



# **WORCESTER CITY**

## **Tennis and Multi Use Games Areas**

**July 2010**



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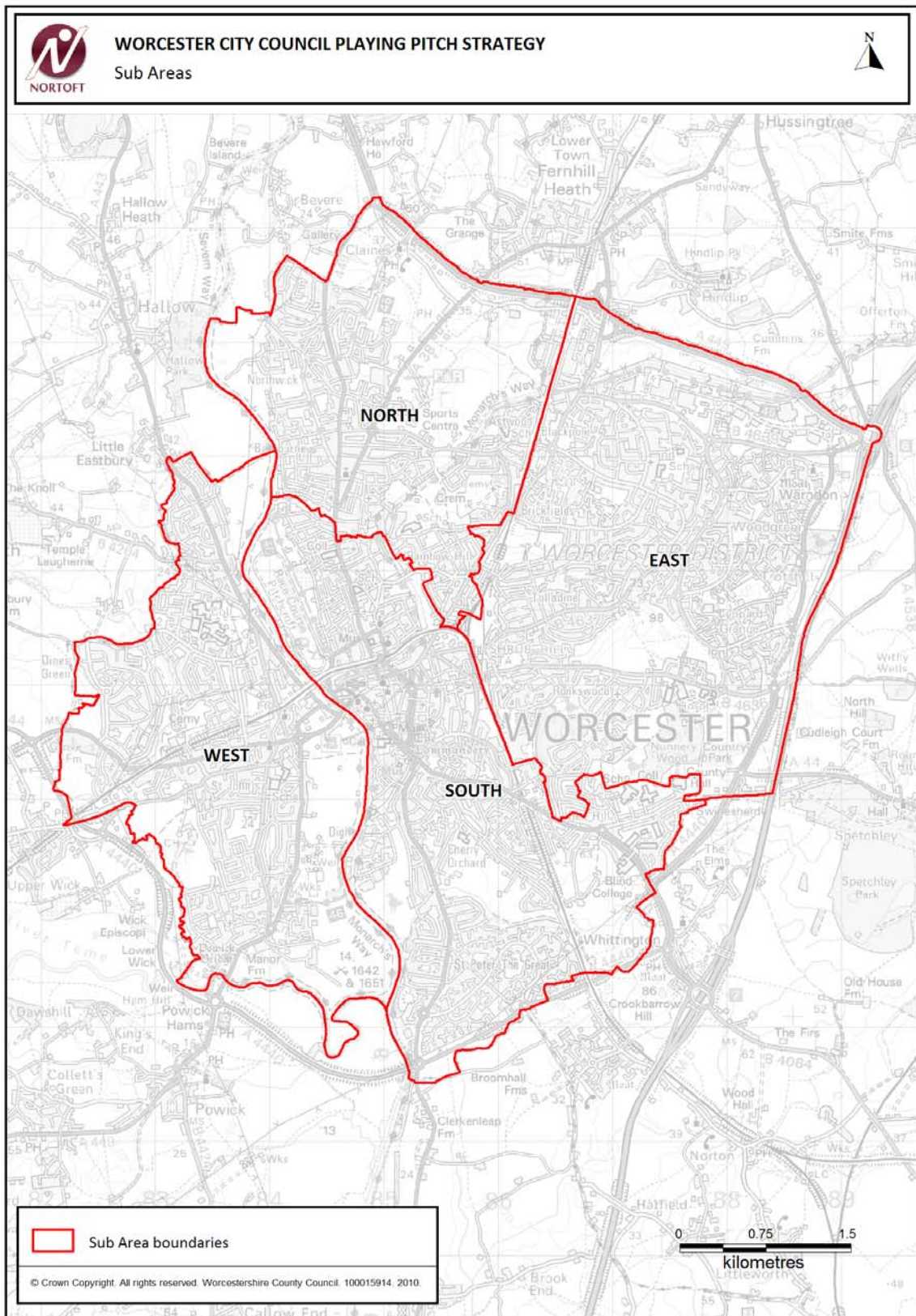
## INTRODUCTION

1. This report is an extension to the Worcester City Playing Pitch Strategy July 2010 and considers the requirements for outdoor tennis courts and multi use games areas (MUGAs) for the period up to 2026.
2. The requirements for full size synthetic turf pitches are not dealt with in this report but are assessed separately within the Sports Partnership Herefordshire and Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework 2010-2026 and the South Worcestershire Sports Facilities Framework 2010-2026.

### Sub Areas for the Strategy

3. For consistency this report uses the same sub areas as the playing pitch strategy. However due to the relatively small number of facilities and their geographical locations across the authority, it is not appropriate to produce standards on a sub area basis. This report therefore makes recommendations for quality, quantity and accessibility on an authority-wide basis. The sub areas are illustrated in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Strategy sub-areas



## Population

- The current and future populations are illustrated in Figure 2 below. The current population (2008) is taken from the ONS Middle Super Output Areas 2008 estimates (experimental series) for Worcester City.

*Figure 2: Population of Worcester City 2008-2026*

	<b>2008</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2026</b>
<b>Population</b>	94,124	99,620	98,560	96,640

- A more detailed analysis of the population by sub area and the methodology used to calculate the population change can be found in the population section of the main playing pitch strategy.

# TENNIS

## Introduction

6. All types of outdoor tennis court are considered in this strategy, this means outdoor courts with one of the following surface types: porous tar macadam, polymeric, synthetic turf or grass. This assessment includes dedicated tennis courts only; other sites where tennis courts exist and are overlaid with other types of courts, e.g. netball, are dealt with in the MUGAs section below.
7. The following facts are taken from the Sport England Primary Offer Data Pack for Tennis (June 2008).
  - Tennis is the 6<sup>th</sup> most played sport nationally, and attracts slightly more men than women;
  - The majority of players are from the higher socio-economic groups (NS-SEC 1-4) and the highest participation rates are among those aged 16-24;
  - 21% of tennis players are aged 16-19, this compares with 12% of all those that have taken part in any sport or active recreation;
  - 48% of tennis players have an annual household income of above £52,000 compared to 37% of all those that take part in any sport and active recreation.
8. Tennis has traditionally been very much a club based sport and any recommendations set out in this report in relation to the number and location of facilities need to be viewed in the context of sports development and club development issues.

## Assessment – Tennis

### Current situation

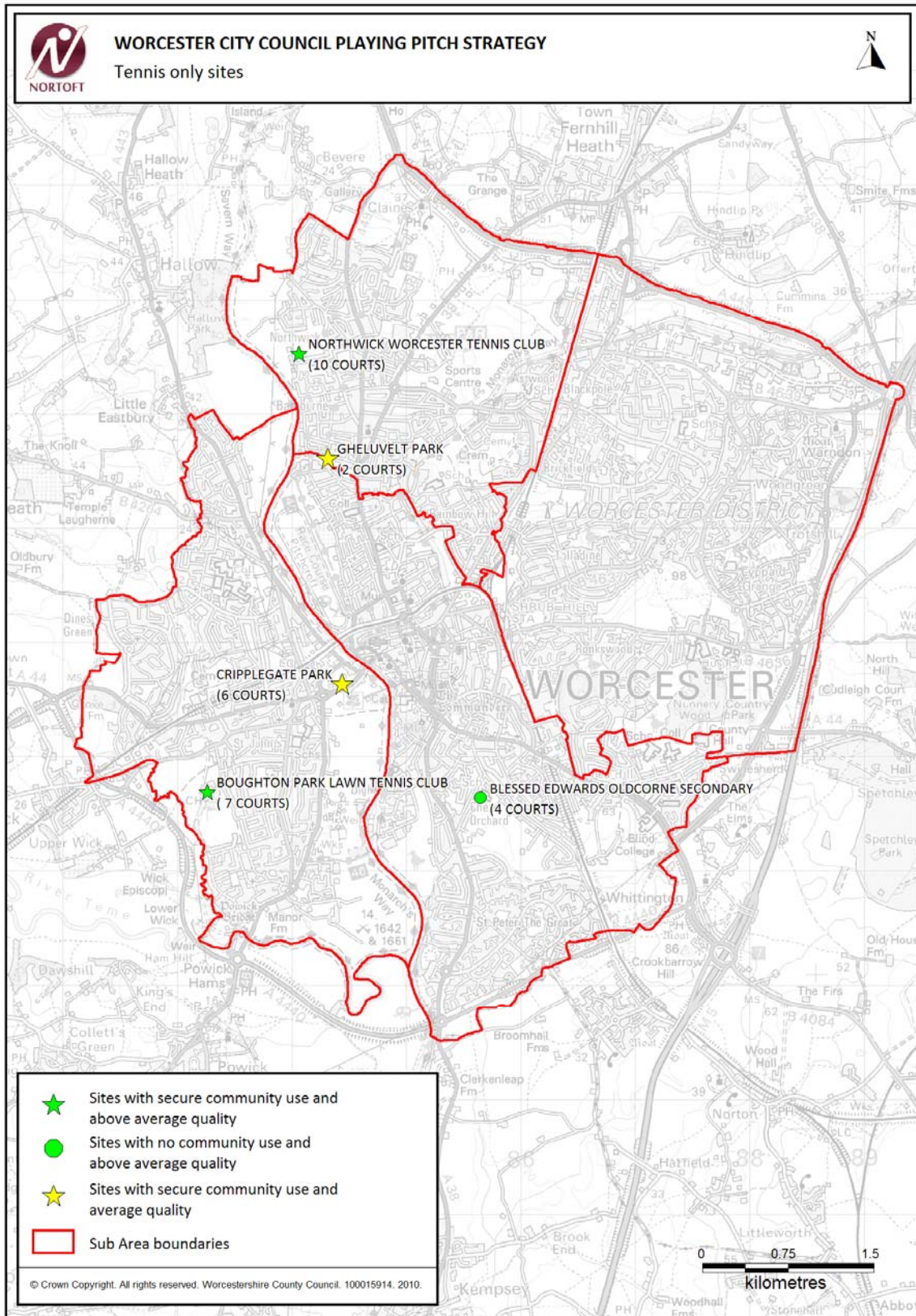
9. Worcester City has a total of 29 dedicated outdoor tennis courts distributed throughout the authority area, 25 of which are available with secure community use. Only those sites which are available with secure community use are used in the calculation of provision and the development of standards. The full list of sites is available in Appendix 1. The distribution by sub area is illustrated in the table below (Figure 3).

*Figure 3: Outdoor tennis sites by sub area*

	Total no. of courts	Secure community use courts
North	12	12
East	0	0
South	4	4
West	13	13
<b>Total</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>25</b>

10. The map at Figure 4 shows the distribution of tennis sites and gives an indication of their quality.

Figure 4: All outdoor tennis sites available to the community





11. The current provision per 1,000 population for all secure community use tennis courts across the authority as a whole is 0.27 courts per 1,000.
12. In May 2010 officers from Worcester City Council undertook an audit of tennis facilities in the area. The findings indicate that 17 of the City's 25 courts are of above average quality and the remaining 8 are of average quality.
13. The courts are not well distributed across the city area with only the North and West sub areas having courts available with secure community use. This leaves the East and South (which covers the city centre) sub areas with no provision at all.

### Standards of provision for tennis

14. There are very few local authorities that have adopted provision standards for tennis and only one of the four ONS comparator authorities to Worcester City have standards. Kettering Borough Council's standard however relates only to tennis in villages, this is therefore not a suitable comparison for Worcester. The current level of provision is therefore suggested as the quantity standard which should be applied to determine future levels of provision.

### Standards for quantity

15. Recommended standards for quantity have been calculated based on the current provision and, as agreed in the playing pitch strategy and sports facilities strategy, a 1% increase in participation is added per annum up to 2026.

**The recommended standard of provision (at 2026) is therefore the current provision (0.27) x 117% i.e. 0.32 courts per 1,000 population**

### Standards for quality

16. All sites should be well located in safe and secure areas with good access and ancillary facilities such as changing and parking. Facilities should be floodlit, where possible, to enable use during the evenings and in the winter months. The playing surfaces should be of high quality with clear markings and run-off space. New facilities should be constructed in accordance with national guidance from the LTA, Sport England and SAPCA.

### Standards for accessibility

17. Sport England research has identified that the optimum travel time to most major facilities i.e. Leisure Centres and swimming pools is 20 minutes either on foot or by car. Anecdotal evidence suggests that tennis facilities are often considered more local and therefore it is suggested that a 15 minute walk time is used within the urban area.

**All residents of the City should be able to access a tennis site  
within 15 minutes walk**

**Recommendations**

18. There are currently four dedicated tennis sites within the City, two of which are member only clubs and two of which are pay and play municipal court sites within parks. The other site at Blessed Edward Oldcorne Secondary School currently has no community use of its tennis courts, however, opportunities for community access to these courts should be explored as they are located within an area where there is no other provision.
  
19. Using the proposed standard there will be a need for 31 courts by 2026 (see Figure 5 below), meaning a further 6 courts are required to meet the growing population and increased demand. Discussions with the LTA have indicated that in areas where there is no tennis activity they would normally work with the local authority to try and generate demand based on an existing municipal court. As there is currently no provision in the East and South sub areas, positive planning policies should be established which would support proposals for new provision in these sub areas.
  
20. The growth around Worcester (known as the WWM-GA) will generate the need for new courts within these areas. This growth is located within Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District; the standards can therefore be found within the relevant local authority’s Tennis and MUGAs assessment.

*Figure 5: Tennis- summary of needs for Worcester City*

	Current		2026	
	Current Population	Number of courts	Projected Population	Number of courts required
Worcester	94,124	25	96,640	31 (6 new courts)

## MULTI USE GAMES AREAS

### Introduction

21. For the purposes of this strategy, Multi Use Games Areas (MUGAs) are identified as fenced, outdoor court sites where more than one sport is marked out and played on a surface. The sports typically played on MUGA sites are basketball, five-a-side football, netball and tennis. The facilities may have permanent or removable goals and hoops as well as floodlighting. These surfaces are all of artificial construction such as porous tar macadam, polymeric or synthetic turf.
22. It is important to understand that this assessment includes the traditional MUGA which is mainly used by older children on a casual basis as well as standard multi-purpose courts aimed at all users. Due to the number of different sports courts overlaid on each other this assessment deals with the **sites as a whole** rather than the number of courts on each site. A full list of the courts at each site is available in Appendix 2.

### Assessment – Multi Use Games Areas

#### Current situation

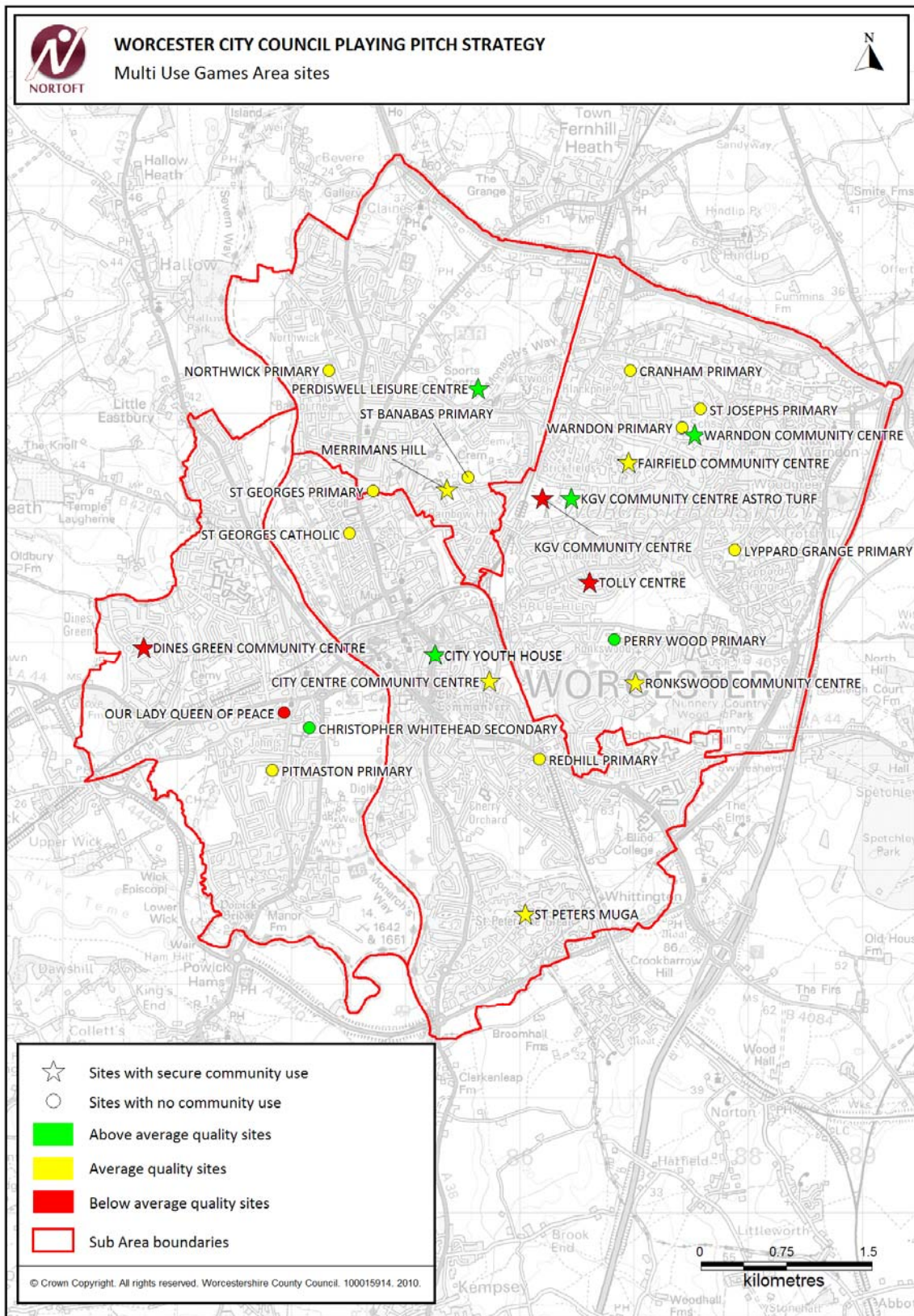
23. Worcester City has a total of 25 MUGAs, only 12 of which are available with secure community use. Only those sites which are available with secure community use are used in the calculation of provision and the development of standards. The distribution by sub area is illustrated in the table below (Figure 6).

*Figure 6: MUGAs by sub area*

	Total no. of sites	Secure community use sites
North	5	2
East	11	6
South	5	3
West	4	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>12</b>

24. The map at Figure 7 shows the MUGAs available to the community and gives an indication of their quality.

Figure 7: All MUGAs



25. The provision per 1,000 for MUGAs with secure community use across the authority as a whole is currently 0.13 per 1,000.
26. Of the 12 sites with secure community use, 4 are above average quality, 5 are average quality and 3 are below average quality.
27. The distribution of the MUGAs is relatively good with each sub area having some provision. The East sub area has the most provision with 6 sites (50% of all sites). The West sub area has the least with only 1 site.

## Standards of provision for MUGAs

28. There are very few local authorities that have adopted provision standards for MUGAs and none of the four ONS comparator authorities to Worcester (Kettering, Northampton, Rugby and Warrington) have equivalent quantity standards. Some local authorities have standards for youth 5-a-side MUGAs based on play standards, however it is not possible to use these as a benchmark as this assessment includes **all** multi-sport courts. The current provision is therefore taken forward as the quantity standard applied to future provision.

## Standards for quantity

29. Recommended standards for quantity are calculated on the current provision and as agreed in the playing pitch strategy and sports facilities strategy, a 1% increase in participation is added per annum up to 2026.

**The recommended standard of provision (at 2026) is therefore the current provision (0.13) x 117% i.e. 0.15 MUGAs per 1,000 population**

30. New facilities should be developed with a mixture of ball courts marked out, this should be determined by an analysis of local sports development priorities and/or club development.
31. However, particularly in the case of the traditional fenced ball court MUGA for youths, a standard like this may not be appropriate. It may be more appropriate to locate new facilities in neighbourhoods where they are likely to be needed and any new proposals should be worked up with the involvement of community youth groups.

## Standard for quality

32. All sites should be well located in safe and secure areas with good access and ancillary facilities such as changing and parking (where appropriate). Facilities should be floodlit where possible to enable use during the evenings in the winter months. The playing surfaces should be of high quality with clear markings and run-off space.

New facilities should be constructed in accordance with national guidance from Sport England and SAPCA.

### Standard for accessibility

33. Sport England research has identified that the optimum travel time to most major facilities is 20 minutes. This study recognises that some facilities are considered more “local” e.g. tennis and has suggested a 15 minute travel time. MUGAS are often primarily used by young people and hence there is a justification for an even shorter walking travel time in order to make them more accessible.

**All residents of the district should be able to access a MUGA within 10 minutes walk.**

### Recommendations

34. The population of Worcester (excluding the WWM-GA) is projected to increase by 2,500 people up to 2026, when this is combined with the increases in participation, new facilities will be required.
35. Using the proposed standard there will be a need for a total of 14 MUGAs by 2026 (Figure 8 shows a summary of needs up to 2026), therefore a further two new sites will be required. These should be located in those areas with least provision (ideally the North and West sub areas) but local sports development issues and youth requirements should also guide the location of new facilities. Where there are existing facilities not currently available for community use, their use should be secured where possible.
36. The growth around Worcester (known as the WWM-GA) will generate the need for new courts within these areas. This growth is located within Malvern Hills District and Wychavon District; the standards can therefore be found within the relevant local authority’s Tennis and MUGAs assessment.

*Figure 8: MUGAs- summary of needs for Worcester City*

	Current		2026	
	Current Population	Number of sites	Projected Population	Number of sites required
Worcester	94,124	12	96,640	14 (2 new sites)

## **NEXT STEPS**

37. The emerging recommendations for the WWM-GA form part of the infrastructure lists for the Programme of Development.
38. This report is part of the South Worcestershire Sports Facilities Strategy and the recommended standards within it form part of the evidence base for the South Worcestershire Joint Core Strategy.

# **APPENDIX 1**

## **Audit of Tennis Sites**



APPENDIX 1: Audit of Tennis Sites

Site Name	Site Comments	Road name, Settle	X	Y	Sub Area	Community Use	Community Use Category
Blessed Edwards Oldcorne Secondary		Timberdine Avenue, Worcester, WR5 2XD	385644	253639	South	No	C
Boughton Park Lawn Tennis Club		Worcester Golf & Country Club, Boughton Park, Worcester, WR2 4E7	383260	253690	West	Yes	B2
Cripplegate Park		Tybridge Street, St Johns, Worcester WR2 5BA	384437	254637	West	Yes	A
Gheluvelt Park		Lavender Road, Worcester WR3 7AA	384311	256615	North	Yes	A
Northwick Worcester Tennis Club		Worcester Lawn Tennis Club, Northwick Close, WR3 7FF	384060	257530	North	Yes	B2

APPENDIX 1: Audit of Tennis Sites

Site Name	Site Owned by	MUGA/tennis: surface grass	MUGA: clay	MUGA: porous tarmac	MUGA: polymeric surface	MUGA: synthetic sand	MUGA: synthetic needle punch	Mainly used for: tennis	Mainly used for: netball	Mainly used for: hockey	Mainly used for: basketball	Mainly used for: 5-a-side	Mainly used for: rugby
Blessed Edwards Oldcorne Secondary	Worcestershire County Council			yes									6
Boughton Park Lawn Tennis Club	Private Club	3	4				7						
Cripplegate Park	Council		6				6						
Gheluvelt Park	Council		2				2						
Northwick Worcester Tennis Club	Private Club	3	7				10						

APPENDIX 1: Audit of Tennis Sites

Site Name	No. tennis courts	No. netball courts	No. hockey pitches	No. 5-a-side football	No. rugby	Rebound walls: Y/N	Pavilion Facilities	Has Floodlights	Match Floodlights	Pitches Quality	Changing Room Quality (for community)	Shower Quality (for community)	Car Park Quality
Blessed Edwards Oldcorne Secondary	4				y					Above Average			
Boughton Park Lawn Tennis Club	7	0				y				Above Average			
Cripplegate Park	6									Average			
Gheluvelt Park	2									Average			
Northwick Worcester Tennis Club	10					y				Above Average			

APPENDIX 1: Audit of Tennis Sites

Site Name	Fencing Quality	Community Additional Details	Comments
Blessed Edwards Oldcorne Secondary			
Boughton Park Lawn Tennis Club			
Cripplegate Park			
Gheluvelt Park			
Northwick Worcester Tennis Club			

# **APPENDIX 2**

## **Audit of Multi Use Games Areas**

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Site Comments	Road name, Settle	X	Y	Sub Area	Community Use	Community Use Category
Christopher Whitehead Secondary		Bromwich Road, Worcester, WR2 4AF	384157	254238	West	No	C
City Centre Community Centre		Midland Road, Worcester, WR5 1DS	385731	254653	South	Yes	A
City Youth House		Spring Gardens, Worcester, WR1 2AE	385258	254889	South	Yes	B1
Cranham Primary		Tetbury Drive, Warndon, Worcester, WR4 9LS	386968	257377	East	No	C
Dines Green Community Centre		The Green Centre, Gresham Road, Dines Green, Worcester, WR2 5QS	382706	254955	West	Yes	A
Fairfield Community Centre		Carnforth Drive, Worcester, WR4 9HG	386955	256574	East	Yes	A
KGV Community Centre		Ash Avenue, Brickfields Park, Brickfields, Worcester, WR4 9TL	386200	256261	East	Yes	A







APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Car Park Quality	Fencing Quality	Community Additional Details	Comments
Christopher Whitehead Secondary				
City Centre Community Centre	Poor	Above Average		Rubbish on MUGA - Balls going over walls into school and hitting cars. Broken windows
City Youth House	Poor	Average		Cars parked on MUGA during the day. Available through booking.
Cranham Primary				
Dines Green Community Centre	Average	Above Average		Rubbish on MUGA
Fairfield Community Centre	Poor	Above Average		Rubbish. Too close to houses - complaints from residents.
KGV Community Centre	Good	Average		Rubbish on area. One side has no rebound walls. Changing rooms available but have to book

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Site Comments	Road name, Settle	X	Y	Sub Area	Community Use	Community Use Category
KGV Community Centre Astro Turf		Ash Avenue, Brickfields Park, Brickfields, Worcester, WR4 9TL	386450	256261	East	Yes	B1
Lyppard Grange Primary		Ankerage Green, Warndon Villages, Worcester, WR4 0DZ	387883	255805	East	No	C
Merrimans Hill		Green Lane, Worcester, WR3 8NZ	385360	256340	North	Yes	A
Northwick Primary		Northwick Road, Worcester, WR3 7EA	384329	257378	North	NO	C
Our Lady Queen of Peace		Bransford Road, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR2 4EN	383938	254373	West	No	C
Perdiswell Leisure Centre		Billford Road, Worcester, WR3 8DX	385635	257222	North	Yes	A

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Site Owned by	MUGA/tennis: surface grass	MUGA: clay	MUGA: porous tarmac	MUGA: polymeric surface	MUGA: synthetic sand	MUGA: synthetic needle punch	Mainly used for: tennis	Mainly used for: netball	Mainly used for: hockey	Mainly used for: basketball
KGV Community Centre Astro Turf	Worcester City Council						1 7-a- side pitch and 2 5-a- side pitches				
Lyppard Grange Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					2		
Merrimans Hill				1 5 a side MUGA						1	
Northwick Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					2		
Our Lady Queen of Peace	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					1		
Perdiswell Leisure Centre	Worcester City Council						2				

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Mainly used for: 5-a-side	Mainly used for: rugby	No. tennis courts	No. netball courts	No. hockey pitches	No. 5-a-side football	No. rugby	Rebound walls: Y/N	Pavilion Facilities	Has Floodlights	Match Floodlights	Pitches Quality	Changing Room Quality (for community)	Shower Quality (for community)
KGV Community Centre Astro Turf	1				1	1		y	y	y		High Quality	High Quality	High Quality
Lyppard Grange Primary	1			2		1		N				Average		
Merrimans Hill	1				1	1		y		y		Average	None	None
Northwick Primary				2								Average		
Our Lady Queen of Peace				1								Poor		
Perdiswell Leisure Centre	2		0	0	0	2	0	Y	N	Y	Y	High Quality	High Quality	High Quality

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Car Park Quality	Fencing Quality	Community Additional Details	Comments
KGV Community Centre Astro Turf	Good	High Quality		Changing rooms available but have to book
Lyppard Grange Primary				
Merrimans Hill	None	Above Average		Rubbish and glass surrounding MUGA.
Northwick Primary				
Our Lady Queen of Peace				
Perdiswell Leisure Centre	Good	High Quality		

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Site Comments	Road name, Settle	X	Y	Sub Area	Community Use	Community Use Category
Perry Wood Primary		St Albans Close, Worcester, WR5 1PP	386830	255018	East	No	C
Pitmaston Primary		Malvern Road, Worcester, WR2 4ZF	383833	253869	West	No	C
Redhill Primary		Red Hill C of E Primary School, Midhurst Close, Worcester, WR5 2HX	386172	253966	South	No	C
Ronkswood Community Centre		Canterbury Road, Ronkswood, Worcester, WR5 1PJ	387014	254639	East	Yes	A
St Banabas Primary		Green Lane, Worcester, WR3 8NZ	385545	256443	North	NO	C
St Georges Catholic		Thorneloe Walk, Worcester, WR1 3JY	384510	255950	South	No	C
St Georges Primary		St. Georges Lane North, Worcester, WR1 1RD	384718	256322	North	No	C

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Site Owned by	MUGA/tennis: surface grass	MUGA: clay	MUGA: porous tarmac	MUGA: polymeric surface	MUGA: synthetic sand	MUGA: synthetic needle punch	Mainly used for: tennis	Mainly used for: netball	Mainly used for: hockey	Mainly used for: basketball
Perry Wood Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					2		
Pitmaston Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					1		
Redhill Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					1		
Ronkswood Community Centre	Worcester City Council			1 5 a side MUGA							1
St Banabas Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes				3			
St Georges Catholic	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					2		
St Georges Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes							1

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Mainly used for: 5-a-side	Mainly used for: rugby	No. tennis courts	No. netball courts	No. hockey pitches	No. 5-a-side football	No. rugby	Rebound walls: Y/N	Pavilion Facilities	Has Floodlights	Match Floodlights	Pitches Quality	Changing Room Quality (for community)	Shower Quality (for community)
Perry Wood Primary				2								Good		
Pitmaston Primary				1				Y				Average		
Redhill Primary				1								Average		
Ronkswood Community Centre	1				1	1		y		n		Average	None	None
St Banabas Primary			3	1								Average		
St Georges Catholic				2								Average		
St Georges Primary				1				N				Average		



APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Car Park Quality	Fencing Quality	Community Additional Details	Comments
Perry Wood Primary				
Pitmaston Primary				
Redhill Primary				
Ronkswood Community Centre	Average	Average		Lines need re-painting. No basketball net/backboard at one end
St Banabas Primary				
St Georges Catholic				
St Georges Primary				

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Site Comments	Road name, Settle	X	Y	Sub Area	Community Use	Community Use Category
St Josephs Primary		Chedworth Drive, Worcester, WR4 9PG	387584	257040	East	No	C
St Peters MUGA		St Peters Village Hall, St Peters Drive, Worcester, WR5 3SW	386050	252615	South	Yes	B1
Tolly Centre		Rowan Avenue, Tolladine, Worcester, WR4 9QX	386611	255529	East	Yes	A
Warndon Community Centre		Shap Drive, Warndon, Worcester, WR4 9NX	387530	256818	East	Yes	A
Warndon Primary		Edgeworth Close, Worcester, WR4 9PE	387425	256875	East	No	C

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Site Owned by	MUGA/tennis: surface grass	MUGA: clay	MUGA: porous tarmac	MUGA: polymeric surface	MUGA: synthetic sand	MUGA: synthetic needle punch	Mainly used for: tennis	Mainly used for: netball	Mainly used for: hockey	Mainly used for: basketball
St Josephs Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					2		
St Peters MUGA	St Peters Village Hall Association LTD			1 5 a side MUGA							1
Tolly Centre	Worcester City Council			1 5 a side MUGA							1
Warndon Community Centre	Worcester City Council			1 5 a side MUGA				1			1
Warndon Primary	Worcestershire County Council			Yes					1		

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Mainly used for: 5-a-side	Mainly used for: rugby	No. tennis courts	No. netball courts	No. hockey pitches	No. 5-a-side football	No. rugby	Rebound walls: Y/N	Pavilion Facilities	Has Floodlights	Match Floodlights	Pitches Quality	Changing Room Quality (for community)	Shower Quality (for community)
St Josephs Primary				2								Average		
St Peters MUGA	1				1	1		y		y		Average	None	None
Tolly Centre	1				1	1		y		n		Poor	None	None
Warndon Community Centre	1		1		1	1		n		n		High Quality	None	None
Warndon Primary				1								Average		

APPENDIX 2: Audit of Multi Use Games Areas

Site Name	Car Park Quality	Fencing Quality	Community Additional Details	Comments
St Josephs Primary				
St Peters MUGA	Poor	Average		
Tolly Centre	None	Average		
Warndon Community Centre	Average	Above Average		Half covered by rebound walls.
Warndon Primary				