



ESFA FACILITIES REPORT 2019



*“We are all in the game today,
for its future tomorrow!”*

Each of our member clubs needs and deserves to be able to have a facility to call its own and our Association should have a regional home for the game as a whole to prosper.



EASTERN SUBURBS
FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION

Introduction

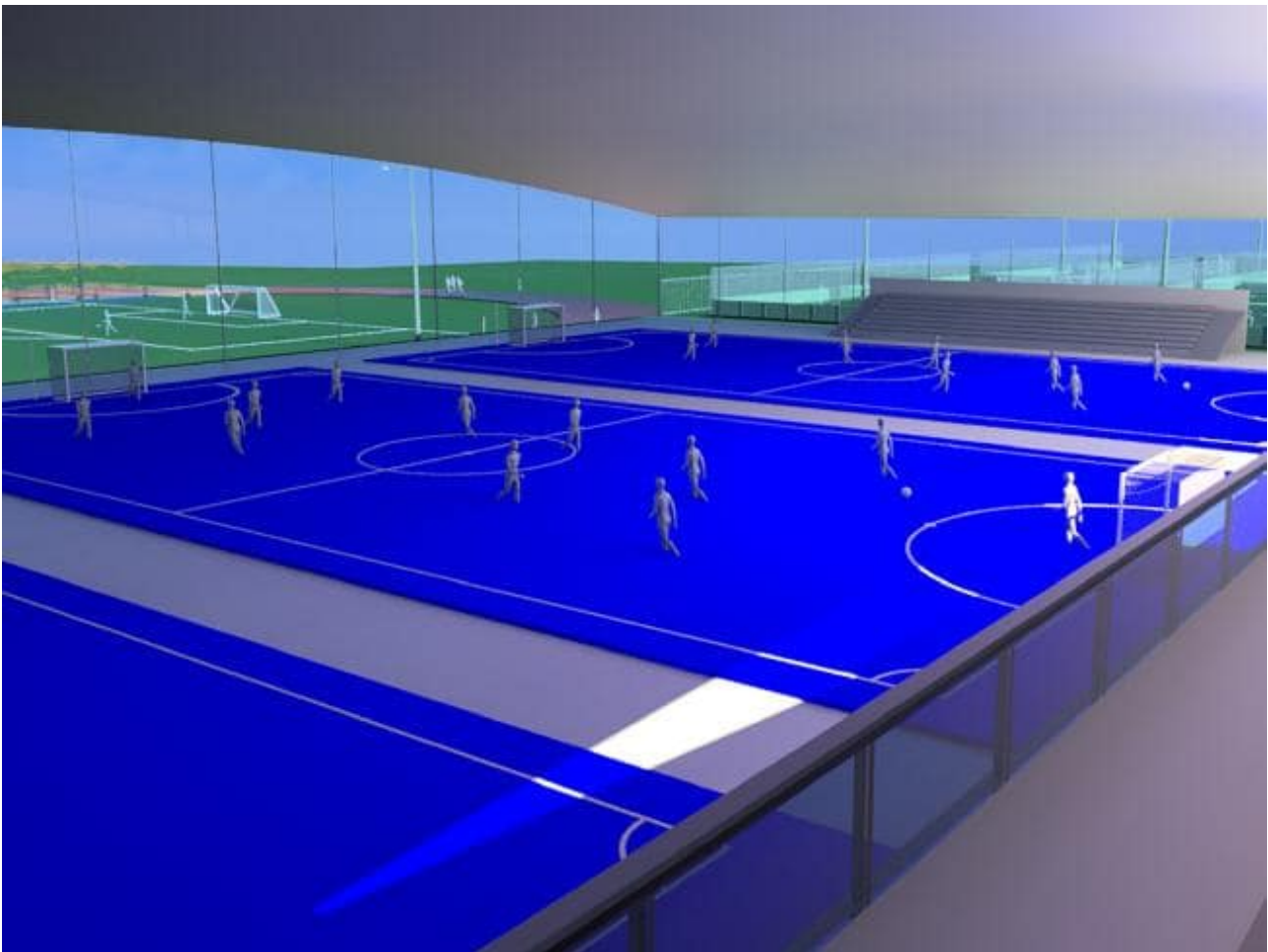
The following report is basically all about tomorrow and the statistics that will help us with what planning we would need to do to make sure that as we constantly grow, that we can look after that growth. No child or for that matter adult, should be turned away because our facilities cannot support them.

Land in the eastern suburbs is both expensive and in very short supply. What is free of buildings is more than likely owned by a government of some sort. So, we need and will work with all levels of government to achieve our facility objectives.

This will not be easy and will take a lot of time. For instance, we worked with Randwick City Council as the leading sporting body on what is known as Pioneer Park, Malabar, for four and a half years. They built an AFL field! We learn't alot!

Its not just about the elected personnel we need to discuss our objectives with but also the governments executive personnel. We need to make sure that they are all talking the same narrative and that we can add something to that dialog.

It will be a long and sometimes, frustrating road. As this report shows and there are many more reports to help us, the population is growing and plans need to be put in place now to help those that want to play the beautiful game in the future, can and will always be welcome!



CENTRE OF FOOTBALL PROPOSAL, SOUTH AUSTRALIA

Homes for our clubs

Very few of our grounds are solely for the use of a single football club - very few of our grounds feel like a 'home' ground for an ESFA club and many are shared with other sports or other competitions.

We want to have a situation where ESFA clubs have proper home grounds, where they can properly set down roots.

We think the ideal club home ground has:

- In sufficient number for all teams to train and play at one venue
- Sufficiently lit for training and ideally matches
- Level and have an even covering of grass or a suitable and well maintained synthetic surface
- Of an appropriate size
- Available from start of March to end of August
- A canteen for the club to be able to generate revenue
- Noticeboards for the club to be able to put up messages and posters
- Sufficient Storage to hold training and match day equipment in a secure, tidy and safe manner
- Toilets for males and females as well as accessible toilets and facilities
- A referees' room
- Change rooms including female change rooms
- Some shelter from the elements
- Sufficient parking

Most clubs across Sydney have grounds where they can tick most of these boxes. At present, scarcely any ESFA clubs can tick all of these boxes.

This puts our clubs at a relative disadvantage, restricting their ability to offer comprehensive contributions to the community.

We need to help clubs to be able to access local, state and federal grants with shovel-ready plans, able to be put in place at short notice.

By identifying what clubs ought to have, as we have done, we can then help clubs develop their own facilities plans to make sure that they identify the projects they need and can get them to a sufficiently advanced stage that funding can be put to work quickly.

An issue that weakens clubs' arguments for facility development is that very few of our clubs are 'comprehensive' clubs, offering all types of football. This limits their community reach and thus arguably impedes their ability to seek grants.

It is simpler to make an argument for a facility improvement if the improvement is going to be enjoyed by the widest possible audience.

As can be seen in the below table, most of our clubs are not comprehensive and this limits their call for help.

Breakdown of offerings by club:

Club	MiniRoos	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Barnstoneworth United FC				X	
Coogee United FC		X		X	X
Dunbar Rovers FC	X	X	X	X	X
Easts FC	X	X	X	X	X
Glebe Wanderers FC				X	
Heffron Hawks FC	X	X	X	X	X
Kytherians Soccer				X	
Lions FC				X	
Lokomotiv Cove FC				X	X
Maccabi Hakoah Junior FC	X	X	X		
Maccabi Hakoah FC				X	X
Maroubra United FC	X	X	X	X	X
Mascot Kings FC	X	X		X	X
Pagewood Botany FC	X	X	X	X	X
Phoenix FC				X	
Queens Park FC	X	X	X	X	X
Reddam House	X	X	X		
Redfern Raiders		X		X	X
South East Eagles FC	X		X	X	X
Sydney CBD FC				X	
Sydney University SFC				X	X
UNSW FC				X	X
Waverley Old Boys FC	X			X	X

Equally, many of our grounds don't have comprehensive offerings.

Ideally, anyone who lived near a football ground would be able to take their children (or themselves) to a club based at that ground and be able to sign up to play football but many of our grounds have only limited options, there are many grounds in our region that have no clubs there at all.

Breakdown of offerings by ground:

Ground	MiniRoos	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
Alexandria Park				X	X
Alexandria Park Community School					
Booralee Park				X	X
Camdenville Oval					
Centennial Park (Brazilian Field)				X	
Centennial Park (Mackay Fields)				X	X
Centennial Park (Mission Field)				X	X
Centennial Park (Parade Grounds)				X	
Chifley Reserve				X	
Christison Park	X	X	X		
Coral Sea Park	X	X	X	X	X
David Phillips Sports Fields				X	X
ES Marks Field				X	
Heffron Park (East)	X	X	X	X	X
Heffron Park (Synthetic)					
Heffron Park (West)	X			X	X
Hensley Athletic Field					
Jellicoe Park	X	X	X	X	X
JJ Cahill High School				X	X
L'Estrange Park	X	X		X	X
Matrville Sports High School					
Moore Park Synthetic Field	X	X	X	X	X
Moore Park West					
NCIE	X	X	X	X	X
Paine Reserve				X	
Queens Park	X	X	X	X	X
Randwick Girls High School					
Rushcutters Bay Park					
Reg Bartley Oval				X	X
Rodney Reserve					
Rowland Park		X	X	X	X
Snape Park					

Ground	MiniRoos	Boys	Girls	Men	Women
South Sydney High School					
Sydney University*				X	X
Tempe Reserve					
The Domain				X	
Turrawul Park		X		X	X
Waverley Park	X	X		X	X
Wentworth Park*					
Wentworth Park Stadium*					

**Used either regularly or irregularly by ESFA clubs, but outside the ESFA boundaries*

Between these two tables, we can see that the offerings at each club and each ground are not comprehensive, limiting the reach for each club. There are also grounds that are available but not used by ESFA.

At the same time, some of the clubs and grounds that have comprehensive offerings have inadequate facilities to be able to provide the sort of service to the communities that are commonplace in other regions.

This puts a brake on the development of the clubs and limits the benefits that the clubs can provide to their communities.

For ESFA clubs to be able to have true homes of their own, we need to recognise that small clubs with limited offerings are not able to lobby as effectively for improved facilities as those with broader community reach.

Consequently, we need to consider whether this is the best approach for the future.

We could seek to group clubs together in order to manufacture a broader offering at each venue.

We could seek to have the Association itself (as the organisation with the broadest reach of all) become responsible for ground bookings.

Alternatively, rationalise the number of clubs we have in order to be able to have fewer and larger clubs, offering a comprehensive suite of footballing opportunities to male and female players of all ages.

ESFA may need to consider a club development plan that identifies pathways for clubs to build up to delivering a comprehensive suite of offerings to their local communities and in so doing, will be able to provide more? All these considerations must be discussed and ultimately become part of the plan.

For those clubs that do offer comprehensive services, ESFA will look to offer support to ensure that they have the right mix of offerings at their home grounds to allow them to grow to their potential and provide maximum benefit to their communities.

By working together as one community in football, we can ensure that we are all able to grow together, for the good of our communities and for the good of the game.



5SPORTS FOOTBALL CENTRE, ENDEAVOUR SPORTS HIGH SCHOOL, CARINGBAH

Room to grow, spaces to play

The situation with fields will become more difficult as our population grows. NSW Planning and Environment figures¹ show that we are set to have very significant growth in the five key local government areas that make up the vast majority of ESFA's territory:

	Botany Bay	Randwick	Sydney	Waverley	Woollahra	Total
Population (2016)	45,300	147,100	207,250	71,450	58,250	529,350
Population (2031)	56,050	174,300	273,500	82,150	67,250	653,250
Growth	24%	18%	32%	15%	15%	23%

¹ New South Wales State and Local Government Area Population, Household and Dwelling Projections: 2014 Final - available from <http://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/Research-and-Demography/Demography/Population-Projections>

Most concerning for the provision of fields is that the population of 5-19 year-olds is set to grow even faster than the rest of the population:

	Botany Bay	Randwick	Sydney	Waverley	Woollahra	Total
5-19 (2016)	7,450	21,050	13,900	9,450	8,650	60,500
5-19 (2031)	9,550	28,050	22,100	12,450	10,650	82,800
Growth	28%	33%	59%	32%	23%	37%

This growth of juniors outstrips the projected growth in this age group in either the SSROC region (28%) or the wider metro area (30%). This may be because the type of new developments we are seeing favours young families with children but the net result is that we are set to have a flood of kids in the area and we have nowhere near enough space for them to play.

Our clubs need to be ready and able to accommodate this demographic shift and we need to ensure they have facilities ready to go.

We need to have more clubs ready to take on junior players and a broader spread of junior clubs to ensure that children from all over the region have junior football that is close to home.

To assess how many fields we need, we note a Southern Sydney Regional Organisation of Councils study of sports fields management² which showed that within the SSROC region, fields were allocated to sports as follows (in descending order):

Soccer	1 field per 4,000 people
Cricket	1 wicket per 5,300 people
Rugby league / union	1 field per 17,000 people
Baseball / softball	1 diamond per 22,800 people
Shared use fields	1 field per 41,500 people
Hockey	1 field per 68,000 people
Australian Rules	1 field per 68,000 people
Athletics	1 track per 76,000 people

In this region, when we include council, public school and other grounds that are available for football to use, Councils provide 36 fields across the Botany Bay, Randwick, Sydney, Waverley and Woollahra local government areas, servicing a population estimated by NSW Planning and Environment³ to be 529,350 in 2016.

Further to this, the Centennial and Moore Park Trust provide another 23 and there are 12 more available through schools, universities and other providers.

This works out to 71 fields in total - a ratio of 1 football field per 7,456 people. To match the SSROC benchmark across these 5 LGAs, we would need a further 61 football fields!

² Review of Sporting Fields Management in the Southern Sydney Region, Table 3.3, p23 - available from <http://ssroc.nsw.gov.au/ssroc-projects/archived-projects/sports-fields-management/>

³ New South Wales State and Local Government Area Population, Household and Dwelling Projections: 2014 Final

This situation is only set to get harder as the population booms in the region. NSW Planning and Environment estimates that between 2016 and 2031, these five LGAs will see population growth of well over 100,000 people.

The effect on demand for sporting facilities will be enormous - creating a need for more than 30 more fields!

Owner	Botany Bay	Randwick	Sydney	Waverley	Woollahra	Total
Council	8	15	8	2	3	36
Other owner	3	11	12	9		35
Total	11	26	20	11	3	71

Population (2016)	45,300	147,100	207,250	71,450	58,250	529,350
People per field	4,118	5,658	10,363	6,495	19,417	7,456
Benchmark fields needed	11	37	52	18	15	132
Surplus/deficit	0	-11	-32	-7	-12	-61

Population (2031)	56,050	174,300	273,500	82,150	67,250	653,250
People per field	5,095	6,704	13,675	7,468	22,417	9,201
Benchmark fields needed	14	44	68	21	17	163
Surplus/deficit	-3	-18	-48	-10	-14	-92

This shows that if there is not a significant increase in the number of fields provided, the large gap between what is available and what is needed will only grow.

This disparity shows how critical it is that areas like the Bays Precinct and the development corridor from Waterloo through Zetland and Green Square to Botany Bay see significant provision of fields to service the growing population.

Whilst it is unrealistic to expect that there will be a more than doubling in the number of fields in the region, what is clear is that there will need to be creative thought about how facilities can best be utilised, including maximising intensity of use through provision of synthetic surfaces and lighting to enable use at night time, as well as embracing “show up and play” models of sport that enable more people to be active in less space and less time than traditional formats.

The recently released draft City of Sydney Sports Facilities Demand Study⁴ indicates that the City of Sydney will be looking at options including purchasing land to convert it into sporting facilities in future years in order to address the growing shortfall. It may be that other local authorities will need to consider doing similarly.

Football bodies and local authorities will need to be able to work together to find creative solutions.

⁴ Open Space, Sports and Recreation Needs Study - Volume 4 Draft Sports Facilities Demand Study, p37 - available from <http://sydneyoursay.com.au/open-space-study/documents>

Inventory of football grounds in/or adjacent to ESFA

Owner/Park	Fields	Training lights	Match lights	Canteen	Toilets	Regular Weekend User(/s)
Alexandria Park Community School						
Alexandria Park Community School	1	no	no	no	yes	N/A
Botany Bay						
Booralee Park	1	yes	no	no	yes	Lokomotiv Cove, Redfern Raiders
Hensley Athletic Field	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	ESFA, <i>Hakoah Sydney City East (FNSW)</i>
Jellicoe Park	3	yes	yes	yes	yes	Pagewood Botany
L'Estrange Park	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	Mascot Kings
Rowland Park	2	yes	no	no	yes	Pagewood Botany
Centennial and Moore Park Trust						
Centennial Park (Brazilian Field)	1	no	no	no	no	Dunbar Rovers, <i>Glebe Gorillas (SAFL)</i>
Centennial Park (Mackay Fields)	2	no	no	no	yes	Waverley Old Boys, <i>Schools</i>
Centennial Park (Mission Field)	2	no	no	no	yes	Maccabi Hakoah, Lions, <i>Schools</i>
Centennial Park (Parade Grounds)	3	no	no	no	yes	<i>Schools, ICFA</i>
ES Marks Field	1	yes	no	yes	yes	ESFA, Waverley Old Boys, <i>Schools</i>

Owner/Park	Fields	Training lights	Match lights	Canteen	Toilets	Regular Weekend User(/s)
Moore Park Synthetic	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	Dunbar Rovers, Waverley Old Boys, Queens Park
Moore Park West	4	no	no	no	yes	Waverley Old Boys, <i>Schools</i>
Queens Park	9	no	no	no	yes	Queens Park, Easts, <i>Schools, Touch football</i>
JJ Cahill High School						
JJ Cahill High School	1	no	no	no	yes	Mascot Kings, <i>Randwick City (SAFL)</i>
Matrville Sports High School						
Matrville Sports High School	1	no	no	yes	yes	N/A
Marrickville						
Camdenville Oval	1	yes	no	no	yes	<i>CDSFA</i>
Tempe Reserve	4	yes	no	yes	yes	<i>CDSFA</i>
NCIE						
NCIE	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	Dunbar Rovers, Phoenix
Randwick						
Chifley Reserve	2	yes	yes	no	yes	Kytherians
Coral Sea Park	3	yes	yes	yes	yes	Maroubra United
Heffron Park (East)	3	yes	yes	yes	yes	South East Eagles, Coogee United, <i>Coogee White Tigers (unaffiliated), Schools</i>

Owner/Park	Fields	Training lights	Match lights	Canteen	Toilets	Regular Weekend User(/s)
Heffron Park (Synthetic)	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	<i>Dunbar Rovers NPL (FNSW)</i>
Heffron Park (West)	4	yes	yes	no	no	Coogee United, Glebe Wanderers, Heffron Hawks
Paine Reserve	1	yes	no	no	yes	Barnstoneworth
Snape Lower	1	yes	yes	no	yes	N/A
Randwick Girls High School						
Randwick Girls High School	1	no	no	no	yes	N/A
Royal Botanic Gardens & Domain Trust						
The Domain	1	no	no	no	yes	Sydney CBD
South Sydney High School						
South Sydney High School	1	no	no	no	yes	N/A
Sydney						
Alexandria Park	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	Lokomotiv Cove
Reg Bartley Oval	1	no	yes	yes	yes	Dunbar Rovers, <i>Rugby</i>
Turruwul Park	1	yes	no	yes	yes	Redfern Raiders
Wentworth Park <i>(outside ESFA boundary)</i>	4	yes	yes	no	yes	<i>CDSFA</i>
Wentworth Park Stadium <i>(outside ESFA boundary)</i>	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	<i>Greyhound racing, Balmain (FNSW)</i>

Owner/Park	Fields	Training lights	Match lights	Canteen	Toilets	Regular Weekend User(/s)
University of Sydney						
St Johns Oval <i>(outside ESFA boundary)</i>	1	yes	yes	no	yes	Sydney Uni, <i>Schools</i>
Sydney University Football Ground <i>(outside ESFA boundary)</i>	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	<i>Sydney Uni NPL (FNSW)</i>
The Square <i>(outside ESFA boundary)</i>	1	yes	yes	yes	yes	<i>Sydney Uni SAP (FNSW), Schools</i>
UNSW						
David Phillips Field	2	yes	yes	yes	yes	UNSW, <i>UNSW (FNSW)</i>
Waverley						
Rodney Reserve	1	no	no	no	no	N/A
Waverley Park	1	yes	no	no	yes	Waverley Old Boys, Maccabi Hakoah Juniors, Queens Park
Woollahra						
Christison Park	2	no	no	yes	yes	Maccabi Hakoah Juniors, <i>Schools</i>
Rushcutters Bay Park	1	no	no	no	yes	N/A



ULTIMATE SOCCER, FAIRFIELD

The Association's financial contribution

Since 2012 every registered player has contributed \$10 a year to a Ground Development Trust Fund. This is to put towards facility development for the whole of the Association.

This fund now totals over \$630,000 and is growing every year. At present this is just short of giving us free speech at the table but has been recognised as a very good sign of faith.

It may be that this can't be directed as a contribution towards purchasing land but could be directed towards securing access (through lease or licence arrangements) to a facility on an ongoing basis, thereby satisfying the requirement that it be directed towards improving access to all facilities.

It could be used for developing leased or licensed lands or helping with grants to develop larger projects.

In the course of the Association's own operations, it spends approximately:

- \$75,000 per annum on fields for development programs and representative pathway programs;
- \$20,000 per annum on securing fields to facilitate catch-up games;
- \$25,000 per annum on securing fields for the ESFA Grand Finals Series, and;
- \$40,000 per annum on leasing office space.

The Association could therefore more than likely redirect some \$160,000 per annum towards 'home' ground projects and assist in being an on-the-ground presence, helping to manage the facilities going forward.

A Home of Football for the Eastern Suburbs

With the assistance of Football NSW and Football Federation Australia, we would like to work with local authorities to access grants that can help Council to fund capital works that otherwise may not be possible. We want to discuss how we can work with Council to achieve what we believe to be mutual aims and gain mutual benefits.

The Association is setting important goals that, if achieved, will deliver strong and lasting benefits to football and the local community.

We are looking to establish a Home of Football for the Eastern Suburbs.

In many other regions of Sydney, the regional football authority has a home base that serves as a beating heart for the game in that region. Venues like Blacktown Football Park and Cromer Park provide high level match and training facilities, multiple fields and meeting rooms. There is no such facility at present in the Eastern Suburbs.

These facilities allow the local community to benefit through such things as:

- A home base to create a rich carnival atmosphere for events like gala days, finals series, registration drives and coaching clinics
- Ability to run regular coach education and development programs - helping the Association to 'coach the coaches', improving the quality of football offering for local clubs and schools
- 'Home' grounds for local clubs to play in competitions like the Football NSW Waratah Cup, State Cup and Champions of Champions competitions in the Eastern Suburbs rather than always having to travel to away games
- The capacity to host carnival events like the finals days of State Cup and Champions of Champions competitions along with finals series for Football NSW competitions, bringing high-level footballers and their families to the Eastern Suburbs
- Year-round access to one or more synthetic football fields to run training and development programs for players from grassroots to elite levels
- Capacity to assist local clubs with hosting mid-week games under lights
- A space to assist the Association's representative teams and local representative clubs to train their players to compete at the highest levels of NSW football
- Community rooms that would be available to local community groups including football clubs to use as a meeting space

Were we to be successful in attracting support and funding for such a facility, we would hope that we could arrange an ongoing non-exclusive tenancy of the venue that would permit us to deliver the above benefits to the football community.

We feel that development of such a facility in the Eastern Suburbs would be a beacon for the game and have benefits that spread far beyond our nearly 9,000 players and their families. We feel that given the nature of benefits that could accrue, a project of this nature could attract support from other levels of government.



KNOX REGIONAL FOOTBALL CENTRE, VICTORIA

The ideal Eastern Suburbs Home of Football

The ideal Eastern Suburbs Home of Football has at least three fields to cater for:

- coaching courses and demonstrations
- development squads
- mid-week catch-up games for clubs
- representative trials, training and matches
- school holiday clinics
- summer football programs and competitions
- corporate tournaments
- Champions of Champions and State Cup fixtures

The fields should be:

- sufficiently lit for matches
- fenced and at least one has adequate seating and facilities to meet FNSW competition regulations
- level and have an even covering of grass or a suitable and well maintained synthetic surface
- be an appropriate size
- accompanied by sufficient parking
- available to the football community to use all year round

The ideal Home of Football has a building with:

- office space for a small team of staff
- a large meeting room for Association meetings
- small meeting rooms for Clubs and Association
- a canteen for the association to be able to generate revenue
- noticeboards for the club to be able to put up messages and posters
- storage sufficient to hold training and match day equipment in a secure, tidy and safe manner
- toilets for males and females as well as accessible toilets and facilities
- a referees' room
- change rooms including female change rooms
- shelter for spectators from the elements



