



**East Hampshire District Council**

**Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities  
Assessment 2018 to 2028**

**Overview Report & Executive Summary**

**December 2018**

**East  
Hampshire**  
DISTRICT COUNCIL

## CONTENTS

<b>1:</b>	<b>Introduction</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2:</b>	<b>Methodology</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>3:</b>	<b>Open Space Study Findings</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>4:</b>	<b>Sport &amp; Recreation Study Findings (Built Facilities)</b>	<b>14</b>
<b>5:</b>	<b>Playing Pitch Study Findings</b>	<b>27</b>
<b>6:</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>35</b>

## 1. Introduction and Purpose of the Study

### 1.1 Introduction

East Hampshire District Council has a long tradition of supporting the provision and development of open spaces and sport and physical activity facilities for its residents and visitors. The Council recognises that these facility types, both formal and informal, are essential components of the district's infrastructure and both drive and respond to growth, change and improvement for communities across East Hampshire.

In 2017 East Hampshire District Council undertook a detailed Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities Assessment. The study was led by Continuum Sport & Leisure in association with LUC and encompassed indoor and outdoor facilities for sports as well as green infrastructure including sports pitches, playing fields, allotments and play space.

With changes to East Hampshire in terms of housing development and population growth, the District Council and The South Downs National Park Authority are currently updating evidence to support the emerging South Downs National Local Plan and future reviews to the East Hampshire District Local Plan. There is a need to update the priority projects for new and enhanced sports facilities in the district to inform updates of the Infrastructure Delivery Plans of EHDC and the SDNPA and the future investment priorities for the Council's CIL and site-specific S106 Developer Contributions.

East Hampshire District covers an area of over 51,000 hectares and is largely rural with landscapes of high quality and relatively low population densities compared to the national and regional averages. Over half of the district (57%) lies within the South Downs National Park. The district has 40 town and parish councils a number of which own community halls with sports halls and recreation grounds with tennis courts and/or bowling greens.

On average, the resident population (115,608 at 2011 census) is relatively affluent and older than the national average (42yrs compared to 39yrs) and is distributed between:

- 3 main towns - Alton (18,000), Petersfield (15,000), Whitehill & Bordon (15,000)
- 2 large service centres - Horndean (13,000), Liphook (8,500)
- 4 small service centres - Clanfield (4,600), Rowlands Castle (2,700), Four Marks (4,000), Grayshott (2,400)
- A large number of smaller settlements throughout the district

The number of older people (those aged 65 and over) in the District has increased rapidly between 1981 and 2011 with this demographic almost doubling in East Hampshire during this period of time. This growth is in line with the pattern observed across the county of Hampshire.

The adult resident population is mobile relative to the national average. 89% of households in the district had access to a car or van at the time of the last census (2011) compared with the average for England and Wales of 74.4%. However, as to be expected, in the main towns and service centres the percentage of households with a car is lower than in the rural areas.

The District Council's current population forecast for 2028 is 131,426<sup>1</sup> - an increase of over 16,000 from 2011 with most growth likely to take place outside the SDNP with considerably more growth North of the South Downs National Park (focused on Whitehill & Bordon and Alton Town) than in the Southern Parishes (although significant growth will take place in Horndean and Clanfield).

East Hampshire District Council is committed to improving the quality of life for all of its communities. Evidence from Sport England (inter alia) shows that increasing participation in sport, physical activity and recreation can help to reduce health inequalities, spur economic growth and energise community engagement.

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<sup>1</sup> Based on the East Hampshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment Scenario B (2013)

## 1.2 Report Purpose

The Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities Assessment consists of three documents which combine to offer a robust and up to date assessment of open space, sport and recreation facility needs across East Hampshire. The three components of the work are summarised in Figure 1.

**Figure 1 – Study Overview**



Each separate document has been prepared following national guidance methodologies and best practice.

This executive summary sets out the key findings as to the needs for open space, built sports and recreation facilities and playing pitches both currently and to 2028 based on the Council's population projections and make recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing provision as well as for new provision where supported by the needs evidence. Taken together these recommendations put East Hampshire District Council in a strong position to improve open space, sport and recreation provision across the district up to 2028 towards achievement of the joint vision of the East Hampshire Community Partnership adopted both for The Sustainable Community Strategy and the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (June 2014) i.e.

### **East Hampshire Vision Statement 2014**

By 2028, East Hampshire will be a better place where people live, work and build businesses in safe, attractive and prosperous towns and villages. They will have good access to a range of housing, jobs, leisure and community facilities, and enjoy a high quality built, historic and natural environment. They will live and work in a way that respects resources and protects and enhances the District's natural environment.

### 1.3 The Study Area and Sub Areas

The study relates to the area within East Hampshire's district boundary sub-divided into the following established district sub-areas (to correspond with all local planning documents):

- **South Downs National Park** (Petersfield Town and parishes)
- **North East** (Whitehill & Bordon including Headley, Grayshott and Liphook)
- **North West** (Alton Town and parishes)
- **Southern Parishes** (Horndean, Clanfield and Rowlands Castle)

### 1.4 Open Space and Sports Facilities Overview

Overall, 198 open spaces were audited across seven categories (excluding outdoor sports facilities, covered by the Playing Pitch Strategy). By far the greatest quantity of open space in the district falls within the Natural/Semi-natural green space category. 70% of semi-natural green space is in the North East Sub-Area where 5 out of 8 of East Hampshire's sub-regional natural or semi-natural green spaces are located. East Hampshire has a large number of national and international designations for nature including four Special Areas of Conservation (SAC), a Special Protection Area (SPA) at Wealden Heaths, two National Nature Reserves (NNR), 16 Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and 13 Local Nature Reserves (LNR).

The PPS provides site specific action plans for 40 playing pitch sites of a total of over 60 audited across East Hampshire, covering the leading outdoor sports of football, cricket, rugby and hockey as well as other sports played on playing pitches in the district, namely archery and lacrosse. The review of the provision of pitches by sub area (North West, North East, South Downs National Park, Southern Parishes) provides for analysis of the distribution of the supply of playing pitches in East Hampshire in relation to known and forecast demand.

The Sport and Recreation Strategy assesses the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing sports facility supply in East Hampshire across 58 sites agreed with East Hampshire District Council. These sites covered sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness studios, martial arts spaces and other leading indoor facility types as well as tennis and netball courts, golf courses, athletics and running facilities, bowling greens and petanque terrain.

### 1.5 Sports and Physical Activity - Health, Wellbeing and the Economy

East Hampshire District Council is committed to improving the quality of life for all of its communities. Evidence from Sport England (inter alia) shows that increasing participation in sport and physical activity can help to reduce health inequalities, spur economic growth and energise community engagement.

A number of key statistics highlight the importance of sport and physical activity nationally with further indication below of how this impacts on the residents of East Hampshire.

- **17% of deaths are caused by inactivity.** International comparison shows physical inactivity is a greater cause of death nationally than in almost every other economically comparable country.
- **£7.4bn** is the estimated figure that **physical inactivity costs the national economy** in healthcare, premature deaths and sickness absence.
- **£1,760 - £6,900 can be saved** in healthcare costs **per person** by taking part in sport.
- **£20.3bn was contributed to the English economy** in 2010 through sport and sport-related activity.
- **29% increase in numeracy levels** can be achieved by underachieving young people who take part in sport.
- **£7.35 is the estimated return on investment for every £1 spent** on sports for at-risk youth through, for example, reducing crime and anti-social behaviour.
- The **cost of inactivity for East Hampshire is estimated at £1.63 million per year.**
- **1 in 5 of all people in East Hampshire (19.8%) are inactive.**

Alongside the health related factors, Sport England also highlights the economic value of sport for East Hampshire. Headline figures include:

- **Gross Value Added for Sports Participation in East Hampshire totals £22 million per year** – this covers subscription fees, equipment and sportswear.
- **Gross Value Added for non-participation related sport totals £4.2million** – including spectator sports and subscriptions.
- **The total value of the industry to East Hampshire** across both participation and non-participation activities totals **£26.3million**.

Source – Sport England Mini Sports Profiles 2014

The need for East Hampshire District Council to continue to invest in sport and physical activity is clear from both a health perspective and from an economic value standpoint. The full study highlights the leading infrastructure needs for sport across all facility types, agreed within the project brief, and the investment needs identified will contribute significantly towards increasing the proportion of East Hampshire District Council's residents who are regularly physically active both in formal settings indoors and outdoors and accessing good quality green space. As the Council continues to work hard to reduce the health related factors associated with inactivity and grow this vibrant element of the local economy, this study aims to direct investment in open space, sport and recreation facilities to greatest effect.

## 2. Methodology and Process

### 2.1 Open Space Study Methodology

The methodology for the assessment of open spaces reflects the requirements of the NPPF and was developed through reviewing current best practice guidance as well as considering the context of open space provision in East Hampshire. A summary of the tasks taken in the preparation of the open space strategy is provided below:

#### *Stage 1: Identification of Local Need*

- Information gathering - e.g. GIS datasets.
- Policy context review - e.g. current and previous strategies including the *East Hampshire Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study Parts 1 & 2 (2008)*, *Green Infrastructure Study (2011)* and *Green Infrastructure Strategy 2011-2028 (2013)*.
- Population projections.
- Health indicators, socio-economic data and locations of planned developments.
- Consultation with stakeholders - e.g. parish councils and neighbour local authority planning officers by email and/or phone calls to identify open space sites, any plans for new sites or enhancement to existing sites and perceived issues.
- Review of findings of relevance in the 2016 Residents Survey.

#### *Stage 2: Audit Local Provision*

- Site audits were carried out for all publicly accessible open spaces over a prescribed threshold size depending on the type of open space.
- A number of other sites where there is restricted access (e.g. open times) were also included in the site audit.
- 198 spaces were audited and categorised under seven types using an audit form agreed with the Council based around the Green Flag Award assessment criteria to enable each open space to be scored for both quality and value.

#### *Stage 3: Analysis of Findings*

- An assessment of the existing quantity of provision for the whole of the district and for each district Sub-Area based upon the amount of open space per 1,000 head of population.
- Each site was categorised by its primary typology/function (e.g. Natural or semi-natural, parks and gardens, green corridors, amenity green space, allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, play provision for children and young people).
- For the relevant typologies, the sites were also categorised using a hierarchy based on size (i.e. sub regional sites of 60 to 400 hectares, district sites (20 to 59 hectares) and local sites (less than 19 hectares).

- Sites with play facilities were categorised as having either: i) Play spaces (0-11yrs); ii) Teen/youth facilities (11+); or iii) both play spaces and teen/youth facilities.

#### *Stage 4: Development of Standards*

- The audit findings were compiled in an excel spreadsheet to facilitate analysis and interpretation into a district profile for open space.
- Proposed accessibility standards were identified through review of East Hampshire's existing standards, alongside those of neighbouring authorities and those recommended by relevant national organisations, such as Fields in Trust and Natural England.
- Proposed standards for quantity of provision were based on the existing provision of each typology with the exception of natural and semi-natural green space where the standard recommended by Natural England, as the statutory authority on access to nature was adopted.
- An experienced site auditor reviewed the quality/value scores for sites within each typology, and selected a site for which the overall quality/value score could be adopted as the benchmark.

#### *Stage 5: Application of Standards*

- Application of the proposed standards for accessibility, quantity and quality/value enabled identification of deficiencies and surpluses in specific types of open space, as well as geographical trends for review with Council officers to sense test as realistic and robust.

#### *Stage 6: Findings and Recommendations*

- Finally, recommendations were compiled through interpretation of the key study findings.
- The findings of the study and associated recommendations are presented by town, as this is where the majority of the population resides, and therefore where the need is greatest.

## **2.2 Built Sports Facilities and Playing Pitches Methodology**

Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities provides the recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities to meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF. The Consultant Team has used and applied the ANOG methodology to produce these specific elements of the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for East Hampshire.

#### *Stage 1: Prepare and Tailor the Approach*

- Establishment of a Project Steering Group to oversee the study process.
- Detailed review of the specific needs for East Hampshire.
- Approval of proposed methodology with East Hampshire District Council and Sport England.
- Agreement of sites for inclusion in study with East Hampshire and Sport England.
- Agreement of parameters of the study including facility types to be included.
- Consultation with Sport England regarding the use of national planning tools.

#### *Stage 2: Gather Information*

- Planning Tools: detailed analysis of supply and demand using planning tools advocated by Sport England and the National Sports Governing Bodies.
- Web searches: data gathering from websites of sports leagues, county associations, clubs, schools and parish councils.
- Site Audits: non-technical visual quality assessments of sites offering sports facilities.
- Strategy and Policy Review: review and analysis of a range of strategies, policies and plans to identify specific corporate priorities for East Hampshire District Council which both influence and can be influenced by improved sports facility provision.
- Consultation Process: thorough and robust consultation process to ensure that the conclusions and recommendations are sound and firmly grounded in local need and demand including: review of recent local surveys of relevance (e.g. Residents Survey 2016, Alton Town Council Survey 2017); survey of sports clubs to determine perceived facility needs and priorities; email circulation to parish councils and key providers of community sports facilities at schools and colleges; email circulation to relevant officers in neighbouring local authorities and National Governing Bodies of Sport.



*Stage 3: Bring Information Together*

- Draw conclusions and make recommendations based on analysis and interpretation of the information gathered to include: a quantitative assessment (i.e. the scale of supply in relation to current and likely demands to 2028); a qualitative assessment based on non-technical visual quality assessments carried out on visits to the majority of sites and facilities; accessibility assessments based on agreed approximate travel time thresholds; and availability assessments taking into account opening hours, costs and other relevant factors.
- Identifying facility priorities by sport facility type, site and sub area according to the following three potential strategic courses of action:
  - PROTECT** sports facilities from loss as a result of development
  - ENHANCE** existing facilities through improving quality or accessibility
  - PROVIDE** new or larger facilities fit for purpose to meet forecast demand to 2028.
- This process culminates in a clear set of priority projects for future investment in sports facilities in East Hampshire District Council, taking into account those projects already committed, based on a robust assessment of both facility needs and opportunities for new or enhanced provision.
- In identifying projects, the strategy adopts a pragmatic approach that recognises the growing financial challenge facing all local authorities in continuing to deliver and support non-statutory sports and recreation services. In this context, the recommendations take into account the current financial strategy of the Council to invest in commercial property and, with partners, £31 million in its sports and leisure centre estate, towards achieving the aims of financial independence from central government while minimising council tax.
- The recommendations also take into account the recent changes in strategic focus of government and Sport England towards sport and recreation as a way to address the national public health crisis of obesity and other health conditions linked to physical inactivity. Increasingly, exchequer and sports lottery grant resources are prioritising those projects considered most effective at effecting sport and physical activity behaviour change among the inactive in local populations as opposed to simply renewing sports facilities used by those who are already active.
- The playing pitch strategy methodology included the specific guidance in relation to each of the three key stages in Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance (October 2013 and updates) tailored by the East Hampshire Playing Pitch Steering Group to the study area.

*Sports Facility Provision Standards:* It is noted that this approach to identifying sports facility needs (as advocated to local planning authorities in Sport England's Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guidance) is a significant change to the previous 'standards-based' methodology in Planning Policy Guidance Notes No. 17 (PPG17). Since the publication of ANOG in July 2014, Sport England has advised local planning authorities to move away from the use of per capita based standards in assessing and determining quantitative needs for sports facilities.

In their place, Sport England now advocates gathering detailed local supply and demand data and assessment of area, sport and site specific needs and opportunities in order to determine which existing specific sites and facilities should be protected and the priority areas/sites for enhanced, new or expanded facilities. Accordingly, this updated study of sports facility needs in East Hampshire is based on a detailed local assessment of the picture of supply and demand for each of the sports facility typologies in scope.

## 3. Open Space Study – Findings and Recommendations

### 3.1 Existing Open Space Provision

Site audits were carried out for all publicly accessible open spaces over a prescribed threshold size by type as agreed with the Council. The audits including some open space sites where there is restricted access (e.g. opening times). Overall, 198 spaces were audited, categorised into the following types according to the primary purpose of each space:



**Figure 2: Open Space Typologies Recorded in East Hampshire**

	Type of Open Space	Primary Purpose
<b>Greenspaces</b>	Parks and Gardens	Accessible, high quality opportunities for informal recreation and community events
	Natural and Semi-natural Greenspace	Wildlife conservation, biodiversity and environmental education awareness
	Green Corridor	Walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel, and opportunities for wildlife migration
	Amenity Greenspace	Opportunities for informal activities close to home or work
	Allotments	Opportunities for those people who wish to grow their own produce as part of the long term promotion of sustainability, health and social inclusion
	Cemeteries and Churchyards	Quiet contemplation and burial of the dead, often linked to the promotion of wildlife conservation and biodiversity
	Provision for Children and Young People	Areas designed primarily for play and social interaction involving children and young people, such as equipped play areas, ball courts, skateboard areas and teenage shelters

The quantity of publicly accessible open space within each typology - both overall across the district and in each of the four sub areas - is shown in Figure 3. By far the greatest quantity of open space in the district falls within the Sub regional natural/ semi-natural green space typology. This type of open space accounts for almost two thirds (65%) of the total area of greenspace in the district and is distributed mainly in the North East with large areas also in the National Park.

**Figure 3: Quantity of Publicly Accessible Space Recorded in East Hampshire**

Typology and hierarchy	Current open space by Sub-Area (hectares)				
	North East	North West	SDNPA	Southern Parishes	All Areas
Sub-regional Park or garden	0.00	0.00	562.79	37.66	600.46
Local Park or garden	38.69	37.76	37.13	8.67	122.25
Sub regional natural or semi-natural greenspace	728.99	0.19	198.70	0.00	927.88
District natural or semi-natural greenspace	83.24	0.00	83.20	0.00	166.44
Local natural or semi-natural greenspace	27.42	19.38	17.20	47.12	111.13
Green corridor	23.79	0.00	4.90	0.00	28.69
Amenity greenspace	8.29	15.03	4.76	9.63	37.71
Allotments	4.18	3.82	3.34	0.12	11.47
Cemeteries and churchyards	4.09	6.30	4.24	1.14	15.77
Provision for children or young people	0.74	1.56	0.82	3.46	6.58
<b>Total</b>	<b>919.43</b>	<b>84.04</b>	<b>917.08</b>	<b>107.8</b>	<b>2028.38</b>

### 3.2 Development of Standards for Open Space Provision

Analysis has been completed to assess the provision of publicly accessible open space within East Hampshire. Each type of open space was assessed to identify the current quantity, quality,

accessibility and value. Having an understanding of the baseline information enables the setting of locally derived standards to guide the future provision of open space in the district.

There are three types of open space standard:

- **Quantity:** The amount (measured in hectares) of each open space typology which should be provided as a minimum per 1,000 head of population.
- **Quality and Value:** The condition of the open space provided in each typology and, where applicable, hierarchy and the functionality of the open space provided in each typology.
- **Accessibility:** The maximum distance residents should be required to travel to use an openspace of a specific typology.

Quantity and accessibility standards have not been prepared for churchyards and cemeteries or green corridors. These spaces offer limited opportunity for recreation and the proximity to such spaces is not generally considered to be a requirement. However it is important to record such spaces as it may be desirable to “enhance” these sites in areas deficient in other open space typologies.

Figure 4, summarises the quantity standards recommended to East Hampshire District Council. These standards will be used to support the future delivery and management of open spaces in the district.

**Figure 4: Proposed Quantity Standards for East Hampshire**

Typology/Hierarchy	Proposed standard	Justification
Parks and gardens <i>Local</i>	1.03 ha/1,000 head of population	This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in East Hampshire based on 2017 population data. Those open spaces that are not accessible to the public have not been included within this calculation. Setting the standard at this level of provision will ensure that provision should not fall below the existing quantity per 1,000 head of population as the population grows.
Natural and semi-natural green space <i>Sub-regional</i> <i>District</i> <i>Local</i>	1.8ha/1,000 head of population	This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in East Hampshire based on 2017 population data.
Green corridor	N/A	
Amenity green space	0.31ha/1,000 head of population	This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in East Hampshire based on 2017 population data.
Allotments	0.1ha/1,000 head of population	This is the current provision of publicly accessible open space in East Hampshire based on 2017 population data.
Churchyard or cemetery	N/A	
Provision for children or young people <sup>2</sup>	<b>Play Spaces</b> 0.52 sites per 1,000 population  <b>Teen/youth facilities</b>	This is based on the current provision of play spaces in East Hampshire. Setting the standard at this level of provision will ensure that provision should (as a minimum) not fall below the existing quantity per 1,000 head of population as the population grows. Guided by the Fields in Trust guidance <i>Guidance for</i>

<sup>2</sup> Any development over 10 dwellings should refer to these standards and the East Hampshire Local Plan for up to date contribution requirements, and the local demographic. On-site and off-site provision via developer contributions should be applied to sites with reduced quality and/or value scores and benchmarks. On smaller residential developments, part or all of the play area may be best provided for in the form of a financial contribution towards the enhancement and management of play areas.

	0.26 sites per 1,000 population	<i>Outdoor Sport and Play – Beyond the Six Acre Standard</i>
Quantity standard for all open space	3.24 ha/1,000 head of population	

Figure 5 shows proposed quality standards. In order to develop a quality standard appropriate for the type and function of open spaces in East Hampshire, the existing quality of provision was reviewed by typology and hierarchy level using the Green Flag Award Scheme criteria and scoring system. Through this process it was possible to form a quality threshold score, i.e. a minimum level of quality which should be achieved at any open space.

**Figure 5: Proposed Quality Standards for East Hampshire**

Typology/Hierarchy	Proposed standard - quality score threshold	Example of a good quality open space
Parks and gardens	-	
<i>Sub-Regional</i>	71	Queen Elizabeth Country Park
<i>Local</i>	42	Peel Park East, Clanfield
Natural and semi-natural green space	-	
<i>Sub-regional</i>	40	No sufficient exemplar
<i>District</i>	38	Bordon Enclosure SANG, Whitehill & Bordon
<i>Local</i>	29	Hazleton Common, Horndean
Green corridor	23	Haweswater Close, Whitehill & Bordon
Amenity green space	20	Dennis Way, Liss
Allotments	28	Lower Green, Liss
Churchyard or cemetery	30	Bordon Military Cemetery, Whitehill & Bordon
Provision for children or young people <sup>3</sup>	<b>Expected score for a good quality site - 4</b>	N/A

Figure 6 shows proposed value standards. The open space audit included information to be evaluated as part of the value assessment such as the value of play spaces, the presence of community facilities and the biodiversity value of habitats. The relevant audit information was reviewed to develop a value threshold score specific to the different types of open space in East Hampshire. A list of key characteristics was developed which could be expected of sites of a particular typology and at a particular level of the hierarchy.

**Figure 6: Proposed Value Standards for East Hampshire**

Typology/Hierarchy	Proposed standard - value score threshold	Example of a good quality open space
Parks and gardens	-	
<i>Sub-Regional</i>	116	Queen Elizabeth Country Park
<i>Local</i>	41	Informal Open Space, Alton
Natural and semi-natural green space	-	
<i>Sub-regional</i>	40	No sufficient exemplar
<i>District</i>	35	The Heath, Petersfield
<i>Local</i>	29	Sheet Common, Sheet
Green corridor	19	Haweswater Close, Whitehill & Bordon
Amenity green space	18	Woodbourne Close, Liss

<sup>3</sup> Any development over 10 dwellings should refer to these standards and the East Hampshire Local Plan for up to date contribution requirements, and the local demographic. On-site and off-site provision via developer contributions should be applied to sites with reduced quality and/or value scores and benchmarks. On smaller residential developments, part or all of the play area may be best provided for in the form of a financial contribution towards the enhancement and management of play areas.

Allotments	19	Tunbridge Lane, Liphook
Churchyard or cemetery	20	EHDC Cemetery, Alton
Provision for children or young people <sup>4</sup>	<b>Expected score for a good value site</b> Play Spaces: 16 Teen/youth facilities: 16 Sites with both play space and teen/youth facilities: 21	N/A

**Figure 7: Proposed Accessibility Standards for East Hampshire**

Typology/Hierarchy	Proposed standard
Parks and gardens	
<i>Sub-Regional</i>	3.2km
<i>Local</i>	400m
Natural and semi-natural green space	
<i>Sub-regional</i>	3.2km
<i>District</i>	1.2km
<i>Local</i>	400m
Green corridor	N/A
Amenity green space	400m
Allotments	1.2km
Churchyard or cemetery	N/A
Provision for children or young people	Play Spaces - 480m Teen/Youth facilities - 600m

### 3.3 Application of Proposed Open Space Standards to East Hampshire

Whilst the quantity standards have been set at the current District wide provision, the provision standard is not met in some of the East Hampshire sub-areas. Figure 8 shows in orange which Sub-Areas do not currently meet the quantity standards currently and to 2024 based on the Council's population projections. The North West Sub-Area and Southern Parishes Sub-Area are currently below the quantity standard in 2017. It will be particularly important to secure new open spaces within these areas in the event of new development and population growth in these areas.

**Figure 8: Application of open space quantity standard to identify shortfall/surplus current/to 2024**

Sub-Area	Publicly accessible open space (ha)	Population 2017	Population 2024	Provision ha per 1000 people 2017	Provision ha per 1000 people 2024
North East	157.65	33588	38541	4.69	4.09
North West	72.36	31205	35194	2.32	2.06
SDNPA	903.79	33441	34868	27.03	25.92
Southern Parishes	103.08	21902	23702	4.71	4.35
East Hampshire	1236.88	120136	132305	10.30	9.35

Figure 9 breaks down the shortfall/surplus by sub area and typology.

<sup>4</sup> Any development over 10 dwellings should refer to these standards and the East Hampshire Local Plan for up to date contribution requirements, and the local demographic. On-site and off-site provision via developer contributions should be applied to sites with reduced quality and/or value scores and benchmarks. On smaller residential developments, part or all of the play area may be best provided for in the form of a financial contribution towards the enhancement and management of play areas.

**Figure 9: Application of open space quantity standards to identify current shortfall/surplus by typology**

Typology	Sub Areas			
	North East	North West	SDNPA	Southern Parishes
Park or garden	1.15	1.21	17.94	2.12
Natural or semi-natural greenspace	3.29	0.63	8.94	2.15
Amenity greenspace	0.25	0.48	0.14	0.44
Allotments	0.12	0.12	0.10	0.01

Provision for children and for young people		
2017 quantity standard	2024 quantity	Additional sites required to meet quantity standard in 2024
<i>Play spaces</i> 0.53 sites per 1,000 population	<i>Play spaces</i> 0.48 sites per 1,000 population	<i>Play spaces</i> 6.6 sites (0.05 sites per 1,000 population)
<i>Teen/youth facilities</i> 0.27 sites per 1,000 population	<i>Teen/youth facilities</i> 0.23 sites per 1,000 population	<i>Teen/youth facilities</i> 5.3 sites (0.04 sites per 1,000 population)

### 3.4 Findings and Recommendations

Identified areas recommended for improvement in provision of open space in East Hampshire based on the research and consultation findings and application of the proposed standards are summarised as follows:

#### *By Sub Area and typology:*

- The North West and Southern Parishes Sub-Areas do not meet overall quantity provision.
- The majority of site allocations are in areas of deficiency in provision of open space. Creation of new open spaces therefore needs to be built into development plans.
- Increase provision of parks and gardens in the southern parishes Sub-Area.
- Increased provision in amenity green spaces in north east and SDNPA Sub-Areas.
- Increased provision in allotments in southern parishes Sub-Area.

#### *By Town/Settlement and typology:*

- Improve quality of allotments in Alton, Grayshott and Petersfield.
- Improve quality of parks and gardens in Alton, Clanfield, Four Marks/ South Medstead.
- Improve quality of natural or semi-natural green space in Alton, Clanfield, Four Marks/ South Medstead, Horndean.
- Increase quality and value of both parks and gardens, and semi-natural green spaces in Petersfield.
- Make efforts to increase open space in Alton, particularly in the north east.
- Make efforts to increase open space in Liss and Rowlands Castle.
- Make efforts to increase open space in Four Marks/ South Medstead, particularly in the east.
- Make efforts to increase open space in Petersfield particularly around Pulens Lane, Reservoir Lane and Long Road.
- Provide allotments for Clanfield, Petersfield and Rowlands Castle.
- Most settlements lack access to larger sites (district or sub-regional), therefore improvement of quality, value and provision of local open space should be prioritised in order to improve provision.
- Possible need for alternative strategic open space provision around Grayshott and Liphook to reduce visitor pressure on the local SAC/SPA/SSSI sites.

#### *Play provision:*

- Increase quantity of play space and teen/youth provision in all settlements, prioritising those with greatest amounts of planned development.

#### *Green Infrastructure Networks*

- Recognise the multi-functional nature of sites already delivering GI functions.
- Adapt management to capitalise on open spaces with potential to deliver GI functions.
- Locate multi-functional GI corridors where they can help to alleviate open space deficiency at the main settlements.

## **4. Sport and Recreation (Built Facilities) Strategy – Findings and Recommendations**

### **4.1 Facilities**

The key findings of the Sport and Recreation (Built Facilities) Strategy by sports facility type are summarised below. The policy recommendations and detailed analysis of each facility types can be found in the full Strategy document. It was agreed with the Council that the scope of the sports facility types included in the study (and any minimum scale thresholds) would be:

- Swimming Pools over 20m in length or 160sqm water area
- Sports Halls over 3 courts in size (or 27m x 17m)
- Health and Fitness Suites (gym space) with over 20 equipment stations
- Bowling Greens (indoor and outdoor) and Petanque terrains
- Squash Courts
- Tennis Courts (indoor and outdoor)
- Netball Courts (indoor and outdoor)
- Athletics facilities
- Climbing facilities
- Gymnastics facilities
- Golf courses

Natural turf and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) are covered within the Playing Pitch Strategy report. Summary findings are provided in section 5 of this overview report. Community activity Halls under 3 courts in size form a substantial part of the sports and recreation facility supply in East Hampshire. These smaller halls are referenced where these have been identified in parishes as being suitable and used regularly for indoor sports (e.g. dance, keep fit, yoga, Short mat bowls, martial arts).

The study follows Sport England guidance with regard to forward planning and the priorities set out in this report are based on the detailed local picture that has been assembled. The priorities identified are specific to each of the leading indoor facility types that have been assessed and are categorised under the Protect, Enhance and Provide headings:

- **PROTECT** sports facilities from loss as a result of redevelopment.
- **ENHANCE** existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and management.
- **PROVIDE** new facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.

### **Swimming Pools**

At current population levels, demand for swimming space in East Hampshire in the peak hours is accommodated by the current available supply supported by a good level of supply in neighbouring local authority areas within an accessible journey time. For the relatively small number of households without a car/van in the rural areas beyond the 1 mile walk to catchment of the three main public pools, access to swimming is poor and needs to be addressed through community transport and car share initiatives.

Several public pools in the neighbouring areas have been replaced or upgraded in recent years - including the three new pools including an 8 lane competition pool at the new Hart Leisure Centre in Fleet with a half hour drive to residents of the north west sub area. The 8 lane competition pool at Haselmere Leisure Centre which underwent major refurbishment in 2010 is only 10 minutes from parts of the north east sub area. There is also a strong likelihood that the River Park Sports Centre in Winchester will be replaced with at an 8 lane 25m competition pool as a minimum and potentially a 50m pool within the next 3 years. This venue is within the drive time catchment for those living in the rural East Hampshire villages towards the west of the SDNP.

As far as forecast population growth is concerned, there is a needs case to provide some additional capacity in the North East in the short term particularly in light of the imminent loss of the Garrison Pool in Bordon which currently addresses a modest amount of demand in this area for primary school swimming lessons, aquaerobics and general swimming. In the long term, in the Southern Parishes a needs case for swimming provision may develop subject to the delivery of housing growth plans and the extent to which any additional demand can be accommodated within spare capacity at the existing pools in Waterlooville and Havant.

The priorities in formulating a new strategy based on this needs assessment should therefore be to protect the quantity of the water space for community swimming in the District and to plan for ongoing investment in maintaining and enhancing the quality and financial sustainability of the community pool venues at Alton, Petersfield and Bordon whether through refurbishment or replacement.

The most pressing enhancement priority in the short term is to upgrade the changing rooms (including family change) and replace the swimming pool roof at Taro Leisure Centre (programmed and funded for 2018).

Once this is completed, as established in the previous needs assessment and feasibility studies in 2008 and 2012, the next strategic priority is to replace the outdated provision at Alton Sports Centre with more modern, inclusive and financially sustainable swimming facilities.

The detailed specification of the replacement swimming provision should seek to address specific facility needs of the swimming club within the latest Sport England/ASA design guide<sup>5</sup> parameters for 6 lane 25m community pools (to facilitate training and local level competition), and the canoe club in respect of fittings for canoe polo nets and slalom poles, equipment storage and external access).

The need for additional accessible water space to address forecast population growth in the District of approximately 12,000 people to 2028 should be addressed initially through provision as currently planned of two additional 25m lanes in Bordon within the replacement for the Mill Chase Leisure Centre to provide a 6 lane 25m community pool. In the longer term, the supply/demand balance should be kept under review, particularly in the Southern Parishes. Key factors to be considered will include:

- Any changes to provision for swimming in Havant Borough to the south (especially the Havant Horizons Leisure Centre in Waterlooville) and in Winchester City & District to the west (especially the long standing proposals for a 50m competition pool at River Park).
- The implementation of housing development allocations to 2028 both in the District and in neighbouring Boroughs/Districts close to the East Hampshire boundary.
- The impact on swimming demand levels in East Hampshire of the replacement, more modern community pools in Bordon and Alton and the new pools (including a competition pool) recently opened at the Hart Leisure Centre in Fleet to the north of the district.
- Swimming demand trends over the Local Plan period to 2028 i.e. whether the upturn in swimming demand in East Hampshire - which is in contrast to the national and regional trend of decline in swimming demand - is sustained).

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<sup>5</sup> Sport England/ASA Swimming Pools Design Guidance Note (revision 4, 2013)



**Figure 10: Recommendations for swimming pools**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Swimming	The quantity of water space	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The pool roof and changing facilities at the Taro Leisure Centre.</li> <li>○ The community pools, storage and changing facilities in replacement leisure centres in Alton and Bordon</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More water space in the replacement for the Mill Chase Leisure Centre in Bordon</li> </ul>

### Sports Halls

At current population levels, demand for sports hall space in East Hampshire in the peak hours is accommodated by the current available supply supported by a good level of supply in neighbouring local authority areas within an accessible journey time by car. For the relatively small number of households without cars in the rural areas beyond the 1mile walk to catchment of a sports hall, their needs are generally met by the provision of village and community halls. There is a good supply of community halls throughout the district.

The distribution of sports halls is good. Each of the four sub areas will have sufficient provision to accommodate needs for the Local Plan period once the new 3court facility at Clanfield opens and the new community facility to support new housing east of Horndean is provided in the Southern Parishes. These community halls will provide daytime access for certain indoor sports and fitness classes complementing the larger dual use provision at Horndean Technology College.

Whilst there are no large competition sports halls in the district (8 courts), there are five competition sports halls with spectator capacity within a 30 minute drive time from most parts of East Hampshire, in Guildford (2), Fleet, Havant and Winchester.

It is clear from the consultation findings that the quality of the sports hall and changing facilities at the Alton Sports Centre need enhancing as a priority.

The priorities in formulating a new strategy based on this needs assessment should therefore be to protect the quantity of sports halls in the District and to plan for ongoing investment in maintaining and enhancing their quality.

The most pressing sports hall enhancement priority in the short term is to replace the sports hall and changing rooms at Alton Sports Centre which has a leaking roof and has reached the end of its design life (programmed and funded for 2019).

Given that the replacement centre will need to continue to provide for a wide range of gymnastics and trampolining disciplines until such time as a dedicated centre may be secured for these sports in the Alton area, the specification of the main hall will need to ensure compliance with the recommended dimensions of Gymnastics England<sup>6</sup> for artistic, rhythmic, acrobatic gymnastics, trampoline, tumbling and DMT (i.e. zones with internal clear height of 9.0m clear height to accommodate 2 No. trampoline sites) and provide sufficient storage for equipment for these sports clubs.

Similarly, the hall dimensions should be sufficient to accommodate one netball court suitable for club indoor matches - i.e. with recommended preferred run off zones at the ends and sides of 3.05m<sup>7</sup> or, as a minimum, with run offs of 2m at the ends and 1.5m at the sides (see section 4.10 below).

Other sports hall enhancement requirements in the short term include renewing the flooring at Horndean Technology College and relined and sealing the sports hall floor at Bedales College.

<sup>6</sup> British Gymnastics Sports Equipment Data Sheets (v4)

<sup>7</sup> Comparative Size of Sports Courts & Pitches (Indoor), Sport England (September 2015 Update)

**Figure 10: Recommendations for Sports Halls**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Sports Halls	The quantity of sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sports hall, storage and changing facilities in replacement leisure centres in Alton and Bordon</li> <li>Sports hall flooring at Horndean College and Bedales School</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>More hall space suitable for community sports to recreation level in the Southern Parishes to support population growth - Clanfield, Land East of Horndean</li> </ul>

### Squash Courts

Demand for squash courts is easily met by the available supply. In developing the design briefs for the new leisure centre in Alton and the Taro in partnership with Everyone Active, the Council has reviewed historical court utilisation data and identified substantial spare capacity particularly during the daytime. This is supported by the data on current squash participation rates and England Squash benchmarks for capacity per court. (Case studies of successful squash clubs on the England Squash website suggest that one squash court can sustain approx. 100 members).

The proposals to reduce the number of squash courts at these two sites have also been developed within the broader strategic context of needing to ensure that the upgraded and new centres are financially self-sustainable and attract use by as many people as possible including those who are insufficiently active for health.

Based on current proposals, future supply in East Hampshire will total 10 courts (i.e. 15 courts less the 2 courts at Bordon Roller Rink, 2 courts at Alton Sports Centre and 1 court at Taro Leisure Centre). 10 courts will be sufficient to sustain around 1,000 regular players based on the 100 players per court benchmark. Based on national squash participation rates this would seem sufficient even allowing for forecast population growth to 2028.

The distribution of the supply under the current proposals for the Taro and Alton centres will result in two glass backed courts at each site. Two glass backed courts are sufficient to accommodate Hampshire League team squash matches. The main impact of reducing the number of courts at the Taro and Alton sports centres will be on club nights when players will need to sit out for longer between games. However, given the number of regular players, reduction in courts to two in these sports centres should be manageable with appropriate planning.

To manage the transition, will require a plan to support the clubs to manage the reduction in court space available to them in the peak hours for team squash, club nights and junior development activity. In Petersfield, the plan will need to consider optimum programming of the remaining four courts across the two sites currently used by the club - Taro and Herne Farm Leisure Centre. For example, there may be potential to develop the partnership between the club and operator around junior school coaching on these courts. In Alton, the plan could consider options for Alton club to negotiate an access arrangement to the adjacent courts at Energique Club for some of its activities (similar to the approach in Petersfield) to include identifying any need for enhancement of these courts. There are also other courts at venues within a short drive time of Alton.

In the north east sub area, the plan will need to consider the probable loss of the courts at the Roller Rink to development of the Garrison site and the opportunity to compensate for this loss by upgrading and proactive promotion of the Bohunt School courts in Liphook with a view to re-establishing a squash club in the North East area as the population increases.

**Figure 12: Recommendations for Squash Courts**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Squash & Racketball (Squash 57)	Access to courts in the district for club team and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The changing facilities at the Taro Leisure Centre</li> <li>The courts and changing facilities</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increased access for squash clubs to other courts in district e.g. Petersfield (Herne Farm LC) and</li> </ul>

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Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
	recreational play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>in the replacement leisure centre in Alton</li> <li>The courts and changing facilities at the Bohunt Centre</li> </ul>	Alton (Energique) - including identifying any facility enhancement needs at these sites - to mitigate reduced provision as planned in the upgraded Taro LC and replacement Alton SC

### Gymnastics

East Hampshire has two gymnastics clubs and three trampolining clubs operating out of multi purpose sports halls in East Hampshire, and one specialist gymnastics centre in Horndean. There are specialist gymnastics centres with pits and rigs within the drive time catchment area of East Hampshire both in Basingstoke and in Rushmoor (Aldershot). These centres provide an exit route for some the most talented gymnasts from the clubs in East Hampshire. Alpha Trampolining Club (based at Eggar's School, Alton) travel to the Basingstoke Centre for pit sessions.

In the Alton area of the district there is a strong needs case for a dedicated gymnastics and trampolining centre and there are clubs of sufficient size - with waiting lists in excess of 200 children - to sustain a dedicated facility serving demand in the north of the district, subject to feasibility assessment and business planning.

Given that the replacement sports centre in Alton will need to continue to provide for a wide range of gymnastics and trampolining disciplines until such time as a dedicated centre may be secured for these sports in the Alton area, the specification of the new main hall will need to ensure compliance with the recommended dimensions of Gymnastics England<sup>8</sup> for podium potential level artistic, rhythmic, acrobatic gymnastics, trampoline, tumbling and DMT (i.e. zones with internal clear height of 9.0m clear height to accommodate 2 No. trampoline sites) and provide sufficient storage for equipment for these sports clubs.

**Figure 13: Recommendations for Gymnastics**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Gymnastics	Access to sports halls for club gymnastics and trampolining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The sports hall, storage and changing facilities in replacement leisure centres in Alton and Bordon</li> <li>The Alton sports hall to provide zones with internal clear height of 9.0m clear height (to accommodate 2 No. trampoline sites for use to 'podium potential level') and sufficient storage for equipment for clubs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A dedicated centre</li> </ul>

### Health & Fitness

The large upward trend in demand for keep fit facilities and activities nationally and regionally is outstripped in East Hampshire where demand has grown from 11.4% of over 16s to 19.1% over the last ten years.

With no large commercial gym operators in the district - at either the premium or budget ends of the health and fitness club market - and little expansion of the fitness gyms and studios in the

<sup>8</sup> British Gymnastics Sports Equipment Data Sheets (v4)

district's three main public leisure centres in the last five or six years, expansion of the supply is needed to meet current demands.

With the forecast population growth in the district, unless the fitness provision is expanded in the public leisure centres in the short term, it is highly likely that the national chain commercial operators will establish clubs in one or more of the main towns in the district. There is therefore a window of opportunity for the Council and its leisure centre joint venture partner - Everyone Active - to address unmet demand and likely growth through the plans to expand the fitness facilities at the Taro and to provide larger, higher quality gyms and studio spaces supported by modern reception, changing, refreshment and child care facilities in the replacement centres in Alton and Bordon.

Capitalising on this opportunity through the Council's leisure centre estate (as opposed to leaving it to the commercial market) will bring significant strategic benefits. Firstly, by maintaining most of the fitness facility supply in the community sector, it will facilitate the delivery of inclusive policies and programmes to encourage more inactive people in the district to get active. Secondly, the expanded fitness facilities and health spa will make a significant financial contribution to the costs of maintaining the swimming pools and other sports facilities for the benefit of residents over the long term.

In terms of quality of provision, in addition to the upgrading and expansion of the health and fitness facilities in the core leisure centre estate, there is also a need to upgrade the fitness gym, equipment and changing rooms at the Bohunt Centre.

**Figure 14: Recommendations for Health & Fitness**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Health & Fitness	The quantity of studios/activity halls suitable for health and fitness activities/classes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The gym, studios and changing facilities at the Taro Leisure Centre.</li> <li>○ The gym, studios and changing facilities in replacement leisure centres in Alton and Bordon</li> <li>○ the gym, equipment and changing rooms at the Bohunt Centre</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ More health and fitness capacity in upgraded/ replacement leisure centres in the three main towns</li> <li>○ More hall space suitable for community health and fitness classes in the Southern Parishes to support population growth - Clanfield, Land East of Horndean</li> </ul>

### Athletics

Running and jogging - whether as part of a formal club or independently - is one of the most accessible sports and physical activities available to all in communities. Nationally, participation in inclusive group running programmes such as Parkrun and couch to 5k courses provided by local running clubs to encourage new runners is one of the fastest area of growth in sport and active recreation.

The benefits of regular running for community health and wellbeing are well evidenced and fully justify local authorities prioritising facility provision in this area, including ensuring a good level of provision of training treadmills in health and fitness facilities in community sports and leisure centres.

While East Hampshire district offers runners excellent access to off road running routes in summer and at weekends - including weekly Parkrun events in Queen Elizabeth Country Park in the south and Alice Holt Woods in the north - there are currently no way-marked off road routes with lighting to allow safe use by runners on dark evenings in winter.

Opportunities to provide such routes should be explored in consultation with England Athletics and local clubs in each of the four sub areas. Alternative opportunities have already been identified with Alton Town Council around either i) the perimeter of Anstey Park (as a upgrade to the existing

321 way marked perimeter grass route) with the new Alton Sports Centre as the base for parking, changing and refreshments, or ii) around the Jubilee Sports Field (with the recommended new sports pavilion in the centre of the sports field as the ancillary base for runners).

In Petersfield, opportunity sites for consideration for the development of way marked off road running routes could include Penns Place and Petersfield Heath and, in the North East of the district, Broxhead Common and Deadwater Valley Nature Reserve.

With regard to track and field athletics, there is no strategic needs case for a club level facility (400m all weather track and field athletics facilities) in East Hampshire district given the extent of existing provision in the drive time catchment area (four available 400m all weather tracks).

The strategic focus for the development of track and field athletics in the district for the current Local Plan period should be on seeking to establish the feasibility of locating a Compact Athletics Facility at one of the dual use secondary schools in the district.

In the short term, options to secure access for community groups and/or school groups to the recently provided all weather track straight at Treloar College in Alton should be explored, although it is understood that community access may not be possible due to conditions attached to the funding for this facility.

**Figure 15: Recommendations for Athletics**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Athletics	Existing facility provision - 321 way marked route (Anstey Park); QE Country Park, Alice Holt Woods; access to leisure centre changing facilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ The changing facilities in Jubilee Sports Park, Alton</li> <li>○ The changing facilities in the replacement leisure centre in Alton</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Way-marked off-road routes with lighting to allow safe use on dark evenings (in each sub area)</li> <li>○ A Compact Athletics Facility at one of the dual use secondary schools</li> <li>○ Increased access to the track at Treloar College</li> </ul>

### Indoor Climbing

There is a publicly accessible indoor climbing facility in East Hampshire at the Alton Sports Centre which provides a dedicated British Mountaineering Council (BMC) affiliated climbing centre (registered as a member of the Association of British Climbing Walls) with top rope and lead climbing (10m high ropes wall, 50+ routes from 4+ to 7c including auto belays) Dedicated Bouldering and ROCKFIT training walls.

There is also a small climbing wall within an end wall of the gymnasium at Churcher's College in Petersfield. This facility is suitable for children aged 6+ and is available for qualified instructors with their own ropes and equipment to hire from the College. There is no regular community climbing activity at this facility currently.

There are a number of BMC registered climbing facilities within the drivetime catchment of East Hampshire, for example in Guildford, Godalming, Fareham and Fleet.

Alton Sports Centre is BMC affiliated and the centre operator runs adult and age group centre-based clubs as part of the regular programme.

The joint venture proposals of the Council and the leisure operator Everyone Active for the new Alton Leisure Centre are to replace the existing high ropes and bouldering provision with a clip 'n climb facility. The strategic case for this change in type of provision for climbing is built on the wider appeal of the latter type of facility. The leisure operator is confident that this type of provision will substantially increase use over that of the existing traditional climbing facility by

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providing a fun, entry level climbing experience for younger children as well as a variety of experiences for young people and adults.

The broad appeal of clip n' climb for new entrants to climbing, suggests that this grass roots approach will align well with the wider public health and child obesity agenda.

Within the wider strategic context for this sports facility strategy, it is also relevant that by attracting greater usage, clip n' climb is also likely to generate higher income than a traditional climbing wall which will make a positive contribution towards EHDC's strategic aim for its leisure centre estate to become fully financially self-sustaining for the benefit of future generations.

Should the proposals proceed, then a plan will need to be developed to mitigate the impact on existing users to include establishing which of the alternative centres for experienced climbers within the drive time catchment area of Alton (identified above) offer spare capacity in the peak period and signposting these opportunities.

**Figure 16: Recommendations for Indoor Climbing**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Climbing	Access to an indoor climbing facility in the district	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The climbing (and changing facilities) in the replacement leisure centre in Alton to be designed to attract more use particularly by children and the inactive</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A management plan to mitigate the impact on existing sports climbers of the planned replacement of the high ropes and bouldering with a clip 'n climb facility including signposting to alternative venues in the catchment area with spare capacity in the peak period</li> </ul>

## Tennis

There are sufficient club and public courts in East Hampshire to meet current demand.

The main facility need for the development of tennis in the district is more floodlit courts in areas where there is strong established demand in the summer season to facilitate more year round play. The priority location for floodlit courts is Petersfield in view of the high expressed demand (approximately 600 people have joined the annual household membership scheme in the first year) and the lack of floodlit courts within the town. The nearest floodlit courts are at Bedales School (where availability is restricted by school use and cost of hire) and at the members' tennis club in Steep village.

To address this need, there may be an opportunity to provide floodlights to the public courts at Avenue Recreation Ground subject to feasibility (planning and funding).

In the longer term, subject to feasibility, planning and successful negotiation, they may be an opportunity to provide new floodlit courts at Penns Farm Playing Fields served by the changing facilities in the Taro Leisure Centre. This will be dependent on feasibility assessment of outline proposals for an extended sports hub in this location linked to a transfer of sports ground land between the Town Council (Love Lane Football Ground) and Churcher's College (Penns Playing Field).

In the Southern Parishes, the priority site for floodlit courts is Rowlands Castle Tennis Club. There is also a case at this site for upgrading the showers, changing, kitchen fixtures and fittings in the Parish Council's pavilion.

Growth in demand to play tennis to 2028 as a result of population growth and participation trends should be comfortably accommodated by the existing and planned public and club courts. In the event that this is not the case, then there is substantial 'overspill' supply on secondary school sites (including floodlit courts) that could be brought into regular community use. However, this will

require much improved marketing of these courts and support to the schools to develop a more customer-friendly offer (the LTA advise prices of £4/£5 a court and/or a household membership of circa £30 per annum along with online booking and payment systems).

In the Southern Parishes, the new public courts and community building to be provided in Clanfield as part of the S106 Agreement relating to the Windmill View new housing development could work to mitigate any reduction in the number of courts at the College in Horndean should any loss of courts be necessary to accommodate extension of the 3G MUGA to a full size pitch (a priority project in the Playing Pitch Strategy for the district).

The aspirations of the owners of the Kingsley Tennis Centre to expand the number of outdoor courts and the indoor support facilities in order to better accommodate sub-regional tournaments and events have merit. However delivery of this ambitious project will be subject to detailed assessment of the feasibility (securing the necessary land and planning consents) and business planning (financial viability, participation growth etc.)

Other lower priority facility needs identified in the site audits and consultations include the resurfacing of the courts at Medstead Tennis Club and provision of showers at Steep Tennis Club. In light of the LTA's current investment priorities, funding for court resurfacing will need to be raised by the clubs as part of their club sinking fund / maintenance cycle. Similarly, clubhouse improvement needs - such as those identified at Steep TC and Rowlands Castle TC - will need to be funded by the clubs and local partners and not rely on LTA grant or loan support.

**Figure 17: Recommendations for Tennis**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Tennis	The quantity of public/club courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Court surface at Medstead tennis club</li> <li>○ Changing at Steep tennis club (to provide showers)</li> <li>○ Sports pavilion at Four Marks Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Floodlights to courts in Avenue Recreation Ground, Petersfield</li> <li>○ Floodlights to courts in Rowlands Castle Recreation Ground, Southern Parishes</li> <li>○ New courts in Clanfield and Bordon - support to develop new clubs</li> </ul>

### Bowls and Petanque

The population profile of East Hampshire is older than the national average and forecast growth is greatest in the oldest age groups amongst which bowls and petanque demand is highest.

It is also apparent from the membership figures provided by the EIBA that the indoor bowls club at Chawton Park is thriving, beginning to attract junior members and, overall, is bucking the national trend of falling membership.

With regard the outdoor game, with the new green opening in 2018 in Clanfield there is a good geographical spread of greens with all residents within the drive time catchment of a green.

There is capacity for more members at six of the seven established clubs with greens (and at the new greens in Clanfield and BOSCO) based on the Bowls England benchmark comfortable capacity for a 6 lane green of 60 regular playing members.

The low membership of the club at Four Marks (17 approximately) is a concern, particularly in view of its proximity to the newly laid all weather green at Medstead. The future of the Four Marks club may be at risk. Support to produce and implement plans for club development and new member recruitment will be required if this club is not to follow the example of Ropley Bowls Club (also close by) which folded in January 2017. The current level of membership is less than half the number advised by the Bowls Development Alliance as necessary to generate the income required to maintain a green to a standard that will attract new players.



The main facility need for bowls in the district is to support the Liphook club to continue to improve the quality of the green in Liphook Recreation Ground. At Clanfield the parish council will need support from the EHDC sports development officer, Energise Me and Bowls Hampshire to develop the new club at these sites and to ensure a good standard of green and pavilion maintenance.

There may also be a case in the medium term to support Four Marks Parish Council to extend its sports pavilion in the recreation ground which is shared by several sports clubs. However, the needs case for additional social and activity space will be driven by the needs of the tennis and football clubs rather than the bowls club given its low membership numbers.

For petanque, commitments are in place at BOSC to replace the terrain at Prince Philip Barracks used by the only active club in the district - Bordon Petanque Club - in the north of the district. There is plenty of capacity for growth in demand both at this new terrain and further south in the district at Avenue Recreation Ground in Petersfield. High quality, modern pavilions and adjacent car parking will be available at both sites once the BOSC scheme is completed in 2018.

The growth of population in the district in the older age groups is likely to stimulate new growth in demand for bowls and petanque. However, it is apparent from the review and consultation that there is spare capacity at existing facilities to accommodate growth over the Local Plan period particularly so in the Southern Parishes with the committed provision of a new six rink bowling green at Clanfield. In the North East sub area, the replacement of the existing Bordon petanque terrain at BOSC will address the needs for this sport. In addition, S106 provision is made for a new bowling green and pavilion in Whitehill & Bordon. This provision ensures that forecast growth in demand for bowls from population expansion in this area over the Local Plan period can be met.

**Figure 18: Recommendations for Bowls and Petanque**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Bowls	The quantity of greens and indoor rinks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The green in Liphook Recreation Ground</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New greens in development Clanfield and Whitehill &amp; Bordon - support to develop new clubs</li> </ul>
Petanque	The quantity of terrains		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement for Bordon Petanque Club terrain when Prince Philip Barracks closes - in development at BOSC for completion in 2018</li> </ul>

## Golf

There are eight golf courses in East Hampshire. Although there is no municipal golf course in the district, in the Alton area in the north there are two courses that provide low cost access for juniors and beginners.

The pay and play course at South Petersfield provides similar opportunities for new and young players in the south of the district. In addition, Blackmoor Golf Club in the north east of the district hosts EHDC summer holiday golf sessions for 7-14 year olds (Get Activ8d).

There are no priority facility needs for golf to meet current demand and no further provision will be needed over the Local Plan period to 2028.

In view of the downward trend in national and regional demand for golf, the main requirement over the period will be to support the promotion of the district's courses to visitors and societies to generate visitor spend and, with the Golf Foundation, encouraging more free and low cost opportunities for juniors in liaison with local schools.

Consideration should be given to the need for floodlights to the driving range at Blacknest Golf Club to extend the availability of this practice facility year round in the evenings.

**Figure 19: Recommendations for Golf**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Golf	The quantity of provision of affordable pay & play golf facilities		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Floodlights to driving range at Blacknest GC</li> </ul>

### Netball

Eight sports halls in East Hampshire are marked for netball use. However, most do not provide the run off zone dimensions recommended by England Netball for adult club level match play. As such, the existing indoor courts in the district are only suitable for junior match play and adult training. In this regard, it will be important for the proposed replacement sports halls at the new Alton Sports Centre and replacement for the Mill Chase School sports hall in Budds Lane to both provide the recommended court run offs zones for club matchplay.

The main facility issue for the provision of outdoor courts, is the lack of available and affordable floodlit courts for the Alton Ants Club teams to train. The only outdoor courts with lights in the town are at Alton School where evening access is costly due to caretaker fees in addition to the court hire charge and the quality of the lighting is poor.

The key venue for league netball teams in East Hampshire is the Basingstoke Netball League venue - the Russell Howard Netball Centre, 6 floodlit courts and a pavilion, leased by the league from Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The recently opened new leisure centre in Eastleigh is the main netball venue in the county. Providing a 3netball court sports hall, full International specification run offs and spectator seating, this venue is designated by England Netball as the main venue in the county for major indoor netball tournament events.

In this context, the strategic facility priorities for netball in East Hampshire over the period to 2028 are:

- To increase the floodlit court capacity for the Alton Ants Netball Club to allow each team to train weekly. This should be addressed by the current funding plans of the Town Council to refurbish the two courts and floodlights in Anstey Park. Although there are no changing facilities at these courts, it is only a short walk to the Finnimore Pavilion.
- To ensure that the specifications for the dimensions of the new sports halls to be provided in Alton and Bordon as part of the current planning proposals allow for club level netball competition - i.e. court run offs zones at the ends and sides of 3.05m<sup>9</sup> or, as a minimum, with run offs of 2m at the ends and 1.5m at the sides (see section 4.3 above). This will support the future development of the BUGS and ANTS clubs in these locations in a sport with growing demand.

**Figure 20: Recommendations for Netball**

Sport/Facility	Protect	Enhance	Provide
Netball	Access to sports halls and outdoor courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The two courts and lighting in Anstey Park (not currently suitable for use)</li> <li>The Sports Hall and changing facilities in the replacement leisure centre in Alton</li> <li>The Alton sports hall to provide court dimensions and run off zones to allow for club level netball competition - i.e. run offs zones at the ends and sides of 3.05m (recommended) or 2m at the ends and 1.5m at the sides (minimum).</li> </ul>	

## 4.2 Summary

<sup>9</sup> Comparative Size of Sports Courts & Pitches (Indoor), Sport England (September 2015 Update)

The full sport and recreation study provides East Hampshire District Council with an updated assessment of the needs of the existing and future resident population for community sports and leisure facilities up to 2028 in line with the Local Plan.

The study has determined a clear set of facility priorities over the short, medium and long term based on the findings of the assessment of needs and the evidence collated.

A number of exciting sports facility projects are in the pipeline for East Hampshire which will significantly enhance the facilities infrastructure across the district to improve the participation opportunities on offer to residents and visitors. The enhancements to the Taro Leisure Centre and the new centres planned in Alton and Bordon will improve the quality and variety of sport and leisure opportunities available to local people.

The main challenge facing East Hampshire District Council with regard to provision of built sports and leisure facilities is to ensure that these become fully financially self-sustainable and appeal to a more participants (including those currently insufficiently physically active to maintain good health) whilst also successfully managing the impact of changes to the scale and type of facilities provided on existing users. Whilst reducing the number of squash courts in Petersfield and Alton and changing the type of climbing facility provided in Alton is likely to contribute towards achievement of these wider strategic aims, the changes will have an impact on some current users of these facilities. Management plans will be required for these sports to minimise the impact to include options for displaced users to access squash and indoor climbing venues either within the district or in neighbouring local authority areas and signposting these opportunities.

#### 4.3 Priority Projects

To assist with the future delivery of the projects highlighted below, and the outline investment requirements, the sites have been divided into the sub-regions of the district. It should be noted that the assessment of need for all built sports facility types within the Sports Facilities Strategy is done on a district wide basis and the split of projects below is done solely to coordinate potential sub-area investment opportunities.

**Figure 21: Built Sports Facilities Priority Projects Years 1 - 3**

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources
<b>SDNP</b>					
Taro Leisure Centre	Swimming, Sports Hall sports, Health & Fitness, squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade the pool roof &amp; wet change</li> <li>Extend/upgrade the health &amp; fitness spaces</li> <li>Upgrade the dry change</li> </ul>	EHDC	Everyone Active	Funded (JV)
Herne Farm Leisure Centre	Swimming, squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish opportunities for increased squash club access and court/ changing enhancement needs to accommodate increase in use</li> </ul>	EHDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Herne Farm LC</li> <li>England Squash</li> <li>Petersfield Squash Club</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
Avenue Recreation Ground	Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the feasibility of providing LED floodlighting to courts for year round play</li> </ul>	Petersfield Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LTA</li> <li>EHDC</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
Bedales	Sports Hall sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resand and reseal sports hall floor and line markings</li> </ul>	School		To be determined and secured
<b>NE</b>					
New Bordon Town Centre	Swimming, Health & Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New larger provision (6 lanes) to replace existing at Mill Chase Academy</li> </ul>	WBRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHDC</li> <li>Everyone Active</li> </ul>	Funded (£106 & JV)

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources
The Bohunt Centre	Squash, Health & Fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade the squash courts, gym equipment and changing rooms</li> </ul>	School	EHDC	To be determined and secured
BOSC	Petanque and Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replacement for Bordon Petanque Club terrain when Prince Philip Barracks closes</li> <li>Provision of two tennis courts</li> </ul>	WBRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHDC</li> <li>BOSC</li> <li>Bordon Petanque Club</li> </ul>	Funded (£106)
Budds Lane Bordon (new Mill Chase Academy)	Sports Hall sports, Tennis & Netball	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provision of a 4 court main hall and 2 court ancillary hall and a floodlit Multi Use Games Area (MUGA) equipped for tennis and netball</li> </ul>	WBRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHDC</li> </ul>	Funded (£106)
Liphook Recreation Ground	Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance quality of green at Liphook Bowls Club</li> </ul>	Liphook Bowls Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Liphook Parish Council</li> <li>England Bowls</li> <li>EHDC</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
<b>NW</b>					
Alton Sports Centre	Swimming, Sports Hall sports, Health & Fitness, squash, climbing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace with new centre on adjacent site</li> </ul>	EHDC	Everyone Active	Funded (JV)
Medstead Tennis Club	Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Court resurfacing</li> </ul>	Medstead Tennis Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Medstead Parish Council</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
Jubilee Sports Field	Athletics (and pitch sports)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace the changing facilities (for multisport)</li> <li>Provide way-marked off road circular route around perimeter</li> </ul>	Alton Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ECB/FA/FF (see PPS)</li> <li>England Athletics</li> <li>EHDC</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
Anstey Park	Netball, Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade the two netball courts and lighting (adjacent to skate park)</li> </ul>	Alton Town Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>England Netball</li> <li>Alton Ants NC</li> </ul>	Funded (£106)
Energique	Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish opportunities for squash club access and any court/changing enhancement needs to accommodate this use</li> </ul>	EHDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Energique</li> <li>England Squash</li> <li>Alton Squash Academy</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
<b>Southern Parishes</b>					
Horndean College	Sports Hall sports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Resand and reseal sports hall floor and line markings</li> </ul>	College		To be determined and secured
St James' Place, Clanfield	Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide new 6 rink green and pavilion</li> </ul>	Developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHDC</li> <li>Clanfield Parish Council</li> <li>Clanfield Bowls &amp; Social Club</li> </ul>	<i>Completed</i>
Windmill	Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide 2 new courts and</li> </ul>	Developer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHDC</li> </ul>	

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources
View, Green Lane, Clanfield		changing in new community building		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clanfield Parish Council</li> </ul>	

**Figure 22: Built Sports Facilities Longer Term Projects Years 3+**

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources
<b>SDNP</b>					
Penns Place	Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish feasibility of providing floodlit tennis courts as part of expanded sports hub (see PPS)</li> </ul>	EHDC	Petersfield Town Council LTA	To be determined and secured
Steep Tennis Club	Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide showers to changing rooms</li> </ul>	Steep Tennis Club		To be determined and secured
<b>NE</b>					
Former Prince Philip Barracks	Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide new 6 rink green and pavilion</li> </ul>	WBRC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHDC</li> <li>Whitehill &amp; Bordon TC</li> <li>BOSC</li> <li>Bowls England</li> </ul>	Funded (\$106)
Kingsley Tennis Centre	Tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish the feasibility and business case of increasing the number of outdoor courts to increase capacity in peak and grow team tennis and tournament events</li> </ul>	Kingsley Tennis Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>LTA</li> <li>EHDC</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
<b>NW</b>					
To be determined	Gymnastics Trampolining	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify suitable premises for conversion to a dedicated centre</li> <li>Develop business plan and feasibility</li> </ul>	Alton GC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>British Gymnastics</li> <li>EHDC</li> <li>Alpha TC</li> <li>Alton TC</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured
Four Marks Recreation Ground	Tennis, Football, Bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend pavilion for multisports, youth and social uses</li> </ul>	FourMarks Parish Council	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>EHDC</li> <li>User clubs</li> </ul>	To be determined and secured

## 5. Playing Pitch Strategy – Findings and Recommendations

### 5.1 Pitch Sports Overview

The key findings of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) by each leading sport are summarised in this section. The priority projects agreed by the Steering Group are also set out which cover the short, medium and longer term needs for each sport covered within the PPS. The full policy recommendations and full site by site specific action plan can be found in the full PPS report.

Figure 23 provides an overview of the current level of provision for each leading grass pitch sport.

**Figure 23: Pitch Supply and Typology**

Grass Pitches	Cricket	Football	Rugby
Senior pitches	35	27	9
Youth pitches (9v9 & 11v11)	N/A	34	11
Mini pitches (5v5 & 7v7)	N/A	22	0
<b>TOTAL - 138</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>20</b>

## 5.2 Current Pitch Facility Needs

From the assessment of the supply and demand information and views, it is clear that there is a needs case to **protect** the existing quantity of playing pitch supply in the district to meet current demand for football, hockey and rugby and, in the case of cricket, to ensure sufficient capacity is available to allow for forecast demand growth over the strategy period as a result of cricket development initiatives and increase in population from new housing developments.

Similarly, in relation to the minor sports played on playing pitches in the district there is a needs case to protect access to playing fields for the district-based **archery clubs** - i.e. Alton & Four Marks Archers at Four Marks Recreation Ground, The Bowmen of Petersfield at The Petersfield School and Whitehill Archers at the club's own dedicated field). There is also a need to protect access to playing pitches for the **Pythons Lacrosse Club** (currently based at Kingscourt School in Catherington in the Southern Parishes sub area).

### Current Facility Needs

- **Football pitches** - There is a capacity shortfall for youth football on the east side of the district in the SDNP sub area i.e. Petersfield / Liss and to lesser extent in Liphook in the North East sub area.
- In the Southern Parishes, there is a capacity shortfall for youth football in Clanfield.
- **Football AGPs** - To meet the FA's model scenario for provision of sufficient full size floodlit 3G AGPs (FTPs) to enable all district based affiliated teams to train on 3G once a week would require 5.3 pitches (224 teams/42). Current supply is 3 full size FTPs - at Anstey Enclosure, The Petersfield School and Mill Chase School. On this basis of analysis, the district has a shortfall of 2 FTPs.
- **Cricket pitches** - There is sufficient pitch supply to meet current demand although there are pinch points in Headley and Grayshott in the North East during peak Saturday afternoons. Enhancing the quality of key sites, including ancillary facilities (for example at Jubilee Sports Field in Alton), is the priority.
- **Rugby pitches** - There is sufficient pitch supply to meet current demand if the unsecured supply on school and MOD sites is included. If only secured supply is considered, there is a need for additional pitch capacity in Petersfield in addition to a drainage solution, enhancing pitch maintenance or relocation of the pitches in Anstey Park (Alton RFC home ground).
- **Rugby AGPs** - There is no current need for a World Rugby Rule 22 compliant AGP in the district. The priority location in this part of the county is Havant RFC's ground in Havant Park which is within the drive time catchment of the Southern Parishes and the Petersfield area of the SDNP.
- **Hockey AGPs** - There is a clear capacity shortfall in the Alton area of the district due to the lack of access to a hockey AGP with floodlights (to allow evening training) and planning restrictions on times of use of the pitch at Amery Hill School.

- **Pavilions** - Enhancement to ancillary pavilion facilities are required as available resources allow at: Alton Jubilee Fields, The Glebe Liss, West Liss RG (all football/cricket share); Penns Farm Playing Fields (potential for football/rugby share); East Meon and Kingsley (cricket).

### 5.3 Likely Pitch Facility Needs to 2028

- **Football** - By 2028, there is likely to be a need for sufficient capacity to accommodate the match play and training needs of circa 8 adult and 24 youth/mini-soccer teams generated by population growth plus development within clubs to convert latent demand. Nine clubs in the district have expressed aspirations to grow in consultation. Future facility provision should also seek to respond to the FA 'National Game' strategy for more youth league football to be played on 3G pitches (for example by ensuring the replacement astro at Alton Sports Centre meets FA registration standards for u7/u8 5v5 league play as now proposed). It is estimated that 2 new full size floodlit FTPs will be needed by 2028 in the district (to FA register specification) to accommodate this growth.
- **Cricket** - Forecast population growth to 2028 has the potential to generate circa 7 adult and 7 junior teams. In addition, three cricket clubs in the district have expressed aspirations for growth which is supported by the ECB's 'Unleashed' strategy to convert latent adult demand through promotion of shorter, friendly game formats (T20/25), and to develop junior cricket through the Kids All Stars programme. With two new pitches being provided in the district (Horndean, Southern Parishes. BOSC in the North East) and unused capacity at a number of village cricket grounds there is no need case for the development of further new cricket pitches in the district in the strategy period.
- **Rugby** - Sufficient playing pitch capacity will be required to accommodate team growth from population change (circa 1 adult, 3 midi/mini) plus the growth aspirations of both the districts' rugby clubs (particularly in the areas of girls & women's rugby and social adult touch rugby). The RFU facility strategy focuses on enhancing facilities at secured community club sites and providing strategically located rugby compliant 3G AGPs to deliver wider game development. The additional pitch capacity for the Petersfield Club with planning consent (Penns Field B) and the provision of a third set of floodlights (in the RFU capital programme for 2018) will be sufficient to accommodate the forecast growth. The planned development of a 365 Rugby 3G Pitch at Havant Rugby Club will meet the strategic need for rugby 3G capacity in this part of the county in the short term. A needs case for 3G supply in Petersfield may develop in the second half of the strategy period. This should be kept under review.
- **Hockey** - Forecast population growth is likely to generation circa 2 adult and 2 junior teams. In addition, both the district based hockey clubs have expressed growth aspirations to convert latent demand (adult Back to Hockey, Walking Hockey etc) supporting England Hockey's aim to double participation nationally over the next ten years. In East Hampshire the priority will be on improving the stock (with floodlighting and clubhouse facilities initially) and on securing better access/tenure agreements with school facility providers. The growth trend of the Alton Hockey Club, if it continues, will support the needs case for a second pitch in the town (to EH Category 2 or Category 3 specification) during this strategy period.

Figure 24 summarises the conclusions of the assessment as to likely facility needs by 2028 to meet demand in the peak period:

**Figure 24: Forecast Pitch Supply Needs by 2028**



Pitch Sport	Additional supply required by 2028	Key assumptions - supply changes (in development or committed projects)
Cricket	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New pitch in North East (BOSC)</li> <li>○ New pitch in Southern Parishes (Hazelton Farm, East of Horndean)</li> </ul>
Football	<p>+2 No. FA registered full size floodlit FTPs<sup>10</sup> (SDNP, Southern Parishes) to provide all district based affiliated teams with a midweek training slot</p> <p>+ 4 No. 9v9 pitches (current shortfall of 4 for home matches, plus 4 for up to 8 teams from growth, less 4 in committed projects)</p> <p>+ 7 No. 7v7 pitches (current shortfall of 6 for home matches, plus 3 for home matches of up to 6 teams from growth, less 2 in committed projects)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Replacement 3G AGP as FTP in North East (Budds Lane school)</li> <li>○ New youth pitches (3 No. 11v11, 2 No. 9v9, 2 No. 7v7, 1 No. 5v5) in North East (Budds Lane schools)</li> <li>○ Reprovision of 2 senior pitches in North East (BOSC)</li> <li>○ Replacement of Alton Sports Centre sand astro with a FA registered 5v5 3G suitable for u7/u8 matches (NW)</li> <li>○ 2 new 9v9 pitches in Southern Parishes (St James Place, Clanfield)</li> <li>○ 1 new senior pitch in Southern Parishes (Hazelton Farm, East of Horndean)</li> </ul>
Hockey	+1 No. EH Category 2 or 3 AGP (North West)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ New hockey AGP in North East (Budds Lane school in final phase funded by disposal of existing 3G AGP at Mill Chase School)</li> </ul>
Rugby (all supply)	0	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of Garrison senior pitch with lights in NE</li> <li>○ Secured access for Alton RFC to new junior pitch at replacement school in Budds Lane</li> </ul>
Rugby (secured supply only)	+ 1 No. senior pitch (Penns Field B - Petersfield)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Loss of Garrison senior pitch with lights in NE</li> <li>○ Secured access for Alton RFC to new junior pitch at replacement school in Budds Lane</li> </ul>

#### 5.4 Proposed Pitch Quality Standards

Pitch carrying capacity has a direct relationship with pitch quality scores. Improved quality directly affects pitch carrying capacity. Investment in quality enhancements to pitches at existing playing pitch sites with secure community access is, usually, more cost effective than investment in new provision. For example, raising the quality of a football pitch from 'Standard' to 'Good' would enable an additional game per week to be accommodated. Figure 25 sets out the recommended target quality standard for playing pitches in East Hampshire.

**Figure 25: Quality Standards**

<sup>10</sup> Full size FTPs on the FA Register for affiliated league play will provide capacity for match play at weekends in addition to midweek team training. Accordingly, subject to cost of hire and programming, provision of the FTPs may reduce the shortfall of natural turf pitches for youth football below the levels shown in the table.

### Recommended Quality Standards for Playing Pitches

Cricket: Future standard – Good (i.e. an aggregate rating of 80% or more against ECB Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the outfield, grass wickets, changing pavilion, artificial wickets and non-turf cricket practice nets as applicable to the site)

Football: Future Standard – Good (i.e. an aggregate rating of 80% or more against FA Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the assessment criteria and aggregate rating scores for the playing surface and maintenance programme)

Rugby Union: Future Standard – Good (M2) rating (i.e. no action needed on maintenance) and D3 rating (i.e. no action needed on pitch drainage).

### 5.5 Priority Projects

To assist with the future delivery of the projects highlighted below, and the outline investment requirements, the sites have been divided into the sub-regions of the district for the Playing Pitch Strategy. It should be noted that the assessment of need for all pitch sports within the Playing Pitch Strategy is done on a district wide basis and the split of projects below is done solely to coordinate potential sub-area investment opportunities.

**Figure 26: Playing Pitch Priority Projects Years 1 - 3**

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
<b>SDNP</b>						
Penns Farm Playing Field	Rugby	Floodlights to third rugby pitch	Petersfield Town Council	RFU, Petersfield RFC	Allocated in RFU Capital Programme for 2018	H
Petersfield RFC clubhouse	Rugby	Assess feasibility of shared use with youth football on Saturday mornings	Petersfield RFC	Petersfield Town Council, Petersfield Juniors FC	Club fund raising/ reserves	H
Penns Field 'B'	Rugby & Football	Additional pitches and access to welfare facilities for youth football	Petersfield Town Council	FA, Petersfield Town Juniors, RFU, Petersfield RFC	To be determined (£40k S106 allocated to date)	H
Avenue Recreation Ground	Football	Mark out youth football pitch	Petersfield Town Council	Petersfield Town Juniors	For 2018/19 season	H
Newman Collard, Liss	Football	Youth pitches drainage; feasibility of conversion of main pitch to 3G	Recreation Ground Trustees	Liss Parish Council, FA, Liss Athletic FC	IOG visit to assess	H
West Liss Recreation Ground	Football	Reconfigure pitch layout to suit youth football. Feasibility of securing adjacent land for pitches; replacement of pavilion	Liss Parish Council	EHDC (adjacent landowner), FA, Liss Athletic FC	c. £5k for site expansion feasibility study (a layout plan was prepared for Liss Parish Council in Feb 2018). (£40k EHDC S106 allocated to date for pavilion replacement)	H
The Glebe, Liss	Cricket &	Expansion of pavilion	Liss Cricket	FA, ECB, Liss	To be determined	M

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
	Football	(officials and access facilities)	Club	Athletic FC		
<b>North East</b>						
Liphook Recreation Ground	Football	Remove closed pavilions and assess feasibility of minisoccer on grass tennis courts (if no longer in use by tennis club), pitch quality improvements and pavilion extension	Bramshott & Liphook Parish Council	FA, Liphook United FC	To be determined, IOG visit to assess	M
Bohunt School	Football & Hockey	Replace AGP floodlights (planning condition); negotiate more access to grass pitches for youth football	School	FA, EHDC (Planning); Liphook United FC	Secured from housing developer to rear	H
BOSC	Football & Cricket	2 No. upgraded adult football pitches, 1 new cricket pitch (4 wickets), 2 tennis courts, pavilion	BOSC	EHDC, W&B Town Council, Headley CC	£614k Secured from Prince Philip Barracks site development S106	H
Budds Lane (new school playing field)	Football, Rugby, Cricket	Provide replacement for Mill Chase AGP, new pitches for youth football, a junior rugby pitch, NTP cricket and changing facilities with CUA	Hampshire County Council	EHDC, W&B Town Council, FA, Headley FC	Costs to be determined S106 contributions of £565k secured (Louisburg Barracks & Quebec Park)	H
Mill Chase Recreation Ground	Football	Implement IoG pitch quality recommendations	W&B Town Council	FA, Wey Valley FC	Costs to be determined - £426k S106 funding secured as Off Site Sports Pitches Contribution (Prince Philip Barracks)	H
Headley Recreation Ground	Football & Cricket	Implement IoG pitch quality recommendations; Replace NTPcricket	Headley Parish Council	FA, Headley Youth FC	Costs to be determined. £426k S106 funding (as above).	H
<b>North West</b>						
Amery Hill School	Hockey	Floodlights to AGP	School	EH, Alton HC	SE CAF contribution in principle	H
Alton Sports Centre	Football	new 5v5 3G pitch - ensure spec suitable for FA approved u7/u8 5v5 matches	EHDC	Everyone Active, FA	Reserved Matters Planning to be determined in 2018	H
Anstey Park	Rugby & Football	Pitch drainage or relocation	Alton Town Council	EHDC, RFU, Alton RFC, Alton FC	To be determined	H
Jubilee Sports Field	Cricket & Football	Replacement for changing pavilions & cricket clubhouse	Alton Town Council	ECB, FA, Alton CC	Circa £400k	M
Medstead Recreation Ground	Cricket & Football	Upgrade cricket practice net	Medstead Parish Council	ECB, Medstead CC		M
Four Marks Recreation	Football & Cricket	Spectator barrier and hardstanding to main	Four Marks Parish	FA, Four Marks FC		M

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
Ground		pitch; Develop cricket demand	Council	ECB, EnergiseMe		
<b>Southern Parishes</b>						
St James Place, Clanfield	Football	Two No. new Youth u11/u12 9v9 youth football pitches, new pavilion (shared with bowls)	Developer	EHDC, Clanfield Parish Council, FA, Clanfield FC	Secured	H
Clanfield Junior School	Football	Access to on site WC & water to support youth football (Sat ams)	School	FA, EHDC Sports Team, Clanfield FC	To be determined	H
The Rec, Horndean/ Waterlooille	Football	Consider options for secure storage for club on site	Horndean Parish Council	Horndean Hawks FC	To be determined	H

**Figure 27: Playing Pitch Longer Term Projects Years 3+**

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
<b>SDNP</b>						
Churchers College Penns Place Playing Field/ Petersfield Town Stadium	Football & Rugby	Feasibility Study for football only or football/ rugby share 3G at Penns & relocation of Petersfield Town	Churchers College	Petersfield Town Council, Petersfield Town FC, FA	c. £15k for feasibility study, project costs to be determined	M
Bedales	Hockey	Upgrade AGP floodlights	School	EH, Petersfield HC	To be determined	M
Love Lane Recreation Ground	Football	Drainage to youth pitches	Petersfield Town Council	FA, Petersfield Town Juniors	IOG visit to assess	M
Petersfield Heath	Cricket	Replace NT nets surface	Petersfield Town Council	ECB, Petersfield CC		L
Steep Cricket Ground	Cricket	Replace NT practice net surface	Steep Cricket Club	ECB		L
King George V Playing Field	Cricket	Review options for improvements to outfield	Froxfield Parish Council	ECB, Froxfield CC	ECB pitch adviser assessment	L
<b>North East</b>						
Budds Lane	Hockey	Provision of a hockey AGP with a CUA	Hampshire County Council	EHDC, EH	To be funded from proceeds of sale of existing Mill Chase AGP	L
Hollywater Primary School Field	Football	Enhancement & community use by WVFC (extension to Mill Chase RG)	Hampshire County Council	W&B Town Council, FA, Wey Valley FC	IOG visit to assess. Potential to fund from Off Site Sports Pitches S106 Contribution	M
Grayshott Sports Field	Football & Cricket	Pavilion roof repairs; review options for enhancing floodlit football training area	Grayshott Parish Council	FA, Grayshott YFC, ECB, Grayshott CC	To be determined	M
Kingsley Sports Ground	Cricket	Assess feasibility of replacement	Kingsley United	ECB	Feasibility costs - c. £15k	L

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Resources	Priority
		clubhouse	Sports Club			
<b>North West</b>						
Eggar's School	Hockey & Football	Provision of a hockey AGP with a CUA	School	EH, Alton HC, Alton School (user)	c. £500k	M
Holybourne Sports Field	Cricket (formerly also football)	Improve outfield/ extend square	Holybourne Sports Field Trustees	ECB, Holybourne CC	ECB pitch advisor to assess	L
Ropley Recreation Ground	Cricket & Football	Feasibility of securing adjacent land to relocate senior football pitch off cricket outfield	Ropley Parish Council	FA, ECB, Ropley FC, Ropley CC	IOG visit to assess	L
Four Marks Recreation Ground	Football & Cricket	Consider feasibility of floodlighting main pitch and extending pavilion social facilities	Four Marks Parish Council	FA, Four Marks FC	To be determined	L
Binsted Recreation Ground	Football & Cricket	Expand kitchen; replace NT cricket net surface	Binsted Parish Council	FA, Binsted Juniors FC, ECB, Binsted CC (newly formed)	To be determined	L
Bentley Recreation Ground	Football & Cricket	Improve pitch maintenance, replace NT cricket pitch and practice net; Develop cricket demand	Bentley Recreation Ground Charity	Bentley Parish Council, Manor Colts Vets FC  ECB, EnergiseMe		L
Wield Cricket Ground	Cricket	Replace NT practice net	Wield Cricket Club	ECB		L
<b>Southern Parishes</b>						
Horndean Technology College, Horndean		Feasibility of full size FTP in place of existing 3G MUGA	School	FA, various clubs including Clanfield FC, Horndean Hawks, Travaux, Hurstwood Rangers	c. £500k	M
Land East of Horndean (Hazelton Farm)	Cricket & Football	New cricket pitch, senior football pitch and pavilion	Developer	EHDC	Secured	M
Rowlands Castle Recreation Ground	Football & Cricket	Improve football pitch quality	Rowlands Castle Parish Council	FA, Castle United FC	IOG visit to assess	M

## 5.6 Summary

The Playing Pitch Strategy forms an integral part of the overall Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study for East Hampshire District Council and importantly represents a key element of the evidence base for the Local Plan.

The Steering Group that has overseen the development of the strategy set out a number of clear drivers and priorities to address and the Playing Pitch Strategy tackles these by providing:

- An up to date understanding of supply and demand
- A robust evidence base for each leading sport
- A site-specific basis for future investment

The PPS addresses changes to demand from population increases and spatial needs, identifies broad issues to be addressed for pitch sports (such as maintenance, wider action needed to support individual sports and changing formats of participation), identifies the need to protect playing field provision and also determines the future role and demand for AGPs in supporting growth and changes to hockey and football.

The central challenge for East Hampshire District Council, in times of unprecedented budget pressures for local authorities, is to address both the current identified facility shortfall (in both quality and quantity) as well as continuing to ensure that community provision caters for the District's growing population.

## 6. Conclusion

Implementation of the recommendations in this assessment of open space and sports and recreation needs and opportunities, by East Hampshire District Council with partners will support improvements to public health in the district by helping to ensure the available and accessible supply of these facilities actively encourages residents to make healthy lifestyle choices in relation to regular participation in physical activity to moderate intensity.

The updated evidence base underlying the recommendations also serves to support the relevant policies of EHDC and The South Downs National Park (SDNP) Authority (CP17 & CP18) within the adopted Joint Core Strategy to protect and improve Open Space, Sport and Recreation and Built Facilities. Updated evidence is also important to support the emerging South Downs National Local Plan and the emerging review of the East Hampshire District Local Plan.

The assessment and identification of priority projects will also inform needs and in the district and its sub areas to inform updates of the Infrastructure Delivery Plans of EHDC and the SDNPA and the future investment priorities for the Council's CIL and site-specific S106 Developer Contributions. Priority projects will also inform applications for external grant support to the relevant national sports agencies.

Most importantly, delivery of the recommendations in the assessment will make a significant contribution to achievement of the joint vision of the East Hampshire Community Partnership adopted both for The Sustainable Community Strategy and the East Hampshire District Local Plan: Joint Core Strategy (June 2014) with regard to better provision of and access to community facilities and the natural environment.

### East Hampshire Vision Statement 2014

By 2028, East Hampshire will be a better place where people live, work and build businesses in safe, attractive and prosperous towns and villages. They will have good access to a range of housing, jobs, leisure and community facilities, and enjoy a high quality built, historic and natural environment. They will live and work in a way that respects resources and protects and enhances the District's natural environment.