

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

## **Part 2: Sports Facilities**

### **Summary Report on the Northampton Related Development Area September 2017**



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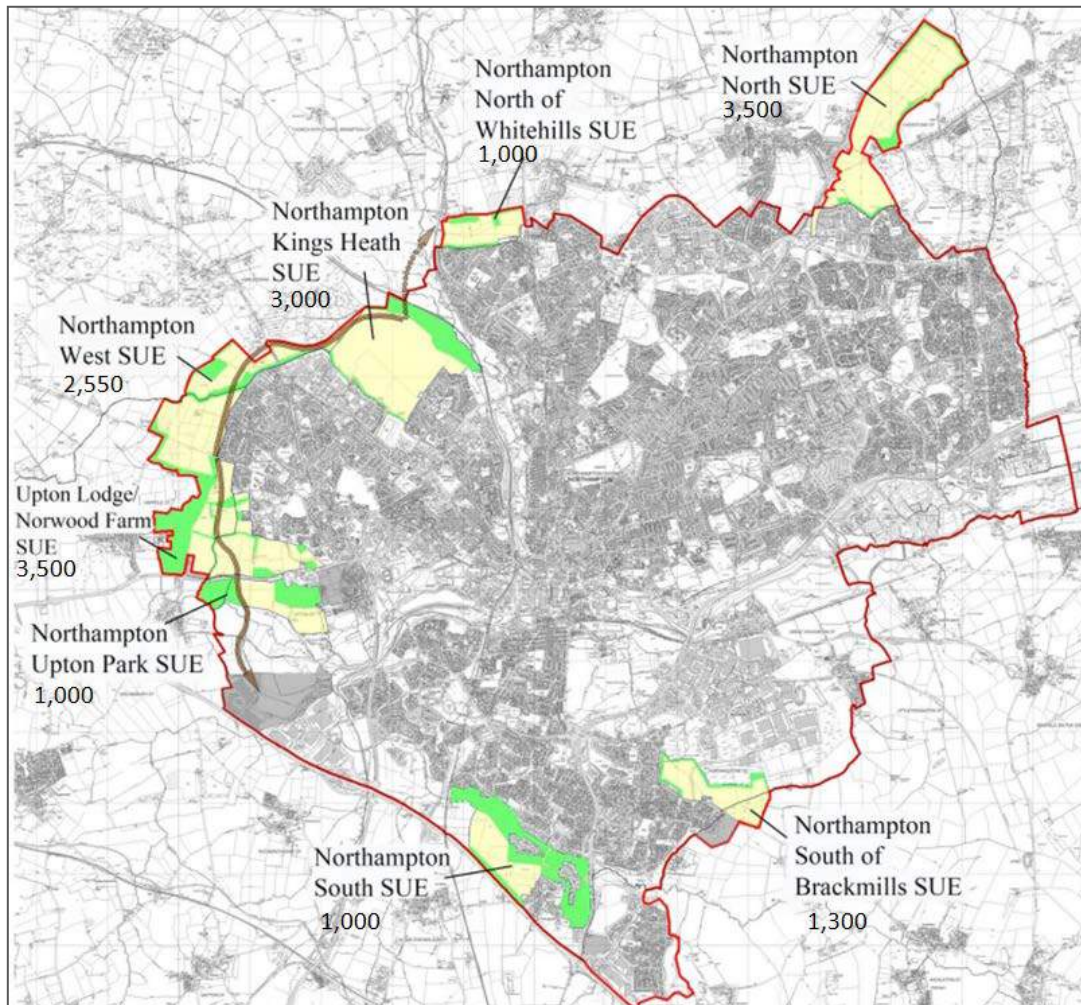
## SECTION 1: SPORT IN THE NRDA

- 1.1 This Sports Facilities Strategy summary for the Northampton Related Development Area (NRDA) considers the built facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity across Northampton and adjacent SUEs within Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts. 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 the NRDA.

### The NRDA

- 1.2 The NRDA is mapped in Figure 1, which is taken from the adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy (Local Plan Part 1) (West Northamptonshire Joint Planning Unit, 2014). It is proposed to develop around 28,470 houses over the period up to 2029, and the number of dwellings in each SUE are provided on the map. It should be noted that as the housing proposals move forwards, the Joint Core Strategy names have been superseded by development names, such as Buckton Fields for Northampton North of Whitehills SUE.
- 1.3 A key theme throughout this assessment is the cross-border movement of people to take part in sport. As Northampton is a large town which acts as the strategic centre for West Northamptonshire, there are a number of key sports facilities within and close to the town which attract users from a wide area. In return some residents of Northampton use facilities in the neighbouring authorities that Northampton is either unable to provide or because the location is more appropriate, e.g. Pitsford Reservoir for water sports and athletics at Moulton College in Daventry district, and Caroline Chisholm School in South Northamptonshire. With the planned Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) this cross-boundary movement of people will become increasingly important.

Figure 1: NRDA Housing Locations



## Methodology

1.4 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.

- 1.5 As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations will need to be kept under review.
- 1.6 The definition of “peak time” used for sports halls and swimming pools is that developed by Sport England and utilised in their Facilities Planning Model (FPM) reports. The parameters for the FPM including the hours considered as peak time are provided in Appendix 2.

## **SECTION 2: THE LEISURE NETWORK**

- 2.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the facility network in Northampton, the sites list and maps for which are provided in Appendix 1. At present there are no sports facilities within the SUE areas, but there are facilities close to the boundary, particularly at Moulton and Caroline Chisholm School to the south.
- 2.2 There are five public leisure centre facilities, all of which are managed by the Northampton Leisure Trust which the Borough Council is committed to retaining:
- Cripps Recreation Centre is a membership only facility with 25m x 4 lane pool, 2 badminton court hall, fitness gym and small studio. Built in 1974. It is adjacent to and owned by Northampton General Hospital, and was previously the leisure facility for the hospital staff. There is a general refurbishment programme for this facility which is on-going.
  - Danes Camp has a leisure pool, fitness gym, studio, 4-court sports hall, climbing wall in sports hall, bouldering wall in corridor, sauna and steam room. The facility was built in 1987. The site is owned by the Borough Council.
  - Duston Sports Centre is owned by Duston Parish Council and has a 4 –court hall, fitness gym, and studio space. It was built in 2012.
  - Lings Forum has a 6-court sports hall, 6 lane 25m pool, 4 standard squash courts, 60 station gym, 1 studio. It is owned by Northampton Borough Council and was built in 1975. The site is currently subject to a detailed feasibility study considering the options for refurbishing or replacing the facility.
  - Mounts Baths has a main pool, teaching pool, fitness gym, and studio. It also has Turkish hot rooms, sauna and steam room. It was built in 1936 and is owned by Northampton Borough Council. The building is Listed Grade 2.
- 2.3 School sports facilities are important in the NRDA but they vary in type, quality, opening hours, and management arrangements. None of the school sites offer ‘play and play’ facilities, but they used extensively by clubs.
- 2.4 Amey TFM delivers total facilities management across an estate five secondary and 37 primary schools. The secondary schools which are all used to some degree for community sport are:

- Abbeyfield Academy
- Kingsthorpe College
- Northampton School for Girls
- The Duston School
- Weston Favell Academy

2.5 The secondary schools which manage their own community hire for sport are:

- Malcolm Arnold Academy
- Northampton School for Boys
- Northampton High School for Girls
- Thomas Becket Catholic School

2.6 Northampton Academy utilises a separately appointed external management company for the community hire.

2.7 Other than the public sports centres and school facilities within the NRDA, there are a number of commercial health and fitness sites, and a small number of specialist sports facilities, including indoor bowls, gymnastics centres and a white water centre.

### 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. The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is by the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. This 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 such as badminton, keep fit/aerobics, small-sided football and martial arts. 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. Sport England research (Sport England and sportscotland, 2015) suggests that, on average sports halls have the following programming, see Figure 2.

*Figure 2: National average programming*

Sport	Main hall	Ancillary hall
Badminton	42%	7%
Five-a-side football	13%	2%
Keep fit	14%	53%
Gymnastics	7%	2%

Martial arts	8%	14%
Basketball	5%	2%
All other physical activities	12%	21%

3.3 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.

3.4 In relation to 4-court halls, Sport England recommends that all new sports halls should be 34.5m x 20.0m x 7.5 m, rather than the previous standard of 33m x 18m x 7.5 m as this is better for community use.

### Current supply and demand

3.5 There are currently a total of 66 badminton courts of sports hall space available at peak time within Northampton, but just over the boundaries of the authority are Moulton College, Moulton School and Science College, and Caroline Chisholm School. Given that these facilities cater for both the residents of the district in which they are located and attract Northampton residents, 50% of the available time and space of these sports hall facilities has been nominally allocated to Northampton residents. This then gives a total supply of around 71.5 badminton courts. With a total theoretical demand estimated by Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) of 70 courts, this suggests that demand and supply are balanced at the present time. The large ancillary hall at Moulton College does not meet the minimum size criteria to be included in the strategy as a “sports hall”, but its programming, particularly for futsal, is also having an impact on the general demand for sports hall space, particularly for football.

3.6 The audit of the facilities has shown that the level of demand for sports halls in Northampton is lower than the Sport England national parameters suggest. The Sport England typical sports hall programming has 5-a-side football/futsal taking about 13% of the programme time, but most of football in Northampton is now on artificial grass pitches (AGPs) within or close to Northampton, or at Moulton College in the ancillary hall. Northampton Leisure Trust confirms that football usage of their centres is very low, and this seems to be reflected across all of the sites.

3.7 Taking this lower level of demand into account the revised total estimated as the current demand for sports hall space from Northampton residents is 63.5 badminton courts at peak time. This means that, in practice, there is spare capacity across the network, although Benham Sports Arena, Danes Camp, Duston Sports Centre,



Quinton House School and Northampton School for Girls are operating at around or over 80% used capacity, during the times that they are open.

- 3.8 The authority currently has a good level of satisfied demand and the main reason for the unmet demand is from those people living too far away from a sports hall to walk, but not having access to a car. The area with the least good access to sports hall space is to the north of the town centre.
- 3.9 An issue has been identified in relation to the poor booking service and poor marketing of the sites managed by Amey TFM. This may also be suppressing some of the demand, although the impact is difficult to quantify.

### Future requirements

- 3.10 The estimated demand for sports hall space from within Northampton Borough itself is expected to increase by about 7 courts up to 2029, taking the overall demand up to about 71 courts. The SUEs within Daventry and South Northamptonshire districts are expected to generate a need for a further 7.5 courts, and Grange Park's demand is for around 1.4 courts. The total NRDA area demand for sports halls is therefore about 80 badminton courts up to 2029.
- 3.11 Potential opportunities for change to the facility network up to 2029 are:
- Reduction in the size of Lings Forum from 6-court hall to 4-court hall
  - Loss of the University of Northampton sports hall (estimated use of 0.5 courts by community)
  - 5-court hall for the new Northampton International Academy
  - 4-court hall for Kings Heath new secondary school
  - 4-court hall for new secondary school in Upton area
  - Possible 4-court hall at Wootton Hall secondary school
  - 4-court hall at Leisure Centre East, Daventry
- 3.12 If community access was made possible to all of these facilities across the peak time this would give an increase of 18.5 badminton courts of provision. There are currently 71.5 badminton courts available at peak time, including the provision at Moulton College, Moulton School and Science College and Caroline Chisholm School. Delivery of all the potential opportunities would bring the total provision up to 90 badminton courts within the NRDA area. This would exceed the needs of the NRDA area up to 2029 which is for 80 badminton courts.
- 3.13 The Sport England modelling, using their Facilities Planning Model (FPM) for the period up to 2029, shows that the central north area of Northampton will have the most unmet demand. This is also an area of low level car ownership. As the new International Academy with a proposed 5-court hall is to be located in this area, the initial priority will be to ensure effective and long term secure community access to this facility on pay and play basis, across the whole peak period. However if pay and

play access is provided at Kings Heath, then the International Academy sports hall could be operated on a club bookings basis.

- 3.14 The proposed secondary school at Upton is identified as an alternative location for a new leisure centre with swimming pool. If developed, the sports hall could be managed on a pay and play basis. If not developed as a joint facility, then community use of the sports hall and site at the proposed Upton secondary school should be appropriately designed for community sport, and its use secured into the long term.
- 3.15 The reduction in hall size at Lings Forum has been considered as part of a feasibility study undertaken the authority. The assessment presented here confirms that the change from a 6-court to a 4-court hall would work in the long-term network of provision.
- 3.16 Community use is not specifically required for Wootton Hall School as it is almost opposite Abbeyfield School and also close to Northampton High School and Danes Camp all of which make provision to the community.
- 3.17 The University of Northampton's new site south of the town centre will not have a sports hall which means that the current (limited) community use will be displaced. However there is sufficient capacity within the network to cater for this displacement.
- 3.18 A proposal by Daventry District Council to develop the Leisure Centre East (LCE) was included in the Sport England Facilities planning modelling. Located close to the Northampton North SUE, the proposal tested the implications of providing a new 4-court sports hall on the supply/demand balance for the area, both within Daventry district and Northampton. The modelling concluded that the preferred option for facility provision in the east of the Borough would be the redevelopment of Lings Forum. However if the Lings redevelopment does not go ahead as planned, the delivery of LCE would meet some unmet demand.
- 3.19 In relation to the Northampton residents, LCE is not ideally located to absorb the predicted unmet demand identified for communities in the central north of the Borough. This area of low car ownership makes pedestrian access to facilities an important consideration. However, the development of LCE may be warranted if some / all of the other facility opportunities do not go ahead.
- 3.20 Community use of the proposed Katumbh centre would not be a general priority, but its development may offer some specific benefits, particularly to its cultural community. The future of this proposed facility is still uncertain, so has not been included in the facility network assessment.
- 3.21 In relation to the management and marketing of the existing network of facilities, Amey TFM arrangements need to be reviewed to make booking quicker and simpler, and to ensure easy direct contact between the users with local managers.

## Recommendations for sports halls

### *Protect*

- 3.22 It is proposed to generally protect and maintain the existing network of sports hall space across the borough and to ensure their affordability to clubs and individuals.

### *Enhance*

- 3.23 The booking and marketing systems of Amey TFM should be improved for those facilities managed by them.

### *Provide*

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

- The redevelopment of Lings Forum with a 4-court hall. The preferred option would be for the Lings redevelopment but if this doesn't go ahead provide a 4-court hall in Leisure Centre East
- Delivery of a 4-court hall for Kings Heath. The preferred option would be as part of a new leisure centre adjacent to the new secondary school, and available on a pay and play basis but available to hire to the school for curriculum and extra-curricular use. If a new leisure centre is not developed, then a 4-court hall with long term secure community use.
- Delivery of the proposed 5-court hall for the new Northampton International Academy, available for club bookings. If the proposed leisure centre at Kings Heath does not go ahead, then this facility should have pay and play opportunities and therefore be designed on this basis.
- 4-court hall for the new secondary school in the Upton area, designed and built for community use based on club bookings.
- Provide a 4-court hall through Leisure Centre East should delivery fail for some or all of the provision suggested for Kings Heath, Northampton International Academy or Upton secondary school.

- 3.25 All new school facilities designed to encourage and accommodate community use, including site layout and sports halls with the minimum size for community use, as set out in the Sport England guidance (Sport England, 2012).

- 3.26 The University sports hall effectively has very limited community use as it is almost solely used by the university students, and this use can be relocated elsewhere within the sports hall network. However when the university moves campus, the

needs of students will still need to be met by an appropriately sited and accessible facility. How this will be achieved needs to be determined and agreed.

## SECTION 4: SWIMMING POOLS

- 4.1 Swimming pools could be considered as one of the most important types of sports facility for the NRDA as they are used by most of the community, from the very young through to the elderly. 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 As with sports halls, the aspiration to make swimming as accessible as possible to the largest number of people one could 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.
- 4.3 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. 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. A typical 25m x 6 lane pool is approximately 325m<sup>2</sup>. With the addition of a learner pool this would typically increase by 160m<sup>2</sup> giving a total water space area of 485m<sup>2</sup>.

### Participation in swimming

- 4.4 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. This slight downward trend in national participation has been mirrored by the experience of the Northamptonshire County Sports Partnership area.
- 4.5 Swimming is an important activity in Northampton, and although there are some gaps in accessible provision on foot, all residents can reach a pool offering pay and play opportunities within 20 minutes' drive time. The age of swimmers is reasonably evenly split across adults, but more women swim (approx 2/3<sup>rd</sup>s) than men (1/3<sup>rd</sup>), and more of those in the higher socio-economic groups.

## Current supply and demand

- 4.6 There is a mix of ownership for the pools available for public use within Northampton. The main facilities which offer pay and play and club hire are owned by the Borough Council. These are Danes Camp, Lings Forum, and The Mounts Baths. Cripps Recreation Centre is owned by the Health Trust, but is managed by Northampton Leisure Trust as part of the public facility network but on a membership only basis.
- 4.7 There are 6 publicly available school sites which play an important role in the facility network. They all operate on a club booking basis. Headlands School has limited value given its size. The pool at Northampton School for Girls is currently closed and the Barry Road Primary School is busy but does not meet modern design standards. Duston School and Northampton School for Boys are regularly used by Northampton Swimming Club and Weston Favell Academy primarily for lessons and smaller swimming clubs.
- 4.8 There are eight commercial fitness sites with pools, of which five could be considered as being important for providing for community swimming due to their size and access policies. All of these are operated on a registered membership basis and represent about 30% of the useful water space.
- 4.9 Just over the boundary of the Borough and just outside the NRDA area is Moulton College with its 25m x 6 lane pool, which is available for club bookings, and used extensively by Northampton Swimming Club.
- 4.10 The total amount of swimming pool provision within Northampton, but also including Moulton College, approximately balances the current level of demand from the NRDA.

## Future requirements

- 4.11 The proposed redevelopment of Lings Forum includes the provision of a 25m x 8 lane pool plus a 25m x 12.5m teaching pool. Whilst not confirmed, and therefore not assessed within this study, there is a possibility that the 8 lanes will be increased to 10 to support the needs of the Northampton Swimming Club. There are also proposals to refurbish the changing facilities at the listed building, Mounts Baths. Daventry District Council have proposed a 25m x 6 lane pool plus a 15m x 10m teaching pool at Leisure Centre East (LCE), within the Northampton North SUE.
- 4.12 The facilities planning modelling (FPM) indicated that additional pool space is required to meet current and future need. The proposed redevelopment of Lings Forum will meet some of the existing demand but another pool is required to meet the needs of Northampton and the wider NRDA area up to 2029. Whilst the FPM acknowledged that the provision of LCE would increase / improve pool space capacity, the modelling did not make a case to support the LCE location. This is because of the very significant overlapping catchments that the two facilities would

have as they would be located about 3.5 miles apart by road, or 7 minutes drive by car. Furthermore the eastern area of Northampton has relatively low levels of car ownership, which means that, for the residents of Northampton Borough, a facility more centrally located within the area would be accessible to more people. However, if the Lings Forum redevelopment doesn't go ahead LCE would be a reasonable alternative.

- 4.13 The West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy identifies Kings Heath as one of the SUEs where sport and leisure is required to be provided. The FPM shows that the main area of unmet demand is in the north and west of the town. The sports hall section of this report pointed to the Kings Heath SUE as an appropriate location for a 'community accessible' sports hall. This site offers potential to meet the swimming needs of the NRDA community too. It would therefore be appropriate to actively explore the development of a wet/dry leisure centre adjacent to the planned secondary school for Kings Heath which can meet the needs of both the school and the community. This should have a 4-court hall, plus a 25m x 6 lane swimming pool providing a water space of 325m<sup>2</sup>. It should be managed on a pay and play basis for at least some of the peak period.
- 4.14 If a new leisure centre pool at Kings Heath is not possible additional swimming pool provision to meet the needs of the NRDA is required elsewhere. There are no obvious alternatives for a 25m x 6 lane pool but the following could be considered:
- Wet/dry leisure centre in the Upton area
  - Addition of a pool at Duston Sports Centre
- 4.15 Both locations would be ideally situated to meet the unmet demand identified for the west of the town. By developing the pool at Lings Forum and a new 25m x 6 lane pool at one of the suggested locations above Northampton would obtain a total water space area of 3,950 sq m (assuming that Barry Road is retained and that the Northampton Girls School pool is not reopened). However, the development of LCE may be warranted if some / all of the other the other facility opportunities noted above don't go ahead. It would help fulfil some unmet demand by those users who could access it
- 4.16 To unlock the identified spare capacity at The Duston School pool and Weston Favell Academy, there is a need to improve the marketing and management of these two pools which are under Amey TFM management as the current booking arrangements make it difficult for potential new hirers to come forwards.

## Recommendations for swimming pools

### *Protect*

- 4.17 The existing network of swimming pools in Northampton and at Moulton College should be generally protected and improved or replaced and they should be affordable for clubs and individuals.

### *Enhance*

- 4.18 Retain and improve the other pools in the network, including Barry Road.
- 4.19 Improve the marketing and booking arrangements for The Duston School pool and Weston Favell Academy pool.

### *Provide*

- 4.20 The priorities for new delivery and which need to be confirmed through feasibility work are:
- The redevelopment of Lings Forum with a 25m x 8 lane pool plus a 25m x 12.5m teaching pool. The preferred option would be for the Lings redevelopment but if this is not deliverable, provide a 25m x 6 lane pool plus a 15m x 10m teaching pool at Leisure Centre East.
  - Delivery of a 25m x 6 lane pool in the north west/west of Northampton/ NRDA area. The preferred option would be a wet / dry leisure centre with sports hall and fitness provision located on the Kings Heath SUE adjacent to the proposed secondary school. If this is not deliverable, then alternative pool provision should be considered at:
    - Duston Leisure Centre
    - Upton area (as part of a wet/dry leisure centre)
  - Provide a 25m x 6 lane pool plus a 15m x 10m teaching pool at Leisure Centre East should delivery fail for some / all of the provision suggested for Kings Heath, Duston Leisure Centre in the Upton area.

### *Dispose*

- 4.21 If a large size replacement pool is opened at Lings Forum, close the pool at Northampton School for Girls.

## 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. The revenue generated by health and fitness provision is particularly important for those sites with a swimming pool, as the revenue generated can help offset the net revenue costs of a pool.
- 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. However there is no simple way of assessing participation in individual gym and fitness activities, nor the spaces they need. The method used for 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.

### Participation in fitness activities

- 5.4 Indoor gyms and studios attract all socio-economic groups and a wide spread of ages. There are more women users than men, and most people are aged under 45 years.
- 5.5 The Sport England Active People Survey (as reported in the Local Profile Tool, (Sport England, 2016) concludes that the most important activity in Northampton is gym (including activities such as fitness classes); the rates of participation in gym activities in the borough are higher than either the East Midlands or the national average.
- 5.6 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) results confirm that gym/fitness activities are of relatively high importance at the present time, though this might fall if swimming was more available.

### Current supply and demand

- 5.7 There are 27 health and fitness suites with public access in Northampton providing 1,740 fitness stations and 25 studios. Over 80% of provision is through the commercial fitness sector. All Borough Council Leisure Centres and the Cripps Recreation Centre have fitness and gym provision. Northampton's supply is much higher than Daventry or South Northamptonshire which is typical of a large town. The rate of provision is very similar to those of its comparator authorities.

### Future requirements

- 5.8 In relation to fitness facilities there will be a need for both additional fitness stations and studio space up to 2029 to cater for growth both within Northampton and the



wider NRDA. This is estimated to be total of around 331 fitness stations and 5 studios, taking into account both the increase in population and an expected increase in the rate of participation of 0.5% per annum. The facility network in Northampton and the NRDA is expected to respond as the commercial facilities open and close according to the market.

- 5.9 It is expected that the redevelopment of Lings Forum will include additional fitness facilities as these will help balance the budget with the new swimming pool. If the redevelopment of Lings does not go ahead alternative provision could be made through the delivery of the Leisure Centre East as discussed in the halls and pools sections.
- 5.10 The provision of fitness facilities and studio space would be expected should a leisure centre for the Kings Heath SUE be agreed. As above these would help support revenue generation. It is anticipated that the Kings Heath facility would be shared with the school. However, it is likely that any fitness provision would need to be community use only to ensure its continued high quality and accessibility throughout the school day.
- 5.11 The commercial fitness market is likely to respond to any additional demand.

### Recommendations for health and fitness

#### *Protect*

- 5.12 It is proposed to generally protect and maintain the existing network of larger fitness gyms (150+ stations) across the borough.

#### *Enhance*

- 5.13 Enable changes to the commercial sector to respond to market demands in the provision of health and fitness facilities as the market alters through appropriate positive planning policies.
- 5.14 Enhance existing and plan new Council owned fitness provision with a view to attaining accreditation for the Inclusive Fitness Initiative

#### *Provide*

The delivery priorities are:

- The redevelopment of Lings Forum. The preferred option would be new gym and studio space, the size and number of which would determined through the business case. If the redevelopment of Lings doesn't go ahead provision could be made through the Leisure Centre East proposal or possibly through provision at Moulton Secondary School.

- Kings Heath SUE. The preferred option would be to design a gym and studio space into any proposal for a Kings Heath leisure centre. Ensure that the gym and at least one studio is accessible to the community throughout the school day. If this is not deliverable then alternative provision should be considered if a leisure centre comes forward in the Upton area
- Should delivery fail for Kings Heath and/ or Upton the development of Leisure Centre East could meet the shortfall

5.15 If the Lings Forum is not retained or replaced, then develop the Daventry East Leisure Centre with health and fitness facilities.

## SECTION 6: ATHLETICS

6.1 The term “athletics” includes field and track activities, both taking place at athletics tracks, as well as cross-country running, road running, marathon/ultra-marathon running, and jogging. Participation has increased nationally during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16 (Sport England, 2017), and generally attracts more men (60%) than women (40%).

6.2 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.

### Current supply and demand

6.3 There is one newly-opened 8 lane synthetic track at Moulton College which is used by the large Rugby and Northampton Athletics Club. This club draws its membership from a wide area across West Northamptonshire, and there are also accessible tracks at Rugby, Banbury, Milton Keynes and Kettering. This means that most of the West Northants area has access to tracks within 30 minutes drive. There is one notable gap in provision, around the Silverstone area of South Northants.

6.4 The use of walking and running routes is high across all three authorities, and there is clear demand for more.

### Future requirements

6.5 With the opening of the athletics track at Moulton College, there are no further track investment priorities for the NRDA.

6.6 There is clear demand for more traffic free walking and running routes across the NRDA, and this should be a high priority linked to new housing and open space provision, and improvements to open spaces generally. These could be part of the measured running route programme promoted by the national governing body.

## Recommendations for athletics

### *Protect*

- 6.7 The athletics track at Moulton College, ensuring that it fully meets the needs of the sport.

### *Enhance*

- 6.8 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.
  - Improvements to routes through parks and open spaces to encourage walking and running.

### *Provide*

- 6.9 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 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.

### Current supply and demand

- 7.2 As squash participation has declined some courts have been converted into other uses. As a result there are only 8 sites with community use remaining in West Northamptonshire, providing a total of 19 courts. Four of these are located in the NRDA, providing a total of 11 courts, but Lings Forum provides the only play and play facility in the whole of West Northamptonshire.

### Future requirements

- 7.3 The relatively low level of existing squash courts in West Northamptonshire suggests that the existing courts should be retained/replaced as needed in the NRDA.

- 7.4 Positive planning policies that enable the development of new squash courts as part of commercial sports facilities within the NRDA would support any future additional demand which may arise and which the public sector may not be able to meet.

### Recommendations for squash

#### *Protect*

- 7.5 The existing squash facilities, particularly at the leisure centres, should be retained and / or replaced. This particularly applies to the proposed replacement of Lings Forum.

#### *Enhance*

- 7.6 The priority for expanded provision is development of an additional court at Winchester House School for use by Brackley Squash Club.

#### *Provide*

- 7.7 Generally there should be positive planning policies to enable the development of commercial squash clubs in the future.

## SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS

### Current supply and demand

- 8.1 Most gymnastics activity is within affiliated clubs of the national governing body, British Gymnastics. There are also two clubs in Northampton which are not affiliated, Gymnastricks which is based at Quinton House in Northampton with about 400 members, and Jumpz Gymnastics based at St James's Primary School, Northampton with around 200 members. In addition, Northampton Leisure Trust has over 200 gymnasts aged pre-school to teen in their Trilogy Gymnastics Academy taking part in sessions at Lings Forum Leisure Centre, Danes Camp Leisure Centre and Duston Sports Centre. The Academy is not registered with British Gymnastics but they do use the national governing body's proficiency scheme.
- 8.2 The list of clubs and their locations are given in Appendix 1. Taking together the affiliated and non-British Gymnastics affiliated club memberships, this gives a total of around 4,000 gymnasts in 2016.
- 8.3 The peak in participation for gymnastics according to British Gymnastics is at around 9 years. The affiliated membership of British Gymnastics membership has seen more

than a 7% growth each year since 2011, and there has been an acceleration in participation since the 2016 Olympics. Most of this growth remains at the young age groups, but there has been some growth in participation amongst those age 26 years and over.

8.4 The largest British Gymnastics registered clubs in the NRDA with dedicated gymnastics centres are:

- NCAAC Gymnastics Club, Far Cotton, Northampton
- Northamptonshire Trampoline Gymnastics Academy, Benham Sports Park, Northampton

8.5 In addition there are a number of other strong clubs using non-specialist facilities including the sports halls at Lings Forum and Moulton College.

8.6 There is a need identified by the NAAC club to improve both the car parking arrangements for the existing site and/or to find a way of extending the club or find new facility space.

### Future requirements

8.7 In the NRDA, there is a need to:

- 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.
- Enable/encourage more programme time for gymnastics clubs in sports halls and similar spaces.
- Consider in the long term the potential development of additional dedicated centres.
- Support the development of multi-functional hall and studio space which can be used by gymnastics during school hours, where need is shown.

### Recommendations for gymnastics

#### *Protect*

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

#### *Enhance*

8.9 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.

### *Provide*

- 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 strategy considers the demand for bowls, both indoor and outdoor. Specialist indoor bowls centres have catchments of up to 30 minutes drive time and are largely run separately from outdoor bowls, where the clubs and sites have more local catchments and are usually restricted to the summer months. Kingsthorpe Bowling Club is unusual by having both indoor and outdoor rinks. The two types of bowling also have different national governing bodies.

### *Participation in bowls*

9.2 Sport England estimates that nationally about 271,000 adults take part in bowls at least once a month, but there is no specific split between different types of bowling, so this figure covers crown green outdoors and indoors, flat green outdoor and indoors, short mat and carpet (Sport England, 2017). The sport draws the largest proportion of its players from the higher socio-economic groups, and according to the Sport England, 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.

9.3 The total number of people playing at bowls clubs which have been affiliated to Bowls Northamptonshire 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.

9.4 The active (competitive) membership of the 11 affiliated bowls clubs in the NRDA area (including the Kingsthorpe indoor and outdoor greens) totalled 553 in 2016. There have been gains in the number of members at some clubs, but these have

been matched by losses at others and overall there has been no significant change in the affiliated membership over the last 12 months.

- 9.5 The clubs playing in the parks leagues do not officially record the number of members/players but these seem to have also been reasonably stable over the last 12 months.

## INDOOR BOWLS

### Current supply and demand

- 9.6 There are two specialist indoor bowls sites in the NRDA; the Northampton and District Indoor Bowling Association next to the Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground and the Kingsthorpe Bowling Club 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 and District Indoor Bowling Association. However the sites are less than a mile apart and directly compete for membership. The location of the Northampton and District Indoor Bowling Association site, close to the centre of Kingsthorpe and on a main road gives it some distinct advantages over the Kingsthorpe club, which is tucked out of site and at the edge of the town.
- 9.7 The facilities in 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.

### Future requirements

- 9.8 Given the aging population of Northamptonshire there is expected to be around a 140% increase in those aged 60 years and over across the NRDA in the period up to 2029. This increase means that either the existing provision needs to be improved or expanded to cater for the extra demand, or that a new site should be provided.
- 9.9 Further detailed feasibility work is required in consultation with the two clubs by the West Northamptonshire partner authorities and the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) to determine the most appropriate and viable solution to meeting the anticipated extra demand. Should an additional facility be determined as the best option, this should be sited in the south or south east of the NRDA in order for the facility to maximise the geographical spread of provision.

## Recommendations for indoor bowls

### *Protect*

- 9.10 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing indoor bowls sites in Northampton, Daventry district, and South Northamptonshire

### *Enhance and provide*

- 9.11 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.
- 9.12 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, probably be in South Northamptonshire area of the NRDA.

## OUTDOOR BOWLS

- 9.13 Outdoor bowls provision in Northampton and the NRDA area is complex. Of the bowls clubs playing in Northampton, there are 12 which are affiliated to Bowls Northamptonshire, but there 15 other clubs playing in the parks leagues under the auspices of the Northampton Public Greens Bowling Association, based at Abington Park, Far Cotton, Kingsthorpe and The Racecourse.
- 9.14 It is estimated that around 1000 people play outdoor bowls across the NRDA, but the sport does not appear to have grown in the last few years, so any future increase in demand is likely to be in line with the growth in the number of older people rather than an increase in participation rate.

### *Current supply and demand*

- 9.15 There are 13 bowls greens within the Northampton Borough boundary and 5 just outside the boundary: Kingsthorpe Bowls Club in Daventry district; and in South Northants; Wootton Grange in Grange Park, Harpole, Kislingbury, and Cogenhoe.
- 9.16 Also on the immediate boundary of Northampton is the bowling green at Overstone Park Hotel. This is however a private facility with no community use.
- 9.17 Although some of the bowls greens are busy or very busy, there are other sites which have spare capacity. Most of the sites are good quality, with good greens and adequate ancillary facilities. The site which is reported by the clubs to be of concern



is Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground, where only 2 of the 3 greens are now used, but these are poor quality, and there are no ancillary facilities e.g. toilet provision.

- 9.18 Given the location of the Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground greens, immediately adjacent to the Northampton and District Indoor Bowling Association site, theoretically these greens should be well used, drawing players from the indoor facility during the summer. However there is no formal connection between the two.
- 9.19 The site which appears to be least well used is The Racecourse, although the parks leagues clubs move around sites and therefore the level of use may be higher than estimated.
- 9.20 Given this current surplus of provision across the network but a longer term need to retain these facilities, which are very expensive to maintain, there is a need to review how the parks sites are used and managed. The objective should be to reduce the maintenance costs to the Borough Council whilst maintaining, and improving where needed, the quality of the greens and access to the required ancillary facilities.

### Future requirements

- 9.21 The NRDA area is expected to have an increase in the number of people aged 60 years and over by 2029, mainly as a result of an aging population. It can therefore be expected that the demand for bowls will increase in line with this, bringing the total number of participants to around 1400.
- 9.22 If the greens operate in the future at a used capacity of 80% as an average, then all of the “spare capacity” at the current time will have been absorbed by 2029, even if the rate of participation remains the same.

### Recommendations for outdoor bowls

#### *Protect*

- 9.23 The bowling green sites across Northampton, both in the parks and the independent clubs should be retained and maintained as they will be fully required by the end of the Local Plan period.

#### *Enhance*

- 9.24 There is a need to:
- Invest in the greens and ancillary facilities at Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground improve quality
  - Seek to improve the sport development links between the greens at Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground and the adjacent Northampton Indoor Bowls Association.

- Review the way in which the parks greens in Northampton are booked to enable simpler mechanisms for both the clubs and casual players.

## SECTION 10: TENNIS

10.1 This section of the strategy considers the demand for tennis, both indoor and outdoor. Indoor tennis has a large catchment area, whilst outdoor tennis is usually more local, except for the largest and most successful clubs. Although there is some cross-over between indoor and outdoor tennis participation, as the only indoor facility in West Northamptonshire does not have a club, those people wishing to play club tennis are all based at outdoor venues. There are also some tennis courts in parks which are available on a pay and play basis.

### Participation in tennis

10.2 Nationally tennis attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups. Sport England's Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) suggests that tennis participation has decreased during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16. 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, tennis is also attractive to a higher proportion of West Northamptonshire residents, generally as a 4<sup>th</sup> or 5<sup>th</sup> level activity.

10.3 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) affiliated club information gives a figure of 1071 club members within the NRDA. In addition there are coaching programmes at Kings Park Tennis Centre and at most of the affiliated clubs, totalling about 720 players. There is also a coaching programme for the parks courts running at Abington, Becketts and The Racecourse, with about 620 players.

## INDOOR TENNIS

### Current supply and demand

10.4 There is one indoor tennis facility in West Northamptonshire, a 4 court good quality site in Northampton, Kings Park Tennis Centre. This is operated by an independent trust and does not have a resident tennis club, but is available on a pay and play basis and for coaching. The LTA advises that there is spare capacity on the site.

### Future requirements

10.5 The growth of the population in the NRDA might generate the equivalent of one indoor tennis court of demand, but there is sufficient capacity at Kings Park Tennis Centre so no additional provision is expected to be required.

## OUTDOOR TENNIS

- 10.6 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.
- 10.7 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.

### Current supply and demand

- 10.8 Outdoor tennis provision in Northampton is via tennis clubs and on parks sites, with 18 out of 26 hard courts being located in parks. The parks sites with courts in current use are: Abington, Becketts, and The Racecourse. Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground has two courts but these were not used in 2016 and are of poor quality. The club sites generally have good quality courts and ancillary facilities.
- 10.9 The LTA's capacity assessment of club sites suggests that most clubs are running at between 30% and 60% full, based on the membership numbers. The park courts vary hugely in their level of usage, with the courts at Abington Park being much more popular than those at The Racecourse or Becketts. This variation across the parks seems to be most likely to reflect the general attractiveness of the park and its environs, rather than the court quality.
- 10.10 Overall it appears that there is surplus capacity across the network of sites, but that the distribution of courts is poor, with some areas having overlapping walking catchments to courts, whilst others having no access within 15 minutes walk.

### Future requirements

- 10.11 Overall there appears to be sufficient capacity across the current network of sites to meet the needs of the NRDA up to 2029. The priorities are to improve the quality of the existing network of sites, and to address strategic gaps in provision in order that courts can be accessed within a reasonable travel time by walking, cycling or public transport.
- 10.12 The priority area for new provision is the south west part of Northampton, which currently has least good access to tennis but also a community likely to be attracted to tennis as a sport, as identified by the market segmentation analysis. A 2 court floodlit site should therefore be developed in the north part of the Northampton South SUE. If this is not deliverable, alternatives should be sought.

- 10.13 Improvement of the courts at Harpole could potentially help to meet the needs of the Upton Lodge SUE in South Northamptonshire, but to do so there is a need for improved access across the site and a suitable clubhouse/pavilion.
- 10.14 The club sites are good quality and are a main focus of sports development. They should therefore be retained and maintained.
- 10.15 The Kings Park Tennis Centre has both indoor and outdoor courts and should be retained as it is a strategic facility.
- 10.16 The tennis court provision on the parks sites in Northampton should be reviewed by the parks tennis partnership which comprises Northampton Borough Council, Northampton Leisure Trust, the LTA and Premier Tennis. There is a need to consider the uptake of tennis in 2017 across the sites and to determine the future priorities. The future of the Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground courts should be specifically considered as although the courts provide a local facility there appears to be surplus tennis capacity in Northampton, both now and into the long term.

### Recommendations for tennis

#### *Protect*

- 10.17 Kings Park Tennis Centre should be retained as a tennis centre with community access, and support given to the site to extend its programme and encourage greater use.
- 10.18 Protect and ensure that the courts are high quality at Abington Park, Becket's Park, and The Racecourse.
- 10.19 Consider the future of the courts at Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground, and if retained, resurface.
- 10.20 Protect all of the LTA community club tennis sites and ensure that they are maintained at high quality.

#### *Enhance*

- 10.21 Review the parks tennis provision and programme in the light of the bookings and feedback in 2016.
- 10.22 Improve the existing Harpole tennis court provision to improve accessibility and the ancillary facilities.
- 10.23 Improve the booking mechanisms at the Amey managed school sites to ensure that community tennis can be effectively provided, particularly during the summer months.

10.24 Resurface the courts at Abington and Becket's Park, and Rushmere Tennis Club.

10.25 Provide kiosk to support casual use of Becket's Park.

*Provide*

10.26 Develop a 3 court floodlit community tennis site in the north part of the Northampton South SUE.

## **SECTION 11: GOLF**

11.1 Some of the golf demand of the NRDA is met by courses and driving ranges outside of the area.

11.2 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. Nationally there are about 675,000 members belonging to around 1,900 golf clubs. Participation in golf and the number of golf club members has been declining since 2004. This has put a financial strain on many golf clubs that are reliant on membership income.

11.3 As the commercial sector is the most important provider of golf in the area, the development and nature of the sites will reflect a combination of demand and site opportunities.

### **Current supply and demand**

11.4 There are three golf courses in Northampton; Collingtree Park, Delapre and Kingsthorpe, plus golf close to the NRDA boundary at Brampton Heath, Northampton Golf Club, Northamptonshire County Golf Club and Overstone Park. All of the sites have a standard 18 hole course, but there are also some Par 3 courses and driving ranges.

11.5 The Northamptonshire County Golf Club is being used to host England Golf Championships, and there is also a 6 hole "colts course" at this site which is floodlit and has artificial grass.

### **Future requirements**

11.6 There is expected to be some growth in demand for golf in the period up to 2029 but this is likely to be able to be met within the existing facilities. However in order for the golf sites to remain open in economically challenging times there is 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 change over time.

### Recommendations for golf

#### *Protect and enhance*

- 11.7 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 geographical spread of village halls and community centres together with their quality, accessibility and attractiveness are therefore more important than simple quantitative rates of provision.
- 12.3 The adopted West Northamptonshire Joint Core Strategy infrastructure schedule includes a “multi use community building” expected to be a minimum size of 530 sq m and to cost around £1.5m for each of the following SUEs, for which Northampton Borough Council is the delivery body:
- Northampton Avon Nunn Mills Ransome Road by 2016
  - Northampton Kings Heath SUE by 2020
  - Northampton West SUE by 2020 (within Daventry and South Northants districts)
  - Northampton North SUE by 2020 (within Daventry district)
- 12.4 The adopted CIL regulation 123 list refers to “Indoor Sports Facility (excluding specific on site provision directly serving the needs of the development site).” Any new community centre or hall provision is therefore via S106.

- 12.5 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.

### Current supply and demand

- 12.6 There are currently more than 34 village or community halls in Northampton. All of Northampton's residents have access to at least one village or community hall within 10 minutes drive time, and many people have access within 10 minutes walking time (800m catchment). There are however some gaps in the mapped provision for the existing communities.
- 12.7 The blue areas of the map show the NRDA SUEs, and it is clear that none of these areas have full access to the existing network of halls. The named halls are those which have catchments which would meet some of the needs of these new communities.
- 12.8 The nature of the village halls and community centres varies significantly, from relatively large and purpose built multi-room complexes, to the smaller aging facilities such as the Village Room at Collingtree. The size of a facility will usually reflect its location, with the smaller halls in the smaller villages which are now part of Northampton. 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.
- 12.9 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. 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.



Figure 3: Village/Community halls location

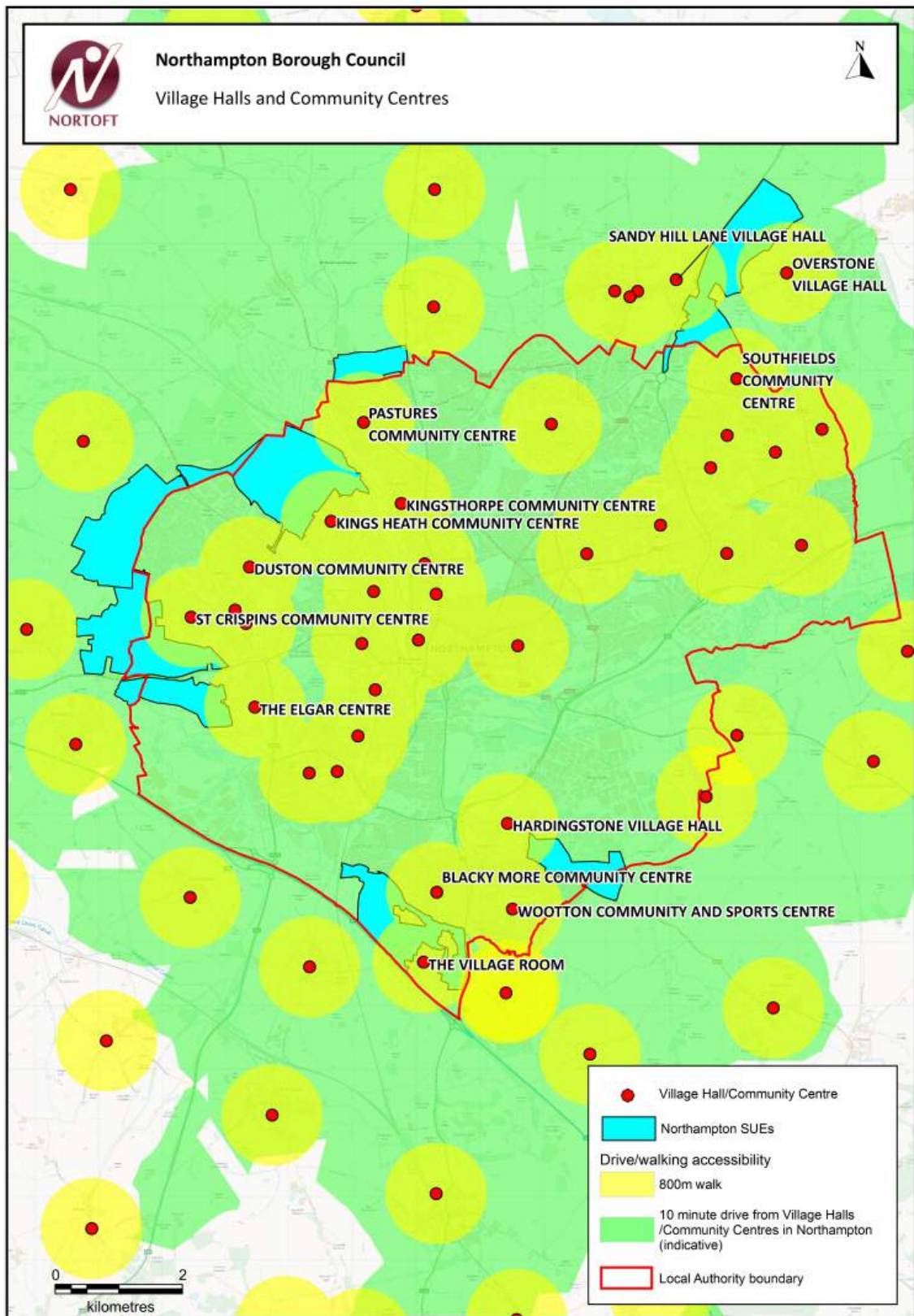




Figure 4: List of village halls and community centres

<b>Village Hall / Community Centre</b>
Abington Community Centre
Alliston Gardens Youth & Community Centre
Bellinge Community Centre
Blackthorn Good Neighbours & Children's Centre
Blacky More Community Centre
Briar Hill Community Centre
Brookside Hall, Billing Brook
Camp Hill Community Centre
Duston Community Centre
Duston Village Hall
Far Cotton Community Centre
Grange Park Community Centre
Hardingstone Village Hall
Kings Heath Community Centre
Kingsthorpe Community Centre
Lodge Farm Community Centre
Parklands Community Centre
Parsons Meade Community Centre
Pastures Community Centre
Rectory Farm Community Centre
Semilong Community Centre
Southfields Community Centre
Spencer Dallington Community Centre
Spring Borough Community Centre
St Crispins Community Centre
St Lukes Community Centre, Duston
St. James Community Centre St.
Standens Barns Community Centre
The Elgar Centre, Upton
The Parsons Memorial Hall, Great Houghton
The Village Room, Collingtree
Vernon Terrace Community Centre
Weston Favell Parish Hall
Wootton Community and Sports Centre

12.10 The survey of the parish councils and community forums undertaken as part of the strategy process confirms that the halls are well used for a variety of active recreation. There were no large or specific improvement projects identified for the halls in the responses.

## Future requirements

- 12.11 New community centres are proposed within the WNJCS for Kings Heath, Northampton West and Northampton North. Depending on where these are located within the development, most new residents should have access to a facility within 800m walk. It should be noted that currently the proposed location for the Northampton North facility is such that it will not deliver an 800m walk for all residents.
- 12.12 The lack of existing and planned community centres for the remaining SUEs, Upton Lodge, Upton Park, Northampton South, Northampton South of Brackmills, and Northampton North of Whitehills (which is already under construction) will have an impact on the ability of the incoming population to access a centre on foot.
- 12.13 The Upton Lodge SUE straddles the Northampton / South Northamptonshire boundary. The South Northamptonshire element is bounded by major roads on two sides, the A45 and Sandy Lane, meaning residents here will not be able to easily access facilities outside of the SUE on foot. The population of the South Northamptonshire element is expected to be 4,250 by 2029. This indicates a clear need for a community facility in the area yet this is not currently proposed in the WNJCS infrastructure list; it should be added.
- 12.14 The Northampton element of Upton Lodge is expected to have a total of around 6,400 people by 2029. This SUE will have some, but limited, access to community facilities within an 800m walk, so additional community facilities are required. There may be a need to provide developer contributions towards the St Crispin's Community Centre to expand and improve their facilities to enable them to cater for the additional demand from this SUE.
- 12.15 The Upton Park SUE is expected to have about 3,000 people by 2029. The 2013 Design and Access Statement for the development as part of the planning application includes a 2000 sq m local centre which may include community use, but there are no further details. Only the eastern part of the SUE has access to the existing Elgar Centre in Upton within 800m, so new hall and meeting room provision is needed. Ideally this should be the 530 sq m size promoted by the WNJCS.
- 12.16 The Northampton South SUE is also expected to have about 3,000 people by 2029. Part of this SUE is within 800m of The Village Room at Collingtree, but this is a small building with limited room for expansion. The Blacky More Community Centre and Wootton Community Centre 800m catchments also cover some of this SUE, but leave the north western part of the SUE unprovided. Given the inability to significantly expand The Village Room in Collingtree, a new community facility should be considered for this SUE, at the WNJCS recommended size of 530 sq m.
- 12.17 The South of Brackmills SUE is expected to have about 4,000 people by 2029, and although will have some limited access within 800m to Hardingstone Village Hall, much of the development will be outside of the catchment of any community facility.

A community centre of the recommended WNJCS size of 530 sq m should be provided for this SUE.

- 12.18 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 and the delivery body is identified as Northampton Borough Council. This assessment therefore reconfirms the need for a new community facility in this SUE.

### Size and design of new community buildings

- 12.19 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 but there are no other design specifications. 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 there is insufficient capacity at the existing facilities to cater for the new population.
- 12.20 A larger community facility which is also multi-functional but allows two groups to use the facility at any one time is needed where there is a planned population of 6,500 or over. A facility with an internal area at least 780 sq m should be developed for these larger communities and is justified for Kings Heath and Northampton North SUEs.
- 12.21 The overall objective is to have a good quality local village or community hall which is easily accessible both on foot and by car. As a high percentage of users walk to their local village hall or community centre but that most people will only do so for up to 10 minutes, it is appropriate to have an 800m standard for accessibility for new community centres in the NRDA.
- 12.22 All 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.
- 12.23 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.

- 12.24 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 and 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.

### Recommendations for village and community halls

#### *Protect and enhance*

- 12.25 Existing village halls and community centres should be retained, protected and where appropriate, improved.

#### *Provide*

- 12.26 The 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).

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

- Upton Lodge (within South Northants)
- Upton Lodge (Northampton Borough)
- Upton Park
- Northampton South
- South of Brackmills
- Northampton West (within South Northants and Daventry District)

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

- Kings Heath
- Northampton North

- 12.29 Planning policy needs to be updated to reflect these delivery priorities.

- 12.30 Planning “standards” are required to inform the CIL tests for S106 contributions. These are proposed to be:

- 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: CYCLING

13.1 Cycling as an activity ranges from informal local recreational trips, to cycling as a form of transport, and competitive cycling; on road and at specialist facilities. There are no specialist built facilities for cycling within or adjacent to the NRDA, but there is a network of routes, off road and lightly trafficked. These are the main focus of this part of the strategy.

### Current supply and demand

13.2 Participation in cycling nationally has increased over the last 12 years with cycling for sport increasing from about 1,686,000 cycling once a week in 2005/06, to 1,950,000 in 2015/16 (Sport England , 2016). The Sport England Active Lifestyles report of January 2017 (Sport England , 2017) identified that 15% of adults aged 16 and over cycled at least twice in the last 28 days for leisure and sport, and over 7% cycled for travel. More men (19%) than women (11%) cycle for leisure and sport, and there is a similar difference between the percentage of men cycling for travel compared to women.

13.3 As part of the Growth Agenda, there has been additional funding available for a number of schemes within the major towns through Growth Area Funding (GAF), in addition to funding received through other sources such as the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Integrated Works programme, the Lottery and contributions received from central government and developers to fund piecemeal requests or as part of new developments. Recent large scale infrastructure schemes in the NRDA have included:

- “Ways Through Waterside” which aimed to connect Camp Hill, Briar Hill, Ladybridge Drive, Upton, Sixfields and the SUEs to the west of Northampton;

- Norbital which is a new circular cycle route around Northampton, connecting the residential areas with employment and education. This route crosses other on and off-road cycle routes that can be used in combination with Norbital. The Norbital route is predominantly on dedicated cycle tracks separated from traffic, with just a few short sections that use quiet residential streets. All of the route is on a paved tarmac surface. A map of the Norbital route based on the Northampton cycling route map is available to download (Northamptonshire County Council, undated).

13.4 A detailed Northampton cycling map is available to download (Northamptonshire County Council, undated) and Northampton Borough Council runs a Cycle CoNnect scheme, bikes for hire similar to the Boris Bikes in London. The cycle routes run through and connect several of the green space, in addition to using quieter roads.

13.5 Each of the SUEs around are required to provide a comprehensive network of cycling routes, and to connect into the existing route network within Northampton.

### Future requirements

13.6 With the growth of Northampton and a need to enable and encourage more people to have an active lifestyle, there is a clear need to ensure that the existing networks of routes are kept high quality and further extended.

### Recommendations for cycling

#### *Protect*

13.7 It is proposed to generally protect and maintain the existing network of routes suitable for cycling across West Northamptonshire. These specifically include traffic free routes and green corridors such as the Brampton Valley Way.

#### *Enhance*

13.8 The development of an improved cycling network across Northampton, Daventry district and South Northamptonshire should be a major focus of future investment, both to support sustainable travel and to respond to the high level of cycling interest.

#### *Provide*

13.9 There may be opportunities and justified need for cycling discipline specific facilities, such as BMX tracks. These will need to be subject to local feasibility studies.

## SECTION 14: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

14.1 There are a number of sports facilities in the NRDA which have specialist facilities, either built facilities or primarily using countryside and water spaces. Those sports using specialist built facilities in this section have relatively low participation rates.

### Netball

14.2 Most of the netball activity takes place outdoors, although some clubs have some training indoors.

14.3 Benham Sports Arena and Moulton College as the most important local venues for netball have been assessed by England Netball for quality. The Benham Sports Arena quality was considered average for both court quality and ancillary facilities. The Moulton College courts were considered to be good, with excellent ancillary facilities. Moulton School and Science College was also identified as important for the sport.

14.4 There were no specific investment needs identified.

### Judo

14.5 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 as 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

14.6 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. Most of these activities will take place at sites which are outside of the NRDA.

14.7 The priorities for the NRDA are:

- To gain and retain access to as wide a range of “natural resources” as possible.
- Positive planning policy 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.

### Rowing

- 14.8 The national governing body for rowing, British Rowing, identifies Northampton as a strategic development area, with the focus being on the Nene Whitewater Centre where the Northampton Rowing Club is based. The club currently has around 100 members and the club has grown over the past 5 years and anticipates seeing this growth continue. The club has already received Sport England Inspired Facilities Fund monies towards the clubhouse, but further funding is required to complete the project. The investment priority is therefore to support the club through improved facility quality and further expansion if needed in the future.

### Canoeing

- 14.9 Canoe England identifies the Nene Whitewater Centre as a key venue. There are no specific priorities identified in the national strategy for Northamptonshire but there is a general need for more pool space for training.

### Orienteering

- 14.10 The West Northamptonshire area is only prioritised for the delivery of Xplorer and Club development, for which British Orienteering considers there to be sufficient facilities/opportunities (primarily via parks). No specific investment needs have been identified.



## SECTION 15: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

### Securing provision of sport through development

- 15.1 A key output from the strategy is the securing of sports provision through development. This can include on-site provision through master-planning and planning obligations, and also securing developers' contributions to off-site provision. These contributions can be via CIL as this has been adopted, and through s106 contributions, which can be use where a facility does not appear on the CIL Infrastructure List, the Regulation 123 list (Reg 123 list).
- 15.2 The securing of planning obligations through s106, will need to meet the three CIL tests (CIL Reg 122 and NPPF para 204). These are where the contribution is:
- 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
- 15.3 This strategy provides the evidence and can be used to determine the nature, location and level of sports facility needs that may be generated from new developments.
- 15.4 Where CIL is in place, it is important to ensure that any sporting provision to be placed on the CIL Reg 123 list is project specific so there is no restrictions on the use of planning obligations (e.g. it avoids the 'Pooling' constraints under s106). The Reg 123 list should be focused on high-level priority project(s) of a strategic nature that CIL has potential to deliver, rather than a long list of projects that CIL is very unlikely to fund. This will allow the potential for other projects to be funded by planning obligations.
- 15.5 At the present time, the Northampton Regulation 123 list is very broad in its nature, and it includes indoor but no outdoor sports facilities:
- Indoor Sports Facility (excluding specific on site provision directly serving the needs of a development site)*
- 15.6 The Daventry Regulation 123 list includes outdoor but not indoor sports facilities:
- Outdoor sports (excluding that directly serving the needs of a development site)*
- 15.7 CIL is currently being reviewed by Government, and Sport England is also currently reviewing its own policies in relation to mechanisms which can be used to assess the impact of developments and the justification of developers' contributions. Northampton Borough should therefore consider revisiting the CIL as currently written to take account of the emerging advice, in order to maximise the

contributions which can be achieved to support sports facilities, both at the Borough wide level and more locally in association with a specific development.

## Priorities for Action

- 15.8 Northampton Borough Council and its partners will treat this assessment and recommendations as a living document and will aim to undertake a number of action points arising from it. The first priority for implementation will therefore be the development of an action plan which is led and coordinated by Northampton Borough Council with input from their neighbouring partners Daventry District and South Northamptonshire Councils. The process will be informed using key stakeholder engagement. The Action Plan will focus on project specific proposals set out in Figure 5 to provide the project specific priorities. These have been widely consulted on with key stakeholders e.g. sports representatives, users, and providers.
- 15.9 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 partner authorities, as well as ensuring that sites associated with the SUEs are identified and set aside within the respective masterplans for each one.
- 15.10 The on going assessment of the deliverability of the projects will need to be kept under regular review and alternative options identified if the preferred site/location is not possible to deliver. The next stage of the strategy work is the testing of the project proposals via further detailed partnership discussions and feasibility studies, including detailed costing and business planning. The outcomes of these actions will help to confirm the draft project list for both the Regulation 123 list under CIL, and Section 106 negotiations.
- 15.11 The action plan sets the priorities for Years 1-3. It should be reviewed annually along with a review of the key proposals of the strategy, which will help to maintain the momentum and commitment to its implementation.

## Action Plan

Facility / Site Proposal	Action required	Lead organisation(s)	Key partners	Date
Lings Forum Leisure Centre	<p>Complete on-going work to confirm the future of Lings Forum Leisure Centre.</p> <p>If replacement facility proposed, confirm facility mix, delivery timescales, draft programming and details for Reg 123 list.</p>	NBC	NLT Clubs	Year 1 2017
Leisure Centre East	<p>If the redevelopment or refurbishment of Lings Forum is rejected develop a new leisure centre including halls, pools, and health and fitness provision in proximity of the Northampton North SUE.</p> <p>If Lings Forum is replaced making Leisure Centre East excessive to need, consider how small, unmet local needs can be satisfied e.g., a new health and fitness suite for Moulton School and Science College.</p> <p>Both options subject to feasibility studies.</p>	DDC Developer Moulton School and Science College	Clubs	Year 1 2017
New leisure centre or shared pool provision at Kings Heath SUE or Upton (adjacent to planned secondary school) or Duston Sports Centre	<p>Undertake feasibility study to determine best option between delivering a new wet / dry leisure centre for Kings Heath or Upton OR for providing additional swimming pool as a shared facility with planned secondary schools at Kings Heath SUE or in the Upton area, OR swimming pool at Duston Sports Centre.</p> <p>Confirm site, timescales, costs and deliverability.</p>	NCC (education) NBC	SNC DDC Duston Parish Council NLT	Year 1 2017

Facility / Site Proposal	Action required	Lead organisation(s)	Key partners	Date
International Academy	Ensure that the 5-court sports hall is designed for pay and play community access.  Establish formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use.	NCC (education) NBC Academy	NLT	Year 1 2017
Proposed Upton Secondary School (if not part of leisure centre with pool)	Ensure that the 4-court sports hall designed to support community sport.  Formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use.	NCC (education) NBC SNC	Academy	Year 1 2017
Amey TFM	Undertake a review of the operation of the community use of Amey TFM managed sites including; marketing, programming, pricing and accessibility with the objective of increasing community use across all sites.	NBC Amey TFM	Schools where Amey TFM operates	Year 1 2017
University relocation	Ensure that the proposed “replacement” sports facilities for students at Northampton University’s new site will fully meet their needs including in relation to accessibility, scope of facilities and proposed hire cost.	Northampton University NBC	Sport England	Year 1 2017
Outdoor tennis in parks	Review outcomes of 2016 parks tennis operation and initiatives. Consider future network of parks courts, particularly those at Kingsthorpe Recn Ground	NLT Premier Tennis	NBC	Year 1 2017
Harpole tennis courts	Undertake feasibility study to confirm costs of improving the existing courts and providing a new pavilion.	Upton Lodge SUE developer	Harpole Parish Council SNC LTA	Year 1 2017

Facility / Site Proposal	Action required	Lead organisation(s)	Key partners	Date
Multi-purpose community halls, standard size	<p>Confirm delivery of new multi-purpose community centres with minimum internal area of 530 sq m plus car parking at the following SUE locations:</p> <p>Upton Lodge (within South Northants)</p> <p>Upton Lodge (within Northampton Borough)</p> <p>Upton Park</p> <p>Northampton South</p> <p>South of Brackmills</p> <p>Northampton West (within South Northants and Daventry District)</p> <p>Location, design and specification to be agreed with the Council.</p>	Site developers	NBC DDC SNC	Year 1 2017
Multi-purpose community halls larger size	<p>Confirm delivery of new multi-purpose community centres with minimum internal area of 780 sq m plus car parking at the following SUE locations</p> <p>Kings Heath</p> <p>Northampton North OR through Leisure Centre East</p> <p>Location, design and specification to be agreed with the Council.</p>	Site developers S106		Year 1 2017

Facility / Site Proposal	Action required	Lead organisation(s)	Key partners	Date
Northampton Rowing Club	Improvements to clubhouse. Grant aid offered by Sport England but shortfall prevents works going ahead. Address funding gap and deliver.	Club	Sport England British Rowing	Year 1 2017
Measured running routes	Develop one measured running route in each of the Strategic, Premier and Town and Country Parks	NBC	England Athletics	Years 1-3 2017-2019
NCAAC Gymnastics Club	Undertake feasibility study to identify options and costs to improve site and / or secure additional facility space.	Club British Gymnastics	NBC	Year 2 2018
Jumpz Gymnastics Club	Support club to develop dedicated gymnastics facility, subject to feasibility study and the club becoming affiliated to British Gymnastics.	Club British Gymnastics	NBC	Year 2 2018
Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground outdoor bowls	Appoint specialist agronomist to advise on improvements to Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground bowling greens. Undertake works.  Explore with adjacent Northampton and District Indoor Bowls Assn and users scope for voluntary work on greens/change in management responsibilities.	NLT	Clubs using Kingsthorpe Recn Ground, Northampton Indoor Bowling Assn, NBC	Year 2 2018
Kings Park Tennis Centre	Explore with the owners/operators ways in which the tennis centre could encourage greater use, and begin implementation.	Kings Park Tennis Centre LTA	Tennis Clubs	Year 2 2018
Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground outdoor bowls	Appoint specialist agronomist to advise on improvements to Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground bowling greens. Undertake works.	NLT	Clubs using Kingsthorpe Recn Ground, Northampton Indoor Bowling Assn,	Year 2 2018

	Explore with adjacent Northampton and District Indoor Bowls Assn and users scope for voluntary work on greens/change in management responsibilities.		NBC	
Northampton South SUE	Confirm specifications, costs, and timescales for delivery of 2 floodlit tennis courts for community use	Developer NBC	LTA	Year 2 2018
<b>Facility / Site Proposal</b>	<b>Action required</b>	<b>Lead organisation(s)</b>	<b>Key partners</b>	<b>Date</b>
Kingsthorpe Bowling Club and Northampton and District Indoor Bowling Association	Undertake feasibility study to identify options and costs to enhance capacity at the two site or identify if additional indoor bowls site is required.  If additional site required, undertake feasibility study to confirm location, costs, timescales and deliverability.	Indoor bowls clubs EIBA	NBC DDC SNC	Year 3 2019  Year 3 2020
Cycling and walking networks	Ensure that all potential links are made and established between open spaces, traffic free and lightly trafficked routes.  Ensure delivery of appropriate networks and links within the SUEs.  Increase promotion and marketing of cycling routes	NBC Developers in SUEs	NCC (transport)	Ongoing

15.12 The draft project proposals list in Figure 5:

- Sets out sport and site specific actions, with clear priorities;
- Indicates 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;
- Provides challenging but realistic and deliverable actions;
- Provides an indication of the resource implications of each action, including where possible any associated financial costs, and how these resources could be secured;
- Sets timescales for the delivery of each action.
- Identifies which projects are strategic in nature and where cross-boundary funding may be justified.
- Identifies which projects are most likely to be appropriate for CIL, and which for S106.

15.13 This table also identifies those projects where the primary need is for the improvement of sites or facilities. Most of these have all yet to be costed, and will depend upon the specific factors at each site.



Figure 5: Site specific investment proposals for NRDA area

Facility / Site	Project elements	Partners and potential funding sources	Date	Estimated cost	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	S106 or CIL	Item to be included in Reg 123	Cross boundary contributions justified
Lings Forum Leisure Centre	Replacement facility comprising:  25m x 8 lane pool plus 25m x 12.5m teaching pool 4-court sports hall 150 station fitness suite 2 x studios 4 squash courts	NBC	2021	£17.5m	H	CIL	✓	
Leisure Centre East	New facility comprising:  4-court sports hall 25m x 6 lane pool plus 15 x 10 teaching pool Fitness suite Studios	DDC	2026	£9.27m	L	DDC		✓
Kings Heath Leisure Centre adjacent to secondary school	New affordable community leisure centre adjacent to and with shared use by the secondary school comprising:	NCC (education) NBC S106	2029	£9.27m (assuming land for free)	H	Kings Heath S106 & CIL	✓	✓
OR	25m x 6 lane pool 4 court sports hall					Upton site tbc S106		

Upton area site adjacent to secondary school	150 station fitness suite 2 x studios					& CIL		
OR Swimming pool at Duston Sports Centre	Addition of affordable pool to existing Duston Sports Centre, subject to feasibility study. 25m x 6 lane pool	NBC Duston Parish Council		£4.965m		CIL		
International Academy	5 court sports hall designed for pay and play community access.  Formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use.	NCC (education) NBC	2018	£2.4m	H	CIL	✓	✓
Upton Secondary School (if not part of leisure centre with pool)	4 court sports hall designed to support community sport.  Formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use.	NCC (education) NBC/SNC	2018	£2.22m	H	CIL	✓	✓
NCAAC Gymnastics Club	Improve site and / or secure additional facility space.  Undertake feasibility study to identify options and costs.	Club British Gymnastics NBC	2021	£5,000 feasibility study  £ capital costs tbc	M	CIL	✓	✓
Kingsthorpe Bowling Club and	Undertake feasibility study to identify options and costs to enhance capacity at the two	Clubs EIBA NBC	2021	£7,500 feasibility study	M	NBC	✓	✓

Northampton and District indoor bowls club	site or identify if additional indoor bowls site is required.							
Kingsthorpe Recreation Ground Outdoor bowls	Improve existing greens. Cost to be confirmed following specialist greens assessment.	NBC Clubs	2019	tbc	M	NBC CIL	✓	
Northampton South SUE	2 floodlit tennis courts for community use	Developer LTA NBC	Phased with development	£76,000	M	CIL S106 (land area)	✓	
Harpole tennis courts	Improve existing courts and provide new pavilion.	Harpole Parish Council Upton Lodge SUE	2026	£150k	M	S106 Upton Lodge		
Multi-purpose community halls, standard size	New multi-purpose community centre with minimum internal area of 530 sq m plus car parking etc for:  Upton Lodge (within South Northants)  Upton Lodge (within Northampton Borough)  Upton Park  Northampton South  South of Brackmills	Site developers S106	  To be agreed  To be agreed  To be agreed  To be agreed  To be agreed	£1.5m each	H	S106 related to each SUE		

	Northampton West (within South Northants and Daventry District)  Location, design and specification to be agreed with the Council.		2020					
Multi-purpose community halls larger size	New multi-purpose community centre with minimum internal area of 780 sq m plus car parking etc for:  Kings Heath  Northampton North  Location, design and specification to be agreed with the Council.	Site developers S106	2020  2020	£2.2m	H	S106 related to each SUE		
Northampton Rowing Club	Improvements to clubhouse. Grant aid offered by Sport England but shortfall prevents works going ahead.	Sport England Club British Rowing	2018	tbc				

## Funding

- 15.14 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.
- 15.15 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 to exploring all of the available options to enable the delivery of the strategy's proposals.
- 15.16 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

- 15.17 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**

- 15.18 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.

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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
NLT	Northampton Leisure Trust
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





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