the purposes of this analysis, other Local Authorities are assumed to have the same credit rating as the UK government (AA).

Risk

4.4 As part of the investment strategy for 2024/25 the council agreed a maximum risk benchmark of 0.05% i.e. there is a 99.95% probability that the council will get its investments back. The benchmark is a simple target that measures risk based on the financial standing of counterparties and length of each investment based on historic default rates. The actual risk indicator has varied between 0.001% and 0.006% between October 2024 and March 2025, reflecting the high proportion of investments held in high security and/or very liquid investments. It should be remembered however that the benchmark is an 'average risk of default' measure and does not constitute an expectation of loss for any particular investment.

Investment Risk benchmark	0.050%
Maximum investment risk experienced Oct - Mar	0.006%

4.5 The treasury management service is subject to a detailed audit on a regular basis. This includes the testing of the control environment and the management of risk. A

^{**} All investments that are over one year either have a legal offset against debt with the same counterparty, or are with other Local Authorities.

'substantial' level of assurance was provided during the most recent audit in January 2025, meaning that controls are in place and are operating as expected to manage key risks to the achievement of system or service objectives.

Investment Performance

- 4.6 The council's investment portfolio (adjusted for pooled funds) achieved an average rate of 4.70% over the last six months of the year against a benchmark rate of 4.68% for the same period. The investments performance has therefore outperformed the SONIA benchmark rate by 0.02%, as investment balances have been largely maintained in liquidity MMFs where there is usually a timing lag of the reducing Base Rate being reflected in yields.
- 4.7 The following table summarises the performance achieved on investments compared to the approved benchmark for the whole year.

Investment Performance	Apr - Sept 2024/25	Oct - Mar 2024/25	Full Year 2024/25
Average Investment Rate	5.21%	4.70%	5.04%
SONIA Benchmark Rate	5.12%	4.68%	4.90%
Performance Against Benchmark Rate	+0.09%	+0.02%	+0.14%

- 4.8 Since Base Rates peaked at 5.25%, there have been several Base Rate reductions, with the latest being a reduction to 4.50% in February 2025. The transition to a falling rate environment, combined with significantly reduced liquid balances has prompted the decision not to place any long-term investments during the period. The current priority for officers is to maintain sufficient liquidity to allow the council to limit external borrowing whilst rates continue to fall.
- 4.9 The Royal London (RLAM) short dated funds total return (capital and revenue combined) was 6.20% for the year to March 2025. The value of the investment as at 31 March 2025 was £9.284m, which presents a reduction of capital value compared to an initial investment of £10.000m. This reduction of capital value is not a reduction in the worth of the individual assets in the fund but reflects a "marked to market" valuation of the funds at the end of each month, declining due to the steep rise in interest rates from December 2021. Capital valuations have improved by 0.97% since 31 March 2024; a trend that is expected to continue now that the Base Rate has peaked and continues to fall.

5 Borrowing

5.1 The council operates separate debt portfolios for the General Fund and the HRA following the introduction of the HRA Self-Financing regime in 2012. The table below shows the Council's total external borrowing and average rates as at 31 March 2025, split between the General Fund and the HRA.

	General	HRA	Total	Average
	Fund	Borrowing	Borrowing	Rate
	Borrowing	£m		
PWLB	£144.5m	£236.0m	£380.5m	2.97%
Market Loans	£16.3m	£18.7m	£35.0m	4.33%
Long-term borrowing	£160.8m	£254.7m	£415.5m	3.08%
Average rate of long-term	3.00%	3.14%	3.08%	
borrowing	3.00/8	3.14/0	3.00%	
Short-term borrowing	£5.0m	£0.0m	£5.0m	6.10%
Total Borrowing	£165.8m	£254.7m	£420.5m	3.12%

- 5.2 MUFG had been forecasting that interest rates had peaked and would begin to fall during 2024/25. Therefore, new long-term borrowing for both the General Fund and the HRA had been avoided over the last two years with the borrowing need for the capital programme being met by using existing cash balances and short-term borrowing from other local authorities until long-term rates start reducing.
- 5.3 In response to interest rate reductions and falling cash balances to support the under-borrowing position, the council undertook new long-term PWLB borrowing of £60m during 2024/25 towards the HRA under-borrowing position. This borrowing was undertaken in two tranches to mature in 2025/26 and 2026/27, to enable refinancing when borrowing rates are expected to reduce further.
- 5.4 The General Fund capital outturn includes projects funded by borrowing of £26.7m compared to an original estimate of £50.0m and the HRA Capital Outturn includes projects funded by borrowing of £43.2m compared to an original estimate of £62.0m.
- 5.5 The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) for both the General Fund and HRA are shown in the table below.

General Fund Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) – Underlying Borrowing requirement	Original Estimate 2024/25	Actual 2024/25
Opening General Fund CFR	£237.0m	£233.6m
In year borrowing requirement	£50.0m	£26.7m
Minimum Revenue Provision	(£11.0m)	(£10.5m)
Closing General Fund CFR	£276.0m	£249.8m
GF External Long-term Borrowing as at 31 March 2025		£160.8m
GF Under-borrowing as at 31 March 2025		£89.0m
HRA Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) –	Original	
Underlying Borrowing requirement	Estimate	Actual
	2024/25	2024/25
Opening HRA CFR	£239.0m	£242.0m
In year borrowing requirement	£62.0m	£43.2m
Minimum Revenue Provision	£0.0m	£0.0m
	2224	£285.2m
Closing HRA CFR	£301.0m	£200.2III
Closing HRA CFR HRA External Long-term Borrowing as at 31 March 2025	£301.0m	£254.7m

5.6 The overall under-borrowing position of the council as at 31 March 2025 is £119.5m. The table below highlights an increase of £13.4m compared to the previous financial year, due to an increase in the council's CFR partly offset by an net increase in the external long-term borrowing position. The increase in internal borrowing has been supported by reducing the Council's investment balances during the year.

Under-borrowing as at 31 March 2025	2023/24	2024/25
Total CFR	£475.7m	£535.0m
Less: External long-term borrowing	(£369.6m)	(£415.5m)
Total Under-borrowing	£106.1m	£119.5m

5.7 Short-term borrowing of £5.0m was undertaken in March 2025 from another Local Authority to fund temporary reductions in liquid cash at the financial year end, when

cash balances are usually at their lowest. The short-term borrowing was undertaken at a rate of 6.10%. This rate reflects a particularly high demand for short-term borrowing between Local Authorities in March; Local Authorities tend to have very similar cash flow patterns, additionally many Local Authorities are utilising very similar strategies of avoiding long-term borrowing. This short-term borrowing was repaid during April 2025 to minimise the borrowing cost.

5.8 The table below shows that the Council has complied with the Operational Boundary and Authorised Borrowing Limits set within the Treasury Management strategy.

Borrowing Limits	Operational Boundary	Authorised Borrowing Limit
Limit set for 2024/25	£630.0m	£680.0m
Less: PFI & Leases	£44.0m	£44.0m
Limit for Underlying Borrowing	£586.0m	£636.0m
Actual External Borrowing at 31 March 2025	£420.5m	£420.5m
Headroom*	£165.5m	£215.5m

^{*}Authorised Borrowing headroom cannot be less than zero

5.9 The maturity profile of the Authority's borrowing has complied with the limits set within the strategy. There has been an increase in the borrowing with maturity between 12 months to 2 years relating to the new borrowing undertaken in year to enable refinancing when borrowing rates are expected to reduce further.

Maturity Structure of borrowing	Lower Limit set	Upper Limit set	Actual as at 31 March 2025
Under 12 Months	0%	40%	8%
12 months to 2 years	0%	40%	10%
2 years to 5 years	0%	50%	2%
5 years to 10 years	0%	75%	4%
Over 10 years	40%	100%	76%

6 Treasury Advisors

6.1 Officers recognise that responsibility for decisions remains with the organisation at all times and ensure that undue reliance is not placed upon external service providers and advisers. However, it is recognised that there is value in employing external providers of treasury management services in order to access specialist skills and resources.

7 Member Training

- 7.1 It is a requirement of CIPFA's Treasury Management code to ensure that the members responsible for decision making and scrutiny of the authority's TMSS are adequately trained to undertake their roles in this area.
- 7.2 Treasury Management training was last provided in January 2024. This was offered to all members and is currently available on the Members section of the Learning Zone.

Annex 1 - Glossary of Terms

Authorised Borrowing Limit: The limit for which the council's external borrowing cannot breach. This limit is set by Council as part of the budget each year. This needs to be approved by Council to amend in the year if required.

Capital Financing Requirement (CFR): The council's cumulative need to borrow to support its capital programme. This increases each year by capital expenditure where existing funding streams (such as reserves, capital receipts, grants or revenue contributions) have not been applied (which is also known as funding through borrowing). The Council must make an annual minimum revenue provision (MRP) which reduces the CFR.

Credit Ratings: The council uses the credit ratings for counterparties provided by the three main credit ratings agencies (Moodys, Fitch and Standard & Poor) to determine how much and for how long the council can lend to them. The highest credit rating as described in the strategy is AAA, and the lowest credit rating that the council is willing to lend to is BBB.

Debt Maturity Profile: The timeline over which the council has to repay its debt. A smooth profile is preferable, as small, regular repayments reduce the risk of having to replace a lot of debt at a time when it may not be the optimum market conditions.

Lender Option Borrower Option (LOBO) Loans: Loans held with market lenders (such as banks), where lenders hold the right to increase the interest rate on the loans at set intervals during the loan. The council has the right to repay the loans without penalty if the lender choses to increase the interest rate.

Marked to Market: An accounting method of measuring the fair value of investments at a point in time by valuing the investment under prevailing market conditions.

Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP): A statutory provision that the council sets aside from revenue to reduce its CFR. This has the impact of setting aside the cash to repay any debt incurred as a result of funding the capital programme by borrowing.

Operational Boundary: A limit set by Council as part of the budget each year. Whilst the Authorised Limit cannot be breached, the operational boundary is the expected level at which external debt will reach, taking into account current levels of debt, maturing debt that may need replacing and capital plans for the forthcoming year.

PWLB Loans: Loans held with the Public Works Loans Board. This is the primary lender for Local Authorities, and the PWLB forms part of the Debt Management Office (DMO) within the HM Treasury department of Central Government.

Risk Benchmark: An indicator used to monitor the perceived level of risk within the council's investment portfolio.

Under-borrowing: (also known as internal borrowing) The difference between the council's CFR and actual level of debt, where the actual debt is lower than the CFR. This

occurs when council uses cash from its own reserves to temporarily fund capital expenditure.

SONIA: Sterling Over Night Index Average – A benchmark rate calculated and administrated by the Bank of England. This rate effective replaces LIBOR from 1 January 2022 as the key benchmark rate in the UK. The calculation of SONIA is based on actual transactions and reflects the average of the interest rates that banks pay to borrow sterling overnight from other financial institutions and institutional investors.

Annex 2 - Economic Overview

Provided by Link Asset Services - April 2025

UK inflation has proved somewhat stubborn throughout 2024/25. Having started the financial year at 2.3% y/y (April), the CPI measure of inflation briefly dipped to 1.7% y/y in September before picking up pace again in the latter months. The latest data shows CPI rising by 2.8% y/y (February), but there is a strong likelihood that figure will increase to at least 3.5% by the Autumn of 2025.

Against that backdrop, and the continued lack of progress in ending the Russian invasion of Ukraine, as well as the potentially negative implications for global growth as a consequence of the implementation of US tariff policies by US President Trump in April 2025, Bank Rate reductions have been limited. Bank Rate currently stands at 4.5%, despite the Office for Budget Responsibility reducing its 2025 GDP forecast for the UK economy to only 1% (previously 2% in October).

Moreover, borrowing has becoming increasingly expensive in 2024/25. Gilt yields rose significantly in the wake of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement, and the loosening of fiscal policy, and have remained elevated ever since, as dampened growth expectations and the minimal budget contingency (<£10bn) have stoked market fears that increased levels of borrowing will need to be funded during 2025.

The table below provides a snapshot of the conundrum facing central banks: inflation pressures remain, labour markets are still relatively tight by historical comparisons, and central banks are also having to react to a fundamental re-ordering of economic and defence policies by the US administration.

	UK	Eurozone	US
Bank Rate	4.50%	2.5%	4.25%-4.5%
GDP	0.1%q/q Q4 (1.1%y/y)	+0.1%q/q Q4 (0.7%y/y)	2.4% Q4 Annualised
Inflation	2.8%y/y (Feb)	2.3%y/y (Feb)	2.8%y/y (Feb)
Unemployment Rate	4.4% (Jan)	6.2% (Jan)	4.1% (Feb)

The Bank of England sprung no surprises in their March meeting, leaving Bank Rate unchanged at 4.5% by a vote of 8-1, but suggesting further reductions would be gradual. The Bank of England was always going to continue its cut-hold-cut-hold pattern by leaving interest rates at 4.50% but, in the opposite of what happened at the February meeting, the vote was more hawkish than expected. This suggested that as inflation rises later in the year, the Bank cuts rates even slower, but the initial impact of President Trump's tariff policies in April 2025 on the financial markets underpin our view that the Bank will eventually reduce rates to 3.50%.

Having said that, the Bank still thinks inflation will rise from 2.8% in February to 3¾% in Q3. And while in February it said "inflation is expected to fall back thereafter to around the 2% target", this time it just said it would "fall back thereafter". That may be a sign that the Bank is getting a bit more worried about the "persistence in domestic wages and prices, including from second-round effects". Accordingly, although we expect a series of rate cuts over the next year or so, that does not contradict the Bank taking "a gradual and careful" approach to cutting rates, but a tepid economy will probably reduce inflation further ahead and prompt the Bank to cut at regular intervals.

From a fiscal perspective, the increase in businesses' national insurance and national minimum wage costs from April 2025 is likely to prove a headwind, although in the nearterm the Government's efforts to provide 300,000 new homes in each year of the current Parliament is likely to ensure building industry employees are well remunerated, as will the clamp-down on immigration and the generally high levels of sickness amongst the British workforce. Currently wages continue to increase at a rate close to 6% y/y. The MPC would prefer a more sustainable level of c3.5%.

As for equity markets, the FTSE 100 has recently fallen back to 7,700 having hit an all-time intra-day high 8,908 as recently as 3rd March. The £ has also endured a topsy-turvy time, hitting a peak of \$1.34 before dropping to \$1.22 in January and then reaching \$1.27 in early April 2025.