



**East Hampshire District Council**  
**Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy**  
**2024 – 2040**



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## **1. Introduction – Brief, Scope, Vision and Aims**

### **1.1 Background**

The new East Hampshire Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy 2024-2040 produced in line with Sport England's latest guidance forms the updated evidence base to the previous Sports Facility Needs Assessment and Playing Pitch Strategy 2018.

Continuum Sport and Leisure were commissioned by the Council to lead on the production of the new strategy, which has been agreed by all the key indoor and outdoor national governing bodies of sport following the Sport England process. Each authority in the country is encouraged to produce this evidence base to inform future decisions regarding the demand and supply of existing and new playing pitches and built sports facilities in a given area. The strategy documents inform an action plan which detail potential facility developments based on the demand and supply analysis. This action plan will be reviewed and amended, in partnership with stakeholders and the Strategy Steering Group where necessary on an annual basis.

The supply side information contained in the strategy is generated through standard facility audits used for all levels of facility from park to elite sport, with findings then corroborated by the relevant national governing body of that sport. The demand side information is generated from surveys of current and potential users including local sports clubs as well as club and team data provided by the relevant governing bodies of sport and facility booking records where available. The Council's Planning Policy, Community Engagement and Leisure Contracts Service has provided context and a local perspective on the overarching vision and principles driving the strategy and the outcome objectives.

The resulting action plan is a guide on how enhanced and new facilities might be developed, pending viability testing, funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where they might be developed and the lead organisation to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models. Often projects are delivered through the Council or the sport's governing body engaging with voluntary, education or commercial partners. Each potential project identified in the action plan will be reviewed and re-evaluated considering the situation at the time. The strategy and action plan provide a 'snapshot' of the position at the time of writing. Factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered during the life of the strategy.

When applying for funding to develop new facilities, Sport England, National Governing Bodies of Sport, and most other funding organisations, require evidence of the current demand and supply of facilities in an area to justify the proposed project. This strategy - developed and agreed in partnership with these same organisations - is the document that provides this information and is vital to the success of any funding bid.

Through the implementation of this strategy, the Council has a major role to play in enabling access to sporting opportunities at a cost that is acceptable to the wider community. The town and parish council's in the district has a role to play as a direct provider of entry level facilities such as free to use casual football pitches and community access park tennis courts as well as pay and play summer and winter sports pitches and leisure facilities with changing and toilet facilities to allow clubs to play competitively.

The Council also play an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate existing and new facilities.

The strategy document comprises two parts – Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and Sports Facilities Strategy (part 2) – each with an action and implementation plan.

## 1.2 Why the Strategy Has Been Developed

Alongside the need for the Council to ensure an up-to-date evidence base and need within the local plan, the purpose of the strategy is to support the Council’s overarching principles of positively shaping the future of East Hampshire. A key part of the future provision is the Council’s important direct and indirect contribution to improving health and increased physical activity levels of East Hampshire residents. The strategy will assist in establishing how to best meet the current and future health and wellbeing needs of East Hampshire’s community clubs, organisations and residents, contributing to the priority of making the district of East Hampshire a better place to live and work.

The Council’s main rationales for producing this updated strategy and associated action plan are detailed below:

- To evaluate the current quantity, quality and accessibility (including disability, gender, youth etc) of playing pitches and sports facilities in the East Hampshire District
- To assess the future needs of playing pitches and sports facilities over the plan period.
- To provide a robust and up to date assessment of sports provision in the district for the preparation of the new Local Plan 2021-2040
- To provide up to date strategic evidence of need in the prioritisation and implementation of outdoor sports facility development projects.

## 1.3 Improvement Projects Achieved

The Council has supported a number of projects since the last strategy in 2018.

These include the improvement to playing pitches such as:

- 2 New full sized 3G AGP’s at Oakmoor School (replacing the previous provision at Mill Chase Academy) and Horndean Technology College (extending the previous small sized 3G).
- New small sized 3G AGP at Alton Sports Centre.
- Improvements to the grass pitches at Horndean Technology College, Love Lane Sports Ground, Newman Collard Playing Fields, Penns Farm Playing Fields, and Jubilee Playing Fields.
- New SD AGP pitch at Eggars School and resurfaced SD AGP pitches at Churcher’s College and Bohunt School.
- New cricket pitch and football pitches at BOSC.

and the following Built Leisure Facilities projects:

- New £20 million Sports Centre in Alton with 6 lane 25m pool (equipped for short course competition with touchpad times, starting blocks and space for 150 spectators), a learner pool, 6 court Sports Hall, 130 station gym and studio.
- New Leisure Centre in Bordon, with 6 lane 25m pool a learner pool, 80 station gym and studio.
- Refurbished changing facilities, roof works and gym expansion in Petersfield at Taro Leisure Centre.
- Refurbishment of Treloar’s swimming pool.
- New 4 court Sports Hall and 2 court activity hall at Oakmoor school, Bordon.
- New 3 Court Sports Hall at Clanfield Sports & Community Centre.
- New artificial bowling green in Clanfield.

Since 2021 East Hampshire District Council has allocated £2,444,927.88 of community infrastructure levy (CIL) funding to sports projects across the district. This excludes any CIL allocation by South Downs National Park authority which have their own allocation of funding, but it does include some cross boundary projects over the last three years.

### 1.4 Vision and Key Deliverables

The vision for the East Hampshire Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy is to provide an assessment of the needs for playing pitches, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessment should identify specific needs and quantitative and/ or qualitative deficits or surpluses of playing pitches, sports and recreational facilities across East Hampshire District.

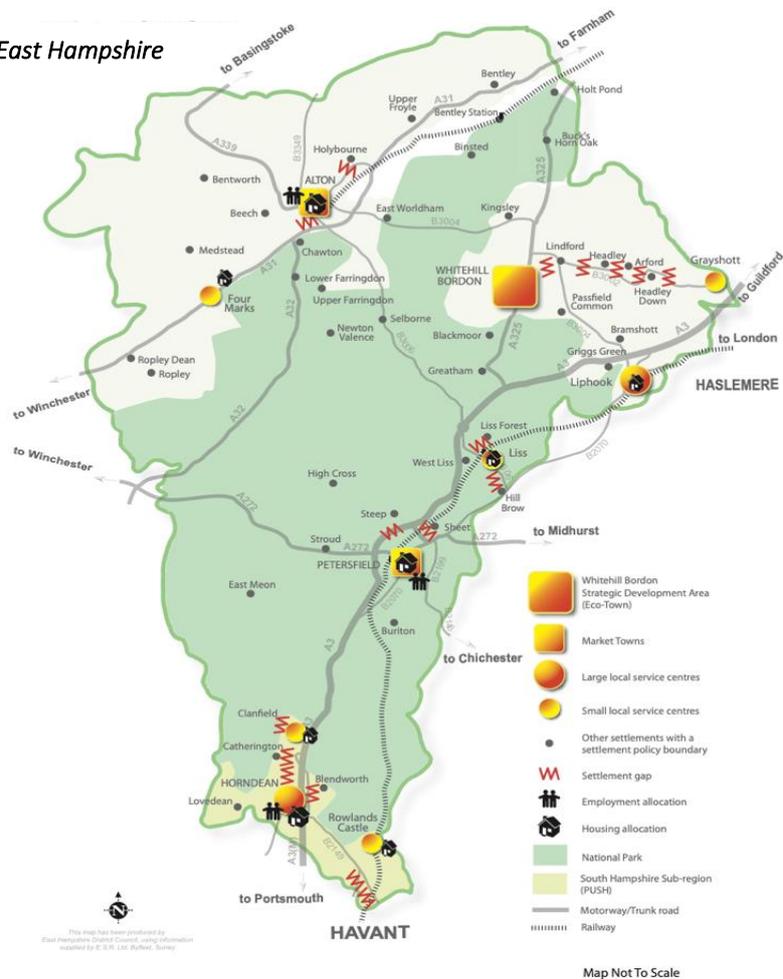
The key deliverables of the East Hampshire Sports Facility Strategy are as follows:

- Mapping showing location and extent of existing provision for playing pitches and facilities across the district.
- A report which follows the methodology produced in the Sport England Guidance, October 2013, analysing provision and identifying any quantitative and qualitative deficits. Where appropriate, recommendations should be made on potential new sites or site areas or improvements to existing areas to address any deficiencies that have been identified.
- The application of these provisional standards. This should take account of the present situation and the effects of the forecast development and demographic changes.
- Identification of strategic options for addressing needs/securing provision.
- A realistic assessment of any potential use of developer contributions in monetary / land terms (sites, equipment, improvement, maintenance etc.) in addressing any shortfall in need. This should be linked to potential future development.

### 1.5 The Extent of the Study Area

The study area will cover the entirety of East Hampshire. As an important part of the Strategy will be to identify future need for pitch provisions and facilities based on population growth and areas of housing growth as outlined in the Joint Core Strategy (2014) and shown in Figure 1.1. Consideration is given to leading areas of growth such as Whitehill & Bordon (2,725 dwellings), and Alton, Horndean, and Petersfield (700 dwellings) (East Hampshire Local Plan 2021-2040). A new East Hampshire District Local Plan is being prepared, and further growth is being planned for up to 2040.

Figure 1.1 – Map of East Hampshire



Map Not To Scale

There are also sports teams from inside East Hampshire that use facilities outside the district boundary as well as teams from neighbouring local authority areas that use facilities in East Hampshire. This cross-boundary movement has been taken into consideration when considering future needs for each particular sport both in terms of specialist and strategic facilities that serve a sub-regional catchment area, and the local community sporting needs for East Hampshire residents.

### 1.6 The Approach to Developing the Strategy

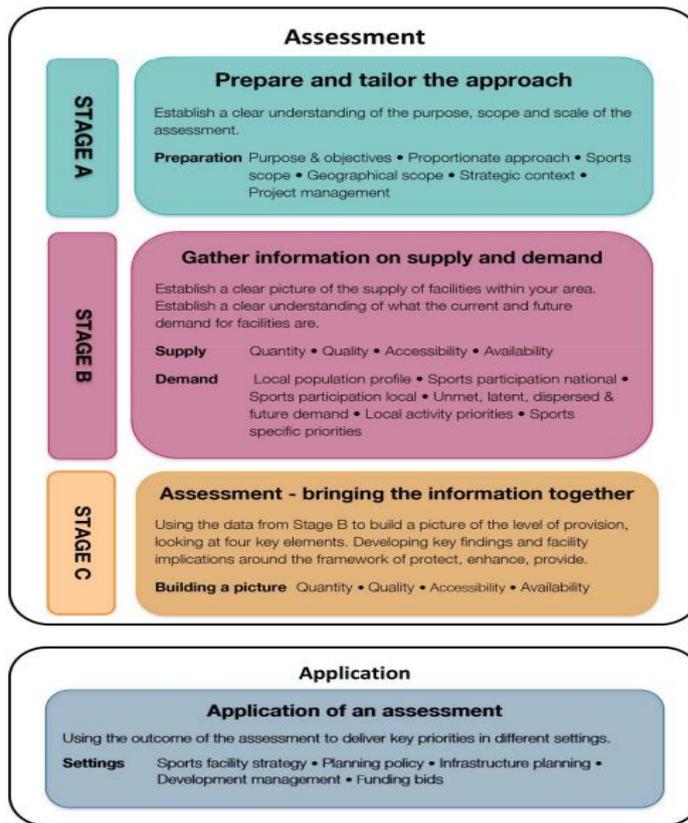
The strategy aims to be robust, based on local needs (currently and projections to 2040), and deliverable. This objective is assured by adhering to the 'ten steps' advocated in the current Sport England’s ‘Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance’ and the ‘Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities’. This guidance is detailed below.



Figure 1.2 - Ten Stage Approach to a PPS

- Stage A** - Step 1: Prepare and tailor the approach.
- Stage B** - Step 2: Gather supply information and views.  
- Step 3: Gather demand information and views.
- Stage C** - Step 4: Understand the situation at individual sites.  
- Step 5: Develop the current and future pictures of provision.  
- Step 6: Identify the key findings and issues.
- Stage D** - Step 7: Develop the recommendations and action plan.  
- Step 8: Write and adopt the strategy.
- Stage E** - Step 9: Apply and deliver the strategy.  
- Step 10: Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

Figure 1.3- Assessing needs and opportunities guide for indoor and outdoor sports facilities (ANOG)



**Stage A – Prepare and tailor the approach:** Establish a clear understanding of the purpose, scope and scale of the assessment.

**Stage B – Gather information on supply and demand:** Establish a clear picture of the supply of facilities within the area and the current and future demands for facilities.

**Stage C – Assessment – Bringing the information together:** Using the data from Stage B to build a picture of the level of provision, looking at four key elements. Developing key findings and facility implications around the framework of protect, enhance, provide.

**Application – Application of an assessment:** Using the outcome of the assessment to deliver key priorities in different settings.

### National Policy Adherence

There is also a need to adhere to the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). Para 102 of the NPPF states: *“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.*

Sport England’s guidance highlights the importance of undertaking detailed assessments of sports facility needs and the benefits of sports and physical activity within local authority areas (as well as considering the range of possible options and scenarios for meeting priority needs and achieving positive outcomes identified through this process), before making recommendations for future action.

Specifically, the guidance recommends that local authorities:

1. Recognise and give significant weight to the benefits of sport and physical activity.
2. Undertake, maintain and apply robust and up-to-date assessments of need and strategies for

*sport and physical activity provision, and base policies, decisions and guidance upon them.*

3. *Plan, design and maintain buildings, developments, facilities, land and environments that enable people to lead active lifestyles.*

The guidance published by Sport England also advocates that strategic recommendations and action planning consider the following hierarchy of needs:

1. **Protect** existing sports facilities where these are sustainable and continue to perform a valuable role in meeting community needs.
2. **Enhance** existing facilities that meet these criteria but need improvement to continue to be of value; and, lastly,
3. **Provide** new or extended facilities where there is found to be substantial unmet needs currently or predicted for the future.

### 1.7 Tailoring the Approach - What makes the study area different?

- The district is largely rural in character, but includes the towns and settlements of Alton, Petersfield, Liphook, Bordon and Horndean, and surrounding villages. 57% of the district falls within the South Downs National Park.
- The district contains areas protected by national and international designations, including Special Protection Areas (SPA), Special Areas of Conservation (SAC) and National Park.
- The Council is moving from its existing offices at Penns Place, Petersfield, which are next to the Taro leisure centre, and rugby pavilion and pitches, with green open space adjoining. The Council is currently exploring the possibility of increased sports provision on this site to deliver a town sports hub as envisaged in the Local Plan and Neighbourhood Plan.
- The Council is committed to helping to improve welfare and wellbeing, as demonstrated in the Council’s Welfare and Wellbeing Strategy (2020-2024). Sport has an important part to play in welfare and wellbeing, with access to sport facilities, and suitability of sports facilities for all is an important consideration, including minority groups, those with disabilities, females and the older generation.
- East Hampshire District Council meets regularly with the national governing bodies and has continued to monitor the 2018 Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy maintaining an up to date action plan and hosting annual review meetings.

### Population Profile and Growth

Any facilities which are developed from the study will need to meet the needs of East Hampshire’s future populations as well as its current population. Hampshire County Council produces Small Area Population Forecasts (SAPF) which help to enable future planning for local populations in Hampshire. Figure 1.4 summarises the most up to date population projections which are available for East Hampshire. These projections are from 2023 to 2040 and demonstrates that East Hampshire’s population is projected to grow by 6.59% from 2023 to 2040, this is larger than the regional average in Hampshire which is 4.40%. This increase of population indicates that the current provision of facilities for sport, physical activity, and recreation in East Hampshire will be under pressure in the coming years as this growth occurs.

**Figure 1.4 Population Projection for East Hampshire and Hampshire 2024 – 2040 (ONS national population projections 2021)**

Area	2023 Population	2032 Population	2040 Population	% increase
East Hampshire	125,031	130,094	133,270	6.59%
Hampshire	1,406,377	1,441,572	1,468,324	4.40%

## Health

It is useful to understand the health profile of East Hampshire both in regard to identifying health issues which new or improved facilities can contribute to addressing and with regards to understanding the propensity of a local population to be active. East Hampshire’s Local Authority Health Profile (statistics ranging from 2015 to 2021) states that the health of residents is better than the national average.

Figure 1.5 provides an overview of the performance of East Hampshire across several Department of Health key health indicators in comparison with national averages. Where figures for East Hampshire are highlighted in red, they are worse than the national average, and shows that East Hampshire performs well in comparison to the national averages for ten out of eleven health indicators.

**Figure 1.5 Table of health indicators in East Hampshire and England (OHID local authority health profiles)**

Indicator	East Hampshire	Region	England
Deprivation (IMD Score)	<b>10.3</b>	15.5	21.7
% Children in low-income families (U16)	<b>8.7</b>	10.8	15.3
% Prevalence of obesity (Year 6)	<b>15.8</b>	20.0	23.4
% Physically active adults	<b>75.0</b>	70.5	67.3
% Obese or overweight adults	<b>57.6</b>	62.7	63.8
% Estimated diabetes diagnosis rate	<b>73.1</b>	75.2	78.0
Life expectancy: male	<b>81.6</b>	80.6	79.4
Life expectancy: female	<b>82.4</b>	83.8	83.1
Under 75 mortality rate: cardiovascular	<b>40.2</b>	63.10	76.0
Under 75 mortality rate: cancer	<b>90.3</b>	112.9	121.5
Suicide rate	<b>9.5</b>	10.4	10.3

It is vital that facilities for sport are built so they can help contribute to maintaining the positive indicators reported and capitalise on a population with a high propensity for physical activity. According to Sport England, sport and physical activity can help with several different physical and mental issues including reducing the risk of diabetes, heart disease, depression and many more health indicators listed previously. Therefore, by improving the sports facilities at key sites, the residents will have more access to the opportunity of bettering their health.

## Deprivation

When planning for the development of new facilities for sport it is important to consider deprivation levels within the district and surrounding areas. Deprivation and the social and economic factors behind the figures directly affect the propensity and ability of the catchment population to access and use facilities and be active. Investment into community facilities can also form an important element of the regeneration of deprived areas. An awareness of how deprivation affects a local population can also influence how activities are delivered and what type of initiatives are launched to increase participation.

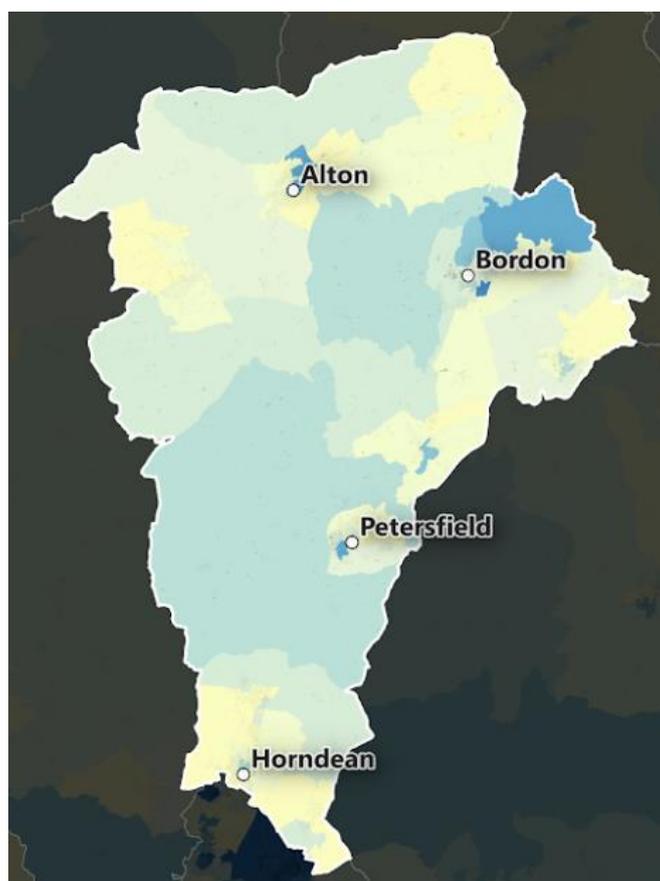
Figure 1.6 illustrates East Hampshire’s deprivation rank against other areas within the region for the years 2015 and 2019. As shown on the table, East Hampshire’s deprivation rank has decreased from 2015 to 2019 (where rank 1 is most deprived), signalling a worse state of deprivation in the area over the past 4 years. East Hampshire also seems to be below some of their neighbouring areas with regard to the deprivation rank.

**Figure 1.6 East Hampshire and neighbouring areas deprivation rank (ONS English indices of deprivation 2019, ONS English indices of deprivation 2015)**

	2019 Rank	2015 Rank
<i>Hart</i>	317/317	326/326
<i>Waverley</i>	313/317	323/326
<i>Winchester</i>	295/317	307/326
<b><i>East Hampshire</i></b>	<b>285/317</b>	<b>308/326</b>
<i>Basingstoke &amp; Deane</i>	246/317	275/326
<i>Chichester</i>	213/317	231/326
<i>Havant</i>	133/317	142/326

Figure 1.7 shows a map of East Hampshire split up into wards with different colours outlining their relative Index of Multiple Deprivation (The darker blue areas are the most deprived Local Super Output Areas). Understanding the most deprived areas of East Hampshire is helpful in knowing the neighbourhoods which may have the most difficulties accessing sport and leisure facilities due to their lack of resources. The most deprived areas on the map are Whitehill Chase, in Bordon, followed by Alton Westbrooke, in Alton. These are neighbourhoods to consider when looking at the development of sports facilities and initiatives to increase participation and accessibility.

**Figure 1.7 Levels of deprivation across East Hampshire by Local Super Output Areas**



**How does the population participate?**

Sport England’s Active Lives Survey provides a comprehensive assessment of physical activity and sports participation at a local authority, county, regional and national level. Active Lives measures a range of performance indicators including activity rates, indoor and outdoor activity, and satisfaction with local sports provision. Active Lives also provides analysis of activity across a range of demographics including, gender, deprivation levels and age.

Figure 1.8 outlines the percentage of the population of East Hampshire, local districts and Hampshire County who participated in moderate intensity physical activity for at least 30 minutes per week during each of the aforementioned periods. The table shows that regular physical activity participation in Hampshire varies between districts. East Hampshire (71.5%) and Winchester (73.0%) recorded physical activity rates which are significantly higher than the national average (63.1%) in November 2021-22. This is also slightly greater (4.3% and 5.8% respectively) than the percentage of active residents across Hampshire (67.2%). This suggests that residents in East Hampshire have a high propensity for physical activity and are more active than many other local authorities in the region. Physical activity rates may increase following the development of new or improved sports and leisure facilities.

East Hampshire and Chichester displayed the greatest increase in physically active residents from November 2019-20 to 2021-22, both recording a 4.4% increase in active adults, which is greater than the increases at Hampshire (2.8%) and national level (1.7%). This suggests that there is an increase in propensity to exercise and remain physically active in East Hampshire, which should be capitalised on in the sports facilities and playing pitch strategies.

The inactivity data for East Hampshire is also insightful and useful to consider in building a complete picture of physical activity levels. The Active Lives survey also measures the proportion of people who had not completed 30 minutes of moderate intensity physical activity. Figure 1.8 provides the inactivity data for East Hampshire, surrounding districts, Hampshire, and England. There has been a large increase in inactivity in East Hampshire between 2020-21 and 2021-22 (4.4%), which should be monitored in case this continues to rise.

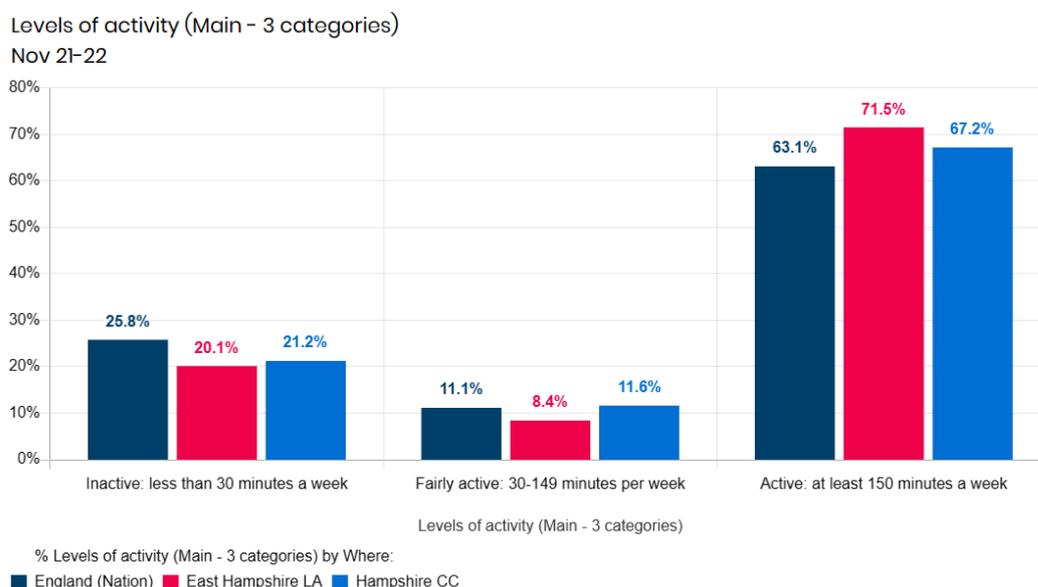
Despite inactivity rates in East Hampshire (20.1%) being lower than the national average (25.8%) and Hampshire average, Winchester (19.9%) and Hart (18.1%) report slightly lower rates. When considering new or improved sports facilities, areas with higher inactivity rates should be strongly considered. Better quality or quantity of sports and leisure facilities in these areas could result in an overall increase in physical activity, by targeting inactive populations and removing barriers to exercise, which is in line with the strategic objectives of Sport England and providing facilities which offer the ability for people to be physically active in a more informal and recreational manner.

**Figure 1.8 Levels of Activity across East Hampshire, Hart, Winchester, and Chichester compared to Regional and National data for the last 3 years (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)**

	Year	Active (150+ minutes of physical activity per week)	Fairly Active (30 - 149 minutes of physical activity per week)	Inactive (less than 30 minutes of physical activity per week)
EHDC	2019-20	67.10%	14.00%	19.10%
	2020-21	73.20%	11.00%	15.70%
	2021-22	71.50%	8.00%	20.10%
HDC	2019-20	73.70%	10.00%	16.30%
	2020-21	68.70%	11.60%	19.70%
	2021-22	67.50%	14.00%	18.10%
WCC	2019-20	71.0%	9.3%	19.8%
	2020-21	73.7%	8.3%	18.0%
	2021-22	73.0%	7.1%	19.9%
CDC	2019-20	60.60%	9.30%	30.10%
	2020-21	69.80%	10.60%	19.60%
	2021-22	65.00%	9.20%	25.80%
Hampshire	2019-20	64.4%	13.2%	22.4%
	2020-21	65.3%	11.1%	23.6%
	2021-22	67.2%	11.6%	21.20%
National	2019-20	61.4%	11.5%	27.1%
	2020-21	61.4%	11.5%	27.2%
	2021-22	63.1%	11.1%	25.8%

Figure 1.9 provides the latest Active Lives activity data in graph form for East Hampshire, Hampshire and England.

**Figure 1.9 Activity Levels in East Hampshire, Hampshire CC and England 2021-22 (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)**

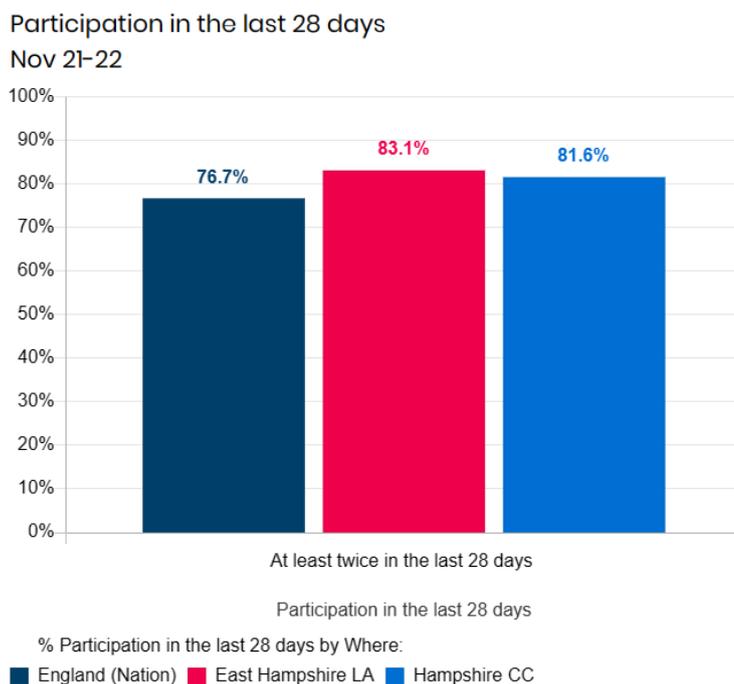


Regular participation trends (figure 1.10) show nominal increases in regular participation across Hart (0.8%), Winchester (0.4%), and Hampshire as a whole (1.3%). However, data for East Hampshire shows a slight decline in regular participation since 2019 (-2.2%). Data for East Hampshire suggests that regular participation in 2021-22 is slightly greater than the Hampshire average, with 83.1% of East Hampshire residents partaking in physical activity twice in the last 28 days compared to 81.6% across Hampshire. In comparison to national averages (76.7%), there is a significantly greater rate of regular participation in East Hampshire (83.1%). Figure 1.11 provides the latest Active Lives activity data in graph form for East Hampshire, Hampshire and England.

**Figure 1.10 Participation in the last 28 days across East Hampshire and neighbouring areas compared to Regional and National data for the last 3 years (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)**

Area	Years	Regular participation
		(at least twice in the last 28 days)
East Hampshire	2019-20	85.30%
	2020-21	87.20%
	2021-22	83.10%
Hart	2019-20	85.40%
	2020-21	83.30%
	2021-22	87.30%
Winchester	2019-20	83.30%
	2020-21	84.90%
	2021-22	83.70%
Chichester	2019-20	75.20%
	2020-21	86.20%
	2021-22	79.40%
Hampshire	2019-20	80.30%
	2020-21	80.10%
	2021-22	81.60%
England	2019-20	75.40%
	2020-21	75.60%
	2021-22	76.70%

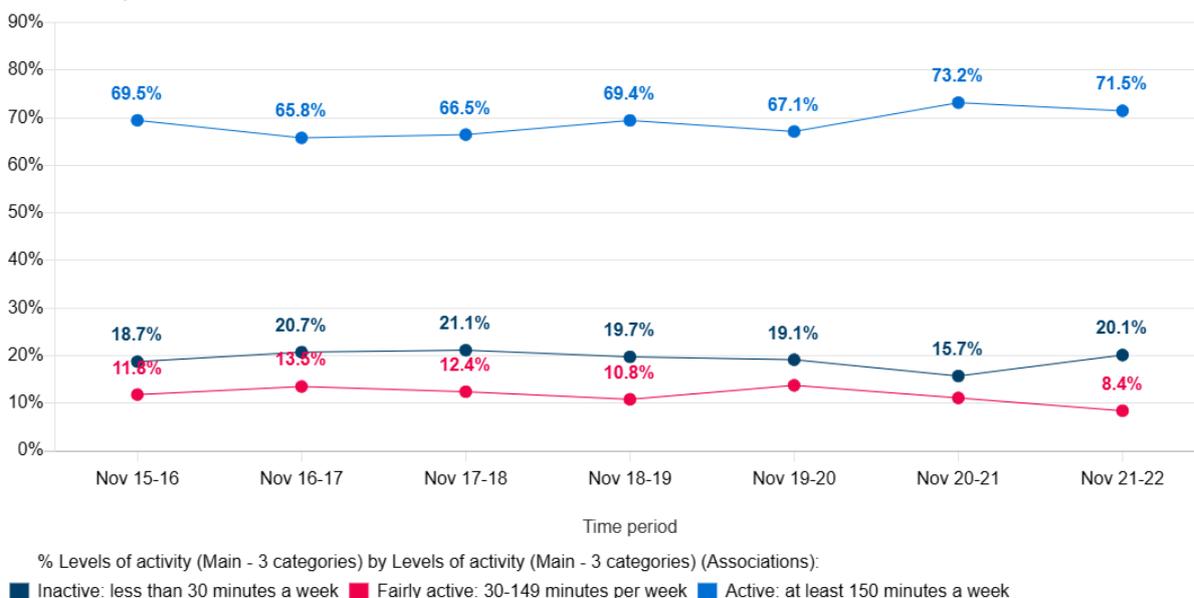
Figure 1.11 Participation in the last 28 days (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)



The proportion of adults in East Hampshire classed as ‘Active’ (at least 150 minutes a week) has increased by 2.0% (from 69.5% to 71.5%) since Nov 15-16 (Figure 1.12). Over the same period, the figure for inactive (less than 30 minutes a week) residents has increased by 1.4% (from 18.7% to 20.1%). Regular adult participation (at least twice in the last 28 days) has decreased since Nov 15-16 from 84.5% to 83.1%, a decrease of 1.4% (figure 1.13).

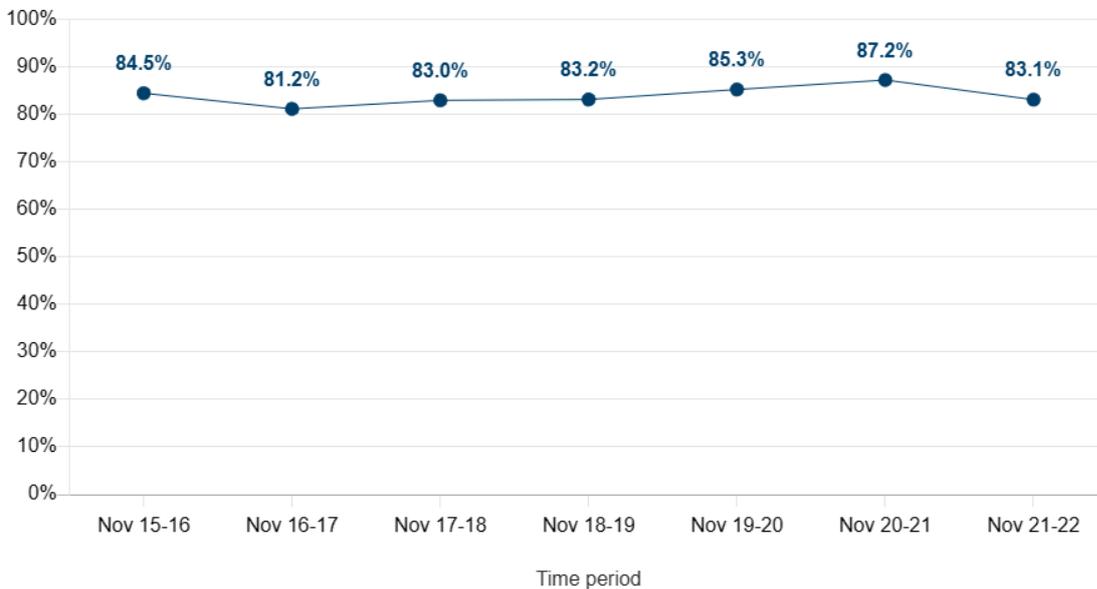
Figure 1.12 Levels of activity Participation Trends (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)

Levels of activity (Main - 3 categories)  
East Hampshire LA



**Figure 1.13 Regular participation trend (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)**

Participation in the last 28 days  
East Hampshire LA



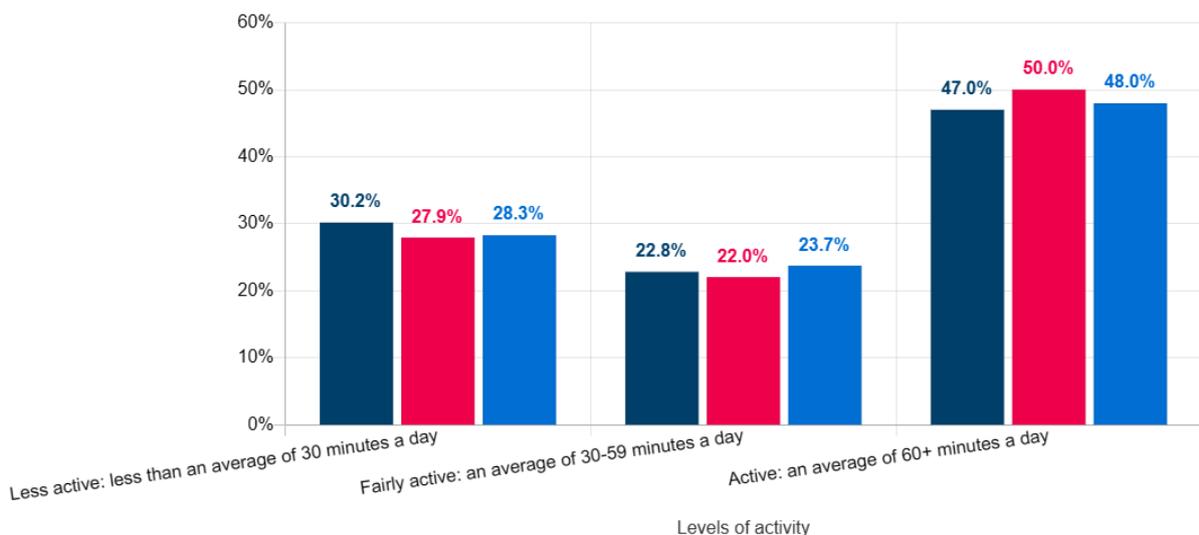
% Participation in the last 28 days by Participation in the last 28 days (Associations):

■ At least twice in the last 28 days

Childrens physical activity rates in East Hampshire are greater than the regional and national average, with a slightly greater proportion of physically active children (50.0%) than the regional (48.0%) and national (47.0%) rates (Figure 1.14)

**Figure 1.14 Levels of Children’s physical activity (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)**

Levels of activity  
Academic Year 22-23



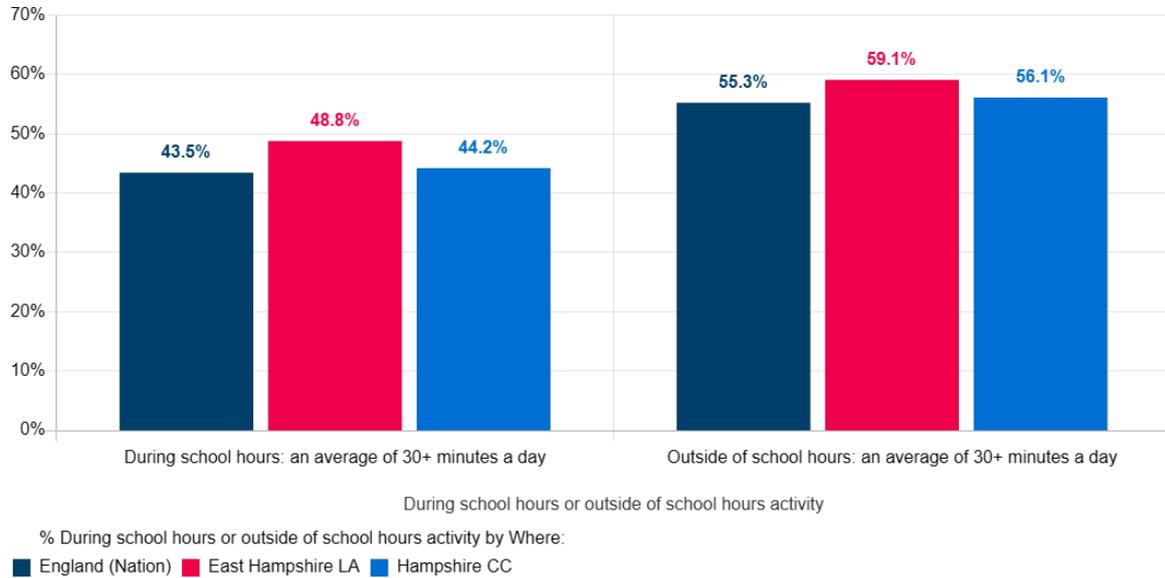
% Levels of activity by Where:

■ England (Nation) ■ East Hampshire LA ■ Hampshire CC

Figure 1.15 considers the extent of activity by children during school hours and outside of school hours. The data shows a noticeable increase in rates of physical activity both during school hours (48.8%) and outside of school hours (59.1%) in East Hampshire compared to the regional (44.2%, 56.1%) and national (43.5%, 55.3%) averages.

**Figure 1.15 Children’s physical activity during school hours or outside school hours (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)**

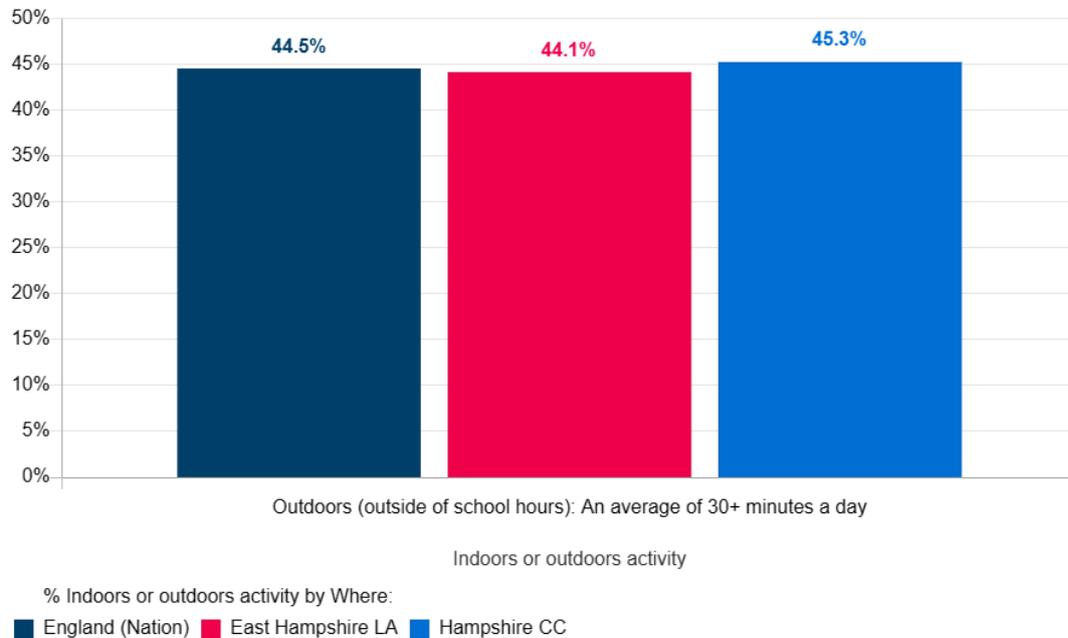
During school hours or outside of school hours activity  
Academic Year 22–23



Of East Hampshire’s activity recorded outside of school hours, 44.1% was outdoor activity, rather than indoors. This proportion is comparable to the rates in Hampshire (45.3%) and nationally (44.5%).

**Figure 1.16 Children’s physical activity outdoor out of school hours (Sport England Active Lives survey 2023)**

Indoors or outdoors activity  
Academic Year 22–23



### Club Survey Overview

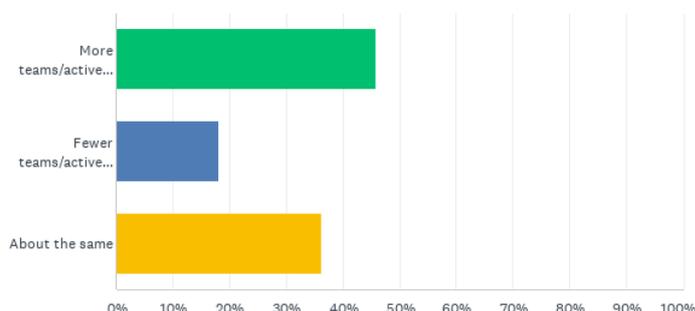
To understand the current landscape of clubs in East Hampshire, the demand and issues facing each specific sport covered within the strategy, data was collected from a survey which was distributed to the sports clubs in the district. By analysing the data, it provides insight into whether the current level of provision for sport and physical activity is meeting the demands of these sports, the existing and latent demand for growth as well as potential priority project developments. A summary of the results of the club survey is provided below. 83 individual sports clubs responded to the invitation to complete the survey, these clubs are compiled of both indoor and outdoor sports. Figure 1.17 shows the spread of responses for each sport.

**Figure 1.17 Club Responses – Spread of Responses**

Answer Choices	Responses	
Archery	2.41%	2
Bowls	8.43%	7
Boxing	1.20%	1
Cricket	15.66%	13
Exercise, movement or dance	2.41%	2
Football	30.12%	25
Golf	2.41%	2
Hockey	2.41%	2
Judo	1.20%	1
Netball	3.61%	3
Rugby Union	2.41%	2
Squash	1.20%	1
Swimming	1.20%	1
Table Tennis	3.61%	3
Taekwondo	2.41%	2
Tennis	12.05%	10
Other (please specify)	15.66%	13
	<b>Answered</b>	<b>83</b>

**Figure 1.18 Club Responses – Growth Trend last 3 years**

Q8 Does your Club/Organisation have more or fewer teams/active members than three seasons/years ago, or has the number of teams/active members stayed about the same?

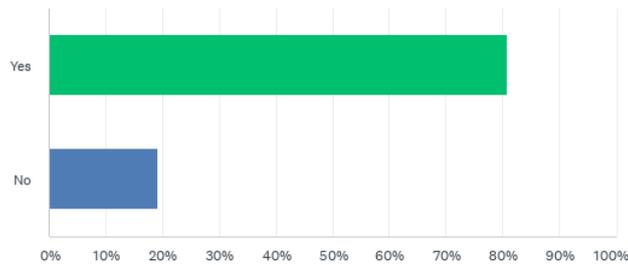


45.78% of sports clubs reported an increase in active members from three years ago, with over a third of clubs reporting similar levels of active members. Whilst this is a mostly positive response, the impacts of COVID-19 on active members in the three years prior to the survey would lead to a more significant prevalence of clubs with increased active members once the restrictions on travel and facility usage

have been lifted. This growth however highlights an increasing the need and demand for sporting provisions.

**Figure 1.19 Future Growth**

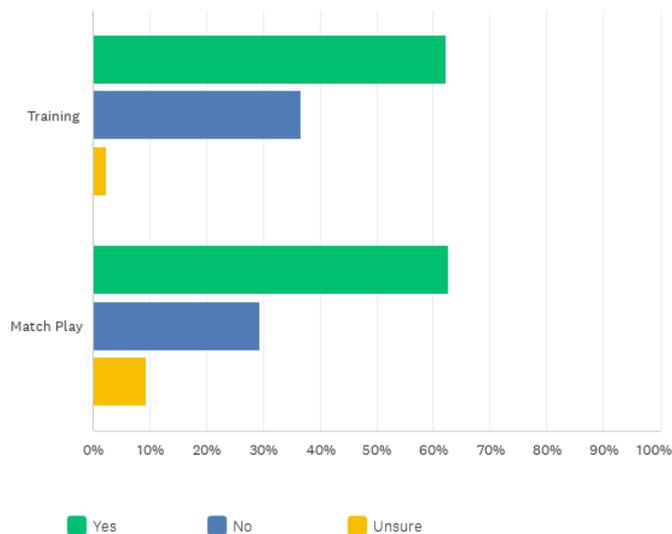
**Q10 Does your Club/Organisation have plans to grow in the next three seasons/years?**



Looking to the future, over 80% of the clubs surveyed were positive regarding plans for growth over the next three years/seasons, emphasising further the strength of the club sector in East Hampshire as well as likely rising demand. The remaining 19.28% of the respondents do not have any further plans to grow, this signals that there is a need to maintain the current provisions for these clubs to remain sustainable. Further sport and club specific needs are detailed in both the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy sections in the main strategy.

**Figure 1.20 Club Needs – Meeting Demand**

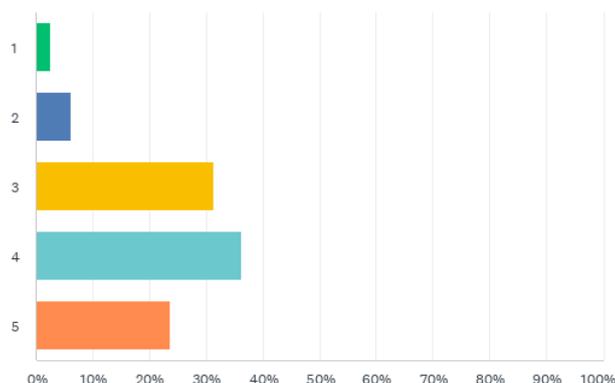
**Q13 Is your current number of hours/pitches/evenings sufficient to meet the demand for your Club's/Organisation's activities for training and match play?**



Over a third of the clubs responded that they do not have sufficient programming time available at the sporting venues they access to meet current training demand from their memberships and 29.33% for match play. This shows the supply or availability of facilities and resources is not meeting the demands of the sports clubs, signalling a potential need to increase accessibility and capacity of sport facilities.

**Figure 1.21 Club Response – Ratings**

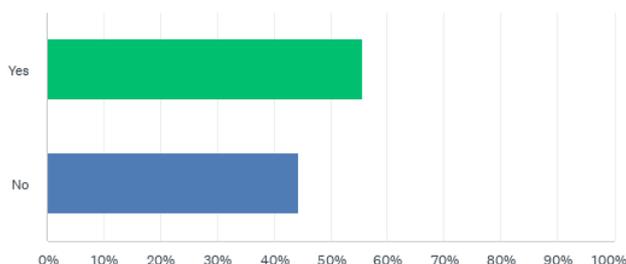
**Q18 How do you rate the quality of your Club's/Organisation's main playing facilities, including playing surface? (1 being very poor and 5 being very good)**



In terms of the quality of the stock of sports facilities available to the sports clubs in the area, 60% of respondents rated their playing facilities as ‘good’ or ‘very good’ and 31.25% as ‘average’. This is a largely positive response, suggesting that the current quality of sports facilities in East Hampshire is suitable for the clubs and organisations that use them. With 40% of respondents rating their facilities as ‘average’ or below, there is some demand for upgrades to facilities and improved maintenance to enhance the facility stock within the district. Site and sport specific venue needs are detailed further in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy sections.

**Figure 1.22 Main site – improvements**

**Q21 Is there a need to change your Club's/Organisation's main playing facilities to sustain or grow your Club/Organisation?**

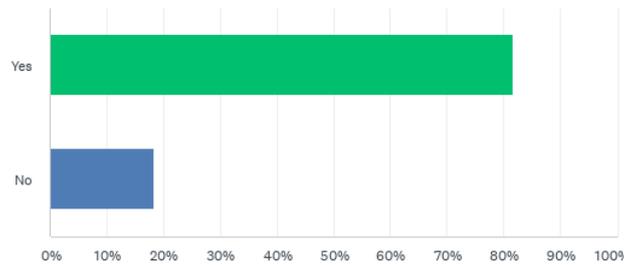


55.70% of sport clubs believe they are in need of change or improvements to their current main playing facilities to sustain or grow their club. This data shows that support is clearly needed for those clubs who are keen to promote growth or in many cases to ensure sustainability and longevity. Whilst the strategy details a number of enhancements and investment needs for sport and physical activity, the Council also acknowledges that in difficult financial times, the maintenance of the current stock of facilities is of prime importance as well as planning for the future.

The clubs surveyed cited a range of aspirations and facility needs to grow their clubs, individual club responses, from a range of sports, are included in Appendix F.

**Figure 1.23 Club Growth and Sustainability**

**Q20 Is there a need to improve the quality of the facilities to sustain or grow your Club/Organisation?**



81.71% of the respondent clubs consider they need to improve their facilities to sustain the appeal of their club to existing members and to attract new members. This is an evident issue for accommodating the growth of sports clubs as nearly half of sports clubs in the area have grown in the past three years, as identified in figure 1.18. Therefore, whilst a high majority of clubs are keen to expand further, there appears a link to need to invest in the wider infrastructure for clubs such as ancillary / support facilities to support this. Further site and sport specific issues are detailed in the main strategy sections that follow.

**The Impact of Cost of Living on clubs and organisations**

It is important to investigate how the economic environment is affecting clubs and participants so that they can be supported. Significant financial impacts may reduce clubs’ ability to operate sustainably, and negatively impact members ability to continue participating. The 80 responses to Q9, ‘What impact (if any) do you think the ‘cost of living crisis’ will have on your club/organisation, were thematically analysed to identify key themes in the impact of cost of living on clubs/organisations. The results from this analysis are displayed in figure 1.24.

**Figure 1.24 Key themes of the impact of cost of living on clubs and organisations**

Key Themes	Responses
Accommodations Made to Support Participants/Members	12
Increase in Maintenance Costs	10
Loss of Participants	9
Increase in Membership/Playing Fees	8
Increase in Pitch/Facility Hiring Costs and Equipment Costs	7
Participants/Members Struggling to Pay	4
Reduced Effectiveness of Fundraising	2

The most common impact of increased cost of living was the rise in clubs offering payment schemes and accommodations for members/participants who are struggling to pay fees. These accommodations align with the number of clubs reporting increased playing and membership fees, with these often being linked to increased maintenance and facility hire costs. Increased membership costs exclude residents of lower financial income from taking part in the clubs’ activities, thus lowering participation, physical activity, and health and wellbeing in more deprived areas. This is further impacted by clubs’ being unable to financially support the provision of hardship memberships for participants whereby the club/organisation provide financial support to those who require it. Initiatives like these need to be protected to ensure physical activity rates increase in deprived areas.

### Survey summary

Many clubs are looking to grow over the next three years, and they are reporting needs for further development of facilities to achieve these goals. The data has shown that the majority of clubs are not satisfied with the facilities that they have access to, highlighting a need for improvements. Most clubs believe they are in need of funding to grow for a range of reasons, many of which are linked directly to facilities and improving the accessibility of provisions to members.

A few of the challenges surrounding the facilities in East Hampshire have been mentioned in the survey through an 'additional comments' question. Through these comments, it is clear that larger venues are in demand in the area as clubs struggle to have enough time for their growing memberships as the need for more sessions increase. Further site specific and sport specific issues are picked up in the main strategy sections that follow.

### 1.7 Tailoring the Approach - Which sports to include?

The Council agreed that the indoor sports facilities to be included in the strategy are:

- Swimming pools
- Sports halls (to include consideration of both multi-sport halls and specialist facilities for the sports of indoor cricket, gymnastics, trampolining, cheerleading, table tennis, martial arts, boxing and basketball, tennis and bowls)
- Health and Fitness venues (gyms, dance and exercise class/spin studios).

It was also agreed that the outdoor facilities to be included in the strategy are:

- Football
- Rugby (Union & League)
- Cricket
- Hockey
- Tennis including Padel
- Bowls and Pétanque
- Athletics and running
- Netball
- Squash
- Cycling, BMX and Skate parks
- Golf

Within these sports and facilities, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport's governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

### 1.8 Management and Delivery

The development of the strategy has been managed by the East Hampshire Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group. Internal stakeholders within the steering group include representatives from East Hampshire Council's Community (Sport and Leisure) and Planning teams.

The external stakeholders included in the Steering Group made up of representatives from Sport England, Energise Me (Active Partnership), Football Foundation, Hampshire Football Association, England Rugby, England Hockey, Hampshire Cricket, England & Wales Cricket Board, Lawn Tennis Association and Continuum Sport & Leisure Ltd, the consultants appointed to co-ordinate the strategy development to the point of the recommendations and action plan.

As part of the process the consultant team also consulted with the following other National Governing Bodies: Badminton England, British American Football, British Gymnastics, British Mountaineering Council, Bowls Hampshire, England Athletics, England, Golf, England Netball, England Rugby League, England Squash, Swim England and Table Tennis England.

The views of the National Governing Bodies consulted are reflected in the sport's specific sections. Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby (Union and League) in the Playing Pitch Strategy Assessment of Needs Appendices and the others as part of the Sports Facilities Strategy Section 2 - Sports Specific Analysis.

# East Hampshire District Council Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy 2024 – 2040

## Section 2 (part one) – Playing Pitch Strategy



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## 1 - Introduction

This document is Part 1 of East Hampshire District Council’s Playing Pitch & Sports Facilities Strategy 2024-40 – the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS). The PPS, when adopted, will replace the previous Playing Pitch Strategy adopted in 2018.

Consistent with the previous strategy this PPS includes consideration of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability for the four primary playing pitch sports of Cricket, Football, Hockey and Rugby.

Within these sports, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable, to include consideration of all forms of play, whether:

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including reference to indoor nets for cricket),
- Less formal programmed forms of the respective sports (e.g., friendly and recreational game formats outside the sport’s governing bodies affiliated structures), and
- Un-programmed play by groups of residents, workers, students out of school.

In accordance with the national guidance for the development of playing pitch strategies, section 2 of the East Hampshire PPS sets out the findings of the assessment of needs for playing pitch facilities in the study area, both currently and in the future.

The findings are presented in summary format and should be read in conjunction with separate appendices for each playing pitch sport (Appendices A – D). These documents provide the findings of the detailed research and consultation undertaken to ensure that the facility needs findings summarised in section 2 are fully robust.

The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2040.

Section 3 of this PPS sets a range of potential future change scenarios (e.g., loss of key playing pitch sites, new provision, substantial population growth in a particular area) and strategic scenarios for addressing identified needs (e.g., change of use from one pitch sport or pitch surface to another, greater community use of education playing pitches).

The PPS scenarios considered have emerged from discussion with the members of the East Hampshire Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy Steering Group and inform the policy recommendations and action plan that follow in Section 4 of the overall Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy.

### 1.1 Trends in Participation in Pitch Sports

Nationally, Sport England's latest Active Lives Survey (ALS) data report published in April 2023 and covering the 12 months from November 2021 to November 2022 shows that self-reported regular participation (i.e., taking part at least twice in the last 28 days) in the leading playing pitch sports in England by adults (aged 16+) has generally recovered to pre covid levels.

- **Football** – has returned to pre covid levels of 4.4% from 3.2% in 2020/21 and is continuing to grow. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult football participation fell from 5.0% in 2016/17 to 4.4% in 2018/19. The FA’s insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% per annum. Section 3 looks at a number of scenarios including (3.6) a significant increase in demand by an age group or sport.

- **Cricket** – has increased to 0.8% above pre covid levels of 0.7%, which matches its highest level of participation since ALS started recording figures in 2015/16 at 0.8%. In the three years prior to Covid, regular adult cricket participation was consistent at 0.7%.
- **Rugby Union** – has not fully recovered to pre covid levels of 0.5% but has increased to 0.4% from 0.3% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult participation dropped from 0.6% in 2016/17 to 0.5% in 2018/19.
- **Hockey** – has returned to pre covid levels of 0.3% from 0.2% in 2020/21. In the three years prior to covid, regular adult participation increased from 0.2% in 2016/17 to 0.3% in 2018/19.

With regard to female participation, the 12 months from November 2021 to November 2022, the Active Lives data shows ‘significant increase’ in participation in England compared to the previous 12 months in football (+0.3%), as well as in hockey, cricket and rugby union (0.1% in each sport).

In the six years since the last update of the playing pitch strategy in East Hampshire, there has been significant changes in the local picture of both pitch supply and pitch demand including the successful delivery of a number of playing pitch project priorities identified.

On the supply side, a new **cricket** pitch has been developed at Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club (BOSC) and is now used as the home pitch for Headley, Whitehill & Bordon CC. Also, Holybourne Cricket Club have advanced plans to resurface the non-turf pitch (NTP) at their ground for the 2024 season, however these have been put on hold until their tenure at Holybourne Sports Field is secure.

Also in Bordon, a new full sized 3G floodlit **football** turf pitch (FTP) opened at Oakmoor School in 2018 (replacing previous provision at Mill Chase Academy) as well as new football pitches at Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club. Whilst, in Alton, a new small sided 3G floodlit FTP (18x36m) opened at Alton Sports Centre as part of the £20m redevelopment of the former Alton Leisure Centre.

In the south of the district, Horndean Technology College has completed a project extending and resurfacing an existing small sized 3G floodlit FTP to accommodate previously unmet demand.

Improvements have been made or are in progress to the quality of grass football pitches at several sites identified in the last PPS. These include Horndean Technology College, Love Lane Sports Ground, Newman Collard Playing Fields, Penns Farm Playing Fields and Jubilee Playing Fields.

For the sport of **hockey**, there has been a significant change in supply with an additional sand dressed pitch now available at Eggars School and the sand filled pitches at Churcher’s College (Ramshill) and Bohunt School (Liphook) both resurfaced in 2020/21. In addition, the floodlights to the hockey pitch at Bedales School (north of Petersfield) were upgraded in 2023.

For **rugby union** floodlighting has been provided to a third rugby pitch at Petersfield RFC ground in Penn’s Place to help address the heavy winter training demands of this successful club. In Bordon, a rugby pitch at the Ministry of Defence Garrison site has been lost to accommodate the newly built Oakmoor School. This pitch was due to be re-provided, subject to the need for rugby in the area. Maintenance of the pitches at Anstey Park has been increased since the last PPS. However, poor drainage and loss of play and training due to waterlogging remains a key issue for the community rugby club at this site.

With regard to demand for playing pitches, in the case of **cricket**, summer 2022 saw most larger clubs recover to pre-pandemic levels. Whilst there has been a decrease in the number of clubs in the area as

a result the demise of Four Marks CC and demand for senior men’s cricket has remained relatively static, the number of teams across women, boys, and girls’ cricket have increased markedly. The greatest area of growth in East Hampshire since 2018 is in women’s cricket, with an additional 9 teams being developed in 5 years. There was also significant growth in the number of youth girls’ teams (+12 teams) and youth boys/mixed teams (+17 teams).

**Football** demand has seen some decline in the traditional men’s 11 a side league game in the district since 2018. However, this decline has been more than offset by continuing steady growth in demand for mini-soccer and for women and girls’ football. Overall, in June 2023, 265 teams based in East Hampshire were affiliated with Hampshire FA, an increase of 41 teams since the previous audit in 2018 (224 affiliated teams). This is a growth rate of 18% over 5 years, which is expected to continue at or above this rate for the next 5 years, up to 2028. 23% of teams in the district are adult teams (down from 26% in 2018), 43% are youth teams (down from 44%) 34% are mini-soccer teams (up from 29%).

With regard to **hockey**, both the large community clubs based in East Hampshire – Alton HC and Petersfield HC report overall growth in playing membership since 2018, although, again, this has been in the under 18 age group with both clubs experiencing some drop off in adult demand.

Similar to hockey, the community **rugby union** clubs in the main East Hampshire towns of Alton and Petersfield are very well established and support large playing memberships and multiple teams. The Petersfield Rugby Club continues to put out three Saturday men’s teams plus a Vets. Whilst, since 2018, Alton RFC has lost its third men’s Saturday side, the club has established a women’s squad training and playing friendly fixtures and tournaments. At both clubs the mini-rugby and youth rugby sections continue to experience strong demand each with in excess of 400 registered playing members. This remains largely unchanged from 2018.

## 1.2 Natural Turf Playing Pitches

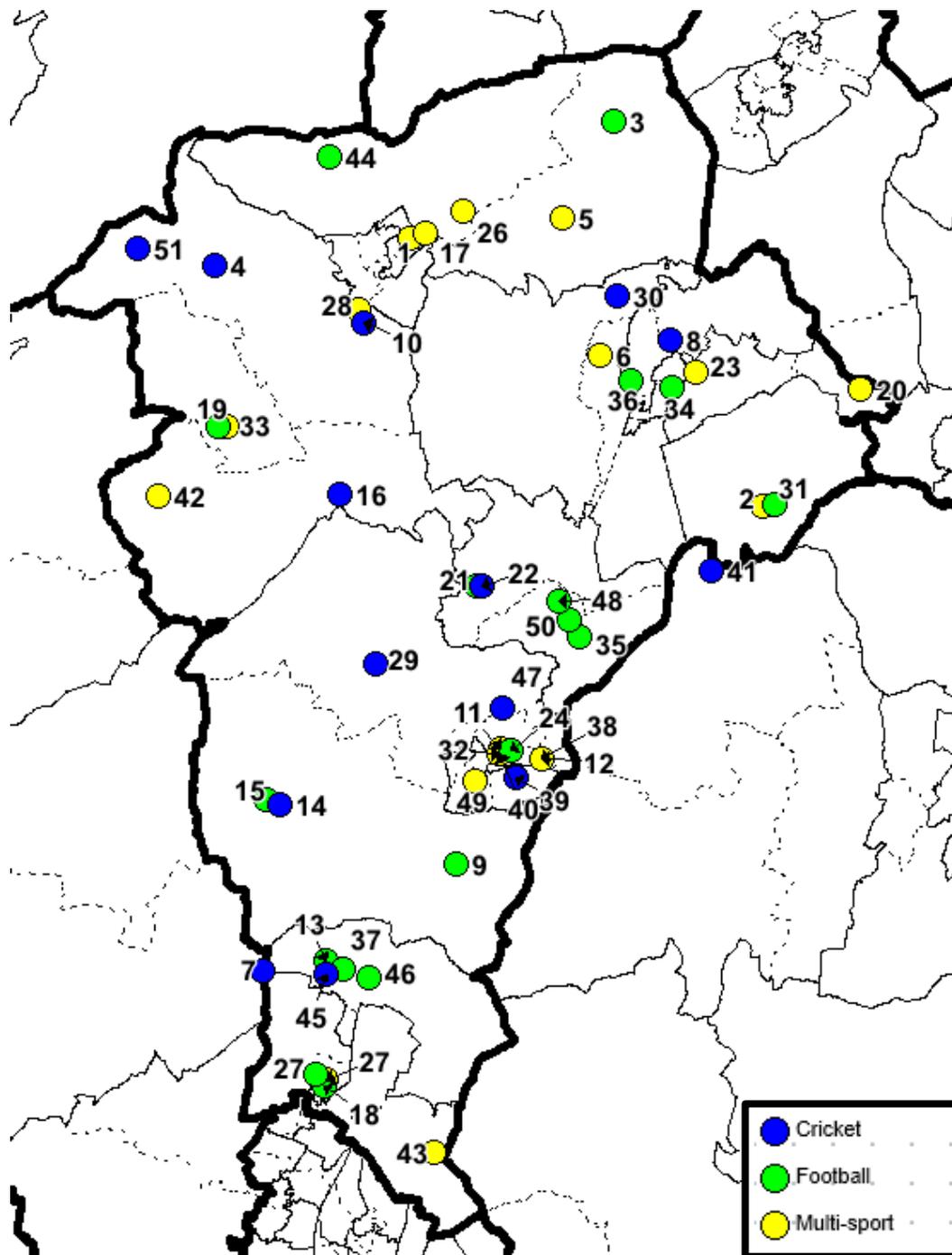
The sites with natural turf playing pitches in East Hampshire are listed in Figure 1.1 and Figure 1.2 and shows the distribution of natural turf playing pitch sites across the district.

**Figure 1.1 Natural turf playing pitches in East Hampshire.**

No	Site Name	Postcode	Sports
1	ANSTEY PARK / DIGGERS FIELD	GU34 2NB	FOOTBALL / RUGBY
2	BEDALES/DUNHURST SCHOOLS	GU30 7NY	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
3	BENTLEY REC	GU10 5HZ	FOOTBALL
4	BENTWORTH CRICKET GROUND	GU34 5LE	CRICKET
5	BINSTED REC	GU34 4PB	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
6	BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB (BOSC)	GU35 9HG	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
7	BROADHALFPENNY DOWN, HYDEN FARM LANE	PO8 0UB	CRICKET
8	BROXHEAD COMMON CRICKET GROUND	GU35 0NY	CRICKET
9	BURITON RECREATION GROUND	GU31 5RX	FOOTBALL
10	CHAWTON CRICKET GROUND	GU34 1SB	CRICKET
11	CHURCHER'S COLLEGE (RAMSHILL)	GU31 4AS	CRICKET / RUGBY
12	CHURCHER'S COLLEGE, PENNS PLACE	GU31 4EP	CRICKET / RUGBY
13	CLANFIELD JUNIOR SCHOOL	PO8 0RE	FOOTBALL
14	EAST MEON CRICKET GROUND	GU32 1QD	CRICKET
15	EAST MEON VILLAGE GREEN/ WORKHOUSE LANE	GU32 1PF	FOOTBALL
16	EAST TISTED REC	GU34 3QW	CRICKET
17	EGGARS SCHOOL	GU34 4EQ	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
18	FIVE HEADS REC	PO8 9HZ	FOOTBALL
19	FOURMARKS RECREATION GROUND	GU34 5AF	FOOTBALL
20	GRAYSHOTT PLAYING FIELDS	GU26 6LS	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
21	HAWKLEY FIELDS	GU33 6LY	FOOTBALL
22	HAWKLEY RECREATION GROUND	GU33 6NE	CRICKET
23	HEADLEY PLAYING FIELD	GU35 0PD	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
24	HERNE JUNIOR SCHOOL*	GU31 4BP	FOOTBALL
25	HOLYBOURNE SPORTS FIELD	GU34 4JA	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
26	HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	PO8 9PQ	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
27	JUBILEE HALL PARK, HORNDEAN	PO8 9YE	FOOTBALL
28	JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS	GU34 1RF	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
29	KING GEORGE V FIELD, FROXFIELD	GU32 1EG	CRICKET
30	KINGSLEY SPORTS CLUB	GU35 9PD	CRICKET
31	LIPHOOK RECREATION GROUND	GU30 7AN	FOOTBALL
32	LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND	GU31 4BW	FOOTBALL
33	MEDSTEAD VILLAGE GREEN	GU34 5AD	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
34	MILL CHASE RECREATION GROUND	GU35 0EU	FOOTBALL
35	NEWMAN COLLARD PLAYING FIELD	GU33 7LE	FOOTBALL
36	OAKMOOR SCHOOL*	GU35 0JB	FOOTBALL
37	PEEL PARK RECREATION GROUND	PO8 0PR	FOOTBALL
38	PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS	GU31 4EP	CRICKET / FOOTBALL / RUGBY
39	PETERSFIELD HEATH	GU31 4HR	CRICKET
40	PETERSFIELD TOWN FOOTBALL CLUB	GU31 4BW	FOOTBALL
41	RIPSLEY PARK (LIPHOOK & RIPSLEY CRICKET CLUB)	GU30 7JG	CRICKET
42	ROPLEY REC	SO24 0DJ	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
43	ROWLANDS CASTLE REC	PO9 6AQ	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
44	SHALDEN RECREATION GROUND	GU34 4DT	FOOTBALL
45	SOUTH LANE MEADOW (CLANFIELD CC)	PO8 0RX	CRICKET
46	ST JAMES, CLANFIELD*	PO8 0WJ	FOOTBALL
47	STEEP CRICKET CLUB	GU32 2DA	CRICKET
48	THE GLEBE (LISS)	GU33 6JU	FOOTBALL
49	THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	GU32 3LU	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
50	WEST LISS RECREATION GROUND	GU33 7AJ	FOOTBALL
51	WIELD CRICKET GROUND	SO24 9RX	CRICKET

\*Includes sites with potential or due to be available for community use next season- Herne Junior School, Oakmoor School and St James, Clanfield.

Figure 1.2 Map of Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites



### 1.3 Artificial Turf Playing Pitches

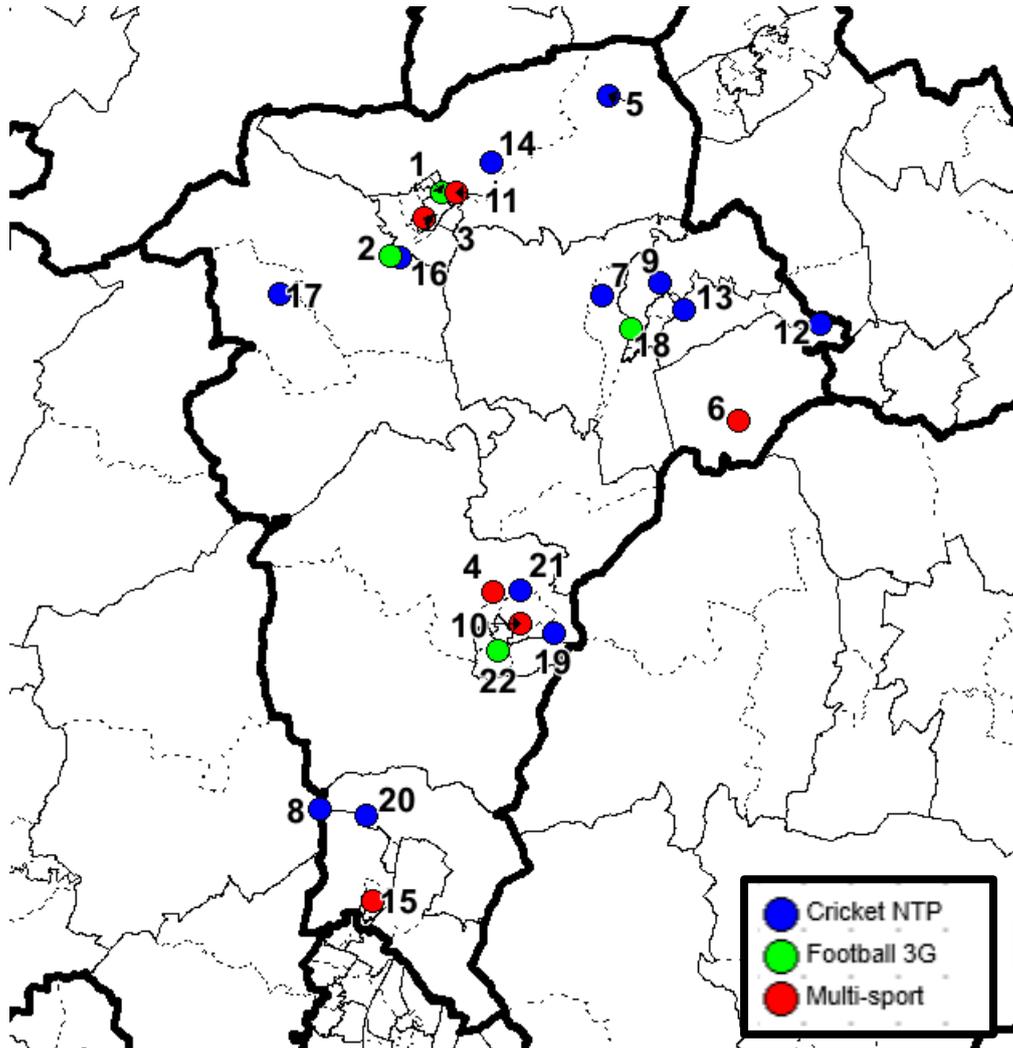
Sites in East Hampshire with artificial grass playing pitches (and the sports the sites provide for) are listed in Figure 1.3. The locations of these artificial pitches showing their distribution throughout the district are in Figure 1.4.

For cricket, NTP means Non-Turf Pitch which is an artificial strip located adjacent to a fine turf table or as a standalone wicket instead of a fine turf wicket table, this type of facility is used mainly for junior cricket and for recreation level adult cricket and practice.

Figure 1.3 – Artificial Turf Playing Pitches in East Hampshire

No	Site Name	Post Code	Sports
1	ALTON FC	GU34 2NG	FOOTBALL
2	ALTON SPORTS CENTRE	GU34 1ST	FOOTBALL
3	AMERY HILL SCHOOL	GU34 2BY	FOOTBALL / HOCKEY
4	BEDALES SCHOOL	GU32 2DG	FOOTBALL / HOCKEY
5	BENTLEY REC	GU10 5JP	CRICKET
6	BOHUNT SCHOOL	GU30 7NY	FOOTBALL / HOCKEY
7	BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB (BOSC)	GU35 9HG	CRICKET
8	BROADHALFPENNY DOWN, HYDEN FARM LANE	PO8 0UB	CRICKET
9	BROXHEAD COMMON CRICKET GROUND	GU35 0NY	CRICKET
10	CHURCHER'S COLLEGE (RAMSHILL)	GU31 4AS	CRICKET / FOOTBALL / HOCKEY
11	EGGARS SCHOOL	GU34 4EQ	CRICKET/ FOOTBALL / HOCKEY
12	GRAYSHOTT PLAYING FIELDS	GU26 6LS	CRICKET
13	HEADLEY PLAYING FIELD	GU35 0PD	CRICKET
14	HOLYBOURNE SPORT FIELD	GU34 4JA	CRICKET
15	HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	PO8 9PQ	CRICKET / FOOTBALL
16	JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS	GU34 1RF	CRICKET
17	MEDSTEAD VILLAGE GREEN	GU34 5LG	CRICKET
18	OAKMOOR SCHOOL	GU35 0JB	FOOTBALL
19	PENNS FARM PLAYING FIELDS	GU31 4EP	CRICKET
20	SOUTH LANE MEADOW	PO8 0RX	CRICKET
21	STEEP CRICKET CLUB	GU32 2DA	CRICKET
22	THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	GU32 3LU	FOOTBALL

Figure 1.4 - Distribution of AGP sites in East Hampshire



# Playing Pitch Strategy

## 2 – Findings and Facility Needs



## 2 – Findings and Facility Needs

The key findings of the detailed Assessment of Need reports for the four major playing pitch sports played in East Hampshire are summarised in this section leading to conclusions as to the playing pitch facility needs. These reports (covering Stages B and C of Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance) and supporting site-specific audit reports have been checked and challenged by representatives of the relevant sport's governing bodies and are appended as follows:

- Appendix A: Cricket - Assessment of Need Report
- Appendix B: Football - Assessment of Need Report
- Appendix C: Hockey - Assessment of Need Report
- Appendix D: Rugby - Assessment of Need Report

This chapter provides an overall summary of supply, planned and proposed changes to supply, current and latent demand, covering the following leading questions as part of the Playing Pitch Strategy methodology.

- What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?
- Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?
- What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?
- Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?

### 2.1 Current supply and demand

The number of playing pitch sites and playing pitches in East Hampshire available for community use - both in 2023 and in 2017 (the season the cricket needs assessment was carried out for the previous PPS) - are set out in Figure 2.1 below for each pitch type (natural turf and artificial turf) and for each of the major playing pitch sports for which there is a current demand in the district.

**Figure 2.1 – Supply of Community Use Pitches and Sites**

	No. of Sites		No. of Pitches	
	2023	2017	2023	2017
Cricket fine turf	25	31	27	31
Cricket NTP	11	9	12	9
Football grass	32	35	90	83
Football AGP	5	4	5	4
Hockey AGP	5	4	4	4
Rugby grass	4	3	15	15
Rugby AGP	0	0	0	0

The most significant changes in playing pitch supply in the district over the last six years are:

- The development of the new sand based hockey AGP with community use at Eggar's School, an improved full size FTP in Bordon at Oakmoor School (replacing the former football FTP at Mill Chase Academy), the a new small sided floodlit FTP at Alton Sports Centre (used extensively to address demand for non-traditional small sided adult games and leagues) and an extension of the floodlit FTP at Horndean College in the south of the district where there is unmet demand for community football.
- The addition of floodlights to a third grass rugby pitches at the Penns Place Playing Field (Petersfield RFC) site to meet training needs.

- Closure of playing pitch sites – for example The Garrison rugby pitch at Bordon owned by the MoD (although a replacement rugby pitch is due to be provided at the new Oakmoor School site with community use) and loss of natural turf cricket squares at sites including The Glebe in Liss and Four Marks Recreation Ground following the folding of local clubs.

In terms of expressed demand, the main changes since the last assessment is the continued growth in playing pitch sports at community sports clubs by children (including girls, most particularly in the younger age groups) at the district’s leading cricket, football, hockey and rugby clubs. There has also been an increase in demand among adults for opportunities to play pitch sports recreationally outside the traditional sports club model, including participation in less formal small sided games and shorter formats.

In terms of sports clubs and teams, the current picture of demand in the district in comparison with the position in 2017 is shown in Figure 2.2 below. All the pitch sports have seen growth in overall numbers and diversity of teams although several of the smaller football and cricket clubs have folded (some due to the pandemic) and there has been a fall in the number of adult men’s teams in football and hockey. Cricket has seen a growth and rugby has the same number of teams. The fall in adult men’s teams is outstripped by growth in women and girls and mixed football and junior hockey.

**Figure 2.2 – Community Demand for Pitches and Sites**

	Clubs		Teams	
	2023	2017	2023	2017
Cricket	19	21	143: 66 adult teams (53 men, 13 women), 77 junior (20 youth girls, 57 boys/mixed) plus Dynamos & All Stars children’s coaching groups	102: 54 adult teams (50 men, 4 women), 48 junior (8 youth girls, 40 boys/mixed) plus All Stars children’s coaching groups
Football	33	39	265: 48 adult teams (44 men, 4 women), 125 youth (1 boys, 10 girls, 114 mixed), 91 mini-soccer (of which 4 girls only), 1 futsal	224: 59 adult teams (56 men, 3 women), 99 youth, 66 mini-soccer of which 1 girls only)
Hockey	2	2	16 adult teams (8 men, 6 women, 2 mixed) plus 500 junior members across Alton HC and Petersfield HC	15 adult teams (9 men, 6 women) plus 370 junior members across Alton HC and Petersfield HC
Rugby	2	2	8 adult teams (7 men, 1 women), plus 29 age grade teams (16 boys, 3 girls) and 10 mixed mini squads across Alton RFC and Petersfield RFC	7 adult teams (7 men), plus 22 age grade teams (10 boys) and 12 mixed minis squads across Alton RFC and Petersfield RFC

## 2.2 Is there enough provision for current demand?

**Cricket** - The assessment of facility needs shows that the fine turf pitches of clubs with large junior sections in the area are largely over played, and these clubs require additional facilities to cater for demand and clubs such as Liphook and Ripsley CC and Grayshott CC use secondary facilities outside of the District. There are other sites under capacity which may be able to cater for some of this demand, as well as NTP’s on education sites not used.

Overall, the cricket clubs in East Hampshire mostly benefit from good security of access on their home grounds, although Bentworth CC are reliant on a one year rolling agreement, Grayshott CC have no formal agreement with Grayshott Parish Council on their home pitch, Holybourne CC had an informal agreement with their land holder which has not been recognised in the recent transfer of the land ownership, and Froxfield CC have no formal lease with Froxfield and Privett Parish Council on their home pitch.

**Football** - A number of playing field sites in East Hampshire have pitches that are being played to capacity or overplayed, in the main, they are sites that are the home ground for large youth clubs with a number of teams and a limited number of pitches. The sites with large youth clubs that are overplayed are:

- Anstey Park / Diggers Field (Alton FC)
- Jubilee Playing Field (Alton FC)
- Headley Playing Fields (Headley Youth FC)
- Liphook Rec. Ground (Liphook FC)
- Penns Farm Playing Fields (Petersfield Town FC)
- Love Lane Sports Ground (Petersfield Town FC)
- Petersfield Town FC Stadia Pitch (Petersfield Town FC)

There is no spare capacity for adult 11v11 pitches in the peak period once poor pitches and those that are unsecured are discounted from the supply. There is also only limited spare capacity of Youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches. There is sufficient spare pitch capacity currently for Mini Soccer (7v7 and 5v5 pitches). There are also a number of senior clubs with inadequate facilities to support their current level of football according to league and ground grading requirements. These clubs include:

- Clanfield FC, who currently ground share outside the district
- Liphook United FC, whose pitch is too small for their league
- Petersfield Town FC whose floodlights and ancillary facilities need improving.

There are shortfalls in provision of floodlit 3G pitches to meet training demand. There are several clubs who travel outside of the area for training or use sand-based pitches or grass areas for training, which constrains the growth aspirations of these clubs and contributes to latent demand. The FA training scenario suggests one full sized floodlit 3G FTP can accommodate the training demand from 38 teams, based on this there is a shortfall in current supply, with investment needed in the provision of 2.75 more full size equivalent 3G football FTPs across the area. These should be strategically located to support the larger youth clubs enabling them to meet the needs of their teams for training and matches.

**Hockey** – With the development of the new pitch at Eggars School (with club use secured by means of a Community Use Agreement) there is current sufficient provision in the area to meet the current demand, however community club access to the remainder of the provision is not secure beyond a single season. The impact of any of these facilities becoming unavailable would be clubs having to source pitches outside of the District or, potentially, if no suitable alternatives could be found teams would have to fold.

**Rugby** - Overall, the rugby pitches in East Hampshire are over-used and cannot sustain the current demand for training and matches, notwithstanding the recent installation of floodlighting to a third pitch at Penns Place in Petersfield. The two clubs (Petersfield RFC and Alton RFC) manage the quality of their pitches through careful operational management and are often required to cancel matches to protect the pitches for future use. This is particularly problematic for the Alton club at Anstey Park. Furthermore, Alton RFC's lease is due to expire in 2028 with an extension option in place. It will be important to ensure the club has long term ground security.

Petersfield RFC own their clubhouse and have 30 years lease on the use of pitches. Delivery of long-standing plans to develop additional pitches at Penns Place will significantly increase the match provisions at the site but will not help in alleviating the significant training demand on the current floodlit pitches.

## 2.3 Is the provision of sufficient quality?

**Cricket** – The fine turf cricket pitches across the District are mostly maintained to a ‘standard’ level, leaving some opportunities to improve pitch quality (to ‘good’ quality rating) thereby increasing playing capacity. An opportunity to secure ECB funding for pitch quality improvement on shared football/cricket sites may be forthcoming in 2024 under a proposed new joint FA/ECB PitchPower initiative.

The non-turf practice net systems are in need of upgrading at five sites - Bentley Rec, Chawton Cricket Ground, East Meon Cricket Ground, Penns Farm Playing Fields, and King George V Field.

Investment into pavilions is required including new or refurbished provision at a number of sites. The pavilion at Wield Cricket Ground requires a new roof, the pavilion at Penns Farm Playing Fields has become unsafe to use, the pavilion at East Tisted Rec has poor security protection, and the pavilion at Medstead Village Green requires modernisation. There is also a disused cricket pavilion at Jubilee Playing Fields.

**Football** – Two of the three full size football AGPs in the area are good quality, with newly laid playing surfaces, however the pitch at The Petersfield School is poor and needs resurfacing. A number of grass pitches (19%) are of a poor-quality suffering from poor natural drainage, compaction of the ground and overuse, thereby limiting the playing capacity of these pitches. To address this issue on a large scale it would require significant additional investment in maintenance works at the frequencies required to effectively aerate and de-compact the playing surfaces of the poor-quality natural turf pitches.

The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the recent Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at the sites assessed. In most cases, this will necessitate increased revenue investment in enhanced pitch maintenance regimes supported by grant funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund.

The ancillary facilities supporting community club football across the district vary in quality with several sites needing improvement. There is a lack of basic changing provision at 3 sites (listed below) which limits usage particularly for women and girls’ teams. It is essential that at the minimum toilet provision and some shelter is provided on each site.

- Clanfield Junior School
- Hawkley Fields
- Penns Farm Playing Fields

Improvements to the current provision is also needed at the following sites to modernise facilities and make them fit for purpose to accommodate women and girls and provide disability access:

- Headley Playing Fields
- Jubilee Playing Field (Alton)
- Liphook Recreation Ground
- Peel Park Recreation Ground
- Petersfield Town FC

**Hockey** - The playing surfaces on the artificial grass pitches at Amery Hill School and Bedales School are of poor quality and need resurfacing. In addition, the Amery Hill pitch is not floodlit which limits the amount of community use that can be accommodated, particularly training. Subject to negotiations between these schools, the hockey clubs and the District Council, there may be opportunities to secure community use through partnership funding of the necessary improvement works and/or the adoption of formal Community Use Agreements.

Changing facilities are quite basic and in need of improvement particularly on the two clubs' main sites to support match day requirements. Alton HC only having access to two changing rooms at Eggars School which causes issues with back to back matches. Petersfield HC state the changing provision at Bedales school is basic and they report issues with access to changing rooms at Churcher's College (Ramshill).

**Rugby** - Drainage to most the district's rugby pitches available for community rugby is classified as '*Natural Adequate*' in all but two instances at Anstey Park where the pitch drainage is rated '*Inadequate*'. The maintenance regimes for all the available pitches at both sites is assessed as '*Adequate*'. The pitches at Alton RFC have improved in quality recently due to increased maintenance but, due to the inherent drainage issues at this site, are still rated at just 3/5 by the club. Whilst more investment in pitch maintenance has potential to deliver quality improvement (and thereby increase playing capacity by reducing cancellations), this is challenging in the current financial climate and the pressures on local authority and sports club budgets.

If the necessary funding could be secured, the installation of engineered drainage to the pitches would be beneficial. Installing pipe drainage to an adequately maintained pitch would increase its playing capacity by 0.5 '*Match Equivalent Sessions*' (MES) each week, whilst a more sophisticated pipe & slit drainage system would increase the weekly playing capacity of each pitch by one full MES.

There is a need for improvements to the ancillary changing facilities at both club sites. Alton RFC and Petersfield RFC both have ambitions to improve their facilities to better accommodate women and girls' rugby and to create a better experience for all players and officials. Whilst the necessary funding has not been secured, some discussions have taken place between the District Council, Alton Town Council and Alton RFC regarding the future expansion of the ancillary facilities at Anstey Park.

## 2.4 Future supply and demand

**Planned new supply** - On the future supply side, there are committed projects (or current planning applications) for new and enhanced playing pitch provision in the district which, taken together, will address much of the current need for additional playing pitch capacity. These 'pipeline' projects are:

- **Alton School** - Alton School had plans approved for a new sand dressed floodlit ATP in 2023. The site is due to be available for community use, however funding for the pitch is not confirmed and the school have recently stated it is no longer a priority for them.
- **Bentley Recreation Ground** – Bentley Archers Cricket and Sports Club (BACSC) are currently in the process of redeveloping Bentley Rec to provide two football pitches (one youth 11v11 and one 7v7 mini soccer) in place of a single adult pitch currently on the playing field. The proposals include for the provision of 4 fine turf cricket wickets (augmenting an existing NTP) to provide a permanent home cricket pitch for the club's cricket section with increased capacity.
- **Bohunt School** - has submitted a planning application to install a new full sized 3G FTP pitch with floodlights for school and community use.
- **Headley 'Field 6' Project** – 3 football pitches (1x junior 11v11, 1x 7v7, 1x 5v5) are due to be completed by the developer in the spring of 2024 and handed to the parish council to maintain and manage. It is likely these pitches will be playable from the 2025/26 season.
- **Holt Pound Lane Oval** - Binsted Parish Council are leading the regeneration of this site and may in future provide playing pitches for cricket.
- **Horndean new housing development** – the current development plans include a proposal for a floodlit FTP on land to the east of the new housing.

- **Oakmoor School** – 5 new football pitches (two youth 11v11, one 9v9 and two 7v7) and 1 new rugby pitch are due to be available for community use for the 24/25 season.
- **Penns Farm Playing Field** - Discussions have been held between Petersfield RFC, Petersfield Town FC, and Petersfield Town Council and planning proposals submitted to develop two non-floodlit rugby pitches on land behind the current rugby pitches. This would enable the change of use of one existing non-floodlit rugby pitch to football for use by Petersfield Town FC.

**Population growth** - In terms of estimating future demand for community playing pitches, assuming current levels of participation per capita and the forecast population growth (+8,958) people resident in East Hampshire district by 2040<sup>1</sup>), application of Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator (PPC) tool indicates a potential need to secure more playing pitch capacity. This additional capacity will need to be achieved through a combination of investment in new provision, enhancement of existing pitches and negotiating and securing more community access to existing and any planned new school and college playing pitches.

As football is the most popular pitch sport, the additional demand for football pitches generated by the impact of population growth will be by far the largest. The PPC indicates there will be a requirement to provide an additional 12 natural turf pitches (+3 adult football pitches, +5 youth football pitches and +3 mini soccer pitches) plus around 18 additional weekly training slots on a 3G artificial pitch, equivalent to 0.5 additional full size floodlit AGPs.

Population growth will also create need for additional playing pitch capacity for cricket, rugby and hockey also although at a much lower level than for football (see Figure 2.3).

**Figure 2.3 – Additional Capacity Needed by 2040- Population Change only: Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator Planning Tool**

Sport and Pitch Type	Additional Capacity Needed by 2040 (pitches) due to forecast population growth (i.e. assuming static demand)
Cricket – fine turf	+ 2
Football – grass	+ 12 (4 mini; 5 youth; 3 adult)
Football – 3G AGP	+ 0.5
Hockey – sand/water AGP	+ 0.1
Rugby	+ 1.03

In considering future playing pitch capacity needs, it is important to note that the run of the Playing Pitch Calculator shown in Figure 2.3 above that this additional capacity does not account for improvements made to existing provision, which could increase the capacity of pitches and reduce the need for new pitches. The calculation also assumes ‘static demand’ i.e., the proportion of the population by age group and gender that currently play pitch sports stays the same.

Recent trends (see para. 1.1) suggest further growth in demand to play rugby, football and cricket among women and girls stimulated by recent successes of the national teams, the hosting and winning of major tournaments such as the 2022 Women’s Football Euros and the upcoming 2025 Women’s Rugby World Cup to be held in England, together with recently announced changes to physical education policy and practice in schools aimed at equal opportunities for girls. Football is the playing pitch sport where demand increase is likely to be the greatest and have the most impact on future playing pitch needs.

<sup>1</sup> ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

For this reason, it is recommended that, for the purposes of facility planning, the PPC estimates in Figure 2.3 should be considered as the minimum future requirement for new playing pitch capacity that is likely to result from population growth to 2040. Scenarios to illustrate the impact on the future pitch needs of a large scale increase in demand in women’s and girl’s football, rugby and cricket are explored in section 3 of this study (using Sports England’s Playing Pitch Calculator). Actual growth should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth or participation growth scenarios outlined in section 3 are proving to be accurate. Future needs should be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure provisions are planned accordingly.

A further key consideration in the assessment of future playing pitch needs is the extent to which the clubs based in the district deliver on their development aspirations. Research and consultation for this strategy has found that a significant number of playing pitch sports clubs in the area have embraced the youth, women and girls and recreational participation development initiatives and programmes of the national governing bodies. Accordingly, these clubs aspire to convert latent demand for their sport into new teams and/or to develop more playing opportunities at a recreational level alongside traditional league competition provided that required pitch capacity can be secured along with the additional volunteer coaches/ team managers needed to run the additional teams and activities.

## 2.5 Is there enough provision to meet future demand?

The clear conclusion of the assessments of need for playing pitches in East Hampshire is that, by 2040, there will be a need to provide additional playing and training capacity for all four major playing pitch sports.

**Cricket** - There is not sufficient accessible and secured community use provision in the district to meet future demand. There is a need for a minimum of two additional fine turf pitches in the area. The planned new supply detailed above (see para 2.4) at Bentley Rec to add a 4 wicket fine turf pitch and upgrade the NTP will contribute toward meeting this demand and provide a suitable home pitch for BACSC. If the Holt Pound Lane Oval could be regenerated this would also support future demand in the area.

An NTP is needed at Ropley Rec and at Binsted Rec to help alleviate the pressure on the fine turf pitches and support the growth of the home clubs’ junior sections. Petersfield CC are looking into the feasibility of a second pitch closer to their home pitch at Petersfield Heath to allow all teams to play on one site and reduce pressure on their current pitch.

There is potential for clubs with large youth sections to use existing NTP’s at the following educational sites - Churcher’s College, Eggars School, and Horndean Technology College. All three schools make their facilities available for community bookings, but they are currently unused by clubs.

PitchPower (and ECB funding) is due to be available to cricket clubs in April 2024, providing potential for joint PitchPower and Football Foundation projects for sites with both football and cricket facilities. This could open an avenue to increased capacity and quality at joint sports sites such as Binsted Rec, Grayshott Playing Fields, and BOSC which are used at or above capacity.

The pitch at Hyden Farm Lane is currently only available for private use. Should this pitch become available for community use, it would help to reduce the demand for additional future provisions.

Investment into pavilions is required in the area including new or refurbished provision at many sites across the district. Clubs have noted that their current facilities are either not suitable for women’s and girl’s teams or are insufficient for any further growth of the club.

**Football** - Over the period of the strategy to 2040, to address forecast population growth, unmet and latent demand identified by clubs and to continue to deliver on the FA's strategy to transfer more affiliated competitive football to 3G surfaces, further secured provision of 3G FTP pitches is needed.

Investment in at least 2.75 additional full size FA registered floodlit 3G FTP's is needed to cater for current demand plus an additional 0.75 full sized pitch equivalent for the demand generated by future population growth. This totals a need for 3.5 3G FTPs in the area. There are already plans for a 3G at Bohunt School and at the land east of the Horndean development and assuming these can be delivered, an additional 1.5 pitches need will be needed by 2040.

Due to the current number of teams in the area and the accessibility an additional full size pitch should be delivered in the Petersfield area, with a youth 11v11 3G in the North of the district to support the growth in population and demand from youth clubs.

Additional natural turf pitches are needed for adult 11v11, youth 11v11 and Youth 9v9 for match play by 2040 in light of the scale of forecast population growth and resulting demand. Some of this provision can be accommodated with the planned new provision outlined in paragraph 2.4 above. These proposals equate to an additional 12 new natural turf pitches across the district and an additional 34 MES (assuming all are provided to 'standard' pitch quality). There is also potential to explore community use at Herne Junior School, particularly for the 9v9 pitches.

Transferring match play onto 3G pitches should also be explored at sites where there is capacity to accommodate this as well as making improvements to pitch quality on key grass football sites to increase capacity, such as Headley Playing Fields and Liphook Recreation ground.

Ongoing assessments of team generation rates in line with population growth should be completed due to the high rates of year on year growth found by the FA insights. This will ensure that pitch requirement figures can be updated in line with concurrent data.

**Hockey** - There is capacity in the area for club's aspirations to grow and to meet future demand with spare capacity at Bohunt School. The proposed new pitch at Alton School, if delivered, would provide a suitable venue for Alton HC however due to the uncertainty of this being delivered Amery Hill School should be resurfaced to continue to accommodate club use.

However, the majority of supply is unsecured, with the exception of Eggars School which has a CUA in place. The lack of security on sites would impact both clubs and mean they would be unable to train or play matches if venues became unavailable. There is a need to protect the existing quantity of pitch supply and to secure usage for clubs where possible.

The pitch at Bedales needs resurfacing and the possibility of securing additional hours of use at Churcher's College (Ramshill) should be explored.

Improvements to changing provision is needed at Bedales School and Eggars School as well as ensuring access for Petersfield HC to the changing facilities at Churcher's College (Ramshill).

**Rugby** – There is currently not sufficient provision for rugby to meet future demand. Improvement to the maintenance at all pitches would increase the number of match equivalent sessions in the district, but this is likely to be difficult due to the pressures on council and club budgets and would still not bring the pitches within their carrying capacity due to amount of training demand. Additional capacity could also be accommodated by exploring regular community access to the pitches at Eggars School, Ditcham

Park School, and Amery Hill School, with both Amery Hill School and Eggars School expressing an interest in providing community use.

The current capacity deficit in East Hampshire is 18 MES with additional demand for training sessions. To accommodate this on natural turf pitches (assuming good natural drainage and adequate maintenance) would require 9.5 natural turf pitches, if it is assumed that the maintenance of all pitches can be improved, the deficit is reduced to 3 MES, requiring 2 new pitches plus 1 for future demand.

An alternative method of increasing MES capacity is to develop engineered drainage systems such as pipe or pipe & slit drainage. Assuming all pitches in the area have pipe drainage installed, the MES demand is reduced to 9.5, and if all pitches have pipe & slit drainage installed, the demand falls to 2 MES.

Due to the level of training demand, there is a need for a 3G rugby complaint pitch in the area. The ideal location would be on one of the two club sites. Discussion have been held with both town councils regarding the development of WR compliant 3G pitches. There is potential for Petersfield RFC to share a 3G pitch with Petersfield Town FC as part of a wider sports hub development at Penns Place.

Petersfield RFC are in the process of developing 2 new non-floodlit pitches at Penns Place, with one of the current non-floodlit pitches being transferred to Petersfield Town FC following the development. This will significantly increase the match provisions at the site but will not help in alleviating the significant training demand on the current floodlit pitches.

Due to the overuse of the training area at Anstey Park, it is recommended that a feasibility study is undertaken to assess the potential of developing floodlights on one of the pitches at the site. This would help alleviate overuse concerns of the designated training area; however, it would increase the load on one of the pitches, which are all currently used above capacity. To offset the additional use, engineered draining solutions could be considered.

**Figure 2.4 – Estimate of Minimum Future Additional Playing Pitch Capacity Needs to 2040**

Sport	Additional playing capacity equivalent to:
Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +2 fine turf pitches</li> <li>• Non Turf Pitches at Ropley Rec and Binsted Rec</li> </ul>
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +3.25 floodlit full size equivalent 3G Football Turf Pitches</li> <li>• +12 natural turf pitches</li> </ul>
Hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +0.13 full size floodlit hockey AGP</li> </ul>
Rugby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 1 floodlit full size 3G Rugby Turf Pitch</li> <li>• +3 natural turf pitches</li> </ul>

The options or scenarios in East Hampshire for meeting the identified capacity needs are explored in more detail in the following section.



Playing Pitch Strategy  
3 – Meeting the needs ('How to' Scenarios)

### 3 – Meeting the needs ('How to' Scenarios)

As part of the Strategy Development process a number of scenarios have been identified as options to meet the future facility needs summarised in the preceding section. The Steering Group has considered these scenarios along with their potential implications on the future picture of provision for the leading playing pitch sports in East Hampshire and how best to meet existing and future playing pitch facility demand. These scenarios have also been considered in relation to setting the priorities for future enhancement and provision detailed in the action plan for playing pitches in the first part of Section 4 of this Playing Pitch & Sports Facilities Strategy – i.e., the initial action plan.

#### 3.1 Improved quality of sites

Before considering the provision of new playing fields it is important to first consider the potential for increasing capacity of existing sites (particularly those grounds owned or leased by community clubs) as these have resources and structures in place (e.g., grounds maintenance, coaching) and an established sporting identity developed over many years.

Improving the quality of ancillary facilities such as practice, changing and social provision can also have an impact by sustaining and retaining existing demand and on attracting under-represented groups (e.g., the provision of suitable changing provision for women and girls).

**Cricket** – As set out above in para. 2.5, the existing 'standard' quality fine turf cricket pitches at key cricket sites in the district also used for football – e.g. Binsted Rec, Grayshott Playing Fields and Bordon & Oakhanger SC - have potential to secure ECB funding via a new joint PitchPower football and cricket pitch improvement programme to be launched in 2024. Improving the quality of these three fine turf pitches at key sites from 'standard' to 'good' quality would increase the total playing capacity by approximately 64 match equivalent sessions a season (i.e. +2 MES per season x 32 strips/wickets).

Other improvement priorities for cricket in East Hampshire relate to ancillary facilities which are important both to sustain existing membership and participation and to meet the quality expectations of potential new players including women and girls, a priority for the ECB and the District Council. The priority sites for cricket pavilion improvements are detailed in the recommendations (Section 4).

**Football** - The delivery of the grass pitch improvements recommended by the Grounds Maintenance Association through the Football Foundation's PitchPower pitch assessment reports to 11 pitches at four key football sites in the district (i.e. Liphook Rec, Headley Playing Fields, Newman Collard Playing Field and Peel Park Rec) would go a long way to improving the playing capacity at selected club sites supported by funding from the Football Foundation's Grass Pitch Maintenance Fund. For example, if these 11 assessed pitches were all upgraded to 'good/high' quality from their existing 'standard/basic' or 'poor' quality, this would create an additional capacity per of +27 MES a week. This would meet the identified need to 2040 of additional natural turf football pitches provided the new provision in the current plans at Oakmoor School, Bentley Rec and Penns Place (i.e. the transfer of a rugby pitch) are successfully delivered to a good quality standard.

However, in light of the high playing capacity of floodlit 3G pitches relative to natural turf, the quality improvement that would have the greatest positive impact on football in the district is the upgrading of the playing surface to the floodlit 3G FTP at The Petersfield School.

There are a number of football changing pavilions (some serving both football and cricket) that need substantial quality improvement or replacement in order to sustain and grow participation particularly

among women and girls aligning with FA and District Council priorities. The priority projects are set out in Section 4.

**Hockey** – The clear quality enhancement priority to sustain existing hockey participation in East Hampshire is to upgrade the worn playing surfaces to the sand based AGPs at Amery Hill School and Bedales School. However, it must be recognised that neither school has a Community Use Agreement in place with either the user club or the District Council. For the Alton area, an ideal scenario would be to support the development of the planned new floodlit sand based AGP at Alton School with community club access secured by means of a Community Use Agreement, however due to the uncertainty of this being delivered improvements to Amery School should be progressed, along with reviewing the feasibility for floodlights.

**Rugby** – As set out in para. 2.3, The poorly draining pitches at Anstey Park used by Alton RFC have improved in quality recently due to increased maintenance but, due to the inherent drainage issues at this site, the pitches are still rated at just 3/5 by the club. If the necessary funding could be secured, which is unlikely in the current financial climate, the installation of engineered drainage to the pitches would increase the playing capacity by 0.5 ‘*Match Equivalent Sessions*’ (MES) each week per pitch (assuming installation of a pipe system), whilst a more sophisticated pipe & slit system would increase the weekly playing capacity of each pitch by one full MES.

There is a need for improvements to the ancillary changing facilities at both club sites to better accommodate women and girls’ rugby and to create a better experience for all players and officials.

In 2022, PitchPower assessments were made available to rugby clubs. These assessments provide pitch maintenance recommendations, support, and funding if applications are successful. This process can help guide and support both clubs in improving the quality and capacity of their playing pitches.

### 3.2 More community use at education sites

Whilst the Government seeks to widen access to sports facilities on school premises as part of the Department for Education’s School Sport and Physical Activity Action Plan, investment available from its Opening Schools Facilities Fund is restricted to revenue spending on capacity building, sports leaders/coaches, equipment to deliver community activities out-of-hours specifically targeted at under-represented groups in sport and physical activity living in areas of relative deprivation. Energise me, Hampshire’s Active Partnership, should consider the findings of this strategy to prioritise their work on opening schools’ sports facilities in the area. A priority for further exploration in East Hampshire should be Herne Junior School. Consultation in the course of this study has identified potential for hire of up to six youth and mini-soccer pitches on this school’s playing field to one or more community clubs subject to access to suitable ancillary welfare facilities.

As identified above, a partnership with the Alton School to help deliver its planned floodlit sand based AGP (linked to a formal Community Use Agreement) would have very significant impact on securing the future of the Alton Hockey Club, if this could be achieved.

Similarly, final delivery of the school playing pitches in development at Oakmoor School in Whitehill & Bordon will also impact greatly on addressing junior football club playing pitch needs in this area of the district.

In consultation for this study both Amery Hill School and Eggars School expressed interest in providing community use of the rugby pitches on their sites to the clubs. However, such community use is likely to continue be limited to occasional ad hoc hires in view of the strong preference of rugby clubs to use

their home grounds to minimise cost of pitch fees and to maximise revenues from clubhouse operations.

### 3.3 Change of use from one sport or pitch type to another

The most common scenarios involving change of pitch type are:

- Upgrading natural turf pitches to 3G artificial football turf and to rugby turf
- Resurfacing sand-based hockey AGPs as 3G football turf.

The first scenario has potential to make a significant impact on meeting existing and future capacity shortfalls for football and for rugby in East Hampshire district. Whilst the current proposals to address lack of rugby capacity in Petersfield centre on provision of additional pitches on land to the rear of the existing Penns Place pitches, there is a potential scenario for Petersfield RFC to share a 3G pitch with Petersfield Town FC as part of a wider sports hub development at Penns Place.

None of the sand-based hockey AGPs used by the hockey clubs in the district are currently considered at risk of loss due to change of playing surface. Bohunt School's current planning proposals are to provide a second AGP (floodlit FTP) as opposed to resurfacing the school's existing sand based AGP which was refurbished relatively recently in 2020. There is currently no community hockey demand for this pitch, but its retention provides an opportunity to establish hockey use in future once the FTP is available to accommodate football demand.

### 3.4 Potential loss of availability of a key site or sites

Little imminent threat to availability of key community playing pitch sites in East Hampshire has been identified in the course of the research and consultation for this PPS. The cricket pitch at Bohunt School is due to be lost to the proposed development of an FTP on this site. However, there is no current community use of the pitch and mitigation considerations are in place to improve the home ground of the nearest club – Liphook and Ripsley CC –at Ripsley Park.

Nevertheless, in the absence of either a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA) or binding grant funding conditions, there is always a risk of loss of availability of education pitches for community club use. This loss of availability is potentially a concern in East Hampshire for the two hockey clubs and several community football clubs as CUAs or grant conditions are not in place with a number of schools in the district that hire pitches to these clubs on a seasonal or term by term basis. Examples include The Petersfield School, Bedales School, Bohunt School and Churcher's College.

The over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in the district available for use as playing pitches, so it will be important to try to secure these education pitches for community use where possible.

### 3.5 New or reinstated pitches in the district or catchment

As detailed in para. 2.4 above under the heading 'Planned Provision', there are advanced plans for a number of new or reinstated playing pitches in the district that will impact substantially on addressing the overall future needs identified in Figure 2.4.

Two of the 3.5 additional full size floodlit FTPs needed by 2040 are already in the planning pipeline for new provision – i.e. at Bohunt School and on land east of Horndean.

The 4 wicket fine turf cricket pitch planned at Bentley Rec will address the needs of the Bentley Archers Cricket & Sports Club when delivered leaving a need to provide one further new or reinstated fine turf pitch in the right location to serve unmet club needs by 2040.

Plans are in place for the provision of two new non-turf cricket pitches (NTPs) – one at Ropley and another at Binsted. These two new NTPs - taken together with the available NTPs on school sites (currently unused by community cricket clubs) - should be sufficient to address the community need for NTPs in the district to 2040.

Up to 12 new or reinstated natural turf football pitches could be provided under current plans for Headley Field, Bentley Rec, Oakmoor School, Penns Place, Holt Pound Lane and Clanfield leaving a need for a further five by 2040 (subject to the successful delivery of the required 3.5 new full size equivalent floodlit FTPs).

For hockey, delivery of the Alton School plans for a floodlit sand based pitch with a CUA would fully address community hockey needs to 2040, however due to the uncertainty of the future of this project it is essential that none of the current unsecured access to other school hockey pitches is lost in the meantime.

Finally, in the case of rugby, delivery of the long-standing plans for new pitches on the 'extension' land at Penns Place would significantly increase the match provisions at the site but will not help in alleviating the significant training demand on the current floodlit pitches as such over the longer term, delivery of a rugby compliant AGP in a rugby/football partnership as mooted as an option for a new sports hub at Petersfield would address any remaining community rugby pitch needs in this part of the district to 2040. As part of the playing pitch developments at Oakmoor School, a full-sized rugby pitch is due to be installed, which may be suitable for club use. However, the site is not ideally located for either club to consistently utilise the pitch, with both club's main pitches being over 10 miles from the school.

### **3.6 Significant increase in demand by an age group or sport**

The future playing pitch need to provide for the forecast additional population of East Hampshire district by 2040 are shown in the run of the Sport England Playing Pitch Calculator in Figure 2.3 above assumes current levels of demand.

As shown in para. 1.1 of the strategy, national trends in playing pitch team sport participation are generally flat due in large measure to the impact of the pandemic and the time required for competitive structures and participation levels to re-establish. However, as highlighted elsewhere in the study, in East Hampshire district and across Hampshire as a whole, there are indications of strong recovery among the younger age groups in all four of the main pitch sports and most particularly for mini-soccer and youth football and for training in football and rugby. This growth is driven in part by successful local clubs and strong district leagues. There is also slow but accelerating growth in demand for opportunities to play these playing pitch sports from women and girls.

While hockey participation is already evenly split between the genders, the governing bodies of football, cricket and rugby all have a clear strategic focus on delivering more opportunities for women and girls to play and compete. As identified in the detailed assessments of future need for each sport, it is demand growth from women and girls that is likely to be the most significant over the next planning period and place the most pressure on the available capacity in the peak hours at existing pitches.

This demand growth is particularly evident in **football** and, if sustained, will place additional demand pressure on the available stock of youth and mini soccer pitches and 3G AGPs as well as on the existing stock of pavilions many of which do not have adequate changing and toilet facilities.

The FA’s insight shows that youth football is growing at an average of 3.09% per annum. East Hampshire’s previous playing pitch strategy in 2018 predicted a growth of 32 teams based on population rates to 2028, this number has already been exceeded in 2023 by an extra 9 teams in East Hampshire, which is a growth rate of 3.6%.

In view of these demand pressures, a further run of the Playing Pitch Calculator has been made to show the possible impact on pitch needs of a demand growth scenario with an adjusted demand rate of **73% for youth football (i.e. an 3.6% iterative increase per year over 16 years)**.

To meet football demand from 8,958 additional residents (as currently forecast<sup>6</sup>) and adjusting demand for a growth of 3.6% per annum in youth football for matches and training in the peak period, the PPC indicates that, by 2040, the equivalent capacity of +3 adult football pitches, +8 youth football pitches and +6 mini soccer pitches will be needed in the area (totalling +17 natural turf pitches) as well as 28.5 hours of training on a 3G pitch equivalent to need for a further 0.75 of additional 3G pitch space, totalling a need for 3.5 pitches in the area.

The needs for additional playing pitch capacity for community football in the district by 2040 identified in figure 2.4 should therefore be considered as a minimum requirement as they take no account of any increase in the rate of demand within the area population. The adjusted needs based on this scenario for football are as outlined in Figure 3.1.

**Figure 3.1 – Estimate of impact on pitch needs of a demand growth scenario for youth football**

Sport	Additional playing capacity equivalent to:
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• +3.5 floodlit full size equivalent 3G Football Turf Pitches</li> <li>• +17 natural turf pitches</li> </ul>

Actual team generation rates should be monitored as part of regular PPS updates to identify whether the population growth or participation growth scenarios outlined above are proving to be accurate. Future pitch capacity and demand should be revised on an ongoing basis to ensure provisions are planned accordingly.

# Playing Pitch Strategy

## 4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport



## 4 – Recommendations by Pitch Sport

Based on the findings of the assessment of current and future facility needs for the four major playing pitch sports summarised in section 2 of this strategy and detailed in sport-specific reports at appendices A to D, the following recommendations are made for strategic provision of playing pitch facilities in East Hampshire District to 2040.

The recommendations assume the quantum of population growth forecast in the ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020) – i.e. +8,958 additional residents by 2040 and take into consideration the range of potential scenarios available to the Council and its partner sports bodies to address the facility needs detailed in section 3 above.

### 4.1 Protect

In the context of current demand, future net population growth and the development aspirations of key sports clubs – particularly to grow opportunities for more women and girls to play cricket, football and rugby - the over-riding priority recommendation of the PPS is to continue to retain the existing overall quantity of land in the district available for use as playing pitches.

Protecting the supply of playing fields, playing pitches and ancillary provision should continue to be a core principle in the planning policies of East Hampshire District Council in its emerging Local Plan.

The relevant existing planning policies for the protection of playing pitches in East Hampshire are detailed in Appendix G of this Playing Pitch & Sports Facilities Strategy.

Strategic recommendations aimed at maximising the effectiveness of local planning policy in East Hampshire and the planning process to both protect playing fields, playing pitches, ancillary provision and to secure community access are set out in Section 3 of the overall Playing Pitch & Sports Facilities Strategy.

Effective use of the planning process to ensure protection of access to education playing pitches is particularly critical to community sport. In East Hampshire, the two hockey clubs currently rely heavily on unsecured access to artificial grass pitches and changing rooms within school sites. Continued access to school and college playing fields at weekends is also key to many community football clubs in the district to deliver their programmes of match play for growing numbers of youth and mini-soccer teams.

### 4.2 Enhance and Provide

It is recommended that a number of existing playing pitch facilities should be prioritised for investment in upgrades (subject to funding, planning and feasibility) in order to continue to meet existing demand from community teams and individuals and to ensure, where possible, that additional capacity is provided to contribute to meeting demand growth.

Greater playing capacity will be needed in future as a result of population growth and as a consequence of demand growth stimulated by the sports development initiatives of local clubs supported by the Council and other stakeholders including the relevant sport's governing bodies. Improved ancillary facilities will also be critical to attracting and retaining players, particularly women and girls who remain under-represented in cricket, football and rugby participation.

The assessment of needs and the possible scenarios to address the needs has established that the additional playing pitch capacity that is likely to be needed over the strategy period will not be achievable without new provision.

Figure 4.1 below summarises the strategic recommendations for enhancement of existing playing field sites and for new provision.

**Figure 4.1 – Recommended Facility Enhancement and New Provision by Sport**

Sport	Site(s)	Recommendation
Cricket	Ropley Rec, Binsted Rec	Provide NTPs
	Bentley Rec	Complete fine turf pitch in development, finalise management arrangements and commence community access and use
	Holt Pound Lane Oval	Reinstate cricket playing pitch and facilities
	Binsted Rec, Grayshott Playing Fields, and BOSC	Commission new joint ECB/FA PitchPower pitch quality assessments and deliver recommendations
	Bentley Rec, Chawton Cricket Ground, East Meon Cricket Ground, Penns Farm Playing Fields, King George V Field	Provide new or upgraded non turf practice net systems
	East Tisted, Jubilee PF, Penns Farm PF, Steep CC, Ripsley Park, Wield Cricket Ground, and Medstead Village Green	Repair/upgrade/replace pavilions as necessary (e.g. replacement roofs, improved security, enhanced facilities for women & girls, disabled access)
Football	Key natural turf sites (e.g. Headley PF and Liphook Rec)	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement
	Bohunt School, Land East of Horndean	Provide a full size floodlit 3G with Community Use Agreement
	Mill Chase Rec. Ground	Complete drainage works to improve the condition of pitches
	Herne Junior School	Investigate potential for community club access to grass pitches (+6 pitches)
	Penns Farm PF, Clanfield Junior School, Hawkley Fields	Provide welfare facilities as minimum (toilets and shelters)
	Bentley Rec, Headley (Field 6), Oakmoor School, St James', Clanfield	Complete new natural turf pitches in development or planning, finalise management arrangements and commence community access and use (+12 pitches)
	St James', Clanfield	Complete lease to provide security for Clanfield FC
	Headley Playing fields, Jubilee Playing Field (Alton), Liphook Rec Ground, Peel Park Rec. Ground.	Repair/upgrade/replace pavilions as necessary (e.g. replacement roofs, improved security, enhanced facilities for women & girls, disabled access)
	North of the District	Provide a youth 11v11 floodlit 3G with Community Use Agreement
	Penns Farm Playing Fields	Continue to explore options and feasibility of a new outdoor sports hub to include a full size rugby compliant 3G FTP for football / rugby use
	The Petersfield School	Resurface 3G FTP
Various Senior Club sites (Clanfield FC, Liphook United FC, Petersfield Town FC)	Provide support for senior football clubs in the district to enable them to achieve ground grading requirements for their level of football.	
Hockey	Alton School	Provide planned floodlit sand-based AGP
	Bohunt School	Investigate potential for securing access for community hockey on the existing sand-based AGP when the planned new FTP is completed on the site.
	Bedales School, Amery Hill School	Resurface existing pitches, improve changing facilities and investigate potential for securing community access
	Churcher's College (Ramshill site)	Investigate potential for securing additional community access to pitch and to changing facilities
	Eggars School	Improve changing facilities

Sport	Site(s)	Recommendation
	Anstey Park	<p>Investigate options to increase the floodlit capacity on site.</p> <p>Explore options for funding to deliver engineered drainage systems to one or more pitches.</p> <p>Hold discussions with Alton Town Council to extend the lease of the site.</p> <p>Investigate options to enhance the ancillary facilities.</p> <p>Undertake PitchPower inspection to receive maintenance recommendations and associated support.</p>
Rugby	Penns Farm Playing Fields	<p>Deliver the 2 new pitches on land to the rear of the existing pitches, complete transfer of one existing rugby pitch to football.</p> <p>Continue to explore options and feasibility of a new outdoor sports hub to include a full size rugby compliant 3G FTP for football and rugby use.</p> <p>Explore options to enhance the ancillary facilities to ensure they are fit for purpose.</p> <p>Discuss feasibility of undertaking a community asset transfer process for the land beneath the clubhouse.</p> <p>Undertake PitchPower inspection to receive maintenance recommendations and associated support.</p>



## Playing Pitch Strategy 5 – Conclusion

## 5 – Conclusion

The review of Playing Pitches has highlighted a number of facility investment needs for the District Council and partners, bringing together the analysis, consultation and assessment work.

East Hampshire District Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities and the needs within this section will result in the Council considering some important and key decisions over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the sport specific investment needs identified within this strategy.

Section 3 of the Playing Pitch & Sports Facilities Strategy that follows sets out a number of overarching policy recommendations aimed at facilitating and addressing the sports specific needs identified in this Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and in the Sports Facilities Strategy that follows (part 2).

The final Section (4) is an initial prioritised Action Plan identifying priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

East Hampshire District Council  
Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy  
2024 – 2040

Section 2 (Part 2) - Sports Facilities Strategy



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# Sports Facilities Strategy

## 1 – Introduction



## 1: Introduction

This document is Part 2 of East Hampshire District’s Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy 2024-40 – the Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS). The SFS, when adopted, will replace the previous strategy adopted in 2018.

Consistent with the previous strategy, this SFS includes consideration of facility supply, demands, accessibility and availability of the following built sports facilities for indoor and/or outdoor sport:

- Swimming pools over 20m in length or 160m<sup>2</sup> water area
- Sports halls over 3 badminton courts
- Gymnastic and Trampolining facilities
- Indoor Bowls halls, outdoor greens and Pétanque
- Health & Fitness facilities (studios and gyms) over 20 equipment stations
- Squash courts
- Indoor and outdoor courts for Tennis, Padel, Netball, Basketball
- Athletics and running tracks
- Cycling, BMX and Skate parks
- Golf courses

It is noted that natural turf and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) are covered within the Playing Pitch Strategy (Part 1 of this report). Community activity Halls under 3 courts in size 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).

Significant specialist large-scale sports facilities in neighbouring authorities with good access for residents of East Hampshire District have been taken into consideration in determining current and future facility needs.

The methodology follows current national guidance published by Sport England - *Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities, Sport England (July 2014)*. In accordance with ANOG guidance, Section 2 sets out a detailed analysis of facility supply, demand and accessibility factors by sport facility type (informed by the use of available sports facility planning tools) along with a summary of consultation findings to identify club and NGB facility priorities in the study area. The section concludes with recommendations for the protection and enhancement of existing facilities and for the provision of new facilities where considered necessary to address identified current or future needs to 2040.

Section 3 sets out overarching sports facility planning policy recommendations. These ensure that the overall strategy (the combination of the Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy) continues to play a leading role in the on-going provision of high-quality built sport facilities and meet priority needs through the planning process.

Section 4 provides a delivery plan related to the potential priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation identified in Section 2. This initial action plan will be subject to periodic review and update over the life of the strategy.

A swimmer wearing a black cap and goggles is swimming in a pool. A yellow lane line is visible in the background. The water is blue and splashing around the swimmer.

# Sports Facilities Strategy 2 – Sport Specific Analysis

## 2 - Sport Specific Analysis

### 2.1 Swimming

#### **What's changed since the Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2018**

With regard to public indoor swimming pools in East Hampshire District, the key changes have been the delivery of the following priority projects identified in 2018:

- In the North West, the replacement of the former Alton Leisure Centre with the district's flagship £20 million Alton Sports Centre operated on behalf of the District Council by its leisure service provider Everyone Active. This sub-regional sports centre opened in January 2020 providing residents and visitors with a much improved 25m 6 lane pool (equipped for short course competition and galas with touchpad times, starting blocks and space for up to 150 spectators), a replacement learner pool (12.5m x 7m) and a modern changing village.
- In the North East of the district, the Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre opened in December 2020 as a cornerstone of a major regeneration and a new town centre for this fast-growing community. As in Alton, this facility is operated by Everyone Active and provides a 25m 6 lane main pool and a learner pool (13m x 7). This facility very significantly improves provision for community swimming in this part of the district which previously relied on a small pool with limited availability at Mill Chase Academy Leisure Centre now closed.
- Finally, to the south in the central area of East Hampshire (within the South Downs National Park Area), investment has been made by the District Council in a partnership with Everyone Active to deliver some improvements to the Taro Leisure Centre, notably roof works and upgrades to the wet and dry changing facilities. Built in 1992, following the new provision in Alton and Bordon, this leisure centre is now the oldest of the public swimming facilities in the district providing a 5 lane 25m pool (not suitable for short course competition), a small free-form area for leisure swimming (9mx9m) and a small teaching pool (9mx7m). Proposals for replacement of this leisure centre are under consideration by the District Council.

To inform the current strategy and to better understand the current swimming pool needs in 2024 as a baseline to help inform future priorities for swimming provision in the Local Plan period to 2040, the Council commissioned from Sport England a Standard Facilities Planning Model (FPM) Assessment of the existing swimming pool provision reporting in December 2023.

#### **Sport England's Facility Planning Model**

The overall aims of the standard FPM assessment reports are to provide a current assessment of need for swimming pools in the district (in this case at December 2023), and across the study area based on the existing supply of pools that provide public access and availability in the peak demand times for the existing population.

It is most important to state that the FPM study is a quantitative, accessibility and spatial assessment of the supply, demand and access to swimming pools. The assessment is based on catchment area, so includes the swimming pools and population across the district and the neighbouring local authorities. In determining the position across the district, it is important to take full account of the swimming pools and population in neighbouring local authority areas located within the travel time catchment area for East Hampshire residents.

Also, the most attractive (and accessible) facility for some East Hampshire District residents may be outside the district (known as exported demand). For residents of neighbouring local authorities, their

most attractive (and accessible) swimming pool may be in East Hampshire (known as imported demand). To take account of these factors, the study area places East Hampshire at its centre and includes the neighbouring local authorities and their swimming pool supply.

### **Headline Strategic Overview from The FPM Analysis**

The headline strategic finding is that, there is sufficient swimming pool capacity in the district to meet current demand.

The FPM National Run report states:

*‘East Hampshire has a suitable mix of modern facility provision spread across the District. The available supply of swimming pools for community use is greater than the demand.*

*Deprivation in East Hampshire is low and access to a car is high. The rural nature of the District means that a small proportion of residents are within walking distance of a swimming pool, and most of the journeys to swimming pools are estimated to be by car.*

*Unmet demand is mostly from residents who do not have access to a car and are too far from a swimming pool. However, there are no areas of the District where there is enough unmet demand that could be met to justify the provision of a new swimming pool.*

*The estimated used capacity of all the swimming pools in East Hampshire is low and, therefore, it is expected that sites are operating at a comfortable level at peak times with plenty of spare capacity for the future. Even if the educational sites ceased to provide community access, there is sufficient capacity at Taro Leisure Centre to meet demand. However, as the oldest site in the District, it will be important to keep Taro Leisure Centre attractive to residents for the future.*

*East Hampshire does rely on swimming pools in the neighbouring local authority areas to meet 31% of its satisfied demand. Therefore, if there are any changes to provision in these areas in the future, East Hampshire’s residents will be affected. The data from the National FPM Run does not identify how much of East Hampshire’s demand goes to which other local authority area, but it is likely that it will be going to the public leisure centres in Havant and Waverley.’*

### **Supply of Swimming Pools in East Hampshire District**

Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the swimming pools available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. Supply is expressed in the number of visits that a pool can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in square metres of water. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.

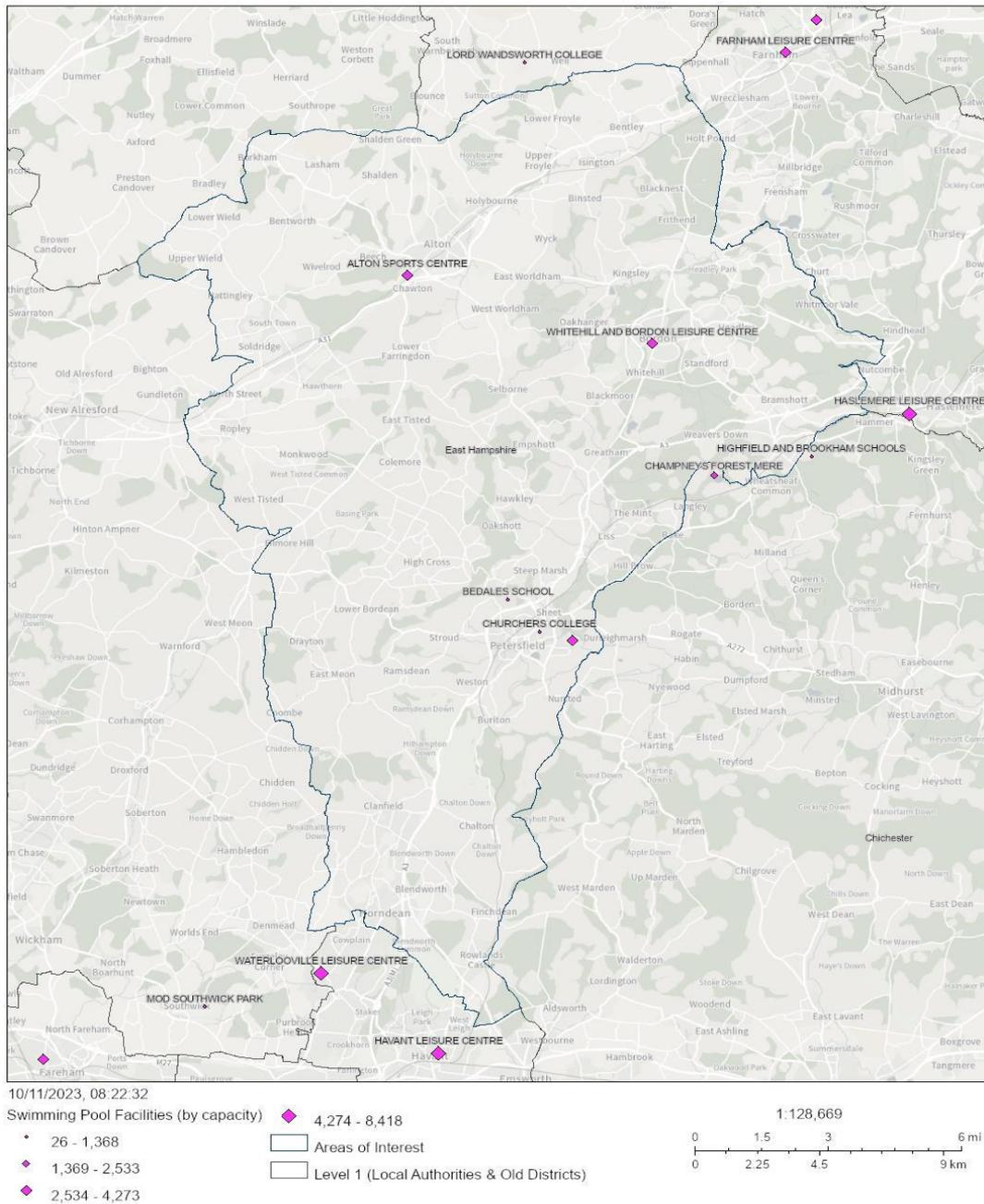
The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for swimming pools is one hour on weekday mornings, one hour on weekday lunchtimes, five and a half hours on weekday evenings, and seven and a half hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 52.5 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access pool facilities during this weekly peak period.

The five swimming pool facilities that meet the criteria to be included in the FPM modelling are listed in Figure 2.1 below and the locations of the current swimming pools (pink diamonds) are shown in Figure 2.2.

**Figure 2.1: Details of Swimming Pools in East Hampshire**

Site	Operation	Year Built	Facility Type	Peak Hours
Alton Sports Centre	Public	2020	6 lane pool (25x12.5m)	52.5
			Teaching pool (12.5x7m)	
Taro Leisure Centre	Public	1992	5 lane pool (25x12m)	52.5
			Leisure water (9x9m)	
			Teaching pool (9x7m)	32
Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre	Public	2020	6 lane pool (25x13m)	52.5
			Teaching pool (13x7m)	
Bedales School	Educational	2002	5 lane pool (20x11m)	30.5
Churcher’s College	Educational	2011	4 lane pool (25x10m)	28

**Figure 2.2 Location of Swimming Pool Sites in East Hampshire**



There are other operational indoor pool venues in the district within health clubs or private swim schools that are excluded from the model assessment as too small (i.e. less than 20m in length or 160m<sup>2</sup>). These are listed in Figure 2.3 along with type of provision they offer.

**Figure 2.3: Details of Swimming Pools in East Hampshire**

Site	Facility Type	Activity
Energique Health Club and Spa	Small Pool 6x12m	Private use for members of the Health Club which includes aqua aerobics and swimming lessons
Herne Farm Leisure Centre	Main Pool	Private use for residents of the Herne Farm Estate and guests
Hollywater School	Small Hydrotherapy Pool	Private use for school students only
Petersfield Open Air Heated Pool	Heated Lido	Public use via booking system which includes lane swimming, aqua aerobics, and general swimming
Ropley School	Small Outdoor Pool	Private use for school swimming lessons in the summer term. Public use via swim school and after school fun swimming session.
Rusalka Swim School	Two Small Pools 6.5x12.5m and 6.5x6.5m	Public use for children’s swimming lessons and adult aqua aerobics
St Matthews CE Primary School	Small Lido 6x12m	Private use by the school
Treloar School and College	Main Pool 17m (extended and refurbished recently)	Private use for School students (physically disabled with complex needs) and disability charities for swimming and hydrotherapy. Public use by Tadpole Swim School lessons from birth to primary school age.

**Figure 2.4: Supply of Indoor Swimming Pools in East Hampshire**

Total Supply	2023
Number of indoor pools	9
Number of indoor pool sites	5
Supply in sqm of indoor water	1,731
Supply in sqm of water scaled with hours available in peak period	1,498
Supply in visits per week in peak period	13,104
Average year built of all sites	2009
Average year built of public leisure centre sites	2011

The scale of the pools available at the three public sports centres mean they can provide a good range of swimming activities in dedicated pools, without compromise i.e.

- Casual recreational swimming.
- Lane and fitness swimming.
- Learn to swim.
- Swimming development through clubs
- Leisure water.

The main pools at the Alton and Whitehill & Bordon venues are also able to provide for competitive short course swimming in the district.

Although not secured via formal community use agreements, there is regular community use at the two educational indoor swimming pool sites in East Hampshire. The 25m 4 lane pool at Churcher’s College – located close to the Taro Sports Centre in Petersfield – is opened by the College to community groups and hirers including swim schools for 28 hours a week. Similarly, just a short distance to the north, the 5 lane 25m indoor pool at Bedales (an independent preparatory school) is available to community groups to hire for 30.5hrs a week.

### Demand for Swimming Pools

Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of East Hampshire’s population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and square metres of water. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England’s Active Lives survey up to March 2020.

East Hampshire’s resident population in 2023 was just over 125,000 – similar to most of its neighbouring local authority areas (i.e. Chichester 125,100; Waverley 127,000; Winchester 128,000; and Havant 130,000), whilst considerably smaller than Basingstoke & Deane (177,000) and larger than Hart District (99,000).

The total demand for swimming by East Hampshire residents in 2023 is 7,994 visits per week in the peak period which equates to 1,315m<sup>2</sup> of water. For context the total supply of accessible community water space in the district is 1,731m<sup>2</sup> of which 1,498m<sup>2</sup> is available in the weekly peak period.

To the east (i.e. in the vicinity of Whitehill and Bordon), The Haslemere Leisure Centre in Waverley Borough has an eight lane 25m pool and teaching pool and falls within the drive time catchment area of a substantial number of East Hampshire residents. Built in 1988 and last refurbished in 2014, this public swimming venue will continue to meet some demand from East Hampshire although the scale of ‘exported demand’ from East Hampshire to this Waverley swimming facility is likely to have decreased substantially since the new Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre opened in 2018.

In contrast, swimming demand from residents in the Southern Parishes of East Hampshire is relatively poorly served by swimming venues within East Hampshire District. In this area, demand for swimming pools that is not served by the pools in the central area in and around Petersfield (i.e. the Taro Sports Centre public pools and the two school pools at Bedales and Churcher’s College), will be met by public pools to the south in Havant and Waterlooville. However, both venues in the catchment area – i.e. Havant Leisure Centre and Waterlooville Leisure Centre are quite old (built in 1974 and last refurbished in 2010 in the case of Havant and in 1991 in the case of Waterlooville LC) which is likely to limit their appeal. However, the Havant site provides a small separate diving pool with a moveable floor which will have appeal across a wider catchment as a specialist facility not available at other swimming venues in the study area.

In accordance with its population size relative to its neighbours, East Hampshire District ranks below Basingstoke & Deane, above Hart and very similar to the other district local authority areas in terms of demand for swimming pools expressed as water space (see Figure 2.5).

**Figure 2.5: Demand for Swimming by Local Authority**

Demand considering a ‘comfort’ factor*	M <sup>2</sup> of water
Basingstoke & Deane	1,939
Hart	1,070
Chichester	1,280
Havant	1,369
Waverley	1,356
Winchester	1,348
<b>EAST HAMPSHIRE</b>	<b>1,315</b>

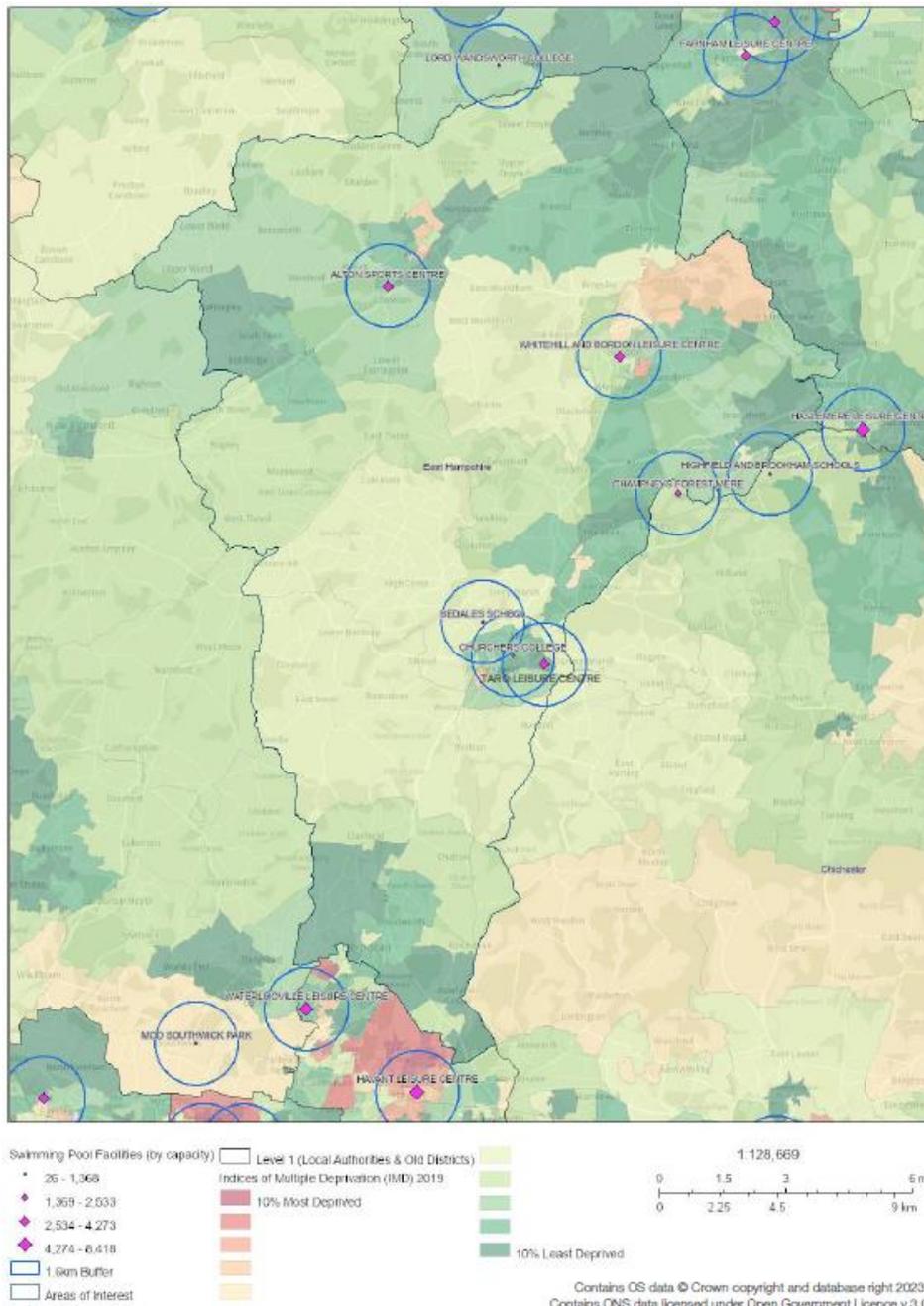
\* The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor,’ beyond which the venues are too full. The pool itself becomes too crowded to swim comfortably, and the changing and circulation areas also become too congested. In the model Sport England assumes that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the swimming pool is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

## Deprivation

East Hampshire has no lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% nationally, and several in the 10% least deprived based on the 2019 Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) measure. However, deprivation ranges across the district. The most deprived area is the east of Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre (the small pink area in the map at Figure 2.6). The next highest areas of deprivation in the district are:

- North east of Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre
- North east of Alton Sports Centre
- South west of Churcher’s College, Petersfield

**Figure 2.6: Index of Multiple Deprivation in East Hampshire (2023)**



The IMD score is used in the FPM to limit whether people will travel to use commercial facilities with main swimming pools, such as David Lloyd Clubs. A weighting factor is incorporated to reflect the cost element often associated with commercial facilities. The assumption is that the higher the IMD score (less affluence), the less likely the population of the LSOA would choose to go to a commercial facility such as the Champney's Forest Mere Spa close to the eastern district boundary in Liphook or to the nearest David Lloyd clubs to residents of East Hampshire located in Farnham, Bracknell, Woking, Portsmouth and Southampton.

### **Accessibility of swimming pools**

For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport, by bike or on foot is the choice of travel. The FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a swimming pool. The travel time limits used are:

- Driving - 20 minutes
- Public transport - 20 minutes (at half speed of car)
- Walking - 20 minutes (one mile)

The proportion of the resident population in East Hampshire who do not have access to a car is 9% which is much lower than the regional average of 16% and the national average of 23%.

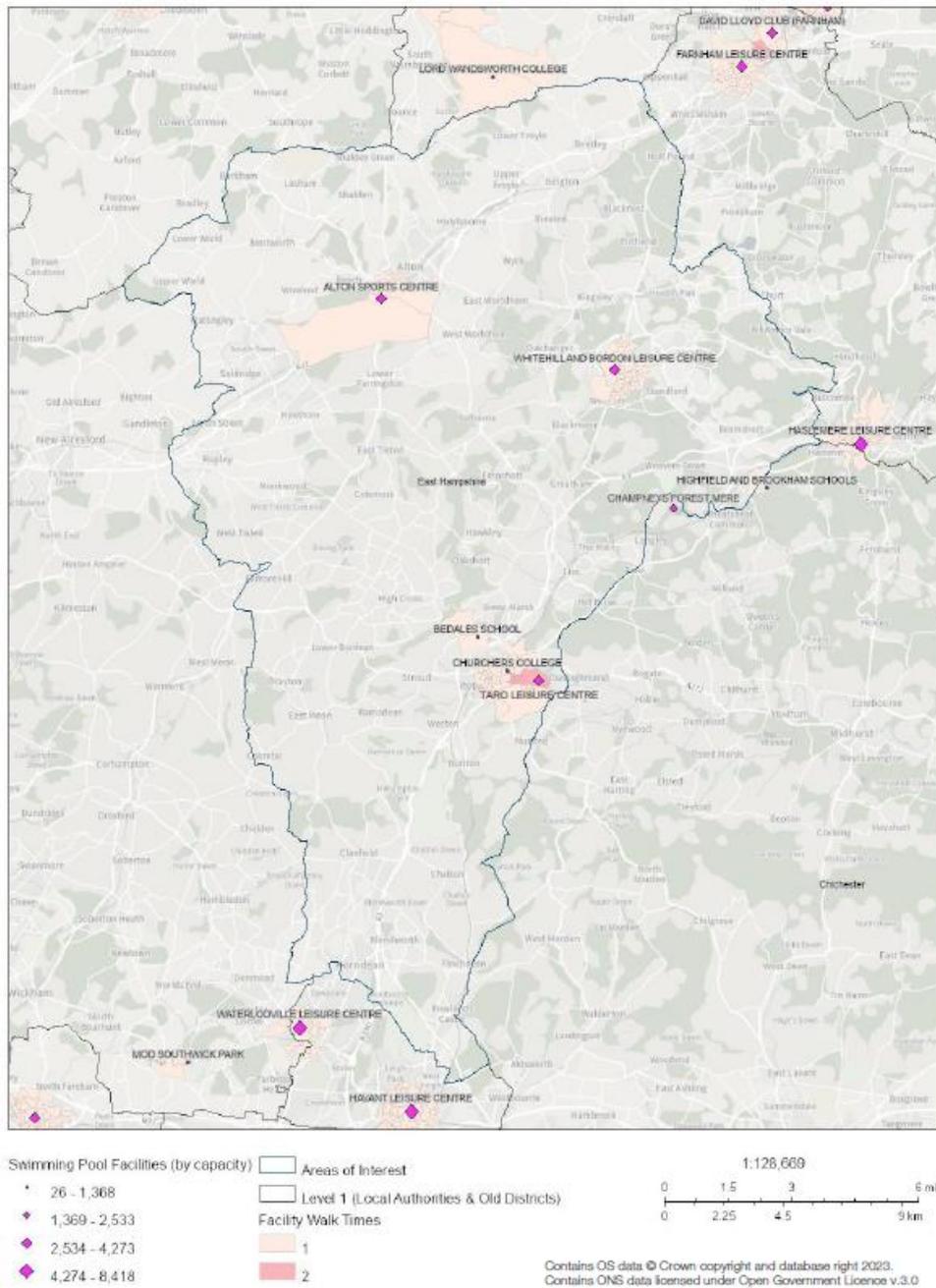
The percentage of the population without access to a car influences travel patterns to swimming pools. A low percentage, as in this case, means that there is likely to be a larger number of visits to swimming pools by car. For residents without access to a car, travel to swimming pools by public transport or, in rural areas, more often by taxi, cycling or on foot becomes the alternative choices of travel.

To gain some understanding of how inaccessible swimming pools are on foot in the East Hampshire, study area, Figure 2.7 shows the areas of the district (pale pink) that are within 20 minutes' walk of a pool site. Perhaps unsurprisingly, the FPM estimates 90% of journeys to swimming pools by East Hampshire residents are by car, 7% are on foot and just 3% by public transport.

### **Satisfied Demand for Swimming Pools**

In 2023, 93% of total demand for swimming from East Hampshire residents is satisfied by the existing pool supply located either in the district or in a neighbouring local authority within the driving, walking or public transport catchment areas for East Hampshire residents (Figure 2.8). 31% of the total swimming demand generated by East Hampshire residents is met by pools in the catchment area located in neighbouring local authorities in the study area – i.e., 'exported demand'. Whilst exported demand is a significant proportion of total demand, it is clear from Figure 2.9 that this is not adversely impacting on the levels of satisfied demand in the neighbouring authorities which, with one exception, also have rates of satisfied demand in excess of 90%. The exception is Chichester with satisfied demand of 80%. The three public pools in this district – in Midhurst, Southbourne and in Chichester itself – are unlikely to draw significant demand from residents of East Hampshire District in view of the travel times.

**Figure 2.7: Walking Access to Swimming Pools in East Hampshire (2023)**



**Figure 2.8: Satisfied Demand for Swimming in East Hampshire**

Satisfied Demand	2023
Number of visits which are <b>met</b> per week in peak period	7,439
% of total demand <b>satisfied</b>	93%
Number of visits <b>retained</b> per week in peak period	5,144
Demand retained as a % of satisfied demand	69%
Number of visits <b>exported</b> per week in peak period	2,295
Demand exported as a % of satisfied demand	31%

**Figure 2.9: Percentage of Satisfied Demand in Study Area**

<b>% of Total Demand Satisfied</b>	<b>2023</b>
<b>East Hampshire</b>	<b>93%</b>
Basingstoke & Deane	92%
Hart	96%
Havant	90%
Waverley	95%
Winchester	91%
Chichester	80%

### **Retained and Exported Demand for Swimming Pools**

Another key measurement is retained demand which is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of East Hampshire residents’ satisfied demand for swimming is retained at pools within the district. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of the district’s pools and residents in the district swimming at these pools.

At present, 31% of East Hampshire’s satisfied demand for swimming is met by pool sites outside the district equating to 2,295 visits in the weekly peak period. As detailed earlier, the FPM report indicates it is likely that the majority of this exported demand for swimming is to public pools close to the district boundary which include Haslemere Leisure Centre in Waverley Borough to the east and the two swimming centres in the northern part of Havant district to the south (Waterlooville LC and Havant LC). Some East Hampshire residents with access to a car and willing to travel further afield are also likely to use the new swimming facilities in Bar End, Winchester opened in 2023 attracted by the availability of a state-of-the-art 50m pool with moveable floor and large (20m x 10m) learner pool.

### **Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools**

Unmet swimming demand is defined in the model as demand for swimming pools which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular swimming pool within its catchment area resulting in a lack of available capacity, or because demand is located too far away from any swimming pool.

In East Hampshire, unmet demand amounts to a relatively small 7% of total demand, equivalent to 91m<sup>2</sup> of water area. This is shown in Figure 2.10. This total unmet demand is aggregated from across the whole district and not concentrated in a single location. As shown in Figure 2.10, unmet swimming demand in East Hampshire is all due to the nearest facility being too far away as opposed to lack of capacity in the pools that are provided. Unsurprisingly, given the rural nature of the district and the nature of the road network, not all those with access to a car live within 20 minutes travel time of an accessible pool.

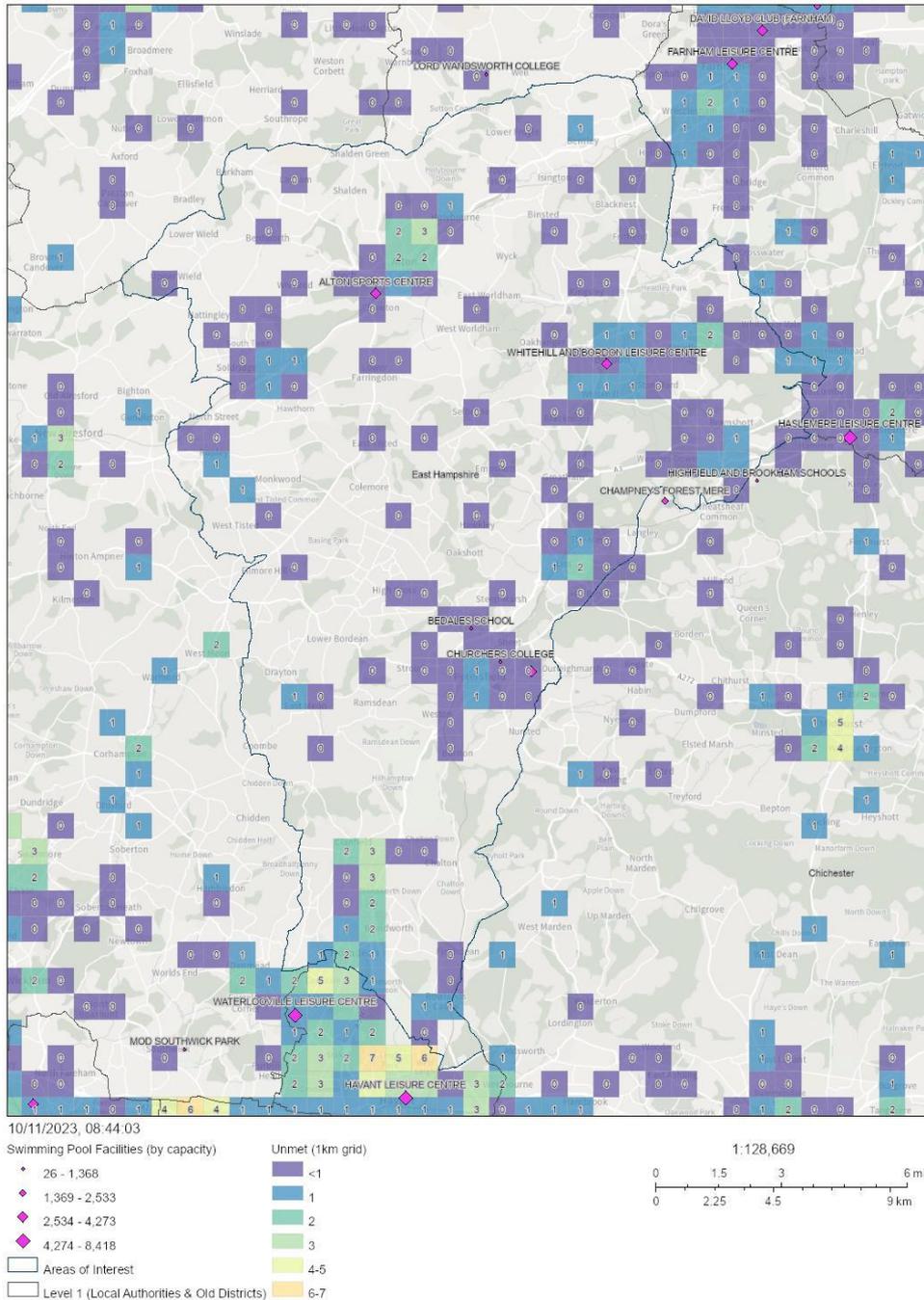
**Figure 2.10: Unmet Demand for Swimming in East Hampshire**

<b>Unmet Demand</b>	<b>2023</b>
Number of visits <b>unmet</b> per week in peak period	555
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	7%
Equivalent in sqm of water with comfort factor	91m <sup>2</sup>
<b>Facility too far away:</b>	100%
Without access to a car	64%
With access to a car	36%
<b>Lack of facility capacity:</b>	0%
Without access to a car	0%
With access to a car	0%

Some unmet demand will always exist because it is not possible to achieve complete spatial coverage whereby all areas of an authority are within walking distance of a swimming pool providing sufficient capacity in the peak period and not everyone will want, or be able, to drive to a facility.

Figure 2.11 shows that unmet swimming demand in East Hampshire is highest in the 1km squares just to the north east of Alton Sports Centre and in the rural Southern Parishes north of Horndean and Blendworth. In just three of these localised 1km square areas does the unmet demand total 3m<sup>2</sup> of water area. The FPM confirms that, at current population levels and distribution there is insufficient reachable unmet demand in any one area of the district to justify the provision of additional pools.

**Figure 2.11: Unmet Demand for Swimming Pools in East Hampshire (2023)**



### Used Capacity of Swimming Pools

Sport England define used capacity as a measure of usage at swimming pools that estimates how well used or how full facilities are in the peak hours; the pools and ancillary changing rooms etc. expressed as a percentage. The assumption is that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and that the venue is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage. The estimated used capacity of East Hampshire’s swimming pools in the weekly peak period, across the district is low relative to the averages for the region and England as a whole at 44% (see Figure 2.12). This is 26 percentage points below the Sport England comfort level of 70% used capacity in the weekly peak period. However, there is a wide variation in the used capacity of the neighbouring local authority areas, ranging from 35% in Hart to 73% in Havant.

**Figure 2.12: Used Capacity of Swimming Pools in East Hampshire**

Used Capacity	2023
Number of visits <b>used</b> of capacity in weekly peak	5,739
% of overall capacity of pools used	44%
Number of visits <b>imported</b> in weekly peak period	595
Visits imported as a % of used capacity	10%
Imported visits less exported visits	-1,700

Taro Leisure Centre in the central area of the district has the lowest estimated used capacity of the individual sites at 21% in the weekly peak period, due to the age and lower relative appeal of this site. Estimated swimming pool capacity utilisation at the two other and newer public venues is 49% at Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre and 58% at Alton Sports Centre (Figure 2.13).

**Figure 2.13: Estimated used capacity at individual swimming pool sites in East Hampshire**

Sites	Estimated Pool Used Capacity
Alton Sports Centre	58%
Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre	49%
Taro Leisure Centre	21%
Churcher’s College	59%
Bedales School	39%

As the amount of unmet demand for swimming among residents is low (7% of total demand, equivalent to 91sqm of water space) the focus in the short to medium term should be to consider options to increase the appeal of public swimming provision in the central area (currently provided at the Taro) whilst also seeking to encourage the two schools with significant main pools (Bedales and Churcher’s) to continue to provide community access and availability in the peak hours.

The clear conclusion of the FPM is that there is no need to increase swimming pools provision in East Hampshire based on the used capacity findings of the existing pool supply and existing population levels.

### Local Share of Swimming Pools in East Hampshire

This measure helps show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision and is useful for looking at ‘equity’ of provision. It considers the size, availability and quality of facilities, as well as travel modes and decreases as facilities age. Local share is the available capacity at the locations that people want to visit in an area (taking into account deprivation), divided by the demand for that capacity in the area.

A value of 1 means that there is enough quality supply reachable by the demand. A value of less than 1 indicates a shortage of quality supply that can be reached by the demand and a value greater than 1 indicates a surplus of reachable quality supply.

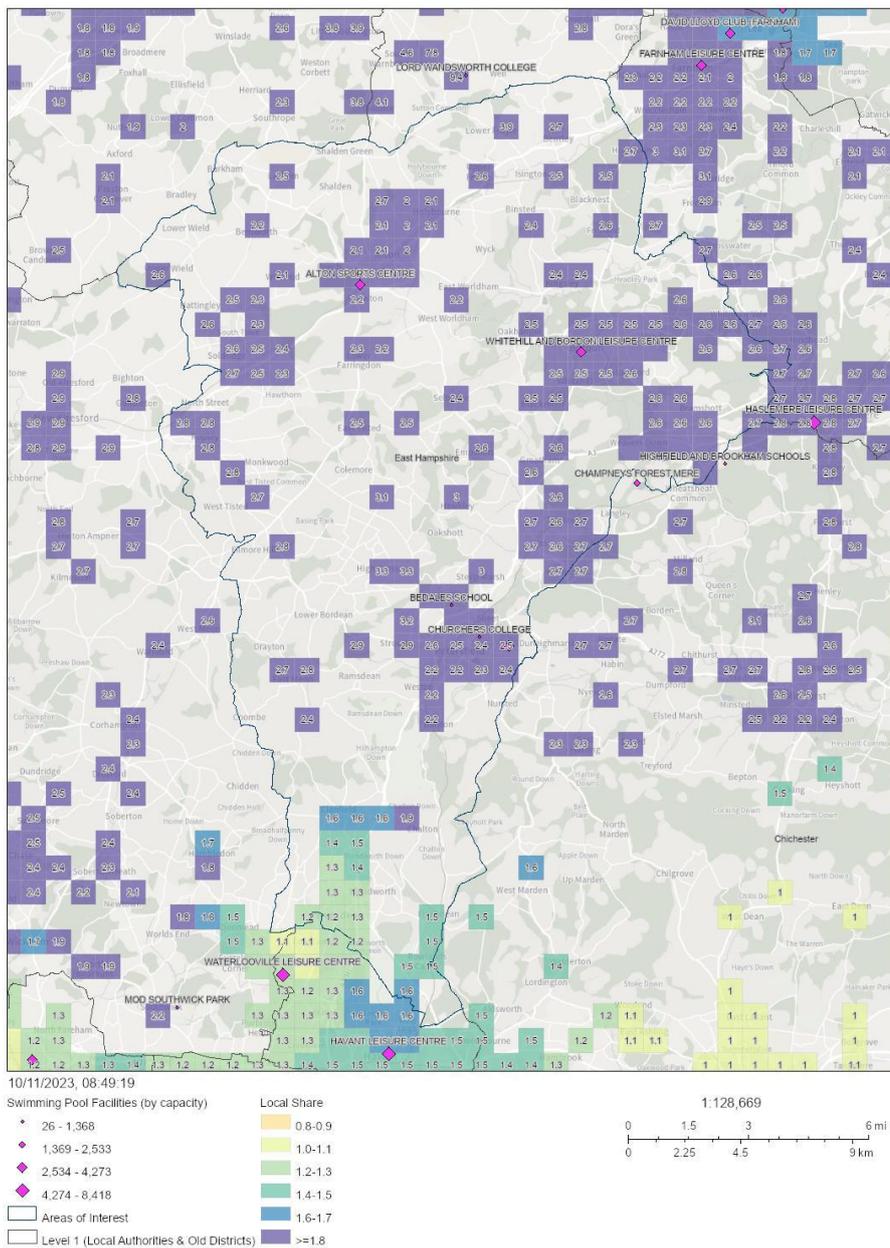
East Hampshire has a very high local share value for swimming pools of 1.79. By way of comparison within the wider study area, this is higher than in Winchester (1.61) where the supply was recently substantially increased by opening of a 50m pool replacement for an old 25m pool.

The geographical distribution of local share varies across East Hampshire, however, there are no areas where local share is less than 1.0 (see figure 2.14). Local share is poorest on the border with Havant in Cowplains at 1.2 (light green squares). Local share is best in Steep at 3.7, where demand is low but is close to three swimming pool sites. Local share in most of the District is above 2.0 (purple squares).

**Comparative Measure of Provision**

A comparative measure of swimming pool provision by local authority area is water space per 1,000 population. In 2023, there is wide variation in provision across the study area, ranging from 22m<sup>2</sup> of water per 1,000 population in Waverley down to 19m<sup>2</sup> sqm of water per 1,000 population in Chichester. East Hampshire has 14m<sup>2</sup> of water space per 1,000 population which is slightly above the average across the South East Region (13%) and England as a whole (12%).

**Figure 2.14: Local Share of Swimming Pools in East Hampshire (2023)**



### What next based on the FPM analysis?

The FPM report provides a detailed ‘snapshot’ of the supply and demand balance for public swimming in the district as at 2023. The report findings do not justify investment in providing more supply at the present time. The clear priorities are to secure the current quantity of supply of public pools provision, to improve the quality of provision in the central area (i.e. replacement or upgrade of the Taro Leisure Centre) and continue to monitor changes in provision in neighbouring authorities close to the district boundary with potential to impact on the balance of pool supply and demand in the District.

The report makes clear that the three sites accessible on a pay and swim basis (i.e., without membership) are all used below comfortable capacity in the peak periods of demand suggesting available capacity in the short term for some growth from population increase particularly in view of the district’s ageing population profile. However, in the event of a large change in the size and age profile of the population in the longer term, the assessment will need to be reviewed.

### Future need

Finally, in the context of this strategy and the emerging Local Plan, it is important to consider the projected increase in population in the district in terms of scale and location, and how this will impact on the future demand for swimming pools.

Longer-term local bespoke assessments can be undertaken using Sport England’s FPM. These assessments should include updated population projections from the emerging Local Plan with options for changing the pool supply and assessing the collective impact this has on the future demand for pools and the distribution of that demand. Such an evidence base can be applied in strategic planning and the Local Plan policy and can be used for securing inward investment.

In the interim, to provide an indicative indication of the quantum of additional swimming water space likely to be required to accommodate demand from projected population growth, Sport England’s Sports Facility Calculator planning tool has been used. The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that may be generated by a given population. It is important to remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities as it doesn’t include a spatial element.

To meet the demand of approximately 9,000 additional residents (as currently forecast<sup>2</sup>) over the strategy period until 2040 and assuming the current levels of demand, the SFC suggests demand will be generated for 94m<sup>2</sup> of water space equivalent to 1.8 lanes or 0.45 new 4 lane pools, with 575 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp) at a cost of almost £2.14m at 2023 quarter 2 prices.

**Figure 2.15: Demand for Swimming Pools from estimated population growth to 2040**

Swimming Pools	
Demand adjusted by	0%
Square meters	94.62
Lanes	1.78
Pools	0.45
vpwpp	575
Cost	£2,137,200

Overall, population led demand growth at this scale is likely to be accommodated by the unused capacity within the existing supply of swimming pools in the study area assuming no change to this supply. However, it is important to recognise that this assumes the new population is not all in one

<sup>2</sup> ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

location but spread throughout the district within the drive time catchment areas of existing swimming pools.

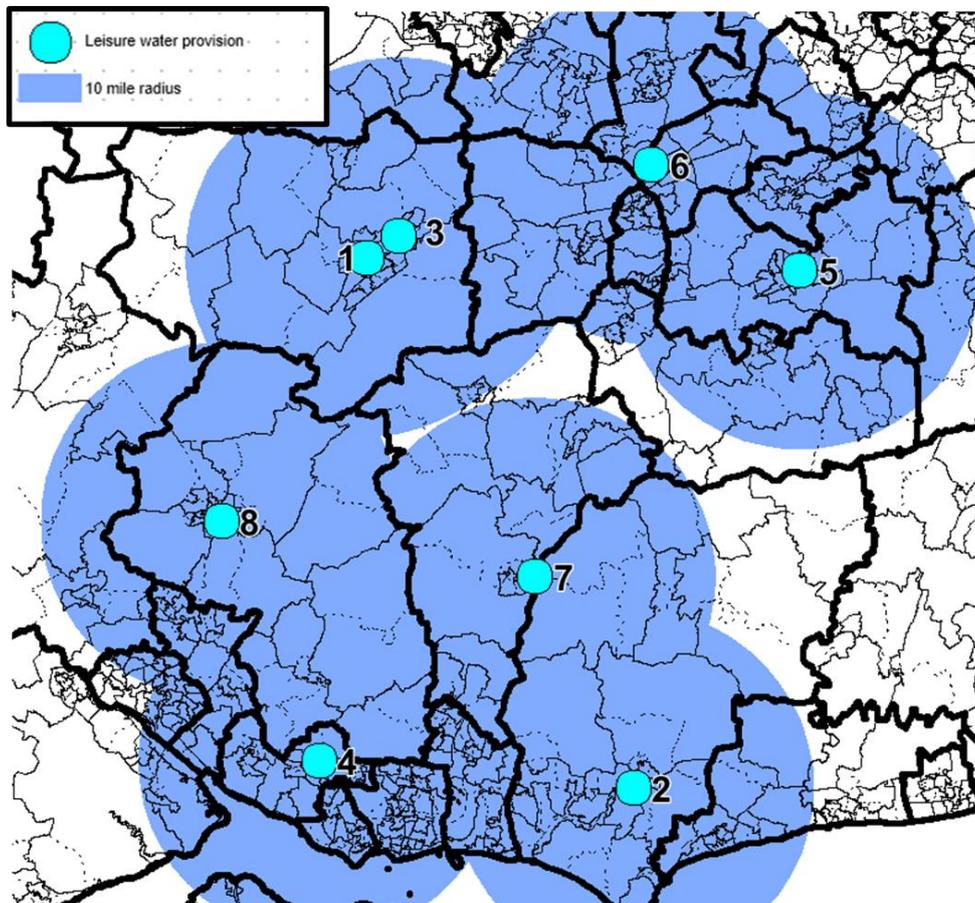
### Leisure Water Provision

There is a good supply of ‘destination’ leisure offers surrounding East Hampshire. These are larger facilities with a variety of leisure water attractions which encourage families to visit for day trips. Basingstoke Aquadrome and Guildford Spectrum each have a range of facilities which are not available within East Hampshire, and likely receive high footfall from East Hampshire residents. There is 1 outdoor and 3 indoor splashpads within the catchment of East Hampshire. Figures 2.16 and 2.17 shows the location and type of leisure water facilities in East Hampshire and the neighbouring boroughs.

**Figure 2.16: Location and type of Leisure water facilities**

No	Site	Postcode	Leisure water facilities
1	Basingstoke Aquadrome	RG22 6PG	3 x flumes, Rapids, Lazy river, Splashpad
2	Westgate Leisure Centre	PO19 1RJ	1 x flume, Small leisure pool
3	Chineham Park	RG24 9BL	Free Outdoor Splashpad
4	Fareham Leisure Centre	PO16 7JU	Indoor Splashpad
5	Guildford Spectrum	GU1 1UP	8 x flumes, Wave machine, Splashpad
6	Places Leisure Camberley	GU15 3QH	Indoor Splashpad
7	Taro Leisure Centre	GU31 4EX	1 x flume, Small leisure pool
8	Winchester Sport and Leisure Park	SO23 9NR	Indoor Splashpad

**Figure 2.17: Map showing location of Leisure water facilities**



Whilst there is no strategic need identified for increased current or future water space for East Hampshire (priorities being for protection and retention/modernisation) any prospective providers may want to consider the benefits of such facilities from a commercial aspect to drive up footfall, meet the needs of families and younger swimmers and improve the financial sustainability of the centre.

A feasibility study investigating supply and demand should be conducted before making decisions on future developments.

### Swimming Pool Sites and Consultation

The swimming pool provision in the area is good with new facilities at Alton Sports Centre and Whitehill and Bordon Leisure Centre, although there are some ongoing snagging issues to deal with. Both centres are busy during peak times catering for a range of activity with learn to swim programmes, public sessions and club activity.

Taro Leisure Centre is of standard provision and includes leisure water with a vortex and flume, as well as a hot tub and small steam / sauna area. The learn to swim programme is popular but the centre report a need to modernise the pool facilities. Churcher’s College has a deck level pool which is available for clubs, learn to swim programmes, staff and school use. It has no public access. The school reported issues with their filter which they have scheduled to replace. Bedales School pool was not visited, the pool is available for hire by community groups and is believed to be of standard condition.

Everyone Active are interested in working with the council to develop the swimming offer further across District to include new swimming pool provision in Petersfield and to look at the enhancement of leisure water within the district.

Swim England feel the current club offer in the area is sufficient with Alton and District covering the towns of Alton, Bordon and Petersfield, and the number of clubs in neighbouring areas. They state the new facilities at Alton and Bordon are high quality but the opportunities for competitive events are limited due to the spectator capacity at Alton Sports Centre.

Club Consultation
<p><b>Alton &amp; District Swimming Club (Alton Sports Centre)</b></p> <p>The club has approximately 100 members (85 youth, 15 adult) with 90% coming from East Hampshire. The club has seen a reduction in membership of approximately 50% due to a number of reason, members not returning after Covid restrictions, losing their timeslot for their Learn to Swim programme at Taro LC and change in head coach. The club are looking to grow and focussing on their development and Learn to Swim sections across Alton and Whitehill &amp; Bordon pools linking with Everyone Active. Alton Sports Centre is their main venue, but the club also use Whitehill &amp; Bordon pool and Bedales School. At Alton Sports Centre the club have identified a need for improved cleanliness poolside and in spectator areas and highlighted insufficient spectator seating means it does not meet Swim England requirements for a competitive pool and the poolside timing system has never worked. At Whitehill and Bordon they feel the pool temperature is often too warm and the air temperature is either too warm or too cold with the ventilation system not working correctly.</p> <p>Quality ratings – Main facility - 2/5 Changing facilities -3/5</p>

### Priorities and Actions - Swimming Pools

<b>Swimming</b>		
<b>Protect</b>	<b>Enhance</b>	<b>Provide</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secure the current levels of water space and peak period availability at all five pool sites including at the two education sites.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake further modification of pool sites where feasible in partnership with the service provider to further reduce energy costs and minimise waste and emissions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider options to replace the aged public swimming provision at Taro LC to improve the quality and to future proof supply in the central area protecting against the risk of future loss of access to the two education pools.</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility to enhance the leisure water provision across the district.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions:</b></p> <p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council to continue to liaise with Churcher’s College and Bedales School to seek to safeguard community access to these education pools.</li> <li>Investigate options to replace the Taro Leisure Centre swimming provision with new energy efficient pools.</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility to enhance the leisure water provision in the district.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver enhanced swimming provision in the central area of the district (Taro Leisure Centre).</li> </ul>		

## Sports Halls

### What's changed since the Sports Facilities Needs Assessment 2018?

With regard to sports halls in East Hampshire District the key changes actioned from the priorities identified in the 2018 study are:

- Replacement in the North West, of the former Alton Leisure Centre (built in 1975) with the district's flagship £20 million Alton Sports Centre operated on behalf of the District Council by its leisure service provider Everyone Active. This sub-regional sports centre opened in January 2020 providing residents and visitors with a much improved 6 court sports hall with slightly larger dimensions to better accommodate a range of sports hall sports to area competition level (e.g. larger run-off areas for netball) as well as much improved modern changing rooms, café, reception and parking facilities.
- In the North East, completion and opening of Oakmoor School with a 4 court main sports hall and 2 court ancillary activity hall. Community access to this facility is secured by the District Council under terms of a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA).
- In the Southern Parishes, where sports hall supply was poor relative to the rest of the district, the opening in November 2018 of The Clanfield Sports & Community Centre with a 3 court sports hall suitable for a range of indoor sports, increased provision. This facility, largely funded through developer Section 106 contributions, was delivered in a partnership between Clanfield Parish Council and East Hampshire District Council and is currently operated by Community First East Hampshire.

### Sport England's Facility Planning Model

To inform the new strategy and to better understand the sport hall needs in 2024, the Council commissioned a FPM analysis from Sport England which reported in December 2023.

As with swimming pools, the FPM sports hall assessment for East Hampshire includes the sports halls and population in the district as well as those located in neighbouring local authorities that fall within a defined travel time catchment.

### Headline Strategic Overview from the FPM Analysis

The headline strategic finding is that, there is sufficient sports hall capacity in the district to meet current demand.

The FPM National Run report states:

*'East Hampshire has a good range of sports halls spread across the District, with several larger halls and activity halls offering a broad variety of activities. The available supply of sports halls for community use is greater than the demand.'*

*There has been a good record of investment in new facilities and modernisation of the older sites. However, the age of some sites will make them less attractive in the future and costly to maintain, for example, Taro Leisure Centre sports hall is over 30 years old.*

*The educational sector is the main provider of sports halls. This means that there are only the two public leisure centre sports halls and one educational site open during off-peak times. Continuing community use is dependent on each educational establishment's policy towards making their sports halls available, and the over-reliance on educational sector facilities is a concern. Horndean Technology College is the*

*only site estimated to be uncomfortably full at peak times. It is close to the border with Havant where demand for sports halls is highest.*

*Clanfield Centre, which is north of Horndean Technology College, is excluded from this assessment due to missing information at the time of the national run. Clanfield Centre’s additional capacity would improve the findings for the area, but it will be important to maintain at least the current level of community access to Horndean Technology College to meet the demand.*

*It will also be important to maintain community access to Oakmoor School and Bohunt School because they are the only sports halls in Bordon and Liphook respectively and have the largest capacities in the District. Oakmoor School is also the site closest to the area of highest deprivation in the East Hampshire.*

*Almost a quarter of East Hampshire’s satisfied demand is met at sports halls in the neighbouring local authority areas. Therefore, if there are any changes to provision in these areas in the future, East Hampshire’s residents will be affected.’*

### Supply of Sports Halls

In the FPM modelling for sports halls, there are 18 sports hall facilities located at 11 sites in East Hampshire. (As noted above, this total increases to 19 halls at 12 sites when the Clanfield Centre is included). It should also be noted that the FPM includes Oakmoor School’s main hall as 6 courts rather than 4 courts and includes 34 hours of peak community use at Oakmoor School’s (2 court) assembly hall which is currently only used one night a week due to need to dismantle the large seating platform which is used for assemblies.

**Figure 2.18: Supply of Sports Halls in East Hampshire (2023) <sup>3</sup>**

Total Supply	2023
Number of halls	18
Number of hall sites	11
Supply in badminton court equivalents	67.0
Supply in courts scaled with hours available in peak period	46.9
Supply in visits per week in peak period	17,264
Average year built of sites	1992
Average year built of public sites	2006

In general, a four-court sports hall can provide for most indoor hall sports at the community level of participation. However, four of the 4 court halls included in the FPM assessment (Taro LC, Eggars School, Horndean Technology College and HSDC Alton College) have dimensions which are less than the Sport England and National Governing Bodies’ recommended size of 34.5m x 20m. Dimensions less than this, limit the run-off area between and behind courts and restrict the levels of competition play that can be programmed for some sports.

Supply is defined as the supply or capacity of the sports halls available for community and club use in the weekly peak period. The supply is expressed in the number of visits that a sports hall can accommodate in the weekly peak period and in the number of badminton courts. The total supply and available supply are different because of the hours available for community use in the weekly peak period.

The weekly peak period is when the majority of visits take place and when users have most flexibility to visit. The peak period for sports halls is one hour on weekday mornings, five hours on weekday evenings

<sup>3</sup> These totals exclude the 3 court hall at Clanfield Centre opened in 2018 and includes Oakmoor School as having a 6 court main hall rather than 4 courts.

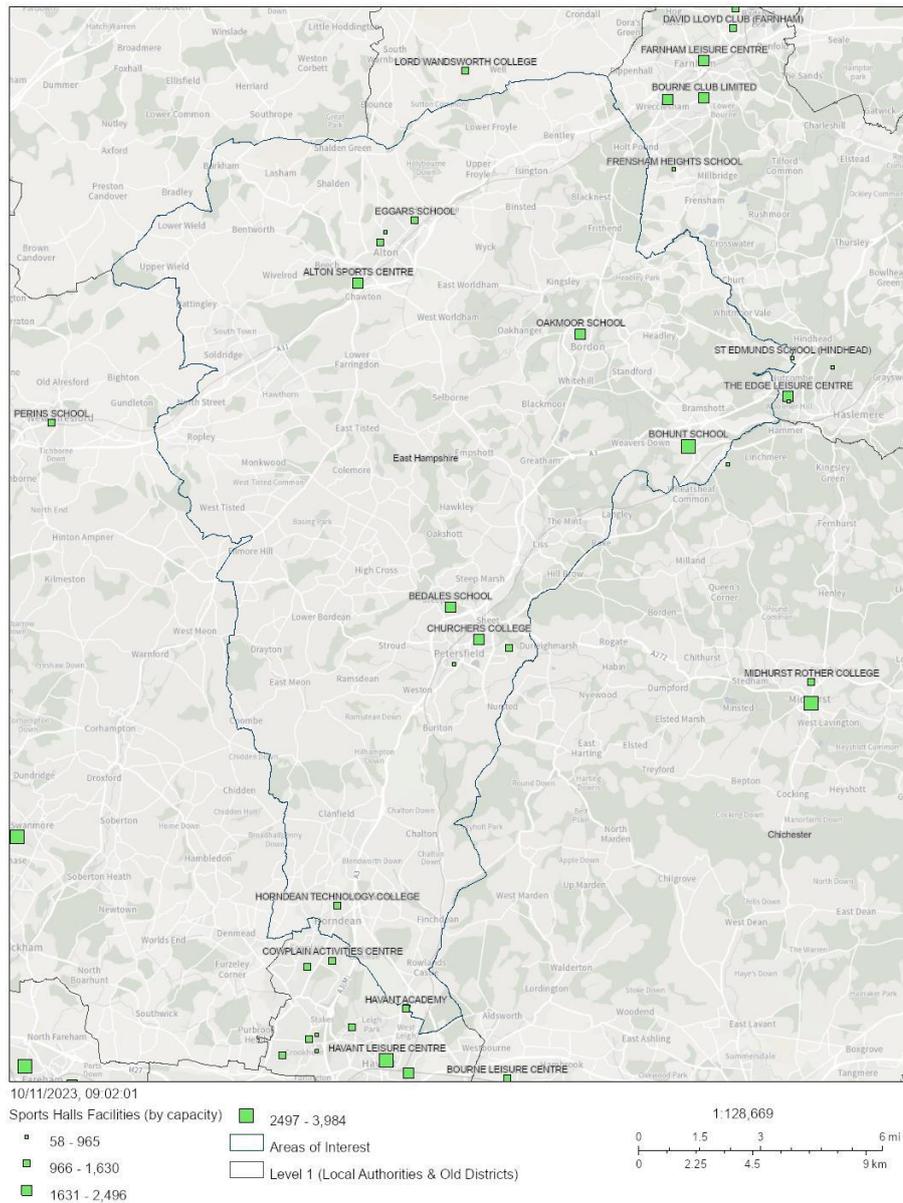
and eight hours on weekend days. This gives a total of 46 hours per week. The modelling and recommendations are based on the ability of the public to access facilities during this weekly peak period. The number of hours the sports halls are available for community use at several educational sites included in the FPM are quite low, for example 15 hours a week at Petersfield School and 20 hours a week at Eggars School. There may therefore be some potential to negotiate an increase the hours for community use at these sites and increase overall sports hall supply capacity.

**Figure 2.19: Details of Sports Halls Included<sup>4</sup>**

Site	Operation	Year Built (Refurb)	Sports Hall Type	Activities
Alton Sports Centre	Public	2020	6 court (918m <sup>2</sup> )	Badminton, Basketball (Alton Storm), Dance (Vanessa Golborn School of Dance), Gymnastics (Alton GC), Short tennis, Table Tennis, Trampolining (Alton TC) and Multisport sessions (over 50's)
Amery Hill School	Educational	1984 (2009)	3 court (529m <sup>2</sup> ) & Activity Hall (167m <sup>2</sup> )	Badminton, Indoor Cricket (Binsted CC, Chawton CC and Ropley CC), Dance (Vanessa Golborn School of Dance), Netball (Alton NC and ANTS NC), Karate (Fudokan Karate UK).
Bedales School	Educational	1984 (2010)	6 court (999m <sup>2</sup> )	Netball (Petersfield Pearls NC), Indoor Cricket (Petersfield CC)
Bohunt School	Educational	1979 (2012)	4 court (690m <sup>2</sup> ) & 2 Activity Halls (180m <sup>2</sup> each)	Badminton, football, dance.
Churcher's College	Educational	1992	5 court (869m <sup>2</sup> ) & Activity Hall (180m <sup>2</sup> )	Indoor Cricket, badminton, fitness.
Eggars School	Educational	2006	4 court (594m <sup>2</sup> ) & Activity Hall (240m <sup>2</sup> )	5-A-side football, indoor cricket (Holybourne CC), trampolining (Alpha Trampoline Club) Basketball, Martial Arts (Alton MA Academy) and Dance.
Horndean Technology College	Educational	1976 (2017)	4 court (594m <sup>2</sup> )	Badminton (Highbury MacKenzie BC), trampolining, volleyball (South Hants Volleyball Club), football, gymnastics and holiday Courses (CM Sports).
HSDC Alton	Educational	2002	4 court (594m <sup>2</sup> )	Basketball (Alton Storm), Netball (ANTS NC), Indoor cricket (Alton CC)
Oakmoor School	Educational	2018	4 court (690m <sup>2</sup> ) & Activity Hall (180m <sup>2</sup> )	Badminton (Feathers, Lindford BC), Football (Royal Oak Vets FC, Binsted FC), Martial Arts (Sundowns TKD), Multi Sports (CM Sports).
Petersfield School	Educational	1965 (2010)	4 court (690m <sup>2</sup> ) & Activity Hall (180m <sup>2</sup> )	Archery (Bowmen of Petersfield), Gymnastics (Flex Gymnastics), Karate (Petersfield Karate Club), Table Tennis (Petersfield TTC), Trampolining (Swallows TC).
Taro Leisure Centre	Public	1992	4 court (594m <sup>2</sup> )	Badminton, 5-A-side football and walking football.

<sup>4</sup> The table at Figure 2.19 excludes the 3 court hall at Clanfield Centre opened in 2018.

Figure 2.20: Location of Sports Hall Sites in East Hampshire (2023)<sup>5</sup>



There are other sports or activity halls in the District that have been excluded from the FPM calculations, due to size e.g. less than 3 courts in size or deemed not available for community use. These are listed in figure 2.21. Some of these provide community use for various sports and activities (listed in figure 2.21 where known), providing vital additional provision in the area.

<sup>5</sup> The map at Figure 2.20 excludes the 3 court hall at Clanfield Centre opened in 2018.

**Figure 2.21: Details of Sports Halls Excluded from FPM**

Site	Hall Type	Activities
Alton Community Centre	Activity hall	Gymnastics (Silhouettes Rhythmic Gym)
Alton School	Activity	Private
Bentley Memorial Hall	Activity	The Dance Project (ballet, tap, acrobatics, modern dance)
Buriton Village Hall	Activity	Aspire Coaching Multi-sport Holiday camps
Clanfield Community Centre	3 court Sports Hall	Archery (Forest of Bere Bowmen), Dance, Martial Arts (Petersfield Karate Club, South Downs Taekwondo, Tai Chi), Netball, Pickleball, Walking Football,
Ditcham Park School	3 court Sports Hall	Tennis, Cricket (Petersfield CC)
East Meon Village Hall	Activity	Karate (Petersfield Karate Club, East Meon Karate Club), Target Personal Training, Table Tennis, Yoga
Forrest Community centre (Bordon)	Activity hall	MD Dance Academy, Enerjive Dance and Classes, Phoenix Twirlstars, Strong & Steady Exercise, Sweaty Mamas Exercise, Tea Dances, Mature Movers Exercise.
Four Marks COE Primary School	Activity	Martial Arts (Four Marks Martial Arts Academy)
Four Marks Village Hall	Activity	Four Marks Badminton Club
Froyle Village Hall	Activity	Limited sports use due to low ceiling.
Herne Farm LC	Activity	Dance, Fitness Classes, Table Tennis
Herne Junior School	Activity	Private
Hollywater School	Activity	Private
Lovedean Village Hall	Activity	Yoga, Badminton, Exercise Classes
Medstead Village Hall	Activity with 1 court	Badminton (Social clubs), Table Tennis (Medstead TTC), Zumba, Exercise Classes, Dance Classes
Merchistoun Hall	Activity	Short Map Bowls, New Age Kurling, Yoga, Dance, Fencing, Tai Chi.
Ropley Village Hall	Activity	Martial Arts (Four Marks MA Academy), Dance Sessions, Alton Runners
Selbourne Village Hall	Activity	Martial Arts (Wing Chung), Table Tennis, Exercise Sessions (One Element East Hampshire)
Stroud Village Hall	Activity	Karate (Petersfield Karate Club), Pilates, Exercise Classes, Yoga
Treloar School and College	Sports Hall 14m x16m (2x Boccia Courts)	School students (physically disabled with complex needs) and disability charities.
Woodlands Community Hall	Activity	Boxing (Bordon ABC), Football (Green Wave Football, Assure Coaching), Exercise Classes

### Demand for Sports Halls

Total demand is calculated by adding the participation by each five-year age band/gender of East Hampshire District's population with the frequency of participation in each age band/gender and is expressed in visits in the weekly peak period and number of badminton courts. The FPM parameters for the percentage and frequency of participation, for gender and age, are calculated from Sport England's Active Lives survey up to March 2020.

East Hampshire's resident population of approximately 125,000 generates a demand for sports halls of 10,057 visits per week in the peak period. This is equivalent to 34.2 badminton courts with an 80% comfort factor\*. This is considerably less than the available supply included in the FPM in 2023 of 67 courts (46.9 courts scaled with hours available in peak period). When this figure is corrected to account for Oakmoor School (4 courts rather than 6) and includes 3 courts at The Clanfield Centre. The total provision is 68 courts, which is still significantly above the current demand in the area.

*\*The FPM is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which the venues are too full. When the venues are too full, the time taken to change the sports hall programme and equipment starts to impinge on the activity time itself and the changing and circulation areas become congested. In the model, Sport England assumes that usage above 80% of capacity is busy and the sports hall is operating at an uncomfortable level.*

As detailed in the swimming pools section, East Hampshire has no lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% nationally, and overall East Hampshire ranks among the least deprived local

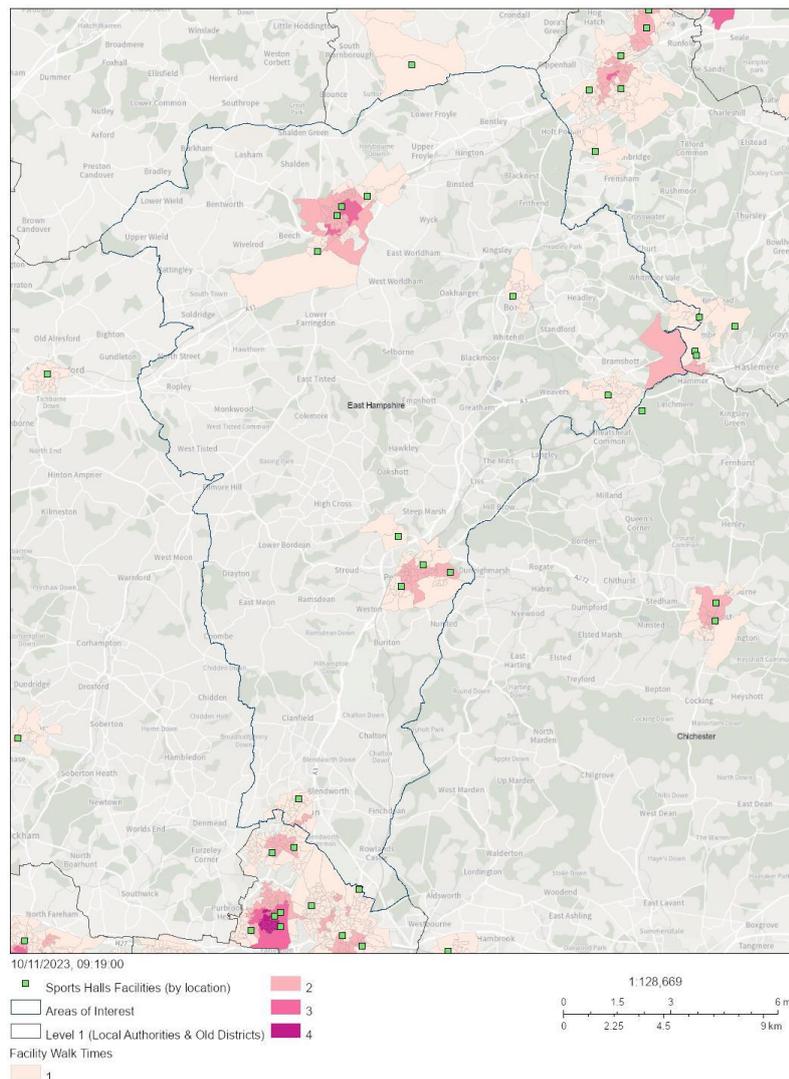
authorities in England. The most deprived area is east of Whitehill & Bordon Leisure Centre, south east of Oakmoor School (the small pink area in the map at Figure 2.5 in the swimming section of the report). The next highest areas of deprivation are northeast of Oakmoor School as well as between HSDC Alton and Eggars School, southeast of Amery Hill School, Alton and west of Petersfield School in the central area. Retaining community access to these educational sports halls – a number of which do not have formal Community Use Agreements in place - is therefore important as this provision is closest to this area of relative deprivation.

**Accessibility of East Hampshire’s Sports Halls**

As is the case with swimming pools, the FPM uses a distance decay function where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. On average, a 20-minute travel time accounts for approximately 90% of visits to a sports hall.

The FPM findings are that 89% of all visits to sports halls by East Hampshire residents are by car, 8% on foot and just 3% on public transport. This is higher than the regional average of 82% by car and the national average of 77% and reflects the rural nature of the District and high levels of car ownership relative to many local authority areas. 44% of East Hampshire residents are within a 20 minute walk of a sports hall (see pink areas in map at Figure 2.22). Residents in Alton can access the most sports hall sites within a 20 minute walk because they are between three sites (dark pink areas).

**Figure 2.22: Walking Access to Sports Halls in East Hampshire**



### Satisfied Demand for Sports Halls

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand for sports halls generated by residents of East Hampshire that is met by the available capacity at sports halls within the travel time catchment area (by car, public transport or walking), either in the district or in a neighbouring local authority area.

The FPM analysis at Figure 2.23 shows that there is enough sports hall capacity within a suitable travel time to meet more than nine out of ten desired visits to a sports hall by an East Hampshire resident (96%). It should be noted that the satisfied demand percentage in East Hampshire is likely to be slightly higher with the additional court in the area (e.g. -2 courts at Oakmoor, +3 at The Clanfield Centre). Even without this supply included, a 96% level of satisfied demand is above the national and regional averages of 91% and 94% respectively.

**Figure 2.23: Percentage of Sports Hall Demand from East Hampshire Residents Currently Met by Supply, 2023**

% of Total Demand Satisfied	
<b>East Hampshire</b>	<b>96%</b>
Basingstoke & Deane	94%
Chichester	91%
Hart	96%
Havant	95%
Waverley	95%
Winchester	95%
South East Region	94%
England	91%

### Retained Demand for Sports Halls

Retained demand is a subset of satisfied demand and shows how much of East Hampshire residents' demand for sports halls is retained at sports halls within the district. This assessment is based on the catchment area and appeal of East Hampshire's sports halls and East Hampshire residents using these facilities.

In 2023, almost eight out of ten visits to a sports hall (77%) by an East Hampshire resident were retained within the district. The remaining 23% of visits by East Hampshire residents were to sports halls in neighbouring local authorities. Again, with the inclusion of the additional court in the area the percentage of retained satisfied demand is likely to be slightly higher than shown in the FPM figures.

If residents in neighbouring authorities participate at a sports hall in the district, their usage becomes part of the used capacity of the district's sports halls, this is known as imported demand. In East Hampshire imported demand accounts for only 13% of the used capacity of sports halls in the district. In 2023 when the FPM data was compiled, East Hampshire imported 1,089 sports hall visits from residents of neighbouring local authorities and exported 1,131 more visits than it imports in the weekly peak period.

### Unmet Demand for Sports Halls

Unmet demand is important to note as it is demand for sports halls which cannot be met because there is either too much demand for any particular sports hall within its catchment area and there is a lack of capacity; or because demand is located too far away from any sports hall. As shown under Satisfied Demand above, just 4% of sports hall demand is not satisfied (i.e. 'Unmet'). This equates to 1.5 badminton courts although, again, it is noted that this excludes consideration of the impact of the supply at The Clanfield Centre available since 2018 and that Oakmoor School has 4 courts not 6. The table also shows that the main reason for the small amount of unmet demand that does exist is that some residents – most particularly those without access to a car - live too far away from a sports hall.

**Figure 2.24: Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in East Hampshire, 2023**

Unmet Demand	2023
Number of visits <b>unmet</b> per week in peak period	447
Unmet demand as a % of total demand	4%
Equivalent in courts with comfort factor	1.5
% of unmet demand due to:	
<b>Facility too far away:</b>	96%
• Without access to a car	82%
• With access to a car	14%
<b>Lack of facility capacity:</b>	
• Without access to a car	1%
• With access to a car	1%

Figure 2.25 shows that the unmet demand for sports halls is spread across the district at very low levels. Unmet demand is set out in units of badminton courts within one-kilometre colour-coded grid squares. Unmet demand is in the lowest categories: the indigo squares 0.00–0.01 of a badminton court; and the two shades of blue squares, 0.02–0.06 and 0.07–0.12 of a badminton court. These extremely low values are not surprising given that the total unmet demand is only 1.5 badminton courts (excluding the sports hall from 2018 at The Clanfield Centre).

The location in East Hampshire where the most unmet demand can be met is on the border with Havant in three places, at 0.6 of a court (blue squares). However, this amount is insufficient to consider building a new sports hall, and also includes unmet demand from Havant.

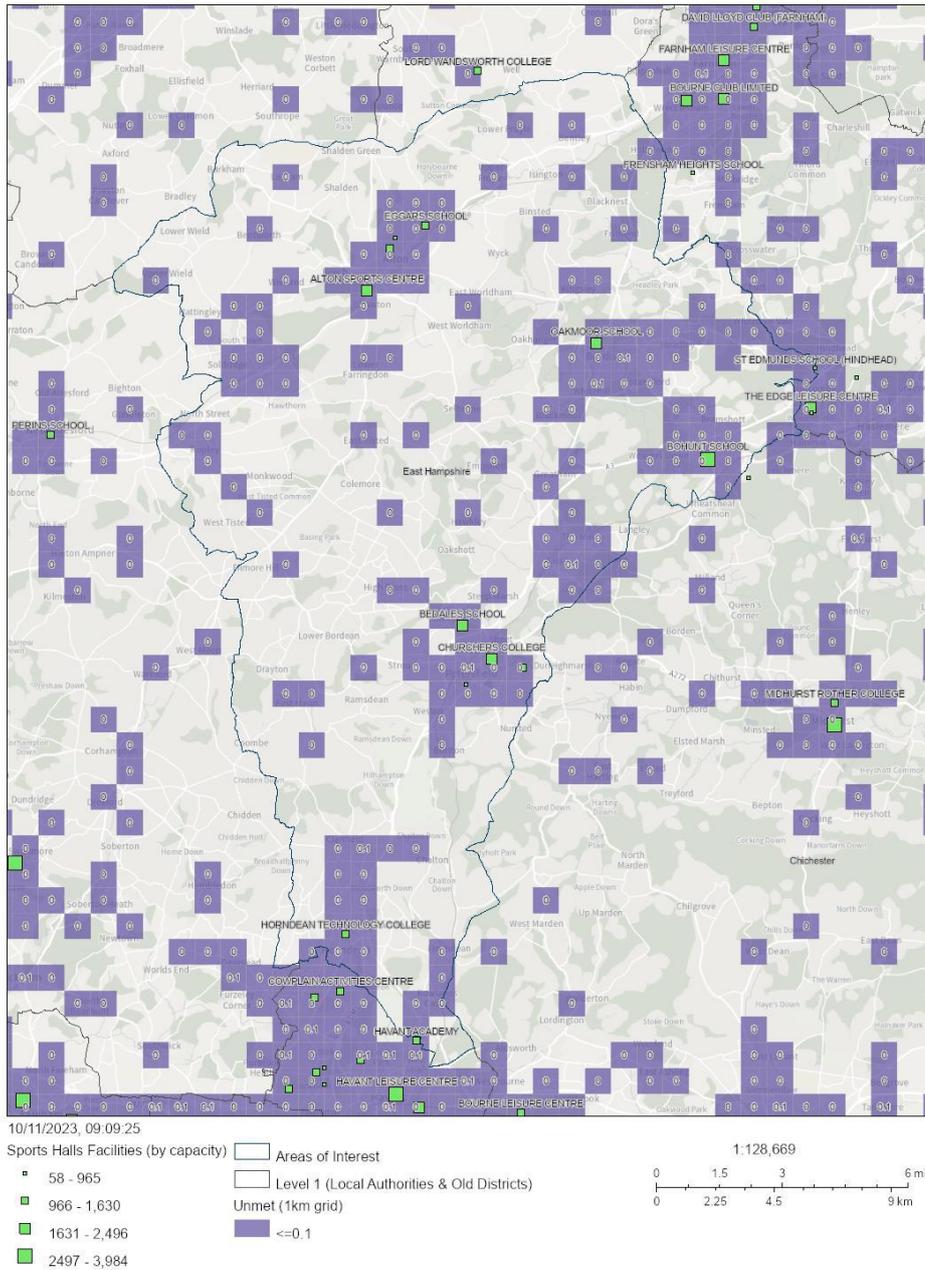
### Used Capacity of Sports Halls

This is a measure of usage at sports halls and estimates how well used or how full facilities are. The FPM is designed to include a ‘comfort factor,’ beyond which the venues are too full. When the venues are too full, the time taken to change the sports hall programme and equipment starts to impinge on the activity time itself and the changing and circulation areas become congested. In the model, Sport England assumes that usage over 80% of capacity is busy and that the sports hall is operating at an uncomfortable level above that percentage.

The model estimates that used capacity of the East Hampshire sports halls is around half of the maximum (49%) in the weekly peak period i.e. well below the comfortable capacity of 80% to allow for changeovers etc. It is also noted that the surrounding local authorities with the exceptions of Hart and Winchester have much higher used capacity of their sports hall supply. The average for the south east region is 65% and for England 71%.

This indicates that there is a good deal of unused sports hall capacity in the peak period to absorb future growth provided of course there is no reduction in the number of peak hours of community use at any of the sports halls on education sites where, in a number of cases, community access and availability in the peak period is not formally secured by means of a Community Use Agreement (CUA).

Figure 2.25 Distribution of Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in East Hampshire



**Local Share of Sports Halls in East Hampshire**

This measure helps show which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision and is useful for looking at ‘equity’ of provision. It considers the size, availability and quality of facilities, as well as travel modes and decreases as facilities age. Local share is the available capacity at the locations that people want to visit in an area (taking into account deprivation), divided by the demand for that capacity in the area.

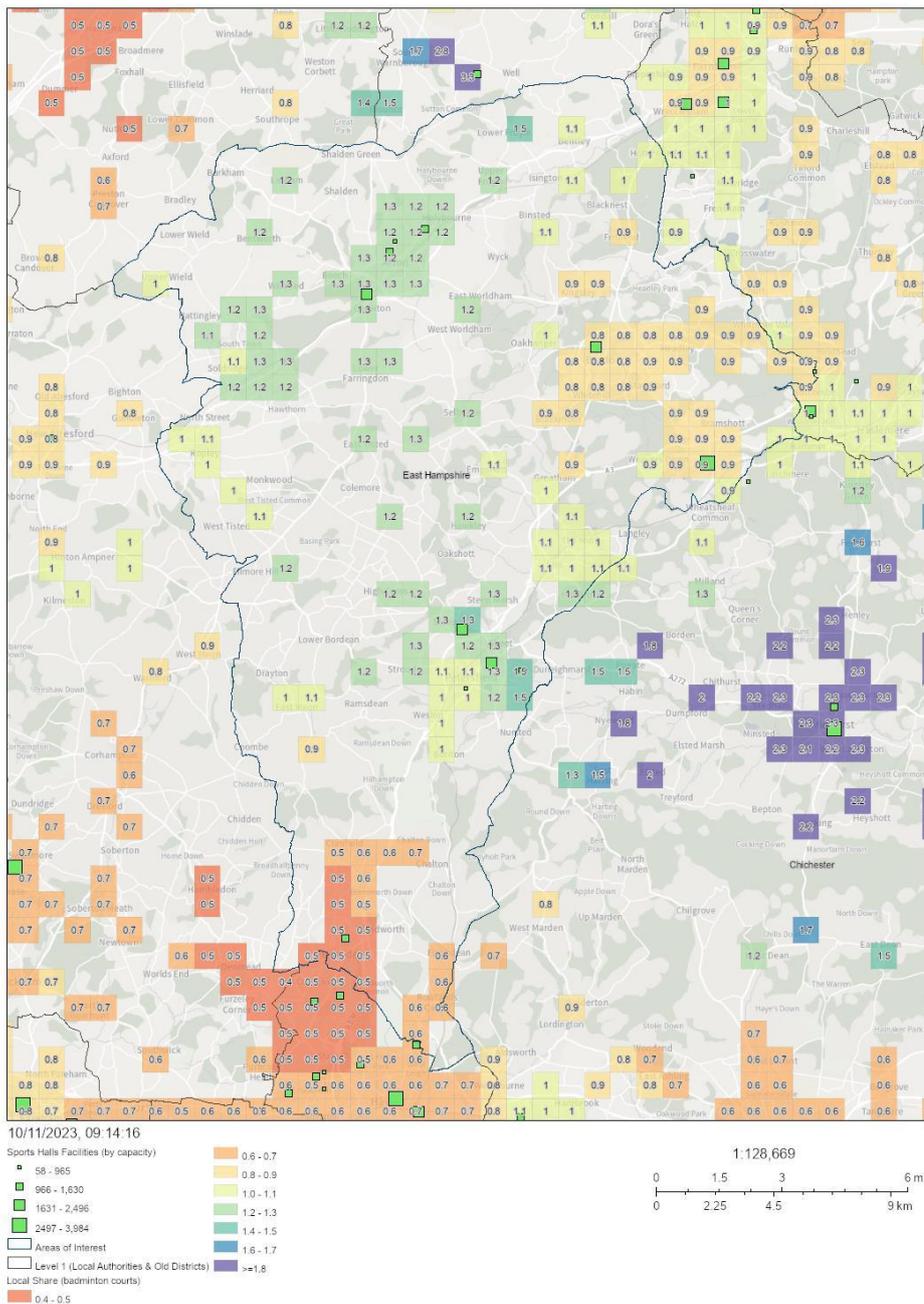
A value of 1 means that there is enough quality supply reachable by the demand. A value of less than 1 indicates a shortage of quality supply that can be reached by the demand and a value greater than 1 indicates a surplus of reachable quality supply. Although marginally below a value of 1, at 0.97 East Hampshire has a high local share value for sports halls relative to all its neighbours with the exception

of Hart (1.13). By way of wider comparison, the south east region local share score is 0.78 and nationally it is lower still at 0.67.

As shown in the map at Figure 2.26, local share is poorest in Horndean, at 0.5 (red squares), where demand is highest. The addition of Clanfield Centre would improve the local share in the area to 0.6 (orange squares). Local share is also low in the east of the District, at 0.8 and 0.9 (yellow squares). Only Oakmoor School and Bohunt School are located in this area, and demand is high in Bordon.

Local share is best in west Petersfield and Lower Froyle, at 1.5 (dark green squares). Local share is also good around Steep and Alton, at 1.2 and 1.3 respectively (light green squares).

**Figure 2.26: Local Share of Sports Halls in East Hampshire (2023)**



### Comparative Measure of Provision

A comparative measure of sports hall provision by local authority area is badminton court equivalents per 10,000 population. In 2023, there is wide variation in provision across the study area, ranging from 7.1 courts per 10,000 population in Waverley down to 3.1 courts per 10,000 population in Basingstoke & Deane and Chichester. East Hampshire has 5.4 courts per 10,000 population (not adjusted for the additional court in the area). This is higher than the South East Region average of 4.5 courts and national average of 4 courts.

### What next based on the FPM analysis?

The FPM report provides a detailed ‘snapshot’ of the supply and demand balance for public sports halls in the district as at 2023. The report findings do not justify investment in providing more supply at the present time. The clear priorities are to secure the current quantity of supply of sports hall provision, to improve the quality of provision in the central area (i.e. replacement or upgrade of the Taro Leisure Centre) and continue to monitor changes in provision in neighbouring authorities close to the district boundary with potential to impact on the balance of sports hall supply and demand in the District.

The report makes clear that the public sites accessible on a pay and play basis (i.e., without membership) are all used below comfortable capacity in the peak periods of demand suggesting available capacity in the short term for some growth from population increase particularly in view of the district’s ageing population profile. However, in the event of a large change in the size and age profile of the population in the longer term, the assessment will need to be reviewed.

### Future need

Finally, in the context of this strategy and the emerging Local Plan, it is important to consider the projected increase in population in the district in terms of scale and location, and how this will impact on the future demand for sports halls. Longer-term local bespoke assessments can be undertaken using Sport England’s FPM. These assessments should include updated population projections from the emerging Local Plan with options for changing the halls supply and assessing the collective impact this has on the future demand for halls and the distribution of that demand. Such an evidence base can be applied in strategic planning and the Local Plan policy and can be used for securing inward investment.

In the interim, to provide an indicative indication of the quantum of additional sports hall space likely to be required to accommodate demand from projected population growth, Sport England’s Sports Facility Calculator planning tool has been used. The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) is a planning tool which helps to estimate the amount of demand for key community sports facilities that may be generated by a given population. It is important to remember that the SFC looks at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities as it doesn’t include a spatial element.

To meet the demand from approximately 9,000 additional residents (as currently forecast<sup>6</sup>) over the strategy period until 2040 and assuming the current levels of demand, the SFC suggests demand will be generated for 2.46 badminton court equivalents or 0.61 new 4 court sports halls with 724 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp) at a cost of £1.93m at 2023 quarter 2 prices.

**Figure 2.27: Demand for Sports Halls from estimated population growth to 2040**

Sports Halls	
Demand adjusted by	0%
Courts	2.46
Halls	0.61
vpwpp	724
Cost	£1,934,018

<sup>6</sup> ONS 2018-based housing-led population projections (Released March 2020)

Overall, population led demand growth at this scale is likely to be accommodated by the unused capacity within the existing supply of sports halls in the study area assuming no change to this supply. However, it is important to recognise that this assumes the new population is not all in one location but spread throughout the district within the drive time catchment areas of existing sports halls.

### **Sports Hall Sites, Sports and Consultation**

The sports halls across the district are mostly standard, with good provision at the newer sites of Alton Sports Centre (6 courts), Oakmoor School (4 Courts + Activity Hall) and Clanfield Community Centre (3 courts).

Churcher's College (5 court) is also used for school theatre productions and assemblies, this affects community use and increases wear on the floor, the provision is currently of standard quality and the school has plans to refurbish the floor in 5 years' time, but this may be needed sooner.

Ditcham Park School Sports Hall was built in 2008 and extended in 2022 to 3 courts. This provision was not included in FPM as it was listed as private use only, but the school does have some community use. The school reported they are considering further community use although are concerned about staff availability and costs.

As noted earlier the assembly hall at Oakmoor School is marked with 2 badminton courts and included in the FPM supply but is rarely hired out due to need to dismantle the large seating platform which is used for assemblies. The only current community use is Sundowns TKD one evening a week. It is important that the district look at ways to make this facility available for more community use.

The Petersfield school sports hall is in standard condition but has a new small climbing wall at one end. The smaller gym (one court) is in poor condition with worn flooring, it has little community use other than Flex Gymnastics. Taro Leisure Centre Sports Hall is in standard condition, with incorrect marking for football and no netball markings, its main use is for Badminton, 5-A-side football and walking football.

### **Badminton**

There are a number of Badminton clubs in the district, some informal social groups and others with teams playing competitively. Highbury MacKenzie Badminton Club has 3 teams in the Winchester and District League and are based at Horndean Technology College. Badminton England's area profile (20/21 data) indicates there are 4 badminton clubs in East Hampshire, 3 affiliated and 1 unaffiliated and highlights a projected demand of 1,949 in the district. The supply and demand analysis for 2030 results in an oversupply of 2.5 courts, when unmet demand is factored in this supply changes to -0.5 court.

### **Basketball**

There is one Basketball Club in East Hampshire, Alton Storm, which has been recently established, with two Men's teams playing in the Wessex Basketball League with matches taking place at Alton Sports Centre. Men's training and U16 sessions take place at Alton College, with U12 and U8's at Alton Sports Centre.

### **Climbing**

Alton Sports centre has Top Rock Climbing, an indoor clip and climb with 19 different routes suitable for all ages and abilities. There is also climbing walls within Sports Halls at Churcher's College (assembly hall) and The Petersfield School (new provision). There are no clubs registered to the BMC in the district, but 3 in neighbouring authorities. The British Mountaineering Council has seen a large demand for

bouldering since climbing became an Olympic sport and suggests there would be demand for a facility in the Petersfield area.

### **Indoor Cricket**

Sport England's Active Places Report lists 7 education sites with indoor cricket nets (Amery Hill, Bedales, Bohunt, Ditcham Park, Eggars Schools, HSDC Alton and Churcher's College). The district has a good provision of Crickets nets available for use by clubs, with only two clubs travelling outside of the area to train and one identifying a need for additional provision. Bentworth CC use the indoor facilities at Dummer Cricket Centre (Basingstoke) for winter training and Alton CC use Lord Wandsworth College (Hart). Clanfield CC states a need for additional winter indoor training facilities to sustain the growth rate of the club.

### **Table Tennis**

Table Tennis England report they have two affiliated clubs in East Hampshire, Petersfield TTC and Headley TTC, with an overall membership of 120 members, 15 qualified coaches and 17 registered volunteers. They feel there is sufficient provision for Table Tennis in the area but state with the reduction of suitable indoor space and the increase in prices, facilities are the single biggest issue for clubs. They have identified East Hampshire as a priority area for future development especially for Junior and Women and Girls participation and state improved facility provision will be needed for this to take place.

### **Volleyball**

There is no registered England Volleyball Club based in East Hampshire but South Hants Volleyball Club, who are based in Fareham, use Horndean Technology College for junior training.

## Club Consultation

**Alton Martial Arts Academy (local Schools)** has 89 members (65 boys, 28 girls, 5 adult male, 1 adult female) of which 100% come from East Hampshire. Membership levels have been relatively stable over the last few years and the organisation has no plans for growth. They have not identified any facility needs.

**Four Marks Martial Arts Academy (Four Marks Primary School)** runs classes for various ages, with approximately 90% of attendees coming from East Hampshire with numbers being relatively stable over the last few years. The organisation has plans to grow but says it is limited by lack of available facilities to hire and coaches. They also use Ropley Village Hall and have identified a need for a purpose built facility.

Quality ratings – Main facility 3/5, Changing facilities 2/5

**Fudokan Karate UK (Amery Hill School)** is a new club established a year ago. All their members come from East Hampshire, and they have 9 members competing. The club use the dance studio at Amery Hill School and have recently expanded to offer sessions at Eggars School as well. They have not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings – Main facility 5/5 Changing Facilities 5/5

**Headley Table Tennis Club (Wheatley Pavilion)** has 34 members (16 boys, 3 girls, 15 adult male), with around 90% coming from East Hampshire. Membership levels have not fully recovered since covid. The club would like to grow but are restricted by space. There are plans in place to refurbish the pavilion they currently use and the club have identified a need to expand into the Bordon area and are looking to identify suitable facilities.

Quality ratings – Main facility 2/5 Changing facilities 2/5

**Karate to Inspire Ltd / Petersfield Karate Club (The Petersfield School)** has nearly 300 members (232 youth boys and girls, 30 adult male, 37 adult female), with 80% coming from East Hampshire. The club has seen membership double in the last few years and has ambitions to grow by a further 20% next year. The club also use The Clanfield Centre, Stroud Village Hall, East Meon Hall and Rake School. They state the floor condition could be improved at The Petersfield School.

Quality ratings – Main facility 3/5, Changing facilities 4/5

**Medstead Table Tennis Club (Medstead Village Hall)** has around 8 adult male members, with 90% coming from East Hampshire. They offer turn up and play sessions but have seen numbers reduce over the last few years, they used to have two teams but now only have one. They have not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings – Main facility 5/5

**Petersfield Table Tennis Club (The Petersfield School / Petersfield Rugby Club)** has 65 members (27 youth boys, 2 youth girls, 34 adult male and 2 adult female) with approximately 70% of their membership coming from East Hampshire. Membership levels have stayed the same in recent years and the club are continuing to grow by attracting new members to their clubs nights. They have identified a need for the lighting at The Petersfield school to be improved and ideally the club would like to have its own dedicated space to grow.

Quality ratings – Main facility 3/5

**TaekwonDO Academy (The Skill Centre, Hilsea)** has 190 members (100 youth, 90 adult, including 40 disabled participants, 20 youth, 20 adults). The club has grown in recent years, opening two new clubs and aims to grow further, opening at least one extra a year. Their main venue in Hilsea has around 100 students with other clubs at Petersfield Social Club, Liss Infant School and St Edmunds Catholic School (Portsmouth) having around 50 students. The club hasn't identified any facility needs relevant to the sites in East Hampshire.

**Wing Chun – Hampshire (Selborne Village Hall)** offers weekly classes, with all members coming from the East Hampshire area. Membership has increased in recent years, and they are looking to grow further. They have not identified any facility needs.

Quality ratings – Main facility 5/5

<b>Sports Halls Recommendations</b>		
<b>Protect</b>	<b>Enhance</b>	<b>Provide</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Protect the existing overall sports hall supply including the availability of sports halls on education sites.</li> <li>• Seek opportunities to negotiate CUAs on education sites to secure community use of sports halls where such agreements are not currently in place.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Ditcham Park School and Oakmoor School to increase community use of the sports hall and assembly Hall.</li> <li>• Discuss options to improve the lighting at The Petersfield School.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider options to replace the aged public sports hall provision at Taro LC to improve the quality and to future proof supply in the central area protecting against the risk of future loss of access to the education sports halls.</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility for the provision of dedicated space for Table Tennis in Petersfield.</li> <li>• Ensure the plans for the refurbishment of Wheatley Pavilion caters for the needs of Headley TTC</li> <li>• Explore venue options for Table Tennis in Bordon.</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of providing a bouldering climbing facility in Petersfield.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaise with Ditcham Park School and Oakmoor School to increase community use of the sports hall and assembly Hall.</li> <li>• Ensure the plans for the refurbishment of Wheatley Pavilion caters for the needs of Headley TTC</li> <li>• Explore venue options to accommodate Table Tennis in Bordon.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discuss options to improve the lighting at The Petersfield School.</li> <li>• Consider options to replace the aged public sports hall provision at Taro LC to improve the quality and to future proof supply in the central area protecting against the risk of future loss of access to the education sports halls.</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility for the provision of dedicated space for Table Tennis in Petersfield.</li> <li>• Investigate the feasibility of providing a bouldering climbing facility in Petersfield.</li> </ul>		

## Health and Fitness Provision in East Hampshire

There are currently 10 sites with 20 stations or more that offer health and fitness provision and 12 sites that have studio facilities for exercise classes. Schools with gyms for pupil use only are not included. The existing provision provides accessible opportunities across the range of access types (pay and play or pay as you go, and membership), and provision (cardio, weights, functional fitness, circuits, exercise to music classes, studio cycling) and options of 24/7 access (Anytime fitness).

**Figure 2.28: Health and Fitness Facilities in East Hampshire with 20+ stations**

Facility Name	Postcode	Approx. Stations	Access Type	Ownership
ALTON SPORTS CENTRE	GU34 1ST	130	Registered Membership use	Local Authority
ANYTIME FITNESS (BORDON)	GU35 0TN	100	Registered Membership use	Commercial
BOHUNT SCHOOL	GU30 7NY	26	Pay and Play	Education
CHURCHER'S COLLEGE	GU31 4AS	24	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
ELEVATION HEALTH CLUB (OLD THORNS HOTEL & GOLF COURSE)	GU30 7PE	Unknown (>20+)	Registered Membership use	Commercial
ENERGIQUE HEALTH CLUB AND SPA	GU34 2NB	45	Registered Membership use	Commercial
HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	PO8 9PQ	37	Pay and Play	Education
RESULTS HEALTH CLUB (ALTON)	GU34 1EN	37	Registered Membership use	Commercial
TARO LEISURE CENTRE	GU31 4EP	63	Registered Membership use	Local Authority
WHITEHILL AND BORDON LEISURE CENTRE	GU35 0TU	80	Registered Membership use	Local Authority
	<b>Total</b>	<b>542+</b>		

**Figure 2.29: Studio Facilities in East Hampshire**

Facility Name	Postcode	No of Studios	Access Type	Ownership
ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE	GU34 1HN	3	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority
ALTON SPORTS CENTRE	GU34 1ST	1	Pay and Play	Local Authority
AMERY HILL SCHOOL	GU34 2BZ	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
BLACKNEST GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	GU34 4QL	1	Pay and Play	Commercial
BOHUNT SCHOOL	GU30 7NY	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
ELEVATION HEALTH CLUB (OLD THORNS HOTEL & GOLF COURSE)	GU30 7PE	2	Registered Membership use	Commercial
ENERGIQUE HEALTH CLUB AND SPA	GU34 2NB	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial
HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	PO8 9PQ	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
HSDC ALTON	GU34 2LX	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Education
RESULTS HEALTH CLUB (ALTON)	GU34 1EN	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial
TARO LEISURE CENTRE	GU31 4EP	3	Registered Membership use	Local Authority
WHITEHILL AND BORDON LEISURE CENTRE	GU35 0TU	2	Registered Membership use	Local Authority
	<b>Total</b>	<b>24</b>		

In light of the revenue contribution made by health and fitness to the financial sustainability of the main public leisure centres and its vital contribution to improving the health and wellbeing of local residents, it is important to ensure that the health and fitness offer at the local authority sites remain competitive in relation to availability (opening hours), access (affordable membership options) and attractiveness (the quality of the studios, equipment, training and instruction).

There is a good level of health and fitness provision in all three of the Council owned and operated leisure centres, with all three providing pay and play options as well as memberships. The equipment is modern and includes Technogym equipment, which allows you to log into the smart machines via an app to automatically record your sessions. The centres all offer personal training, supervised junior fitness sessions (11-15 years), GP referral sessions and a vast range of group exercise classes.

All the health and fitness facilities listed offer some form of disability access according to Sport England's Active Places database.

### **Quality of Health and Fitness Facilities**

The majority of the facilities that were assessed by the Consultant Team were in a good or a very good standard. Alton and Whitehill and Bordon Leisure Centres were opened in 2020 and the Taro Leisure Centre refurbished in 2018 with an extension to the gym area and new equipment installed.

### **Location of Health and Fitness Facilities in East Hampshire**

There is a good spread of provision across the area, with facilities in each of the major towns of Alton, Bordon and Petersfield. The only provision in the South of the district is at Horndean Technology College. Clanfield Community Centre operators have expressed an interest in adding a gym to the centre, which if feasible would increase provision in the South.

### **Health and Fitness Participation**

In terms of health and fitness demand trends, the 2022 annual state of the industry report found that the penetration rate (i.e., the proportion of the adult population in the UK that were members of a gym in either the public or private sector) has dropped from 15.6% in 2019 to 14.6% in 2022, with 1 in every 10 people in the UK being a member of a gym. The 2022 report highlighted that the pandemic knocked the industry back around three years and the 3-year period to the end of March 2022 has seen decreases of 2.4% in the number of fitness facilities, 4.7% in the number of members and 4.3% in market value. The industry is taking time to recover to pre pandemic levels as consumers adapted to new exercise habits, including online and hybrid models, although group exercise remains popular for its social aspects.

This evidence of the reduction of UK health and fitness participation is supported by the findings of the Active Lives Survey for England. 10.5% of adults (16+) in England took part in a gym session at least twice in the previous 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 4,842,600 people. This is lower than pre pandemic levels of 13.3% in 2018/19, but has increased from 7.7% in 2020/21, showing some signs of recovery. The number of people taking part in a fitness class was higher at 12.5% (5,779,400 people), which is a decrease from 14% in 2019/20, the first time there has been a reduction in participation since the start of the survey in 2015/16.

### Club Consultation

**One Element East Hampshire (The Butts Green, Alton)** is an outdoor fitness provider with 80 members which all come from East Hampshire, the organisation launched in 2021 and had seen a gradual increase in membership. Sessions also take place outside at Anstey Park and Selbourne Rec Ground and inside at Selbourne Village Hall. They are looking to grow further and would like to expand to Petersfield but need permission from the town council.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 5/5

**Vanessa Golborn School of Dance (Alton Sports Centre)** has around 100 members, mainly youth girls with 3 boys and 12 Adult female members, of which 100% come from East Hampshire. The organisation has seen a decrease in membership with levels not recovered since Covid. They would like to grow but are limited by facility space and have to hire other venues including Amery Hill School and Energique Fitness and Wellness Centre. Ideally, they would like a venue with 3 good sized sprung floor studios so all their provision could be delivered in one venue.

Quality ratings – Main facility - 3/5

### Health and Fitness Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community health and fitness facilities through planning policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure council owned health and fitness facilities and equipment are maintained to a good quality standard whilst offering affordable pricing.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate options in Petersfield to accommodate Outdoor Fitness sessions.</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility of adding a gym to the Clanfield Community Centre.</li> <li>Regularly review health and fitness facility and equipment needs in relation to changes in accessible supply (e.g., 24/7 budget gyms and high street / retail town centre provision), fitness participation and industry trends and population growth.</li> </ul>

#### Prioritised Actions

##### Short Term (1-2 years)

- Investigate options in Petersfield to accommodate Outdoor Fitness sessions.

##### Longer Term

- Investigate the feasibility of adding a gym to the Clanfield Community Centre.
- Maintain a community focused presence within the market of health and fitness provision in the area.
- Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment.

## Squash Provision in East Hampshire

There are currently 7 squash courts in East Hampshire, with a mix of normal and glass backed courts which enable the spectating of matches.

**Figure 2.30: Squash Facilities in East Hampshire**

Site Name	Postcode	No of courts	Court types	Ownership Type
ALTON SPORTS CENTRE	GU34 1ST	2	2 x Glass backed	Local Authority
ENERGIQUE HEALTH CLUB AND SPA LTD	GU34 2NB	1	1 x Normal	Commercial
HERNE FARM LEISURE CENTRE	GU31 4PJ	2	2 x Normal	Community
TARO LEISURE CENTRE	GU31 4EP	2	2 x Glass backed	Local Authority
<b>TOTAL COURTS</b>		<b>7</b>		

There are two clubs in the area, Alton Squash Academy based at Alton Sports Centre with four teams (two men's and two veterans) and a total of 19 registered England Squash members, and Petersfield Squash Club based at Taro Leisure Centre with 3 youth teams (2 boys, 1 girls), 4 mixed adult teams and 2 mixed 50+ teams and 76 members registered members.

The courts at Herne Farm Leisure Centre are available on a pay as you go basis for local residents and a restricted number of non-residents, Petersfield Squash Club currently uses the facility one night a week but has no long term security. The court at Energique Health Club and Spa is for registered members only.

### Quality of Squash Facilities

The quality of facilities in the area range between good and standard. The courts at Alton Leisure Centre are good, being new provision, with the remaining courts in a standard condition, it is important these are maintained on a regular basis to ensure the current level of activities can be continued.

### Location of Squash Facilities in East Hampshire

There is squash provision in two of the three main towns in the district at Alton (Alton Sports Centre and Energique Health Club), and Petersfield (Taro Leisure Centre, Herne Farm Leisure Centre). There is no provision for squash in the Bordon area however the facilities in Alton and neighbouring local authorities (see below) are all accessible within a 20 minute drive.

### Squash Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Sport England's access analysis report indicates there are 12 courts within a 20 minute drive time that are likely to attract some residents in the east of the district. These include:

- Havant Leisure Centre (1 court) in Havant to the South
- Lord Wandsworth College (2 Courts) in Hart to the North
- Farnham Leisure Centre (2 courts), Haslemere Leisure Centre (3 courts) and Bourne Club Limited (4 courts) all in Waverley to the Northeast

### Squash Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate the adult demand for squash nationally is almost back to pre-covid levels following a decline in previous years. 0.6% of adults (16+) in England played at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 264,100 people, in 2018/19 (pre covid) the percentage was 0.7%, and although Squash is showing signs of recovery participation levels are still significantly lower than 1.0%, the benchmark figure for ALS in 2015/16, overall, a decrease of -0.4%.

England Squash has a number of engagement programmes aimed at encouraging more people to become involved with the sport and help to create thriving communities, these include Squash 101 programmes - Squash Stars, Junior 101, Adult 101, Squash 57 (Racketball), Squash Girls Can, Mixed Ability Squash and Squash from the Mosque. For these programmes to be successful facilities need to be well maintained to provide a positive experience along with a partnership approach between the various clubs and leisure management teams where applicable.

England Squash has a benchmark quantitative guidance standard of 1 court per 10,000 people. The latest population figures for East Hampshire indicate a population of 125,700 (Census 2021), meaning based on a supply of 7 accessible courts, the level of provision in East Hampshire is below this benchmark at approximately 1 court per 17,957 people. The estimated population increase of 8,958 by 2040, means the level of provision will fall further under the benchmark at 1 court per 19,237. This would suggest additional facilities are needed in the area, however given the scale of facilities in the neighbouring borough’s accessible to East Hampshire residents and the current provision, new facilities are not recommended at this stage, however future need should be monitored closely particularly in areas with an increase in population. England Squash feels the priority need is to drive participation in the district through coaching programmes, particularly in the Leisure/ Sports Centres.

Club Consultation
<p><b>Petersfield Squash Club</b> has 76 members with 3 youth teams and 6 adult teams of which approximately 90% come from East Hampshire. The club has seen a stable membership level but have had to reduce the number teams due to court availability. The club is looking to grow by increasing junior provision, mixed ability adult sessions and running Squash Girls Can programmes. The club have identified a need for improvements to spectator provision such as water fountains and seating areas as well as better promotion of the facilities within the leisure centre.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p>

Squash Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community squash facilities through this strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the current supply of squash courts are maintained to a good quality standard.</li> <li>Introduce more coaching programmes at Alton Sports Centre and Taro Leisure Centre in partnership with the clubs.</li> <li>Explore opportunities to promote Petersfield Squash club further within Taro Leisure Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility to provide additional seating and water fountains at Taro LC.</li> <li>Regularly review squash facility needs with England Squash and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore opportunities to promote Petersfield Squash club further within Taro Leisure Centre.</li> <li>Introduce more coaching programmes at Alton Sports Centre and Taro Leisure Centre in partnership with the clubs.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility to provide additional seating and water fountains at Taro Leisure Centre.</li> <li>Ensure the current supply of squash courts are protected and maintained to a good quality standard.</li> </ul>		

## Gymnastics and Trampolining Provision in East Hampshire

There are 8 gymnastics/trampolining clubs/ providers in East Hampshire, across 5 different venues. There is only one club (Xcel Gymnastics) with a dedicated facility, with the others operating from leisure centres, education sites or community centres.

**Figure 2.31: Facilities in East Hampshire used by Gymnastics clubs**

Site Name	Postcode	Facility Type
ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (SILHOUETTES RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS)	GU34 2BY	Non - Dedicated Facility – Comm. centre
ALTON SPORTS CENTRE (ALTON SPORTS CENTRE GYM & TRAMPOLINING, ALTON GYMNASTICS CLUB & ALTON TRAMPOLINE CLUB)	GU34 1ST	Non- Dedicated Facility – Leisure site
EGGARS SCHOOL (ALPHA TRAMPOLINE CLUB)	GU34 4EQ	Non- Dedicated Facility - Education Site
THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL (SWALLOWS TRAMPOLINE CLUB & FLEX GYM CLUB)	GU32 3LU	Non- Dedicated Facility - Education Site
XCEL GYMNASTICS	PO8 9JU	Dedicated Facility

Silhouettes Rhythmic Gymnastics holds weekly sessions at Alton Community centre for girls aged 6-12 years. Alton Sports Centre runs Discover Gymnastics sessions for Adult & Child (18-36m) and preschool children (3-5 years), with Alton Gymnastics club providing recreational and competitive classes for school aged children from reception upwards. The Sports Centre also runs trampolining sessions covering levels 1 to 12 for 4 to 15 years olds as well as providing a base for Alton Trampolining club who have members aged from 5 to 30 years and are a British Gymnastics inclusive club and have had one of their members selected for the Great Britain Disability Squad.

Eggars School hosts Alpha Trampoline club, who uses the facility 4 days a week offering recreational and competitive sessions. The Petersfield School is home to Swallows Trampoline Club, who also offer recreational and competitive sessions, and Flex gymnastics, who provides sessions in gymnastics, tumbling, dance and cheer. Xcel Gymnastics are the largest gymnastic club in the area with a large, dedicated facility and Olympic standard equipment. They offer classes for all ages in acrobatics, Trampolining and tumbling. The following membership figures were provided by British Gymnastics, who also highlighted that several clubs had waiting lists.

**Figure 2.32: Membership figures**

Gymnastics Club	Membership Numbers
ALPHA TRAMPOLINE CLUB	181
ALTON GYMNASTICS CLUB	385
ALTON TRAMPOLINE CLUB	66
FLEX GYMNASTICS CLUB	185
SILHOUETTES RHYTHMIC GYM	7
SWALLOWS TRAMPOLINE CLUB	Unknown
XCEL GYMNASTICS	465

## Quality of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits at several facilities in the area currently used for gymnastics and trampolining. Each facility was given a quality rating of poor, standard or good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.33. It should be noted that not all sites were visited. The clubs using Leisure Centre and School facilities tend to use sports hall / school gym space, with mats, springboards, and trampolines.

**Figure 2.33: Quality of Gymnastic Facilities**

Gymnastic Facilities	Quality Rating
ALTON COMMUNITY CENTRE (SILHOUETTES RHYTHMIC GYMNASTICS)	Not Seen
ALTON SPORTS CENTRE (ALTON SPORTS CENTRE GYM & TRAMPOLINING, ALTON GYMNASTICS CLUB & ALTON TRAMPOLINE CLUB)	Good
EGGARS SCHOOL (ALPHA TRAMPOLINE CLUB)	Standard
THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL (SWALLOWS TRAMPOLINE CLUB & FLEX GYM CLUB)	Standard
XCEL GYMNASTICS	Not seen

### Location of Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in East Hampshire

The provision is relatively well spread across the district with provision in the towns of Alton, Petersfield and Horndean, but there is no activity in the Bordon area, which is an opportunity to be explored.

### Gymnastics and Trampolining Facilities in Neighbouring Authorities

There are several gymnastics clubs in the neighbouring districts, but they all rely on the hire of school facilities or leisure centres, the nearest clubs with dedicated facilities are:

- Basingstoke Gymnastics Club (Basingstoke and Deane) to the Northwest
- Rushmoor Gymnastics Academy (Rushmoor) to the North
- Portsmouth School of Gymnastics (Portsmouth) to the South

### Gymnastics Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicated a return to pre covid levels of adult demand for gymnastics and trampolining nationally with 0.4% of adults (16+) in England participating in gymnastics or trampolining at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 204,900 people. However, it should be noted that adult data is of limited value in estimating overall demand for the sport of gymnastics as most participation is by children under 16, who are excluded from this data source.

The Active Lives Children and young people data shows 28.7% of young people (2,097,900) participated in Gymnastics, trampolining or cheerleading in the last 7 days during the academic year of 21-22, this is slightly lower than previous years (prior to covid) 31.3% in 17-18, 32.6% in 18-19 and 29.8% in 19-20 but an increase from 25.6% in 20-21.

British Gymnastics state the main issue for gymnastic development is having access to sufficient dedicated space for clubs to grow and extend their programmes. The NGB states that Alton Trampoline club have referenced challenges in accessing space at Alton Sports Centre and have expressed an interest in developing a facility project. Flex Gymnastics have also shown an interest in developing a facility and Xcel Gymnastics have mentioned a need to expand their current facility. British Gymnastics’ priority for the area is to support the clubs to have appropriate access to their current facility or to support the development of dedicated facilities with long term security for the clubs.

<b>Gymnastics and Trampoline Recommendations</b>		
<b>Protect</b>	<b>Enhance</b>	<b>Provide</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for gymnastics and trampolining through planning policy and this strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of their facilities in order to maintain the current level of provision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options to provide recreational gymnastics provision in the Bordon area.</li> <li>Explore further the facility needs of Alton Gymnastics Club, Alton Trampoline Club, Flex Gymnastics and Xcel Gymnastics.</li> <li>Regularly review gymnastics and trampolining facility needs with British Gymnastics, and the clubs based in the study area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore options to provide recreational gymnastics provision in the Bordon area.</li> </ul> <p><b>Long Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with British Gymnastics and the local clubs to support the ongoing refurbishment needs of facilities in order to maintain the current level of provision.</li> <li>Explore further the facility needs of Alton Gymnastics Club, Alton Trampoline Club, Flex Gymnastics and Xcel Gymnastics.</li> </ul>		

## **Athletics and Running Provision in East Hampshire**

There is an all-weather compact track at Treloar College, but it is only for student use. Herne Junior School has an all-weather 500m running track around their school field, which whilst predominately used by the school, is available for community use. Anstey Park has a 321 Run England Marked route which starts at the car park near the rugby club and covers a distance of 2.3km, all on grass.

There are three running clubs in the area affiliated to England Athletics and one Triathlon club. Alton Runners welcomes and encourages runners of all abilities; they have 137 members registered with England Athletics. The club runs regular training sessions on a Tuesday and Thursday evening meeting at Jubilee Playing fields in the summer and Alton Sports Centre in the winter. Clanfield Joggers are a friendly mixed running club with approx. 50 members (14 of which are registered to England Athletics). They meet at Clanfield Community Centre on Friday and Sunday mornings, and Wednesday evenings. Liss Runners is a sociable running club with over 100 members of all ages. They organise three training sessions a week, with Newman Collard Hall their main meeting point. Petersfield Triathlon club organise weekly coached swimming sessions at Churcher's College and meet for a Sunday cycling ride at Petersfield Library.

In addition, Runnyhoneys, a RunTogether group, have sessions in Petersfield and Bordon, organised by Run Leaders. The club started as a women's only club but they now also hold some mixed sessions. They offer beginners courses and organise a Junior running club in the summer for children at infant and junior schools and have used Herne Junior School for events.

## **Location of Athletics Facilities in East Hampshire**

There are facilities in neighbouring areas which according to Sport England's Access Analysis report are within a 20 minute drive time of East Hampshire residents, these include;

- The Mountbatten Leisure Centre (Standard Oval Outdoor) in Portsmouth to the South, home to Havant Athletics Club.
- Weydon School (Compact Outdoor) and Charterhouse School (Standard Oval Outdoor) in Waverley to the North.
- Down Grange Sports Complex (Standard Oval Outdoor) in Basingstoke to the Northwest, home to Basingstoke and Mid Hants Athletics Club.
- Winchester Sports Stadium (Standard Oval Outdoor) in Winchester to the West, home to Winchester & District Athletics Club.

England Athletics have prioritised the area for a New:Gen facility and feel a Mini Track (synthetic mini oval track and field facility), Compact Track (entry level athletics facility) or ActiveTrack (all weather walk/jog/run/cycle loops) should be considered as part of any future housing developments. Through consultation Oakmoor School and Alton Parish Council have identified a need for more athletics facilities in their areas and with additional housing growth in both areas one of these could be an ideal location for a New:Gen facility. England Athletics have potential seed funding and design support for a New:Gen Facility in East Hampshire.

## **Participation in Athletics and Running**

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate a slight decrease in adult demand for running, or athletics multi sports nationally in the last two years compared to a relatively stable period prior to this. 13% (down from 13.7%) of adults (16+) in England went running or took part in track or field athletics at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 (i.e., 5.9 million people). The period between 2015/16 and 2019/20 participation was relatively stable at 15.6%. The current participation figure, however, is now higher than gym-based health and fitness membership.

### Parkrun

There are three 5k parkrun’s at 9am every Saturday morning in the area, at Alice Holt Forest, Bucks Horn Oak (where they have had 17,311 finishers over 498 events) Queen Elizabeth Country Park, Horndean (14,332 finishers over 505 events) and Hogmoor Inclosure, Bordon (9,001 in 245 events). There is also a junior 2k parkrun on a Sunday at Hogmoor Inclosure, which has had 1,889 finishers in 177 events.

### Walking

The NHS provides evidence of countless health benefits to walking, centred around heart health, general fitness levels and burning excess calories. Beyond medical benefits the NHS recommend walking as one of the cheapest and easiest ways to become healthier. Whilst physical and mental health is key to the promotion of walking, the environmental benefits are vast in terms of reduced transport by other means and therefore cleaner air and reduced pollution. East Hampshire’s open spaces and parks provide excellent opportunities for walking and good quality and safe walking routes are part of the wider picture for better provision for physical activity. East Hampshire has 14 scheduled free wellbeing walks hosted by the Ramblers as part of a nationwide project. The Wellbeing walks are designed to be accessible to all, being no more than three miles or ninety minutes in length.

Athletics Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the lighting, waymarking and other signage along footpaths and in parks used for jogging and walking for health, are maintained to a good standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider improved lighting, waymarking and signage in parks to encourage more jogging and walking.</li> <li>Work with Herne Junior School to increase community use of running track.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with England Athletics to explore the feasibility to provide a New:Gen track as part of future housing or other sports facility development.</li> <li>Regularly review athletics and running facility needs with England Athletics, and leisure providers in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Herne Junior School to increase community use of running track.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with England Athletics to explore the feasibility to provide a New:Gen track as part of future housing or sports facility development.</li> </ul>		

## Tennis provision in East Hampshire

There are 26 sites that offer accessible tennis courts in the area, with a total of 91 outdoor and 4 indoor tennis courts. There are 41 outdoor floodlit courts in the study area as detailed in figures 2.34, 2.35 and 2.36.

### Indoor Tennis Courts

There are currently only 4 indoor tennis courts at Kingsley Tennis centre in East Hampshire. There were previously two indoor courts at Grayshott Health Spa which had community use by Grayshott TC in the winter period. This site was closed in 2020 and is currently up for sale. Due to the lack of indoor tennis courts in the area, it is important this provision is reprovided should the site be developed.

### Tennis Clubs in East Hampshire

There are a total of 13 tennis clubs located within the study area, listed in figure 2.34, plus 2 courts at Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club which accounts for a total of 47 outdoor courts, of which 29 are floodlit, and 4 indoor courts.

**Figure 2.34 Club Tennis Sites in East Hampshire**

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit	Indoor
ALTON TENNIS CLUB	4	4	
ACTIVE ACADEMY - CLANFIELD	2	-	
BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB	2	-	
BURITON TENNIS CLUB	2	-	
GRAYSHOTT TENNIS CLUB	3	2	
HEADLEY TENNIS CLUB	2	2	
LIPHOOK TENNIS CLUB	5 (2 grass)	3	
MEDSTEAD TENNIS CLUB	3	3	
KINGSLEY TENNIS CENTRE	6	2	4
NEWMAN COLLARD TENNIS CLUB	3	2	
RAKE TENNIS CLUB	1	-	
ROPLEY TENNIS CLUB	3 (one multiuse)	3	
ROWLANDS CASTLE TENNIS CLUB	3	-	
STEEP TENNIS CLUB	8	8	
<b>Total</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>4</b>

### Town and Parish Council Tennis Sites

There are tennis courts available in 4 public recreation grounds in the area, with floodlit provision at 1 site.

**Figure 2.35: Town and Parish Council Tennis Sites**

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit
AVENUE PLAYING FIELD	4	-
BINSTED TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB	1	-
FOUR MARKS REC GROUND	3 (one multiuse)	3
HAWKLEY REC GROUND	1	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>3</b>

### Education Tennis Sites

In addition to the tennis clubs and park tennis court sites in East Hampshire there are also 35 tennis courts on educational sites, however a number of these have limited community use due to not being floodlit.

**Figure 2.36: Educational Tennis Sites**

Site	No. Courts	Floodlit
ALTON SCHOOL	4	-
AMERY HILL SCHOOL	2	-
BEDALES SCHOOL	6	6
CHURCHER'S COLLEGE, RAMSHILL	3	-
DITCHAM PARK	4	-
HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	7	3
OAKMOOR SCHOOL	3	-
THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	6	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9</b>

**Quality of Tennis Courts in East Hampshire**

During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team undertook non-technical visual site visits to the following tennis facilities in the study area. Each facility visited was given a quality rating of Poor, Standard or Good. The ratings can be seen below in figure 2.35. Not all tennis court sites were visited for a range of reasons including those on school sites with limited community use and single courts with no ancillary facilities.

**Figure 2.37: Quality of Tennis Courts audited.**

Tennis Courts	Quality Rating
AMERY HILL SCHOOL	• Standard (2)
AVENUE PLAYING FIELDS	• Standard (4)
BEDALES SCHOOL	• Standard (6)
BINSTED TENNIS & CROQUET CLUB	• Standard (1)
BORDON & OAKHANGER SPORTS CLUB	• Good (2)
CHURCHER'S COLLEGE, RAMSHILL	• Standard (3)*
DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL	• Standard (4)
FOUR MARKS REC GROUND	• Good (3)
GRAYSHOTT TENNIS CLUB	• Standard (3)
HEADLEY TENNIS CLUB	• Good (2)
HORNDEAN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	• Good (7)
LIPHOOK MEMORIAL REC GROUND	• Good (3) Grass unseen (2)
NEWMAN COLLARD TENNIS CLUB	• Standard (3)
OAKMOOR SCHOOL	• Good (3)
RAKE TENNIS CLUB	• Poor (1)*
ROWLANDS CASTLE TENNIS CLUB	• Good (3)
STEEP TENNIS CLUB	• Good (8)
THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	• Good (4) Standard (2)

*\*Improvements to condition scheduled to take place.*

The non-technical site assessments highlight that the tennis courts within the area vary in quality. One court is in a poor condition. The three courts at Four Marks Rec. Ground were poor but have been resurfaced recently. The courts at Horndean Technology College have also recently been resurfaced with floodlights added to 3 of the 7 courts. The college will be opening these courts to the community through clubspark offering both a pay and play and household membership with the support of the LTA. Rake Tennis Club’s court is starting to break up in places and the club is fundraising to replace the surface ready for Summer 2024.

The 3 courts at Churcher’s College in standard condition are scheduled to be repainted. The school was looking to add an additional court, but residential objections meant they never proceeded. Ditcham Park school had their courts last repainted in 2018, they are in standard condition with leaf droppage causing issues from the surrounding trees. The Petersfield School has recently built a MUGA which provides an additional 4 tennis courts, the area is not floodlit, but the school stated they are looking to apply for planning permission.

Kingsley Tennis Club has new operators in place with a vision to develop grassroots participation. The venue needs investment particularly the indoor lighting. The operators also have aspirations to build a padel court and cover the outdoor courts.

Two hard courts at Liphook Tennis Club are shorter in length than the LTA guidelines. The long term aim would be to lengthen the courts during resurfacing and the club will need to seek additional funding sources to support this renovation.

Steep Tennis Club has 8 courts and one practice half court. They are all floodlit with the last two done last year. Four of the court's floodlights are LED and they have plans to upgrade the others over the next few years.

### **Location of Tennis Facilities in East Hampshire**

The LTA feels there is a good spread of tennis courts facilities across the district and there is no need for additional outdoor provision until there is a significant growth in population, but they would like to see the indoor courts reprovided at Grayshott Health Spa.

### **Padel**

The LTA also oversees the running of Padel, a new sport which is growing fast across the country that provides an exciting addition to the traditional game of tennis, enjoyed by both existing players and complete beginners. The LTA encourages councils to consider tennis and or padel provision as part of any new housing or education provision for community access. There are currently two padel courts in the area at Worldham Golf Club (near Alton) which is open to non-members. There is a planning application pending to install temporary padel courts on the tennis courts at Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club. If granted this will be subject to a 5 year lease with the condition to reinstate the tennis courts following this period, as housing develops in the area and demand for tennis increases, at this stage subject to demand the feasibility of providing permanent courts in the area should be explored. The LTA supports venues to consider padel due to the lack of courts in the area, but not to the detriment of tennis.

### **Tennis Participation**

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate there has been an increase in adult demand for tennis nationally over the last year and is back to the highest recorded level since the benchmark Active Lives Survey in 2015/16. 2.0% of adults (16+) in England participated in tennis at least twice in the last 28 days in 2021/22 i.e., 915,000 people. This shows the initial post covid resurgence of demand for outdoor park tennis has now converted into regular participation.

The LTA encourages providers of tennis to open their facilities to community use and implement an online booking system, and a chargeable model to ensure sustainability for the future investment into sites and will work with providers to review booking processes and price points. The LTA has identified the facility priorities for area are to upgrade the indoor lighting at Kingsley tennis centre and floodlights at Liphook TC, Medstead TC and Steep TC to LED. To support Alton TC and Medstead TC with expanding their activities in line with demands and larger membership base and ensure tennis courts in the area are resurfaced as required throughout the life of this strategy to maintain a minimum standard quality.

**Club Consultation**

**Active Academy (Clanfield Comm. Centre)** has 8 teams (5 youth mixed 2x U8 & 2x U10, 4 youth boys U12, 2x U14, U18) of which around 100% are from East Hampshire. Membership has been relatively stable over the last few years. The organisation aims to grow to increase membership as well as encouraging more players of all ages onto the court. The organisation's main site is Bishop's Waltham but they also use Clanfield. They have not identified any facility needs or provided quality ratings for the Clanfield site.

**Alton Tennis Club** has approx. 175 members (62 youth, 114 adult) of which around 90% are from East Hampshire. The club has a growing membership, and they encourage members to take part in competitive activity. The club is looking to grow by using traditional and online media to promote the club. The club is reaching capacity and finding it difficult to accommodate all coaching, training and match play sessions meaning at times there are no courts free for social play. They would like more land for an extra court or 2 padel courts.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

**Binsted Tennis and Croquet Club** has approximately 46 adult male members of which 100% come from East Hampshire. The club's membership has been relatively stable over the last few years, they are looking to grow but limited with only one tennis court and 3 croquet pitches. They have identified a need for the pavilion to be refurbished.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

**Buriton Tennis Club** has runs two mixed adult teams (12 members) all from East Hampshire. They have had a reduction in membership in recent years and no longer run senior ladies or a men's vets team. They are looking to grow their junior membership. They do not have own any changing facilities and hire a referee's toilet from the parish council. They state their facilities are sufficient to meet demand.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 1/5

**East Hampshire Padel Club** is a new club just being established currently using the pop up court at Champney Forest Mere. The club are looking for a new home, ideally in Petersfield with court facilities and a bar/ social area.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 2/5 Changing facilities - 5/5

**Grayshott Tennis Club** has 140 members and runs four teams (2 adult male, 1 adult female and 1 mixed adult team). They state 70% of their membership comes from East Hampshire. Membership levels have been relatively stable in the last few years and they have no ambitions to grow. The club does not have any changing facilities and has identified a need for a new clubhouse facility, a practice wall and ground levelling to take place around the courts to the clubhouse. The club will need to resurface their courts in 2029.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5

**Headley Tennis Club** has approximately 48 adult playing members (male and female), all from East Hampshire. Their membership levels have remained stable in the last few years and they are not looking to grow. The club has identified a need for a padel court.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities 4/5

**Medstead Lawn Tennis Club** has 162 members (32 youth and 130 adult), with 90% coming from East Hampshire and 10% from surrounding villages in Winchester. The club's membership levels have remained relatively stable in the last few years, and they are not looking to grow as they are at capacity with the number of courts they have. The club have toilets but no changing facilities but feel this is not required as most people live locally. They have identified a need to upgrade the floodlights to LED and to add another court. Their current lease allows for this, but they only have 1 year left of a 30 year lease and are only being offered a 7 year lease which makes investment difficult.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 4/5

**Newman Collard Tennis Club** has 150 members with 6 teams (2 adult male, 1 adult female, 2 adult mixed and 1 adult mixed vets), all from East Hampshire. The club's memberships numbers have reduced in the last few years following an initial increase after Covid. The club are looking to grow by implementing a 6 week summer membership and discounts for previous members as well as open days and free outreach sessions for local groups and families. The club doesn't have

dedicated changing facilities with members using the clubroom, toilets or football facilities if needed. The club have identified a need for improved clubhouse facilities and better access for wheel chair users.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities 1/5

**Rake Tennis Club** has around 40 members, of which the majority are family memberships, they have had a relatively stable membership over the last few years, they aim to grow but rely on word of mouth rather than any active recruitment. They do not organise tournaments or matches allowing members to turn up and play, as well as providing opportunities for the general public to hire the court. The tennis court has started to become gravelly in areas and the club are fundraising to re-lay the court and replace the posts and nets in time for the summer.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 3/5

**Steep LTC** has 500 members with 4 adult teams (1 adult male, 1 adult female and 2 mixed teams) as well as eight U18 members, all from East Hampshire. The clubs membership had been relatively stable in the last few years and the club is not looking to grow. The club has basic changing facilities and toilets but no showers. They have not identified any facility needs.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities 3/5

**Thursday Tennis (Avenue Playing Fields)** is a group of 25 people that book and play recreationally each week at Avenue Playing fields. Numbers have grown in recent years due to friends recommending the sessions. They have identified a need to ensure the maintenance of the courts is continued, particularly during the winter months.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities 3/5

**Tennis Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for tennis through planning policy.</li> <li>Club sites to be maintained to a good quality standard (club led)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis sites in the area to refurbish courts as required during the lifetime of the strategy.</li> <li>Support Rake TC to relay their court surface ready for summer 2024.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Kingsley Tennis Centre, Liphook TC, Medstead LTC and Steep LTC to upgrade their lighting to LED.</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility of improving the pavilion and accessibility at Newman Collard Tennis Club and Binsted TC.</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility of levelling access and providing a new clubhouse for Grayshott LTC</li> <li>Provide support for clubs/ providers considering implementing padel courts.</li> <li>Ensure the two indoor courts at Grayshott Health Spa are reprovided if the site is developed.</li> <li>Regularly review tennis and padel facility needs with the LTA and the tennis clubs based in the area in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>

**Prioritised Actions**

**Short Term (1-2 years)**

- Provide support for clubs/ providers considering implementing padel courts.
- Support Rake TC to relay their court surface ready for summer 2024.
- Support Kingsley Tennis Centre, Liphook TC, Medstead LTC and Steep LTC to upgrade their lighting to LED.

**Longer Term**

- Investigate the feasibility of improving the pavilion and accessibility at Newman Collard TC and Binsted TC.
- Work with the LTA to provide support for tennis sites in the area to refurbish courts as required during the lifetime of the strategy.
- Ensure the two indoor courts at Grayshott Health Spa are reprovided if the site is developed.
- Investigate the feasibility of levelling access and providing a new clubhouse for Grayshott LTC.
- Consider park and padel community courts within new housing developments to support the growth in population.

Tennis Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility to lengthen the court at Liphook to meet LTA recommendations.</li> </ul>		

### Other Racquet sports - Pickleball

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines elements of badminton, tennis, and table tennis. The sport can be played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. There are active sessions organised at Clanfield Community Centre and in the Petersfield area.

Club Consultation
<p><b>East Hampshire Pickleball Club</b> is a new club just being established currently using roads and car parks around Petersfield. The club are looking for a new home, ideally in Petersfield with access to a bar/ social area.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 1/5</p>

## Netball Provision in East Hampshire

East Hampshire has a total of 43 courts across 14 different sites. There are 33 outdoor courts and 10 indoor courts in the study area.

**Figure 2.38 Netball Sites in East Hampshire**

Site	No Courts	Indoor	Outdoor	Floodlit
AMERY HILL SCHOOL	3	1	2	-
ANSTEY PARK	2	-	2	2
ALTON COLLEGE	1	1	-	-
ALTON SPORTS CENTRE	1	1	-	-
BEDALES SCHOOL	2	-	2	2
BOHUNT SCHOOL	5	1	4	-
CHURCHER'S COLLEGE	4	1	3	-
CLANFIELD COMMUNITY CENTRE	1	1	-	-
DITCHAM PARK SCHOOL	2	-	2	-
EGGARS SCHOOL	3	-	3	-
HORNDEN TECHNOLOGY COLLEGE	8	1	7	3
OAKMOOR SCHOOL	3	1	2	-
TARO LEISURE CENTRE	1	1	-	-
THE PETERSFIELD SCHOOL	7	1	6	-
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>7</b>

There are 3 clubs in the area, ANTS Netball club is the main club with 13 teams offering competitive youth and adult provision. Alton Social Netball Club offers recreational sessions and Petersfield Pearls Netball Club is newly established with 2 teams.

England Netball run Back 2 Netball sessions at Clanfield Community Centre, Bohunt School and The Petersfield School and Netball Leagues, a commercial provider is looking to start sessions soon at Oakmoor School.

Taro Leisure Centre previously ran Gentle Netball (a walking version of the game) and back to Netball sessions despite not having court markings, but these have stopped due to the coach leaving.

### Quality of Netball Courts in East Hampshire

The quality of Netball courts in the area varies depending on the type of provision e.g. indoor or outdoor, the age of the facility and the surface type. All of the indoor courts are multi marked and cater for other sports and many of the outdoor courts also double as tennis courts. The courts at Alton Sports Centre, The Petersfield School (4/7) and Clanfield Community Centre are all relatively new and in good condition. The courts at Eggars School are poor with many of the court markings faded. The courts at Horndean Technology college have recently been resurfaced with floodlights added to 3 of the 7 courts.

The floodlights at Anstey Park are due to be upgraded to LED and The Petersfield school are applying for planning permission to include floodlights on the new MUGA which accommodates 4 additional netball courts.

### Location of Netball Facilities in East Hampshire

The spread of facilities across the district is fairly good with facilities in each major town as well as provision in the South of the district.

## Netball Participation

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate there has been an increase in adult demand for Netball nationally over the last year and is almost back to pre-covid levels of 0.7%. In 2021/22 0.6% of adults (16+) in England participated in netball at least twice in the last 28 days i.e., 290,200 people.

England Netball’s supply and demand analysis was based on there being 15 courts in the district and suggested a projected demand of 4,182 additional participants in the area equating to a supply and demand balance of -1 court based on 2020 data which increased to -1.2 when considering unmet demand and population increases to 2030. Based on this England Netball highlighted there is demand to establish more clubs/ activity in the area if supported by additional facilities. In preparing this strategy 43 courts were identified and whilst a number of the courts are in poor condition, there is still significantly more provision than England Netball had accounted for. This includes new provision at The Clanfield Centre, The Petersfield School, Horndean Technology College and facilities due to be improved at Anstey Park.

Club Consultation
<p><b>Alton Social Netball Club (Amery Hill School)</b> has 20 adult teams and 2 youth teams (U14) playing recreationally, with all members from East Hampshire. They have seen a reduction in membership by 50% due to Covid restrictions but are aiming to grow. The club have not highlighted any facility needs.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p>
<p><b>ANTS Netball Club (Anstey Park Netball Courts)</b> has approximately 143 members across 10 youth teams and 3 adult teams with 90% coming from the East Hampshire area. They have seen a growth in their youth section the last few years. They have ambitions to grow further but require additional coaches and volunteers. The club use Anstey Park Netball Courts as their main venue as well as Russel Howard Park (Basingstoke) and Wavell School (Rushmoor). Indoor training during the winter takes place at Alton College and Amery Hill Sports Halls. They have highlighted a need for a facility with two indoor netball courts.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities -3/5</p>
<p><b>Petersfield Pearls Netball Club (Bedales School)</b> has approximately 40 members and runs 2 female teams (1 adult, 1 veterans) with all members from East Hampshire. The club has grown significantly since they started after covid with 10 players. They have ambitions to grow further, and they have recently secured the use of the indoor court at The Petersfield School from September 23 and hope this will become their base for the winter, they previously used Bohunt School but found it was too far for some members to travel. They have also used The Avenue Playing Fields when it is not used for tennis. The club have identified a need for an affordable indoor base in Petersfield.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5</p>

Netball Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for netball through planning policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with Education sites to ensure the courts, fencing and nets at all venues are maintained to a good quality standard and club activity is secured.</li> <li>If feasible support the provision of floodlights at The Petersfield School and new surface and floodlights at Horndean Technology College.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the provision of netball markings as part of any new/ upgraded sports hall provided at Taro Leisure Centre.</li> <li>Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball, netball clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If feasibility support the provision of floodlights at The Petersfield School and new surface and floodlights at Horndean Technology College.</li> </ul> <p><b>Long Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the provision of netball markings as part of any new/ upgraded sports hall provided at Taro Leisure Centre.</li> </ul>		

## Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Provision in East Hampshire

There is a good range of facilities providing cycling, BMX and skate park provision in the East Hampshire area as outlined in figure 2.39 below.

**Figure 2.39 Cycling, BMX and Skate Park sites in East Hampshire**

Site	Postcode	Type of Provision
ANSTEY PARK	GU34 2RL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMX PUMP TRACK</li> <li>• SKATE PARK</li> </ul>
BORDON SKATE PARK	GU35 OJB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKATE PARK</li> </ul>
CHAWTON PARK WOODS	GU34 5ED	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS</li> </ul>
FOURMARKS REC GROUND	GU34 5AF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKATE PARK</li> </ul>
GRAYSHOTT REC GROUND	GU26 6LT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKATE PARK</li> </ul>
JUBILEE PARK, BORDON	GU35 0EQ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMX TRACK</li> </ul>
JUBILEE PLAYING FIELDS, ALTON	GU34 1RF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKATE PARK WITH LIGHTING</li> </ul>
LOVE LANE SPORTS GROUND	GU31 4BW	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKATE PARK</li> </ul>
PEEL PARK	P08 OPR	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SKATE PARK</li> </ul>
QUEEN ELIZABETH COUNTRY PARK	P08 0QE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• TOTS PUMP TRACK</li> <li>• FAMILY CYCLE ROUTE</li> <li>• 2 MOUNTAIN BIKE TRAILS</li> <li>• SKILLS AND COACHING AREA</li> </ul>
WEST LISS RECREATION GROUND	GU33 7AJ	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• BMX PUMP TRACK</li> </ul>

The BMX pump track at West Liss Recreation Ground opened in June 2023, and the track at Anstey Park opened in December 2022 with a second phase of work to install floodlighting is planned. The skate park at Jubilee Playing Fields was built in 2020 and is considered one of the best in the county importing use as far as Portsmouth, it has lighting which is on until 8pm. The Skate Park at Love Lane Sports Ground, Petersfield was extended in 2022 to include disabled access and CCTV.

The Queen Elizabeth Country Park has a family cycle route (300m), a tots pump track and a mini wheels skills area and coaching area, as well as two mountain bike routes (Intermediate route 6km and advanced route 7km), a mountain bike skills and coaching area. The park runs weekly ladies rides and sessions on Mountain Biking including 'Intro to Mountain Biking' and 'Intro to Jumps and Drops'. There is also an ebike rental centre on site with mountain ebikes for adults and children from 8 years.

National Cycling Network (NCN) routes 22, 222, 224 and 23 pass through the District.

### Quality of Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Facilities in East Hampshire

The quality of off road cycling provision is good with trails well maintained. The BMX Pump track at Anstey park is new and in good condition. The BMX track in Bordon needs resurfacing, Whitehill Town Council are looking to resurface the track with asphalt and enhance the bumps, enabling greater participation. The skate park provision is mixed with the majority of facilities being in a standard provision, but with some sites such as Anstey Park and Grayshott Skate Park in a poor condition and need of refurbishment. Grayshott Parish Council are currently consulting with residents over a proposal to replace the Skate Park facility with a MUGA. There was also previously a skate park in Liphook Recreation Ground, which has recently been removed due to its poor condition, the Parish Council are now consulting on options for the area.

### Location of Cycling, BMX and Skate Park Facilities in East Hampshire

The provision of off road cycling provision across the district is concentrated in the South and West of the district, whilst skate park provision is spread relatively well across the area.

### Cycling Provision in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Sport England’s access analysis report indicates there are no BMX or Cycling facilities within a 20 minute drive time that are likely to attract residents of East Hampshire.

### Road and Track Cycling

There are a number of cycling groups in East Hampshire - Alton Cycling Club who organise weekly cycling rides beginning at The Butts, Alton. The club has around 100 members and caters for adult and junior members with rides to suit all abilities. Hearty riders who meet at the Cardiac Rehab centre in Alton organise weekly gentle cycle rides of approximately 15-20 miles. Petersfield Bicycle Buddies organise 2-3 rides a week covering 10-35 miles and Liss Cycling club welcome cyclists of all abilities and organise a variety of rides including ladies only and Cross Country and Mountain bike rides.

### Participation in Cycling

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate a slight decrease in adult demand for cycling for leisure and sport nationally over the last year. There was a significant increase likely due to the Covid-19 pandemic in 2019-20 where 16% of adults (16+) in England participated in cycling at least twice in the last 28 days, this dropped to 13.8% in 2021/22 i.e., 6,363,300 people, which is in line with activity in prior years. British Cycling are looking to focus work in areas of deprivation to increase opportunities for Women and Girls, Children and young people, disability groups and ethnic communities through their Breeze and guided rides programmes. They are also encouraging Council’s to consider opportunities to run a Pedal Party (Parkrun for cycles) for families at park sites near leisure centres.

### Cycling for community and active travel purposes

Cycling forms part of the active travel offer in East Hampshire which includes walking to school, cycling to work or other everyday journeys, which can offer a convenient, accessible, and affordable way to move more. Helping residents get moving through walking and cycling can make a powerful, lasting difference to their physical and mental health and well-being. The council has a Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) and are looking to make active travel an easier choice in East Hampshire and have identified a number of district-wide interventions to encourage people to choose more active modes of transport in the area.

Cycling		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council should continue to protect the existing BMX and skate park facilities through planning policy.</li> <li>The Council should ensure that existing cycle paths, cycle routes, lighting, waymarking and other signage are maintained to a good standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The district, town and parish councils to maintain, refurbish and update the skate parks in the area when needed.</li> <li>Deliver interventions to improve cycling infrastructure across the district as outlined in the LCWIP</li> <li>Work with schools to link to national cycling networks and promote opportunities for active travel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility of improving the skate park facilities at Anstey Park and Grayshott Rec. Ground.</li> <li>Regularly review cycling facility needs with British Cycling and local clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> <li>Support the resurfacing of Bordon BMX track.</li> <li>Support the provision of floodlights to the BMX pump track at Anstey Park</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure through planning conditions that any new developments create opportunities for active travel between locations.</li> <li>Support the provision of floodlights to the BMX pump track at Anstey Park</li> <li>Support the resurfacing of Bordon BMX track.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Deliver interventions to improve cycling infrastructure across the district as outlined in the LCWIP.</li> <li>Investigate the feasibility of improving the skate park facilities at Anstey Park and Grayshott Rec. Ground.</li> </ul>		

## Bowls and Pétanque provision in East Hampshire

There are 8 outdoor bowls clubs in East Hampshire area affiliated to Bowls Hampshire and Bowls England and one Indoor Bowls club, Chawton Park Indoor Bowls Club.

**Figure 2.40 Bowls Sites in East Hampshire**

Site	Postcode	No Rinks
ALTON BOWLS CLUB	GU34 1JL	6
ALTON SOCIAL BOWLS CLUB	GU34 1RF	6
CHAWTON PARK INDOOR BOWLS CLUB	GU34 1RF	6 (indoor)
CLANFIELD BOWLS AND SPORTS CLUB	PO8 0WJ	7 (artificial)
FOUR MARKS BOWLS CLUB	GU34 5AF	4
MEDSTEAD BOWLS CLUB	GU34 5PT	8
HEADLEY BOWLS CLUB	GU35 0PD	4
LIPHOOK BOWLING CLUB	GU30 7AN	7
PETERSFIELD BOWLING & SNOOKER CLUB	GU32 3HX	4

Since the last strategy in 2018 a new bowling facility has opened in Clanfield which has an artificial 7 rink green. The club has a large membership base and has a bowls wheelchair that can be used on the green. The clubs who responded to the survey report good membership levels with the majority reporting a growth in numbers, except Headley Bowling club whose numbers have declined. The club report that Oakmoor School use the facility as part of their sports programme under the guidance of teachers and this could be an opportunity for the club to recruit new junior / family members.

The majority of clubs have a security of tenure with a long lease or freehold of their sites, one exception to this is Alton Bowling club who state they only have 3 years remaining on their lease.

### Indoor Bowls

Chawton Park Indoor Bowling Club is located in Alton and was established in 1996 with a lottery grant from Sport England. The site has 6 indoor airconditioned lanes, an electronic scoreboard and facilities for disabled bowlers. During the main season (Sept-mid April) the club is open every day, providing a mix of internal leagues, club friendly matches and competitions. They also have leagues in the summer 3 days a week. The club provide coaching and equipment for beginners and work closely with local schools which feeds their junior section.

### Pétanque

Bordon and Oakhanger Sports Club has a purpose built pétanque terrain with 6 rinks. Bordon Pétanque club are based here regularly running sessions 2-3 times a week attracting between 25-40 players as well as entering competitions organised by the Southern Counties Pétanque Association. The Whitehall and Bordon Regeneration company are considering providing lighting for the facility to extend hours of use. There is also a court in Petersfield at Avenue Recreation Ground available for hire. Both facilities are of standard condition.

### Quality of Bowls Provision in East Hampshire

All club are responsible for the maintenance of their greens and the majority are in good condition, however Alton Bowling Club report issues with the fencing and surrounds of their green and there is a need for improvements to the pavilions / changing provision at Clanfield Bowls & Sports Club (kitchen extension and storage) and Headley Bowling Club (refurbishment).

### Location of Bowls Facilities in East Hampshire

The spread of facilities across the district is good with a club situated within a reasonable travelling distance of all parts of the district.

## Participation in Bowls

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate an increase in adult demand for bowls nationally over the last year. 0.6% of adults (16+) in England participated in bowls at least twice in the last 28 days (272,200 people), this has increased from 0.4% in 2020/21, but down on previous highs of 0.8% between 2015/16 and 2016/17.

Hampshire Bowls is not aware of any urgent facility needs. They state Bowls is a sport for all ages and would encourage schools to consider bowling as sport for pupils and link with clubs in the area.

### Club Consultation

**Alton Bowls Club** has approximately 45 members, with 100% coming from the district. Membership levels have been relatively stable over the last few years. The club plans to grow further and offer free coaching sessions. They have identified a urgent need to replace the boundary fencing and improve the condition of the green especially the surrounding areas.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities - 4/5

**Alton Social Bowls Club** has approximately 66 members, including 4 youth players with approx. 90% coming from East Hampshire. The club has seen a growth in membership of 25% in the last few years due recruitment from open days and they have ambitions to grow further. The club have not identified any facility needs

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 5/5

**Clanfield Bowls and Sports Club** has approximately 191 members, which includes 26 non playing members and 26 junior members, of which all come from East Hampshire. They have seen a growth in members in the last few years and have ambitions to grow further with active recruitment. They report some issues with the artificial carpet which is being resolved with the manufacturers and club have identified a need for additional storage and kitchen facilities.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 3/5 Changing rooms – 4/5

**Headley Bowling Club** has around 50 members, of which 90% come from East Hampshire. The have seen a decline in membership since Covid with around 20% of members not returning. The club has plans to grow and holds open days to recruit new members. The club has identified a need for their pavilion to be refurbished and additional storage to be provided.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5 Changing rooms – 1/5

**Petersfield Bowling & Snooker Club** has approximately 180 members of which 50 are bowls members, with 90% coming from East Hampshire. The club has seen an increase in membership and is looking to grow further. They have identified a need to update their toilet facilities.

Quality Ratings – Playing surface - 5/5 Changing rooms – 3/5

<b>Bowls Recommendations</b>		
<b>Protect</b>	<b>Enhance</b>	<b>Provide</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council to continue to protect the current community facilities for bowls through planning policy.</li> <li>• In liaison with clubs, seek to ensure the existing facilities for bowls continue to be maintained to a good quality standard.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Petersfield Bowling &amp; Snooker club to improve their toilet facilities where possible.</li> <li>• Support clubs to link with schools and recruit new members through promotion of open days.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Clanfield Bowls and Sports Club to extend their kitchen facilities and storage space.</li> <li>• Work with Alton Bowling Club to replace the fencing and improve condition of the green.</li> <li>• If feasible support the provision of lighting to the Pétanque court at BOSC</li> <li>• Regularly review bowls facility needs in the area with the Bowls Development Alliance, England Bowls, England Indoor Bowls Association, and the established bowls clubs in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Clanfield Bowls and Sports Club to extend their kitchen facilities and storage space.</li> <li>• If feasible support the provision of lighting to the Pétanque court at BOSC</li> </ul> <p><b>Long term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with Alton Bowling Club to replace the fencing and improve condition of the green.</li> <li>• Support Petersfield Bowling &amp; Snooker club to improve their toilet facilities where possible</li> </ul>		

### Boxing Provision in East Hampshire

There is one Boxing club registered with England Boxing in East Hampshire, Bordon ABC. The club has members from 8 years upwards and runs club sessions twice a week at Woodlands Community Hall as well as a ladies box fit sessions.

### Quality of Boxing Provision in East Hampshire

The quality of provision is standard with the club using a sports hall rather than a purpose built facility.

### Location of Boxing Facilities in East Hampshire

The only club in the area is located towards the north of the district, meaning residents in the South of the district are likely to travel to neighbouring facilities.

### Boxing Provision in Neighbouring Local Authorities

England Boxing’s Club finder lists the following clubs that are within a reasonable travelling distance of East Hampshire residents.

- Atomic ABC in Waverley to the north
- Waterlooville Boxing Club in Havant to the South

### Participation in Boxing

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate a slight increase in adult demand for boxing (including boxing fitness classes) nationally over the last year. 1.3% of adults (16+) in England participated in boxing at least twice in the last 28 days (593,900 people), this has increased from 1.1% in 2020/21, but down on previous highs of 1.7% between 2016/17 and 2018/19.

England Boxing highlights that their focus is currently on areas within the top 40% of deprivation in the country and as such East Hampshire is not a priority area for them.

Club Consultation
<p><b>Bordon ABC (Woodlands Comm Hall)</b> has approximately 215 members, with 100% coming from the district. Membership levels have grown over the last few years. The club would like to grow further but would need bigger premises. The have not identified any facility needs.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p>

Boxing Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for boxing through planning policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure facilities and equipment used for Boxing are regularly maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly review facility needs for boxing in the area with the clubs and England Boxing in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Long Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regularly review facility needs for boxing in the area with the clubs and England Boxing in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>		

## Archery Provision in East Hampshire

There are three Archery clubs in East Hampshire. Alton and Four Marks archery club who shoot outside at Four Marks Rec Ground 3 times a week from April to September, and all year round on a Sunday morning, and indoors during the winter one night a week at Alton College. Bowmen of Petersfield is based at The Petersfield School, shooting outside in the summer and using the Sports Hall in the winter and Whitehill Archers who shoot outside at the Whitehill Archery Field, with no access to indoor facilities.

All three archery clubs have concerns over the future at their venues with Alton and Four Mark Archery Club stating that nearby housing developments at Four Marks Rec. Ground may mean the club would not be able to stay there and if no alternative site was found the club would be forced to close. The Bowman of Petersfield state that availability at The Petersfield School is limited and the new layout of the facilities make it difficult to access the field and their equipment and Whitehill Archers have no security of tenure on their current facilities which they state are under treat and have no access to indoor facilities.

## Quality of Archery Provision in East Hampshire

The quality of provision for archery is standard with outdoor venues consisting of sports fields. Alton and Four Marks archery club cite issues with drainage at Four Marks Rec. Ground which gets waterlogged in the winter.

## Location of Archery Facilities in East Hampshire

There is a good spread of available clubs for residents of East Hampshire, with each major town having a club nearby. It is likely that some residents in the South may be members of Forest of Bere Bowmen as the club shoots indoors at the Clanfield Community Centre in the winter.

## Archery Provision in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Archery GB's Club finder lists the following clubs that are within a reasonable travelling distance of East Hampshire residents.

- Farnham Archers in Waverley to the North
- Forest of Bere Bowmen in Havant to the South

## Participation in Archery

The most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate archery participation has increased nationally over the last year with 25,100 people (0.1%) of adults (16+) in England participating in archery at least twice in the last 28 days, this has increased from 12,100 people in 2020/21, but down on previous highs of 38,600 people in between 2017/18.

### Club Consultation

**Alton and Four Marks Archers (Four Marks Rec. Ground)** has approximately 27 members (9 youth, 18 adult), with 90% coming from the district. Membership levels have decreased by a third over the last few years due to a lack of time available. The club would like to grow further, and host go archery sessions and two 3 week courses a year to attract new members. They have identified a need additional storage and improvements to the drainage at the recreation ground as it gets waterlogged in the winter.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 3/5 Changing facilities - 3/5

**Bowmen of Petersfield (The Petersfield School)** has 54 members (10 youth and 44 adult), with 80% coming from East Hampshire. The clubs membership levels have remained relatively stable over the last few years. They are looking to grow but finances prevent them from running additional sessions. The club would ideally like their own facility that they can use regularly throughout the year.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5

**Whitehill Archers (Whitehill Archery Field)** has seen an increase in membership in recent years, with 100% coming from East Hampshire. The club aims to grow by running beginner and coaching courses. The club has no security on their venue which they feel in under treat. They ideally would like indoor facilities to provide better disabled access.

Quality ratings - Playing surface - 4/5

**Archery Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities available for archery through planning policy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure facilities and equipment used for archery are regularly maintained.</li> <li>Provide support for archery clubs to gain security of tenure on sites where possible.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Investigate the feasibility to provide a dedicated archery range in the area that could be utilised by all clubs.</li> <li>Regularly review facility needs for archery in the area with the clubs based in the area and Archery GB in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>

**Prioritised Actions**

**Short Term**

- Provide support for archery clubs to gain security of tenure on sites where possible.

**Long Term**

- Investigate the feasibility to provide a dedicated archery range in the area that could be utilised by all clubs.

### Golf Facilities in East Hampshire.

There are 8 golf facilities in East Hampshire as detailed in figure 2.39 below.

**Figure 2.41 Golf courses in East Hampshire**

Site	Postcode	Course	Other facilities
ALTON GOLF CLUB	GU34 4BU	9x2 hole par 68	
BLACKMOOR GOLF COURSE	GU35 9EH	18 hole par 69	Large Driving range, practice nets, putting green
BLACKNEST GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	GU34 4QL	18 hole par 69 6 hole Academy Course	13 bay driving range with Top tracer, Foot golf, Disc golf, fishing
FOUR MARKS GOLF CLUB	GU34 3ES	9 hole par 62	
OLD THORNS HOTEL & GOLF COURSE	GU30 7PE	18 hole par 72	Driving range with Top Tracer, Spa and health club (Gym, studio, pool, freedom climber and tennis court)
PETERSFIELD GOLF CLUB	GU33 7QY	18 hole par 72 12 hole par 67	
ROWLANDS CASTLE GOLF CLUB	PO9 6AE	18 hole par 72	
WORLDHAM GOLF CLUB	GU34 3BF	18 hole par 72	12 bay driving range, 12 holes crazy golf, Golf Simulator, 2x padel courts

Alton Golf Club became a charitable organisation in 2012 and runs a number of charitable events. They provide financial assistance to juniors to encourage them to take up the game and to veterans and people with disabilities. They welcome visitors on a pay and play basis. Blackmoor is a members club but they hold regular get into golf open days and taster sessions including ladies only sessions. They also have a pathway programme to support people looking to get into golf.

Blacknest Golf and Country Club offer pay and play sessions for all ages and have a 6 hole par 3 academy course for beginners and those looking to improve, they have a 6 hole foot golf and disc golf course and run children's parties. The club has 5 hotel rooms and caters for large functions, weddings and conferences. Four Mark Golf Club offers pay and play sessions with no formal dress code.

Old Thorns Hotel and Golf course has 160 bedrooms, 51 apartments, a modern health club and spa. The health club includes an airconditioned gym and studio for exercise classes, a freedom climber (rotating climbing surface to stimulate experience of rock climbing), a 20 metre swimming pool and sauna, steam room and hot tub. The health club is for members or hotel guests. They also have large function facilities catering for conferences, weddings and events.

Petersfield Golf Club is a private members' club but they welcome visitors to the course. They have a juniors, ladies, men's and seniors section. The club also has a large function room for events. Worldham Golf Club provides pay and play sessions, adult and junior coaching and has a range of additional facilities including a golf simulator, crazy golf and two padel courts.

Overall, there is a good mix of types of courses and range of provision, including practice facilities, provision for beginners and juniors as well as family activities such as crazy golf and foot golf. All courses are accessible to non-members.

### Golf Facilities in Neighbouring Local Authorities

Sport England's access analysis report shows there is a number of golf facilities that are accessible for East Hampshire residents within a 20 minute journey time (Figure 2.42).

**Figure 2.42 Neighbouring facilities**

Neighbouring Facilities	Local Authority	Provision
ALRESFORD GOLF CLUB	WINCHESTER	18 hole par 69
FURZELEY GOLF COURSE	WINCHESTER	18 hole par 62
HINDHEAD GOLD CLUB	WAVERLEY	18 hole par 70
LIPHOOK GOLF CLUB	CHICHESTER	18 hole par 70
WATERLOOVILLE GOLF CLUB	HAVANT	18 hole par 72

### Quality of Golf Facilities in East Hampshire

In terms of the quality of the supply, the 'Golfshake' website provides online customer reviews; figure 2.43 shows quality ratings for formal golf courses in East Hampshire and the wider area. The overall review scores are averaged from individual scores for factors including quality of course, facilities and services, course condition, pace of play, food and drink, practice facilities and value for money. The review ratings show that the golf venues in East Hampshire have a high percentage of players (who submitted reviews) that would play them again or recommend the venue to others.

Overall ratings from the player reviews from sites in neighbouring boroughs range from between 3/5 (Furzeley Golf Club) to 4.96/5 (Hindhead Golf Club). The courses in East Hampshire are comparable to facilities in neighbouring boroughs, with the exception of Alton Golf Course which is slightly lower. The areas Alton Golf course scores lower in included practice facilities (2.6) and food and drink (3.1) compared to the course (3.9), it should also be noted the sample size is relatively small.

**Figure 2.43: Online Ratings of East Hampshire Golf Courses and Comparators<sup>7</sup>**

Club	Rating out of 5	% Would Play Again or Recommend	Sample No
<b>East Hampshire Golf Facilities</b>			
ALTON GOLF CLUB	2.88	100%	28
BLACKMOOR GOLF COURSE	4.64	100%	63
BLACKNEST GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	3.28	94%	316
FOUR MARKS GOLF BAR & RESTAURANT	3.71	100%	16
OLD THORNS HOTEL & GOLF COURSE	4.20	97%	330
PETERSFIELD GOLF CLUB	3.93	99%	142
ROWLANDS CASTLE GOLF CLUB	4.72	100%	62
WORLDHAM GOLF CLUB	3.99	99%	207
<b>Neighbouring Borough Facilities</b>			
ALRESFORD GOLF CLUB	4.30	97%	68
FURZELEY GOLF COURSE	3.00	93%	236
HINDHEAD GOLD CLUB	4.96	97%	61
LIPHOOK GOLF CLUB	4.93	100%	30
WATERLOOVILLE GOLF CLUB	4.22	97%	48

### Golf Participation

In terms of demand, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings indicate an increase in adult demand with participation at its highest with 2.2% (1,035,700) of adults (16+) in England participating in golf at least twice in the last 28 days, following a decline during the pandemic when level dipped to 1.7% in 2020/21, participation since 2015 (the first year in which survey results are available) and 2019 (the last full year before the pandemic) were very slowly declining from 2.2 to 2.1%. Similarly, research gathered by Sporting Insights (March 23) shows participation in Great Britain and Ireland has returned to growth in 2022 with 5.6 million on-course adult golfers – the second highest number since monitoring began – enjoyed playing on full length courses (9 or 18 holes).

<sup>7</sup> Source: www.Golfshake.com (Jan 2024)

England Golf feel there is a good level of golf provision within the area, with two 9 hole, six 18 hole and one 12 hole course, as well as there of the facilities offering driving range provision. Membership numbers average 479 across all sites which is strong compared with the national average of 406 members. Most clubs are targeting new audiences through coaching programmes and a wide range of membership and introductory options although four of the six 18 hole courses have membership fees significantly higher than the national average (Blackmoor, Old Thorns, Petersfield, Rowlands), which may present a barrier to anyone new to the game.

England Golf feel that all current facilities should be retained and protected to ensure no gaps in golf provision are created and opportunities should be explored to improve the mix of facilities in the area, offering more entry level style facilities for those new to the game, with a particular focus on shorter courses and driving ranges which there currently appears to be an under supply of.

Club Consultation
<p><b>Alton Golf Club</b> has approximately 200 members, with 90% coming from the district. Membership levels have grown over the last few years. The club would like to grow further and run a number of recreational activities including beginners golf, ladies day, senior and mixed activity. They have identified a need to improve the paths around the fairways to create better accessibility as well as increase their machine storage area.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 2/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p> <p><b>Rowlands Castle Golf Club</b> runs 17 teams (2x U18, 4x Adult male, 1x male vets, 6x Adult female, 2x female 50+, 2x mixed adults), with 70% coming from East Hampshire and the rest from Sussex. Membership levels have remained relatively stable over the last few years. The club is looking to grow through increased marketing. They have not identified any facility needs.</p> <p>Quality ratings - Playing surface - 5/5 Changing facilities - 4/5</p>

Golf Recommendations		
Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Council to continue to protect through planning policies the availability of a core supply of golf facilities - both traditional courses and entry-level, any proposals for development on golf course sites would require an objective and comprehensive golf needs assessment to be prepared.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Alton Golf club to improve pathways and extend their storage facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with clubs and support opportunities to offer more entry level golf provision in the district.</li> <li>Regularly review facility needs for Golf in the area with the clubs and England Golf in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support Alton Golf club to improve pathways and extend their storage facilities.</li> <li>Work with clubs and support opportunities to offer more entry level golf provision in the district.</li> </ul>		

# Sports Facility Strategy

## 3 - Conclusion



### **3 - Conclusion**

The analysis, consultation and assessment work this section has brought together highlights a number of potential facility investment needs for the Council and partners.

East Hampshire District Council has a history of supporting sport and leisure, and a commitment to improving levels of physical activity and health for their residents and communities, and the needs within this section will result in the Council making some important and key decisions over the coming years.

Given the on-going financial challenges for the public sector, it will not be possible to deliver or support all of the investment needs identified within this strategy. Section 4 of this report sets out the priority projects arising out of this strategy as well as the partners and stakeholders who are likely to be central to facilitating this change.

# East Hampshire District Council Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy 2024 – 2040

## Section 3 – Strategic Recommendations



## 3. Strategic Recommendations

### 3.1 Introduction

This section of the Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy sets out a number of overarching strategic recommendations, endorsed by the Strategy Steering Group, aimed at ensuring the on-going provision of high-quality, accessible playing pitches and built sport facilities and can meet the needs and demands of the district's current and future populations. The recommendations respond to the facility needs highlighted in Section 2 i.e., the Playing Pitch Strategy (part 1) and the Sports Facilities Strategy (part 2).

### 3.2 Planning Policy

The need to protect and enhance the existing scale of facility provision for key facility types – pools, sports halls, artificial and natural turf playing pitches, gymnastics centres and health and fitness facilities - remains similar to the findings of the previous strategy in 2018.

Given the evidence presented, the principles established in the current Local Plan Policies with respect to community, sport and recreation facilities i.e., policies CP16 (Protection and provision of social infrastructure), CP17 (Protection of open space, sport and recreation and built facilities), and CP18 (Provision of open space, sport and recreation and built facilities) - need to be maintained.

These current planning policies established in the Local Plan Joint Core Strategy for East Hampshire (2014) are set out in full at Appendix G to this document together with emerging new local plan policies set out in a Regulation 18 stage consultation draft of a new District Local Plan for 2021 – 2040 (covering those parts of the district outside the South Downs National Park) made public in January 2024.

This emerging new policy includes a specific objective (Objective C) '*..prioritising the health and well-being of communities in delivering what's needed to support new development*' including a specific reference (C4) to '*..ensure sport and recreation opportunities are available in the right location to meet current and future needs*'.

Underpinning delivery of this objective, the proposed replacement policies for the relevant Joint Core Strategy policies (CP16 to CP18) are set out in full in Chapter 8 of the new plan (and in this document at Appendix G) and cover:

- *Infrastructure to support new development (DGC1)*
- *New and improved community facilities (DGC3)*
- *Protection of community facilities (DGC4), and*
- *Provision and enhancement of open space, sport and recreation (DGC5)*

Appropriately, specific reference is made in the draft policies DGC4 (re; protection of existing provision) and DGC5 (re; new or enhanced provision) to a requirement for permitted development to comply with the findings of '*the East Hampshire Open Space, Sport and Recreation Needs and Opportunities Assessment (2018) or subsequent update.*'

The strategic recommendations of the East Hampshire District Sports Strategy Steering Group for playing pitches and sports facilities are set out in the following paragraphs. The recommendations are based on the update to the 2018 Needs and Opportunities Assessment completed in 2024 reported in this document and its appendices.

### 3.3 Protect

East Hampshire Council has undertaken a Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy and assessed existing and future needs for all provision across the district. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain the existing overall quantity of sports facilities within the district whilst recognising that the distribution of facilities may change (for example, through closure of sites of poor quality or of limited value for community sport offset by new provision). This headline finding and recommendation is also applicable when examined at the LPA level.

It is therefore recommended that, as proposed, the new Local Plan should continue to maintain a policy framework to resist granting planning permission for any development which would lead to the loss, or would prejudice the use, of a sports facility unless:

- The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a location well-related to the users of the existing facility; or
- The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss or,
- the development is for a small part of the site; where it has been demonstrated that it will result in an enhanced sport or recreational facility.

Should a current or newly created sports facility exist in East Hampshire District that is not mentioned in this Facilities Strategy and appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport or its disposal.

It is also recommended that the Council continue to work with strategic sports partners (Sport England and the National Governing Bodies of sport) to seek agreements to secure access for community sport at those sites in the district where there is existing access, but long-term access is currently unsecured (i.e. by means of Community Use Agreements).

Where sports facility sites are in the Council's ownership, the policy of securing community access through asset transfer to community clubs and/or sports associations should continue to be applied, provided that:

- I. The facilities are assessed as 'good' quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to transfer, and
- II. The transferee is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to maintain the facilities to good quality (and this forms part of any service level agreement). It is recommended that the terms of future transfer agreements include incentives for the clubs to deliver sports development outcomes (e.g. grow numbers of teams, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for under-represented groups).

It is recommended the Council continue to seek to influence the design and specification of any new education sports facilities and extensions to existing facilities to ensure their suitability for both education and community use (i.e., provided to Sport England and/or the relevant sport's national governing body design dimensions and standards as opposed to education dimensions and standards).

It is further recommended that the Council negotiates secure affordable community access as a condition of planning consent (via formal Community Use Agreements) for applications from education providers of sports facilities relating to:

- I. Extending hours of permitted use
- II. Extensions to existing sports facilities
- III. Provision of new or enhanced sports facilities

### 3.4 Enhance and Provide

It is recommended that the Local Planning Authority continue to seek the advice of appropriate sport national governing bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new sports facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for sports facilities are drafted. This to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that any maintenance plans meet any relevant Performance Quality Standards.

For all developments involving the creation of one or more residential units, contributions should be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards the delivery of 'off site' priority sports and recreation infrastructure projects as identified in the Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy in locations well-related to the proposed development. Appropriate contributions should also continue to be sought for ongoing maintenance of any new sports facilities.

The priority projects are those set out in the Action Plan current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial Action Plan is at Section 4 of this document. The priority projects include sites in private ownership and on school sites outside the Council's control. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the Action Plan along with supporting agencies.

For 'strategic scale' proposals (i.e. comprising of 600 or more dwellings), on-site provision of new sports and recreation facilities may be sought in place of securing contributions towards off-site projects identified in the District Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy. On-site provision will be promoted instead in those instances where there is no existing sports provision well-related to the proposed development that is capable of absorbing the additional demand arising from the development, and where the site is physically able to accommodate appropriate additional facilities. This process will be guided by the needs identified in the Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy. On-site provision will typically be secured via a legal agreement and contributions may be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards its delivery and maintenance.

The latest version of Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator and/or Playing Pitch Calculator planning tools should be used, as appropriate, to scope the appropriate scale and approximate costs of new provision and to provide the starting point for project specific negotiations of S106 and/or CIL developer contributions. (For example, if 500 new dwellings are proposed at an average of, say, 2.4 persons per dwelling, the additional population total to enter into the Sports Facility Calculator will be 1,200). The figure per dwelling can be adjusted based on local factors and specific development details.

It is recommended that in the case of all planning applications with implications for sports facilities (both indoor and outdoor), the latest version of Sport England's Model Planning Conditions should be used as appropriate. Current model conditions cover the following:

- I. Protection/New Provision of Sport & Recreation Facilities;
- II. Compensatory Provision, Continuity of Use and Phasing of Development;
- III. Built Design and Layout;
- IV. Playing Field Provision;
- V. Operational Matters.

It is recommended that the Council's Strategy Steering Group, comprising of membership from Sport England, Energise Me (Active Partnership) and the NGB's, should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects annually during the strategy period. In line with Sport England guidance a full review of the strategy will be required after 5 years. If no annual monitoring takes place a full review is required after 3 years.

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East Hampshire District Council  
Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy  
2024 – 2040

Section 4 – Action Plan

## Section 4 – Action Plan

This section of the strategy provides an outline draft delivery plan related to the potential development and delivery of the priority projects and facility needs for sport and recreation as set out in the previous sections.

Figure 4.1 (Playing pitches) and 4.2 (Sports Facilities) presents the projects in alphabetical order with a reference to their potential to be progressed either in the short term (defined as within 2 years approximately) the medium term (defined as within 2-5 years) or longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large-scale review of options, feasibility and viability. Figure 4.3 that follows highlights a number of sites which present opportunities for providing or extending community sports. These sites sit outside of the main action plan as further work is required to investigate relevant permission, access, suitability, and funding.

Figure 4.4 identifies those sites that are not identified either in Fig 4.1/4.2 (for enhancement or new provision) or 4.3 (opportunity sites) but are in need of protection for community sport through the planning system. The omission of any playing pitch site from this Strategy is not an endorsement by the Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.

The updates to the Action Plan should in turn inform periodic updates of the Council's priorities for investment and future decision on funding either through capital grant and / or financing and budgetary planning.

The action plan is a guide to how facilities might be developed, pending funding confirmation and planning permission where necessary, where and whom they might be developed by to meet identified demand, exploit opportunities that may arise and provide sustainable management and operational models often through engaging with either voluntary or commercial partners. A number of project proposals within the strategy are subject to design and cost analysis and for some projects feasibility testing and options appraisals.

Each potential project must be evaluated considering the current situation, as the strategy and action plan set out the position at the time of writing; so, factors on both the demand and supply side may have changed as well as the cost and viability of the project at the point when an individual project is being considered within the lifespan of this strategy. The action plan should be reviewed and adjusted on an annual basis by the Strategy Steering Group to ensure these factors are taken into consideration.

The immediate priority for East Hampshire, as with many local authorities at the time of this strategy, is to protect and continue to maintain the current level of facilities to ensure no loss of provision during the current challenging time for local authorities. The current pressures on public sector budgets alongside increasing operational costs and capital costs (for maintenance and new facilities) means East Hampshire District Council must plan prudently for future needs.

**Figure 4.1 Priorities and Actions in East Hampshire (Playing Pitches)**

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Alton School	Short	Hockey	Deliver planned floodlit sand based AGP (1 x AGP pitch)	School	EHDC / EH
Amery Hill School	Short	Hockey	Resurface existing pitch and investigate potential for securing community access	School	EHDC / EH
	Medium	Hockey	Investigate the feasibility for floodlighting the pitch		
Anstey Park	Short	Rugby	Undertake PitchPower inspection to receive maintenance recommendations and associated support.	Alton TC / EHDC	Club / RFU
	Medium	Rugby	Investigate options to install floodlights to one of the pitches	Alton TC / EHDC	Club / RFU
	Medium	Rugby	Investigate options to improve changing facilities for current players and to better accommodate women and girls provision	Alton TC / EHDC	Club / RFU
	Long	Rugby	Explore options for funding to deliver engineered drainage systems to one or more pitches	Alton TC / EHDC	Club / RFU
Bedales School	Medium	Hockey	Resurface existing pitch, improve changing facilities and investigate potential for securing community access	School	EHDC / EH
Bentley Rec	Short	Football	Complete new natural turf pitches in development. ( 2 x grass pitches, junior 11v11 and 7v7)	Bentley PC / EHDC	Club / FA
	Short	Cricket	Complete new natural turf pitch in development to provide a home ground for BACSC.	Bentley PC / EHDC	Club / ECB
	Medium	Cricket	Upgrade the NTP.	Bentley PC / EHDC	Club / ECB
	Long	Cricket	Provide new or upgraded non turf practice net systems.	Bentley PC / EHDC	Club / ECB
Binsted Rec	Short	Cricket / Football	Commission new joint ECB/FA PitchPower pitch quality assessments and deliver recommendations	Binsted PC / EHDC	FA/ ECB
	Medium	Cricket	Provide NTP (1 x NTP wicket)	Binsted PC / EHDC	ECB
Bohunt School	Short	Football	Provide a full size floodlit 3G with Community Use Agreement (1 x 11v11 3G)	School	FA
	Medium	Hockey	Investigate potential for securing access for community hockey on the existing sand-based AGP when the planned new FTP is completed on the site	School / EHDC	EH
BOSC	Short	Cricket / Football	Commission new joint ECB/FA PitchPower pitch quality assessments and deliver recommendations	WRC / EHDC	FA/ ECB
Chawton Cricket Ground	Long	Cricket	Provide new or upgraded non turf practice net systems	Club / EHDC	ECB
Churcher's College (Ramshill)	Short	Hockey	Investigate potential for securing additional community access to pitch and to changing facilities.	School / EHDC	EH
	Short	Cricket	Investigate options for community use of NTP by cricket clubs with large youth sections.	School / EHDC	ECB
Clanfield Junior School	Medium	Football	Look to refurbish old pool changing rooms to provide welfare facilities as minimum (toilets, storage and some shelter)	School / EHDC	FA
East Meon Cricket Ground	Long	Cricket	Provide new or upgraded non turf practice net systems	East Meon PC / EHDC	ECB
East Tisted Rec	Short	Cricket	Repair/upgrade the pavilion as necessary to modernise the facility and Improve security.	East Tisted PC / EHDC	Club / ECB
Eggars School	Short	Cricket	Investigate options for community use of NTP by cricket clubs with large youth sections.	School / EHDC	ECB
	Long	Hockey	Improve changing facilities	School / EHDC	EH

**Figure 4.1 Priorities and Actions in East Hampshire (Playing Pitches)**

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
Grayshott Playing Fields	Short	Cricket	Commission new joint ECB/FA PitchPower pitch quality assessments and deliver recommendations	Grayshott PC / EHDC	ECB
Hawley Fields	Long	Football	Provide welfare facilities as minimum (toilets and shelters)	Hawley PC / EHDC	FA
Headley Playing Fields	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement on existing pitches	Headley PC / EHDC	FA
	Short	Football	Complete new natural turf pitches in development or planning on field 6, finalise management arrangements and commence community access and use (+3 grass pitches, 1 x junior 11v11, 1 x 9v9, 1x 7v7)	Headley PC / EHDC	FA
	Medium	Football	Repair/upgrade the pavilion as necessary to modernise the facility and make it fit for purpose to accommodate women & girls and provide disabled access.	Headley PC / EHDC	FA
Herne Junior School	Short	Football	Investigate potential for community club access to pitches (+6 pitches, 2 x 9v9, 4 x 7v7)	School / EHDC	FA
Holt Pound Lane Oval	Long	Cricket	Reinstate cricket playing pitch and facilities	Binsted PC / EHDC	ECB
Horndean Technology College	Short	Cricket	Investigate options for community use of NTP by cricket clubs with large youth sections. Encourage College to consider reinstalling indoor cricket nets for community use.	College / EHDC	ECB
Jubilee Playing Field	Medium	Cricket / Football	Investigate options to repair/replace the unused pavilion on site to modernise the facility and make it fit for purpose to accommodate women & girls and provide disabled access.	Alton TC / EDHC	ECB / FA
Holybourne CC	Short	Cricket	Support the club to gain security of tenure on their site.	Club / EDHC	ECB
			Support the club to complete the resurface of their NTP.		
King George V Field	Long	Cricket	Provide new or upgraded non turf practice net systems	Froxfield and Privett PC / EHDC	ECB
Land East of Horndean (housing development)	Long	Football	Provide a full size floodlit 3G with Community Use Agreement to support the needs of Senior clubs in the area. (1 x 11v11 3G)	EDHC	FA
Liphook Rec. Ground	Short	Football	Deliver FA PitchPower pitch quality report recommendations for natural turf improvement	Bramshott and Liphook PC / EHDC	FA
	Long	Football	Repair/upgrade the pavilion as necessary to modernise the facility and make it fit for purpose to accommodate women & girls and provide disabled access.	Club / EHDC	FA
	Medium	Football	Investigate options to extend size of the main pitch or provide alternative suitable provision for Liphook FC to meet league requirements.	Bramshott and Liphook PC / EHDC	FA
Medstead Village Green	Long	Cricket	Repair/upgrade the pavilion as necessary to modernise the facility and make it fit for purpose to accommodate women & girls and provide disabled access.	Medstead PC / EHDC	ECB
Mill Chase Rec Ground	Short	Football	Complete drainage works to improve the condition of pitches	Whitehall TC / EHDC	FA
Oakmoor School	Short	Football	Complete new natural turf pitches in development or planning, finalise management arrangements and commence community access and use (+5 grass pitches, 2 x junior 11v11, 1x 9v9, 2x 7v7)	School / EHDC	FA

**Figure 4.1 Priorities and Actions in East Hampshire (Playing Pitches)**

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priority actions	Lead	Partners
	Short	Football	Continue discussions to ensure the school is aware of commitments under the CUA for the 3G FTP and that a sinking fund is in place for future replacement of the surface.	EHDC / FA	School
Peel Park Recreation Ground	Short	Football	Refurbish the pavilion to modernise the facility	Clanfield PC / EHDC	Club / FA
Penns Farm Playing Fields	Short	Rugby	Deliver the 2 new pitches on land to the rear of the existing pitches, complete transfer of one existing rugby pitch to football. (+ 1 non-floodlit adult rugby pitch, + 1 x adult 11v11 football pitch). Undertake PitchPower inspection to receive maintenance recommendations and associated support.	Petersfield TC / EHDC	Club / RFU
	Medium	Football	Provide welfare facilities as minimum (toilets and shelters)	Petersfield TC / EHDC	FA
	Medium	Football / Rugby	Continue to explore options and feasibility of a new outdoor sports hub to include a full size rugby compliant 3G FTP for football / rugby use (+1 x mixed use 3G)	Petersfield TC / EHDC	FA / RFU
	Medium	Rugby	Support Petersfield Rugby Club to investigate options to improve changing facilities for current players and to better accommodate women and girls provision. Discuss asset transfer of land beneath clubhouse with Petersfield Town Council.	Petersfield TC / EHDC	Club / RFU
	Long	Cricket	If second pitch cannot be provided for Petersfield Cricket Club on the Heath look to repair/ replace the pavilion as needed and invest in new non turf practice net systems	Petersfield TC / EHDC	Club / ECB
Petersfield Heath	Medium	Cricket	Investigate the feasibility to provide a second cricket facility on the Heath for Petersfield CC in place of current site at Penns Farm Playing Fields.	Petersfield TC / EHDC	Club / ECB
Petersfield Town FC	Medium	Football	Support the club to upgrade their floodlights and improve ancillary facilities suitable for their level of football.	Petersfield TC / EHDC	Club / FA
Ripsley Park	Long	Cricket	Support the club to refurbish their pavilion as necessary.	EHDC	Club / ECB
Ropley Rec	Medium	Cricket	Provide NTP (1 x NTP wicket)	Ropley PC / EHDC	ECB
Steep CC	Long	Cricket	Support the club to refurbish their pavilion to increase their capacity for teams and encourage more female players	EHDC	Club / ECB
St James, Clanfield	Short	Football	Complete new natural turf pitches in development and lease to provide security for Clanfield FC (+2 pitches, 2 x 9v9)	Clanfield PC / EHDC	Club / FA
The Petersfield School	Short	Football	Resurface the 3G FTP to ensure continued community use.	School / EHDC	FA
	Short	Cricket	Investigate options for community use of NTP by cricket clubs with large youth sections.	School / EHDC	ECB
Wield Cricket Ground	Medium	Cricket	Support club to investigate the feasibility to repair or replace the pavilion roof.	EHDC	Club / ECB
Venue to be decided	Long	Football	Provide a youth 11v11 3G in the North of the district to support the growth in population and demand from youth clubs.	EHDC	FA
Venue to be decided	Long	Football	Investigate options to provide suitable facilities to enable the Clanfield FC to play league matches in the district.	EHDC	Club / FA

**Figure 4.2 Priorities and Actions in East Hampshire (Sports Facilities)**

Site	Timescale	Facility type	Priorities/Action(s) and Associated / Estimated Cost	Lead	Partners
Anstey Park	Short	BMX Pump Track	Support the provision of floodlights to the BMX pump track.	Alton TC / EHDC	British Cycling
	Long	Skate park	Investigate the feasibility of improving the skate park facilities.		
Alton Bowling Club	Long	Bowling	Work with Alton Bowling Club to replace the fencing and improve the condition of the green.	EHDC	Club
Alton Golf Club	Long	Golf	Support Alton Golf club to improve pathways and extend their storage facilities.	EHDC	Club
Alton Sports Centre	Short	Squash	Introduce more coaching programmes within the Sports Centre in partnership with Alton Squash Academy.	EHDC / EA	England Squash
	Long	Health and Fitness	Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment.	EHDC / EA	
Bedales School	Short	Swimming	The Council to continue to liaise with Bedales School to seek to safeguard community.	EHDC	School
Binsted TC	Long	Tennis	Investigate the feasibility of improving the pavilion.	EHDC	Club / LTA
Bordon BMX Track	Short	BMX Track	Support the resurfacing of the track	Whitehill TC / EHDC	British Cycling
BOSC	Short	Pétanque	If feasible support the provision of lighting to the Pétanque court at BOSC	WRC / EHDC	Club
Churchar's College	Short	Swimming	The Council to continue to liaise with Churchar's College to seek to safeguard community access.	EHDC	College
Clanfield Bowls and Sports Club	Short	Bowling	Support the club to extend their kitchen facilities and storage space.	EHDC	Club, Hampshire Bowls
Clanfield Community Centre	Long	Health & Fitness	Investigate the feasibility of adding a gym to the Clanfield Community Centre.	EHDC, CF	
Ditcham Park School	Short	Sports Hall	Liaise with the school to discuss options to increase community use of the sports hall.	EHDC	School
Four Marks Rec. Ground	Long	Archery	Provide support for the club to ensure their future at the facility or source an alternative venue.	Four Marks PC / EHDC	Archery England
Grayshott LTC	Long	Tennis	Investigate the feasibility of providing a new clubhouse for Grayshott LTC.	EHDC	Club / LTA
Grayshott Rec. Ground	Long	Skate Park	Investigate the feasibility of improving the skate park facilities.	Grayshott PC / EHDC	
Kingsley TC	Short	Tennis	Support the centre to upgrade its lighting to LED.	EHDC	Centre / LTA
Liphook TC	Short	Tennis	Support the club to upgrade its lighting to LED.	EHDC	Club / LTA
Medstead TC	Short	Tennis	Support the club to upgrade its lighting to LED.	EHDC	Club / LTA
Newman Collard TC	Long	Tennis	Investigate the feasibility of improving accessibility and the pavilion.	EHDC	Club / LTA
Oakmoor School	Short	Sports Hall	Liaise with the school to discuss options to increase community use of the assembly hall.	EHDC	School
Petersfield Bowling & Snooker Club	Medium	Bowling	Support the club to improve their toilet facilities where possible.	Petersfield TC/EHDC	Hampshire Bowls
Rake TC	Short	Tennis	Support the club to relay the tennis court.	EHDC	Club / LTA
Steep TC	Short	Tennis	Support the club to upgrade the remaining lights to LED.	EHDC	Club / LTA
Taro Leisure Centre	Short	Squash	Explore opportunities to introduce more coaching programmes and promote Petersfield Squash club further	EHDC / EA	England Squash
	Medium		Investigate the feasibility to provide additional seating and water fountains.		

<b>Figure 4.2 Priorities and Actions in East Hampshire (Sports Facilities)</b>					
<b>Site</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Facility type</b>	<b>Priorities/Action(s) and Associated / Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>
	Medium	Swimming	Investigate options to replace the Taro Leisure Centre swimming provision with new energy efficient pools. Deliver enhanced swimming provision in the central area of the district (Taro Leisure Centre).	EHDC / EA	
	Long	Sports Hall / Netball	Consider options to replace the aged public sports hall provision at Taro LC to improve the quality and to future proof supply in the central area protecting against the risk of loss of access to the education sports halls. Ensure the provision of netball markings as part of any new/ upgraded sports hall provided at Taro LC.	EHDC / EA	England Netball
	Long	Health and Fitness	Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment.	EHDC / EA	
The Petersfield School	Short	Tennis / Netball	If feasible support the provision of floodlights on the Tennis/ Netball Courts.	EHDC	England Netball / LTA / School
	Medium	Sports Hall	Discuss options to improve the lighting at The Petersfield School	EHDC	School
Wheatley Pavilion	Short	Table Tennis	Ensure the plans for the refurbishment of Wheatley pavilion caters for the needs of Headley TTC.	Headley PC / EHDC	Table Tennis England
Whitehall and Bordon LC	Long	Health and Fitness	Plan for the future refurbishment of the council leisure facilities and equipment.	EHDC / Everyone Active	
Whitehill Archers	Short	Archery	Provide support for the club to gain security of tenure on their site.	EHDC	Archery England
Xcel Gymnastics	Long	Gymnastics	Explore the feasibility of expanding their current facility.	EHDC	British Gymnastics
Bordon area – venue to be identified	Medium	Table Tennis	Explore venue options to accommodate Table Tennis in Bordon.	EHDC	Table Tennis England
	Medium	Gymnastics	Explore options to provide recreational gymnastics provision in the Bordon area.	EHDC	British Gymnastics
	Long	Padel	Explore the feasibility of providing permanent padel courts in the area.	EHDC	LTA
Petersfield area – venue to be identified	Short	Health & Fitness	Investigate options in Petersfield to accommodate Outdoor Fitness sessions.	Petersfield TC / EHDC	
	Long	Table Tennis	Investigate the feasibility for the provision of dedicated space for Table Tennis in Petersfield.	EHDC	Table Tennis England
	Long	Climbing	Investigate the feasibility of providing a bouldering climbing facility in Petersfield.	EHDC	BMC
District wide	Long	Cycling	Deliver interventions to improve cycling infrastructure across the district as outlined in the LCWIP	EHDC	
	Long	Swimming	Investigate the feasibility to enhance the leisure water provision across the district.	EHDC / Everyone Active	

<b>Figure 4.2 Priorities and Actions in East Hampshire (Sports Facilities)</b>					
<b>Site</b>	<b>Timescale</b>	<b>Facility type</b>	<b>Priorities/Action(s) and Associated / Estimated Cost</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>
Venue to be identified	Long	Gymnastics	Explore the feasibility of providing improved gymnastic facilities for Alton Trampoline Club and Flex Gymnastics.	EHDC	British Gymnastics
	Long	Athletics	Work with England Athletics to explore the feasibility to provide a New:Gen track as part of future housing or sports facility development, consider Bordon area (Oakmoor School) or Alton.	EHDC	England Athletics
	Long	Archery	investigate the feasibility to provide a dedicated archery range in the area that could be utilised by all clubs.	EHDC	Archery England

**Figure 4.3 Opportunities for providing or extending community sports opportunities to be investigated further at the following sites, all pending funding and relevant permissions; all potential opportunities listed are dependent on the support of the site owners/operators**

Site	Timescale	Facility Type	Potential actions	Partners
Land at Bordon Garrison – Primary School	Long	Football	Ensure community use of 9v9 grass pitch as part of S106 agreement.	EHDC / Hampshire CC / Education providers
Grayshott Health Spa	Long	Tennis	Endeavour to get an agreement to reprovide the two indoor courts at the site for community use if the site is sold or developed.	EHDC / LTA

**Figure. 4.4 Other Playing Pitch Sites for Protection**

Site	Sport
Alton FC	Football
Alton Sports Centre	Football
Bentworth Cricket Ground	Cricket
Broxhead Common Cricket Ground	Cricket
Buriton Rec. Ground	Football
Churcher’s College, Penns Place	Cricket / Rugby
East Meon Village Green / Workhouse Land	Football
Five Heads Rec. Ground	Football
Fourmarks Rec. Ground	Football
Holybourne Sports Field	Football
Jubilee Hall Park	Football
Kingsley Sports Club	Cricket
Love Lane Sports Ground	Football
Newman Collard Playing field	Football
Rowlands Castle Rec. Ground	Football / Cricket
Shalden Rec Ground	Football
South Lane Meadow	Cricket
The Glebe	Football
West Liss Rec. Ground	Football

# East Hampshire District Council Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy 2024 – 2040

## Section 5 – Summary



## Section 5 - Summary

### 5.1 Summary

Throughout the development of this strategy East Hampshire District Council and key partners have continued to emphasise the importance of facilities for sport and physical activity to improve the health and wellbeing of the local population. Alongside this is the recognition of the vital contribution these facilities make to the local economy and quality of life for all residents, communities, and visitors.

Through this strategy a number of priorities have emerged for East Hampshire District Council. The Playing Pitch Strategy (Part 1) highlights a number of projects for the Council to consider and plan for. Football has grown significantly since the last strategy putting pressure on the facilities in the area. There is a need to provide additional grass pitches in the district, this includes continuing to progress the additional 12 planned pitches, making improvements to existing site and exploring community use of education sites. There is also a need for 3.5 additional 3G pitches. For cricket there is a need for two new fine turf pitches in the area as well as additional NTP's and pitch improvements to support the clubs with large junior sections. The key priority for hockey is the resurface of the pitches at Amery Hill and Bedales School as well as securing provision for club use. The rugby clubs in the area have high levels of demand for matches and training, so pitch improvements are needed to improve capacity as well as investigating the feasibility to provide a dual use rugby / football artificial pitch.

Alongside these The Sports Facilities Strategy (Part 2) empathises a number of leading sports facilities projects including investigating the feasibility of upgrading the aging leisure centre provision in Petersfield and the resurface of key tennis sites, as well as projects for athletics, gymnastics and archery. The growing (and changing) population puts pressure on the current facility stock and longer term the council should ensure they plan for the future refurbishment of health and fitness facilities and equipment.

The primary needs are clearly to protect the overall quantity, maintain the quality and secure availability for the wider community to the existing supply of sports facilities. Within East Hampshire, like many local authorities, the majority of sports halls are located on education sites and where not currently in place community use agreements need to be developed to protect future usage and extend community access where possible.

Alongside direct provision East Hampshire District Council also plays an enabling role in developing better quality facilities by engaging and empowering community organisations through the asset transfer process to independently manage and operate facilities funded through partnerships with Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport as well as other funding organisations.

As the country and the public sector, as a key provider of these essential services for leisure and physical activity, continues to recover from the pandemic, and now grapples with the rise in utilities and the cost-of-living crisis for many of its services, business and residents, the important role physical activity has in positively impacting on the health of the nation is even more evident. Investment into the future health and wellbeing of East Hampshire's residents will be impacted very positively by the priorities highlighted within this part of the strategy. This will be in the form of both protecting the current facility stock for both indoor and outdoor sport as well as investing in improved and new facilities where the opportunities arise.

East Hampshire District Council has always recognised and must continue to do so, despite the ongoing challenges, the importance of protecting and investing in accessible and sustainable community sports facilities which play a critical role in providing activities and opportunities and improving the lives and wellbeing of all of their residents.