

EAST HERTFORDSHIRE

OPEN SPACES AND SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

TECHNICAL STUDY

Part 2:

Built Facilities Strategy

Final report

July 2017



Nortoft Partnerships Limited
2 Green Lodge Barn, Nobottle, Northampton NN7 4HD
Tel: 01604 586526 Fax: 01604 587719
Email: info@nortoft.co.uk Web: www.nortoft.co.uk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----|
| SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PROCESS/METHODOLOGY | 5 |
| SECTION 2: THE LEISURE NETWORK | 12 |
| SECTION 3: SPORTS HALLS | 37 |
| SECTION 4: SWIMMING POOLS | 65 |
| SECTION 5: HEALTH AND FITNESS | 96 |
| SECTION 6: ATHLETICS | 110 |
| SECTION 7: INDOOR AND OUTDOOR BOWLS | 122 |
| SECTION 8: TENNIS | 142 |
| SECTION 9: SQUASH | 161 |
| SECTION 10: GYMNASTICS | 170 |
| SECTION 11: VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS | 176 |
| SECTION 12: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES | 185 |
| SECTION 13: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY | 193 |

TABLE OF FIGURES

| | | |
|------------|--|-----|
| Figure 1: | Facility hierarchy for East Herts | 14 |
| Figure 2: | Facility usage and home location | 18 |
| Figure 3: | Grange Paddocks catchment | 19 |
| Figure 4: | Hartham catchment | 19 |
| Figure 5: | Fanshawe catchment | 20 |
| Figure 6: | Leventhorpe catchment | 20 |
| Figure 7: | Ward Freman pool, Buntingford catchment | 21 |
| Figure 8: | Trends in usage at Herts Council sites | 22 |
| Figure 9: | Summary of community use of school sports facilities in East Herts | 28 |
| Figure 10: | Most popular sports hall activities | 37 |
| Figure 11: | National average programming | 38 |
| Figure 12: | Sports halls 3+ courts - current provision | 40 |
| Figure 13: | Sports Halls (3+ courts) map | 43 |
| Figure 14: | Facilities Planning Model key parameters halls 2016 | 52 |
| Figure 15: | Peak time demand arising from new housing | 57 |
| Figure 16: | Pool depths for range of activities | 66 |
| Figure 17: | Indoor swimming pools open to the public | 68 |
| Figure 18: | Swimming pools | 72 |
| Figure 19: | Facilities Planning Model key parameters pools | 83 |
| Figure 20: | Throughputs at EHC facilities | 84 |
| Figure 21: | Estimate of future peak time demand and facility needs | 88 |
| Figure 22: | Health and fitness- current provision available to community | 98 |
| Figure 23: | Health and Fitness sites with fitness stations | 100 |
| Figure 24: | Health and fitness - comparator authorities | 104 |
| Figure 25: | Fitness provision and housing growth | 106 |
| Figure 26: | Athletics participation details | 111 |
| Figure 27: | Athletics tracks and training locations | 113 |
| Figure 28: | Indoor Bowls Centres | 123 |
| Figure 29: | Outdoor bowls clubs and sites | 125 |
| Figure 30: | Outdoor bowls greens | 127 |
| Figure 31: | Indoor bowls and capacity | 128 |
| Figure 32: | Indoor Bowls centres - comparator authorities | 136 |
| Figure 33: | Outdoor bowls demand and capacity up to 2033 | 138 |
| Figure 34: | Indoor tennis and accessibility | 143 |
| Figure 35: | Tennis courts and site quality | 145 |
| Figure 36: | Outdoor tennis court locations | 147 |
| Figure 37: | LTA affiliated clubs and site capacity | 149 |
| Figure 38: | Indoor Tennis centres - comparator authorities | 156 |
| Figure 39: | Future demand for tennis | 158 |
| Figure 40: | Squash courts in East Herts | 162 |
| Figure 41: | Squash court locations | 163 |
| Figure 42: | Squash - comparator authorities | 167 |
| Figure 43: | Future demand for squash | 169 |
| Figure 44: | Role of Dedicated and non-dedicated gym facilities | 171 |
| Figure 45: | Gymnastics demand up to 2033 | 174 |

| | | |
|------------|---|-----|
| Figure 46: | Village/Community halls location | 178 |
| Figure 47: | List of village halls and community centres | 179 |
| Figure 48: | Provision Guide for new housing developments | 200 |
| Figure 49: | Action Plan | 203 |
| Figure 50: | Site specific proposals for Infrastructure Development Plan | 213 |
| Figure 51: | Protect, Provide and Enhance Facility Table | 221 |

APPENDICES

| | |
|-------------|---|
| APPENDIX 1: | Facility capacity assessment methodology |
| APPENDIX 2: | Leisure Facility Strategy Committee Paper June 2016 |
| APPENDIX 3: | Sport England sports halls design guidance note extract |
| APPENDIX 4: | Village and community halls summary |
| APPENDIX 5: | England Netball summary of sports development |
| APPENDIX 6: | Netball clubs and audit |
| APPENDIX 7: | East Hertfordshire Contributions Assessment Calculator |

INTRODUCTION

This Built Facilities Assessment is part of East Hertfordshire Council's Open Space Sports Facilities Assessment and Strategies Study which covers both built facilities and playing pitches. The background and context report is Part 1 as this applies to all of the sports facility provision and open space, and the overall structure for the reports are:

Part 1: Background and context

Part 2: Built facilities strategy

Part 3: Playing pitch strategy

Part 4: Open spaces strategy

A key driver is the effective delivery of leisure services across East Herts and a need to ensure that a strategic network of sports facilities is in place to cater for the needs of the current and expected future populations. The Strategy will also provide the evidence base for relevant planning policies contained within the emerging Local Plan for East Herts and will additionally help inform the Local Plans of its surrounding authorities. It will give guidance on the phasing of facilities to meet new growth, and the priorities for investment.

This draft report specifically includes the assessment of the following facilities. Some of these facility types are strategic in nature and some may require cross boundary discussions and agreement between East Herts and its adjacent authorities.

The indoor sports which are addressed in the built facility assessment and strategy are:

- Sports halls (3+ badminton courts)
- Swimming pools
- Health and fitness
- Indoor bowls
- Indoor tennis
- Squash
- Gymnastics facilities
- Martial arts
- Community and ancillary halls

The outdoor sports which are addressed are:

- Athletics
- Outdoor bowls
- Outdoor tennis
- Netball
- Countryside and water activities including canoeing

SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PROCESS/METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 This Part 2 strategy considers the built facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity. The approach to this assessment and the development of the recommendations reflects the guidance in the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance of July 2014 (Sport England, 2014), adapted as necessary to the needs of East Herts.

East Hertfordshire and the sub-region

- 1.2 East Herts is a predominantly rural district covering an area of 477 square kilometres (184 square miles). There are over 100 small villages and hamlets in the district in addition to the five historic market towns of Bishop's Stortford, Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware. These towns provide a range of services, including sports facilities, to the nearby rural areas. The southern third of the district lies within the London Metropolitan Green Belt, while the rest of the northern and central area lies within the Rural Area Beyond the Green Belt.
- 1.3 The district is bordered by larger towns, with Stevenage and Welwyn Garden City to the west and Harlow to the south-east. This affects the dynamics of sports facilities usage with complex patterns of imported and exported.
- 1.4 A comprehensive summary of the current sports strategies of the seven adjacent authorities is given in Part 1 Appendix 7, and the implications are reviewed for each sports facility type within this report.

Sub areas for the strategy

- 1.5 Different sports facilities have different catchments. The travel time catchment of sports halls and swimming pools has been estimated by Sport England to be about 20 minutes for general community use, which can either be by car or on foot. This compares to more local facilities such as village outdoor tennis courts or outdoor bowls, which can be about 10 minutes travel time, and to more specialist facilities such as gymnastics centres which usually have a longer travel time.
- 1.6 Set sub-areas for the East Herts Strategy are not appropriate, so each facility type is considered separately.

Methodology

- 1.7 The assessment of each facility type draws on a number of different elements:
- The findings from the site audits, including an assessment of the used capacity of the facilities and management considerations;
 - User information supplied by operators;
 - Conditions surveys where available;

- The theoretical demand for facilities based on various modelling tools;
- The results of consultation;
- Issues associated with facility quality, accessibility for the community etc;
- The future population characteristics;
- The Council's policies on participation, and sports development objectives;
- The resources which may be available to meet the future requirements;
- National governing body strategic requirements;
- The overall pattern of facilities and housing growth both within the authority and the adjacent districts.

1.8 As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations will need to be kept under review. There should be an annual review to update the key recommendations, but also a more fundamental review within 5 years.

Modelling tools

1.9 There is no one theoretical modelling tool which provides the answer to facility planning. A number of different tools need to be employed and the results of each synthesised together with the findings from consultation to provide a recommendation.

1.10 The following paragraphs provide a detailed explanation of each methodology.

Facilities Planning Model

1.11 The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) has been developed as a planning tool by Sport England for the strategic assessment of the community needs for swimming pools, sports halls and large size artificial grass pitches (AGPs). The modelling provides an objective assessment of the balance between the supply of the sports facilities and the demand for them at "peak time", which is in the evenings Monday-Friday, and during the daytime at weekends. More detail about the FPM parameters behind the sport halls and swimming pools assessments are given in the relevant facility specific sections of the report.

1.12 The FPM assessments take into account key factors influencing participation at the local level, including; the age profile of residents, levels of deprivation, and car ownership. In relation to the individual facilities, it can take into account the hours actually available to the community and weight the facilities for their attractiveness (usually associated with the age of the facility).

1.13 Sport England undertakes a "national run" of each facility type early in the calendar year, based on the facility information known to them and standardised parameters. This gives a good current picture of provision (assuming the facility database is accurate), but does not forecast future demand. The key findings from the national assessments for 2016 are included in the sports halls and swimming pool sections.

- 1.14 The FPM can also be used to scenario test sports facility options, and this may be a useful tool to help confirm the facility proposals arising from this assessment.

Extrapolating current demand and current provision

- 1.15 One way of assessing the likely future sporting requirements of the community for the facilities such as tennis courts and indoor bowls provision is to consider the current demand for each sports facility type and to extrapolate this demand to take account of the forecast growth in the population and any anticipated growth in participation. This extrapolated figure can then be compared to the known supply of facilities, to assess the likely future balance in supply and demand.

Active Places Power

- 1.16 Active Places Power (APP) is a website developed by Sport England to help those involved in providing sport provision with a series of tools to guide investment decisions and develop sport provision strategies.
- 1.17 The website is underpinned by a single database that holds information on sports facilities and clubs (pilot data) throughout England. The data held on APP for each facility includes the type of facility, location, size, ownership and management, opening times, age, refurbishment date and access type. The tools within the website have a range of capabilities from quick searches and simple reports to a series of analytical tools.
- 1.18 In this assessment, the APP database has been used to inform the strategy, for example as a source of information about facilities outside East Herts.

Sports Facilities Calculator

- 1.19 The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) has been developed by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches) is generated as a result of new growth linked to specific development locations. It is one of the Sport England Active Places Power web tools.
- 1.20 The SFC has been used to help local authorities in infrastructure planning, devising supplementary planning documents, negotiating Section 106 agreements, and in preparing for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It helps with quantifying the demand side of the facility provision equation, for example it can answer questions such as, “How much additional demand for swimming will the population of a new development area generate?”, and “What would the cost be to meet this new demand at today’s values?” The figures it produces represent total demand for the chosen population.
- 1.21 The SFC is designed to estimate the needs of discrete populations for sports facilities created by a new community of a residential development. It is important to note

however that the SFC looks only at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities. Sport England therefore states that the SFC should not be used for strategic gap analysis.

Comparator authorities

- 1.22 Comparing East Herts with its Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) benchmark authorities in terms of the scale of provision of a facility can be a helpful guide towards the overall amount of provision which might be expected. Due to the differing size of authorities, this comparison usually needs to be on a provision of a sports facility per 1000 population basis.
- 1.23 The 'Nearest Neighbour' model was developed by CIPFA to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises. It is widely used across both central and local government. The model uses a number of variables to calculate similarity between local authorities. Examples of these variables include population, unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios.
- 1.24 The local authorities that are considered to be 'similar' to East Herts by CIPFA are: Sevenoaks, South Oxfordshire, St Albans and the Vale of White Horse.

Growth in participation per annum

- 1.25 An important consideration in the modelling to assess future facility needs is to determine what the likely growth in participation each year will be. This will impact upon the overall level of demand for each facility type. Participation rates in adult sport (16 years and over but now moving towards a 14 years and over baseline) is monitored nationally by Sport England through their Active People Survey and its successor surveys. This is the mechanism which East Herts Council also uses to assess the success of its policy objectives of getting more people active.
- 1.26 The Active People Survey has effectively shown that whilst overall rates of participation in sport and active recreation in East Herts are amongst the highest in the country, there has been limited change in the rates over the last few years and this is mirrored by the fact that very few national governing bodies have seen an increase in their sport's rate of participation.
- 1.27 The rates of participation in "fashionable" sports activities will fluctuate from year to year as the activities gain popularity then reduce again. However most of these use activity room or studio type spaces, or programmed time in the pools, rather than taking up significantly more pool or hall time, so the overall strategic planning for facilities tends to be largely unaffected.
- 1.28 A participation increase, or not, for the purposes of modelling future demand has been agreed with the steering group for each facility type. This is based on local and national participation trends, national governing body club memberships, and

feedback from East Hertfordshire clubs about how their memberships have changed in the last 5 years, and if they have any waiting lists. The changes in participation across all sports and consequently the demand for facility space will be kept under review, and will be a key consideration when this strategy is fully reviewed in approximately 5 years.

Assessing the capacity of facilities

- 1.29 The assessment of the capacity of the existing facility network needs to draw on a range of sources and there is always a need to make some assumptions. The approach towards the assessment of capacity for different facility types is set out in Appendix 1.

Community priorities for participation

- 1.30 This report draws on the extensive consultation with the community, stakeholders and partners undertaken as part of the strategy development process. The findings from this consultation which relate to specific facilities are included within the relevant facility sections.

National Governing Body Strategies

- 1.31 Sport England and UK Sport have a formal recognition process for both activities and for National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The latest list of both sports and NGBs for England can be found on Sport England's web site (Sport England, 2017).
- 1.32 The NGB picture is complex as some sports will have different NGBs for England, Great Britain or the UK (for example athletics), some have different NGBs for different disciplines (for example shooting), some have specialist interests (for example disability specific sport organisations), and some sports will be "recognised" but have no officially "recognised" NGB in England (for example Gaelic Football). There are also other activities which are not officially recognised as sports by Sport England, examples being general fitness and gym activities.
- 1.33 The assessment for each facility type includes relevant NGB strategy reviews and priorities where these are appropriate. Where a facility such as a sports hall is used by a number of different sports, there will be more than one NGB strategy reviewed. Similarly, where a sport has more than one relevant NGB, more than one NGB may be referred to in the assessment.
- 1.34 It should be noted that many of the small-medium NGBs do not have specific facility strategies and even the larger ones such as Swim England (previously named the Amateur Swimming Association) rarely make specific reference to East Herts.
- 1.35 A further general issue is that where NGB facilities strategies have been produced previously, several are close or beyond their end date, and in many cases new

priorities have yet to be set. Where a previous strategy is still relevant, the key points are identified.

Costs of facility development

- 1.36 The costs of the proposals are primarily addressed in the Implementation section of this Strategy. The costs are based on Sport England's regularly updated list of facilities and their development costs, which are largely based on typical schemes funded through the Lottery, with layouts developed in accordance with Sport England Design Guidance Notes. It should be noted that these costs are indicative and each facility project will need to be subject to a more detailed feasibility study where site specific issues can be taken into consideration.
- 1.37 As and when new facilities are proposed East Herts Council will refer to the current Sport England or national governing body guidance on the expected costs (Sport England , 2017).
- 1.38 Where the facility issues are ones of improvement rather than new provision, the costs of the works required will need to be based on a condition survey of each individual facility.

Applying CIL and S106

- 1.39 East Herts has not yet adopted CIL so the contributions of developers towards the sports infrastructure is through the S106 arrangements. The justification of developers' contributions through S106 must adhere to the NPPF which states that "assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area and information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required". This strategy fulfils this function, and identifies both the specific needs, and the costs of projects where known. Developers' contributions can be made on- or off-site.
- 1.40 The request for developer contributions must also meet the three CIL tests; fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. The scale of the contributions from a specific housing development under S106 must therefore be based on the amount of anticipated demand for specific sports facilities which is expected to be generated by the housing scheme.
- 1.41 In some instances, usually in the largest housing schemes, this assessment will lead to a requirement for new provision on site which should be suitable land at no cost, for example for new football pitches with their ancillary facilities.
- 1.42 On some sites where there is sufficient capacity in the locality already to absorb the new demand, but there is a need for investment to improve the quality of existing facilities e.g. improvements to a changing pavilion, pitch quality, or the resurfacing

of tennis courts, then the developers' contributions will be expected to be allocated towards these improvements.

Future proofing the strategy

- 1.43 This report has only been able to take account of the anticipated housing to date within and adjacent to East Herts, but the details of the housing sites and SUEs are still to be confirmed through the Local Plan process.
- 1.44 It is therefore essential to future-proof the strategy to the new housing developments to be assessed, and appropriate provision made, either on or off site as required. This is critical for both a true assessment of the viability of a site and for the provision to be included within the master planning of a site at its earliest stages.

Summary

- 1.45 The findings and recommendations in the sports facility strategy are derived from: the site audits; the results of theoretical modelling; anticipated changes in the population; trends in participation in sport and recreation; priorities and issues in relation to increasing participation; feedback from consultation; and the implications of the new National Planning Policy Framework in relation to cross-boundary working and its practicalities. The identification of the future facility needs can then be used to inform the priorities for investment across the authority, and cross-boundary discussions with adjacent authorities. The deliverability of projects will need to be considered at this stage.

SECTION 2: THE LEISURE NETWORK

2.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the built facility network in East Herts. Provision is made by the following providers:

- East Herts Council (EHC) provides a range of swimming facilities and fitness, both via two public leisure centres and via three school sites under the terms of a formal Community Use Agreement. The same contractor manages all of these sites, SLM trading as Everyone Active.
- The Wodson Park Trust is a community-based charity which provides several key strategic facilities including an athletics track, two sports halls and the only full-sized '3G' pitch in the district, at its site in Ware.
- Schools are major providers of built facilities, but apart from the sites where the Council has a management presence, none are subject to formal community use agreements, which means that continued access cannot necessarily be assumed. A further corollary is that there is no midweek daytime access to schools' facilities during term time.
- Commercial operators provide a range of facilities in East Herts, including an indoor tennis centre in Hertford and the majority of the health and fitness provision in the district.
- Sports Clubs own and manage a number of outdoor facilities, in particular tennis courts and bowling greens.
- Town and parish councils are major providers of community and ancillary halls, which cater for a range of local indoor sports needs.

Facility types and hierarchy

2.2 To ensure the effective location of key facilities across the authority area, and to link into the statutory planning process, a facilities hierarchy is proposed. It should be noted that where a facility is defined as high level, it can also often provide for local use too. At each level of the hierarchy, facilities may be owned or managed by the public, education, private, voluntary or commercial sectors.

National

2.3 These permanent sports facilities cater for athletes at the highest level of their sport. They are recognised as premier facilities by the national governing bodies and will have a high profile in their strategies and plans. These sites may be sports specific or else cater for a number of sports. As well as providing extremely high quality training and/or competition environments they often have extensive on-site ancillary support such as accommodation/food, medical treatment and rehabilitation, seminar/ training rooms, and gym.

Regional

- 2.4 These facilities fulfil a regional function, are often sports specific, meet the needs of either training or competition of elite athletes, and may have ancillary support but not necessarily on site. The facilities meet the needs of the whole of the region, and are usually recognised as such in the relevant national governing body plans. The sites have secure community use and appropriate levels of staffing, including coaches.

County

- 2.5 These facilities provide for the needs of an area about the size of a county for specific sport(s), for training or competition needs. These sites may be identified by the national governing body in their facility plans. The sites have secure community use and appropriate levels of staffing, which may include coaches on site.

Hub

- 2.6 These facilities include the public leisure centres and similar sites, particularly those offering play and play opportunities. This level also includes sports specific sites used by the largest/ best clubs for competition and training. These sites have secure community use and are open throughout the peak period and often throughout the whole day. The use of these types of facilities are programmed to provide a balance of sport and recreation opportunities.
- 2.7 These sites are usually able to host district level and some county level events. They provide a wide range of sport and physical activity opportunities, and contribute significantly to the quality of life of residents. These sites are often used as a venue for training of sports coaches and volunteers.

Satellite

- 2.8 These are facilities usually specially designed for sport, for example school sports halls, but their programming is often on a block booking basis and they usually are only used by clubs. The number of hours and days that they are available are frequently restricted, and there is often no security of use by the community. The staffing is normally limited, for example to opening and closing of the facility, and cleaning.

Local

- 2.9 These facilities are the most local venues used for sport and active recreation. They are often multi-purpose, such as a village or community hall, primary school, or village playing field/recreation ground but may provide for a specific activity, such as a small commercial fitness gym. The facilities are often basic, without any specialist changing provision. The travel time to these facilities is usually shorter, with a significant proportion of people arriving on foot. The management of the facilities is

often on a key-holder basis and use responds to local demand. Most use is from clubs or through independently organised sessions.

2.10 The security of use for the community will vary. Some sites will be owned by organisations such as parish councils, whilst others might be privately owned.

2.11 Examples of the different levels of facility within the hierarchy are given in Figure 1.

Figure 1: Facility hierarchy for East Herts

| Hierarchy level | Examples in East Herts |
|-----------------|---|
| National | No facilities in East Herts |
| Regional | No facilities in East Herts |
| County | Wodson Park |
| Hub | Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre Hartham Leisure Centre Legends Tennis Centre Bishops Stortford Lawn Tennis Club Bishop's Stortford Squash and Racquetball Club |
| Satellite | e.g. Fanshawe Pool and Gym Leventhorpe Pool and Gym Ward Freeman Swimming Pool Birchwood High School Haileybury and Imperial Service College Drill Hall, Ware Bishops Stortford Bowling Club Mercury Gymnastics Club Stortford Gymnastics Club |
| Local | e.g. Bishop's Park Community Centre Datchworth Village Hall Walkern Sports and Community Centre |

East Herts Council's leisure and joint use centres

2.12 The Council's current leisure operator is SLM, trading as Everyone Active, and the leisure contract is due for renewal in January 2019. The Council directly provides the following facilities:

- Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre in Bishop's Stortford which has:
 - 25m x 12.5m main pool
 - 12.5m x 7.5m learner pool
 - 120 station health and fitness facility.
- Hartham Leisure Centre in Hertford, which has:

- 25m x 13m main pool
- 13m x 8m and 12m x 6m learner pools
- 87 station health and fitness facility

2.13 The Council's management contractor also runs the following facilities on school sites, under the terms of formal joint use agreements:

- Ward Freman School in Buntingford, which has a 25m x 10m pool but no fitness facilities.
- Leventhorpe Pool and Gym in Sawbridgeworth, which has:
 - 25m x 10m pool
 - 17 station health and fitness facility.
- Fanshawe Pool and Gym at Chauncy Academy in Ware, which has:
 - 25m x 10m pool
 - 40 station health and fitness facility.

Joint use agreements, and current subsidies

Sites managed as leisure centres

- 2.14 East Hertfordshire Council's parallel Leisure Strategy work and separate review of the joint use sites both specifically consider the Council's role and the future options in relation to the joint use facilities, recognising the issues identified below.
- 2.15 The joint use agreements with the schools and Hertfordshire County Council were signed between 1975 and 1977 and are based on 60 years, so the current agreements do not come to an end until 2035 and 2037. However, as the buildings only have a 30-40 year life expectancy, the various parties to the agreements have currently unfunded capital liabilities for the next 20 years.
- 2.16 The priorities of the schools involved and Hertfordshire County Council (HCC) have become increasingly focused on education and academic attainment. Consequently their commitment to invest in the joint use facilities, beyond basic maintenance, has become progressively more limited. The creation of academies changed the financial dynamic with responsibility for the pools being transferred to the Leventhorpe and Chauncy Schools. The County Council continues to fund its share of maintenance costs at Ward Freman.
- 2.17 The Joint Use Agreements require that all costs are split between the schools/HCC and EHC on a 60/40 basis. This was based on the proportional allocation of time between use by pupils during the school day and the community at other times. When the facilities were owned by HCC the investment appraisals were aligned with the then broader aims of the County Council. The objectives of the schools are more narrowly defined and this has an impact on their willingness and ability to invest capital in the sites. The effect of this has been to force EHC over the last 2 to 3 years

to adopt a 'make do and repair' approach with little investment being made to improve the fabric of the buildings.

- 2.18 The schools have indicated that their commitment to supporting the dual use facilities is conditional upon them not negatively impacting on their school budgets. Should the school and Hertfordshire County Council funding be withdrawn there would be an immediate shortfall of revenue funding in the order of £250k per year.
- 2.19 There is also a risk to East Herts Council that all of the capital costs for the facilities would be needed to be met by the Council if the schools and HCC were not prepared to meet their "share" as set out in the joint use agreements.
- 2.20 In 2014/15 the Fanshawe facility ran at a slight surplus per visit, but the Leventhorpe pool site subsidy was £2.29 per visit, and at Ward Freman it was £3.82 per visit. The total revenue subsidy in 2014/15 was around £98,400 for the Leventhorpe site, and £115,500 for Ward Freman. This compares to the financial outturn of the two leisure centres at Grange Paddocks and Hartham for 2014/15 which showed small surpluses.
- 2.21 The long term political support for these level of subsidies is a key issue covered by the East Hertfordshire Leisure Strategy, which is yet to be finally adopted.

Other schools/ facilities with current community use agreements

- 2.22 A formal community use agreement (CUA), which was a condition of planning permission, exists between East Herts Council and Leventhorpe School in relation to the sports halls and artificial grass pitch (AGP). These facilities are managed by Nuffield Health, separately from the pool and gym.
- 2.23 Presdales School has a community use agreement dated July 2009. The parties to the agreement are Presdales School, East Herts Council, Hertfordshire Sports Partnership, Hertford and Ware School Sports Partnership and Hertfordshire County Council (as the owner of the premises). The agreement makes the sports hall available on a pay-as-you play basis 18.00-21.00 weekdays in term time, 11.00-13.00 on Saturdays, and 09.00-13.00 on Sundays. During the holiday period the sports hall should be available from 09.00-21.00. The agreement was for a period of 10 years.

Condition of the leisure centres

- 2.24 The latest visual conditions surveys of the leisure centres were undertaken in August 2015, and reported on in September 2015. The total amount of capital expenditure required across the five sites up to 2020 is now estimated to be around £2,085,000, as some of the immediate works identified in the conditions surveys have now been completed.

Grange Paddocks Leisure Centre

- 2.25 The building was purpose built with brick and timber frame, with a first floor fitness suite. The estimate of the combined backlog and future maintenance costs was £545,490, almost all of which was Priority 2 (Essential Work) and 3 (Desirable Work). Most of the work is identified as being needed on the main building including the pool lining, but about £87,000 is required for the changing rooms.

Hartham Leisure Centre

- 2.26 This is a steel framed purpose built leisure centre with a converted first floor fitness area. The estimate of the combined backlog and future maintenance costs was £681,250, again almost all of which was Priority 2 (Essential Work) and 3 (Desirable Work). Most of the work is identified as being needed on the main building (£616,500) but there is also need for work on the pool plant house. The elements of the site which required most urgent attention were the car parks and paths, and the external parts of the pool plant house. Work has now been done on the car park.

Fanshawe Pool and Gym

- 2.27 This is a single storey steel and reinforced concrete framed structure. The estimate of the combined backlog and future maintenance costs was £358,056, again almost all of which was Priority 2 (Essential Work) and 3 (Desirable Work). All of the work is identified as being needed on the main building. The element of the site which requires the most urgent attention is the car park.

Leventhorpe Pool and Gym

- 2.28 The facility is a single storey steel and brick reinforced concrete framed structure with most of the cladding being AIB cladding panels. The estimate of the combined backlog and future maintenance costs was £511,442, almost all of which was Priority 2 (Essential Work) and 3 (Desirable Work). The elements of the site which require the most urgent attention are the cladding, doors, kitchen, staff room cooling unit and pump system.

Ward Freman Swimming Pool

- 2.29 This is a single storey brick framed pool. The estimate of the combined backlog and future maintenance costs was £491,692, all of which was Priority 2 (Essential Work) and 3 (Desirable Work). The elements of the site which require the most urgent attention are the floor in the poolside area, showers, toilets, heating, and pool filter pipe work.

Usage

- 2.30 East Herts Council has used the membership and pay as you play postcodes of users of both the gyms and swimming pools to identify the catchments of the leisure

centres and joint use centres. The EHC assessment has shown that over 90% of the users of Grange Paddocks, Fanshawe and Leventhorpe are on the basis of pay and play. Hartham is slightly more weighted towards membership use, but still has over 80% of users on a pay and play basis.

- 2.31 Of the pay and play users, which make up the majority of use at each of the centres, most live within the district. Leventhorpe has the most non-residents using the site.

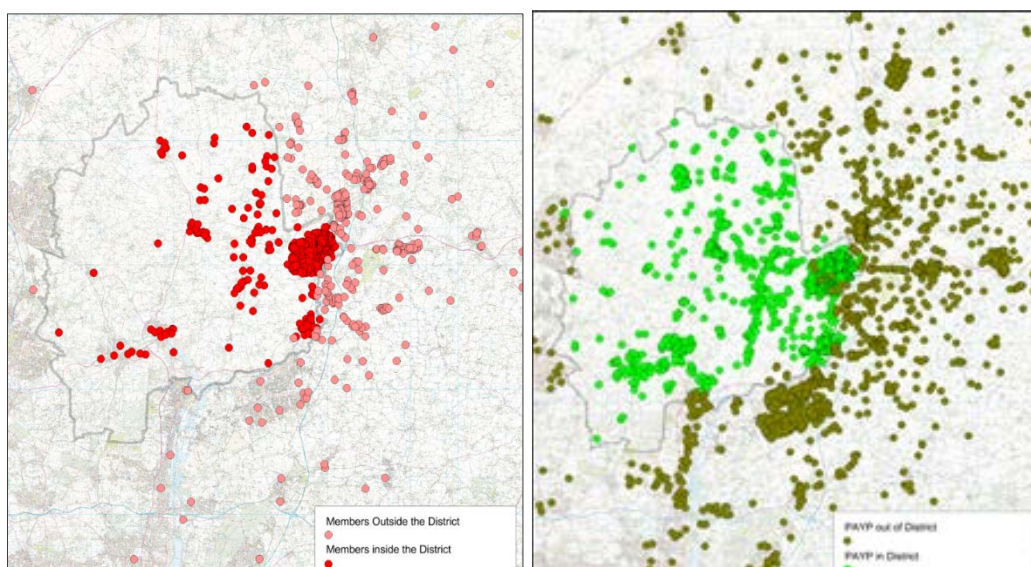
Figure 2: Facility usage and home location

| Location | Grange Paddocks | Fanshawe | Hartham | Leventhorpe | Ward Freman |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|--------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|
| Live in East Herts member | 2037 | 767 | 2384 | 189 | n/a |
| Out of District member | 687 | 71 | 221 | 158 | n/a |
| Incomplete/no Records member | 23 | 6 | 68 | 43 | n/a |
| Live in East Herts PAYP | 21719 | 10108 | 8318 | 2595 | 674 |
| Out of District PAYP | 12135 | 1682 | 3010 | 1983 | 502 |
| Incomplete/no Records PAYP | 5065 | 1819 | 1617 | 1201 | 2373 |
| Total | 41666 | 14453 | 15613 | 6169 | 3549 |
| Member | 2747 | 844 | 2673 | 390 | n/a |
| PAYP | 38919 | 13609 | 12945 | 5779 | |
| % Members live within the District | 75% | 92% | 92% | 59% | n/a |
| % PAYP live within the District | 69% | 88% | 77% | 66% | 86% |

Facility catchment areas

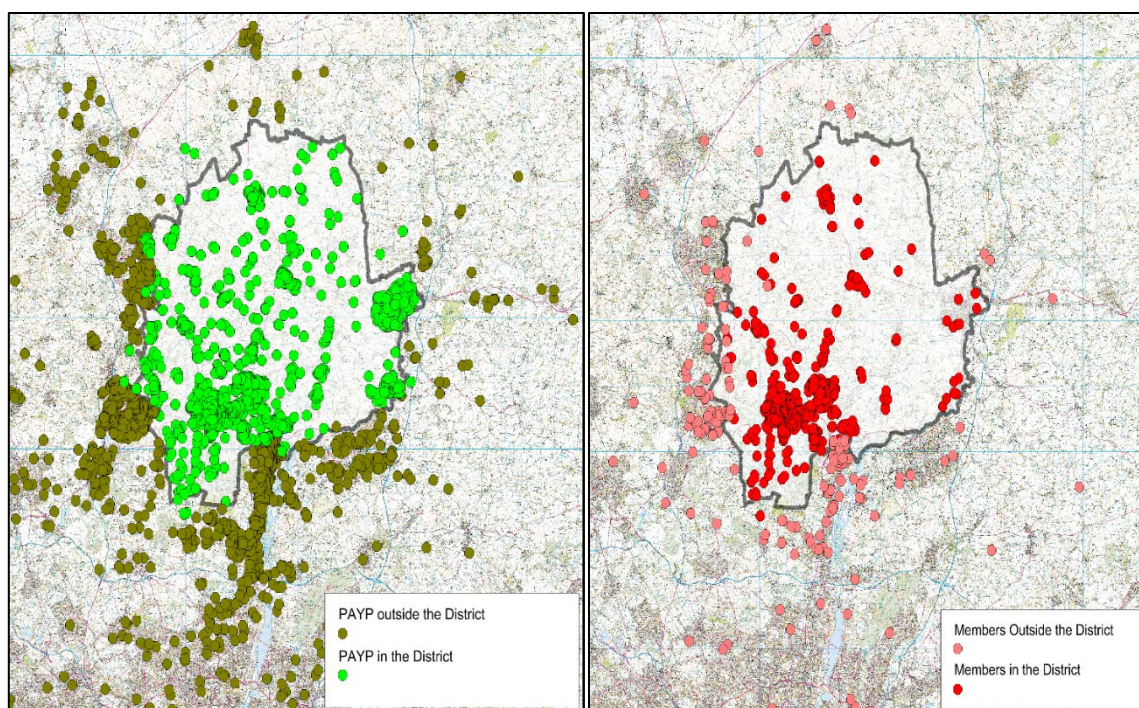
- 2.32 The following maps are extracted from the EHC report, and again cover both the gym and pool usage. The following maps show the membership and pay as you play, both from users living within and outside of the authority. The geographical locations of the facilities mean that they have somewhat different catchments, but it is clear that the catchments overlap, and that most people with access to a car can reach at least one pool within about 20 minutes drive time.
- 2.33 From Figure 3 it is clear that Grange Paddocks draws from a wide area across the authority, but is also providing important swimming opportunities for the residents of all of the adjacent authorities, and in particular Uttlesford and Harlow.

Figure 3: Grange Paddocks catchment



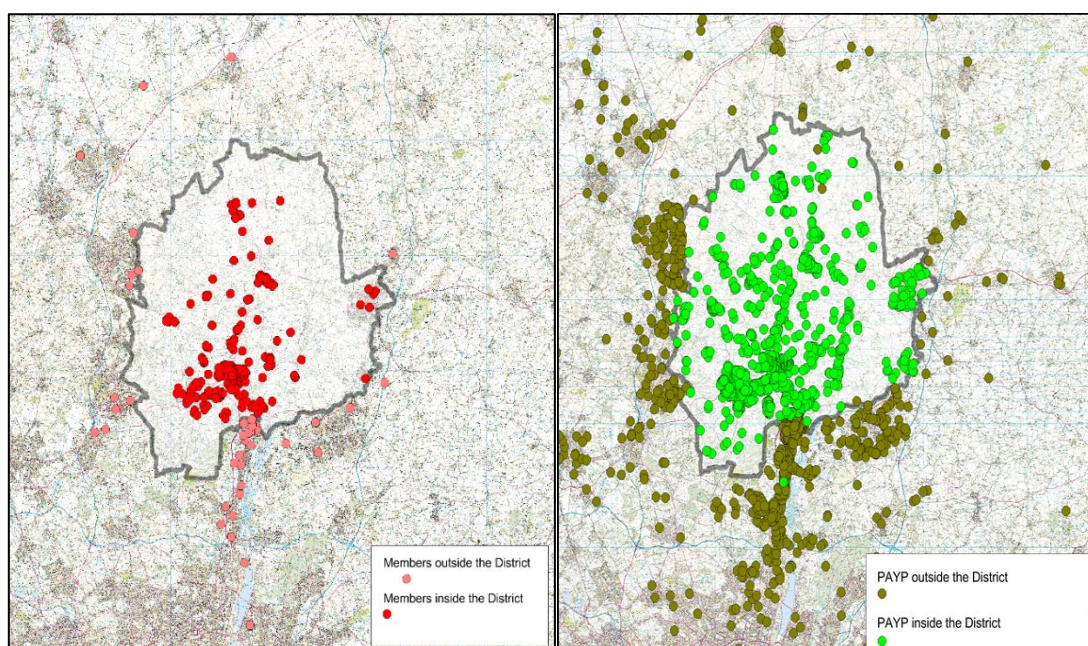
- 2.34 The Hartham catchment area covers much of East Herts but it also provides for users from all of the surrounding authorities, both particularly Broxbourne, Harlow, Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage.

Figure 4: Hartham catchment



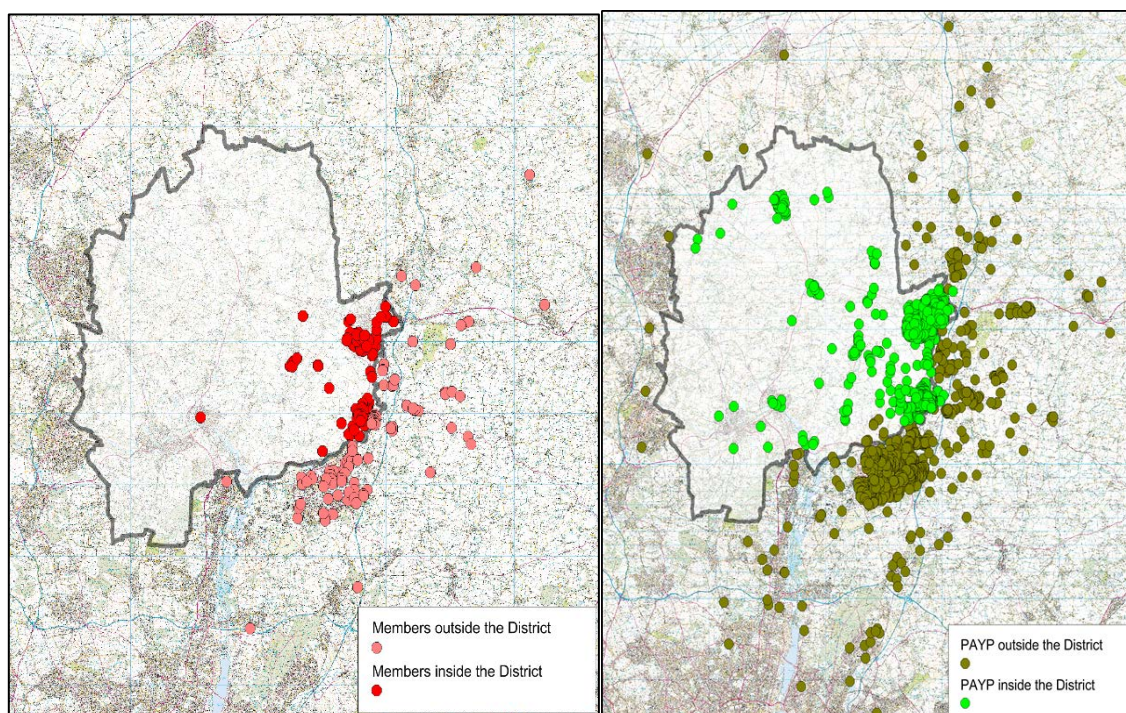
- 2.35 The Fanshawe pool in Ware has a similar catchment to that of Hartham pool but has fewer members than Hartham from a smaller area. The pay and play use is however very similar, see Figure 5.

Figure 5: Fanshawe catchment



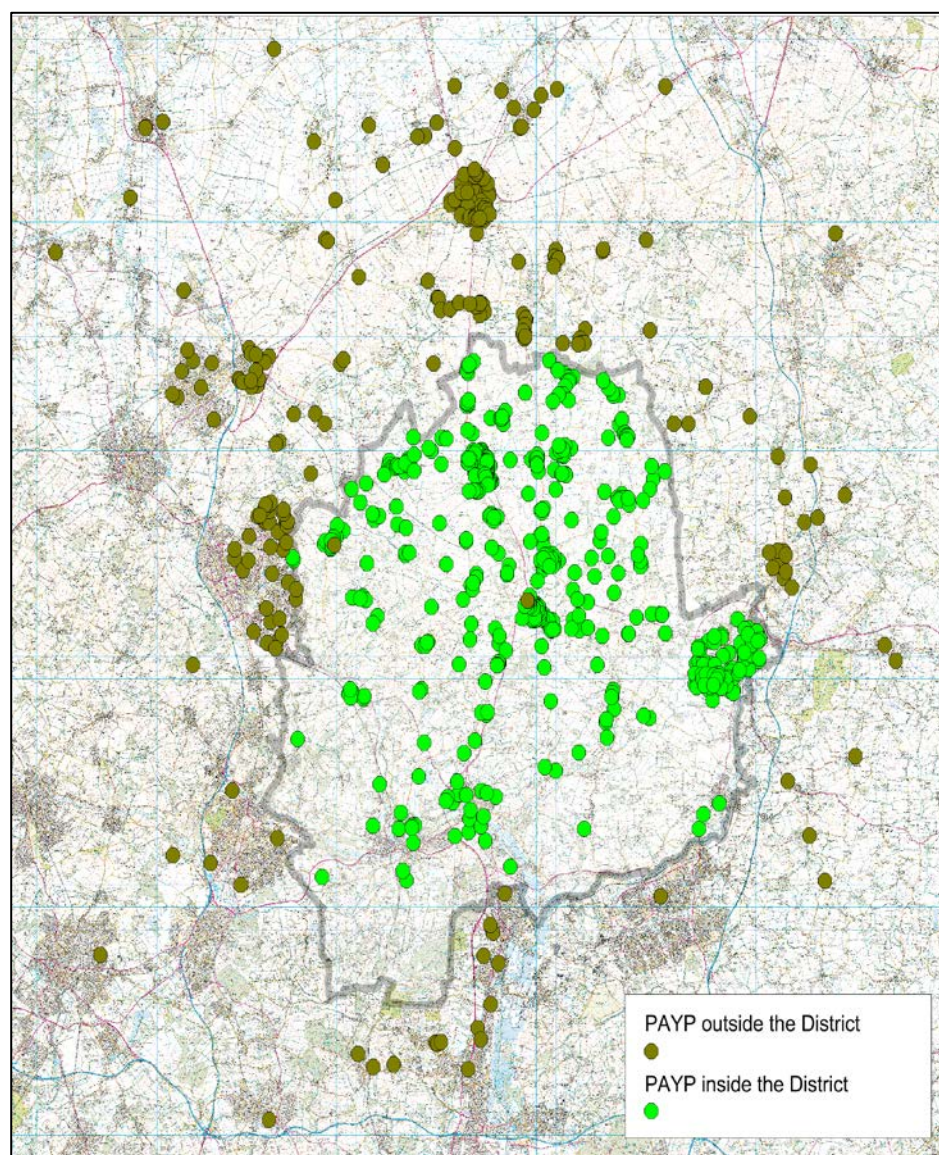
2.36 The Leventhorpe site has a very different catchment. The membership is drawn from a relatively small area of Sawbridgeworth and Bishop's Stortford, and most of the pay and play usage is also drawn from this area. The site is well used by residents of Harlow, but also people living in Uttlesford and Epping Forest. There are a small number of users from the other surrounding authorities. Figure 6 shows the catchments of Leventhorpe.

Figure 6: Leventhorpe catchment



- 2.37 The Ward Freman site has no membership as it does not have gym facilities on site. It is estimated that about 30% of users come from within 1km of the facility. This pool attracts users from across the rural area but also as far away as Hertford and Harlow. The catchment of this pool is illustrated by Figure 7.

Figure 7: Ward Freman pool, Buntingford catchment



Levels of use and throughput

- 2.38 The overall trends in the gym and swims throughput shown by the KPI information provided by Everyone Active to East Herts Council in August 2016 shows that March-December 2015 had a lower total gym throughput than the previous 3 year average rate for 2010-2015, although January-March 2016 was better. The 2016 gym trends to July showed a slow start to the year, but was then above the average from mid March onwards. The usage by those 60 years and over was consistently above the average rate over both years, possibly suggesting that the centres' older people programmes are achieving their participation objective.
- 2.39 By comparison, the total average adult swim usage across the pools has changed very little since 2010, but there has been slightly fewer swims in 2015 and in 2016 up to mid August than the average for 2010-2014. The trends are mirrored by those for those aged 60 years and over.
- 2.40 The following table (Figure 8) shows the overall trends in for each site, comparing each year with either 2014 or the average, as available in the given KPI information.

*Figure 8: Trends in usage at Herts Council sites
Compared to average rate for centre*

| Site | Gym | | Swim | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| | All adults | 60+ years | All adults | 60+ years |
| Fanshawe | 2015 lower 2016 above | 2015 same 2016 increase | 2015 lower 2016 lower | 2015 lower 2016 lower |
| Hartham | 2015 lower 2016 same | 2015 lower 2016 higher | 2015 same 2016 same | 2015 lower 2016 lower |
| Ward Freman | n/a | n/a | 2015 same 2016 lower | 2015 same 2016 same |
| Leventhorpe | 2015 lower 2016 lower | 2015 same 2016 higher | 2015 same 2016 same | 2015 same 2016 same |
| Grange Paddocks | 2015 lower 2016 same | 2015 higher 2016 higher | 2015 lower 2016 lower | 2015 lower 2016 lower |

- 2.41 The programmes offered by the centre therefore appear to be resulting in more use by the 60+ age group in terms of the gym, but a slight fall in usage by the other adult age groups. The swimming throughput has either remained unchanged or has fallen over the last 2 years for all age groups.

2.42 Swimming throughput for 2015 for each site is explored in the pools section of this report, but in broad terms there are:

| | |
|--|---------|
| FANSHAWE POOL & GYM | 53,800 |
| CHAUNCY SCHOOL, WARE | |
| GRANGE PADDOCK LEISURE CENTRE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 136,000 |
| HARTHAM LEISURE CENTRE, HERTFORD | 166,000 |
| LEVENTHORPE POOL & GYM, SAWBRIDGEWORTH | 38,000 |
| WARD FREMAN SWIMMING POOL, BUNTINGFORD | 31,200 |

Overview of the facility portfolio

2.43 The strengths of the Council's facilities portfolio are that it provides good geographical coverage in each of the main centres of population in the district and delivers a varied programme of activities ranging from swimming lessons, casual swimming, lane swimming and club training and competition, that appeals to a wide range of users. The investment in joint use provision enables easier access to swimming for young people. The health and fitness facilities help to cross-subsidise the swimming activities.

2.44 However, there are also a number of weaknesses in the facilities provided by the Council at present:

- The range of facilities is confined to swimming pools and health and fitness, so whilst catering for a wide market, adding other types of provision may allow the Council to meet an even wider range of health and well-being needs.
- There are indications from usage data, Sport England's Facilities Planning Model and Swim England, that there is significant spare pool space capacity in the district as a whole, particularly at the facilities in Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth.
- Despite the Joint Use Agreements at the three school sites, the Council has no control over issues like extending daytime access and has limited security over any future capital spend. The sites at Fanshawe, Leventhorpe and Ward Freman are not owned by the Council, and there is a noted risk that the academy schools and Hertfordshire County Council as the Joint Use partners, may withdraw from the agreements, failing to meet future revenue and capital costs.
- All the facilities are ageing and a recent condition survey identified the need for over £2 million of capital expenditure over the next five years.

- 2.45 The Council is currently undertaking a comprehensive strategic review of its facilities and their management arrangements, which will be informed by the findings of this assessment. The paper presented to the Community Scrutiny Committee in June 2016 is given in Appendix 2. The key points from this report are:

The Vision

- 2.46 The vision for leisure facilities across East Herts is one of enabling everyone to have the opportunity to participate. The Council has a pivotal role in providing pay and play opportunities which cannot be provided through other sectors. In this context, the suggested vision is as follows:

The Council will provide attractive facilities available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the community and voluntary sector. In addition, it will ensure that leisure facilities contribute fully to the health and wellbeing objectives of the Council.

- 2.47 The aims of the Strategy are:

- a) To achieve closer integration with the objectives and processes of the health sector through a range of commissioning links. This will include for example electronic patient referral and delivery of specific programs where there is an identified health need such as weight reduction and mental health.
- b) To achieve closer integration with the voluntary sector, town and parish councils. The aim would be to close the gap between contract delivery and the work being carried out by the voluntary and community sector.
- c) To provide outreach programs linking indoor leisure facilities to outdoor and community based activity, recognising the rural character of the district.
- d) To align leisure services delivery to the demographic trends and population growth recognising that the council imports and exports leisure demand to adjoining authorities.
- e) To reduce barriers to participation and improve customer satisfaction.

- 2.48 The Council is mindful of the significant range of facilities provided by the community, voluntary and school sector. The strategy aims to complement rather than compete with this provision. However, the Council provides swimming pools because it is considered to be a priority for people of all ages to be able to swim on a 'pay and play' basis, and in this respect the Council is a provider of last resort. This is because if the Council did not support the provision of public pools there are no other organisations able to fill the gap. The private sector provides swimming pools but it is not commercially viable to do this on a 'pay and play' basis.

Wodson Park Trust

2.49 The Wodson Park Trust provides the following facilities:

- 33m x 28m sports hall and a 32m x 25m sports hall
- 45 station health and fitness facility
- dance studio
- ancillary hall 16m x 9m
- 400m x 8 lane synthetic athletics track
- 103m x 62m '3G' football turf pitch
- 4 tarmac tennis/netball courts.

2.50 The quality of the facilities is good and the peak time utilisation rates are as follows. Overall utilisation rates are also listed, because as one of the only community facilities in the district available for daytime use, the relatively high off-peak levels are instructive. The used capacity is estimated to be:

- sports halls: 75% in the peak period, 58% overall
- fitness facility: 80% of capacity in the peak period, 42% overall
- dance studio: 75% of capacity in the peak period, 40% overall
- ancillary hall: 50% of capacity in the peak period, 37% overall
- athletics track: 45% of capacity in the peak period, 22% overall
- 3G artificial pitch: 95% of capacity in the peak period, 60% overall
- tennis/netball courts: 25% of capacity in the peak period, 16% overall.

Schools

2.51 An unusually high proportion of built sports facilities in East Herts are provided on school sites, including nine of the eleven sports halls and nine of the 13 synthetic turf pitches. Secondary schools were generally built with, or have developed, dedicated sports facilities and playing fields and provide the best opportunities for community use. Conversely, primary school sites provide some opportunities for activities that can take place in a hall setting, such as exercise classes, but do not generally provide sports facilities appropriate for community based sports specific activities.

2.52 A summary of the school facilities available for community use in East Herts is given in Figure 9. All of the facilities other than the formal joint use sites, are managed in-house by the schools themselves, with the exception of Leventhorpe Academy, whose sports hall, health and fitness facilities, artificial turf pitch and hard courts are run by Nuffield Health and Leisure.

2.53 The Haileybury and Imperial Service College to the south of Hertford and Bishop's Stortford College are both independent schools which have extensive sports facilities and which have strong community use programmes. Haileybury is one of the very

few pay and play facilities in the district, and in addition hosts the dedicated gymnastics centre.

2.54 The key findings across the schools are:

- Very few schools provide for casual 'pay and play' access, which restricts usage of many facilities to members of organised clubs and groups.
- There are three private schools each of which has an excellent range of sports facilities, but all of which have boarding pupils and extensive extra-curricular programmes which serve to limit term-time community use.
- There are no formal joint use agreements in place for the facilities, apart from the three sites where community use is managed by the Council.
- None of the formal joint use agreements include sports halls.
- There are no subsidies to support community use, other than at the joint use sites.
- There is limited scope to increase peak time community utilisation rates at most school facilities.
- There are quality issues at some facilities, in particular the swimming pool at Herts & Essex High School, which is very poor quality.

2.55 The recommendations in the facility specific sections and in the action plan seek to address issues which do, or may, impact on the community use of facilities. The lack of formal community use agreements for most facilities on most of the school sites seems unlikely to be overcome. Such agreements can be achieved where there is capital investment from a public body or via a grant, and / or long term revenue commitments from similar organisations. However, except in these cases, such agreements tend to be a burden on the schools and they are therefore unwilling to enter into new long term binding agreements.

2.56 However even where schools have no legal agreements over long term community use, it is assumed that the current community use arrangements will continue, and no school facilities are identified as being under threat other than the pool at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School which is poor quality.

2.57 A number of schools are either in the process of providing new facilities or have aspirations to do so. The details are as follows:

- Chauncy School in Ware is currently building a new sports hall adjacent to the Fanshawe Pool and Gym, funded by an enabling housing development.

- Richard Hale School in Hertford is currently fundraising to provide a new sports hall.
- Haileybury College is currently seeking planning consent for a complex of three full-sized '3G' football turf pitches at its site just outside Hertford.
- The Hertfordshire and Essex High School in Bishop's Stortford has secured £2.4 million from the Department for Education and £600,000 from Hertfordshire County Council, to provide a new sports hall at its playing fields on Beldam's Lane. It is possible that redevelopment of its main campus will result in the closure of the existing swimming pool. The school is currently in discussions with East Herts Council and with the national governing bodies of both judo and netball to explore the options of providing specialist facilities on site. The school is also proposing new netball courts and a full size hockey specification AGP which will cater for Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club. It is likely that East Herts Council will financially support the development, in part as forward funding as the Bishop's Stortford North developers' contribution monies are not yet available, and in part to secure appropriate design and secure community use for the facilities. It is proposed that the school will manage the facilities and that there will be some pay and play use of the sports hall.
- Birchwood High School in Bishop's Stortford is developing proposals for a full-sized '3G' football turf pitch, a BMX/Cyclo-cross course, and additional floodlit hard courts.

Future school proposals

- 2.58 Hertfordshire County Council has outline permission for a new secondary school in the Bishops Stortford North development that will include a 4 court sports hall, MUGA and playing fields that will be open for community use and a CUA is expected to be completed as a planning condition for this school. There are also proposals in the local plan for relocating Bishops Stortford High School to a site to the south of the town which would provide new facilities. The need for community use to one or both of these schools will be possible to confirm once the current proposals for a sports hall at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School have been confirmed.
- 2.59 Other secondary schools are planned for: The Gilston Area (2 secondary schools), and East of Welwyn Garden City. These potentially provide a mechanism of meeting the expected additional demand which will arise from the housing growth.

Figure 9: Summary of community use of school sports facilities in East Herts

| School | Address | Facilities | Quality | Availability | Use |
|------------------------------|---|---|--|--|---|
| Birchwood High School | Parsonage Lane, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5BD | Sports Hall (33m x 18m) | Standard quality hall and changing | Available 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.30 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday | Advance bookings only, 95% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Fitness suite | Standard quality facility and changing | No public access | No public use |
| | | Gymnasium (18m x 10m) | Poor quality gymnasium and standard changing | Available 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.30 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday | Advance bookings only, 80% peak utilisation rate |
| | | 3G Pitch (70m x 45m) | Good quality pitch and standard changing | Available 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.30 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday | Advance bookings only, 100% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Grass Pitches 2 youth football (9v9) | Standard quality pitches and no changing | Available 08.30 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday | Formal usage arrangement with Bishop's Stortford Community FC |
| | | Netball courts (4) | Standard quality courts and changing | Available 08.30 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday | Advance bookings only, 15% peak utilisation rate |

| School | Address | Facilities | Quality | Availability | Use |
|---------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|---|
| Bishop's Stortford College | Maze Green Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2PJ | Sports Hall (32m x 17m) | Standard quality sports hall and good quality changing | Available 17.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 16.00 - 20.00 Saturday and 10.00 - 16.00 Sunday. | Available for local groups only, no casual hire, 25% peak utilisation rate but no scope to extend |
| | | Swimming Pool (25m x 14m and 14m x 7m) | Good quality pool and changing | Available 17.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 16.00 - 20.00 Saturday and 10.00 - 16.00 Sunday. | Available for local groups only, no casual hire, 50% peak utilisation rate but no scope to extend |
| | | Artificial Turf Pitches (93m x 56m and 55m x 30m) | Good quality pitches and changing | Available 17.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 13.00 Saturday and 10.00 - 16.00 Sunday. | Available for local groups only, no casual hire, 25% peak utilisation rate but no scope to extend |
| | | Health and fitness (20 stations) | Good quality facility and changing | No public access | No public use |
| | | Grass Pitches (2 adult football, 3 youth football, 8 cricket, 7 adult rugby, 2 junior rugby and 3 mini-rugby) | Good quality pitches and changing. | No public access | No public use |
| Bishop's Stortford High School | London Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 3LU | Sports Hall (41m x 21m) | Standard quality sports hall and changing | Available 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 18.00 on Sunday. | Available for local groups only, no casual hire, 50% peak utilisation rate |

| School | Address | Facilities | Quality | Availability | Use |
|-----------------------|---|--|--|---|---|
| | | Grass Pitches at Jobbers Wood (6 adult football, 2 cricket, 4 adult rugby) | Good quality pitches and changing. | No public access | No public use |
| Chauncy School | Park Road, Ware SG12 0DP | Swimming Pool (25m x 10m) | Standard quality pool and changing | Available 17.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.00 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Everyone Active. 'Pay-and-play' access, 60% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Health and Fitness (40 stations) | Standard quality facility and changing | Available 06.30 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.00 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Everyone Active. 'Pay-and-play' access, 70% peak utilisation rate A 4-court sports hall is currently being constructed. |
| Freman College | Bowling Green Lane, Buntingford SG9 9BT | Sports Hall (33m x 18m) | Good quality sports hall and changing | Available 17.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 21.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Available for local groups only, no casual hire, 25% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Swimming Pool (25m x 10m) | Standard quality pool and changing | Available 17.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 07.30 - 15.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Everyone Active, 60% peak utilisation rate. |
| | | Tennis Courts (3) | Standard quality courts | Available 17.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 21.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Available for local groups only, Used at least weekly |
| | | Football Pitches (2) | Standard quality pitches and changing | Available 09.00 - 17.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Block booking arrangement with Boca Seniors FC |

| School | Address | Facilities | Quality | Availability | Use |
|--|-------------------|--|--|--|--|
| | | Cricket Pitch (1) | Standard quality pitch and changing | Available 09.00 - 21.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Formal usage agreement with Buntingford CC |
| Haileybury and Imperial Service College | Hertford SG13 7NU | Sports Hall (40m x 31m) | Good quality sports hall and good quality changing | Available 17.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 07.00 - 19.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Use by members and 'pay-and-play', 80% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Swimming pool (25m x 13m) | Good quality pool and good quality changing | Available 07.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 07.00 - 19.00 Saturday - Sunday. Times within range vary dependant on school use. | Use by members and 'pay-and-play', 80% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Squash Courts (4) | Good quality courts and good quality changing | Available 07.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 07.00 - 19.00 Saturday - Sunday. Times within range Vary dependant on school use. | Use by members and 'pay-and-play', 25% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Health and Fitness (30 stations) | Good quality facility and good quality changing | Available 07.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 07.00 – 12.00/17.00 - 19.00 Saturday, 7.00 – 20.00 Sunday. Times within range Vary dependant on school use. | Use by members and 'pay-and-play', 50% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Weights Room (10 stations + weights) | Good facility hall and good quality changing | No public access | No public use |
| | | Artificial Turf Pitches (2 sand-filled 100m x 60m) | Good quality pitches and good quality changing | Available 17.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 19.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Use by members and 'pay-and-play', 90% peak utilisation rate |

| School | Address | Facilities | Quality | Availability | Use |
|--|---|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| | | Tennis Courts (8) | Good quality courts and good quality changing | Available summer term only. All day during summer holidays. | Use by members and 'pay-and-play', 20% peak utilisation rate |
| Heath Mount School | Woodhall Park, Watton-at-Stone SG14 3NG | Sports Hall (34.5m x 20m) | Standard quality sports hall and changing. | No public access | No public use |
| Hertfordshire and Essex High School | Warwick Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5NJ | Swimming Pool (25m x 8m) | Poor quality pool and changing facilities. | Available 18.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 13.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Club and organisations use only, 50% peak utilisation rate. |
| Hockerill Anglo-European College | Dunmow Road, Bishop's Stortford CM23 5SX | Artificial Turf Pitch (94m x 58m) | Good quality pitch (re-surfaced in 2015). | Available 18.00 - 20.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 22.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Use by Bishop's Stortford Hockey Club and football clubs, 80% peak utilisation rate |
| Leventhorpe Business and Enterprise Academy | Cambridge Road, Sawbridgeworth CM21 9BY | Sports Hall (45m x 35m) | Good quality sports hall and changing. | Available 17.30 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 16.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Nuffield Health. 'Pay-and-play' access, 70% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Swimming pool (25m x 10m) | Standard quality pool and changing. | Available 12.30 - 13.30 and 17.30 - 21.30 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 16.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Everyone Active. 'Pay-and-play' access, 60% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Health and Fitness (17 stations) | Standard quality facility and changing. | Available 07.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 14.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Everyone Active. 'Pay-and-play' access, 70% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Health and Fitness (40 stations) | Good quality facility and changing. | Available 17.30 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.00 - 16.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Nuffield Health. Membership use only, 70% peak utilisation rate |

| School | Address | Facilities | Quality | Availability | Use |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|---|--|
| | | Artificial Turf Pitch (90m x 60m) | Good quality facility and changing. | Available 17.30 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.00 - 16.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Nuffield Health. 'Pay-and-play' access, 80% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Hard courts (3 netball, 5 tennis) | Standard quality facility and changing | Available 17.30 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.00 - 16.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Managed by Nuffield Health. 'Pay-and-play' access for tennis in summer, 10% peak utilisation rate. Courts not advertised. |
| Presdales Academy | Hoe Lane, Ware SG12 9NX | Sports Hall (33m x 18m) | Good quality sports hall and changing | Available 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 15.00 Saturday - Sunday. | Club and organisations use only, 50% peak utilisation rate. Community use agreement was for pay and play provision. |
| St. Mary's Catholic School | Windhill, Bishop's Stortford CM23 2NQ | Sports Hall (33m x 18m) | Standard quality sports hall and changing | No public access | No public use |
| St Edmund's College | Ware SG11 1DS | Sports Hall (27m x 18m) | Standard quality sports hall and changing | No public access | No public use |
| | | Swimming Pool (20m x 10m) | Standard quality pool and changing | Available 17.00 - 18.30 on Mondays | Club and organisations use only, 100% peak utilisation rate. |
| | | Health and Fitness (9 stations) | Standard quality facility and changing | No public access | No public use |
| | | Squash Courts (2) | Good quality courts. | No public access | No public use |
| | | Artificial Turf Pitch (100m x 60m) | Standard quality pitches and changing | Available 09.00 - 22.15 Saturday - Sunday | Club and organisations use only. 50% peak utilisation rate. |

| School | Address | Facilities | Quality | Availability | Use |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--|--|--|
| Simon Balle Academy | Mangrove Road, Hertford SG13 8AJ | Swimming Pool (25m x 8m) | Good quality pool and changing | Available 18.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 21.00 Saturday -Sunday. | Club and organisations use only, 50% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Health and Fitness (24 stations) | Good quality facility and changing | No public access | No public use |
| | | Artificial Turf Pitch (101m x 64m) | Good quality pitch and changing | Available 18.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 21.00 Saturday -Sunday. | Club and organisations use only, 75% peak utilisation rate |
| The Sele Academy | Welwyn Road, Hertford SG14 2DG | Health and Fitness (20 stations) | Standard quality facility and changing | Available 16.30 - 20.00 Monday - Friday | Club and organisations use only, 25% peak utilisation rate |
| | | Tennis Courts (3) | Standard quality courts | Available 16.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 17.00 Saturday -Sunday. | Club and organisations use only, 15% peak utilisation rate. |

Commercial providers

- 2.60 Commercial operators provide a range of sports facilities in East Herts, including:
- 4 indoor swimming pools of at least 20m length at health clubs in Bishop's Stortford (2), Hertford and Sawbridgeworth.
 - A four-court indoor tennis centre in the grounds of Haileybury College.
 - 7 health and fitness facilities which collectively provide 578 stations, or 57% of total capacity in the district.
 - Two 40m x 25m '3G' football turf pitches in Hertford.
- 2.61 All the facilities are usually only available on a membership basis. Utilisation rates are commercially sensitive so are not available. The general quality of provision is high.

Sports clubs

- 2.62 Voluntary sector sports clubs provide a range of sports facilities in East Herts, including:
- 12 outdoor tennis sites, comprising 43% of the total stock in the district
 - 13 bowling greens, all of the sites in the district
 - 10 squash courts, comprising 71% of the total courts in the district.
- 2.63 Utilisation rates vary, but there is generally some spare capacity at most voluntary sector facilities. The quality of provision also varies, with disability access a particular issue at some of the older facilities.

Town and Parish Councils

- 2.64 Town and parish councils are the main providers of the community and ancillary halls that, whilst for the most part are non-specialist sports facilities, nonetheless provide opportunities for a range of recreational level sport, particularly (although not exclusively) in the rural parts of the district. There are at least 56 community and village halls in East Herts, of which the majority are owned by either the town and parish councils or village hall trusts. Of these about 14 halls have the length and width to allow them to accommodate a range of sports such as badminton, table tennis, carpet bowls, aerobics, keep fit, dance and martial arts, but the majority have a low ceiling height, so competitive use for badminton is very limited. The remaining halls are small and have limited sports potential but still generally host some physical activity.
- 2.65 Utilisation rates in the peak period vary between 15% and 75%, although sport and physical activity typically comprises no more than 50% of the overall usage programmes. Facility quality is also highly variable, with old halls such as the Mission Hall at Tye Green which needs major refurbishment or replacement, to a small

number of relatively new facilities, for example at Albury. Most sites also lack dedicated changing facilities.

SECTION 3: SPORTS HALLS

- 3.1 Sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport because they are able to provide a venue for many different activities. At the present time none of the sports halls are owned or managed by East Herts Council, and it relies extensively on the sports halls on school sites to meet the demand for this type of sports facility. The recommendations for future provision include the potential development of new leisure centres where EHC would have a stronger role in direct delivery.

Sports hall design and activities

- 3.2 Sports halls are used for a wide range of sports and activities (see Figure 10), some of which are common and others which are less so.

Figure 10: Most popular sports hall activities

| Activity | Sport hall visits (%) |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Badminton | 24.4 |
| Keep fit/aerobics/step/yoga | 23.6 |
| Indoor 5-a-side football/futsal | 18.3 |
| Martial arts | 6.3 |
| Carpet/mat/short bowls | 6.1 |
| Gymnastics | 3.6 |
| Basketball | 2.3 |
| Netball | 2.1 |
| Table tennis | 1.9 |
| Dance | 1.8 |
| Trampolining | 1.8 |
| Indoor hockey | 1.6 |
| Tennis/short tennis | 1.5 |
| Roller skating/roller blading | 1.2 |
| Indoor cricket | 1.0 |
| Multi-sport session | 0.7 |
| Racquetball | 0.6 |
| Volleyball | 0.6 |
| Others | 0.6 |

Source: Sports Hall Design and Layout Sport England (2012) based on Survey of Sports Halls and Swimming Pools in England (1999) (Sport England, 2012)

- 3.3 The main tool for assessing the trends in activity until recently has been the Active People Survey of Sport England (Sport England, 2016). The national trends in the main hall sports over the period 2005/06 – 2015/16, have been a fall in participation in badminton, basketball, and football, a steady situation for volleyball, but an increase in netball. The information about the trends in hall sports below this national level are not available or are too statistically unreliable for it to be of value

in this strategy. The national trends are therefore assumed to be reflected by the local situation in East Herts.

- 3.4 Sport England regularly reviews its parameters behind the FPM model, and the December 2015 report (Sport England and sportscotland, 2015) suggests that, on average sports halls have the following programming, see Figure 11.

Figure 11: National average programming

| Sport | Main hall | Ancillary hall |
|-------------------------------|-----------|----------------|
| Badminton | 42% | 7% |
| Five-a-side football | 13% | 2% |
| Keep fit | 14% | 53% |
| Gymnastics | 7% | 2% |
| Martial arts | 8% | 14% |
| Basketball | 5% | 2% |
| All other physical activities | 12% | 21% |

- 3.5 The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is by the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. However, it is recognised that there is extensive use of these types of facility by a wide range of other sports including basketball, volleyball, handball etc. Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least 3+ badminton court size, and with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. This is therefore the minimum size of hall considered in this section of the report.
- 3.6 A spread of 4 court halls is often the most effective way of achieving the greatest accessibility for general community use. However, the space required for many indoor team games exceeds the space provided by a standard 4 court hall and in general terms the higher the standard of play, the larger the space required. At higher levels of performance the playing area is usually the same size but increased safety margins and clear height may be required, as well as additional space requirements for spectators, teams and officials during competitions. Larger halls i.e. 6 plus courts are therefore able to accommodate higher level training and/or competition as well as meeting day to day needs.
- 3.7 Larger halls (6 plus badminton courts) may also provide the opportunity for more than one pitch/court which increases flexibility for both training and competition. The table in Appendix 3 is from the Sport England Design Guidance Note on Sports Hall Design and Layouts (2012) (Sport England, 2012) and identifies the hall size required to accommodate a range of sports at different levels of play; this updates previous guidance. There is also now a strong recommendation for a slightly larger size 4-court hall for schools, to enable more community use as well as more flexibility for education. The new minimum size for 4-court halls in the Sport England guidance is 34.5m x 20.0m x 7.5m, rather than the previous standard of 33m x 18m x 7.5 m.

Current provision

- 3.8 There are 14 sports halls of 3 plus badminton court size in East Herts, which are listed in Figure 12 and mapped in Figure 13. There are three large sports hall facilities, the 8 court hall at Haileybury Sports Complex and the two 6-court halls at Wodson Park Sports Centre.
- 3.9 The peak period for sports halls as identified by Sport England in their Facilities Planning Model report of 2016 are:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday-Friday | 09.00-10.00, 17.00-22.00 |
| Saturday | 09.30-17.00 |
| Sunday | 09.00-14.30, 17.00-19.30 |
| Total number of hours at peak time | 45.5 hours |
- 3.10 Sport England expect that 62% of the sports hall use will take place during these hours, the peak period, based on the research behind their Facilities Planning Model.
- 3.11 Four of the sites open for community access have some pay and play opportunities but of these sites, but there is only community access during the day time to Wodson Park, the Drill Hall at Ware, and the limited access private site at Allenburys.

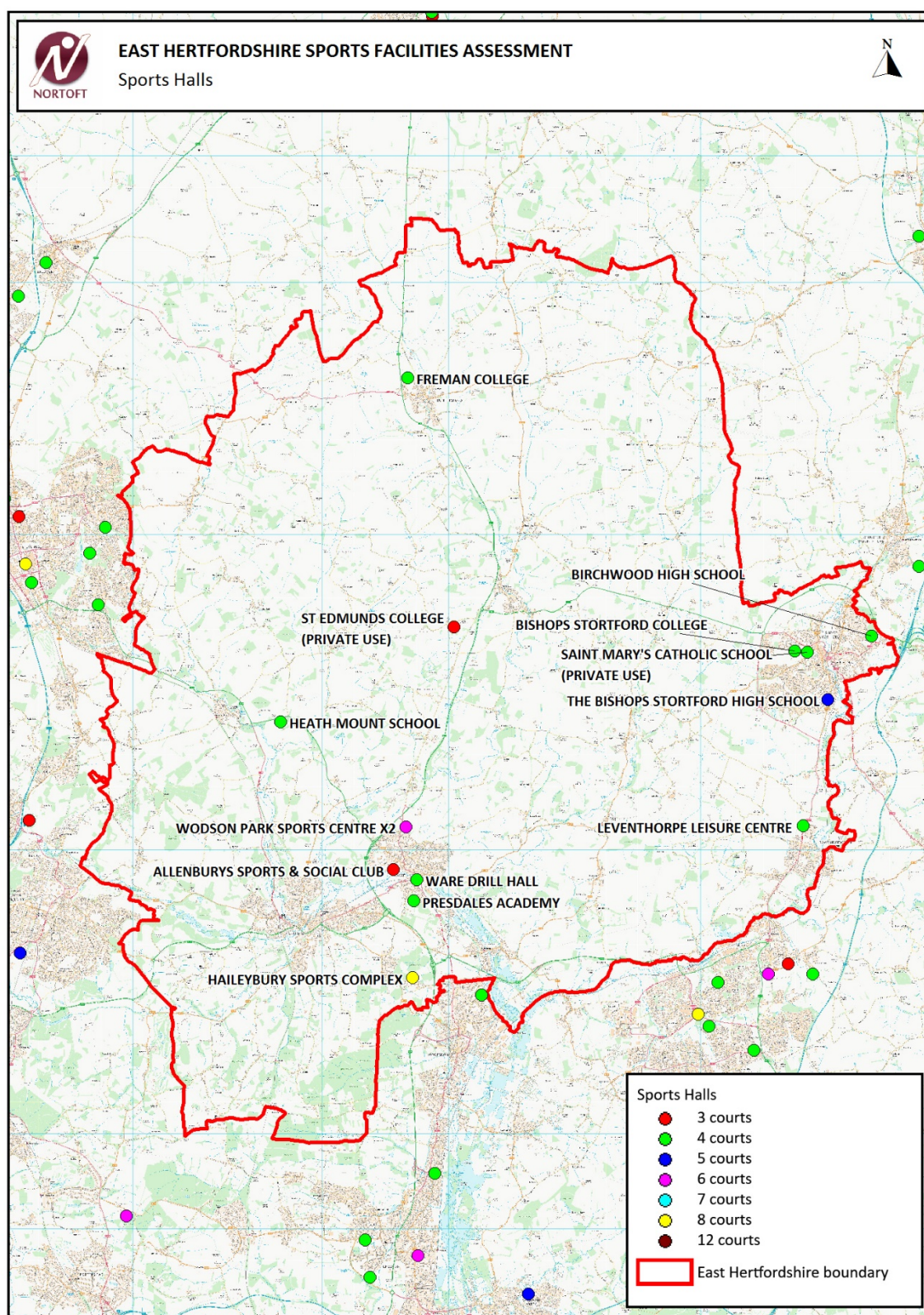
Figure 12: Sports halls 3+ courts - current provision

| Site Name | Number of Badminton Courts | Length m | Width m | Year built | Quality | Ownership Type | Access Type | Management | Hours available in peak period if restricted | Estimate of used capacity at peak time during hours open from audit <i>[and FPM estimate]</i> | Spare capacity number of courts scaled by hours (80% and above used is full) |
|--|----------------------------|----------|---------|------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------|---|-----------------------|---|---|--|
| ALLENBURY'S SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB (GSK) WARE | 3 | 29 | 18.4 | 1998 | Poor quality hall and changing | Industry (for employees) | Private with very limited external club use | Commercial Management | Limited, on demand | 5% approx <i>[not included]</i> | 0 |
| BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 4 | 33 | 18 | 2007 | Standard quality hall and changing | Academies | Sports Club / Community Association | School | 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 08.30 - 17.00 Saturday – Sunday (33 hours) | 95% <i>[73%]</i> | 0 |
| BISHOP'S STORTFORD COLLEGE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 4 | 32 | 17 | 1980 | Standard quality hall and changing | Independent School | Sports Club / Community Association | College | 17.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 16.00 - 20.00 Saturday and 10.00 - 16.00 Sunday. (25.5 hours) | 25% <i>[49%]</i> | 1.2 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|------|------|------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|--|---------------|-----|
| FREMAN COLLEGE, BUNTINGFORD | 4 | 33 | 18 | 2013 | High quality hall and changing | Academies | Sports Club / Community Association | School | 17.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 21.00 Saturday - Sunday. (35.5 hours) | 25% [25%] | 1.7 |
| HAILEYBURY SPORTS COMPLEX, HERTFORD | 8 | 40 | 30.5 | 1997 | High quality hall and changing | Independ School | Pay and Play | Commercial Management | 17.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 07.00 - 19.00 Saturday - Sunday. (35 hours) | 80% [91%] | 0 |
| HEATH MOUNT SCHOOL | 4 | 34.5 | 20 | 2000 | Standard quality hall and changing | Independ School | Private use | School | No public access | n/a [42%] | 0 |
| LEVENTHORPE LEISURE CENTRE, SAWBRIDGE-WORTH | 4 | 45 | 35 | 2011 | High quality hall and changing | Academies | Pay and Play | Commercial | 17.30 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 16.00 Saturday - Sunday. (30 hours) | 70% [61%] | 0.3 |
| PRESDALES ACADEMY, WARE | 4 | 33 | 18 | 2009 | High quality hall and changing | Academies | Sports Club / Community Association | School | 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 15.00 Saturday - Sunday. (31.5 hours) | 50% [49%] | 0.8 |
| SAINT MARY'S CATHOLIC SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 4 | 33 | 18 | 2006 | Standard quality hall and changing | Voluntary Aided School | Private Use | School | No public access | n/a [100%] | 0 |
| ST EDMUNDS COLLEGE, WARE | 3 | | | 1986 | Standard quality hall and changing | Independ School | Private Use | School | No public access | n/a | 0 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|------|-------|------|---|-------------------|-------------------------------------|--------|---|--------------|-----|
| THE BISHOPS STORTFORD HIGH SCHOOL | 5 | 40.6 | 21.35 | 1985 | Standard quality hall and changing | Foundation School | Sports Club / Community Association | School | 18.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 18.00 on Sunday (26.5 hours) | 50% [58%] | 0.7 |
| WARE DRILL HALL | 4 | 30 | 16 | 1899 | Poor quality sports hall, standard quality changing | Local Authority | Sports Club / Community Association | Trust | All peak | 80% [29%] | 0 |
| WODSON PARK SPORTS CENTRE, WARE | 6 | 33 | 28 | 1989 | High quality hall and changing | Trust | Pay and Play | Trust | All peak | 75% [85%] | 0 |
| | 6 | 32 | 25 | 1997 | High quality hall and changing | Trust | Pay and Play | Trust | All peak | 75% [85%] | 0 |

Figure 13: Sports Halls (3+ courts) map



Assessment of current supply/demand

- 3.12 All of the sports hall facilities were audited and the used capacity information is derived from these site visits and detailed discussions with the site operators.
- 3.13 Pay and play use is only available at Haileybury in Hertford, Leventhorpe Leisure Centre in Sawbridgeworth, and Wodson Park Sports Centre in Ware. These facilities are running reasonably busy, with Leventhorpe at 70%, Wodson Park at 75%, and Haileybury at 80%.
- 3.14 Of the other sites, only Birchwood High School at Bishop's Stortford is running "busy", at 95% used capacity. The other school sites are operating at between 50% and 25% used capacity. The Drill Hall at Ware is reported as running very busy during peak times, so is estimated to be at around 80% used capacity at peak times.
- 3.15 The Freman College sports hall in Buntingford is less than 5 years old but only has about 25% usage at peak time by the community. It has a planning condition enabling community use, but the programming and access policies of the sports hall which is managed directly by the school rather than as part of the joint use contract for the pool, appears to be restricting the usage of this site.
- 3.16 The quality of most of the sports halls in East Herts assessed through the site audits is at least standard, with high quality halls at Freman College, Haileybury, Leventhorpe, Presdales, and Wodson Park. The poorest quality halls are the Drill Hall at Ware, but this is very well used, and the limited access private industrial sports club site Allenburys.
- 3.17 Heath Mount School was included within the FPM modelling (see below) but has since ceased to be available for community use.
- 3.18 The distribution of the sports halls across the authority plus those over the boundaries, means that everyone with access to a car can reach at least one hall within 20 minutes drive time. The more significant problem for the authority is the amount of hall space available at peak time for the size of the community in the southern area of the authority.
- 3.19 The lack of sports hall space available to the community during the weekday daytimes is a key issue. This lack of day time access to sports hall facilities is likely to be contributing to the pressures at peak time for those sports which require the dimensions of a 3+ court sports hall, particularly those which need the height such as badminton, volleyball and netball. It is also impacting on the ability of the authority to deliver its objectives in terms of health and well-being, for older people and those not working, who would otherwise use such facilities during the school day.
- 3.20 Also as can be seen from the Facilities Planning Model parameters, the percentage of those participating in hall based sports falls for those aged 60 and over, but the

frequency of participation per week for those that do participate, rises slightly. This means that hall space is important for only a relatively small number of people aged over 60 years, but for them, the space is very important and used often.

- 3.21 The schools which offer community use of their sports halls but which are not one of the joint use facilities do not have the staff to manage the facilities intensively and their marketing is often limited. They are therefore less “valuable” within the network than the joint use facilities.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 3.22 Only a small number of clubs using halls responded to the survey, and a summary of the individual responses is given below.

Badminton

Much Hadham Badminton Club

- 3.23 This club has about 48 members, of which just over half are of secondary school age. All of the club members come from the Bishop’s Stortford area and travel up to about 10 minutes to reach the club. The club has a small waiting list of less than 5 people and all of these are juniors. The club has grown in the last 5 years but does not expect to grow further because it uses the one court village hall at Much Hadham as their home base, which is suitable for training only. The club plays year round once or twice a week on weekday evenings.
- 3.24 The club considers the hall to be acceptable quality but recognises that it is a multi-use facility. There is no changing available on site.
- 3.25 The club also uses Wodson Park for both matches and training but this is on an occasional basis. The facility is considered by the club to be good but comments that the hall can be noisy when it is also be used by other clubs. The club does not use the changing facilities there.

Dane End Junior Badminton Club and Dale End Senior Badminton Club

- 3.26 This club has about 30 members, the large majority of which come from Hertford, Ware and the surrounding villages. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but now expects to grow and there are no issues restricting the expansion of the club.
- 3.27 The club uses Little Munden Memorial Hall (a village hall) year round and once or twice a week on weekday evenings. The club considers the hall to be good but notes that it has a low roof. The changing and ancillary facilities are above average in terms of quality.

Apollo Badminton Club

- 3.28 This club uses the Allenburys Sports Club in Ware. This is a private site but is hired by the club once or twice a week from autumn through to spring. It is used on weekdays in the daytime. The facility is considered well maintained and has a good floor which is ideal for coaching.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 3.29 The National Governing Bodies were invited to provide a strategic overview of their sports and local priorities in relation to East Herts.

Badminton

- 3.30 Badminton England's National Facilities Strategy 2012-16 (Badminton England, 2012) provides the framework for investment priorities. The governing body does not have any specific capital or revenue investment planned for East Hertfordshire.
- 3.31 The NGB comments that there are very few publicly available courts in the district, and Wodson Park's hire rates are too high. Badminton coaching takes place at Little Munden Memorial Hall which is not heavily used. The Drill Hall in Ware offers excellent facilities at a reasonable price, however it is a very popular venue and it is not always possible to hire the courts.
- 3.32 Badminton England considers that the lack of available courts is restricting the growth in participation.
- 3.33 The East Herts Community Badminton Network has just started and is concentrating upon junior clubs. They intend to embrace senior clubs in the near future and anticipate that the demand for badminton courts will increase.

Basketball

- 3.34 The Basketball England facilities strategy for 2017 (Basketball England, 2017) onwards is currently being developed with Sport England.
- 3.35 Basketball is a sport dependent upon the availability of affordable indoor facilities and equipment. For the sport to maintain and grow participation, the ongoing development of a comprehensive network of indoor facilities is required. Basketball England is therefore working alongside partners to create affordable, accessible and suitable indoor facilities.
- 3.36 Access to secondary school indoor basketball facilities is seen of prime importance and vital for the successful delivery of Basketball England's sports development programmes. As well as improving access to existing indoor sports facilities, the national governing body will therefore continue to develop capital projects, building

facilities with multiple basketball courts for use by clubs and to boost participation and drive talent outcomes. There are no projects known to the national governing body for East Hertfordshire.

Football Association

- 3.37 Futsal, the indoor version of the game, is growing quickly as a sport, especially in the new towns. Due to the popularity of futsal, the Football Association (FA) would like to see any new sports hall development to be designed to the larger 4 court hall recommended dimensions of Sport England. The FA believes that the income generated by futsal is crucial to the long term sustainability of sports halls.

Netball

- 3.38 Netball is traditionally played on outdoor courts with educational sites being the most highly used. However, there is increasing demand for indoor facilities as the average recreational netballer prefers to play indoors and there is a requirement for performance programmes to be based at high quality indoor venues. Netball is a non-asset owning sport and access to facilities can be a real challenge. The quality of the facilities can also affect the customer experience and affect participation levels if not given sufficient thought.
- 3.39 The national average rate of provision is 1 indoor court for every 12,000 adult females.
- 3.40 The Hertfordshire audit undertaken by England Netball identified that there were two sites being used for netball indoors: Birchwood High School (1 court) and Wodson Park Leisure Centre (2 courts). The estimated weekly usage of the two sites, which also include their outdoor courts use are: around 500 for Birchwood High, and 700 for Wodson Park. Wodson Park is the main centre, with two Back to Netball sessions per week, a league, and home team, plus county fixtures and tournaments.
- 3.41 Wodson Park Leisure Centre, is assessed as having good courts but average quality ancillary facilities. Birchwood High School is identified as having 4 average (playable) courts and 4 poorer quality outdoor courts that are unusable. There is a general recommendation to improve the existing sites.
- 3.42 The England Netball development officer for Hertfordshire is in active discussion with the Hertfordshire and Essex High School at Bishop's Stortford to explore the option of using the proposed sports hall and possibly outdoor courts for netball.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 3.43 A review of the sports hall provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. In summary:

Broxbourne

Current needs: Broxbourne sports hall provision is low compared to neighbouring authorities. The John Warner Sports Centre is estimated by the FPM to be at 100% used capacity.

Future needs: Additional sport hall space is required, but this has not been quantified, or locations identified.

Implications for East Herts: There is likely to be some export of East Herts residents into Hoddesdon because of the location of the John Warner Sports Centre. However, given that both Ware and Hertford are less than 5 miles away there are a number of choices of sports hall available to residents locally, so the total amount of export is likely to be fairly low. With limited new housing growth planned in the Hoddesdon area within East Herts, new sports hall provision to meet the demands from new growth is not required.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work summarised below.

Current needs: The sports facilities assessment identified that the existing sports halls meet all current needs, although there is no effective spare capacity.

Future needs: One additional sports hall will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing, as at 2012. This will need to be reviewed once the location and scale of the housing around Harlow is confirmed.

Implications for East Herts: As any housing in the north of Epping Forest will be close to the planned growth in the Gilston Area, Harlow and Sawbridgeworth, it will be necessary to plan future provision cooperatively.

Harlow

Current need: There are currently 6 sports hall sites in Harlow, 4 of which are on school sites. The others are the relatively new 8 court hall at the Harlow Leisurezone and the hall at Norman Booth which is just under 3 courts in size but runs a range of activities in addition to being the home for table tennis. The audit suggests that the sports hall facilities are almost fully booked in the peak period. Harlow is a net importer of users of sports halls.

There is relatively good sports hall access during the school day, to Harlow Leisurezone, Norman Booth and to Mark Hall, where three of the six badminton courts are available for community hire throughout the school day.

Future need: There is effectively no sports hall spare capacity in Harlow to cater either for any increase in demand arising from new populations, or from an increase in demand arising from higher participation rates. New sports hall provision will therefore be essential. Given that there are already 2 large size halls, the priority for Harlow will be to provide an extended network of 4 court halls, which may be provided on school sites if community use in the evenings and weekends can be assured. The other priorities are to secure and maintain the existing hall sites in Harlow and to ensure that they are fully refurbished as necessary to meet both current and future demand.

Implications for East Herts: There will be a need to provide for additional sports hall space. There are two planned secondary schools in the Gilston Area which could potentially meet the need generated from the development. Both schools should be designed to enable community use, but a better option may be to locate a new wet/dry leisure centre on a site adjacent to one of the secondary schools, owned and managed by the Council but hired as needed by the school. The phasing of this needs to be confirmed.

North Hertfordshire

Current needs: North Hertfordshire appears to have an under supply of sports halls in terms of numbers, capacity and distribution. The sports hall stock is generally old.

Future needs: The impact of population growth in the area will see the need for an additional 9.63 badminton courts worth of sports hall space.

Implications for East Herts: It is anticipated that new provision will be made within North Hertfordshire and that any exported demand to East Herts will therefore be limited.

Stevenage

Current needs: There are currently a number of sports halls in Stevenage which are available to the community, with the largest being the 8 court hall at the Arts & Leisure Centre (A&LC). The A&LC also has an indoor bowls hall which is used part time for sports hall activities such as badminton. The other halls in Stevenage are mostly 4 court and are located on school sites, so available during evenings and weekends. Primarily due to the management and programming of the existing halls, there is a slight shortfall of hall space.

Future needs: It is proposed that a replacement 8 court sports hall should be developed as part of a wet/dry leisure centre. This should be supplemented by halls

on school sites which are expected to be open to the community during evenings and weekends, in priority order:

- The Barclay School: 4 courts
- New secondary school: 4 courts (with 5300 dwellings), or 5 courts (with 8200 dwellings)
- Potentially a further 4 court sports hall elsewhere, which might be provided commercially.

Implications for East Herts: The closest and most accessible sports facilities for the East of Stevenage site will be within Stevenage. This growth was not accounted for in the Stevenage strategy assessment and recommendations, including the proposed replacement for the Arts and Leisure Centre. There needs to be discussions and confirmation with Stevenage Borough Council to ensure the size and quality of the facilities and pitches can meet the demand generated by the East of Stevenage development.

Uttlesford

Current needs: Sports halls in Uttlesford are currently operating at 'Comfortable Capacity' and there is no effective spare capacity to accommodate additional use. Levels of provision are poorest in the Great Dunmow sub-area. According to Sport England's Facilities Planning Model, 25.9% of Uttlesford demand for sports halls is exported to neighbouring areas, including East Herts.

Future needs: With all current facilities effectively fully used and no realistic prospect of increasing access to existing facilities, additional demand by 2031 will need to be met by two new four-badminton court-sized facilities.

Implications for East Herts: Some demand from Uttlesford is exported to East Herts and this will increase unless additional sports hall provision is made.

Welwyn Hatfield

Current needs: The previous strategy is about to be updated which will take into account the new housing proposals. The currently adopted strategy concluded that total amount of hall space currently is above the national and regional averages and most halls are at least average quality. The Hertfordshire Sports Village and Gosling Sports Park operate as national / regional sports complexes.

Future needs: 2-3 new 4-court sports halls will be required by 2026, but the locations were not confirmed.

Implications for East Herts: it is not clear from the strategy where the pressure points are within Welwyn Hatfield district i.e. where the additional space requirement is needed. However, it is likely that the proposed secondary school in the East Herts development adjacent to Welwyn will need to be designed to deliver community use,

both to cater for the demand arising from the East Herts development adjacent to Welwyn, and the planned growth just over the boundary into Welwyn Garden City.

- 3.44 In summary, there are clearly significant import/export of users across the boundaries of East Herts. Given this, it will be essential for effective cross-boundary planning of sports facilities, including of sports halls.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sport development

- 3.45 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) findings suggest that sports halls will only attract limited use from the largest market segment groups for adults in East Herts but this is mainly for keep fit/gym. This suggests that the level of demand for this type of facility will not increase on average beyond the 0.5% per annum rate of participation over the strategy period up to 2033.
- 3.46 Sports halls remain however one of the primary sports facilities for community activity because they can provide a venue for many different activities. This facility type therefore is and will remain one of the most important for the district throughout the plan period.

Facilities Planning Model

- 3.47 Sport England undertakes a “national run” of each facility type early in the calendar year and makes the results available to inform local authority strategy work. The findings can generally be considered a useful guide to the supply and demand for sports halls in East Herts.
- 3.48 The table in Figure 12 above includes the current number of hours that each facility is available in the peak period (weekday evenings and weekends). Opening hours information is used by the Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to help determine the balance in the demand for sports hall space and its supply, however it is important to note that the opening hours for some facilities, particularly for halls on school sites, can change fairly quickly, so the FPM can only be a snapshot in time. The FPM also considers the extent of cross-border movement, which is important for East Herts.
- 3.49 The table in Figure 14 highlights some of the most important sports hall parameters used in the model. This identifies the number of hours that facilities are expected to be open to cover the “peak period”, what the “peak period” is, and how long people are usually willing to travel to a sports hall i.e. the catchment.

Figure 14: Facilities Planning Model key parameters halls 2016

| | | | | | | | |
|---|--|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| At One Time Capacity | 24 users per 4-court hall, 13 per 144 sq m of ancillary hall. | | | | | | |
| Catchments | Car: 20 minutes Walking: 1.6 km Public transport: 20 minutes at about half the speed of a car NOTE: Catchment times are indicative, within the context of a distance decay function of the model. | | | | | | |
| Peak Period | Weekday: 09.00-10.00; 17:00 to 22:00 Saturday: 09:30 to 17:00 Sunday: 09:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 19:30 Total: 45.5 hours | | | | | | |
| Percentage of use taking place within the Peak Period | 62% | | | | | | |
| Utilised capacity considered "busy" | 80% = "comfort factor" | | | | | | |
| Percentage participation | Age | 0-15 | 16-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-59 | 60-79 |
| | Male | 9.78 | 16.31 | 13.17 | 10.37 | 7.04 | 4.98 |
| | Female | 9.79 | 14.42 | 13.68 | 13.80 | 11.89 | 9.86 |
| | | | | | | | |
| | Age | 0-15 | 16-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-59 | 60-79 |
| | Male | 1.23 | 1.04 | 0.97 | 1.06 | 1.11 | 1.34 |
| | Female | 1.15 | 0.99 | 0.98 | 1.01 | 1.03 | 1.03 |

3.50 The main findings from the Sport England FPM report for sports halls are summarised below. However, these need to be considered in the light of the findings from the audit stage of this strategy, as there are some significant differences between the baseline data used in the FPM and the audit findings. These are:

- Allenbury Sports and Social Club. Excluded from FPM but has a small amount of community sports club hire, at less than 10 hours per week.
- Heath Mount School. 4-court hall included in the FPM at 10 hours per week in the peak period, which now has no community use.

- Birchwood High School. FPM records 21.5 hours in the peak period. The school has longer opening hours.
- St Mary's Catholic School. Included in FPM at 20 hours availability in peak period, but now has no community access.

3.51 In practice these changes to the facility network approximately balances out in terms of the overall gains and losses. The facilities lost to community use are easily within the 20 minute drive time catchment of other sports halls in East Herts, so there is no significant difference in the accessibility of facilities to the community for those people with access to a car.

3.52 The key findings of the FPM for East Herts are:

- There are about 57 courts available at peak time for community use which gives a current rate of provision of 0.39 courts per 1000 population.
- There is current demand for around 40 courts at peak time from the residents of East Herts.
- About 95% of the potential demand for sports hall space is currently met, either by facilities within the district or by facilities in the neighbouring authorities. This is higher than either the national or regional averages.
- About 81% of this demand is met by sites within East Herts.
- The FPM suggests that about 29% of the users of the sports halls in East Herts are imported from the adjacent authorities. The authority is a net importer of visits, at approximately 1,142 visits per week.
- Almost all of the "unsatisfied demand" arises where people do not have access to a car and live too far away from a facility to walk there.
- The *total average* sports hall usage at 60% is below what Sport England considers busy (80%).
- The relative share of sports hall space is above the national average, reflecting the nature of the facilities including their size, but also the relatively high rates of car ownership levels within the authority. However, the relative share varies across the district, with least good access in Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth, and on the borders with Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield.

3.53 The key points which add to this summary from Sport England's FPM report are:

In general East Hertfordshire has a good level of sports hall supply. There is a modelled oversupply which is relatively significant. However, it is also clear that the distribution of facilities is not ideal to meet all the needs of residents and a number are not able to access facilities due to being outside of existing catchments.

This level of unmet demand is relatively significant but it is spread across the whole district and there is no ideal location where you could increase the hours of access, the current size of supply or provide new supply to solve this problem in a sustainable way. The demand is wide spread and therefore it would be complex and likely unsustainable to provide new direct provision to try and address this specific issue

subject to increases in population is certain areas which may arise as a result of the growth in the district.

The local authority has no direct provision. This is relatively unusual and means that they play no role in meeting the sports hall needs of its residents and therefore it is essential that positive working partnerships are developed with wider agencies if issues around access and health and wellbeing policies in the area can be delivered through sports hall activity.

This has further implications when considering the investment required to keep the current supply in good condition and available for community access. 7 of the 9 sites are in the control of schools, which are academies and therefore have their own management functions and responsibilities. Alongside this the average age of sports halls in the area is 25 years old. This tends to suggest that investment may be needed now, and will almost certainly in the medium term to ensure the existing supply is kept in good condition to meet the communities' needs. The schools responsibility is to provide for the needs of their students not the wider community. As a result the wider strategy work should look to identify which school sites are most important in meeting community needs and should identify priorities for those sites to keep them in good condition for community access and how this may be achieved including possible local authority investment and investment through the planning system.

Most of the sites have additional capacity that could potentially meet the demands generated through growth, as long as the data modelled here reflects the local picture. A number of the sites could also increase their hours of availability as a solution to meet any growing need based on the current hours of use but this is obviously something that would need significant exploration locally before it could be seen as the right solution as schools may be reluctant to provide more hours of access. As a result it could be justified that some of the investment in to these sites come from developer contributions where the new development falls within the catchment of the sites.

For a number of residents (1,551 vpwpp) they are heavily reliant on accessing facilities in neighbouring authorities for their participation. This is likely to be the case going forward and is also likely to impact significantly on those developing communities as a result of housing growth. This suggests a significant need to co-operate with neighbouring authorities on their provision and how this may impact, positively or negatively on the access opportunities of East Hertfordshire residents. This is further emphasized by two further issues. Firstly, East Hertfordshire is actually a net importer of activity. Whilst it exports 1,551 vpwpp it actually imports 2,693 due to the pressure on facilities in areas such as Harlow and Stevenage in particular. Secondly, population growth in these two areas is likely to make the problem worse and if cross border planning of the sports offer is not undertaken then this could see access issues for all parties come to a head.

The provision of sports halls is mainly provided by schools and a consequence of this is that there is little off peak provision available. The demography of the district

indicates an aging population who could feasibly use sports halls during off peak periods. This is not currently possible owing to curriculum usage.

There are a large number of possible projects on the table around indoor sports hall provision in the district. A number of these are planned for school sites and whilst these may well be justifiable to meet the needs of the school for curriculum purposes the wider strategy work should look to explore and evaluate their role and value in meeting current and future community demand / need.

- 3.54 The overall conclusions from the FPM model of the current situation are similar to the findings from the audit but are not fully comparable, which means that the findings from the FPM must be treated with caution. The audit identified that Birchwood High School in Bishop's Stortford, Haileybury Sports Complex near Hertford and the Drill Hall at Ware are all running at around or over 80% used capacity at peak time, whilst some of the other facilities are much less well used, such as Freman College in Buntingford, and Bishop's Stortford College, both of which are operating at about 25% used capacity. The most notable difference between the FPM estimate and audit is in relation to the Drill Hall, which is actually operating at about 80% used capacity at peak time but appears in the FPM model at about 29%.

Summary of current situation

- 3.55 There are currently 11 sports halls on 10 sites in East Herts with community use, of which 7 are school sites. Wodson Park and the Drill Hall at Ware are both independent trusts. There is one commercial/private industrial facility, the Allenbury Sports and Social Club in Ware. This was the GSK staff facility and has very limited other community club use. There are no facilities owned or managed by the Council. Most of the halls are either good or standard quality, with the poorest facilities being the Drill Hall and Allenbury Sports and Social Club, both of which are in Ware.
- 3.56 Of the sports hall facilities, only Wodson Park and the Drill Hall, both in Ware, are available for community use during the school day. The demand for day time access to sports halls is however likely grow further with the ageing population over much of the district. This lack of access during the daytime is already impacting on the authority's ability to deliver on its health and well-being objectives for those people who are not working.
- 3.57 Overall however the areas of the authority with least good access to sports hall space at peak time are at Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth, and on the borders of Stevenage and Welwyn Hatfield.
- 3.58 The site audits suggest that although some halls are busy, others are relatively lightly used, which in part may reflect the programming, booking policies, marketing, management and hire charges at some sites. According to the Facilities Planning Model, East Herts is a net importer of users of sports halls, and this pattern of use is probably similar to that for swimming, illustrated by Figure 3-Figure 7.

- 3.59 The Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator calculates that the current demand for sports hall space from the East Herts residents is around 0.28 badminton courts per 1000 population.
- 3.60 The review of the adjacent authorities' strategies indicates that there is no spare capacity at Harlow for further demand arising from East Herts, and that there are also likely to be capacity issues at Welwyn Garden City and potentially at Stevenage.
- 3.61 The 3+ badminton court sports hall network is supplemented by community and village halls which can provide capacity for some activities such as fitness, but there are only a very small number of these halls which have high enough ceilings for activities such as badminton. This restricts their ability to compensate for the lack of the larger sports hall space.

Future supply and demand

- 3.62 There will be a need for some additional sports hall space to meet the needs of the growing community in East Herts. Figure 15 estimates the demand which might arise from the new developments at peak time (weekday evenings and weekends), at 0% increase in participation and 0.5% increase in participation but using the current East Herts demographic profile. It is recognised that the age profile of the sustainable urban extensions will be slightly younger and may generate more demand, but this will be balanced out by an ageing population across the rest of the catchment.
- 3.63 The issue of a lack of daytime access to sports hall space in parts of the district is likely to continue into the long term unless either new provision can be made with daytime access secured, or the existing schools across East Hertfordshire are enabled and encouraged to allow community access during the school day. At the present time, the option of extending community use during the school day appears to be unlikely on most sites, primarily because of child protection concerns and also the need to deliver curriculum activities.

Figure 15: Peak time demand arising from new housing

| Growth area | Number of dwellings on each site | Number of people at 2.32 persons per dwelling | Number of badminton courts of sports hall demand at peak time @ 0.28 courts per 1000 population | Number of badminton courts of sports hall demand at peak time @ 0.28 courts per 1000 * 5% increased participation = 0.29 courts per 1000 population |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|---|
| Bishop's Stortford | 330 | 766 | | |
| | 1400 | 3248 | | |
| | 800 | 1856 | | |
| | 750 | 1740 | | |
| | 400 | 928 | | |
| | 150 | 348 | | |
| | 100 | 232 | | |
| | 50 | 116 | | |
| | 3980 | 9234 | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| Sawbridgeworth | 200 | 464 | | |
| | 125 | 290 | | |
| | 175 | 406 | | |
| | 500 | 1160 | 0.3 | 0.3 |
| Gilston | 3050 | 7076 | 2.0 | 2.1 |
| | 7000 | 16240 | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| Hertford and Ware | 1000 | 2320 | | |
| | 300 | 696 | | |
| | 250 | 580 | | |
| | 150 | 348 | | |
| | 200 | 464 | | |
| | 50 | 116 | | |
| | 1950 | 4524 | 1.3 | 1.3 |
| East of Welwyn Garden City | 1350 | 3132 | 0.9 | 0.9 |
| East of Stevenage | 600 | 1392 | 0.4 | 0.4 |
| Buntingford | 1100 | 2552 | 0.7 | 0.7 |
| | | 45310 | | |

Meeting the needs of the future

- 3.64 The size of East Hertfordshire and the location of the planned housing means that the future supply of facilities should also be considered at the main town level rather than district wide. Key issues at present are the lack of daytime access to sports hall space, and the fact that the Council has no direct control over any sports hall facility.

3.65 The ways in which additional “capacity” might be unlocked across the current network of halls could include:

- Via the provision of 3G pitches, to allow football to be relocated to the pitches.
- Extending the opening hours at the school operated facilities.
- New sports halls provided on new secondary school sites, designed and managed during the peak period for community use.

New 3G pitches and relocation of football use

3.66 There are a number of proposals for 3G pitches across the district. These will primarily absorb the football training relocated from grass pitch sites but may also have the capacity to attract the futsal/small-sided game out of the sports halls. If so, this will impact on the extent of programme time for football use in sports halls, releasing more time for other activities. At this time, there are no confirmed plans for delivery of new 3G pitches in the district, so it should be assumed that the current programming and demand patterns will remain and need to be planned for.

Extending the opening hours

3.67 The schools operating their own facilities, including the independent schools, seem unlikely to be willing to extend their opening hours further, either because the facilities are in use for the school, or the costs of doing so are too high. Where the facilities are simply closed during the peak period, then there may be opportunities for the Council (and through them, clubs) to explore supporting the schools to extend their hours. However at this time, significant changes to the opening hours of the facilities on school sites is not anticipated.

New sports halls

3.68 There are already proposals for a number of new halls at existing secondary school sites, and there are also proposals for new secondary schools in some of the identified growth locations.

Bishop’s Stortford

3.69 The main issue identified in relation to sports hall provision in the area is the lack of sports hall access during the day time. The total additional planned housing growth in the Pre-Submission Plan in Bishop’s Stortford is around 4,000 homes. These together will generate new sports hall demand of around 3 badminton courts at peak time. As new sports halls are usually a minimum size of 4-courts, the need is for one 4-court sports hall.

3.70 Some of the existing sports halls in the Bishop’s Stortford area are running well above levels which Sport England would consider to be “busy”, whilst there is a small amount of spare capacity at Bishop’s Stortford College and Bishop’s Stortford High

School. Taken together however, there is effectively no spare capacity in this area of the district. Therefore additional provision will be required.

- 3.71 East Herts Council would wish to have the option of developing a sports hall on the Grange Paddocks site which can then meet the community needs for sports halls during the school day. However, there are two key considerations; firstly, a sports hall may impact on the ability of the authority to develop an artificial grass pitch on the site, and secondly, the site is in the green belt, and is therefore restricted in development terms. The planning restriction may be tested through a planning application.
- 3.72 Given these restrictions, alternative provision is required to be sought in Bishop's Stortford, although these are unlikely to provide sports hall space during the school day.
- 3.73 The Hertfordshire and Essex High School has funding for a new sports hall, so this could help to meet some of the needs of the community during evenings and weekends (at peak time). The school is already in detailed discussion with East Herts Council and with the national governing bodies for netball and judo about the design and use of the proposed hall. Once the programming, management, and focus of this facility is confirmed, then the amount of community use still needing to be provided for in the longer term in Bishop's Stortford can be more clearly defined. The current proposal is for the sports hall to be operated, at least part of the time, on a pay and play basis.
- 3.74 Two new secondary schools are planned for the Bishop's Stortford area, both of which will be provided with sports hall space. Once the outcome of the discussions at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School are known, then it will be possible to confirm the community need for the two planned sports halls on school sites at Bishop's Stortford North and South. The assessment suggests that the Bishop's Stortford North secondary school should have a sports hall and ancillary facilities designed for community use and appropriately located on the school site to facilitate community access, including during the school day.

Hertford and Ware

- 3.75 The issue of day time access in this area of the district is less critical than in the Bishop's Stortford area because the large hall at Wodson Park is a community facility, and the Drill Hall at Ware is also available. There are around 1,000 new homes planned for Hertford. This is likely to generate a need for around 1 badminton court of sports hall space. With the proposed development of the 4-court hall at Richard Hale school, if community use can be secured and made fully available throughout the peak time, then this should be sufficient to meet most of the needs arising from the new developments.
- 3.76 There are around 1,000 new homes planned for Ware, which will potentially generate the need for around 0.6 badminton courts of hall space. Although the

Wodson Park and Drill Hall facilities are busy, Presdales Academy has some spare capacity (about 0.8 of badminton court). Taken together however, they have sufficient capacity to potentially meet much of the new demand generated from the development.

- 3.77 The priority in Ware is the retention of Wodson Park as a good quality facility and to improve the Drill Hall. Any developers' contributions should therefore be towards these two facilities.

Gilston Area

- 3.78 The Gilston Area is expected to have around 10,000 new homes, of which about 3,000 are due to be completed by 2033. Two new secondary schools are planned for the area, and the policies anticipate them to have community use. The sports halls in Harlow are generally already at capacity, so there is a need to directly meet the new demands of the Gilston Area within the area. Given the issues that the authority has experienced with the joint use of schools, and the need to also provide additional and replacement swimming pool space, a new wet/dry leisure centre should be planned for the Gilston Area as a new leisure centre. This should have fitness provision and studio space to help balance the revenue costs. The site should be adjacent to one of the secondary schools, be owned and managed by the district council, and be available to hire by the secondary school. The design of the new facility will be critical to its success.
- 3.79 Given the interrelationship between the proposed leisure centre and the proposed secondary school, the leisure centre should be phased with the development of the school.
- 3.80 The advantage of East Herts Council taking direct control of the proposed leisure centre will help to ensure that there is some sports hall availability during the school day, and the Council has some direct control over some sports hall space.

East of Welwyn Garden City

- 3.81 Welwyn Hatfield has already identified a need for a new swimming pool in Welwyn Garden City and the new housing growth both within Welwyn Hatfield and East Herts is sufficient to justify a new 4 court sports hall. A secondary school is planned for the East of Welwyn Garden City site, again with community use. It will be important for the two authorities to work together to identify the options for a new wet/dry leisure centre, which might be well placed adjacent to the proposed new secondary school. There will be a need for cross-boundary co-operation, and potentially the sharing of developers' contributions in order to deliver the best strategic facility option for the expanding Welwyn Garden City. Welwyn Hatfield is about to refresh its strategy, so there is an opportunity to consider the implications of the planned housing growth through this mechanism. The new leisure centre would require a large fitness gym and studio space to help balance the revenue costs of any new leisure centre.

- 3.82 As with the proposed leisure centre for the Gilston Area, the advantage of East Herts Council taking direct control of the proposed leisure centre will help to ensure that there is some sports hall availability during the school day, and the Council has some direct control over some sports hall space.
- 3.83 Given the interrelationship between the proposed leisure centre and the proposed secondary school, the leisure centre should be phased with the development of the school.

Buntingford

- 3.84 There is substantial housing growth planned around Buntingford, but there is a new sports hall at Freman College. This facility has a planning condition for community use and should be able to meet much of the demand into the future for this town. The facility is however currently only used at about 25% of its capacity, so the priority is to support increased community access, possibly through the changes to the management and programming of the facility.
- 3.85 The Buntingford area has limited local access to sports hall facilities during the school day but some of the area is within the drive time catchment of Wodson Park because of the good road connections using the A10. The priority for day time access in this area is provision via village halls and community centres.

Stevenage

- 3.86 The growth around Stevenage of 600 houses will be within the catchment of the proposed “new” school at the currently closed Barnwell East site. The priority here will be to work with Stevenage Borough Council to meet the needs of the East of Stevenage development by improvements/extensions at sports hall sites in Stevenage including potentially at Barnwell East site.

Sawbridgeworth

- 3.87 There are no proposed new sports facilities in Sawbridgeworth, but limited housing growth is proposed in the town. The good quality Leventhorpe hall is operating at about 70% used capacity at peak time, so has a small amount of spare space (0.3 courts) to cater for both the additional housing and any growth in participation. However, the town is close to both Gilston and Harlow, and there is also growth planned in Epping Forest, east of Harlow. The impact on the Leventhorpe facility will therefore depend upon the future network of facility provision within the wider East Herts/Harlow area.
- 3.88 There is no day time access to sports halls in the town, but Sawbridgeworth is easily within the drive time catchment of Harlow Leisurezone.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 3.89 The assessment above considers the need for sports halls, including the growth proposed in the District Plan Pre-submission version for the period up to 2033. It is however important to have a mechanism which can be used to assess the impact of an individual proposed development on the sports hall network. The following are proposed as the Provision Guide (see also Figure 48) for sports halls, the justification for which is contained within the preceding assessment.
- 3.90 The estimate of demand is based on the Sports Facility Calculator outputs using the forecast demographics for 2033, but increasing the demand by 0.5% per annum from 2017 through to 2033.

| Quantity of demand per 1,000 population | Accessibility | Quality |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 0.29 badminton courts fully available at peak time | 20 minutes by car | Design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards |

Recommendations for sports halls

Council's role in sports hall provision

- 3.91 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will continue to support community access to sports halls via its partners.
- 3.92 If new leisure centres are developed in the Gilston Area and to provide for the East of Welwyn Garden City, the Council will seek to ensure some community access to the sports halls during the school day.

Cross boundary co-operation

- 3.93 The Council will actively seek to develop co-ordinated mechanisms which provide solutions in respect of cross-border import and export of demand for sports facilities:
- The Gilson Area – with Harlow Council, Epping Forest District Council and Uttlesford District Council.
 - East of Welwyn Garden City – with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.
 - East of Stevenage – with Stevenage Borough Council.

- 3.94 Undertake local scenario tests using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model to confirm the requirements, particularly for The Gilston Area, and East of Welwyn Garden City.

Sites

Protect

- 3.95 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing network of sports hall space across the district, and to ensure the affordability of the facilities to clubs and individuals.
- 3.96 Where possible, seek to establish formalised community use agreements with schools to protect community use.

Enhance

- 3.97 Improve the Drill Hall at Ware to ensure that it is high quality and able to support a wide range of uses.
- 3.98 Support Freman College at Buntingford to develop community use by changes, if appropriate, to the management and programming of the facility.

Provide

- 3.99 The priorities for new delivery and which need to be confirmed through feasibility work where appropriate are:
- Hertfordshire and Essex High School: 4 court hall with specialism for netball, and separate dojo.
 - Bishop's Stortford North secondary school: 4 court hall designed and built for community use based on club bookings.
 - Grange Paddocks: a 4 court hall as part of a phased development of the site. This will require that as a case is made through normal planning processes outlining the exceptional circumstances.
 - Gilston Area: a 4 court hall as part of a new leisure centre adjacent to one of the new secondary schools, and available on a pay and play basis but available to hire to the school for curriculum and extra-curricular use.
 - East of Welwyn Garden City: a 4 court hall as part of a new leisure centre adjacent to one of the secondary school, and available on a pay and play basis but available to hire to the school for curriculum and extra-curricular use.
- 3.100 All new school facilities should be designed to encourage and accommodate community use, including during the school day. The site layout must facilitate this, and the sports halls designed with the minimum size for community use, as set out in the Sport England guidance (Sport England, 2012).

3.101 The hours that a new sports hall facility should be made available for community use are the peak period:

Weekday: 09.00 to 10.00; 17:00 to 22:00

Saturday: 09:30 to 17:00

Sunday: 09:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 19:30

Total: 45.5 hours

3.102 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.

3.103 The proposed leisure centres shared with schools should have some community access during the school day to the sports hall facilities.

3.104 All new facilities supported by capital monies from public sources or grant aid should be secured for community use via a binding legal agreement. The length of the agreement to reflect the size of the public support/grant involved.

SECTION 4: SWIMMING POOLS

- 4.1 Swimming pools might be considered the most important sports facility type in East Herts as they are used by most of the community, from the very youngest through to people in old age. This assessment considers only indoor pools which are open year round and excludes lidos and other outdoor pools which are only open during the summer months. This follows the best practice guidance provided by Sport England.
- 4.2 East Hertfordshire Council is directly involved in swimming pool provision and the Council's Leisure strategy aims to complement rather than compete with other provision. The Council has a pivotal role in providing pay and play opportunities which cannot be provided through other sectors.
- 4.3 There are two pools in East Herts which are run as leisure centres, Grange Paddocks and Hartham, plus three joint use facilities at Chauncy Academy (Fanshawe Pool and Gym), Leventhorpe Pool and Gym at Leventhorpe, and Ward Freman Pool. These "public" facilities plus Haileybury Sports Complex at Hertford, provide a spread of pay and play swimming opportunities. They are supplemented by pools on other school sites and commercial venues, which are either available to clubs/community organisations or on a registered membership basis. The only public sites with access for swimming during the school day are Grange Paddocks and Hartham.
- 4.4 Swimming is an important and attractive activity for everyone in the community and is seen as an important life skill. Primary schools are required to arrange some swimming lessons for pupils, and the public pools are used for schools swimming.

Pool design and activities

- 4.5 As with sports halls, the aspiration to make swimming as accessible as possible to the largest number of people would suggest that a network of small pools would be best. However, small pools limit flexibility in terms of the range of activities that can be undertaken, the ability to operate more than one activity at any time, and the level of performance that can be accommodated. They can also be more expensive to operate relative to large pools. General community needs should ideally also be balanced with the wider sports development requirements, including support to clubs to offer opportunities in a wide range of pool-based activities such as:

- Swimming
- Water Polo
- Synchronised Swimming
- Canoeing
- Lifesaving
- Diving
- Sub Aqua

- 4.6 In general terms, the higher the level of performance, the greater the demands on pool size, depth and specific competition requirements (spectator capacity and specialist equipment). For example, a 25m x 6 lane pool can accommodate local/club level swimming galas but a 25m x 8 lane pool with electronic timing is required for county galas and league events.
- 4.7 Moveable bulkheads that can sub-divide pools and moveable floors that can vary water depth can significantly increase a pool's flexibility, but the design of any new pool will determine what activities can be accommodated.
- 4.8 The national governing body responsible for high performance swimming is British Swimming, and its guidance note, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles* (British Swimming, n.d.), provides a useful summary of the minimum depths of water for different activities (Figure 16).

Figure 16: Pool depths for range of activities
(based on British Swimming, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles*)

| Activity | Minimum water depth | | | | |
|---|---------------------|------|------|------|-------------|
| | 1.2m | 1.5m | 1.8m | 2.0m | 2.4m |
| Competition swimming (starting blocks) | x | | | | |
| Teaching shallow dives and racing starts | | | x | | |
| Synchronised swimming, low level training | | | x | | |
| Synchronised swimming, advanced training | | | x | | 10x12m area |
| Water polo (for some or all of pool) | | | x | | |
| Sub-aqua training | | x | | | |
| Canoe practice | | x | | | |
| Lifesaving and practice | | | x | | |
| Octopush | x | x | x | x | |

- 4.9 Teaching or learner pools on the same sites as main pools provide the opportunity to offer a wide range of activities catering for the maximum number of users possible. Teaching pools can be maintained at a slightly higher temperature than main pools making them suitable for use by young children, non swimmers and those with a disability. They offer income generating potential not only through pool parties and other hirings, but also by reducing the impact on programming in the main pool. A teaching pool significantly enhances the local authority's ability to deliver its Learn to Swim programme and therefore it is seen as desirable that there should be at least one in each major centre of population.
- 4.10 A typical 25m x 6 lane pool is approximately 325m². Many community pools have separate learner or teaching pools. The size of such a pool, depth and design will depend upon the sports development objectives, site and budget constraints.

Where the main pool is designed as a competition venue, then the learner pool may be designed in part as a warm-up pool. Depending upon the size and design, learner pools can also cater for water polo and syncro.

Participation in swimming

- 4.11 Nationally over 2.5 million adults are swimming at least once a week, but the number of people swimming has fallen between 2007/08 and 2015/16, particularly amongst those from the lower socio-economic backgrounds. The age of swimmers is reasonably evenly split across adults, but more women swim (approx 2/3rds) than men (1/3rd), and more of those in the higher socio-economic groups.
- 4.12 This slight downward trend in national participation has been mirrored by the experience of the Hertfordshire County Sports Partnership area. As it is not possible to track swimming participation rates for East Herts alone, it is assumed that this decline in swimming is also happening in the district.
- 4.13 However, the overall rate of swimming participation in East Herts appears to be about 1.3% higher than the regional average, and 1.1% higher than the national average. (Sport England, 2017)

Current provision

- 4.14 Figure 17 lists the indoor swimming pools together with their size, ownership/management, a summary of their quality, opening hours for community use and access policy, and estimated level of community use. Figure 18 shows their locations.

Figure 17: Indoor swimming pools open to the public

| Site Name | Number of lanes | Length m | Width m | Area sq m | Quality | Ownership Type/Nature of site | Access Type | Management | Hours available where restricted in peak time | Estimate of used capacity at peak time based on bookings. [FPM estimate] | Spare capacity in sq m water space scaled by hours (70% considered "full") |
|---|-----------------|----------|---------|-----------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------|---|--|--|
| BISHOPS STORTFORD COLLEGE | 6 | 25 | 14 | 350 | Good quality pool and changing | Independent School | Sports Club/Community Association | School | 17.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 16.00 - 20.00 Saturday and 10.00 - 16.00 Sunday. (26 hours) | 50% | 45 |
| | 0 | 14 | 7 | 98 | | | | | | [69%] | |
| FANSHAWE POOL & GYM CHAUNCY SCHOOL, WARE | 4 | 25 | 10 | 250 | Standard quality pool and changing | Academy Joint use facility | Pay and Play | Trust | All | 49% [40%] | 27 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----|------|-----|--|--|--|--------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| GRANGE PADDOCK LEISURE CENTRE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 5 | 25 | 12.5 | 313 | Standard/ poor pool and changing | East Herts Council Leisure Centre | Pay and Play | Trust | All | 69% [38%] | 4 |
| | 0 | 13 | 8 | 94 | | | | | | | |
| HAILEYBURY SPORTS COMPLEX, HERTFORD | 6 | 25 | 13 | 325 | Good quality pool and changing | Independent School | Pay and Play | Commercial Management | 07.00 - 22.00 Monday - Friday, 07.00 - 19.00 Saturday - Sunday. Times within range vary dependant on school use (up to 52 hours) | 25% [60%] | 49 (Note 1) |
| HARTHAM LEISURE CENTRE, HERTFORD | 6 | 25 | 13 | 325 | Good quality pool and changing | East Herts Council Leisure Centre | Pay and Play | Trust | All | 67% [55%] | 5 |
| | 0 | 12 | 6 | 72 | | | | | | | |
| | 0 | 13 | 8 | 100 | | | | | | | |
| HERTFORDSHIRE AND ESSEX HIGH SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 4 | 25 | 8 | 200 | Poor quality pool and changing facilities. | Foundation School | Sports Club/ Community Association | School | 18.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 13.00 | 50% [68%] | 18 |

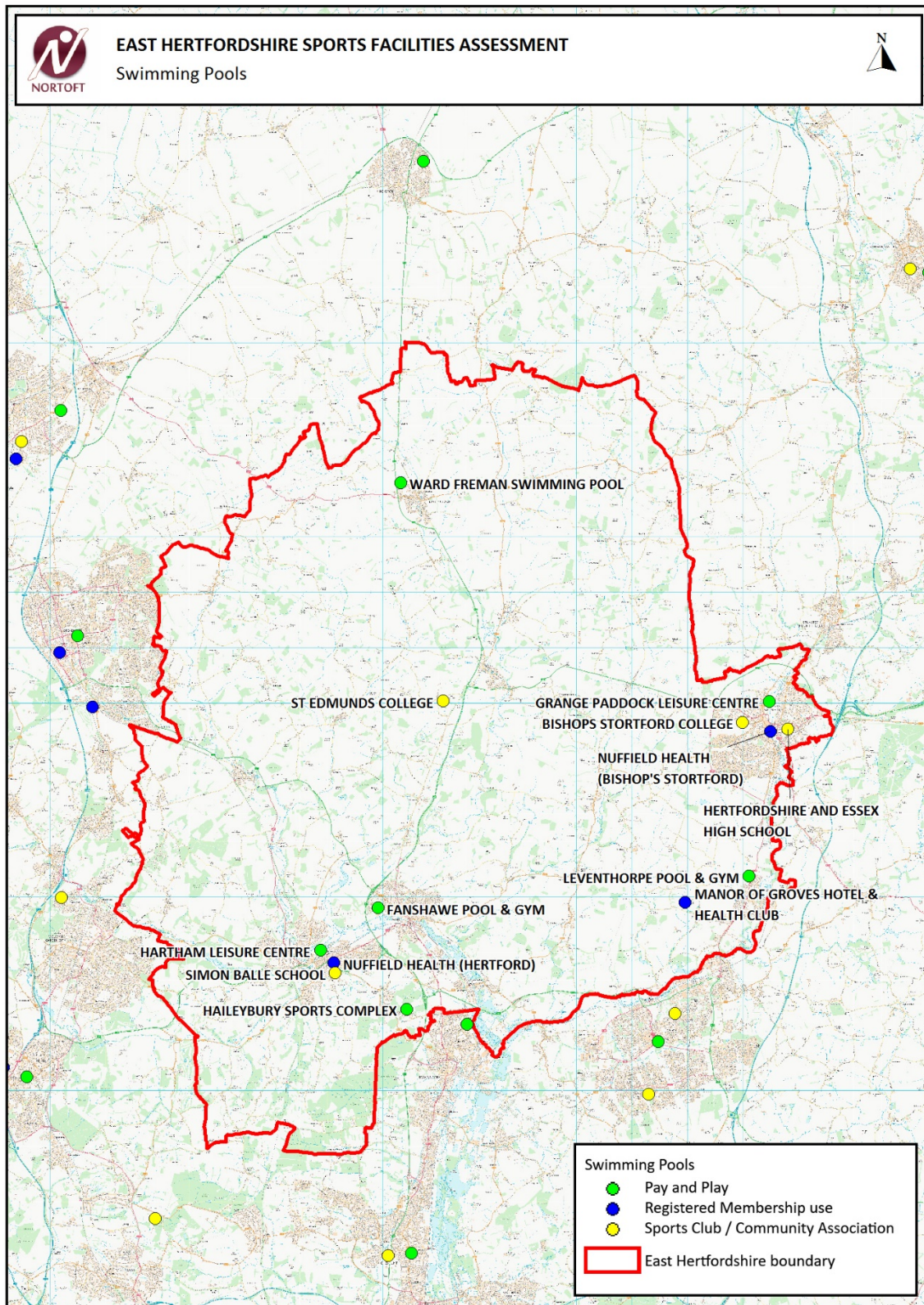
| | | | | | | | | | Saturday - Sunday. (23 hours) | | |
|--|---|----|----|-----|---|--------------------------------------|--|--------------------------|---|------------------|--------------------|
| LEVENTHORPE POOL & GYM, SAWBRIDGEWORTH | 5 | 25 | 10 | 250 | Standard quality pool and changing | Academy Joint use facility | Pay and Play | Trust | 12.30 - 13.30 and 17.30 - 21.30 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 16.00 Saturday - Sunday (34 hours) | 51% [44%] | 31 |
| MANOR OF GROVES HOTEL & HEALTH CLUB, SAWBRIDGEWORTH | 2 | 20 | 10 | 200 | Good quality pool and changing | Commercial | Registered Membership use | Commercial Management | All | [35%] | 35 (Note 2) |
| NUFFIELD HEALTH, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 2 | 20 | 8 | 160 | Good quality pool and changing | Other | Registered Membership use | Other | All | [100%] | 0 |
| NUFFIELD HEALTH, HERTFORD | 2 | 20 | 8 | 160 | Good quality pool and changing | Other | Registered Membership use | Other | All | [72%] | 0 |
| SIMON BALLE SCHOOL, HERTFORD | 4 | 25 | 8 | 188 | Good quality pool and changing | Academy | Sports Club/ Community Association | School | 18.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 09.00 - 21.00 | 50% [52%] | 21 |

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--|---|----|----|-----|---|---|--|--------|--|---------------|----|
| | | | | | | | | | Saturday - Sunday. (29.5 hours) | | |
| ST EDMUNDS COLLEGE, WARE | 3 | 20 | 10 | 200 | Standard quality pool and changing | Independent School | Sports Club/ Community Association | School | 17.00 - 18.30 on Mondays (1.5 hours) | 100% [39%] | 0 |
| WARD FREMAN SWIMMING POOL, BUNTINGFORD | 5 | 25 | 10 | 250 | Standard quality pool and changing | Hertfordshire County Council Joint use facility | Pay and Play | Trust | 17.00 - 21.00 Monday - Friday, 07.30 - 15.00 Saturday - Sunday. (32 hours) | 44% [38%] | 95 |

Notes

- 1 As Haileybury site has irregular hours, it is assumed that the spare capacity is 30% of the theoretical total.
- 2 Primarily marketed as a health spa, so spare capacity reduced to 50% of the theoretical total.

Figure 18: Swimming pools



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

Assessment of current supply/demand

- 4.15 The swimming facility network is currently the subject of a more detailed feasibility study commissioned by East Herts Council being undertaken by Max Associates. This considers the facility options in more detail, including looking at the implications of the capital and revenue costs of retaining each of the leisure centres and joint use facility sites. The findings of this strategy have informed the broad options being considered for each site, and the Max Associates work will provide a detailed delivery programme for each of the sites managed by the authority. The final report with the recommendations for each site is expected to be considered by the Council in summer 2017.

The strategic overview

- 4.16 The relatively high level of swimming participation in East Hertfordshire helps to meet the Council's objectives in relation to health and well being. A key objective of the Council is that the network of swimming pools should remain as accessible as possible, whilst also ensuring that it is as cost effective as possible. The pool networks need to be considered both at the district level and in the context of the adjacent authorities' facilities, as the 20 minute drive time catchments for pools such as the John Warner pool at Hoddesdon, and the Harlow Leisurezone, extend well into East Hertfordshire.
- 4.17 In broad terms the rural areas of East Herts have an ageing population with a decreasing demand for swimming, and most travel to pools is by car. There is no significant housing growth in the rural areas of the district other than the consented new housing around Buntingford. The priority across the rural areas is therefore to ensure that the existing network of facilities is retained, both in terms of capacity and location.
- 4.18 In the more southern part of the district and the towns including Bishop's Stortford, the key issues are more related to the capacity of the network and maximising the sustainable travel opportunities to pool sites, particularly walking and cycling.

Condition and liabilities at the existing Council facilities

- 4.19 The conditions surveys of the leisure centre and joint use pools in 2015 (see para 2.24 onwards) appear to show that each of the pools has a broadly similar level of capital cost requirement in terms of the backlog of works to be done and the future needs, with the lowest estimate cost in 2015 being Fanshawe at around £358,000 and the highest at Hartham at £682,000. None of the pools are in imminent danger of closure if the urgent and essential works are completed.
- 4.20 The facilities at Grange Paddocks, Hartham and Fanshawe are all operating at a very slight surplus, whilst the other facilities, Leventhorpe and Ward Freman, require significant annual subsidies, at around £100-120,000 each (see para 2.30 onwards).

Usage of the existing pools

- 4.21 Across Bishop's Stortford area, Grange Paddocks is used at about 69% of its capacity at peak time, giving theoretical spare capacity of about 4 sq m at peak time. The Hertfordshire and Essex High School pool (200 sq m) is used at about 50% of its capacity. The Bishop's Stortford College is also used at about 50% of capacity but has no scope to increase. The Nuffield pool is estimated to be running at 100% full by the FPM, but there is no usage information to confirm this estimate.
- 4.22 This gives a total spare capacity in the pools around Bishop's Stortford of about 226 sq m, excluding Bishop's Stortford College, if all pools were to be running at 100% full. However, if the objective is to run the pools at around 70% full, the level that Sport England considers to be "busy", then there is a total of around 44 sq m surplus capacity at the present time. This includes the poor quality Hertfordshire and Essex High School pool which is potentially under threat. Without this school and excluding Bishop's Stortford College, then there would be a shortfall of swimming provision.
- 4.23 The Sawbridgeworth area has the Leventhorpe pool running at about 51% of used capacity plus the Manor of Groves Hotel and Health Club at about 35%, according to the FPM. The spare capacity in the joint use public pool is the equivalent of around 38 sq m. There is nominally around 70 sq m of water space at the Manor of Groves Hotel and Health Club, but with its peak membership costs of up to £61.00 per month, the facilities are not comparable for more casual swimmers. The site does however offer children's swimming lessons for 12.5 hours per week during peak times, so may be competitive on this level. For the purposes of the strategy, the spare capacity of the Manor of Groves site has therefore been estimated at 35 sq m. This gives a current total spare capacity for the Sawbridgeworth area of around 73 sq m.
- 4.24 The Hertford and Ware area has a number of pools: Hartham Leisure Centre running at about 67% used capacity, Fanshawe Pool and Gym at 49% used capacity, Haileybury at about 25% used capacity, Nuffield Health at 72% used capacity, Simon Balle at 50% used capacity, and St Edmunds College with no spare capacity. Taken together and very simplistically, this means that this area of the authority has around 252 sq m of surplus water space at the current time, based on the objective of the pools running at an average of 70%. If the Haileybury independent school is excluded from this assessment, then this leaves 106 sq m of spare capacity at the current time.
- 4.25 The only pool in the Buntingford area is the Ward Freman site which is currently running at about 44% used capacity. The spare capacity here is therefore about 65 sq m.

Council facility catchments

- 4.26 The catchment maps from the public facilities (see Figure 3 to Figure 7) illustrate that everyone with access to a car can reach more than one pool in the authority. The Hartham and Fanshawe pools have similar catchments, whilst Grange Paddocks draws from a wide area but the number of users is weighted towards the east side

of the district. The Ward Freman pool in Buntingford primarily attracts users from the rural areas of the district, whilst the Leventhorpe pool has the smallest catchment, and has about 33% of the users from outside of the authority.

Management

- 4.27 The management arrangements at the Leventhorpe site are unnecessarily complex. The pool and health and fitness facilities are managed by Everyone Active, the Council's contractor and the sports hall, artificial grass pitch and a second health and fitness facility, are managed by the Academy's appointed contractor. Opportunities for combining the management, with consequent cost savings through economies of scale, are therefore being explored as part of the Max Associates current work.

Pools at risk

- 4.28 The only pool thought to be "at risk" is the pool at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School in Bishop's Stortford. This pool is owned and managed by the school and is open 3 hours on weekday evenings and 4 hours on Saturdays and Sundays. The quality of the pool and the changing is poor. Assuming that the school goes ahead with its sports hall development, this pool may be closed. The audit showed that it was used at about 50% of its capacity during the opening hours, giving a weekly estimated use of around 380 visits per week, all the peak period, or the equivalent of 44 sq m of water space across the peak period. If this pool was to be closed, this area of water space would need to be met elsewhere in pools in Bishop's Stortford.

Consultation findings

Club comments

Ware Swimming Club

- 4.29 This club has about 130 members, of which about 100 are juniors or minis. Most of the members are local to the club, travelling about 10 minutes to reach the pool. About 90% of them come from Hertford, Ware and the surrounding villages, with a small number also coming from Buntingford, Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth. The club's membership has increased over the last 5 years and it anticipates growing in the next 5 years. The club does not have a waiting list or club development plan and notes that the issues impacting upon the potential growth of the club are a lack of facilities and the cost of hire.
- 4.30 The club uses Fanshawe pool as their home site and book it 3-6 times a week on weekday evenings. There are no issues booking the space required during the weekdays but the hire charges and booking policies at the weekends mean that the club uses a facility outside of the authority for their galas. The main problems reported by the club are the cleanliness of the pool and changing, and the poor air quality. The changing is described as average quality but the other ancillary facilities are below average.

Paddocks Piranhas Water Polo Club

- 4.31 The water polo club currently has about 30 members, with about 20 being adults the others juniors. The juniors travel up to 30 minutes to reach the club whilst the adults are slightly more local at up to 20 minutes. Most of the members are from Bishop's Stortford with the remainder from the Sawbridgeworth area. The club grew over the last 5 years and has no waiting lists. However, the club is facing issues with a lack of coaches, lack of volunteers, lack of facilities and the cost of facility hire.
- 4.32 The club uses Grange Paddocks in Bishop's Stortford once or twice a week at weekend evenings (1 hour), which they find fairly easy to book. The changing and ancillary facilities are described as being of average quality.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 4.33 Swim England comments that they would like to see the local authority swimming stock maintained at its current level but with any replacement facilities designed to be more sustainable and flexible. Swim England recognises that there is a huge water area surplus in the district but that this is primarily generated by the large number of old educational sites and some of these sites will inevitably close in the near future. For this reason, Swim England's view is that eventually the pool stock will reduce until the local authority provision will become the main provider. Swim England would wish this specific swimming pool stock level to be maintained as the four existing pool sites, or their replacements, are likely to reflect the districts supply/demand need more closely. This provision may be subject to rationalisation where lesser water space area with better utility may result.
- 4.34 Swim England would also like to see at least one 25m x 8 lane competition pool with 250 spectator seats, as this would help the sustainability of any new pool. The site should also have a 20m x 10m learner pool with a depth of 2m and moveable floor. This could then accommodate both water polo and syncro swimming, both of which have growing interest in the area.
- 4.35 Swim England identify the best location for this pool to be Bishop's Stortford, but also acknowledge that this would need to be both a replacement facility for the current Grange Paddocks and in the longer term, also for the current Leventhorpe site.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 4.36 The following summarises the swimming pool provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities:

Broxbourne

Current needs: There are two pool sites in Hoddesdon, the John Warner Sports Centre and Robert Barclay Academy (previously called Sheredes School). The John Warner site is suitable for competitions. The school pool is 20 x 8 m and is well used by clubs during evenings. The total amount of water space is low in the authority but the accessible provision in the adjacent authority areas means that most demand can be met. The John Warner pool is in good condition. The FPM estimated used capacity of the John Warner pool is 69% and the Sheredes School pool, 59%. No additional pool space is required at the present time.

Future needs: Additional pool space may be required to meet future demand, but this is uncertain. The priority was to improve the Sheredes School pool.

Implications for East Herts: Given the capacity at the John Warner Sports Centre, the existing export of use from East Herts should be able to continue into the future.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work summarised below.

Current needs: The sports facilities assessment identified that the five existing pools are all operating at 'comfortable capacity' and there is therefore no effective spare capacity at present.

Future needs: Additional water space equivalent to four lanes of a 25m pool will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing (as at 2012), but no location was identified.

Implications for East Herts: As any housing in the north of Epping Forest will be close to the planned growth in the Gilston Area, Harlow and Sawbridgeworth, it will be necessary to plan future provision cooperatively.

Harlow

Current need: There is only one swimming pool site which has secure community use, the Harlow Leisurezone facility. The other pools used by the community are on secondary school sites, at Burnt Mill and at Stewards. There is a general lack of capacity for swimming and for club use at the Harlow Leisurezone. The school pools are ageing and there is no security of use.

Future need: There is effectively no swimming pool capacity in Harlow to cater either for any increase in demand arising from new populations, or from an increase in demand arising from higher participation rates.

Implications for East Herts: There will be a need to provide new swimming pool space for the Gilston Area adjacent to Harlow which is high quality and meets modern standards. The amount of pool space demand generated from the development is about the equivalent of a 25 m x 6 lane community pool.

North Hertfordshire

Current needs: North Hertfordshire appears to have a good supply of swimming pools in terms of numbers, capacity and distribution. However, the facility stock is generally ageing and would benefit from investment. Hitchin Swimming Centre in particular, is a well-used facility that has seen some investment, and further investment would improve the facility further, specifically in the pool area. North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre requires investment in the sports hall and wet changing facilities. The Council is currently running a project to make investment into this facility, which would include these areas. The FPM's assessment of capacity used suggests that none of the pools in North Herts are operating at above the 70% used capacity figure, considered as busy by Sport England. The figures for the individual sites are given below.

| Facility | % capacity used | Facility Capacity (VPWPP) |
|---|-----------------|---------------------------|
| Hitchin Swimming Centre (Hitchin) | 54% | 4,496 |
| North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, Letchworth | 40% | 7,150 |
| Royston Leisure Centre, Royston | 66% | 2,817 |
| Odyssey Health & Fitness Club, Knebworth | 53% | 2,550 |
| Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre | 51% | 1,387 |
| St Christopher School, Letchworth | 59% | 1,294 |
| St Francis College, Letchworth | 60% | 658 |
| Inspire Luton Sports Village, Luton (Main Pool) | 65% | 10,833 |
| Stevenage Swimming Centre, Stevenage | 81% | 3,933 |

Swimming clubs report demand for more water space that cannot be met by operators.

There does not appear to be a strong need to provide additional swimming pool capacity but there is a need to ensure that demand is spread evenly across pools. This could be achieved by replacing/refurbishing some of the older swimming pools to improve quality and attractiveness to users.

A challenge identified, mainly relative to swimming pools, is the need to make 50% of all pool time available for casual swimmers. This has an impact on the programming of pools across the area; it limits the capacity of swimming clubs to accommodate swimmers and appears to contribute to the swimming lesson waiting lists at facilities.

However, the flip side of this is that it ensures that the public can access the pool when they wish.

Future needs: No additional water space is proposed at this time but the Sports Facilities Calculator has been used to estimate that the additional population will require some further provision as the demand is estimated to be around 332 sq m. The present surplus of water area in total is 963 sq m. There will be a need to determine what the future swimming pool requirements are once the housing locations and size is confirmed.

Implications for East Herts: With only Royston pool estimated to be operating at anything close to the 70% benchmark for pools used capacity, the current exportation of casual swimming use to North Hertfordshire can easily be accommodated. The key issue is the lack of club swimming capacity, and this has also been flagged by the clubs within East Herts. The export of swimmers from East Herts may grow slightly with the greatest export is likely to be from the proposed East of Stevenage site (600 dwellings) and from Buntingford.

Stevenage

Current needs: There are two pool sites in Stevenage, the Stevenage Swimming Centre (a public pool) which includes a main pool and teaching pool, and the David Lloyd Centre which has one commercial pool. There is also a pool at Odyssey just over the border to the west of the authority which is 25m by 4 lane. The commercial pools are only available on a membership basis, with no pay and play. There are also no other aquatic activities on these sites, such as the disabled swimming group, syncro, or diving. The consultation feedback and the actual throughput of the Swimming Centre suggests that access to swimming in Stevenage is relatively poor. This may, in part, be a reflection of the programming of the pool which has a strong club element.

Future needs: There will be a need for additional pool space to meet the increased population. As the costs of retaining the existing swimming centre are high compared to a modern leisure centre, the recommendation is to replace the pool as part of a new leisure centre in a central and accessible location. This pool is recommended to be 25m x 8 or 10 lane with a moveable floor but without a diving pit. It should be suitable for competition.

Implications for East Herts: The closest and most accessible sports facilities for the 600 dwellings proposed at the East of Stevenage site will be within Stevenage. This growth was not accounted for in the Stevenage strategy assessment and recommendations, including the proposed replacement leisure centre for both the existing pool and the Arts and Leisure Centre. There needs to be discussion with and confirmation by Stevenage Borough Council that the size and quality of the new pool facilities can meet the demand generated by the East of Stevenage development. There may also be a need to agree a cross-boundary approach towards meeting the infrastructure costs for sport and recreation.

Uttlesford

Current needs: Sport England's Facilities Planning Model calculates that there is a current deficit equivalent to two lanes of a 25m pool. According to Sport England's Facilities Planning Model, 35.7% of Uttlesford demand for swimming pools is exported to neighbouring authorities.

Future needs: With a current deficit and no realistic prospect of increasing access to existing facilities, additional demand will need to be met by the equivalent of one new facility.

Implications for East Herts: Significant demand from the west of Uttlesford is exported to East Herts at present and this will increase unless additional pool provision is made within Uttlesford.

Welwyn Hatfield

Current needs: The previous strategy is about to be updated which will take into account the new housing proposals. The currently adopted strategy concluded that there was sufficient current provision in terms of total amount of water space, but the distribution of pools is not ideal. The Hatfield Swim Centre and the Hertfordshire Sports Village both have features of regional importance.

Future needs: Welwyn Hatfield hope to provide a pool in Welwyn. However, this is at the earliest stages of planning and is not confirmed.

Implications for East Herts: the need for an additional pool at Welwyn Garden City will have been increased because of the planned new housing in the area. The progress towards delivering a new pool, its design and location need confirmation. The East of Welwyn site with its secondary school might be one potential location, delivered as a leisure centre adjacent to the school.

- 4.37 In summary, there are clearly significant import/export of users across the boundaries of East Herts. Given this, it will be essential for effective cross-boundary planning of swimming pools.

Modelling

- 4.38 A number of different modelling tools can be used to assess the current provision in East Herts.

Market Segmentation and sports development

- 4.39 The Sport England Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) analysis suggests that all bar one of the larger market segments currently enjoy swimming and find swimming appealing. However, given the opportunity, every one of the larger market segments would swim as their first or second choice of activity. This helps to confirm the importance of providing accessible swimming opportunities in East Herts.

Facilities Planning Model

- 4.40 The FPM is a national model developed by Sport England which has standardised parameters and format. The information on swimming pool capacity and demand is calculated on an authority wide basis, however the balance in supply and demand includes consideration of the facilities which are potentially available to the authority's residents, up to about 20 minutes drive time, and also the demand arising from this wider area, even if this is outside of the authority. Also built into the model are other considerations, for example the demographic profile of the authority and factors such as levels of car ownership.
- 4.41 The table below (

- 4.42 Figure 19) highlights some of the most important parameters used in the model in relation to pools. It should be noted that the accessibility criteria of 20 minutes travel time is not a fixed boundary as the formula behind the FPM uses a distance decay function, however 20 minutes drive time catchment area is generally considered a good “rule of thumb”.

Figure 19: Facilities Planning Model key parameters pools

| At one Time Capacity | 0.16667 per square metre = 1 person per 6 square meters | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|---------|---------|---------|-------|------|-----|--------|---------|---------|---------|-------|-----|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|------|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Catchments | Car: 20 minutes Walking: 1.6 km Public transport: 20 minutes at about half the speed of a car NOTE: Catchment times are indicative, within the context of a distance decay function of the model. | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Duration | 60 minutes for tanks and leisure pools | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Percentage Participation | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th><th>0 - 15</th><th>16 - 24</th><th>25 - 39</th><th>40 - 59</th><th>60-79</th><th>80+</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td><td>9.92</td><td>7.71</td><td>9.48</td><td>8.14</td><td>4.72</td><td>1.84</td></tr> <tr> <td>Female</td><td>13.42</td><td>14.68</td><td>16.23</td><td>12.74</td><td>7.62</td><td>1.60</td></tr> <tr> <td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | | Age | 0 - 15 | 16 - 24 | 25 - 39 | 40 - 59 | 60-79 | 80+ | Male | 9.92 | 7.71 | 9.48 | 8.14 | 4.72 | 1.84 | Female | 13.42 | 14.68 | 16.23 | 12.74 | 7.62 | 1.60 | | | | | | | |
| Age | 0 - 15 | 16 - 24 | 25 - 39 | 40 - 59 | 60-79 | 80+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 9.92 | 7.71 | 9.48 | 8.14 | 4.72 | 1.84 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 13.42 | 14.68 | 16.23 | 12.74 | 7.62 | 1.60 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Frequency per week | <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th><th>0 - 15</th><th>16 - 24</th><th>25 - 39</th><th>40 - 59</th><th>60-79</th><th>80+</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td><td>1.13</td><td>1.06</td><td>0.96</td><td>1.03</td><td>1.25</td><td>1.43</td></tr> <tr> <td>Female</td><td>0.94</td><td>0.98</td><td>0.88</td><td>1.01</td><td>1.12</td><td>1.18</td></tr> </tbody> </table> | | | | | | Age | 0 - 15 | 16 - 24 | 25 - 39 | 40 - 59 | 60-79 | 80+ | Male | 1.13 | 1.06 | 0.96 | 1.03 | 1.25 | 1.43 | Female | 0.94 | 0.98 | 0.88 | 1.01 | 1.12 | 1.18 | | | | | | | |
| Age | 0 - 15 | 16 - 24 | 25 - 39 | 40 - 59 | 60-79 | 80+ | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Male | 1.13 | 1.06 | 0.96 | 1.03 | 1.25 | 1.43 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Female | 0.94 | 0.98 | 0.88 | 1.01 | 1.12 | 1.18 | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Peak Period | Weekday: 12:00 to 13:30, 16:00 to 22.00 Saturday: 09:00 to 16:00 Sunday: 09:00 to 16:30 Total: 52 Hours Percentage of use taking place within the Peak Period: 63% | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Utilised capacity considered "busy" | 70% = "comfort factor" | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

4.43 The FPM national assessment for 2016 gives some indication of the current supply and demand for swimming in East Herts. The following are the key points from the Sport England report:

- The total amount of publicly available water space scaled by hours available in the peak period is 2,478 sq m, or a rate of 17.11 sq m of water space at peak time per 1000 population.
- The total demand at peak time is for around 1,559 sq m, so there is more supply than there is demand.

- Around 97% of the demand is met, which is higher than the national and regional averages, and highest too of the adjacent authorities and benchmark authorities used in the FPM (Mid Sussex and Aylesbury Vale).
- About 83% of the demand is met within the district.
- There is a total net import of demand of around 2,543 visits per week in the peak period.
- Around 3% (290 visits per week in the peak period) of the potential demand is unmet, almost all of which is due to being residents who are outside the walking catchment area of a pool and not having access to a car.
- The “relative share” of swimming provision in East Herts is above the national average.
- The FPM suggests that the average used capacity at peak time at is 64%.

4.44 It is useful to compare the known annual throughput of the East Herts Council’s facilities with the FPM estimate, see Figure 20. These comparisons suggest that all of the pools are operating at levels above those estimated by the FPM, but particularly notable are the Grange Paddocks and Hartham throughputs, which are both much higher than the FPM suggests. This suggests that the FPM report findings should be treated with some caution.

Figure 20: Throughputs at EHC facilities

| Site Name | Actual throughput 2015 | Actual used capacity at peak time | FPM estimated throughput | FPM estimate of use at peak time |
|--|------------------------|-----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| FANSHAWE POOL & GYM CHAUNCY SCHOOL, WARE | 53,800 | 49% | 43,587 | 40% |
| GRANGE PADDOCK LEISURE CENTRE, BISHOP’S STORTFORD | 136,000 | 69% | 74,566 | 38% |
| HARTHAM LEISURE CENTRE, HERTFORD | 166,000 | 67% | 136,747 | 55% |
| LEVENTHORPE POOL & GYM, SAWBRIDGEWORTH | 38,000 | 51% | 32,905 | 44% |
| WARD FREMAN SWIMMING POOL, BUNTINGFORD | 31,200 | 44% | 27,055 | 38% |

4.45 Some of the key points from the Sport England FPM report for pools are given below.

In general East Hertfordshire residents enjoy high levels of supply when compared to the demand they generate discreetly as a population. However, the area is a major importer of activity and the neighbouring authorities are reliant on the East Hertfordshire based supply for significant peak time swimming activity. This suggests that cross border planning now and in the future is key when looking at pool provision, in particular off the back of the growth agenda. This is particularly relevant for Harlow and Stevenage as both are currently modelled to have significant undersupplies of water space.

This means 17% of East Hertfordshire's demand that is met is exported. This may come as a surprise given the levels of oversupply identified in the district but this is an indication of geographical location of the offer, the quality of the offer, the hours that is accessible etc., not just the fact that there are a high level of pools provision. Similarly It is no surprise that East Hertfordshire is a major importer of activity. The key factors are the large oversupply and also the location of the facilities which are predominantly based in locations that border the edges of the district so the neighboring authorities are going to be within an easy catchment of many of the facilities.

There is no particular hotspot of unmet demand and certainly no case for any additional new provision at this time.

- 4.46 The overall conclusions of the FPM report confirm the broad findings of the audit and assessment work undertaken to inform this strategy. The location of the pools close to the edges of the district around Bishop's Stortford, Sawbridgeworth and Hertford mean that the pools in these areas attract high levels of use from outside of the authority. At the same time, with limited swimming pool provision along the Stevenage and North Herts boundaries, plus a pool just over the border into Hoddesdon, there is also a relatively high level of swimming visits exported out of the authority.
- 4.47 Although the current priorities are to address the network of pools owned and managed by East Herts Council, and there is no requirement for new provision at this time, this situation changes as the population in East Herts and its neighbouring authorities grow over the next few years. There is therefore a need to review the network of swimming provision both within the district and in association with the neighbouring authorities.

Summary of current situation

- 4.48 Swimming is a popular and important activity in East Herts, contributing very significantly to the well-being agenda for the district. The authority currently has high levels of pool provision compared to the national and regional averages, and also compared to both the geographical neighbours and benchmark authorities. The geographical spread of the pools means that almost everyone with a car can reach at least one pool offering pay and play opportunities within Sport England's recognised 20 minute drive time catchment. The amount of pool provision also means that the authority has a very high level of satisfied demand for swimming.
- 4.49 The current rate of participation in swimming in East Herts is about 1.1% above the national average rate.
- 4.50 The leisure centres and joint use pools have wide catchments, and most of the pools draw users from a wide area, both across the district and from outside. However, a large majority of users of all of the pools are from within the district. The pool with

the highest proportion of users living outside of the authority is Leventhorpe at Sawbridgeworth, as its catchment is skewed to the east of the district.

- 4.51 The age and quality of the public pool stock is of concern, and the joint use centres are potentially at risk if the schools and Hertfordshire County Council are unable to continue to subsidise the sites, either in capital or revenue terms. East Herts is therefore currently considering the future site options across the pools network. The public pool network will also require capital investment in the next few years, with every site having need for investment, ranging from about £350,000 to £650,000. A total investment of £2.6 million is required.
- 4.52 At the present time there appears to be *spare capacity* in different parts of the district of the following order, which is based on the presumption that a main objective of this strategy is to have pools running at about 70% full. This is the level considered by Sport England to be a “tipping point” in terms of efficient use of space and user experience. Beyond this point, a facility will feel full to a user and be a challenge for an operator to meet the needs of new users.
- Bishop’s Stortford area: 67 sq m
 - Sawbridgeworth area: 66 sq m
 - Hertford and Ware area: 102 sq m
 - Buntingford area: 95 sq m
- 4.53 The management of the Leventhorpe site is complex, with the pool and gym being run by the Council’s contractor, whilst the other school facilities are being managed by a separate, academy appointed, contractor. This is necessarily duplicating some costs on this site.
- 4.54 At the present time there are no competition pools available to support competitive swimming. Swim England and British Swimming support the concept of developing a new 25 m x 8 lane competition pool with large learner pool and spectator seating, and the best location for this would be Bishop’s Stortford.
- 4.55 In terms of the future needs of the district, the priorities are to retain sufficient pool space for all of the community and to ensure that everyone has access to at least one pool offering pay and pay opportunities, and ideally open during the daytime as well as evenings and weekends. The highest priority is therefore to consider the future of the joint use centres, as these are at the greatest risk and are already requiring subsidy from the council. The future of this network is being considered in the light of both the current needs of the community and the future growth of the population in and around East Herts as part of a parallel study being undertaken by Max Associates. This report is due to be finalised in summer 2017.

Future supply and demand

- 4.56 There will be a need for some additional swimming pool space to meet the needs of the growing community in East Herts. The following table, Figure 21, uses the housing growth proposals contained in the Pre Submission District Plan and assesses the requirements against the estimated new populations.
- 4.57 This analysis takes the current population structure of East Herts and a housing multiplier of 2.32 as the baseline and estimates the demand which might arise from the new developments. As the current rate of participation in swimming in East Hertfordshire is 1.1% above the national average, the Sports Facilities Calculator's automatically generated amount of demand for water space per 1000 population for East Herts (10.77 sq m) has been increased by 101.1%, to give the baseline of demand as 10.88 sq m per 1000 population. Two scenarios have then been tested, one with no further increase in the rate of participation in swimming, and one with a 0.5% per annum increase in participation.
- 4.58 The demand generated by these calculations is then compared with the "spare capacity" of the existing facilities within the relevant town and any deficit of water space area, and its scale, identified.
- 4.59 This assessment suggests that the impact of the slightly higher rate of participation in swimming in East Herts in 2016 has less of an impact than a sports development objective of increasing the participation by 0.5% pa.
- 4.60 In summary, the pool requirements are:
- Bishop's Stortford: 33-42 sq m additional water space to cater for new housing, plus replacement water area for any sites "lost" to community use, e.g. Hertfordshire and Essex High School.
 - Gilston Area: water area of 77-84 sq m in the period up to 2033, but rising to 177-192 sq m after 2033, once housing completed.
 - East of Welwyn Garden City: 34-37 sq m of water space.
 - East of Stevenage: 15-16 sq m water space.
- 4.61 If the network of pools remains the same and there is no change in the import/export of demand across the authority borders, then there is no requirement for additional pool provision in Sawbridgeworth, Hertford, Ware or Buntingford.
- 4.62 A major consideration for the Sawbridgeworth, Gilston, and Welwyn Garden City areas is the network of pool provision and housing growth in the adjacent authorities. Cross boundary sports facility planning is therefore needed to confirm the facility proposals in these areas of the district.

Figure 21: Estimate of future peak time demand and facility needs

| Growth area | Number of dwellings | Number of people at 2.32 housing multiplier | Spare capacity in existing facilities (sq m) | Swimming demand in per 1000 @ 10.77 sq m (national average) | Swimming demand per 1000 population @ 10.88 sq m [101.1% above national average rate of provision] | Swimming demand per 1000 @ participation increase of 0.5% pa, with 10.77 as base | Swimming demand per 1000 @ participation increase of 0.5% pa, with 10.88 as base | Deficit of water space, no increase in participation. Red indicates additional capacity required in sq m water space | Deficit of water space, with increase in participation. Red indicates additional capacity required in sq m water space |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|
| Bishop's Stortford | 3980 | 9233.6 | 67 | 99 | 100 | 108 | 109 | -33 | -42 |
| Sawbridgeworth | 500 | 1160 | 66 | 12 | 13 | 14 | 14 | 53 | 52 |
| Gilston | 3050 | 7076 | 0 | 76 | 77 | 83 | 84 | -77 | -84 |
| After 2033 | 7000 | 16240 | 0 | 175 | 177 | 190 | 192 | -177 | -192 |
| Hertford and Ware | 1950 | 4524 | 102 | 49 | 49 | 53 | 53 | 53 | 49 |
| East of Welwyn Garden City | 1350 | 3132 | 0 | 34 | 34 | 37 | 37 | -34 | -37 |
| East of Stevenage | 600 | 1392 | 0 | 15 | 15 | 16 | 16 | -15 | -16 |
| Buntingford | 1100 | 2552 | 95 | 27 | 28 | 30 | 30 | 67 | 65 |

Meeting the needs of the future

- 4.63 The size of East Hertfordshire and the location of the planned housing means that the future supply of facilities should also be considered at the main town level rather than district wide. This is important as there are some areas of the district which are planned to have relatively little housing growth, whilst other areas have significant housing planned up to 2033, and beyond.
- 4.64 Cross-boundary discussions and the co-ordination of sports facility planning will be essential for the Sawbridgeworth/Gilston Area in association with Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford, and in the Welwyn Garden City area of the district where the planned housing within East Herts adjoins planned housing in Welwyn Hatfield district.
- 4.65 At the present time, there is a surplus of water space overall, and there are significant potential liabilities for the Council in relation to the joint use pools. There is therefore a need to review the network as a whole, and to ensure that the swimming pool facilities are able to provide for the planned new communities across the district, as well as the existing populations.
- 4.66 At the present time, only the Council pools offer affordable pay and play swimming and club training opportunities. They are also important in the learn to swim opportunities across the district. The Council's Leisure Strategy has confirmed that these roles will continue in the future, even if the network changes since they support the wider health and well-being objectives of the Council.
- 4.67 There are a small number of swimming pools provided on school sites, mainly independent schools. The following schools are particularly important in the network:
- Birchwood High School (academy), open for 33 hours a week.
 - Bishop's Stortford College (independent), open for 25.5 hours a week.
 - Haileybury and Imperial Service College (independent), open for up to 52 hours a week, but varies according to school's needs.
 - Simon Balle School (academy), 29.5 hours a week.
- 4.68 Given that their opening hours are already high and there is little scope to extend the use as they are constrained by the schools' uses, there does not appear to be any significant scope to meet future needs via these facilities.
- 4.69 The Hertfordshire and Essex High School pool is poor quality and the pool is likely to be affected by the development of the sports hall. Given the potential costs of refurbishment, the higher relative importance of the proposed sports hall, and the potential ability to "replace" the demand here by a new pool at Grange Paddocks, retaining this pool for community use is not essential.

- 4.70 The commercial sector provision via Nuffield Health at both Bishop's Stortford and Hertford are expected to be retained in the long term. These sites operate on a membership basis, and pay and play swimming is not generally available. These pools are also not generally available for club activities or club training. The Manor of Groves Health Club is also a commercial site, with membership rates similar to those of the Nuffield Hertford site. These sites are expected to continue to provide swimming in the long term, but are not expected to develop into offering affordable casual pay and play swimming or significant swimming club use.

Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth

- 4.71 This assessment suggests that some additional pool space will be required for Bishop's Stortford once most of the housing is built out by 2027, particularly if the pool at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School is closed in the future.
- 4.72 The catchments of Leventhorpe and Grange Paddocks overlap within the authority as the sites are only 4.5 miles apart, they are easily within the 20 minute drive time catchment, so the pool provision needs to be considered together in this area, and there may be opportunities for rationalisation.
- 4.73 A number of site options are currently being considered in relation to the future pool network in the concurrent work by Max Associates which has been commissioned by East Herts Council. The option of the replacement or refurbishment of Grange Paddocks is being specifically addressed. If Grange Paddocks is to be replaced, any new replacement facility will need to be larger than the current pool to cater for the new growth, particularly if other pools in the network were to be closed in the longer term. The size of the pool and its design options are currently being considered but the preferred option is:
- 25 m x 8 lane competition pool with standard floor
 - 20 x 10 learner pool with 2m depth and moveable floor
 - confidence water
 - 250 spectator seats
- 4.74 This pool mix would meet the swimming clubs requirements for a competition pool for a number of disciplines, including club level water polo and synchro.
- 4.75 In Sawbridgeworth, and considering the demand from the housing within the authority only, there is sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the new housing growth within the Leventhorpe pool. It is noted however that the Leventhorpe pool provides a facility for users from Harlow, Epping Forest and Uttlesford, all of which will have substantial new growth. The future of the Leventhorpe pool will therefore need to be considered as part of a review of swimming in the wider Harlow area, and alternative longer term options to this ageing pool should be considered. For example, whether a new leisure facility in the Gilston Area or elsewhere would provide a better offer than Leventhorpe in the longer term.

- 4.76 The draft proposals in the Max Associates work in relation to Leventhorpe is for some investment to improve the pool hall and changing. These improvements will not address the longer term costs of retaining the pool as it ages further.
- 4.77 There is therefore a clear need to plan cross-boundary with the adjacent authorities to help confirm the emerging swimming pool proposals for East Hertfordshire and Harlow in particular, but also taking account of Epping Forest and Uttlesford.

Hertford and Ware

- 4.78 The new housing growth in Hertford and Ware up to 2033 can be accommodated in the existing pool network even into the long term. However, the housing growth is spread across the period up to 2033, with most of the growth in Hertford up to 2027, but the growth in Ware being between 2022 and 2033. In the short term there therefore seems to be a “surplus” supply of pool space of about 106 sq m, but this will diminish over time as the housing is occupied.
- 4.79 The priority for this area is the retention and improvement of the existing facilities. The draft proposals in the concurrent Max Associates review of the leisure centres has the following:
- Hartham Leisure Centre - a new dry side with 140 fitness stations and 3 studios, a moveable floor for part of the pool plus boom, and general refurbishment.
 - Fanshawe – extend the size of the gym and add a small studio. Refurbish.

Gilston Area

- 4.80 The Gilson area would be expected to generate demand of around 273 sq m of water space in the long term, but only 83 sq m in the period up to 2033. By the time that the site is fully built out, this would therefore justify a new community pool i.e. sometime after 2033. This area however needs to be planned together with Harlow and Epping Forest, as there is no spare capacity in those areas to meet any of the new demand arising from new housing in the Gilston Area. Furthermore, the school pools in Harlow are not likely to be retained into the long term because of their age and ownership/management. There are no swimming pools in the nearby areas of Epping Forest or Uttlesford which can cater for the new demand from the wider Harlow area.

East of Welwyn Garden City

- 4.81 The growth East of Welwyn Garden City will generate demand for around 37 sq m of waterspace, insufficient to justify a pool on its own. However, there is already an identified need in Welwyn Garden City for a new pool, and the priority here will be for the authorities to work together to identify and then deliver an appropriate wet/dry facility. An option which should be considered is the provision of a leisure centre adjacent to the planned secondary school in the East Herts East of Welwyn

development. Alternatively, off site contributions might be considered, with the location of any facility dependent upon the options for sharing developer contributions across the local authority boundary.

Buntingford

- 4.82 There is sufficient capacity in the Ward Freman site to cater for the planned growth of Buntingford, and it seems likely that the current pool will continue to have spare capacity even in the long term. The attractiveness of the pool and site, and lack of a fitness facility may be depressing demand here.
- 4.83 The initial priority is to retain and improve the existing facility. The draft proposals in the concurrent Max Associates review of the leisure centres for Ward Freman are to add a 25 station gym to the ground floor, refurbishment/remodelling of the changing rooms, and general refurbishment.
- 4.84 In the longer term, the future of the site as a joint use facility will need to be kept under review. The long term demand for a pool in Buntingford will in part depend upon whether a new pool is delivered in Bishop's Stortford, its size, and also whether a new pool is developed in an accessible location in Stevenage, as the catchments significantly overlap.

Stevenage

- 4.85 Stevenage Borough currently has too little water space but the new housing on the East of Stevenage site will generate only a small amount of new swimming demand. As the residents of the East of Stevenage development are likely to access pool facilities within Stevenage rather than East Herts, the priority will be cross-boundary working with Stevenage Borough Council to ensure that the proposed new pool is large enough to cater for the demand from the East of Stevenage as well as its own new population. Off site developer contributions are potentially appropriate, dependent upon the options for sharing developer contributions across the local authority boundary.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 4.86 The assessment above considers the need for swimming pools, including the growth proposed in the District Plan Pre-submission version for the period up to 2033. It is however important to have a mechanism which can be used to assess the impact of an individual proposed development on the swimming pool network. The following are proposed as the Provision Guide (see also Figure 48) for pools, the justification for which is contained within the preceding assessment.
- 4.87 The current rate of participation in swimming in East Herts is about 1.1% above the national average rate. The following estimate of demand takes into account this higher than national rate of participation, but is based upon the forecast demographics for 2033, and with an allowance for an increase in demand of 0.5% per annum.

| Quantity per 1,000 population | Accessibility | Quality |
|--|-------------------|---|
| 11.36 sq m water space fully available at peak time | 20 minutes by car | Design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards |

Recommendations for swimming pools

Council's role in swimming provision

- 4.88 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will provide attractive swimming facilities available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the community and voluntary sector. The Council will ensure that there is a network of accessible swimming pools available to all residents on a pay and play basis.
- 4.89 The network of pools provided by the Council as a whole should be financially self-sustaining both in relation to capital and revenue costs.

Cross boundary co-operation

- 4.90 The Council will actively seek to develop co-ordinated mechanisms which provide solutions in respect of cross-border import and export of demand for sports facilities:
- The Gilson Area – with Harlow Council, Epping Forest District Council and Uttlesford District Council.
 - East of Welwyn Garden City – with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.

- East of Stevenage – with Stevenage Borough Council.

4.91 Undertake local scenario tests using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model to confirm the requirements, particularly for The Gilston Area, and East of Welwyn Garden City.

4.92 Develop a mechanism for sharing developer contributions cross-boundary, with the priorities being Harlow and Welwyn Hatfield.

Sites

Protect

4.93 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing network of swimming pools across the district, but subject to proposals to make some changes to the public swimming pools.

4.94 Where possible, seek to establish formalised community use agreements with schools to protect community use.

Enhance

4.95 Refurbish and improve the pool and its health and fitness facilities at:

- Hartham Leisure Centre
- Fanshawe Pool and Gym
- Leventhorpe Pool and Gym
- Ward Freman Swimming Pool

Provide

4.96 The priorities for new delivery and which need to be confirmed through feasibility work where appropriate are:

- Replacement larger pool at Grange Paddocks.
- Gilston Area: a 25m x 6 lane pool plus teaching pool as part of a new wet/dry leisure centre adjacent to one of the new secondary schools.
- East of Welwyn Garden City:
 - EITHER a 20m x 4 lane pool (or larger) as part of a new leisure centre adjacent to one of the secondary schools
 - OR off site contributions to new pool provision within Welwyn Garden City, depending upon agreement to share developers' contributions.

4.97 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.

4.98 All new facilities supported by capital monies from public sources or grant aid should be secured for community use via a binding legal agreement. The length of the agreement to reflect the size of the public support/grant.

Dispose

4.99 Agree the closure to community use of the Hertfordshire and Essex High School pool.

SECTION 5: HEALTH AND FITNESS

- 5.1 This section considers indoor fitness facilities, both the provision of fitness gyms and the provision of studio space. The latter are multi-purpose rooms used for a range of fitness activities and dance, and are usually an integral part of any leisure centre or commercial fitness site but are also sometimes hired out by schools.
- 5.2 The provision of health and fitness facilities (typically including fitness stations) is potentially a key element in achieving increased participation in physical activity. The private sector often plays a significant role in these types of facilities, and is likely to continue to do so in the future. However, there is no simple way of assessing participation in individual gym and fitness activities, nor the spaces they need. One method is the analysis of the provision per 1000 population of the health and fitness facilities which have a number of 'stations' (one station might be for example a single treadmill).
- 5.3 The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) encourages equipment and facilities to be fully accessible to people with a range of disabilities. At present there are no IFI accredited gyms in East Herts.
- 5.4 There are no National Governing Bodies for fitness and gym activities.

Participation in fitness activities

- 5.5 Indoor gyms and studios attract all socio-economic groups and a wide spread of ages. However, there are more women users than men, and most people are aged under 45 years.
- 5.6 The Sport England Active People Survey (as reported in the Local Profile Tool) (Sport England, 2017) concludes that gym (including activities such as fitness classes) are the second most important activity in terms of participation behind cycling. The rates of participation in gym activities in the district are higher than either the national or the East of England average, and the same as the national average.
- 5.7 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) results confirm that gym/fitness activities are the most important activity at the present time, though more people are actually attracted to swimming. It should be noted that Market Segmentation does not include walking/rambling as an activity, as this would come out the highest of all.

Current provision

- 5.8 There are a total of 965 fitness stations and 17.5 studios on 23 sites, which are listed in Figure 22 and mapped in Figure 23. The largest fitness gyms are at Body Active (on the Harlow border) with 150 stations, Nuffield Health at Bishop's Stortford with 120 stations and Grange Paddocks in Bishop's Stortford with 120 stations. There are three sites with less than 20 fitness stations. The access type varies; there are 7 sites offering pay and play which are the leisure and joint use centres, plus Wodson Park Sports Centre and Challenge Active in Bishop's Stortford; there are 12 sites where the access is to registered members, and four school sites offering access to sports clubs and community associations.
- 5.9 With the geographical spread of fitness provision, everyone with access to a car can reach a site within 15 minutes' drive, but not everyone can reach a facility within the district within this travel time (see Figure 23).

Assessment of current supply/demand

- 5.10 Health and fitness facilities are often co-located with other sports facilities because as a net income earner, they can support the financial viability of other facilities, particularly swimming pools.
- 5.11 There is no easy way of assessing the balance in supply and demand, as no throughput information is available from the facility operators. However as about 43% of the fitness gyms with fitness stations and studios are based at commercial sites, it can be assumed that the demand for facilities approximately balances the supply.
- 5.12 The southern areas of the district have a large number of facilities, and their drive time catchments significantly overlap. In the northern part of the district, the only facility is the small commercial Buntingford Gym.
- 5.13 The usage information from the leisure centre and joint use facility site operators for gym use shows a mixed picture, with most sites seeing an increase in use by those aged 60 and over, but a steady or downward trend in the total usage by adults. This may in part reflect the offer of the facilities in terms of quality of site and equipment compared to the competition in the surrounding areas, or possibly the membership and pay and play packages available. A more detailed review of the market for gym provision has been undertaken by Max Associates as part of its concurrent detailed work on the future of the leisure centres.

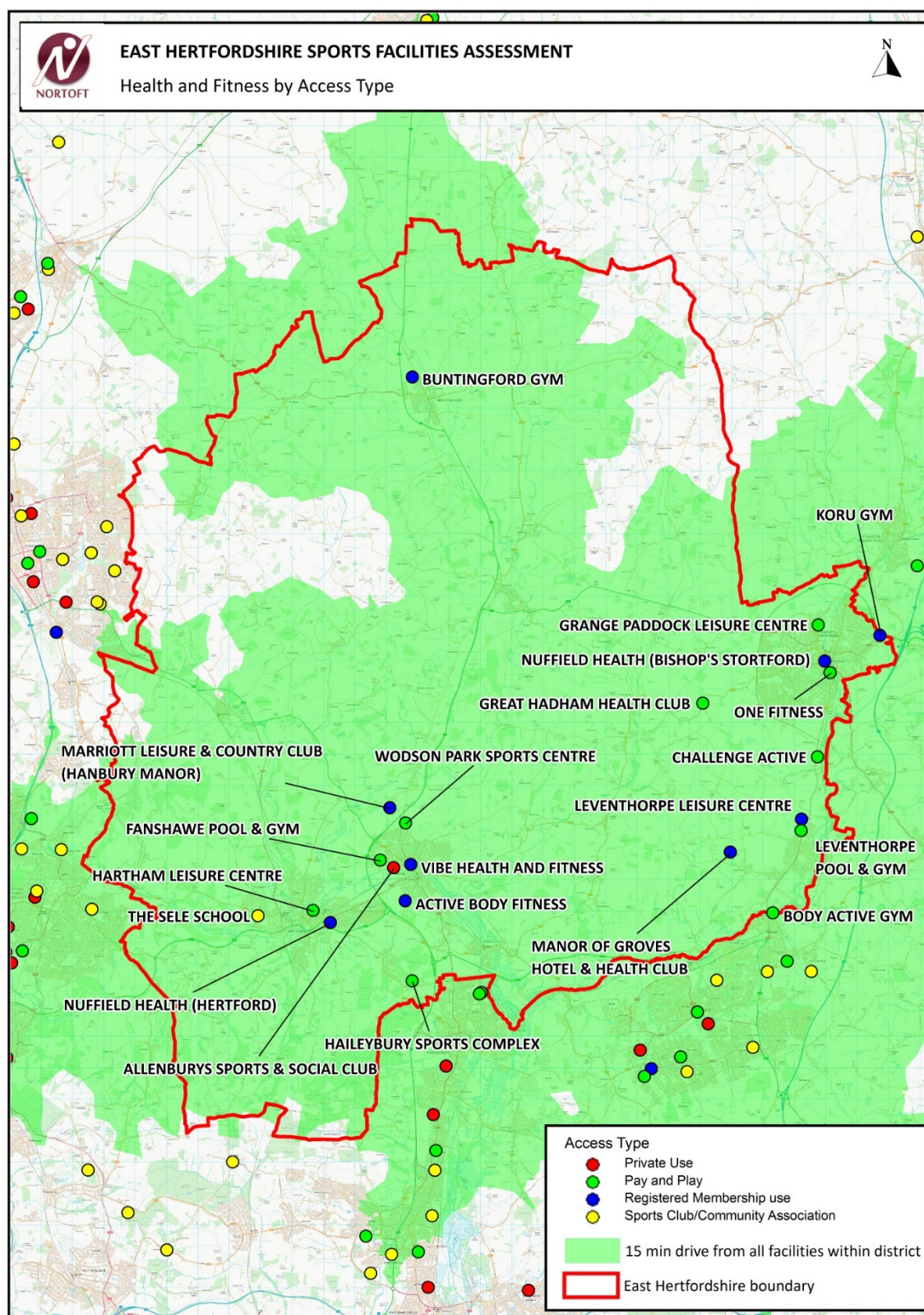
Figure 22: Health and fitness- current provision available to community

| Site Name | Number of stations | Number of studios | Ownership Type/ Nature of Site | Access Type | Management |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
| AMWELL SCHOOL, WARE | 0 | 1 | Community Special School | Sports Club/ Community Association | School |
| ACTIVE BODY FITNESS, HERTFORD | 20 | 0 | Commercial | Registered Members | Commercial |
| ALLENBURYS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB, WARE | 35 | 0 | Commercial | Registered Members | Commercial |
| BIRCHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 0 | 1 | Academy | Sports Club/ Community Association | Academy |
| BODY ACTIVE GYM, SAWBRIDGEWORTH | 75* | 0.5 | Commercial fitness | Registered Members | Commercial |
| BUNTINGFORD GYM, BUNTINGFORD | 15 | 0 | Commercial fitness | Registered Members | Commercial |
| CHALLENGE ACTIVE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 106 | 1 | Commercial fitness | Pay and Play | Commercial |
| FANSHAWE POOL AND GYM CHAUNCY SCHOOL, WARE | 40 | 1 | Academy Joint use facility | Pay and Play | Trust |
| GRANGE PADDOCK LEISURE CENTRE, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 120 | 1 | East Herts Council Leisure Centre | Pay and Play | Trust |
| GREAT HADHAM COUNTRY HEALTH CLUB, MUCH HADHAM | 36 | 1 | Commercial | Registered Members | Commercial |
| HAILEYBURY SPORTS COMPLEX, HERTFORD | 30 | 0 | Independent School | Pay and Play | Commercial |
| HARTHAM LEISURE CENTRE, HERTFORD | 87 | 1 | East Herts Council | Pay and Play | Trust |

| | | | | | |
|---|-----|------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|------------|
| KORU GYM, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 14 | 0 | Commercial | Registered Membership | Commercial |
| LEVENTHORPE POOL & GYM, SAWBRIDGEWORTH | 40 | 1 | Academy Joint use facility | Pay and Play | Trust |
| MANOR OF GROVES HOTEL & HEALTH CLUB, SAWBRIDGEWORTH | 76 | 1 | Commercial | Registered Membership | Commercial |
| MARRIOTT LEISURE AND COUNTRY CLUB, HANBURY MANOR, WARE | 31 | 1 | Commercial | Registered Membership | Commercial |
| NUFFIELD HEALTH, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 120 | 2 | Other | Registered Membership | Other |
| NUFFIELD HEALTH, HERTFORD | 75 | 2 | Other | Registered Membership | Other |
| ONE FITNESS, BISHOP'S STORTFORD | 40 | 0 | Commercial | Registered Membership | Commercial |
| SIMON BALLE SCHOOL, HERTFORD | 0 | 1 | Academy | Sports Club/ Community Association | School |
| THE SELE SCHOOL, HERTFORD | 20 | 1 | Academy | Sports Club/ Community Association | School |
| VIBE HEALTH AND FITNESS, WARD | 15 | 0 | Commercial | Registered Membership | Commercial |
| WODSON PARK SPORTS CENTRE, WARE | 45 | 1 | Trust | Pay and play | Trust |
| | 965 | 17.5 | | | |

* Just outside Harlow boundary, assume 50% of users are from Harlow. Approximately 150 stations in total and 1 studio.

Figure 23: Health and Fitness sites with fitness stations



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

5.15 The Max Associates review of fitness provision has assessed the latent demand for fitness around each of the public leisure centre sites. This is based on a 2-mile catchment from Fanshawe Pool and Gym and Leventhorpe Pool and Gym, a 3-mile catchment for Grange Paddocks and Hartham, and a 4-mile catchment for Ward Freeman Pool. In each case the number and types of people living in the area plus competing fitness gyms have been considered.

5.16 The current latent demand for each facility is estimated to be:

| Site | Latent demand for gym membership |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Fanshawe Pool and Gym | 211 |
| Grange Paddocks | 805 |
| Hartham | 512 |
| Leventhorpe Pool and Gym | 211 |
| Ward Freeman Pool | 495 |

5.17 The size of a fitness facility required is estimated to be based on 25 members per fitness station, and assumes that most gyms will also require studio space.

Consultation findings

5.18 There are no national governing bodies for fitness and there are no independent sports clubs.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

5.19 A review of adjacent authority strategies is given in Part 1 Appendix 7. In summary, the key points in relation to fitness provision are:

Broxbourne

Current needs: There is a current balance between supply and demand for fitness stations, but it is likely that some demand is exported to adjacent authority areas, and Haileybury is specifically identified.

Future needs: Some additional fitness supply is expected to be required, but the scale and location are not identified. No additional studio space is expected to be needed.

Implications for East Herts: The cross-boundary movement of gym and fitness is likely to continue into the future, with the balance probably similar to that at present.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work summarised below.

Current needs: The sports facilities assessment identified that the 12 existing health and fitness facilities in Epping Forest meet all current needs. There is no evidence of any significant exported demand to East Herts.

Future needs: Two additional health and fitness facilities will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.

Implications for East Herts: It is anticipated that new fitness provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to East Herts will therefore be limited.

Harlow

Current need: There is an approximate balance between the demand for health and fitness and the supply, and about 65% of the current provision is via the commercial sector.

Future need: Additional fitness provision will be required as the population in Harlow and the adjacent areas increases. Some of this provision may be via the commercial sector, but any new leisure centre should be provided with significant fitness facilities to help its revenue costs.

Implications for East Herts: New provision will be needed to cater for the Gilston Area. Some should be with a new wet/dry leisure centre, but the remainder could be provided by the commercial sector.

North Hertfordshire

Current needs: Generally, the quality of facilities is good. According to UK penetration rates there is a current need for 449 stations across North Hertfordshire. UK penetration rates suggest that there are enough stations to cater for the population; however, local authority facilities are operating at or near to capacity.

Future needs: With the predicted population growth in the area, this demand is expected to increase by 549 stations by 2024, and 653 stations by 2037. The recent investment in local authority sites has gone some way to address this need for more provision, but further expansion is potentially required.

Implications for East Herts: It is anticipated that new provision will be made within North Hertfordshire and that there will be limited change in import/export of users of the border.

Stevenage

Current needs: Stevenage has a relatively high level of indoor fitness gym provision compared to the Hertfordshire average, though it is in line with the some of the benchmark authorities. This rate of provision reflects the facts that Stevenage has a

significant commuter inflow, and also that a large proportion of the population regularly take part in fitness and gym activities.

Future needs: For the Stevenage population alone around 77-123 indoor additional fitness stations would be required and 2-4 studio spaces would be needed in the period up to 2031. It is proposed that the additional indoor fitness provision should be met in the large part at the proposed replacement wet/dry leisure centre, at least 150 stations. The remainder of the expected additional indoor fitness provision needed to cater for both residents and commuters up to 2031, would be expected to be provided via commercial operators or other partners.

Implications for East Herts: The amount of provision generated by the 600 dwellings at the proposed East of Stevenage development might be around 8-10 stations. The closest facilities for the new population will be in Stevenage. There is a need for joint planning with Stevenage Borough Council to ensure that this demand is able to be met within Stevenage, either via the public facilities or via the commercial sector.

Uttlesford

Current needs: With high levels of demand in Uttlesford, the existing facilities are effectively operating at full capacity.

Future needs: There will be additional demand equivalent to three extra facilities in Uttlesford by 2031.

Implications for East Herts: The authorities share a long boundary running north-south, and both Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth are likely to be acting as local centres for some residents of Uttlesford, with the sports facilities and clubs located in this area of the district attracting participants from Uttlesford. It is anticipated that some of the new fitness provision will be made within Uttlesford but that exported demand to East Herts will remain at approximately the same ratio as at present.

Welwyn Hatfield

Current needs: current supply appears to at least match demand.

Future needs: there will be a potential need for around 170 -200 stations by 2026. This is expected to be delivered mainly by the commercial sector.

Implications for East Herts: Additional health and fitness provision will be needed for the East of Welwyn development proposal. This could be delivered as part of a new wet/dry leisure centre.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

- 5.20 Fitness gym and related activities appeal to a number of the largest market segment groups in East Herts, and is likely to remain popular into the long term.

Comparator authorities' provision

- 5.21 The Facilities Planning Model is not available for the assessment of health and fitness provision, so other methods are required. Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to calculate the current level of provision of fitness stations and the number of studios per 1,000 head of population for East Herts and the CIPFA comparators, see Figure 24. For this assessment all sites with public access have been included in the figures as it is not possible from the Active Places information to determine which sites have restrictive memberships.
- 5.22 In relation to the number of fitness stations, this comparator authority analysis suggests that the current rate of provision in East Herts is amongst the highest compared to the CIPFA benchmark authorities, and well above both the regional average and slightly above the national average rates of provision. This situation is likely to reflect the geographical location of the fitness facilities in East Herts, which are all relatively close to the authority's borders. The usage information from the Council managed facilities and the postcode mapping confirms the significance of this imported demand, from all of the adjacent authorities.

Figure 24: Health and fitness - comparator authorities

| Nearest Neighbour | Population at 2016 (ONS latest estimates) | Health and Fitness (number of stations) | | Studios (number of) | |
|------------------------|---|---|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| | | Total | Per 1000 population | Total | Per 1000 population |
| East Herts | 145,900 | 965 | 6.61 | 17.5 | 0.12 |
| Sevenoaks | 119,600 | 339 | 2.83 | 10 | 0.08 |
| South Oxfordshire | 138,300 | 539 | 3.90 | 20 | 0.14 |
| St Albans | 147,600 | 1032 | 6.99 | 18 | 0.12 |
| Vale of White Horse | 127,000 | 596 | 4.69 | 19 | 0.15 |
| East of England | 6,076,451 | 32770 | 5.39 | 657 | 0.11 |
| England | 57,885,413 | 355190 | 6.14 | 6051 | 0.10 |

Summary of current situation

- 5.23 The fitness and gym provision in terms of both the number of fitness stations and the number of studios in East Herts appears to reflect the nature of the authority and the extensive cross-boundary movement of users, identified by the research undertaken by East Herts Council. It is a higher rate of provision that might be expected if the authority was simply meeting its own needs. However, as the supply of fitness gyms responds rapidly to demand, it is likely that the current level of fitness provision approximately matches the demand across the different areas of the authority.
- 5.24 About 43% of the provision is in commercial fitness facilities, with the remainder being mainly the public facilities provided by the authority, either in the leisure centres or joint use centres. This percentage of commercial provision appears somewhat lower than would often be expected in a relatively affluent district such as East Herts.
- 5.25 The gym usage information for the leisure centres and joint use centres shows a mixed picture across the sites, but generally there is either steady or declining use by the adult market, although the number of people age over 60 years has increased recently. However, the over 60s market is only a relatively small proportion of the total adult market.
- 5.26 The concurrent Max Associates review of fitness provision suggests that there is some latent demand around each of the public leisure centres, and this has informed their proposals in terms of future fitness and gym provision at each site.

Future supply and demand

- 5.27 This test is based on the assumption that the supply approximately matches the demand for fitness now, and excludes existing latent demand. Any increase in population will therefore generate demand for additional facilities. The growth in fitness suggests that a 0.5% per annum increase should be applied to the existing demand. As the current rate of provision is 6.61 stations per 1000 population, by 2033 this will rise to a rate of 7.17 stations per 1000 population. The rate of studio provision is currently 0.12 per 1000 population, so if this is similarly increased by 0.5% pa, then this gives a future rate of provision of 0.13 studios per 1000 population. Based on the housing numbers in the Pre-Submission Plan, the demand likely to be generated in each of areas of the authority is given in Figure 25.
- 5.28 There is clearly a significant amount of cross-border movement and it is assumed that this is likely to continue to be the case into the long term. However, as the market changes so rapidly, this will need to be kept under review.
- 5.29 This modelling suggests that some additional provision may be required in Bishop's Stortford (about 70 stations and 1 studio space) and that the Gilston Area may generate the need for around 170 stations and 2 studio spaces once the

development is fully built out, sometime after 2033. Elsewhere the amount of additional fitness provision demand potentially being generated by the developments are likely to be fairly limited.

Figure 25: Fitness provision and housing growth

| Growth area | Number of dwellings | Number of people at 2.32 persons per dwelling | Fitness stations @ 7.17 stations per 1000 | Studios @ 0.13 per 1000 |
|--------------------|---------------------|---|---|-------------------------|
| Bishop's Stortford | 330 | 766 | | |
| | 1400 | 3248 | | |
| | 800 | 1856 | | |
| | 750 | 1740 | | |
| | 400 | 928 | | |
| | 150 | 348 | | |
| | 100 | 232 | | |
| | 50 | 116 | | |
| | 3980 | 9234 | 66 | 1.2 |
| Sawbridgeworth | 200 | 464 | | |
| | 125 | 290 | | |
| | 175 | 406 | | |
| | 500 | 1160 | 8 | 0.2 |
| Gilston | 3050 | 7076 | 51 | 0.9 |
| | 7000 | 16240 | 116 | 2.1 |
| Hertford and Ware | 1000 | 2320 | | |
| | 300 | 696 | | |
| | 250 | 580 | | |
| | 150 | 348 | | |
| | 200 | 464 | | |
| | 50 | 116 | | |
| | 1950 | 4524 | 32 | 0.6 |
| East of Welwyn | | 3132 | | |
| Garden City | 1350 | | 22 | 0.4 |
| East of Stevenage | 600 | 1392 | 10 | 0.2 |
| Buntingford | 1100 | 2552 | 18 | 0.3 |

- 5.30 The Max Associates assessment of the current latent demand for fitness has led to recommendations in their draft report for:

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Fanshawe Pool and Gym | Increase gym size to 45 stations (currently 30). Add studio |
| Grange Paddocks | New replacement leisure centre with 140 stations and 3 studios (increase of 40 stations at existing facility) |
| Hartham Leisure Centre | Increase gym size to 150 stations (currently 85). Add 3 studios. |
| Leventhorpe Pool and Gym | No change to fitness provision |
| Ward Freman Pool | Add fitness gym with 25 stations |

Meeting the needs of the future

- 5.31 These recommendations in the Max Associates reports will be considered by East Herts Council in summer 2017. The outcome will determine what will be delivered at each site, and the timescales.
- 5.32 The Max Associates recommendations are based on an assessment of current demand, whilst the modelling in para 5.27 onwards is based on future demand for the period up to 2033. The options to deal with this future demand might include increasing the size of the proposed replacement leisure centre at Grange Paddocks further, and also increasing the size of the gym expansions at Hartham Leisure Centre, Fanshawe Pool and Gym, and Ward Freman, or allowing the commercial fitness market to respond to demand as it arises.
- 5.33 Where it is proposed to develop a new wet/dry leisure centre, then it will be essential to have as part of the complex a large fitness gym and studio space. Given the identified need for a new leisure centre with pool in the Gilston Area, this should have a large fitness facility to support it. The size and mix would need to be confirmed through the feasibility work.
- 5.34 The other potential site for a new leisure centre is in or adjacent to Welwyn Garden City. This proposal will require detailed discussion with Welwyn Hatfield District Council, but again the principle should be the provision of fitness gym facilities and studio space as an integral part of the wet/dry leisure centre.
- 5.35 It is not appropriate to allocate timescales to any future commercial provision as this will respond to the market as it changes.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 5.36 The assessment above considers the need for health and fitness provision, including the growth proposed in the District Plan Pre-submission version for the period up to 2033. It is however important to have a mechanism which can be used to assess the impact of an individual proposed development on the facility network. The following are proposed as the Provision Guide (see also Figure 48) for health and fitness, the justification for which is contained within the preceding assessment.

| Quantity per 1,000 population | Accessibility | Quality |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 7.17 stations fully available at peak time | 15 minutes by car | Design and quality standard to meet Sport England standards |
| 0.13 studios fully available at peak time | 15 minutes by car | Design and quality standard to meet Sport England standards |

Recommendations for health and fitness provision

Council's role in health and fitness provision

- 5.37 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, the Council will provide attractive health and fitness facilities which are available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the community and voluntary sector. This provision will be made in association with the public swimming pools, where the revenue generated from health and fitness can help balance the cost of the pool.

Cross boundary co-operation

- 5.38 The Council will actively seek to develop co-ordinated mechanisms which provide solutions in respect of cross-border import and export of demand for sports facilities:
- The Gilson Area – with Harlow Council, Epping Forest District Council and Uttlesford District Council.
 - East of Welwyn Garden City – with Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.
 - East of Stevenage – with Stevenage Borough Council.
- 5.39 Develop a mechanism for sharing developer contributions cross-boundary, with the priorities being Harlow and Welwyn Hatfield.

Sites

Protect

- 5.40 It is proposed to generally protect and maintain the existing network of health and fitness sites which have 50 stations or more.

Enhance

- 5.41 Refurbish and improve the health and fitness facilities at:

- Hartham Leisure Centre
- Fanshawe Pool and Gym
- Leventhorpe Pool and Gym
- Ward Freman Swimming Pool

Provide

- 5.42 The priorities for new delivery and which need to be confirmed through feasibility work where appropriate are:

- Replacement larger fitness provision including gym and studio space at Grange Paddocks.
- Gilston Area: large fitness gym and studio spaces as part of a new wet/dry leisure centre adjacent to one of the new secondary schools.
- East of Welwyn Garden City:
 - EITHER large fitness gym and studio as part of a new leisure centre adjacent to one of the secondary school
 - OR off site contributions to new health and fitness provision on a new leisure centre site within Welwyn Garden City, depending upon agreement to share developers' contributions

- 5.43 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.

SECTION 6: **ATHLETICS**

- 6.1 Participation in athletics includes field athletics, track athletics, cross-country running, road running, marathon/ultra-marathon running and jogging, has increased nationally during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16 to a total of around 3.33 million adults (16 years and over) taking part at least once a month (Sport England , 2016). Athletics generally attracts more men (60%) than women (40%).
- 6.2 The size of the Active People Survey undertaken by Sport England means that the smallest area for which there are reasonably good statistics is the county sports partnership area of Hertfordshire. This appears to be following the national trends, with a gradual increase in the number of people taking part.
- 6.3 Research by Sport England has shown that about 10% of athletics activity takes place at a track, with 90% elsewhere (Sport England, 2012). This report therefore considers both synthetic athletics track provision and other athletics needs.

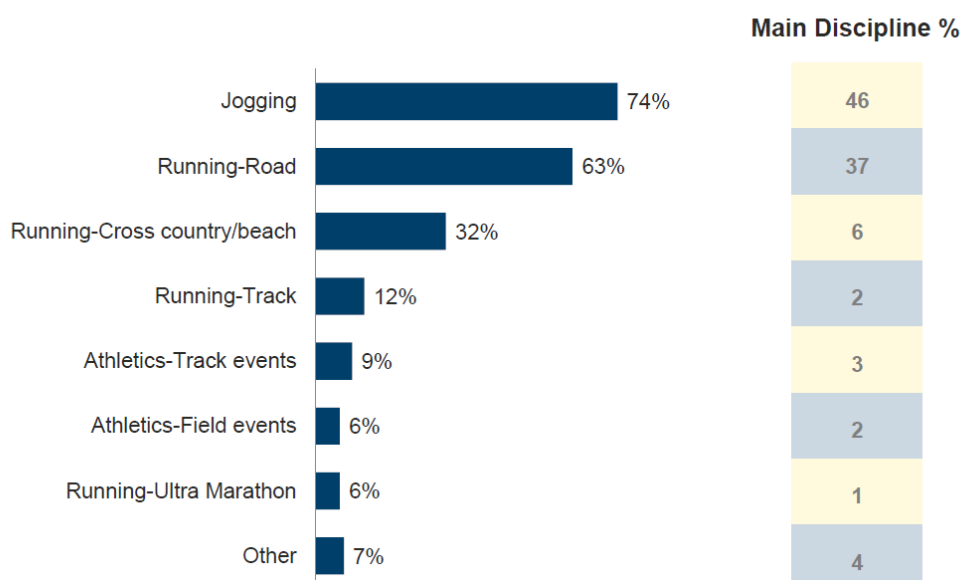
Participation in athletics

- 6.4 Sport England research considers the split between the different types of athletics activity and where it takes place. The results of the national level research published in 2012 are given in Figure 26.

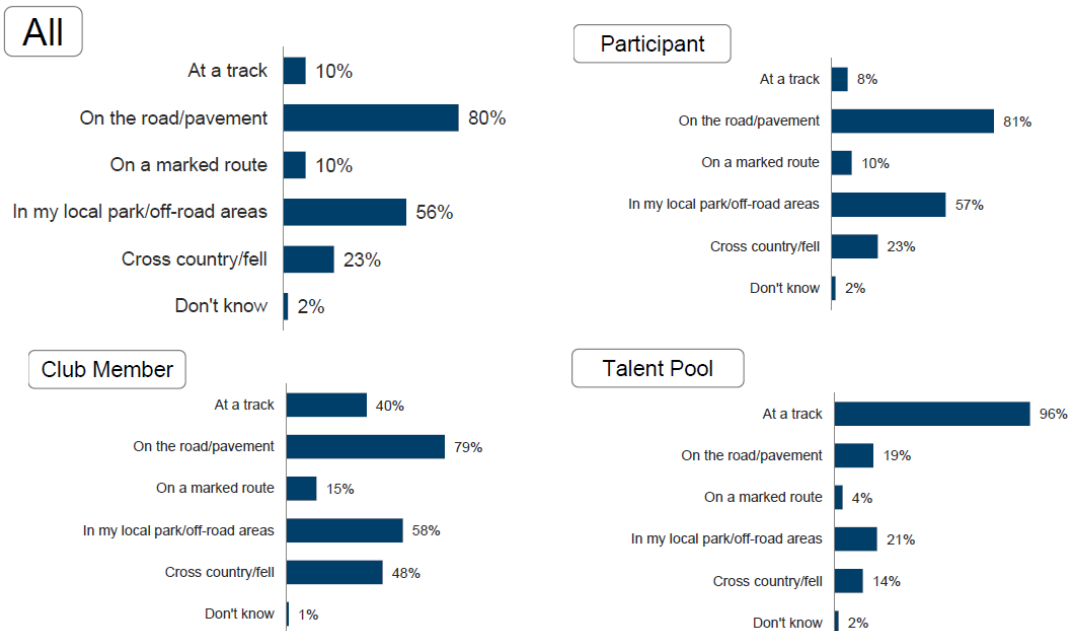
Figure 26: Athletics participation details

Source: Satisfaction with the quality of the sporting experience survey (SQSE 4)
Results for Athletics: Trends 2009-2012, July 2012 (Sport England)

Q. Thinking about Athletics, please state which disciplines you participate in:



Q. In what setting do you usually run?

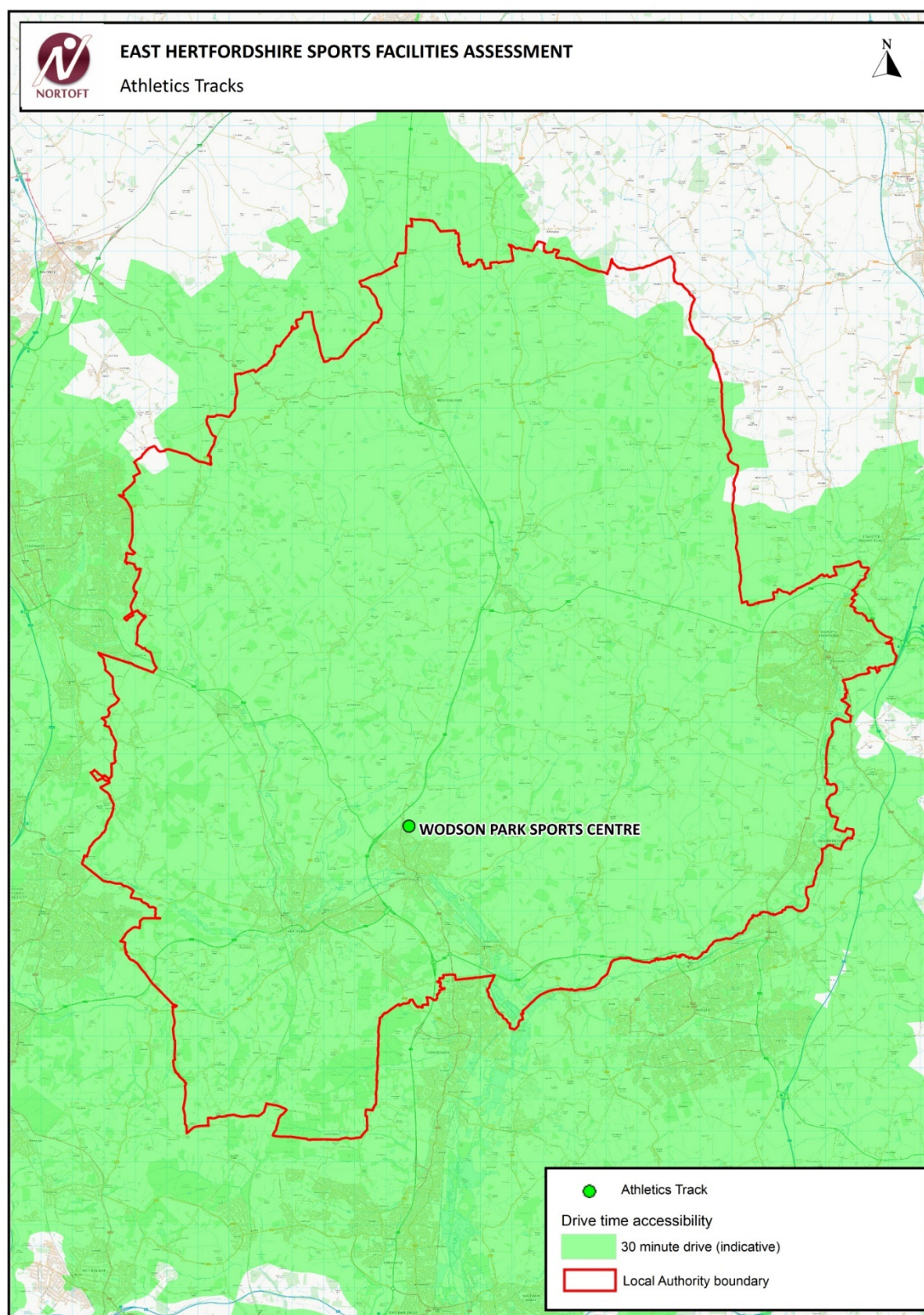


Current provision

Track facilities

- 6.5 There is currently one publicly accessible synthetic athletics tracks in East Herts, at Wodson Park Sports Centre called the Stuart Storey Track. This 8 lane track was built in 1996 and was refurbished in 2005. This track is managed by the independent Wodson Park Sports and Leisure Centre Trust. The latest UK Athletics Facility Competition Certification of 17th October 2016 lists the track under the section “No Survey – only able to host events up to Permit Level 2” (UK Athletics, 2017). There is no indication of when the track will be re-surveyed.
- 6.6 The track is 8-lane with a polymeric surface and is fully floodlit. The site also has 2 x long jump, 1 x high jump, 1 x pole vault, 2 x javelin, 1 x shot put, 1 x hammer/discus cage, 1 x steeplechase.
- 6.7 The Level 2 permit allows the track to provide for seniors at area and county leagues, county championships, BMC Academy and Regional. For u20s this allows for the youth development leagues, county championships and area and county leagues. For the u13-u17 age groups Permit Level 2 also allows for county club and school championships, inter-county individual and CE meetings, and the English Schools Cup Final.
- 6.8 A realistic travel time to athletics tracks is around 30 minutes, and Figure 27 shows that all of East Herts is within a 30 minutes drive of the track at Wodson Park, and also that a 30 minute catchment includes all of Harlow, Stevenage and large areas of Broxbourne and Welwyn Hatfield. This catchment overlaps with the tracks at Mark Hall in Harlow, Gosling Sports Park in Welwyn Garden City, and Ridlins Wood at Stevenage. Many of the residents of East Herts therefore have a choice of facility, depending on where they live and their level of competition.
- 6.9 The previous work undertaken in association with Bishop’s Stortford North suggested that a compact athletics facility should be provided, ideally located at a multi-purpose sports venue. This might be at an education venue in the town.

Figure 27: Athletics tracks and training locations



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

Marked running routes

6.10 There are currently marked running and fitness routes in the following locations:

| | |
|---|--|
| Hartham Common, Hertford | 1500m grass marked running track and trim trail |
| Sacombe Road, Hertford | 300m grass marked running track with trim trail equipment set out along the circular route |
| King George V Recreation Ground, Ware | 500m grass running track marked out around the outskirts of the open space and this also has wooden trim trail equipment |
| Grange Paddocks, Bishop's Stortford | 1,500m grass marked running track and three (3) 'Community Fitness Zones' of trim trail equipment set out in areas along the route (and new interactive electronic fitness game) |
| Bishops Park, Bishop's Stortford | 1,000m grass marked running track (and new electronic interactive goal wall) |
| Thorley and St Michaels Mead, Bishop's Stortford | 5 km route being developed in 2017 |

6.11 A key point from this list is that several of the routes and tracks are grass, so not all weather and will have limited use during wet periods. A priority for the future will therefore be to provide routes which are usable and attractive year round.

Consultation findings

Club comments

6.12 None of the running or athletics clubs in East Herts responded to the club survey.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

6.13 There are two governing bodies overseeing athletics in England, England Athletics and UK Athletics. The latter has recently produced its new facilities strategy, which sets out a new set of principles for the delivery of athletics in the home nations.

6.14 England Athletics are not aware of any specific access issues to the Wodson Park track, and two clubs are based there, the Herts Phoenix Athletic Club which uses both Wodson Park and Gosling Sports Park, and HAWCS (Hertford and Ware Combine's Athletic Club). The sports halls at Wodson Park are also used for sports hall athletics.

- 6.15 The Herts Phoenix Club uses the site on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and the HAWCS uses it on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.
- 6.16 England Athletics state, “In keeping with our strategic ambition to retain and maximise current track stock, we see the retention of indoor and outdoor provision as Wodson Park as an essential requirement for athletics in East Herts.” England Athletics has also confirmed that they see the retention of the Mark Hall track in Harlow being of high importance.

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy 2014-2019

- 6.17 The strategy (British Athletics, 2014) has two main sections; Track and Field, and Running Facilities. In relation to Track and Field, UK Athletics have recognised a need to make the current network of outdoor tracks more sustainable, and also a need for the development of ‘Compact Athletics Facilities’ which are designed to encourage and support entry level track and field athletics. These simple facilities are expected to be flexible in design and provide basic run/jump/throw opportunities. There are no set layouts or requirements, so there are no set costs. However, co-location with other facilities or sports is encouraged.
- 6.18 UK Athletics are seeking access to appropriate indoor training opportunities year round, ideally within a 20 minutes’ drive time of all residents. These facilities are usually expected to be multi-purpose, and in most cases are likely to be a sports hall, often on a school site. The Wodson Park sports halls are currently used for indoor athletics and training.
- 6.19 In relation to other running facilities, the UK Athletics strategy focuses on supporting new running facility solutions in areas where the removal of physical barriers will help unlock latent demand. UK Athletics are proposing three levels of routes; beginner fitness routes (Greenline) primarily in city areas which are designed to be safe and well-marked for absolute beginners; marked national running routes that provide easy access to local running/jogging opportunities; and closed circuit training and competition routes which are traffic free. The Greenline and marked routes approach are already being promoted and implemented by Run England, part of England Athletics.

England Athletics’ Strategic Facilities Plan 2012-2017

- 6.20 This strategy (England Athletics, 2012) has a number of sections and also identifies priority locations for England Athletics investment, which are mainly large cities. The key points from the England Athletics strategy are drawn out below. All the funding associated with this strategy has now been allocated by the national governing body.

Road and Off-Road Running

- 6.21 The development and promotion of at least one measured running route in every town or city with a population of over 100,000 by 2017.

- 6.22 None of the towns in East Herts are as large as this, but the concept is still relevant and could offer real opportunities for residents if such routes can be planned into existing and new open space areas. It should be an objective to have at least one such route in each of Bishop's Stortford, Hertford and Ware.

Track and Field

- 6.23 The facility priorities for 2012-2017 include the upgrading of field event facilities and equipment, clubhouse modernisation projects, access improvements for disabled athletes, and track floodlighting.
- 6.24 When England Athletics updates its strategy, and introduces support to Compact Athletics Facilities, there may be opportunities for the district via this programme. However, the good levels of accessibility of athletics tracks in and around the district would mean that investment into the Compact Athletics Facilities is unlikely to be a high priority.

Indoor Facilities

- 6.25 Sports halls are a key component of club athletics activity and are a vital resource, particularly during the winter months for circuit training and other forms of fitness training. Although multi-purpose, they provide indoor space for sports hall athletics, entry level activities for young people, and a range of other athletics training and learning programmes.
- 6.26 The Wodson Park sports halls are already used for sports hall athletics, and it is important that this continues.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 6.27 A review of the athletics provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendix 7). In summary:

Broxbourne

Current needs: There are no tracks in Broxbourne and accessible tracks are considered to include Wodson Park and Mark Hall (Harlow).

Future needs: No track is justified but a Compact Athletics Facility may be worth exploring. The proposal is not further developed.

Implications for East Herts: The importation of users to Wodson Park track will continue into the long term.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work summarised below.

Current needs: The sports facilities assessment identified that there is no provision in Epping Forest at present, with the track in Harlow being the closest facility to the district and consequently importing some demand. The track at Ware is also within 20 minutes travel time of parts of Epping Forest.

Future needs: The assessment suggests that all future additional demand can be accommodated by tracks in neighbouring areas, including Harlow and Wodson Park.

Implications for East Herts: Athletics demand from Epping Forest will continue to be exported to Harlow and East Herts. With the planned housing growth in the north of Epping Forest, and with the somewhat uncertain future of the track at Harlow, the importation of demand to Wodson Park is likely to continue to grow.

Harlow

Current needs: The 8-lane track at Mark Hall was designed to enable competitions but there are on-going problems with its quality which means that it can only be used for training. The NGB are supportive of retaining and improving the track but there is now no security of community use nor revenue subsidy from the Council.

Future needs: The Council have yet to determine a position in relation to the future of the track, but the NGB support for its retention is clear.

Implications for East Herts: The Mark Hall track's catchment overlaps with that of the Wodson Park track and most East Herts residents in the south or central area can reach both tracks. If the track at Mark Hall was to close, then there may be a need to consider some athletics training provision in the Bishop's Stortford area.

North Hertfordshire

Current needs: There are no tracks in North Hertfordshire, however there is a track located on the border in Stevenage at Ridlins Wood where there is one track and field club that takes its members from North Hertfordshire - Stevenage and North Hertfordshire Athletics Club. There are three road running clubs; Hitchin Running Club, North Herts Road Runners and Royston Runners. A funding agreement is in place with NHDC to create more Run England groups and 3-2-1 routes.

Future needs: The assessment and analysis of the needs for Stevenage in relation to athletics suggests that the priorities are to retain the existing Ridlins Wood Stadium.

Implications for East Herts: The track at Wodson Park is probably too far away from most North Herts residents to be accessible, so there are no implications for East Herts.

Stevenage

Current need: Stevenage hosts an active athletics club at Ridlins Wood with around 340 members, of which around 40% come from the Borough, with others coming from the surrounding villages, and nearby towns such as Hitchin and Letchworth. The track holds the full UKA track certification, and is able to host events at all levels of competition.

Future need: The track has sufficient capacity to cater for the expected growth in population in Stevenage up to 2031, but there will be a need to ensure its high quality and long term security of community use.

Implications for East Herts: There is sufficient capacity at the track to cater for the demand from the East of Stevenage development and growth elsewhere in E Herts. However, its security and quality need to be assured.

Uttlesford

Current needs: There is no provision in the district at present. The track in Harlow is the closest facility to Uttlesford, but the Wodson Park site is too far away to attract much demand from Uttlesford residents. There are plans for a track in the Saffron Walden area that would provide for all Uttlesford needs.

Future needs: A new track was granted planning permission at Carvers Barracks (8 lane) in 2016. If this is developed all future needs to 2031 of Uttlesford will be met.

Implications for East Herts: Any new athletics facility at Carvers Barracks, near Saffron Walden would enhance the opportunities for East Herts residents, particularly in the north east of the authority area.

Welwyn Hatfield

Current needs: The track at Gosling Sports Park is 6 lane, which limits it in terms of competition use. It currently holds “Part UKA Certification – Able to host events at all permit levels but with some exceptions”. The exception is track races over 200m.

Future needs: It was proposed to extend and upgrade the track.

Implications for East Herts: The facility provides a more local alternative for some East Herts residents than the track at Ware.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

- 6.28 The Market Segmentation information from Sport England (Sport England, 2017) suggests that athletics (including jogging etc.) is a popular activity now, and is an appealing sport for several of the largest market segments in East Herts. However, this is mostly as the 3rd to 5th most attractive sport.
- 6.29 In relation to wider sports development, athletics are offered via schools, both outdoor, and as sports halls athletics.

Comparator authorities' provision

- 6.30 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England, 2017) it has been possible to review the athletics track provision for East Herts and its CIPFA comparators. This comparator authority analysis suggests that all of the similar authorities have a synthetic track.

Summary of the current situation

- 6.31 There is one 8-lane synthetic track at Wodson Park which also has field events provision. At the present time it has not been surveyed by UK Athletics and is only able to host competitions up to around county level, depending upon the age group. The track is managed by Wodson Park and is used every weekday evening and on Saturdays by two different athletics clubs.
- 6.32 The location of the track at Ware and those in the surrounding authorities mean that everyone in East Herts can access a track within 30 minutes, and many people have a choice to go to a facility outside of the district. At the present time there is no justification for any additional track facilities in the district, or for a compact athletics training facility.
- 6.33 There are a number of marked running routes and trim trails in locations across the district, but most of these are grass and therefore limited in use during the winter months.

Future supply and demand

- 6.34 The national governing body's objectives are to retain the current network of athletics tracks and at a good quality.
- 6.35 There is a need for and potential to develop marked running routes, and such routes should be planned both into existing parks and open spaces, and into the larger new developments.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 6.36 The track at Wodson Park requires resurveying, and until this is undertaken the need for and extent of an investment is unknown. However, the importance of the track for community use is clear, and it has strong support from England Athletics.
- 6.37 There are also track issues at both Mark Hall in Harlow and Gosling Sports Park in Welwyn Garden City. Both have limitations on their use as competition venues and the future of Mark Hall is potentially uncertain. On the other hand, a new track or facility may be developed in Saffron Walden.
- 6.38 There is no requirement for additional track provision, and the amount of demand generated by the planned housing growth can be absorbed into the existing facility network. However, should the tracks in any of the surrounding areas be closed and no track comes forwards at Saffron Walden, then there may be a need to invest in a compact athletics training facility, ideally in Bishop's Stortford.
- 6.39 Measured running routes should be developed in the existing parks and green spaces where improved public access is being sought e.g. Bishop's Stortford River Stort access. At least one easily accessible, well-lit and safe route is planned to be developed in each of:
- East of Stevenage
 - East of Welwyn Garden City (a large central parkland/common with lots of potential to link communities and facilities in both Welwyn Garden City and East Herts sides of the development)
 - South of Bishop's Stortford (utilising the Hertfordshire Way and routes towards the Stort Valley)
 - Land North and East of Ware (lots of opportunities to link parts of the site with proximity to Wodson Park)
 - Gilston Area (lots of opportunities to link through landscape to central hub area where most of open spaces are likely to be located and to the Stort Valley to the south)
 - West of Hertford (potential to link to routes through Panshanger Park)
- 6.40 Separate developers' contributions for athletics facilities are not proposed but the provision of measured running routes within major developments are expected to be incorporated within the proposals for open space and at identified sites within the authority.

Recommendations for athletics

Council's role in athletics provision

6.41 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will:

- continue to support community access to the athletics track at Wodson Park.
- develop via appropriate planning policy and investment the development of at least one marked running route in each of:
 - Bishop's Stortford
 - Ware
 - Hertford
 - The Gilston Area.

Sites

Protect

6.42 It is proposed to protect the Wodson Park athletics track and existing traffic free running routes.

Enhance and provide

6.43 Ensure that the Wodson Park Athletics Track is able to regain its full certification for all levels of events, by investment as required.

6.44 It is proposed to enhance existing pedestrian routes, particularly those that link open spaces across the towns to make marked running routes.

6.45 The priorities for new delivery are marked running routes in each of:

- East of Stevenage
- East of Welwyn Garden City (a large central parkland/common with lots of potential to link communities and facilities in both Welwyn Garden City and East Herts sides of the development)
- South of Bishop's Stortford (utilising the Hertfordshire Way and routes towards the Stort Valley)
- Land North and East of Ware (lots of opportunities to link parts of the site with proximity to Wodson Park)
- Gilston Area (lots of opportunities to link through landscape to central hub area where most of open spaces are likely to be located and to the Stort Valley to the south)
- West of Hertford (potential to link to routes through Panshanger Park)

SECTION 7: INDOOR AND OUTDOOR BOWLS

- 7.1 This section of the report considers the demand for bowls, both indoor and outdoor. There is some cross-over between indoor and outdoor bowls as some players are active year round, and some sites have both indoor and outdoor rinks. However many players only either play indoors or outside, and the governing body structure is different, with Bowls England and Bowls Hertfordshire representing the outdoor game, and the English Indoor Bowling Association the indoor game.
- 7.2 There are currently no specialist indoor bowls centres in East Hertfordshire. The outdoor bowling in Hertfordshire is flat green, and most sites have single greens with 6 rinks.

Participation in bowls

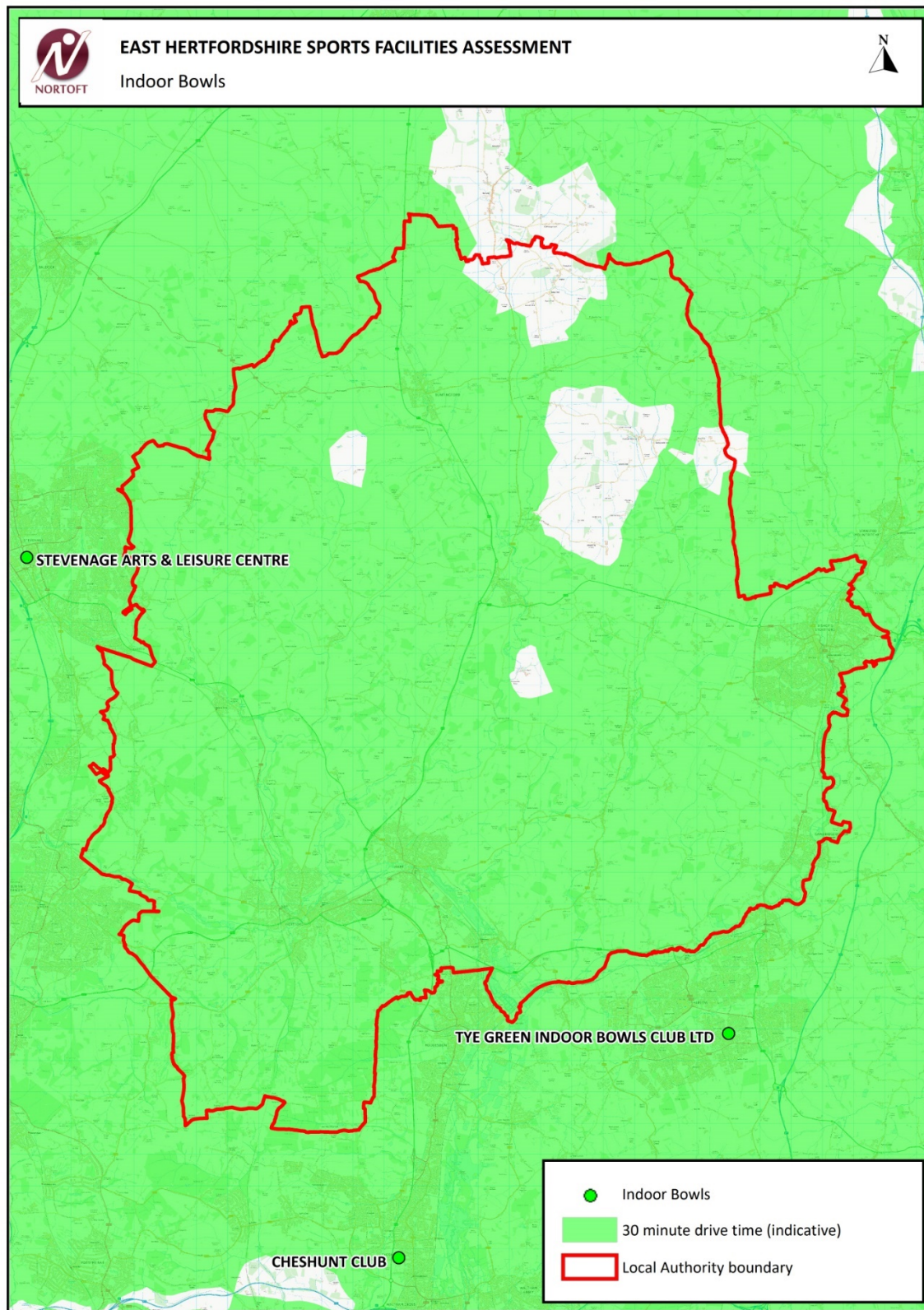
- 7.3 Sport England estimates that nationally about 271,000 adults take part in bowls at least once a month, but there is no specific split between different types of bowling, so this figure covers crown green outdoors and indoors, flat green outdoor and indoors, short mat and carpet (Sport England, 2017). The sport draws the largest proportion of its players from the higher socio-economic groups.
- 7.4 In terms of the trends in indoor bowls and bowls generally at the more local level, the Active People Survey sample size is too small even at the County Sports Partnership level to provide any real guidance.
- 7.5 According to the Sport England Active People Survey (Sport England , 2016), over 77% of players are aged 65 years and over and 19% are aged 55-64 years. Only 4% of players are aged under 55 years. The Market Segmentation analysis from Sport England (Sport England, 2017) suggests that bowls is participated in by only three of the market segments in the district, and they are of retirement age or close to it. This reflects the characteristics of the sport, which primarily attracts older people although the sport continually attempts to attract younger players.
- 7.6 The membership of indoor bowls clubs has remained fairly static nationally over the last few years, so participation rates per 1,000 population for indoor bowls are not expected to increase to any large extent in the future.

Current provision

Indoor bowls

- 7.7 There are no specialist indoor bowls sites in the district. However, most people in the district can reach an indoor bowls centre in one of the adjacent authorities within 30 minutes drive time, and many people are within 20 minutes drive time, see Figure 28. It should be noted that this map does not show the location of the Turpin's site at Saffron Walden as this is too far away, although its catchment is included.

Figure 28: Indoor Bowls Centres



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

- 7.8 It is also likely that the community and village hall network is providing a significant level of opportunity for many people in terms of short mat and carpet bowls.

Outdoor bowls

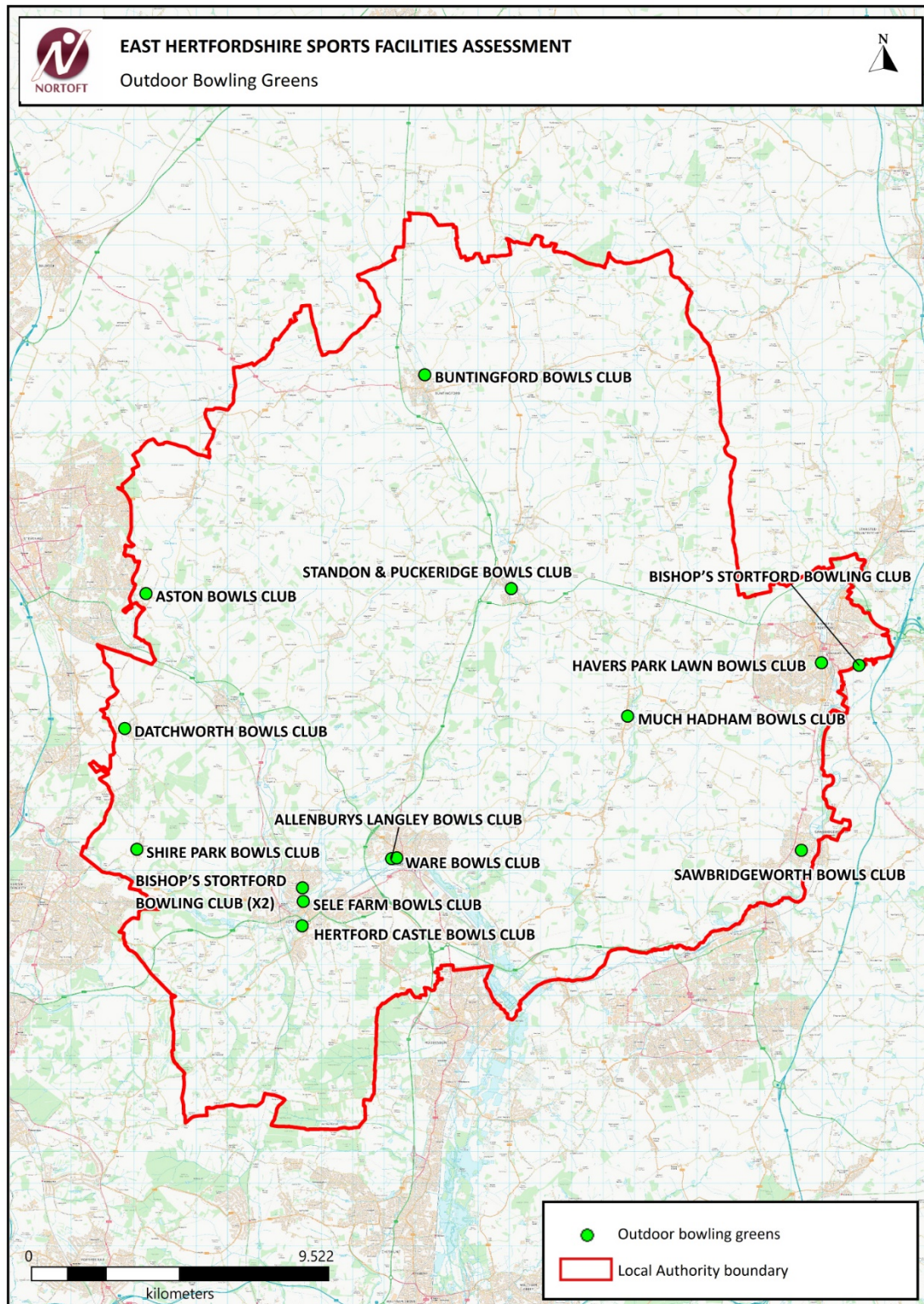
- 7.9 There are currently 15 bowls sites across the authority, hosting one club at each site, with the exception of the Pegs Lane green in Hertford which hosts two clubs. All of the sites are grass and most have 6 rinks, and other than Allenburys, Hartham Common and Wallfields, are club owned and managed. The Allenburys Langley site is an industrial sports club based provision. The clubs and site details are listed in Figure 29 and mapped in Figure 30. The number of members and details of the sites are taken from the Hertfordshire Bowls web site, and the quality assessment from the non-technical survey of sites.
- 7.10 All of the bowls sites are good quality, with good quality pavilion facilities.
- 7.11 The distribution of the bowling greens means that everyone with access to a car can reach at least one bowling green site within 15 minutes drive time.

Figure 29: Outdoor bowls clubs and sites
(Source: Hertfordshire Bowls, November 2016 or club)

| Club | Site | Number of rinks | Number of members (* from club survey return) | Site management | Summary score for green quality, management and maintenance | Summary score for general characteristics and accessibility | Summary score for pavilion facilities |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Allenburys Langley Bowls Club | Harris's Lane, Ware | 6 | 25 | Industry club | 85% | 75% | 100% |
| Aston Bowls Club | School Lane, Aston | 5 | 28 | Club | 100% | 95% | 100% |
| Bengeo Bowls Club | Bengeo Street, Hertford | 5 | 24 | Club | 100% | 80% | 100% |
| Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club | Bowling Lane, Bishop's Stortford | 6 | 112* | Club | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | | 6 | | | 100% | | |
| Buntingford Bowls Club | Wyddial Road, Buntingford | 6 | 120* | Club | 100% | 88% | 100% |
| Datchworth Bowls Club | Brookbridge Lane, Datchworth | 6 | 68 | Club | 100% | 96% | 100% |
| Havers Park Lawn Bowls Club | South Street, Bishop's Stortford | 6 | 56 | Club | 89% | 100% | 100% |
| Hertford Bowls Club | Pegs Lane, Hertford | 6 | 40 | Council | 100% | 96% | 100% |
| Hertford Castle Bowls Club | | | 45 | | | | |

| | | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|---|------|----------------|------|------|------|
| Much Hadham Bowls Club | Tower Hill, Much Hadham | 6 | 62 | Club | 97% | 96% | 100% |
| Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club | Bell Street, Sawbridgeworth | 6 | 110* | Club | 100% | 88% | 100% |
| Sele Farm Bowls Club | Hartham Common, Hertford | 6 | 33 | Leisure centre | 100% | 95% | 100% |
| Shire Park Bowls Club | School Lane, Tewin | 6 | 46 | Club | 95% | 95% | 100% |
| Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club | Station Road, Puckeridge | 4 | 28 | Club | 92% | 92% | 100% |
| Ware Bowls Club | Priory Street, Ware | 6 | 96 | Club | 100% | 100% | 100% |

Figure 30: Outdoor bowls greens



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

Assessment of current supply and demand

Indoor bowls

- 7.13 Indoor bowling centres can cater for a high membership, and the English Indoor Bowls Association advises that 80-100 members per rink can be used as a guide to assess the capacity. However this is not the only factor, as ideally the level of usage at peak time should also be considered. Unfortunately this information is not held by the EIBA and cannot easily be obtained from the clubs.
- 7.14 As there are no facilities in the district, it is necessary to consider the capacity of the facilities in the adjacent authorities. Figure 31 shows that the specialist indoor bowls site in Harlow has some, but limited spare capacity. The Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre is only used at around half of its potential however, this is misleading because the bowls hall is used for a number of other activities, so is not available all of the time. It is estimated that in fact the Stevenage site is used at a rate similar to that of Harlow. The indoor bowls site in Saffron Waldon is used at about half of its capacity, whilst the site in Cheshunt is operating at closer to 75%.

Figure 31: Indoor bowls and capacity

| Site | Number of rinks | Capacity of site @ 80 members per rink | | Current membership | Used capacity % (at 80 per rink) | Used capacity % (at 100 per rink) |
|--|-----------------|--|------------------------|--------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| | | @ 80 members per rink | @ 100 members per rink | | | |
| Tye Green, Harlow | 9 | 720 | 900 | 700 | 97% | 78% |
| Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre, Stevenage | 6 | 480 | 600 | 238 | 50% | 40% |
| Turpin's Indoor Bowling Club, Saffron Waldon | 6 | 480 | 600 | 280 | 58% | 46% |
| Cheshunt Indoor Bowls Club, Cheshunt | 6 | 480 | 600 | 359 | 75% | 60% |

- 7.15 The membership of indoor bowls clubs has remained fairly static nationally over the last few years despite increases in the number of older people. Given this, there

appears to be no requirement for new specialist indoor bowls facilities in East Herts at the present time as it is likely that the cross-border movement will continue.

Outdoor bowls

- 7.16 The capacity of outdoor bowls greens is approximately 100 members per 6 rink green, i.e. about 17 members per rink. However, the “capacity” of the most competitive clubs would be potentially lower than this figure, whilst the membership capacity of the most “social” clubs might be higher. If the current membership is compared to the potential capacity of the sites, it is clear that Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth are already running at full capacity, Ware is also running close to capacity at 94%, and Buntingford is at about 90% full capacity. However, some of the other sites are more lightly used, for example Allenburys has about 25% used capacity and Bengoe has about 28% used capacity. Figure 33 gives more detail and also forecasts the potential future demand for bowls across the authority.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 7.17 There are no indoor bowls clubs in the district which could respond to the survey. Several of the outdoor clubs however responded and their feedback is summarised below.

Bishop’s Stortford Bowling Club

- 7.18 The club return reports that they have 112 members, which is lower than the 128 members recorded by Hertfordshire Bowls. Most of the members are veterans and there are no junior players. The veterans travel up to about 20 minutes to reach the club but the seniors travel up to 30 minutes. The club has estimated that about 77% of the members come from Bishop’s Stortford and the surrounding villages, but that 15% come from in and around Sawbridgeworth, 5% from Harlow and 3% from Uttlesford. The club has grown over the last 5 years and anticipates growing further in the future. There is no waiting list and there are no issues which would limit the club’s growth.
- 7.19 The green is described as being of excellent quality and it hosts the county finals and inter-county matches. However, the floodlighting is inadequate for evening use. The clubhouse and ancillary facilities are also described as being of high quality and were new in 2008.

Buntingford Bowls Club

- 7.20 The club reports having 120 members, which is much higher than the Hertfordshire Bowls recorded number of 92 members. Of the 120 members, 90 are veterans, 28 are seniors and 2 are juniors. All of the members come from a very local area, mostly

from Buntingford itself and they travel up to about 5 minutes to reach the site. The club membership has increased over the last 5 years and anticipates growing further in the next few years. There are no waiting lists at the club and there are no issues which will hinder the expansion.

- 7.21 The club plays year round at their site. The green and clubhouse building are described as being good quality but the ancillary facilities are poor.

Sawbridgeworth Bowling Club

- 7.22 The club return indicates that it has about 110 members, which is lower than the Hertfordshire Bowls Assn figure of 129. All of the members are veterans and come from within about a 10 minute drive of the site. All are from Sawbridgeworth and the nearby villages. The club reports having a falling membership over the last 5 years and does not expect the club to grow over the next few years. The club is struggling to recruit members and lacks funding.
- 7.23 The club has not provided an assessment of the green quality but notes that the changing facilities and ancillary facilities are below average quality. The car park is a paid for parking facility, and there is insufficient storage on site.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 7.24 The national governing body for indoor bowls is the English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd (EIBA) which forms part of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA). For the period 2013-2017 the BDA has secured funding from Sport England to: grow participation across the adult population aged 55+ years; to provide excellent sporting experiences for existing participants in order to retain membership levels, and; to grow participation of those who have disabilities (Bowls England, 2017). The Bowls Development Alliance has just launched a new funding package which covers both indoor and outdoor bowls clubs to encourage membership recruitment.
- 7.25 The EIBA vision for 2017-21 (English Indoor Bowling Association, 2017) aims to increase participation across several groups, but with the recognition that the recruitment and retention of those aged 45 years and over, and those aged over 70 will require different versions/formats of the game.
- 7.26 The EIBA will also continue to seek increased participation in the 12-18 age range, amongst women and people with disabilities. The strategy priorities include the retention and improvement of existing facilities, and new indoor facilities in areas of low supply and high demand.
- 7.27 The EIBA provided the latest available (2016) membership figures for the indoor bowling clubs in the adjacent authorities. The governing body has the view that the two nearest indoor clubs, Tye Green in Harlow and Stevenage have sufficient capacity to cater for future demand into the long term.

7.28 The EIBA further advise that although the previously published facility catchment advice was a 20 minute drive time, that a 30 minute drive time catchment is now considered more appropriate and should be used for facility strategy planning.

7.29 The Bowls Development Alliance (BDA) Vision is “Working with flat green clubs to help them and the bowlers within them to develop more resilient habits to ensure a stronger sport, the benefits of which can be enjoyed for a life time”. Their strategy is Play Bowls, and for 2017-2021 the Play Bowls focus will be to support:

.....Sport England’s vision to produce a more productive, sustainable, resilient and responsible sport sector. This plan puts bowls customers at the heart of its delivery with the aim to make bowls clubs more welcoming and inclusive, particularly for those who are older and those who are currently under-represented in the sport but also help to reinforce a physical activity habit well into later life.

The strategy has aimed to align itself to the priorities laid down by Sport England in the new strategy “Towards an Active Nation” looking to develop more resilient habits, encourage those older people who are presently inactive to become active and develop a more diverse volunteer workforce.

The strategy will also provide opportunities for both physical and mental well- being and to encourage more bowls clubs to be the heart of the local community through the provision of more diverse services.

The next four years will see the following actions:

- *Intensive support to 200 identified clubs to help strengthen resilience in the core market through the new Club Development Programme*
- *Support clubs to encourage those who are presently inactive to engage with bowls through the Play Bowls Package*
- *Upskilling of volunteers so as to impact directly on sustaining membership and to continue to grow participation particularly providing more opportunities for those with a disability*
- *Assist bowls clubs to become an integral part of the local community*
- *Ensure clubs have the support and guidance they need to keep their facilities at a standard that will maintain the habit of physical activity of their members*

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

7.30 A review of the bowls provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendix 7). In summary:

Broxbourne

Current needs:

There is one indoor bowls facility, at Cheshunt with 6 rinks. There are also a number of sites within 20 minutes drive time, including in Harlow and Stevenage.

There are 5 outdoor bowls greens which provide for 5 clubs in the borough, 2 of which are in Hoddesdon. It appears that the clubs are all fairly full, with memberships ranging between 65 and 100. However, there is some spare capacity. The quality is generally good but some improvements are needed.

Future needs: No additional indoor bowls is required, but should an opportunity arise to extend the existing facility, one extra rink may be required. No additional outdoor bowls provision is required but it is suggested that one green is converted to artificial turf.

Implications for East Herts: With the fast road network, the Cheshunt indoor bowls facility is accessible to the residents of East Herts as far north as Hertford and Ware. The current export of players from East Herts is expected to be able to remain into the long term. In relation to outdoor bowls, the clubs in Hoddesdon are likely to attract some players from East Herts, and there is also likely to be some import. There is not expected to be any significant change in this balance, so the current situation is expected to continue.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work summarised below.

Current needs: The sports facilities assessment identified that the existing indoor bowls facility in Epping Forest meets all current needs. For outdoor bowls the seven existing greens in Epping Forest meet all current needs. There is no evidence of any exported demand.

Future needs: One additional indoor rink will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing and this should be provided by expanding the existing facility. One additional outdoor green will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.

Implications for East Herts: As there are no indoor bowls facilities in East Herts, there are no implications. For outdoor bowls it is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to East Herts will therefore be limited.

Harlow

Current needs: The Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club has some (limited) spare capacity. Most members (95%) live in Harlow (based on club return of 2016 for Harlow Sports Facilities Strategy). There are 3 outdoor bowls clubs on independent sites. Although the greens are of good quality, the ancillary facilities and disabled access is less good. The clubs have some spare capacity.

Future needs: The indoor bowls club is expected to continue to operate into the long term. There is no requirement for any additional rink space. There is also no requirement for additional outdoor bowls provision.

Implications for East Herts: If the indoor provision remains, this can continue to provide into the long term for East Herts residents who are within its drive time catchment. The catchment of outdoor bowls greens is around 15 minutes, which will cover part of the Gilston Area. With the spare capacity in Harlow and in clubs in East Herts, no additional outdoor bowls greens are required to meet the extra demand from growth.

North Hertfordshire

Current needs:

Riverain Bowls Club Ltd is the only indoor bowls facility in North Hertfordshire. The facility consists of an international standard 8-rink indoor green which was refurbished in 2008. The potential closure of Luton Indoor Bowls Club increases the importance of this sole facility further, with c500 members without a facility.

There are 13 flat green bowling greens in North Hertfordshire, servicing 15 clubs. Seven clubs are operating below the average club/green membership and have capacity to increase usage. Baldock Town Bowls Club and Royston Bowls Club are operating at capacity, although neither reports enough demand to make a case for the provision of additional outdoor greens.

Future needs: Consultation with EIBA suggests that there is sufficient supply of indoor bowls facilities within North Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas to meet both current and future demand. Additional demand may be accommodated at Royston Leisure Centre which already has equipment to deliver short mat bowls in the sports hall, should the facility be available. Provision of outdoor bowling greens is sufficient to accommodate both current and future demand.

Implications for East Herts: No additional specialist provision is anticipated or required. The existing flow of players out of East Herts to the Riverain Bowls Club is expected to continue. Any existing import/export of participants for outdoor bowls is unlikely to significantly change in the future, and levels of demand are likely to remain fairly constant, even with the ageing populations.

Stevenage

Current need:

At the present time the provision for indoor bowls is via the 6 rink bowls hall at the A&LC. The current facility is not fully available for indoor bowling and there are a number of quality issues which impact upon its use. The membership of the Stevenage Indoor Bowls Club is gradually declining. The club considers that this is largely due to the

problems experienced with the current provision, including the quality of the bowls surface, lighting, and difficulties in booking evenings and weekends.

The two sites with three greens in Stevenage are managed in house by Stevenage Borough Council. The bowling greens at the King George V (KGV) site are better quality. The club playing at King George V has a growing club membership, but the club at Shephalbury Park is small. The site at King George V ground suffers from a lack of car parking which impacts upon the ability of the club to hold matches and grow further. The club would also like to install floodlights to extend the playing period and season.

Future need: There will be a continuing need for a total of 6 rinks of indoor bowling space in the period up to 2031. This provision may be as part of the new wet/dry leisure centre, or possibly via a new bowls hall sited close to the existing greens at the King George V playing fields. There is sufficient capacity on the outdoor greens to cater for additional members, but there is a need to improve the quality of the greens and ancillary facilities at Shephalbury Park, and to address the car parking issues at King George V playing fields.

Implications for East Herts: the indoor bowls provision in Stevenage is an important accessible facility for a large area of East Herts, as there are no indoor bowls centres in East Herts. A change in location from the A&LC to King George V would not be significant in terms of travel time. However, a complete loss of the indoor bowls facility would have a very significant impact on a large area of East Herts. The outdoor green at Shephalbury Park will be within the drive time catchment of the East of Stevenage site and it has sufficient capacity for the additional demand. The priority is to improve the site quality.

Uttlesford

Current needs: The indoor bowls facility in Saffron Walden has some spare capacity, but needs in the south of the district, adjacent to Harlow, are met in part by the Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club. The current levels of provision of outdoor bowls facilities in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs, with some spare capacity. There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts.

Future needs: With current spare capacity at the Saffron Walden facility, most additional demand arising by 2031 can be accommodated without additional provision, although it is likely that needs in the south of Uttlesford will continue to be met by the Harlow facility. Effective spare capacity at the current outdoor bowls greens has been calculated as the equivalent of one outdoor bowls green. This will leave a net shortfall of two bowls greens by 2031, once existing spare capacity has been utilised.

Implications for East Herts: Some residents from East Herts are likely to be using the indoor bowls site at Saffron Walden, and this is expected to continue into the long

term. With a relatively localised user catchment for outdoor bowls, it is unlikely that greens in East Herts will attract significant levels of usage from Uttlesford.

Welwyn Hatfield

Current needs: There is one indoor bowls facility, at Hatfield, with 4 rinks. 2 additional rinks are justified now, based on the national average rate of provision. For outdoor bowls there are 8 greens on 7 sites. The greens are high quality but there is a need to improve the ancillary facilities at some sites.

Future needs: Again based on the national average rate of provision, 2 further indoor rinks will be needed by 2026 and there may be a need for 2-3 outdoor greens.

Implications for East Herts: The strategy recommendations do not assess the level of used capacity of the existing indoor or outdoor bowls facilities nor their quality. This needs confirming before the future needs of Welwyn Hatfield and the East of Welwyn can be confirmed.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

- 7.31 The Market Segmentation analysis (Sport England, 2017) from Sport England suggests that bowls is only participated in by two of the market segments in the district, the “Comfortable Retired Couples” and the “Retirement Home Singles” (Elsie and Arnold). This reflects the characteristics of the sport, which primarily attracts older people despite efforts to attract a higher number of younger players.

Comparator authorities’ provision

- 7.32 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England, 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of indoor bowls provision per 1,000 head of population for East Herts (see Figure 32). It is clear from this simplistic review that East Herts is not unusual in not having an indoor bowls facility.
- 7.33 Active Places does not include outdoor bowls, so there is no comparator information available for this facility type.

Figure 32: Indoor Bowls centres - comparator authorities

| Nearest Neighbour | Population at 2016 (ONS figure) | Indoor bowls centres | | Indoor bowls centres (number of rinks) | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|---------------------|--|-----------------|
| | | Total | Per 1000 population | Total | Per 1000 people |
| East Herts | 145,900 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| Sevenoaks | 119,600 | 2 | 0.02 | 16 | 0.13 |
| South Oxfordshire | 138,300 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| St Albans | 147,600 | 1 | 0.01 | 4 | 0.03 |
| Vale of White Horse | 127,000 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| East of England | 6,076,451 | 74 | 0.01 | 386 | 0.06 |
| England | 57,885,413 | 326 | 0.01 | 1694 | 0.03 |

Summary of current situation

- 7.34 The sport of bowls attracts mainly older people and the national governing body uses 55 years and over as the target market. However, in practice, most players are aged 60 and over.
- 7.35 There are currently no specialist indoor bowls facilities in East Herts, but many people in East Herts have access to a specialist indoor bowls site within 20 minutes drive time, and the majority have access within 30 minutes travel time to facilities over the borders. The closest indoor bowls centres for most residents are in Harlow and in Stevenage. Both of these have some, limited spare capacity. The primary reason for the restricted capacity at Stevenage is the high level of use of the bowls hall for other sports and events. Although the national governing body (EIBA) considers that there is sufficient capacity at these two sites to cater for the long term demand arising from East Herts, the actual usage of these sites by East Herts residents appears to be low.
- 7.36 The village and community hall facilities supplement the specialist facilities by providing space for short mat and carpet bowls. At the present time there is no justification for a new specialist centre.
- 7.37 The network of outdoor bowls sites is such that everyone with access to a car can reach a club within 15 minutes drive time. Other than Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth, all of the clubs have some spare capacity, but the accessibility is the most important factor in the rural areas of the district.

- 7.38 All of the sites except the green at Pegs Lane in Hertford are club owned and managed and most have 6 rinks with 1 green. The club at Bishop's Stortford has 2 greens and it is such high quality that it is used for county level matches. All of the club sites have good quality greens and ancillary facilities including their pavilions.
- 7.39 There are currently a total of 86 rinks across the district and with a current district population of 145,800 the overall current rate of provision per 1,000 population is 0.59 rinks, or 3,540 people per 6 rinks, the usual size of a green.

Future supply and demand

Indoor bowls

- 7.40 There is some but limited spare capacity within the indoor bowls centres at Harlow and Stevenage, so meeting new demand from both an ageing population and new planned populations may be difficult if the sport was to increase significantly in popularity. However, the sport has been experiencing a declining participation rate over the last few years, so no new specialist facilities are likely to be needed in East Herts if the existing network of provision outside of the authority remains.

Outdoor bowls

- 7.41 The population of East Herts who are aged 60 and over is expected to rise from about 32,400 to 48,800 by 2033. Figure 33 models what may happen to the demand for outdoor bowls across the sites, assuming that the current membership levels at each club are projected forward.

Figure 33: Outdoor bowls demand and capacity up to 2033

| | | | | | Max capacity @ 17 members per rink | Spare capacity (number of members) | Used capacity in 2016 % | Current population in East Herts aged 60+ years | Forecast population aged 60+ in 2033 | Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2033 | Future number of members per site with 0.5% increase in rate of participation at 2033 | Spare capacity in number of members of site if no increase in participation at 2033 | Spare capacity in number of members of site with increase in participation @ 0.5% pa at 2033 |
|---------------------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Club | Number of greens | Number of rinks | Number of members in 2016 | Number of members per rink 2016 | | | | | | | | | |
| Allenburys Langley Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 25 | 4 | 102 | 77 | 25% | 32400 | 48800 | 38 | 41 | 64 | 61 |
| Aston Bowls Club | 1 | 5 | 28 | 6 | 85 | 57 | 33% | | | 42 | 46 | 43 | 39 |
| Bengeo Bowls Club | 1 | 5 | 24 | 5 | 85 | 61 | 28% | | | 36 | 39 | 49 | 46 |
| Bishop’s Stortford Bowling Club | 2 | 12 | 112 | 9 | 204 | 92 | 55% | | | 169 | 183 | 35 | 21 |
| Buntingford Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 120 | 20 | 102 | -18 | 118% | | | 181 | 196 | -79 | -94 |
| Datchworth Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 68 | 11 | 102 | 34 | 67% | | | 102 | 111 | 0 | -9 |
| Havers Park Lawn Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 56 | 9 | 102 | 46 | 55% | | | 84 | 92 | 18 | 10 |
| Hertford Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 40 | 14 | 102 | 17 | 39% | | | 60 | 65 | -26 | -37 |
| Hertford Castle Bowls Club | 1 | | 45 | | | | | | | 68 | 74 | | |
| Much Hadham Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 62 | 10 | 102 | 40 | 61% | | | 93 | 101 | 9 | 1 |
| Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 110 | 18 | 102 | -8 | 108% | | | 166 | 180 | -64 | -78 |
| Sele Farm Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 33 | 6 | 102 | 69 | 32% | | | 50 | 54 | 52 | 48 |
| Shire Park Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 46 | 8 | 102 | 56 | 45% | | | 69 | 75 | 33 | 27 |
| Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club | 1 | 4 | 28 | 7 | 68 | 40 | 41% | | | 42 | 46 | 26 | 22 |
| Ware Bowls Club | 1 | 6 | 96 | 16 | 102 | 6 | 94% | | | 145 | 157 | -43 | -55 |
| | | | 893 | | 1462 | | 57% | | | 633 | 674 | | |

- 7.42 The table in Figure 33 considers both what would happen if the existing rate of demand per 1,000 population stayed steady, and if there was to be an increase in participation of 0.5% per annum up to 2033. The outcomes suggest that by 2033 the some of the sites/clubs at Buntingford, Hertford, Sawbridgeworth and Ware will all be well over the accepted capacity although some of the other sites will remain fairly lightly used. The extent of the extra demand by 2033 at Buntingford is close to what would justify an additional bowls green, and this is also the case at Sawbridgeworth. However the delivery of a new outdoor bowls site may be easier to achieve in the Gilston Area rather than within Sawbridgeworth, so this has been proposed as the delivery priority.
- 7.43 The lack of capacity at some of the sites in Hertford and Ware is balanced out by spare capacity at other sites.

Meeting the needs of the future

Indoor bowls

- 7.44 The priority will be to support the retention/replacement of indoor bowls facilities in the adjacent authorities, and to ensure that village and community centres can offer indoor bowls as an activity. This may require improved/additional storage space.
- 7.45 The network of indoor bowls facilities in the surrounding authorities however needs to be kept under review, in particular the future of the indoor bowls provision in Stevenage, which is within the Arts and Leisure Centre which may be replaced with or without indoor bowls.

Outdoor bowls

- 7.46 Given the outcomes of the modelling of future demand and supply, the priorities are:
- Support the existing clubs to retain the network of bowling greens at high quality.
 - Develop one additional 6-rink green at both Buntingford and in the Gilston Area by 2026.
 - Seek to support the existing clubs at Allenburys, Bengoe and Sele Farm to attract more members.
- 7.47 Assuming that there is no increase in participation per 1,000 population, the required future provision is for 98 rinks across the district as a whole, retaining the current rate of provision per 1,000 population of 0.59 rinks, or 3,540 people per 6 rinks, the usual size of a green.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 7.48 The assessment above considers the need for both indoor and outdoor bowls provision. At the present time, there is no requirement for indoor bowls facilities in the district, and no developer contributions are proposed for this facility type. There is however a need for two additional bowls sites, at Gilston and Buntingford, and a need to retain the existing sites at high quality. A mechanism to identify appropriate developer contributions for outdoor bowls is therefore required. The following are proposed as the Provision Guide (see also Figure 48), the justification for which is contained within the preceding assessment.

| Quantity per 1,000 population | Accessibility | Quality |
|---|-------------------|--|
| 0.59 rinks per 1,000 provided as 6-rink green | 15 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England and national governing body guidance. |

- 7.49 For most developments, there is no requirement for developers' contributions to be sought, but there is a need to ensure that land is set aside and monies made available for the required sites at Buntingford and the Gilston Area. The new developments within the relevant catchment area should contribute and in the Gilston Area the provision should be for a new bowls site, inclusive of land, green, ancillary facilities and car parking.

Recommendations for indoor and outdoor bowls

Council's role in indoor and outdoor bowls provision

- 7.50 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will:

- continue to support outdoor bowls clubs across the district, including securing the provision of additional 6-rink outdoor bowls sites via planning policy for Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth/Gilston Area.
- support facility improvements at village halls and community centres which will enable the halls to offer indoor bowls as an activity.

Sites

Protect

- 7.51 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing network of outdoor bowls greens and their ancillary facilities.

Enhance and Provide

- 7.52 The priorities for new provision are one 6-rink outdoor bowls green in both Buntingford and Sawbridgeworth/Gilston Area by 2026. These will need to be confirmed through more detailed local feasibility work.
- 7.53 Appropriate land for the outdoor bowls greens should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.
- 7.54 Provide additional storage at village halls and community centres where there is demand for indoor bowls but a lack of storage restricts this use.
- 7.55 Improve:
- Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club – floodlighting
 - Buntingford Bowls Club – ancillary facilities
 - Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club – changing, ancillary facilities and storage

SECTION 8: TENNIS

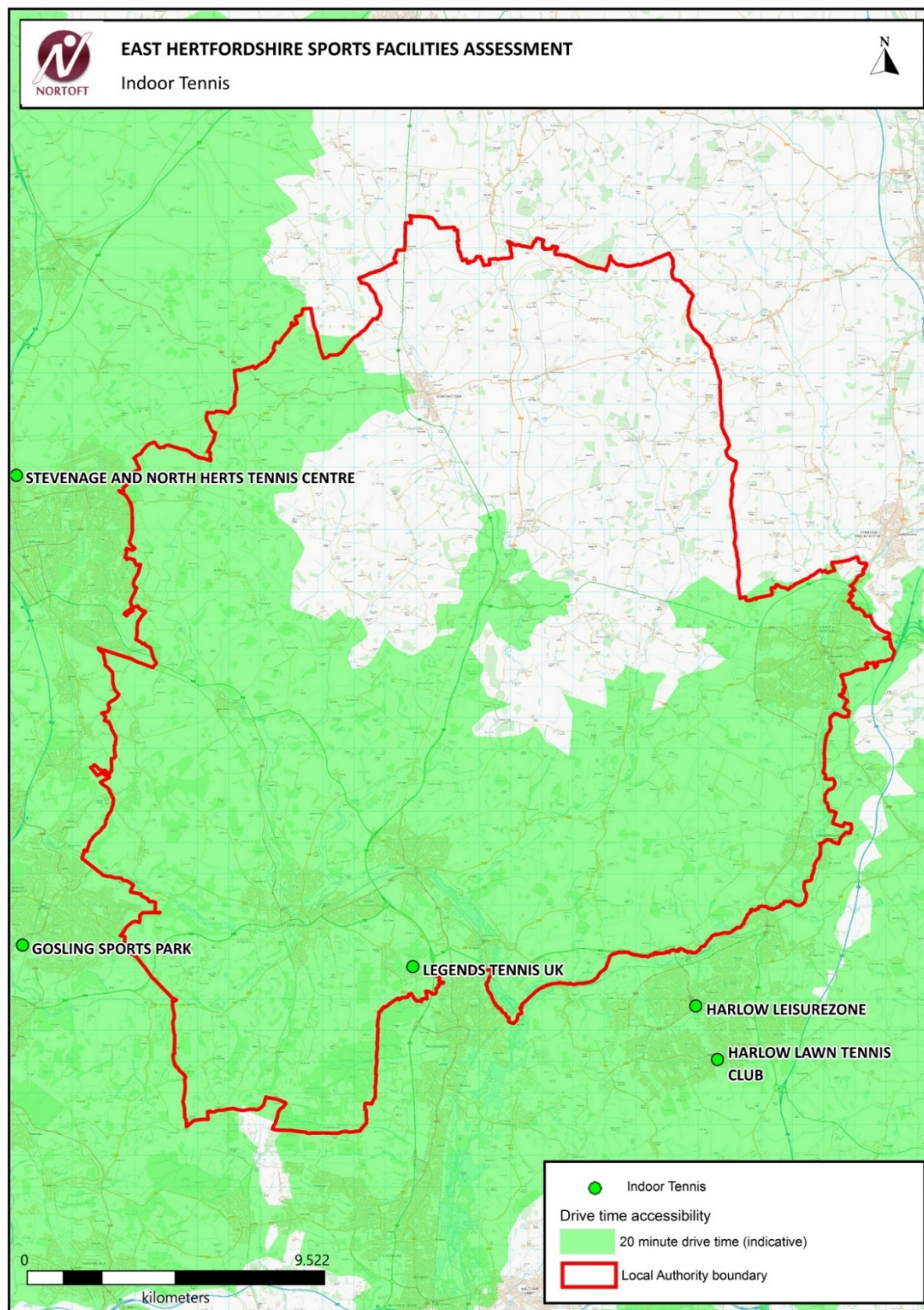
- 8.1 This section of the report addresses both indoor and outdoor tennis provision.
- 8.2 Indoor tennis facilities tend to be strategically located and often serve a wider than local catchment. They are important recreational facilities for casual play but are often equally important for training and the development of elite tennis players, and for higher level competitions. Indoor tennis centres usually have a number of courts (4, 6 or 8) that are associated with outdoor courts. There is one indoor tennis site in the district, the Legends Tennis Centre near Haileybury which has four high quality indoor and four high quality outdoor courts.
- 8.3 There are 21 usable outdoor tennis sites with community access in the district giving a total of 75 courts. In addition, there is one MUGA which appears to be permanently set up for tennis and two tennis sites which appear to be unused; Hunsdon with two courts, and Priory Tennis at Ware with 1 court. Of the sites, 11 have club access (of which 4 also host clubs) whilst 10 have pay and play or are open access. The clubs generally have open memberships, although the membership at Allenburys is restricted.
- 8.4 Sport England's Active People Survey (Sport England , 2016) suggests that nationally around 746,900 adults over 16 years play tennis at least once a month, but tennis participation has decreased during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16. The sport attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups.
- 8.5 Rates of tennis participation at the district level are too low for the Sport England Active People Survey to track, so it is assumed that the national trends apply. The LTA's affiliated club information gives a total membership figure of 2128. This gives a membership rate of 14.6 per 1000 population.

Current provision

Indoor courts

- 8.6 There are 4 covered acrylic courts at the Legends Tennis Centre near Haileybury in a permanent air hall. They are all floodlit and the quality of the courts is good. The courts are available on a pay and play basis as well as via a membership scheme. The access to the indoor courts at Legends and outside of the authority is mapped at Figure 34 using a 20 minute drive time catchment. This suggests that the southern and western parts of the authority have good access to indoor tennis provision, but that much of the central area and the north eastern area of the authority has no access within 20 minutes drive time.

Figure 34: Indoor tennis and accessibility



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

Outdoor courts

- 8.7 There are a total of 82 regularly available and usable outdoor courts with community access. These are listed in Figure 35 together with their scorings for court quality, site quality and type of access. The distribution of the currently affiliated LTA clubs means that most East Herts residents have access to an affiliated club within 10 minutes drive time (Figure 36). The most notable gap is around Buntingford, where the tennis club was previously affiliated to the LTA but was not in 2016.
- 8.8 The non-technical site quality audit undertaken in February 2017 identified some significant quality differences across the sites. The best sites were generally the LTA club affiliated sites which have good quality courts and ancillary facilities. However of the LTA affiliated clubs, Much Hadham has no changing provision.
- 8.9 A key issue identified by the audit is a lack of signage and promotion of a number of the tennis sites, including a lack of promotion at Leventhorpe Leisure Centre, operated by Nuffield Health. However as the hard courts at the leisure centres also provide for netball, so the actual availability of the courts for community tennis is much less than the dedicated court sites.
- 8.10 The two disused macadam tennis courts at Hunsdon appear to have been managed and possibly owned by a club which has now folded. The future of this site therefore seems uncertain and the courts are poor quality. There is also no clubhouse on the site.
- 8.11 The Priory Tennis court is owned by the Town Council in Ware. It is poor quality and there is no changing available. It now appears to be disused.
- 8.12 The Allenbury's site previously hosted an LTA affiliated club. The site is only available to employees so has a restrictive membership policy. The quality of the courts and site are moderate.

Figure 35: Tennis courts and site quality

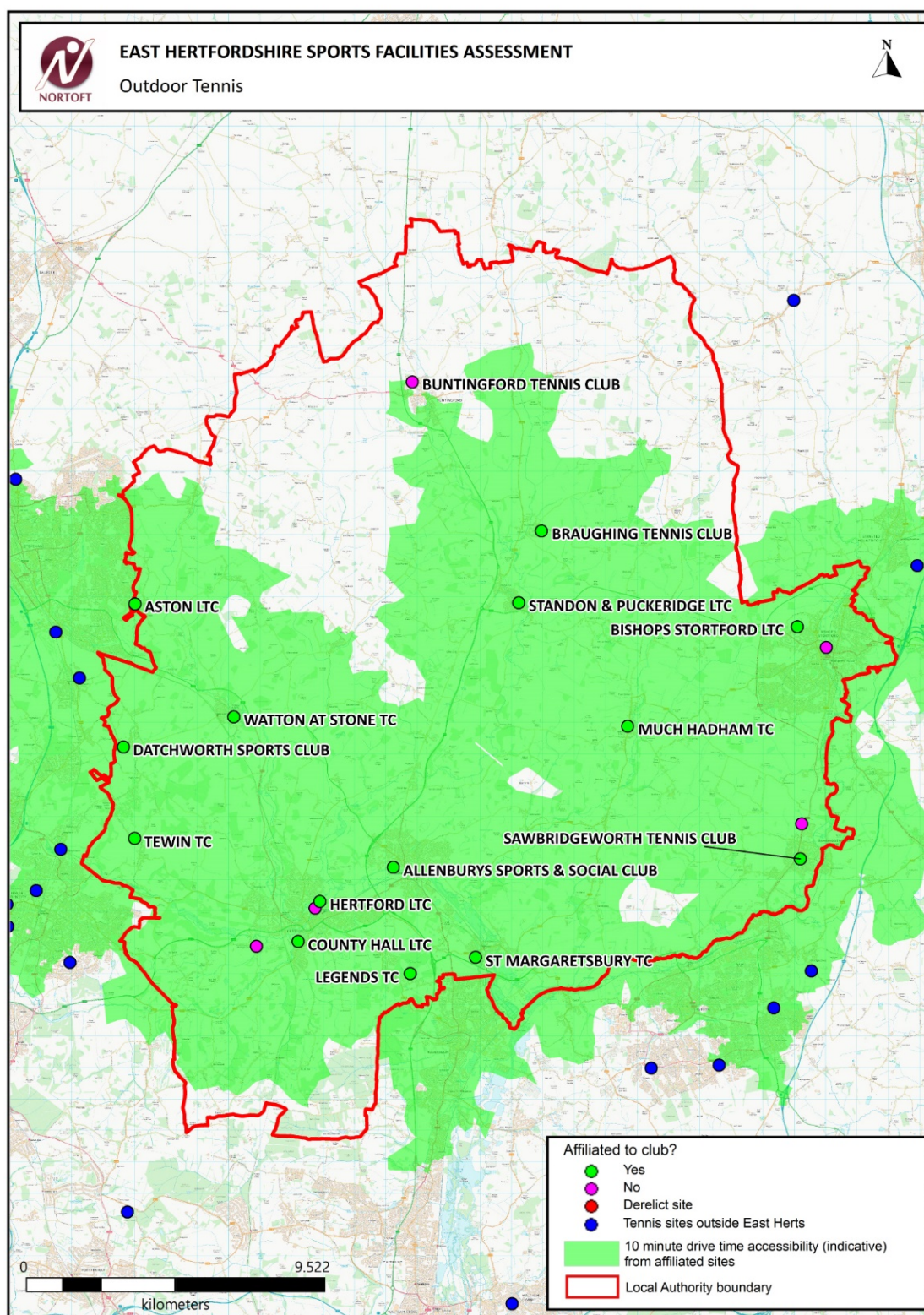
KEY: Shaded rows are LTA affiliated clubs

Quality assessment:

- 4 - Space is fine as it is/high quality
- 3 - Some improvements needed or average quality, mostly through better maintenance
- 2 - Below average quality/some capital investment needed
- 1 - Poor quality, major investment needed
- 0 - Facility or feature is missing but needed
- x - Facility or feature is missing but NOT needed

| SITE NAME | CLUB NAME | SETTLEMENT | OWNER (LA, SCHOOL, CLUB, PRIVATE OR OTHER) | Access | | | Tennis Courts type and quality | | | | | | | | | | Summary score for changing pavilion | Summary score for signage |
|---|------------------------------------|-------------------|--|---------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------|------------------------|---|--|--------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|---|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | | Derelict and unused | Publicly accessible, available for hire | Restricted to specific club | Surface type | No. of courts | No. of floodlit courts | Condition of playing surface including line | Condition of surround netting and entrance gates | Quality of Floodlighting | Freedom from litter, dog fouling | Freedom from damage to surface | Wind break/ shelter planting for courts | Summary quality score | | |
| Allenburys Sports & Social Club | Allenburys Sports & Social Club | Ware | Industrial sports club | | | Y (restricted membership) | Porous macadam | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 83% | 69% | Not required |
| Aston Tennis Courts | Aston Tennis Club | Aston | Club | | | Y | Porous macadam | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | x | 4 | 4 | 2 | 0.9 | 1 | 67% |
| Bramfield AGP | No club | Bramfield | Council | | Y | | Porous macadam | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4 | x | 4 | 4 | 4 | 95% | 100% | 0% |
| Brickendon Tennis Courts | Parish Council | Brickendon | Council | | Y | | Porous macadam | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | x | 4 | 4 | 4 | 95% | 81% | 67% |
| Bishops Stortford Lawn Tennis Club | Bishops Stortford Lawn Tennis Club | Bishops Stortford | Club | | | Y | Grass | 6 | 0 | 3 | 3 | x | 4 | 3 | 3 | 80% | 81% | 33% |
| | | | | | | | Clay | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| | | | | | | | AGP | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 100% | | |
| | | | | | | | Porous macadam | 2 (mini) | 2 (mini) | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 100% | |
| Buntingford Tennis Club | Buntingford Tennis Club | Buntingford | Club | | Y | Y | AGP | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 96% | 100% | 67% |
| Braughling Tennis Courts | Braughling Tennis Club | Braughling | Club | | | Y | Porous macadam | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 96% | 75% | 100% |
| Castle Tennis Courts | Informal use | Bishops Stortford | Council | | | | Porous macadam | 3 | 0 | 2 | 3 | x | 4 | 4 | 4 | 85% | No changing | |
| Datchworth Green Road Recreation Ground | Datchworth Tennis Club | Datchworth | Club | | Y | Y | Porous macadam | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | x | 4 | 4 | 2 | 85% | No changing | 67% |
| Hertford Leisure Centre Tennis | Leisure centre | Hertford | Council | | Y | | Porous macadam | 1 | 0 | 4 | 4 | x | 4 | 4 | 2 | 90% | 100% | 0% |
| Hertford Tennis Courts | Hertford Lawn Tennis Club | Hertford | Club | | | Y | Acrylic | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 92% | 100% | 67% |
| | | | | | | | Porous macadam | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 92% | | |
| Hunsdon Tennis Courts | Hunsdon Tennis Club (now closed?) | Hunsdon | Hunsdon Tennis Club (now closed?) | Y | | | Porous macadam | 2 | 0 | 3 | 3 | x | 3 | 4 | 3 | 80% | No changing | 33% |
| Leahoe Gardens Tennis Courts | County Hall Lawn Tennis Club | Hertford | Council | | | Y | Porous macadam | 2 | 0 | 4 | 3 | x | 4 | 4 | 3 | 90% | 100% | 67% |
| Legends Tennis Centre | Legends Tennis Centre | Hertford | Commercial | | | Y | Acrylic | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4 | x | 4 | 4 | 3 | 90% | 100% | 100% |
| Much Hadham Tennis Courts | Much Hadham Tennis Club | Much Hadham | Club | | | Y | Porous macadam | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 96% | No changing | 100% |
| Priory Tennis | Informal use | Ware | Council | Y | | | Porous macadam | 1 | 0 | 1 | 1 | x | 3 | 3 | 2 | 55% | No changing | 33% |
| Puckeridge Bowls and Tennis | Standon Lawn Tennis Club | Standon | Club | | Y | Y | AGP | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 1 | 100% | 67% |
| Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club | Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club | Sawbridgeworth | Club | | | Y | AGP | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 96% | 100% | 100% |
| | | | | | | | Porous macadam | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 96% | | |
| | | | | | | | Clay | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 3 | 96% | | | |
| | | | | | | | Acrylic | 2 (4 mini) | 0 | | | | | | | | | |
| St Margaretsbury Tennis Courts | St Margaretsbury Tennis Club | St Margarets | Club | | | Y | AGP | 3 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 100% | 33% |
| Tewin Tennis Club | Tewin Tennis Club | Tewin | Club | | Y | Y | Porous macadam | 2 | 0 | 4 | 4 | x | 4 | 4 | 4 | 100% | 100% | 33% |
| Watton at Stone Tennis Courts | Watton at Stone Tennis Club | Watton at Stone | Club | | | Y | Porous macadam | 3 | 3 | 4 | 3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 88% | 100% | 50% |
| Wodson Park Tennis Courts | Leisure centre | Ware | Trust | | Y | | Porous macadam | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 92% | 100% | 100% |

Figure 36: Outdoor tennis court locations



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

Assessment of current supply and demand

Indoor tennis

- 8.14 With the number of indoor tennis facilities over the border of the authority, and the Legends Tennis Centre, there is reasonable access to courts within 20 minutes for much of the authority area, and except for Buntingford, the main areas outside the drive time catchment are the rural areas with small populations and no significant future housing growth.

Outdoor tennis

- 8.15 The club membership affiliation numbers and site capacity assessments for East Herts are given in Figure 37. This uses the LTA's general guide for club membership numbers and facility requirements at 40 members for a non-floodlit court, 60 members for a floodlit court, and 200 members for an indoor court. This assessment suggests that the Bishop's Stortford site is over capacity and that Braughing, Datchworth and Tewin are also over capacity.
- 8.16 The largest club in the district is Bishop's Stortford which has 8 floodlit full size courts but a rapidly growing membership. It also has 6 grass courts and mini courts, but the total demand on this site justifies new/changed provision. This club meets the LTA's benchmark size for the consideration of an indoor facility. The options for this site might be either converting one or more of the grass courts to hard courts with, if possible floodlighting, or covering two or more courts. These options will need to be explored in detail, including full business plans, particularly if there is a proposal to cover courts.
- 8.17 The 2 court site at Tewin is not floodlit, but if both courts could be, this would help to reduce the extra demand on this site, to a more manageable level, although an additional court may be justified here. At Datchworth the two non-floodlit courts are running at about 91% used capacity, but if they were floodlit this would give an extra membership capacity of around 40 members, a third increase in the capacity of the club.
- 8.18 Braughing Tennis club is currently running at about 95% used capacity but as both courts are already floodlit, the only way of increasing capacity here would be through an additional court.
- 8.19 The current level of outdoor tennis court provision is 0.56 courts per 1000 population.

Figure 37: LTA affiliated clubs and site capacity

| Name | Coaching Programme Numbers Adults | Coaching Programme Numbers Junior | Coaching Programme Numbers Mini | Coaching Programme Numbers Total | Facilities – Number Of Full Size Non Floodlit Hard Courts | Facilities – Number Of Full Size Floodlit Hard Courts | Facilities – Number Of Indoor Courts | Membership – Total Current Membership | Membership – Overall Club Capacity (outdoor + indoor) | Membership – Percentage Capacity (+/- % Capacity) |
|--|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| Allenburys Sports & Social Club (Ware) | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 4 | | 30 | 240 | 13% |
| Aston Lawn Tennis Club | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | 39 | 80 | 49% |
| Bishops Stortford Lawn Tennis Club | 52 | 88 | 39 | 179 | 0 | 8 | | 570 | 480 | 119% |
| Braughing Tennis Club | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | | 114 | 120 | 95% |
| County Hall LTC | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | | 43 | 80 | 54% |
| Datchworth Sports Club | 5 | 6 | 12 | 23 | 2 | 0 | | 73 | 80 | 91% |
| Hertford Lawn Tennis Club | 28 | 65 | 162 | 255 | 0 | 7 | | 228 | 420 | 54% |
| Legends Tennis Centre | 116 | 114 | 300 | 530 | 4 | 0 | 4 | 268 | 960 | 28% |
| Much Hadham Tennis Club | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | | 101 | 180 | 56% |
| Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club | 50 | 56 | 270 | 376 | 7 | 7 | | 221 | 420 | 56% |
| St Margaretsbury Tennis Club | 0 | 0 | 8 | 8 | 1 | 2 | | 113 | 160 | 71% |
| Standon & Puckeridge LTC | 8 | 7 | 8 | 23 | 0 | 3 | | 59 | 180 | 33% |
| Tewin Tennis Club | 16 | 25 | 5 | 46 | 2 | 0 | | 140 | 80 | 175% |
| Watton at Stone Tennis Club | 27 | 53 | 26 | 106 | 0 | 3 | | 129 | 180 | 71% |
| | | | | | | | | 2128 | | |

Consultation findings

Club comments

8.20 The following clubs responded to the club survey.

Hertford Lawn Tennis Club

8.21 The club reports that it has about 210 members which is slightly lower than the LTA figure of 228. The membership draws from all age groups, with about 110 senior and veterans, 40 juniors and 60 minis. The members travel up to about 20 minutes to play but almost all live in Hertford, Ware and the surrounding villages. The membership at the club has increased over the last 5 years and anticipates growing in the next 5. The club does not have a waiting list and the main constraint on the club is a lack of courts.

8.22 The club plays on the Hartham Common courts which are owned by the club and which are also marked out for netball. The club has a 25 year lease on the facility which it uses year round. The courts are a mix of porous macadam and acrylic and are good quality. The changing facilities are considered to be below average and the other ancillary facilities are average although car parking is a significant problem. The club has a development plan which includes more court space, but the club also notes that it is within a conservation area so this may be difficult to achieve.

8.23 Adjacent to the club are four courts at Hartham Leisure Centre which are available on a pay and play basis, but which are not used regularly by the club.

St Margaretsbury Tennis Club

8.24 The club return states that it has about 90 members, which is much lower than the LTA figure of 160 members. Almost all of this club are senior or veteran members who travel up to 20 minutes to the club, and the 10 juniors and minis travel up to about 10 minutes to reach the club. Almost all of the members come from Hertford, Ware and the surrounding villages. The membership of the club has increased over the last 5 years but does not expect to grow in the next 5 years. There is no waiting list and there are no constraints on the growth of the club.

8.25 The club plays at The Recreation Ground in Stanstead Abbots where the courts are marked out for both tennis and netball. A charitable trust owns the site freehold and the club uses it 3-6 times a week year round. The courts are described as being in good condition but there is no changing provision and the other ancillary facilities are average.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 8.26 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) as the national governing body for tennis, does not currently recognise East Herts as a priority area. However, the LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition.
- 8.27 The LTA's British Tennis Funding Guide (2015) (LTA British Tennis, 2016) sets out the main funding streams via the LTA and the core criteria. It is applicable to clubs, education institutions and communities. The components of success are considered to be:
- Strategic importance – the need to match facility development with strategic need
 - Business and management plan – a business plan which will ensure the proposals as sustainable both in the short and long term
 - Sustainability – the facility must have a strong business plan, including provision for a sinking fund
 - Long security of tenure – normally over 21 years
 - Sports development plan – to generate more users
 - Partnerships – the most successful facilities have a range of partnerships that help to sustain and drive the membership of the club
 - Tennismark Accreditation – as a mark of good management etc.
 - Technical information – support of professionally qualified construction team.
- 8.28 Of particular note in the LTA's guide is that the LTA consider that facilities with a minimum of 4 courts have flexibility to run a multitude of tennis activities and subsequently can generate more income.
- 8.29 The LTA will invest in the following types of project with a mixture of grants and loans under different schemes:
- Outdoor courts with a year round surface, ideally with 4 courts
 - Floodlights
 - Café/social areas
 - Low court indoor courts such as airhalls, framed fabric structures and canopies.
- 8.30 The cost of four porous macadam courts is estimated by the LTA to be £120,000 with floodlighting at £45,000.
- 8.31 The LTA estimates that the capital cost of an air hall is around £100,000 per court but the cost of maintaining an air hall is around £20,000 per annum for a 3 court hall. A frame construction is around £200,000 per court to build, i.e. double the cost of an air hall, but the running costs are significantly lower. The Sport England estimated

costs as at quarter 2 of 2016 for a traditional building is around £2.35m for a 3 court facility.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 8.32 A review of the tennis provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendix 7). In summary:

Broxbourne

Current needs: There are no indoor tennis facilities in Broxbourne but everyone in the authority can reach an indoor court within 20 minutes drive time. There appears to be a shortfall of 3-5 indoor courts. For outdoor tennis, there are two large clubs with a number of high quality courts, at Broxbourne and at Hoddesdon, plus a smaller club at Rye Park on the Old Recreation Ground. These clubs are expected to have a drive time catchment of at least 10 minutes. There are few parks courts available for casual play.

Future needs: Some additional indoor provision may be required. The preferred option is an airhall at either/both Broxbourne TC or Hoddesdon TC. No additional outdoor tennis provision is required as there is sufficient capacity.

Implications for East Herts: The current importation of players from Broxbourne to the Legends Tennis Centre is likely to continue in relation to both indoor and outdoor tennis use, as is the current cross-border movement of players to other outdoor tennis sites.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work summarised below.

Current needs: The sports facilities assessment identified that the existing indoor and outdoor tennis facilities in Epping Forest meets all current needs. There is no evidence of any exported demand to East Herts.

Future needs: One additional indoor court will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing and this should be provided by expanding the existing facility. There is also a need for 7 additional outdoor courts.

Implications for East Herts: The indoor courts at Hertford are too far away from the north part of Epping Forest to attract a significant number of users, even in the long term. It is anticipated that new outdoor provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to East Herts will therefore be limited.

Harlow

Current needs: There are 4 covered courts at the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club. These are good quality but the ancillary facilities need improving. There are also 2 courts within the Harlow Leisurezone, but much of the programme time is now for other uses. There are good quality outdoor courts at the Lawn Tennis Club but the other outdoor courts are generally poor quality and in parks.

Future needs: The indoor tennis facility at the tennis club is recommended to be retained, but the courts at the Harlow Leisurezone repurposed if the space is required. The outdoor tennis courts are recommended to be retained.

Implications for East Herts: There may be sufficient capacity to meet the demands from East Herts at the tennis club in relation to indoor tennis, but the site and ancillary facilities need improving if the facility is to be made fully fit for purpose. For outdoor tennis, additional local tennis courts are likely to be required within the Gilston Area, as a club base with some availability for hire. Any new site should have a minimum of 4 floodlit courts.

North Hertfordshire

Current needs: There is one facility with indoor tennis provision in North Hertfordshire, Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club, that offers eight outdoor courts and three indoor courts. It is a members club which also offers pay and play access.

Future needs: There is the possibility of relocating Lister Tennis Club in Stevenage into North Herts at a site to the north of Stevenage. In general there is no identified need for additional outdoor tennis courts although Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club are proposing to develop 2 further courts.

Implications for East Herts: The relocation of Lister Tennis Club and the two additional courts at Letchworth will have limited impact on the accessibility to tennis for East Herts residents. There is not therefore expected to be any significant change in the current export of players to North Herts for indoor tennis.

Stevenage

Current needs: There is one indoor tennis site in Stevenage, an air hall with 2 courts at Lister Tennis Club. This is of reasonable quality but is ageing. The club also has 3 floodlit courts. Outside the boundary of Stevenage, Odyssey has 8 mini courts indoors, but elsewhere there are another 28 courts within a 20 minute drive time of Stevenage. This level of existing provision of indoor courts in the Stevenage area of Hertfordshire means that there is currently some spare capacity. Outdoor tennis in Stevenage is a relatively small sport, and most of the community play is at the Lister Tennis Club. There are 5 open access courts at Shephalbury Park but these are moderate-poor quality and there is no club playing there.

Future needs: There are currently proposals to relocate the indoor tennis to a site just north of Stevenage. If the club is relocated, a like for like replacement will be required, but the quality of the court covering should ideally be upgraded. For the purposes of sports development and equality of opportunity, it is proposed to retain both the club site at Lister Tennis Club (or replacement) and 3 of the courts at Shephalbury Park, the latter with open access. The parks courts require significant improvement.

Implications for East Herts: The relocation of the Lister Tennis Club would make no significant difference to the residents of East Herts. The spare capacity across the indoor court network means that this facility type is not a priority for public investment. The open access courts at Shephalbury Park would be within an easy drive time catchment of the new development at East of Stevenage but are not likely to be significantly attractive to be used much by the new residents. They are too far away to be within a walking catchment.

Uttlesford

Current needs: There are no indoor tennis courts in Uttlesford and therefore demand is met in large part by the facilities in the adjacent authorities. Current levels of provision of outdoor tennis courts in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs, with some spare capacity.

Future needs: With current spare capacity at the facilities outside of the authority, particularly in Harlow, all additional demand arising by 2031 is expected to be able to be accommodated without additional provision. Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been calculated as the equivalent of three courts. This will leave a net shortfall of six courts once existing spare capacity has been utilised.

Implications for East Herts: The only site with indoor courts is in Hertford, and this is too far away for most Uttlesford residents to use. This situation is unlikely to change in the future. With a relatively local catchment, it is unlikely that the outdoor courts in East Herts are meeting significant levels of imported demand from Uttlesford with the exception of the large tennis clubs at Bishop's Stortford and Sawbridgeworth.

Welwyn Hatfield

Current needs: There are a large number of indoor tennis courts in Welwyn Hatfield: 28 indoor courts across 4 sites. The borough is a centre of excellence for tennis. The main facility is at Gosling Sports Park which has an International High Performance Centre and 17 indoor courts. The quality of the indoor tennis facilities is high. There are also a large number of outdoor tennis courts, most of which are excellent quality.

Future needs: No additional provision is required up to 2026.

Implications for East Herts: The high level of provision and the location of Gosling Sports Park in Welwyn Garden City means that a large proportion of East Herts residents are within 20 minutes drive of the indoor tennis facility. Even with the

growth in population, it seems unlikely that the spare capacity within the indoor centres will have all been used by the end of the plan period. Some of the outdoor clubs in Welwyn Hatfield will have drive time catchments overlapping into East Herts. There may be some requirement for additional provision if the housing numbers have increased significantly since the strategy was produced.

Modelling

- 8.33 A number of different modelling tools can be used to assess the current provision in East Herts.

Market Segmentation and sports development

- 8.34 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) analysis suggests that only one of the largest market segments in East Herts is currently playing tennis, but given the opportunity 8 of the market segment groups may be attracted to the sport. However, this would generally be as a 4th or 5th level of choice activity.
- 8.35 Given this market segmentation finding, the provision of tennis in East Herts will generally be a lower priority than meeting the demand for swimming, keep fit/gym, cycling and athletics (including jogging).

Comparator authorities' provision

- 8.36 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of indoor tennis provision per 1,000 head of population for East Herts with the CIPFA comparator authorities and with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 38).
- 8.37 This analysis suggests that the current rate of provision of indoor tennis in the district at 0.01 courts per 1000 population is in line with the benchmark authorities and with the regional and national averages.
- 8.38 The information on the number of outdoor courts on either the Sport England web site or on the LTA web sites is too unreliable for a similar comparison exercise.

Figure 38: Indoor Tennis centres - comparator authorities

| Nearest Neighbour | Population at 2016 (ONS figure) | Indoor tennis centres | | Number of indoor courts | |
|------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| | | Total | Per 1000 population | Total | Per 1000 people |
| East Herts | 145,900 | 1 | 0.01 | 4 | 0.03 |
| Sevenoaks | 119,600 | 1 | 0.01 | 3 | 0.03 |
| South Oxfordshire | 138,300 | 0 | 0.00 | 0 | 0.00 |
| St Albans | 147,600 | 2 | 0.01 | 11 | 0.07 |
| Vale of White Horse | 127,000 | 1 | 0.01 | 6 | 0.05 |
| East of England | 6,076,451 | 54 | 0.01 | 105 | 0.02 |
| England | 57,885,413 | 375 | 0.01 | 1159 | 0.02 |

Summary of current situation

- 8.39 There is one indoor tennis facility in the district, at Legends close to Haileybury, and this site together with facilities in Harlow, Welwyn Hatfield, Stevenage and North Herts means that the most densely populated southern part of East Herts has access to indoor tennis courts. There is spare capacity in all of the courts both within and outside of the district. The Harlow Leisurezone is likely to move increasingly away from tennis programming and the Lister Tennis Club at Stevenage may be relocated, but there are no other known potential changes to the network. At the present time, the amount of unmet demand due to being outside of the 20 minute drive time catchment of any indoor tennis facility is too small to justify additional indoor tennis provision on in the northern part of East Herts.
- 8.40 Most of the outdoor tennis courts also have spare capacity, with the exceptions being Tewin, Watton at Stone, Braughing, and Datchworth. These are all small clubs with only 2 courts. The capacity at Tewin and Datchworth could be increased if it was possible to floodlight the courts, but the only way of increasing capacity at Watton at Stone and Braughing would be to provide additional court space.
- 8.41 The large Bishop's Stortford club has 14 outdoor courts; 6 grass, 3 clay and 5 AGP and mini courts. The LTA's capacity assessment methodology excludes both the grass courts and mini courts, so the number of members of the club exceed what would be considered to be the maximum, at about 120% of the calculated capacity of the courts.
- 8.42 The non-technical site audit has identified that some of the sites hosting LTA clubs have no or limited changing provision, but that most of the sites are good quality. The less good quality sites are those with open access or available for hire but without a club also in place, and of these do not have any changing provision.

- 8.43 There are currently 50 outdoor tennis courts on sites which host LTA affiliated clubs. This gives a rate of provision per 1,000 population of 0.34 courts.

Future supply and demand

- 8.44 Figure 39 considers both the future need for indoor and outdoor tennis provision in terms of number of courts.
- 8.45 The demand likely to be arising from the new developments for indoor courts is expected to be less than 0.05 of an indoor court in total, so no additional indoor provision is required based on quantity of provision alone.
- 8.46 The assessment of the need for additional outdoor tennis court provision is based on the LTA's membership figures for each of the affiliated clubs and the LTA's assessment of capacity. This suggests that the following are needed to be made available, and should be accessible during the school day as well as in evenings and at weekends:
- 3 additional floodlit hard courts in Bishop's Stortford
 - 3 additional floodlit hard courts for the Gilston Area once it is built out, but that up to 2033, the capacity at Much Hadham and Sawbridgeworth may be able to absorb most of the demand.
 - 1 additional floodlit hard court will be required to meet the expected demand East of Welwyn Garden City, depending on the existing balance of supply and demand for outdoor tennis in the Welwyn Hatfield authority.
- 8.47 It is expected that the new provision will host an LTA club(s), so this would give a new rate of provision of courts of 0.32 courts per 1,000 population, excluding the courts expected to be needed after 2033 for the Gilston Area and the single court at East of Welwyn Garden City.

Figure 39: Future demand for tennis

| Growth area | Number of dwellings | Number of people at 2.32 housing multiplier | Indoor tennis @ 0.01 court /1000 | Outdoor tennis membership at current rates @ 14.6 /1000 | Outdoor tennis participation at 0.05 pa increase | Current spare capacity at LTA affiliated club sites | Members demand unmet at higher participation rate | Number of floodlit outdoor hard courts required @ 60 members |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|---|--|---|---|--|
| Bishop's Stortford | 3980 | 9234 | 0.009 | 135 | 146 | 0 | 146 | 2.5 |
| Sawbridgeworth | 500 | 1160 | 0.001 | 17 | 18 | 199 | 0 | 0 |
| Gilston | 3050 | 7076 | 0.007 | 103 | 112 | 79 | 28 | 0.6 |
| | 7000 | 16240 | 0.016 | 237 | 257 | 0 | 257 | 4.3 |
| Hertford and Ware (excl. Allenbury's) | 1950 | 4524 | 0.005 | 66 | 72 | 921 | 0 | 0 |
| East of Welwyn Garden City | 1350 | 3132 | 0.003 | 46 | 50 | 0 | 50 | 0.8 |
| East of Stevenage | 600 | 1392 | 0.001 | 20 | 22 | 50 | 0 | 0 |
| Buntingford | 1100 | 2552 | 0.003 | 37 | 40 | 70 | 0 | 0 |
| | | 45310 | 0.045 | | | | | |

Meeting the needs of the future

- 8.48 The options for increasing the capacity of the Bishop's Stortford club are the highest priority for the future, as this club already has more members than it can manage, and there is certainly no further capacity to meet the needs of the expanding community in the area. The options to enable the club to cater for more members, perhaps by converting the grass courts to hard courts, ideally with floodlighting, or covering several of the hard courts need to be explored. If neither is possible, then there is justification for a new 3 tennis court site with floodlighting and clubhouse provision, and this would be needed by 2026.
- 8.49 There is some spare capacity at Much Hadham and also at Sawbridgeworth which may be able to meet some of the demand from the Gilston Area development, but post 2033, there is justification for a 3-4 court site with floodlighting and ancillary facilities.
- 8.50 The need for new on-site provision at the East of Welywn Garden City site needs to be explored in association with Welwyn Hatfield Council, as it may be better in sports development terms, to invest in existing accessible sites in the area rather than a single court.

8.51 The sites at Braughing, Datchworth and Tewin are operating at levels above their capacity, and the following options should be explored, and if possible delivered:

- Braughing – expand site by the development of a further court
- Datchworth – floodlight both courts
- Tewin – floodlight both courts

8.52 There will also be a general need to ensure that the existing tennis court sites are retained, maintained and improved as necessary.

Justifying developers' contributions

8.53 The assessment above considers the need for tennis provision, including the growth proposed in the District Plan Pre-submission version for the period up to 2033. It is however important to have a mechanism which can be used to assess the impact of an individual proposed development on the facility network. The following are proposed as the Provision Guide (see also Figure 48) for outdoor tennis courts, the justification for which is contained within the preceding assessment.

| Quantity per 1,000 population | Accessibility | Quality |
|---|-------------------|---|
| 0.32 courts per 1,000 available at all times. | 10 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England and Lawn Tennis Association guidance |

Recommendations for tennis

Council's role in tennis provision

8.54 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will:

- continue to support tennis clubs across the district and encourage the retention of pay and play or open access courts.
- ensure planning policies support the improvement of clubs, and new provision where appropriate.

Sites

Protect

8.55 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing network of tennis courts, both indoor and outdoor where these host active clubs.

Enhance

- 8.56 Increase the capacity of the Bishop's Stortford tennis club. Options may include covering courts and converting the grass courts to hard courts with floodlights.
- 8.57 Increase the capacity of the following clubs, with the preferred options being:
- Braughing – expand site by the development of a further floodlit court
 - Datchworth – floodlight both courts
 - Tewin – floodlight both courts

Provide

- 8.58 The priorities for new provision are:
- 3 additional floodlit hard courts at Bishop's Stortford by 2026. Options may include further investment at Bishop's Stortford tennis club or new 3-4 court site suitable for club use with floodlights and ancillary provision.
 - 3 floodlit hard courts in the Gilston Area after 2033 suitable for a club so provided with ancillary facilities, including clubhouse.
 - 1 floodlit hard court at the East of Welwyn Garden City development, but provision may be off-site if there is accessible tennis provision within a 10 minute drive time catchment of all of the site. This may require agreement to share developer contributions with Welwyn Hatfield.
- 8.59 Appropriate land for the tennis sites should be identified in the masterplans for the developments, and the land made available free of charge.
- 8.60 Provide additional storage at village halls and community centres where there is demand for tennis but a lack of storage restricts this use.

SECTION 9: SQUASH

- 9.1 Nationally, Sport England estimates that around 342,300 people play squash or racketball at least once a month, but there has been a gradual decline since 2007 (Sport England, 2016). Sport England research in 2009 (Sport England, 2012) gave an overview of the participants playing at least once a week, and this showed that about 87% of the players are male, with the peak numbers being amongst those aged between 35 and 64 years. A high proportion of players are from the most affluent socio-economic groups.
- 9.2 The size of the sport and the sample size of Sport England's Active People Survey mean that more local, and even regional level statistics for this sport, are unreliable. It is therefore assumed that the trends occurring nationally are being reflected in the district.

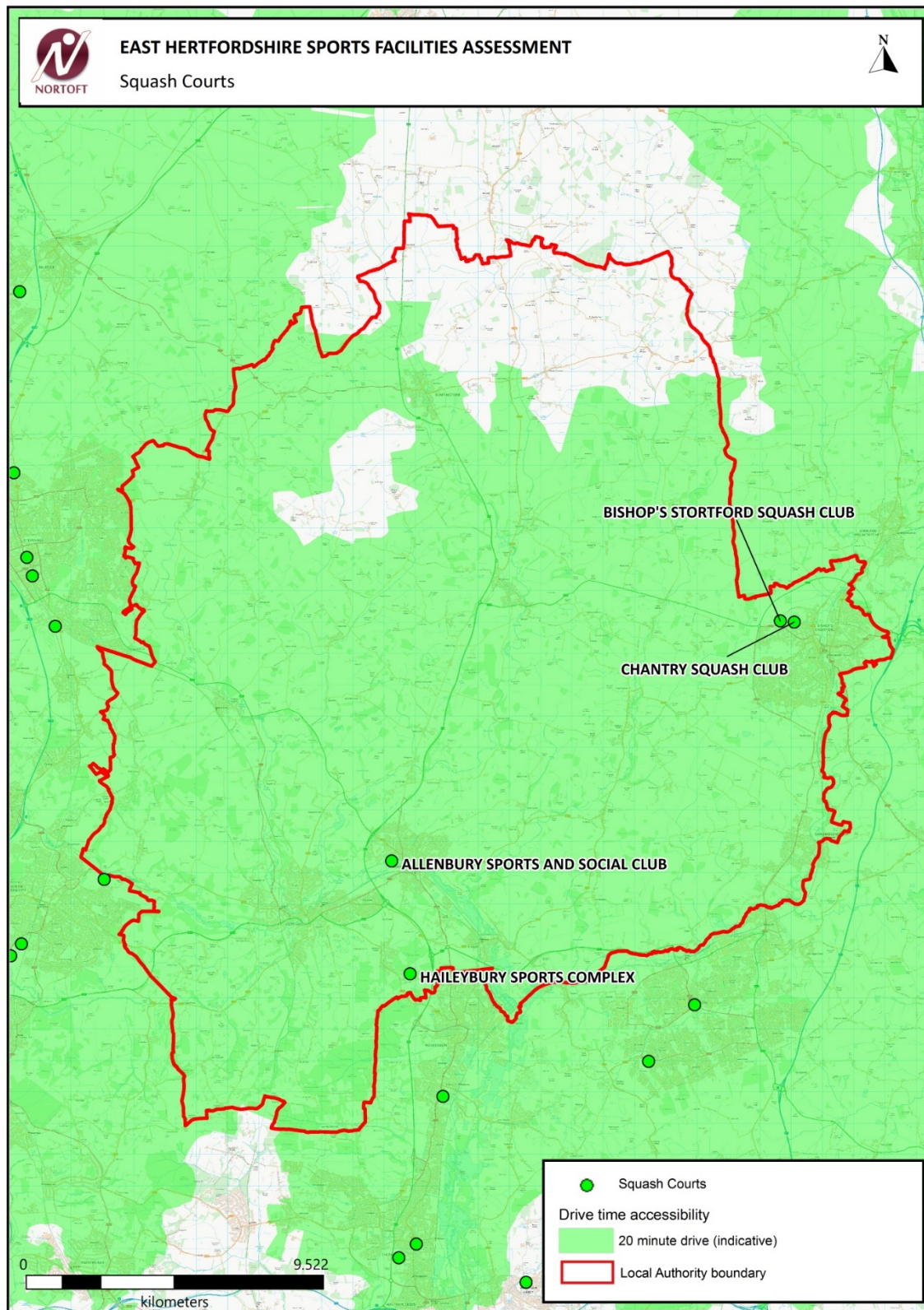
Current provision and assessment

- 9.3 There are two types of squash court, glass-backed and "normal" or enclosed. There are only 4 sites in the district, of which 3 are available for community use and one has restricted membership, Allenburys Sports and Social Club in Ware. The sites are listed in Figure 40 and mapped Figure 41 with a 20 minute drive time catchment from sites both within and outside of the district. This map suggests that most people in the district can access a squash court with the exception of the rural area to the north east of the authority and a small area between Buntingford and Stevenage.
- 9.4 There is high quality provision at the Bishop's Stortford Squash and Racketball Club and at Haileybury, with standard quality provision on the other sites. Only the Haileybury Sports Complex offers pay and play access, and the Allenburys site is really restricted to its members, linked with GSK.
- 9.5 Only the Bishop's Stortford Squash and Racketball site is close to capacity use, but the sites at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust and Haileybury have significant spare capacity.
- 9.6 The current rate of squash court provision is 0.10 courts per 1000 population.

Figure 40: Squash courts in East Herts

| Site Name | Number of glass-backed courts | Number of normal courts | Movable wall | Quality | Ownership Type | Access Type | Management | Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit |
|--|-------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------|--|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---|
| ALLENBURYS SPORTS & SOCIAL CLUB (GSK) WARE | 0 | 2 | No | Standard quality courts, poor changing | Industry (for employees) | Sports Club | Commercial Management | 20% |
| BISHOP'S STORTFORD SQUASH & RACKETBALL CLUB | 3 | 3 | No | High quality courts and changing | Sports Club | Sports Club | Sports Club | 75% |
| BISHOP'S STORTFORD SPORTS TRUST /CHANNY SQUASH AND RACKETBALL CLUB | 0 | 2 | No | Good quality courts and changing | Trust | Sports Club | Trust | 50% |
| HAILEYBURY SPORTS COMPLEX, HERTFORD | 4 | 0 | No | High quality courts and changing | Independent School | Pay and Play | Commercial Management | 25% |

Figure 41: Squash court locations



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

Consultation findings

Club consultation

- 9.7 None of the squash clubs responded to the club survey.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 9.8 The national governing body is England Squash and Racketball, and its Game Changer Participation Strategy 20015-17 (England Squash & Racketball, 2015) sets out to increase the overall participation in squash as a game. Through this, it hopes to be able to protect and enable improvements to the existing courts and generate sufficient demand for new courts. During 2015/16 the national governing body hopes to arrest the decline of the sport, and during 2016/17 see a 5-10% increase in participation.
- 9.9 The strategy identifies that there are currently 4,190 courts in England, of which 45% are in public and private leisure facilities, 38% are in clubs, and the remainder on education sites.
- 9.10 The target capacity per court on club sites of the national governing body is 100 members. In public and private leisure centres, a main objective is to integrate squash into fitness programmes.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 9.11 A review of the squash court provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendix 7). In summary:

Broxbourne

Current needs: Haileybury is thought to attract uses from the borough. The overall level of supply of squash courts is low and it is uncertain whether there is sufficient demand to justify further provision.

Future needs: The need for additional provision is not known.

Implications for East Herts: The existing flow of participants into East Herts from Broxbourne is likely to remain in the long term, but the levels are not expected to increase even with the higher housing numbers, due to the declining trends in the sport.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work summarised below.

Current needs: The sports facilities assessment identified that the 11 existing squash courts in Epping Forest meet all current needs. There is no evidence of any significant exported demand to East Herts.

Future needs: Two additional squash courts will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.

Implications for East Herts: It is anticipated that no new provision will be made within Epping Forest. The existing squash courts in East Herts (at Bishop's Stortford and Hertford) are too far away from Epping Forest to be reasonably accessible to Epping residents.

Harlow

Current needs: There are 2 sites which cater for squash; the Harlow Leisurezone and Paringdon Sports Club, and there are no squash clubs. The demand for squash is declining at Harlow Leisurezone and the estimated use of the single court at Paringdon is about 40% at peak time.

Future needs: No additional provision is expected to be required. If it is, then the commercial sector is expected to provide.

Implications for East Herts: There is spare capacity at the squash sites in Harlow. So long as the courts at Harlow Leisurezone and Paringdon Sports Clubs are retained (or replaced elsewhere) than no new provision is required to meet the demand from East Herts.

North Hertfordshire

Current needs: There are 10 normal courts and two glass backed courts in North Hertfordshire, two facilities are educational sites, one is local authority, one commercial and two sports clubs. Courts are generally located in areas of higher population; the majority are in and around Letchworth Garden City. Demand for courts is high at local authority sites on weekday evenings, although courts stand empty during week days. North Hertfordshire is a key area for the NGB and although participation has declined nationally, it is increasing in the East region.

Future needs: The potential classification as a Tier 1 priority status county would be likely to involve initiatives increasing the demand for facilities in the area and wider. Protection of courts is a primary focus to the NGB, currently supply is adequate.

Implications for East Herts: It is not expected that there will be any significant change in the import/export of squash players, and there is capacity in North Hertfordshire to cater for some additional use.

Stevenage

Current needs: There are 6 squash courts available to the community in Stevenage. Three of the courts are at A&LC, and three at Active4Less at North Road. There are also two courts at Odyssey, just over the border. The commercial courts at Active4Less are co-located with Stevenage Town RFC and Lister Tennis Club at North Road. The courts are 15 years old but were refurbished in 2011. The site is home to the affiliated Stevenage Squash Club.

Future needs: There is an estimated need for 1-2 additional squash courts in the period up to 2031. If a new replacement leisure centre is developed, then this should have 3 squash courts. The potential location for the additional courts needs confirmation.

Implications for East Herts: There is no anticipated change to the overall level of provision and, so long this is retained, there is sufficient capacity to absorb any additional demand arising from East Herts.

Uttlesford

Current needs: Current levels of provision of squash courts in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs, with some spare capacity.

Future needs: There will be additional demand equivalent to one extra court in Uttlesford by 2031, but it is anticipated that this provision will be made within the district.

Implications for East Herts: It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Uttlesford and that any additional exported demand to East Herts will therefore be limited.

Welwyn Hatfield

The 2012 Sport Facility Strategy did not cover squash.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

- 9.12 Squash is a relatively low participation sport and it does not appear for any of the larger market segments in East Herts.

Comparator authorities provision

- 9.13 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of squash provision per 1,000 head of population for the district and the CIPFA comparator authorities, together with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 42).
- 9.14 This analysis suggests that the current rate of provision of squash court provision in East Herts at 0.10 courts per 1000 population is above both the national and regional averages, and similar to Sevenoaks which is one of the benchmark authorities. The other CIPFA benchmark authorities have variable levels of provision, from about double in South Oxfordshire down to about 20% of the provision per 1000 population in St Albans.

Figure 42: Squash - comparator authorities

| Nearest Neighbour | Population at 2016 (ONS latest estimates) | Squash courts normal | | Squash courts glass backed | | Squash courts all | |
|------------------------|---|----------------------|---------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|-------------------|---------------------|
| | | Total | Per 1000 population | Total | Per 1000 population | Total | Per 1000 population |
| East Herts | 145,900 | 7 | 0.05 | 7 | 0.05 | 14 | 0.10 |
| Sevenoaks | 119,600 | 4 | 0.03 | 7 | 0.06 | 11 | 0.09 |
| South Oxfordshire | 138,300 | 19 | 0.14 | 7 | 0.05 | 26 | 0.19 |
| St Albans | 147,600 | 5 | 0.03 | 11 | 0.07 | 3 | 0.02 |
| Vale of White Horse | 127,000 | 5 | 0.04 | 13 | 0.10 | 6 | 0.05 |
| East of England | 6,076,451 | 326 | 0.05 | 164 | 0.03 | 490 | 0.08 |
| England | 57,885,413 | 2663 | 0.05 | 1171 | 0.02 | 3834 | 0.07 |

Summary of current situation

- 9.15 There are only 3 sites which are fully available for community squash in East Herts plus one industry sports club site, Allenburys in Ware. However, the number of the courts and their distribution plus those available in the adjacent authorities means that a large majority of residents with access to a car can reach a squash court within 20 minutes drive time.
- 9.16 The number of squash courts per 1000 population (including Allenburys) is higher than either the national or regional averages, and the quality of the sites are either high or standard.
- 9.17 Only the Bishop's Stortford Squash and Racketball Club has high levels of use, with the other sites having large amounts of spare capacity even at peak time.
- 9.18 At this time there are no known threats to any of the squash court sites and there is therefore no justification for public investment into any new squash court provision.

Future supply and demand

- 9.19 Figure 43 considers the future need for squash in terms of number of courts in the planned housing developments.
- 9.20 The demand likely to be arising from the new developments for new squash courts is expected to be less than 0.5 of a court in total, so no additional provision is required based on quantity of provision alone. The geographical spread of the existing courts within and outside of the authority provide sufficient access for squash, assuming all of the existing provision remains long term.

Figure 43: Future demand for squash

| Growth area | Number of dwellings | Number of people at 2.32 housing multiplier | Squash courts @ 0.1 court /1000 |
|----------------------------|---------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Bishop's Stortford | 3980 | 9234 | 0.09 |
| Sawbridgeworth | 500 | 1160 | 0.01 |
| Gilston | 3050 | 7076 | 0.07 |
| | 7000 | 16240 | 0.16 |
| Hertford and Ware | 1950 | 4524 | 0.05 |
| East of Welwyn Garden City | 1350 | 3132 | 0.03 |
| East of Stevenage | 600 | 1392 | 0.01 |
| Buntingford | 1100 | 2552 | 0.03 |
| | | 45310 | 0.45 |

Meeting the needs of the future

9.21 The priorities are to retain, maintain, and improve as required, the existing squash sites.

9.22 Developers' contributions are not being sought for squash provision.

Recommendations for squash

Council's role in squash provision

9.23 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will:

- continue to support community access to the existing squash courts across the district.

Sites

Protect

9.24 It is proposed to protect all of the existing squash court provision in the district and these will be needed to cater for the additional housing.

SECTION 10: GYMNASTICS

- 10.1 This section of the assessment considers dedicated gymnastics provision and therefore excludes gymnastics within sports halls that are used for other sports.
- 10.2 The Sport England Active People Survey estimates that around 72,700 adults over the age of 16 take part in gymnastics and trampolining (Sport England, 2017). However, a high proportion of gymnastics participation is by young people under the age of 16, which is not captured by these statistics. British Gymnastics, the national governing body, states that the peak participation rate is at 9 years old.
- 10.3 Participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. Growth of British Gymnastics (BG) membership has been higher than 7% each year since 2011. There has been a total growth of around 17% annually for the past 3 years. There has been a notable increase in the number of teenagers and adults (11-25 year olds) taking part in gymnastics regularly, due to the increased opportunities and suitable activities available within the clubs. BG anticipated increased interest and demand following the 2016 Olympics. BG's membership information suggests that there are 847 gymnasts in the district at the following clubs:
- Hertford Gymnastics Academy – 97 members
 - Hertfordshire Gymnastics Club – 167 members
 - Ware Gymnastics Club – 300 members
 - Rib Valley Trampoline Club – 59 members
 - Stortford Gymnastics Ltd – 167 members
 - Mercury Gymnastics Club (Valdez) – 57 members

Current provision and assessment

- 10.4 There are two specialist gymnastics centres in the district; the Mercury Gymnastics Club (Valdez) and Stortford Gymnastics Ltd, both at Bishop's Stortford. The other clubs around the district use sports and ancillary halls, such as the Hertfordshire Gymnastics Club which uses the Drill Hall at Ware, the Hertford Gymnastics Academy at Haileybury, and the Rib Valley Trampoline Club which uses Freman College in Buntingford.
- 10.5 The current rate of participation in gymnastics based on the affiliated club numbers within the district is 5.81 gymnasts per 1000 population. This rate of membership appears much lower than might have been expected, but there are large active clubs in both Harlow and Stevenage, that have catchment areas extending well into East Hertfordshire. The relatively low level of gymnastics membership to clubs within East Herts is likely to be a direct consequence of this export.

Consultation findings

10.6 None of the gymnastics clubs responded to the club survey.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 10.7 British Gymnastics is the national governing body for gymnastics and trampolining. Their facility strategy 2013-17 identifies dedicated gymnastics centres as crucial for the sport and suggests that the main barrier to increasing membership at clubs nationally is simply an inability to provide for more sessions at an available venue. The response of the national governing body is both to develop new dedicated gymnastics venues, and also to support the setting up of satellite venues in non-dedicated facilities, such as schools and community centres. This is because many of the activities developed by British Gymnastics do not require specialist facilities.
- 10.8 The strategy provides an overview of the role of dedicated and non-dedicated gymnastics facilities (see Figure 44).

Figure 44: Role of Dedicated and non-dedicated gym facilities

| Dedicated gymnastics centres | Non-dedicated gymnastics facilities |
|---|---|
| Purpose built or converted buildings which are dedicated for gymnastics use. They have equipment permanently laid out (i.e. doesn't have to be stored away at the end of each session) and a proportion of it will be permanently fixed in place. | Typically sports halls, school gymnasiums or community centres etc. |
| A dedicated gymnastics facility will probably have pitted areas for landing under/around equipment. | Equipment has to be put out and stored away for each session |
| Dedicated facilities are generally run by clubs as a business. | Non-dedicated facilities generally cater for introductory and recreational level gymnastics |
| They may be able to accommodate every level of the gymnast pathway depending on equipment and coaches but will probably focus on one or two disciplines. | Non-dedicated facilities may be able to cater for multiple activities/disciplines where storage and/or equipment allow |
| Dedicated facilities can usually accommodate more than one discipline (e.g. women's artistic and rhythmic). | Generally non-dedicated facilities cater for introductory and recreation level participation. Non-dedicated facilities are able to cater for some of the activities (rather than disciplines) to a high standard of participation. The standard of the gymnastic activity taking place is of a low level. |
| The level of gymnastics taking place in a dedicated gymnastics centre tends to be of a higher standard as the gymnast will have access to international standard equipment. | |

- 10.9 A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. There is a definite trend in this direction, and nationally over 40 clubs moved into their own spaces in 2015. BG expects this trend to continue.
- 10.10 British Gymnastics are not aware of any current gymnastics projects in East Herts.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 10.11 A review of the squash court provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendix 7). In summary:

Broxbourne

Current needs: The Turnford Gymnastics Club is based at Cheshunt, but is easily accessible from the Hertford and Ware areas of East Herts. The club has a long waiting list and is seeking a dedicated facility.

Future needs: No deliverable project has been identified.

Implications for East Herts: The club is likely to be attracting some users from East Herts, but as it has waiting lists already, there is no spare capacity to cater for any additional demand.

Epping Forest

This authority is at the start of new strategy development work, and as at April 2017 there were no audit findings or recommendations emerging which yet update the previous strategy work which did not address gymnastics provision.

Harlow

Current need: The dedicated gymnastics centre used by Harlow Gymnastics Club is well used and meets the current needs of the community. The non-dedicated gymnastics sites used by the other clubs, Harlow Leisurezone and Mark Hall are known to be running at about 90% used capacity across their programming. There are no specific gymnastics projects at this time.

Future need: Additional provision will be required both in dedicated and non-dedicated sites, with the immediate priority being the extension of the Harlow Gymnastics Club site.

Implications for East Herts: There is no spare capacity for any additional demand arising from East Herts. Gymnastics provision will therefore be required associated with the new development in the Gilston Area.

North Hertfordshire

The current strategy does not address gymnastics provision.

Stevenage

Current needs: There is one dedicated gymnastics centre at Marriotts School which is well used and in good condition. This facility has an existing Community Use Agreement. The centre provides for both gymnastics and trampolining, and the clubs have waiting lists, particularly the Marriotts Gymnastics Club. There is therefore a need for additional gymnastics space in Stevenage, particularly for the pre-school and junior school age groups.

Future needs: Retain the existing specialist gymnastics centre at Marriotts as a dual use facility. Support one or two community centres, or potentially the conversion of a business premises or warehouse, to enable the provision of gymnastics both during the school day and for after school sessions. For community centres this may be require additional secure storage on site.

In the longer term, explore the option of extending the existing facilities at Marriotts, or developing a second dedicated gymnastics centre elsewhere in Stevenage.

Implications for East Herts: There is no spare capacity at the Stevenage dedicated gym to meet any significant level of additional demand arising from East Herts.

Uttlesford

The current strategy does not address gymnastics provision.

Welwyn Hatfield

The current strategy does not address gymnastics provision.

Summary of current situation

- 10.12 There are two dedicated gymnastics centres in East Herts which are both at Bishop's Stortford. There are also gymnastics clubs using sports halls, and notably the largest gymnastics club is based at Wodson Park.
- 10.13 The membership levels of the clubs based in East Herts appear to be much lower than those of Harlow, which probably reflects the export of gymnasts to adjacent authority areas, particularly to Harlow and to Stevenage which have large active clubs. The current rate of membership to the clubs within the district is 5.81 members per 1000 population.
- 10.14 British Gymnastics is keen to encourage the development of dedicated gymnastics facilities, but at this time there are no known facility projects in the district.

- 10.15 However, it is likely that the growth in gymnastics as a sport will continue and this, together with the growth in housing in and around East Herts, will mean that additional gymnastics provision may be required, both in dedicated and non-dedicated sites. The priority however will be the development of new or additional dedicated gymnastics provision.

Future supply and demand

- 10.16 There is likely to be increasing demand for gymnastics as the population in East Herts and its surrounds increases, and most demand is likely to be in the SUE areas where there will be a higher number of younger people into the future. This is likely to mean that some additional gymnastics provision will be required in some areas, at both dedicated and non-dedicated sites.
- 10.17 The expected growth in membership of the gymnastics clubs is 6.30 members per 1000 population in the period up to 2033, based on a 0.5% per annum sustained average increase in participation over the period. The approximate number of new members expected to arise in each of the development areas are given in Figure 45.

Figure 45: Gymnastics demand up to 2033

| Growth area | Number of people at 2.32 housing multiplier | Gym members @ 6.3 members /1000 |
|----------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| Bishop's Stortford | 9234 | 58 |
| Sawbridgeworth | 1160 | 7 |
| Gilston | 7076 | 45 |
| | 16240 | 102 |
| Hertford and Ware | 4524 | 29 |
| East of Welwyn Garden City | 3132 | 20 |
| East of Stevenage | 1392 | 9 |
| Buntingford | 2552 | 16 |
| | | 285 |

Meeting the needs of the future

- 10.18 This assessment in Figure 45 suggests that up to 2033 most of the new demand will be around Bishop's Stortford where there are already active clubs with dedicated gymnastics centres and others using school facilities. There is likely to be sufficient capacity in the existing network to cater for the expected increase in demand.
- 10.19 Most of the remainder of the demand will be around the Gilston Area after 2033. With the proposed development of a secondary school with community use within

this development area, this would give scope for gymnastics to be catered for within the sports hall, but the design would need to be appropriate for the sport.

- 10.20 The level of demand generated in the other planned developments is such that this can be met by the existing network of gymnastics facilities, both in dedicated and non-dedicated centres.
- 10.21 The medium-longer priorities for the future are therefore likely to be to support facility improvements at the Bishop's Stortford dedicated gymnastics centres and schools offering gymnastics. However there are no specific known investment needs at this time.
- 10.22 Also, ensuring that the Gilston Area secondary school with community use (potentially as an adjacent leisure centre) is designed to cater for gymnastics.
- 10.23 Developers' contributions are not being sought for gymnastics provision.

Recommendations for gymnastics

Council's role in gymnastics provision

- 10.24 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will:
- continue to support community access to the existing gymnastics facilities, both dedicated and as a key activity within the sports halls network.
 - keep under review the needs of gymnastics so action can be taken if needs arise in the future.
 - ensure that the planning policies are in place for the proposed Gilston Area leisure centre joint use facility and that the sports hall will be specifically designed for gymnastics, in particular with appropriate storage.

Sites

Protect

- 10.25 It is proposed to protect the dedicated gymnastics sites.

Provide

- 10.26 The proposed joint use sports hall at the leisure centre in the Gilston Area, is specifically designed to cater for gymnastics.

SECTION 11: VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS

- 11.1 Village, church and community halls and similar venues provide essential space for many locally organised activities such as pilates, martial arts, short mat bowls and circuit training. This level of facility is particularly important for those people without a car or who do not wish to travel to a main sports centre to participate. They are also an important community resource for wider uses such as community celebrations, dance and drama, and consultation events. Larger halls of 3+ badminton court size are covered within the sports halls section of this report.
- 11.2 The value of such facilities in their local communities cannot be underestimated as they create an important hub for local people to gather, make friendships, and provide cohesion on estates and in villages where there may be limited other venues to meet. These facilities are particularly important where there is limited access to services generally, or where there are higher levels of deprivation.
- 11.3 In principle, existing village and community halls should therefore be protected and enhanced, or where they are not suitable for retention, replaced within the locality by improved facilities.
- 11.4 The geographical spread of village halls and community centres together with their quality, accessibility and attractiveness is more important than quantitative rates of provision in the more established areas of the district, both in the rural areas and the towns.
- 11.5 In large housing developments, the community provision would need to be in place prior to the residents moving in, but this is not always possible or practical, and in part depends on the housing delivery and funding available.

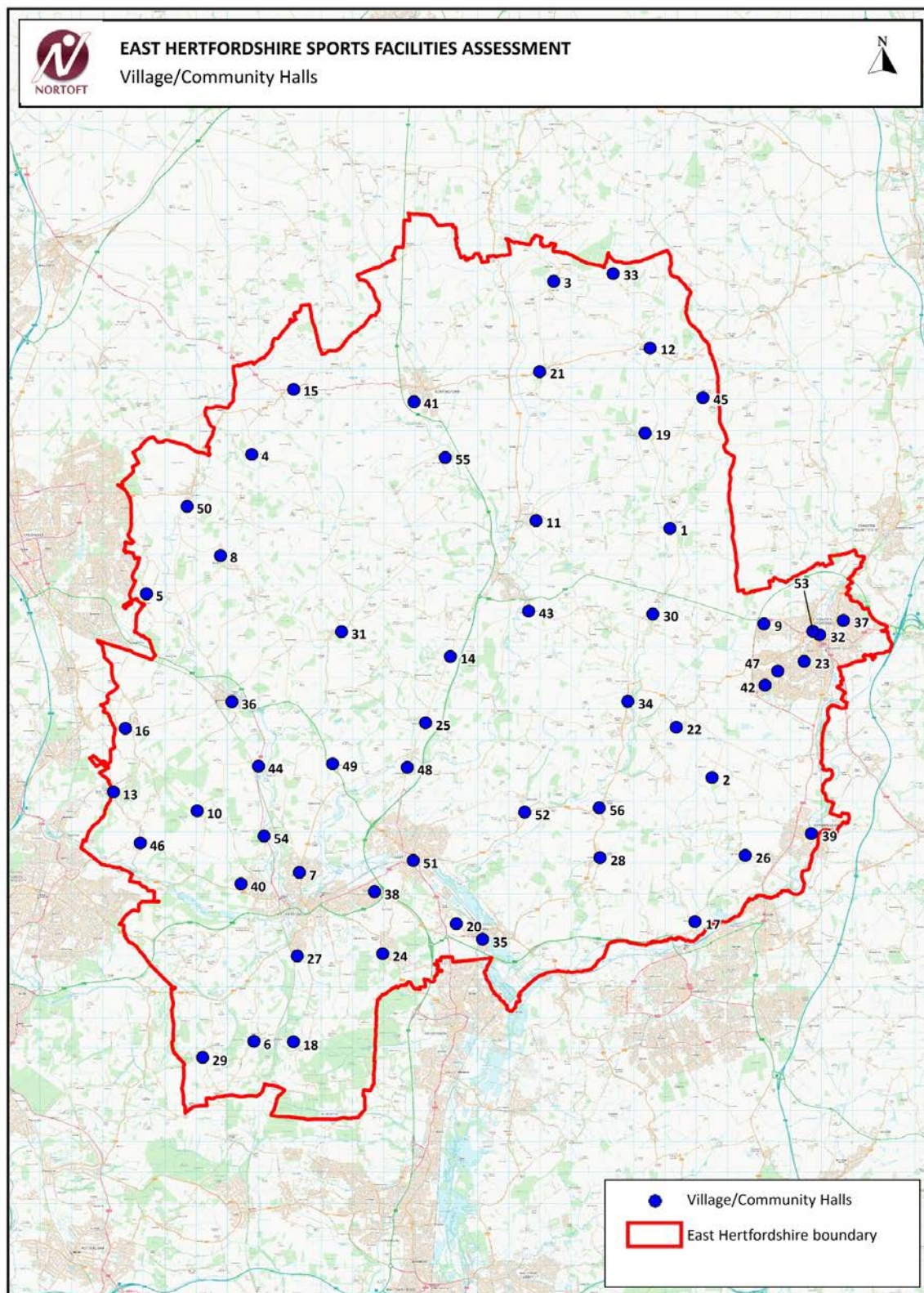
Current provision and assessment

- 11.6 There are currently more than 56 village, community and church halls in East Herts. The main facilities are mapped in Figure 46 with an 800m walking catchment and a 10 minute drive time catchment, and they are listed in Figure 47. It is clear from this map that almost all residents have access to at least one hall within 10 minutes drive time, and that many people have access within 10 minutes walking time (the 800m catchment).
- 11.7 The nature of the village halls and community centres varies significantly, from relatively large modern and purpose built multi-room community centres, to the smaller ageing halls usually in the smaller villages, often originally built for other purposes. The size of a facility will usually reflect its location, with the smaller halls in the smaller villages, and the larger centres in the towns and larger villages. There are also often other facilities used by the community (not specifically listed or mapped) and these include a number of parish and church halls. The majority of the

village halls and community centres are of at least a reasonable condition, but some require significant investment.

- 11.8 The ownership and management arrangements of the facilities are variable, with several being dedicated village hall charities, whilst others are church halls used by the community on a regular basis. However only those facilities which are used as a venue for active recreation have been included in this study i.e. the size of the rooms allows activities such as yoga or pilates, and the nature of the site encourages such bookings.
- 11.9 A short summary of each hall is attached as Appendix 4. This audit has demonstrated that most hall facilities are used for some active sport and recreation activities, but of the 56 halls and including the Drill Hall at Ware, only 9 are marked out for badminton and of sufficient width to be reasonably used, but of these only the following also have sufficient clearance for badminton:
- Nigel Poulton Hall, Watton at Stone
 - Seth Ward Community Centre, Buntingford
 - St Michaels Mead Community Centre, Bishop's Stortford
 - The Drill Hall, Ware
- 11.10 The Drill Hall at Ware is identified as a community hall, but is also included in the sports hall section of this report as it is used extensively for a range of sports including badminton and martial arts.

Figure 46: Village/Community halls location



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right. 2016.

Figure 47: List of village halls and community centres

| Map ID | Name | Map ID | Name |
|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|--|
| 1 | Albury Village Hall | 29 | Little Berkhamsted Village Hall |
| 2 | Allen's Green Village Hall | 30 | Little Hadham Village Hall |
| 3 | Anstey Village Hall | 31 | Little Munden Memorial Hall |
| 4 | Ardeley Village Hall | 32 | Markwell Pavilion |
| 5 | Aston Village Hall | 33 | Meesden Village Hall |
| 6 | Bayford Memorial Hall | 34 | Much Hadham |
| 7 | Bengeo Church Hall | 35 | Nigel Copping Community Building |
| 8 | Benington Village Hall | 36 | Nigel Poulton Community Hall |
| 9 | Bishop's Park Community Centre | 37 | Parsonage Lane Community Centre |
| 10 | Bramfield Village Hall | 38 | Pinehurst Community Centre |
| 11 | Braughing Playing Fields | 39 | Sawbridgeworth Community Hall |
| 12 | Brent Pelham | 40 | Sele Farm Community Centre |
| 13 | Burnham Green Village Hall | 41 | Seth Ward Community Centre |
| 14 | Colliers End Village Hall | 42 | St Michael's Mead Community Centre |
| 15 | Cottered Village Hall | 43 | Standon Village Hall |
| 16 | Datchworth Village Hall | 44 | Stapleford Village Hall |
| 17 | Eastwick and Gilston Village Hall | 45 | Stocking Pelham Village Hall |
| 18 | Fanshaws Room | 46 | Tewin Village Hall |
| 19 | Furneux Pelham Village Hall | 47 | Thorley Community Centre |
| 20 | Great Amwell Parish Hall | 48 | Thundridge Village Hall |
| 21 | Great Hormead Village Hall | 49 | Tonwell Village Hall |
| 22 | Green Tye | 50 | Walkern Sports and Community Centre |
| 23 | Havers Community Centre | 51 | Ware Drill Hall |
| 24 | Hertford Heath Village Hall | 52 | Wareside Village Hall |
| 25 | High Cross Village Hall | 53 | Water Lane United Reformed Church Hall |
| 26 | High Wych Village Hall | 54 | Waterford Village Hall |
| 27 | Hornsmill Community Centre | 55 | Westmill Village Hall |
| 28 | Hunsdon Village Hall | 56 | Widford Village Hall |

Consultation findings

Clubs and national governing bodies of sport

- 11.11 Sports clubs and national governing bodies of sport views are not usually particularly relevant to village and community halls, where the large majority of active recreation use is for activities such as pilates and zumba.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 11.12 Adjacent authority strategies are not particularly relevant to the provision of community centres and village halls because of their small catchments.

Summary of current situation

- 11.13 The current network of village halls and community centres means that almost everyone has access to at least one hall within 10 minutes drive, and many people living in villages and towns are also within 800m walk. The audit shows that almost every hall is used for some activity, but it is unlikely that every hall will be fully booked, even in the evenings and weekends.
- 11.14 A small number of halls are marked out with one badminton court, but only 3 halls excluding the Drill Hall at Ware also have sufficient height. The Much Hadham Badminton Club uses the hall at Much Hadham, but this is insufficient in height to allow it to be used for matches.

Future supply and demand

- 11.15 Across the rural areas of the district, the priority will be to retain and maintain a network of halls and to ensure that they meet the requirements of their communities. For example, some buildings may require extensions or extra storage to enable them to host activities such as short mat bowls or gymnastics.
- 11.16 New community buildings are proposed in the Pre-Submission Plan for:
- Bishop's Stortford South
 - North and East of Ware
 - Gilston Area
 - East of Welwyn Garden City
- 11.17 It will be important in these new development areas that the community facilities are both sufficiently accessible to support walking and cycling access, and are built to an appropriate size and design to enable the facilities to be multi-use.
- 11.18 The adopted Open Space, Sport and Recreation SPD 2009 refers to community halls in the recognition that they play an important role in leisure and recreation provision and provide an important source of provision for local residents. The SPD paras 5.10 to 5.13 refers to community centres and the key points are:

5.11 Large scale residential developments should provide community facilities as part of their open space provision. Any new community facility should be multipurpose in nature providing flexible indoor space for sports, leisure, arts, community and entertainment events. Higher ceilings, for example, can enable indoor sports activities.

5.12 Such facilities should be centrally located, with good access to passenger transport and for pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers. Ideally it should be combined with changing facilities on a sports field, for economy of scale and efficiency of

management. Alternatively it could be positioned alongside, but independent from a school.

5.13 In Category 1 and 2 Villages (see Table 8), contributions may be pooled from a number of developments to fund new or improved community halls, and a threshold of one dwelling may be applied.

- 11.19 A rate of provision of 0.1 sq m per person is used, based on the ratio of provision at Sele Farm, St Michael's Mead and Bishop's Park Community Centres, and the village halls at Walkern, Standon, Braughing, and Eastwick and Gilston, and the populations they serve.

Size and design of new community buildings

- 11.20 The area of hall space is an approach which has also been adopted in several local authorities, including Milton Keynes. In Milton Keynes, the adopted standard is 120 sq m per 1000 population of community centre space in the urban area, but a community facility is expected to be multi-purpose with hall space plus changing rooms and have approximately 700-800 sq m of floor space. With this larger size of facility, the rate of provision per 1000 would be 1 centre per 6,500 population, or 0.12 sq m per person.
- 11.21 If this approach was to be adopted for the proposed development areas in East Herts, this would mean that there is a requirement for 1 multi-purpose community facility of at least 780 sq m in the Gilston Area in the period up to 2033, with a further 2-3 large community multi-purpose facilities from 2033 onwards.
- 11.22 The other locations where community facilities are proposed in the Pre-Submission Plan are in Bishop's Stortford South, North and East of Ware, and East of Welwyn Garden City. It is appropriate that these sites have slightly smaller facilities, based on the adopted standard of 0.1 sq m per 1000 population. The design should still be multi-purpose.
- 11.23 Sport England has a design guide for the community centres and village halls (Sport England, 2012) which may be useful in addition to other emerging best practice. This guidance is primarily for the provision of sport and recreation, and should be considered alongside the other criteria for a new facility.

Accessibility

- 11.24 The overall objective is to have a good quality local village or community hall which is easily accessible both on foot and by car.
- 11.25 It is useful to draw on relevant research undertaken by Milton Keynes Council in 2013 which covered both the rural area and city area of the borough. It is likely that similar patterns of use will apply to East Herts, both in relation to the urban and rural areas. The Milton Keynes survey showed that most people walked to such a facility (43%)

but that a similar percentage drove (40%). This compared to about 15% using a bicycle, and about 2% using either public transport or a taxi. The survey also showed that about 72% travelled up to 10 minutes by either car or on foot. The recently adopted standard for village and community halls in Milton Keynes is therefore 800m for the urban area, and one village hall/community centre per parish in the rural areas.

- 11.26 In the rural county of Rutland, with its two Market Towns and seven Local Service Centres, the research showed a similar pattern of use for this type of facility as in Milton Keynes. In Rutland, the policy objective was therefore to retain the existing network of local village halls, but also to ensure that there was a larger facility within 10 minutes drive time of all residents, which was open during the weekday day times, as well as evenings and weekends.
- 11.27 As the research in Milton Keynes showed that most people travel up to 10 minutes to reach a village/community hall, i.e. 800m, this has been used as the walking catchment for village hall/community centres testing. The drive time catchment tested is 10 minutes, reflecting both the Milton Keynes and Rutland research.
- 11.28 It is therefore proposed that the accessibility standards for village and community halls should be:
- 800 m catchment in towns and larger villages
 - 10 minutes drive time catchment elsewhere

Quality

- 11.29 The community centres, village halls and similar facilities should be able to offer a wide range of activities as well as meet modern standards for health and safety, the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act, energy efficiency etc. It is important that the design of any new facilities should be highly flexible, to enable the local management of the sites to both provide a community facility, and also generate income where possible to ensure the viability of their provision.
- 11.30 Where an existing community centre/village hall lacks storage space, parking or does not meet modern requirements including in relation to the kitchen and disability accessibility, these should be improved as a priority. New facilities and improvements should reflect the current best practice guidance from the relevant agencies.
- 11.31 If a new community centre is proposed as part of a major housing development area then this should be a stand-alone facility i.e. not part of a school. If possible new centres should also be located adjacent to the playing fields and the changing facilities for the pitches be provided and managed as part of the community centre. This helps both in terms of the economy of scale and the long term efficient management of the building.

- 11.32 Where new planned communities are over 6,500 population then a larger facility of around 700-800 sq m of area is appropriate and these larger new community facilities should enable at least two separate groups to independently use the centres at the same time, without contact between the groups, e.g. for pre-school and for an adult social or activity group.
- 11.33 The centres should be fully accessible for those people using mobility scooters and with pushchairs.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 11.34 The assessment above considers the need for village and community centre provision, including the growth proposed in the District Plan Pre-submission version for the period up to 2033. In summary, larger village hall/community centre facilities are justified in the Gilston Area, with smaller facilities in the other SUEs. Developer contributions will therefore be sought on the following basis:

| Facility type | Quantity per 1,000 population | Accessibility | Quality |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------|-----------------------------------|
| Multi-purpose community halls | <p>Gilston Area: facility with minimum internal area of 780 sqm</p> <p>Bishop's Stortford South, North and East of Ware and East of Welwyn Garden City: facility with minimum internal area of 530 sqm</p> | 800 m walk | Design to be agreed with Council. |

Recommendations for village and community halls

Council's role in village and community hall provision

- 11.35 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, the Council will:
- continue to generally support community access to the existing network of village and community halls, and their improvement. The delivery priorities are those identified by the parish and town councils.
 - ensure that the planning policies are in place to deliver new village and community halls where there is identified need.

Sites

Protect

- 11.36 It is proposed to generally protect and improve village and community halls. Some halls may require replacement over time.

Provide

- 11.37 The following SUEs should be provided with multi-functional community facilities of a 530 – 600 sq m internal area:

- Bishop's Stortford South
- North and East of Ware
- East of Welwyn Garden City

- 11.38 The following SUEs should be provided with multi-functional community facilities with two halls and a minimum internal area of 780 sq m:

- Gilston Area – one facility up to 2033, two additional after 2033

- 11.39 The existing planning standards are updated:

- Quantity
 - For SUEs with a population of over 6,500, towns and larger villages 120 sq m per 1000 population
 - Elsewhere facilities of at least 530 sq m in size
- Accessibility
 - 800m walk in the SUEs, towns and larger villages
 - 10 minute drive elsewhere
- The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice from relevant agencies. New community centres should enable at least two separate groups to independently use the centres at the same time, without contact between the groups, e.g. for pre-school and for an adult social or activity group.

SECTION 12: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- 12.1 There are a number of specialist sports facilities in East Herts, either built facilities or primarily using countryside and water spaces. These sports often have relatively low participation rates and are therefore not identifiable in the Sport England research (Active People Survey, Market Segmentation). Consequently, there are no county or authority statistics for these activities.
- 12.2 The consultation responses from the national governing bodies and clubs are summarised below.

Specialist built facilities

Netball

- 12.3 There were 64 netball clubs in East Hertfordshire in May 2017, and the club returns provided by England Netball shows a mixture of netball activity, with some taking place outdoors, and some indoors. A copy of the returns is provided as Appendix 6.
- 12.4 A high proportion of netball clubs travel to the central league venues, and many travel cross-border.
- 12.5 Only a relatively small proportion of the teams playing in the leagues at Bishop's Stortford and Ware are based in/training in East Herts. At the same time, there are a number of strong clubs located close by within the adjacent authority areas which are attracting players from East Herts, including Cross Keys in Harlow (60% of their 100 members come from East Herts), Saffron Hawks in Uttlesford (50% of their 165 members are from East Herts), Stevenage, and Broxbourne.
- 12.6 Wodson Park is used for netball for the county fixtures and tournaments as well as acting as a club base. It has 4 floodlit outdoor courts plus 2 indoor courts. The courts are considered by England Netball to be good, but the ancillary facilities are average quality. England Netball estimate that there are around 700 netball players using Wodson Park each week, but that there is capacity to take more.
- 12.7 The Bishop's Stortford & District Netball League uses Birchwood High School. The league uses 4 dedicated courts and hosts both league and annual tournaments. The site has 8 courts in total, none of which are floodlit, plus an indoor court. Of the 8 courts, 4 are rated by Clubs as average (and are used), and 4 are rated as poor (unusable) and require improvement. England Netball estimates that around 500 people use the site each week but make no assessment as to whether there is scope for additional use.
- 12.8 Junior netball leagues are currently held in Broxbourne (Saturday and mid-week), Chelmsford (Saturday and mid-week, and Impington, Cambridge (Sunday).

- 12.9 England Netball has assessed the sports development position in East Hertfordshire, and the results of this assessment are given in Appendix 5. The national governing body is clear that there is a real need for additional provision, both indoor and outdoor, in the Bishop's Stortford area. They have advised that even if all eight courts at Birchwood High School were to be floodlit and brought up to a good standard which would help to meet the competition needs, the primary driver for the proposed netball development at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School is to support the growing needs of local Netball Clubs (Crosskeys Netball and Saffron Hawks (Herts). Both clubs have members that live in Bishop's Stortford and are required to travel outside of their local area for training purposes.
- 12.10 Both Clubs have junior waiting lists and have achieved CAPS accreditation.
- 12.11 A number of the Hawks members attend the Herts and Essex High School.
- 12.12 Due to the needs of the Crosskeys and Saffron Hawks (Herts) clubs, England Netball with the support of East Hertfordshire Council, is involved with active discussions with the school about designing the sports hall to specifically cater for netball, and also the provision of six outdoor floodlit courts. The deliverability of these proposals is still to be confirmed.
- 12.13 If the anticipated development of netball facilities is not delivered at the Hertfordshire and Essex High School, then alternative netball facilities will be required in the Bishop's Stortford area. This may best be achieved by ensuring the design of the proposed community use sports halls at Bishop's Stortford North meets the requirements of adult league netball, and that the hard courts are surfaced and floodlit to meet the needs of netball. The existing hard courts at Birchwood High School should be improved and floodlit to maximise their use.

Martial arts including judo

- 12.14 Martial arts have a large number of separate disciplines but both they and judo usually require hall type facilities, sometimes with matting. The following responded to the club survey.

Bishops Stortford Judokwai

- 12.15 This club has about 115 members, about 40 of which are minis, 40 are juniors and the 35 seniors and veterans. The minis travel up to about 20 minutes to the club but all of the other age groups travel for up to 30 minutes. About 90% of the members come from Bishop's Stortford and its surrounding villages, and most of the remainder come from elsewhere in the district. The club has grown in the last 5 years and expects to grow further in the next 5. The club has a short waiting list for each age group which for the minis and juniors is 5-10 people, but with less than 5 on the waiting list for seniors and veterans. The club has a development plan which includes

the development of a permanent dojo as the lack of access to facilities means that the club is operating at full capacity.

- 12.16 The club uses Birchwood High School's old gym as their home site year round and 3-6 times a week, weekdays evenings and weekend daytimes. The hall is described as being in poor condition with the floor requiring repair. The floor is concrete (not sprung) so this makes it less suitable for the sport. The club uses mats and there is storage on site for these as part of the hire agreement. The changing facilities are poor (showers are available but in a separate building) and the other ancillary facilities on site are of average condition. Car parking is an issue at peak time.
- 12.17 It is known that the club has been in discussions with the Hertfordshire and Essex High School about the provision of a dojo. The deliverability and details of a judo facility on the site is still to be confirmed. If it is not possible to deliver on this site, an alternative site may be at Leventhorpe School in Sawbridgeworth. The options for a dojo on this site, including potential costs, sustainability, timescales, and deliverability would require confirmation via a detailed feasibility study.

Archery

- 12.18 Archery GB has a current facility development plan and a new programme "New Places for Target Faces". This is a new programme developed to make archery more accessible by opening up new archery venues around the country. Research has shown that current archers would like to shoot more often, but they are restricted by the availability of facilities. It also shows that there is a considerable demand for new archers to take up the sport. Alongside easy to follow advice and tailored support, an additional benefit for venue owners and managers who become involved in the programme is that they can apply to Archery GB for a start-up grant of up to £1000. This can be used to purchase equipment or train staff in the delivery of the sport. The new programme is therefore facility owner and operator led.
- 12.19 Key facts from the strategy include that most clubs rent or hire the facilities they use, whether this is indoor or outdoors. Schools and leisure centres are important in the provision of indoor spaces (usually sport halls), but private landowners and similar are more important for the outdoor facilities. Where a club shares the outdoor space, this is mostly with football, rugby or cricket, and the sport considers itself to be a pitch sport.
- 12.20 It is not known if the sport has particular growth potential in East Herts, and there are no NGB identified priorities for investment. There are however responses from the local clubs, summarised below.

Hertford Company of Archers

- 12.21 This club has about 120 members, of which about 100 are seniors or veterans. They come from a catchment area of about 20 minutes, mostly from Hertford, Ware and the surrounding villages. There is also a small number from the Butingford area and

from Stevenage. The club has grown in size over the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow. They do not have a waiting list. The main restriction on their ability to grow further is a lack of facilities.

- 12.22 The club uses a purpose-built outdoor site, The Butts at Haileybury near Hertford. The facility is leased on an annual basis from Haileybury College. They use the site year round 3-6 times a week during the daytime. The club maintain the site but the grass field can be uneven and there are problems with dog and wild animal fouling. Evening shooting is possible using a generator, but in practice is restricted to twice a year due to noise and adjacent housing. The storage facilities are good. The club has its own secure car park but the lane access is poor. There are no permanent toilet or clubhouse facilities. Changing facilities are not required by the club. The club would like to have power and a wash facility on the site.
- 12.23 The club also uses the Drill Hall at Ware for training during the winter months, once or twice a week. The club finds bookings relatively easy. The facility is in good condition and the changing provision meets the club's needs. There is no car park however.

Celtic Harmony Archery

- 12.24 The club has around 75 members, with about 55 seniors and veterans, and 15 minis. Most of the minis and juniors travel about 20 minutes to the club, but the seniors and veterans travel from a wider area, about 30 minutes. About 70% of the members come from the Hertford and Ware area, but it also draws from Bishop's Stortford, Stevenage, Harlow and North Herts. The club has grown in the last 5 years and expects to continue to do so. There is no waiting list and the club has a development plan in place. The main issues restricting the growth of the club are a lack of volunteers and the recruitment of members.
- 12.25 The club's home site is The Archery Barn Celtic Harmony Camp which is a specialist archery centre and has both indoor and outdoor space. The club has short term lease, due for renewal in 2017. The club uses the site year round 3-6 times a week, but the main use is at weekends. The club comments that it needs more toilets and storage space.

Countryside and water sports

- 12.26 There are a number of sport and recreation activities which are based in the countryside using the natural resources. These sports and activities include amongst others; walking, cycling, horse riding, climbing, sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, rowing, motorcycle trials, and air sports. The vast majority of these activities will take place at sites which are outside of the control of the local authority, so the role of the authority in relation to them is necessarily different compared to the built facilities.

- 12.27 It is neither possible nor appropriate to attempt to devise formal planning standards for these activities, as more important is appropriate and sufficient access to the resources. The appeal of these types of sports in East Herts is wide, with every one of the larger market segments using the countryside for at least one activity, particularly cycling, but also equestrian, angling, and athletics (including jogging).
- 12.28 East Herts Council will be addressing these activities in more detail as part of its forthcoming East Herts Physical Activity Strategy, however the roles of the Council in relation to these sports and activities are and will continue to be primarily:
- As an advocate working with partners to gain and retain access to a wide range of “natural resources”.
 - Providing positive planning policy guidance to encourage provision for, and access by, a range of sport and recreation activities.
 - Encouraging the development of safe cycling routes, both as part of sustainable transport and as part of green infrastructure provision.
 - By providing grant aid, where appropriate, to clubs to gain, maintain and improve their facilities, particularly where this encourages or enables new participation.

Cycling

- 12.29 British Cycling has the following high level priorities in its Whole Sport Plan:
- Providing British Cycling members who have the talent to succeed at the highest level with all the support they need to maximise their potential.
 - Providing opportunities for everyone who wants to ride their bike to be able to do so in a safe, accessible and supportive environment.
 - Growing the membership to enable British Cycling to provide a strong voice on behalf of all cyclists, actively promoting their needs and protecting their rights.
- 12.30 The strategic facility priorities are for:
- A comprehensive network of accessible traffic-free multi-disciplined cycling facilities enabling the effective and safe delivery of cycling activities both at a participation and excellence level.
 - Support for clubs and groups who wish to develop new, or improve existing, facilities and infrastructure.
- 12.31 An updated National Facilities Strategy for cycling is currently in development. The Strategy will cover all six recognised forms of cycling (Track, Road, BMX, MTB, Cycle Speedway and Cyclo-Cross).

- 12.32 Recreational cycling has been delivered in the form of Sky Ride Local free guided rides, Breeze women's only rides and Ride Social. Future development of cycling specific facilities, in particular traffic free circuits would provide a huge boost to participation and sustainability of these ride programmes.
- 12.33 British Cycling believes that there is good potential for growth in East Herts but this is dependent on the provision of dedicated recreational, coaching and racing facilities accessible to existing and potentially new clubs. Training of a volunteer workforce, especially coaches and race organisers and officials is key to growth in conjunction with any facility.
- 12.34 No NGB comments were received and there were no club returns.
- 12.35 There are no known investment needs at this time.

Rowing

- 12.36 There are no rowing clubs in East Herts but there are some on the boundaries, including at Welwyn Garden City and Broxbourne.

Sailing

- 12.37 There is one sailing club in the district at Stanstead Abbots in the Lea Valley, the Hertford County Yacht Club. The Lee and Stort Cruising Club is also based close by. The sailing clubs outside of the district are based at Nazeing, Welwyn Garden City, Chingford, Stevenage and Arlesley.
- 12.38 No club returns were received and no investment priorities at the existing clubs have been identified. The RYA as the NGB has not provided any comments on sailing in East Herts. There are no known investment needs at this time.

Canoeing

- 12.39 There are two British Canoeing affiliated canoe clubs, one is based on the River Stort (Bishop's Stortford Canoe Club), and one on River Lee at Hartham Common in Hertford (Herts Canoe Club).
- 12.40 No response to the NGB consultation was received from Canoe England, and there was no club response from either of the clubs. No investment priorities have therefore been identified.

Equestrian

- 12.41 The British Horse Society responded to the NGB consultation. They estimate that there are over 14,200 horses in Hertfordshire, most of which will be ridden on an almost daily basis. The Hertfordshire Horse Riders has a membership of around

10,600. Around 90% of riders are female and about a third are over 45 years in age. For most riders, this is their only form of exercise.

- 12.42 The BHS notes that the county Rights of Way Improvement Plan (p16-17) notes the high level of equestrian activity in East Herts and the need for safe off road and quiet lanes. Riders and carriage drivers are classed as “vulnerable road users”. The BHS and Hertfordshire County Council organise regular “park and ride” events in the county. The main roads such as the A10 and A414 are major barriers to riders using the rights of way network and quiet roads.
- 12.43 There are currently 5 approved riding centres in East Herts but none of these host affiliated events. There are also at least 10 non-approved equestrian establishments which offer both lessons and livery.
- 12.44 There are two Pony Club branches in the district but most of their events and activities are held outside of the district due to a lack of appropriate facilities for hire. The same problem is encountered by the Riding Clubs. There is a need for a competition facility with 2 arenas, hard standing for parking and safe ridden access.
- 12.45 Nationally, almost all equestrian competition facilities are provided by the private sector, although there are a small number on college sites. New provision is therefore likely to be led by one of these. The main support required from the Council relates to positive planning policies to enable the development of such a facility in the future.

Orienteering

- 12.46 British Orienteering (BO) has provided comment for the East Herts strategy. Although the national governing body does not have a formal facility strategy it is developing a database of all permanent orienteering courses. At this time there are no known investment needs.

Triathlon

- 12.47 The national governing body, Triathlon England, provided comment for the strategies. There are no specific investment priorities in the district, but there is a general national need for more swimming pool time and closed road cycle circuits. The NGB considers there to be potential to grow the sport in the area, and this will mainly be achieved by increasing the number of junior participants in Go Tri events.

Recommendations for other sports

Council's role in the provision of other sports

12.48 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will:

- continue to support community access to the existing facilities networks.
- ensure that appropriate planning policies are in place to protect existing sites and enable the development of new sports facilities where the demand arises.

Enhance

12.49 Improve access track, and provide basic clubhouse with electricity at The Butts, Haileybury College. Secure community use.

12.50 Extend and improve the clubhouse facilities at The Archery Barn Celtic Harmony Camp. Secure community use.

Provide

12.51 Hertfordshire and Essex High School, Bishop's Stortford – 4 court sports hall designed for netball, 2 x floodlit outdoor netball courts also marked for tennis, dojo plus pitches by 2018.

SECTION 13: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Maximising health and well-being outcomes

- 13.1 East Hertfordshire Council and its partners have a clear stated objective of improving the health and wellbeing of the communities across the district, set out in well-established key corporate documents such as the Sustainable Community Strategy and the Corporate Strategic Plan, and reaffirmed in the emerging East Herts Council Leisure Strategy which focusses on the Council-run facilities.
- 13.2 This sport facilities assessment and strategy has considered the current patterns of participation in sport and active recreation across all the communities in the district, and across all providers, and forecasts forwards the anticipated needs up to 2033 based on the expected future population, its age structure, and socio-economic characteristics. The strategy has taken these into account, and the facility proposals reflect what is expected to be required to meet the needs of the different communities across the district up to 2033. The network of sports facilities will be an essential element in the delivery of the health and wellbeing objectives for the district.

Maximising cost-effectiveness

- 13.3 The facility recommendations (Figure 50) are expected to be the most cost-effective and deliverable route of achieving the facilities required. This is based on a recognition that the most cost-effective options may not be deliverable because of factors outside of the control of East Herts Council, and a recognition that the Council itself only controls a small proportion of the facilities across the district. Each key action in the Action Plan should however in practice start with the most cost-effective option as the preferred option, moving to the more expensive as needed.
- 13.4 As an example, there is a need for sports hall space both during the school day and this demand is likely to increase over time as there are more older people in the authority up to 2033. There will also be a need for some extra sports hall capacity in some areas during weekday evenings and at weekends to meet the needs of the new population arising from the new housing. The potential options to address both the day time and peak time demand are set out below, in order of increasing cost to public leisure. However each of these are reliant on the agreement of stakeholders. Only those facilities not controlled by the schools are likely to be able to be regularly made available during the school day as well as during weekday evenings and weekends.
- Encourage schools to open sports hall facilities during school day for community use and open for longer during the peak periods. Seek to secure that use via legal agreements.
 - Secure community access to new sports halls being developed by the school/education to meet curriculum needs e.g. Richard Hale School.

- Secure appropriately designed new sports hall provision on existing school sites where there is a new hall being proposed and which can be made available to the community on a pay and play or club booking basis e.g. Herts and Essex High School.
- Secure appropriately designed sports hall provision on new school sites where a new hall is being proposed and which can be made available to the community on a pay and play or club booking basis e.g. Bishop's Stortford North proposed secondary school.
- Secure appropriately designed new sports hall provision on adjacent site to new school which can be a shared facility, available to both the school and community. Hall can be made available for pay and play access including during part of the school day. May be part of a leisure centre with pool, e.g. Gilston Area proposal.
- New sports hall on separate leisure centre site e.g. Grange Paddocks.

13.5 A fundamental principle for the provision of public leisure facilities are that they must be financially sustainable. It is also essential that any public investment into school sites should be linked to a legal agreement securing community use for an appropriate length of time, usually 25 years, either via a planning obligation or other mechanism.

Working across authority boundaries

13.6 A number of the strategy recommendations have identified that the most cost-effective way of delivering the sports facilities required is through co-operation with adjacent authorities. Cooperation across the administrative boundaries recognises the fact that people travel across authority boundaries to access sports facilities. The assessment has identified a number of activities where there is import/export of participants, for example the export of gymnasts to Harlow and Stevenage, and the import of swimmers from Harlow and Uttlesford.

13.7 The planned housing growth on the boundaries of East Herts, particularly in the Gilston Area, East of Welwyn Garden City and East of Stevenage will all exacerbate this cross-boundary movement. However there is also likely to be more importation of demand, from for example the planned housing growth in Harlow and Welwyn Garden City.

13.8 In these areas, there is a need to work strategically cross-boundary, as provision may be better located in one area than another. This is expected to require mechanisms to address developers' contributions and wider infrastructure planning. To be avoided are both the duplication of facilities, and a failure to provide any to meet the demand expected to arise. Such outcomes would fail to deliver the necessary infrastructure to support health and wellbeing, and / or be much more expensive and less financially sustainable in the long term.

Securing provision of sport through development

- 13.9 A key output from the study is the securing of sports provision through development. This can include on-site provision through master-planning and planning obligations, and securing developers' contributions to off-site provision. These contributions can be secured through s106, or in the future may be via CIL.
- 13.10 The authority will be seeking contributions via s106 but it will necessary to meet the three CIL tests set out in CIL Reg 122 and NPPF para 204:
- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
 - Directly related to the development
 - Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 13.11 It will therefore be important to ensure that any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using this strategy's evidence base (and/or other robust up-to-date planning policy) to justify the needs arising from the development, and how these are to be met. A proactive approach should be taken to the use of planning obligations in the context of the current pooling restrictions (i.e. as far as is practical matching specific developments to identified projects). This could be through an approved site master-plan, Development Briefs in the Local Plan, a Planning Obligations SPD, or other policy approach, where these are appropriate to the proposed development.
- 13.12 Developers' contributions have already been sought in relation to the Bishop's Stortford North housing development and S106 negotiations have also been completed for a number of other housing projects in the district. The funding already collected will be used towards agreed facility requirements. The new planned housing should be assessed against the planning policy and Provision Guide.

Assessing if contributions are justified

- 13.13 The assessment steps to determine if a contribution is justified include:
- identifying the development's expected population;
 - assessing the demand and cost of meeting this demand from the development for different facility types, based on the additional population;
 - identifying if the demand can be met by existing facilities (where these have a sufficient capacity, are accessible, and acceptable quality);
 - if the demand cannot be met by existing facilities, then use the local evidence base and/or consult with relevant stakeholders to find the best approach to meeting these needs.
 - identifying the costs of the new or extended facility, or other quality improvements to increase an existing facility's capacity; and
 - then applying the costs proportionate to the development's population.

- 13.14 Although the population of a single development (e.g. on a small site or an individual stage of a larger site) may not in itself generate the needs for a full facility, it will still generate additional demand, which should be quantified and be met. Other contributions could then be sought from other applications to enable the delivery of the facility.
- 13.15 There may also be specific facility needs identified in the strategy which are required to be provided on a development site, as this is the most deliverable opportunity. This may include leisure centres or other facilities which potentially have a wider catchment than the development site itself or where the development itself generates the whole or a large proportion of the facility need.
- 13.16 The following will be used to assess whether the existing provision within an area can provide for the development. The tests relate to Quantity, Accessibility and Quality:
- The quantity requirements are based on the demand generated by the development. The approach towards assessing the amount of demand is outlined in the 'Provision Guide' (see Figure 48).
 - The accessibility requirement determines the acceptable travel distance to a facility based on known travel patterns for different sports. Catchments are set out in the 'Provision Guide' (see Figure 48). This information can be used to guide whether provision should be on-site or off-site, and the maximum distance to existing facilities which potentially have capacity to meet the new demand generated from the development. The accessibility requirement also needs to consider the facility ownership, management and availability for community use. The 'availability' must be sufficient for the expected community's needs and include hours of use, pricing policy, and security of the community access (i.e. it is affordable, is fully available to the community at evenings and weekends and generally has secure community use for 25 years or more).
 - The quality requirement relates to the quality and design of facilities, and that they should reflect current best practice, including current design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to refurbishment as well as to new build proposals, as the age and condition of a facility will impact upon its attractiveness and ability to meet the demand generated from a development.
- 13.17 In some cases, the nearest current or potential new facility may be across a local authority boundary. In this case it is appropriate to consider offering funding to such a facility.

Policy for contributions

- 13.18 Planning policy should ensure that provision of justified facilities is delivered, either on-site, or off-site. The cost for maintenance should be sought for both on-site and off-site provision, unless it can reasonably be argued that normal operational income should cover this. Where appropriate, costs towards a sinking fund and for land purchase should also be sought, depending on the facility type and how it is to be used. These are detailed below.
- 13.19 Where a facility is required on-site, this may include requiring delivery through a planning policy and a masterplan approach for the whole area (e.g. a new Local Plan specifies the facility needs for a given housing growth area). This can ensure that enough suitable land is planned from the outset, and provided at no cost. This is particularly important where there is a need for a large sports land-take (e.g. playing fields or a leisure centre).
- 13.20 Planning policy should seek to ensure that where sites are developed in phases or through multiple applications, and where the sports provision is required on-site, that this provision is co-ordinated and delivered by the landowners/developers. In some circumstances, a single site for sports facilities serving all the development or all its phases can be required.
- 13.21 The timing and delivery of the sports facility should be considered in relation to development phasing to achieve a balance between ensuring the facility is in place in time to meet the needs of the residents, avoiding pressure being placed on existing facilities, and the financial viability of the development.
- 13.22 Where there are separate developments in the close geographical area, e.g. around a town, that taken together generate a need for a whole facility, contributions need to be made towards new facility provision or improving an existing facility provision. For new facilities, the planning policy therefore also needs to identify where that facility is to be located, how sufficient land is to be secured, and (where known) the individual developments that need to contribute to it. This also applies to where there is a need for a larger strategic facility serving a large catchment. This may require the developers to provide the land on-site (see below) or for the local planning authority to identify the land through the Local Plan process.
- 13.23 For on-site or off-site contributions where the facility, or part of the facility, has a short life-span (e.g. artificial grass pitch carpet), that cannot reasonably be expected to be fully funded through normal operational income, then a contribution towards a replacement sinking fund should also be sought. As facilities should be operationally viable if they are to be sustainable in the long term, then in most cases a contribution to a sinking fund should be requested only in special circumstances and be of a reasonable and fair amount.
- 13.24 Where there is an assessed deficit in the provision of a facility, and there is an existing facility with appropriate community access that could potentially meet the demands

generated by the development but it needs to be upgraded or extended, then contributions may be sought towards such improvements. Contributions need to meet the CIL tests, and should not exceed or cover what could reasonably be expected to be paid for by normal operational income. The operator (including a school or a club) will need to be supportive of this and comfortable with the timescales for payment of contributions. There should be flexibility in the allocation of such a contribution in case the improvement or provision at such a facility becomes implemented through other funding sources ahead of the time the contribution is due to be paid. If appropriate, the wording of the planning obligation/contribution should allow for the monies to be paid to an appropriate alternative facility (where this is still justified and CIL compliant).

13.25 Suitable land needs to be provided by development:

- Where the investment need is for a new facility to meet the demand directly generated by the population of the new development(s), then the developer is expected to meet all of these costs. These include provision, maintenance and land costs.
- Where the demand is for the majority (50% or more) of a facility, that is to be provided on site, suitable land will be provided by the developer at no cost, as well as the population-related proportion of the cost of the facility.
- Where the demand is for less than 50% of a facility, that is to be provided on-site, then suitable land needs to be planned into the development, however only a proportionate amount of this land will be provided for free and the remainder will need to be funded from other sources (e.g. from pooled contributions from other developments, from grants or other sources).
- Where the land cannot be provided for on-site because of proven master-planning constraints, financial viability or other relevant reasons, then the local authority may negotiate an appropriate alternative contribution, where this is CIL compliant.

13.26 In all cases, there may be reasons for the Council to choose to be flexible in how it applies these policies (e.g. where the need is for part of a facility the Council may require all the land but not ask for a contribution to its provision or maintenance). So long as this fits into a wider planned approach to ensure deliverability, and is CIL compliant.

Identify the appropriate facility for the contribution

13.27 Contributions need to be CIL Reg 122 compliant.

13.28 The facility is identified in the Action Plan of this strategy.

13.29 Where there is flexibility, and where pooling restrictions may be a consideration, larger developments may be better targeted for certain contributions than smaller developments, so as to better deliver identified community priorities.

- 13.30 To ensure that a contribution can be delivered, there needs to be a realistic timescale for delivering the residential development and the sports facility project, and a reasonable chance that any shortfall in the funding of the facility can be found from other sources.
- 13.31 Consideration should be given to including a clause in a planning obligation agreement to provide for an alternative CIL compliant facility to cater for unforeseen circumstances, particularly where there might be some uncertainty in securing the delivery of the preferred facility.

Calculating contributions

Demand

- 13.32 The Provision Guide (Figure 48) should be used to calculate the amount of expected demand being generated by a development for sports halls, swimming pools, fitness facilities and outdoor tennis. It provides a quantity of facility per 1,000 population, accessibility and quality standards, and has been directly derived from the strategy's assessment process, including:
- The current and future demographics of the district and areas within the district
 - The current and expected future demand for each sport/facility type for the district
 - Current patterns of demand, for matches and training and informal activity sessions
 - The feedback from consultees; clubs, national governing bodies and other stakeholders
 - The capacity of facilities at peak times
 - Research by bodies such as Sport England and the national governing bodies on catchments for each sport/facility type
 - Published guidance on design
 - Local identified priorities for certain facilities, such as tennis and bowls.
- 13.33 In addition to the demand to be estimated using the Provision Guide, there is a need to provide specific new facilities in certain planned development areas, such as new leisure centres and new outdoor bowls greens.

Figure 48: Provision Guide for new housing developments

| Facility type | Quantity per 1,000 population | Accessibility | Quality |
|-------------------------------|---|-------------------|---|
| Sports Halls | 0.29 badminton courts fully available at peak time | 20 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance |
| Swimming pools | 11.31 sq m water space fully available at peak time | 20 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance |
| Fitness facilities (stations) | 7.17 stations fully available at peak time | 15 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance |
| Fitness facilities (studios) | 0.13 studios fully available at peak time | 15 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance |
| Outdoor bowls | 0.59 rinks per 1,000 provided as 6-rink green | 15 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England and national governing body guidance |
| Outdoor tennis courts | 0.32 courts per 1,000 available at all times | 10 minutes by car | Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance |
| Multi-purpose community halls | Gilston Area: facility with minimum internal area of 780 sq m Bishop's Stortford South, North and East of Ware and East of Welwyn Garden City: facility with minimum internal area of 530 sq m | 800 m walk | Design to be agreed with Council. |

Note: * fully available at peak time means open to community use in the evenings and weekends.

Costs

- 13.34 To calculate the scale of a developer's financial contribution for the provision of a facility which has been identified as being justified and appears in the strategy project list, the Contributions Assessment Calculator can be used.
- 13.35 This calculator uses current national costs, but if there are robust and up-to-date local facility or project costs, then these may be used instead, particularly where the project is to enhance the existing facility provision.
- 13.36 The cost of maintenance and sinking funds, where justified, should be calculated and included in the contributions expected from the developer. These may be based either on the Sport England or NGB costs advice incorporated in the calculator, or where there are known robust local costs, these should be used in preference.
- 13.37 In addition to the calculator derived costs:
- when a land cost is justified, this will also need to be included in the developers' contributions, based on the local market cost for the relevant sport/leisure land use.
 - there may be a need to add the cost of other local and site-specific costs (e.g. abnormal ground conditions, site access needs, landscaping, acoustic fencing etc).
- 13.38 It should be noted that all costs should be date related, and inflation should be taken into account. For example, if a facility is to be delivered in 3 years' time, an appropriate inflation index, such as Spons Building Costs Indices, should be applied.
- 13.39 A worked example of the East Hertfordshire Contributions Calculator is provided in Appendix 7.

Priorities for Action

- 13.40 East Herts Council and its partners will treat this assessment and recommendations as a rolling document and will aim to undertake a number of action points arising from it. The first priority for implementation will therefore be an action plan which is led and coordinated by East Herts Council on an interdepartmental basis, and will involve the key stakeholders. This will be based around the project specific proposals set out in Figure 50 which provide the project specific priorities for built facilities. These have been widely consulted upon with appropriate parties e.g. sports representatives, users, and providers.
- 13.41 The project list is based on the needs evidenced by this strategy assessment, and includes all of the housing included within the Pre-Submission District Plan for East Hertfordshire. The need for and deliverability of some the projects will depend in part on cross boundary planning for sports provision, and the agreement or otherwise to share some developers' contributions. There will also be a need to ensure that, where facility needs have been identified, sites are set aside within the respective masterplans for each development and made available free of charge.
- 13.42 The ongoing assessment of the deliverability of the projects will need to be kept under regular review and alternative options identified if the preferred site/location is not possible to deliver. The next stage of the strategy work is the testing of the project proposals via further detailed partnership discussions and feasibility studies, including detailed costing and business planning. The outcomes of these actions will help to confirm the draft project list.
- 13.43 The action plan (Figure 49) sets the priorities for Years 1-3. It should be reviewed annually along with a review of the key proposals of the strategy, which will help to maintain the momentum and commitment to its implementation.

Action Plan

Figure 49: Action Plan

| Facility / Site Proposal | Action required | Lead organisation(s) | Key partners | Date for action and potential delivery date |
|---|--|----------------------|---|---|
| General | | | | |
| Existing community use agreements for leisure centres | Revise and update the existing community use agreements to ensure long term security of use by the community, with the priority order reflecting the level of potential EHC and other investment in facility improvements. | EHC | Schools Hertfordshire County Council | Years 1-3 |
| School sites without secure community use | Seek to formalise community use of all school sites where this is currently unsecure. | EHC | Schools | On-going |
| Develop mechanisms with adjacent authorities to co-ordinate planning and sports facility investment | <p>The Council will actively seek to develop co-ordinated mechanisms which provide solutions in respect of cross-border import and export of demand for sports facilities.</p> <p>In the Greater Harlow area this will involve: Harlow Council Epping Forest District Council Uttlesford District Council</p> <p>In the Welwyn Garden City area this will involve Welwyn Hatfield Borough Council.</p> <p>In the Stevenage area this will involve Stevenage Borough Council.</p> | EHC | Harlow Council Epping Forest DC Uttlesford DC Welwyn Hatfield BC Stevenage BC | Years 1-3 |

| Public leisure centres | | | | |
|--------------------------|--|-----|--------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Grange Paddocks | <p>Complete feasibility study (Max Associates) to confirm proposed facility mix, costs, timescales and deliverability.</p> <p>Seek to develop a sports hall on the site as part of a phased development. This will require that a case is made through the normal planning processes outlining the exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Undertake construction and open replacement centre.</p> | EHC | Operator Swim England FA | <p>Year 1 2017</p> <p>2021</p> |
| Hartham Leisure Centre | <p>Complete feasibility study (Max Associates) to confirm proposed facility mix, costs, timescales and deliverability.</p> <p>Undertake construction and open.</p> | EHC | Operator Swim England | <p>Year 1</p> <p>2021</p> |
| Fanshawe Pool and Gym | <p>Complete feasibility study (Max Associates) to confirm proposed facility mix, costs, timescales and deliverability.</p> <p>Undertake construction and open.</p> | EHC | Operator Swim England | <p>Year 1</p> <p>2019</p> |
| Leventhorpe Pool and Gym | <p>Complete feasibility study (Max Associates) to confirm proposed facility mix, costs, timescales and deliverability. Consider alternative management options, including via Nuffield Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Undertake construction and open.</p> | EHC | Operator Swim England | <p>Year 1</p> <p>2019</p> |
| Ward Freman Pool | <p>Complete feasibility study (Max Associates) to confirm proposed facility mix, costs, timescales and deliverability of new 25 station gym.</p> <p>Undertake construction and open.</p> | EHC | Operator | <p>Year 1</p> <p>2019</p> |

| | | | | |
|---|--|--------|--|----------------|
| Freman College | Support school to extend community use of sports hall if there is demand, potentially linking management to that of the pool and gym. | EHC | School Ward Freman Pool Operator | Year 2 2018 |
| Other new and enhanced provision | | | | |
| Bishop's Stortford area | | | | |
| Hertfordshire and Essex High School | Complete discussions on proposed facility mix and achieve planning permission. To include sport hall designed for community use, outdoor netball courts, hockey specification AGP and potentially a dojo. | School | EHC England Netball British Judo Clubs Sport England | Year 1 2017 |
| | Construct and open facilities | School | | Year 2 2018 |
| Bishop's Stortford North Secondary School | Ensure school has a 4-court sports hall and site designed to enable and community use. | EHC | Herts County Council | Year 1 2017 |
| | Confirm design and phasing. | EHC | Herts County Council Academy sponsors (if relevant) | Year 2 2018 |
| Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (Tennis Club) | Undertake feasibility study to consider the options to enhance capacity at the Bishop's Stortford Sports Club / Tennis Club, both to cater better for existing members, and meet new growth. | EHC | Sports Trust Club LTA | Year 2 2018 |
| | Delivery of first phase of new provision. | | | 2020 |
| 3-court tennis site, site TBC | Provisionally allocate land for a 3-court size tennis site with floodlighting and ancillary facilities to cater for new housing demand to be delivered by 2026. Site needs to be confirmed once feasibility study at the Tennis Club has been completed. Site to be provided for free. | EHC | LTA Developers | Year 1 2017 |
| | Delivery if required | | | 2026 |

| | | | | |
|--|---|-------------------|--|---|
| Community hall | Ensure that the proposed community hall at Bishop's Stortford South is to be delivered as planned. | EHC | Developers | Year 1 2017 Phased with development |
| Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club | Improve floodlighting | Club | Bowls England EHC | Year 3 2019 |
| Land South of Bishop's Stortford | Ensure that marked running routes utilising the Hertfordshire Way and routes towards the Stort Valley are planned into the developments as part of open space. | Developer | EHC England Athletics | Year 1 2017 Phased with development |
| Hertford and Ware area | | | | |
| Stuart Storey athletics track, Wodson Park | When the UK Athletics track survey is completed, address any issues to enable the track to be fully certified in the future. | Wodson Park Trust | EHC UK Athletics England Athletics Clubs | Survey date unknown |
| Richard Hale School, Ware | Secure long term community use to new sports hall via legal agreement and/or planning conditions. | School | EHC | Year 1 2017 |
| Drill Hall, Ware | Confirm with site operators works needed to retain this facility at high quality. Undertake works as necessary. | EHC | Drill Hall Clubs | |
| Community hall | Ensure that the proposed community hall at North and East of Ware is to be delivered as planned. | EHC | Developers | Year 1 2017 Phased with development |
| The Butts, Haileybury | Secure community access to The Butts for archery. Explore costs and deliverability of improvements to site; access road, electricity, and provision of clubhouse. | EHC | Haileybury College Club | Year 3 2020 2021 |
| Celtic Harmony Camp | Secure community use. Extend clubhouse. | EHC | Operator Club | Year 3 2020 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------|---|---|
| | | | | 2021 |
| North and East of Ware | Ensure that marked running routes linking to Wodson Park are planned into the developments as part of open space. | Developer | EHC England Athletics | Year 1 2017 Phased with development |
| Sawbridgeworth area | | | | |
| Dojo for judo | If not possible to deliver a dojo in Bishop's Stortford, explore option of delivering at Leventhorpe. | Judo Club British Judo | EHC | Year 3 2019 2025 |
| Buntingford area | | | | |
| 1 x 6-rink outdoor bowls green, site TBC | Identify an appropriate site for a 6-rink outdoor bowls green with ancillary facilities. Land to be provided for free. To be delivered by 2026. | EHC | Developer | Year 1 2017 2026 |
| Braughing tennis courts | Confirm costs and deliverability of further floodlit hard court. Deliver | Club | LTA EHC Parish Council | Year 2 2018 2019 |
| Buntingford Bowls Club | Confirm club requirements in relation to improving their ancillary facilities. | Club | Bowl England Parish Council EHC | Year 3 2019 |
| The Gilston Area | | | | |
| The Gilston Area Leisure Centre | Confirm principle of joint use leisure centre. Confirm location and ensure masterplan has allocated sufficient and appropriate land, available for free. Work with Harlow, Uttlesford and Epping Councils on cross-border detailed sports strategy planning, including local scenario tests using FPM for halls and pools, to confirm | EHC EHC | Sport England Herts County Council Harlow Council Uttlesford Council | Year 1 2017 Year 2 2018 |

| | | | | |
|--|--|-----------|---|---|
| | <p>facility mix, costs. Agree mechanism to share developers' contributions cross boundary.</p> <p>Confirm phasing and deliverability</p> | EHC | <p>Epping Forest Council Sport England Swim England British Gymnastics</p> <p>Harlow Council Uttlesford Council Epping Forest Council Herts County Council Academy sponsors (if relevant)</p> | <p>Year 3 2019</p> |
| The Gilston Area Tennis courts | <p>Ensure site for 3 outdoor tennis courts with floodlighting and ancillary facilities is allocated in the masterplan for The Gilston Area, to be phased with development. Site to be made free of charge.</p> <p>Delivery 2033.</p> | EHC | Developers | <p>Year 1 2017</p> <p>2033</p> |
| Outdoor bowls 6-rink green with clubhouse and ancillary facilities | <p>Ensure on site provision of bowling green, clubhouse and ancillary facilities.</p> | EHC | Developers | <p>Year 1 2026</p> |
| Community halls | <p>Ensure that the proposed community halls x 3 are to be delivered as planned, with one facility open before 2033, and the others phased with development.</p> | EHC | Developers | <p>Year 1 2017</p> <p>Phased with development</p> |
| North and East of Ware | <p>Ensure that marked running routes are developed linking to the central hub and to the Stort Valley.</p> | Developer | EHC England Athletics | <p>Year 1 2017</p> <p>Phased with development</p> |

| East of Welwyn Garden City area | | | | |
|---|---|-----------|-------------------------------------|---|
| East of Welwyn Garden City Leisure Centre | Provisionally allocate space for joint use leisure centre with pool adjacent to planned secondary school. Ensure land is set aside for free. | EHC | Welwyn Hatfield Council Herts CC | Year 1-2 2017-18 |
| | Work with Welwyn Hatfield Council on cross-border detailed sports strategy planning, including local scenario tests using FPM for halls and pools, to confirm location of a new leisure centre (in E Herts or Welwyn Garden City), facility mix, costs and timescales. Agree mechanism to share developers' contributions cross boundary. | EHC | Welwyn Hatfield Council | Year 1 2017 |
| | Undertake feasibility work to confirm details of proposed leisure centre: location, phasing etc. | EHC | Welwyn Hatfield Council Herts CC | Year 2-3 2018-19 |
| Community hall | Ensure that the proposed community hall at East of Welwyn Garden City is to be delivered as planned. | EHC | Developers | Year 1 2017 Phased with development |
| Tewin Tennis Club | Confirm costs and deliverability of floodlighting both hard courts. | Club | LTA EHC Parish Council | Year 3 2019 |
| | Delivery | | | 2020 |
| Marked running routes | Ensure that marked running routes are developed linking to the planned central parkland/common, linking to both the development and into Welwyn Garden City. | Developer | EHC England Athletics | Year 3 2020 Phased with development |

| East of Stevenage area | | | | |
|------------------------|--|-----------|------------------------------|---|
| East of Stevenage | Work with Stevenage Borough Council on cross-border detailed sports strategy planning, including sports halls, swimming and tennis. Agree mechanism to share developers' contributions cross boundary, assuming provision is generally off-site and may be within the boundary of Stevenage. | EHC | Stevenage Borough Council | Year 2 2018 |
| Datchworth Tennis Club | Confirm costs and deliverability of floodlighting both hard courts. Delivery | Club | LTA EHC Parish Council | Year 3 2019 2021 |
| Marked running routes | Ensure that marked running routes are developed as part of open space provision, linking the development to Stevenage. | Developer | EHC England Athletics | Year 1 2017 Phased with development |

Phasing

- 13.44 The large housing site proposals for East Herts in the Pre-Submission Plan are mainly for the period between 2022 and 2027, although some such as Bishop's Stortford North will have substantial new housing before 2022. The phasing of the sports and community facilities will need to reflect the phasing of the housing.

Funding

- 13.45 It is important to ensure that all of the available resources are carefully targeted and tailored to meet the needs of the whole community so that any initial capital investment and long term revenue commitments can be fully justified.
- 13.46 The proposals arising from the strategy are likely to be funded and supported by a range of partners and new facility provision might be via a mix of public and private sources. There are likely to be an increasing number of innovative partnership arrangements over the next few years, both in relation to capital and revenue projects, and consideration should be given by the Council to exploring all of the available options to enable the delivery of the strategy's proposals.
- 13.47 There are some major projects planned in this strategy which will require significant capital funding. Funding sources and programmes vary significantly over time, and there is limited benefit in exploring in detail all of the funds available at this point. As each facility is considered, all available options for funding should be explored by the council, the stakeholders and potential developers of each project. These might include, in no particular order:
- Mixed development – perhaps delivering community sports facilities as part of a wider regeneration scheme;
 - Developers' contributions – by locking the strategy into planning policy;
 - Land disposals and partial land development – where agreed as surplus to need;
 - Partnership delivery and joint funding - by working with key partners such as schools;
 - Partnership funding - with major sports clubs and their National Governing Bodies of Sport (NGBs), Football Foundation and others;
 - Sport England/UK Sport funds;
 - Lottery Funds;
 - Government funding.

Procurement and management

- 13.48 The nature and process of the procurement of the facilities covered by this strategy and their long term management will fundamentally depend upon the type and scale of facility. It is likely that many sports and recreation facilities will increasingly

become the responsibility of a sports club(s), but the leisure centres are likely to remain the council's responsibility, either directly or indirectly.

Figure 50: Site specific proposals for Infrastructure Development Plan

These projects will need to confirmed as the Action Plan progresses.

| Facility / Site | Project elements | Partners | Date | Estimated cost | Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low |
|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|------|---|---|
| Public leisure centres | | | | | |
| Grange Paddocks | <p>Replacement leisure centre comprising:</p> <p>25 m x 8 lane competition pool with standard floor</p> <p>20 x 10 learner pool with 2m depth and moveable floor</p> <p>250 spectator seats</p> <p>140 fitness stations</p> <p>3 x studios</p> <p>Plus potentially</p> <p>4-court sports hall</p> <p>3G pitch (including restoration of tip)</p> | EHC Operator Swim England | 2022 | <p>£20.1m</p> <p>£2.16m</p> <p>£1.90m</p> | H |
| Hartham Leisure Centre | <p>Expansion and refurbishment of existing facility:</p> <p>150 station gym (currently 85)</p> <p>3 studios</p> <p>Pool boom and moveable floor at one end</p> | EHC | 2019 | £7.11m | H |
| Fanshawe Pool and Gym | <p>Extend gym and add small studio.</p> <p>Refurbish throughout.</p> | EHC | 2019 | £1.3m | H |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|---|-----------------------------------|---------------------|---|
| Leventhorpe Pool and Gym | Refurbishment of pool and changing | EHC | 2019 | £398,000 | M |
| Ward Freman Pool | Add fitness suite to Ward Freman pool 25 stations | EHC Operator | 2019 | £881,000 | H |
| Other new and enhanced provision | | | | | |
| Bishop's Stortford area | | | | | |
| Hertfordshire and Essex High School | Deliver: 4 court sports hall designed to support community sport but particularly netball Dojo 2 x floodlit netball courts AGP (size and surface tbc) Grass pitches (size and sport tbc) Formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use. | Education Dept Herts CC Academy EHC England Netball Sport England Judo Club British Judo | 2017/18 | £3m | H |
| Bishop's Stortford North Secondary School Or Bishop's Stortford North Secondary School | 4 court sports hall designed to support community sport. Formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use. | Herts CC EHC | 2020 | £2.215m | H |
| Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust (Tennis Club) | Increase capacity of site. Options include covering courts or converting grass courts to hard courts. Cost dependent on options. | EHC Sports Trust Club LTA | 2020 (first phase) 2026 | £400,000- £1.35m | H |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| | Second phase would enable club to meet needs from new housing. Dependent on site options. | | (second phase) | Extension to clubhouse cost tbc | |
| 3-court tennis site, site tbc | 3-court size tennis site with floodlighting and ancillary facilities to cater for new housing demand to be delivered by 2026. | EHC LTA | | £360,000 courts + £250,000 clubhouse | M |
| Community hall | New community hall for Bishop's Stortford South | Developer | Phased with development | n/a | H |
| Land in South of Bishop's Stortford | Marked running route utilising the Hertfordshire Way and routes towards the Stort Valley | Developer | Phased with development | n/a | H |
| Hertford and Ware area | | | | | |
| Drill Hall, Ware | Improve hall to ensure that it is high quality and able to support a wide range of users. | Drill Hall Town Council EHC | 2020 | TBC | H |
| Community hall | New community hall for Bishop's Stortford South | Developer | Phased with development | £1.5m | H |
| The Butts, Haileybury | Improve access road, provide electricity and clubhouse. Secure community use. | Club Haileybury College EHC | 2020 | tbc | L |
| Celtic Harmony Camp | Extend clubhouse subject to securing community use. | Club Operator EHC | 2026 | tbc | L |
| West of Hertford | Marked running route potentially linked to routes though Panshanger Park | Developer | Phased with development | n/a | H |
| North and East of Ware | Marked running routes potentially linked to Wodson Park | Developer | Phased with development | tbc | H |

| | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|---|
| Sawbridgeworth area | | | | | |
| Dojo at Leventhorpe | If not possible to deliver a dojo in Bishop's Stortford, explore option of delivering at Leventhorpe. | Judo Club British Judo EHC Operator | 2025 | tbc | M |
| Buntingford area | | | | | |
| 1 x 6-rink outdoor bowls green, site tbc | New 6-rink flat outdoor bowls green with ancillary facilities. | EHC Town Council | 2026 | £140,000 green + Clubhouse £240,000 | M |
| Braughing tennis courts | Additional floodlit hard tennis court. | Club EHC Town Council | 2019 | £165,000 | M |
| The Gilston Area | | | | | |
| The Gilston Area Leisure Centre | <p>New affordable community leisure centre adjacent to and with shared use by the secondary school comprising:</p> <p>25m x 6 lane pool Teaching pool 4 court sports hall (designed for gymnastics) 170 station fitness suite 2 x studios</p> | EHC S106 Herts CC (education) | Phased with secondary school. Required by end of development | £9.27m (assuming land for free) | H |

| | | | | | |
|---|--|-----------|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| The Gilston Area Tennis courts | 3 outdoor floodlit tennis courts as a club site with ancillary facilities including clubhouse and car parking | Developer | 2033 | £360,000 courts £250,000 clubhouse | H |
| 3 x Community Halls | Large size community halls to be provided. One prior to 2033, two after 2033 and phased with development. Appropriate provision of ancillary facilities and car parking. | Developer | 1 before 2033 2 after 2033 phased with development | £2.2m £4.4m | H |
| 6-rink outdoor bowls with clubhouse and parking | Provision of 6-rink flat green bowls facility with clubhouse, ancillary facilities and car parking. | Developer | 2026 | £140,000 Green £240,000 clubhouse | M |
| Site to be confirmed | Marked running route potentially linked to routes to the central hub and to the Stort Valley | Developer | Phased with development | tbc | H |

| East of Welwyn Garden City area | | | | | |
|---|---|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------|---|
| East of Welwyn Garden City Leisure Centre | New sports hall and swimming pool provision either in East of Welywn Garden City site or elsewhere. Decisions dependent on outcome of Welwyn Hatfield planning and strategy outcomes, and sharing of developers' contributions over border. | | | | |
| | With shared developer contributions: New affordable community leisure centre adjacent to and with shared use by the secondary school comprising: 25m x 6 lane pool Teaching pool 4 court sports hall 100 station fitness suite 2 x studios | EHC WHC Herts CC (education) | Phased with secondary school. | £9.27m (assuming land for free) | H |
| | Without shared contributions Secondary school with four court hall designed to provide for community sport. Community use agreement for shared use. Pool contributions to Hartham pool. | EHC Herts CC (education) | Phased with secondary school. | £2.215m | H |
| Community hall | Community hall | Developer | Phased with development | £1.5m | H |

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|---------|---|
| Tewin Tennis Club | Floodlight both hard courts. | Club LTA Parish Council EHC | 2019 | £90,000 | L |
| Marked running routes | Marked running routes potentially linked to routes to the planned central parkland/common, linking to both the development and into Welwyn Garden City | Developer | Phased with development | n/a | H |
| East of Stevenage area | | | | | |
| Datchworth Tennis Club | Floodlight both hard courts. | Club LTA Parish Council EHC | 2019 | £90,000 | L |
| East of Stevenage development | Marked running route(s), location to be confirmed. | Developer | Phased with development | tbc | H |

Review and Monitoring

13.49 There should be an annual review of the strategy which will help to maintain the momentum and commitment to its implementation. This will also help to ensure that the original supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed. This review process should include:

- Anticipated housing growth within the district and on its boundaries;
- The outcome of cross-boundary discussions in areas such as Harlow and Welwyn Garden City, including any agreement or otherwise to share developers' contributions;
- General changes in participation and attractiveness of individual sports;
- Technical changes to sport facility requirements;
- The development of new or loss of existing facilities since the strategy was completed;
- Facilities developed or lost to community use within the adjacent authorities;
- Facility investment decisions by the council and its partners.

13.50 The table in Figure 51 provides an overview of all the key facilities in the district and brings together the recommendations in the report in relation to Protect, Enhance and Provide. This can be used as a reference document for the review of the strategy and also to assist with the implementation.

Figure 51: Protect, Provide and Enhance Facility Table

| | |
|------------|---|
| Key | |
| P | Protect - facility used by the community |
| PR | Provide - new facility required by community |
| E | Enhance - facility used by the community but requires investment for improvements/ extension |
| D | Dispose - facility used by community but no longer required |
| PPS | Playing pitch strategy - pitch specifically addressed within the Playing Pitch Strategy |
| NA | Facility on site but not available for community use |
| X | Facility does not exist on site |

| Site Name | Sports hall | Swimming pool | Artificial pitch | Fitness gym or studio space | Netball, tennis courts, MUGA | Grass pitches (see PPS for details) | Other facilities | Ownership | Access Type | Management | Comments/ proposal | Project partners | Action | Action Plan date | Estimated capital cost | Priority | Timescales |
|--|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|------------|---|--|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|------------|
| Public Leisure Centres and similar | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Grange Paddocks, Bishop's Stortford | PR | PR | PR | PR | X | PPS | | EHC | Pay and play | Trust | Replace leisure centre with larger facility. | EHC, ASA, Swimming clubs, FA, football clubs | Complete feasibility study for site | 2017 | £24.158m | 1 | 2022 |
| Hartham Leisure Centre | X | E | PPS | PR | X | PPS | 1 outdoor tennis court | EHC | Pay and play | Trust | New dry side with larger gym. Moveable floor and boom for part of pool. | EHC | Complete feasibility study for site | 2017 | £7.113m | 2 | 2026 |
| Fanshawe Pool and Gym, Chauncy Academy, Ware | X | P | X | E | X | X | | Joint Use | Pay and play | Trust | Extend gym and add studio | EHC | Complete feasibility study for site | 2017 | £1.268m | 3 | 2026 |
| | P | X | X | X | NA | NA | | Academy | Sports hall under construction | School | 4 court sports hall under construction | School | Complete construction | 2017 | n/a | 4 | |
| Ward Freman College, Buntingford | X | P | X | PR | X | X | | Joint Use | Pay and play | Trust | Provide 25 station gym | EHC, School | Complete feasibility study for site | 2017 | £881k | 2 | 2022 |
| | P | X | X | X | P | PPS | | Academy | Clubs | School | | | | | | | |

| Site Name | Sports hall | Swimming pool | Artificial pitch | Fitness gym or studio space | Netball, tennis courts, MUGA | Grass pitches (see PPS for details) | Other facilities | Ownership | Access Type | Management | Comments/proposal | Project partners | Action | Action Plan date | Estimated capital cost | Priority | Timescales |
|---|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--------------------|--------------|-----------------|--|----------------------------------|---|------------------|------------------------|----------|------------|
| Leventhorpe Pool and Gym, Leventhorpe Academy, Sawbridgeworth | X | P | X | P | X | X | | Joint Use | Pay and play | Trust | Review long term future once Grange Paddocks replacement opened and network of pools in surrounding area is clearer. | EHC, School | Complete feasibility study for site | 2017 | £398k | 3 | 2022 |
| | P | X | PPS | P | P | NA | | School | Pay and play | Nuffield Health | | | | | | | |
| Wodson Park Trust | P x 2 | X | PPS | P | P | PPS | Athletics Track (P), 4 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Trust | Pay and play | Trust | | | | | | | |
| School facilities | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Birchwood High School, Bishop's Stortford | P | X | PPS | NA | P | NA | | Independent School | Clubs | School | Developing proposals for full size 3G football turf AGP, BMX/cyclocross, and additional floodlit hard courts. | School, EHC, FA, British Cycling | | | | | |
| Bishop's Stortford College, Bishop's Stortford | P | P | PPS | NA | NA | NA | | Independent School | Clubs | College | | | | | | | |
| Haileybury and Imperial Service College, Hertford | P | P | P | P | P | NA | Squash courts (4) P | Independent School | Pay & Play | Commercial | Considering development of up to 3 x full size 3G AGPs. | College, FA | Support College in feasibility study for AGPs | 2017 | College funded | 2 | |

| Site Name | Sports hall | Swimming pool | Artificial pitch | Fitness gym or studio space | Netball, tennis courts, MUGA | Grass pitches (see PPS for details) | Other facilities | Ownership | Access Type | Management | Comments/ proposal | Project partners | Action | Action Plan date | Estimated capital cost | Priority | Timescales |
|---|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|--|---|-------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------|----------|------------|
| Heath Mount School, Watton-le Stone | NA | X | X | X | NA | NA | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Hertfordshire and Essex High School, Bishop's Stortford | PR | D | X | X | P | NA | | Academy | Club | School | Sports hall proposed, plus potentially dojo and additional floodlit outdoor courts suitable for netball. | School, EHC, England Netball, British Judo, Clubs | Complete feasibility study for site | 2017 | tbc | | |
| Hockerill Anglo-European College, Bishop's Stortford | X | X | PPS | X | NA | NA | | College | Club | School | | | | | | | |
| Presdales Academy, Ware | P | X | X | X | NA | NA | | School | Club | School | | | | | | | |
| St Mary's Catholic School, Bishop's Stortford | NA | X | X | X | NA | NA | | School | No public use | School | | | | | | | |
| St Edmund's College, Ware | NA | P | P | NA | NA | NA | Squash courts (2) P | School | Club | School | | | | | | | |
| Simon Balle Academy, Hertford | NA | P | PPS | NA | NA | PPS | | School | Club | School | | | | | | | |
| The Sele Academy, Hertford | NA | X | X | P | P | PPS | | School | Club | School | | | | | | | |
| Richard Hale School, Hertford | | | | | | NA | | | | | Fundraising to develop sports hall | | | | | | |
| Other facilities with sports halls, pools and / or health and fitness facilities with more than 100 stations | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Allenburys Sports & Social Club, Ware | P | X | X | X | X | PPS | 2 squash courts (P), 4 outdoor tennis courts | Industry social club | Club, Registered Members | Industry social club | | | | | | | |

| Site Name | Sports hall | Swimming pool | Artificial pitch | Fitness gym or studio space | Netball, tennis courts, MUGA | Grass pitches (see PPS for details) | Other facilities | Ownership | Access Type | Management | Comments/ proposal | Project partners | Action | Action Plan date | Estimated capital cost | Priority | Timescales |
|---|-------------|---------------|------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---|--------------|--------------------|------------|--|------------------|--|------------------|--|----------|--|
| | | | | | | | (P), outdoor bowls (P) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop's Stortford Sports Trust/Lawn Tennis Club/Chantry Squash and Racketball Club | X | X | X | X | X | PPS | 2 squash courts (P), 8 floodlit outdoor tennis courts (P or E); 6 grass courts (P or E) | Trust | Club | Trust | Urgent need to increase capacity of club, and also potential focus for long term investment to meet needs of new housing in tennis in Bishop's Stortford | Club, LTA, EHC | Explore options including covering courts and converting grass to floodlit hard courts | 2018 | Depends on solution: covering 2 courts with frame = £400,000. Converting 6 grass courts to hard courts with floodlighting: £720,000 - £1,35m depending on surface. | 1 | 2020 for 3 courts. 2026 for further 3 courts |
| Body Active, Sawbridgeworth | X | X | X | p | X | X | | Commercial | Registered members | Commercial | | | | | | | |
| Challenge Active, Bishop's Stortford | X | X | X | P | X | X | | Commercial | Registered members | Commercial | | | | | | | |
| Manor of Groves Hotel & Health Club, Sawbridgeworth | X | P | X | P | X | X | | Commercial | Registered members | Commercial | | | | | | | |
| Nuffield Health, Bishop's Stortford | X | P | X | P | X | X | | Commercial | Registered members | Commercial | | | | | | | |
| Nuffield Health, Hertford | X | P | X | P | X | X | | Commercial | Registered members | Commercial | | | | | | | |
| Ware Drill Hall | P | X | X | X | X | X | | Town Council | Club | Trust | | | | | | | |

| Site Name | Facilities | Ownership | Access Type | Management | Comments/ proposal | Project partners | Action | Action Plan date | Estimated capital cost | Priority | Timescales |
|--|--|------------|--------------------|------------|--|--------------------------------|--|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------|
| Specialist sports facilities | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bishop's Stortford Squash & Racketball Club | 6 squash courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Stortford Gymnastics Club, Bishop's Stortford | Dedicated gymnastics centre (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Mercury Gymnastics Club (Valdez) | Dedicated gymnastics centre (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| The Butts, Haileybury | Specialist archery site (P) | School | Club | Club | Poor access track, no clubhouse and no security of use | Club, Haileybury College, EHC | Improve access track. Provide electricity and basic clubhouse. Secure community use. | 2020 | tbc | 3 | 2020 |
| The Archery Barn Celtic Harmony Camp, Brickendon | Specialist archery site (P) | Commercial | Club | Club | Extend clubhouse and secure community use | Club, Site owner, EHC | Extend clubhouse facilities. Secure community use. | 2021 | tbc | 3 | 2021 |
| Hertford County Yacht Club, Stanstead Abbots | Sailing club (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Tennis | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aston LTC, Aston | 2 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Braughing Tennis Club | 2 outdoor tennis courts (E) | Club | Club | Club | Develop one additional floodlit hard court | Club, LTA, Parish Council, EHC | Undertake feasibility study to confirm options and costs | 2018 | £165,000 | 3 | 2021 |
| Buntingford Tennis Club | 3 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Datchworth Green Recreation Ground/Tennis Club | 2 outdoor tennis courts (E) | Club | Pay and Play | Club | Floodlight both courts | Club, LTA, Parish Council, EHC | Undertake feasibility study to confirm options and costs | 2018 | £90,000 | 3 | 2026 |
| Hertford Lawn Tennis Club | 6 outdoor tennis courts (P) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Leahoe Gardens, County Hall Lawn Tennis Club, Hertford | 2 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Hunsdon Tennis Courts | 2 outdoor tennis courts (P) | | | | | | | | | | |
| Legends Tennis Centre, Haileybury | 4 indoor + 4 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Commercial | Registered members | Commercial | | | | | | | |
| Much Hadham Tennis Club | 2 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Puckeridge Bowls and Tennis Club | 1 outdoor bowls green (P), 3 outdoor tennis courts (P) | | | | | | | | | | |
| St Margaretsbury Tennis Club, St Margarets | 3 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Pay and Play | Club | | | | | | | |
| Sawbridgeworth Tennis Club | 9 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |

| Site Name | Facilities | Ownership | Access Type | Management | Comments/ proposal | Project partners | Action | Action Plan date | Estimated capital cost | Priority | Timescales |
|---|-----------------------------|-----------|-------------|------------|---------------------------|---|--|---------------------|---------------------------|----------|------------|
| Standon & Puckeridge Lawn Tennis Club | 3 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Tewin Tennis Club | 2 outdoor tennis courts (E) | Club | Club | Club | Floodlight both courts | Club, LTA, Parish Council, EHC | Undertake feasibility study to confirm options and costs | 2018 | £90,000 | 3 | 2026 |
| Watton at Stone Tennis Club | 3 outdoor tennis courts (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Outdoor bowls | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Aston Bowls Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Bengeo Bowls Club, Hertford | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Bishop's Stortford Bowling Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Buntingford Bowls Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Datchworth Bowls Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Hartham Common, Hertford | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Havers Park Lawn Bowls Club, Bishop's Stortford | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Much Hadham Bowls Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Shire Park Bowls Club, Tewin | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Standon & Puckeridge Bowls Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |
| Wallfields, Hertford | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Council | Club | Council | | | | | | | |
| Ware Bowls Club | Outdoor bowls green (P) | Club | Club | Club | | | | | | | |

BIBLIOGRAPHY

- Badminton England, 2012. *BADMINTON England National Facilities Strategy 2012-2016*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.badmintonengland.co.uk/landingpage.asp?section=5852>
- Basketball England, 2017. *Where do I play?*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.basketballengland.co.uk/playcompete/start-playing/facilities>
- Bowls England, 2013. *Strategic Plan 2014-2017*. [Online]
Available at:
https://www.bowlsengland.com/uploads/strategic_plan_2013_2017_FINAL_251113.pdf
- Bowls England, 2017. *For Bowlers Bowls Development Alliance*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.bowlsengland.com/for-bowlers/bowls-development-alliance>
- British Athletics, 2014. *UKA Facilities Strategy 2014-2019 - UK Athletics*. [Online]
Available at: <http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/governance/facilities/facilities-strategy/>
- British Swimming, n.d. *Water depths & activities that can take place in different depths*. [Online]
Available at:
http://www.swimming.org/assets/uploads/library/water_depths_activities_that_can_take_place_in_different_depths.pdf
- England Athletics, 2012. *Strategic Facility Plan 2012-17*. [Online]
Available at: www.englandathletics.org
- England Squash & Racketball, 2015. *Game Changer Participation Strategy 2015-2017*. [Online]
Available at: <https://data.englandsquash.com/files?fileName=00f54dba-f8e8-4210-837b-0fa3340095ef.pdf>
- English Indoor Bowling Association, 2017. *EIBA Vision 2017-2021*. [Online]
Available at: <http://www.eiba.co.uk/about/vision2017-2021.pdf>
- English Indoor Bowls Association, 2013. *EIBA Vision 2013-2017*. [Online]
Available at: <http://www.eiba.co.uk/about/vision2013-2017.pdf>
- LTA British Tennis, 2016. *British Tennis Strategic Plan 2015-2018*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.lta.org.uk/globalassets/about-lta/strategy/british-tennis-strategy-plan.pdf? t id=1B2M2Y8AsgTpgAmY7PhCf%3D%3D& t q=strategy& t tags=language%3Aen& t ip=10.251.128.201& t hit.id=Lta Models Media Pdf/ b24c3d48-42a7-4139-85bd-078436f354f0& t hit>
- Sport England , 2016. *Active People Survey*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/research/about-our-research/active-people-survey/>
- Sport England , 2017. *Active Places Power*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.activeplacespower.com/>
- Sport England , 2017. *Cost Guidance*. [Online]
Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>
- Sport England and sportscotland, 2015. *FPM Parameter Update 2015 (Pools and Halls)* , s.l.: Sport England.

Sport England, 2012. *Satisfaction with the quality of the sporting experience survey (SQSE4) Results for Athletics: Trends 2009-2012*. [Online]
 Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3898/athletics.pdf>

Sport England, 2012. *Satisfaction with the quality of the sporting experience survey (SQSE4) Results for Squash/Racketball: Trends 2009-2012*. [Online]
 Available at: https://www.sportengland.org/media/3831/squash_racketball.pdf

Sport England, 2012. *Sports Halls Design & Layouts - Sport England*. [Online]
 Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4330/sports-halls-design-and-layouts-2012.pdf>

Sport England, 2012. *Village and Community Halls Design Guidance Note*. [Online]
 Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/media/4336/village-and-community-halls.pdf>

Sport England, 2014. *Assessing needs and opportunities guide for*. [Online]
 Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/media/3599/20140722-anog-published.pdf>

Sport England, 2017. *Active People Interactive*. [Online]
 Available at: <http://activepeople.sportengland.org/>

Sport England, 2017. *Cost Guidance*. [Online]
 Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>

Sport England, 2017. *Local Sport Profile*. [Online]
 Available at: <http://localsportprofile.sportengland.org/>

Sport England, 2017. *Market Segmentation*. [Online]
 Available at: <http://segments.sportengland.org/>

Sport England, 2017. *Market Segmentation*. [Online]
 Available at: <http://segments.sportengland.org/>

Sport England, 2017. *Sports that we recognise*. [Online]
 Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/our-work/national-governing-bodies/sports-that-we-recognise/>

Sport England, 2017. *Who Plays Sport?*. [Online]
 Available at: <https://www.sportengland.org/research/who-plays-sport/>

UK Athletics, 2017. *UK Athletics Facility Competition Certification*. [Online]
 Available at: <http://www.britishathletics.org.uk/governance/facilities/track-certification/uka-certified-facilities/>

GLOSSARY

| | |
|-------|---|
| APP | Active Places Power |
| BDA | Bowls Development Alliance |
| BG | British Gymnastics |
| BHS | British Horse Society |
| BO | British Orienteering |
| CIL | Community Infrastructure Levy |
| CIPFA | Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy |
| EHC | East Hertfordshire Council |
| EIBA | English Indoor Bowling Association |
| FA | The Football Association |
| FPM | Facilities Planning Model |
| HAWCS | Hertford and Ware Combine's Athletic Club |
| HCC | Hertfordshire County Council |
| IFI | Inclusive Fitness Initiative |
| KPI | Key Performance Indicator |
| LTA | Lawn Tennis Association |
| MUGA | Multi Use Games Area |
| NGB | National Governing Body |
| NHDC | North Hertfordshire District Council |
| NPPF | National Planning Policy Framework |
| ONS | Office for National Statistics |
| PAYP | Pay As You Play |
| RYA | Royal Yachting Association |
| SFC | Sports Facility Calculator |
| SLM | Sports and Leisure Management |
| SPD | Supplementary Planning Document |
| SUE | Sustainable Urban Extension |
| UKA | United Kingdom Athletics |

