PLANNING THE FUTURE OF OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION IN WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Part 2:
Sports Facilities

Report for
Daventry District
September 2017
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INTRODUCTION

This Sports Facilities Strategy forecasts the future needs for sport and recreation up to 2029, it takes into account the housing requirements identified in the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) (WNJCS).

It sits within the suite of Sport and Leisure evidence base documents which are:

Section 1: Background and context
Section 2: Sports facilities strategy
Section 3: Playing pitch strategy
Section 4: Open space strategy

A key driver for the production of this document is to deliver an evidence base which can support the development of planning policy for the West Northamptonshire Local Plans (Part 2). The strategy will help the partner authorities:

• Understand provision needs for now and in the future
• Inform the determination of planning applications
• Guide the management and maintenance of sports facilities
• Prioritise local authority capital and revenue investment, including s106 and any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)
• Inform and underpin bids to external funding partners to assist in the delivery of sporting infrastructure
• Identify the role of the education sector in supporting the delivery of community sporting facilities
• Contribute to the aims and objectives of improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.

Achieving this will guarantee the effective delivery of sport and leisure services across the borough and ensure that a network of sports facilities is in place to cater for current and future population. Some facilities such as swimming pools and athletics tracks are strategic in nature and have a wide catchment area. For these, the partner authorities will need to work together to understand what provision will be required and how it can be delivered in order to meet future needs. Other sports facilities such as outdoor tennis courts and bowls greens tend to have much more local catchments, so there will be fewer cross-boundary issues to address.
SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND 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 contained in the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance of Sport England of 2014 (Sport England, 2014), adapted as necessary to the needs of Daventry.

Daventry within the sub-region

1.2 A key theme throughout this assessment is the cross-border movement of people to take part in sport. As Daventry is largely a rural authority with Daventry town being its largest settlement, there is a significant proportion of residents who can access sites outside of the authority just as easily as they can reach Daventry. Conversely, the authority has some of the best sports facilities in the sub-region, for example the facilities at Moulton College for hockey or Pitsford Reservoir for sailing, which mean that the district also attracts people inwards from a wide area.

1.3 With the planned sustainable urban extensions (SUEs) adjacent to Northampton forming part of the Northampton Related Development Area, cross-boundary movement of people in this area will become increasingly important.

1.4 There is also substantial planned housing growth just over the border in Rugby Borough, at the Radio Station site. This growth too may bring some additional cross-boundary movement, although this may be limited due to the fact that most of the built sports facilities within Rugby town will be at least as easy to access as those in Daventry district from the new housing areas.

1.5 The planning of the sports facility network therefore needs to consider the different areas of the district, with a particular focus on those areas close to Northampton.

1.6 Other than in Northampton, in relation to the replacement of Lings Forum Leisure Centre, and potentially a relocation of the gymnastics club from Rugby to a site just within Daventry, a review of the strategies of the adjoining authorities suggests that there are no anticipated major changes to the built facilities network. The current cross-border flows of people playing sport should continue into the foreseeable future. A summary of the current sports strategies of the 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

1.7 The importance of the NRDA area and the facilities close to Northampton suggest that the NRDA SUEs and the Northampton boundary area should broadly be considered as one sub area for the purposes of strategy development.
1.8 The size of Daventry district means that not all parts of the district are able to access the sports facilities in Daventry town within 20 minutes drive time, and some residents will use facilities in neighbouring districts, particularly in Northampton, Harborough and Rugby. As these patterns of movement substantially overlap and there is limited planned growth in the rural parts of the district, it is sensible to consider both the district as a whole for modelling purposes and then separately with the NRDA SUEs.

1.9 Figure 1 maps the SUE housing growth across West Northamptonshire.
Figure 1: Sustainable urban extensions in West Northamptonshire
Methodology

1.10 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;
- 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 network of facilities and housing growth, particularly for the NRDA.

1.11 As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations will need to be kept under review. Details of the Methodology are provided in Appendix 1.

Future proofing the strategy

1.12 This report has only been able to take account of the anticipated housing to date in the authority; those sites within the adopted Joint Core Strategy Part 1. It can however be expected that further housing developments may come forwards as part of the Local Plan Part 2 process, and before the strategy can be fully and formally reviewed.

1.13 It is therefore essential to future-proof the strategy to enable any new housing developments to be assessed, and appropriate provision made, either on or off site as required. This is critical for both 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.

1.14 Where provision is expected to be made on-site, then the land should be made available at no cost for the required community sports facilities. The “standards of provision” for each facility type provide the tool to help determine the amount of demand that will arise from the development. It will necessary to have clear policies in the Local Plan and it will be the responsibility of development control within the local authority planning department to ensure that such provision is made as part of any development.
SECTION 2: THE LEISURE NETWORK

2.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the facility network in Daventry.

2.2 There is one public leisure centre, Daventry Leisure Centre, which has a swimming pool, sports hall, gym and fitness facilities and studio space. This is the only facility offering pay and play access and GP referral. All of the other larger built sports facilities are only available through club bookings and are on education sites. The most important of the education sites is Moulton College, which has recently extended its community use. Most of the secondary schools in the area have some community use, but the number of hours that they open is limited. The independent schools such as Spratton Hall, have little or no community use of their sports facilities.

2.3 There are a number of hotel and conference sites in Daventry district which have small health and fitness suites and swimming pools. These facilities generally have restrictive membership/usage policies and none are available on a pay and play basis or for regular club bookings. Most are also substantially more expensive to use than Daventry Leisure Centre.

2.4 Other sport and recreation facilities in the district include a small number of commercial health and fitness sites, sites such as the dedicated gymnastics facility at Phoenix Gym, sailing and watersports clubs at places such as Pitsford and Hollowell, and important cycle routes such as the Brampton Valley Way. The canal network provides opportunities for walking, angling and boating.

Daventry Leisure Centre

2.5 The Daventry Leisure Centre is managed by Everyone Active, the consumer brand and charity of Sports and Leisure Management (SLM). Everyone Active also manages the Daventry Sports Park with its artificial and grass pitches, and sports pavilion.

2.6 The leisure centre was built in 1996 and has:

- 6 court sports hall
- 25 m x 6 lane competition pool
- teaching pool (12 x 6 m)
- fitness gym with approx 140 stations
- studio
- 2 x squash courts

2.7 Everyone Active has very successfully increased usage of the centre over the last four years and has also developed a comprehensive and very successful sports development programme.
Moulton College

2.8 Moulton College (including the Chris Moody Centre) has a number of specialist and generally good quality sports facilities, on two sites about 800m apart. These include:

- 25 m x 6 lane pool
- 2 x hydro pools
- Full size water based pitch
- Full size sand based pitch
- 3G pitch (not full size or on FA register)
- Sports hall
- Large ancillary hall
- 2 x fitness facilities
- Equestrian centre with both indoor and outdoor arenas
- Athletics track
- Grass football pitches
- Rugby pitches
- Sports rehabilitation centre

2.9 The college has become increasingly open for club bookings, and although the facility hire is relatively expensive, the quality of facilities and their availability make this site attractive to a wide range of users. The site is already the home of Northampton Hockey Club and Northampton Town FC academy, and the facilities are used extensively by Northampton Swimming Club. The athletics track is due to open in 2016 and will become the second home to Northampton and Rugby Athletics Club (with the other track being in Rugby town). The equestrian centre hosts a number of events and training sessions throughout the year.

2.10 The college is active in coach development and runs a number of sport-specific training courses and academies for their students. The facilities are also used on a regular basis for primary school swimming and as an events venue for the School Games.

2.11 With the nature of the site and the clubs using it, the site’s catchment for community sport is wide, and will be at least 30 minutes for most of the users. This catchment, at off peak travel time, effectively includes all of Northampton town, and a high proportion of Daventry district, as even the travel time between the college and Daventry town centre is about 30 minutes.

2.12 Given the nature of the site, its extent of use by the community and the catchment, the college needs to be considered as both part of the facility network of Daventry district and as part of the facility network servicing the NRDA area, though it is outside of the NRDA border. It should however, also be noted that the Council’s influence over the site is limited, and the development of some community use facilities here may not be realistic.
Schools

2.13 None of the schools in Daventry district currently have formalised community use arrangements. All community use is managed by the schools themselves and there is relatively limited access to most sites. All secondary schools were visited as part of the consultation process and summary of the findings are provided as Appendix 3.

2.14 All of the secondary schools are academies, and opening for community use is seen as a non-essential function. Most therefore will only make the school facilities available if the costs of doing so can be fully met by the bookings. This approach has led to limited availability of school facilities, and only Moulton School and Science College (which was previously a joint use facility) appears to be currently interested in potentially increasing the levels of community use. Generally therefore, the current limited availability of the facilities is expected to continue into the longer term.

2.15 None of the schools are known to be making significant changes to their sports facilities on site, or proposing potential reduction in their playing field space.

2.16 In planning and modelling terms, the current facility network and patterns of usage by the community have therefore been assumed to continue into the future.

Future leisure centre options

2.17 The District Council is committed to retaining Daventry Leisure Centre and has been actively considering whether a new facility in the Northampton North SUE is needed for the future. This has been tested together with options for Lings Forum in Northampton by Sport England using their FPM scenario modelling for both halls and pools. The findings of both the FPM testing and the wider assessment are considered in detail in the strategy sections of this report.

2.18 The facility options for the authority which are emerging from the detailed assessment are: to do nothing; to develop Daventry East leisure centre; to support the development of a leisure centre elsewhere in the NRDA area (such as Kings Heath in Northampton); or to invest in sport and recreation elsewhere in Daventry district in order to address the strategic facility gaps identified in this assessment.

2.19 An option of a new leisure centre at Kings Heath or elsewhere in the north west / west of the NRDA area emerged subsequent to the Sport England FPM scenario testing. Figure 2 maps the catchment areas of both the Daventry East leisure centre and the Kings Heath site and it is clear that the driving catchments of the two potential facilities overlap, and that both have a limited catchment within Daventry district. However a facility in the Kings Heath area may serve the population of the NRDA better, whilst helping to reducing the direct competition between the swimming pools in the NRDA, particularly Lings Forum, Daventry East and Moulton College because of the better geographical spread.
Figure 2: Leisure Centre options: Daventry East and Kings Heath
2.20 A facility at Kings Heath SUE would have greater overlap with the existing Daventry Leisure Centre and Towcester Leisure Centre. However other than for the NRDA SUE area, the catchment overlap is mostly a rural area, so the impact on throughput at Daventry Leisure Centre and Towcester Leisure Centre would be relatively small in terms of swimming. In relation to health and fitness provision, the drive time catchment is closer to 15 minutes, so with a drive time of around 30 minutes between these sites, there would be no competition between them.
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. This strategy section considers sports halls of 3+ badminton court size, primarily those which are designed for sport. Village and community centre halls are usually smaller and designed to be multi-purpose and are addressed in a separate section to this report.

3.2 Sports halls are used for a wide range of sports and activities (see Figure 3).

Figure 3: Sports hall activities

- Badminton
- Keep fit/aerobics/step/yoga
- Indoor 5-a-side football/futsal
- Martial arts
- Carpet/mat/short bowls
- Gymnastics
- Basketball
- Netball
- Table tennis
- Dance
- Trampolining
- Indoor hockey
- Tennis/short tennis
- Roller skating/roller blading
- Indoor cricket
- Multi-sport session
- Racquetball
- Volleyball


3.3 The main tool for assessing the trends in activity is the Active People Survey of Sport England. 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. 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 Daventry.

3.4 Sport England regularly reviews its parameters behind the FPM model, and the December report (Sport England and sportscotland, 2015) suggests that, on average sports halls have the following programming, see Figure 4.
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 4 is from the Sport England Design Guidance Note on Sports Hall Design and Layouts (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 proposed for 4-court halls by Sport England is 34.5m x 20.0m x 7.5 m, rather than the previous standard of 33m x 18m x 7.5m.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sport</th>
<th>Main hall</th>
<th>Ancillary hall</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Badminton</td>
<td>42%</td>
<td>7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Five-a-side football</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Keep fit</td>
<td>14%</td>
<td>53%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gymnastics</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Martial arts</td>
<td>8%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basketball</td>
<td>5%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other physical activities</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Current provision

3.8 There are a number of sports halls across Daventry district and they are reasonably well distributed geographically. The list of current sports halls available for community use is given in the table in Figure 5 and mapped in Figure 6. Everyone with access to a car can reach a 4 court hall or larger within about 20 minutes drive time, but within the district only Daventry Leisure Centre offers pay and play access.

3.9 Most people living outside the 20 minute drive time catchment of the Daventry Leisure Centre and with access to a car, can reach a pay and play sports hall of at least 3 badminton court size outside of the district, for example to the Queens Diamond Jubilee Centre in Rugby or the Harborough Leisure Centre. The area with least access is around Guilsborough, where the school has a 4-court hall but there is only limited availability and this is to clubs only. There is very limited access to sports hall space across Daventry district for those without access to a car as the walking catchment is also 20 minutes, i.e. 1.6 km.

3.10 The largest hall within the authority is at Daventry Leisure Centre, which has 6 courts.
### Figure 5: Sports halls 3+ courts - current provision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Number of Badminton Courts</th>
<th>Ownership Type</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Hours available</th>
<th>Estimate of used capacity at peak time*</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DANETRE AND SOUTHBROOK LEARNING VILLAGE</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Academies</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Weekday 1600-2100</td>
<td>32%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVENTRY LEISURE CENTRE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td>Weekdays 0630-2200 Sat 0800-1800 Sun 0800-2000</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVENTRY UTC</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Academies</td>
<td>Private use</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GUILSBOROUGH SCHOOL</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Academies</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Tues 1700-1915</td>
<td>100%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOULTON COLLEGE (HOLCOT CENTRE)</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Further Education</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>Weekdays 1700-2200 Sat &amp; Sun 0900-1700</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOULTON SCHOOL AND SCIENCE COLLEGE (aka SPORTS COMPLEX)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>Academies</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>Mon-Thurs 1730-21.30 Sat 0900-2130</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PITSFORD SCHOOL</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>Under construction</td>
<td>Other Independent School</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>n/a</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td>MOULTON COLLEGE (PITSFORD CENTRE)</td>
<td>Ancillary hall</td>
<td>Further Education</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>Weekdays 1700-2200 Sat &amp; Sun 0900-1700</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Not full size sports hall but large space providing hall activities

* based on bookings at education facilities, FPM data estimate for others
Figure 6: Sports Halls (3+ courts) map
Assessment of current supply/demand

3.11 All school and other sports hall facilities were audited and a detailed report has been produced in relation to the schools network in Daventry. This is provided as Appendix 3. The quality of the sports hall facilities across the district is variable. For example, the hall at The Daventry and Southbrook Learning Village is relatively poor quality, whilst the hall at Daventry Leisure Centre and the hall at Guilsborough School are good quality.

3.12 Four of the secondary schools currently offer use of their facilities to the community, but the amount of use and availability varies significantly. All of the schools that offer community use manage their own facilities using school site staff and in-house booking arrangements. With the exception of Moulton School and Science College, information about booking is not prominent on the school websites. There is potential for increased community use at all sites, but in most cases this would require policy decisions by the schools. The independent Pitsford School plans to offer some community use at a new sports hall in September 2016.

3.13 The Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village has a 4 court hall which is technically available for use from 16.00-21.00 weekdays and weekends by arrangement. The quality of the facility is relatively poor and it appears that the facility is actually used for around a third of its available time.

3.14 Daventry UTC is a new school immediately adjacent to the Parker E-Act Academy. It has a 4 court hall which is not currently available for community use.

3.15 The Parker E-Act Academy in Daventry does not have a 4-court hall, so has been excluded from the FPM assessment. The 2-court hall is estimated to be used about 25% of the available time, which is weekday evenings up to 20.00.

3.16 Guilsborough Academy has a good quality facility which has recently been repainted and the lighting upgraded to support badminton use. The facility was not heavily booked in 2014-2015 and the school decided to limit community use from 1st January 2016 very significantly as the income did not match the revenue costs. Negotiations are on-going but it is likely that the hall will be used about 4-6 hours per week for the short-medium term. This usage is significantly less than the FPM report suggests.

3.17 Moulton School and Science College was previously a formal joint-use centre. The school currently makes the hall and AGP available for hire Mon-Thurs evenings and all day Saturday. It is estimated that the hall is used for around 60% of the time available, which is significantly more than the FPM report suggests.
Consultation findings

3.18 The only club which responded to the survey for Daventry which regularly uses sports halls is the Daventry Netball Club which uses Daventry Leisure Centre as their home venue for training, 1-2 times per week. The club has about 33 members, with about 2/3rd being secondary school age and 1/3rd being primary school age. The members are drawn from across Daventry district, with some of the secondary school age group travelling more than 30 minutes to play. There is a school-club link in place with DSLV, but the club does not have a development plan.

3.19 The club has grown in the past 5 years and anticipates this continuing. The issues limiting the club’s expansion are a lack of volunteers and access to facilities (particularly outdoor courts). The club reports that the sports hall at the Leisure Centre is fairly easy to book, though there are some pressures at peak time. The club uses half of the hall in order to keep down costs, though this means that the court size is not large enough for seniors. The quality of both the sports hall and ancillary facilities is described as above average.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

3.20 There are a number of sports and activities which use sports halls and some of these have design requirements. However none of these have facilities strategies with investment priorities of specific relevance to the district. The following are the most relevant NGB strategies.

Badminton

3.21 Badminton England’s National Facilities Strategy 2012-16 (Badminton England, 2012) provides the framework for investment priorities. However none of these have facilities strategies with investment priorities of specific relevance to Daventry district. The following are the most relevant NGB strategies, but no specific comments were provided by the NGBs on their sport’s needs in Daventry district as part of the consultations undertaken.

Basketball

3.22 The Basketball England facilities strategy for 2017 onwards (Basketball England, 2017) is currently being developed with Sport England. There are no specific proposals for badminton in the district, but there is a proposal to strengthen the badminton club network in Northampton.

Football Association

3.23 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.

3.24 The large ancillary hall at Moulton College is used for futsal as is the sports hall at the college, but there are no identified priorities for investment in the district.

**Volleyball**

3.25 Volleyball England has identified Northamptonshire as a priority area and is supporting sports development and coaching initiatives at the University, Northampton College and Moulton College in Daventry district.

**Netball**

3.26 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.

3.27 The national average rate of provision is 1 indoor court for every 12,000 adult females.

3.28 England Netball (England Netball, 2016) notes that the main site for the sport is Moulton College in Daventry district, where the sports hall is the main facility used, although there are also outdoor courts of average quality on the same site. There are no specific priorities for Daventry at this time.

**Individual survey and student survey results**

3.29 The views from the individuals’ survey about sports halls are that there is about the right amount of provision but they are not very important facilities for the respondents. This compares to the student survey which, although more respondents said that there was about the right amount of provision, a higher proportion said that there was too little and sport hall facilities are more important to students than to the adults who responded in the individuals’ survey.

3.30 No specific comments were received about the sports hall facilities and their quality in Daventry district.
Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

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

- Harborough has two pay and play leisure centres, at Market Harborough and Lutterworth. The sports halls there are both currently operating at over 70% full. With the planned housing growth there is expected to be new demand for around 3 badminton courts in Harborough town. There is a significant amount of spare capacity at the school sites, but these offer club bookings only. Given the planned growth in Harborough, it is likely that the pay and play facilities will become under increasing pressure. The current export of participants from Daventry district is likely to continue, but the sites in Harborough may become less attractive and more difficult to book.

- Kettering has a strategy dated 2011. The strategy concluded that there was no additional need for sports hall space up to 2021.

- Rugby Borough experiences its main pressures around Rugby town, where although there is currently sufficient sports hall space, this will be at capacity by 2031. There is a proposal to develop a new secondary school at the Rugby Radio Station site, and the strategy recommends that the school should be designed for community use and that this should be legally secured as the school building process moves forwards.

- Northampton has a number of sports halls, but only a limited number with pay and play access: Benham Sports Arena, Danes Camp Leisure Centre, Duston Sports Centre, Lings Forum Sports Centre, Thomas Becket Catholic School. The FPM current situation report suggests that the facilities are running close to “full” but the site assessments have shown that there is significant spare capacity in the schools network. The FPM scenario test suggest that this situation will worsen, but the apparent spare capacity in the schools network of facilities suggests that only limited new facilities will be required. New secondary schools will be provided in some of the SUEs which may be able to be designed to provide for community use, but the details are not yet known.

- South Northamptonshire’s sports halls are generally running close to or above levels which can be considered “busy”, and the school facilities are an important part of the sports network.

- Wellingborough’s 2012 Open Space, Sports and Recreation Audit and Assessment identified a lack of capacity at Weavers Leisure Centre, and Redwell is also described as “busy”. The assessment recommends the development of one additional 4-court hall by 2031, but no site is identified.
In summary, it is expected that the housing growth in and around Daventry will place additional pressures on the sports hall facility network, which will make the export of participants from Daventry district more difficult/less attractive.

If the planned secondary schools in the Rugby Radio Station site and in the Kings Heath SUE are designed and developed to enable community use, and this is secured into the long term, these two facilities will provide additional capacity in those areas of Daventry within 20 minutes drive of these sites. At this time there are no known new facilities being planned in Harborough district or Kettering Borough within easy access of Daventry residents. In Northampton, the replacement Lings Forum facility would be a more attractive facility and although smaller, would be new so attract higher usage.

In summary, the opportunity for Daventry residents to use the sports hall facilities in the adjacent authorities seem, in practice, to change little over the period up to 2029, if the new facilities in Rugby and Northampton are achieved. There may be more pressures however in the area closest to Harborough, as no new sports hall provision is identified to be provided in their strategy for the medium-longer term. However, the levels of unmet demand are likely to remain low, and the priorities for this part of the district may be to enable and encourage greater use of the village halls and community centres to provide for as wide a range as possible of sport and physical activity, where this is possible and there is local demand.

The most important consideration is the finding that the current usage of the sports hall network is much lower in Northampton than the Sport England modelling suggests. This means that residents within Daventry district that live within a 20 minute travel time of Northampton can reach a number of sports halls and that there is spare capacity into the longer term. There are therefore less pressures to provide for any new sports hall space in the Northampton North SUE than had previously been estimated.

**Modelling**

**Market Segmentation and sport development**

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 Daventry district, 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 period up to 2029.

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 up to 2029.
3.38 The table in Figure 5 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 in 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 the district.

3.39 The table in Figure 7 highlights some of the most important sports hall parameters used in the model (see Appendix 5 for full details). 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 7: Facilities Planning Model key parameters halls 2015*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At One Time Capacity</th>
<th>24 users per 4-court hall, 13 per 144 sq m of ancillary hall.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catchments</td>
<td>Car: 20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Walking: 1.6 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Public transport: 20 minutes at about half the speed of a car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NOTE: Catchment times are indicative, within the context of a distance decay function of the model.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak Period</td>
<td>Weekday: 09.00-10.00; 17:00 to 22:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday: 09:30 to 17:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday: 09:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 19:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Total: 45.5 hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of use taking place within the Peak Period</td>
<td>62%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Utilised capacity considered “busy”</td>
<td>80% = “comfort factor”</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.40 The main findings from the Sport England report for sports halls (which includes ancillary halls on the same sites as a main hall of at least 3 court size) in Daventry district are summarised below. However the FPM report included Guilsborough School sports hall at 28 hours of community use per week in the peak period (it actually has about 4 hours), but excluded the “ancillary hall” on the Moulton
College Pitsford site which, although a non-standard size, is well used for a range of activities such as futsal, hockey and athletics. These two facilities are slightly more than 20 minutes’ drive time apart so have only partially overlapping catchments, and the dimensions of the Pitsford hall mean that sports requiring a high ceiling are not able to use it, for example badminton and volleyball.

3.41 Also of importance is the fact that the Northampton sports halls have been shown to be running less full than the FPM model estimates, so there are and will continue to be opportunities for Daventry residents to use Northampton facilities.

3.42 The FPM report has the following key findings, but note the above caveat in relation to the site information:

- There are about 17 courts available at peak time for community use. This gives a rate of provision of 0.32 courts per 1000 population.
- There is demand for around 24 courts at peak time, so there is overall a deficit of supply.
- About 89% of the potential demand for sports hall space is currently met, either by facilities within the district or by facilities in the neighbouring authorities.
- About 54% of this demand is met by sites within the district.
- The district is a net exporter of sports hall users, about 1815 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. However about 54 potential visits per week are not met because there is insufficient sports hall capacity.
- The total average sports hall usage at 59% is well within what Sport England considers busy (80%). However Daventry Leisure Centre and Danetre School (now Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village) are estimated as running at 100% full, with the Moulton College facilities running at about 24% full.
- The relative share of sports hall space is well above the national average.
- There is no justification in terms of demand at this time for any additional community sports halls.

3.43 The site audit and assessments have shown some significant differences in the opening hours and usage levels of the sports halls across Daventry district from the FPM report. The inclusion of Guilsborough School at 28 hours opening, the exclusion of the ancillary hall at Moulton College, and the much more limited usage of Danetre than the FPM suggests means that the FPM findings should be used with caution. It is likely that:

- The level of sports hall demand is reasonably accurate.
- The level of exported demand around Daventry town is higher, because of the capacity and quality of the sports hall facilities in Rugby.
- The demand which is not being met at Guilsborough School is being redistributed to sports hall sites in Daventry town, Rugby, Market Harborough, Moulton and Northampton.
• Some of the activities which might usually use sports halls are instead taking place in village halls and community centres.
• Many more people are using Moulton College, both the sports hall and ancillary hall than are estimated by the model.
• Given the above, the amount of satisfied demand across the district is probably approximately as the FPM suggests, around 89%.

Summary of current situation

3.44 The current rate of provision of sports hall space is much lower per 1000 population than is currently provided in Northampton, South Northamptonshire or Harborough districts, and probably less than half of the sports hall demand is being met by facilities within the district. However it is likely that about 90% of the demand is satisfied, with about half of this demand being met outside of the authority.

3.45 The FPM report for Daventry can be used as a starting point for the assessment of demand, but the balance in supply and demand for facilities suggested by the report is not fully accurate at the local level, as the Guilsborough School facility is effectively almost closed, but the Moulton College ancillary hall and sports hall are much more important facilities than the FPM report suggests. The sports hall in Daventry Leisure Centre is well used, but the one at Danetre has much lower levels of use than the FPM report suggests.

3.46 The catchment areas of the sports hall facilities at Moulton College and Moulton School and Science College (aka Moulton Sports Complex) include a large area of Northampton because they are located within about 1-1.5 km of the district/borough boundary. These facilities are therefore likely to import a high proportion of their users.

3.47 The sports halls in Northampton district are running at lower levels of use than the Sport England modelling suggests, so they are able to absorb more demand from Daventry district than the modelling suggests.

3.48 In comparison, those facilities in Daventry town and at Guilsborough School are likely to draw a very high proportion of their users from within the district.
Assessment of Future Needs

Facilities Planning Model scenario test

3.49 An FPM scenario test was commissioned by the West Northamptonshire authorities to inform the future sports facility planning, in particular to consider the option of developing a new leisure centre in the Northampton North Sustainable Urban Extension (SUE) and replacing the sports hall at Lings Forum with a 4 court hall instead of the 6 court, as part of a new leisure centre. The scenario testing uses the same baseline dataset as the current situation report, so for example excludes both Thomas Becket Catholic School and the ancillary hall at Moulton College. The scenarios tested were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Run</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>Current situation – demand and supply of facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 3</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029 plus new 4 court sports hall at Daventry East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 4</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029 Plus new sports hall and two ancillary halls replacing Lings Forum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 5</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029 Plus new sports hall and two ancillary halls replacing Lings Forum and new 4 court sports hall at Daventry East</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 6</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029 Plus new sports hall and two ancillary halls replacing Lings Forum and new 4 court sports hall at Daventry East with 7% increase in participation (i.e. 0.5% per annum)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3.50 The conclusions from the scenario testing for Daventry, as provided by Sport England in their overview report of June 2016 were:

2.9 The main impact of the new Daventry East Leisure Centre, is to increase the supply by an additional 4 badminton courts and 1 hall site, increasing the total supply by 1,042 vpwpp, and as a result increasing the supply of court space per 10,000 increases to 3.3.

2.10 Demand for sports halls does not change in Runs 2-5. The impact of the 7% rise in participation levels in Run 6, when compared with Run 2 is to increase the demand for sports halls by an additional 379 vpwpp, or 2 badminton courts.
2.11 Even with the addition of two new facilities, and the increase in participation, the total level of satisfied demand remains broadly constant in all the Runs modelled at roughly 89% and the percentage of visits exported to surrounding Local Authorities remains between 44% and 48%. When compared with Run 2 the impact of the new Daventry East facility is to increase the number of visits met by just 10 visits. On a positive note, in Run 3, 231 more visits are retained in Daventry and 220 fewer visits are exported to surrounding Local Authorities.

2.12 In Run 4 the main impact of the new Lings facility in Northampton, is to reduce the number of visits retained in Daventry by just 55 vpwpp, and 61 more vpwpp are exported. The addition of both new facilities in Run 5 increases the number of visits that are met by just 17 vpwpp, and increases the amount of visits retained by 195, and reduces the number of visits exported by 178.

2.13 The main impacts of the population increase in Run 6 when compared to Run 5 is to increase the number of visits which are met by 296, and 96 more visits are retained in Daventry. However, 205 more visits are exported to surrounding Local Authorities.

2.14 In Run 3 the main impact of the new Daventry East Leisure Centre is to reduce unmet demand by just 10 visits. In Run 4 the main impact of the new Lings facility is to reduce unmet demand by just 6 visits. The impact of both new facilities in Run 5 is to reduce unmet demand by just 17 visits. Then compared with Run 6 the main impact of the increase in participation is to increase unmet demand by 84 visits. In short, the provision of two new facilities and an increase in participation, have a very minor impact on the level of unmet demand in Daventry.

2.15 In all Runs the global used capacity at sports halls in Daventry remains relatively constant, at a between 63% - 67%. In all runs both Danetre School and Daventry Leisure Centre, are very full and operating at 100% used capacity. In all Runs Daventry Leisure Centre is re-distributing demand because the facility is too full this broadly equates to the equivalent of around 2 badminton courts. On opening Daventry East Leisure Centre is very full at between 95-100% used capacity. [See Appendix 5 of this report for the definition of used capacity and how it is calculated].

2.16 In all Runs there is considerable spare capacity at, Guilsborough School, Moulton College (Holcot Centre), and Moulton Sports Complex. The main impact of the new Daventry East facility in Run 3 is to increase the number of visits used of current capacity by 936 vpwpp, and 231 more visits are retained in Daventry. On the flipside, 705 more visits are imported. In short, in Run 3, 1 out of every 2 visits to the new Daventry East Leisure Centre are from Northampton residents.

- Prior to any decisions being made on new/additional facility provision consideration should be given as to what impact extending the hours of community use would have on existing sports halls that are underutilised. How much would this assist, in reducing used capacity levels across Daventry?
The maximum hours in the peak period for sports halls is 45.5 hours, consideration should be given to the existing facilities as to whether the hours in the peak period could be extended.

Consideration should be given whether it is acceptable in policy terms for half the visits of used capacity at the new Daventry East facility coming from Northampton. Is this facility being planned to serve Daventry, or Northampton?

In summary, the FPM scenario testing suggests that in relation to the needs of Daventry residents, if the leisure centre at Daventry East was developed but Lings Forum is not replaced, then this would enable an extra 10 visits per week to be made to sports hall facilities by Daventry residents. If both Daventry East and Lings Forum were developed, then the net benefit to Daventry residents is only 6 visits per week. Although a hall might therefore be reasonably well used at the Daventry East site, it is not justified in relation to addressing currently unmet demand from Daventry’s own residents.

The FPM report suggests that the priority should be to work with schools to increase community access. However as schools are independent, the ability of Daventry District Council to deliver enhanced access may be difficult to achieve.

FPM within the wider assessment

When considering the implications of the FPM scenario test report and the options for the future, it is worth considering different areas of the district.

Daventry town area and west

Daventry Leisure Centre and Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village are both modelled by the FPM as having 100% used capacity now and at 2029. Daventry Leisure Centre is currently “busy”, running at around 80% or more used capacity, so the model findings for this facility seem reasonably sound. However the Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village sports hall is currently used at around only 33% at peak time, and the new 4-court sports hall at Daventry UTC currently has no community use. The population modelling undertaken by Troy Planning suggests that there will be approximately 10,000 new residents in the district up to 2029, most of whom will live in the two SUEs close to Daventry town. This new population will however be partially balanced out by the aging population.

The FPM scenario test suggests that there will be very little unmet demand for Daventry town area in 2029 even with the population growth, so long as there are at least two sports hall facilities which are fully open for community use across the whole of the peak period this should meet the potential need. However in practice, only the Daventry Leisure Centre is both open and busy. There is therefore a need to secure additional capacity in the town by working with the schools to both improve their facilities where needed, and to support increased community use.
Guilsborough area

3.56 The very significant restriction on the use of the sports hall at Guilsborough School has caused some users to relocate, but as the actual usage in 2015 was fairly low, possibly 8 hours per week maximum, then the strategic impact has not been significant.

3.57 The modelling suggests that the provision or otherwise of the facilities at Moulton and Lings Forum would have no noticeable effect on the use of the school in the period up to 2029. There is limited planned housing growth in the rural area of Daventry and the population is generally aging, so even a 7% increase in participation over the period will have little impact on the need for sports facilities in this part of the district.

3.58 The facility is good quality and is well placed to serve the central area of the district.

NRDA

3.59 The total level of sports hall demand generated by the SUEs within Daventry district is just over 5 badminton courts, based on the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator and an estimated growth in participation of 5%, and the calculations are given below in Figure 8. This new demand needs to be considered both at the local level and at the wider NRDA level.

Figure 8: Sports halls- NRDA demand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>NRDA SUE</th>
<th>Number of people in SUE at 2029</th>
<th>Sports halls of demand</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northampton North DDC</td>
<td>10327</td>
<td>3.24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Buckton Fields DDC</td>
<td>3037</td>
<td>0.95</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton West DDC</td>
<td>3048</td>
<td>0.97</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>16412</td>
<td>5.16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Northampton North

3.60 The Moulton area, just outside the NRDA area but which is adjacent to the Northampton North SUE, is well supplied with sports hall space with halls at Moulton College and Moulton School and Science College. There is also the large ancillary hall at Moulton College which caters for a large number of sports hall activities, although it is a non-standard size.

3.61 There is some spare capacity at both Moulton College and the school according to the site assessments, but the actual levels of use appear to be much higher than the FPM model suggests, at around 60% for each facility, compared to 25% for
Moulton College and 35% for Moulton Sports Complex as estimated by the FPM. Sport England considers sports halls to be “busy” at 80% used capacity, so there is spare capacity of approximately 1.6 badminton courts at peak time in the Moulton area, excluding the ancillary hall at Moulton College.

3.62 The demand generated by the Northampton North SUE for sports hall space is estimated to be 3.24 badminton courts of hall space by 2029. There is therefore insufficient spare capacity within the existing network of halls in the Moulton area itself to meet this all of this demand. There is however capacity within the sports hall network within Northampton to meet the remainder, at sites which are reasonably accessible.

3.63 Although there is sufficient capacity within accessible sports halls to meet the needs of the Northampton North SUE, it is also necessary to consider the impact of the SUE within the wider context of the sports hall network across the NRDA. The concurrent strategy assessment work for Northampton and South Northamptonshire has shown that a new sports hall provision will be needed for the NRDA area as a whole, and that facility in the north-west part of the NRDA would be the most beneficial.

3.64 The FPM modelling has suggested that a new sports hall at the proposed Daventry East leisure centre site is not a strategic priority in terms of catering for Daventry residents. This is because the site’s catchment would largely overlap with existing provision and there is sufficient capacity within the network already around that area of Daventry district and Northampton to meet all of the demand for sports hall space. It is likely that a new sports hall at Daventry East would only provide for between 6 and 10 extra visits per week for Daventry residents; those people without access to a car who would live within the walking catchment of the proposed facility.

Buckton Fields and Northampton West SUEs

3.65 These two NRDA SUEs will together have a population of just over 6,000 which will generate new demand for sports hall space of 1.9 badminton courts by 2029. Both sites are within the 20 minute catchment area of both the Daventry East site and Kings Heath SUE, but are much closer to Kings Heath.
Meeting the needs of the future

3.66 As with the modelling, it is appropriate to consider different areas of the district in looking at the ways in which the demand for sports hall space can be met in the period up to 2029.

Daventry town area and west

3.67 The overall demand for sports hall space is expected to change relatively little over the period up to 2029 as the new populations in Monksmoor and Daventry North East are balanced out by an overall aging population across the 20 minute catchment area of Daventry.

3.68 The Daventry Leisure Centre is running close to “busy”, however there is identified spare capacity at Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village and the new sports hall at the UTC site, so the priorities are to work with the schools to improve the hall quality and access at Danetre, and secure community use at the UTC.

3.69 If it proves not possible to work with the schools for improved community access, then a new sports hall will be required by 2026 in Daventry town, at a site to be confirmed.

Guilsborough area

3.70 The Guilsborough School sports hall is strategically important in the district, enabling access to people who would not otherwise be able to access a sports hall within 20 minutes. The hall is good quality but the access has been limited by the school, and only a small number of club hours are available.

3.71 The priority should therefore be to work with the school to extend the community access to the sports facilities. If increased access is not possible then the priority will be to improve the village and community hall facilities in the locality.

NRDA

3.72 There is a need to meet the demand generated by the Daventry SUEs which cannot easily be absorbed by existing facilities within the NRDA or just over the borders, for example in Moulton or at the Caroline Chisholm School in South Northamptonshire.

3.73 The Northampton strategy has proposed to develop the Northampton International Academy (5 court hall) as a joint use sports hall facility for the community, either on a club booking basis or pay and play. The new sports hall facility at Lings Forum will see a reduction from 6 courts to 4 courts.

3.74 The concurrent strategy work for Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire which considers the whole of the NRDA as well as the rural
areas of the separate districts, and has identified that a new leisure centre facility in the Kings Heath SUE would best meet the needs of the NRDA area. As this would have a swimming pool, it is appropriate to consider developing the sports hall as a pay and play facility which can also meet the needs of the secondary school for curriculum and extra curriculum sport.

**Justifying developers’ contributions**

3.75 The assessment above considers the needs of the strategic housing sites up to 2029 based on the Joint Core Strategy Part 1 commitments. It is however important to have a mechanism which can future proof the strategy, enabling new, unanticipated housing sites to be assessed. These “standards” will help to determine the additional demand which will be generated from a specific housing development, and then whether the existing network may be able to cater for that demand.

3.76 The approach towards this future proofing is an authority wide “standard” as the location of any new developments is unknown, and might be closer in nature to a SUE or might have a more rural area profile.

**Standard for quantity**

**Outside of the NRDA area**

3.77 The modelling findings of the Sports Facility Calculator using a growth in the rate of participation of 5%, suggests that a rate of provision per 1000 population for individual housing developments should be:

- 0.28 badminton courts per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

**Within the NRDA area**

3.78 This standard needs to be the same as the one for the rest of the NRDA area, and is proposed to be:

- 0.29 badminton courts per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

**Standard for accessibility**

3.79 The majority of sports hall users in Daventry district will travel by car and national research shows that sports halls have an approximate drive time catchment of up to about 20 minutes. Everyone in Daventry district lives within 20 minutes’ drive of a sports hall available for community use. A formal planning standard of 20 minutes’ drive time is therefore proposed.
**Standard for design and quality**

3.80 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

**Recommendations for sports halls**

3.81 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing network of sports hall facilities across the district and to ensure their affordability to clubs and individuals. The priorities for new and improved provision are:

- Improve the quality of the sports hall at Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village and support increased community use.
- Secure community use of the UTC sports hall in Daventry

Or

- If increased and improved access to school facilities in Daventry town is not possible, develop a new 4 court hall for community use by 2029.
- Support extended community use hours at Guilsborough School, responding to demand as it arises. Invest in site as required to help facilitate community use.
- Support improvements at village and community halls which enable them to be more fully used for a range of sport and active recreation.

3.82 In relation to new housing developments which have not been included within this assessment, the standards to assess the amount of demand which will arise from the development, the accessibility to sports hall space, and the expected quality of the facility are:

- Outside of the NRDA: 0.28 badminton courts per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
- Inside the NRDA: 0.29 badminton courts per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
- 20 minute drive time catchment
- Design and quality standard to meet Sport England and the relevant national governing body standards.
SECTION 4: SWIMMING POOLS

Introduction

4.1 Swimming pools might be considered the most important sports facility type in Daventry 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 There is a mix of ownership for the pools available for public use across the district, but there is only one pay and play facility, at Daventry Leisure Centre, which accounts for just over a quarter of the available water space. The Moulton College 25m pool accounts for just under a quarter of the water space, and the health clubs based at hotels with registered memberships have about 17% of the water space. A third of the total water space is at hotel/conference/spa facilities which have very restricted use for those people not using the main venue. Somewhat unusually, there are no commercial fitness facilities in Daventry district with a pool.

4.3 The Daventry Leisure Centre main pool is suitable for swimming galas as it has the correct dimensions for competitions and has spectator seating. The Moulton College pool is suitable for training and has the correct dimensions but very limited seating for spectators.

Pool design and activities

4.4 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
4.5 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.

4.6 Moveable bulkheads that can sub-divide pools and moveable floors that can vary water depth can substantially increase a pool’s flexibility, but the design of any new pool will determine what activities can be accommodated.

4.7 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 9).

*Figure 9: Pool depths for range of activities*
(based on British Swimming, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles*).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Minimum water depth</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Competition swimming (starting blocks)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaching shallow dives and racing starts</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synchronised swimming, low level training</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Synchronised swimming, advanced training</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Water polo (for some or all of pool)</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sub-aqua training</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Canoe practice</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lifesaving and practice</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Octopush</td>
<td>x</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10x12m area</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.8 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 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.
A typical 25m x 6 lane pool is approximately 325m². With the addition of a learner pool this would typically increase by 160m² giving a total water space area of 485m².

Participation in swimming

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 2/3rd) than men (1/3rd), and more of those in the higher socio-economic groups.

This slight downward trend in national participation has been mirrored by the experience of the Northamptonshire County Sports Partnership area. Although swimming appears to be the most popular activity in the district, it is not possible to track the swimming participation trends at the district level sufficiently accurately to inform this strategy.

Current provision

Figure 10 lists shows all of the indoor water space in Daventry district which is available to the public, and Figure 11 shows the pool locations, together with those in the surrounding authorities.

The green shading on the map shows the accessibility of pay and play swimming pools to Daventry residents, to pools both within and outside the authority area. This suggests that there is a gap in accessible pay and play pool provision, i.e. within 20 minutes drive time around the Guilsborough area, and in the southern most part of the district.
### Figure 10: Indoor swimming pools open to the public

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Number of lanes</th>
<th>Length m</th>
<th>Width m</th>
<th>Area sq m</th>
<th>Ownership Type/ Nature of Site</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Management</th>
<th>Hours available if restricted in peak time</th>
<th>Estimate of used capacity at peak time*</th>
<th>Included in FPM modelling</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLUB AT SEDGE BROOK HALL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Hotel/ Conference Centre</td>
<td>Registered Membership use (limited)</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVENTRY LEISURE CENTRE</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>Local Authority Leisure Centre</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
<td>Everyone Active Trust</td>
<td></td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVENTRY LEISURE CENTRE</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>72</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE VERE VENUES (STAVERTON PARK) HOTEL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>Hotel/ Conference Centre</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FAWSLEY HALL HOTEL HEALTH &amp; FITNESS CLUB</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Hotel/ Conference Centre/Spa</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HELLIDON LAKES GOLF AND SPA HOTEL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>Hotel/ Conference Centre/Spa</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERSTONE PARK GYM AND HEALTH CLUB (HOTEL)</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>Gym/ Health Club</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Site Name</td>
<td>Numb er of lanes</td>
<td>Length m</td>
<td>Width m</td>
<td>Area sq m</td>
<td>Ownership Type/ Nature of Site</td>
<td>Access Type</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td>Hours available if restricted in peak time</td>
<td>Estimate of used capacity at peak time*</td>
<td>Included in FPM modelling</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
<td>----------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SPIRIT HEALTH CLUB (RUGBY)</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>105</td>
<td>Gym / Fitness Club, Hotel</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MOULTON COLLEGE (PITSFORD CAMPUS)</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>FE College</td>
<td>Sports Club/ Community Association</td>
<td>College</td>
<td>Weekdays Some mornings 16.30-22.00 Sat 1330-1730 Sun 1330-1600</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE CLUB AND SPA AT THE DAVENTRY COURT HOTEL</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>135</td>
<td>Hotel/ Conference Centre/Spa</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 11: Swimming pools with public use
Assessment of current supply/demand

4.14 Both Daventry Leisure Centre and Moulton College are important for primary school swimming, but only Daventry Leisure Centre offers an extensive and comprehensive learn to swim programme. Club use is also restricted to these two pools.

4.15 The pools in the hotel/conference centre/spa network are primarily to service the users of the hotel or spa, and the sites are neither suitable nor would welcome broadening the usage for example for club swimming or learn to swim programmes. They should therefore be very largely discounted in relation to consideration of the swimming pool network in the district. This is reflected in the Facilities Planning Model, which only includes Daventry Leisure Centre and Moulton College pools.

Consultation findings

Club comments

4.16 Daventry Dolphins responded to the club survey. This club has around 107 members of all different ages and they travel up to 20 minutes to the club. About 86% of the members come from Daventry district with 9% from Rugby Borough and 5% from elsewhere.

4.17 The club has a small waiting list for adults for the Aqua squad, and the club anticipates growing further in the next 5 years but the issues facing the club are a lack of access to facilities/lack of facilities and the cost of hire. The club is therefore exploring alternative pool sites outside of Daventry district.

4.18 The club uses the leisure centre pool daily in the evenings and reports that the pool is relatively easy to book. The pool is generally acceptable quality and the ancillary facilities fully meet the club’s needs.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

4.19 The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) comments that the three district councils together provide 5 public pools with the remainder being commercial or educational with limited community access. A key issue is the age of the existing stock which are design and energy inefficient.
Individual survey and student survey results

4.20 Swimming pools are the third most used facility in Daventry district by adults, and the most used of all built facilities. About 50% of the survey respondents felt that there was about the right amount of swimming pool space in the district, but about 30% felt that there was too little. In terms however of the relative importance of swimming pools compared to other built facilities, most people felt that they were “quite important”, behind walking routes, cycling routes and community centres/village halls.

4.21 This compares to the student survey which showed that swimming pools were the best used of all facilities, more than walking and cycling or grass pitches. Just over half of the student felt that there was “about right” amount of swimming pool space, though about 30% felt that there was too little.

4.22 The student survey shows a high proportion of demand being exported for swimming to pools in Rugby, Harborough and Northampton, with the reasons given that they are closer to home, cater for the clubs the students are involved in e.g. Northampton School for Boys and water polo, and the Lutterworth pool is described as being “very clean and hygienic”. The pool in Northampton most being used by the students is The Mounts Baths, but one is using The Cripps Leisure Centre.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

4.23 A review of the swimming pool provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities but excluding Northampton and South Northants as they are part of the West Northamptonshire, see Part 1 Appendix 7. In summary:

- Northampton will require some additional swimming pool space in the period up to 2029, and it is proposed to redevelop Lings Forum. There will be a need for an additional pool in the NRDA area.
- South Northamptonshire is committed to replacing the Brackley pool with a new 25 m x 6 lane pool plus teaching pool. There is no need for additional provision in the authority area up to 2029, but there will be a need to address the requirements arising from the SUEs within the NRDA area.
- In Harborough district an early draft of the facility strategy dated 2015 suggests that the pool at Market Harborough is operating at about 65% used capacity, and that at Lutterworth at about 56%, which is somewhat lower than the Sport England FPM estimate of 84% and 75% used capacity respectively. A small amount of additional demand is expected to be generated by new housing growth, approximately 121 sq m across the authority. To date there are no recommendations.
- The Kettering plan of 2011-2021 recognises that the authority has a deficit of water space. Options to replace/extend the Kettering town centre pool are therefore under consideration.
• Rugby Borough has sufficient capacity to cater for demand now, but there may be a need to provide additional pool space in the future. The Queens Diamond Jubilee Centre is “busy” in the peak period, and clubs are relying extensively on school pools for training.

• In Stratford-on-Avon there is good provision of swimming pools with a net surplus of provision. Although most areas have access to a pool within 20 minutes drive time, the central-eastern area around Kineton does not. A new community pool is proposed for the Kineton/Gaydon/Lighthorne area. This would be more than 30 minutes travel time from Daventry, so although the catchments may overlap, any new provision would not have a very significant effect on the pool usage or the import/export of swimmers in Daventry district.

• Wellingborough’s strategy proposes the development of an additional 25 m x 6 lane pool, but no location is identified.

4.24 In summary, the pools network in these surrounding authorities are expected to need to be supplemented with new community facilities to meet the needs of the expanding housing in each of the authorities. There is therefore no spare capacity to cater for any demand arising from housing growth in Daventry district.

Modelling

4.25 A number of different modelling tools can be used to assess the current provision in Daventry district.

Market Segmentation and sports development

4.26 The Sport England Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) analysis suggests that several of the segments currently enjoy swimming and find swimming appealing, particularly amongst women. In fact, given the opportunity, almost every one of the larger market segments would swim as their first choice of activity. This helps to confirm the importance of providing accessible swimming opportunities in Daventry.

4.27 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. Swimming pools are therefore seen as a high priority for the borough to continue to encourage.
Facilities Planning Model

4.28 The FPM is a planning 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.

4.29 The table below (Figure 12) 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”. More details behind the FPM parameters are provided in Appendix 5.

**Figure 12: Facilities Planning Model key parameters pools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>At one Time Capacity</th>
<th>0.16667 per square metre = 1 person per 6 square meters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Catchments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Car:</td>
<td>20 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walking:</td>
<td>1.6 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public transport:</td>
<td>20 minutes at about half the speed of a car</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>NOTE:</strong> Catchment times are indicative, within the context of a distance decay function of the model.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duration</td>
<td>60 minutes for tanks and leisure pools</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage Participation</th>
<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></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></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>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Frequency per week</th>
<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></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></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>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Peak Period</th>
<th>Weekday: 12:00 to 13:30, 16:00 to 22.00</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Saturday: 09:00 to 16:00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sunday: 09:00 to 16:30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total:</td>
<td>52 Hours</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage of use taking</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4.30 The FPM national assessment for 2015 gives a useful indication of the current supply and demand for swimming in Daventry district, and 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 for the district is 697 sq m.
- The total demand at peak time is for around 814 sq m, so there is less supply than demand.
- However around 88% of the demand is met, which is lower than the national average, and that for Northampton and South Northamptonshire.
- Around 36% of the satisfied demand is “exported”, which although appears to be high is significantly less than either South Northamptonshire or Harborough.
- There is a net export of visits to pools in the adjacent authorities of around 744 visits per week in the peak period, with most of this export to pools in Rugby or Harborough. The largest exchange of swimming demand is with Northampton, but the import and export here is almost balanced out.
- Around 12% of the potential demand is unmet, mainly due to being outside of a catchment area of a pool. About half of this unmet demand is from people with a car who live more than 20 minutes from a pool (292 visits), and there is a significant gap in provision around the Guilsborough area. The remainder are those people who do not have access to a car. A very small amount of the unmet demand is due to a lack of capacity.
- The “relative share” of swimming provision in Daventry district is just above the national average.
- The FPM suggests that the used capacity used at peak time at the Daventry Leisure Centre pool is around 74%, but that the Moulton College pool is operating at around 57%.

4.31 Sport England considers a pool to be “busy” if it is operating at 70% full on average during the peak time. The FPM estimates suggest that the Daventry pool is operating at a level which can be considered “busy”, but that there is some spare capacity at the Moulton College pool. This estimated usage estimate appears to reflect the actual usage of the two pools reasonably well.
Summary of current situation

4.32 Swimming is an important activity in Daventry district, with swimming pools being the most used built facility for sport and active recreation, both for adults and students aged over 11 years. About half of both adults and students felt that the level of provision of pools was “about right”, but 30% felt that there should be more pool space. The student survey showed a significant level of export of swim visits, but this is probably due to the catchment area of Guilsborough School, which draws on the rural north east area of the district, including Long Bucky, Crick, East Farndon and Spratton.

4.33 The two sites at Daventry Leisure Centre and Moulton College are the only sites which are available for club use, and only Daventry Leisure Centre runs a comprehensive learn to swim programme. These two facilities represent 50% of the current pool space across Daventry district, with all of the other pools being located on hotel, conference, or spa sites. These commercial pools are not suitable for nor would they encourage significantly increased use, particularly by children and by clubs. They therefore need to be largely discounted in assessment of swimming needs across the district.

4.34 There are some gaps in accessibility to a pay and play pool, particularly around the Guilsborough area, and there are about 290 unmet demand visits per week from those people who have a car but live outside the catchment of a pool, whether this is within or outside of the district.

Assessment of Future Needs

Facilities Planning Model scenario test

4.35 An FPM scenario test was commissioned by the West Northamptonshire authorities to inform the future sports facility planning, in particular to consider the option of developing a new leisure centre in the Northampton North SUE (Daventry East) and replacing the pool at Lings Forum as part of a new leisure centre. The scenario testing uses the same baseline dataset as the current situation report. The scenarios tested were:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Run</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Run 1</td>
<td>Current situation – demand and supply of facilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 2</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 3</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029 plus at Daventry East: 25 m x 6 lane pool and 15 m x 10 m learner/teaching pool</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 4</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029 plus at Lings Forum: replacement pool 25 m x 8 lane and 20 m x 12.5 m</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Run 5</td>
<td>Current supply of facilities but with population projections up to 2029</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The conclusions from the scenario testing for Daventry, as provided by Sport England in their overview report of June 2016 were:

2.7 *The main impact of the new Daventry East Leisure Centre is to increase the supply by an additional 2 pools (main and learner) on 1 pool site.*

2.8 *Even with the addition of two new facilities, and the increase in participation, the total level of satisfied demand remains broadly constant in all the Runs modelled at around 90%.*

2.9 *The creation of a new pool facility at Daventry East sees the retention of an additional 410 vpwpp in Daventry, the combination of the two proposed facilities (one in Daventry and one in Northampton) result in a smaller increase in retained vpwpp. The construction of the new Lings Forum alone sees the lowest level of visits retained in Daventry.*

2.10 *Unmet demand in Run 2 was small and related almost entirely to residents being outside of a pools catchment and unable to access a pool by either walking or driving. In Run 3, the location of the additional facility on the border with Northampton has a limited impact addressing unmet demand because of poor accessibility. Therefore the overall impact of the new Daventry East facility is to reduce unmet demand by just 18 vpwpp, or the equivalent of 3 sqm of waterspace.*

4.37 Sport England raised a number of questions in the summary of their scenario test, and these are responded to in paragraph 4.51.
FPM within the wider assessment

4.38 As for the sports halls, when considering the implications of the FPM scenario test report and the options for the future, it is worth considering different areas of the district and the findings from other aspects of the strategy.

Daventry town area and west

4.39 The used capacity of Daventry Leisure Centre pool is estimated by the FPM scenario test to currently be around 74%, and whether or not the new facility is built at Daventry East, it is expected that the leisure centre will continue to be used at about the same level up to 2029. This is in part because the new populations around Daventry town in Monksmoor and Daventry North East will be balanced out by a falling swimming demand due to an aging population from the rest of the leisure centre catchment.

Guilsborough area

4.40 The Guilsborough area has least access to a pay and play swimming pool and is outside the 20 minute catchment of any public pool. The scenario testing demonstrates that this situation will not change up to 2029 even with the development of the Daventry East proposed pool, as it will be too far away from this area of the district.

4.41 With only around 290 visits per week in the peak period potentially arising from this area of the authority, a new community pool is not justified. The other pools in the area e.g. Spirit Health and the Club at Sedgebrook Hall are unsuitable for extended community use.

4.42 If an alternative site at Kings Heath was used for a new leisure centre, this would have almost the same catchment area as the existing provision, and again would not impact on the strategic gap in provision which has been identified for Daventry district however it is a good location for meeting the wider NRDA requirements.

NRDA

4.43 The Daventry SUEs within the NRDA area together are expected to generate a total demand for 204 sq m of water space by 2029 and with a 5% increase in participation, based on the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator and the population profile generated by Troy Planning.

Northampton North

4.44 The demand arising from the Northampton North SUE is expected to around 128 sq m of water space by 2029. The SUE is accessible to a number of pools including the Moulton College facility and also to pools across the whole of Northampton.
The FPM suggests that even with the planned Northampton North SUE and no new pool facilities in either Daventry district or Northampton, this part of Daventry district would still have good levels of swimming pool share, better than much of the rest of the district.

The proposed Daventry East Leisure Centre pool’s walking catchment of 1.6 km would partially overlap with that of the Moulton College pool, which has club access only. The proposed Daventry East pool and the replacement Lings Forum pool are only about 3.2 km apart. The Northampton School for Girls pool catchment is also close, but the future of this pool is uncertain as it is currently closed.

The FPM summary suggests that if the Daventry East pool was developed but without the proposed replacement of Lings Forum, that the pool would be running at about 89% used capacity i.e. full. However if Lings Forum was to be replaced at the size anticipated then the Daventry East pool would run at about 59% full unless an increase in participation can be achieved of 0.5% per annum over the period up to 2029. Daventry District Council consider that if the Daventry East pool was to run at the lower level of use, then the facility would still be viable.

The FPM further suggests that the usage of the Moulton College pool for club use, would be significantly hit by the opening of the Daventry East pool, and even more by the additional opening of both Lings Forum replacement facility. The estimated use would fall to around 38% with both new pools open unless an increase in participation can be achieved, potentially taking the usage up to around 41%. Moulton College is however independent and the District Council has no influence on the opening of the pool or its access policies.

The Moulton College facility is primarily for college students and underpins the college’s sports and coaching courses. This priority for the facility is unlikely to change, at least in the short-medium term. The facility is not designed to accommodate pay and play usage and the car park is too small for large scale community use. This facility therefore seems unlikely to be able to significantly fulfil a larger role in terms of provision for community swimming.

The other commercial pool in the area is Sedgebrook Hall but public access is very limited and the site is not appropriate for the expansion of community use.

The FPM summary asked some key questions, and these are answered below:

- The reduction of used capacity at Moulton College by 32%, to 49%. Could this mean that Moulton College would no longer sustainable operating at this level of used capacity? This remains an issue when both Lings Forum and Daventry East are open.

As this facility is primarily for Moulton College students the reduction in the community usage is of less concern than the future of a public facility would be.
The location of the Moulton College facility, its design, and its ancillary facilities do not lend the site to intensive community use or to pay and play swimming. It is therefore likely to continue to attract club use, so long as the prices are comparable with elsewhere.

In relation to competition between the pools, as any public pool will need to earn a significant amount of income from learn to swim programmes, these will take priority in the afternoons/early evenings. This means that club swimming could still be focused at Moulton College at these attractive times, helping to support participation in swimming generally.

The key question is therefore whether there is sufficient club based swimming and aquatic sports, of all types, to help underpin the business planning of three pools in the vicinity, all of whom will be vying for club bookings at the less popular times.

- **That consideration should be given as to what impact extending the hours of community use would have on existing swimming pools and how much this would assist in reducing used capacity levels across Daventry. The maximum hours of opening in the peak period for swimming pools is 52 hours.**

Significantly extended public hours and a change to pay and play opportunities are not really an option for Moulton College, which is the only Daventry district facility in the area. The pool at Northampton School for Girls has an uncertain future, but is not an attractive facility and in practice has limited use as a club and teaching venue.

- **Consideration should be given as to whether the hours in the peak period could be extended at Moulton College from 41 to 52 hrs, to ascertain what impact this could have on swimming provision in the area? Furthermore, an assessment should be undertaken of the impact of provision at both the Daventry East Leisure Centre and the new Lings Forum facility, on the long term sustainability of the Moulton College facility.**

See above.

- **Consideration also needs to be given, as to whether it is acceptable in policy terms, for Daventry District Council to consider building a new swimming pool at Daventry East when this has a very minimum impact on reducing unmet demand.**

- **Is it also acceptable in policy terms for 2/3 of usage for this new pool to come from Northampton residents, or would it be better to work with Northampton Council to help it improve/increase provision in Northampton for it to meet its own needs?**

4.52 The strategy work for Northampton has shown that, assuming that the Lings Forum pool is replaced with at least an 8 lane pool plus teaching pool, as modelled by the FPM, then the proposed pool at Daventry East would benefit from revisiting in
terms of its size and location. Alternative site options for a new leisure centre facility on the Daventry border but on the north western edge of Northampton may be better to meet the demands of the NRDA as a whole. One option would be in the Kings Heath SUE, potentially adjacent to the proposed secondary school.

**Buckton Fields and Northampton West SUEs**

4.53 The Northampton West SUE and Buckton Fields SUEs together are expected to generate demand for around 76 sq m water space by 2029.

4.54 The FPM suggests that there will be a need across the NRDA area for two pools, the proposed replacement Lings Forum pool and a new community pool. The emerging strategy for Northampton shows that the best location for a facility to meet the needs of swimming in the NRDA area would be to the north west.

4.55 The Duston School pool’s location and management does not enable this to become a facility open during the school day nor to provide for pay and play swimming. This facility is not therefore able to meet the long terms needs of the growing community in the NRDA.

4.56 Given this, the best option for providing swimming opportunities is via a new wet/dry leisure centre in the Kings Heath SUE, which crosses the boundary with Daventry and is already identified as a key location for sports and leisure provision. This new facility maybe adjacent to the planned secondary school and also meet the school’s needs.

4.57 If the delivery of a Kings Heath leisure centre is not possible, then an alternative location in the Upton area should be considered, or other options such as the development of a new pool adjacent to the Duston Sports Centre.

**Meeting the needs of the future**

4.58 As with the modelling, it is appropriate to consider different areas of the district in looking at the ways in which the demand for swimming pool space can be met in the period up to 2029.

**Daventry town area and west**

4.59 As there is sufficient capacity for the long term, the priority will be to maintain and retain the Daventry Leisure Centre.

**Guilsborough area**

4.60 No additional pool is justified in this area.
NRDA

4.61 The strategy work for Northampton has identified that the best option for the NRDA area is a new leisure centre in the Kings Heath SUE adjacent to the secondary school, with a 25m x 6 lane pool able to offer pay and play access as well as club bookings. The facility should also be able to meet the needs of the school. However if this is not possible then alternative sites will need to be considered including within the Upton area and at Duston Sports Centre.

Justifying developers’ contributions

4.62 The assessment above considers the needs of the strategic housing sites up to 2029 based on the Joint Core Strategy Part 1 commitments. It is however important to have a mechanism which can future proof the strategy, enabling new, unanticipated housing sites to be assessed. These “standards” will help to determine the additional demand which will be generated from a specific housing development, and then whether the existing network may be able to cater for that demand.

4.63 The approach towards this future proofing is to consider the district in two parts, that away from the NRDA, and the NRDA area. This is because there are different pressures in the NRDA and more water space is needed here than elsewhere.

Standard for quantity

Outside of the NRDA area

4.64 The modelling findings of the Sports Facility Calculator using a growth in the rate of participation of 5%, suggests that a rate of provision per 1000 population for individual housing developments should be:

- 10.9 sq m water space per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

Within the NRDA area

4.65 This standard needs to be the same as the one for the rest of the NRDA area, and is proposed to be:

- 14.5 sq m water space per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

Standard for accessibility

4.66 The majority of swimming pool users in Daventry district will travel by car and national research shows that swimming pools have an approximate drive time
catchment of up to about 20 minutes. A formal planning standard of 20 minutes’
drive time is therefore proposed.

*Standard for design and quality*

4.67 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including
design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. This should
apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

**Recommendations for swimming pools**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>4.68</th>
<th>The following recommendations arise from the assessment:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• To retain, maintain and improve Daventry Leisure Centre pools</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>• If the authorities agree to share CIL contributions for infrastructure: support Northampton Borough Council or South Northants in the development of a new 25m x 6 lane swimming pool as part of a leisure centre in the Kings Heath SUE, Upton area, or at Duston Sports Centre.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4.69 In relation to new housing developments which have not been included within this
assessment, the standards to assess the amount of demand which will arise from the
development, the accessibility to swimming pool space, and the expected quality of the facility are:

- 10.9 sq m water space per 1000 population outside of the NRDA (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
- 14.5 sq m water space per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
- 20 minutes drive time catchment.
- Design and quality standard to meet Sport England and the relevant national governing body standards.
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.

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 major 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) of the English Federation of Disability Sport encourages equipment and facilities to be fully accessible to people with a range of disabilities. At present there are no IFI accredited gyms in West Northamptonshire.

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, 2016) concludes that the 3rd most important activity in Daventry district is gym (including activities such as fitness classes), but that the rates of participation in gym activities in the district are lower than for either the national or regional averages.

5.7 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) results confirm that gym/fitness activities are of relatively high importance. Note that Market Segmentation does not include walking/rambling as an activity, as this would come out the highest of all for Daventry.
Current provision

5.8 There are currently 13 health and fitness sites with public access in Daventry district, all of which have fitness station equipment. This gives a total of 373 stations. The fitness gyms are mostly relatively small compared to some of the commercial gyms found in large urban areas. The largest is 140 stations at Daventry Leisure Centre, but 9 of the sites have 25 stations or less (Figure 13). Fives sites have studio space as well as fitness stations. The sites are mapped in Figure 14.

5.9 About 32% of the fitness stations are at commercial fitness sites, including those hotel sites which offer health club memberships. A further approximately 21% of the current provision of fitness stations is at sites which are primarily hotels, conference centres or spas and which have restricted memberships.

5.10 Moulton College is the only education site which offers community access to it fitness facilities, and it has 37 stations between its two sites.

5.11 Assuming that community use of those sites which have very restrictive usage, i.e. the hotel and spa venues are excluded from the assessment, this gives a total of 295 stations and 6 studios which are really available for the community.

5.12 Figure 13 shows the location of the health and fitness gyms in Daventry district together with an indicative 15 minute drive time from those facilities which are either pay and play or which have reasonably open memberships. It is clear that there are fairly large gaps in provision in the Guilsborough/Welford area, in some of the southern parts of the district, and the Walgrave area.

Assessment of current supply/demand

5.13 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.

5.14 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 a third of the fitness gyms with fitness stations and studios are based at commercial sites, it can be assumed that the demand for facilities balances the supply. The approach towards the capacity assessment for fitness facilities is set out in Appendix 2.
### Figure 13: Health and fitness - current provision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Number of stations</th>
<th>Number of studios</th>
<th>Ownership Type / Nature of Site</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
<th>Management</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>BETTER BODIES GYM</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BOYS BRIGADE OLD BOYS RFC</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>Sport Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BST MMA</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cripps Recreation Centre</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Health Authority</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CURVES FOR WOMEN (NORTHAMPTON NORTH)</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dallington Fitness</td>
<td>112</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Danes Camp Leisure Centre</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
<td>Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Duston Sports Centre</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
<td>Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DW Sports Fitness (NORTHAMPTON)</td>
<td>174</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FIT4LESS (NORTHAMPTON)</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fitness4LESS (NORTHAMPTON)</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Image Fitness Club</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lings Forum Leisure Centre</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
<td>Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Livingwell Health Club (NORTHAMPTON)</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriott Leisure Club (NORTHAMPTON)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Hotel</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mounts Baths Leisure Centre</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Local Authority</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
<td>Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton High School Sports Centre</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Other Independent School</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Trust</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton School For Girls</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nuffield Health and Fitness</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Other</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omni Studios</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pace Health Club</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>Commercial Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(NORTHAMPTON)</td>
<td>Fitness Gym</td>
<td>Membership use</td>
<td>Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PINK LADIES HEALTH &amp; FITNESS CLUB</td>
<td>Commercial Gym</td>
<td>Registered use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PURE GYM (NORTHAMPTON)</td>
<td>Commercial Gym</td>
<td>Registered use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTHAMPTON</td>
<td>Higher Education</td>
<td>Registered use</td>
<td>School/College/University (in house)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIRGIN ACTIVE CLUB (NORTHAMPTON</td>
<td>Commercial Gym</td>
<td>Registered use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLLINGTREE PARK)</td>
<td>Commercial Gym</td>
<td>Registered use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIRGIN ACTIVE CLUB (NORTHAMPTON RIVERSIDE PARK)</td>
<td>Commercial Gym</td>
<td>Registered use</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WESTON FAVELL ACADEMY</td>
<td>Academy</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 14: Health and Fitness sites with fitness stations
Consultation findings

5.15 There are no national governing bodies for fitness and there are no independent sports clubs. However the individuals’ survey and the student survey give some more detail about the importance of this type of provision, and site issues.

Individual survey and student survey results

5.16 About 25% of the respondents to the individuals’ survey for the whole of West Northamptonshire said that they use gym and fitness facilities, and a clear majority of respondents say that the amount of provision is “about right”. Only a relatively small percentage would class this type of facility as either very important or quite important to them, but this type of facility is used much more frequently on a weekly basis than any other facility type. There was no notable difference in the Daventry individuals’ survey returns from the West Northamptonshire but the low numbers of returns meant that statistical analysis was not possible.

5.17 The student survey suggests that fitness facilities are used by about 23% of this age group (secondary school), and although more students were of the view that the amount of provision was “about right”, about 25% felt that there was too little provision. More of the students felt that this type of sports facility was very important or important, notably higher than the individuals’ survey, but at present gym and fitness facilities came second to swimming in terms of participation on a weekly or monthly basis.

5.18 There are no relevant site specific comments from the individuals’ survey other than a need for modernisation of the Long Buckby site, but the students’ survey comment was that it is a good local facility with good staff, and it has “amazing gym equipment”.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

5.19 A review of the fitness provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities are given in Part 1 Appendix 7. In summary the adjacent authorities’ supply and demand situations are:

- Northampton will require new provision to meet its growing population and it is expected that this will be around 186 fitness stations and 2.7 studios. The existing leisure centres have relatively small fitness provision, so it is proposed that this need is met by a combination of a larger fitness suite at the replacement Lings Forum and by new provision at a new leisure centre, at Kings Heath or alternative site such as Leisure centre East. Any remaining demand can be met by the commercial sector, which is very strong in the borough.

- South Northamptonshire’s emerging strategy findings have identified that away from the NRDA there will be a small need of around 40 fitness stations and 1
studio in the period up to 2029, and that this need can be met by a combination of the expanded Brackley Leisure Centre and the commercial sector. In the NRDA area the SUEs will generate new demand for about 50 fitness stations and 1 studio and it is proposed that this need should be met in the proposed leisure centre at Kings Heath.

- The draft Harborough built facilities strategy notes that the usage of Harborough Leisure Centre has fallen between 2013 and 2015, but there has been an increase in use of the Lutterworth Leisure Centre, and that there is a current balance between supply and demand for this facility type. There are no relevant draft recommendations.

- The Kettering strategy does not assess fitness provision and makes no relevant recommendations.

- Rugby Borough will need additional health and fitness provision as the authority grows, and this is estimated to be in the order of 185-260 stations.

- Stratford-on-Avon’s 2011 assessment did not include health and fitness provision.

- Wellingborough’s audit and assessment of 2015 identified that the authority had 2.85 stations per 1000 and that no new provision would be required up to 2031.

**Modelling**

**Comparator authorities’ provision**

5.20 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 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 the West Northamptonshire authorities and the CIPFA comparators, see Figure 15. 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, as at the spa resorts in Daventry.

5.21 In relation to the number of fitness stations, this comparator authority analysis suggests that the current rate of provision in Daventry district is approximately in line with its CIPFA benchmarks, but lower than Ashford and the larger towns such as Northampton. The rate of provision is also lower than the national and regional averages.

5.22 The rate of provision of studio space follows a similar pattern with both Daventry and Harborough having the lowest amount of provision per 1000.
5.23 These findings reflect the nature of the authority area:

- Its rural nature means that there is a relatively limited market in any one area, so the facilities are smaller in size on average and well distributed across the authority.
- The rural nature of the authority means that activities such as walking and cycling are more attractive and easier to access than gym facilities.
- The older age profile of most of the authority means that there is less demand for fitness gyms.
- In the rural areas, the studio space demand is largely met by the use of community centres, village halls and sometimes primary school halls.
- The authority will be exporting some of its demand to the surrounding towns, as people often use gyms close to their work rather than close to their home.

**Figure 15: Health and fitness - comparator authorities**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nearest Neighbour</th>
<th>Population at 2016 for West Northants (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)</th>
<th>CIPFA comparator for</th>
<th>Health and Fitness (number of stations)</th>
<th>Studios (number of)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total Per 1000 population Total Per 1000 population</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>220,462</td>
<td>1740</td>
<td>7.89 33 0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>126,268 Daventry</td>
<td>804</td>
<td>6.37 15 0.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basildon</td>
<td>183,308 Northampton</td>
<td>1591</td>
<td>8.68 23 0.13</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchester</td>
<td>185,050 Northampton</td>
<td>1291</td>
<td>6.98 18 0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>79,861 S Northants</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>4.67 6 0.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>128,146 Northampton</td>
<td>909</td>
<td>7.09 16 0.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborough</td>
<td>89,314 Daventry/S Northants</td>
<td>373</td>
<td>4.18 7 0.08</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Suffolk</td>
<td>100,332 S Northants</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>4.18 10 0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>141,349 Northampton</td>
<td>1494</td>
<td>10.57 17 0.12</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribble Valley</td>
<td>58,357 S Northants</td>
<td>195</td>
<td>3.34 6 0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selby</td>
<td>86,552 Daventry</td>
<td>422</td>
<td>4.88 9 0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Northants</td>
<td>88,598 Daventry</td>
<td>381</td>
<td>4.30 8 0.09</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swindon</td>
<td>219,761 Northampton</td>
<td>1562</td>
<td>7.11 34 0.15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>4,637,400</td>
<td>27028</td>
<td>5.83 469 0.10</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>54,316,600</td>
<td>325007</td>
<td>5.98 6032 0.11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of current situation**

5.24 The fitness and gym provision in terms of both the number of fitness stations and the number of studios in Daventry is less per 1000 population than the national and...
regional averages, though is about the median in relation to the CIPFA authorities. The high number of hotels, conference venues and spa venues with their very limited membership use reduces the real level of provision of community fitness facilities down to about 295 stations and 6 studios.

5.25 Although Daventry and most of the larger villages have access to a fitness gym within 15 minutes’ drive time, there are some significant gaps in the network of fitness facilities which are reasonably open for community use, in the Guilsborough/Spratton area, in the south east of the district, and around Walgrave.

5.26 The individuals’ survey for Daventry suggests that fitness gym activities are the most regularly participated in activity on a weekly basis for adults, and that for students this was the second highest activity. The amount of fitness gyms is considered by both adults and students to be “about right”, and it is likely that a high proportion of fitness activities that might use studio space in a leisure centre are actually being provided for in village halls, community centres and some primary school halls.

5.27 As the market in fitness gyms responds rapidly to demand, is it likely that the current level of fitness provision matches the demand in the different areas across the authority.

Assessment of Future Needs

5.28 Although the fitness market and the “supply” of facilities tends to change fairly rapidly, the modelling is based on an assumption that there are no major anticipated changes to the facility network within or on the boundaries of the authority.

Extrapolating current demand and current supply

Daventry district outside the NRDA

5.29 The current rate of provision in Daventry district is 4.67 fitness stations and 0.08 studios per 1000 population. With a modelling rate of 0.5% per annum growth in participation, reflecting the approach used in the sports halls and swimming scenario testing, this gives expected rates of demand for fitness provision in 2029 of 4.99 stations per 1000 population, and 0.09 studios per 1000 population. It is appropriate to apply this rate of provision to all of Daventry district excluding the NRDA SUEs.

5.30 With the anticipated population growth in the period up to 2029 of around 10,000, this gives a forecast need for around 50 additional fitness stations and 1 studio.
The NRDA area in Daventry and South Northamptonshire

5.31 The NRDA SUEs in Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts will be adjacent to Northampton, but the rates of provision per 1000 population for both fitness stations and studios in the two districts are much lower than those of Northampton.

5.32 The new SUEs in both Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts will have:

- good access to both facilities in Northampton
- good to walking and cycling routes linking to both the town and the surrounding rural areas
- similar new populations
- close affinity to Northampton in terms of being part of the urban area
- development which is mainly residential rather than employment, so limited number of commuters coming in to the developments.

5.33 It is therefore proposed to develop a standard based on the average rate of provision expected to be needed by 2029 across the three West Northamptonshire authorities, which calculates out as 5.80 fitness stations and 0.10 studios per 1000 population (Figure 16).

![Figure 16: Fitness provision average rate](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fitness facility</th>
<th>Northampton</th>
<th>Daventry</th>
<th>South Northamptonshire</th>
<th>Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fitness stations</td>
<td>8.40</td>
<td>4.99</td>
<td>4.02</td>
<td>5.80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Studios</td>
<td>0.12</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.09</td>
<td>0.10</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

5.34 If these rates are applied to the total anticipated new populations (see Figure 17) of the NRDA SUEs which are within Daventry and South Northamptonshire, this gives an expected need for 145 stations and 2.5 studios.

![Figure 17: NRDA SUE populations in Daventry and South Northandts](image)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>SUE</th>
<th>Population by 2029</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Buckton Fields</td>
<td>3037</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northampton North</td>
<td>10327</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Northampton West</td>
<td>3048</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Northamptonshire</td>
<td>Northampton West</td>
<td>4355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Upton Lodge</td>
<td>4252</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>25019</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Total new provision required for NRDA

5.35 Adding together the forecast needs of Northampton Borough and the SUEs within Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts, this gives a total anticipated requirement for new fitness provision up to 2029 of:

- 331 fitness stations
- 5 studios

Meeting the needs of the future

5.36 The facility network in most of Daventry district is expected to alter over time as the commercial facilities open and close according to the market. The relatively low level of additional provision in Daventry district for the period up to 2029 outside of the NRDA can easily be met by the commercial market, and no specific additional provision therefore needs to be planned.

5.37 In the NRDA area there will be a need for new provision both of fitness gyms and studio space. As there will be a need to support the revenue generation of the proposed new wet/dry leisure facility a large fitness facility should be planned into this scheme together with at least 2 studio spaces. The preferred location is at Kings Heath but the alternatives could be the Upton area or potentially at Duston Sports Centre. If the leisure centre is joint with a school it is likely that the fitness gym and one of the studios will need to be community use only, in order to ensure it is accessible throughout the school day.

5.38 There are currently no Inclusive Fitness Facilities in West Northamptonshire, so any new or replacement leisure centres should be designed and managed to support use by a range of people with different disabilities.

Justifying developers’ contributions

5.39 As new housing proposals come forward it is important to have “standards” against which specific developments can be assessed to determine the additional demand which will be generated. The amount of demand expected to arise can then be considered in relation to the accessibility of suitable facilities, and the capacity of the existing network. Taking this approach “future proofs” the strategy, until a full formal review of the strategy can be undertaken.

5.40 The approach towards this future proofing is to consider the district on its own with one standard, but to have a different standard in the NRDA. This approach recognises that the rates of provision in the more rural area are very different from that of Northampton.
**Standard for quantity**

**Within Daventry district outside the NRDA**

5.41 The assessment and forecast future demand suggests that the rate of provision up to 2029 should be:

- 4.99 fitness stations per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
- 0.09 studios per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

**The NRDA outside of the Northampton Borough boundary**

5.42 The future standards for Daventry and South Northamptonshire are the same and are proposed as:

- 5.80 fitness stations per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
- 0.10 studios per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

**Standard for accessibility**

5.43 A 15 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for indoor fitness facilities, and reflects the maximum travel time of most of the residents in the borough, either to a facility within the authority, or over the border.

**Standard for design and quality**

5.44 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

5.45 The area for each indoor fitness station is taken to be an average of 5 sq m. It is appropriate that developers should be asked for a contribution towards the building cost for the health and fitness space, but not the equipment which is often supplied on a contract basis.
5.46 The delivery priorities are:

- Design a large fitness gym plus studio space into the proposed Kings Heath leisure centre, with the gym and at least one studio accessible to the community throughout the school day. If Kings Heath not deliverable, at alternative site in north west/west of NRDA.
- Enable changes to the commercial sector provision of health and fitness facilities as the market alters.

5.47 In relation to new housing developments not included within this strategy, the scale of the new demand and the capacity of the network to accommodate it, should be assessed using the following planning standards:

- Across Daventry district outside the NRDA
  - 4.99 fitness stations per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
  - 0.09 studios per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

- NRDA
  - 5.80 fitness stations per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
  - 0.10 studios per 1000 population (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)

- 15 minute drive time catchment
- The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England. This should apply to both new facilities and refurbishment.
SECTION 6:  ATHLETICS

6.1 Athletics participation and provision needs to be considered at a West Northamptonshire level because of the catchment areas of the tracks. This section is therefore repeated in the Northampton and South Northamptonshire individual strategies.

6.2 Participation in athletics includes field and track activities which both take place at athletics tracks, 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, 2017). Athletics generally attracts more men (60%) than women (40%).

6.3 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 Northamptonshire. Northamptonshire is broadly following the national trends, with a gradual increase in the number of people taking part, see Figure 18, (Sport England, 2017)

Figure 18: Athletics participation 2005-2016
Adults 16+, at least once a week

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time period</th>
<th>2005/06 (APS1)</th>
<th>2007/08 (APS2)</th>
<th>2008/09 (APS3)</th>
<th>2009/10 (APS4)</th>
<th>2010/11 (APS5)</th>
<th>2011/12 (APS6)</th>
<th>2012/13 (APS7)</th>
<th>2013/14 (APS8)</th>
<th>2014/15 (APS9)</th>
<th>2015/16 (APS10Q2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>3.33%</td>
<td>3.89%</td>
<td>4.16%</td>
<td>4.45%</td>
<td>4.47%</td>
<td>4.72%</td>
<td>4.65%</td>
<td>4.96%</td>
<td>5.29%</td>
<td>5.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>3.08%</td>
<td>3.54%</td>
<td>3.50%</td>
<td>3.95%</td>
<td>4.01%</td>
<td>4.33%</td>
<td>3.90%</td>
<td>4.61%</td>
<td>5.01%</td>
<td>5.06%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire</td>
<td>2.97%</td>
<td>2.76%</td>
<td>3.66%</td>
<td>4.08%</td>
<td>3.75%</td>
<td>4.27%</td>
<td>4.21%</td>
<td>5.16%</td>
<td>4.99%</td>
<td>5.24%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

6.4 Research by Sport England has shown that about 10% of athletics activity takes place at a track, with 90% elsewhere. This report therefore considers both synthetic athletics track provision and other athletics needs.

Participation in athletics

6.5 Sport England national research considers the split between the different types of athletics activity and where it takes place. The results of this research published in 2012 are given in Figure 19, (Sport England, 2012). There is no similar detailed Northamptonshire statistics for athletics.
Figure 19: 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:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Discipline</th>
<th>%</th>
<th>Count</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Jogging</td>
<td>74%</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running-Road</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>37</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running-Cross country/beach</td>
<td>32%</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running-Track</td>
<td>12%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics-Track events</td>
<td>9%</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Athletics-Field events</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Running-Ultra Marathon</td>
<td>6%</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Q. In what setting do you usually run?**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting</th>
<th>All</th>
<th>Participant</th>
<th>Club Member</th>
<th>Talent Pool</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>At a track</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>49%</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On the road/pavement</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>89%</td>
<td>75%</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>On a marked route</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>11%</td>
<td>16%</td>
<td>4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In my local park/off-road areas</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>57%</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cross country/fell</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>23%</td>
<td>48%</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Don’t know</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
<td>1%</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Main Discipline %**
**Current provision**

6.6 There is one newly opened 8 lane floodlit track Moulton College which serves much of West Northamptonshire. This has a dedicated clubhouse and car parking.

6.7 A realistic travel time to athletics tracks is around 30 minutes, and Figure 20 shows which parts of West Northamptonshire are within the travel time of athletics tracks either within or outside of the area, including the new Moulton College track. It is clear from the map that most residents of West Northamptonshire have access to athletics track facilities. There is a strategic gap in provision around Syresham/Helmdon area of South Northamptonshire, and small gaps in provision in the north of Daventry district.

6.8 There is also a smaller athletics facility at the Daventry District Sports Club at Stefen Hill Sport Ground in Daventry, the home to Daventry Athletics Club. The club is self-financing and maintains its own facilities which originally included a 400m cinder track however half of this track has been part resurfaced to provide a 200m synthetic floodlit track, and field training areas. This facility is also within the catchment of the Rugby track. The track at North Oxfordshire Academy (Drayton Pavilion) within Cherwell district is also accessible to parts of South Northants.
Figure 20: Athletics tracks and training locations
Consultation findings

Individual survey and student survey results

6.9 Across West Northamptonshire more people take part in walking than any other activity, and a high proportion also run or do some form of athletics, whether this is formal or simply jogging. Almost half of adults use traffic free routes and about 66% feel that there is too little provision, and only 0.6% of people feel that there is too much.

6.10 More people feel that walking/running routes are at important to them than any other facility provision.

Club comments

Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club

6.11 The Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club currently has a total of around 550 members, with over 350 members from the West Northamptonshire area. Most travel up to 20 minutes to train. The club reports that about 65% of the members come from Northampton, with 25% from South Northants and 5% from Daventry district.

6.12 The club has grown in the last 5 years and expects to continue to do so. It does not have a waiting list nor does it have any school-club links or development plan.

6.13 The club has two home sites, the Rugby athletics track and the new track at Moulton College. The track at Moulton will be used for both training and competition and is expected to be used 3-6 times a week and year round, both on weekday evenings and at weekends.

Brackley and District Running Club

6.14 This club currently has about 52 members, all of whom are seniors or veterans. They meet at Brackley Leisure Centre and all live very locally, within about 5 minutes drive time. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but anticipates growing in the next few years. The club does not have a development plan nor any school-club link. The main issue facing the club is the recruitment of members. The club meets 1-2 times a week on weekday evenings and although the club uses the leisure centre as a meeting point, the members do not make use of the changing.
**Silson Joggers Athletics Club**

6.15 The Silson Joggers Athletics Club meet at the Silverstone Circuit where they either run on the track or car park, or use Dadford Road. The use of the Silverstone Circuit is by arrangement. The club has about 150 members across all age groups, with the primary school age members travelling up to 10 minutes and all of the others travelling for up to 20 minutes to the club. About 90% of the members come from South Northamptonshire, and 10% from Daventry district. The club has grown in the last 5 years and anticipates continuing to grow. It has a short waiting list for both minis and juniors as the club is constrained by the lack of safe training facilities and a lack of coaches. There is an informal school-club link as the club uses Sponne School sports hall for junior training.

6.16 The club uses Silverstone circuit and site 1-2 times a week during the spring, autumn and winter on weekday evenings. The club reports that the road surface is good but has little lighting and that there is no changing provision available.

6.17 The Sponne School sports hall is used for training once or twice a week from autumn to spring on weekday evenings. The facility is fairly easy to book though there are some pressures at peak time. The facility is reported as generally good quality. The club does not use the changing facilities.

6.18 Stowe School Athletics track is also used by the club for training once-twice a week during the summer months, but finds booking the track can be difficult. It is a good quality track but the changing facilities are not used.

6.19 The club would ideally like its own athletics track but recognises that this is unrealistic for a relatively small club.

**Daventry Amateur Athletics Club**

6.20 This club is based at Stefen Hill in Daventry and currently has about 130 members, mainly minis and juniors, who travel up to 10 minutes to the club. The relatively small number of seniors travel up to 20 minutes to the club. About 90% of the club are from Daventry district, with the remainder mostly being from South Northamptonshire.

6.21 The club has grown in the last 5 years and anticipates continuing to do so. It does not have a waiting list and does not have a school-club link, although it does have a development plan. The main issues faced by the club are access to facilities/lack of facilities, their cost, and a lack of funding. The facilities are “incomplete” in relation to the track and field facilities and are not therefore of competition standard. The changing provision is described as being below average.

6.22 The clubs uses Stefen Hill year round 1-2 times a week on weekday evenings.
6.23 The club has aspirations for a full 400m track and a dual pit long jump. It has sought quotes for the works at £250,000, and is actively seeking grant aid.

**National Governing Body comments and strategies**

6.24 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.

**UK Athletics Facilities Strategy 2014-2019**

6.25 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.

6.26 The Daventry Stefen Hill site could be considered to fall into the criteria of a Compact Athletics Facility, and the use of the Silverstone circuit and area could also potentially form the basis for such a facility.

6.27 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.

6.28 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**

6.29 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.


**Road and Off-Road Running**

6.30 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.

6.31 Northampton easily meets the minimum population figure of Run England but the concept could be followed in the larger towns of Daventry, Towcester and Brackley. The three West Northamptonshire authorities may also wish to actively explore the option of developing longer marked running routes and/or closed circuit routes in appropriate locations, the latter in conjunction with Run England.

**Track and Field**

6.32 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.

6.33 When England Athletics updates its strategy and introduces support to Compact Athletics Facilities, there may be opportunities for the district via this programme.

**Indoor Facilities**

6.34 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.

**Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies**

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

- Aylesbury Vale’s strategy of 2012 identified a need for improvements to the existing athletics provision.
- Cherwell’s strategy is currently being updated, but the old strategy did not provide specific recommendations in relation to athletics tracks. There is a synthetic athletics track at North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury and consideration is being given to a compact athletics facility at the proposed new secondary school at Kingsmere in Bicester.
- Harborough District’s draft built facilities strategy does not refer to athletics tracks as there is not one in the district.
- Kettering’s Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2021 makes reference to the athletics track but does not make any recommendations about it.
- Milton Keynes’ strategy of 2014 recommends retaining the track at Stantonbury and the exploration of improved indoor training opportunities. This second study has been completed and options have been identified which
may seen enhanced indoor training on site, linked to the longer term school rebuilding programme.

- Rugby has a good quality 8 lane track which is certificated to hold all competitions. It is expected that the facility will have adequate capacity into the long term once the club “splits” on the opening of the Moulton College facility.
- The Stratford-on-Avon strategy does not refer to athletics provision and the track at Stratford is too far away to be within a realistic drive time of the residents of West Northamptonshire.
- Wellingborough does not have a synthetic athletics track.

6.36 The review of the strategies from the adjacent authorities suggests that there will be no major changes to the network of facilities.

**Modelling**

**Market Segmentation and sports development**

6.37 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) information from Sport England suggests that athletics (including jogging etc.) is a popular activity now, and is an appealing sport for several of the largest market segments in West Northamptonshire. However this is often considered as the 4th or 5th most attractive sport.

6.38 In relation to wider sports development, athletics are offered via schools, both outdoor, and as sports halls athletics.

**Comparator authorities’ provision**

6.39 Using Active Places Power (Sport England, 2017) data it has been possible to review the athletics track provision for each of the West Northamptonshire authorities and their CIPFA comparators plus Swindon. This comparator authority analysis suggests that only the larger authorities, the Northampton comparators, have a synthetic athletics track.

6.40 The rate of provision per 1000 population of athletics track facilities across West Northamptonshire as a whole is 0.003 tracks per 1000 population, which is lower than the national rate of provision of 0.005 per 1000 population.
### Figure 21: Comparator authority’s athletics provision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nearest Neighbour</th>
<th>Population at 2016 for West Northants (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)</th>
<th>CIPFA comparator for</th>
<th>Number of athletics tracks (synthetic)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>220,462</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>126,268</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basildon</td>
<td>183,308</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchester</td>
<td>185,050</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>79,861</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>128,146</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborough</td>
<td>89,314</td>
<td>Daventry/ S Northants</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Suffolk</td>
<td>100,332</td>
<td>S Northants</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>141,349</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribble Valley</td>
<td>58,357</td>
<td>S Northants</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selby</td>
<td>86,552</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Northants</td>
<td>88,598</td>
<td></td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swindon</td>
<td>219,761</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>4,637,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>54,316,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Summary of the current situation**

6.41 The recent opening of the 8 lane floodlit track at Moulton College means that most residents of West Northamptonshire have access to athletics track provision, either within the partner authorities, or in the adjacent authority areas. The total amount of provision per 1000 is however notably lower than the national average.

6.42 There are three active track and field clubs; the large Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club which is based at Moulton College and at Rugby, plus one at Daventry and one based at Silverstone. Both of these smaller clubs require improvements to their training facilities but with about 130-150 members each are not large enough to sustain a full size track.

6.43 There is clear demand from the survey returns for more traffic free walking and running routes, and this type of provision has also been identified by the national governing bodies as a priority.
Assessment of Future Needs

6.44 With the opening of the new 8 lane track at Moulton College, there are no further track requirements for West Northamptonshire.

6.45 Stowe School is used by the Silson Joggers Athletics Club which has 150 members, but this use is limited and only in the summer months. It seems unlikely that the school would be prepared to extend community use to any major extent. Given this situation and the relatively low rate of provision of athletics facilities across West Northamptonshire, there is justification to support the two clubs at Daventry and Silverstone by improving their facilities. A full size synthetic track at either location is not appropriate nor would such new provision meet the national governing body strategy approach. However improvements at these sites to enable them to more effectively meet the needs of their members would be appropriate. This investment would potentially meet the programme criteria for Compact Athletics Facilities.

6.46 The development of marked running routes across each of the West Northamptonshire authorities would offer a real opportunity for many people as a major theme from the consultation feedback has been the importance of traffic free walking and running routes. There are a number of traffic free routes already in existence, and there may be opportunities to develop these further.

Meeting the needs of the future

6.47 The Compact Athletics Facilities programme is designed to be flexible and to fit with both the local needs and opportunities. The Daventry site at Stefen Hill and the Silverstone sites are very different and there will be a need for the national governing body and clubs to work together to assess what is needed, achievable and viable.

Recommendations for athletics

6.48 The delivery priorities are:

- The improvement of the training facilities at Stefen Hill in Daventry and at Silverstone in association with the clubs. Details to be confirmed.

- The development of measured walking and running routes in association with England Athletics and other partners, utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free routes.
SECTION 7: SQUASH

7.1 Squash participation and provision is considered at a West Northamptonshire level because of the small number of sites used for this sport. This section is therefore repeated in the Northampton and South Northamptonshire individual strategies.

7.2 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, 2017). 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.

7.3 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 West Northamptonshire. As squash as a sport has slowly declined over a number of years and the courts have often been converted into other uses, so there are only a few sites left in the area.

Current provision

7.4 There are two types of squash court, glass-backed and “normal” or enclosed. There are currently 8 sites in West Northamptonshire with a total of 19 squash courts. Of these 3 are glass backed courts with the remainder being normal courts, see Figure 22. The locations are mapped in Figure 23. The map clearly demonstrates that although there are a limited number of sites, most areas of West Northamptonshire are within a with 20 minute drive time to a squash facility.

7.5 The availability of the courts for community use varies as two are on independent school sites, and one is a hotel with golf club. The others are on sports club sites, commercial fitness facilities or at leisure centres, so the hours of opening are not restricted.

7.6 No throughput information is available for the squash courts at either Lings Forum or Daventry Leisure Centre. For the commercial sites and the sports clubs it is assumed that the demand for the squash courts is sufficient to justify their retention.
Figure 22: Squash courts current provision

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>District</th>
<th>Number of Normal courts</th>
<th>Number of Glass backed courts</th>
<th>Management Type</th>
<th>Access Type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DALLINGTON FITNESS</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVENTRY DISTRICT SPORTS CLUB</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sport Club</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DAVENTRY LEISURE CENTRE</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARTHINGSTONE HOTEL AND GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>Commercial Management</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LINGS FORUM LEISURE CENTRE</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
<td>Trust</td>
<td>Pay and Play</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAMPTON HIGH SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Independent School</td>
<td>Registered Membership use</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAMPTON SAINTS SPORTS CLUB</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sport Club</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WINCHESTER HOUSE SCHOOL</td>
<td>S Northants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
<td>Sports Club / Community Association</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Consultation findings

Individual survey and student survey results

7.7 With the relatively low level of regular participation in squash, only 1 respondee for West Northamptonshire said that they played squash at least once a week, and 7 people said that they played at least once a month. However about 140 people commented on the number of squash courts in the area, with about 60% saying that there was about the right amount of provision, whilst 40% said that there was too little. Only about 10 respondents said that squash courts were an important facility. There were no notable differences between the West Northamptonshire authorities.
Figure 23: Squash court locations
Club comments

7.8 Brackley Squash Club has about 102 members, of which 90 are seniors (age 16 years and over, or veterans (aged over 45 years), and 12 are minis (under 11 years). There are no juniors. The club draws almost exclusively from South Northamptonshire and uses the two courts at Winchester House Independent School which it manages during the club time. The club has grown over the past 5 years and expects to continue to do so. The club does not have a waiting list, but does have a development plan and a school-club link with Winchester House. The main issues faced by the club are a lack of facilities and a lack of funding but they would like to develop a third court as their membership grows.

7.9 The club uses Winchester House year round every day both in the daytimes and evenings. The courts are described as top quality and the ancillary facilities are adequate. However the club would like a social area as they currently use a nearby pub.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

7.10 The national governing body is England Squash, 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.

7.11 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.

7.12 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

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

- No specific recommendations for squash were made in the strategies for:
  - Aylesbury Vale
  - Cherwell
  - Harborough
  - Kettering
  - Stratford-on-Avon
- Wellingborough
- Milton Keynes’ strategy of 2014 concluded that new provision may be required but that this would need to be met by the commercial sector.
- Rugby’s strategy concluded that the current level of provision should be retained and kept under review if more housing was to come forwards.

7.14 This review of the adjacent authorities’ strategies suggests that it is unlikely that new squash facilities will come forwards unless promoted by the commercial sector.

### Modelling

#### Market Segmentation and sports development

7.15 Squash is a relatively low participation sport and it does not appear for any of the market segments in West Northamptonshire (Sport England, 2017). However the socio-economic characteristics of parts of the area (middle-aged and from the higher socio-economic groups) suggest that the sport will have higher participation rates in some areas compared to others.

#### Comparator authorities’ provision

7.16 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 West Northamptonshire authorities, their CIPFA comparator authorities and Swindon, together with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 24).

7.17 This analysis suggests that the current rate of provision of squash court provision across West Northamptonshire at 0.05 courts per 1000 population is about 70% of the national average. Only Daventry district exceeds the national average. Northampton’s rate of provision is lower than any of its benchmark comparators as is the case for South Northamptonshire.
### Summary of current situation

7.18 There are only 8 sites which cater for squash across West Northamptonshire with 19 courts between them. The Lings Forum leisure centre has 4 courts and the Daventry Leisure Centre has 2 courts. These plus the Farthingstone Hotel and Golf Centre offer the only pay and play facilities across the area. Although there are only a small number of squash sites, most residents are within a 20 minute drive of a court.

7.19 The current rate of provision across West Northamptonshire is about 70% of the national rate.
Assessment of Future Needs

7.20 The squash national governing body’s objective is to halt the decline in the sport and then to re-grow it through an increase in participation. Participation in the sport has been declining for years despite the marketing efforts of the NGB. Therefore there is a reasonable expectation that participation numbers will remain steady over the next 5 years, at which point this strategy will be subject to review. It is proposed that the current rate of provision per 1000 population is retained up to 2029, i.e. there is an increase in facilities in line with the growth of the population.

7.21 There are no known proposals for new squash courts in the surrounding areas.

Extrapolating current demand and current supply

7.22 The current rate of provision across West Northamptonshire for squash courts is 0.05 courts per 1000 population. Although the Northampton sites will draw in some users from elsewhere, it is appropriate to consider the demand both within the NRDA and in Daventry and South Northamptonshire outside of the NRDA. This is calculated in Figure 25. This suggests that there is currently a shortfall of 1 court in the NRDA area, and that 4 more courts will be required up to 2029. No additional provision is required in Daventry, but the “surplus” showing in the table includes the single court at the hotel site. South Northamptonshire is expected to need 3 additional courts by 2029.

Figure 25: Squash need up to 2029

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>NRDA</th>
<th>Daventry district outside of NRDA</th>
<th>South Northamphtons hire outside of NRDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in 2016</td>
<td>225009</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>84080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in 2029</td>
<td>271659</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>93821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of courts demand at 0.05 per 1000 population in 2016</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of courts demand at 0.05 per 1000 population in 2029</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of courts in 2016</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional provision required</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Meeting the needs of the future

7.23 This analysis suggests that the level of squash court provision in Northampton should be retained and if Lings Forum was to be replaced, that the 4 squash courts should also be replaced. The expected additional squash demand in the period up to 2029 should be possible to fulfil through commercial sector provision.

7.24 Brackley Squash Club is seeking to increase the number of squash courts at Winchester House School, and this would meet part of the anticipated shortfall of 3 courts by 2029. This proposal should therefore be supported. However given the accessibility of squash courts to residents in South Northamptonshire which are outside of the authority, no additional public provision is required.

7.25 The courts at Daventry Leisure Centre should be retained.

7.26 If squash as a sport grows as hoped by the national governing body, there will be demand for additional courts within West Northamptonshire. The most appropriate mechanism for the delivery of new courts will be via the commercial sector, so the key priority is for positive planning policies supporting the development of appropriate sites.

Recommendations for squash

7.27 The delivery priorities are:

- Retain/replace the existing squash courts, particularly at the leisure centres
- Support the development of an additional court at Winchester House School for use by Brackley Squash Club.
- Positive planning policies to enable the development of commercial squash clubs in the future.
SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS

8.1 Gymnastics participation and provision is considered at a West Northamptonshire level because of the small number of sites used for this sport. This section is therefore largely repeated in the Northampton and South Northamptonshire individual strategies.

8.2 This section of the assessment considers dedicated gymnastics provision and therefore excludes gymnastics within sports halls that are used for other sports too.

8.3 The Sport England Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) estimates that around 72,700 adults over the age of 16 take part in gymnastics and trampolining. 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.

8.4 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 anticipates increased interest and demand following the 2016 Olympics. There are currently over 3,202 affiliated members of British Gymnastics in the West Northamptonshire area.

Current provision

8.5 There are three specialist gymnastics and trampoline centres in the West Northamptonshire area, plus one under construction;

- NCAAC Gymnastics Club, Far Cotton, Northampton
- Northamptonshire Trampoline Gymnastics Academy, Benham Sports Park, Northampton
- Wade Gymnastics Club, Warkworth, South Northamptonshire
- Phoenix Gymnastics Club, Daventry (under construction)

8.6 The other gymnastics and trampolining clubs use sports halls and other hall space. The gymnastics clubs affiliated to British Gymnastics are mapped in Figure 26.

8.7 Rugby Gymnastics Club has recently sought to develop a new dedicated gym near Barby, but the planning application for the development was refused.
Figure 26: Affiliated gymnastics clubs
Consultation findings

Individual survey and student survey results

8.8 The West Northamptonshire individual survey results showed that only 8 of the respondents took part in gymnastics including trampolining. Of these 6 took part at least weekly, and 2 at least on a monthly basis. However for none of the respondents was this the most frequent activity that they do.

8.9 The student survey returned a finding that about 11% of students use a gymnastics centre. Of the 39 respondents:

- 74% are female
- 41% feel that there is about the right amount of provision, but 31% feel that there is too little
- 56% feel that gymnastics centres are important or very important
- 54% take part at least once a week in gymnastics

8.10 The balance between the two sets of surveys, with many more returns for gymnastics from students than from adults, reflects the national characteristics for this sport. Similarly there is much stronger participation by girls.

Club comments

8.11 Only one of the gymnastics clubs responded to the club survey, the NCAAC club.

NCAAC Gymnastics Club

8.12 The NCAAC gymnastics club is based in Northampton and has a dedicated gym which is its own leased facility (up to 2035). The club currently has about 320 members, of which 300 are of primary school age and the remainder are secondary school age. The members travel up to 20 minutes to reach the club, and almost all are from Northampton. The club currently has a waiting list of around 60, all of which are girls. The waiting time for minis is about 4 months, and for juniors about 6 months. The club would like to increase its membership but has insufficient facility space. The rental costs of additional space have been explored by the club, but cannot be met by the club at this time. In relation to the current site, there are significant problems with the lack of car parking and safe drop off/collection spaces for parents.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

8.13 British Gymnastics is the national governing body for gymnastics and trampolining. Their facility strategy 2013-17 (British Gymnastics, 2013) 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.

8.14 The strategy provides an overview of the role of dedicated and non-dedicated
gymnastics facilities (see Figure 27).

*Figure 27: Role of dedicated and non-dedicated gym facilities*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dedicated gymnastics centres</th>
<th>Non-dedicated gymnastics facilities</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Typically sports halls, school gymnasiums or community centres etc.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A dedicated gymnastics facility will probably have pitted areas for landing under/around equipment.</td>
<td>Equipment has to be put out and stored away for each session</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated facilities are generally run by clubs as a business.</td>
<td>Non-dedicated facilities generally cater for introductory and recreational level gymnastics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td>Non-dedicated facilities may be able to cater for multiple activities/disciplines where storage and/or equipment allow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dedicated facilities can usually accommodate more than one discipline (e.g. women’s artistic and rhythmic).</td>
<td>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.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>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.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.15 British Gymnastics (BG) provided affiliated membership information for the clubs, which is given in Figure 28. There are also a small number of unaffiliated gymnastics related clubs in the area, for example Gymnastricks based at Quinton House in Northampton.
### Affiliated club membership and location

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Affiliated club</th>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Number of affiliated members</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Daventry Phoenix</td>
<td>Phoenix Youth Centre, Daventry</td>
<td>396</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Amethyst Gymnastics Academy</td>
<td>Northampton High School for Girls, Northampton</td>
<td>155</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Billings Rhythmic Gymnastics Club</td>
<td>Moulton College and Weston Favell Academy, Northampton</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAAC</td>
<td>NCAAC Gym, Far Cotton, Northampton</td>
<td>545</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton Gymnastics Academy</td>
<td>Benham Sports Arena, Northampton</td>
<td>261</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northamptonshire Trampoline Gymnastics Academy</td>
<td>Benham Sports Park, Northampton plus schools</td>
<td>558</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton Rhythmic Gymnastics Club</td>
<td>Lings Forum Leisure Centre, Northampton</td>
<td>91</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lings Gymnastics Sports Academy</td>
<td>Lings Forum Leisure Centre, Northampton</td>
<td>166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stars Gym Club</td>
<td>Elizabeth Woodville School, Roade</td>
<td>85</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wade Gymnastics Club</td>
<td>Warkworth, South Northants</td>
<td>879</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

8.16 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.

8.17 The priority project at the present time is the completion of the Phoenix Gymnastics Club new facility in Daventry. The facility is expanding from its 465 sq m to provide a fully equipped gymnastics facility with disability equipment and access, training pits and sunken trampolines. Refurbishment of the existing sports hall is also being undertaken, including changing rooms and storage, and improvements to the roofing and insulation. Sport England have allocated £500,000 towards this facility.

### Modelling

8.18 There is likely to be increasing demand for gymnastics as the population in West Northamptonshire increases, and most demand is likely to be in the NRDA area where there will be a higher number of younger people into the future.

8.19 The Wade Gymnastics Club is located close to Banbury, so is likely to be drawing a high percentage of its members from Cherwell district. As Banbury is also expected to have significant additional housing, the demand on this already large club will continue to increase.
8.20 However, more important than any modelling for gymnastics is the feedback from British Gymnastics and the clubs, their membership and future needs, and the resulting commitment from the national governing body to projects in the West Northamptonshire area.

Assessment of Future Needs

8.21 The primary requirements for gymnastics are:

- To complete the Phoenix Gymnastics Centre project in Daventry.
- Support NCAAC to improve both access and car parking arrangements to its current site and/or find new facility space to enable the club to expand.
- Support Amethyst and Northampton Gymnastics Academy to improve their facility provision and therefore capacity.
- More programme time for gymnastics clubs in sports halls and similar spaces.
- Potentially the development of additional dedicated centres in the longer term.

8.22 There may also be a need for more access to multi-functional halls or activity spaces, particularly during the school day, where equipment can be set out for use by pre-school and primary school children, as well as being used after school time. As the pre-school access needs to be during the school day, it is unlikely to be provided for on a dual use site. Additional storage space at community centre type venues may help support the introduction of gymnastics, or alternatively gymnastics can sometimes use converted business premises or warehouses.

Recommendations for gymnastics

8.23 Retain and support the existing gymnastics facilities across West Northamptonshire, which should be protected and maintained at high quality.

8.24 The priorities for enhanced provision are:

- Improvement of the NCAAC site and/or securing of additional facility space
- Support community centres or village halls where a justified case is made, to have additional storage to enable the provision of gymnastics both during the school day and for after school sessions.
- Support and encourage more qualified coaches for the sport, particularly via Northamptonshire Sport and British Gymnastics.

8.25 The priorities for new provision are:

- The delivery priority for improved gymnastics provision is the completion of the Phoenix project at Daventry.
- New dedicated gymnastics venue for Jumpz, subject to the club becoming
affiliated to the national governing body and feasibility work confirming viability.

- In the longer term, additional or expanded dedicated gymnastics facilities in Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire to respond to demand.
SECTION 9: BOWLS

9.1 This section of the report considers the demand for bowls, both indoor and outdoor. Indoor bowls is considered at the West Northants level because of its larger catchment area so is repeated in the Northampton and South Northamptonshire individual strategies, whilst outdoor bowls is considered separately for each of the three authorities.

9.2 There is some cross-over between indoor and outdoor bowls as some players are active year round, and some sites, such as the Kingsthorpe Bowling Club 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 Northamptonshire representing the outdoor game, and the English Indoor Bowls Association the indoor game.

9.3 The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Infrastructure Schedule does not refer to bowls, so no new provision is proposed in the planning policy.

Participation in bowls

9.4 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 map and carpet (Sport England, 2017). The sport draws the largest proportion of its players from the higher socio-economic groups.

9.5 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.

9.6 According to the Sport England Active People Survey, 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 two of the larger market segments in the district, and they are both of retirement age. This reflects the characteristics of the sport, which primarily attracts older people although the sport continually attempts to attract younger players.

9.7 The total number of people playing at bowls clubs which have been affiliated to Bowls Northamptonshire according to the county association’s membership figures has been steady between 2014 and 2016, but nationally the sport has declined since 2005/06. Across Northamptonshire as a whole, the split in membership is around 67% men and 33% women.

9.8 The active (competitive) membership of the 6 affiliated bowls clubs in Daventry district outside of the NRDA, i.e. excluding Kingsthorpe Bowling Club for the year
2016, totals 191 members. There have been gains in the number of members at some clubs, but these have been matched by losses at others. The largest change in membership has been at West Haddon, which has seen an increase of 6 members over the last year. There are also a small number of clubs which have ceased to exist over the last few years, for example that at Guilsborough, where the site is now disused.

In 2016, there was estimated to be around 21,340 people aged 60 or over outside of the NRDA. This number is expected to rise to around about 31,100 by 2029. There is therefore expected to be a slight increase in the number of people bowling over the next few years.

### INDOOR BOWLS

#### Current provision

Indoor bowls greens at specialist centres normally have multiple rinks, but these can vary in number. Two is probably the smallest usable size but would generally only be built where there are other facilities or adjacent outdoor greens. Otherwise 4 rinks is usually the smallest potentially viable size of facility. The larger sites often have 8 rinks or more.

There are four specialist indoor bowls sites in West Northamptonshire. These are:

- Brackley and District, South Northamptonshire
- Daventry, Daventry District
- Kingsthorpe, Daventry District
- Northampton and District, Northampton

The location of these sites with both a 20 minute and 30 minute drive time catchment plus those over the borders of West Northamptonshire are identified in Figure 29. Lovet Fields in Milton Keynes is a small facility of non-standard size, so this site has been excluded from the drive time catchments. This map shows that almost all of the West Northants, other than some very small rural areas of South Northants, has access to indoor bowls provision within 30 minutes and all of Northampton and large areas of both Daventry and South Northants districts have access within 20 minutes drive time.

It is also likely that the village and community hall network is providing important opportunities for many people in terms of short mat bowls, particularly in those areas with less access to a specialist facility.
Assessment of current supply and demand

Indoor bowling centres can cater for a high membership, and the English Indoor Bowls Association advises that 80-100 members per rink should be used to assess the capacity. The memberships of the West Northamptonshire clubs at the indoor centres together with their capacity is assessed in Figure 30.

**Figure 30: Indoor bowls and capacity**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Number of rinks</th>
<th>Capacity of site @ members per rink</th>
<th>Membership as reported in 2015 development plan (2015 survey*)</th>
<th>Used capacity % (at 80 per rink)</th>
<th>Spare capacity (number of members)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brackley and District</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>400 @ 80 members per rink</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>27%</td>
<td>293-393</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>480 @ 100 members per rink</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>190-310</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsthorpe</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>480 @ 100 members per rink</td>
<td>434</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>46-166</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton and District</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>640 @ 100 members per rink</td>
<td>814</td>
<td>127%</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

This assessment suggests that the two sites in the NRDA area have between them, no spare capacity, whilst both the Brackley site and Daventry site have a large amount of spare capacity.

For Northampton, there is one site within the boundary of the authority, next to the Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground (the Northampton and District Indoor Bowling Association) and a second club situated just over the border with Daventry at Whitehills. Both of these facilities are good quality and both benefit from having an outdoor bowls green; as part of the site for Kingsthorpe Bowling Club, and close by for the Northampton Indoor Bowling Association. However the sites are less than a mile apart and directly compete for membership. The location of the Northampton Indoor Bowling Association site, close to the centre of Kingsthorpe and its main road location gives it some distinct advantages over the Kingsthorpe club which is tucked out of site, and at the edge of the town.

The Kingsthorpe and Northampton and District bowls clubs are both within the NRDA and will draw members from both Northampton and Daventry districts, although the Kingsthorpe club survey return suggests that all of their members come from within Northampton. The Daventry club is likely to draw its members very largely from Daventry district outside of the NRDA area, and the Brackley club from Brackley and the rural parts of South Northamptonshire.

The current rate of participation in indoor bowls at sites within the area, assuming that all the members are aged 60 years or over are as in Figure 31. The location of
the Kingsthorpe indoor bowls club, technically within Daventry district but in a practical sense being part of the NRDA, suggests that this participation assessment should be based on: the NRDA; the Daventry district outside the NRDA; and South Northamptonshire outside the NRDA.

9.20 This assessment, on face value, appears to show that there are very different rates of participation across the three areas. This may in part be because of the export of demand to clubs outside of West Northamptonshire, for example to Harborough Leisure Centre from Daventry district, but may also reflect the relative inaccessibility of indoor bowls in South Northamptonshire.

**Figure 31: Rates of participation indoor bowls**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Population in 2016 of people aged 60+ years</th>
<th>Membership of indoor bowls clubs (within area)</th>
<th>Rate of membership per 1000 in 2016</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>NRDA</td>
<td>44,501</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>28.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry outside of NRDA</td>
<td>21,637</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>13.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Northants outside of NRDA</td>
<td>23,389</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.21 The membership of indoor bowls clubs has remained fairly static nationally over the last few years, so participation rates per 1000 population for indoor bowls are not expected to increase to any large extent in the future.

**Consultation findings**

**Individual survey and student survey results**

9.22 Across West Northamptonshire as a whole, over 100 people commented on the provision of indoor bowls. Of these, about 85% felt that there was about the right amount of provision, whilst 15% felt that there was too little. In terms of importance however only a very small number of people provided any comment and only about 5 people felt that these facilities were important. Nine people played indoor bowls at least once a week and 4 played about once a month.

9.23 There was no notable difference in the returns received from each of the authority areas.
Club comments

9.24 The Kingsthorpe Bowling Club currently has 441 members, of which 6 are juniors, 24 are aged 16-45 years, and 411 are aged over 45 years, i.e. 94% are veterans. The juniors travel up to 20 minutes to reach the club but everyone else travels for up to 30 minutes. All of the members are from Northampton. The club’s membership has fallen over the last 5 years and the biggest issue facing the club is the recruitment of members. The club does not have a waiting list but does have a development plan for improving its ancillary facilities. The club is of the view that their facility could take up to 125 members per rink, which is higher than the national governing body suggests for capacity. If so, this facility could cater for up to 750 members, i.e. an extra 309 members than present.

9.25 The club owns its site where there is also an adjacent outdoor green.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

9.26 The national governing body for indoor bowls is the English Indoor Bowling Association (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 funding is targeted each year at a specific area, but this does not cover any of Northamptonshire.

9.27 The EIBA vision for 2013-17 (English Indoor Bowls Association, 2013) aims to increase participation across several groups, but with particular objectives of increasing participation amongst; females; those aged 7-9 years and 14-25 years, and people with disabilities. The vision recognises that there is a need to recruit and retain those aged 50+ with new versions/formats of the game, and those aged 70+ who wish to keep the current formats. The strategy priorities include the retention and improvement of existing facilities, and new indoor facilities in areas of low supply and high demand.

9.28 The EIBA has provided the latest available (2015) membership figures for each of the clubs in West Northants and also for the clubs in the surrounding areas. The clubs in the adjacent authority areas membership per rink based on the 2015 membership figures held by the EIBA are given in Figure 32.
Figure 32: Membership of clubs in adjacent authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Authority area</th>
<th>Number of members per rink</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Banbury Cross (at Wood Green)</td>
<td>Cherwell</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborough &amp; District</td>
<td>Harborough</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Desborough</td>
<td>Kettering</td>
<td>79</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kettering &amp; District</td>
<td>Kettering</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slade</td>
<td>Aylesbury Vale</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rugby Thornfield</td>
<td>Rugby</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Avon Valley</td>
<td>Stratford-on-Avon</td>
<td>82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wellingborough</td>
<td>Wellingborough</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.29 Based on the current EIBA advised capacity estimate of 80-100 members per rink, this review suggests that none of these sites in the adjacent authority areas are operating at the higher level, and that only Desborough, Avon Valley and Wellingborough are close to the 80 members per rink capacity level. There is therefore spare capacity to continue to absorb some demand from the West Northants authorities.

9.30 In addition to these affiliated clubs there is a small site at Lovat Fields in Milton Keynes which has 2 rinks and is 15 m in length.

9.31 The EIBA is currently reviewing its approach towards the capacity assessment of indoor bowls along with a review of its design guidance. It is likely that the EIBA will suggest that a travel time of 30 minutes is realistic for this type of facility, but that access by public transport should be considered where relevant. The minimum size of an indoor bowls site should be 3 but preferably 4 rinks.

9.32 The Development Manager of the EIBA supports the proposal to work with the two clubs in Northampton to explore the opportunities to enhance their sites to increase capacity, or alternatively work with the West Northamptonshire partners to confirm the need or otherwise for a new facility in the NRDA.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

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

- Aylesbury Vale’s strategy of 2012 identified a need for 1 additional indoor bowls rink in Aylesbury up to 2031.
- Cherwell’s strategy is currently being updated, but the old strategy did not provide specific recommendations in relation to indoor bowls. However the authority is currently undertaking a £1.2m investment into Wood Green Leisure Centre which includes the Banbury indoor bowls provision. This will improve...
the site. The facility closes to indoor bowls use during the summer months and the hall is used for other purposes. There is no adjacent outdoor green.

- Harborough District’s draft built facilities strategy estimates the indoor bowls facility to be running at only about 6% used capacity, which has fallen from 8% since 2012.
- Milton Keynes’ strategy of 2014 recommends the development of additional indoor bowls provision in the north of the city. No progress has yet been made on this proposal.
- Rugby has an 8 rink facility in the town centre which is managed by the club. It is currently being used at about 50% of its potential capacity so no additional provision is proposed.
- The Stratford-on-Avon strategy does not refer to indoor bowls provision.
- Wellingborough’s indoor bowls provision meets the current needs of the authority and no additional provision is expected to be required.

**Modelling**

**Market Segmentation and sports development**

9.34 The Market Segmentation analysis from Sport England (Sport England, 2017) suggests that bowls is only participated in by:

- One of the market segments in Northampton, the “Retirement Home Singles” (Elsie and Arnold)
- Two of the market segments in both Daventry district and South Northamptonshire; “Comfortable Retired Couples” (Ralph and Phyllis), and “Retirement Home Singles” (Elsie and Arnold)

9.35 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**

9.36 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 the West Northamptonshire authorities, their CIPFA comparator authorities and Swindon, together with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 33).
### Figure 33: Indoor Bowls centres - comparator authorities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nearest Neighbour</th>
<th>Population at 2016 for West Northants (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)</th>
<th>CIPFA comparator for</th>
<th>Indoor bowls centres</th>
<th>Indoor bowls centres (number of rinks)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Per 1000 population</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>220,462</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashford</td>
<td>126,268</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Basildon</td>
<td>183,308</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colchester</td>
<td>185,050</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>79,861</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.03</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gloucester</td>
<td>128,146</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harborough</td>
<td>89,314</td>
<td>Daventry/S Northants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid Suffolk</td>
<td>100,332</td>
<td>S Northants</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.02</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preston</td>
<td>141,349</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ribble Valley</td>
<td>58,357</td>
<td>S Northants</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Selby</td>
<td>86,552</td>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Northants</td>
<td>88,598</td>
<td>Daventry/S Northants</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swindon</td>
<td>219,761</td>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Midlands</td>
<td>4,637,400</td>
<td></td>
<td>37</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>England</td>
<td>54,316,600</td>
<td></td>
<td>325</td>
<td>0.01</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

9.37 If the West Northamptonshire authorities are considered together there is a 160% higher rate of provision than the national average rate in terms of number of centres, and about double the provision in terms of the number of rinks. Daventry is unusual in technically having 2 facilities, but this is because one is sited just over the border of Northampton.
Summary of current situation

9.38 The current overall rate of provision for indoor bowls in West Northamptonshire about double that of the national average, and there is access for most residents within a 20 minute drive to an indoor bowls facility either within or outside of West Northamptonshire. Apart from some small rural areas of South Northants, everywhere has access to an indoor bowls centre within 30 minutes drive time.

9.39 The facilities in the NRDA are running close to capacity according to the national governing body’s capacity assessment advice. However feedback from the Kingsthorpe club suggests that they feel that they could easily cater for a much higher number of members, perhaps 125 members per rink, giving a potential membership capacity of up to about an additional 309 members.

9.40 The Daventry and Brackley indoor bowls centres both have large amounts of spare capacity.

Assessment of Future Needs

9.41 The following assessment looks at the impact of the aging population of West Northamptonshire and considers whether there is sufficient provision of indoor bowls in the longer term. As a high proportion of members of indoor bowls clubs are aged 60+ years, this is the age group considered in the analysis. This prevents skewing of the findings by a large number of new young people coming into the NRDA SUEs.

9.42 If the capacity assessment and membership information from above is used as a basis for the forecast of future demand, there appears to be long term sufficient capacity to meet all of the needs of Daventry and South Northamptonshire within the existing provision, outside of the NRDA.

9.43 Within the NRDA, the growth in those aged 60+ years suggests that the existing facilities will be under severe pressure. If the English Indoor Bowling Association’s (EIBA) capacity figure per rink of 80 members is taken at the maximum capacity, then there will be a need for another 8-rink indoor bowls facility in the period up to 2029. However if the EIBA’s figure of 100 members per rink is used then this falls to 4 rinks, whilst a 125 membership figure per rink as suggested by Kingsthorpe club would mean that there is just about sufficient provision up to 2029.
### Figure 34: Forecast need for indoor bowls up to 2029

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>NRDA</th>
<th>Daventry outside of NRDA</th>
<th>South Northants outside of NRDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in 2016 of people aged 60+ years</td>
<td>44,501</td>
<td>21,637</td>
<td>23,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership of indoor bowls clubs (within area)</td>
<td>1,248</td>
<td>290</td>
<td>107</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rate of membership per 1000 of people aged 60+ in 2016</td>
<td>28.0</td>
<td>13.4</td>
<td>4.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% growth in population aged 60+ years in 2029</td>
<td>140%</td>
<td>144%</td>
<td>141%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership by 2029 assuming same rate of participation</td>
<td>1747</td>
<td>418</td>
<td>151</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of rinks of existing provision</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of existing facilities @80 per rink</td>
<td>1120</td>
<td>480</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of existing facilities @100 per rink</td>
<td>1400</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Capacity of existing facilities @125 per rink</td>
<td>1750</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional number of rinks required @ 80 members per rink</td>
<td>7.8</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional number of rinks required @ 100 members per rink</td>
<td>3.5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional number of rinks required @ 125 members per rink</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Meeting the needs of the future

9.44 The next step is to determine more clearly which approach to the capacity assessment is appropriate for the Kingsthorpe and Northampton and District clubs. The Northampton and District club is currently operating at a rate of 102 members per rink, whilst the Kingsthorpe club is operating at 72 members per rink.

9.45 If it is possible to support these two clubs to increase their capacity to between 100 and 125 members per rink each, then no additional provision would be required in the NRDA. However if this is not realistic, then additional provision will need to be planned into the area.

9.46 The EIBA advise that ideally any new indoor bowls site should have at least 4 rinks, and this is just about met if the clubs are operating at 100 members per rink. If the usage is 80 members per rink, then a new 6-8 rink facility would be required to meet the demand arising from both the new population and the aging population. Any new indoor bowls centre should either be planned as part of a multi-sport hub or be a multi-code bowls centre, with both indoor and outdoor greens. Any new facility should also be located on the south west side of the NRDA, as this is...
geographically furthest away from the current provision, and could also help to meet the some needs of South Northamptonshire. No sites have been however identified for new provision to date.

9.47 In the areas of South Northamptonshire and Daventry which are identified as having no access to an indoor facility within 20 minutes, the top priority is to support village and community halls to provide for short mat bowls and in particular to improve storage for the mats.

9.48 At this time there is therefore no confirmed requirement for an indoor bowls facility, however if there is a confirmed need for a new specialist indoor facility, this should be included in the CIL list.

### Recommendations for indoor bowls

| 9.49 | It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing indoor bowls sites in Northampton, Daventry district, and South Northamptonshire. |
| 9.50 | It is proposed to undertake a detailed assessment to determine the best option for meeting the long term needs of indoor bowling in the NRDA area. This work should involve the two clubs, EIBA, and the three West Northamptonshire authorities as the two clubs are based in Northampton and Daventry districts. |
| 9.51 | Should it be determined that there is insufficient capacity at the existing centres and that investment at the centres to increase capacity is not deliverable, a new facility will need to be developed, then this might be most appropriately located to the south of the NRDA area, potentially in South Northamptonshire. |

### OUTDOOR BOWLS

9.52 The consideration of outdoor bowls provision in Daventry and the NRDA area is complex as the location of the Kingsthorpe Bowls Club is at the edge of Northampton but within Daventry district.

### Current provision and assessment

9.53 There are now 6 bowling green sites with affiliated clubs in the district plus the Kingsthorpe Bowls Club on the edge of Northampton. Each site has one green and all have 6 rinks per green. These sites are listed in Figure 35 and mapped in Figure 36.
There is also a private bowling green at Overstone Park Hotel, which because it has no community use, is not included in this assessment.

The audit concluded that overall the sites were in excellent condition, and the green quality is good. The most pressing problem was the quality of the changing rooms at the Mayfield Park Sports Club site which is used by Daventry Tigers.

The distribution of the bowling greens means that the majority of people with access to a car can reach a site within about 15 minutes’ drive. Those living at the edge of the authority not within the 15 minute catchment of a bowling green site in Daventry district are within a 15 minutes’ drive time of a bowling green over the border of the authority, for example to Little Bowden Bowling Club in Market Harborough, or to Harpole in South Northants.

### Figure 35: Bowling green sites

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Club</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Green, Byfield</td>
<td>Byfield</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Haddon Road</td>
<td>Cold Ashby</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayfield Park Sports Club, Royal Star Drive</td>
<td>Daventry Tigers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefen Hill Sports Centre</td>
<td>Daventry Town</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Street</td>
<td>West Haddon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarafield, Byfield Road</td>
<td>Woodford-cum-Membris</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Figure 36: Outdoor bowling greens

Daventry
Outdoor Bowling Greens

Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2016
Consultation findings

Individual survey and student survey results

9.57 Across the West Northamptonshire individuals survey as a whole, only 2.3% (9 returns) were from people who use bowling greens, however 10 people said that they played at least once a week. Most respondents to the survey had no opinion on the number of greens available, but of those giving a response, most felt that there was about the right amount of provision. The small number of responses is insufficient to provide any statistically robust data to inform the strategy.

9.58 No students regularly use outdoor bowling greens.

Club comments

9.59 The Kingsthorpe Bowling Club which is in the NRDA currently has 441 members, of which 6 are juniors, 24 are aged 16-45 years, and 411 are aged over 45 years, i.e. 94% are veterans. The juniors travel up to 20 minutes to reach the club but everyone else travels for up to 30 minutes. All of the members are from Northampton. The club’s membership has fallen over the last 5 years and the biggest issue facing the club is the recruitment of members. The club does not have a waiting list but does have a development plan for improving its ancillary facilities. The club owns its site where their outdoor green is adjacent.

9.60 No other bowls clubs in Daventry district responded to the survey.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

9.61 The main national governing body for flat green bowls is Bowls England, which was formed by the unification of the English Bowling Association and the English Women’s Bowling Association. The Bowls England Strategic Plan 2014-17 (Bowls England, 2013) sets out its structure and the organisational links with the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA), which is the body recognised by Sport England for the development of the sport, particularly at the grass roots level. The objectives of the strategic plan are the promotion of the sport, the recruitment of members, and their retention.

9.62 The BDA Whole Sport Plan 2013-17 (Bowls Development Alliance, 2017) background information about the sport identifies that:

- The majority of people come into bowls around the age of 54 years, with a peak in the late 70s and early 80s, and that there is an even spread between club and non-club members.
- About 25% of participants have a disability or long-term limiting illness.
• Flat green bowls is the most popular discipline, with participation alternating between indoor and outdoor bowls with the seasons. Participation in short mat and carpet bowls is more consistent throughout the year.
• 60% of the players are male
• The majority of female players are retired and married, and the sport is less attractive to single females
• The sport is primarily played by those of a white origin
• Bowls is often the only sport played by its participants

9.63 The BDA 2013-17 Delivery Summary (Bowls Development Alliance, 2013) identifies hot spot areas for focussing their sports development work. 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. The funding is targeted each year at a specific area, but this does not include Northamptonshire.

9.64 The affiliated club membership information has been provided by Bowls Northamptonshire, the county association. They advise that the maximum reasonable capacity of a 6 rink green for most clubs is around 100 members, i.e. around 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.

9.65 All of the clubs in Daventry district manage their own sites, and their viability appears to primarily depend on their ability to recruit and retain volunteers for the green and site management. There is therefore no minimum size of club, although around 40 members is probably a realistic sustainable minimum for most club-managed sites.

9.66 The county bowls association also confirms that a 15 minute drive time is realistic for outdoor bowls.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

9.67 Of the adjacent local authority strategies, the only ones referring to bowls are:

• Northampton – outdoor bowls are provided both on independent club sites and in four of the parks. There are 13 greens within the borough but also 5 just outside the borough boundary. The independent clubs and some of the parks clubs are affiliated to Bowls Northamptonshire, but most of the parks clubs are not. There appears to be significant levels of spare capacity at this time, but as the population both ages and grows, the capacity is expected to be fully used. The main priority is to invest in the greens at Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground, both in relation to the greens and the ancillary facilities.
• South Northants - the distribution of the bowls clubs across the authority means that much of the central area of South Northants is unable to reach a club site within the district within 15 minutes drive time. The clubs which are already busy, at Brackley, Harpole, Kislingbury and Roade are expected to continue to attract members as the population in South Northants ages and there is some new demand from housing growth, both within and outside the NRDA. Each of these sites are likely to be running at 100% used capacity by 2029, and have some unmet demand. There is potentially some unmet demand at these sites, but as the catchments of the bowling greens overlap and there is capacity elsewhere, it is likely that the demand will redistribute itself more evenly between the sites, giving a higher level of use to Bugbrooke, Cogenhoe, Heyford and Wootton Grange. The highest priorities are therefore to support the existing clubs to recruit and retain their membership, and to manage their sites effectively.

• Rugby’s draft strategy provides an assessment for outdoor bowls, where the recommendation is to retain the existing network of sites as there is sufficient capacity to meet the needs of the growing town’s population.

• Wellingborough - a standard of provision of 0.21 ha per 1000 is proposed to be retained up to 2031. This will give a deficit of 2 greens by 2031, so there is a proposal for new provision. No site is identified, and no assessment of the existing capacity of sites is given.

Modelling and assessment of future needs

9.68 The extent to which the existing bowls sites are used is a key factor when determining the need for future provision. Based on the affiliated club membership information from Northamptonshire Bowls and their advice about the realistic capacity of the bowls sites (para 9.64), the assessment of the used capacity of each site based on the 2016 membership numbers is given in Figure 8.

Assessment of capacity – outside of the NRDA

9.69 Figure 8 also models the expected future demand for bowls up to 2029 for the area of Daventry district outside of the NRDA. Given that the majority of bowls participants are aged 60 and over, the modelling used the forecast change in the number of people aged 60 and over, and the impact of potentially achieving a 0.5% per annum growth in the rate of participation in the sport.

9.70 This capacity assessment suggests that none of the sites are currently under pressure and that there would remain significant spare capacity across the district outside of the NRDA in the period up to 2029, even with a growth in participation.
Figure 8: Capacity of bowls sites up to 2029 outside of NRDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Site</th>
<th>Number of greens</th>
<th>Number of rinks</th>
<th>Club</th>
<th>Number of members in 2016</th>
<th>Number of members per rink 2016</th>
<th>Max capacity @ 17 members per rink</th>
<th>Spare capacity (number of members)</th>
<th>Used capacity in 2016 %</th>
<th>Current population aged 60+ outside NRDA</th>
<th>Forecast population aged 60+ in 2029 outside NRDA</th>
<th>Future number of members with current rate of participation at 2029</th>
<th>Future number of members with 0.5% increase in rate of participation at 2029</th>
<th>Spare capacity of site if no increase in participation at 2029</th>
<th>Spare capacity of site with increase in participation @ 0.5% pa at 2029</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The Green, Byfield</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Byfield</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>21637</td>
<td>31057</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Haddon Road</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cold Ashby</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>612</td>
<td>421</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
<td>31%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayfield Park Sports Club, Royal Star Drive</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Daventry Tigers</td>
<td>26</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>76</td>
<td>25%</td>
<td>248</td>
<td>308</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>292</td>
<td>338</td>
<td>320</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefen Hill Sports Centre</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Daventry Town</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>39%</td>
<td>222</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>282</td>
<td>274</td>
<td>336</td>
<td>305</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Street</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>West Haddon</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>37%</td>
<td>176</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sarafield, Byfield Road</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>Woodford-cum-</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>102</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>17%</td>
<td>179</td>
<td>212</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>202</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>202</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Assessment of capacity – within the NRDA

9.71 There is one site within Daventry district which is within the NRDA, Kingsthorpe Bowls Club. This club has both an indoor and outdoor green, so the capacity assessment for the outdoor green is not as simple as for a standalone outdoor green as the two facilities can operate together. The recorded membership by Bowls Northamptonshire for the club is 74 for 2016, so this is well below the potential capacity for the site.

9.72 The overall capacity for outdoor bowls across the NRDA is more than the current demand for the sport. Most sites are good quality but the Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground 2 greens require investment.

Meeting the needs of the future

Outside of the NRDA

9.73 The current provision of bowling greens is easily sufficient to meet the needs of the proposed population up to 2029 outside of the NRDA area. The most significant issue may be the ability of the smaller clubs to survive in the long term. The sites are currently in good condition but this is dependent upon volunteer time for their management. A high priority is therefore to support the clubs to recruit and retain their members, and also to support club members to learn new skills to help manage their greens. There may also be a need for site and green management equipment and for storage of the equipment.

9.74 The theoretical minimum number of sites required by 2029 to cater for the potential growth in bowling, not taking into account the drive time accessibility, is only 4 sites across the authority, based on a maximum capacity of 100 members per 6 rink green, but aiming for a used capacity of no more than 80% on average.

9.75 If bowling greens are proposed to be lost in the future, then a network of at least 4 sites plus Kingsthorpe Bowling Club should be retained. This network should include at least one site in the south of the district, two sites in Daventry town, and one site to the east of the district.

Within the NRDA

9.76 There is sufficient capacity within the NRDA and on sites on the immediate boundary to cater for the future demand from bowls, both allowing for an increase in population and aging of it. Even if the sport was to increase its rate of participation by 0.5% per annum, there would just be sufficient capacity up to 2029 across the network, if all sites were to operate at about 80% used capacity i.e. about 80 members per 6 rink green. The existing network of greens should therefore be retained.
Recommendations for outdoor bowls

9.77 The highest priorities are to support the existing clubs to recruit and retain their membership, and to manage their sites effectively. Support may need to include the training of volunteers on the site and green management, the provision of equipment, and the storage of that equipment.

9.78 There is one specific investment priority identified from the site audit which is to improve or replace the pavilion used by Daventry Tigers at Mayfield Park Sports Club in Daventry.

9.79 Should bowling green sites become under threat of closure, at least 4 sites in the district should be retained plus the Kingsthorpe Bowling Club; one in the west, one in the east, and two in Daventry town.

9.80 Planning “standards” are required to inform the CIL tests for S106 contributions and for unanticipated housing, and these are the same for both within and outside the NRDA for the accessibility and quality. These are proposed to be:

- **Demand:**
  - 0.06 6-rink outdoor greens per 1000 outside of the NRDA
  - 0.04 6-rink outdoor greens per 1000 within the NRDA
- **Accessibility:** 15 minutes drive time
- **Design and quality:** current best practice including the design guidance from the national governing body and Sport England.
SECTION 10: TENNIS

10.1 This section of the report considers the demand for tennis, both indoor and outdoor. Indoor tennis participation and provision needs to be considered at a West Northamptonshire level because of the catchment areas and locations of the existing facilities. This sub-section is therefore repeated in the Northampton and South Northamptonshire individual strategies. Outdoor tennis facilities generally have a smaller catchment area, so it is more appropriate to consider outdoor tennis provision separately for the three authorities.

10.2 There is some cross-over between indoor and outdoor tennis participation, but as the only indoor facility in West Northamptonshire does not have a club, those people wishing to play club tennis are based at outdoor venues. Similarly, where individuals wish to have free access to tennis courts, then these facilities are all outdoors, mainly in the parks and recreation grounds.

Participation in tennis

10.3 Sport England’s Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) 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.

10.4 Rates of tennis participation at the Northamptonshire level are too low for the Sport England Active People Survey to track, so it is assumed that the national trends apply in West Northamptonshire. However the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has affiliated club information of February 2016 that provides a membership figure for each club. This gives a figure of 1071 members for the NRDA area, 371 for Daventry district, and 756 for South Northamptonshire. There are also coaching programmes at Kings Park Tennis Centre and most of the affiliated clubs, totalling about 720 players, and coaching programme for the parks courts running at Abington, Becketts and The Racecourse, with about 620 players. Daventry Tennis4all and Daventry Leisure Centre (using New Street Rec) are affiliated schemes with the LTA but do not have their own membership.

10.5 The Market Segmentation analysis (Sport England, 2017) suggests that tennis in West Northamptonshire is currently played by just one of the larger market segment groups, women aged around 46-55 years. However, given the opportunity, tennis would be played by a higher proportion of West Northamptonshire residents but generally as a 4th or 5th level activity.

10.6 Of the 10 largest market segment groups across the district, only one is probably playing tennis now, the Empty Nest Career Ladies aged between 46 and 55 years. However potentially 6 others could be attracted to tennis: Stay at Home Mums; the
Comfortable Retired Couples; Fitness Class Friends; Competitive Male Urbanites; Retirement Home Singles; and Career Focussed Females.

National governing body objectives

10.7 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 (LTA British Tennis, 2016). The LTA’s overall aim for the period 2011-2016 set out in their Places to Play strategy (LTA British Tennis, 2017) is to ensure that, as far as practically possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In relation to indoor tennis, the NGB’s aspiration is that everyone should have access to indoor courts within a 20 minute drive time, and within 10 minutes drive of a tennis club whether indoor or outdoor.

10.8 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the national governing body for tennis, and recognises Northampton as a priority area. The LTA considers that there is potential to grow the sport, and are working with Northampton Borough Council in relation to their parks courts, with key clubs, and with the education sector.

INDOOR TENNIS

Current provision

10.9 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.

10.10 There is currently one indoor tennis centre in West Northamptonshire, at Kings Park Tennis Centre, which has 4 indoor courts in a traditional building. This is a pay and play centre which does not have a formal membership. It has 4 indoor acrylic courts and 4 outdoor floodlit macadam courts. The centre is managed by an independent trust, ACUK. The estimated coaching programme number as provided by the LTA is 200.

10.11 Outside of West Northamptonshire there are 2 courts in an air hall at Harborough Leisure Centre. The locations of these two sites are mapped in Figure 37 together with a 20 minute drive time catchment. It is clear that there is no access to indoor tennis provision across the western side of Daventry district and most of South Northamptonshire. However all of Northampton and the NRDA are within the 20 minute travel time catchment of the Kings Park facility.

10.12 There is currently no indoor tennis provision in South Northamptonshire.
Figure 37: Indoor Tennis locations
Assessment of current supply and demand

10.13 With the limited number of indoor tennis facilities in West Northamptonshire and in the adjacent authorities, there is only access to an indoor court within 20 minutes drive time in Northampton, the east side of Daventry, and the areas of South Northamptonshire close to Northampton.

10.14 The club membership affiliation numbers provided by the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) for the clubs across West Northamptonshire are well below what would be considered as a minimum by the LTA for any indoor tennis provision to be sustainable.

10.15 The Kings Park Tennis Centre, which is independently operated, is considered by the LTA to be running below its potential capacity, and the LTA suggests that the site may wish to review its operating procedures to increase throughput.

10.16 Daventry District Council sought in 2013 to develop an indoor tennis facility in Daventry at the New Street Recreation Ground, covering the two existing courts and converting the disused bowls green to an outdoor practice area and grass court. The cost of the scheme was estimated to be £270,000. The scheme had approval from the council in terms of the funding support, but failed to secure planning permission. It was proposed that the site would be managed long term by the leisure centre contractor, providing a range of coaching opportunities and pay and play, as well as providing a new home for Daventry Tennis Club which would relocate from the Parker E-ACT Academy. The estimated usage of the site was expected to rise from 28,000-63,000 by year 5.

10.17 Daventry District Council is keen to retain the option of developing an indoor tennis facility, recognising the strategic gap in provision that currently exists.

10.18 The courts at the Racecourse site in Northampton were previously covered with a seasonal dome, but this is no longer the case.

10.19 The courts at Harborough Leisure Centre are reported to have some quality issues, but it is assumed for the purposes of this report that the provision will be retained and improved, or replaced in the future.

Consultation findings

Individual survey and student survey results

10.20 Indoor tennis facilities are not used as much as some other sports facilities in West Northamptonshire, probably as there is only one site. In Northampton, the number of people who thought that there was too little provision for indoor tennis was almost equal to those who thought that there was about the right amount of provision. In South Northamptonshire, about 85% of respondents felt that there
was too little provision, and in Daventry about 60% of people felt that there was too little provision.

Club comments

10.21 There are no clubs based at the indoor tennis centre, so no club comments were received.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

10.22 The LTA’s audit of the Northampton courts concluded that the Kings Park Tennis Centre with its 4 indoor and 4 outdoor courts is in good condition and no specific investment needs being identified in relation to the site. However the LTA advise that this facility is running at throughput levels which are below what would be considered busy, and the governing body suggests that alternative operating mechanisms should perhaps be explored to increase usage.

10.23 The LTA’s general guide for club membership numbers and facility requirements are: 60 members for a floodlit court, and 200 members for an indoor court. Community tennis venues are however expected to accommodate much higher numbers.

10.24 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 much 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.

10.25 The LTA confirm that only Northampton Lawn Tennis Club is operating at capacity, and that the existing clubs within the NRDA can absorb additional tennis demand as the NRDA grows. There is no specific need for further indoor tennis provision in Northampton at the present time.

10.26 In relation to Daventry and the option for developing an indoor facility, the LTA advise that, given the small membership of the only tennis club in the town, the priority should be to invest in a floodlit 3-4 outdoor court site with clubhouse and room to expand if the club/site reaches capacity and is financially sustainable. The LTA’s view is that investing in an indoor venue without a high level of membership (200 members per court for club sites) would be difficult to sustain due to high running costs and sinking fund overheads.

10.27 In relation to South Northamptonshire, the LTA advise that the priority should be to retain and improve the existing outdoor facilities for tennis rather than seeking to develop new indoor provision. This is largely because of the size of the clubs and the potential spare capacity for new members at most club sites.
Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

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

- Aylesbury Vale’s strategy of 2012 did not refer to indoor tennis.
- Cherwell’s strategy is currently being updated, but the old strategy did not provide specific recommendations in relation to indoor tennis.
- Harborough District’s draft built facilities strategy comments that the tennis dome is available on a pay and play basis and that the facility has a number of quality issues. Its used capacity at peak time is about 40% and this usage has fallen since 2012.
- Milton Keynes’ strategy of 2014 notes that there are 13 covered courts at the David Lloyd centre. There was a proposal to develop a 6 court community facility in association with the National Badminton Arena, but this has not progressed.
- Rugby Lawn Tennis Club is seeking to cover two of its courts and this proposal has the support of both the Borough Council and the LTA. There is a good likelihood of this facility going ahead, and its location would mean that there is potential access to indoor courts for much of Daventry district. The catchment of this proposed facility largely overlaps with the proposed facility at Daventry.
- The Stratford-on-Avon strategy does not refer to indoor tennis provision.
- Wellingborough does not have any indoor tennis provision but the most recent assessment suggests that a 2 court facility may be needed by 2031, potentially as a shared facility with East Northamptonshire and Kettering.

10.29 This review of the adjacent authorities’ strategies suggests that, other than in Rugby, it is unlikely that new indoor tennis facilities would come forwards even in the medium term.

Modelling

10.30 A number of different modelling tools can be used to assess the current provision in West Northamptonshire.

Comparator authorities’ provision

10.31 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 the West Northamptonshire authorities, their CIPFA comparator authorities and Swindon, together with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 38).
This analysis suggests that the current rate of provision of indoor tennis across West Northamptonshire at 0.01 courts per 1000 population is about half of the national average. Only Northampton Borough when considered on its own currently meets the national average rate of provision.

The current membership of the tennis clubs across West Northamptonshire is 2,198, based on the LTA membership records.

The current national average rate of provision is 0.02 courts per 1000, so if this was applied across West Northamptonshire this would give a need for 2 courts in each of Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts.

The current membership of the tennis clubs across West Northamptonshire is 2,198, based on the LTA membership records.
Summary of current situation

10.35 There is currently one indoor tennis facility in West Northamptonshire, a 4 court good quality site in Northampton. This means that the overall level of provision for indoor tennis is much lower than the national average, and a further 2 courts might be justified in both Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts.

10.36 This low number of indoor courts and the fact that there is very little indoor tennis provision in the adjacent authorities, means that there are large gaps in accessible provision across the west side of Daventry, and most of South Northamptonshire.

10.37 Daventry District Council has previously sought to develop a town centre site with 2 covered courts, and remains keen to explore if this could be achieved.

10.38 Tennis as a sport has declined over the last few years, so an increase in participation in the short-medium term looks unlikely.

Assessment of Future Needs

10.39 The assessment of future needs can be considered in two ways, using the national average rate of provision of indoor tennis courts as a starting point, and also the anticipated increase in tennis membership of clubs over the period up to 2029 based on the current membership number of tennis clubs in each area. This calculation is given in Figure 39.

Figure 39: Indoor tennis forecast to 2029

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>NRDA</th>
<th>Daventry district outside of NRDA</th>
<th>South Northamptonshire outside of NRDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Population in 2016</td>
<td>225009</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>84080</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Population in 2029</td>
<td>271659</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>93821</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of courts demand at 0.02 per 1000 population in 2016</td>
<td>4.5</td>
<td>1.6</td>
<td>1.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Number of courts demand at 0.02 per 1000 population in 2029</td>
<td>5.4</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis membership 2016</td>
<td>1071</td>
<td>371</td>
<td>756</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis membership 2016 per 1000</td>
<td>4.76</td>
<td>4.65</td>
<td>8.99</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis membership 2029</td>
<td>1293</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>844</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10.40 Using the national average rate of provision, this suggests that there may be a need for one additional indoor court in the NRDA area by 2029, but that the number of courts needed in Daventry district and South Northamptonshire districts remains the same at 2 each.

10.41 If the membership of the tennis clubs in each area is taken as the starting point, the NRDA growth would be expected to generate an extra 222 members of clubs across the area, whilst in Daventry there would be expected to be an extra 46 members. South Northamptonshire with its much higher rate of tennis club membership would be expected to generate an extra 88 members.

10.42 Putting this growth into context, the LTA estimate capacity of non-floodlit outdoor courts at 40 members, floodlit outdoor courts at 60 members, and 200 members minimum for an indoor court.

10.43 Only Dallington, Northampton County Lawn Tennis, and Northampton Lawn Tennis, and Brackley Lawn Tennis Clubs currently have over 200 members, but all of these large clubs have substantial spare capacity on their outdoor courts, so an indoor facility on these sites would not be a priority, at least in the short-medium term. Furthermore, as the extra membership will be distributed across the clubs, it is unlikely that any single club would expand so much that this situation would change dramatically.

10.44 The Daventry indoor tennis proposal would be a welcome facility to address the strategic gap in provision of indoor centres. However any proposal would need to be complemented by an extensive programme of sports development and outreach work in order to raise the levels of participation generally in the district. The size of the Daventry Tennis Club at 36 members, even if they moved to the proposed facility would be insufficient to provide the income required for an indoor centre, particularly one with 2 courts.

**Meeting the needs of the future**

10.45 There is a theoretical shortfall in provision for both Daventry and South Northamptonshire of 2 courts each, and large parts of each of these authorities cannot reach an indoor centre within 20 minutes drive.

10.46 Daventry District Council would like to address the strategic gap around Daventry by a 2 court venue. Any new facility it would need to be supported by extensive sports development and potentially long term substantial revenue funding, as the rates of participation in tennis in the catchment area of the district would need to be increased substantially, to a level which would enable the facility to be financially self-sustaining in the long term.

10.47 A factor which should also be taken into consideration is the proposed 2-court indoor facility at Rugby Lawn Tennis Club. The potential catchments of the two indoor facilities overlap (see Figure 40) and the Rugby facility would help to meet
some of the strategic need from Daventry district, although would not be accessible
to the entire district or to South Northamptonshire residents.

10.48 The Rugby facility has LTA support and is a priority in Rugby Borough Council’s
emerging strategy. It therefore seems likely to go ahead, although this is subject to
confirmation both in terms of feasibility (including funding) and timescales.

10.49 It is therefore appropriate that the priority for Daventry at this time should follow
the LTA’s advice; the development of a 3-4 court outdoor floodlit facility with
clubhouse and potential for expansion in the future, including the covering of the
courts. This approach has the advantage of enabling the gradual generation of
tennis participation, and also providing a home for the tennis club. The facility
would need to be maintained and managed by the leisure centre operator and the
court is too small to be able to do so effectively. As floodlighting and
secure/controlled access to the site would be essential, alternative venues to New
Street Recreation Ground may need to be considered.

10.50 There are no proposals in South Northamptonshire for new facilities and the
priority here is to develop the capacity of the existing outdoor clubs by
improvements to their sites, particularly floodlighting.

10.51 There is likely to be demand for one additional indoor court in the NRDA area, but
there is sufficient capacity at a combination of the Kings Park Tennis Centre and at
the outdoor club sites, so no additional provision is required.
Figure 40: Indoor tennis and proposals
Recommendations for indoor tennis

10.52 Kings Park Tennis Centre should be retained as an indoor tennis centre with community access, and support given to the site to extend its programme and encourage greater use.

10.53 In Daventry, further options appraisals should be undertaken to determine the cost, viability and potential location for a 3-4 floodlit secure outdoor tennis venue with ancillary facilities and which has the scope for expansion, including the covering of courts at a later time. This would ideally be managed by the leisure operator, but also provide a new home for Daventry Tennis Club.

OUTDOOR TENNIS

10.54 This section of the strategy primarily looks at dedicated tennis courts, following the approach taken by Sport England. This is because courts on school sites and elsewhere tend only to be available for community use during the summer months, with the courts being converted to netball and other sports for much of the rest of the year. Open access multi use games areas (MUGAs) which are also marked out for tennis are now incorporated into the standards for play and teenage provision.

10.55 Club sites are considered separately from open access sites as the number of courts, the quality of the courts and the ancillary facilities needs to be much higher than a facility aimed at casual play. Most clubs also need at least some flood-lit court space to enable the sport to be played year round.

10.56 The LTA’s latest club membership of February 2016 gave a total of 371 members of affiliated clubs across the district, with the club membership numbers as in Figure 41. Daventry Tennis4all and Daventry Leisure Centre (using New Street Rec) are affiliated schemes with the LTA but do not have their own membership.
### Current provision and assessment

**10.57** There are currently 24 dedicated tennis courts with regular community use across the district, and of these, there are 11 courts on LTA affiliated club sites. All of the tennis provision in the district is outside of the NRDA.

**10.58** The sites are mapped in Figure 42 and listed in Figure 43 together with their quality scores; for the courts, changing provision and signage. Daventry Tennis Club plays on the Parker E-ACT school site on multi-use courts and is included in the assessment below for completeness.
Figure 42: Outdoor tennis courts with community use
**Figure 43: Tennis courts and quality**

Sites highlighted in purple host affiliated tennis clubs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SETTLEMENT</th>
<th>SITE NAME</th>
<th>Open access, informal use</th>
<th>Publicly accessible - available for hire</th>
<th>Restricted to specific club</th>
<th>Number of macadam courts</th>
<th>Number of floodlit courts</th>
<th>Number of artificial grass courts</th>
<th>Number of floodlit artificial courts</th>
<th>Quality score for courts</th>
<th>Quality score for changing pavilion</th>
<th>Quality score for signage</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Barby</td>
<td>Village Tennis Court</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>70%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Court very mossy</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brixworth</td>
<td>Brixworth Tennis Court</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>13%</td>
<td>Mossy playing surface</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brixworth</td>
<td>Davids Road Playing Field Tennis</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Surface loose gravel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byfield</td>
<td>The Green Byfield Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>76%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clipston</td>
<td>Clipston Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>94%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>New Street Recreation Ground Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Vandalised fencing, some litter</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Parker E-Act Academy</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>40%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Dual use site. Hard courts not fenced. Multi use. No changing.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>East Haddon</td>
<td>East Haddon Tennis</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Surface loose gravel</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holcot</td>
<td>Holcot Tennis Court</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilsby</td>
<td>Village Hall Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>63%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>Shed only</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>Old Sports Ground Tennis Court</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>Weeds growing round edges of court. Marked for netball and football</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaldwell</td>
<td>Scaldwell Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>No pavilion present</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Welford</td>
<td>Welford Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>69%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>Lot of leaf fall and moss on courts. Some litter, holes in netting. Only small wooden shed on site</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>West Haddon</td>
<td>West Haddon Tennis Courts</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>Y</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>92%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The courts in Old are marked out for football and netball but appear to be primarily used for tennis and have therefore been included within this assessment.
The LTA also included Moulton College’s hard courts in their Northampton tennis audit. This site has 6 tennis/netball courts which have very limited use for community tennis. They are not dedicated tennis courts and are therefore not included in this assessment.

Also within Daventry district is Overstone Park Hotel, which has 2 dedicated tennis courts. These are primarily available to residents, though can be used by the hotel’s fitness club members. The amount of community use in practice appears to be very limited, and for this reason the courts have not been included in the assessment.

Tennis courts in Daventry district, other than at the Parker E-Act Academy are all solely for affiliated club use, solely for unaffiliated club use, or are either controlled access but generally available for hire, or are open access. Each site only has one management regime, so a club site is not also available for hire or has open access.

The map in Figure 42 illustrates that the distribution of the affiliated tennis clubs means that people with access to a car in some parts of the district can reach a tennis club site within about 10 minutes’ drive, but that there is about half of the rural area of the district which is outside of the catchment of any affiliated club.

The club sites, other than for Daventry Tennis Club which use the Parker E-Act Academy, have good courts. The courts at the Daventry Tennis Club’s site are both dual use and poor in quality, with no fencing. The other courts across the district vary in quality but are generally below the expected quality of club courts. The courts at New Street Recreation Ground in Daventry only have nets provided on site between May and August.

Only Byfield and Crick and West Haddon clubs’ courts are floodlit.

The clubs at Byfield and West Haddon have changing provision, although this is not adjacent to the courts at West Haddon. Kilsby has a basic shed as a clubhouse facility but neither Scaldwell nor Daventry Tennis Club have any regularly available changing provision.

Only 5 tennis sites, the 4 club sites excluding Daventry Tennis Club, have any useful information signs about the facilities or clubs available on site. Of the non-club sites, only Welford has information.

The LTA’s membership figures for each club and the LTA’s assessment of used capacity suggests that the Crick and West Haddon Tennis Club is now at full capacity, and that Kilsby is busy. However there is significant spare capacity at Byfield, Scaldwell and Daventry Tennis Club sites. This is in part due to the floodlighting at Byfield which gives the club much higher rates of potential capacity than non-floodlit courts.
The access to Guilsborough School by the small unaffiliated club at Guilsborough is under threat. The nearest alternative courts are at West Haddon but these are already being used at full capacity. The next nearest are the single courts at East Haddon and Welford, both approximately 11 minutes drive time from Guilsborough. The club is therefore at an early stage of feasibility assessment for the development of 1 or 2 courts on Guilsborough Playing Field, which already has a clubhouse, provides for football and cricket, and has a disused bowling green.

The relatively poor tennis provision may be reducing the apparent demand in the district and at least some of the keen participants are likely to be accessing clubs over the borders of the district which have better facilities, more active clubs or facility space. The open access courts in the rural areas of the authority are providing important local opportunities, but the New Street tennis courts in Daventry town are not delivering a particularly attractive opportunity for residents, even during the limited summer opening times. The long established but unsecure use of Guilsborough School by the small unaffiliated Guilsborough Tennis Club has generated interest in developing 1-2 outdoor floodlit courts on the adjacent Guilsborough Playing Field site.

The lack of any dedicated floodlit tennis facilities within Daventry town is a significant strategic gap in provision, made worse by the quality and nature of the courts that the Daventry Town club uses and those at the New Street Rec which also have no floodlights. However the small size of the Daventry town club, at 37 members, means that in practice they are only using about the equivalent of half of a court, based on the LTA’s benchmark for the expected membership levels and court demand. The District Council’s vision of developing indoor courts somewhere in Daventry town would provide year round high quality tennis opportunities, but such a facility would need to be subject to a feasibility study confirming the location and sustainability of such a facility.

It is unusual for a town the size of Daventry to have limited good quality tennis facilities. For example Market Harborough which is of similar size and lies within Harborough district (a CIPFA benchmark authority) has 7 outdoor courts; 4 at a club site and 3 courts in Welland Park, all of which are good quality. South Northamptonshire’s main town Towcester with a much smaller population has 3 outdoor courts on a club site.

**Individual survey and student survey results**

The West Northamptonshire individuals’ survey included tennis within the provision of outdoor hard courts/multi use games areas. 5% of the respondents said that they played tennis outdoors, with slightly more of these saying that they played on a weekly basis rather than a monthly basis. The ages of the respondents playing tennis were about evenly split between those aged 25-45, 46-60 and 60 and over. About 20% were retired.
10.73 Of the students responding to the survey, 6% play tennis outside of school on a weekly basis with a further 12% playing at least once a month.

10.74 A higher proportion of students in the Daventry area therefore appear to be playing tennis than the adult population as a whole.

Club comments

10.75 Although none of the tennis clubs in Daventry district responded to the web based survey, additional follow-up consultation was undertaken with Daventry Tennis Club who confirmed that they used the courts at Parker E-ACT Academy on a small number of evenings and occasional weekends in the summer months.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

10.76 The LTA assesses the capacity of affiliated club sites using the following formula:

- Maximum capacity of a non-floodlit court: 40 members
- Maximum capacity of a floodlit court: 60 members
- Minimum size of club to justify indoor court: 200 members

10.77 The LTA does not assess the open access / community hire courts in terms of capacity, but has agreed that:

- The peak period is May-August
  - Weekdays 16.00-21.00
  - Saturdays 10.00-17.00
  - Sundays 10.00-14.00

10.78 It is estimated that open access courts/courts available for hire or used by unaffiliated clubs only are used at an average of around 20% of the time in the peak period. Where there is also a club on site, the pay and play use is around 10% of the time in the peak period. These estimates have been confirmed with the LTA as a suitable basis for modelling.

10.79 The LTA modelling for the club sites and the agreed approach for the open access / for hire sites, has been used in the assessment of capacity modelling in this study.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

10.80 The coverage of outdoor tennis courts in the adjacent authorities’ strategies is summarised below.

- Northampton – outdoor tennis is provided both on club sites and in parks with courts at Abington, The Racecourse and Becketts parks. The club sites are generally good quality but current membership levels means that they are
running at between 30% and 60% used capacity. The parks sites have varying levels of use, with the highest use at Abington. The Kingsthorpe courts were out of use in 2016. Overall there is currently a surplus capacity of courts across the borough, but as most of the facilities are across the central belt of Northampton, there is limited access within a walking distance to courts in the south east, eastern area and part of north Northampton. The draft strategy report recommendations are to retain the club sites and Kings Park Tennis Centre, and to review the parks tennis provision in the light of the bookings from 2016. New tennis court provision is proposed for the south west area of the town (1-2 courts) at a site to be determined, and Harpole tennis courts are proposed to have improved ancillary facilities and access as they are immediately adjacent to the Upton Lodge SUE.

- South Northants - The tennis provision is all outside of the NRDA area, but the two courts at Harpole are immediately adjacent to the Upton Lodge SUE. There are 11 sites with dedicated courts across the district. Generally the courts and sites are good quality and there are 7 active clubs which are affiliated to the LTA. All of the courts except for Harpole are only available for club use, either affiliated or unaffiliated. The clubs at Roade and Silverstone are at full capacity now, and Brackley club is busy. The relevant delivery recommendations are: to provide clubhouse and car parking adjacent to Harpole tennis courts as part of the Upton Lodge SUE which is immediately adjacent.

- Rugby – the draft strategy identifies that the Rugby Lawn Tennis Club is operating at capacity but that there is spare capacity at the other tennis sites across the borough. No new courts are proposed for the period up to 2031.

- Wellingborough - the outdoor tennis sites are identified but there is no assessment of need or recommendations for this facility type. The proposed standard of provision is 0.21 courts per 1000 but there is no accessibility standard. On this basis, there is a projected need for 3 courts, but no sites are identified.

### Modelling and assessment of future needs

#### Supply and demand outside of the NRDA

10.81 The assessment of the used capacity now and in the future of the existing tennis court sites, all of which are outside of the NRDA, is a key factor in determining the future investment requirements for the sport. The current capacity assessment provided by the LTA for the club sites (see Figure 44) is developed in the modelling in Figure 44. This modelling assumes that the current relative membership size of the clubs and the coaching scheme is carried forwards up to 2029, so the most attractive and active clubs continue to develop the most.

10.82 The assessment in Figure 44 shows that, even with no growth in participation, the main pressure will face the Crick and West Haddon club, where the membership
demand will take it to 113% of the LTA assessed capacity, a growth in membership of 16 up to 2029. If a 0.5% growth in participation is achieved, then the club may easily reach 145 members from its current 121, taking the club up to an estimated used capacity of 121%. All of the other club sites are expected to remain well below their maximum capacity.

10.83 If the Daventry Tennis Club was able to access improved facilities on a dedicated club site, then with sufficient sports development support the club should be able to grow much faster than the modelling suggests, given the housing growth around Daventry town. The coaching scheme run by Tennis4all would also be expected to increase, but this in part will depend upon the success or not of the Daventry Tennis Club to significantly improve its facilities and coaching schemes. Improving the courts at New Street Rec in Daventry town would encourage higher levels of use, and it may be that these courts could be covered in the long term to provide all weather facilities.

10.84 The unaffiliated club sites and open access courts are estimated to be used at about 20% of the peak time. With a 113% growth in population, this average estimated use might increase to 26% without any increase in general participation, or to 27% with an increase in participation of 0.5% per annum. This is easily absorbed at the existing sites.
### Figure 44: Outdoor tennis assessment of capacity

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Coaching Programme Numbers Total</th>
<th>Facilities – Number Of Non Floodlit Courts</th>
<th>Facilities – Number Of Floodlit Courts</th>
<th>Membership – Total Current Membership</th>
<th>Membership – Overall Club Capacity (outdoor + indoor)</th>
<th>Membership – Percentage Capacity (+/- Capacity) 2016</th>
<th>Population of district outside of NRDA in 2016</th>
<th>Population of district outside of NRDA in 2029</th>
<th>% increase in population</th>
<th>Forecast growth in tennis membership based on current rates of participation</th>
<th>Forecast growth of individual clubs - no increase in participation</th>
<th>Forecast growth of individual clubs - with increased participation</th>
<th>Membership percentage capacity no increase in participation</th>
<th>Membership percentage capacity with increase in participation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Byfield Tennis Club</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>106</td>
<td>180</td>
<td>59%</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crick &amp; West Haddon Tennis Club</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>121</td>
<td>120</td>
<td>101%</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>122%</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kilsby Tennis Club</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>73%</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scaldwell Sports Club</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>49</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>61%</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tennis4all Tennis Club</td>
<td>110</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry Tennis Club</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>80</td>
<td>46%</td>
<td>79861</td>
<td>89848</td>
<td>113%</td>
<td>417</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>66%</td>
<td>71%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Forecast growth of individual clubs:
- Without increase in participation:
  - Byfield Tennis Club: 119
  - Crick & West Haddon Tennis Club: 136
  - Kilsby Tennis Club: 65
  - Scaldwell Sports Club: 55
  - Tennis4all Tennis Club: 101
  - Daventry Tennis Club: 42

- With increased participation:
  - Byfield Tennis Club: 127
  - Crick & West Haddon Tennis Club: 145
  - Kilsby Tennis Club: 69
  - Scaldwell Sports Club: 59
  - Tennis4all Tennis Club: 132
  - Daventry Tennis Club: 44
Meeting the needs of the future

Outside of the NRDA

10.85 The priority for Daventry is to develop a 3-4 floodlit court dedicated club site with good ancillary facilities, which is able to provide for both the club and the coaching programme. No site has yet been identified, but options may include the Daventry East SUE or another site, such as the Sports Park or New Street Rec.

10.86 The open access arrangements at New Street Rec in Daventry are currently unsatisfactory. Unless the site is able to be floodlit, the courts significantly improved, and a clubhouse and parking provided to enable it to become the home of tennis in Daventry, the costs of retaining the site may outweigh the benefits, and alternative uses for the site should perhaps be considered, if improvements are not able to be made.

10.87 The need for additional tennis provision in West Haddon might be met through the development of 1-2 dedicated floodlit courts in West Haddon or Crick, but alternatively could be met at Guilsborough, as a joint use facility with the small unaffiliated Guilsborough club whose use of the school site is under threat. Given that the community cricket pitch at Guilsborough is already used by the joint Guilsborough and West Haddon Cricket Club, this may be a useful way forwards and would help to justify the investment in two courts in that village at a site separate from the school. The options for developing additional floodlit tennis court provision therefore need further confirmation through a more detailed feasibility assessment.

Within the NRDA

10.88 There are a number of active tennis clubs in Northampton and there is also an initiative to increase tennis in parks. The existing outdoor tennis clubs between them have sufficient capacity to cater for the anticipated growth in demand from the NRDA, and the indoor centre at Kings Park is also within easy reach of much of the east side of Daventry district. The tennis courts in parks also have spare capacity, sufficient to cater for any additional demand.

10.89 No significant additional provision is therefore anticipated to be required within the NRDA, but there will be a need to invest in the existing club sites to improve their quality in order to cater for the additional demand arising from the new housing growth.

10.90 There is however an issue with tennis court accessibility, and the Northampton draft strategy proposes tennis court provision in the south west of the town of 1-2 courts on a site to be confirmed. Also the improvement of the Harpole courts in terms of car access, parking and clubhouse to enable these courts to be used more intensively as they are immediately adjacent to the Upton Lodge SUE.
Justifying developers’ contributions

10.91 “Standards of provision” are required to assess the potential impact arising from new housing developments which have not been included within this strategy, and also to provide the basis of the CIL tests for S106 contributions. The following “standards” are therefore proposed.

Level of demand

10.92 There are currently 371 tennis club members outside of the NRDA, giving a participation rate of 4.65 members per 1000. Using the LTA’s court capacity for non-floodlit courts, this equates to a rate of demand of 8,600 people per court, or 0.12 courts per 1000.

10.93 Within the NRDA there are currently 1071 tennis club members, giving a participation rate of 4.75 members per 1000. Using the LTA’s court capacity for non-floodlit courts, this equates to a rate of demand of 8,420 people per court, or again 0.12 courts per 1000.

Accessibility

10.94 A 10 minute drive time catchment from an affiliated club site is appropriate for outdoor tennis.

Design and quality

10.95 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

Recommendations for outdoor tennis

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>10.96</th>
<th>The tennis court sites across Daventry district should be retained and maintained to provide for club use or informal recreation use.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10.97</td>
<td>A new 3-4 court site should be developed in Daventry town. This should be floodlit and have ancillary facilities including clubhouse and parking. It should provide both for the club and act as a coaching centre. The site needs to be identified but options should include Stefen Hill and the Daventry North East SUE.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.98</td>
<td>An additional 2 floodlit courts should be developed to support the Crick and West Haddon Tennis Club. This may be at West Haddon, at Crick or at Guilsborough but the options need to be further explored with the club and potential partners, including funding and deliverability.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
10.99 Planning “standards” are required to inform the CIL tests for S106 contributions. These are the same both within and outside the NRDA and are proposed to be:

- **Demand:** 0.12 outdoor non-floodlit tennis courts per 1000
- **Accessibility:** 10 minutes drive time from an LTA affiliated club
- **Design and quality:** current best practice including the design guidance from the national governing body and Sport England.
SECTION 11: GOLF

11.1 Golf participation and provision is considered at a West Northamptonshire level because some of the demand of Northampton is met by courses and driving ranges outside of the borough. This section is therefore repeated in the Northampton and South Northamptonshire individual strategies.

11.2 Golf makes a contribution of around £3.4 billion per annum to the English economy. Golf also occupies an important position in the English sporting landscape. It is the fifth largest participation sport in the country and has about 675,000 members belonging to around 1,900 golf clubs.

11.3 Like many other sports in England, golf faces some serious challenges, and the number of golf club members has been declining since 2004. This in turn has put a financial strain on many golf clubs that are reliant on membership income. Nationally, participation in golf has also been declining steadily since 2007 due to lifestyle shifts and competition from other sports.

11.4 As the commercial sector is the most important provider of golf in the area, the development of the courses will reflect a combination of demand and appropriate site opportunities. Several of the golf courses have also now developed footgolf within their site, which is always available on a pay and play basis.

Golf design and activities

11.5 There are a number of ways in which golf is played, from the standard 18 hole golf course, to shorter Par 3 courses, driving ranges, pitch and putt courses, and even crazy golf. The main sporting facilities are considered to be full courses, short courses, par 3 courses, and driving ranges.

Participation in golf

11.6 The Sport England (Sport England, 2017) statistics for participation in golf shows that amongst adults around 1.12 million people take part in golf at least once a month. Men’s participation is about four times greater than that of women. Nationally the rate of participation in golf fell between 2007 and 2016. The highest rates of participation are amongst those aged 55 years plus, and amongst the more affluent socio-economic groups (NS SEC 1-4).

11.7 England Golf estimates that there are around 675,000 members of approximately 1,900 affiliated clubs and a further 2 million people playing golf outside of club membership. The NGB’s information confirms that of Sport England, that participation and club membership has been in decline since 2004 and has only recently been showing signs of levelling off.
Current provision

11.8 There are currently golf sites in West Northamptonshire with standard courses on 14 sites. Most have at least 18 holes available and some have flexible courses which allow players to combine groups of 9 holes into any length. There is only one 9 hole par 3 course which is not on a larger golf site, at Kingfisher Country Club which is primarily a hotel and conference venue. There are 8 driving ranges with 138 bays between them.

11.9 All of the golf courses are open to visitors on a pay and play basis with the exception of Whittlebury Park, which is a registered members only facility.

11.10 There is a “colts course” at Northamptonshire County Golf Club which is both floodlit and has artificial grass. This 6 hole Par 3 course was part funded by a lottery grant.

11.11 The golf courses and driving ranges are listed in Figure 45, and mapped in Figure 46.
## Figure 45: Golf facilities in West Northamptonshire

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Authority</th>
<th>Site Name</th>
<th>Facility type</th>
<th>Size (holes/bays)</th>
<th>Ownership type</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Northampton</td>
<td>COLLINGTREE PARK GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delapre Golf Centre</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Par 3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Par 3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINGSTHORPE GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>BRAMPTON HEATH GOLF CENTRE</td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Par 3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COLD ASHBY GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>27*</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>DAVENTRY AND DISTRICT GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DE VERE VENUES (STAVERTON PARK)</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FARTHINGSTONE HOTEL AND GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>HELLIDON LAKES GOLF AND SPA HOTEL</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MARKET HARBOROUGH GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>NORTHAMPTON GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NORTHAMPTONSHIRE COUNTY GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>27*</td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Par 3</td>
<td>6*</td>
<td>Sports Club</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OVERSTONE PARK</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South</td>
<td>CHERWELL EDGE GOLF CLUB</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Northants</td>
<td></td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>KINGFISHER COUNTRY CLUB</td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WHITTLEBURY PARK</td>
<td>Standard</td>
<td>36*</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Driving Range</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>Commercial</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* made up of sets of 9 holes which can be played in combination to provide longer courses
@ floodlit course using artificial turf
Figure 46: Golf locations
Assessment of current supply and demand

11.12 The spread of golf provision means that everyone with access to a car can reach a course within 20 minutes drive time, either within West Northamptonshire or in an adjacent authority.

11.13 Some of the golf provision in West Northamptonshire is likely to attract players from outside of the area, in particular the Market Harborough course which is just within Daventry district, Cherwell Edge which is close to Banbury, and Whittlebury Park which is easily accessible from Buckingham and north Milton Keynes. However there are also a number of golf courses in the adjacent authorities to Daventry and South Northamptonshire, which are likely to attract players out of the area.

11.14 Only two of the golf sites are sports clubs rather than commercial ventures. Potential public grant aid to golf facilities is therefore very restricted, as only community clubs can be funded.

Consultation findings

Individual survey and student survey results

11.15 As only 37 of the respondents to the West Northamptonshire individual survey said that they use golf courses, it is appropriate to consider them as a whole. The key points are:

- 37 respondents equates to 9% playing golf
- 36 of the 37 live in the West Northamptonshire area
- Of the 37 respondents:
  - 63% are male: 37% are female
  - 44% are aged 46-60 years, with 28% each of 25-45 years and over 60 years. There were no respondents playing golf aged under 25 years
  - 36% of people playing golf are retired
  - 89% consider themselves to be white
  - 73% feel that there is about the right amount of golf provision
  - 16% of feel that golf facilities are important
  - 45% play at least once a month, with about 23% playing on a weekly basis
  - 19% use a golf course more than any other sports facility

11.16 The student survey also suggests that about 9% of respondents play golf.

- Of the 30 respondents:
  - 73% are male: 27% are female
  - 40% feel that there is about the right amount of provision, but 37% feel that there is too little, whilst 11% think that there is too much
  - 50% consider golf courses to be important
63% play at least once a month with 27% playing on a weekly basis

Club comments

11.17 There are no club survey returns for golf.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

11.18 Sport England recognises 4 national governing bodies for golf: The Golf Foundation, the Ladies Golf Union, the Royal and Ancient Golf Club of St Andrews, and England Golf. Of these, England Golf is the most relevant in relation to golf participation in West Northamptonshire and has provided an overview of golf for the three authority areas.

11.19 The England Golf Strategic Plan 2014-17 (England Golf, 2014) aims to increase golf participation, to increase the number of members of clubs, to strengthen clubs generally, and to support talented golfers. There are no specific facility proposals for West Northamptonshire.

11.20 One of the actions in the England Golf Strategic Plan was to develop a more detailed market segmentation mechanism to support sports development. This is based on a 20 minute drive time catchment and 9 golfing segments have been identified. England Golf has provided an overview based on their emerging planning process. The following are the key findings for Northamptonshire county:

- There are 25 affiliated golf facilities, including Northamptonshire Golf Club which is being used to host England Golf Championships.
- Of these 25 facilities, 10 have driving ranges and 3 have a Par 3 course in addition to a standard 18 hole facility.
- There are 2 non-affiliated venues including 1 driving range and two 18 hole courses [outside of West Northants]
- There are no facilities recognised as England Golf Performance venues.

11.21 The overall picture from the England Golf planning work suggests that there is significant demand for golf within Northampton, Daventry and South Northants. The participant profile for Daventry includes all of the 9 golf segments, both club based and independent and this is also likely to be the case for Northampton and South Northants.

11.22 Whilst there are already numerous golfing facilities within Daventry district, most offer a traditional 18 hole experience and therefore offer limited opportunities for the more independent segments. Northampton has a slightly broader mix of facilities and can therefore better cater for both club based and independent segments. South Northants has three golf venues, all of which are affiliated to England Golf. These offer a driving range and a Par 3 course in addition to a 9 and 18 hole offer, so there is a good mix that could cater for all segments subject to accessibility for non-members.
Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

11.23 The Market Segmentation information from Sport England suggests that golf is a sport which appeals to three of the largest market segments in Northampton and Daventry and four segments in South Northamptonshire. Most of these groups are aged over 45 years. None of these market segment groups are likely to be high priorities for sports development initiatives, in part because they are already relatively active.

11.24 However, as the objectives of sports development within the area are to increase rates of participation in sport and physical activity especially amongst young people, and the rate of golf participation amongst students is about 9%, then the authorities may wish to encourage new forms of golf aimed at younger people.

Assessment of Future Needs

11.25 As golf has a significant commercial element, the provision for this sport is likely to respond most to economic conditions and will change to reflect patterns of demand. Over time the expectations for golf change and it will be important for the golf clubs to respond to these in order to keep the facilities as viable and vibrant as possible.

11.26 Assuming that the economic conditions remain similar or better than today into the long term, the increase in housing numbers in West Northamptonshire will bring more demand for golf, in its various forms.

Meeting the needs of the future

11.27 The councils in Northampton, Daventry and South Northamptonshire are themselves only able to make a significant impact on golf provision through the general local plan policies. Given that there will be a need for more provision into the long term, the planning policies should generally be positive towards new proposals.

Recommendations for golf

11.28 The priorities are to retain and maintain the existing golf courses and facilities but also to support the golf sites to remain open in economically challenging times. There may be a need to enable the development of new courses and driving ranges where appropriate. Positive planning policies are therefore required which enable the offer at golf courses to evolve. However these planning policies must also balance with other policies relating to the impact on the countryside.
SECTION 12: VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS

12.1 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.

12.2 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.

12.3 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.

12.4 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.

12.5 The adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy infrastructure schedule includes the following for Daventry district:

- Northampton North SUE: multi use community building, to be developed by approximately 2020 and expected to cost around £1.5m. The delivery body is identified as Northampton Borough Council.
- Daventry: Community space within town centre multi use facility, cost of £5m and delivered by NCC/Business by 2014.
- Daventry SUE: multi use community building, to be developed by approximately 2020 and expected to cost around £1.5m. The delivery body is Daventry District Council.

12.6 The adopted CIL regulation 123 list also includes as B4 Community Halls with “contributions will be required as appropriate as per the SPD”.

12.7 In large housing developments the community provision needs 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.

12.8 The Open Space Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy of 2009 proposed a facility standard of “0.7 community facilities per 1000 population”, continuation of the current rate of provision. The definition of “community facility” was “any kind of
bookable or accessible indoor space, such as church halls, community centres or village halls”. The 2009 assessment only identified 51 sites. With more sites identified and with the very open interpretation of the “community facility” term, there is a need to update this standard.

**Current provision and assessment**

12.9 There are currently more than 75 village or community halls in Daventry district. The main facilities are mapped in Figure 47 with an 800m walking catchment and a 10 minute drive time catchment, and they are listed in Figure 48. It is clear from this map that almost all residents have access to at least one village or community hall within 10 minutes drive time, and that many people have access within 10 minutes walking time (the 800m catchment).

12.10 The nature of the village halls and community centres varies significantly, from relatively large multi-room complexes such as the Daventry Community Centre, the Long Buckby Community Centre, to the smaller aging halls such as that at Cold Ashby. The size of a facility will usually reflect its location, with the smaller halls in the smaller villages, and the larger centres in the town 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.

12.11 Some facilities are purpose built and relatively modern such as the village hall at Naseby, but some are converted Victorian buildings (for example the original school) or were built in the period around 1920-30s. The majority of the village halls and community centres are of at least a reasonable condition, but some require significant investment.

12.12 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 would allow activities such as yoga or pilates, and the nature of the site encourages such bookings.

12.13 The facility list is primarily based on Daventry’s comprehensive interactive web site, but this was supplemented by information from other sources.
Figure 47: Village/Community halls location
**Figure 48: List of village halls and community centres**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Name of Village Hall or Community Facility</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Arthingworth</td>
<td>Arthingworth Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ashby St. Ledgers</td>
<td>Ashby St. Ledgers Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Badby</td>
<td>Badby Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barby</td>
<td>Barby Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Barby</td>
<td>Onley Park Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boughton</td>
<td>Boughton Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Braunston</td>
<td>The Village Centre/ Braunston Memorial Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brington</td>
<td>Brington Reading Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brixworth</td>
<td>Brixworth Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brixworth</td>
<td>Brixworth Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brixworth</td>
<td>Brixworth Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Byfield</td>
<td>Byfield Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charwelton</td>
<td>Charwelton Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clipston</td>
<td>Clipston Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cold Ashby</td>
<td>Cold Ashby Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cottesbrooke</td>
<td>Cottesbrooke Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Creaton</td>
<td>Jubilee Hall/ Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crick</td>
<td>Crick Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crick</td>
<td>The Old School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Nene Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Daventry Band Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Mayfield Park Sports Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Phoenix Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Daventry Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Southbrook Community Centre</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dodford</td>
<td>Dodford Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Draughton</td>
<td>Draughton Village Hall</td>
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<td>East Farndon</td>
<td>East Farndon Village Hall</td>
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<td>East Haddon Village Hall</td>
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<td>Everdon Village Hall</td>
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<td>Farthingstone</td>
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<tr>
<td>Flore</td>
<td>Flore Millennium Hall</td>
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<td>Great Oxendon</td>
<td>Great Oxendon Village Hall</td>
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<td>Guilsborough</td>
<td>Guilsborough Village Hall</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hannington</td>
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<tr>
<td>Harlestone</td>
<td>Harlestone Village Institute</td>
</tr>
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<td>Hellidon</td>
<td>Hellidon Village Hall</td>
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<td>Holcot</td>
<td>Holcot Village Hall</td>
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<td>Holdenby</td>
<td>Holdenby Village Hall</td>
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<td>Hollowell</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kilsby</td>
<td>Kilsby Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilbourne</td>
<td>Lilbourne Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Name</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Buckby</td>
<td>Long Buckby Community Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Long Buckby</td>
<td>The Parish Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Long Buckby</td>
<td>Long Buckby Wharf Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maidwell</td>
<td>Loder Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maidwell</td>
<td>The Clubroom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marston Trussell</td>
<td>The Old School/ Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moulton</td>
<td>Moulton Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moulton</td>
<td>Mansfield Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moulton</td>
<td>Girl Guides Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Moulton</td>
<td>New community centre Countess Manor (completion due 2017)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Naseby</td>
<td>Naseby Village Hall/Reading Rooms</td>
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<td>Newnham</td>
<td>Newnham Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Norton</td>
<td>Norton Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Old</td>
<td>The Old Parish Charities Community Centre</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Overstone Village Hall</td>
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<td>Pitsford</td>
<td>Pitsford Village Hall</td>
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<td>Preston Capes</td>
<td>Preston Capes Village Hall</td>
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<td>Ravensthorpe</td>
<td>Ravensthorpe Village Hall</td>
</tr>
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<td>Scaldwell</td>
<td>Scaldwell Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sibbertoft</td>
<td>Sibbertoft Reading Room</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spratton</td>
<td>Spratton Village Hall</td>
</tr>
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<td>Staverton</td>
<td>Staverton Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stowe IX Churches</td>
<td>Church Stowe Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thornby</td>
<td>Thornby Village Hall</td>
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<td>Walgrave</td>
<td>Walgrave Community Centre</td>
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<td>Watford</td>
<td>Watford Village Hall</td>
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<td>Weedon Bec</td>
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<td>Welford</td>
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<td>Welford</td>
<td>Welford Community Centre</td>
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<td>Welton Village Hall</td>
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<td>West Haddon</td>
<td>West Haddon Village Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Whilton</td>
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<td>Woodford cum Membris</td>
<td>Woodford Cum Membris Memorial Centre</td>
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<td>Woodford cum Membris</td>
<td>Dryden Hall</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yelvertoft</td>
<td>Yelvertoft Village Hall</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yelvertoft</td>
<td>Old School/ Reading Room</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Through a survey of town and parish councils confirming site information and project proposals for open space and village amenities such as halls and community centres, information has been collected on specific proposals for individual halls. The following are the projects identified (Figure 49).

**Figure 49: Village and community hall projects**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parish</th>
<th>Name of Village Hall or Community Facility</th>
<th>Project/proposal</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Braunston</td>
<td>The Village Centre/Braunston Memorial Village Hall</td>
<td>Upgrade heating system&lt;br&gt;Provide badminton court&lt;br&gt;By end 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brington</td>
<td>Brington Reading Room</td>
<td>Needs improving but no specific projects yet identified</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry</td>
<td>Phoenix Centre</td>
<td>Extension and refurbishment underway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Great Oxendon</td>
<td>Great Oxendon Village Hall</td>
<td>Loft insulation, lighting upgrade, renew boiler, solar panels&lt;br&gt;By end 2017&lt;br&gt;Costs tbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilsborough</td>
<td>Guilsborough Village Hall</td>
<td>Stage and lighting replacement, hall extension required for storage and activity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lilbourne</td>
<td>Lilbourne Village Hall</td>
<td>New kitchen/bar facilities.&lt;br&gt;£15,000&lt;br&gt;2016/17&lt;br&gt;Replacement of roof tiles and windows to save energy.&lt;br&gt;£6,000&lt;br&gt;2016&lt;br&gt;Replace electric heaters&lt;br&gt;£3,000&lt;br&gt;2016&lt;br&gt;Install projector equipment&lt;br&gt;£1000&lt;br&gt;2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maidwell</td>
<td>The Clubroom</td>
<td>Repair and redecorate because of damage caused by damp.&lt;br&gt;Install wood burning stove&lt;br&gt;Improve lighting&lt;br&gt;£tbc&lt;br&gt;Time tbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walgrave</td>
<td>Walgrave Community Centre</td>
<td>Extension to provide meeting room and more storage.&lt;br&gt;Refurbishment of toilets and changing rooms.&lt;br&gt;Replacement doors and windows and installation of blackout blinds.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Daventry District</td>
<td>Weedon Bec Village Hall</td>
<td>Potential new hall with full height ceiling to allow badminton on Jubilee Fields. Facility to include changing provision.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------------------</td>
<td>-------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£tbc</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Timescales tbc</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Consultation findings

**Individual survey and student survey results**

12.15 The individual survey results for West Northamptonshire as a whole suggests that village and community halls are the second most used built facility for any sport or active recreation, just behind swimming pools. About half of the respondents felt that there was “about the right amount of provision” but almost half felt that there was too little provision.

12.16 In Daventry’s sub set of the West Northamptonshire’s survey, village and community centres again appear as the second most used built facility, but a clear majority of respondents felt that there is about the right amount of provision. Village halls and community centres have very strong support and are considered by most respondents to be the most important built facility type.

12.17 The student survey indicates that young people of secondary school age are likely to use these facilities somewhat less than adults, but about 16% still make use of them. Most students feel that there is enough provision and notably a much higher proportion of students consider these facilities to be not important or not very important.

### Clubs and national governing bodies of sport

12.18 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. However no comments were received from the English Short Mat Bowling Association or the English Carpet Bowls Association, both versions of bowling which regularly use such hall facilities.
Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

12.19  Adjacent authority strategies are not particularly relevant to the provision of community centres and village halls because of their small catchments. However it should be noted that “multi-use community buildings” are expected to be delivered in the Kings Heath and Northampton West SUEs in addition to one at Northampton North.

Modelling and assessment of future needs

12.20  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 parts of Daventry town are also within 800m walk. The feedback from the parishes 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.

12.21  Across the rural areas of the district, the priority will therefore be to maintain and retain a network of halls and to ensure that they meet the requirements of their communities, for example the extensions and extra storage being sought for Guilsborough and Walgrave, although a new larger hall facility is also being proposed for Weedon Bec. Encouraging greater use of the halls will help to ensure their long term financial stability.

12.22  New multi-use community buildings are being planned for several of the SUEs in West Northamptonshire, so it is appropriate to consider the existing accessible facilities and what should be provided in each of these new areas.

12.23  A new “community space within town centre multi use facility” is also identified in the WNJCS, to be delivered by NCC and partners in 2014 at a cost of £5m.

Accessibility and the SUEs

12.24  Figure 50 shows the community and village halls in the vicinity of the Northampton North SUE with an 800m catchment. This shows that parts of the SUE are within the walking distance of Sandy Hill Lane Village Hall, Overstone Village Hall, or Southfields Community Centre. However main roads bounding the site will mean that these facilities are likely to be difficult to access in practice from the new housing site. There is no access to the existing community facilities from the north part of the site.

12.25  The planning proposals for the site show a local centre to the east of the A43 roundabout. This appears to be the likely area for the location of the community facilities. However what will be provided in terms of the community facilities; design, facility mix etc., is still to be confirmed, although it will need to conform to the WNJCS standard of a minimum internal area of 530 sq m. The location of the
proposed local centre and community facilities will not therefore meet all of the accessibility needs for hall space of the new community, but as this part of the SUE already has outline planning permission, there is no scope to change this.

*Figure 50: Northampton North SUE and community centre access*
12.26  Figure 51 maps the Daventry North East SUE against the existing community hall facilities. This shows that although the site is within a 10 minute drive of halls, only small parts of the site are within an 800m walking catchment. This lack of accessibility confirms the WNJCS proposal that there should be a multi-use community building within the SUE. The location and design is still to be confirmed, but the design should take into account the recommendations of this report. The population of the SUE is expected to be around 5,900 so the minimum size of the facility should be the 530 sq m internal area required by the WNJCS.

Figure 51: Daventry North East SUE and existing community halls
12.27 The Northampton West SUE is included within the WNJCS infrastructure schedule for the provision of a new community centre of minimum size of 530 sq m. The SUE will be well outside the walking (800m) catchment of any existing community facility, and it will be bounded by a busy road to the east, making facilities in the Duston area difficult to access by foot or by cycle. The combined population of Northampton West SUE between Daventry and South Northants is expected to be about 5,238, so a community centre facility of at least the 530 sq m as proposed by the WNJCS is appropriate. The schedule gives an expected delivery date of 2020. This assessment therefore reconfirms the need for a new community facility in this SUE.

Size and design of new community buildings

12.28 The West Northamptonshire Infrastructure Delivery Plan (Halcrow/EC Harris, 2011) states that the provision of new community facilities has been derived from the West Northamptonshire Development Corporation’s Planning Obligation Strategy (2008). This strategy assumes that community facilities are to be provided at a size of 530 sq m. This size of facility provides space for a multi-functional building, for example that planned at Brackley North (Radstone Fields) and is appropriate for SUEs with a planned population of less than 6,500 and where there is no or insufficient access to community facilities, or where the there is insufficient capacity at the existing facilities to cater for the new population.

12.29 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 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 780 sq m of floor space. With this size of facility, the rate of provision per 1000 would be 1 centre per 6,500 population. If this was to be used as a benchmark for quantity, new large community facilities would be justified in Northampton North and Daventry North East SUEs.

Accessibility

12.30 The overall objective is to have a good quality local village or community hall which is easily accessible both on foot and by car. There are no current standards for village halls or community centres in Daventry district.

12.31 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 West Northamptonshire, 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.

12.32 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.

12.33 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.

12.34 Figure 13 shows the application of the walking and drive time catchments to the network of village and community halls across the district. From this map it is clear that almost all residents can reach a facility within 10 minutes drive time and many people in the villages can reach a facility within 800m walk.

12.35 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

12.36 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.

12.37 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.

12.38 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.
12.39 In the Daventry North East SUE, Northampton North SUE and Northampton West SUE 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. The centres should be fully accessible for those people using mobility scooters and with pushchairs.

**Recommendations for village and community halls**

12.40 Existing village halls and community centres are protected and improved. Delivery priorities are the village and community hall projects as identified by the parish councils.

12.41 The new delivery priorities relate to the planned SUEs which should be provided with community facilities which are located so that the majority of residents can access them on foot within 800m (10 minutes walk).

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

- Northampton West (within South Northants and Daventry District)
- Daventry North East

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

- Northampton North

12.44 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 13: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

13.1 There are a number of sports facilities in West Northamptonshire which have specialist facilities, either built facilities or primarily using countryside and water spaces.

Specialist built facilities

13.2 Those sports using specialist facilities in this section have relatively low participation rates, so are not specifically identified in the consultation or in the Sport England research (Active People Survey, Market Segmentation).

13.3 The consultation responses from the national governing bodies and clubs are summarised below.

Netball

13.4 Most of the netball activity takes place outdoors, although some clubs have some training indoors. The Facilities Factsheet of England Netball for Northamptonshire includes information collected by the national governing body in 2014/15. Most of the information is provided on a county basis, and the factsheet identifies that there is a higher rate of provision of outdoor courts across the county than the national average which is 2 courts per 10,000 females aged 16 and over, but that the number of indoor courts are approximately in line with the national average (1 court per 12,000 females aged 16 and over). Across the county the feedback from clubs shows that:

- 17% of venues are education sites
- 66% of clubs consider that the changing facilities are inadequate for their needs
- 38% of clubs consider the venues to be very good, with the rest being either good or average
- 77% of clubs find it easy to book venues

Daventry Jets Netball Club

13.5 This was the only netball club which responded to the club survey.

13.6 This club has about 33 members of all ages, of which 20 are juniors and 12 are minis. All of the members live within Daventry district, with the majority living within Daventry town. The club has grown over the last 5 years and expects to grow further in the future. The club has a school link with the Danetre Southbrook Learning Village (DSLV). It does not have a waiting list and does not have a formal development plan. The main issues facing the club are a lack of volunteers and access to facilities/lack of facilities.
13.7 The club uses Daventry Leisure Centre for training through the winter months on weekday evenings once or twice a week. The club finds the facility fairly easy to book. However the club only uses a small court in the hall which is not the correct dimensions but is adequate for junior netball. The club could hire the full hall but this would double the cost. The changing and ancillary facilities at the leisure centre are considered above average in quality.

13.8 The club would like to use floodlit outdoor courts to enable further club development.

**Judo**

13.9 The Northampton Premier Judo Club has about 30 members aged up to 16 years, most of whom live in Northampton. The club is based at the private facility on Rothersthorpe Avenue which it uses once or twice a week. The facility does not have any changing provision but the ancillary facilities are described has high quality. The club anticipates growing in the next 5 years although the membership has stayed the same over the last 5 years. There are no significant issues limiting the expansion of the club and the club does not have any waiting list.

**Countryside and water sports**

13.10 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 their role in relation to these activities is necessarily different compared to the built facilities.

13.11 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 the West Northamptonshire area 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).

13.12 The roles of the Council in relation to these sports and activities are and will continue to be:

- 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.

13.13 The national governing bodies and club surveys provided some sports specific comments. These are summarised below.

Cycling

13.14 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.

13.15 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.

13.16 An updated National Facilities Strategy for cycling is currently in development, with its expected publication in autumn 2016. The Strategy will cover all six recognised forms of cycling (Track, Road, BMX, MTB, Cycle Speedway and Cyclo-Cross). There are currently no cycle-sport facilities in Northamptonshire.

13.17 A British Cycling mapping exercise has shown that Northamptonshire as a county is lacking cycling facilities to meet local demand. There are a small number of affiliated clubs but their membership indicates a male dominated bias and in some cases an aging membership. The one Go-Ride club in the area is struggling to survive. There appears to be low entry progress into the sport and only a proportion of club members become affiliated to British Cycling (BC).

13.18 Local clubs are:

• Project 61 (Northampton), BMX focussed on a pump track, 10 BC members, half being u18, no organised coaching sessions.
• Treads Cycle Club (Weedon), MTB (mountain bike) focussed, 103 members, but only 16 male/2 female BC members, no u18s. The club uses local trails for riding so riders are mostly self-taught. There is nowhere suitable as a MTB race venue in the local districts.

• Daventry CC Leisure Lakes Bikes, road/time trial focussed, 47 members, but only 12 adult male BC members. This club would like to become a Go-Ride club when coaches are trained.

• A5 Rangers (Towcester, South Northants), time trial road focussed, 144 members, but only 34 male/7 female BC members, of whom just 5 are u16 in the Go-Ride accredited club section. Irregular coaching sessions are on grass at Towcester racecourse and rough ground at Silverstone.

• Shutt Velo Rapide/Digital Keystone, (Brackley, South Northants) a commercial road focussed club covering a wide area of the country, 51 declared members with 37 BC adult members.

• Wicked Wheels School Club, Brackley Junior School (South Northants), 27 declared members, but no BC members indicating no progression into racing.

13.19 In comparison, in Milton Keynes there are two facilities (both in average condition with several limitations e.g. lack of usable buildings and amenities) and both have very large and successful senior and Go-Ride clubs operating from them:

• Team Milton Keynes, multi discipline, 562 declared members of whom 238 are BC members. There is a thriving Go-Ride accredited club with a very balanced male/female split. Milton Keynes Bowl has the highest use for u18s racing in the region, as well as adult open and league events. The facility is used for coaching and racing in circuit, cyclo-cross and mountain bike disciplines.

• Milton Keynes BMX Racing Club, 202 declared members of whom 90 are BC members -61 being u18s in the Go-Ride section of the club, which is accredited for Clubmark.

13.20 There are a number of other clubs and teams around Milton Keynes that cater for mostly adults, but Corley Cycles–Drops RT (Go-Ride registered) has the highest number of Junior riders (aged 16 to 18) in the region as riders have progressed from Team MK and stayed involved in cycling at a performance level with local access to a race facility.

13.21 The appointment of a South Northamptonshire based female Regional Go-Ride Coach 18 months’ ago, and the Women’s Tour held in Northamptonshire in 2014, 2015 and 2016 has led to a tangible growth of local cycling interest, especially including female participation. This currently cannot be sustained long term without a fully inclusive local facility provision for recreation, coaching and events.

13.22 British Cycling’s Recreation & Partnerships department currently has a formal partnership in Northamptonshire with Northamptonshire Sport. This partnership is funded through Northamptonshire Public Health as part of the health strategy aimed at addressing low levels of women’s participation in sport. The Partnership
The county has hosted the first three years of the Women’s Tour and the partnership with British Cycling is seen as fundamental to providing recreational and entry level pathways for women into cycling as part of the legacy for the Women’s Tour.

Recreational cycling has been delivered in the form of Sky Ride Local free guided rides, Breeze women’s only rides and Ride Social across Northampton Borough, Daventry and South Northamptonshire. Future development of cycling specific facilities, in particular traffic free circuits would provide a huge boost to participation and sustainability of these ride programmes.

British Cycling believes that there is good potential for growth in West Northamptonshire, 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 the facility. The latter provision can be well managed through the BC Regional Events Officers.

Through the two year British Cycling and Northamptonshire Sport partnership delivering recreational cycling programmes there has been a sustained demand for safe, guided bike rides. There is a growing understanding of how recreational cycling contributes to the pathways into cycling clubs and cycle sport. With a greater focus to come on self-organised rides through Breeze and Ride Social there is every opportunity to significantly grow cycling in West Northamptonshire.

The Regional Go-Ride coach has capacity to assist new Go-Ride clubs to enable them to grow their u16s/u23s membership, whilst at the same time offering Women & Girls coaching sessions linked to meeting the needs of increased participation from local recreational programmes.

An inspired and supported new Go-Ride club will have a motivational effect locally, but is likely to be frustrated by lack of available local facilities long term unless this is addressed.

As part of the British Cycling and Northamptonshire Sport partnership, cycling interventions at a recreational level have been developed. Delivery of Sky Ride Local free guided bike rides, Breeze rides for women and Ride Social has grown an increasing awareness of local cycling opportunities. There is an increasing demand for Breeze rides across West Northamptonshire in particular in Daventry district. The trained workforce (as part of the partnership) for Ride Leaders and Breeze Champions will continue to be supported and incentivised to organise Breeze and Ride Social rides, providing local cycling opportunities for all levels of ability.
There are currently no specific facility proposals for cycling in West Northamptonshire, but the British Cycling review of the sport identifies that new facilities are required. There is therefore a need to identify the investment priorities to support cycling, but what, where and the cost needs to be worked up, and given the relatively small clubs in West Northamptonshire, this is likely to need to be primarily led by British Cycling.

No club returns were received from the cycling clubs across West Northamptonshire.

The national governing body for rowing, British Rowing, identifies Northampton as a strategic development area, with the focus being on the Nene Whitewater Centre. The rowing clubs in West Northamptonshire are Northampton Rowing Club and Hollowell Scullers (based at the sailing club).

The Royal Yachting Association as the national governing body for sailing has identified issues requiring attention within West Northamptonshire:

- Rugby and Daventry Sailing Club at Drayton Reservoir; lack of car park space
- Banbury Sailing Club at Boddington Reservoir; poor club house

No club returns were received from the sailing clubs themselves.

Canoe England identifies the Nene Whitewater Centre and Pitsford Reservoir as key venues and there is a possibility of introductory sessions at Daventry Country Park. There are no specific priorities identified in the national strategy for Northamptonshire but there is a general need nationally for more pool space for training. Canoe England did not respond to the club survey, and no responses were received from the clubs in the area.

The British Equestrian Federation (BEF) responded to the consultation and has the view that the area is well served by a good network of venues which are mostly commercial, but also include Moulton College.

There is potential to further grow participation by working with equestrian centres and member bodies, including riding clubs and pony clubs, Riding for the Disabled groups and the discipline specific national governing bodies.
13.38 The BEF notes that equestrian facilities are quite high maintenance due to the nature of the sport, and also very high cost to maintain and replace. Access is a constant problem for equestrian, as most centres/venues are off the main access routes and lots struggle with car parking, lighting or only having an outdoor arena to be able to make the facility a year round offering. Also many centres / venues do not have adequate toilets or club/social rooms to offer alternative activity.

13.39 There are no specific investment priorities identified by the BEF.

13.40 One club responded to the survey, the Cromwell Endurance GB. This club has about 70 members, of which 50 are veterans, with 10 seniors and 10 juniors. The members are drawn from a wide area including all of Northamptonshire, Wellingborough, Rugby and Cherwell. The club has grown over the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow in the future. There is no waiting list. The issues affecting the expansion of the club include; lack of coaches, access to facilities, cost of facilities, and a lack of funding. The nature of the discipline means that there are no specific venues for the club’s activities. The club meets once a month at weekends.

13.41 The Acorn Centre in Walgrave also responded to the survey. This centre has about 50 members, with about 20 minis, 10 juniors, 15 seniors and 5 veterans. The centre recently became a Pony Club centre. All of the members travel a maximum of 10 minutes to reach the centre, and 90% come from Daventry district, with about 10% from Northampton. The club has a waiting list (approx. 5 minis) and also a development plan. The issues restricting the growth of the centre include a lack of volunteers, the cost of facilities and a lack of funding. The centre is only used for training. The site is owned by the club and is used every day throughout the year. It has one outdoor menage, size 20 x 40m, so is limited in what it can offer. It is also limited by the number of horses and stables.

Orienteering

13.42 British Orienteering (BO) has provided comment for the West Northamptonshire strategies. Although the national governing body does not have a formal facility strategy it is developing a database of all permanent orienteering courses.

13.43 The West Northamptonshire area is only prioritised for the delivery of Xplorer and Club development, for which BO considers there to be sufficient facilities/opportunities (primarily via parks) and no specific capital or revenue investment is planned in the area.

Triathlon

13.44 The national governing body, Triathlon England, provided comment for the strategies. There are no specific investment priorities in West Northamptonshire 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.
SECTION 14: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Planning standards

14.1 An output from the strategy is the development of proposed “standards” which can guide the negotiations on developers’ contributions for housing sites which arise since the West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy Local Plan (Part 1) (2014) (WNJCS) has been adopted. The “standards” below are derived from the facility specific assessments in this report and are essential to inform the CIL tests, as developers’ contributions can only be sought where they are:

- 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

14.2 The elements are:

**Quantity**

14.3 Required to assess the level of demand which would be expected to be generated by a specific development for a specific facility type. This can then be used to assess whether the demand generated can be met within the existing facility network, or if new provision or additional provision is needed.

**Accessibility**

14.4 Required to determine the acceptable travel distance to a facility based on known travel patterns for different sports. 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.

**Quality**

14.5 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

14.6 There are some facilities where a formal standard of provision is not required, so these do not appear in the table in Figure 52.
### Figure 52: Proposed planning standards for new housing developments

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility type</th>
<th>Proposed planning standards for new developments</th>
<th>Accessibility</th>
<th>Quality</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Sports Halls</strong></td>
<td>Inside the NRDA: 0.29 badminton courts <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td>20 minutes by car</td>
<td>Design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outside the NRDA: 0.28 badminton courts <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Swimming pools</strong></td>
<td>Inside the NRDA: 14.5 sq m water space <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td>20 minutes by car</td>
<td>Design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outside the NRDA: 10.9 sq m water space <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fitness facilities</strong> (stations)</td>
<td>Inside the NRDA: 5.80 stations <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td>15 minutes by car</td>
<td>Design and quality standard to meet Sport England standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outside the NRDA: 4.99 stations <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fitness facilities</strong> (studios)</td>
<td>Inside the NRDA: 0.10 studios <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td>15 minutes by car</td>
<td>Design and quality standard to meet Sport England standards</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Outside the NRDA: 0.09 studios <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Outdoor tennis courts</strong></td>
<td>0.12 courts per 1000 <em>fully available</em> at peak time</td>
<td>10 minutes by car</td>
<td>Design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: NRDA refers to the Northamptonshire Regional Development Agency.*
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Multi-purpose community halls</th>
<th>Population over 6,500 in strategic development site:</th>
<th>800 m walk</th>
<th>Design to be agreed with Council.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facility with minimum internal area of 780 sq m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Other strategic development sites with population less than 6,500:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Facility with minimum internal area of 530 sq m</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

### Priorities for Action

14.7 Daventry District 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.

14.8 The first priority for the NRDA implementation will therefore be an action plan which is led and coordinated by Northampton Borough Council but which also involves Daventry District Council and South Northants Council and will involve the key stakeholders. This will be based around the project specific proposals set out in Figure 53 for the NRDA area, and which provide the project specific priorities. These have been widely consulted upon with appropriate parties e.g. sports representatives, users, and providers.

14.9 The project list is based on the needs evidenced by this strategy assessment, and for the NRDA area includes all of the housing within and outside the Northampton Borough boundary. The deliverability of the projects will depend in part on the agreement or otherwise to share some CIL infrastructure monies between the authorities, as well as ensuring that the sites required are identified and set aside within the masterplans for each SUE.

14.10 The project list in Figure 54 relates to projects and sites outside of the NRDA, where Daventry District Council is the clear lead in terms of delivery.

14.11 The proposals are based on the needs evidenced by this strategy assessment. The deliverability of the projects within the NRDA will depend in part on the agreement or otherwise to share some CIL infrastructure monies between the authorities, as
well as ensuring that the sites required are identified and set aside within the masterplans for each SUE.

14.12 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.

14.13 The project proposals:

- Set out sport and site specific actions, with clear priorities;
- Indicate who is responsible for the delivery of each action and facility priority, how it can be delivered, and who else can help with its implementation;
- Provide challenging but realistic and deliverable actions;
- Provide an indication of the resource implications of each action, including where possible any associated financial costs, and how these resources could be secured;
- Set timescales for the delivery of each action.

14.14 The tables also identify those projects where the primary need is for the improvement or extension of sites or facilities. Most of these have all yet to be costed, and will depend upon the specific factors at each site.
## Figure 53: Relevant site specific investment proposals for NRDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility / Site</th>
<th>Project elements</th>
<th>Partners and potential funding sources</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Estimated cost</th>
<th>Priority</th>
<th>S106 or CIL</th>
<th>Item to be included in Reg 123</th>
<th>Cross boundary contributions justified</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kings Heath Leisure Centre adjacent to secondary school</td>
<td>New affordable community leisure centre adjacent to and with shared use by the secondary school comprising: 25m x 6 lane pool 4 court sports hall 150 station fitness suite 2 x studios</td>
<td>NCC (education) NBC S106</td>
<td>2029</td>
<td>£9.27m (assuming land for free)</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>Kings Heath S106 &amp; CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Upton area site adjacent to secondary school</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swimming pool at Duston Sports Centre</td>
<td>Addition of affordable pool to existing Duston Sports Centre, subject to feasibility study. 25m x 6 lane pool</td>
<td>NBC Duston Parish Council</td>
<td></td>
<td>£4.97m</td>
<td></td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Academy</td>
<td>5 court sports hall designed for pay and play community access. Formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use.</td>
<td>NCC (education) NBC</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>£2.4m</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Club/Project Description</td>
<td>4 court sports hall designed to support community sport.</td>
<td>NCC (education) NBC/SNC</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>£2,215m</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>-----</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>---</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NCAAC Gymnastics Club</td>
<td>Improve site and / or secure additional facility space.</td>
<td>Club British Gymnastics NBC</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>£5,000 feasibility study</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Undertake feasibility study to identify options and costs.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>£ capital costs tbc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsthorpe Bowling Club and Northampton and District indoor bowls club</td>
<td>Undertake feasibility study to identify options and costs to enhance capacity at the two site or identify if additional indoor bowls site is required.</td>
<td>Clubs EIBA NBC</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>£7,500 feasibility study</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NBC</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground Outdoor bowls</td>
<td>Improve existing greens. Cost to be confirmed following specialist greens assessment.</td>
<td>NBC Clubs</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>NBC/CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose community halls, standard size</td>
<td>New multi-purpose community centre with minimum internal area of 530 sq m plus car parking etc for: Northampton West (within South Northants and Daventry District)</td>
<td>Site developers S106</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>£1.5m</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>S106</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose community halls larger size</td>
<td>New multi-purpose community centre with minimum internal area of 780 sq m plus car parking etc for: Kings Heath Northampton North</td>
<td>Site developers S106</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>£2.2m</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>S106 related to each SUE</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Figure 54: Site specific investment proposals outside of NRDA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility / Site</th>
<th>Project elements</th>
<th>Partners and potential funding sources</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Estimated cost</th>
<th>Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low</th>
<th>S106 or CIL</th>
<th>Item to be included in Reg 123</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Danetre and Southbrook Learning Village</td>
<td>Sports hall improvements. Costs to be confirmed</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UTC, Daventry</td>
<td>Secure community use of sports hall, but may require investment to facilitate. Costs tbc</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>Affordable sports hall, site tbc.</td>
<td>DDC</td>
<td>2029</td>
<td>£2.215m</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OR</td>
<td>If access at above schools not possible, develop new 4 court hall, site tbc</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilsborough School</td>
<td>Increase community use. Site may require investment to enable more community use of the site, e.g. for security systems. Works required and costs to be confirmed.</td>
<td>School</td>
<td>2018</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Stefen Hill Daventry</td>
<td>Develop site as Compact Athletics Training facility. Works and costs to be confirmed.</td>
<td>Club DDC England Athletics</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>L</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Phoenix Gymnastics Club</td>
<td>Extension of dedicated gym. Completion and delivery.</td>
<td>Club</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Project Description</td>
<td>Club/Developer</td>
<td>Year 1</td>
<td>Year 2</td>
<td>Year 3+</td>
<td>Lead Contact</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>Status</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>---------</td>
<td>--------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>--------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mayfield Park Sports Club</td>
<td>Club DDC</td>
<td>2020</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Improvement or replacement of bowls pavilion. Works required and cost to be confirmed.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor tennis provision</td>
<td>DDC</td>
<td>2019</td>
<td>£7,500</td>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feasibility study to confirm options.</td>
<td></td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>£90,000-550,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>L</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indoor tennis provision. Costs dependent on nature of facility. Costs based on 2 courts; Airhall double skin, Framed Fabric.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3-4 outdoor tennis courts in Daventry town, site tbc</td>
<td>LTA Developer</td>
<td>Feasibility: 2021</td>
<td>£10,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>H</td>
<td>CIL S106 (site)</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of new site for tennis provision as club and pay and play venue. Site to be confirmed. Feasibility study required.</td>
<td>DDC Developer</td>
<td>Project 2026</td>
<td>£132,000</td>
<td>£240,000</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Crick/West Haddon/Guilborough Site tbc</td>
<td>Club Development</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>£76,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 floodlit tennis courts.</td>
<td>Parish Playing Field Assn</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Measured walking and running routes Various</td>
<td>DDC Developers</td>
<td>2018-2026</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development of routes following England Athletics guidance. Priority for delivery at Daventry.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weedon Bec</td>
<td>Parish Council DDC</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>£660,000</td>
<td></td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New hall with full height ceiling plus changing provision.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Location</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Site owner/ manager</td>
<td>Year</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>Body</td>
<td>Grant awarding bodies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>--------</td>
<td>-----------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guilsborough Village Hall</td>
<td>Stage and lighting replacement. Hall extension for storage and activity. Works and costs to be confirmed.</td>
<td>Site owner/ manager Parish Council DDC CIL Grant awarding bodies</td>
<td>2021</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Walgrave Community Centre</td>
<td>Extension for meeting room and storage. Refurbishment. Replacement doors, windows etc. Works and costs to be confirmed.</td>
<td>Site owner/ manager Parish Council DDC CIL Grant awarding bodies</td>
<td>2026</td>
<td>tbc</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Village and community centre extensions and improvements</td>
<td>Support improvements including storage and meeting rooms at existing village halls and community centres where justified. May be linked to local CIL contributions.</td>
<td>Site owner/ manager Parish Council DDC CIL Grant awarding bodies</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>various</td>
<td>M</td>
<td>CIL</td>
<td>✓</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Multi-purpose community halls, standard size</td>
<td>New multi-purpose community centre with minimum internal area of 530 sq m plus car parking etc for: Daventry North East Location, design and specification to be agreed with the Council.</td>
<td>Developer S106</td>
<td>Phasing to be agreed</td>
<td>£1.5m each</td>
<td>H</td>
<td>S106</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Funding

14.15 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.

14.16 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.

14.17 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

14.18 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.
Review and Monitoring

14.19 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 the NRDA;
- 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.
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GLOSSARY

AGP Artificial Grass Pitch
Amey TFM Amey Total Facilities Management
APP Active Places Power
APS Active People Survey
ASA Amateur Swimming Association
BDA Bowls Development Alliance
BSF Building Schools for the Future
CIL Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
EIBA English Indoor Bowling Association
FPM Facilities Planning Model
IFI Inclusive Fitness Initiative
LTA Lawn Tennis Association
NBC Northampton Borough Council
NCC Northamptonshire County Council
NGB National Governing Body of Sport
NPPF  National Planning Policy Framework
NRDA  Northampton Related Development Area
ONS   Office for National Statistics
PFI   Private Finance Initiative
S106  Section 106 developers’ contributions
SE    Sport England
SPV   Special Purpose Vehicle
SUE   Sustainable Urban Extension