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Consulting Ltd.**



East Hertfordshire District Council

***Bishop's Stortford North S106
Sports Investment Strategy***

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was appointed by East Hertfordshire District Council (EHDC) to undertake a Section 106 Sports Investment Strategy for the Bishop's Stortford North (BSN) development.

1.2 Background

BSN is an area for mixed use development that currently comprises 156ha of agricultural land, woodland and open space, between the A120 by-pass and the existing northern edge of the town. Planning consent has been granted for a total of 2,529 new homes, plus community infrastructure including schools, health facilities, sports provision and community buildings.

EHDC has the opportunity to secure major improvements in local sports facilities through investment arising from the proposed development at BSN. Agreements have been, or are in the process of being concluded with the developers of the site, that will bring up to £3.65 million of investment in sports facilities through developer contributions under the Section 106 regulations.

1.3 The study rationale

The rationale for the study is to provide a framework that will enable the EHDC to utilise the section 106 funding secured for sport in the most effective, efficient and economic manner. A robust, evidence-based strategy is therefore required to identify local needs, link them to wider strategies and set out how the contributions will help meet BSN requirements. The strategy must first look to satisfy the needs of BSN residents in order to meet statutory tests regarding the use of section 106 funds but the wider community will also benefit.

1.4 The study brief

The brief for the study is to develop a strategy that makes recommendations on new sports facilities and services to be developed. The following elements of work were specified:

- Existing relevant policy at national and local level regarding priorities, needs and opportunities in sport must be assessed.
- Sound and objective evidence about the likely demand for different sports arising from the BSN development, then placed in the context of the wider position in Bishop's Stortford must be compiled and evaluated using Sport England's recognised assessment methodologies. It must identify the opportunities for existing clubs to meet current and future demand.
- The evidence base from EHDC's emerging District Plan should be used, supplemented by discussion with individual clubs and governing bodies of sport to clearly identify the needs and tangible, achievable opportunities.
- The demand emanating from BSN must be assessed in relation to the expected demographic profile, taking into account the dwelling mix and tenure. A demand profile should be generated for each of the popular sports, with an indication of any significant change over time as the community matures.

- The strategy must undertake a realistic appraisal of the capacity of existing clubs to meet future demand, including site availability, town planning requirements and the funding available to them, including the prospect of grant aid.
- Criteria should be developed to identify the priority projects and the percentage of the project costs to be awarded.
- A draft list of specific short, medium and long term investment projects in local sports facilities must be prepared, based on the agreed criteria, taking account of the section 106 funding stream over the life of the BSN development and the availability and timing of grants.

1.5 The study methodology

1.5.1 Introduction

To address the provisions of the brief, the strategy was devised by developing the following elements of work:

- An objective analysis of the sports needs arising from the BSN development.
- An examination of the opportunities for meeting the identified needs by using spare capacity in existing facilities or making new provision, using the S106 contributions and other financial sources.
- A comparison of the identified needs and opportunities, to establish the extent to which existing proposed developments could meet the additional demand arising from the BSN development and prioritising those projects that can demonstrably meet the greatest needs.

The methodology adopted for each of the main strands of work is set out below.

1.5.2 Identifying needs

The methodology for evaluating the need for built sports facilities follows the *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance'* (2014), developed by Sport England. This involved the following:

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach** - EHDC consulted with Sport England, the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership and other local stakeholders to agree the terms of the study.
- **Gathering facility supply information** - The quality, quantity and accessibility of existing sports facilities provision was compiled, including site visits to audit all provision and consultation with sports clubs and governing bodies of sport.
- **Gathering facility demand information** - We compiled demand information by looking at the local population profile, sports participation trends, demand priorities identified by local surveys and consultation with sports clubs and governing bodies of sport.

- **Bringing the information together** - We applied the data on supply and demand to build a picture of existing surpluses or deficiencies by layering information on the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities to build up the assessment.

The methodology for evaluating the need for playing pitches follows Sport England's *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). This involved the following:

- **Preparing and tailoring the approach** - EHDC consulted with Sport England, the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership and other local stakeholders to agree the terms of the study.
- **Gathering supply data** - Qualitative and quantitative information on pitch provision was compiled from a range of sources and the data was verified with local users and providers.
- **Gathering demand data** - Pitch and outdoor sports facilities demand information was compiled from consultation with sports clubs, facility providers and the governing bodies of sport.
- **Understanding the situation at individual sites** - We developed a site overview at all pitch and outdoor sports facilities sites by comparing the current carrying capacity of each site with its current use, identifying the peak demand periods and establishing the key issues impacting upon the usage of each site.
- **Developing the picture of current and future provision** - We established an overview of current provision by developing a picture of the position regarding all sites, establishing the extent of displaced and latent demand, identifying the views and key issues and determining the situation at priority sites. We applied Team Generation Rates for each of the pitch sports to assess the additional future needs arising from the BSN development.
- **Identifying the key findings and issues** - We assessed the findings to establish whether there is enough accessible and secured provision to meet current and future demand, whether the quality is adequate and the extent of any gaps in provision.

1.5.3 Evaluating opportunities

The methodology for evaluating the opportunities to meet the identified needs arising from the BSN development involved the following:

- **Strategic overview** - We consulted with key stakeholders to establish their strategic priorities for sport in Bishop's Stortford, including EHDC, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, Active East Herts and the governing bodies of sport.
- **Local authority provision** - We consulted EHDC on the sports facilities it provides in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Schools provision** - We consulted with all six secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford on their sports facilities needs and aspirations and with Hertfordshire County Council on the schools provision planned for the BSN development.

- **Clubs provision** - We consulted with the Silverleys Trust and Bishop's Stortford Sports Trusts (which own the sites occupied by a number of key local sports clubs) and other individual clubs to establish their facilities needs and aspirations.

1.5.4 Prioritising projects

The methodology for prioritising projects involved the following:

- **Matching needs and opportunities** - We applied the outputs from the previous stages of work to assess the extent to which existing sports facilities have the capacity to meet the identified needs of the new population of BSN and what new provision will be needed.
- **Options for provision** - We examined the advantages and disadvantages of different models of facility provision.
- **Feasibility** - We assessed the extent to which the existing projects are likely to be deliverable, in terms of their costs, site availability, planning considerations, funding sources and timings.
- **Prioritisation** - We developed and applied a prioritisation matrix to assess the extent to which the emerging projects comply with a range of identified needs and generated a list of projects in priority order.

1.5.5 Approvals

Approval for the findings involved the following:

- **Project Steering Group** - We presented the draft strategy document to the Project Steering Group, comprising officers of EHDC and subsequently incorporated any suggested additions or amendments.
- **Sounding Board Group** - We presented the revised strategy document to a 'Sounding Board Group', comprising representation from EHDC, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, Active East Hertfordshire (the local sport and physical activity partnership) and Sport England.

1.6 Strategy format

The structure of the strategy document is as follows:

- The local context.
- The BSN development.
- The wider local context.
- Strategic influences.
- The local sports landscape.
- Meeting the sports needs of the BSN development.
- Summary and conclusions.

2 THE BISHOP'S STORTFORD NORTH DEVELOPMENT

2.1 Introduction

This section summarises the proposals for the Bishop's Stortford North (BSN) development. It covers the following:

- Planning context
- The developers
- Development of ASR's 1 to 4
- Development of ASR 5.
- Projected population growth.
- Section 106 funding for sport.
- Implications for sports facilities provision.

2.2 Planning context

The *'East Hertfordshire Local Plan - Second Review'* (2007) includes policies BIS1, BIS3 and BIS8, which address the principle of development at BSN. These policies safeguarded the land for future development and referred to five Areas of Special Restraint (ASRs) and one Special Countryside Area (SCA) which collectively comprise the overall 156ha site. The site also includes an area of green belt that separates ASRs 1 and 2 and ASRs 3 and 4. ASR 5 is separated from the other ASRs by Farnham Road.

2.3 The developers

The applicants for planning consent to develop ASRs 1 to 4 are the Bishop's Stortford North Consortium, which comprises volume house builders Bovis Homes, Taylor Wimpey, The Fairfield Partnership, Persimmon and the Kier Group. The applicants for consent to develop ASR 5 are Countryside Homes.

- Outline planning consent for ASRs 1 to 4 was approved by EHDC in April 2014.
- Full planning consent for the first phase of development in ASRs 1 and 2 was approved by EHDC in April 2014.
- The outline planning application for the final phase of development in ASR 5 was approved by EHDC in August 2015.

2.4 Development of ASRs 1 to 4

2.4.1 Development proposals

The development of ASRs 1 to 4 will comprise:

- Up to 2,200 market and affordable dwellings of various types, styles and sizes, but mainly family homes.
- Two local centres including employment (up to 21,000 sq.m.), retail and community uses.

- A secondary and two primary schools with associated education sports facilities.
- 58.0ha of green infrastructure comprising open space, play areas, allotments and landscaping.
- Internal footpaths, cycleways and highways.
- New football pitches and changing facilities at Hoggate's Park.

A map of the indicative masterplan for ASRs 1 to 4 is below.



2.4.2 Phasing

This phasing of the development will be as follows:

- **Phase 1** - The Western Neighbourhood (ASRs 1 and 2) will comprise up to 850 dwellings, a local centre comprising retail and employment units, a primary school, the football pitches and changing facilities at Hoggate's Park and open spaces at Ash Grove.
- **Phase 2** - The Eastern Neighbourhood (ASRs 3 and 4) will comprise up to 1,350 dwellings, primary and secondary schools, a local centre with employment retail and community facilities, and open space.

2.5 Development of ASR 5

The development of ASR 5 will comprise up to 329 dwellings of a range of sizes, types and tenures, including affordable housing), including a site for a one-form-entry primary school, and public open and amenity space, together with associated landscaping, access, highways (including footpaths and cycleways).

2.6 Projected population growth

The average household size nationally is 2.45 persons, so based upon this the Bishop's Stortford North development will accommodate an additional 6,070 residents, increasing the population of the town by 16.0% to 43,908. Assuming that the demography of the additional population will be similar to that of the existing residents, the population structure will be as follows:

<i>Age</i>	<i>% Population</i>	<i>New residents</i>
0-14	19.8%	1,202
15-24	11.4%	692
25-44	28.9%	1,754
45-59	21.2%	1,287
60+	18.7%	1,135
Total	100%	6,070

2.7 S106 funding for sport

Section 106 agreements have been concluded with the developers of ASRs 1 to 4 and are currently subject to negotiation with the developers of ASR 5. The financial provision for sports facilities to meet the needs of the new population is set out below.

2.7.1 ASRs 1 to 4

The Section 106 agreement has been concluded and makes provision for the payment of £1,363.63 per dwelling for sports facilities provision, up to a maximum of £3 million. The phasing of the payments will be as follows:

- Prior to the occupation of any dwelling: £50,000.
- Prior to the occupation of the 500th dwelling: £450,000.
- Prior to the occupation of the 1,000th dwelling: £500,000.
- Prior to the occupation of the 1,500th dwelling: £1 million.
- Prior to the occupation of the 2,000th dwelling: £1 million.

The agreement also includes £1,095,000 for the construction of the Hoggate's Park football ground and pavilion, £25,000 of which will be used for the preparation of a strategy, to be submitted to the Council prior to the occupation of the 300th dwelling, to ensure that the proposal is feasible. If the proposal is feasible the facilities must be provided before the occupation of the 1,000th dwelling. If the proposal is not feasible, the money may be used for other sporting purposes on the land or added to the Sports Investment contributions above.

2.7.2 ASR 5

The Section 106 agreement in respect of ASR 5 is not yet finally agreed, but the current draft agreement proposes a contribution of £446,233 to be used only for the expansion of facilities at the Rugby Club, Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust or the Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club. Subject to concluding the agreement, the phasing of the payments will be as follows:

- Prior to the occupation of the 100th dwelling: £200,000.
- Prior to the occupation of the 200th dwelling: £150,000.
- Prior to the occupation of the 200th dwelling: £96,233.

If the proposed review of the viability of the development that will take place before the occupation of the 100th dwelling increases the funding available for Section 106 contributions, an additional £39,032 will be added to and split across the two later contributions.

2.7.3 Timing

The timing of the Section 106 payments is unclear at this stage. Developers have a rule of thumb that each house builder might expect to sell one property per week, including the affordable housing. Therefore, if sales were to commence in autumn 2016, the Council would receive the initial payments of £200,000 in respect of ASR5 and £450,000 in respect of ASRs 1 to 4 in autumn 2018. However these timescales are conjectural because the Consortium has yet to take control of ASRs 1 to 4 and full planning consent is still awaited for ASR 5. The payment schedule should be regularly reviewed as the build out schedule for the BSN development becomes clearer.

2.8 The implications for sports facility provision

The implications for sports facilities provision of the BSN development are as follows:

- The increased population of more than 6,000 people will significantly inflate demand for sports facilities provision in Bishop's Stortford, so detailed assessment of what existing capacity exists to accommodate a proportion of the additional demand, will be important in determining the optimum way of accommodating the extra needs.
- Funding from the Section 106 agreements for sports facilities, potentially totalling £3,650,000, plus the expenditure of £1,095,000 for the construction of the Hoggate's Park football ground and pavilion, will offer exciting opportunities to expand, improve and enhance local provision to meet the needs of the new residents of the BSN development.

3 THE WIDER LOCAL CONTEXT

3.1 Introduction

This section identifies the context within which sports facilities provision is currently made in Bishop's Stortford, to provide context for the effects of the BSN development, particularly since the demographic profile of the new population is likely to be closely matched with the current local community. The following are covered:

- Population
- Age structure
- Health indices
- The local economy
- Sports participation
- Market segmentation
- Implications for sports facilities provision.

3.2 Population

Based on the 2011 Census, Bishop's Stortford has a population of 37,838 (ONS, 2012). This represents growth of 7.1% (around 2,513 people) since the previous census in 2001. The population increase arising from the BSN development is projected to be 6,070 people, which equates to further growth of 16.0%.

3.3 Age structure

The age structure is set out below, with comparative figures for East Hertfordshire district, the East of England and England as a whole. The figures show that the town has a relatively young age structure compared with the wider geographical averages.

Age	Bishop's Stortford	Bishop's Stortford %	East Herts %	East %	England %
0-14	7,487	19.8%	18.6%	17.7%	17.1%
15-24	4,312	11.4%	11.0%	12.1%	13.1%
25-44	10,942	28.9%	27.4%	26.4%	27.8%
45-59	8,019	21.2%	21.5%	19.8%	19.4%
60+	7,078	18.7%	21.5%	24.0%	22.6%
Total	37,838	100%	100%	100%	100%

Source: 2011 Census: Resident Population Estimates by Broad Age Band (ONS, 2012)

3.4 Health indices

Public Health England's 'Health Profile for East Hertfordshire' (2014) contains the following details on health indices for the district as a whole:

- The health of people in East Hertfordshire district is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is below average, with no wards amongst the 20% most deprived in the country, although 9.1% of children (2,390) are classified as living in poverty, compared with 20.6% nationally.

- Life expectancy for both men (81.0 years) and women (84.1 years) are both well above the respective national averages (74.0 years and 79.5 years).
- There is relatively some health inequality, with life expectancy for men being 3.4 years less and women 4.3 years less in the most deprived areas of the district, compared with the least deprived areas.
- 11.7% of children aged 10 - 11 in East Hertfordshire are classified as overweight or obese, which is well below the national average of 18.9%.
- 18.7% of adults in East Hertfordshire are classified as overweight or obese, which is well below the England average of 23.0%.

3.5 The local economy

The *'Town Wide Employment Study for Bishop's Stortford'* (2013) examines the key characteristics of the local economy as follows:

- The economy of Bishop's Stortford is prosperous. The key drivers of growth are Stansted Airport, an excellent rail service into central London and good road links via the M11 to London, the M25 northern sub-region and Cambridge. Bishop's Stortford is well positioned in relation to the UK's most dynamic economies.
- Stansted Airport is Bishop's Stortford's largest employer. In 2011 some 10,230 people worked at Stansted airport and around 2,500 of those live in East Hertfordshire. Moreover Stansted Airport is also an important driver of the Bishop's Stortford economy. Many businesses in Bishop's Stortford do business with the airport, or with businesses associated with the airport.

3.6 The implications of the local context

The implications for the local context for sports facilities needs in the BSN development are as follows:

- The population grew by 7.1% in the decade prior to the last census and this upward trend is placing increasing pressure on existing facilities. The addition of a further 6,070 people as a result of the BSN development will create substantial additional demand.
- Whilst the age structure is relatively young compared with national norms, which indicates that demand for sport and physical activity is likely to be proportionately higher, because participation rates are higher amongst the younger age groups.
- Local health indices suggest a relatively healthy and physically active population.
- Deprivation indices for the district are low and the local economy is comparatively prosperous. Since deprivation is associated with lower rates of sport and physical activity, local demand is likely to be relatively high.

4 STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This section contains a summary of the influence of strategic policies and priorities with an impact on sports facilities provision in the BSN development and Bishop's Stortford as a whole. Fuller details of the policies are contained in Appendix I.

4.1.1 Local policy influences

These influences include:

- General policies for the development of Bishop's Stortford, which identify the role of sport in meeting wider local community objectives.
- District planning policy, which will influence the provision and retention of sports facilities by specifying the circumstances and locational criteria in which development is permissible.
- Previous assessments of the need for sports facilities in Bishop's Stortford, which identify the extent to which existing provision can meet current and future needs.
- Given the proximity of the BSN development to the border of East Hertfordshire district, assessments of sports facilities needs in neighbouring Uttlesford district will impact upon cross-boundary supply and demand issues.

4.1.2 Wider policy influences

These influences include:

- Government planning policies and guidance.
- Sport England policy and guidance.
- The governing bodies of sport.

4.2 Local strategic influences

- **The vision for Bishop's Stortford and the Neighbourhood Plan for the north of the town** - Both documents produced by Bishop's Stortford Town Council acknowledge the important role played by sport in enhancing the quality of life locally, but note the need to 'provide for residents' sports needs within a manageable framework while minimising land use'. This highlights the need to seek to minimise the land-take associated with sports facilities provision to serve the BSN development and where possible to relate it to wider facility operations such as schools or existing sports clubs, to achieve sustainable management arrangements.
- **The East Hertfordshire Local Plan** - The Plan contains positive policies on the provision and retention of sports facilities and highlights the need to make suitable provision to meet the additional demand arising from residential developments.

- **The East Hertfordshire sports facilities and playing pitch strategies** - Both documents were produced using a methodology that has since been superseded, but nonetheless provide a helpful preliminary analysis of provision in Bishop's Stortford. Deficiencies are identified in indoor bowls facilities, youth football pitches, mini-soccer pitches, cricket pitches and rugby pitches.
- **The Uttlesford sports facilities strategy** - The document highlights the additional demand for sports facilities in Bishop's Stortford from the Stansted area. Demand for most forms of built sports facility, rugby and both types of artificial turf pitch are all imported from Uttlesford, whereas some football pitch demand is exported.
- **The Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy** - The strategy confirms the commitment of the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership to support funding applications for facilities in areas of identified need and in Bishop's Stortford assessed deficiencies include sports halls, fitness facilities tennis courts and artificial turf pitches

4.3 Wider strategic influences

- **National Planning Policy Framework** - The Framework emphasises the need to undertake a robust and evidence-based assessment of sports needs, to determine local facilities requirements.
- **Sport England** - Sport England's target to increase participation rates year-on-year will drive up demand for pitches and outdoor sports facilities amongst the population of the BSN development and Bishop's Stortford as a whole if it is achieved.
- **Governing bodies of sport** - Several of the governing bodies of sport have priorities that support the case for facility development in Bishop's Stortford that might be achieved in conjunction with the BSN development.

4.4 The implication of the strategic influences

The implications of local and wider strategic influences on sports facilities needs in the BSN development are as follows:

- All local and national strategic policies are supportive of the need to provide facilities to meet the sport and physical activity needs of local communities, which justifies the deployment of Section 106 developer contributions from BSN to make such provision.
- The Neighbourhood Plan highlights the need to seek to minimise the land-take associated with sports facilities provision to serve the BSN development and where possible to relate it to wider facility operations such as schools or existing sports clubs, to achieve sustainable management arrangements.
- Previous assessments of sports facilities needs in Bishop's Stortford have identified a number of existing deficiencies, which will be further exacerbated by the increased demand arising from the residents of the BSN development.

5 THE LOCAL SPORTS LANDSCAPE

5.1 Introduction

This section summarises the general position with regard to existing sports provision in Bishop's Stortford, as a prelude to examining the specific current and future needs for each specific type of facility. The data upon which the analysis is based is listed in full in Appendix II.

5.2 Current levels of demand

Levels of current demand are a key consideration in relation to the BSN development because:

- The demography of the residents of the new development is likely to be similar, with comparable patterns of demand.
- Sports facilities funded by Section 106 contributions have the potential to accommodate some of the currently unmet demand from the existing population, providing that their primary function of serving the needs of the new community is met first.

5.3 Current local sports participation rates

Based upon the results of Sport England's 'Active People' surveys for East Hertfordshire, which measures participation by adults (over 16s), the following trends have been identified:

- **Regular adult participation** - 40.0% of the local population takes part in moderate intensity sport and active recreation for at least 30 minutes at least once a week, which is 5% higher than the regional and national averages.
- **Volunteering** - Rates of volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week at 10.8% are almost double the regional and national averages, which underlines the vibrancy of the voluntary sector in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Club membership** - Local rates of sports club membership at 35.2% are almost double the regional and national averages, which underlines the importance of voluntary sector clubs in delivering sports opportunities in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Coaching** - 26.6% of local people have received sports coaching in the past year, again almost double the regional and national averages.
- **Organised Competition** - This proportion of adults taking part in organised sports competitions in the past year is 23.3%, well over double the national average.

5.4 Market segmentation data

Sport England has undertaken an analysis of 19 adult sporting market segments, to better understand more specific motivations for sports participation and barriers to doing more sport and physical activity. This data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for individual types of activity, based upon the extent to which each segment is over or under represented in the local population.

Favoured activities that recur in the preferences of several market segments in Bishop's Stortford are swimming, various health and fitness activities and the pitch sports, which correlates with the inflated demand data from the 'Active People' survey.

5.5 Current facility supply

Existing sports facilities provision in Bishop's Stortford can be characterised as follows:

- **Dual use facilities** - An unusually high proportion of the major built facilities in the town (sports halls, swimming pools and artificial turf pitches) are on school sites and only accessible to the community on a dual use basis. This has the effect of limiting access to evenings and weekends and even then in the absence of formal Community Use Agreements to regulate access at some sites, not all facilities are available unrestrictively. Therefore even though there may appear to be good numbers of some types of facility, usage capacity is frequently quite limited.
- **Voluntary sector provision** - A number of very active and well-managed voluntary sports clubs provide their own facilities and deliver a wide range of participation opportunities for the local community. The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust provides facilities for cricket, hockey, football, tennis and squash at a site adjacent to the BSN development. The Silverleys Trust leases facilities to Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club and Bishop's Stortford Swifts Football Club, which are also immediately adjacent to the BSN development. Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club is the largest community club in the country with 86 teams and utilises pitches at several sites in the town and adjacent areas. The presence of such vibrant and effective voluntary sector clubs provides a network of providers who, with appropriate facility enhancements, would be well-placed to accommodate new users from the BSN development into existing successful operating structures.
- **Imported demand** - An assessed shortfall in facilities provision in the Stansted area of the neighbouring Uttlesford district, means that locally derived demand for facilities from within Bishop's Stortford is supplemented by imported demand. The capacity of facilities to accommodate some or all of the extra demand arising from the BSN development therefore needs to be assessed in the context of the wider geographical demand profile. At the same time, given the wider catchment that the facilities serve, there may be opportunities to supplement local site availability and financial contributions by planning joint provision with Uttlesford District Council.

5.6 Views on current provision

Bishop's Stortford Town Council has consulted the local community about their views sports facilities provision in the town through:

- A Neighbourhood Plan Survey in late 2014, which attracted almost 1,800 responses.
- A Focus Group for Sport, convened in January 2015 as part of the Neighbourhood Plan compilation.

The key findings are summarised below.

- **Overall satisfaction with provision** - 61% of respondents' to the Neighbourhood Plan Survey were satisfied with local sports provision, with only housing/environment and transport rated as poorer out of the ten categories surveyed.
- **Views on the quantity of facilities** - The highest levels of expressed dissatisfaction were with the number of swimming pools, with 37% of respondents' believing that there are too few.
- **Views on the quality of facilities** - More respondents feel that the general quality of local facilities is 'good' (31%) than those who feel that the quality is 'poor' (28%).

5.7 The implication of the local sports landscape

The implications of the existing local sporting landscape on facilities provision relating to the BSN development are as follows:

- Existing rates of sport and physical activity in Bishop's Stortford are significantly higher than the regional and national averages, as is the role of voluntary sector sports clubs in delivering local opportunities. With the demographic profile of the residents of the BSN development likely to be similar to the current population, their rates of involvement in sport are likely to be similarly high, with concomitantly demand for sports facilities to serve these needs.
- Current levels of facilities supply in Bishop's Stortford appear superficially to be quite good for a town of its size. However, the high proportion of major built facilities on school sites limits accessibility and means that the actual capacity to accommodate community use is much more limited. The ability of current facilities to accommodate some or all of the additional demand arising from the BSN development will therefore need to be carefully assessed.
- The presence of several progressive and effective sports clubs in close proximity to the BSN development provides an opportunity to invest in facility enhancements that will provide for the needs of the new community within existing successfully functioning club operations.
- The proximity of Bishop's Stortford to Uttlesford district results in significant imported demand from the neighbouring area for local sports facilities, but may also offer opportunities to make provision on a collaborative basis, using sites in and/or funding from Uttlesford to assist with meeting some of the needs arising from the BSN development.

6 SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS IN BISHOP'S STORTFORD

6.1 Introduction

This section analyses the current sports facilities needs in Bishop's Stortford, as a prelude to examining the additional provision that will be needed as a result of the BSN development. The types of facilities included are as follows:

- Sports halls.
- Swimming pools.
- Athletics tracks.
- Indoor bowls.
- Outdoor bowls.
- Indoor tennis.
- Outdoor tennis.
- Health and fitness.
- Squash courts.
- Golf courses.
- Community and ancillary halls.
- Football pitches (adult, youth and mini)
- Cricket pitches.
- Rugby pitches (adult, junior and mini)
- Synthetic turf pitches for hockey
- '3G' football turf pitches.

The analysis of current facilities supply is an important consideration in relation to the BSN development because:

- If there is spare capacity in some types of existing facilities, it may be able to cater for some or all of the additional demand arising from the BSN development.
- If existing facilities are already used to full capacity, or if there is a demonstrable current shortfall in provision, extra capacity can be developed with funding from the Section 106 developer contributions.

6.2 Assessing current needs

The way in which current sports facilities needs in Bishop's Stortford were assessed is as follows. The information upon which the assessment is based, is detailed in Appendix III.

6.2.1 Sports facilities assessment methodology

The methodology applied to assess the supply-demand balance for sports facilities involves the approach advocated in Sport England's *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide'* (2014), namely:

- Layering information on the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities provision to build up the assessment.

- Utilising planning tools such as the Facilities Planning Model to support the assessment.
- Considering consultation findings to support the assessment.
- Identifying the key facility issues and priorities.

6.2.2 Playing pitch assessment methodology

The methodology applied to assess the supply-demand balance for pitches is based upon Sport England's recommended methodology, advocated in *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community was developed.

6.3 Assessing future needs

6.3.1 Assessment methodology

The methodology applied to assess the additional future needs for sports facilities arising from the BSN development involves the approach advocated in Sport England's *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide'* (2014) and its related *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013), namely:

- Establishing projected population change.
- Analysing sports development proposals and participation trends.
- Considering existing deficiencies or spare capacity.
- Taking account of any forthcoming changes to facility supply.

6.3.2 Assessed demand parameters

Analysis of the above factors influencing the future supply and demand for sports facilities in the BSN development is detailed in full in Appendix IV and led to the following conclusions, which are reflected in the subsequent assessment of future needs:

- **Population change** - The increased population of 6,070 people arising from the BSN development will significantly increase demand for sports facilities. With a similar demographic profile to the current population, it is likely that the existing high rates of sports participation will be reflected within the new community, with disproportionately high demand for swimming, various health and fitness activities and the pitch sports.
- **Participation trends** - According to Sport England's *'Active People'* survey, participation in most of the sports featured in the assessment has fallen in the period since 2005, in some cases by quite significant margins. This means that future increases in participation cannot be assumed based upon historic trends and have therefore not been factored in to projected needs.
- **Sports development initiatives** - Many of the development programmes proposed by the governing bodies of the respective sports include some ambitious national participation targets, although when these are applied pro rata to the BSN population, the increase in numbers locally is relatively modest so these have therefore not been factored in to projected needs.

- **Changes in supply** - Proposed sports facilities provision at the secondary school and Hoggate's Wood Park within the BSN development will help to accommodate some of the additional demand arising from the increased population and this has been included in the capacity assessments.

6.4 Delivering future facilities needs

6.4.1 Process

To identify the most appropriate way to meet the additional sports facilities needs arising from the population of the BSN development, four sequential questions were addressed:

- **Existing deficiency or spare capacity** - To what extent do existing facilities have any current shortfalls or any over supply?
- **Additional needs** - What additional facilities needs will arise from the population of the BSN development?
- **Accommodating needs** - Which needs can be met on whole or part by spare capacity in existing facilities and which will need to be met in whole or part by new facilities?
- **Extra facilities** - What extra facilities of each type are required to provide for the residual unmet demand?

6.4.2 Methodology

The methodology applied to provide quantified answers to the above questions is as follows:

- **Current facilities provision** - The adequacy of current provision and any existing spare capacity was assessed using Sport England's approved methodologies.
- **Additional needs** - Additional needs were calculated by quantifying the current number of people required to use a facility of each type to effective capacity, based on local supply and demand data. These figures have then been applied to the new population of BSN to calculate the gross additional facilities needs arising from 6,070 people.
- **Net requirements** - The net requirement for additional provision was calculated by comparing the extra required facilities capacity to the current available facilities capacity, to identify the difference.

6.5 Sources of information

6.5.1 Consultation

Information was gathered from the following consultees:

- Sport England - Information on overall facilities needs, including the results of applying their facilities planning tools.
- Hertfordshire County Council - Information on local schools provision, including redevelopment proposals and the new provision within the BSN development.

- Hertfordshire Sports Partnership - Information on overall facilities needs and engagement with the governing bodies of sport in the county.
- East Hertfordshire District Council - Background material on council sports facilities provision in Bishop's Stortford and the current review of its leisure management contract.
- Active East Hertfordshire - Information on the key sports clubs in Bishop's Stortford and sports development programmes in the area.
- Governing bodies of sport - Information on strategic facilities priorities and local facilities supply and demand information.
- Bishop's Stortford Town Council - Information on the neighbourhood planning process and views on local facilities needs.
- Secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford - Information on sports facilities needs and aspirations and attitudes towards community use.
- Individual sports clubs - Information on sports facilities needs and aspirations.
- Sports facilities providers - Information on usage levels and spare capacity.

6.5.2 Facilities planning tools

The results from the following facilities planning tools were reviewed.

- Sport England's Facilities Planning Model for sports halls, swimming pools and synthetic turf pitches.
- Sport England's *'Active Places Power'* database.
- Governing body of sport assessments and needs analysis.

6.5.3 Surveys

The results of the survey on local sports needs undertaken by Bishop's Stortford Town Council in connection with the *'Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards 2014 - 2031'* (2015) were kindly made available.

6.6 Sports halls

6.6.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are four community accessible sports halls in Bishop's Stortford, but none of the facilities complies with Sport England's latest recommendations in terms of dimensions. Several local sports clubs mentioned the need to adapt and improvise their activities in sports halls which are not fully fit for purpose.
- **Quality** - The quality all aspects of sports hall provision was assessed as generally good.

- **Access** - All the sports halls are on education sites and community access is limited to between 20 and 38 hours per week. Consultation with the schools concerned indicated that there is little scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest sports hall, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The *'East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities'* (2011) is consistent with current findings in concluding that 'the provision of sports halls in Bishop's Stortford is adequate to meet existing needs, but additional facilities will be required to take account of the extra demand arising from population growth. The needs of specialist activities like basketball and judo are often difficult to accommodate in sports halls and they may need to be accommodated in specialist facilities locally'.
- **Spare capacity** - Based upon Sport England's definition of 'Comfortable Capacity', whereby a sports hall is deemed to be effectively full when usage reaches 80% of theoretical full capacity, the application of the FPM and consultation with user clubs and local facility providers, local facility providers and users suggests that there is no spare capacity to accommodate additional demand at present.

6.6.2 Conclusions on current provision

Sports halls in Bishop's Stortford are currently operating at 'Comfortable Capacity'. In addition:

- None of the facilities complies with Sport England's latest recommendations in terms of dimensions.
- Community access in the respective sports halls is limited to between 20 and 38 hours per week, which places significant limitations on effective capacity and the schools concerned have indicated that there is little realistic prospect of increasing availability.

6.6.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional sports hall capacity arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 9,460 people will generate sufficient demand for one standard sized sports hall.
- With all current effective capacity fully used and no realistic prospect of increasing access to existing facilities, additional demand will need to be met by new facilities.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.64 of a sports hall.

6.7 Swimming pools

6.7.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are four community accessible swimming pools of 20m or larger in Bishop's Stortford, supplemented by two learner pools. Bishop's Stortford Swimming Club is unable to host competitions at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre because there are too few lanes and the spectator accommodation is inadequate. 37% of respondents to the community survey believe that there are too few swimming facilities in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Quality** - The quality of most aspects of most pools is generally good, although the changing facilities at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre are in need of refurbishment and the pool hall and changing facilities at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School pool are rated as 'poor' quality.
- **Access** - Community access to the pools at Bishop's Stortford College and the Hertfordshire and Essex High School is limited to 40 hours per week for block-bookings only and the facility at the Bishop's Stortford Fitness and Well-being Centre is available to members only. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is little scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest swimming pool, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The '*East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities*' (2011) is consistent with the current findings in concluding that 'the current levels of provision are adequate to meet current and future needs in Bishop's Stortford, although there are some quality issues at the Grange Paddocks pool'.
- **Spare capacity** - Based upon Sport England's definition of 'Comfortable Capacity', whereby a swimming pool is deemed to be effectively full when usage reaches 70% of theoretical full capacity, the application of the FPM indicates that there is some spare capacity at present, particularly at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre. However, the latter findings are contradicted by consultation with local facility providers, clubs and casual users, which indicates that there is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand at present.

6.7.2 Conclusions on current provision

Swimming pools in Bishop's Stortford are currently operating at 'Comfortable Capacity'. In addition:

- There is no access for casual 'pay and play' swimming at three of the four pools.
- The Grange Paddocks pool is inadequate to meet competitive needs and the changing facilities are in need of refurbishment.
- The pool hall and changing facilities at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School pool are rated as 'poor' quality.

6.7.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional swimming pool capacity arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 9,460 people will generate sufficient demand for a 25m x 13m pool.
- With all current effective capacity fully used and no realistic prospect of increasing access to existing facilities, additional demand will need to be met by new facilities.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.64 of a 25m x 13m swimming pool.

6.8 Athletics facilities

6.8.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are no specialist athletics facilities in Bishop's Stortford, although three 400m synthetic tracks in neighbouring areas (Ware, Harlow and Braintree) are accessible to all residents of the town. Despite this, 44% of respondents to a residents' survey felt that there are too few athletics facilities in the town at present.
- **Access** - There are no access limitations to the tracks in neighbouring areas.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is just within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest track, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved, although all Bishop's Stortford residents are at the outer limits of the travel time tolerance, which will exert some influence on perceived accessibility.
- **Strategic priority** - The '*East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities*' (2011) is consistent with current findings in concluding that there may be a case for an additional smaller training track in the district as a whole, but 'the north and/or rural parts of the district' were the recommended location(s).
- **Spare capacity** - Consultation with local track providers in neighbouring areas indicates that there is significant spare capacity at 400m synthetic tracks at present, particularly the facility at Wodson Park in Ware. Notwithstanding this, there is strong local community demand for a more locally-based facility.

6.8.2 Conclusions on current provision

Local athletics needs would best be served by the provision of either a Club Training Venue or a Compact Athletics Facility, the definitions of which are contained in UK Athletics '*Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2019*' (2014). This should ideally be located at a multi-sports venue, which could be at one of the education sites in the town and be provided in conjunction with other additional outdoor facility needs.

6.8.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional sports hall capacity arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 37,388 people will generate sufficient demand for a Compact Athletics Facility.

- There is a case for providing a facility to meet existing needs in Bishop's Stortford, but once this is provided, the additional demand arising from the BSN development will be equivalent to a further 0.16 of a Compact Athletics Facility. In practical terms, this might be met by capacity improvements such as adding additional lanes to a 'J' track or expanding field events provision.

6.9 Indoor bowls

6.9.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are no indoor bowls facilities in Bishop's Stortford, although two facilities in neighbouring areas (Harlow and Saffron Walden) are accessible to all residents of the town.
- **Access** - The facility in Saffron Walden is available on a 'pay and play' basis to non-members.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 30 minutes driving time of the nearest indoor bowls facilities so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved, although all Bishop's Stortford residents are towards the outer limits of the travel time tolerance, which will exert some influence on perceived accessibility.
- **Strategic priority** - The '*East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities*' (2011) concluded that 'there is no provision in East Hertfordshire at present and a 5 to 8 rink facility is needed in the east or south of the district and as the largest centre of population in the area, Bishop's Stortford would be a logical location'. However, the English Indoor Bowling Association has not identified Bishop's Stortford as a priority area for additional facility provision.
- **Spare capacity** - Consultation with both the indoor bowls facility providers in neighbouring areas indicated that there is spare capacity at both facilities at present, equivalent to 0.25 of a facility (equating to 2 rinks).

6.9.2 Conclusions on current provision

Existing facilities in neighbouring areas have sufficient capacity to meet current needs in Bishop's Stortford.

6.9.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional indoor bowls capacity arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 130,000 people will generate sufficient demand for an indoor bowls facility.
- Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been estimated at 0.25 of a facility (equivalent to 2 rinks).
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.05 of an indoor bowls facility, leaving net spare capacity of 0.20 of a facility.

6.10 Outdoor bowls

6.10.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are three outdoor bowls greens at two sites in Bishop's Stortford, including one all-weather facility.
- **Quality** - The quality of all aspects of provision is generally 'average' or above.
- **Access** - Both clubs are accessible by members only, but no evidence of any demand for casual play by non-members.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest indoor bowls green, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The 'East Hertfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy and Outdoor Sports Facilities Audit' (2010) is consistent with current findings in concluding that 'the quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities was judged to be adequate to meet existing and future needs'.
- **Spare capacity** - Both local bowls clubs have membership vacancies, which equates to effective spare capacity of 0.25 of an outdoor bowls green.

6.10.2 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of outdoor bowls facilities in Bishop's Stortford are adequate to meet existing needs, with some spare capacity.

6.10.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional outdoor bowls capacity arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 15,000 people will generate sufficient demand for an indoor bowls facility.
- Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been estimated at 0.25 of an outdoor bowls green.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.40 of an outdoor bowls green, leaving a net shortfall of 0.15 of a facility (equivalent to 1 rink).

6.11 Indoor tennis

6.11.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are no indoor tennis centres in Bishop's Stortford, although three facilities in neighbouring areas (Hertford and Harlow) provide for some needs of residents of the town.

- **Quality** - No quality assessment was possible.
- **Access** - There are no significant limitations on access to any of the indoor tennis centres in neighbouring areas.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 30 minutes driving time of their nearest indoor tennis court so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved, although all Bishop's Stortford residents are towards the outer limits of the travel time tolerance, which will exert some influence on perceived accessibility.
- **Strategic priority** - The Lawn Tennis Association supports the strategic need for additional indoor court provision in Bishop's Stortford, to meet sub-regional junior needs.
- **Spare capacity** - Consultation with both indoor tennis facility providers in neighbouring areas indicates that there is spare capacity at all both facilities at present, equivalent to 0.25 of an indoor tennis facility (equating to one court).

6.11.2 Conclusions on current provision

There is an identified need for indoor courts to accommodate sub-regional junior training needs and this would also provide more accessible indoor provision for other local tennis players.

6.11.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional indoor tennis capacity arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 130,000 people will generate sufficient demand for an indoor tennis facility.
- Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been estimated at 0.25 of an indoor tennis facility (equivalent to one court).
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.05 of an indoor tennis facility, leaving net spare capacity of 0.20 of a facility.

6.12 Outdoor tennis courts

6.12.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 17 community accessible outdoor tennis courts in Bishop's Stortford, supplemented by 10 courts on school sites that have no community access.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision at Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club is all above 'average', but all aspects of the public courts at Castle Gardens are rated as only 'average'.
- **Access** - Access to the Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club courts is on a membership basis only. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is little scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest outdoor tennis court, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.

- **Strategic priority** - The Lawn Tennis Association has not indicated a strategic need for additional provision in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Spare capacity** - Consultation with local court providers indicates that there is some spare capacity at present, equivalent to one tennis court.

6.12.2 Conclusions on current provision

Current levels of provision of outdoor tennis courts in Bishop's Stortford are adequate to meet existing needs, with some spare capacity.

6.12.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional outdoor tennis courts arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 2,500 people will generate sufficient demand for an outdoor tennis court.
- Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been estimated at 1 outdoor court.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 2.42 outdoor tennis courts, leaving a net shortfall of 1.42 courts.

6.13 Netball courts

6.13.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 5 community accessible netball courts in Bishop's Stortford, supplemented by 6 courts on a school site that currently has no community access.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision at the Birchwood High School courts is above 'average'.
- **Access** - Access to the Birchwood High School courts is on a 'pay and play' basis, although they are not available during the summer months when they are converted for curriculum tennis usage and user clubs have to move to facilities in Harlow. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is little scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest netball court, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - Hertfordshire Netball has identified Bishop's Stortford as a priority area for junior development, with additional facilities being seen as a key requirement.
- **Spare capacity** - The existing available courts in Bishop's Stortford are all operating at full capacity at present, but there is a deficiency in the summer months when the courts are unavailable for netball use.

6.13.2 Conclusions on current provision

Current levels of provision of netball courts in Bishop's Stortford are insufficient to allow the expansion of the game locally.

6.13.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional netball courts arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 7,500 people will generate sufficient demand for an indoor bowls facility.
- There is no effective spare capacity at the current courts.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.86 netball courts.

6.14 Health and fitness

6.14.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are four community accessible health and fitness facilities in Bishop's Stortford, plus one on a school site that is unavailable for community use. The '*Active People*' survey results show that local rates of health and fitness activity are well above the regional and national averages - a situation that is also predicted by the market segmentation data for the area.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good.
- **Access** - One third of the local health and fitness capacity is at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre and is accessible on a 'pay and play' basis. Most of the remaining capacity is at members-only facilities. Consultation with the College indicated that there is little scope to develop general community access to its facility.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest health and fitness facility, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The '*East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities*' (2011) is consistent with current findings in concluding that there is no effective spare capacity in current health and fitness facilities.
- **Spare capacity** - Consultation with local health and fitness facility providers indicates that there is very limited spare capacity at all facilities at present.

6.14.2 Conclusions on current provision

With high levels of demand locally, existing facilities are effectively operating at full capacity.

6.14.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional health and fitness facilities arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 9,640 people will generate sufficient demand for a 100 station health and fitness facility.
- There is no effective spare capacity at the current facilities.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.64 of a health and fitness facility, equating to a 64 station facility.

6.15 Gymnastics facilities

6.15.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There is one specialist permanent gymnastics facility in Bishop's Stortford,
- **Quality** - The quality of the facility is good.
- **Access** - The facility is operated as a members club but offers a range of classes with no effective barriers to access.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 30 minutes driving time of the gymnastics facility, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - British Gymnastics has not identified Bishop's Stortford as a priority location for further facility developments.
- **Spare capacity** - Consultation with the Valdez Gymnastics Club confirmed that there is very limited spare capacity at the existing facility at present.

6.15.2 Conclusions on current provision

With high levels of demand locally, the existing facility is effectively operating at full capacity.

6.15.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional gymnastics facilities arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 37,838 people will generate sufficient demand for a specialist gymnastics facility.
- There is no effective spare capacity at the current facilities.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.16 of a gymnastics facility, which would best be met by expanding capacity at the current facility in the town.

6.16 Squash courts

6.16.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 8 community accessible squash courts in Bishop's Stortford at two sites.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision at both sites is rated as above 'average'.
- **Access** - All of the courts are available for use on a membership-only basis.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest squash court, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - England Squash and Racketball has not indicated a strategic need for additional provision in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Spare capacity** - Consultation with both local clubs indicates that there is spare capacity at both facilities at present, equivalent to 0.5 of a squash court.

6.16.2 Conclusions on current provision

Existing facilities are adequate to meet current needs in Bishop's Stortford, but there is limited spare capacity.

6.16.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional squash courts arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 5,000 people will generate sufficient demand for a squash court.
- There is effective spare capacity of 0.5 courts at the current facilities.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 1.21 squash courts, leaving a net shortfall of 0.71 courts.

6.17 Golf courses

6.17.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There is one 18-hole golf course in Bishop's Stortford at Bishop's Stortford Golf Club.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good, with all aspects of all facilities rated as at least 'average' standard.
- **Access** - Access to the course is for members on a membership basis and, guests and visitors on a 'pay and play' basis, so there are no significant barriers to access.

- **Accessibility** - The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the golf course, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The English Golf Union has not indicated a strategic need for additional provision in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Spare capacity** - Bishop's Stortford Golf Club has some capacity to accommodate additional members, but the course is well used at peak times so there is limited spare capacity equivalent to 0.1 of a golf course (equating to 2 holes).

6.17.2 Conclusions on current provision

The existing facility is adequate to meet current needs in Bishop's Stortford, but there is limited spare capacity.

6.17.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional golf courses arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 42,000 people will generate sufficient demand for a golf course.
- There is effective spare capacity of 2 holes at the current facility.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.15 of a golf course, which can be met by existing spare capacity.

6.18 Canoeing facilities

6.18.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There is one specialist canoeing facility in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is the main issue, with the clubhouse being too small to meet current needs and the access points to the water rated as 'very poor', particularly for disabled users.
- **Access** - The club operates on a membership basis, but runs taster sessions for non-members, so there are no effective barriers to access.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 30 minutes driving time of the facility, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - British Canoeing has not indentified Bishop's Stortford as a priority location for facility development.
- **Spare capacity** - There is limited spare capacity at present.

6.18.2 Conclusions on current provision

The capacity of the clubhouse and water access points is the major factor limiting capacity at present.

6.18.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional canoeing facilities arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 37,838 people will generate sufficient demand for a canoeing facility.
- There is no effective spare capacity at the current facility.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 0.16 of a canoeing facility, which would best be met by expanding capacity at the existing facility.

6.19 Community and ancillary halls

6.19.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 13 community and ancillary halls in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision all aspects of all sites is rated as above 'average', although some specific sports needs cannot be met, for example the equipment storage needs of Bishop's Stortford Judokwai.
- **Access** - All of the halls are available for hire by individuals or organised groups, although eight are on school sites and subject to dual use arrangements which mean that they are only available for community use at evenings and weekends. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is little scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 10 minutes driving time of their nearest hall, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - There has been no previous assessment of strategic need for community halls in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Spare capacity** - There is some spare capacity, particularly in the halls on school sites which are unable to accommodate year round bookings due for example to the use of the facilities for exams. Existing spare capacity is equivalent to one community hall.

6.19.2 Conclusions on current provision

Existing halls provide for a wide range of sports uses in the town, in particular martial arts and exercise classes and appear to be adequate to meet current needs in Bishop's Stortford with some spare capacity.

6.19.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional community and ancillary halls arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- A population of 3,000 people will generate sufficient demand for a community/ancillary hall.
- There is effective spare capacity equivalent to one hall at the current facilities.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development once it is completed will be equivalent to 2.02 halls, leaving a net shortfall of 1.02 halls.

6.20 Football pitches

Football in Bishop's Stortford is dominated by the Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club. With 4 men's teams, 2 ladies teams, 42 youth teams and 25 mini teams, the club is the largest in the country. With so many teams, demand for pitches is high and the club has 1,447 home fixtures to accommodate per season, plus training sessions. The only way that demand of this magnitude can be accommodated is by using pitches for two fixtures on each matchday and by hiring pitches outside the area, as far afield as Harlow and Ware.

Were all the club's pitch needs to be accommodated on a single site (as the club would prefer) two full-sized '3G' football turf pitches would offer sufficient capacity, with flexibility over fixture scheduling.

The analysis below compares supply and demand for football pitches of each size in Bishop's Stortford.

6.21 Adult football pitches

6.21.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 10 adult football pitches in Bishop's Stortford, which can collectively accommodate 16 match equivalents per week.
- **Quality** - Four of the pitches at the Grange Paddocks suffer from poor drainage and as a result their usage capacity is reduced.
- **Access** - There are 12 additional adult football pitches on school sites with no community access at present. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest adult football pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The Football Association has identified as its highest regional priority, ensuring that the pitch needs of Bishop's Stortford Community FC are met.

- **Spare capacity** - At three sites with adult pitches, supply and demand are balanced and at the fourth site (Grange Paddocks), there is spare capacity of 2.5 match equivalents per week, which equates to around one standard quality pitch.

6.21.2 Conclusions on current provision

There is some spare capacity at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre, but all other sites are currently used to capacity, with some exported demand to pitches in neighbouring areas. The carrying capacity of four pitches at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre is compromised by poor drainage.

6.21.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional adult football pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to an additional two adult male and one adult female football teams will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will require 1.5 standard quality pitches to accommodate it.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development will leave a net shortfall of 0.5 adult football pitches.

6.22 Youth football (11v11)pitches

6.22.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 3 youth (11v11) football pitches in Bishop's Stortford, which can collectively accommodate 6 match equivalents per week, supplemented by 4 further pitches in neighbouring areas that are used by Bishop's Stortford Community FC, which can collectively accommodate another 4 match equivalents per week.
- **Quality** - All of the Youth (11v11) pitches and related changing facilities are standard quality.
- **Access** - There are 5 additional youth (11v11) football pitches on school sites with no community access at present. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest youth (11v11) football pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The Football Association has identified as its highest regional priority, ensuring that the pitch needs of Bishop's Stortford Community FC are met.
- **Spare capacity** - At six sites with a youth (11v11) pitch, supply and demand are balanced but at Birchwood High School, the pitch is used to just beyond its sustainable capacity, by 0.5 match equivalents per week, which equates to around 0.25 of a standard quality pitch.

6.22.2 Conclusions on current provision

All youth (11v11) football pitches in Bishop's Stortford are currently used to capacity or beyond, with substantial exported demand to pitches in neighbouring areas.

6.22.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional youth (11v11) football pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to an additional four youth (11v11) male and one youth (11v11) female football teams will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will require 2.5 standard quality pitches to accommodate it.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development will create an additional shortfall of 2.5 youth (11v11) football pitches, once the existing deficiency has been met.

6.23 Youth football (9v9)pitches

6.23.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 6 youth (9v9) football pitches in Bishop's Stortford, which can collectively accommodate 12 match equivalents per week.
- **Quality** - All of the Youth (9v9) pitches and related changing facilities are standard quality.
- **Access** - There is one additional youth (9v9) football pitch on a school site with no community access at present. Consultation with the school indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest youth (9v9) football pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The Football Association has identified as its highest regional priority, ensuring that the pitch needs of Bishop's Stortford Community FC are met.
- **Spare capacity** - At one site with a youth (9v9) pitch, supply and demand are balanced, at one other there is some spare capacity, but at Birchwood High School and Friedberg Avenue Playing Field, the pitches are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. There is therefore a collective deficit of 1.0 match equivalents per week, which equates to around 0.5 of a standard quality pitch.

6.23.2 Conclusions on current provision

All but one youth (9v9) football pitches in Bishop's Stortford are currently used to capacity or beyond, with a localised deficit of one match equivalent.

6.23.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional youth (9v9) football pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to an additional four youth (9v9) male and one youth (9v9) female football teams will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will require 2.5 standard quality pitches to accommodate it.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development will create an additional shortfall of 2.5 youth (9v9) football pitches, once the existing deficiency has been met.

6.24 Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches

6.24.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are 4 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches in Bishop's Stortford, which can collectively accommodate 12 match equivalents per week.
- **Quality** - All of the mini-soccer (7v7) pitches and related changing facilities are standard quality.
- **Access** - There are nine additional mini-soccer (7v7) pitches on school sites with no community access at present. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest mini-soccer (7v7) pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The Football Association has identified as its highest regional priority, ensuring that the pitch needs of Bishop's Stortford Community FC are met.
- **Spare capacity** - At both sites with mini-soccer (7v7) pitches, supply and demand are balanced.

6.24.2 Conclusions on current provision

All mini-soccer (7v7) pitches in Bishop's Stortford are currently used to capacity.

6.24.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional mini-soccer (7v7) pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to an additional one mini-soccer (7v7) team will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will require 0.25 standard quality pitches to accommodate it.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development will create a shortfall of 0.25 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches.

6.25 Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches

6.25.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There is one mini-soccer (5v5) pitch in Bishop's Stortford, which can accommodate 4 match equivalents per week.
- **Quality** - The mini-soccer (5v5) pitch and related changing facilities are standard quality.
- **Access** - There are two additional mini-soccer (5v5) pitches on a school site with no community access at present. Consultation with the school indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the mini-soccer (5v5) pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The Football Association has identified as its highest regional priority, ensuring that the pitch needs of Bishop's Stortford Community FC are met.
- **Spare capacity** - Supply and demand are balanced at the only pitch.

6.25.2 Conclusions on current provision

The mini-soccer (5v5) pitch in Bishop's Stortford is currently used to capacity.

6.25.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional mini-soccer (5v5) pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to an additional one mini-soccer (5v5) team will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will require 0.25 standard quality pitches to accommodate it.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development will create a shortfall of 0.25 mini-soccer (5v5) pitches.

6.26 Cricket pitches

6.26.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are three cricket pitches in Bishop's Stortford, collectively comprising 36 grass and two artificial turf wicket, which between them can accommodate 250 match equivalents per season.
- **Quality** - All aspects of all facilities are rated as at least 'standard' quality, although the pavilion at Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust does not meet current needs and expectations.

- **Access** - There are 11 additional cricket pitches on school sites with no community access at present. Consultation with the school indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest cricket pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - Hertfordshire Cricket has not identified Bishop's Stortford as a priority location for facility development.
- **Spare capacity** - There is collective seasonal spare capacity of 91 match equivalents in Bishop's Stortford, which equates to 18 good quality grass wickets.

6.26.2 Conclusions on current provision

There is sufficient pitch capacity to meet all current needs.

6.26.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional cricket pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to an additional four cricket teams will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will require 8 good quality wickets to accommodate it.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development can be accommodated using existing spare capacity.

6.27 Rugby pitches

6.27.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are four adult and five junior rugby pitches in Bishop's Stortford, which can accommodate 8.0 and 10.0 match equivalents respectively per week.
- **Quality** - The changing provision at Bishop's Stortford is not adequate to meet existing needs.
- **Access** - There are 20 additional adult rugby pitches and four additional junior rugby pitches on school sites with no very limited or no community access at present, although some of these are only marked out for one school term per annum. Consultation with the schools indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest rugby pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The Hertfordshire Rugby Union has not identified Bishop's Stortford as a priority location for facility development.

- **Spare capacity** - The pitches at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club are used to beyond their sustainable capacity, by 3.75 match equivalents per week for the adult pitches and four match equivalents per week for the junior pitches. Community use of the Bishop's Stortford College pitches is currently balanced in terms of supply and demand.

6.27.2 Conclusions on current provision

There is a significant deficit in pitch provision to meet current needs in Bishop's Stortford.

6.27.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional rugby pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to one additional adult team, three junior teams and one mini-rugby team will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will create demand for one additional adult pitch and two junior pitches.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development will create an additional shortfall of 1.0 additional adult pitch and 2.0 junior pitches, once the existing deficiency has been met.

6.28 Synthetic Turf Pitches for hockey

6.28.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There are two synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Bishop's Stortford, with a collective capacity of 50 hours of peak time availability per week.
- **Quality** - All synthetic turf pitches for hockey are rated as at least 'standard' quality.
- **Access** - There is one additional artificial turf pitch for hockey at Bishop's Stortford College, but it has no community access at present. Consultation with the College indicated that there is no scope to increase availability.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest synthetic turf pitch for hockey, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The 'East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities' (2011) is consistent with current findings in concluding that current levels of provision are adequate to meet current needs in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Spare capacity** - There is limited spare capacity at both pitches at present, including use for football. This is borne out by Sport England's FPM assessment which calculates that all pitches are currently used to full capacity during the peak period.

6.28.2 Conclusions on current provision

There is limited spare capacity at the two current pitches. One pitch has no community access. The absence of a clubhouse adjacent to either of the existing pitches with community use is detrimental to the functioning of Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club.

6.28.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional synthetic turf pitches for hockey arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to three additional adult teams and two junior will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed, which will generate demand for 10.0 additional match equivalents per week.
- The additional demand arising from the BSN development will create a need for an additional 15 hours of peak time pitch use per week, equivalent to 0.6 of a synthetic turf pitches for hockey.

6.29 '3G' Football Turf Pitches

6.29.1 Assessment of current provision

- **Quantity** - There is one '3G' football turf pitch in Bishop's Stortford, with a capacity of 25 hours of peak time availability per week.
- **Quality** - The '3G' football turf pitch is rated as at least 'standard' quality.
- **Access** - The only '3G' football turf pitch in Bishop's Stortford is on a school site but this does not impact adversely on its community use peak time capacity.
- **Accessibility** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch, so no geographical areas in the town or its surrounds are unserved.
- **Strategic priority** - The Football Association has devised an internal mapping exercise to establish an estimated baseline figure for the number of '3G' pitches required to meet football needs in a locality. It calculates that there is a current shortfall equivalent to 0.58 '3G' football turf pitches. The FA also believes that '3G' pitch provision should form part of the solution to ensure that the pitch needs of Bishop's Stortford Community FC are met.
- **Spare capacity** - There is limited spare capacity at the current pitch in the peak period.

6.29.2 Conclusions on current provision

The FA's calculation identifies a current need for 0.58 additional '3G' pitches in Bishop's Stortford for football usage.

6.29.3 Assessment of future provision

The need for additional '3G' football turf pitches arising from an assessment of future needs using the methodology described in section 6.4 above indicates that:

- Demand equivalent to 15 additional football teams will be generated by the BSN development once it is completed.
- With an additional 15 football teams generated by the BSN development, there would be demand for an extra 0.27 '3G' football turf pitches.

6.30 Summary of sports facilities needs

On the basis of the analysis of the balance between supply and demand of sports facilities in Bishop's Stortford, the adequacy of current provision to accommodate additional use from the BSN development has been assessed as follows:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Current position</i>	<i>Extra needs arising from BSN</i>	<i>Net requirements</i>
Sports halls	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.64 of a 4-badminton court sized sports hall.	0.64 of a 4-badminton court sized sports hall.
Swimming pools	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.64 of a 25m x 13m swimming pool.	0.64 of a 25m x 13m swimming pool.
Athletics facilities	There is a need for a Compact Athletics Facility in Bishop's Stortford.	0.16 of a Compact Athletics Facility.	0.16 of a Compact Athletics Facility, once a facility has been provided to meet current needs.
Indoor bowls	Effective spare capacity at existing facilities in neighbouring areas has been calculated as the equivalent of 0.25 of a facility.	0.05 of an indoor bowls facility, leaving net spare capacity of 0.20 of a facility.	No additional requirements.
Outdoor bowls greens	Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been calculated as the equivalent of 0.25 of a green.	0.40 of an outdoor bowls green	0.15 of an outdoor bowls green (equivalent to 1 rink), once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.
Indoor tennis courts	Effective spare capacity at existing facilities in neighbouring areas has been calculated as the equivalent of 0.25 of a facility, but there is a strategic need for indoor courts to meet sub-regional junior training needs.	The additional demand arising from the BSN development will be equivalent to 0.05 of an indoor tennis facility, leaving net spare capacity of 0.20 of a facility.	No additional requirements.
Outdoor tennis courts	Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been calculated as the equivalent of 1 outdoor court.	2.42 outdoor tennis courts.	1.42 tennis courts once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.
Netball courts	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.86 of a netball court.	0.86 of a netball court.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Current position</i>	<i>Extra needs arising from BSN</i>	<i>Net requirements</i>
Health and fitness facilities	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.64 of a 100-station health and fitness facility.	A 64-station health and fitness facility.
Gymnastics facilities	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.16 of a gymnastics facility.	0.16 of a gymnastics facility.
Squash courts	Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been calculated as the equivalent of 0.5 courts.	1.21 squash courts.	0.71 squash courts once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.
Golf courses	Effective spare capacity at the current course has been calculated as the equivalent of 2 holes.	0.15 of a golf course	No additional requirements.
Canoeing facilities	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.16 of a canoeing facility.	0.16 of a canoeing facility.
Community halls	Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been calculated as the equivalent of 1 hall.	2.02 halls.	1.02 halls once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.
Adult football pitches	Effective spare capacity has been calculated as the equivalent of 1 adult football pitch.	1.5 adult football pitches.	0.5 pitches once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.
Youth football (11v11) pitches	A deficit of 0.25 youth (11v11) pitches.	2.5 youth (11v11) football pitches.	2.75 pitches including the existing deficit.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	A deficit of 0.5 youth (9v9) pitches.	2.5 youth (9v9) football pitches.	3.0 pitches including the existing deficit.
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.25 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches.	0.25 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches.
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.25 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches.	0.25 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches.
Cricket pitches	Effective spare capacity at the current pitches has been calculated as the equivalent of 18 good quality wickets.	8 good quality wickets.	No additional requirements.
Rugby pitches	A deficit of 3.75 adult and 4.0 junior rugby pitches.	1.0 adult and 2.0 junior rugby pitches.	4.75 adult pitches and 6.0 junior pitches including the existing deficit.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	There is no effective capacity to accommodate additional demand.	0.6 of a synthetic turf pitch for hockey.	0.6 of a synthetic turf pitch for hockey.
'3G' football turf pitches	A deficit of 0.58 '3G' football turf pitches.	0.27 '3G' football turf pitches.	0.85 '3G' football turf pitches including the existing deficit.

7 MEETING THE BSN DEVELOPMENT'S SPORTS NEEDS

7.1 Introduction

This section sets out existing project proposals for sports facilities projects in Bishop's Stortford and examines the extent to which they might address the needs of the BSN development.

7.2 Current project proposals

<i>Project promoter</i>	<i>Proposed development</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>	<i>Potential funding sources</i>	<i>Needs addressed</i>	<i>Risks</i>
Herts and Essex High School	New sports complex on 2 sites at Beldham's Lane including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sports hall. • A 25m pool • Health and fitness • Dance studio/ancillary hall • '3G' football turf pitch(es) • Tennis/netball courts • Grass football pitches • (Athletics training facility) 	£7,700,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Education Funding Authority • Sport England • Football Foundation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the facilities proposed would meet identified needs arising from the BSN • Potential to accommodate club needs including BS Judo Club, BS Netball Club, BS Running Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding yet secured. • Land purchase required for part of the proposed development. • Planning consents.
Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	New facilities at the Trust's Cricketfield Lane site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sports hall. • 1.5 synthetic turf pitches for hockey • New pavilion • Health and fitness • Cover for 2 tennis courts • Convert 3 outdoor tennis courts to artificial clay • 1 Youth football pitch 	£3,375,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England (£500,000 secured) • LTA (£70,000 secured) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Most proposed facilities would meet identified needs arising from the BSN development (no clear case for 0.5 hockey pitch or covered tennis courts). • Close proximity to the BSN development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning consents for floodlights in the Green Belt. • Proposed loss of allotment land.
Birchwood High School	New facilities at the School's adjacent detached playing field site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 '3G' football turf pitch. • A 1km closed road circuit for cycling and running. • New pavilion with conference facilities. • Ancillary hall for BS Judo Club. 	£7,750,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sport England • Football Foundation • British Cycling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All the facilities proposed would meet identified needs arising from the BSN development. • Potential to accommodate club needs including BS Judo Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding yet secured. • Planning consents.

<i>Project promoter</i>	<i>Proposed development</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>	<i>Potential funding sources</i>	<i>Needs addressed</i>	<i>Risks</i>
Herts County Council	New secondary school sports facilities on the BSN development, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A sports hall. • Health and fitness • 2 dance studios/ancillary halls • Tennis/netball courts • 5.5ha of grass football and cricket pitches 	Unknown	Developer contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilities designed to serve education needs (BB98) but could be enhanced for community use. • Potential to accommodate club needs including BS Judo Club, BS Netball Club, and possibly BS Community FC. 	No obvious risks
Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club	Improved provision at the Silverleys Trust/BSRFC site, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Converting 2 football pitches to rugby pitches and improving drainage (depending on BS Swifts FC relocating). • Extended changing and catering facilities. • Longer term plan for a new 2-storey pavilion. 	£365,000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S106 funding from Fire Station site • Club fundraising 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would solve current pitch capacity problems and facilitate team expansion. • Close proximity to the BSN development. 	Contingent on BS Swifts FC moving to new pitches at the BSN development.
Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC	Relocation to two grass football pitches and changing pavilion provided by the BSN developers.	Unknown	Developer contributions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would solve current pitch capacity problems and facilitate team expansion. • Part of the BSN development. 	No obvious risks
Bishop's Stortford Community FC	Two '3G' pitches and a clubhouse at a single site to meet all the pitch needs of BS Community FC at one of the following sites (in order of preference: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Land south of Beldham's Lane (same site as Herts & Essex HS proposals). • Jobbers Wood playing fields. • Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre. • Birchwood High School (with addition to the existing '3G' pitch at the site. 	£2,000,000	Football Foundation (potentially £500,000)	Would solve current pitch capacity problems and enable the club to operate from a single site.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding yet secured. • Land purchase required at one site. • Planning consents.

<i>Project promoter</i>	<i>Proposed development</i>	<i>Estimated cost</i>	<i>Potential funding sources</i>	<i>Needs addressed</i>	<i>Risks</i>
Bishop's Stortford Judo Club	Establishment of a permanently matted hall for the club (and other local martial arts clubs) with dedicated storage and catering capacity, as part of a wider facilities complex.	Unknown	Club (£40,000 raised)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Would enable the club to develop and expand. • Designation as a Centre of Excellence for the Home Counties North. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No obvious risks. • Several other project proposals include provision for ancillary halls.
Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club	Clubhouse extension and new water access pontoon.	Unknown	Unknown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deficiency with current facilities. • Improved disabled access. 	No identified funding sources.
BMX track	Provision of a formal BMX track at Ash Grove at a site used informally at present.	Unknown	Unknown	Provision for young people.	No identified funding sources.
Bishop's Stortford Town Council	Provision of a formal BMX track at Sworders Field.	£70,000	Unknown	Provision for young people.	No identified funding sources.

7.3 Funding available

The funding available (confirmed or potential) for sports projects in Bishop's Stortford is as follows:

- **BSN Section 106 funding for sport-** The developers are contributing £3.65 million towards the cost of sports projects to meet the needs of new residents.
- **On-site Section 106 sports funding -** The BSN development consortium is contributing a further £1.095 million to fund on-site sports provision, including two football pitches and a changing pavilion.
- **On-site Section 106 education funding -** The BSN development consortium is funding the provision of a new secondary school and two new primary schools, all of which will have sports facilities to meet education needs.
- **Section 106 funding from other developments -** Other housing developments around Bishop's Stortford may yield other Section 106 funding for sports projects, although the sums involved and the timing of this are currently unresolved.
- **Grant funding -** Sport England has offered £500,000 and the Lawn Tennis Association £70,000 towards the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust project and the Football Foundation has identified the Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club project(s) as its highest regional priority and therefore likely to be eligible for its maximum grant of £500,000.

- **East Hertfordshire District Council** - The Council makes relatively little direct provision of sports facilities in Bishop's Stortford, so might contribute some capital funding to help to secure sports projects that would help to deliver its wider strategic priorities.
- **Bishop's Stortford Town Council** - The Council owns the land upon which one of the primary schools at the BSN development might be provided, subject to the sale of the site to the development consortium. The capital receipt from the sale could amount to £3 million and the Council has indicated that it would wish to invest the money in other capital projects, including sports provision.
- **Uttlesford District Council** - Given the close proximity of the boundary with Uttlesford district, the use of sport facilities in Bishop's Stortford by Uttlesford residents and the possibility of available land in Uttlesford, there may be opportunities for collaboration over the funding and location of new sports facilities between EHDC and Uttlesford District Council.

The amount of confirmed funding for sports projects in Bishop's Stortford therefore amounts to £5.745 million, with the potential for a further £3.5 million.

7.4 Project evaluation

Each project is evaluated below.

7.4.1 Hertfordshire and Essex High School

The project involves developing a new sports complex on its detached playing field and some adjacent land to replace the school's existing inadequate facilities. The range of needs served by the facilities is the widest of any of the proposed projects, is the only one which would address local swimming needs and could incorporate the needs of some of the other projects, including the FA's preferred '3G' pitch solution for Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club and the permanent base for the Judo Club, as well as other local deficiencies for athletics and netball.

The main weaknesses in the project are the absence of any confirmed funding (although some potential sources have been identified) and its relative distance from the BSN development (although it is still well within the established travel time catchment of all facility types).

7.4.2 Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust

The project involves developing new and improved facilities at the Trust's Cricketfield Lane site, which is immediately adjacent to the BSN development and would meet the needs of a number of sports (cricket, hockey, tennis, football, squash and potentially additional needs like those of the Judo Club). Sport England has acknowledged the priority of the project by awarding a grant of £500,000, as has the LTA with a £70,000 grant.

The main weaknesses in the project are the uncertainty over the statutory planning position regarding development of a floodlit facility on a designated nature reserve and the attitude towards the loss of an allotment site to the development. Sport England has questioned the rationale for the additional small (warm up) hockey pitch. The Hockey Club would base itself at the new pitch(es) rather than the current facility they use at Hockerill Anglo-European College and it is unclear what impact this would have on the viability of the latter pitch.

7.4.3 Birchwood High School

The project involves developing an outdoor sports complex on a playing field owned by the school, adjacent to the school site. The project would meet a range of sports needs (football, cycling, running and potentially the Judo Club). The school already manages a successful community use operation of its existing sports hall, '3G' pitch and ancillary halls.

The main weaknesses in the project are the relatively high cost (much of which is attributable to the size of the proposed pavilion, which would include meeting and conference facilities). No funding has yet been secured and it is unclear what priority external funders would give the proposals.

7.4.4 Hertfordshire County Council

A new secondary school is to be provided by the developer as part of the BSN development, which includes indoor and outdoor sports facilities that will meet a basic education specification. For relatively little additional cost, modifications to upgrade the facilities for community use could be secured, including a sports hall with dimensions that comply with Sport England's latest size specifications, additional storage space for community clubs' equipment, upgraded changing facilities and a dedicated reception area. It might also accommodate the Judo Club and with an extension to the playing fields (onto land owned by the County Council), it could secure a large enough area of grass pitches to meet the needs of Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club. Its location at the heart of the BSN development would make it demonstrably accessible to the new and existing communities.

There are no obvious weaknesses with the project, although the facility enhancements remain uncosted and the arrangements for incorporating all the pitch needs of the football club would need to be determined.

7.4.5 Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club/Bishops Stortford Swifts FC

The project would involve the relocation of the Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC to the new pitches and pavilion at Hoggate's Wood Park being provided by the BSN development, freeing up space at the Silverleys Trust site for the Rugby Club to develop additional pitches and to expand its pavilion to include additional changing and catering facilities. The advantage of the arrangement is that two established and successful clubs would have the capacity to expand their activities to better meet local community needs. The location of the Silverleys Trust site adjacent to the BSN development would make it (and the new football pitch site) demonstrably accessible to the new and existing communities.

There are no obvious weaknesses with the project, although it is contingent upon the Football Club moving to the new site, which assumes that the pitch and pavilion provision provided by the developers would meet all its needs.

7.4.6 Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club

The Club, with strong support from the FA, favours a project comprising two '3G' football turf pitches to meet the club's needs. The advantage of this solution is that the land take is much less than any solution involving additional grass pitches and it could in theory be accommodated into either the Herts and Essex High School or Birchwood High School projects, to create a site with two '3G' pitches.

There are no obvious weaknesses with the project, although it is contingent upon achieving planning consent for floodlighting and agreeing on a preferred site.

7.4.7 Bishop's Stortford Judokwai

The project would involve the provision of a dedicated hall with a permanently matted dojo, equipment storage, changing and catering facilities. The advantage is that it could also accommodate other martial arts users and could be accommodated as a small element within several of the larger project proposals.

There are no obvious weaknesses with the project and whilst Judo is a minority sport with a relatively narrow appeal, the Bishop's Stortford Club has won several county, regional and national 'Sports Club of the Year' awards for the excellence of its programmes.

7.4.8 Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club

The project would involve expanding the existing clubhouse and improving water access points, particularly to assist disabled canoeists.

There are no obvious weaknesses with the project, although it is un-costed at present and canoeing is a minority sport with a relatively narrow appeal.

7.4.9 Ash Grove BMX Track

The project would involve developing the existing informal BMX facility at Ash Grove into a formal BMX track, aimed at meeting the needs of young people. It has the advantage of being a relatively straightforward and low cost facility to provide which could be delivered as an early phase of the overall facilities development programme.

There are no obvious weaknesses with the project, although it is un-costed at present and it is unclear at this stage how the facility would be managed and by whom.

7.4.10 Sworder's Field BMX Track

The project would involve developing a BMX facility at Sworder's Field, aimed at meeting the needs of young people. It has the advantage of being a relatively straightforward and low cost facility to provide which could be delivered as an early phase of the overall facilities development programme.

There are no obvious weaknesses with the project, although it is un-costed at present and it is unclear at this stage how the facility would be managed and by whom.

7.5 The needs that the projects could meet

Section 6 above identifies the additional sports facilities needs arising from the BSN development and calculates the net requirements once existing spare capacity has been taken into account. The table below highlights the needs that could be met by the existing proposed projects and any gaps that will need to be met by alternative projects.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Net additional needs arising from BSN</i>	<i>Projects that would meet the additional needs</i>
Sports halls	0.64 of a 4-badminton court sized sports hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Swimming pools	0.64 of a 25m x 13m swimming pool.	Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Athletics facilities	0.16 of a Compact Athletics Facility, once a facility has been provided to meet current needs.	No specific proposals, but could be accommodated at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex. • Birchwood High School. • The new secondary school.
Indoor bowls	No additional requirements.	No projects required.
Outdoor bowls greens	0.15 of an outdoor bowls green once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.	No project currently proposed, but could expand capacity at either Bishop's Stortford BC or Havers Park Lawn BC subject to feasibility.
Indoor tennis courts	No additional requirements.	No identified need, but the project to cover 2-3 courts at Bishop's Stortford LTC would provide some additional local capacity.
Outdoor tennis courts	1.42 tennis courts once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.	No specific proposals, but could be accommodated at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop's Stortford LTC. • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Netball courts	0.86 of a netball court.	No specific proposals, but could be accommodated at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Health and fitness facilities	A 64-station health and fitness facility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Gymnastics facilities	0.16 of a gymnastics facility.	No project currently proposed, but could expand capacity at Valdez Gymnastics Club subject to feasibility.
Squash courts	0.71 squash courts once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.	No project currently proposed, but could expand capacity at either Bishop's Stortford SC or Chantry SC subject to feasibility.
Golf courses	No additional requirements.	No projects required.
Canoeing facilities	0.16 of a canoeing facility.	Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club.
Community/ Ancillary halls	1.02 halls once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.	The needs of Bishop's Stortford Judokwai (and other hall-based activities) could be accommodated at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex. • Birchwood High School.

Facility type	Net additional needs arising from BSN	Projects that would meet the additional needs
Adult football pitches	0.5 pitches once the existing spare capacity has been absorbed.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop’s Stortford Community FC ‘3G’ pitches. • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Youth football (11v11) pitches	2.75 pitches including the existing deficit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop’s Stortford Community FC ‘3G’ pitches. • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Youth football (9v9) pitches	3.0 pitches including the existing deficit.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop’s Stortford Community FC ‘3G’ pitches. • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches	0.25 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop’s Stortford Community FC ‘3G’ pitches. • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches	0.25 mini-soccer (7v7) pitches.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bishop’s Stortford Community FC ‘3G’ pitches. • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex.
Cricket pitches	No additional requirements.	No projects required.
Rugby pitches	4.75 adult pitches and 6.0 junior pitches including the existing deficit.	Bishop’s Stortford RFC, facilitated by Bishop’s Stortford Swifts FC move to new facilities at Hoggate’s Wood Park.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	0.6 of a synthetic turf pitch for hockey.	Bishop’s Stortford Sports Trust.
‘3G’ football turf pitches	0.85 ‘3G’ football turf pitches including the existing deficit.	<p>No specific proposals, but could be accommodated at:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new secondary school. • Herts and Essex High School new sports complex. • Birchwood High School.

7.6 Alternative options for provision

7.6.1 Introduction

Whilst existing proposed projects could potentially meet all the identified sports facilities needs arising from the BSN development, consideration also needs to be given to whether the proposals themselves represent the best way of making the necessary provision. This section therefore considers the merits of other delivery options.

7.6.2 A single Sports Hub arrangement

This option would involve meeting all the main facilities needs at a single site with new build provision. This would have the advantage of operational economies of scale, the creation of modern, fit-for-purpose facilities of the correct dimensions and specifications and could be funded in part by capital receipts from the sale of existing sites, subject to planning consent. Assuming that it was provided on a non-education site, it would overcome the current lack of daytime community access to many facilities in Bishop’s Stortford.

The main disadvantages with this option are:

- The spatial requirements of such a facility complex, which of all indoor and outdoor facilities needs were met could amount to a land take in excess of 25 hectares. In an area where land availability is at a premium, it is unlikely that a site of this size could be secured.
- Planning restrictions on development in the Green Belt that surrounds Bishop's Stortford means that planning consent for major built facilities and floodlighting for outdoor pitches would be very difficult to obtain.
- The Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust and the Silverleys Trust sites are subject to covenants that would prevent their sale or use for non-sports purposes.
- Whilst some existing facilities in the town have some poor quality elements, many others are of good quality and in some cases have been subject to recent investment. To replace fit for purpose provision with new facilities therefore does not represent the best value solution.

7.6.3 A multiple Sports Hub arrangement

This option would involve meeting all the main facilities needs at several sites, including enhancing some existing multi-sports sites like the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust and the Silverleys Trust sites and some new sites, possibly including the new secondary school at the BSN development. This would have many of the advantage of a single large Sports Hub, but could overcome many of the disadvantages by being deliverable on a number of smaller sites that might be more feasible to obtain and more permissible in planning terms.

7.6.4 Enhancement of existing sites

The majority of the existing facilities proposals involve the enhancement of existing or already secured sites, which has the advantages of utilising secured land holdings, established facility management operations and in most cases existing clubs with coaching and competitive structures that will be well geared to accommodate additional users from the BSN development. Whilst the proposals are at different stages of development, several have got detailed plans and costings, which means that they are best placed to commence provision as soon as any Section 106 funding becomes available.

7.6.5 Conclusions

Based upon the comparison of options for provision, the proposals involving the enhancement of existing or already secured sites offer the least risk in terms of securing provision within the time limits imposed by the Section 106 agreements.

7.7 Project prioritisation criteria

With current sports facility project proposals collectively costed at a minimum of £22.8 million and the maximum possible amount of funding available totalling £9.245 million, there is a clear need to develop an objective mechanism for prioritising projects, to ensure that the funding is spent in the most effective way to meet the widest range of needs of the new residents of BSN development and where appropriate to address existing shortfalls in Bishop's Stortford in conjunction. To this end, the following project prioritisation criteria are proposed:

- **The breadth of needs met** - The extent of the range of identified needs that would be met by the project.
- **Value for money** - The overall cost of the project in relation to its potential benefits.
- **Section 106 value for money** - The amount/proportion of Section 106 monies in relation to the potential benefits of the project.
- **Partnership funding secured** - The amount of any funding already secured in relation to the overall project costs.
- **Potential for attracting additional partnership funding** - The realistic prospect of attracting further partnership funding from other sources.
- **Statutory planning issues** - The extent to which the proposed development is compliant with planning policies.
- **Location in relation to the BSN development** - The proximity of the project to the BSN development, to maximise accessibility.
- **Project management capability** - The track record of the project promoter with managing and/or procuring capital projects.
- **Facility management arrangements** - Whether the proposed facility management arrangements have been identified and the extent to which these would maximise accessibility and use.
- **Facility running costs** - Whether the running costs have been identified and the extent to which they can be operated on a financially sustainable basis, including provision for 'sinking funds' where appropriate.
- **External support for the proposals** - The extent of any external support for the project, for example from the district and/or town council, community survey responses, Sport England, Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, Active East Hertfordshire and the governing bodies of sport.
- **Risk factors** - The extent of any risk factors associated with the project, such as the need for land purchase.
- **Readiness to proceed** - The extent to which the project is ready to proceed within a prescribed and credible timescale.
- **Environmental sustainability** - The extent to which the project includes features that mitigate its environmental impact and improve its sustainability.
- **Inclusiveness** - The extent to which the physical design of the project and the proposed programme of use of the facilities will cater for the needs of those groups in the community that traditionally have low rates of participation in sport and physical activity.

8 SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

8.1 Additional needs

The BSN development will result in an additional population of more than 6,000 people in Bishop's Stortford, a 16% rise in the town's population. It is likely that the new community will be similar to the current residents in having high levels of participation in sport and physical activity.

8.2 Additional opportunities

The BSN development will also create additional opportunities to provide enhanced sports provision, both through on-site facilities at the new schools and Hoggate's Wood Park, but also through Section 106 contributions totaling £3.65 million.

8.3 Meeting additional needs

A number of sports facilities projects are currently being developed by various facility providers in Bishop's Stortford and offer a range of means to meeting the sports facilities needs of the BSN development. However, the limitations of the available confirmed finding of £5.745 million means that projects will need to be prioritised and the best value for money solutions selected.

APPENDIX I - POLICY INFLUENCES

1) *Vision for Bishops Stortford*

The *'Vision for Bishop's Stortford'* (2010), was produced by the Bishop's Stortford 2020 Group, which comprised a range of local and district-level organisations. It contains the following elements of relevance to sports facilities provision:

1.1 Vision

The vision is of leisure, culture and community groups and organisations being encouraged to thrive and add to the overall vitality and attractiveness of the town as a place to enjoy leisure time'.

1.2 Challenges

- The need to increase leisure opportunities without spoiling the town for others.
- The need to ensure that places are safe and secure, but also fun.
- To tackle rising obesity levels, sport must be delivered on a basis that is easily accessible, inexpensive and fun.

1.3 Outcomes

- A wide choice of activities for people of all ages in and around the town.
- Ease of access to all activities and services important to the quality of people's lives.

1.4 Means and mechanisms

- Support and help to facilitate further development of good quality leisure facilities in the town.
- Work with and support the voluntary and community sector to grow and improve its offer in and around the town.
- Welcome and encourage a healthy and vibrant range of leisure-related businesses in the town.
- Make Bishop's Stortford a venue of choice for most aspects of leisure.
- Extend sports facilities and make them more accessible in terms of access, price and locality.

2) The Neighbourhood Plan

The 'Neighbourhood Plan for Silverleys and Meads Wards 2014 - 2031' (2015), was produced by Bishop's Stortford Town Council for the wards in the north of the town that are closest to the BSN development. It sits alongside a wider suite of planning documents that cover East Hertfordshire district as a whole and represents the views of the local community on development issues in their area. The key elements of relevance to sports facilities provision are as follows:

2.1 Objectives for sport

Whilst the Neighbourhood Area and the town as a whole benefits from a number of high quality sports facilities there is a high demand for additional or enhanced space, both indoor and outdoor and a relatively low public satisfaction rating for current sports facilities within the town. The competing demands for land use create real challenges in meeting the need. The objective is therefore to 'provide for residents' sports needs within a manageable framework while minimising land use'.

2.2 Policies for sport

These are as follows:

- **Policy SP1 - Provision of additional outdoor sporting facilities**
 - Contributions towards new or enhancement of existing outdoor sports facilities (including appropriate ancillary buildings) will be expected as set out in policy LRC3 of the East Herts Local Plan or successor policy.
 - The provision of facilities under this policy will have regard to any Bishop's Stortford or neighbourhood sports strategy that is in place at the time and the balance between manageability, which favours centralised facilities, and locality, which favours distributed facilities.
 - The mix of facilities (in terms of the sports provided for) will be determined in consultation with the local planning authority, Bishop's Stortford Town Council, local sports clubs and other stakeholders.
 - Any developments for new or enhanced sports facilities must be inclusive (i.e. suitable for residents with disabilities), be accompanied by an adequately-sized car park having regard to the likely modes of transport to and from the venue and parking availability in the vicinity. Sites which are easily accessible by public transport, walking and cycling will be more strongly supported.
- **Policy SP2 - Development or expansion of multi-purpose facilities** - Developments in sustainable locations that enhance existing sporting facilities, whether indoor or outdoor, by way of increasing their utilisation or capacity for multiple use and/or level of public access, will be strongly encouraged where they do not conflict with other neighbourhood, local or national planning policies. Provision for inclusive use must be considered in any such development unless this adversely affects the viability.

- **Policy SP3 - Enhancement of specified facilities**

- The development of an improved swimming pool facility and expansion, enhancements or construction of additional sports facilities that are needed to serve the town's population, including residents with disabilities, will be supported where they do not conflict with other neighbourhood, local or national planning policies.
- The conversion of existing open air sports facilities to covered facilities to increase their availability throughout the year will be encouraged.

3) The East Hertfordshire Local Plan

The 'East Hertfordshire Local Plan' (2007) forms part of the statutory development plan for the district and is used by the council to determine planning applications. The main material of relevance to sports facilities provision is as follows:

3.1 Aims

The aims of the council's planning strategy are as follows:

- To encourage and promote leisure pursuits through sport, recreation, entertainment and cultural interests and activities, for the benefit of the whole community.
- To encourage and promote tourism, for the benefit of the local community and economy.
- To encourage and promote community facilities for the benefit of the whole community.
- To encourage and promote leisure and community facilities which reduce the need to travel and are accessible by non-car modes of transport.

3.2 Objectives

The objectives of the council's planning strategy are as follows:

- To maintain and encourage the provision of an effective level of appropriately located leisure and recreation facilities and, wherever possible, make such facilities available to everyone, including the elderly and those with disabilities.
- To take full account of the community need for recreation space and ensure that adequate land and water resources are identified for both organised sport and informal recreation.
- To safeguard and resist pressures, which conflict with the wider public interest, for the development of land with recreational and amenity value.
- To encourage and promote the provision of additional land, facilities and water areas, in suitable situations and locations.
- To take account of the value of open space, not only as an amenity, but as a contribution to the conservation of the natural and built environment of the district.

- To encourage and promote suitable tourism facilities and the provision of additional tourist accommodation, in appropriate locations, to cater for the growing needs of the local community and visitors to the area.
- To provide for the identified needs of the community by encouraging the retention, and/or improvement of, existing facilities and enabling the development of new community provision in suitable situations and locations.
- To ensure that provision of leisure and community facilities are properly coordinated with all forms of development and land use policies.

3.3 Policies for sport

These are as follows:

- **Policy LRC1 Sport and Recreation Facilities** - Proposals which will result in the loss of public or private, indoor or outdoor, sports, recreation and open space facilities, or school playing fields, will be refused unless:
 - Suitable alternative facilities are provided on site or in the locality, which are at least equivalent in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility to the ones that would be lost; or
 - It can be demonstrated that the facility is no longer needed and that there is no viable demand for an alternative facility.
- **Policy LRC2 Joint Provision and Dual Use** - The council will in appropriate locations continue to:
 - Promote the joint provision and dual use of educational and other leisure facilities;
 - Encourage the use of multi-purpose buildings for leisure activities.
- **Policy LRC3 Recreation Requirements in New Residential Developments** -
 - The Council will seek to negotiate for the provision of adequate and appropriately located open space, sport and recreation facilities in conjunction with new residential development, in accordance with the adopted local standards (3.79ha of outdoor sports space per 1,000 people).
 - Indoor sports facilities may also be sought on larger developments.
 - Developers will be expected to provide either on site provision or, where appropriate, a financial contribution towards either off-site provision, or the enhancement of off-site facilities.

4) East Hertfordshire Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy

The 'East Hertfordshire Playing Pitch Strategy and Outdoor Sports Facilities Audit' (2010) was produced by East Hertfordshire District Council to assess the adequacy of provision across the district. The strategy assesses pitch and outdoor sports facilities provision using a methodology that has since been superseded and analyses provision in Bishop's Stortford as part of a wider sub-area called the 'M11 Stort Corridor'. Notwithstanding these caveats, the key findings in relation to Bishop's Stortford provide a useful preliminary assessment of need.

4.1 Football

- Bishop's Stortford is generally well-served with football pitches although two sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity (Grange Paddocks and the Bishops Stortford Swifts FC pitches).
- The 'M11 Stort Corridor' sub-area as a whole has the greatest levels of pitch overuse in the district, with an assessed deficiency of 15 junior pitches and 7 mini-soccer pitches.
- Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club is noted as one of the largest in the country (with 63 teams at the time of the study) and a key user of pitches in and around the town. The need to develop a site offering at least six to eight full-sized pitches to accommodate their needs at a central venue is identified.

4.2 Cricket

- Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club is designated as a Focus Club by the County Cricket Board. Its clubhouse is noted as having limited capacity and being poor quality.
- The 'M11 Stort Corridor' sub-area as a whole has the greatest levels of pitch overuse in the district, with an assessed deficiency of 2.1 pitches.

4.3 Rugby

- The pitches at Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club are overused, with an assessed deficiency of 2 pitches (and two pitches on the adjacent Fire Station site have since been lost).
- The 'M11 Stort Corridor' sub-area as a whole has an assessed deficiency of 3.5 junior pitches and 3 mini-rugby pitches.

4.4 Hockey

Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club uses sand-filled artificial turf pitches at Hockerill College and Bishop's Stortford College, with a clubhouse at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site.

4.5 Bowls

There are two clubs in Bishop's Stortford, each with their own facilities. The quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities was judged to be adequate to meet existing and future needs.

4.6 Golf

There is one 9-hole course in Bishop's Stortford. The quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities was judged to be adequate to meet existing and future needs.

4.7 Tennis

There are 13 community-accessible tennis courts in Bishop's Stortford, supplemented by 16 on school sites. Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club has identified a need for floodlights at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust site.

4.8 Athletics

Despite the lack of an athletics track in Bishop's Stortford, the quality, quantity and accessibility of facilities was judged to be broadly adequate to meet existing and future needs. There may be a case for an additional smaller training track, but the north and/or rural parts of the district were the recommended location.

4.9 Netball

- The Bishop's Stortford Senior Netball League is based at the four courts at Birchwood High School during the winter months, but is displaced by tennis use in the summer, when matches have to be relocated to Harlow.
- There is a case for a 6 to 8 court central league site in the district as a whole and Bishop's Stortford is one possible location.

4.10 Schools provision

The position regarding outdoor sports facilities and pitches at secondary schools in Bishop's Stortford was assessed as follows:

- **Birchwood High School** - A '3G' football turf pitch was laid in 2007 and was part funded by the Football Foundation. Additional changing facilities to serve the pitch were also provided. There were plans to provide line markings (for tennis and netball) on a designated hard court area at site.
- **Bishop's Stortford College** - The College is an independent boarding and day school. It provides an impressive portfolio of both outdoor and indoor sports provision and caters for five football, 10 rugby, three grass hockey and three cricket pitches. In addition, it also has two floodlit synthetic turf pitches. There is some limited community use of the facilities.
- **The Hertfordshire and Essex High School and Science College** - The school has on and off-site sports facilities, but some were noted as being of poor quality.

- **Bishop's Stortford High School for Boys** - The school provides sports facilities both on and off site. The off-site facilities are known as Jobbers Wood Sports Complex, which opened in 2001 and provides extensive sports facilities including three cricket, one football and six rugby pitches. The site is located in a remote area and security is an issue. The site was funded by a Section 106 Agreement. Consultation reports the agreement prohibits community use of the site. The pitches are only used by the School for competitive matches on Saturdays.
- **Hockerill Anglo-European College** - The school allows community use of its sports facilities. Its tennis courts are used by Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club to deliver its mini tennis section. Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club holds a joint lease on the Synthetic Turf Pitch.
- **St. Mary's Catholic School** - The school has access to a variety of grass pitches on site which includes two football, three rugby, six tennis courts (over marked with six netball courts), grass hockey pitch and a multi use games area. The playing fields are occasionally available for community use.

5) East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities

The 'East Hertfordshire Assessment of Sports Facilities' (2011) was produced by East Hertfordshire District Council to assess the adequacy of provision across the district. The strategy indoor facilities provision using a methodology that has since been superseded, but notwithstanding this, the key findings in relation to Bishop's Stortford provide a useful preliminary assessment of need.

5.1 Sports halls

Provision of sports halls in Bishop's Stortford is adequate to meet existing needs, but additional facilities will be required to take account of the extra demand arising from population growth. The needs of specialist activities like basketball and judo are often difficult to accommodate in sports halls and they may need to be accommodated in specialist facilities locally.

5.2 Swimming pools

Current levels of provision are adequate to meet current and future needs in Bishop's Stortford, although there are some quality issues at the Grange Paddocks pool.

5.3 Health and fitness

Provision of health and fitness facilities in Bishop's Stortford is adequate to meet existing needs, but additional facilities will be required to take account of the extra demand arising from population growth.

5.4 Indoor bowls

There is no provision in East Hertfordshire at present and a 5 to 8 rink facility is needed in the east or south of the district and as the largest centre of population in the area, Bishop's Stortford would be a logical location.

5.5 Indoor tennis

There is no provision in East Hertfordshire at present and no evidence that any is needed.

5.6 Synthetic turf pitches

Current levels of provision are adequate to meet current and future needs in Bishop's Stortford, although there are some access and management issues that should be addressed to maximise local capacity.

5.7 Planning standards

The recommended standards for inviting developer contributions towards the cost of providing new facilities are as follows:

- **Sports halls** - One 4-badminton court sized hall per 15,000 people.
- **Swimming pools** - One 25m x 4-lane pool per 14,000 people.
- **Health and fitness** - One 50-station facility per 8,500 people.
- **Indoor bowls** - One 6-rink centre per 130,000 people.
- **Indoor tennis** - One 4-court centre per 140,000 people.
- **Synthetic turf pitches** - One pitch per 20,000 people.
- **Athletics tracks** - One 6-lane 400m track per 100,000 people.
- **Pitches and outdoor sports facilities** - 2.17ha per 1,000 people.

6) Uttlesford District Sports Facilities Strategy

In 2012, Uttlesford District Council undertook a comprehensive assessment of open space, sport and recreation needs in the district, which evaluated the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of provision. The '*Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy*' document is one of the background documents that forms part of the evidence base for the council's draft Local Plan and focuses primarily on how many facilities of each type are required both currently and in the future.

In 2015, the Council commissioned an updated study of sports facilities and playing pitch needs '*The Uttlesford Sports Facilities Strategy*' which analyses needs using Sport England's most recent assessment methodologies. The strategy examines provision at a districtwide and a sub-area level, including the 'Stansted and District sub-area' which comprises the areas immediately adjacent to East Hertfordshire. The main emerging findings of relevance to Bishop's Stortford are set out below.

- **Sports halls** - 25% of overall demand for sports halls in Uttlesford, equivalent to 800 visits per week in the peak period) is exported, much of it to facilities in Bishop's Stortford.

- **Swimming pools** - 33% of overall demand for swimming in Uttlesford, equivalent to 1,750 visits per week in the peak period) is exported, much of it to facilities in Bishop's Stortford. There is no pool in the Stansted sub-area.
- **Athletics tracks** - There is no provision in Uttlesford at present and although the need for a training facility has been identified, this is in the Saffron Walden sub-area, some distance away from Bishop's Stortford.
- **Indoor bowls** - There is one existing facility in Saffron Walden at present but no demand for additional provision elsewhere.
- **Outdoor bowls** - Per capita levels of provision are best in the Stansted sub-area, with some capacity to accommodate additional demand from elsewhere.
- **Indoor tennis** - There is no provision in the district, but no evidence of demand for indoor tennis.
- **Outdoor tennis** - Levels of provision are poorest in the Stansted sub-area.
- **Health and fitness** - Per capita levels of provision are best in the Stansted sub-area, with some capacity to accommodate additional demand from elsewhere.
- **Squash courts** - There is no provision in the Stansted sub-area, but also no evidence of demand for squash being exported to the Bishop's Stortford area.
- **Golf courses** - There is one 9-hole golf course in the Stansted sub-area and no evidence of demand being exported to the Bishop's Stortford area.
- **Adult football pitches** - There is a surplus of provision in Uttlesford as a whole, but supply and demand is balanced in the Stansted sub-area, with including use by several teams from Bishop's Stortford.
- **Youth football pitches** - There is a shortfall of five pitches in Uttlesford as a whole, with a deficit in the Stansted sub-area which includes use by several Bishop's Stortford teams.
- **Mini-soccer pitches** - There is a shortfall of two pitches in Uttlesford as a whole, with a deficit in the Stansted sub-area which includes use by several Bishop's Stortford teams.
- **Cricket pitches** - There is a surplus of provision in Uttlesford as a whole, including in the Stansted sub-area.
- **Rugby pitches** - There are no pitches in the Stansted sub-area, with all demand for rugby catered for by Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club.
- **Synthetic turf pitches for hockey** - There are no pitches in the Stansted sub-area, with all demand for hockey catered for by pitches in Bishop's Stortford. 43.2% of demand from Uttlesford district as a whole is exported, with much of this directed to pitches in Bishop's Stortford.

- **‘3G’ football turf pitches** - There are no ‘3G’ football turf pitches in Uttlesford, so all demand from within the district is exported, with much of this directed to pitches in Bishop’s Stortford.

7) Hertfordshire Sports Partnership Strategic Plan

The *‘Hertfordshire Sports and Physical Activity Partnership - Strategic Plan 2012 - 2017’* (2012) has a vision of ‘working together to encourage more people to be more active, more often’.

7.1 Objectives

There are four objectives:

- To encourage the continued growth of sporting opportunities and participation within local communities.
- To contribute to an active and healthier Hertfordshire.
- To utilise sport and physical activity to improve the quality of life of individuals and communities in Hertfordshire.
- To encourage the taking part in sport and physical activity amongst low participation groups.

7.2 The role of sports facilities

The strategy notes the need for ‘more, better, accessible sporting facilities’ and states that ‘the Hertfordshire Sports Partnership cannot fund or provide facilities, but it will seek to support the creation of new and/or upgraded and/or more accessible sports facilities across the county, particularly where there is greatest need. To do this, it will support local sports clubs and statutory partners to apply for capital grants to improve and extend local facilities and in line with Sport England’s Strategy, will encourage schools to open up, or keep open, their facilities for the local community’.

8) Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy

The *‘Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy 2008 - 2016’* (2008) contains an assessment of facilities needs in the county. This includes an evaluation at district levels and the key conclusions in relation to East Hertfordshire in general and Bishop’s Stortford in particular are as follows:

- There is a need for an additional 4.2 sports halls, with Bishop’s Stortford a named priority area.
- There is a shortfall of 157 fitness stations in the district as a whole.
- There is a need for more public tennis courts in Bishop’s Stortford.
- There is a shortfall of two artificial turf pitches in the district as whole.

9) National planning policy

9.1 National Planning Policy Framework

In March 2012, the Government published the *'National Planning Policy Framework'* (2012), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government's vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to open space are as follows:

- **Sustainable development** - 'The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs'.
- **Health and well-being** - 'Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being'.
- **Open space, sports and recreational facilities** - 'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. The planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where activities are made easier and public health can be improved. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required'.
- **Preservation of open space** - 'Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:
 - An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss'.

9.2 Planning Practice Guidance

The Government also issued *'Planning Practice Guidance'* in 2014 and the following is of particular relevance to open space:

- **Open space, sport and recreation provision** - 'Open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby'.
 - 'Authorities and developers may refer to Sport England's guidance on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities'.

- ‘Local planning authorities are required to consult Sport England in certain cases where development affects the use of land as playing fields. Where there is no requirement to consult, local planning authorities are advised to consult Sport England in cases where development might lead to loss of, or loss of use for sport, of any major sports facility, the creation of a site for one or more playing pitches, artificial lighting of a major outdoor sports facility or a residential development of 300 dwellings or more’.
- **Local Green Space Designations** - Local Green Space Designation is a way to provide special protection against development for green areas of particular importance to local communities. Sites will be included in Local Plans or Community Plans and designation will be subject to local discretion. There are no maximum or minimum size criteria and all forms of greenspace are eligible.
- **Health and well-being** - ‘Local planning authorities should ensure that health and wellbeing, and health infrastructure are considered in local and neighbourhood plans and in planning decision making’.
 - ‘Development proposals should support strong, vibrant and healthy communities and help create healthy living environments which should, where possible, include making physical activity easy to do’.
 - ‘Opportunities for healthy lifestyles must be considered (e.g. planning for an environment that supports people of all ages in making healthy choices, helps to promote active travel and physical activity and promotes high quality open spaces and opportunities for play, sport and recreation)’.

10) Sports policy

10.1 Overall policy

The ‘*Sport England Strategy 2012 - 2017*’ (2012) sets out national sports policy objectives:

- **Overall aims** - In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, sport in England will be transformed, so that sport becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:
 - See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life.
 - Create more opportunities for young people.
 - Nurture and develop talent.
 - Provide the right facilities in the right places.
 - Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
 - Ensure real opportunities for communities.
- Sport England is seeking a year-on-year increase in the proportion of people who play sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. In particular it hopes to raise the percentage of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week and reduce the proportion dropping out of sport.

10.2 Playing pitch policy

Sport England's national policies in relation to playing pitches are contained in *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). It contains a policy of resisting the loss of pitches unless one or more of the following five conditions are met:

- A carefully quantified and documented assessment of current and future needs has demonstrated to the satisfaction of Sport England that there is an excess of facility provision in the catchment and that the site has no special significance to the interests of sport.
- The proposed development is ancillary to the principal use of the site as a playing field or outdoor sports facility and does not affect the quantity or quality of facilities or adversely affect their use.
- The proposed development affects only land incapable of forming a playing pitch or outdoor sports facility and does not result in:
 - The loss or loss of use of any facility (including the maintenance of adequate safety margins).
 - A reduction in the size of the playing area of any facility.
 - The loss of any other sports/ancillary facilities on site.
- The playing field or outdoor sports facility which would be lost as a result of the proposed development would be replaced by facilities of an equivalent or better quality, in a suitable location and subject to equivalent or better management arrangements, prior to the commencement of the development.
- The proposed development is for an indoor or outdoor sports facility, the provision of which would be of sufficient benefit to the development of sport to outweigh the detriment caused by the loss of playing field or current outdoor facility.

11) Governing bodies of sport

The governing bodies of sport funded by Sport England each produce a *'Whole Sport Plan'* containing their sports development and related facilities priorities for the period 2013 to 2017. The facilities elements of the Whole Sport Plans using pitch and facility types included in this assessment are summarised below, to assess their implications for provision in Bishop's Stortford:

Sport	Facilities priorities 2013 - 2017	Local implications
Athletics	<p>A hierarchy of facilities is proposed in UK Athletics <i>'Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2019'</i> (2014) with district and local levels of provision comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Training Venue - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club with 100+ track and field members. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage. • Compact Athletics Facility - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues. They are designed to fit available spaces and budgets and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the fundamental athletics movement skills. 	Facility provision of this scale offers an attractive means of meeting athletics needs in Bishop's Stortford.
Badminton	<p>Badminton England's <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2012) includes provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in facilities to underpin the operations of county badminton associations, performance centres and community badminton networks. • Investing in leisure facilities to underpin the <i>'Play Badminton'</i> programme. 	Potential for funding to upgrade sports halls to accommodate additional badminton activity.
Basketball	England Basketball's <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2012) contains no facilities priorities, but priority areas for club development are focused on major urban areas.	No immediate local opportunities.
Bowls	The Bowls Development Alliance <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2012) confirms that efforts will focus on support packages promoting participation amongst the over 55's and disabled participants aged 16+, using the existing clubs network. No capital funding is involved.	Opportunities for clubs to expand their memberships with support packages.
Canoeing	British Canoeing's <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2012) includes provision for £1.5 million to include canoeing facilities, although most development initiatives in the East Region are centred on the facility at Waltham Abbey.	Potential for the local club to access funding for clubhouse improvements.
Cricket	The ECB's <i>'National Club Strategy'</i> (2012) sets out the priorities for developing cricket at club level. This includes an objective to develop accessible, high quality and innovative facilities.	Opportunities for local clubs to improve facilities provision in line with development programmes.
Cycling	British Cycling's <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2012) identifies that funding is available for 32 traffic-free cycle sport facilities and/or off-road cycling facilities in strategically identified areas.	Potential to develop off-road cycling subject to local demand.

Sport	Facilities priorities 2013 - 2017	Local implications
Football	The FA's <i>National Facilities Strategy 2013 - 2015</i> contains the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural turf pitch improvement and maintenance. • Development of new '3G' football turf pitches. • Refurbishment of existing synthetic turf pitches. • Provision of suitable changing and toilet facilities. 	Opportunities for local clubs to improve facilities provision in line with development programmes.
Golf	England Golf's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but County Golf Partnerships will promote participation at existing golf courses.	Opportunities for the local club to expand its membership.
Gymnastics	British Gymnastics' <i>Facility Strategy 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) includes provision for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally accessible facilities - Increasing access to facilities and new spaces resulting from local authority and business austerity measures. • Dedicated Facilities - Funding for dedicated gymnastics centres. • Freestyle Equipment - Funding for freestyle gymnastics equipment packs for clubs and other delivery partners. • Trampoline Equipment - Funding for trampolines in clubs or leisure centres. 	Opportunities to create or enhance local gymnastics provision.
Hockey	England Hockey's <i>The Right Pitches in the Right Places</i> (2011) sets out its facilities priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that hockey can achieve adequate access to pitches where it is not the dominant user. • Making sure that pitch resurfacing issues are addressed for older facilities. 	Potential to secure hockey usage at key sites.
Judo	British Judo's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities or capital funding, but is aiming to develop 'Club Clusters' in selected areas including 'South Hertfordshire'.	Opportunities for the local club to engage with the South Hertfordshire Club Cluster.
Netball	England Netball's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but capital funding is available to develop facilities to support the work of Netball Development Community Coaches.	Bishop's Stortford is a priority area for netball development, with potential for accessing facilities funding.
Rugby	The Rugby Football Union's <i>National Facilities Strategy for Rugby Union in England 2013 - 2017</i> (2013) contains the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club. • Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches. • Increase the number of Artificial Turf Pitches. • Improve social, community and catering facilities, which can support diversification and the generation of additional revenues. • Invest in facility upgrades which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce clubs' running costs. 	Opportunities for the local club to improve facilities provision in line with development programmes.

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Facilities priorities 2013 - 2017</i>	<i>Local implications</i>
Squash	England Squash and Racketball's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but capital funding is available to develop facilities in 'Hub and Spoke' areas, which do not include East Hertfordshire.	No immediate local opportunities.
Swimming	The Amateur Swimming Association's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but proposals to establish 'Local Aquatic Networks' comprising a 'local area partnership bringing together relevant partners to maximise the amount of usable water space in an area based by producing an 'Aquatic Improvement Plan'.	There is potential to optimise and rationalise the use of local pools through co-ordinated programming.
Table tennis	No facilities priorities, but small grants are available to provide an equipment package to allow community organisations to deliver non-traditional participation opportunities.	Equipment packages may enhance local participation opportunities.
Tennis	Facilities investment will support the delivery of the tennis programmes, largely focused in priority areas to address gaps or improve provision where critical to park or community programmes	Provision of indoor courts would meet identified sub-regional junior training needs.

APPENDIX II - CURRENT DEMAND FOR SPORT

1) Active People Survey

1.1 Introduction

The 'Active People' survey was commissioned by Sport England. The survey is the largest study of patterns of adult (people aged 16 and over) involvement in sport and physical activity ever undertaken and involves telephone interviews with a representative sample of between 500 and 1,000 residents of each local authority district in the country. Eight surveys have been undertaken to date, which has enabled trends to be tracked over a nine year period. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are measured and the results for each are tabulated below:

- **Overall participation** - This is defined as 'taking part on at least one day a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least four days in the last four weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session'.
- **Volunteering** - This is defined as 'volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'.
- **Club membership** - This is defined as 'being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks'.
- **Receiving tuition** - This is defined as 'having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'.
- **Organised Competition** - This is defined as 'having taken part in any organised competition in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'.
- **Organised sport** - This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who have done at least one of receiving tuition in the last twelve months and/or taken part in organised competition in the last twelve months and/or been a member of a club to play sport'.
- **Satisfaction** - This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in their local area'.
- **Participation in individual sports** - This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who have participated at least once in a sport in the preceding four weeks'.

Whilst the figures for East Hertfordshire are aggregated at a district level, they offer some insight into levels sports participation in Bishop's Stortford.

1.2 Overall participation

Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity (at least one session of 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week) show that participation rates in East Hertfordshire were consistently significantly above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>2014/15</i>
East Herts	41.7%	41.5%	39.3%	42.2%	42.0%	38.9%	48.5%	38.4%	40.0%
East	35.2%	37.5%	36.5%	35.9%	35.6%	36.9%	35.9%	35.6%	34.6%
England	34.2%	35.8%	35.7%	35.3%	34.8%	36.0%	35.7%	35.5%	35.3%

1.3 Volunteering

Rates of volunteer support for sport in East Hertfordshire have increased significantly during the survey period and remain well above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
East Herts	6.9%	15.3%	-	10.5%
East	4.8%	8.0%	7.4%	6.8%
England	4.5%	7.2%	7.2%	6.0%

1.4 Sports club membership

Contrary to national and regional trends, rates of sports club membership in East Hertfordshire have increased significantly during the survey period and remain substantially above the wider averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
East Herts	30.0%	27.0%	28.1%	35.2%
East	24.3%	23.6%	23.7%	22.2%
England	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%

1.5 Sports coaching/tuition

Contrary to national and regional trends, the proportion of adults in East Hertfordshire who received sports coaching or tuition in the previous 12 months has increased significantly during the survey period and remains substantially above the wider averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
East Herts	22.8%	20.2%	23.2%	26.5%
East	18.3%	16.8%	17.4%	16.7%
England	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%

1.6 Organised competition

The proportion of adults in East Hertfordshire who took part in organised sports competitions in the previous 12 months has increased significantly during the survey period and currently stands at more than double the national average:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
East Herts	21.2%	17.0%	21.0%	23.3%
East	15.3%	14.5%	15.1%	13.6%
England	14.4%	14.3%	14.4%	11.2%

1.7 Satisfaction

In line with the wider trends, the proportion of adults in East Hertfordshire who are satisfied with local sports provision decreased between the survey periods and remains above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
East Herts	75.2%	65.2%
East	70.2%	62.5%
England	69.0%	60.3%

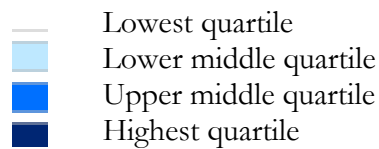
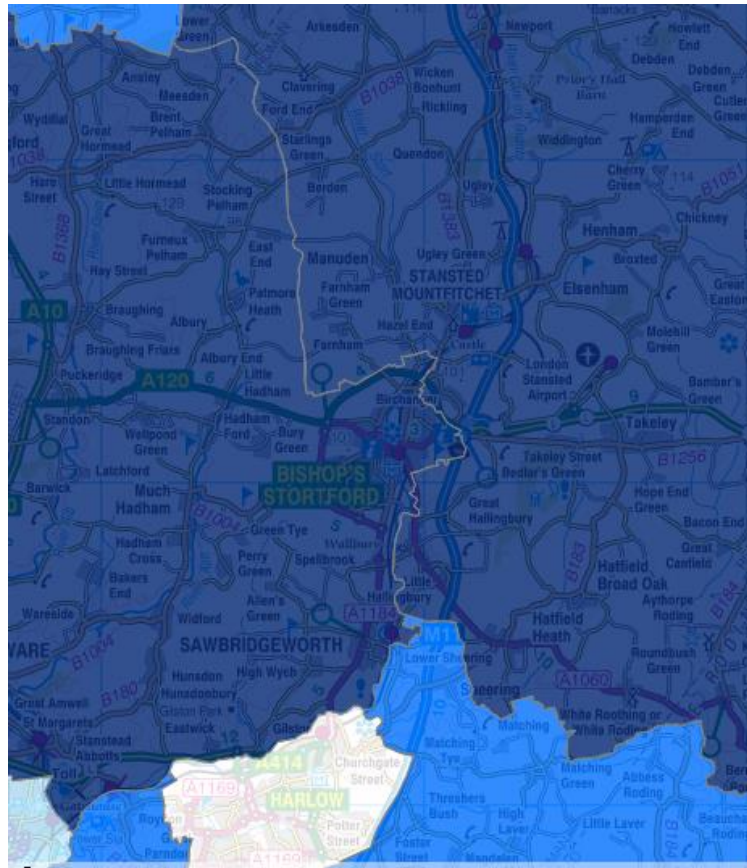
1.8 Participation in individual sports

The top five sports in which survey respondents from East Hertfordshire participated in the four weeks prior to the survey are listed below, along with the respective regional and national figures. Fitness-type activities are particularly strongly represented and in all cases, rates of participation are well above the regional and national averages:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>England</i>
Gym	16.6%	10.1%	10.9%
Swimming	14.8%	11.1%	11.5%
Cycling	11.5%	8.4%	8.1%
Health and fitness	7.6%	6.6%	6.7%
Keep fit	6.8%	4.0%	4.1%

1.9 Local variations

The map below was generated by Sport England's 'Active People Interactive' tool and illustrates the variations in participation rates between the Super Output Areas in Bishop's Stortford and its surrounding catchment. The density of the shading the maps represents participation rates within the four national quartiles, with those areas with rates in the highest 25% nationally shaded the darkest, through the upper middle and lower middle quartiles, through to the palest shading for the areas with rates in the lowest 25% nationally. The map shows that participation rates are uniformly high both in Bishop's Stortford and the surrounding catchment, although they are lower in Harlow some southern parts of Uttlesford district.



2) Market segmentation data

2.1 Introduction

Sport England has undertaken an analysis of 19 adult sporting market segments, to better understand more specific motivations for sports participation and barriers to doing more sport and physical activity. This data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for individual types of activity, based upon the extent to which each segment is over or under represented in the local population.

2.2 Market segmentation in East Hertfordshire

The proportion of the population of East Hertfordshire as a whole in each market segment is tabulated below, with the East region and national figures for comparison:

<i>Market segment</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>England</i>
Competitive male urbanites	7.2%	5.3%	4.9%
Sports team drinkers	2.1%	4.0%	5.4%
Fitness class friends	8.3%	5.3%	4.7%
Supportive singles	1.8%	3.2%	4.3%
Career focused females	6.7%	5.0%	4.5%

<i>Market segment</i>	<i>East Herts</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>England</i>
Settling down males	15.6%	10.5%	8.8%
Stay at home mums	8.4%	5.4%	4.4%
Middle England mums	4.0%	4.8%	4.9%
Pub league team mates	1.8%	4.1%	5.9%
Stretched single mums	1.5%	2.9%	3.7%
Comfortable mid-life males	11.1%	9.6%	8.6%
Empty nest career ladies	8.3%	6.8%	6.1%
Early retirement couples	7.1%	8.2%	6.8%
Older working women	1.4%	3.2%	4.9%
Local 'old boys'	1.4%	2.9%	3.7%
Later life ladies	1.0%	1.6%	2.1%
Comfortable retired couples	7.5%	5.1%	4.2%
Twilight years gents	2.6%	4.3%	4.0%
Retirement home singles	5.5%	7.9%	8.0%

2.3 'Dominant' market segments

Sport England classifies all market segments with more than 7% of the adult population as 'dominant' and their sporting preferences therefore have particular significance for facilities demand in the area. In East Hertfordshire as a whole there is the following market segments classified as 'dominant' on this basis and their characteristics, specific participation rates and sports preferences are tabulated below:

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Competitive male urbanites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18-25 • Single • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No children • Social class ABC1 • 40% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 19% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby • Cricket • Squash • Climbing • Windsurfing • Gym • Tennis • Football
Fitness class friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18-35 • Single • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No children • Social class ABC1 • 28% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 34% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body combat • Netball • Swimming • Pilates • Gym • Running • Tennis • Aqua aerobics

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Settling down males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 27% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoeing • Skiing • Cricket • Golf • Cycling • Squash • Football
Stay at home mums	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed part-time/at home • Children • Social class ABC1 • 25% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 33% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Tennis • Badminton • Cycling • Aerobics • Horse riding • Pilates • Exercise bike
Comfortable mid-life males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 36-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 39% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sailing • Gym • Football • Jogging • Badminton • Golf • Cycling • Cricket
Empty nest career ladies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 46-55 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 25% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 44% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Yoga • Walking • Horse riding • Aqua aerobics • Pilates • Step machine • Gym
Early retirement couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 56-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Retired/employed full-time • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 19% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 54% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Sailing • Walking • Golf • Aqua aerobics • Shooting • Bowls • Fishing

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Comfortable retired couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 65+ • Married • Owner occupied • Retired • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 14% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 70% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowls • Snooker • Golf • Walking • Tennis • Fishing • Table tennis • Swimming

2.4 The impact on demand

Favoured activities that recur in the preferences of several market segments are swimming, various health and fitness activities and the pitch sports, which correlates with the data from the 'Active People' survey.

3) Sports clubs in Bishop's Stortford

The following sports clubs cater for demand for sport in Bishop's Stortford:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Archery	Stortford Archery Club	St. Mary's Catholic School
Athletics	Bishop's Stortford Running Club	Hockerill Sports and Social Club
Badminton	Bishop's Stortford Badminton Club St. Michael's Mead Badminton Club Sunday Smashers Badminton Club Warwick Badminton Club	Birchwood Sports Centre St. Michael's Mead Community Centre Bishop's Stortford High School Bishop's Stortford High School
Bowls	Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club Havers Park Lawn Bowls Club	Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club Havers Park Bowls Club
Canoeing	Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club	Southmill Lock, Stort Navigation
Cricket	Bishop's Stortford Cricket Club (5 men's teams, 1 ladies team and 12 junior teams) Hockerill Cricket Club (5 men's teams and 1 junior team)	Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust Hockerill Cricket Club
Cycling	Bishop's Stortford Cycling Club	Market Square/roads around Bishop's Stortford
Football	Bishop's Stortford Football Club (2 men's teams) Bishop's Stortford Community FC (4 men's teams, 2 ladies teams, 42 youth teams and 25 mini teams) Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC (3 men's teams, 5 youth teams and 1 mini team) Heath Rovers FC (2 men's teams) Stortford Cobras FC (1 men's team)	Woodside Park Stadium Birchwood High School Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre Friedberg Avenue Playing Fields Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust Albury Much Hadham Woodbridge Fyfield Parringdon Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Golf	Bishop's Stortford Golf Club	Bishop's Stortford Golf Club
Gymnastics	Valdez Gymnastics Club	Valdez Gymnastics Club (Twyford Estate)
Hockey	Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club (8 men's teams, 5 ladies teams, 1 mixed team, 3 boys teams, 2 girls teams and 1 mixed junior team)	Hockerill Anglo-European College Bishop's Stortford College Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (clubhouse)
Judo	Bishop's Stortford Judokwai	Birchwood High School
Ju Jitsu	Ju Jitsu Club Bishop's Stortford	Northgate Activity Centre
Karate	Bishop's Stortford Karate Club (UKA) Bishop's Stortford Kyokushin KC Bishop's Stortford Renshuu Karate Bishop's Stortford Shotokan KC Bishop's Stortford Shotokan Rye KC Tiger Tots (Karate for Kids)	Various venues in Bishop's Stortford United Reformed Church Parsonage Lane Community Hall Thorley Park Community Centre Birchwood Sports Centre Thorley Park Community Centre Thorley Park Community Centre Havers Community Centre
Netball	Bishop's Stortford Netball Club (5 teams)	Birchwood High School
Rugby	Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club (6 adult teams, 12 junior boys teams, 3 junior girls teams and 7 mini teams)	Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club
Squash	Bishop's Stortford Squash Club Chantry Squash Club	Silver Leys Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust
Sub-aqua	Stortford Divers	Grange Paddocks Sports Centre
Swimming	Bishop's Stortford Swimming Club Whitemeads Swimming Club	Grange Paddocks Sports Centre Bishop's Stortford College Hertfordshire and Essex School Leventhorpe Sports Centre (Sawbridgeworth) Bishop's Stortford College
Table Tennis	Water Lane Table Tennis Club	Summerville Infants School Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust
Taekwondo	Red Taekwondo	Northgate Activity Centre
Tai Chi	Taoist Tai Chi	Summerville Infants School
Tennis	Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club (4 men's teams, 5 ladies teams, 1 mixed team and 6 junior teams)	Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust
Triathlon	Stortford Tri	Hockerill Sports and Social Club Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre Redricks Lane Lake Local roads for running and cycling
Volleyball	Stortford Dragons Volleyball Club	Leventhorpe Sports Centre (Sawbridgeworth)

4) Local community demand

Bishop's Stortford Town Council has consulted the local community about their demand for sports facilities provision in the town through:

- A Neighbourhood Plan Survey in late 2014, which attracted almost 1,800 responses.

- A Focus Group for Sport, convened in January 2015 as part of the Neighbourhood Plan compilation.

The key findings are summarised below.

4.1 Overall satisfaction with provision

61% of respondents' to the Neighbourhood Plan Survey are satisfied with local sports provision, with only housing/environment and transport rated as poorer out of the ten categories surveyed.

4.2 Views on the quantity of facilities in the town

Respondents' views were sought on whether there are sufficient facilities of each type in the town to meet current needs and the responses were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Too many (%)</i>	<i>About right (%)</i>	<i>Too few (%)</i>	<i>Not sure (%)</i>
Gyms	4%	68%	16%	12%
Studio fitness	4%	62%	17%	17%
Football pitches	4%	61%	17%	18%
Rugby pitches	2%	69%	9%	20%
Swimming pools	1%	55%	37%	7%
Cricket pitches	1%	63%	11%	25%
Tennis courts	1%	50%	25%	24%
Squash courts	1%	47%	19%	33%
BMX/wheels parks	3%	40%	24%	33%
Cycling facilities	2%	29%	48%	21%
Hockey pitches	1%	45%	17%	37%
Athletics facilities	0%	26%	44%	30%

4.3 Views on the quality of facilities in the town

31% of respondents to the Neighbourhood Plan Survey believe that the quality of local sports facilities is generally 'good', 41% considered them 'average' and 28% that the quality is 'poor' or worse.

4.4 Specific issues raised

The following issues were raised through both the survey and the Focus Group in relation to demand for specific types of sports facilities:

- **Sports halls** - Several local sports clubs also mentioned the need to adapt and improvise in sports halls which were not really fit for purpose, with many indoor courts being smaller than those recommended by Sport England.
- **Swimming pools** - The size of the pool and the viewing facilities at the Grange Paddocks complex were criticised as inadequate by the Swimming Club.

- **Athletics provision** - Athletics facilities suitable for able-bodied and inclusive use are needed and could be co-located with all-weather football/hockey pitches).
- **Synthetic turf pitches** - There is sufficient demand for additional synthetic turf pitches for hockey and '3G' football turf pitches in the town.
- **Grass pitches** - There is a shortfall of grass pitches for football and hockey in relation to existing demand in the town.

5) Education demand

Demand for sports facilities from the six secondary and 13 primary schools in Bishop's Stortford is generally met by on-site provision or in some cases detached playing fields elsewhere in the town, with the following exceptions:

- The Bishop's Stortford School Sports Partnership organises a number of competitive activities for primary schools, some of which involve community-based facilities like the Valdez Gymnastics Club and Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club, but most are accommodated at facilities on school sites.
- The pools at Grange Paddocks leisure centre are used for swimming lessons by many of the primary schools in the town.

6) Displaced demand

Displaced demand relates to play by teams or other sports facility users of playing pitches from within Bishop's Stortford which takes place outside of the area and vice versa. The assessed position based upon the results of Sport England's Facilities Planning Model, previous strategic assessments and consultation with clubs and governing bodies of sport as part of the current exercise is as follows:

6.1 Exported demand

This has been identified as follows:

- **Football** - Demand for adult, youth (11v11 and 9v9) and mini-soccer (7v7 and 5v5) pitches cannot be accommodated within Bishop's Stortford, with Bishops Stortford Community Football Club teams playing on pitches in Much Hadham and Albury (in East Hertfordshire), Takeley and Manuden (in Uttlesford), Paringdon Sports Club (in Harlow) and Epping (in Epping Forest district).
- **Netball** - Demand for the Bishop's Stortford District League can only be accommodated in the winter months and is based in Harlow during the summer.

6.2 Imported demand

This has been identified as follows:

- **Sports halls** - 25% of demand for sports halls in Uttlesford, equivalent to 800 visits per week in the peak period) is exported, much of it to facilities in Bishop's Stortford.

- **Swimming pools** - 33% of demand for swimming in Uttlesford, equivalent to 1,750 visits per week in the peak period) is exported, much of it to facilities in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Synthetic turf pitches for hockey** - 43.2% of demand from Uttlesford district as a whole is exported, with much of this directed to pitches in Bishop's Stortford.
- **'3G' football turf pitches** - There are no '3G' football turf pitches in Uttlesford, so all demand from within that district is exported, with much of this directed to the pitch in Bishop's Stortford.

7) **Unmet demand**

Unmet demand takes a number of forms:

- Teams may have access to a facility for their competitive programme but nowhere to train or vice versa.
- Facilities of a particular type may be unavailable to the community.
- The poor quality and of facilities in the area and/or a lack of provision and ancillary facilities which meet a certain standard of play/league requirement, may inhibit activity.

Unmet demand in Bishop's Stortford has been identified as follows:

- **Sports halls** - None of the sports halls in the town complies with Sport England's latest recommended dimensions of 34.5m x 20m x 7.5m, which inhibits their use for competitive play in number of sports.
- **Swimming pools** - The five-lane pool and inadequate spectator facilities mean that Bishop's Stortford Swimming Club cannot hold competitive events at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre.
- **Athletics provision** - Athletics facilities are needed for able-bodied and inclusive use..

8) **Latent demand**

Whereas unmet demand is known to currently exist latent demand is demand that evidence suggests may be generated from the current population should they have access to more or better provision.

Specific examples of latent demand in Bishop's Stortford have been identified as follows:

- **Athletics** - Local community surveys conducted as part of the Neighbourhood Planning process have identified the need for specialist athletics facilities provision.
- **Football** - Bishop's Stortford Community Football Club has confirmed that it is unable to accept additional players because it is operating at full capacity.
- **Rugby** - Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club has confirmed that it is unable to accept additional junior and mini players because it has no further facilities capacity.

APPENDIX III – CURRENT SPORTS FACILITIES PROVISION IN BISHOP'S STORTFORD

1) Sports halls

1.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the sports halls of four badminton court size or larger, available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Size</i>
Birchwood High School	Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BD	35m x 18m
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	32m x 17m
Bishop's Stortford High School	London Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3LU	40m x 17m
St. Mary's Catholic School	Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NQ	33m x 18m

1.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of sports hall provision was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were evaluated were as follows:

- **Playing area** - Including the overall condition, clear span roof height, lighting, spectator provision, equipment and fitness for purpose.
- **Changing facilities** - Including capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access** - Including provision for disabled access to the facility.
- **Maintenance and cleanliness** - Including the quality of maintenance and cleanliness standards.
- **General access** - Including car parking, signposting and proximity to public transport.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores for sports halls were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Playing area</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Access</i>
Birchwood High School	4	4	5	5	5
Bishop's Stortford College	5	5	5	5	5
Bishop's Stortford High School	4	4	5	5	5
St. Mary's Catholic School	5	5	5	5	5

1.3 Access

Because all of the sports halls in Bishop's Stortford are on school sites, community access is limited to the evening and weekend use typical in most dual use facilities.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Community use</i>
Birchwood High School	21 hours per week (evenings and weekends)
Bishop's Stortford College	32 hours per week (evenings and weekends)
Bishop's Stortford High School	38 hours per week (evenings and weekends)
St. Mary's Catholic School	20 hours per week (evenings only)

1.4 Capacity

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) comprises a spatial assessment of sports hall provision based on the nature of sports participation (demand) within an area and the available supply, taking into account issues such as capacity (expressed in terms of badminton court units to take account of the different dimensions of sports halls) and accessibility. Part of the calculation involves an assessment of the used peak period capacity of facilities and the current figures for sports halls in Bishop's Stortford are as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>% of used capacity</i>
Birchwood High School	100%
Bishop's Stortford College	51%
Bishop's Stortford High School	60%
St. Mary's Catholic School	100%

Based upon Sport England's definition of 'Comfortable Capacity', whereby a sports hall is deemed to be effectively full when usage reaches 80% of theoretical full capacity, two of the sports halls are operating at well above this level and two are below the level but with restricted opportunities to expand. There is therefore no effective spare capacity in sports halls in Bishop's Stortford.

1.5 Accessibility

Sport England national research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for sports hall users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 20 minutes travel time of at least one sports hall.

2) Swimming pools

2.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the swimming pools available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Size</i>
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	25m x 14m 14m x 7m
Bishop's Stortford Fitness & Well-being Centre	6, Anchor Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	20m x 8m
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NQ	25m x 12.5m 12.5m x 7.5m
Hertfordshire & Essex High School	Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5NJ	23m x 8m

2.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of swimming pool provision was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were evaluated were as follows:

- **Pool area** - Including the overall condition, temperature, spectator provision, equipment storage and fitness for purpose.
- **Changing facilities** - Including capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access** - Including provision for disabled access to the facility.
- **Maintenance and cleanliness** - Including the quality of maintenance and cleanliness standards.
- **General access** - Including car parking, signposting and proximity to public transport.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’, 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The scores for sports halls were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Pool area</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Maintenance</i>	<i>Access</i>
Bishop’s Stortford College	5	5	5	5	5
Bishop’s Stortford Fitness & Well-being Centre	5	5	5	5	5
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	4	3	5	5	5
Hertfordshire & Essex High School	2	2	2	3	3

2.3 Access

The weekly opening hours of swimming pools in Bishop’s Stortford is as follows.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Community use</i>
Bishop’s Stortford College	40 hours per week (evenings and weekends)
Bishop’s Stortford Fitness & Well-being Centre	102.5 hours per week
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	98 hours per week
Hertfordshire & Essex High School	40 hours per week (evenings and weekends)

- The Bishop’s Stortford College and Hertfordshire and Essex High School pools are available for block bookings by clubs and organisations only, with no ‘pay and play’ access for casual swimming.
- The Bishop’s Stortford Fitness and Well-being Centre pool is available on a membership basis only.

2.4 Used capacity

The application of Sport England’s FPM to swimming pool provision in Bishop’s Stortford identified the following current used peak period capacity in the town:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>% of used capacity</i>
Bishop's Stortford College	100%
Bishop's Stortford Fitness & Well-being Centre	64%
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	38%
Hertfordshire & Essex High School	63%

Based upon Sport England's definition of 'Comfortable Capacity', whereby a pool is deemed to be effectively full when usage reaches 70% of theoretical full capacity, one of the pools operating at well above this level, but two are just below and the Grange Paddocks pool is shown to have significant spare capacity.

2.5 Accessibility

Sport England national research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for swimming pool users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 20 minutes travel time of at least one pool.

3) Athletics tracks

3.1 Quantitative analysis

There are no athletics tracks in Bishop's Stortford. The closest facilities are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Wodson Park Sports Centre	Wadesmill Road, Ware SG12 0UQ
Mark Hall Sports Centre	London Road, Harlow CM17 9LR
Braintree Sport & Health Club	Panfield Lane, Braintree CM7 1FF

3.2 Qualitative analysis

With no tracks in Bishop's Stortford, it was not possible to undertake a non-technical visual inspection of quality.

3.3 Access

All the tracks in neighbouring areas are available for hire on a 'pay and play' basis by individuals or by clubs for competitive events.

3.4 Accessibility

Sport England national research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for track users. None of the tracks in adjacent areas is within 20 minutes driving time.

4) Indoor bowls

4.1 Quantitative analysis

There are no indoor bowls facilities in Bishop's Stortford. The closest facilities are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club	Tilegate Road, Harlow CM18 6LU
Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club	Peasland's Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EG

4.2 Qualitative analysis

With no indoor bowls facilities in Bishop's Stortford, it was not possible to undertake a non-technical visual inspection of quality.

4.3 Access

The facility in Saffron Walden is available for hire on a 'pay and play' basis by individuals, but the Harlow facility is membership only.

4.4 Accessibility

Sport England national research shows that 30 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for indoor bowls users. Both of the tracks in adjacent areas are within 30 minutes driving time.

5) Outdoor bowls

5.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the outdoor bowls greens available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club (x2)	Bowling Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5LH
Havers Park Lawn Bowls Club	South Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3JB

5.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of outdoor bowls provision was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The green** - Including the quality of the grass, flatness and regulation ditches.
- **Changing facilities** - Including capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disabled access** - Provision for disabled access throughout the site.
- **General access** - Including overall car parking capacity, disabled spaces and bike racks.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’, 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The scores for outdoor bowls greens were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>
Bishop’s Stortford Bowling Club	5	5	5	5
Havers Park Lawn Bowls Club	5	5	4	4

5.3 Access

Both clubs allow use by members only.

5.4 Accessibility

Bowls England research shows that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for outdoor bowls users. The whole population on Bishop’s Stortford is within 15 minutes drive of at least one green.

6) Indoor tennis

6.1 Quantitative analysis

There are no indoor tennis facilities in Bishop’s Stortford. The closest facilities are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Legends Tennis UK	College Road, Hertford SG13 7NU
Harlow Lawn Tennis Club	Latton Bush Centre, Southern Way, Harlow CM18 7BL
Harlow Leisurezone	Second Avenue, Harlow CM20 3DT

6.2 Qualitative analysis

With no indoor tennis facilities in Bishop’s Stortford, it was not possible to undertake a non-technical visual inspection of quality.

6.3 Access

All the facilities in neighbouring areas are available on a ‘pay and play’ as well as a membership basis.

6.4 Accessibility

Lawn Tennis Association research shows that 30 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for indoor court users. All the facilities in adjacent areas are within 30 minutes driving time.

7) Outdoor tennis courts

7.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the outdoor tennis courts available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club	Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2TD	3 clay 5 artificial turf 6 grass
Castle Gardens tennis courts	Link Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2EL	

7.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of outdoor tennis court provision was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The court** - Including the court surface, line markings, floodlighting (where provided) and fitness for purpose.
- **Fencing** - Including condition and appearance.
- **Changing facilities** - Including capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Lighting** - The quality, illumination levels and evenness of floodlights.
- **Disability access** - Including provision for disabled access to the facility.
- **General access** - Including car parking, signposting and proximity to public transport.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores for tennis courts were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Lighting</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>General</i>
Bishop's Stortford Tennis Club	5	5	4	5	4	5
Castle Gardens tennis courts	3	3	-	-	3	3

7.3 Access

The courts at both sites are available on a pay and play basis, with membership access available at the Tennis Club. The following courts on school sites in Bishop's Stortford have no community use at present:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Birchwood High School	Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BD	4 tarmac
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	4 tarmac
St. Mary's Catholic School	Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NQ	2 tarmac

7.4 Accessibility

Lawn Tennis Association research shows that 15 minutes travel time is the typical maximum journey for tennis court users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 15 minutes drive of at least one green.

8) Netball courts

8.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the netball courts available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Birchwood High School	Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BD	5

8.2 Qualitative analysis

- **The court** - Including the court surface, line markings, floodlighting (where provided) and fitness for purpose.
- **Fencing** - Including condition and appearance.
- **Changing facilities** - Including capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Lighting** - The quality, illumination levels and evenness of floodlights.
- **Disability access** - Including provision for disabled access to the facility.
- **General access** - Including car parking, signposting and proximity to public transport.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores for tennis courts were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Lighting</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>General</i>
Birchwood High School	3	4	4	5	4	5

8.3 Access

The courts at Birchwood High School are available for public hire on a pay and play basis. The following courts on school sites in Bishop's Stortford have no community use at present:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	6

8.4 Accessibility

Sport England national research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for netball court users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 20 minutes travel time of the courts.

9) Health and fitness

9.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the health and fitness facilities available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. Stations</i>
Bishop's Stortford Fitness & Well-being Centre	6, Anchor Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	100
Challenge Active	London Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 4AU	106
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	Rye Street, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NQ	120
Koru Gym	Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5RG	14

9.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of health and fitness facilities provision was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were evaluated were as follows:

- **Fitness facilities** - Including the overall condition, mix of cardio-vascular and resistance equipment, lighting and ambience.
- **Changing** - Including cleanliness, capacity and fitness for purpose.
- **Disabled access** - Including disability-specific equipment.
- **Parking and general access** - Including car parking capacity.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores for health and fitness facilities were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>
Bishop's Stortford Fitness & Well-being Centre	5	5	5	5
Challenge Active	5	5	5	5
Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre	5	4	5	5
Koru Gym	4	4	3	4

9.3 Access

- **Public facilities** - One of the health and fitness facilities in Bishop's Stortford is local authority owned and operated on a 'pay and play' basis, providing 120 stations (35.3% of the district total).

- **Membership-only facilities** - Three of the facilities in the town operate on a membership-only basis, collectively providing 220 stations (64.7% of the district total). In all cases, the membership fees are relatively modest and therefore provide no effective barrier to access.
- **Education facilities** - The following facility is not available for community use:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. Stations</i>
Bishop's Stortford College	Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ	20

9.4 Accessibility

Sport England national research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for health and fitness facilities users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 20 minutes travel time of at least one health and fitness facility.

10)Gymnastics facilities

10.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the gymnastics facility available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Valdez Gymnastics Club	Twyford Estate, London Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2QE

10.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of the gymnastics facility was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **The playing area** - Including the equipment, floor surface, safety features and lighting.
- **Changing facilities** - Including capacity, condition and fitness for purpose.
- **Disability access** - Including provision for disabled access to the facility.
- **General access** - Including car parking, signposting and proximity to public transport.

The facility was rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Court</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>General</i>
Valdez Gymnastics Club	5	4	5	4

10.3 Access

The club offers a range of classes and there are no effective barriers to access.

10.4 Accessibility

As a specialist facility, 30 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for gymnastics facilities users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 30 minutes travel time of the facility.

11) Squash courts

11.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the squash courts available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. Courts</i>
Bishop's Stortford Squash Club	Hadham Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2QE	6
Chantry Squash Club	Cricketfield Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2TD	2

11.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of squash court provision was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were assessed to give a single overall score for each squash facility were the court surface, line markings, walls, disability and general access and fitness for purpose.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores for squash courts were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Score</i>
Bishop's Stortford Squash Club	5
Chantry Squash Club	4

11.3 Access

All of the courts in the town are available for use on a club membership basis. In all cases, the membership fees are relatively modest and therefore provide no effective barrier to access.

11.4 Accessibility

Sport England national research shows that 20 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for squash court users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 20 minutes travel time of at least one squash court.

12) Golf courses

12.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the golf course available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>No. Holes</i>
Bishop's Stortford Golf Club	Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5HP	18

12.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of golf course provision was assessed was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **Course** - Including the overall condition, configuration and length.
- **Clubhouse** - Including capacity and fitness for purpose.
- **Disabled and general access** - Including access throughout the site and car parking.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores for golf courses were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>	<i>Access</i>
Bishop's Stortford Golf Club	5	5	4

12.3 Access

The course is operated by a golf club on a membership basis, but has provision for casual hire by individuals or groups, subject to availability. There are therefore no significant limitations to access to courses in the town.

12.4 Accessibility

English Golf Union research shows that 30 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for golf course users. The whole population on Bishop's Stortford is within 30 minutes travel time of at least one golf course.

13) Canoeing facilities

31.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the canoeing facility available to the community and used in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Address</i>
Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club	Styleman's Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM22 7QJ

13.2 Qualitative analysis

The quality of canoeing provision was assessed was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. The criteria that were assessed were as follows:

- **Clubhouse** - Including capacity, boat storage and fitness for purpose.
- **Water access arrangements** - Including access and safety arrangements.

- **Disabled and general access** - Including access throughout the site and car parking.

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’, 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The scores for canoeing facilities were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>	<i>Water access</i>	<i>General access</i>
Bishop’s Stortford Canoe Club	2	1	4

13.3 Access

The club operates on a membership basis, but runs taster sessions for non-members, so there are no effective barriers to access.

13.4 Accessibility

As a specialist facility, 30 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for canoe facility users. The whole population on Bishop’s Stortford is within 30 minutes travel time of the club.

14) Community and ancillary halls

14.1 Quantitative analysis

Details of the community and ancillary halls available to the community and used in Bishop’s Stortford are listed below. These are not specialist sports facilities but accommodate some sports needs:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Hall size</i>
Birchwood High School (x2)	Parsonage Lane, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 5BD	20m x 20m 20m x 20m
Bishop’s Park Community Centre	Lancaster Way, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 4DA	21m x 16m
Bishop’s Stortford High School (x2)	London Road, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 3LU	20m x 10m 18m x 18m
Havers Community Centre	Waytemore Road, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 3GR	23m x 15m
Hertfordshire and Essex High School	Warwick Road, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 5NJ	20m x 12m
Hockerill Anglo-European College	Dunmow Road, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 5XH	18m x 10m
Parsonage Lane Community Hall	Parsonage Lane, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 5PY	18m x 10m
St. Mary’s Catholic School	Windhill, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 2NQ	20m x 10m
St. Michael’s Mead Community Centre	Turner’s Crescent, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 4QQ	16.5m x 9m
Thorley Community Centre	Friedberg Avenue, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 4RF	18m x 10m
Water Lane United Reformed Church Hall	Water Lane, Bishop’s Stortford CM23 2JZ	14m x 9.5m

14.2 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of community halls was assessed by a non-technical visual inspection. Two sets of criteria were assessed:

- The capacity of the halls to accommodate a wide range of sport and physical activity, which was scored as follows:
 - **Provision for formal sport** - Including dedicated sports facilities and markings and changing rooms. These were given a rating of 5 or 4.

- **Available for informal activities** - The provision of a space which can be used for exercise classes such as yoga or aerobics. These were given a rating of 3.
- **Not available for physical activity but with meeting space** - These were given a rating of 2.
- **Social Clubs** - These were given a rating of 1
- The overall quality and condition of the building. The numerical scores equate to ‘High Quality’ for a 5, ‘Above Average’ for a 4, ‘Average’ for a 3, ‘Below Average’ for a 2 and ‘Poor Quality’ for a 1.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Sports capacity</i>	<i>Overall condition</i>
Birchwood High School (x2)	4	4
Bishop’s Park Community Centre	3	5
Bishop’s Stortford High School (x2)	4	4
Havers Community Centre	3	5
Hertfordshire and Essex High School	4	4
Hockerill Anglo-European College	4	4
Parsonage Lane Community Hall	3	4
Hertfordshire and Essex High School	4	5
Hockerill Anglo-European College	3	4
Thorley Community Centre	4	5
Water Lane United Reformed Church Hall	4	4

14.3 Access

All the halls are available for hire on a ‘pay and play’ basis by individuals and groups. Eight of the halls are on school sites and are therefore only available for hire at evenings and weekends.

14.4 Accessibility

Because community halls are effectively local facilities, a 10 minute travel time catchment has been applied. The whole population is within 10 minutes travel time of at least one hall.

15) Playing pitches

15.1 Definition

The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions for club-level play as specified in Sport England’s ‘Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts’ (2011) and the FA’s ‘Guide to Pitch Dimensions’ (2013), have community access and are used for competitive play.

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Pitch length</i>	<i>Pitch width</i>	<i>Size including run-offs</i>
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U17-U18)	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football (9v9)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer (7v7)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer (5v5)	37m	27m	43m x 33m
Adult cricket	20.12m	Max. 36.6m/Min. 3.05m	111.56m x 106.69m
Junior cricket	19.2m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 3.05m	92.36m x 88.41m
Adult rugby	Max. 144m	Max. 70m	Max. 154m x 80m
Junior rugby	Max. 70m	Max. 43m/Min. 30m	Max. 80m x 53m
Artificial Grass Pitch for Hockey	91.4m	55m	101.4m x 63m
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	100m	64m	106m x 70m

15.2 Quantitative analysis

Details of the grass pitches in Bishop's Stortford are listed below:

- **Pitches available for community use and used** - The following pitches are accessible to sports clubs and are used for formal competitive play and/or training.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth 11 v 11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7 v 7</i>	<i>Mini 5v 5</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Adult rugby</i>	<i>Junior rugby</i>	<i>AGP</i>	<i>'3G'</i>
Birchwood High School	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Bishop's Stortford College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-
Bishop's Stortford FC	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fld.	-	1	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grange Paddocks Leis. Centre	7	1	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-
Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	-	-	1	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Hockerill College	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Hockerill Cricket Club	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-
Silver Leys Trust	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	2	-	-
TOTALS	9	3	6	3	1	4	4	4	2	1

- **Pitches available for community use and unused** - There are no pitches available for community use but currently unused in Bishop's Stortford.
- **Pitches not available for community use** - The following pitches, exclusively on education sites, are not available for community use.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Youth 11 v 11</i>	<i>Youth 9v9</i>	<i>Mini 7 v 7</i>	<i>Mini 5v 5</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Adult rugby</i>	<i>Junior rugby</i>	<i>AGP</i>	<i>'3G'</i>
All Saints' Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Birchwood High School	1	1	-	-	-	-	2	2	-	-
Bishop's Stortford College	3	2	1	-	-	8	7	-	1	-
Bishop's Stortford High Sch.	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-	-	-
Hockerill College	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Jobber's Wood	6	-	-	-	-	3	6	-	-	-
Manor Fields Primary School	-	-	-	2	2	-	-	-	-	-
Northgate Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Richard Whittington PS	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Joseph's Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
St. Mary's Catholic School	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-
Summercroft Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorley Hill Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thorn Grove Primary School	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTALS	12	5	1	9	2	11	20	4	1	0

- **Pitches not available as disused** - The only disused pitches in Bishop's Stortford are two junior rugby pitches on the Fire Station site opposite Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club.

15.3 Qualitative analysis

The qualitative analysis of community halls was assessed by a sport-specific non-technical visual inspection, produced by each of the pitch sport governing bodies for Sport England's *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance* (2013).

- **Football site scores** - The assessment generates 'scores' for each site by evaluating the condition of:
 - **The playing surface** - This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, gradient, evenness, length of grass, drainage and evidence of any unauthorised use.
 - **The changing facilities** - This includes the availability of changing rooms, kitchen and/or bar, the interior and exterior appearance, showering and toilet provision, medical room, disability access and parking arrangements.
 - **Grounds maintenance** - This includes the frequency of grass cutting, seeding, aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 100% - 75%, 'Standard' for scores of 74.9% - 50%, 'Poor' for scores of 49.9% - 25% and 'Unsuitable' below 25%. The scores for each football site with community use and used in Bishop's Stortford are as follows. Where there is more than one pitch at a site, the average quality rating is given, although the condition of individual pitches has been taken into account in the site-specific supply and demand analysis in section 7 below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitch</i>		<i>Changing</i>	
	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Birchwood High School	64%	Standard	-	-
Bishop's Stortford FC	84%	Good	86%	Good
Friedberg Avenue Playing Fld.	67%	Standard	44%	Poor
Grange Paddocks Leis. Centre	64%	Standard	67%	Standard
Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	68%	Standard	65%	Standard
Silver Leys Trust	69%	Standard	71%	Standard

- **Cricket site scores** - The assessment generates 'scores' for each site by evaluating the condition of:
 - **Grass wickets** - This includes presence of line markings, evidence of rolling, grass cut and height, repaired wickets, grass coverage and ball bounce.
 - **Outfield** - This includes grass coverage, length of grass, evenness and evidence of unofficial use or damage to the surface.
 - **Non-turf wickets** - This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting and ball bounce.
 - **Changing facilities** - This includes the presence or absence of umpires provision, toilets, hot/cold water, heating and an assessment of the condition of the building.
 - **Non-turf practice nets** - This includes integration with the surrounding grass, evenness, stump holes any evidence of moss, tears or surface lifting, ball bounce, safety and integrity of the steel frame and nets and safety signage.

The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of 'Good' for scores of 81% or more 'Standard' for scores of 80% - 51% and 'Poor' for scores of 50% or below. Blank cells in the table mean that the feature concerned is absent from the site in question. The scores for each cricket pitch site in Bishop's Stortford are as follows. Where there is more than one pitch at a site, the average quality rating is given, although the condition of individual pitches has been taken into account in the site-specific supply and demand analysis in section 7 below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wicket</i>		<i>Non-turf</i>		<i>Outfield</i>		<i>Changing</i>		<i>Practice nets</i>	
	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Bishop's Stortford College	83%	Good	-	-	80%	Good	80%	Standard	90%	Good
Bishops Stortford Sports Trust	83%	Good	83%	Good	83%	Good	60%	Standard	100%	Good
Hockerill Cricket Club	83%	Good	83%	Good	90%	Good	100%	Good	80%	Standard

- **Rugby site scores** - The assessment generates 'scores' for each site by evaluating the condition of:
 - **The playing surface** - This includes grass cover, pitch dimensions, length of grass and evidence of any unauthorised use.
 - **Goalposts** - This includes the stability of the posts and crossbar and the presence of rust or other hazards.

- **Ancillary provision** - This includes the presence or absence of changing facilities, floodlighting and car parking.
- **Grounds maintenance** - This includes the frequency of aeration, sand-dressing, fertilising, weed killing and chain harrowing.

The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 100% - 75%, ‘Standard’ for scores of 74.9% - 50%, ‘Poor’ for scores of 49.9% - 25% and ‘Unsuitable’ below 25%. The overall scores for each rugby site in Bishop’s Stortford are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Pitch rating</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Bishop’s Stortford College	75%	Good	Good
Bishop’s Stortford Rugby Club	77%	Good	Poor

- **Synthetic turf pitch scores** - The assessment generates an overall ‘score’ for each full-sized pitch by evaluating the condition of the playing surface, fencing, floodlighting, disability access and changing provision. The percentage scores generated equate to ratings of ‘Good’ for scores of 80% or more ‘Standard’ for scores of 79% - 51% and ‘Poor’ for scores of 50% or below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Score</i>	<i>Rating</i>
Birchwood High School	80%	Good
Bishop’s Stortford College (x2)	80%	Good
Hockerill Anglo-American College	75%	Standard

15.4 Used capacity

The application of Sport England’s FPM to synthetic turf pitch provision in Bishop’s Stortford identified the following current used peak period capacity in the town:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>% of used capacity</i>
Birchwood High School	100%
Bishop’s Stortford College (x2)	100%
Hockerill Anglo-American College	100%

All pitches are therefore judged to be operating at full capacity.

15.5 Accessibility analysis

Consultation with local sports clubs shows that 15 minutes driving time is the typical maximum journey for playing pitch users. The whole population on Bishop’s Stortford is within 15 minutes travel time of at least one pitch of every type.

16) Adult football pitches

16.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for adult football pitches in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions. Pitches which are outside the town but used by Bishop's Stortford clubs are shown in italics, to highlight exported demand.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a 'good' quality adult pitch will accommodate three match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Birchanger FC</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	1.0	Balanced	
Bishop's Stortford FC	1	3.0	Bishop's Stortford FC	3.0	Balanced	
Grange Paddocks LC	7	10.0*	Bishop's Stortford Community FC Heath Rovers FC Stortford Cobras FC	7.5	+2.5	* Four pitches are rated as 'poor' quality due to drainage issues.
Silverleys Trust	1	2.0	Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC	2.0	Balanced	
TOTALS	10	16.0	-	13.5	+2.5	-

16.2 Qualitative analysis

Four of the adult pitches at the Grange Paddocks suffer from poor drainage and as a result their usage capacity is reduced.

16.3 Access analysis

There are 12 additional adult football pitches on school sites with no community access at present.

16.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest adult football pitch.

16.5 Spare capacity

The spare capacity of adult football pitches is as follows:

- At three sites usage is balanced
- One site has some spare usage capacity.

16.6 Assessment of current provision

There is some spare capacity at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre, but all other sites are currently used to capacity, with some exported demand to pitches in neighbouring areas. The carrying capacity of four pitches at Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre is compromised by poor drainage.

17) Youth football (11v11) pitches

17.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for youth football (11v11) pitches in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions. Pitches which are outside the town but used by Bishop's Stortford clubs are shown in italics, to highlight exported demand.

In line with FA guidance, it has been assumed that a 'good' quality youth pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
<i>Albury Playing Field</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	1.0	Balanced	
Birchwood High School	1	2.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	2.5	-0.5	
Friedberg Avenue PF	1	2.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	2.0	Balanced	
<i>Fyfield Playing Field</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	1.0	Balanced	
Grange Paddocks LC	1	2.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	2.0	Balanced	
<i>Much Hadbam Playing Field</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	1.0	Balanced	
<i>Paringdon Sports Club</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1.0</i>	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	1.0	Balanced	
TOTALS	7	10.0	-	10.5	-0.5	

17.2 Qualitative analysis

All pitches and related changing facilities are rated as 'standard' quality.

17.3 Access analysis

There are five additional youth football (11v11) pitches on school sites with no community access at present.

17.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest youth football (11v11) pitch.

17.5 Spare capacity

The spare capacity of youth (11v11) football pitches is as follows:

- One site is currently used to beyond its sustainable capacity.
- At six sites usage is balanced

17.6 Assessment of current provision

All youth (11v11) football pitches in Bishop's Stortford are currently used to capacity or beyond, with substantial exported demand to pitches in neighbouring areas.

18) Youth football (9v9) pitches

18.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for youth football (9v9) pitches in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions. Pitches which are outside the town but used by Bishop's Stortford clubs are shown in italics, to highlight exported demand.

In line with FA guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality youth pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate one match equivalent per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Birchwood High School	1	2.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	3.0	-1.0	
Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust	1	2.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	2.0	Balanced	
Grange Paddocks LC	2	4.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	2.0	+2.0	
Friedberg Avenue PF	2	4.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	6.0	-2.0	
TOTALS	6	12.0	-	13.0	-1.0	

18.2 Qualitative analysis

All pitches and related changing facilities are rated as at least 'standard' quality.

18.3 Access analysis

There is one additional youth football (9v9) pitch on a school site with no community access at present.

18.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest youth football (9v9) pitch.

18.5 Spare capacity

The spare capacity of youth (9v9) football pitches is as follows:

- Two sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At one site usage is balanced
- One site has some spare usage capacity.

18.6 Assessment of current provision

All but one youth (9v9) football pitches in Bishop's Stortford are currently used to capacity or beyond, with a localised deficit of one match equivalent.

19) Mini-soccer (7v7) pitches

19.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for mini-soccer (7v7) pitches in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions. Pitches which are outside the town but used by Bishop's Stortford clubs are shown in italics, to highlight exported demand.

In line with FA guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality mini-soccer pitch will accommodate six match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Grange Paddocks LC	2	8.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	8.0	Balanced	
Silverleys Trust	1	4.0	Bishop's Stortford Swifts FC	4.0	Balanced	
TOTALS	3	12.0	-	12.0	Balanced	

19.2 Qualitative analysis

There are no quality issues at present.

19.3 Access analysis

There are nine additional mini-soccer (7v7) pitches on school sites with no community access at present.

19.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest mini-soccer (7v7) pitch.

19.5 Spare capacity

Usage of mini-soccer (7v7) pitches at both sites is currently balanced, with no spare capacity.

19.6 Assessment of current provision

All mini-soccer (7v7) pitches in Bishop's Stortford are currently used to capacity.

20) Mini-soccer (5v5) pitches

20.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for mini-soccer (5v5) pitches in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions. Pitches which are outside the town but used by Bishop's Stortford clubs are shown in *italics*, to highlight exported demand.

In line with FA guidance it has been assumed that a 'good' quality mini-soccer pitch will accommodate six match equivalents per week, a 'standard' quality pitch will accommodate four match equivalents per week and a 'poor' quality pitch will accommodate two match equivalents per week. This has also been assessed in the context of pitch availability at peak usage periods, where there may be demand from two or more teams for the one available match equivalent at that time.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Grange Paddocks LC	1	4.0	Bishop's Stortford Community FC	4.0	Balanced	
<i>TOTALS</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>40</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>4.0</i>	<i>Balanced</i>	

20.2 Qualitative analysis

There are no quality issues at present.

20.3 Access analysis

There are two additional mini-soccer (5v5) pitches on school sites with no community access at present.

20.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest mini-soccer (5v5) pitch.

20.5 Spare capacity

The spare capacity of mini-soccer (5v5) pitches is as follows:

20.5 Assessment of current provision

Usage of mini-soccer (7v7) pitches is currently balanced, with no spare capacity.

21)Cricket pitches

21.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis cricket pitches in Bishop’s Stortford is set out below. As per Sport England guidance, capacity is expressed as match equivalents per **season**, as opposed to per **week** for all other pitch types.

- In line with ECB guidance it has been assumed that a ‘good’ quality wicket will accommodate 5 matches per season, a ‘standard’ quality wicket will accommodate 4 matches per season and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate 3 matches per season.
- Adult teams account for an average of 0.5 ‘home’ games per week and junior teams for 0.35 ‘home’ games per week.
- Artificial turf wickets are shown in brackets in the table below and will accommodate 35 matches per season.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bishop’s Stortford Sports Trust	24(1)	155	Bishop’s Stortford CC	102	+53	
Hockerill Cricket Club	12(1)	95	Hockerill CC	57	+38	
TOTALS	36(2)	250	-	159	+91	-

21.2 Qualitative analysis

All aspects of all facilities are rated as at least ‘standard’ quality, although the pavilion at Bishop’s Stortford Sports Trust does not meet current needs and expectations.

21.3 Access analysis

There are 11 additional cricket pitches on school sites with no community access at present.

21.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of the nearest cricket pitch.

21.5 Spare capacity

Both sites have some spare usage capacity.

21.6 Assessment of current provision

Both sites have some spare usage capacity, but the pavilion at Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust should be replaced.

22) Rugby pitches

22.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for rugby pitches (adult and junior, with the latter shown in brackets) in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions at peak times.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bishop's Stortford College	(3)	(6)	Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club	(6)	Balanced	
Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club	4(2)	8(4)	Bishop's Stortford Rugby Club	11.75* (8)	-3.75 (-4)	* Includes mini-rugby play on adult pitches.
TOTALS	4(5)	8(10)	-	11.75 (14)	-3.75 (-4)	-

22.2 Qualitative analysis

The changing provision at Bishop's Stortford is not adequate to meet existing needs.

22.3 Access analysis

There are 20 additional adult rugby pitches and four additional junior rugby pitches on school sites with no very limited or no community access at present, although some of these are only marked out for one school term per annum.

22.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest rugby pitch.

22.5 Spare capacity

There is no spare capacity at either rugby site.

22.6 Assessment of current provision

There is a deficit equivalent to 3.75 match equivalents per week in the peak period for adult pitches and 4 match equivalents per week in the peak period for junior pitches.

23) Synthetic Turf Pitches for hockey

23.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions at peak times.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Bishop's Stortford College	25.0*	Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club	10.0	+15.0	* Capacity reduced by education use
Hockerill Anglo-European College	25.0*	Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club Bishop's Stortford Community FC	20.0	+5.0	* Capacity reduced by education use
TOTALS	50.0	-	30.0	+20.0	-

23.2 Qualitative analysis

All synthetic turf pitches for hockey are rated as at least 'standard' quality.

23.3 Access analysis

There is one additional artificial turf pitch for hockey at Bishop's Stortford College, but it no community access at present. The other pitches are also on school sites but this does not impact adversely on their community use peak time capacity.

23.4 Accessibility analysis

The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest synthetic turf pitch.

23.5 Spare capacity

There is limited spare capacity at both pitches at present, including use for football. This is borne out by Sport England's FPM assessment which calculates that all pitches are currently used to full capacity during the peak period.

23.6 Assessment of current provision

There is limited spare capacity at the two current pitches. One pitch has no community access. The absence of a clubhouse adjacent to either of the existing pitches with community use is detrimental to the functioning of Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club.

27) '3G' Football Turf Pitches

27.1 Supply and demand assessment

The supply and demand analysis for '3G' football turf pitches in Bishop's Stortford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions at peak times.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Birchwood High School	25.0*	Casual Hire for football training	20.0	+5.0	* Capacity reduced by education use
TOTALS	50.0	-	20.0	+5.0	-

27.2 Football Association Assessment of '3G' pitch needs

The Football Association has devised an internal mapping exercise to establish an estimated baseline figure for the number of '3G' pitches required to meet football needs in a locality. The calculation involves the following assumptions:

- Every football team in a locality will require one training 'slot' per week on a '3G' pitch, defined as one-third of the area of a full-sized pitch for one hour.
- Based upon Sport England national research on synthetic turf pitch usage, an average of 55 training 'slots' per week will be available at a full-sized '3G' pitch.
- Smaller and/or commercially provided '3G' pitches are capable of accommodating 10 training 'slots' per week.

With one '3G' pitch in Bishop's Stortford at present, 55 training 'slots' per week are available. With 87 football teams in the town, there is a notional shortfall of 32 slots per week, equivalent to 0.58 full-sized '3G' pitches.

27.3 Access analysis

The only '3G' football turf pitch in Bishop's Stortford is on a school site but this does not impact adversely on its community use peak time capacity.

27.4 Accessibility analysis

All of the population is within 20 minutes driving time of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch.

27.5 Spare capacity

There is limited spare capacity at the current pitch in the peak period.

27.6 Assessment of current provision

The FA's calculation identifies a current need for 0.58 additional '3G' pitches in Bishop's Stortford for football usage.

APPENDIX IV – FUTURE DEMAND

1) Assessment methodology

The methodology applied to assess the additional future needs for sports facilities involves the approach advocated in Sport England’s ‘*Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide*’ (2014) and its related ‘*Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*’ (2013), namely:

- Establishing projected population change.
- Analysing sports development proposals and participation trends.
- Considering existing deficiencies or spare capacity.
- Taking account of any forthcoming changes to facility supply.

2) Projected population change

The average household size nationally is 2.45 persons, so based upon this the Bishop’s Stortford North development will accommodate an additional 6,070 residents, increasing the population of the town by 16.0% to 43,908. Assuming that the demography of the additional population will be similar to that of the existing residents, the population structure will be as follows:

<i>Age</i>	<i>% Population</i>	<i>New residents</i>
0-14	19.8%	1,202
15-24	11.4%	692
25-44	28.9%	1,754
45-59	21.2%	1,287
60+	18.7%	1,135
Total	100%	6,070

3) Patterns of demand

The demography of the occupants of the BSN development is projected to be very similar to that of the current population of the town and on that basis the key features of current participation patterns are likely to be replicated as follows:

- Overall adult participation rates at least 5% higher than the regional and national averages.
- Favoured activities based on market segmentation will be swimming, various health and fitness activities and the pitch sports so demand will be disproportionately high for these.

4) Participation aims and trends

In addition to the new residents, changes in the rates of participation in sport and physical activity will affect demand for facilities. The implications of participation aims, current trends and predicted changes in the way that sports are played and facilities are used are examined below:

4.1 Participation aims

The participation aims and targets for each of the main sports funded by Sport England are included in the governing bodies of sports' *Whole Sport Plans* and are summarised below:

Sport	Participation aims	Implications for the BSN development
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key aim is to get 500,000 more people involved in informal running, primarily through the <i>'Run England'</i> activation programme where trained running leaders, recreational running groups and marked routes and trails. Initiatives to promote track and field athletics will primarily be focused on 11 priority cities. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main emphasis is on recreational running, using non-specialist facilities such as roads, paths, parks and open spaces to promote participation. If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 500 runners from the BSN development.
Badminton	Proposed initiatives to get an extra 30,000 participants nationally by 2017 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>'Community Badminton Networks'</i> which will bring together schools, clubs and local authorities to develop participation. <i>'Smash Up'</i> Badminton for 14-16 year olds. <i>'Play Badminton'</i> to increase casual players. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 30 badminton players from the BSN development.
Basketball	A focus on 'Satellite Clubs' in targeted locations to get more young people playing more regularly. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	Bishop's Stortford is not a targeted location, but there is likely to be some additional demand arising from the BSN development.
Bowls	The <i>'Play Bowls'</i> initiative will provide a package of support to clubs in designated 'Hot Spots' (which do not include Bishop's Stortford) to attract 10,400 new bowlers nationally. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 10 bowlers from the BSN development.
Canoeing	The focus is to get more people canoeing, through promotional programmes for 14-25 year olds and the over 35's and families.	Bishop's Stortford is not a targeted location, but there is likely to be some additional demand arising from the BSN development.
Cricket	The focus is to 'retain existing regular players by providing more bespoke playing programmes'. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	Maintain current team numbers of 11 adult teams and 13 junior teams, bolstered by players from the BSN development.
Cycling	The aim is to attract an extra 125,000 cyclists nationally through the <i>'Go Ride'</i> participation programme of led rides and competitions. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main emphasis is on using non-specialist facilities such as roads, paths, parks and open spaces to promote participation. If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 120 cyclists from the BSN development.
Football	The aim is to attract an extra 200,000 footballers nationally through the <i>'Just Play'</i> and <i>'Football Mash Up'</i> participation programmes. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 200 footballers from the BSN development.
Golf	<i>'County Golf Partnerships'</i> will be formed, to attract an extra 60,000 golfers nationally, through the <i>'Get into Golf'</i> and <i>'Golf Roots'</i> initiatives. Source: <i>'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017'</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 60 golfers from the BSN development.

Sport	Participation aims	Implications for the BSN development
Gymnastics	The aim is to attract an extra 10,000 gymnasts nationally by establishing 'Gymnastics Networks' including 'Satellite Venues' to help expand capacity in clubs. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There may be scope to develop 'Satellite Venues' in non-specialist facilities like community halls. • If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 10 gymnasts from the BSN development.
Hockey	The aim is to attract an extra 17,000 hockey players nationally by establishing the 'Rush Hockey' and 'Back to Hockey' initiatives. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it would mean an extra 17 hockey players from the BSN development.
Judo	The aim is to develop 'Club Clusters' in targeted locations, to promote 'Recreational Judo' and 'Judo Fit'. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	Bishop's Stortford is a priority location.
Netball	The aim is to attract an extra 27,000 netballers nationally by establishing the 'Back to Netball' initiative. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 27 netballers from the BSN development.
Rugby	The aim is to attract an extra 32,000 rugby players nationally, building on the publicity surrounding the Rugby World Cup. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 32 rugby players from the BSN development.
Squash	The aim is to attract an extra 23,000 squash players nationally, but in geographical target 'Hub and Spoke' areas only. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	Bishop's Stortford is not a targeted location for growth, but there is likely to be some additional demand arising from the BSN development..
Swimming	The aim is to attract an extra 100,000 swimmers nationally, involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of 'Local Aquatic Networks' to maximise available pool space. • Initiatives including 'Learn2Swim', 'Swimfit', 'Swim Britain' and 'Active Workplaces'. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 100 swimmers from the BSN development.
Table Tennis	The aim is to develop 'Ping!' programme in targeted locations, to attract an extra 24,000 participants nationally by 2017. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 24 table tennis players from the BSN development.
Tennis	The focus in the LTA's 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013) is to increase regular participation in tennis by 20,000 people nationally, but in geographical target areas. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	Bishop's Stortford is not a targeted location, but there is likely to be some additional demand arising from the BSN development.
Triathlon	Triathlon England has no specific participation targets, but aims to grow the sport by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Simply Tri' low cost events based on the 'Park Run' concept. • Mass participation events in iconic locations. 	The main emphasis is on using non-specialist facilities such as roads, paths, parks and open water to promote participation events and there is likely to be some additional demand arising from the BSN development.

4.2 Participation trends

Adult (16+) national monthly participation rates in most of the sports included in the strategy have been recorded in the past five 'Active People' surveys and the results are tabulated below, together with the percentage change in the ten year period between 2005 and 2015:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>2005/06</i>	<i>2007/08</i>	<i>2008/09</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>2014/15</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Athletics	3.33%	3.89%	4.16%	4.45%	4.47%	4.72%	4.65%	4.96%	5.11%	+1.78%
Badminton	1.29%	1.24%	1.20%	1.24%	1.20%	1.26%	1.16%	1.13%	1.04%	-0.25%
Basketball	0.39%	0.45%	0.46%	0.36%	0.36%	0.35%	0.36%	0.31%	0.36%	-0.03%
Bowls	2.21%	2.32%	2.10%	2.02%	1.54%	1.57%	1.73%	1.53%	1.40%	-0.81%
Canoeing	0.09%	0.10%	0.15%	0.12%	0.11%	0.11%	0.10%	0.13%	0.11%	+0.02%
Cricket	0.48%	0.49%	0.49%	0.41%	0.51%	0.43%	0.34%	0.37%	0.32%	-0.16%
Cycling	4.14%	4.37%	4.60%	4.43%	4.15%	4.45%	4.62%	4.75%	4.72%	+0.58%
Football	4.97%	5.18%	5.08%	4.96%	4.98%	4.94%	4.25%	4.39%	4.34%	-0.63%
Golf	2.18%	2.29%	2.15%	2.04%	1.96%	1.97%	1.73%	1.67%	1.67%	-0.51%
Gymnastics	0.14%	0.15%	0.12%	0.12%	0.11%	0.12%	0.11%	0.09%	0.10%	-0.04%
Hockey	0.23%	0.24%	0.23%	0.21%	0.19%	0.25%	0.20%	0.20%	0.20%	-0.03%
Judo	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	0.06%	0.03%	0.06%	0.04%	0.05%	0.04%	No change
Netball	0.27%	0.29%	0.32%	0.34%	0.31%	0.37%	0.28%	0.35%	0.35%	+0.08%
Rugby	0.46%	0.56%	0.50%	0.46%	0.42%	0.42%	0.37%	0.43%	0.40%	-0.06%
Squash	0.74%	0.71%	0.72%	0.69%	0.67%	0.61%	0.55%	0.45%	0.45%	-0.29%
Swimming	8.04%	7.83%	7.57%	7.50%	6.62%	6.81%	6.77%	6.16%	5.83%	-2.21%
Table Tennis	0.17%	0.18%	0.20%	0.30%	0.32%	0.23%	0.25%	0.22%	0.23%	+0.06%
Tennis	1.12%	1.18%	1.27%	1.04%	0.88%	1.03%	0.94%	0.97%	0.97%	-0.15%

The implications for future demand for sports facilities in the BSN development are as follows:

- The governing bodies of sport have some ambitious targets to increase participation, but when translated into the BSN context, the numbers are comparatively modest so would have little impact on additional facilities needs.
- Examination of the trends in participation data over the period 2005 to 2015 puts the ambition of many of the participation targets into context, with only five of the sports experiencing an increase in adult participation over that period. In terms of the local facilities implications, the two biggest percentage increases in running and cycling depend for the most part on non-specialist facilities (public rights of way), although some specialist needs like an athletics training facility, a BMX facility and a closed road cycling circuit would meet local needs in Bishop's Stortford.

5) The effects of changes in supply

The principal impacts of known potential changes in the supply of sports facilities related to the BSN development are as follows:

5.1 Sports halls

A new sports hall with a health and fitness facility is due to be provided as part of the secondary school development, which will be available for education and community use.

5.2 Pitches

Pitch provision as part of the new development is proposed as follows:

- **Community provision** - A pavilion and two football pitches will be provided for community use as part of the BSN development.
- **Education provision** - The secondary school will have football, cricket and rugby pitches on site. It is likely that both primary schools will have mini-soccer pitches on site.

6) Summary of future supply and demand factors

Analysis of the factors influencing the future supply and demand for sports facilities in the BSN development leads to the following conclusions, which will be reflected in the subsequent assessment of future needs:

- **Population change** - There will be an overall rise of almost 6,070 people, a 16% increase in the population of the town. This will significantly increase demand for sports facilities, regardless of participation trends. With a similar demographic profile to the current population, it is likely that the existing high rates of sports participation will be reflected within the new community, with disproportionately high demand for swimming, various health and fitness activities and the pitch sports.
- **Participation trends** - According to Sport England's *'Active People'* survey, participation in most of the sports featured in the assessment has fallen in the period since 2005, in some cases by quite significant margins. This means that future increases in participation cannot be assumed based upon historic trends.
- **Sports development initiatives** - Many of the development programmes proposed by the governing bodies of the respective sports include some ambitious national participation targets, although when these are applied pro rata to the Bishop's Stortford population, the increase in numbers locally is relatively modest.
- **Changes in supply** - Proposed sports facilities provision within the BSN development will help to accommodate some of the additional demand arising from the increased population.