

HARLOW COUNCIL

Sport Facilities and Playing Pitches Assessment and Strategies

Part 2: Built Facilities Strategy

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SECTION 1: THE PURPOSE OF THE STRATEGIES

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

- Part 1: Background and context
- Part 2: Built facilities strategy
- Part 3: Playing pitch strategy

1.2 Harlow Council requires a Sports Facilities Strategy for the purpose of ensuring appropriate opportunities exist for residents to lead physically active and healthy lifestyles that contribute towards their overall wellbeing both now and in the future. This will inform the emerging Local Plan and guide requirements that will arise from new housing both within the district and developments around its borders in the neighbouring districts of East Hertfordshire, Epping Forest and Uttlesford. This will help Harlow Council to achieve its five priorities for the next five years:

- More and better housing - tackling the housing need of Harlow residents, both in quantity, affordability, range and quality.
- Regeneration and a thriving economy - regenerating Harlow and supporting a thriving economy that benefits all the people of Harlow. Working with our partners in local and national Government, the community and the private sector to create an infrastructure that is appropriate for sustainable growth.
- Wellbeing and social inclusion - working with partners to support people living happy healthy lives, and getting along with one another.
- A clean and green environment - an attractive, clean, green and sustainable environment to be enjoyed by all.
- Successful children and young people - engaging young people and actively promoting opportunities.

1.3 Harlow Council will use its strategic leadership to ensure that the resources that are available to deliver the strategy priorities are used in the most cost effective and efficient way.

1.4 This draft report specifically includes the assessment of the following facilities. Some of these facility types are strategic in nature and some may require cross boundary discussions and agreement between Harlow and its adjacent authorities in order to take account of the planned growth over the boundaries of Harlow.

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

- Sports halls (3+ badminton courts)
- Swimming pools

- Health and fitness
- Indoor bowls
- Indoor tennis
- Squash
- Table tennis
- Gymnastics

1.6 The outdoor sports which are addressed are:

- Athletics
- Golf
- Outdoor bowls
- Outdoor tennis (as part of the tennis section)
- Netball
- Multi use games areas

SECTION 2: ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

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

Harlow within the sub-region

- 2.2 A key theme throughout this assessment is the cross-border movement of people to take part in sport. As Harlow is a large town which acts as the strategic centre, there are a significant number of key sports facilities within and close to the town which attract users from a wide area. There are also some sports facilities outside of the town which could never be provided within the environment of Harlow itself, largely because they use extensive natural resources.
- 2.3 With the planned Sustainable Urban Extensions (SUEs) inside and adjacent to Harlow (Greater Harlow), this cross-boundary movement of people will become increasingly important. The planning of the sports facility network therefore needs to consider both the needs of the communities inside the Harlow boundary and those within the adjacent SUEs.
- 2.4 A summary from the adjacent authorities' strategies and the implications by facility type are reviewed within this report within each section.

Sub areas for the strategy

- 2.5 Harlow is a compact authority and the off-peak travel time is no more than about 20 minutes across the authority in any direction. The feedback from the clubs, both using built facilities and playing pitches, shows that people travel across the whole of Harlow to take part. No sub areas are therefore used in either the built facilities strategy or in the playing pitch strategy. This approach has been agreed with the steering group for the strategies.

Methodology

- 2.6 The assessment of each facility type draws on a number of different elements:
- The findings from the site audits, including an assessment of the used capacity of the facilities and management considerations;
 - The theoretical demand for facilities based on various modelling tools;
 - The results of consultation;
 - Issues associated with facility quality, accessibility for the community etc;
 - The future population characteristics;
 - The Council's policies on participation, and sports development objectives;
 - The resources which may be available to meet the future requirements;

- National governing body strategic requirements;
- The network of facilities and housing growth, particularly for the Greater Harlow area.

2.7 As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations will need to be kept under review. An annual update is appropriate, but a more detailed and full review should be undertaken within 5 years. Details of the methodology are provided in Appendix 1.

Applying CIL and S106

- 2.8 Harlow has not yet adopted the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) so the contributions of developers towards the sports infrastructure is through the well established planning policy approach known as “S106” arrangements. The justification of developers’ contributions through S106 must adhere to the NPPF which states that “assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area and information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required”. This strategy fulfils this function, and identifies both the specific needs, and the costs of projects where known. The contributions from developers may be on or off-site.
- 2.9 The request for developer contributions must also meet the three CIL tests; fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development. The scale of the contributions from a specific housing development under S106 must therefore be based on the amount of anticipated demand for specific sports facilities which is expected to be generated by the housing scheme.
- 2.10 In some instances, usually in the largest housing schemes, this assessment will lead to a requirement for new provision on site which should be suitable land at no cost, for example for new football pitches with their ancillary facilities.
- 2.11 On some sites where there is sufficient capacity in the locality already to absorb the new demand, but there is a need for investment to improve the quality of existing facilities e.g. improvements to a changing pavilion, pitch quality, or the resurfacing of tennis courts, then the developers’ contributions will be expected to be allocated towards these improvements.

Future proofing the strategy

- 2.12 This report has only been able to take account of the anticipated housing to date within and adjacent to Harlow (the “Greater Harlow” area), but the details of the housing sites and SUEs are still to be confirmed.
- 2.13 It is therefore essential to future-proof the strategy to the new housing developments to be assessed, and appropriate provision made, either on or off-site as required. This is critical for both a true assessment of the viability of a site and

for the provision to be included within the master planning of a site at its earliest stages.

- 2.14 Where provision is expected to be made on-site, then the land should be made available at no cost for the required community sports facilities. The “standards of provision” for each facility type provide the tool to help determine the amount of demand that will arise from the development.

Summary

- 2.15 The findings and recommendations in the sports facility strategy are derived from: the site audits; the results of theoretical modelling; anticipated changes in the population; trends in participation in sport and recreation; priorities and issues in relation to increasing participation; feedback from consultation; and the implications of the new National Planning Policy Framework in relation to cross-boundary working and its practicalities. The sports facility future requirements have been identified in the strategy, but the delivery and the priorities for investment necessarily reflect the realistic deliverability of projects.

SECTION 3: THE SPORTS AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY FACILITY NETWORK

- 3.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the built facility network in Harlow. There is one main leisure centre, Harlow Leisurezone, which is owned and managed by the Harlow and District Sports Trust (The Trust). The other main sports facilities are located on school sites or at sports clubs.
- 3.2 Harlow Leisurezone was opened in 2010 and has:
- 25m x 8 lane main pool with spectator seating for 300
 - 20 m x 3 lane teaching pool (160 sq m)
 - 8 badminton court sports hall with options for spectator seating and marked out for badminton, basketball, football and netball and designed to national club standard for badminton, basketball and trampolining
 - 2 court indoor tennis centre of traditional design
 - 150 + station health and fitness gym
 - 3 studios including one spinning studio
 - 4 glass backed squash courts
 - Climbing wall
 - Health spa
 - Café
 - Nursery/crèche
 - Physiotherapy suite
 - Harlow Health Resource Centre incorporating meeting rooms and conference facilities for up to 100 delegates
 - Hair salon
 - Science and technology gallery (The Time Machine)
- 3.3 The Trust has confirmed that most of the users of Harlow Leisurezone are from Harlow and that the most strongly growing demand is for fitness facilities. The centre runs a membership scheme but also offers pay and play access to the all of the facilities at an additional £2 for facilities other than swimming which is an additional £1. The Trust offers a off-peak discount to holders of Harlow Council's Leisure Card.
- 3.4 Indoor play and use of the climbing wall have also increased and there is an active basketball club. However, there is falling demand for badminton, squash, tennis and football. The indoor tennis courts are now largely used for fitness activities. The Trust reports that the centre is particularly busy between 10.00-11.00 am due to a high number of shift workers, older people and use by the unemployed. The pool is used by the Harlow Penguins Swimming Club.
- 3.5 Harlow Leisurezone is operated by Harlow and District Sports Trust, an independent charitable trust. It is not required to provide any usage information to Harlow Council. There are therefore no KPIs or other information which show the

throughput of the different facilities at the centre, or the types of use of the different facilities. The management subsidy previously provided to date to the Trust by Harlow Council ended in March 2017.

- 3.6 Harlow Leisurezone does not offer a GP referral scheme but is a delivery partner for Healthy Harlow which is a weight management referral scheme delivered in partnership with Active Harlow, Harlow Council and Anglia Community Enterprise (ACE).

Schools

- 3.7 The type and quality of sports facilities available for community use varies across the schools in Harlow. This review focuses on secondary school facilities, as these schools generally were built with, or have developed, dedicated sports facilities and playing fields and provide the best opportunities for community use. Primary school sites provide some opportunities for activities that can take place in a hall setting, such as exercise classes, but do not generally provide sports facilities appropriate for community based sports specific activities.
- 3.8 A summary of the school facilities available for community use in Harlow is given in Figure 1. All of the facilities are managed either in-house by the schools themselves or via a letting agent.
- 3.9 The key findings across the schools are:
- The three 4 court sports halls which are open for community use at peak time are operating at very high levels of used capacity; Burnt Mill, Mark Hall, Passmores all reporting close to or at 100%.
 - The 3G pitches at Mark Hall and Passmores are fully used at peak times from September to April.
 - The swimming pool at Stewards has full community use programme, open weekday evenings and Saturdays, and offering junior and adult swimming lessons, sub-aqua club sessions, aqua aerobics and casual swimming on Thursday evening for an hour.
 - Other than for Mark Hall, the health and fitness provision at schools has no public access.
 - Grass pitches are generally not available to the community, but the exceptions are regular community use at Mark Hall and Passmores and occasional bookings at Stewards.
 - The schools all manage their own facilities.
 - There are no formal community use agreements in place for the facilities.
 - There are no subsidies to support community use.
- 3.10 The schools generally have no community use agreements which ensure the long term security of use, but they are important in the network of provision. Harlow Council does not own the land on which schools are situated and cannot require the existing schools to enter into such agreements.

- 3.11 The recommendations in the facility specific sections and in the action plan seek to address issues which do, or may, impact on the community use of facilities. The lack of formal community use agreements seems unlikely to be overcome. Such agreements can however be achieved where there is capital investment from a public body or via a grant, and / or long term revenue commitments from similar organisations. Except in these cases, formal community use agreements tend to be a burden on the schools and they are therefore unwilling to enter into new long term binding agreements.
- 3.12 However even where schools have no legal agreements over long term community use, it is assumed that the current community use arrangements will continue, and no school facilities are identified as being specifically under threat, but there the level of risk of closure is high in some cases. These are identified in the relevant report sections.

Figure 1: Summary of schools in Harlow

School	Facilities	Availability & Use	Price	Comments
Burnt Mill Academy	Grass Pitches 2 youth 11v11 1 rugby Sports Hall 4 badminton courts Health and Fitness Gym Swimming pool	No public access Mon-Fri evenings Sat - 9am to 2pm Sun - closed No public access Limited access to swim club and for independent swimming lesson providers. Open for very limited hours Mon-Sat. Closed Sundays. Total of 10 hours.	£27ph - whole hall only	Almost 100% use Wed 5pm to 6pm available. Limited, pre-booked casual access - mostly block bookings Used by Harlow Penguins learn to swim programme and other providers.
Kingsmoor Academy Primary	No facilities currently open to the community			Considering converting an open air disused swimming pool to another facility, possibly hall or 3G pitch which may be made available for community use.

Mark Hall Academy Sports Centre	Grass Pitches 3 adult football 2 youth football (9v9) 2 mini-soccer (7v7) 1 rugby	Available Sat-Sun 9am - 5.00pm	Langley FC pay £4,500 per season for 1 adult, 2 youth and 2 mini pitches. Other Sunday League clubs pay £800 per season for adult pitches, or £50 per game.	Full capacity on all pitches
	3G	Available Mon-Fri evenings 4.30pm - 9.30pm Sat-Sun 9am - 2.00pm	Adult ¼ pitch £42.50 Adult ½ pitch £85 Adult full pitch £127.50 U18 ¼ pitch £30.50 U18 ½ pitch £61 U18 full pitch £91.50	100% used capacity evenings and weekends Sept - Apr. Some spare capacity at other times.
	Sports Hall 6 badminton courts	Available Mon-Fri 7am - 9.30pm Sat 8am-3pm Sun 8am-6pm	Badminton court (member)£8 Badminton court (non-member) £12 Half-hall (member)£24 Half-hall (non-member) £36 Whole hall (member)£48 Whole hall (non-member) £72	100% used capacity evenings and weekends Sept - Apr. Some spare capacity at other times. Some community use throughout school day.
	Health and Fitness Gym	Available to members Mon-Fri 7am - 9.30pm Sat 8am-3pm Sun 8am-6pm	Membership £34.50/month Adult £27.50/month Corporate £22.50/month Concession £17.50/month PAYG £5/session	350 - 375 members. 80% used capacity at peak times.

	Athletics Track	Available Mon-Fri evenings 4.30pm - 9.30pm Sat-Sun 9am - 2.00pm	Member £2.50 non-member £4.50	Used every evening by clubs/groups. There are problems with the curb on inside of track and outside lane quality.
	Tennis & Netball Courts	Available Mon-Fri evenings 4.30pm - 9.30pm Sat-Sun 9am - 2.00pm	£12/hour without lights £14/hour with lights	Used only for Netball. Summer and Winter leagues.
Passmores Academy	Grass Pitches Youth 11v11 football 1 youth 9v9 1 rugby	No public access		
	3G Pitch	Available for full pitch and 1/3 hire Evenings and weekend	£35ph for 1/3 £105ph for full pitch	School reports over 90% use at public times
	Sports Hall 4 badminton courts	Available Mon-Fri evenings until 10am Sat & Sunday 9 to 6pm	£40ph - whole hall only	School reports hall is fully booked with no space available. Mostly club bookings
	Health and Fitness	No public access		
St. Mark's West Essex Catholic School Academy	Grass Pitches 1 adult football/rugby Depending on season	No public access		
	Sports Hall 4 badminton courts	No public access		

Other sites

Norman Booth Centre

3.13 This site has 3 badminton courts which were built 1986 and are therefore below the minimum “standard sports hall” size, but it has a semi-sprung floor and lighting suitable for table tennis. The viewing area is suitable for meetings etc. The centre is aging but is well-maintained. The centre is owned by Harlow Council but the BATTs Table Tennis Club took it on in 2006 as part of an asset transfer arrangement under a long term lease. The centre is now one of English Table Tennis Association’s Talent Development Centre, and the centre now has a full time coach. The centre is managed and run by volunteers.

3.14 Activities other than table tennis at the centre include:

- Football
- Short mat bowls
- Badminton
- Short tennis
- Karate
- Volleyball (introductory)
- Tai chi
- Fitness

3.15 The centre appears to be almost fully booked Mon-Friday evenings at peak time, Saturdays 0800-17.00, and Sundays 09.00-22.00, all of which are club or organised sessions such as GP exercise referral.

Paringdon Sports and Social Club

3.16 The Paringdon Sports and Social Club is open 06.00-22.00 Monday-Thursday, 06.00-21.00 Fridays, and 08.00-19.00 weekends. The facility is available on a membership-only basis, other than for attendance at community based interventions which are provided by Harlow Council. It has:

- 1 x 17m x 9m hall
- 3G AGP (36 x 36 m)
- 1 x squash court
- 1 x outdoor netball/basketball court
- 2 x macadam tennis courts (not floodlit)
- Weights room
- Cardio room (including spinning and rowing) (30 stations)
- 1 x fitness studio
- 1 x boxing room
- Bar and function rooms

Commercial facilities

- 3.17 In addition to these facilities there are a small number of commercial health and fitness sites, both at stand alone sites and within hotels. These are listed in the relevant section of the report.

SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

- 4.1 Sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport because they are able to provide a venue for many different activities. At the present time none of the sports halls are owned or managed by Harlow Council. The recommendations for future provision include the potential development of new leisure centres where Harlow Council may decide to adopt a stronger role in direct delivery.

Sports hall design and activities

- 4.2 Nationally sports halls are used for a wide range of sports and activities (see Figure 2), some of which are common and others which are less so. It should be noted that this average usage will not reflect the programming of every site in Harlow, as the programming varies depending upon the nature of a site and any specialisms, for example the Norman Booth centre and its focus on table tennis.

Figure 2: Most popular sports hall activities

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

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

- 4.3 The main tool for assessing the trends in activity to date has been the Active People Survey (APS) of Sport England (Sport England, 2016), now replaced by the Active Lives Survey. The national trends in the main hall sports over the period 2005/06 –

2015/16, have been a fall in participation in badminton, basketball, and football, a steady situation for volleyball, but an increase in netball. The information about the trends in hall sports below this national level are not available or are too statistically unreliable for it to be of value in this strategy. The national trends are therefore assumed to be reflected by the local situation in Harlow.

- 4.4 Sport England regularly reviews its parameters behind the FPM model, and the December 2015 report (Sport England and sportscotland, 2015) suggests that, on average sports halls have the following programming, see Figure 3.

Figure 3: National average programming

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

- 4.5 The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is by the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. However, it is recognised that there is extensive use of these types of facility by a wide range of other sports including basketball, volleyball, handball etc. Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least 3+ badminton court size, and with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. This is therefore the minimum size of hall considered in this section of the report.
- 4.6 A spread of 4 court halls is often the most effective way of achieving the greatest accessibility for general community use. However, the space required for many indoor team games exceeds the space provided by a standard 4 court hall and in general terms the higher the standard of play, the larger the space required. At higher levels of performance the playing area is usually the same size but increased safety margins and clear height may be required, as well as additional space requirements for spectators, teams and officials during competitions. Larger halls i.e. 6 plus courts are therefore able to accommodate higher level training and/or competition as well as meeting day to day needs.
- 4.7 Larger halls (6 plus badminton courts) may also provide the opportunity for more than one pitch/court which increases flexibility for both training and competition. The table in Appendix 2 is from the Sport England Design Guidance Note on Sports Hall Design and Layouts (2012) (Sport England, 2012) and identifies the hall size required to accommodate a range of sports at different levels of play. This updates previous guidance. There is also now a strong recommendation for a slightly larger size 4-court hall for schools, to enable more community use as well as more

flexibility for education. The new minimum size for 4-court halls in the Sport England guidance is 34.5m x 20.0m x 7.5 m, rather than the previous standard of 33m x 18m x 7.5 m.

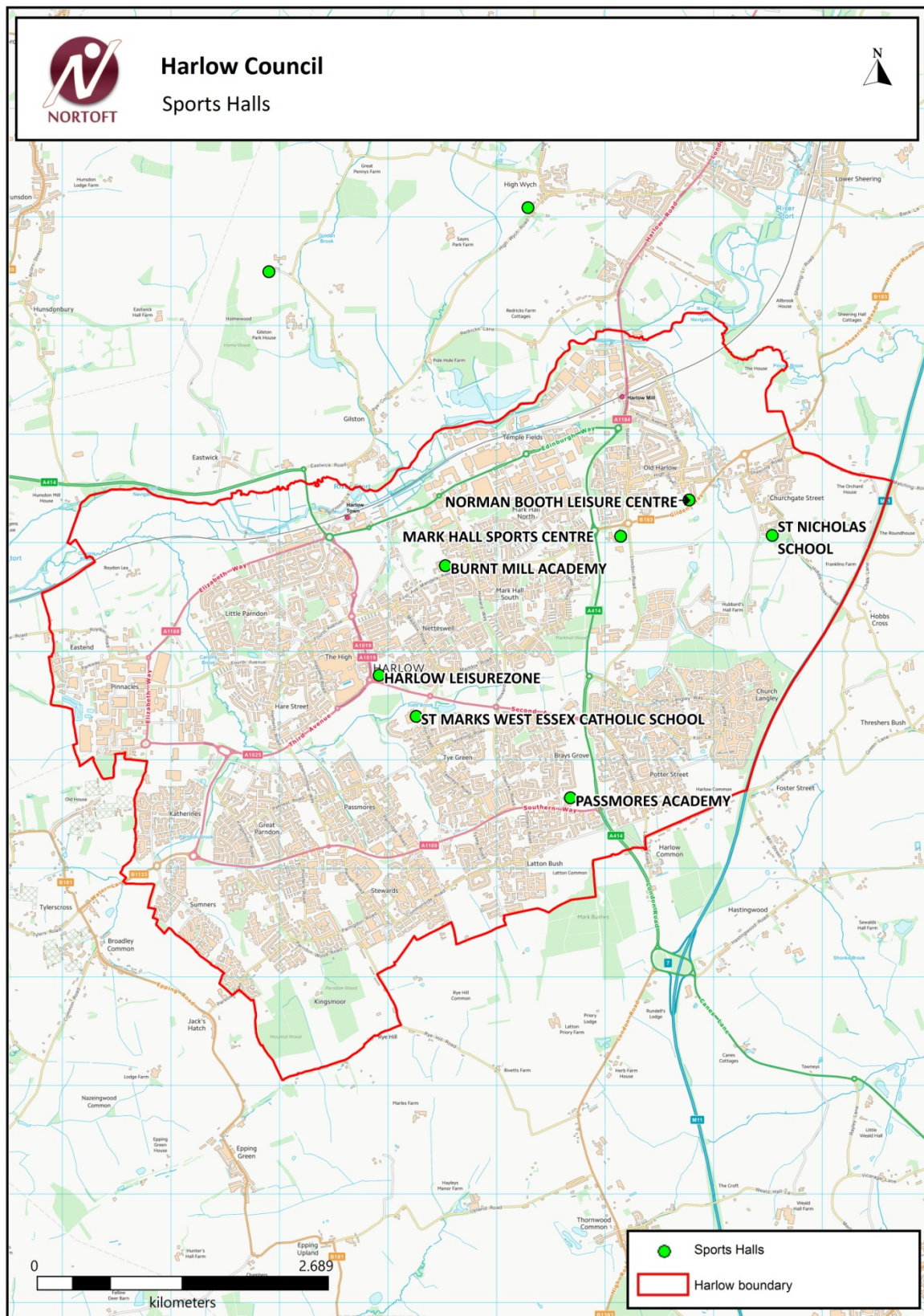
Current provision

- 4.8 There are 6 sports halls in Harlow with community use. These are listed in Figure 4 and mapped in Figure 5. There are two large sports hall facilities, the 8 court hall at Harlow Leisurezone and the 6 court hall at Mark Hall. There are 4 court halls with community access at Burnt Mill, Passmores, and St Nicholas School. There is one small size 3-court hall with community access at the Norman Booth centre.
- 4.9 The peak period for sports halls as identified by Sport England in their Facilities Planning Model report of 2016 are:
- | | |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Monday-Friday | 09.00-10.00, 17.00-22.00 |
| Saturday | 09.30-17.00 |
| Sunday | 09.00-14.30, 17.00-19.30 |
| Total number of hours at peak time | 45.5 hours |
- 4.10 Sport England expect that 62% of the sports hall use will take place during these hours, the peak period, based on the research behind their Facilities Planning Model.
- 4.11 Four of the six sites open for community access have at least some pay and play opportunities. Of the sites, there is community access during the daytime to Harlow Leisurezone, Mark Hall and Norman Booth.
- 4.12 The hire charges for the 4 court sports halls vary from about £25.00 per hour at the St Nicholas School and Burnt Mill up to £40.00 at Passmores. The two larger halls are charged out at £48.00 for members at Mark Hall (6 courts) £81.40 for Harlow Leisurezone (8 courts) at peak time.
- 4.13 The hall at St Mark's West Essex Catholic School has 4 courts. The quality is poor and the facility is not currently hired for community use. There may be some interest in hiring in the future, but this would need investment in the facility to improve its quality. Any investment would however need to be linked to formalising community use through a legal agreement with the investing parties.
- 4.14 Sumners Recreation Centre has a 3 court sports hall, but this is exclusively used by the gymnastics club and is not available for general community hire. It does not therefore appear in the sports hall list, but is addressed under the gymnastics section.

Figure 4: Sports halls 3+ courts - current provision

Site Name	Number of Badminton Courts	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Hours available in peak period	Estimate of used capacity at peak time during hours open from audit
Burnt Mill Academy	4	Academy	Sports club/community association but some limited pay and play	Academy	Mon-Fri:18.00-22.00 Sat: 09.00-14.00 Sun: closed	100%
Harlow Leisurezone	8	Harlow and District Sports Trust	Pay and play	Trust	All	95%
Mark Hall Academy Sports Centre	6	Academy	Pay and play	Academy	Mon-Fri: all Sat: 08.00-15.00 Sun: all	100%
Norman Booth Centre	3	Harlow Council (long term lease to BATT)	Sports club/community association	Sport Club	Mon-Fri: all Sat & Sun: all	100%
Passmores Academy	4	Academy	Sports club/community association but some limited pay and play	Academy	Mon-Fri: 18.00-22.00 Sat & Sun: all	90%
St. Mark's West Essex Catholic School Academy	4	Academy	Private		n/a	n/a
St Nicholas School	4	Independent School	Sports club/community association	Academy	Mon-Fri: 19.00-21.00	40%

Figure 5: Sports Halls (3+ courts) map



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Assessment of current supply/demand

- 4.15 All of the sports hall facilities were audited. The headline emerging from the site visits are that all of the sports halls are running at over 90% used capacity, with the exception of St Nicholas independent school, which is used at around 40% of its capacity, but is only available for hire for 10 hours during the peak period. However this is an independent school where community use is not likely to be able to be increased.
- 4.16 This overall rate of use of the sports halls across Harlow is higher than the rate which the theoretical Facilities Planning Model suggests.
- 4.17 The sports hall list above includes the Norman Booth Centre which falls below the minimum size of hall (3 courts) considered by the FPM, but as it provides an important hall facility in Harlow both for table tennis and for a range of other activities, it is included in this assessment. The FPM however includes in error, a 3 court hall at Stewards Academy, the hall on this site is only one badminton court in size.
- 4.18 The size of Harlow and the location of the facilities means that everyone with access to a car can reach a hall facility within 20 minute drive time.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 4.19 Only a small number of clubs using halls responded to the survey, and a summary of the individual responses is given below. The responses included here cover all the hall and activity room type activities, not just those that require a minimum of a 3+ badminton court hall. The activities using smaller spaces are included because they could also be accommodated in the larger halls.

Harlow Netball Association

- 4.20 This club uses Harlow Leisurezone as its home. This is a senior club with about 250 members drawn mainly from Harlow (65%) but with about 15% coming from East Hertfordshire, 10% from Uttlesford and 5% each from Epping Forest and Broxbourne. The club has a 3+ year waiting list of around 5-10 people. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but anticipates growing in the next 5. The main issue affecting the expansion of the club is the access to facilities/lack of facilities.
- 4.21 The club uses the sports hall one or two times a week on weekday evenings and finds the facility always easy to book. The facility is generally good but the fact that

the posts were are not sunk when it was constructed is a significant issue. The only other problem is the need for the car park to be kept open slightly longer at night.

Epping Archers

- 4.22 Epping Archers have their indoor training at Great Parndon Community Association's 2 court hall on Monday evenings throughout the year. The club has about 75 members of all ages but the majority are juniors and seniors. The club members travel up to 30 minutes but the minis tend to live closer, within 10 minutes drive. The membership is drawn from a wide area with about 56% coming from Harlow, 15% from Epping Forest, 10% from Broxbourne and 15% from elsewhere. The club currently has a small waiting list for each of the age groups, of up to 10 people, and the wait is between 4 and 8 months.
- 4.23 The most important issues impacting upon the growth of the club are a lack of volunteers and access to facilities/lack of facilities. The club's return flags that there is a threat to the facilities currently used, both at Great Parndon and at North Weald airfield, but there is no further information about the Great Parndon issues.
- 4.24 The club's use of the Great Parndon Abercrombie Centre is for both matches and training. This is year round once or twice a week on weekday evenings. The facility is easy to book and is the club's preferred location. The hall is adequate for the club's needs in terms of size but the ventilation is poor, and there is a "constant threat of vandalism". The hall storage is inadequate and is a key factor why the club cannot expand further. The outside lighting is also inadequate.
- 4.25 The North Weald Airfield in Epping Forest District is a local authority facility and is used for both matches and training. The future of this site is however uncertain as the local authority has indicated that this will be a site for development.

Shinseikyu Karate Academy

- 4.26 This is a large club operating out of Paringdon Sports and Social Club. It currently has about 195 members, a large majority of which are minis, but there are about 15 juniors and 10 seniors and 5 veterans. The minis and junior travel up to 20 minutes to the club but the seniors travel for up to 30 minutes. Almost all of members come from Harlow. The club has increased in the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow. It does not have any waiting list and the issues affecting its expansion include a lack of coaches, access to facilities/lack of facilities and the facility hire cost.
- 4.27 The club uses a converted squash court at Paringdon Sports and Social Club for which the club has a long term lease (20+ years). It is used year round 3-6 times a week. The changing facilities are described as below average, but the other ancillary facilities are high quality. However, the club is looking for a purpose-built dojo or converted sports facility.

All Ability Sports and Leisure

- 4.28 This is mainly a club for people with disabilities which currently has about 80 members; 15 minis, 25 juniors, 35 seniors, 5 veterans. A large majority of the members come from Harlow with a small number coming from the surrounding areas. The membership has decreased over the last 5 years but expects to grow in the next 5. The club does not have a waiting list. The club feels that it needs a paid member of staff to support the club including for marketing, volunteer support and recruitment of members.
- 4.29 The club uses Mark Hall Sport Centre sports hall for boccia and wheelchair basketball year round once or twice a week during weekends. The facility is fairly easy to book and is the preferred location. The club is also in partnership with Harlow Athletic Club to offer athletics, again based at the school on the athletics track. Mark Hall is generally considered to be good quality.
- 4.30 The club also uses Stewards' sports hall for judo and multi-activities, and the pool there for training once-twice a week on weekday evenings. They consider the facility to be good quality.

South East Martial Arts

- 4.31 This club has just closed. It previously used one of the studios at Harlow Leisurezone. The club was small and its membership has fallen over the past 5 years. The issues facing the club were the cost of facilities, a lack of funding and the recruitment of members. The club was struggling to cover the costs of facility hire and felt that it was not advertised sufficiently via Harlow Leisurezone. About 40% of the members were from Harlow, with 20% from Broxbourne and 40% from elsewhere.
- 4.32 The club had used Harlow Leisurezone once or twice a week year round at weekends, and it found booking easy. The facility was considered very good.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 4.33 The National Governing Bodies were invited to provide a strategic overview of their sports in relation to Harlow, but none have responded with specific statements for Harlow. The following are therefore generic and the points are drawn from the national strategies.

Badminton

- 4.34 Badminton England's National Facilities Strategy 2012-16 (Badminton England, 2012) provides the framework for investment priorities. Any potential grant aid support from Badminton England would be linked to increasing adult rates of participation, and their grants are usually for less than £100,000.

Basketball

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

Football Association

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

Netball

- 4.39 Netball is traditionally played on outdoor courts with educational sites being the most highly used. However there is increasing demand for indoor facilities as the average recreational netballer prefers to play indoors and there is a requirement for performance programmes to be based at high quality indoor venues. Netball is a non-asset owning sport and access to facilities can be a real challenge. The quality of the facilities can also affect the customer experience and affect participation levels if not given sufficient thought.
- 4.40 The national average rate of provision is 1 indoor court for every 12,000 adult females. The England Netball Facilities Factsheet for Essex (unpublished) concludes that across the county there is a similar rate of provision of outdoor courts as the national average, but that the rate of provision of indoor courts is lower. The list of the most important venues included within the factsheet does not include any facilities within Harlow.
- 4.41 Known clubs operating in Harlow other than the Harlow Netball Association based at Harlow Leisurezone are the Crosskeys Netball Club which use Mark Hall on two weekday evenings, and Tegate Netball Club use the same site one evening a week.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 4.42 A review of the sports hall provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. These findings are from the adopted strategies but recent housing proposals will require the strategies to be reviewed in the next few years. In summary:

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** The strategy for East Herts identifies that one of the areas with the least good access to sports halls and of relevance to Harlow is around Sawbridgeworth. A high proportion of the sports hall provision is on school sites, which has a major impact on the accessibility of such facilities during the school day. The authority is currently reviewing its role in relation to the public sports facilities, but no decisions are expected until later in 2017.
- **Future needs:** There will be a need for some additional provision to meet the anticipated growth in East Herts. The Gilston Area is proposed to have two secondary schools, and it is proposed that one of these should be developed as a joint use leisure centre, with both sports hall and swimming pool. The other sports hall proposals are further away from Harlow, so are less relevant.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Given the cross-boundary movement of users, it is important that the facilities in Harlow and East Herts are strategically planned and effectively co-ordinated. This will be particularly important in relation to the Gilston Area proposed leisure centre.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The most recent sports facilities assessment in 2012 identified that existing six existing sports halls meet all current needs, although there is no effective spare capacity.
- **Future needs:** One additional sports hall will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** Sports halls in Uttlesford are currently operating at 'Comfortable Capacity' and there is no effective spare capacity to accommodate additional use.

Levels of provision are poorest in the Great Dunmow sub-area adjacent to Harlow. According to Sport England's Facilities Planning Model, 25.9% of Uttlesford demand for sports halls is exported to neighbouring areas, including Harlow.

- **Future needs:** With all current effective capacity fully used and no realistic prospect of increasing access to existing facilities, additional demand by 2031 will need to be met by two new four-badminton court-sized facilities.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Some demand from the south of Uttlesford is exported to Harlow at present and this will increase unless additional sports hall provision is made.

4.43 In summary, there are some import/export of sports hall users across the boundaries of Harlow, particularly to Harlow Leisurezone and Mark Hall. Given this, it will be essential for effective cross-boundary planning of sports facilities to ensure that the sports facility demand associated with the growth in the Greater Harlow area is effectively met.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sport development

- 4.44 The Market Segmentation findings suggest that sports halls will only attract limited use from the largest market segment groups for adults in Harlow but this is mainly for keep fit/gym (Sport England, 2017). This suggests that the level of demand for this type of facility will not increase on average beyond the 0.5% per annum rate of participation over the period up to 2029.
- 4.45 Sports halls remain however one of the primary sports facilities for community activity because they can provide a venue for many different activities. This facility type therefore is and will remain one of the most important for the district up to 2029.

Facilities Planning Model

- 4.46 Sport England undertakes a "national run" of each facility type early in the calendar year and makes the results available to inform local authority strategy work. The findings can generally be considered a useful guide to the supply and demand for sports halls in Harlow.
- 4.47 The table in Figure 4 above includes the current number of hours that each facility is available in the peak period (weekday evenings and weekends). Opening hours information is used by the Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to help determine the balance in the demand for sports hall space and its supply, however it is important to note that the opening hours for some facilities, particularly for

halls in school sites, can change fairly quickly, so the FPM can only be a snapshot in time. The FPM also considers the extent of cross-border movement, which is important for the Harlow.

- 4.48 The table in Figure 6 highlights some of the most important sports hall parameters used in the model. This identifies the number of hours that facilities are expected to be open to cover the “peak period”, what the “peak period” is, and how long people are usually willing to travel to a sports hall i.e. the catchment.

Figure 6: Facilities Planning Model key parameters halls 2016

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

- 4.49 The main findings from the Sport England FPM report for sports halls are summarised below. However these need to be considered in the light of the findings from the audit stage of this strategy, and in particular the inclusion in the FPM of a 3-court hall at Stewards Academy in addition to the 1 court hall. However not included in the FPM is the hall at Norman Booth which is just below 3 courts in size but has a full range of activities in addition to being a home for table tennis. The two facilities will therefore largely balance out in terms of the FPM analysis.

- There are about 31 courts available at peak time for community use in Harlow, which gives a current rate of provision of 0.36 courts per 1,000 population.

- There is current demand for around 24 courts at peak time from the residents of Harlow in isolation, so this give the appearance of there being a surplus of supply.
- About 94% of the potential demand for sports hall space is currently met, either by facilities within the district or by facilities in the neighbouring authorities. This is higher than either the national or regional averages.
- About 95% of this demand is met by sites within Harlow.
- The FPM suggests that about 23% of the users of the sports halls in Harlow are imported from the adjacent authorities and that the authority is a net importer of visits, approximately 1,163 visits per week.
- Almost all of the “unsatisfied demand” arises where people do not have access to a car and live too far away from a facility to walk there.
- The FPM estimates that the total **average** sports hall usage is at 71%, which is below what Sport England considers busy (80%)
- The relative share of sports hall space is below the national average, reflecting the nature of the facilities including their size, but also the relative car ownership levels within the authority.

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

The facilities range in age significantly from Stewards Academy (1965) and Burnt Mill Academy (1968) being built in the 1960’s through to Passmores Academy which was built in 2011. The average year of construction is 1993, which is nearly 25 years old. As a result a number of the sites may require investment to make them appealing for community users to be active. It is likely as a result that a number of the facilities in the Harlow area, due to their age and design, are going to struggle to engage those people who are not necessarily sporty. Some of the facilities have indicated refurbishment investment but we do not have any details of what this has involved and whether this will have had a positive impact on their appeal. The wider strategic work should look in detail at the quality of the experience provided for community users not just the size and scale of the offer and provide a view on whether the facility stock is fit for purpose for future use.

In terms of distribution of sports halls across the patch they are relatively well spread. The west of Harlow has a lower supply and there is limited supply close to the borders of neighbouring authorities suggesting there may limits to the levels of exported activity, this will be explored elsewhere in this report. The two facilities that are most likely to be accessed by Harlow residents in neighbouring authorities are the John Warner Centre and facilities in Sawbridgeworth.

The area is due to see significant population growth over the coming years. This oversupply does have the potential to accommodate some of the demand generated by this additional population subject to where that oversupply sits and where the future need is located.

With Harlow having 24.1%% of households not having access to personal transport this data indicates that these households may well struggle to effectively access sports halls which will inhibit their ability to be regularly active.

This shows that Harlow is self-reliant in terms of sports hall provision and access and there is limited need for residents to access facilities beyond its borders.

It is not surprising that Harlow is a net importer with its oversupply and the fact that a number of its facilities are within drive time catchments for residents in areas such as Epping, and Broxbourne that have relatively large levels of under provision.

- 4.51 The conclusions from the FPM model of the current situation are similar to the findings from the audit but are not fully comparable, which means that the findings from the FPM must be treated with caution. The audit identified that most of the sports halls are booked out for over 90% of the available community time, however the basis for the calculation behind the used capacity figures for the FPM is different, and this may account for some of the differences shown.
- 4.52 The small number of club returns suggest that the specialist clubs such as the netball club, archery club, and All Ability Sports and Leisure Club are drawing users from both Harlow and its adjacent authority areas.

Summary of current situation

- 4.53 There are currently 6 sports hall sites in Harlow, 4 of which are on school sites. The others are the relatively new 8 court hall at Harlow Leisurezone and the hall at Norman Booth which is just under 3 courts in size but runs a range of activities in addition to being the home for table tennis. There is least good access to sports halls on the east side of the authority, although given the compact nature of the district, all facilities are within 20 minutes driving time of the whole population.
- 4.54 The current rate of provision of sports hall space is theoretically slightly more than is required for the residents of Harlow, but the site audit suggests that the sports hall facilities are almost fully booked in the peak period. Harlow is identified by the FPM as being a net importer of users of sports halls, and this is confirmed by the audit, including the club returns, particularly for netball and archery. The audit findings suggest however that there may be more importation of demand than the FPM suggests, as the halls are running much more busy than the FPM suggests, and at a level which is unlikely to be demand arising from Harlow itself.
- 4.55 There is relatively good sports hall access during the school day, to Harlow Leisurezone, Norman Booth and to Mark Hall, where three of the six badminton courts are available for community hire throughout the school day.

Future supply and demand

- 4.56 The modelling of future sport hall demand is based on the population forecasts agreed with Harlow Council. The demand is considered in three ways: Harlow on its own, Harlow with the adjacent growth within Epping Forest, and Harlow with the adjacent developments in Epping Forest and East Herts (the Gilston Area). The

bulk of the Gilston Area will be developed after 2033, with 3,050 of the total approximately 10,000 dwellings between 2026 and 2033. The modelling takes into account the younger age profiles of the new communities in the growth areas, including for Epping Forest and East Herts. The areas for the new developments in Epping Forest and East Herts are modelled with a starting population of zero. This is because the existing populations are small, and any current sports facility needs they have are already met within the network.

- 4.57 The Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator has been used to assess the total demand arising from the three areas for the milestone dates up to and including 2033. Alternative scenarios have also been tested in relation to increasing levels of participation, at 0% and at 0.5% per annum for 2021, 2026 and 2031. The table in Figure 7 therefore shows the amount of additional facility provision which may be required.

Figure 7: Future demand for sports halls in Harlow and Greater Harlow

	Current demand in number of badminton courts (from FPM)	Demand arising in number of badminton courts								
		2021			2026			2033		
		Population	0% participation increase	0.5% pa participation increase from 2016	Population	0% participation increase	0.5% pa participation increase from 2016	Population	0% participation increase	0.5% pa participation increase from 2016
Harlow	24	90719	25	26	96167	27	29	103983	29	31
Harlow plus Epping Forest		92048	25	26	101650	29	30	110847	31	34
Harlow plus Epping Forest and East Herts		0	25	26	103995	29	30	119488	34	37

- 4.58 Based on this modelling, there will be a need for between 29 and 31 badminton courts of demand by 2033 to meet the needs of Harlow residents alone, an increase of 5-7 badminton courts' of demand. If the needs of the Epping Forest residents are also met within Harlow, this increases the overall demand to between 31 and 34 badminton courts (an extra 7-10 badminton courts). Including East Herts i.e. for the whole of Greater Harlow, the total demand raises the requirement to between 34 and 37 courts, or an extra 10-14 courts.

- 4.59 The assessment of the current situation suggests however that Harlow is a significant importer of demand from elsewhere and that the current network of around 31 badminton courts are full at peak time. The key consideration is therefore the need to increase the number of sports halls in and around Harlow.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 4.60 Given that there are already 2 large size halls, the priority for Harlow will be to provide an extended network of 4 court halls, which may be provided on school sites if community use in the evenings and weekends can be assured. The Gilston Area is proposed to have at least one secondary school with community use, so in the longer term that area should meet its own needs. The potentially unmet demand is therefore from a combination of Harlow growth and that in the adjacent Epping Forest area, a total of 8-10 badminton courts, which need to be fully available at peak time for community use.
- 4.61 The Local Plan proposals for secondary schools are yet to be confirmed, but if a new secondary school is planned, this should be designed for and be committed to delivering community use in its 4-court sports hall at peak times, i.e. weekday evenings and weekends.
- 4.62 There is a clear need for additional swimming pool space in Harlow, so the other 4-court sports hall should be provided as part of a wet/dry leisure centre within Harlow.
- 4.63 The other priorities are to secure and maintain the existing hall sites in Harlow and to ensure that they are fully refurbished as necessary to meet both current and future demand.

Recommendations for sports halls

Cross boundary co-operation

- 4.64 Confirm sports facility requirements associated with new housing by joint working with adjacent authorities to develop a cross-border sports facility strategy and infrastructure delivery plan for the Greater Harlow area.
- 4.65 Undertake local scenario tests using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model to confirm the requirements.
- 4.66 To develop the proposed facilities, there will need to be co-operation between Harlow, Epping Forest and East Herts, including potentially in relation to developers' contributions. The S106 negotiations should be informed by the "standards" in the delivery section of this report.

Harlow

Protect

- 4.67 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing network of sports hall space across Harlow, and to ensure the affordability of the facilities to clubs and individuals. It is recognised that the network needs to be adaptable to changing trends in participation.
- 4.68 Where possible, seek to establish formalised community use agreements with schools to protect community use.

Provide

- 4.69 A 4 badminton court hall is developed as part of a community leisure centre which also has a pool and fitness facilities. An appropriate and accessible site needs to be identified where the land can be provided for free.
- 4.70 If a further secondary school is proposed for Harlow, that the 4 badminton court sports hall is designed to be suitable for community use, with the larger sports hall dimensions as recommended by Sport England. The overall site designed to enable and encourage community use, including with sufficient car parking, and the planning conditions ensuring the security of use into the long term.

Or:

- 4.71 Should a new secondary school not be planned for Harlow, then seek to increase community access to the existing halls at St Nicholas School and St Mark's West Essex Catholic School. The hall at St Mark's West Essex is in poor condition and would require investment linked to securing community use.

Greater Harlow

- 4.72 New joint use wet/dry leisure centre with 4 court badminton hall and 25m pool, in the Gilston Area of East Herts.

General policies

- 4.73 All new school facilities should be designed to encourage and accommodate community use, including during the school day. The site layout must facilitate this, and the sports halls designed with the minimum size for community use, as set out in the Sport England guidance (Sport England, 2012).
- 4.74 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.
- 4.75 The proposed leisure centres shared with schools should have some community access during the school day to the sports hall facilities.
- 4.76 All new facilities supported by capital monies from public sources or grant aid should be secured for community use via a binding legal agreement. The length of the agreement to reflect the size of the public support/grant involved.

SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

- 5.1 Swimming pools might be considered the most important sports facility type in Harlow as they are used by most of the community, from the very youngest through to people in old age. This assessment considers only indoor pools which are open year round and excludes lidos and other outdoor pools which are only open during the summer months. This follows the best practice guidance provided by Sport England.
- 5.2 There is only one public swimming facility in Harlow, at Harlow Leisurezone which is a 25m x 8 lane pool with teaching pool. There are two other pools regularly used by the community, Burnt Mill Academy which is open for around 10 hours per week and is 162 sq m in size, and Stewards Academy which is open for about 35.5 hours but is only 144 sq m in size. Additionally there is one small commercial fitness pool at Pace Health Club with a pool area of 40 sq m, Churchgate Leisure Club with a pool of 95 sq m, one small pool at Freshwaters Primary (approx 120 sq m) and a hydrotherapy pool at Harlow Fields special school of about 35 sq m.
- 5.3 Swimming is an important and attractive activity for everyone in the community and is seen as an important life skill. Primary schools are required to arrange some swimming lessons for pupils, and the public pools are used for schools swimming.

Pool design and activities

- 5.4 As with sports halls, the aspiration to make swimming as accessible as possible to the largest number of people would suggest that a network of small pools would be best. However, small pools limit flexibility in terms of the range of activities that can be undertaken, the ability to operate more than one activity at any time, and the level of performance that can be accommodated. They can also be more expensive to operate relative to large pools. General community needs should ideally also be balanced with the wider sports development requirements, including support to clubs to offer opportunities in a wide range of pool-based activities such as:
- Swimming
 - Water Polo
 - Synchronised Swimming
 - Canoeing
 - Lifesaving
 - Diving
 - Sub-Aqua
- 5.5 In general terms, the higher the level of performance, the greater the demands on pool size, depth and specific competition requirements (spectator capacity and specialist equipment). For example, a 25m x 6 lane pool can accommodate

local/club level swimming galas but a 25m x 8 lane pool with electronic timing is required for county galas and league events.

- 5.6 Moveable bulkheads that can sub-divide pools and moveable floors that can vary water depth can significantly increase a pool's flexibility, but the design of any new pool will determine what activities can be accommodated.
- 5.7 The national governing body responsible for high performance swimming is British Swimming, and its guidance note, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles* (British Swimming, n.d.) provides a useful summary of the minimum depths of water for different activities (Figure 8).

Figure 8: Pool depths for range of activities
(based on British Swimming, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles*)

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

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

Participation in swimming

- 5.10 Nationally over 2.5 million adults are swimming at least once a week, but the number of people swimming has fallen between 2007/08 and 2015/16, particularly amongst those from the lower socio-economic backgrounds. The age of swimmers is reasonably evenly split across adults, but more women swim (approx 2/3rds) than men (1/3rd), and more of those in the higher socio-economic groups.
- 5.11 This slight downward trend in national participation has been mirrored by the experience of the Essex County Sports Partnership area. As it is not possible to track swimming participation rates for Harlow alone, it is assumed that this decline in swimming is also happening in Harlow.
- 5.12 The Sport England Local Profile tool (Sport England, 2017) suggests that the rate of participation in swimming in Harlow is lower at 8.0% of adults than either the regional (9.3% of adults) or national rates of participation (9.5% of adults). There could be two main reasons for this, or a combination of both:
- People in Harlow are less interested in swimming than the average for the region or nationally. It is known that participation in swimming is lower amongst the lower socio-economic groups, and Harlow has relatively high levels of deprivation. The actual demand for swimming may therefore be lower than the national or regional averages.
 - The current deficit of accessible swimming pool space in Harlow is limiting the ability to swim, i.e. there is unmet latent demand. The accessibility of pools depends on a combination of factors: the ability to join a club, the cost, the timing and availability of pay and play opportunities, travel time to a pool, and the attractiveness of the pools.
- 5.13 The Sport England Market Segmentation information for Harlow (see Part 1) suggests that of the 9 largest market segment groups, 8 would consider swimming as the most attractive sport to them, with one group considering swimming as the second most attractive. However at the present time, swimming tends to be an activity done as a 2nd-5th level sport with these same groups.
- 5.14 If swimming participation is to be increased in Harlow in the future, there needs to be improved access to accessible swimming opportunities, which can move people towards taking part in swimming much more often. The future planning for provision therefore needs to be based on what should be possible to achieve in terms of participation, rather than projecting forwards the lower level of swimming currently experienced in Harlow. The national rate of provision is therefore used in the modelling of future needs.

Current provision

- 5.15 Figure 9 lists the indoor swimming pools in Harlow and Figure 10 shows their locations.

Figure 9: Indoor swimming pools open to the public

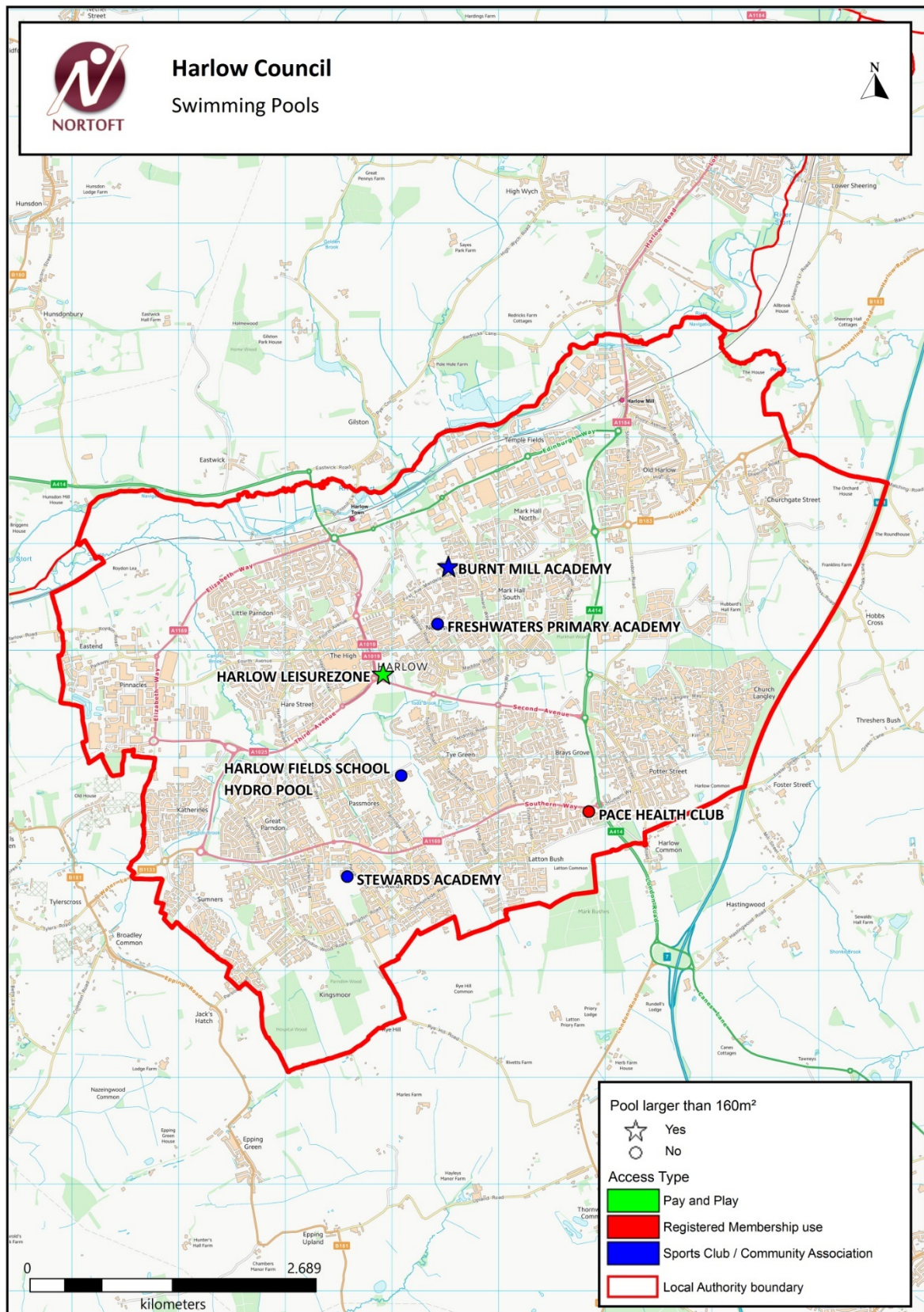
Site Name	Number of lanes	Length m	Width m	Area sq m	Ownership Type/Nature of site	Access Type	Management	Hours available where restricted in peak time	Estimate of used capacity at peak time based on bookings. [FPM estimate]
Burnt Mill Academy	4	18	9	162	Academy	Sports Club/Community Association	Academy	Mon 17.30-19.45 Tues 16.30-17.30 Weds 16.30-17.30 Thurs 16.30-17.30 Fri 16.30-19.00 Sat 09.30-11.30 Sun closed	100% [98%]
Harlow Leisurezone	8	25	12	300	Harlow Council	Pay and play	Trust		90% [100%]
Harlow Leisurezone	3	20	8	160					
Freshwaters Primary Academy		15	8	120	Academy	Sports Club/Community Association	Academy	Mon 16.00-18.00 Tues closed Weds 16.00-18.00 Thurs closed Fri 15.30-18.00 Sat & Sun closed	Excluded from FPM, missed
Harlow Fields School (Special school) Hydro pool		7	5	35	Academy	Sports Club/Community Association	Schools Letting Service	Mon closed Tues 17.00-18.30 Weds 16.00-18.30 Thurs 17.00-18.30 Fri closed Sat 09.00-12.00 Sun 09.00-12.00	Excluded from FPM and too small

Pace Health Club		10	4	40	Commercial fitness	Registered membership	Commercial		<i>Excluded from FPM too small</i>
Stewards Academy	4	18	8	144	Academy	Sports Club/Community Association but casual swimming for adults Thursday evenings	Academy	Mon-Thurs 16.00-22.00 Fri 16.00-20.30 Sat 09.00-16.00 Sun 09.00-12.00	90% <i>Excluded from FPM too small</i>

Key

Facilities of limited value for community swimming due to size or ownership

Figure 10: Swimming pools map



Assessment of current supply/demand

- 5.16 Harlow Leisurezone site was built in 2010 and is good quality throughout. It is owned and managed by the Harlow and District Sports Trust. The site is well-used and the audit confirms that the pool is used at about 90% of potential capacity at peak time. There is a waiting list for the in-house learn to swim programme.
- 5.17 The Harlow Penguins Swimming Club would like more pool time but this is restricted as Harlow Leisurezone limits the club to 4 lanes due to programming needs for the in-house learn to swim sessions, and the need to provide for casual swimming. The club has been offered early morning sessions, but take up by the members is relatively low, and the club feels that this might be in part due to the late finishing times of the evening club swim sessions.
- 5.18 The other pools available for community swimming are at the academy schools of Burnt Mill and Stewards. The Burnt Mill pool is owned and managed by the academy and is used by Harlow Penguins for its learn to swim programme plus some other independent swimming instructors for lessons. The pool is open for around 10 hours per week, Monday-Saturday.
- 5.19 The size of the Burnt Mill pool is 18x9m with the pool depth being 0.8m–1.9m, so it is just larger than the Stewards Academy pool but slightly shallower. The pool was built in 1962 and is aging. The site audit suggests that again this pool is a typical school facility, and both the changing and disability provision are below average quality, as is the car parking. The maintenance and cleanliness of the pool is also at best, average.
- 5.20 The Stewards Academy pool programme runs from 16.00 to 22.00 Monday-Thursday, with a slightly earlier closing time on Fridays. The site is open on Saturday mornings and afternoons and is used by the swimming club on Sunday mornings. The pool is primarily used for swimming lessons, both juniors and adults, but it also provides for sub-aqua training, aqua aerobics and adult disability sessions. The pool is owned and managed by the academy.
- 5.21 The Stewards Academy pool is 18m x 8m with a pool depth of 1m-2m, and is therefore too small to be included in the Sport England FPM assessment. It was built in 1965 and is again aging. As with Burnt Mill, this is a typical school pool and the site audit showed that the changing was of below average quality and that disability access was poor. The maintenance and cleanliness of the site appears to be average, as do the parking arrangements.
- 5.22 The very small pools on the commercial sites, at Harlow Fields school and Freshwaters Primary Academy have not been audited.
- 5.23 The map in Figure 10 shows the 20 minute drive time catchment of Harlow Leisurezone pool. This suggests that the facility is likely to be drawing users from

both Harlow and the surrounding areas, and easily encompasses the potential growth areas on the boundaries of the authority.

Consultation findings

Club comments

Harlow Penguins

- 5.24 The Harlow Penguins Swimming Club is the main club in the area. It has about 390 members, of which about 63% are minis, 25% are juniors, and 12% are either seniors or veterans. All of the members live locally, within about 10 minutes travel time. 73% of the members come from Harlow, with most of the remainder being either from East Herts or Epping Forest districts.
- 5.25 The club has waiting lists for the mini (20-30 people) and junior levels (5-10 people) and the waiting time is between 2 and 12 weeks. The club has increased its membership over the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow. The club has a development plan to support this. The main issues faced by the club are a lack of facilities, the costs of hire and a lack of funding.
- 5.26 The club uses Harlow Lesiurezone as its home site, which it uses for both training and matches. The centre is used every day year around but the club finds booking very difficult although it is the preferred site. The overall site quality is good, but the club reports that the maintenance of equipment can be poor, as can cleaning. Car parking is a problem and members have to purchase a Harlow Leisurezone membership to get access.
- 5.27 The second site used by the club is Burnt Mill Academy. It is used 1-2 times a week year round for training on weekday evenings by the club's Development Academy. Booking is very difficult. The pool area is described as "run down and overall substandard on hygiene and cleaning". The changing facilities are considered to be poor, and the ancillary facilities are below average.
- 5.28 The third site used by the club is Stewards Academy, which is also used for training for the Development Academy once or twice a week year round at weekends. The club finds booking quite difficult. No comment is provided about the pool quality, but the changing and ancillary facilities are described as average.

All Ability Sports and Leisure

- 5.29 The All Ability Sports and Leisure club did however respond, and they use the Stewards Academy pool year round once or twice a week on weekday evenings. The club likes the facility and considers it good quality and managed well, with above average changing facility and ancillary facility quality. This finding contrasts with the site audit which identified that the pool was aging and had issues with both the changing and disabled access.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 5.30 The Swim England comments that the clubs in the area have insufficient water time to develop the sport, but that there is scope to increase participation. The ASA are unaware of any current developments which would increase the facilities to meet the demand, and as so much demand is unmet it would be pointless to increase demand with no facilities to accommodate it. The FPM indicates that Harlow is a net exporter of swimming demand.
- 5.31 It is the national governing body's view that the two school pools are old and must be at risk of closure because of their age and declining condition.
- 5.32 Only one pool, Harlow Leisurezone, is suitable for short course events.
- 5.33 Harlow Penguins Swimming Club is the only swimming club in the district. They are Swim21 accredited. Only competitive swimming is offered and they produce regional swimmers regularly. The coach is active in coaching development and the club works with 10 other clubs as a network to offer long course training at the Basildon Sporting Village pool every Sunday.
- 5.34 There is a need to be able to offer a wider range of aquatic activities.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 5.35 A review of the swimming pool provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities is provided below. In summary:

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** The sports facilities strategy has identified that there are high levels of swimming participation in the authority, and that some additional pool space will be required to meet the needs of the planned growth, particularly around the Gilston Area and Bishop's Stortford. User surveys of the Council's public pools has shown that people from Harlow are regularly using Grange Paddocks in Bishop's Stortford, Hartham Leisure Centre in Hertford, Fanshawe pool in Ware, and Leventhorpe pool in Sawbridgeworth. Most of this use is for pay and play swimming, but the Leventhorpe pool is also used on a membership basis. East Herts Council is currently reviewing its role in relation to the public pools and decisions on investment programmes will be made during 2017.
- **Future needs:** The emerging strategy has identified that additional water space will be required to meet the needs of the growing population. This new provision will be required in the Gilston Area and in Bishop's Stortford. A new joint use leisure centre is proposed for the Gilston Area with a 25 m x 6 lane pool.

- **Implications for Harlow:** The potential changes in the swimming pool network in East Herts could have a very significant impact on the availability of pools for Harlow residents. There is a need to strategically plan the swimming pool investment across the boundaries, and to ensure that the necessary new provision is secured.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The most recent sports facilities assessment in 2012 identified that the five existing pools are all operating at 'comfortable capacity' and there is therefore no effective spare capacity at present.
- **Future needs:** Additional waterspace equivalent to four lanes of a 25m pool will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.
- **Implications for Harlow:** With no effective spare pool capacity in Epping Forest, some swimming demand is already exported to Harlow and this will increase unless extra provision is made within the district.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** Sport England's Facilities Planning Model calculates that there is a current deficit equivalent to two lanes of a 25m pool. According to Sport England's Facilities Planning Model, 35.7% of Uttlesford demand for swimming pools is exported to neighbouring areas, including Harlow.
- **Future needs:** With a current deficit and no realistic prospect of increasing access to existing facilities, additional demand will need to be met by the equivalent of one new facility.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Significant demand from the south of Uttlesford is exported to Harlow at present and this will increase unless additional pool provision is made.

Modelling

- 5.36 A number of different modelling tools can be used to assess the current provision in Harlow.

Market Segmentation and sports development

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

Facilities Planning Model

- 5.38 The FPM is a national model developed by Sport England which has standardised parameters and format. The information on swimming pool capacity and demand is calculated on an authority wide basis, however the balance in supply and demand includes consideration of the facilities which are potentially available to the authority's residents, up to about 20 minutes drive time, and also the demand arising from this wider area, even if this is outside of the authority. Also built into the model are other considerations, for example the demographic profile of the authority and factors such as levels of car ownership.
- 5.39 The table below (Figure 11) highlights some of the most important parameters used in the model in relation to pools. It should be noted that the accessibility criteria of 20 minutes travel time is not a fixed boundary as the formula behind the FPM uses a distance decay function, however 20 minutes drive time catchment area is generally considered a good "rule of thumb".

Figure 11: Facilities Planning Model key parameters pools

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

- 5.40 The FPM national assessment for 2016 gives a useful indication of the current supply and demand for swimming in Harlow, It should be noted that although the FPM includes the Burnt Mill pool, the hours that the FPM assumes it is open in the peak period is 34.5 hours. This compares to the 10 hours a week that the pool is actually open.
- 5.41 Missing from the FPM report is the Stewards pool, on the basis that it is too small. However the community use programme there is strong, and the facility is open for 35.5 hours per week in the peak period.
- 5.42 The treatment of the Burnt Mill pool and the Stewards pool within the FPM approximately balance out, so the results of the modelling can be considered as a

reasonable reflection of swimming supply and demand in Harlow. There is however a need to amend the Sport England data on this point for future assessments. The following are the key points from the 2016 Sport England report.

- The total amount of publicly available water space scaled by hours available in the peak period is 498 sq m, or a rate of 5.83 sq m of water space at peak time per 1,000 population.
- The total demand at peak time is for around 935 sq m, so there is more demand than supply.
- Around 90% of the demand is met, which is lower than the national or regional averages, the benchmark authorities, or the adjacent authorities, however 25% of this demand is met by pools outside of Harlow.
- About 75% of the demand is met within the town.
- There is a total net export of demand of around 756 visits per week in the peak period.
- Around 10% (576 visits per week in the peak period) of the potential demand is unmet.
- 2% of the total demand for swimming is unmet because there is insufficient capacity within the accessible pools network.
- About 6% of the total demand for swimming is unmet and reflects the number of residents who are outside the walking catchment area of a pool and do not have a car.
- The “relative share” of swimming provision in Harlow is significantly below the national average.
- The FPM suggests that the average used capacity at peak time at is 100%.

5.43 Sport England considers a pool to be “busy” if it is operating at 70% full on average during the peak time.

5.44 The FPM report clearly demonstrates that there is insufficient water space to meet the needs of the current population of Harlow, and that any further growth within the town or on its boundaries, cannot be provided for within the existing facility network.

Summary of current situation

5.45 Swimming is an important activity in Harlow but there is too little water space available to meet all of the demand arising from within the authority. There is only one swimming pool site which has secure community use, Harlow Leisurezone. The other pools used by the community are on secondary school sites, at Burnt Mill and at Stewards. The Burnt Mill pool is just sufficiently large enough to be included in the Sport England modelling, but is only available for around 10 hours per week in the peak period. The Stewards pool is smaller but has a good programme of community use over 35.5 hours in the peak period.

5.46 Harlow Leisurezone was opened in 2010 and it is good quality throughout. The pool is 8 lane x 25m and meets the requirements of a competition pool. The key

issue the lack of capacity, particularly in relation to the learn to swim programme and the swimming club.

- 5.47 The school pools reflect their origin. They are now over 50 years old and are poor quality, including in relation to their changing and disabled access. There is also no security of use, and no arrangement in place to ensure the continuation of community swimming. These facilities are therefore at risk in terms of remaining available for community use.

Future supply and demand

- 5.48 The modelling of future swimming pool demand is based on the population forecasts agreed with Harlow Council. The demand is considered in three ways: Harlow on its own, Harlow with the adjacent growth within Epping Forest, and Harlow with the adjacent developments in both Epping Forest and East Herts (the Gilston Area). The bulk of the Gilston Area will be developed after 2033, with 3,050 of the total approximately 10,000 dwellings between 2026 and 2033. The modelling takes into account the younger age profiles of the new communities in the growth areas, including for Epping Forest and East Herts. The areas for the new developments in Epping Forest and East Herts are modelled with a starting population of zero. This is because the existing populations are small, and any current sports facility needs they have are already met within the network.
- 5.49 The Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator has been used to assess the total demand arising from the three areas for the milestone dates up to and including 2033. Alternative scenarios have also been tested in relation to increasing levels of participation, at 0% and at 0.5% per annum for 2021, 2026 and 2033, see Figure 12.
- 5.50 The total swimming pool space in Harlow at this time is 498 sq m according to the FPM analysis. This is very significantly below the demand for swimming, which the FPM estimates to be 935 sq m. Consequently, Harlow is a net exporter of swimming demand to the adjacent authorities, as has been confirmed by recent work by East Herts, particularly in relation to Leventhorpe.
- 5.51 The growth in Harlow alone is likely to generate between 1101 sq m and 1195 sq m of water space demand up to 2033 i.e. an extra facility need of 603 – 679 sq m. If the Epping Forest growth is added in, then this takes the total demand by 2033 up to between 1203 sq m and 1305 sq m, or an additional facility need of between 705 – 807 sq m. If the demand from the Gilston Area up to 2033 in East Herts is added too, this gives a total demand of between 1310 and 1421 sq m, an additional facility need of 812 – 923 sq m. This is the equivalent to two large community pools in the Harlow area and Greater Harlow.
- 5.52 This simplistic assessment assumes that the school pools in Harlow are retained.

Figure 12: Swimming future demand for Harlow and Greater Harlow

	Current demand in sq m water space (from FPM)	Demand arising in square metres of water space								
		2021			2026			2033		
		Population	0% participation increase	0.5% pa participation increase from 2016	Population	0% participation increase	0.5% pa participation increase from 2016	Population	0% participation increase	0.5% pa participation increase from 2016
Harlow	935	90719	986	1010	96167	1048	1100	103983	1101	1195
Harlow plus Epping Forest		92048	989	1014	101650	1109	1164	110847	1203	1305
Harlow plus Epping Forest and East Herts		0	989	1014	103995	1120	1176	119488	1310	1421

Meeting the needs of the future

5.53 There is a clear need for additional water space in Harlow. A new leisure centre facility should therefore be considered in Harlow which has both wet and dry provision. The design and size of the new pool will depend on:

- The confirmed futures of both Burnt Mill and Stewards. If these pools are lost to community use, their water space will need to be replaced
- The proposals for the Gilston Area in relation to a new leisure centre
- The future of the pool network in East Herts
- Any decision to share developers' contributions over authority boundaries
- This leisure centre facility will need to be planned at an early stage into the masterplanning for Harlow, with the land provided for free either within or outside a SUE.
- To confirm the future of Burnt Mill and Stewards pool facilities for community use:
 - Options for refurbishment – needs to consider lifetime costs
 - Legally securing community use to the facilities for a minimum number of hours.

5.54 In addition to a new wet/dry leisure centre facility being required in Harlow, there is also justification for a new similar facility in the Gilston Area.

Recommendations for swimming pools

Cross boundary co-operation

- 5.55 Confirm sports facility requirements associated with new housing by joint working with adjacent authorities to develop a cross-border sports facility strategy and infrastructure delivery plan.
- 5.56 Undertake local scenario tests using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model to confirm the requirements.
- 5.57 Develop a mechanism for sharing developer contributions cross-boundary.

Harlow

Protect

- 5.58 It is proposed to protect and maintain the existing network of swimming pools across Harlow.
- 5.59 Where possible, seek to establish formalised community use agreements with the schools to protect community use.

Enhance

- 5.60 Improve the school pools and ancillary facilities at Burnt Mill and Stewards schools to ensure their continued operation unless/until new public pools in Harlow and the Gilston Area are open and fully replace the water area which these pool(s) currently provide.

Provide

- 5.61 It is recommended that a minimum 25m x 6 lane community pool with teaching pool as part of a community leisure centre which also has a sports hall and fitness facilities should be provided by 2026. An appropriate and accessible site needs to be identified where the land can be provided for free or minimal cost. The size and design will in part be determined by the retention or otherwise of the pools at Burnt Mill and Stewards.

Greater Harlow

- 5.62 A joint use leisure centre in the Gilston Area to meet the needs of that area after 2033. This leisure centre to have a 25m x 6 lane pool with teaching pool, 4-court sports hall and fitness provision. The site is proposed to be adjacent to the planned secondary school. The land to be provided for free. The site is still to be confirmed.

General policies

- 5.63 All new school facilities should be designed to encourage and accommodate community use, including during the school day. The site layout must facilitate this, and the sports halls designed with the minimum size for community use, as set out in the Sport England guidance (Sport England, 2012).
- 5.64 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.
- 5.65 The proposed leisure centres shared with schools should have some community access during the school day to the sports hall facilities.
- 5.66 All new facilities supported by capital monies from public sources or grant aid should be secured for community use via a binding legal agreement. The length of the agreement to reflect the size of the public support/grant involved.

SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS

- 6.1 This section considers indoor fitness facilities, both the provision of fitness gyms and the provision of studio space. The latter are multi-purpose rooms used for a range of fitness activities and dance, and are usually an integral part of any leisure centre or commercial fitness site.
- 6.2 The provision of health and fitness facilities (typically including fitness stations) is potentially a key element in achieving increased participation in physical activity. The private sector often plays a significant role in these types of facilities, and is likely to continue to do so in the future. However there is no simple way of assessing participation in individual gym and fitness activities, nor the spaces they need. One method is the analysis of the provision per 1,000 population of the health and fitness facilities which have a number of 'stations' (one station might be for example a single treadmill).
- 6.3 The Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) encourages equipment and facilities to be fully accessible to people with a range of disabilities. At present there are no IFI accredited gyms in Harlow.
- 6.4 There are no National Governing Bodies for fitness and gym activities.

Participation in fitness activities

- 6.5 Indoor gyms and studios attract all socio-economic groups and a wide spread of ages. However, there are more women users than men, and most people are aged under 45 years.
- 6.6 The Sport England Active People Survey (as reported in the Local Profile Tool) (Sport England, 2017) concludes that the most important activity in Harlow is gym (including activities such as fitness classes); the rates of participation in gym activities in Harlow are higher than the East of England average, and the same as the national average.
- 6.7 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) results confirm that gym/fitness activities are of relatively high importance at the present time, though this might fall if swimming was more available. Note that Market Segmentation does not include walking/rambling as an activity, as this would come out the highest of all.

Current provision

- 6.8 There are currently 9.5 health and fitness sites with public access in Harlow, including the temporarily closed Fit4Less site, and assuming that 50% of the Body Active Gym is supporting users from Harlow and should therefore be allocated to Harlow.
- 6.9 There a total of 798 fitness stations and 9.5 studios, which are listed in Figure 13 and mapped in Figure 14. The largest fitness gym is Xercise4Less which opened in November 2016 with 213 stations, and the next largest are at Harlow Leisurezone and Pure Gym, both with 150 stations. The smallest is the hotel/conference centre provision at Pace. The provision at Mark Hall, Paringdon Sports and Social Club and Anytime Fitness are also relatively small.
- 6.10 With the geographical spread of fitness provision, everyone with access to a car can reach a site within 15 minutes drive.

Assessment of current supply/demand

- 6.11 Health and fitness facilities are often co-located with other sports facilities because as a net income earner, they can support the financial viability of other facilities, particularly swimming pools. The fitness elements of Harlow Leisurezone are therefore important.
- 6.12 There is no easy way of assessing the balance in supply and demand, as no throughput information is available from the facility operators. However as about 74% of the fitness facilities with fitness stations and studios are based at commercial sites, it can be assumed that the demand for facilities balances the supply.

Consultation findings

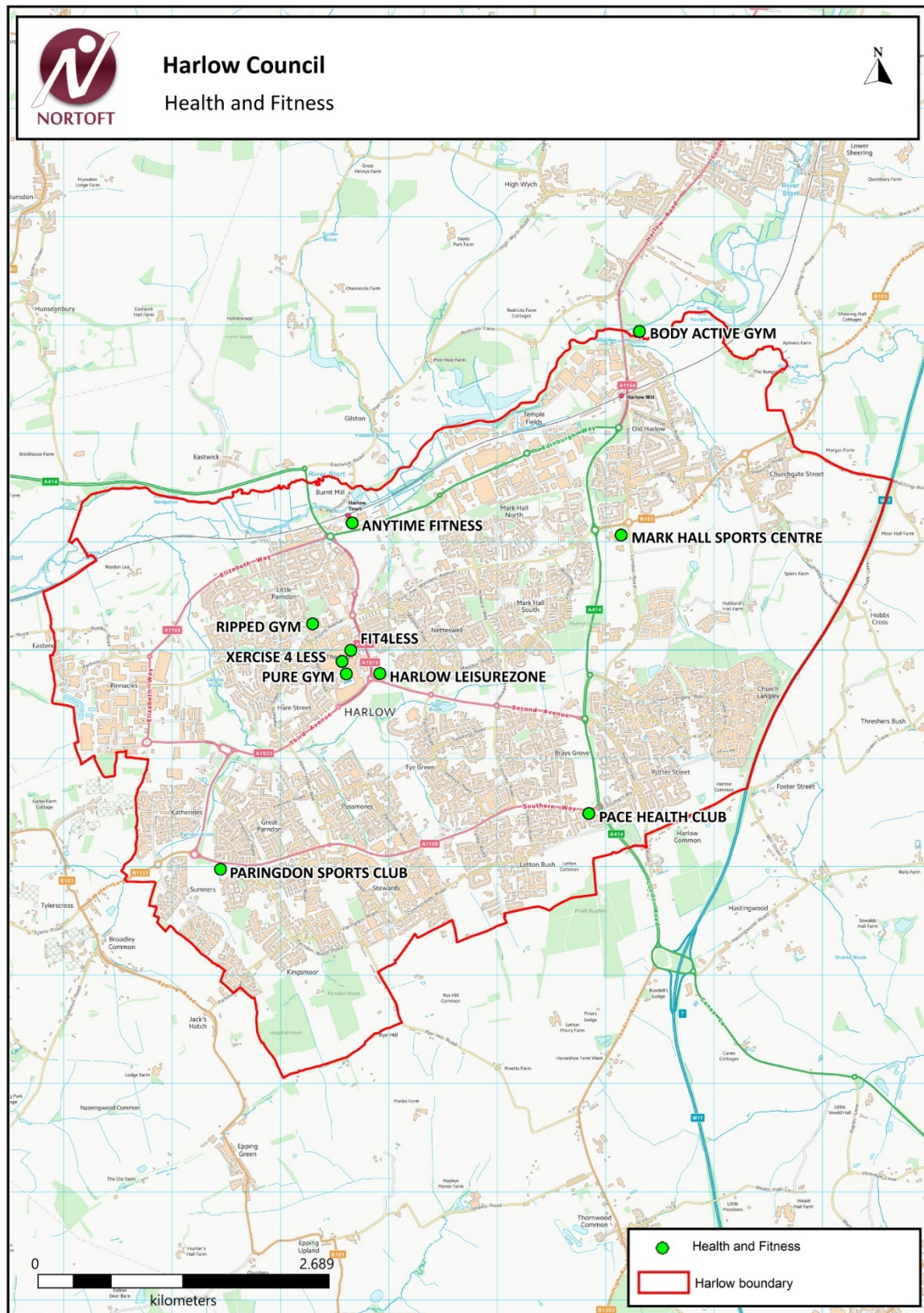
- 6.13 There are no national governing bodies for fitness and there are no independent sports clubs.

Figure 13: Health and fitness- current provision available to community

Site Name	Number of stations	Number of studios	Ownership Type/ Nature of Site	Access Type	Management
Anytime Fitness	35	1	Commercial fitness	Registered members	Commercial
Body Active Gym *	75	0.5	Commercial fitness	Registered members	Commercial
Fit4Less <i>[temporarily closed]</i>	35	0	Commercial fitness	Registered members	Commercial
Harlow Leisurezone	150	3	Harlow Council Leisure Centre	Pay and play	Trust
Mark Hall Sports Centre	28	1	Academy	Registered members for gym Pay and play for fitness class	Academy
Pace Health Club	22	1	Hotel/conference centre	Registered members	Commercial
Paringdon Sports and Social Club	30	1	Sports club	Registered members for gym Pay and play for fitness class	Sports club
Pure Gym	150	1	Commercial fitness	Pay and play	Commercial
Ripped Gym	60	0	Commercial fitness	Registered members	Commercial
Xercise4less	213	1	Commercial fitness	Pay and play	Commercial
	798	9.5			

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

Figure 14: Health and fitness sites map



Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

6.14 A review of adjacent authority strategies is given below. In summary, the key points in relation to fitness provision are:

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** The strategy for East Herts has shown that it has a high level of fitness provision, and is importing demand from Harlow. The public leisure centres at Bishop's Stortford, Ware and Hertford are all being used by Harlow residents, but the Leventhorpe facility is the most important. There is a large commercial fitness facility on the immediate border which will be attracting users from both authorities. East Herts Council is currently reviewing its public leisure centre network and decisions will be made in 2017. It is likely that most of the public leisure centres will be provided with additional fitness facility space in order to help generate higher levels of revenue to support the pool provision.
- **Future needs:** The planned future growth in the Gilston Area is likely to generate demand for around 170 fitness stations and 2 studio spaces once the area is fully built out, sometime after 2033. It would therefore be appropriate to consider a large fitness suite as part of any new leisure centre in the Gilston Area, currently proposed as a joint use facility with one of the planned secondary schools.
- **Implications for Harlow:** There is a need to plan investment in fitness provision cross boundary as it is proposed to have new leisure centres in both the Gilston Area and within Harlow. Both will require large fitness suites to help generate revenue.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The 2012 sports facilities assessment identified that the 12 existing health and fitness facilities in Epping Forest meet all current needs. There is no evidence of any significant exported demand to Harlow.
- **Future needs:** Two additional health and fitness facilities will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** With high levels of demand in Uttlesford, existing facilities are effectively operating at full capacity.
- **Future needs:** There will be additional demand equivalent to three extra facilities in Uttlesford by 2031.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Uttlesford and that exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Modelling

Market segmentation and sports development

- 6.15 Fitness and related activities appeal to a number of the largest market segment groups in Harlow, and is likely to remain popular even if swimming was made more accessible.

Comparator authorities' provision

- 6.16 The Facilities Planning Model is not available for the assessment of health and fitness provision, so other methods are required. Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to calculate the current level of provision of fitness stations and the number of studios per 1,000 head of population for Harlow and the CIPFA comparators, see Figure 15. For this assessment all sites with public access have been included in the figures as it is not possible from the Active Places information to determine which sites have restrictive memberships.
- 6.17 In relation to the number of fitness stations, this comparator authority analysis suggests that the current rate of provision in Harlow well above most of the CIPFA benchmark authorities, and the regional average rates of provision. However this is still below the national average.

Figure 15: Health and fitness - comparator authorities

Nearest Neighbour	Population at 2016 (ONS latest estimates)	Studios (number of)		Health and Fitness (number of stations)	
		Total	Per 1,000 population	Total	Per 1,000 population
Harlow	86,135	9.5	0.11	798	9.26
Basildon	183308	17	0.09	1591	8.68
Chesterfield	104,559	12	0.11	584	5.59
Redditch	84,471	7	0.08	468	5.54
Stevenage	87382	10	0.11	591	6.76
East of England	6,076,451	657	0.11	32770	5.39
England	57,885,413	6051	0.10	653464	11.29

Summary of current situation

- 6.18 The health and fitness provision in terms of both the number of fitness stations and the number of studios in Harlow is typical of this type of authority area, as shown by the fact that the provision is approximately in line with its benchmark authorities. It is also approximately in line with the national and regional averages.
- 6.19 About 74% of the provision is in commercial fitness facilities. The new Xercise4Less site has 213 fitness stations, and there are 2 sites with around 150 stations, plus Body Active which is just over the northern boundary of the authority. The smaller fitness facilities are at Mark Hall, Pace Health Club, Paringdon Sports and Social Club and Anytime Fitness.
- 6.20 As the market in health and fitness responds rapidly to demand, it is likely that the current level of fitness provision matches the demand. The adjacent authority strategies suggest that there is some cross-border movement, but that there is no spare capacity within these authorities to cater for any increase in demand from new housing in and around Harlow.

Future supply and demand

- 6.21 The modelling of future health and fitness demand is based on the population forecasts agreed with Harlow Council. The demand is considered in three ways: Harlow on its own, Harlow with the adjacent growth within Epping Forest, and Harlow with the adjacent developments in both Epping Forest and East Herts (the Gilston Area). The bulk of the Gilston Area will be developed after 2033, with 3,050 of the total approximately 10,000 dwellings between 2026 and 2033. The modelling takes into account the younger age profiles of the new communities in the growth

areas, including for Epping Forest and East Herts. The areas for the new developments in Epping Forest and East Herts are modelled with a starting population of zero. This is because the existing populations are small, and any current sports facility needs they have are already met within the network.

- 6.22 In assessing the future need, it is appropriate to take the current rate of provision for fitness facilities per 1,000 as the starting point, but potentially adding a 0.5% per annum increase in demand for the period up to 2033, see Figure 16 and Figure 17.
- 6.23 The modelling suggest that there may be need for around 1,000 fitness stations in total by 2033 to cater for Harlow's own growth, an increase of around 165-247 stations. If the demand from Epping Forest is added in, this will lead to further demand for between 60 – 70 fitness stations. The demand from the Gilston Area by 2033 is likely to be around 80-90 stations.
- 6.24 The much smaller rate of provision of studio space currently leads the modelling to suggests that there may only be demand for 2-3 extra multi-activity studios even by 2033.

Figure 16: Future demand for health and fitness stations

Fitness stations	Current provision	Population 2016	Current rate of provision per 1000	Demand expected to arise in number of fitness stations									
				2021			2026			Population	2033		
				Population	0% participation increase	2.5 % participation increase (0.5% pa)	Population	0% participation increase	5% participation increase (0.5% pa)		0% participation increase	5% participation increase	8.5% participation increase (0.5% pa)
Harlow	798	86135	9.26	90719	840	861	96167	891	935	103983	963	1012	1045
Harlow plus Epping Forest		0		92048	853	874	101650	942	989	110847	1027	1078	1114
Harlow plus Epping Forest and East Herts		0		0	0	0	103995	963	1012	119488	1107	1162	1201

Figure 17: Future demand for studio space

Studios	Current provision	Population 2016	Current rate of provision per 1000	Demand expected to arise in number of studios									
				2021			2026			Population	2033		
				Population	0% participation increase	2.5 % participation increase (0.5% pa)	Population	0% participation increase	5% participation increase (0.5% pa)		0% participation increase	5% participation increase	8.5% participation increase (0.5% pa)
Harlow	9.5	86135	0.11	90719	10	10	96167	11	11	103983	11	12	12
Harlow plus Epping Forest		0		92048	10	10	101650	11	12	110847	12	13	13
Harlow plus Epping Forest and East Herts		0		0	0	0	103995	11	12	119488	13	14	14

Meeting the needs of the future

- 6.25 The forecast demand for both sports halls and swimming pools suggests that there will be a need for a new wet/dry leisure centre in Harlow. As fitness provision is an essential element of any leisure centre, helping to balance out the revenue costs of swimming pools and sports halls, this proposed facility should have a large health and fitness facility plus 1-2 studio spaces.
- 6.26 The East Herts emerging strategy suggests that a new wet/dry leisure centre will be needed in the Gilston Area once the development is completed, post 2033. This facility will also require a large health and fitness facility and studio space to help balance out the revenue costs of the pool.
- 6.27 Any remaining demand for fitness provision will be met by the commercial sector.
- 6.28 There is currently no accredited Inclusive Fitness Initiative (IFI) gym which is adapted for disability use in Harlow. Any new fitness facility provided in association with a new leisure centre should therefore meet the IFI standards.
- 6.29 In the shorter term, Harlow Leisurezone and Mark Hall should be actively encouraged to introduce more disability support and work in partnership with the Clinical Commissioning Group to introduce GP referral schemes which encourage more people to become active.

Recommendations for health and fitness provision

Cross boundary co-operation

- 6.30 Confirm sports facility requirements associated with new housing by joint working with the adjacent authorities to develop a cross-border sports facility strategy and infrastructure delivery plan.
- 6.31 Develop a mechanism for sharing developer contributions cross-boundary.

Harlow

Protect

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

Provide

- 6.33 The priority for new delivery and which needs to be confirmed through feasibility work where appropriate is a fitness facility with 100-150 stations fitness stations

and minimum of 2 studio spaces, developed as part of a community leisure centre which also has a pool and sports hall. Appropriate land for the leisure centre should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.

Greater Harlow

Provide

- 6.34 The priority for new delivery and which needs to be confirmed through feasibility work is joint use leisure centre in the Gilston Area to meet the needs of that area after 2033. This leisure centre to have a 170 station fitness facility, minimum of 2 studio spaces, a 4-court sports hall, and main pool and teaching pool. This is proposed to be adjacent to the proposed secondary school. The land to be provided for free.
- 6.35 Appropriate land for the leisure centre should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.

General policies

- 6.36 All new school facilities should be designed to encourage and accommodate community use, including during the school day. The site layout must facilitate this, and the facilities designed to enable and encourage community use.
- 6.37 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified in the masterplans for the developments and the land made available free of charge.
- 6.38 The proposed leisure centres shared with schools should have some community access during the school day to the fitness facilities.
- 6.39 All new facilities supported by capital monies from public sources or grant aid should be secured for community use via a binding legal agreement. The length of the agreement to reflect the size of the public support/grant involved.

SECTION 7: ATHLETICS

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

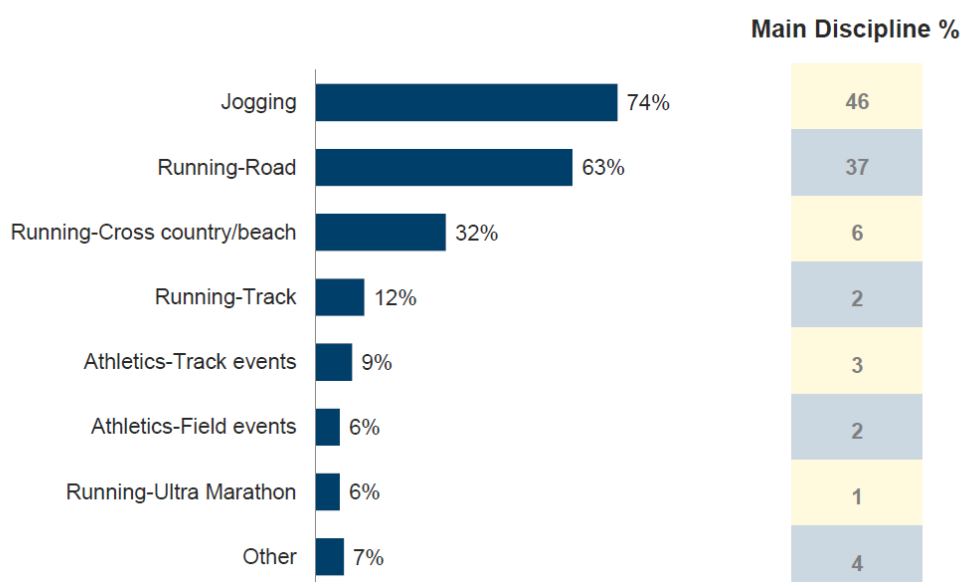
Participation in athletics

- 7.4 Sport England research considers the split between the different types of athletics activity and where it takes place. The results of the national level research published in 2012 are given in Figure 18.

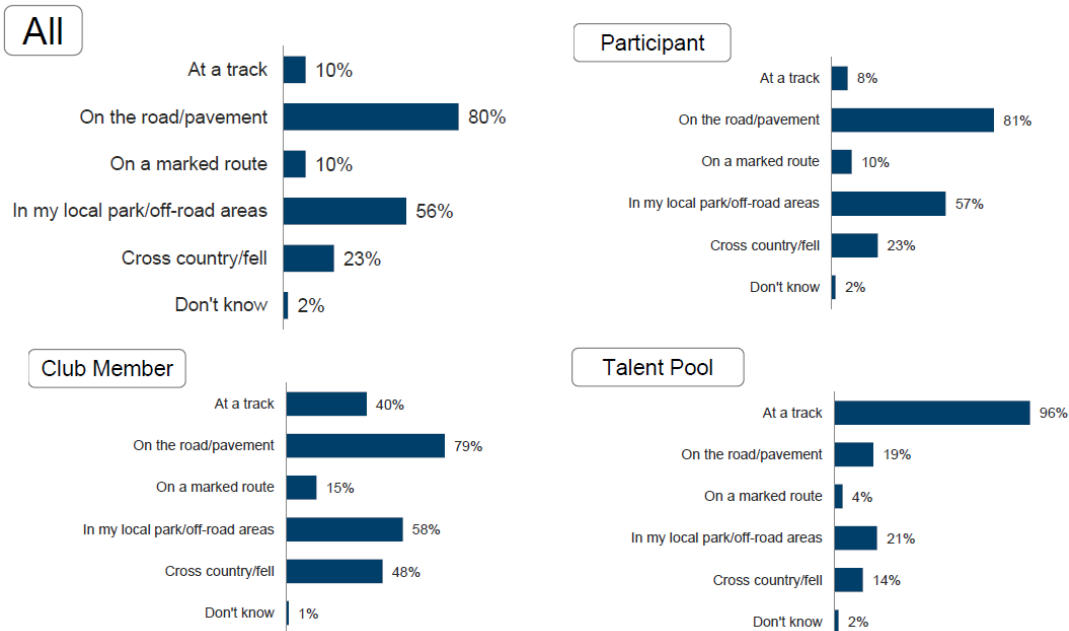
Figure 18: Athletics participation details

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

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



Q. In what setting do you usually run?

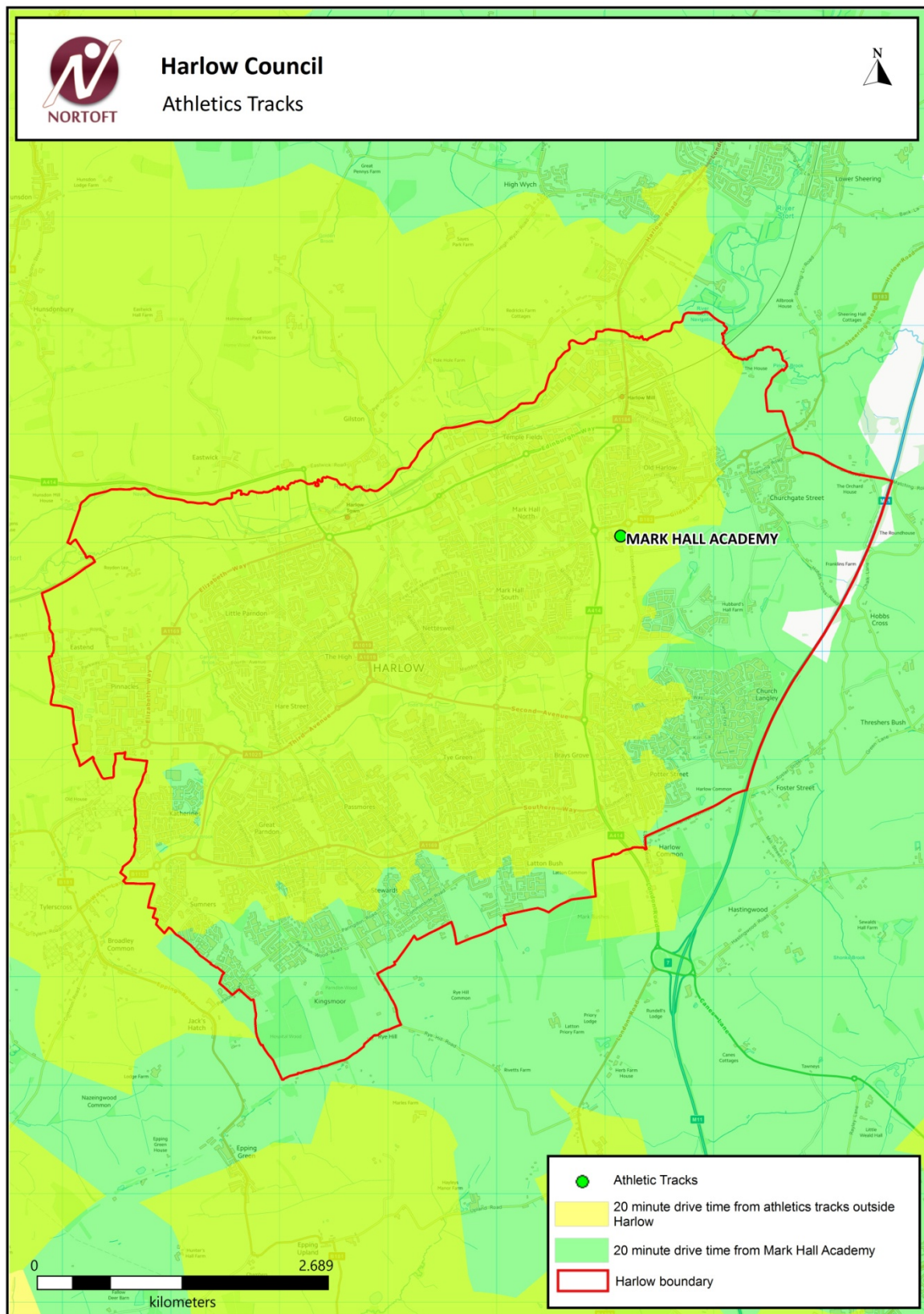


Current provision and assessment

Track facilities

- 7.5 There is currently one publicly accessible synthetic athletics track in Harlow, at Mark Hall. This 8 lane track was built in 2007. This track was built as part of a mitigation scheme for the Gateway development and was originally a joint use facility. Since the transformation of the Mark Hall School to academy status, there is no formal community use agreement for the track, and from 2017 there will no longer be a financial subsidy from Harlow Council towards its running costs. The track is operated as part of the Mark Hall Sports Centre.
- 7.6 There are problems with the track quality, specifically with the kerbs and surface de-lamination which means that the facility is not certified by UK Athletics for competition use, but is used by Harlow Athletic Club on three evenings a week for training and for some occasional schools events. The Harlow Athletics Club currently has around 271 registered senior members, but may have juniors which are not registered with England Athletics. The Harlow Running Club which meets at Mark Hall but then does road or cross-country running (no use of the track) has 171 registered adult members.
- 7.7 The track is also used on an occasional basis by England Athletics for coach and officials education, though this tends to be when the tracks at Chelmsford or Wodson Park are unavailable.
- 7.8 The site was visited by England Athletics in August 2016 and the following were noted:
- There are patches on the track coming up, although this has had some repairs recently. The track has also blistered in places, suggesting that water has got in underneath as edges have not been sealed.
 - Missing kerbing was due to be replaced in the next few weeks.
 - The cage netting was scheduled to be re-tied and repaired. Significant work had been done to improve the pit area and a rubberised edge has been put in; a new stop-board for the shot circle has been ordered.
- 7.9 A realistic travel time to athletics tracks is around 20-30 minutes, and Figure 19 shows the role of the site within the sub-region. It is clear that Harlow is within the 20 minute catchment of Wodson Park in Ware, but that the Mark Hall catchment to the east of the town is not covered by any other track provision within a 20 minutes drive time.

Figure 19: Athletics tracks and catchments map



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Marked running routes and parkrun

- 7.10 The average parkrun attendance in Harlow is over 130 per week and the average junior parkrun attendance is over 60 runners. Both take place within Harlow Town Park. The Council consider that there is no need at this time to introduce additional parkruns in Harlow.
- 7.11 At the present time there are no formal marked running routes in Harlow.

Consultation findings

Club comments

Harlow Athletic Club

- 7.12 The Harlow Athletic Club has around 190 members, of which just over half are minis, a quarter are juniors, and the remainder seniors and veterans. The minis are mostly drawn from a 20 minute catchment area, with the juniors being up to 30 minutes and the seniors over 30 minutes. About 60% of the club members are from Harlow, with 30% from East Hertfordshire and 5% each from Uttlesford and Epping Forest.
- 7.13 The club's membership has increased over the last 5 years and it expects to continue to grow in the future. At the present time there is no waiting list. The club does not have a development plan. A number of issues are restricting the ability of the club to grow, including: lack of coaches and volunteers, access to facilities and lack of facilities, the cost of facility hire, and a lack of funding. The hire charge for the Mark Hall facilities has increased "massively" but this has not led to any improvement in them.
- 7.14 The club uses Mark Hall Leisure Centre for training, 3-6 times a week on weekday evenings and weekends. The track is not considered by the club to be in the ideal location, as this would be more central to Harlow.
- 7.15 The track has a number of quality issues which means that it can only be used for training, and the club has to hire other facilities elsewhere for "home" matches. The changing facilities at Mark Hall are described as good, but there is a major issue with car parking at peak times.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

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

- 7.17 Advice from England Athletics and UK Athletics has been specifically sought in relation to the future of the Mark Hall track. The view is that an investment boost in the track itself will not solve the long term viability issues, and that most tracks are either operated with a subsidy from the local authority or from the operator. Those that can be sustained are often part of a larger facility where other facility income can bring in sufficient funding to subsidise the track operating costs. Simply upgrading the track so that it can provide for a higher level of athletics competition is not likely to be a solution for Mark Hall because of the other tracks in the area.
- 7.18 An alternative option might be to develop the infield into a 3G artificial grass pitch. This would require detailed further discussion with the athletics club and England Athletics, the operator (Mark Hall Sports Centre), the Football Association and key football clubs. Although such a pitch may be a problem for the throwers, this solution would have the benefit of offering a double 3G pitch site to the community in Harlow.

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy 2014-2019

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

England Athletics' Strategic Facilities Plan 2012-2017

- 7.22 This strategy (England Athletics, 2012) has a number of sections and also identifies priority locations for England Athletics investment, which are mainly large cities. The key points from the England Athletics strategy are drawn out below.

Road and Off-Road Running

- 7.23 The development and promotion of at least one measured running route in every town or city with a population of over 100,000 by 2017.
- 7.24 Harlow is less than this population figure but the concept would offer real opportunities for the town because of the relatively large amounts of public open space. Such routes also offer a free to use opportunity for exercise for Harlow residents, and therefore could make a large difference in supporting the authority in its aspiration to get everyone more active.

Track and Field

- 7.25 The facility priorities for 2012-2017 include the upgrading of field event facilities and equipment, clubhouse modernisation projects, access improvements for disabled athletes, and track floodlighting.
- 7.26 When England Athletics updates its strategy and introduces support to Compact Athletics Facilities, there may be opportunities for the district via this programme.

Indoor Facilities

- 7.27 Sports halls are a key component of club athletics activity and are a vital resource, particularly during the winter months for circuit training and other forms of fitness training. Although multi-purpose, they provide indoor space for sports hall athletics, entry level activities for young people, and a range of other athletics training and learning programmes. Mark Hall is currently used for indoor athletics training.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 7.28 A review of the athletics provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. In summary:

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** The sports facilities strategy for East Herts concluded that there was sufficient access to athletics tracks, within and outside of the authority, but that there was a need for more marked running routes. There will be a need to address any issues identified at the next track certification survey in order to ensure that the track at Wodson Park is retained at high quality. There are two clubs based at the track.
- **Future needs:** The existing track at Wodson Park should be retained and new marked running routes developed in the Gilston Area and the towns.

- **Implications for Harlow:** It is unlikely that any significant levels of athletics demand from East Hertfordshire will be exported to Harlow up to 2033, given the good quality track and 2 clubs based at Wodson Park.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The 2012 sports facilities assessment identified that there is no provision in Epping Forest at present, with the track in Harlow being the closest facility to the district and consequently importing some demand.
- **Future needs:** The 2012 assessment suggests that all future additional demand can be accommodated by tracks in neighbouring areas, including Harlow.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Athletics demand from Epping Forest will continue to be exported to Harlow and to the other adjacent authorities.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** There is no provision in the district at present, with the track in Harlow being the closest facility to Uttlesford and consequently importing some demand. There are current plans for a track in the Saffron Walden area that would provide for all Uttlesford needs.
- **Future needs:** Subject to the provision of the proposed track in Saffron Walden, all future needs to 2031 will also be met.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Exported demand from Uttlesford will fall once the new track is provided.

7.29 The review of the strategies from the adjacent authorities suggests that if a track was to be developed at Saffron Walden, then this would cater for some of the demand currently being met at Harlow. There is no track in Epping Forest and the Harlow facility is the closest for the northern part of the district.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

7.30 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) information from Sport England suggests that athletics (including jogging etc.) is a popular activity now, and is an appealing sport for several of the largest market segments in Harlow, however this

is mostly as the 4th or 5th most attractive sport. The only group not attracted to athletics in its broadest sense are the Retirement Home singles.

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

Comparator authorities' provision

- 7.32 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to review the athletics track provision for Harlow and its CIPFA comparators. This comparator authority analysis suggests that all of the similar authorities have a synthetic track, with the exception of Chesterfield. However the rate of provision for Harlow and those authorities with a track, at 0.01 tracks per 1,000 population, is about double the regional or national average rate of provision.

Summary of the current situation

- 7.33 There is one synthetic track at Mark Hall. This is operated by Mark Hall Sports Centre. It was built in 2007 as part of mitigation for development elsewhere in the town. There are on-going problems with the track quality which means that it cannot now be certified for competitions until the issues are addressed.
- 7.34 There is no security of use of the track as it is on an academy site, and from 2017 Harlow Council will not subsidise its use for the community.
- 7.35 The site is used by Harlow Athletic Club but due to the track issues they can only use it for training. There is significant spare capacity in terms of available track time.
- 7.36 The Harlow Running Club does not use the track facilities although it meets at Mark Hall.
- 7.37 The track is a strategic facility as its catchment is between 20 and 30 minutes off peak drive time, making it accessible to large areas of the adjacent authorities. It is considered an important facility by the national governing bodies for athletics. There are however other tracks with overlapping catchments at Ware, Woodford and Chelmsford. The main area which the track serves and which is outside of the catchment of other tracks is to the east of the authority, in Epping Forest and Uttlesford districts.

Future supply and demand

- 7.38 There is no requirement for additional athletics tracks even with the planned growth within and around Harlow as the existing track at Mark Hall has relatively high levels of spare capacity.

- 7.39 The development of marked running routes across Harlow would however encourage more people to be active, and should be a high priority for the future.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 7.40 The highest priority is to address the issues associated with the track at Mark Hall. Athletics tracks very rarely generate sufficient income to meet their costs, so if it is to be retained, then other ways of supporting the track and investing in it to ensure its long term future need to be considered.
- 7.41 If nothing is done to support the track, the lack of investment to improve it and make it usable for competitions as well as training will probably lead to a spiral of decline. The membership of the Harlow Athletic Club will, at best, remain steady and only grow in line with the housing development. At worst, the school may decide that the track is not viable and close it.
- 7.42 Another option would be to change the provision into a Compact Athletics Facility. This option would retain the track as a training venue but not reinstate the track as a competition venue. The objective would be to retain sufficient facilities to enable the athletics club to be sustained, but if the hire costs remain high, then the club may struggle to retain the current membership levels, particularly as they would need to hire other facilities for competition.
- 7.43 Alternatively, there could be capital investment to bring the track back to full competition standard, and to ensure that there is sufficient long term revenue support. This would support the growth of the club and meet all future demands for track athletics in the area. One option to support the long term revenue costs of the track would be to consider the development of the infield as a 3G pitch for football use. This type of track infield exists at Tilsley Park in the Vale of White Horse, the University Academy at Keighley, and Hutchesons Grammar School in Glasgow.
- 7.44 It is clear that the national governing bodies for athletics see the track at Mark Hall as being an important strategic facility. Every effort therefore needs to be made to support the site to enable the track to be retained into the long term. Therefore of the above options, the development of a new 3G pitch might help to resolve both the need for increased football match and training space in Harlow, and provide sufficient income to help subsidise the long term future of the track. This will however require detailed investigation and a feasibility assessment, including the current site lease/booking arrangements with Langley Colts.
- 7.45 The agreement for funding support to Mark Hall ended in 2016 which means that the facility as a whole now needs to be self-sustaining. A high priority will be for Harlow Council, the local authority partners in the Greater Harlow area, Mark Hall, the national governing bodies of the sports, and the user clubs, to work together to find a way in which the long sustainability of the track and site as a whole can be achieved.

- 7.46 As the athletics track clearly meets some of the needs of Epping Forest and, to a lesser extent, East Herts, there is justification for considering this facility as one for which cross-boundary funding and the sharing of developers' contributions may be appropriate.
- 7.47 Away from the track and in relation to athletics activities generally, Harlow Council has identified clear demand for more traffic-free walking and running routes, and this type of provision has also been identified by the national governing bodies as a priority. The development and improvement of the safe walking and running routes throughout the town are therefore a high priority for this strategy. Some of these routes could be made into marked running routes.
- 7.48 The development of marked running routes should also be in consultation with the running club, athletics club, unaffiliated runners or outdoor actor activity groups. There are no planned routes at this time.

Recommendations for athletics

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

- take a strategic lead role in co-ordinating the authorities in the Greater Harlow area, the national governing bodies, user clubs and Mark Hall Academy to develop a long term sustainable approach to the community use of the site, including for athletics.
- develop via appropriate planning policy and investment the development and improvement of safe walking and running routes, including marked running routes.

Protect

- 7.50 It is proposed to protect the Mark Hall athletics track and existing traffic free walking and running routes.

Enhance

- 7.51 Options should be explored to enable greater income generation at Mark Hall to support the long term retention of the track as a competition facility. These options should include the development of a 3G football turf pitch within the infield area.

Provide

- 7.52 Both in the existing parks and green spaces, and in the new larger housing developments, appropriately designed measured running routes should be developed.

SECTION 8: BOWLS

- 8.1 This section of the report considers the demand for bowls, both indoor and outdoor.
- 8.2 National level research demonstrates that bowls is one of the very few sports which primarily attracts older people (55 years plus). The target age groups for bowls are therefore those aged over 55 years, but most players are aged 60 and over. The Sport England Active People Survey found that over 77% of players are aged 65 years and over and 19% are aged 55-64 years. Only 4% of players are aged under 55 years.
- 8.3 Indoor bowls greens at specialist centres normally have multiple rinks, but these can vary in number. Two is probably the smallest usable size but would generally only be built where there are other facilities or adjacent outdoor greens, but the larger sites often have 8 rinks or more.
- 8.4 There is a mixture in the way in which bowlers are involved in the game. Some bowlers play year round, primarily using the indoor centres during the winter months and outdoor sites in the summer. Some only play during the summer months at outdoor clubs, and some play year round in the indoor facilities.

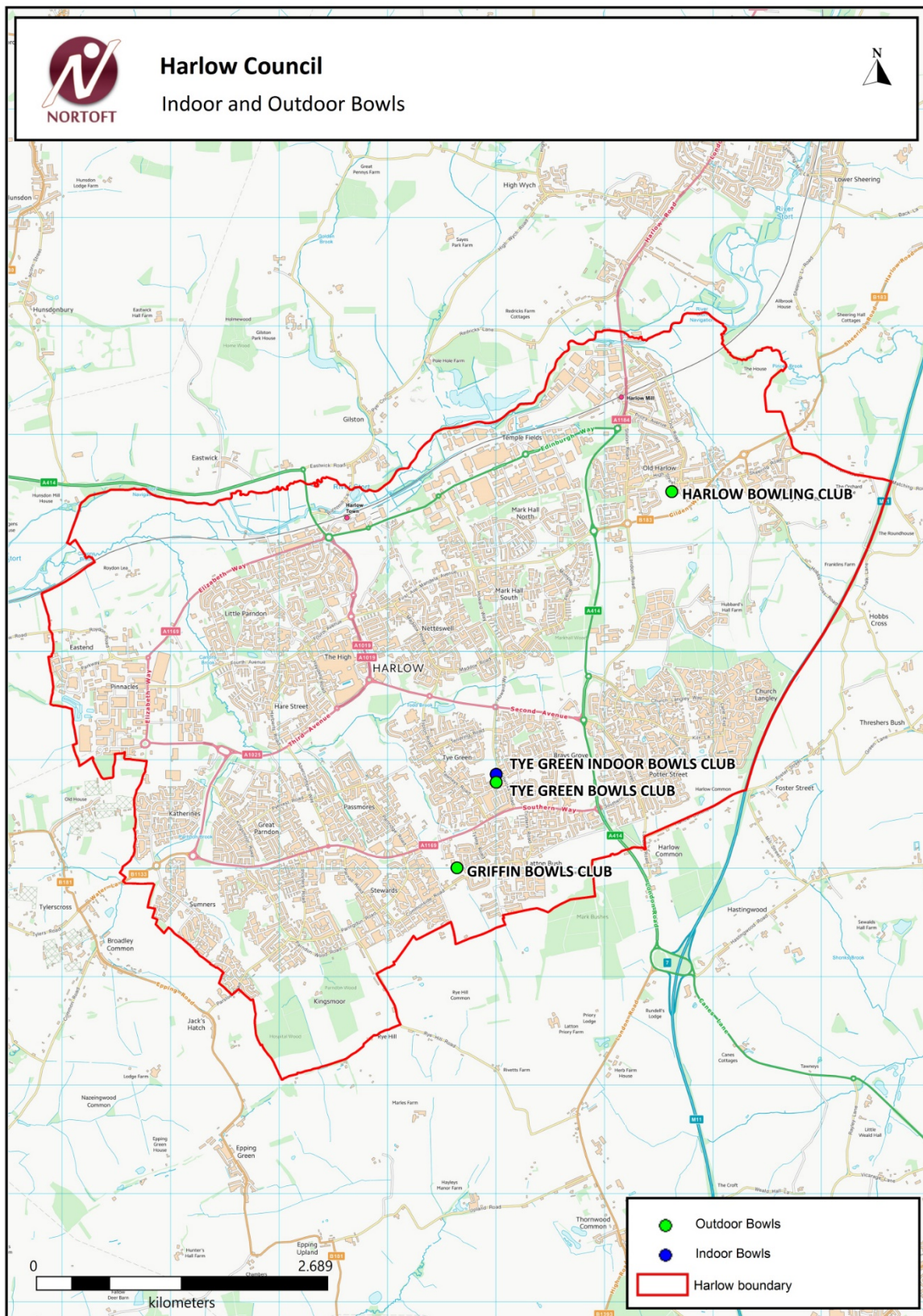
Participation in bowls

- 8.5 Sport England estimates that nationally about 271,000 adults take part in bowls at least once a month, but there is no specific split between different types of bowling, so this figure covers crown green outdoors and indoors, flat green outdoor and indoors, short mat, and carpet (Sport England , 2016).
- 8.6 In terms of the trends in indoor bowls and bowls generally at the more local level, the Active People Survey sample size is too small even at the County Sports Partnership level to provide any real guidance.

Current provision

- 8.7 A map showing the location of both the indoor and outdoor bowls facilities is given in Figure 20.

Figure 20: Indoor and outdoor bowls map



Indoor bowls

- 8.8 There is one specialist indoor bowls site in Harlow at Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club. This was built in 1976 as a 6-rink facility, but it was later extended to 9 rinks. The site is owned by Harlow Council but leased to the club. As a 20 minute drive time is appropriate for this type of facility, everyone with access to a car in Harlow can reach the centre, and it is also likely to be attracting users from the adjacent authorities.
- 8.9 The site audit showed that the facility was generally good quality, but that the disabled provision could be improved.
- 8.10 It is also likely that the community hall network is providing a significant level of opportunity for many people in terms of short mat bowls.

Outdoor bowls

- 8.11 There are 3 bowls clubs in Harlow, all playing on club managed sites. The sites of the Griffin and Tye Green clubs are owned by Harlow Council. The numbers of members in the clubs are:

Griffin Bowls Club	68
Harlow Bowling Club	49
Tye Green Bowls Club	30
Total membership	147

- 8.12 The number of people in these three clubs has stayed approximately the same over the last 5 years. Although there are no minimum sizes for a club to be sustainable, since the clubs rely on volunteers for the site management, any club with less than 40 members may find difficulties in being sustainable.
- 8.13 Each of the three clubs has a 6 rink green, but none of the greens are excellent quality and there are also general quality issues with all of the sites. Figure 21 gives the results of the site audit.

Figure 21: Bowling green site audit quality findings

Site Name	Number of Rinks	Quality score (5=excellent, 1=poor)				
		Green	Changing	Disability access	General access	Mean score
Griffin Bowls Club	6	4	3	3	2	3
Harlow Bowls Club	6	4	3	2	2	3
Tye Green Bowls Club	6	4	2	2	4	3

- 8.14 The distribution of the outdoor bowling greens means that the majority of people with access to a car can reach a site within about 10 minutes drive, though 15 minute is usually considered to be the catchment area for this type of facility.

Assessment of current supply and demand

Indoor bowls

- 8.15 Indoor bowling centres can cater for a high membership, and the English Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA) advises that 80-100 members per rink should be used to assess the capacity. The membership of the Tye Green club, provided by the EIBA for 2015 is around 709. Figure 22 assesses the current capacity.

Figure 22: Indoor bowls and capacity

Site	Number of rinks	Capacity of site @ 80 members per rink		Current membership	Used capacity % (at 80 per rink)	Used capacity % (at 100 per rink)
		@ 80 members per rink	@ 100 members per rink			
Tye Green	9	720	900	709	98%	79%

- 8.16 This assessment suggests that the site is busy, but with some capacity to meet additional demand.
- 8.17 The current rate of participation in indoor bowls at sites within Harlow, assuming that the majority of the members are aged 60 years or over are given in Figure 23.

Figure 23: Rates of participation indoor bowls

Population in 2016 of people aged 60+ years	Membership of Tye Green indoor bowls clubs	Rate of membership per 1,000 of over 60s in 2016
17,686	709	40.1

- 8.18 The membership of indoor bowls clubs has remained fairly static nationally over the last few years, so participation rates per 1,000 population for indoor bowls are not expected to increase significantly in the future.

Outdoor bowls

- 8.19 The extent to which the existing bowls sites are used is a key factor when determining the need for future provision. Based on the 2016 club membership levels of the three outdoor bowls clubs and a site capacity of about 17 members per rink, it is clear that the sites are currently being used on average at about 48% of their potential capacity, with the Griffin club operating at about 67% and Tye Green Outdoor Bowls Club at 29%.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 8.20 The indoor bowls club did not respond to the club survey. Two of the three outdoor bowls clubs in Harlow responded to the clubs survey.

Giffin Bowls Club

- 8.21 This club plays outdoor bowls in the summer and short mat bowls in the winter. It has about 68 members, almost all of whom are veterans. All of the members live in Harlow. The club's membership has stayed approximately the same over the last 5 years but the club expects to grow in the next 5 years. At present there is no waiting list to join the club. The club does have a development plan and the main issues it faces are a lack of coaches, a lack of funding and the recruitment of members.
- 8.22 The club leases its facility on a lease which runs to 2030, so the club is secure. The facility is in use throughout the week, both daytimes and evenings. The green quality is described as excellent and fully accessible for people with disabilities. Car parking however can be difficult as it is also used by office workers.

Harlow Bowling Club

- 8.23 The Harlow Bowling Club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years and does not anticipate growing in the future. The club does not have a waiting list and there are no specific issues which are limiting the club's expansion.
- 8.24 The club leases its site, and the lease period is for more than 20 years. The site is used every day throughout the summer months. The club reports that the green is good and that the changing and ancillary facilities are of at least average quality.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 8.25 The national governing body for indoor bowls is the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA), and the outdoor bowls' national governing body is Bowls England. Both are part of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA).
- 8.26 Bowls has been awarded funding by Sport England for the period 2017-2021 to help keep more people active well into later life. The Play Bowls Strategy 2017-2021 (Bowls England, 2017) has a focus on recruiting and retaining membership of clubs.
- 8.27 The EIBA vision aims to increase participation across several groups, but with particular objectives of increasing participation amongst; females; those aged 7-9 years and 14-25 years, and people with disabilities. The vision recognises that there

is a need to recruit and retain those aged 50+ with new versions/formats of the game, and those aged 70+ who wish to keep the current formats. The strategy priorities include the retention and improvement of existing facilities, and new indoor facilities in areas of low supply and high demand (English Indoor Bowls Association, 2013).

- 8.28 The EIBA considers that there is sufficient capacity now and into the long term for indoor bowls in Harlow and at other sites within 30 minutes drive of Harlow.
- 8.29 County Bowling Associations usually advise that the maximum reasonable capacity of a 6 rink outdoor green for most clubs is around 100 members, i.e. around 17 members per rink. However, the “capacity” of the most competitive clubs would be potentially lower than this figure, whilst the membership capacity of the most “social” clubs might be higher. The county bowls association also confirms that a 15 minute drive time is realistic for outdoor bowls.
- 8.30 All of the clubs in Harlow manage their own sites, and their viability appears to primarily depend on their ability to recruit and retain volunteers for the green and site management. There is therefore no minimum size of club.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

Indoor bowls

- 8.31 A review of the indoor bowls provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. In summary:

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** There is no specialist indoor bowls provision in East Hertfordshire, but the strategy recognises that the Harlow site meets a high proportion of the demand arising from the district.
- **Future needs:** The draft strategy does not anticipate the development of any new specialist indoor bowls centres, but there is a strong recommendation that this will need to be kept under review if the provision in Harlow or elsewhere changes.
- **Implications for Harlow:** There is already exported demand from East Hertfordshire to use the Tye Green facility in Harlow, and this is likely to grow in the future as the population in East Herts ages and the number of people living within the catchment of the Tye Green site increases.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The 2012 sports facilities assessment identified that the existing facility in Epping Forest meets all current needs. There is no evidence of any exported demand to Harlow.
- **Future needs:** One additional rink will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing and this should be provided by expanding the existing facility.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** The facility in Saffron Walden has some spare capacity, but needs in the south of the district, adjacent to Harlow, are met in part by the Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club.
- **Future needs:** With current spare capacity at the Saffron Walden facility, most additional demand arising by 2031 can be accommodated without additional provision, although it is likely that needs in the south of Uttlesford will continue to be met by the Harlow facility.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Users from Uttlesford will continue to access the facility in Harlow.

Outdoor bowls

8.32 A summary of the adjacent local authority strategies in relation to outdoor bowls is provided below.

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** The sports facilities strategy concludes that the network of bowls sites means that there is good accessibility. Most clubs have some spare capacity, with the exceptions being Bishop's Stortford and Buntingford.
- **Future needs:** There will be a need for an additional 6-rink outdoor bowls green in the Gilston Area/Sawbridgeworth by 2026. Other sites should be retained.

- **Implications for Harlow:** The proposal for a new bowls green in the Gilston Area will primarily meet the needs of the residents of East Herts, so there is expected to be few implications for Harlow.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The 2012 sports facilities assessment identified that the seven existing greens in Epping Forest meet all current needs. There is no evidence of any exported demand to Harlow.
- **Future needs:** One additional green will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** Current levels of provision of outdoor bowls facilities in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs, with some spare capacity. There is no evidence of any exported demand to Harlow.
- **Future needs:** Effective spare capacity at the current facilities has been calculated as the equivalent of one outdoor bowls green. This will leave a net shortfall of two bowls greens by 2031, once existing spare capacity has been utilised.
- **Implications for Harlow:** With a relatively localised user catchment, it is unlikely that greens in Harlow will attract usage from outside the town.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

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

Comparator authorities' provision

- 8.34 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of indoor bowls provision per 1,000 head of population for Harlow (see Figure 24). It is clear from this simplistic that Harlow has a higher rate of provision than any of the benchmark authorities, the regional or national averages. However, the club is probably drawing its membership from a wide area, particularly East Hertfordshire which has no provision of its own.

Figure 24: Indoor bowls centres - comparator authorities

Nearest Neighbour	Population at 2016 (ONS figure)	Indoor bowls centres		Indoor bowls centres (number of rinks)	
		Total	Per 1,000 population	Total	Per 1,000 people
Harlow	86,135	1	0.01	9	0.10
Basildon	183308	0	0.00	0	0.00
Chesterfield	104,559	0	0.00	0	0.00
Redditch	84,471	0	0.00	0	0.00
Stevenage	87382	1	0.01	6	0.07
East of England	6,076,451	74	0.01	386	0.06
England	57,885,413	326	0.01	1694	0.03

Summary of current situation

- 8.35 There is one indoor bowls facility at Tye Green Bowls Club with 9 rinks. This is a popular club with around 700 members. The facility is generally of good quality and is attracting players from both Harlow and the adjacent authority areas, in particular from East Hertfordshire which has no current provision.
- 8.36 The sport attracts mainly older people and the national governing body uses 55 years and over as the target market, although most participation is from the age of 60 years. The current rate of participation is 40.1 members per 1,000 people aged 60 and over.
- 8.37 There is limited spare capacity in the existing indoor centre and meeting new demand from new planned populations will be difficult. However, the sport has not been increasing in its popularity generally over the last few years, so the demand per 1,000 population is expected to be similar into the long term.

- 8.38 The three outdoor clubs are have significant spare capacity. They have not grown in the last 5 years and there is some doubt as to whether they will have many more members over the next few years.

Future supply and demand

- 8.39 The additional population of those aged 60 and over based on the agreed population forecasts of 2016 for Harlow, is expected to increase to 26,217 in Harlow itself by 2033, and with the inclusion of Epping Forest and the Gilston Area growth, this takes the total population of 60 and over to about 26,860 by 2033.

Indoor bowls

- 8.40 Based on the current rate of membership at Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club of 40.1 members per 1,000 population over 60 years, this will give an expected increase from 709 members to between 1,048 members and 1,077 members by 2033. This is an increase of about 300 members, with most of this new demand arising between 2026 and 2033.
- 8.41 With the estimated capacity of indoor bowls centres of around 80-100 members per rink, this increase in demand is the equivalent of 3-4 indoor rinks. Depending upon how the indoor provision at Tye Green is used, there may be some spare capacity to meet some of this demand in the in the period up to 2026, but this is fairly limited.

Outdoor bowls

- 8.42 Figure 25 models outdoor bowls in the period up to 2033. The population included in the model covers Harlow, the adjacent areas of Epping Forest and East Herts, as it is likely that the existing clubs will draw from these areas. Even with this “maximum” population, and even if a growth in participation of 0.5% per annum was achieved, then there is still sufficient capacity to cater for all of the demands up to 2033.
- 8.43 This assessment does not however take into account the longer term growth of the Gilston Area nor the accessibility of the Harlow clubs to the Gilston Area. The accepted travel time for outdoor bowls is 15 minutes drive, and the road network around Gilston is not yet developed. The outdoor bowls sites in Harlow are currently between 11 and 15 drive time from the Gilston area.
- 8.44 The East Herts strategy therefore proposes the development of one outdoor bowls green in the Gilston Area by 2026. This proposal also recognises the fact that the Sawbridgeworth Bowls Club has only limited capacity to cater for additional demand.

Figure 25: Outdoor bowls capacity in 2016 and 2033

Site	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population aged 60+	Forecast population aged 60+ (incl EF and EH) at 2033	Future number of members with current rate of participation at 2033	Future number of members with 0.5% increase in rate of participation at 2033	Spare capacity of site if no increase in participation at 2033	Spare capacity of site with increase in participation @ 0.5% pa at 2033
Griffin Bowls Club	1	6	68	11	102	34	67%	17686	26860	223	242	83	64
Harlow Bowling Club	1	6	49	8	102	53	48%						
Tye Green Bowls Club	1	6	30	5	102	72	29%						
			147		306	159	48%						

Meeting the needs of the future

- 8.45 As there are no indoor bowls proposals in the adjacent authorities, there is a need to keep the requirement for additional indoor bowls provision within Harlow under review. If participation rates are retained at present levels, there may be a need for a new indoor bowls site of 3-4 rinks in size by 2033.
- 8.46 The short-medium term priority is the retention of the Tye Green Indoor Bowls club, with investment to maintain its quality and enhance its capacity. As this facility is clearly providing a resource for East Herts' residents, and to a lesser extent for Epping Forest residents, there is justification for cross-boundary contributions for developers. This facility should therefore be included within the proposed joint authority study as a specific topic.
- 8.47 The demand for bowls and the success of the clubs in Harlow should be kept under review, as the model also suggests that if bowls fails to attract higher levels of participation then the retention of three greens may be unsustainable in the long term.
- 8.48 The priority is therefore to support the existing clubs to recruit and retain their membership, and to manage their sites effectively. Support may need to include the training of volunteers on the site and green management, the provision of equipment, and the storage of that equipment.

Recommendations for bowls

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

- take a strategic lead role in co-ordinating the authorities in the Greater Harlow area in order to agree cross-boundary mechanisms to support the investment in Tye Green Indoor Bowls site.

Protect

- 8.50 It is proposed to generally protect and maintain at high quality the existing network of bowls provision:

- the Tye Green indoor bowls centre
- the three outdoor bowls greens

- 8.51 Harlow Council and its partners will provide support to the clubs to help them to maintain and manage their sites effectively, and to recruit new members.

- 8.52 The participation in bowls, both indoors and outdoors should be kept under review

with the recognition that additional indoor bowls provision may be required in the longer term, but that not all three outdoor bowls greens may be sustainable.

SECTION 9: TENNIS

- 9.1 This section of the report addresses both indoor and outdoor tennis provision.
- 9.2 Indoor tennis facilities tend to be strategically located and often serve a wider than local catchment. They are important recreational facilities for casual play but are often equally important for training and the development of elite tennis players, and for higher level competitions. Indoor tennis centres usually have a number of courts (4, 6 or 8) that are associated with outdoor courts. There are currently two indoor tennis sites in Harlow, at Harlow Leisurezone and at the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club.
- 9.3 Outdoor tennis courts with community access in Harlow are found on 7 sites; at the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club, Paringdon Sports and Social Club, and in parks. The Harlow Lawn Tennis Club is the only site with floodlighting.
- 9.4 Sport England's Active People Survey (Sport England , 2016) suggests that nationally around 746,900 adults over 16 years play tennis at least once a month, but tennis participation has decreased during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16. The sport attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups.
- 9.5 Rates of tennis participation at the Harlow level are too low for the Sport England Active People Survey to track, so it is assumed that the national trends apply. However the LTA's affiliated club information gives a membership figure for Harlow Lawn Tennis Club of 198. However, there are 1,300 on the coaching programme.

Current provision

Indoor courts

- 9.6 There are 4 covered macadam courts at the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club in a framed fabric building which covers the courts all year. They are all floodlit and the quality of the courts is good. There are however improvements needed to the changing, disability access, and general access to the site. The site is mainly used by members but is also available on a pay and play basis. The site is owned by Harlow Council and leased to the club.
- 9.7 There are 2 courts in Harlow Leisurezone which were built in 2010. There were originally 3 courts, but one court has been converted to climbing wall area. The courts are in a traditional building and are available on a pay and play basis, however the operator estimates that the courts are used for about 50% of the peak time for fitness classes.

Outdoor courts

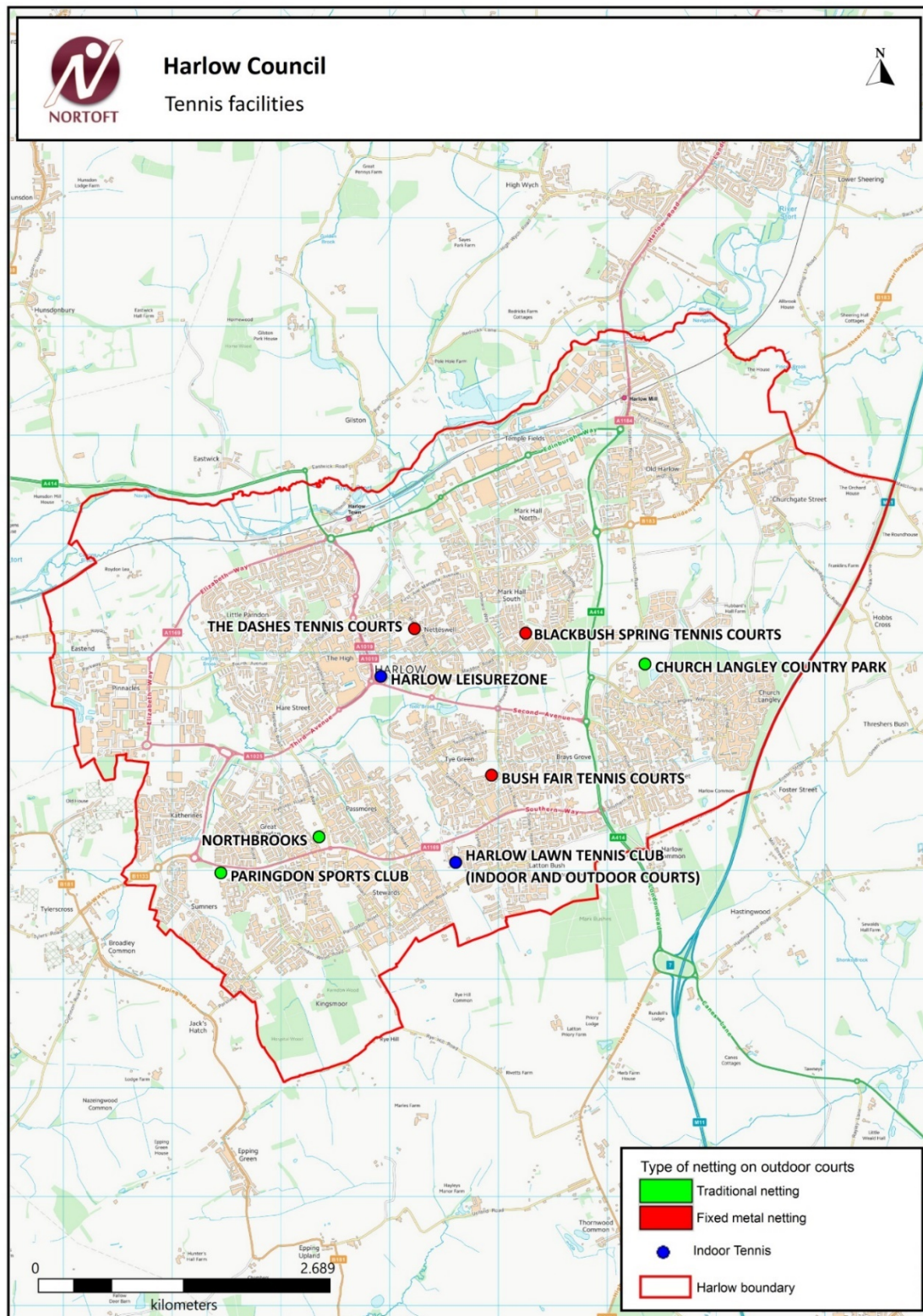
- 9.8 There are a total of 19 courts with community access in Harlow. These are of very varying quality, from good courts at Harlow Lawn Tennis Club to poor at some of the parks venues. The courts and their quality are listed in Figure 26.

Figure 26: Outdoor tennis court quality

Site Name	Nature of site	No of courts	Quality score					Overall quality
			Courts surface	Fencing	Disability access	General access	Lighting	
			1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	1-5	
Blackbush Spring	Park fixed net	2	3	2	1	1	0	Poor
Bush Fair	Park fixed net	2	2	3	1	2	0	Poor
Church Langley Country Park	Park	2	3	3	2	2	0	Below average
Harlow Lawn Tennis Club	Sports club	6	5	5	4	3	5	Very good
Paringdon Sports and Social Club	Sports club	2	4	5	4	4	0	Good
Northbrooks Tennis Courts (Harberts Road)	Park	3	2	2	2	3	0	Below average
The Dashes Tennis Courts	Park fixed net	2	2	3	2	2	0	Poor

- 9.9 Harlow Council repaired the surfaces of the open access courts at Blackbush Springs, Bush Fair, and The Dashes in 2014 and also installed vandal-proof tennis nets. This appears to have resulted in higher levels of use, but as the sites are open access there is no firm information to show how much increased use there has been. The LTA's view is that the tennis courts with the vandal proof nets are acceptable for recreational tennis but are not suitable for competition or coaching programmes.
- 9.10 None of the parks' courts have changing provision.
- 9.11 The Paringdon Sports and Social Club site is good quality but does not have floodlights. The two courts are available on a pay and play basis as well as to registered members.
- 9.12 The map in Figure 27 shows the locations of the indoor and outdoor clubs.

Figure 27: Tennis locations



Assessment of current supply and demand

- 9.13 With two indoor tennis facilities with a total of 6 courts there is a high level of supply in Harlow. Everyone with access to a car can reach one of these sites in less than about 10 minutes drive time.
- 9.14 The number of members of the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club is well within the capacity of the site, even taking into account access for pay and play and other users.
- 9.15 The outdoor courts in the parks are relatively poor quality, and even with site improvements are likely to be used at no more than 20% of the evenings and weekends in the summer months.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 9.16 There is one club in the town, Harlow Lawn Tennis Club.

Harlow Lawn Tennis Club

- 9.17 The Harlow Lawn Tennis Club has about 270 members, of which about 30% each are minis and juniors, and 40% are either seniors or veterans. About 80% of the members live in Harlow, with the remainder being approximately evenly spread between the adjacent authorities. The club has increased its membership over the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow. It has a development plan which includes the upgrading of surfaces and the general club facilities. The main issues restricting the club's growth is a lack of facilities but currently there is no waiting list to join.
- 9.18 The club leases its facility and the lease period is to 2053. The site is used year round, mostly weekday evenings and at weekends. The club also allows other groups to use the facility. The location is good and the club considers that the courts are of a good standard with at least reasonable quality changing and other facilities. The club's main need is for a larger clubhouse.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 9.19 The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition (LTA British Tennis, 2016). The LTA's overall aim for the period 2011-2016 set out in their Places to Play strategy (LTA British Tennis, 2017) was to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In relation to indoor tennis, the NGB's aspiration is

that everyone should have access to indoor courts within a 20 minute drive time, and within 10 minutes drive of a tennis club whether indoor or outdoor.

- 9.20 The LTA's general guide for club membership numbers and facility requirements are: 60 members for a floodlit court, and 200 members for an indoor court. Community tennis venues are however expected to accommodate significantly higher numbers.
- 9.21 The LTA estimates that the capital cost of an air hall is around £100,000 per court but the cost of maintaining an air hall is around £20,000 per annum for a 3 court hall. A frame construction is around £200,000 per court to build, i.e. double the cost of an air hall, but the running costs are significantly lower. The Sport England estimated costs as at quarter 2 of 2016 for a traditional building is around £2.35m for a 3 court facility.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 9.22 A review of the indoor tennis provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. In summary:

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** There is one indoor tennis facility in the district at Haileybury, and this together with the provision at Harlow and Stevenage means that most residents of East Herts can reach an indoor facility, and there is spare capacity at these sites. There a good network of outdoor tennis provision and the area close to Harlow has access to affiliated clubs within 10 minutes. The Sawbridgeworth club is one of the largest in the authority, but it has plenty of spare capacity, and there are no capacity issues for any of the sites close to Harlow.
- **Future needs:** New provision is proposed for the Gilston Area (3 outdoor courts after 2033) and the other sites are proposed to be retained. The current lack of capacity at the Bishop's Stortford club will need to be addressed, possibly by converting grass courts to hard, and/or covering courts. The outcome is however not expected to significantly impact on Harlow.
- **Implications for Harlow:** The proposed provision at the Gilston Area is to meet demand generated by that development. The new development may generate some additional use of the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club, particularly the indoor courts, but the demand will also go to the sites at Haileybury and Bishop's Stortford. There is not therefore expected to be a major impact on the tennis club in Harlow. The parks courts are unlikely to attract users from outside of Harlow.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The 2012 sports facilities assessment identified that the existing indoor tennis facility at Chigwell, the David Lloyd Centre, meets all current needs. There is no evidence of any exported demand to Harlow but this may occur in the north of the district.

There are currently 53 outdoor tennis courts which meet of the current demand and there is no evidence of any export of this demand to Harlow.

- **Future needs:** One additional indoor court will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing and this should be provided by expanding the existing facility. It is expected that 7 additional outdoor courts will be required to meet the expanding population of the district in the period up to 2026.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** There are no indoor tennis courts in Uttlesford and therefore demand is met in large part by the facilities in Harlow. However current levels of provision of outdoor courts is sufficient to the existing needs, with some spare capacity, estimated to be the equivalent of 3 courts.
- **Future needs:** With current spare capacity at the facilities in Harlow, all additional demand for indoor tennis arising by 2031 can be accommodated without additional provision. A further 6 outdoor courts are however expected to be required.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Users from Uttlesford will continue to access the two indoor facilities in Harlow, but since both have spare capacity, this can comfortably be accommodated at this time, depending on the levels of housing growth in and around Harlow. If additional outdoor courts are provided, it is not expected that there will be any significant export of demand into Harlow for outdoor tennis.

Modelling

- 9.23 A number of different modelling tools can be used to assess the current provision in Harlow.

Market Segmentation and sports development

- 9.24 The Market Segmentation analysis suggests that none of the largest market segments in Harlow is currently play tennis, but given the opportunity 3 groups may be attracted to the sport, the Stretched Single Mums, the Middle England Mums, and perhaps the Retirement Home Singles. However, this would generally be as a 4th or 5th level of choice activity. Local anecdotal evidence suggests that the parks courts are used primarily by younger people.
- 9.25 Given this market segmentation finding, the provision of tennis in Harlow will be a lower priority than meeting the demand for swimming, keep fit/gym, cycling and athletics (including jogging).

Comparator authorities' provision

- 9.26 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of indoor tennis provision per 1,000 head of population for Harlow with the CIPFA comparator authorities and with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 28).
- 9.27 This analysis suggests that the current rate of provision of indoor tennis in Harlow at 0.07 courts per 1,000 population is more than three times the regional and national averages, but is approximately in line with provision at Stevenage and Basildon.
- 9.28 The information on the number of outdoor courts on either the Sport England website or on the LTA website is too unreliable for a similar comparison exercise.

Figure 28: Indoor tennis centres - comparator authorities

Nearest Neighbour	Population at 2016 (ONS figure)	Indoor tennis centres		Number of indoor courts	
		Total	Per 1,000 population	Total	Per 1,000 people
Harlow	86,135	2	0.02	6	0.07
Basildon	183308	3	0.02	11	0.06
Chesterfield	104,559	1	0.01	3	0.03
Redditch	84,471	0	0.00	2	0.02
Stevenage	87382	0	0.00	6	0.07
East of England	6,076,451	54	0.01	105	0.02
England	57,885,413	375	0.01	1159	0.02

Summary of current situation

- 9.29 There are currently two indoor tennis facilities in Harlow and a number of outdoor courts. However, tennis is not a particularly attractive sport for the majority residents of the authority, as demonstrated by Sport England's market segmentation analysis. Tennis has declined over the last few years, so an increase in participation in the short-medium term looks unlikely.
- 9.30 Harlow Lawn Tennis Club has 6 floodlit courts, 1 non floodlit and 4 indoor courts, giving a total potential membership capacity of 1200. However, the club membership is approximately 270, so even allowing an additional 10% of use for pay and play, this still gives a total used capacity of around 33% of the courts on the site, or scope for an additional 792 members.
- 9.31 The indoor courts at Harlow Leisurezone are primarily available on a pay and play basis, and these courts mean that the provision for tennis in Harlow is well in excess of the actual demand. As a consequence, Harlow Leisurezone courts are being used for about 50% of the peak time for fitness classes.
- 9.32 The other tennis courts are mainly in parks and are owned and managed by Harlow Council. These were improved in 2014 and vandal-proof nets were installed. This has led to higher levels of use of these open and free access facilities, but the courts can only be used at a recreational level.

Future supply and demand

- 9.33 The spare capacity at the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club suggests that there will be sufficient capacity at this site to cater for all of the tennis demand arising from the new housing developments in Harlow.
- 9.34 The recreational tennis opportunities provided on the parks courts sites offer an introductory level for the game.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 9.35 The priority is therefore to retain the Harlow Lawn Tennis Club as high quality, and the continuation of the pay and play offer. Both the club and the audit have identified a need to improve the clubhouse and ancillary facilities, so these are a priority for investment.
- 9.36 Harlow Leisurezone indoor courts provide extra opportunities but there does not appear to be a strategic need to retain this facility for tennis. However this indoor sports space should be retained and potentially used to address other identified needs such as for gymnastics.

- 9.37 The parks courts offer very local opportunities, and these should be retained where there is demand.
- 9.38 In the Greater Harlow area, the East Herts draft sports facilities strategy proposes a 3 court tennis club site should be provided for the Gilston Area by 2033.

Recommendations for tennis

Harlow

Protect

- 9.39 It is proposed to protect:
- Harlow Leisurezone indoor tennis court space as space for sports and active recreation.
 - Harlow Lawn Tennis Club, including the pay and play opportunities.
 - parks courts where there is local demand.

Enhance

- 9.40 Improve the clubhouse and ancillary facilities at Harlow Lawn Tennis Club.

Greater Harlow

- 9.41 3 floodlit hard courts in the Gilston Area by 2033 suitable for a club so provided with ancillary facilities, including clubhouse.

SECTION 10: SQUASH

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

Current provision and assessment

- 10.3 There are two types of squash court, glass-backed and "normal" or enclosed. There are only 2 sites in Harlow offering squash; 4 courts at Harlow Leisurezone and 1 at Paringdon Sports and Social Club. Of these 3 are glass backed courts are at Harlow Leisurezone, and 2 are normal courts. Given the central town location of the squash facilities, everyone can reach a court within 20 minutes drive time. However, there are no squash clubs in Harlow.
- 10.4 The courts at Harlow Leisurezone are good quality but are reported by the operator to be showing a slow decline in levels of use. However, there is no throughput information available to gauge the level of actual used capacity at peak time.
- 10.5 The court at Paringdon Sports and Social Club is also good quality and is estimated to be used for about 40% of the time in the peak period.

Consultation findings

- 10.6 There are no squash clubs in Harlow.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 10.7 The national governing body is England Squash and Racketball, and its Game Changer Participation Strategy 2015-17 (England Squash & Racketball, 2015) sets out to increase the overall participation in squash as a game. Through this, it hopes to be able to protect and enable improvements to the existing courts and generate sufficient demand for new courts. During 2015/16 the national governing body hopes to arrest the decline of the sport, and during 2016/17 see a 5-10% increase in participation.

- 10.8 The strategy identifies that there are currently 4,190 courts in England, of which 45% are in public and private leisure facilities, 38% are in clubs, and the remainder on education sites.
- 10.9 The target capacity per court on club sites of the national governing body is 100 members. In public and private leisure centres, a main objective is to integrate squash into fitness programmes.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 10.10 A review of the squash court provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. In summary:

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** The strategy assessment concluded that there was spare capacity at the small number of squash club sites in the district, and that at present there is no requirement for additional provision.
- **Future needs:** The level of demand expected to be generated by the new developments is expected to be insufficient to require additional squash court provision.
- **Implications for Harlow:** Any exported squash demand to Harlow is likely to be limited as there are no clubs.

Epping Forest

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

- **Current needs:** The 2012 sports facilities assessment identified that the 11 existing squash courts in Epping Forest meet all current needs. There is no evidence of any significant exported demand to Harlow.
- **Future needs:** Two additional squash courts will be needed in the period up to 2026 to meet the needs of the population of proposed new housing.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that any exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Uttlesford

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

- **Future needs:** There will be additional demand equivalent to one extra court in Uttlesford by 2031, but it is anticipated that this provision will be made within the district.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Uttlesford and that exported demand to Harlow will therefore be limited.

Modelling

Market Segmentation and sports development

10.11 Squash is a relatively low participation sport and it does not appear for any of the market segments in Harlow (Sport England, 2017). However the socio-economic characteristics of sport compared to much of Harlow suggests that the sport probably has lower participation rates compared to the adjacent authority areas.

Comparator authorities provision

10.12 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England , 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of squash provision per 1,000 head of population for Harlow and the CIPFA comparator authorities, together with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 29).

10.13 This analysis suggests that the current rate of provision of squash court provision in Harlow at 0.02 courts per 1,000 population is less than 40% of the national and regional averages. However Harlow is in line with Basildon one of the benchmark authorities.

Figure 29: Squash - comparator authorities

Nearest Neighbour	Population at 2016 (ONS latest estimates)	Squash courts normal		Squash courts glass backed		Squash courts all	
		Total	Per 1,000 population	Total	Per 1,000 population	Total	Per 1,000 population
Harlow	86,135	2	0.02	3	0.03	5	0.06
Basildon	183308	4	0.02	8	0.04	12	0.07
Chesterfield	104,559	4	0.04	2	0.02	6	0.06
Redditch	84,471	5	0.06	0	0.00	5	0.06
Stevenage	87382	5	0.06	0	0.00	5	0.06
East of England	6,076,451	326	0.05	164	0.03	490	0.08
England	57,885,413	2663	0.05	1171	0.02	3834	0.07

Summary of current situation

- 10.14 There are only 2 sites which cater for squash in Harlow, Harlow Leisurezone and Paringdon Sports and Social Club, and there are no squash clubs. The demand for squash is declining at Harlow Leisurezone and the estimated use of the single court at Paringdon Sports and Social Club is about 40% at peak time.
- 10.15 The demographic characteristics of Harlow suggest that squash is unlikely to be a sport which attracts the largest groups in the community, so the uptake of squash seems unlikely to increase in the future unless local sports development programmes are able to generate more usage.
- 10.16 The level of usage of the squash courts at Harlow Leisurezone is not known, but as this is the only potential site where squash competitions could potentially be developed, the courts at Harlow Leisurezone should be retained. The court at Paringdon Sports and Social Club provides an additional pay and play facility, but its value is limited because it is a single court.

Future demand and meeting the needs

- 10.17 If demand arises which cannot be met by the 4 courts in Harlow Leisurezone, then it is likely that a commercial squash and racquets provider would emerge to meet this demand. At this time, it is not anticipated that additional squash provision will be required to be developed by the public sector in the period up to 2033.

Recommendations for squash

Protect

- 10.18 The 4 squash courts at Harlow Leisurezone should be retained and maintained at high quality to enable competitive squash at this venue.

SECTION 11: GYMNASTICS

- 11.1 This section of the assessment considers dedicated gymnastics provision and therefore excludes gymnastics within sports halls that are used for other sports too.
- 11.2 The Sport England Active People Survey estimates that around 72,700 adults over the age of 16 take part in gymnastics and trampolining (Sport England , 2016). However a high proportion of gymnastics participation is by young people under the age of 16, which is not captured by these statistics. British Gymnastics, the national governing body, states that the peak participation rate is at 9 years old.
- 11.3 Participation in gymnastics is increasing rapidly. Growth of British Gymnastics (BG) membership has been higher than 7% each year since 2011. There has been a total growth of around 17% annually for the past 3 years. There has been a notable increase in the number of teenagers and adults (11-25 year olds) taking part in gymnastics regularly, due to the increased opportunities and suitable activities available within the clubs. BG anticipates increased interest and demand following the 2016 Olympics. British Gymnastics' membership information suggests that there are about 1,080 gymnasts in Harlow at the following clubs:

Harlow Gymnastics Club	808 members
Viking Gymnastics Club	16 members
Apex Trampoline Club	227 members
Flight Trampoline Club	26 members

Current provision

- 11.4 There is one specialist gymnastics centre in Harlow, the Harlow Gymnastics Club based at the Sumners Community Leisure Centre at Broadley Road, which is also used by the Viking Club. The freehold of the site is owned by Harlow Council and it is leased.
- 11.5 Harlow Leisurezone's sports hall is used for trampolining by the Flight club and also offers adult pay and play trampolining. Mark Hall Academy is used by the Apex Harlow Trampoline Club.
- 11.6 The site audit for the Gymnastics Club suggests that the venue is high quality throughout.

Consultation findings

- 11.7 None of the gymnastics clubs responded to the club survey.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

11.8 Of the adjacent authorities, only East Herts provides an assessment for gymnastics.

East Hertfordshire

- **Current needs:** There are only 2 dedicated gymnastics centres in East Herts, both in Bishop's Stortford, but there are a number of gymnastics clubs just over the boundary of the authority. There appears to be a high level of exported demand.
- **Future needs:** The draft strategy recommendations are that the sports hall at the proposed joint use leisure centre for the Gilston Area should be designed to cater for club gymnastics as it is anticipated that this sport will continue to grow.
- **Implications for Harlow:** The dedicated gymnastics provision in Harlow is close to capacity and additional provision is needed. There will be a need for the authorities to work together to ensure that sufficient gymnastics provision is provided in the long term, and the design of the sports hall in the Gilston Area will need to take into account the demand and any unmet demand from Harlow.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 11.9 British Gymnastics is the national governing body for gymnastics and trampolining. Their facility strategy 2013-17 identifies dedicated gymnastics centres as crucial for the sport and suggests that the main barrier to increasing membership at clubs nationally is simply an inability to provide for more sessions at an available venue. The response of the national governing body is both to develop new dedicated gymnastics venues, and also to support the setting up of satellite venues in non-dedicated facilities, such as schools and community centres. This is because many of the activities developed by British Gymnastics do not require specialist facilities.
- 11.10 The strategy provides an overview of the role of dedicated and non-dedicated gymnastics facilities (see Figure 30).

Figure 30: Role of dedicated and non-dedicated gym facilities

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

- 11.11 A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. There is a definite trend in this direction, and nationally over 40 clubs moved into their own spaces in 2015. BG expects this trend to continue.
- 11.12 British Gymnastics is not aware of any of the clubs in Harlow looking for support to expand or change their facilities.

Modelling

- 11.13 There is likely to be increasing demand for gymnastics as the population in Harlow and its surrounds increases, and most demand is likely to be in the SUE areas where there will be a higher number of younger people into the future.
- 11.14 The current rate of membership of gymnastics clubs is 12.25 members per 1,000 population. If a 0.5% participation is added to this current rate for the period up to 2033 recognising the continued growth in the activity, this would give a rate of 13.3 members per 1,000 population in the period up to 2033.

Summary of current situation

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

Future supply and demand

- 11.16 The modelling of future demand for gymnastics is based on the population forecasts agreed with Harlow Council. The potential demand is considered in three ways: Harlow on its own, Harlow with the adjacent growth within Epping Forest, and Harlow with the adjacent developments in both Epping Forest and East Herts (the Gilston Area). The bulk of the Gilston Area will be developed after 2033, with 3,050 of the total approximately 10,000 dwellings between 2026 and 2033. The modelling takes into account the younger age profiles of the new communities in the growth areas, including for Epping Forest and East Herts. The areas for the new developments in Epping Forest and East Herts are modelled with a starting population of zero. This is because the existing populations are small, and any current sports facility needs they have are already met within the network.
- 11.17 In assessing the future need, it is appropriate to take the current membership rates for gymnastics per 1,000 as the starting point, but potentially adding a 0.5% per annum increase in demand for the period up to 2033, see Figure 31. This modelling suggests that there could be between around 200-300 extra gymnasts from Harlow plus a further approximately 200 from Epping Forest and the Gilston Area by 2033.

Figure 31: Demand for gymnastics up to 2033

	Current number of members	Population 2016	Current rate of membership per 1000	Demand expected to arise in number gymnastics members									
				2021			2026				2033		
				Population	0% participation increase	2.5 % participation increase (0.5% pa)	Population	0% participation increase	5% participation increase (0.5% pa)		0% participation increase	5% participation increase	8.5% participation increase (0.5% pa)
Fitness stations													
Harlow	1080	86135	12.25	90719	1111	1139	96167	1178	1237	103983	1274	1337	1382
Harlow plus Epping Forest		0		92048	1128	1156	101650	1245	1307	110847	1358	1426	1473
Harlow plus Epping Forest and East Herts		0		0	0	0	103995	1274	1338	119488	1464	1537	1588

Meeting the needs of the future

- 11.18 Given that there is no spare capacity in the existing gymnastics provision, there is a clear need to develop additional gymnastics space. The preferred option by the national governing body is for dedicated gymnastics sites, so this should be the first priority for investment. As this facility would cater for the Greater Harlow area, there is justification for cross-border co-operation for this facility.
- 11.19 The proposed sports hall at the Gilston Area leisure centre, if designed for gymnastics, will provide additional non-dedicated capacity for the Greater Harlow area, but the majority of its users are likely to be from the East Herts area.

Recommendations for gymnastics

- 11.20 To meet the growth of Harlow and the Greater Harlow area for the period up to 2033, it is recommended that an additional dedicated gymnastics centre is developed in Harlow. The design, costs and timing will need to be confirmed through a feasibility study.
- 11.21 Harlow and East Herts Councils should work together to determine what is required for the sports hall at the proposed joint use centre in the Gilston Area once the details and deliverability of a dedicated centre in Harlow has been confirmed.

SECTION 12: GOLF

- 12.1 Golf makes a contribution of around £3.4 billion per annum to the English economy. Golf also occupies an important position in the English sporting landscape. It is the fifth largest participation sport in the country and has about 675,000 members belonging to around 1,900 golf clubs.
- 12.2 Like many other sports in England, golf faces some serious challenges, and the number of golf club members has been declining since 2004. This in turn has put a financial strain on many golf clubs that are reliant on membership income. Nationally, participation in golf has also been declining steadily since 2007 due to lifestyle shifts and competition from other sports.
- 12.3 As the commercial sector is the most important provider of golf in the area, the development of the courses will reflect a combination of demand and appropriate site opportunities. Several of the golf courses have also now developed footgolf within their site, which is always available on a pay and play basis.

Golf design and activities

- 12.4 There are a number of ways in which golf is played, from the standard 18 hole golf course, to shorter Par 3 courses, driving ranges, pitch and putt and other short courses, adventure golf, and even crazy golf. The main sporting facilities are considered to be full courses, short courses, par 3 courses, and driving ranges. The new Topgolf and similar entertainment centres are also becoming increasingly popular and seen as an accessible introduction to the sport.

Participation in golf

- 12.5 The Sport England (Sport England, 2017) statistics for participation in golf shows that amongst adults around 1.12 million people take part in golf at least once a month. Men's participation is about four times greater than that of women. Nationally the rate of participation in golf fell between 2007 and 2016. The highest rates of participation are amongst those aged 55 years plus, and amongst the more affluent socio-economic groups (NS SEC 1-4).
- 12.6 England Golf estimates that there are around 675,000 members of approximately 1,900 affiliated clubs and a further 2 million people playing golf outside of club membership. The NGB's information confirms that of Sport England, that participation and club membership has been in decline since 2004 and has only recently been showing signs of levelling off.

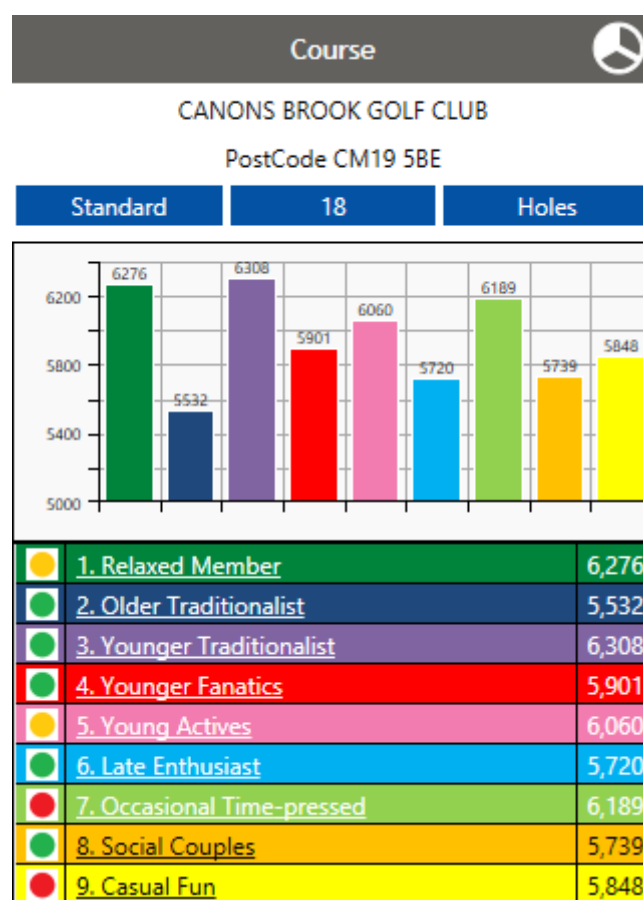
Current provision

- 12.7 There is one golf site in Harlow, Canons Brook, which has one standard course. The site's freehold belongs to Harlow Council, and it is leased to the operator. The course is open to visitors on a pay and play basis as well as having a membership scheme.

Assessment of current supply and demand

- 12.8 The spread of golf provision means that everyone with access to a car can reach a course within 15 minutes drive time. The current balance in supply and demand is not possible to assess accurately as the membership figures and pay and play use of the individual golf sites are commercially sensitive information. England Golf has however developed golf participation modelling and their assessment of the Canons Brook catchment using their market segments is given in Figure 32. This suggests that the highest demand for golf in the catchment comes from the "Younger Traditionalist", "Relaxed Member" and "Occasional Time Pressed" individuals. These segments are set out in the England Golf publication Understanding Your Market (England Golf, 2016), see also 11.16.
- 12.9 It is known that golf facilities are sensitive to economic changes. The average membership of the clubs in the districts surrounding Harlow, provided by England Golf in 2017 is:
- Epping Forest district: 272 (8 affiliated clubs, ranging from 26 to 523)
 - East Herts district: 371 (8 affiliated clubs, ranging from 67 to 716)
 - Uttlesford district: 420 (2 affiliated clubs, ranging from 39 to 800)

Figure 32: England Golf modelling for Canons Brook



Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

12.10 A summary of the coverage of golf in the adjacent authorities' strategies is given below.

East Hertfordshire

- The draft strategy does not cover golf.

Epping Forest

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

- Current needs:** The 2012 assessment identified a high number of golf courses with a relatively high rate of provision per 1,000 population. There are no golf courses or driving ranges on the immediate boundary of Harlow.

- **Future needs:** The equivalent of 1.5 extra golf courses and one extra driving range are expected to be required.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Epping Forest and that there will be no exported demand to Harlow. However some Harlow residents are likely to use courses in Epping Forest.

Uttlesford

- **Current needs:** Current levels of provision for golf meets the needs of the community.
- **Future needs:** There will be additional demand equivalent to 5 extra holes of a golf course by 2031.
- **Implications for Harlow:** It is anticipated that new provision will be made within Uttlesford and that there will be no exported demand to Harlow. Some Harlow residents may use courses in Uttlesford.

Consultation findings

Club comments

12.11 There are no club survey returns for golf.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 12.12 Sport England recognises England Golf as the lead national governing body for this sport.
- 12.13 The England Golf Strategic Plan 2014-17 (England Golf, 2014) aims to increase golf participation, to increase the number of members of clubs, to strengthen clubs generally, and to support talented golfers. There are no specific facility proposals for Cherwell. This plan is due to be updated in summer 2017.
- 12.14 Information from the recent (unpublished) England Golf Club Survey has been provided, see Figure 53 above. This suggests that the rate of membership of the South Oxfordshire clubs is lower than in the other districts in Oxfordshire, and is significantly lower than the average for England.
- 12.15 One of the actions in the England Golf Strategic Plan was to develop a more detailed market segmentation mechanism to support sports development. This is based on a 20 minute drive time catchment, and 9 golfing segments. These segments are different from those used by Sport England, and are:
- Segment 1: Casual/Relaxed Member

- Segment 2: Older Traditionalist
- Segment 3: Young Family Members
- Segment 4: Young Fanatics
- Segment 5: Young Actives
- Segment 6: Enthusiasts
- Segment 7: Occasional/Time Pressed
- Segment 8: Social Couples
- Segment 9: Casual Fun

12.16 England Golf considers that the number of affiliated clubs and driving ranges in and around Harlow which have pay and play access in addition to membership, means that there is good open access to golf. There are no Par 3 courses, standalone ranges or short courses which are more suitable for the beginner and for young people though.

Modelling

Market Segmentation

12.17 The Market Segmentation information from Sport England suggests that golf is a sport which appeals to three of the largest market segments in Harlow, and of these groups are aged over 45 years. None of these market segment groups are likely to be high priorities for Harlow Council's sports development initiatives, because the greatest health benefits are to be gained from encouraging people who do no or very little physical activity to doing something or more at an appropriate intensity.

Summary of the current situation

12.18 There is one golf site with one standard 18-hole course in Harlow which offers both membership and pay and play. There are also courses within easy reach of Harlow at Briggens Park in East Hertfordshire, and Nazeing, North Weald and Blakes in Epping Forest district. Everyone with access to a car can reach a course within about 10 minutes drive.

Assessment of Future Needs

12.19 The objectives of sports development within the area are to increase rates of participation in sport and physical activity, especially amongst young people. As such, the authority may wish to encourage new forms of golf aimed at younger people. Typically, a course shorter than the 18-hole format will be more attractive to younger players. This would suggest a need for more Par 3 and other short format courses, especially as there is only one 9-hole course in the district (and it is not a Par 3).

- 12.20 There is likely to be continued interest in golf into the future, but there are likely to be very limited options for developing new golf courses (9 or 18 hole) within Harlow itself because of their size. There may however be options for developing new or alternative forms of the game in the future, as is currently being considered for the Town Park.

Future demand and meeting the needs

- 12.21 As golf has a significant commercial element, the provision for this sport is likely to respond most to economic conditions and will change to reflect patterns of demand. Over time the expectations for golf change and it will be important for the golf club to respond to these in order to keep the facilities as viable and vibrant as possible.
- 12.22 Assuming that the economic conditions remain similar or better than today into the long term, the increase in housing numbers in Harlow and its surrounding areas will bring more demand for golf, in its various forms. Harlow Council is responding by considering re-opening the pitch and putt/footgolf facility in the Town Park. More generally, the planning policies in the Local Plan should be positive towards new golf proposals.
- 12.23 Is it likely that some Harlow residents will be using courses in the adjacent authorities, and this export is expected to continue into the future.

Recommendations for golf

Protect and enhance

- 12.24 To meet the growth of Harlow and the Greater Harlow area for the period up to 2033, it is recommended that the planning policies for golf protect the current site at Canons Brooks but also allow the site to respond to the economic conditions which will support its viability.

Provide

- 12.25 Develop pitch and putt and footgolf in the Town Park.

SECTION 13: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- 13.1 In addition to the main sports facility network for Harlow, there are a small number of specialist built sports facilities which are not addressed in the individual report sections above. These are covered below.

Netball on outdoor courts

- 13.2 The main centres for netball indoors are at Harlow Leisurezone and Mark Hall, and this use is addressed in the sports hall section of this report.
- 13.3 Outdoor netball courts are available at Paringdon Sports and Social Club, Mark Hall and a number of school sites.

Tornadoes Netball Club

- 13.4 Netball is played outdoors at Paringdon Sports and Social Club by the Tornadoes Netball club. This club has almost 40 members and draws about 75% of its players from Harlow, with the remainder mainly from East Hertfordshire. The members travel up to about 20 minutes to reach the site. The club has grown in the last 5 years and expects to continue to increase its membership. At the moment it does not have a waiting list. The issues facing the club are a lack of volunteers, difficulties with access to facilities/lack of facilities, the hire cost of facilities and a lack of funding.
- 13.5 The Paringdon Sports and Social Club court is used for training during the spring and summer months once-twice a week on weekday evenings. It is easy to book. However, the court is poor quality and lacks floodlighting. There are no toilet facilities near the court and no changing or storage lockers available to the club.
- 13.6 The Tornadoes use Harlow Leisurezone for their matches, and use this facility once-twice a week on weekday evenings during the autumn and winter.

Crosskeys Netball Club and Tegate Netball Club

- 13.7 Both of these clubs are based at Mark Hall, which has both indoor and outdoor courts.

Future demand and meeting the needs

- 13.8 There does not appear to be a shortage of outdoor courts for netball in Harlow to meet current demand. If netball develops further, then there is potential capacity on the outdoor netball courts which are relatively lightly used at present. However there would be a need to confirm their quality, provide floodlighting if not already available, and ensure security of use.

Archery

- 13.9 Archery GB has a current facility development plan and a new programme “New Places for Target Faces”. This is a new programme developed to make archery more accessible by opening up new archery venues around the country. Research has shown that current archers would like to shoot more often, but they are restricted by the availability of facilities. It also shows that there is a considerable demand for new archers to take up the sport. Alongside easy to follow advice and tailored support, an additional benefit for venue owners and managers who become involved in the programme is that they can apply to Archery GB for a start-up grant of up to £1,000. This can be used to purchase equipment or train staff in the delivery of the sport. The new programme is therefore facility owner and operator led.
- 13.10 Key facts from the strategy include that most clubs rent or hire the facilities they use, whether this is indoor or outdoors. Schools and leisure centres are important in the provision of indoor spaces (usually sport halls), but private landowners and similar are more important for the outdoor facilities. Where a club shares the outdoor space, this is mostly with football, rugby or cricket, and the sport considers itself to be a pitch sport.
- 13.11 It is not known if the sport has particular growth potential in Harlow and the nearest clubs are the Harlow Archers based at Roydon County Primary School in Epping Forest (outdoors), and Epping Archers use the Abercrombie Centre in Harlow (indoors). The Epping Archers club responded to the club survey.

Epping Archers

- 13.12 This club has just over 70 members drawn from all age groups. Just over half are drawn from Harlow, but the club also attracts members from Epping Forest, Broxbourne and other areas, but none from Uttlesford. The minis travel for about 10 minutes to reach the club, but all of the other age groups travel for up to 30 minutes. The club has increased its membership over the last 5 years and has short waiting lists for each age group. The waiting time on the list for juniors up to 18 is about 8 months and the seniors about 4 months. The club is restricted from growing further because of its access to facilities and a lack of volunteers.
- 13.13 The club hires the activity hall from Great Parndon Community Association once or twice a week on weekday evenings, and they use the site for both matches and training. The facility is easy to book and is in the preferred location for the club. The site is described as adequate for the club’s needs. The club uses North Weald Airfield in Epping Forest District for their outdoor sessions.

Future demand and meeting the needs

- 13.14 There is a need for additional archery provision, both indoors and outdoors, but it is likely that the priority for any future provision will be in or near North Weald where the club is based for their outdoor sessions.

Activities not using built facilities

- 13.15 There are a number of sport and recreation activities which are based in parks, spaces and the countryside. These sports and activities include amongst others; walking, cycling, horse riding, climbing, sailing, canoeing, windsurfing, rowing, motorcycle trials, and air sports. The vast majority of these activities will take place at sites which are outside of Harlow, and those that do, are not in the control of the local authority.
- 13.16 It is neither possible nor appropriate to attempt to devise formal planning standards for these activities, as more important is appropriate and sufficient access to routes with public access, public open spaces, and the natural resources. The appeal of these types of activities in Harlow is wide, for example every one of the largest market segments using take part in least one activity, particularly cycling, but also athletics (including jogging) and angling.

Cycling

- 13.17 British Cycling has the following high level priorities in its Whole Sport Plan:
- Providing British Cycling members who have the talent to succeed at the highest level with all the support they need to maximise their potential.
 - Providing opportunities for everyone who wants to ride their bike to be able to do so in a safe, accessible and supportive environment.
 - Growing the membership to enable British Cycling to provide a strong voice on behalf of all cyclists, actively promoting their needs and protecting their rights.
- 13.18 The strategic facility priorities identified by British Cycling (British Cycling Federation, 2017) are:
- A comprehensive network of accessible traffic-free multi-disciplined cycling facilities enabling the effective and safe delivery of cycling activities both at a participation and excellence level.
 - Support for clubs and groups who wish to develop new, or improve existing, facilities and infrastructure.
- 13.19 An updated National Facilities Strategy for cycling is currently in development. The Strategy will cover all six recognised forms of cycling.

- 13.20 British Cycling has not provided any specific strategy comments for Harlow, and no cycling clubs responded to the clubs survey.
- 13.21 Therefore, where sites are in the control of Harlow Council or where new developments are planned, there is strong justification for ensuring good quality well-networked routes which enable and encourage both sustainable transport and recreational use for walking, running and cycling. The main routes should be floodlit and managed to enable safe use after dark. The Council should ensure the development of safe cycling routes, both as part of sustainable transport and as part of green infrastructure provision. To support this, Harlow Council may benefit from developing a Greater Harlow wide cycling strategy which can help to ensure that the required links are made between developments and other critical infrastructure needs is identified.

Recommendations

- 13.22 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, the Council will:
- continue to support community access to the existing facilities networks.
 - ensure that appropriate planning policies are in place to protect existing sites and enable the development of new sports facilities where the demand arises.
 - ensure that new developments contribute towards a network of safe traffic free walking and cycling routes.
 - co-ordinate with Epping Forest and East Herts to develop a Greater Harlow cycling strategy.

SECTION 14: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

Maximising health and well-being outcomes

- 14.1 Harlow Council and its partners have a clear stated objective of improving the health and wellbeing of the communities. The network of sports facilities will be an essential element in the delivery of these objectives.
- 14.2 This sport facilities assessment and strategy has considered the current patterns of participation in sport and active recreation across Harlow, and across all providers, and forecasts forwards the anticipated needs up to 2033 based on the expected future population, its age structure, and socio-economic characteristics.

Maximising cost-effectiveness

- 14.3 The facility recommendations in Figure 35 are expected to be the most cost-effective and deliverable route of achieving the facilities required, and take into account the fact that the Council itself only controls a small proportion of the facilities across the authority. Each key action in the Action Plan in Figure 34 should however start with the most cost-effective option as the preferred option, moving to the more expensive as needed.
- 14.4 A fundamental principle for the provision of public leisure facilities are that they must be financially sustainable. It is also essential that any public investment into school sites should be linked to a legal agreement securing community use for an appropriate length of time, usually 25 years, either via a planning obligation or other mechanism.

Working across authority boundaries

- 14.5 A number of the strategy recommendations have identified that the most cost-effective way of delivering the sports facilities required is through co-operation with adjacent authorities. Cooperation across the administrative boundaries recognises the fact that people travel across authority boundaries to access sports facilities. The assessment has identified a number of activities where there is import/export of participants, for example the import of gymnasts to Harlow and the export of swimmers to East Hertfordshire.
- 14.6 The planned housing growth in and on the boundaries of Harlow will exacerbate this cross-boundary movement. There is therefore a need to work strategically cross-boundary, as provision may be better located in one area than another. This is expected to require mechanisms to address developers' contributions and wider infrastructure planning. To be avoided are both the duplication of facilities, and a failure to provide any to meet the demand expected to arise. Such outcomes would fail to deliver the necessary infrastructure to support health and wellbeing, and / or be much more expensive and less financially sustainable in the long term.

Securing provision of sport through development

- 14.7 A key output from the strategy is the securing of sports provision through development. This can include on-site provision through master-planning and planning obligations, and securing developers' contributions to off-site provision. These contributions can be secured through s106, or in the future maybe via CIL.
- 14.8 The authority will be seeking contributions via s106 but it will necessary to meet the three CIL tests set out in CIL Reg 122 and NPPF paras 203 and 204:
- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
 - Directly related to the development
 - Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.
- 14.9 It will therefore be important to ensure that any obligations sought are based on a tailored approach to each development, using this strategy's evidence base (and/or other robust up-to-date planning policy) to justify the needs arising from the development, and how these are to be met. A proactive approach should be taken to the use of planning obligations in the context of the current pooling restrictions (i.e. as far as is practical matching specific developments to identified projects). This could be through an approved site master-plan, development briefs in the Local Plan, a Planning Obligations SPD, or other policy approach, where these are appropriate to the proposed development.
- 14.10 Given the wish of Harlow, East Herts and Epping Forest Councils to work together, a Collective Planning Obligations SPD is being considered via the Duty to Co-operate Board.

Assessing if contributions are justified

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

facility, it will still generate additional demand, which should be quantified and be met. Other contributions could then be sought from other applications to enable the delivery of the facility.

- 14.13 There may also be specific facility needs identified in the strategy which are required to be provided on a development site, as this is the most deliverable opportunity. This may include leisure centres or other facilities which potentially have a wider catchment than the development site itself or where the development itself generates the whole or a large proportion of the facility need.
- 14.14 The following will be used to assess whether the existing provision within an area can provide for the development. The tests relate to Quantity, Accessibility and Quality:
- The quantity requirements are based on the demand generated by the development. The approach towards assessing the amount of demand is outlined in the 'Provision Guide' (see Figure 33).
 - The accessibility requirement determines the acceptable travel distance to a facility based on known travel patterns for different sports. Catchments are set out in the 'Provision Guide' (see Figure 33). This information can be used to guide whether provision should be on-site or off-site, and the maximum distance to existing facilities which potentially have capacity to meet the new demand generated from the development. The accessibility requirement also needs to consider the facility ownership, management and availability for community use. The 'availability' must be sufficient for the expected community's needs and include hours of use, pricing policy, and security of the community access (i.e. it is affordable, is fully available to the community at evenings and weekends and generally has secure community use for 25 years or more).
 - The quality requirement relates to the quality and design of facilities, and that they should reflect current best practice, including current design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to refurbishment as well as to new build proposals, as the age and condition of a facility will impact upon its attractiveness and ability to meet the demand generated from a development.
- 14.15 In some cases, the nearest current or potential new facility may be across a local authority boundary. In this case it is appropriate to consider offering funding to such a facility.
- 14.16 On shared strategic sites, it should be noted that Neighbourhood Plans might attract 15-25% of the available CIL proceeds, which could impact on the amount then available for the sports facility provision.

Planning policy recommendations

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

- 14.23 The planning policies should also include reference to circumstances where there is an assessed deficit in the provision of a facility, but there is an existing facility with appropriate community access that could potentially meet the demands generated by the development if it could be upgraded or extended. Policy should make it clear that contributions may be sought for this purpose. The level of contributions need to meet the CIL tests, and should not exceed or cover what could reasonably be expected to be paid for by normal operational income. In these cases, the operator (including a school or a club) will need to be supportive of the proposed approach to funding and agree with the timescales for the payment of contributions.
- 14.24 To support this general approach towards using contributions for improvements at an existing facility, a planning policy is needed which allows flexibility in the allocation of such a contribution in case the improvement or provision at the targeted facility becomes implemented through other funding sources ahead of the time the contribution is due to be paid. If appropriate, the wording of the planning obligation/contribution should allow for the monies to be paid to an appropriate alternative facility (where this is still justified and CIL compliant).
- 14.25 Planning policy in relation to the provision of suitable land to be provided by development should have the following elements:
- Where the investment need is for a new facility to meet the demand directly generated by the population of the new development(s), then the developer is expected to meet all of these costs. These include provision, maintenance and land costs.
 - Where the demand is for the majority (50% or more) of a facility, that is to be provided on site, suitable land will be provided by the developer at no cost, as well as the population-related proportion of the cost of the facility.
 - Where the demand is for less than 50% of a facility, that is to be provided on-site, then suitable land needs to be planned into the development, however only a proportionate amount of this land will be provided for free and the remainder will need to be funded from other sources (e.g. from pooled contributions from other developments, from grants or other sources).
 - Where the land cannot be provided for on-site because of proven master-planning constraints, financial viability or other relevant reasons, then the local authority may negotiate an appropriate alternative contribution, where this is CIL compliant.
- 14.26 In all cases, there may be reasons for the Council to choose to be flexible in how it applies these policies (e.g. where the need is for part of a facility the Council may require all the land but not ask for a contribution to its provision or maintenance). So long as this fits into a wider planned approach to ensure deliverability, and is CIL compliant.

Identify the appropriate facility for the contribution

- 14.27 Contributions need to be CIL Reg 122 compliant.
- 14.28 The facility is identified in the Action Plan (Figure 34) or Site Specific Proposals list (Figure 35) in this strategy.
- 14.29 Where there is flexibility, and where pooling restrictions may be a consideration, larger developments may be better targeted for certain contributions than smaller developments, so as to better deliver identified community priorities.
- 14.30 To ensure that a contribution can be delivered, there needs to be a realistic timescale for delivering the residential development and the sports facility project, and a reasonable chance that any shortfall in the funding of the facility can be found from other sources.
- 14.31 Consideration should be given to including a clause in a planning obligation agreement to provide for an alternative CIL compliant facility to cater for unforeseen circumstances, particularly where there might be some uncertainty in securing the delivery of the preferred facility.

Calculating contributions

Demand

- 14.32 The Provision Guide (Figure 33) should be used to calculate the amount of expected demand being generated by a development for sports halls, swimming pools, fitness facilities and outdoor tennis. It provides a quantity of facility per 1,000 population, accessibility and quality standards, and has been directly derived from the strategy's assessment process, including:
- The current and future demographics of the district and areas within the district
 - The current and expected future demand for each sport/facility type for the district
 - Current patterns of demand, for matches and training and informal activity sessions
 - The feedback from consultees; clubs, national governing bodies and other stakeholders
 - The capacity of facilities at peak times
 - Research by bodies such as Sport England and the national governing bodies on catchments for each sport/facility type
 - Published guidance on design
 - Local identified priorities for certain facilities, such as tennis and bowls.
- 14.33 In addition to the demand to be estimated using the Provision Guide, there is a need to provide specific new facilities in certain planned development areas, such as new leisure centres.

Figure 33: Provision Guide

Facility type	Assessment of demand for new developments		
	Quantity per 1,000 population	Accessibility	Quality
Sports Halls	0.29 badminton courts fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards
Swimming pools	11.13 sq m water space fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards
Fitness facilities (stations)	10.05 stations fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality standard to meet Sport England standards
Fitness facilities (studios)	0.12 studios fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality standard to meet Sport England standards

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

Costs

- 14.34 To calculate the scale of a developer's financial contribution for the provision of a facility which has been identified as being justified and appears in the strategy project list, the Contributions Assessment Calculator can be used.
- 14.35 This calculator uses current national costs, but if there are robust and up-to-date local facility or project costs, then these may be used instead, particularly where the project is to enhance the existing facility provision.
- 14.36 The cost of maintenance and sinking funds, where justified, should be calculated and included in the contributions expected from the developer. These may be based either on the Sport England or NGB costs advice incorporated in the calculator, or where there are known robust local costs, these should be used in preference.
- 14.37 In addition to the calculator derived costs:

- when a land cost is justified, this will also need to be included in the developers' contributions, based on the local market cost for the relevant sport/leisure land use.
 - there may be a need to add the cost of other local and site-specific costs (e.g. abnormal ground conditions, site access needs, landscaping, acoustic fencing etc).
- 14.38 It should be noted that all costs should be date related, and inflation should be taken into account. For example, if a facility is to be delivered in 3 years' time, an appropriate inflation index, such as Spons Building Costs Indices, should be applied.
- 14.39 A worked example of the Harlow Council Contributions Calculator is provided in Appendix 3.

Priorities for Action

- 14.40 Harlow Council and its partners will treat this assessment and recommendations as a rolling document and will aim to undertake a number of action points arising from it. The Council will use its strategic leadership to ensure that the resources that are available to deliver the strategy priorities are used in the most cost effective and efficient way. The partnerships needed to underpin the strategy recommendations will include the education and voluntary sectors, and importantly the adjacent authorities of East Hertfordshire, Epping Forest and Uttlesford as part of the delivery of the Garden Town concept.
- 14.41 The sports strategies for Epping Forest are still at an early draft stage, but the built facilities and playing pitch strategies for East Hertfordshire are now complete. Once all three authorities' strategies are complete, then a high priority will be to draw these together to confirm the overall strategic priorities for the Greater Harlow and Garden Town area.
- 14.42 The first priority for implementation will therefore be an action plan which is led and coordinated by Harlow on an interdepartmental basis, with its adjacent authorities and key stakeholders. This will be based around the project specific proposals set out in Figure 34 which have been widely consulted upon with appropriate parties e.g. sports representatives, users, and providers. The costs in this table are taken from Sport England published standardised costs for each type of facility. These costs will need to be updated as each project moves forwards and more specific local costs are identified.
- 14.43 The deliverability of the projects will need to be kept under regular review and alternative options identified if the preferred site/location is not possible to deliver. The next stage of the strategy work is the testing of the project proposals via further detailed partnership discussions and feasibility studies, including detailed costing and business planning. The outcomes of these actions will help to confirm the draft project list.

- 14.44 The action plan (Figure 33) sets the priorities for Years 1-3. It should be reviewed annually along with a review of the key proposals of the strategy, which will help to maintain the momentum and commitment to its implementation.
- 14.45 A comprehensive list of the key facilities across Harlow and whether these should be protected, enhance or new provision is required is given in Appendix 4.

Figure 34: Action plan

Facility / Site Proposal	Action required	Lead organisation(s)	Key partners	Date for action and potential delivery
Establish cross-boundary mechanisms				
General	<p>Establish a cross-boundary mechanism to deliver the sports strategies for the Greater Harlow area and implement the Action Plan.</p> <p>When the separate sports strategies for Harlow, East Herts and Epping Forest are complete, produce a single document which identifies the strategic infrastructure and the investment priorities for the Greater Harlow area as a whole. Existing facilities which should be specifically included amongst others in this joint work include Mark Hall (all facilities), indoor tennis courts, and indoor bowls.</p> <p>As part of this strategic infrastructure review undertake local scenario tests using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model to confirm the requirements. The FPM scenario tests and linked feasibility work should include comparisons between a single new large facility e.g. with 50m swimming pool and two separate new leisure centres both with 25m pools.</p> <p>Identify which of the strategic infrastructure requirements could be co-located with other requirements, e.g. education or health.</p> <p>To develop mechanisms to share developer contributions to deliver the strategy proposals.</p>	Harlow Council	East Herts Council Epping Forest District Council Sport England	2017-18

Leisure centres				
Harlow new leisure centre: The Gilston Area leisure centre: Additional joint use secondary school sports hall in Harlow	Undertake local scenario tests using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model to confirm the requirements. Undertake detailed feasibility studies in co-ordination between the authorities.	Harlow Council East Herts Council	Epping Forest District Council Sport England	2017-18
Harlow Leisurezone	Develop closer working relationships between Harlow Council and the Harlow and District Sports Trust to identify key usage information which will be needed both to inform future facility planning, and to support community use of the Harlow Leisurezone. This will help to ensure that there is a complementary offer of sports facilities across the Greater Harlow area. Ensure that the Harlow Leisurezone retains the indoor tennis court space for sport and active recreation.	Harlow Council	Harlow and District Sports Trust Clubs using Harlow Leisurezone	2017
Strategic sports sites				
Mark Hall	With the agreement of Mark Hall Academy, Harlow Council to take a strategic lead in a review of the community use of Mark Hall sports facilities, to develop a long term sustainable plan which: retains the community use of the track and other facilities; identifies infrastructure investment requirements; delivers appropriate management programmes and mechanisms. The investment required may include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improvement of the athletics track in order to re-establish the site for competition. - The development of a 3G pitch in the track infield 	Harlow Council	Mark Hall Academy Mark Hall operator Sport England England Athletics Football Association British Gymnastics England Netball Clubs using site	2017-2018

	- Development of the site as a football hub [see recommendations from Playing Pitch Strategy].			
Harlow Lawn Tennis Club	Undertake feasibility study on cost and deliverability of improved clubhouse and ancillary facilities. Deliver improvements.	Harlow LTC	LTA Harlow Council	2018 2022
Gymnastics dedicated centre, site tbc	Undertake a feasibility study to confirm needs of gymnastics for dedicated centre. Deliver new dedicated centre in Harlow. Deliver sports hall at proposed leisure centre in the Gilston Area designed to support gymnastics	Harlow Council	British Gymnastics Clubs East Herts Council	2020 2026 2026
Other sites				
Schools	Seek to establish formal community use agreements where there is existing community use. If public investment is made into school sports facilities, ensure appropriate planning conditions are applied to secure community use long term.	Harlow Council	Schools	On-going
Burnt Mill Academy pool	Undertake conditions survey of pool and ancillary facilities to confirm investment needs. Improve pool and ancillary facilities with associated long term community use agreement.	Burt Mill Academy	Harlow Council Swim England Clubs	2019
Stewards Academy pool	Undertake conditions survey of pool and ancillary facilities to confirm investment needs. Improve pool and ancillary facilities with associated long term community use agreement.	Stewards Academy	Harlow Council Swim England Clubs	2019
Tye Green Indoor Bowls Club: Griffin Bowls Club: Harlow Bowling Club: Tye Green Bowls Club	Support clubs to better help them maintain and manage their facilities. Invest in the indoor bowls site as required to maintain at high quality.	Harlow Council Clubs	English Indoor Bowls Association, Bowls England	2018

Sustainable walking and cycling network	Ensure planning policies and funding is in place to develop a sustainable network of walking and cycling routes across Greater Harlow. Produce cycling strategy to support route development and promotion.	Harlow Council	East Herts Council Epping Forest District Council Essex County Council	2018
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Phasing

- 14.46 The housing site proposals for Harlow in the emerging Local Plan and those in Epping Forest are mainly phased between 2021 and 2033. The growth in the Gilston Area runs well after 2033, and only 3050 dwelling are proposed up to 2033 of the approximately 10,000. The phasing of the sports and community facilities will need to reflect the phasing of the housing.

Funding

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

Procurement and management

- 14.50 The nature and process of the procurement of the facilities covered by this strategy and their long term management will fundamentally depend upon the type and scale of facility.

Figure 35: Site specific proposals for Harlow and the Greater Harlow area

Facility / Site	Project elements	Partners and potential funding sources	Date	Estimated cost	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Development pooling for S106
HARLOW						
New provision						
Harlow Leisure Centre Site TBC	New affordable community leisure centre comprising: 25m x 6 lane pool Teaching pool 4 court sports hall 100-150 station fitness suite 2 x studios	Harlow Council S106	2021-26	£9.27m (assuming land for free)	H	Harlow sites TBC Epping Forest sites TBC
New secondary school (site TBC)	4 court sports hall designed to support community sport. Formal joint use agreement or planning condition for secure long term community use.	Harlow Council S106 Essex CC	2026	£2.22 m	H	Harlow sites TBC
Dedicated gymnastics centre Site TBC	Development of a dedicated gymnastics centre Costs depend on site, size etc. May be a converted warehouse or similar.	Harlow Council S106 British Gymnastics	2021-2026	£2.22m Depending on site, size	H	Harlow sites TBC Epping Forest sites TBC East Herts The Gilston Area

Athletics – measured routes Sites tbc	Develop measured running/walking routes in parks and new open spaces within Harlow and adjacent authorities’ developments	Harlow Council S106 England Athletics Athletics clubs Parkrun	2017-2033	TBC	M	Closest developments Harlow sites TBC Epping Forest sites TBC East Herts The Gilston Area
Mark Hall Sports Centre	3G pitch in centre of track (subject to feasibility study)	Mark Hall Academy Mark Hall operator Harlow Council S106 Football Assn	2021	£700k excl fees and VAT	H	Harlow sites TBC Epping Forest sites TBC East Herts The Gilston Area
Indoor bowls centre Site TBC	Development of specialist indoor 6-rink bowls centre dependent of future demand	Harlow Council S106 English Indoor Bowls Assn	2026-33	£2.08m excl clubroom	L	Harlow sites TBC Epping Forest sites TBC East Herts The Gilston Area
Town Park	Develop pitch and putt and footgolf in the Town Park.	Harlow Council	2017-18	tbc	M	n/a
Traffic free walking and cycling routes	Protect the current network of existing routes and develop the network to ensure greater connectivity to Greater Harlow.	Harlow Council East Herts Council Epping Forest Council Developers	On-going	tbc	H	Harlow sites TBC Epping Forest sites TBC East Herts The Gilston Area

Enhancements / improvements to existing provision						
Mark Hall Sports Centre	Athletics track improvements to bring up to competition standards	Harlow Council Mark Hall Academy Mark Hall operator England Athletics	2017	tbc	H	n/a
Burnt Mill Academy	Improvements to pool and ancillary facilities	Harlow Council Burnt Mill Academy	2019	tbc	H	Harlow sites TBC
Stewards Academy	Improvements to pool and ancillary facilities	Harlow Council Stewards Academy	2019	tbc	H	Harlow sites TBC
Harlow Lawn Tennis Club	Improvements to club house and ancillary facilities	Harlow Lawn Tennis Club LTA Harlow Council	2021	tbc	M	Harlow sites TBC Epping Forest sites TBC East Herts The Gilston Area

Facility / Site	Project elements	Partners and potential funding sources	Date	Estimated cost	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Development pooling for S106
Greater Harlow: new provision						
The Gilston Area Leisure Centre [also within the East Herts draft strategy] Site tbc	New affordable community leisure centre adjacent to and with shared use by the secondary school comprising: 25m x 6 lane pool Teaching pool 4 court sports hall 170 station fitness suite 2 x studios	East Herts Council S106 Herts CC (education)	Phased with secondary school. Required by end of development	£9.27m (assuming land for free)	H	The Gilston Area
Gilston Area tennis site tbc	3 floodlit hard courts with ancillary facilities	Developer	2033	£360,000 courts £250,000 clubhouse	H	The Gilston Area
Epping Forest Site tbc	Archery centre	Epping Forest DC Club	2026	tbc	L	Epping Forest sites tbc.

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Definitions

Free Public Access

There is no charge to use the facility

Pay and Play

The main means of public access to the facility is on payment of a charge. The facility may also have a membership scheme, and it may be possible to block book the facility for a specific activity or for lessons, but during the public opening hours anyone can just turn up, pay and play. For example: Local authority swimming pool or health and fitness facility, where the casual user pays per session, although there is also a membership scheme.

Sports Club/Community Association use

The main means of public access to the facility is via sports clubs or community associations, which book it for use by their members. Membership of the club or association is based on a particular sport or community group, and is not based on performance criteria or on a particular facility. The club or association may use several different facilities.

Registered Membership use

The main public access to the facility is by membership. Members usually pay a joining fee as well as a monthly or annual subscription. Membership is controlled by the owner or manager of the facility.

Private use

The facility cannot be used by the public, either on a pay and play basis or through a recreational club, except when playing against the owner of the site. It may be available for use by elite clubs or development squads.

GLOSSARY

AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
APP	Active Places Power
ACE	Anglia Community Enterprise
APS	Active People Survey
ASA	Amateur Swimming Association
BDA	Bowls Development Alliance
BG	British Gymnastics
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA	Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy
EHC	East Hertfordshire Council
EIBA	English Indoor Bowling Association
FA	The Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
HCC	Hertfordshire County Council
GP referral	General Practice referral (medical)
IFI	Inclusive Fitness Initiative
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MUGA	Multi Use Games Area
NGB	National Governing Body
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PAYP/G	Pay As You Play/Go
SFC	Sports Facility Calculator
SPD	Supplementary Planning Document
SUE	Sustainable Urban Extension
UKA	United Kingdom Athletics



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APPENDIX 1: **Assessment methodology for built sports facilities**

APPENDIX 1: Assessment methodology for built facilities

Modelling tools

- 1.1 There is no one theoretical modelling tool which provides the answer to facility planning. A number of different tools need to be employed and the results of each synthesised together with the findings from consultation to provide a recommendation.
- 1.2 The following paragraphs provide a detailed explanation of each methodology.

Facilities Planning Model

- 1.3 The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) has been developed as a planning tool by Sport England for the strategic assessment of the community needs for swimming pools, sports halls and large size artificial grass pitches (AGPs). The modelling provides an objective assessment of the balance between the supply of the sports facilities and the demand for them at “peak time”, which is in the evenings Monday-Friday, and during the daytime at weekends. Details of the FPM parameters for each facility type are provided in the relevant sections of the report.
- 1.4 The FPM assessments take into account key factors influencing participation at the local level, including; the age profile of residents, levels of deprivation, and car ownership. In relation to the individual facilities, it can take into account the hours actually available to the community and weight the facilities for their attractiveness (usually associated with the age of the facility).
- 1.5 Sport England undertakes a “national run” of each facility type early in the calendar year, based on the facility information known to them and standardised parameters. This gives a good current picture of provision, but does not forecast future demand. The key findings from the national assessments for 2016 are included in the sports halls and swimming pool sections.
- 1.6 The FPM can also be used to scenario test sports facility options, and this may be a useful tool to help confirm the facility proposals arising from this assessment.

Extrapolating current demand and current provision

- 1.7 One way of assessing the likely future sporting requirements of the community for the facilities such as tennis courts and indoor bowls provision is to consider the current demand for each sports facility type and to extrapolate this demand to take account of the forecast growth in the population and any anticipated growth in participation. This extrapolated figure can then be compared to the known supply of facilities, to assess the likely future balance in supply and demand.
- 1.8 This approach is a useful guide to the scale of the future provision which may be needed for facilities, but does not take into account the quality of the facilities, their

opening hours, the location of facilities, or the impact of an ageing population. The findings therefore need to be reviewed within the context of the results from the other modelling, and also the feedback from consultation.

Active Places Power

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

Sports Facilities Calculator

- 1.12 The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) has been developed by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches) is generated as a result of new growth linked to specific development locations. It is one of the Sport England Active Places Power web tools.
- 1.13 The SFC has been used to help local authorities in infrastructure planning, devising supplementary planning documents, negotiating Section 106 agreements, and in preparing for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It helps with quantifying the demand side of the facility provision equation, for example it can answer questions such as, “How much additional demand for swimming will the population of a new development area generate?”, and “What would the cost be to meet this new demand at today’s values?” The figures it produces represent total demand for the chosen population.
- 1.14 The SFC is designed to estimate the needs of discrete populations for sports facilities created by a new community of a residential development. It is important to note however that the SFC looks only at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities.
- 1.15 Sport England states that the SFC should not be used for strategic gap analysis because the SFC has no spatial dimension. It is also important to note that the SFC does not take account of:
 - Facility location compared to demand

- Capacity and availability of facilities - opening hours
- Cross boundary movement of demand
- Travel networks and topography
- Attractiveness of facilities

Access to facilities

- 1.16 Sport England has adopted the following accessibility criteria for all facilities included within the Active Places Power web site and for the Facilities Planning Model. These have been adopted for this strategy.

Free Public Access

There is no charge to use the facility

Pay and Play

The main means of public access to the facility is on payment of a charge. The facility may also have a membership scheme, and it may be possible to book the facility for a specific activity or for lessons, but during the public opening hours anyone can just turn up, pay and play.

For example: Local authority swimming pool or health and fitness facility, where the casual user pays per session, although there is also a membership scheme.

Sports Club/Community Association use

The main means of public access to the facility is via sports clubs or community associations, which book it for use by their members. Membership of the club or association is based on a particular sport or community group, and is not based on performance criteria or on a particular facility. The club or association may use several different facilities.

For example: Access to indoor bowls greens is through a bowls club, or to athletics tracks through an athletics club. School swimming pool that can be used by a swimming or sub-aqua club, but cannot be used by the general public.

Registered Membership use

The main public access to the facility is by membership. Members usually pay a joining fee as well as a monthly or annual subscription. Membership is controlled by the owner or manager of the facility.

For example: Fitness First health and fitness facility can only be used by registered members

Private use

The facility cannot be used by the public, either on a pay and play basis or through a recreational club, except when playing against the owner of the site. It may be available for use by elite clubs or development squads.

For example: School grass pitches that are only available for the school teams and the teams they are playing against. University, prison, MOD etc facilities that are not available for public use.

Comparator authorities

- 1.17 Comparing Harlow with its Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) benchmark authorities in terms of the scale of provision of a facility can be a helpful guide towards the overall amount of provision which might be expected. Due to the differing size of authorities, this comparison needs to be on a provision of a sports facility per 1,000 population basis.
- 1.18 The 'Nearest Neighbour' model was developed by CIPFA to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises. It is widely used across both central and local government. The model uses a number of variables to calculate similarity between local authorities. Examples of these variables include population, unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios.
- 1.19 The local authorities that are considered to be 'similar' to Harlow by CIPFA are: Basildon, Chesterfield, Redditch and Stevenage.

Growth in participation per annum

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

5 years, and if they have any waiting lists. The changes in participation across all sports and consequently the demand for facility space will be kept under review, and will be a key consideration when this strategy is fully reviewed in approximately 5 years.

Assessing the capacity of facilities

- 1.24 The assessment of the capacity of the existing facility network needs to draw on a range of sources and there is always a need to make some assumptions. The approach towards the assessment of capacity for different facility types has been agreed with the Steering Group for the project, and this is set out in Appendix 1.

Community priorities for participation

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

National Governing Body Strategies

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

Costs of facility development

- 1.31 The initially estimated costs of the proposals are primarily addressed in the Implementation section of this Strategy. The costs are based on Sport England's regularly updated list of facilities and their development costs, which are largely based on typical schemes funded through the Lottery, with layouts developed in accordance with Sport England Design Guidance Notes. However the actual costs associated with any development will be dependent upon the site specific circumstances, which will only be possible to confirm through more detailed project specific feasibility studies.
- 1.32 As and when new facilities are proposed Harlow Council will refer to the current Sport England guidance on the expected costs (Sport England, 2017). Where the facility issues are ones of improvement rather than new provision, the costs of the works required will need to be based on a condition survey of each individual facility.

Figure 1: Facility Capacity Assessment Methodology

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Sports halls 3+ badminton court size	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual facility throughput information provided by facility operator • FPM throughput estimate from Sport England • Active Places Power • Site visits • Web survey returns • NGB facility strategies and local priorities • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from operators rarely compatible with Sport England FPM parameters so not comparable. • Information not available from commercial operators. • Booking (number of hours) may be available for schools, but no estimate of the number of users. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where compatible throughput information is available, compare FPM figures with actual. • Where throughput information not available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify number of hours actually used in peak period. • identify hours officially “open” to community use. • calculate used capacity as % of hours open. • take into account nature of site/management: e.g. leisure centre, commercial site, school own management. • Take into account whether there is pay and play access or is club bookings only. • Comparison of both overall capacity and ability to meet club and NGB requirements for both training and events. • Assumptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ usage pattern follows Sport England FPM model ○ commercial facilities are viable and therefore deemed to be used to full capacity

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual facility throughput information provided by facility operator • FPM throughput estimate from Sport England • Active Places Power • Site visits • Web survey returns • NGB facility strategies and local priorities • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information from operators rarely compatible with Sport England FPM parameters so not comparable. • Information not available from commercial operators. • Booking (number of hours) may be available for schools, but no estimate of the number of users. • Hotel pools and spa pools are not generally open for pay and play. • Most school and college facilities have restrictive club-only booking policies • FPM uses minimum pool size of 160 sq m where facility is open for community use 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Where compatible throughput information is available, compare FPM figures with actual. • Include only those pools which meet the FPM criteria • Where throughput information not available, for individual facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ identify number of hours actually used in peak period. ○ identify hours officially “open” to community use. ○ calculate used capacity as % of hours open. ○ take into account nature of site/management: e.g. leisure centre, commercial site, school own management • Comparison of both overall capacity and ability to meet club and NGB requirements for both training and events. • Assumptions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ usage pattern follows Sport England FPM model ○ commercial facilities are viable and therefore deemed to be used to full capacity ○ spa pools and hotel pools excluded where these do not meet FPM criteria

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Fitness facilities including fitness stations and studio spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Places Power • Web base research • Phone meeting • Site visit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At best, information available is based on the number of stations / studio rooms. Number and mix of gym equipment varies over time • Generally, no throughput information available or membership numbers provided • Quality of facilities vary widely e.g.: school/college facilities, commercial low cost gyms, commercial high cost gyms, leisure centres with GP referral schemes. • Commercial gyms are highly market sensitive, so will close or open as the local demand dictates • The leisure centre gyms at peak time are in direct competition with the similar facilities in the commercial sector, so can be considered on the same basis. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assume all gyms are used at peak time to a level which is at capacity, including weighting for comfort factor. • Assume all gyms are financially-self sustaining. • Therefore increase number of stations and studios in direct response to changes in demand.

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Athletics tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Places Power (location and size) • Site visit • NGB facility strategies and priorities • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends • Events schedule • Certification grade of track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of facilities • Usually club managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGB advice on number and quality of tracks required in area. • Club membership and trends, and event needs. • Comparison of supply with demand.
Indoor bowls centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Places Power (location and size) • Site visit • NGB facility strategies and priorities • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends • Consultation with site manager 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of facilities • Varied facility size • Often club managed 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NGB/County bowls association advice on need for indoor bowls in area. • Club membership numbers and trends, and event needs. • Comparison of supply with demand.

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Outdoor bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit • NGB facility strategies and local priorities • NGB estimate of maximum individual rink/green capacity • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends • Consultation with site manager if not club • Booking information (if available/ appropriate) in relation to individual sites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of facilities • Slightly variable facility size and type but competitive sites all good quality and 6 rink size • Variety of management but mostly club controlled 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For club sites where membership information is available, calculate number of members per rink/green. Compare to County Bowls estimate of maximum use per rink/green. • Identify those sites with spare capacity and those without. • Calculate future demand for bowls based on population aged 60+ of sub area. • Compare forecast numbers to calculated spare capacity.

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Indoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Places Power (location and size) • NGB facility strategies and priorities, including need for indoor tennis in area • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends • Site visit • Consultation with site manager • Booking information in relation to individual sites (where available) showing use at peak time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of facilities • Variable facility size and type • Variety of management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LTA advise that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 80% usage of indoor court time at the peak period is what could be considered “full”. ○ An outdoor club with 200 members would be sufficiently large to consider the development of indoor courts. <p>Assessment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review stated club/NGBs demand/needs/aspirations against availability and quality of existing facilities • Compare current and estimated future demand against facility supply (based on LTA usage advice) • Assumption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial facilities running at capacity, inclusive of “comfort factor”

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Outdoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit • NGB comments and participation information • LTA club membership numbers • LTA club utilisation report (selected clubs only) • Club consultation • Consultation with site manager/parishes • Booking information (if available) in relation to individual sites showing use at peak time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable facility size and type from multi-court with floodlights to single court with no lights • Variable surface: macadam, grass, clay, artificial grass • Variety of management • Some sites has key holder use or open access • Lack of usage information for many facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peak use of outdoor courts is evenings and weekends, but primarily in summer, May-August. • LTA advise that a club site maximum capacity for courts, based on average club programming is: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Floodlit courts; 60 members per court ○ Non-floodlit courts; 40 members per court • Assessment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider dedicated tennis courts only (not those also marked out for other sports, which will be treated as multi-use games area). ○ For club sites where membership information is available, calculate number of members per court. Compare to LTA capacity figure per court (both floodlit and not) ○ Where a club has done an LTA utilisation assessment use this result ○ For parks sites review booking information and assess capacity used at peak time. ○ For other outdoor tennis sites with open access or similar, assume maximum use at 20% of peak time of May-August.

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Squash	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Active Places Power (location and size) • Site visit • NGB facility strategies and priorities • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends • Consultation with site manager • Booking information in relation to individual sites (where available) showing use at peak time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of facilities • Variable facility size and type • Variety of management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Compare current and estimated future demand against facility supply • Review stated club/NGBs demand/needs/aspirations against availability and quality of existing facilities • Assumption: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commercial facilities running at capacity, inclusive of “comfort factor”
Specialist facilities; e.g. gymnastics centres	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit • NGB facility strategies and local priorities • Club consultation results • Club membership numbers and trends • Consultation with site manager • Booking information (if available) in relation to individual sites showing use at peak time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited number of facilities • Variable facility size and type • Variety of management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review stated club/NGBs demand/needs/aspirations against availability and quality of existing facilities

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
Multi use games areas (MUGAs) on managed/closed sites e.g. schools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Site visit NGB comments and participation information for relevant sports (primarily netball and football) Club consultation Consultation with site manager/parishes Club membership numbers and trends Booking information (if available) in relation to individual sites showing use at peak time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Variable facility size and type from multi-court with floodlights to single court with no lights Variety of management but primarily education Some sites has key holder use or open access Lack of usage information for most facilities 	<p>Criteria:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Exclude sites without floodlights Exclude sites with no or very limited community use <p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review stated club/NGBs demand/needs/aspirations against availability and quality of existing facilities. Identify those sites with spare capacity and those without.
Golf	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> England Golf facility information – courses and driving ranges England Golf district average club membership Club consultation Drive time catchments to clubs estimated to be 20 minutes by England Golf. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Individual site membership is usually commercially sensitive information so site used capacities cannot be confirmed. England Golf membership information does not include visitor use, pay and play, or activities such a footgolf. There has been a national downward trend in golf membership, and locally some sites may be suspected to be at or below levels which are financially sustainable. Simple assumption that demand equals supply is not therefore robust in all cases. 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Test 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Count number of holes and driving range bays, authority wide and by sub area. Extrapolate current supply per 1,000 population to estimate future demand against future populations at milestone dates. <p>Test 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Calculate club membership per 1,000 population for whole authority. Extrapolate expected membership based on future populations at whole authority and sub area level.

Peak period

	Weekday	Saturday	Sunday	Total number of hours
From FPM				
Halls	17.00 – 22.00	09.30 – 17.00	09.00 – 14.30 17.00 – 19.30	40.5
Pools	12.00 - 13.30 16.00 – 22.00	09.00 – 16.00	09.00 – 16.30	52
AGPs large	17.00 – 21.00 Mon-Thurs 17.00 – 19.00 Fri	09.00 – 17.00	09.00 – 17.00	34
Other				
Fitness facilities	16.00 – 22.00			30
Indoor bowls	No specific peak			
Indoor tennis	17.00 – 22.00	09.00 – 22.00	09.00 – 22.00	51
Squash	18.00 – 21.00	09.00 – 14.00	09.00 – 14.00	25
Multi-use games area (closed sites)	17.30 – 21.00	09.00 – 14.00	n/a	23.5
Outdoor tennis club sites Macadam and artificial grass courts Floodlit	16.00 – 21.00 (April-September only)	09.00 – 14.00 (April-September only)	09.00 – 14.00 (April-September only)	35 (April-September only)
Outdoor tennis open/pay and play sites All surface types Not floodlit	16.00 – 21.00 (May-August only)	10.00 – 17.00 (May-August only)	10.00 – 14.00 (May-August only)	36 (May-August only)
Outdoor bowls	No specific peak			

Source for facilities not addressed by FPM:

- Web research on Northamptonshire plus other sites in England of commercial facilities and leisure centres peak/off peak times, shown by different hire charges and time limits for off-peak use of facilities.
- NGB views: tennis, bowls
- Indoor tennis: definition of peak time from White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, Abingdon, Oxfordshire

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APPENDIX 2:
Sport England sports halls design guidance note extract

APPENDIX 2: Sport England sports halls design guidance note extract

(Extract from Sport England Design Guidance Note on Sports Hall Design and Layouts, 2012)

Overview of numbers of courts* / levels of play for nominal hall sizes						
Sport and level of play category**	4 Court hall (34.5 x 20.0 x 7.5 m)	5 Court hall (40.6 x 21.35 x 7.5 m)	8 Court hall (40.0 x 34.5 x 8.3 m)	10 Court hall (40.6 x 42.7 x 9.0 m)	12 Court hall (60.0 x 34.5 x 9.0 m)	15 Court hall (64.05 x 40.6 x 9.0 m)
	General notes: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Unless noted otherwise all sizes include for team / officials zones but DO NOT include for any spectator provision.• The number of courts noted for each hall size does not take into account the additional option of inclusion of 'Show Court' overlays.					
Badminton (with 1 dividing net per 4 or 5 court module)						
International ¹	4 ²⁺³	4 ²	8 ²	8	12	12
Premier ¹	4 ²	5 ²	8 ²	10	12	15
Club ¹	4	5	8	10	12	15
Community ¹	4	5	8	10	12	15
Basketball						
International	-	-	1	1	2	2
Premier	-	-	1	1	2	2
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3
Community ⁴	1	1	2	2	3	3
Reduced court size ⁵	2	2	4	4	6	6
Cricket practice / Indoor cricket						
Community ⁶	4	4	8	8	12	12
Gymnastics						
International	-	-	-	O	P	P
Premier	P	P	1	1/2P	1/3P	1/3P
Club	P	1	1	1/2P	1/3P	1/3P
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Five-a-side football / Futsal						
International	-	-	P	P	1	1
Premier	P	P	1	1	3	3
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Handball						
International	-	-	-	1	1	1
Premier	-	1	1	2	1	3
Club	-	1	1	2	1	3
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Indoor hockey						
International	-	-	-	1	1	1
Premier	-	P	P	1	1	1
Club	-	P	P	1	1	1
Community	1 Unihoc	1 Unihoc	1 Unihoc	2	1	2
Korfball						
International	-	-	-	-	1	1
Premier	-	-	1	1	1	2
Club	-	-	1	1	1	2
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Netball						
International ^{7/8}	0	0	1	1	1	1
Premier	0	1 ⁹	1	2 ⁹	1	3 ¹⁰
Club	1 ¹¹	1 ⁹	2 ¹⁰	2 ⁹	3 ¹¹	3 ¹⁰
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Sports hall athletics						
International	-	-	-	P	1P	1P
Premier	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P
Club	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P
Community	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P
Volleyball						
International	0	0	1	1	2	2
Premier	1	1	2	2	3	3
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3
Community ⁴	1	1	2	2	3	3
Training courts ⁴	2P	2P	4P	4P	6P	6P

* Indicative court numbers are an update of the previous revision and should be checked against the space requirements for the individual sports to be accommodated.

** See Appendix 4 of 'Developing the Right Sports Hall' for guidance on the level of play category for each sport.

*** P = Below space standard for competition play recommended by the governing body, but suitable for practice and training.

APPENDIX 3:
Harlow Council Contributions Calculator

APPENDIX 3: Harlow Council Contributions Calculator

Enter site/development information into yellow shaded boxes (cells will validate and turn green once entered)

Planning application number

N/A

Site

Worked example

Details

Worked example

Size of dwelling	Number of dwellings proposed	Housing multiplier (number of occupants)	Number of people
All	1000	2.32	2320
TOTAL			2320

Sports Halls and Swimming Pools
Step 1

Copy population profile (%) from demographics tab into the Sports Facilities Calculator from Sport England
<https://www.activeplacespower.com/reports/sports-facility-calculator>

Step 2
Record findings from Sports Facilities Calculator in purple shaded boxes below (cells will validate and turn green once entered)
If using local costs e.g. also including land costs for a facility, or upgrading costs for a specific facility, use orange shaded cells

Sports Halls										
	Unadjusted demand: Number of badminton courts	Capital Cost (£)	Demand in number of badminton courts from development by 2033	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund % per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund for 25 years (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance % per annum	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance for 25 years (£)	Cost of meeting the demand from the development including full lifecycle costs (£)
SE costs	0.63	£ 369,388		0.50%	£ 1,847	£ 46,174	1.00%	£ 18	£ 462	£ 46,635
Local costs		£ 350,000	0.68	0.49%	£ 1,715	£ 42,875	0.90%	£ 15	£ 386	£ 43,261

Swimming pool space										
	Unadjusted demand: amount of water space demand	Capital Cost (£)	Water space demand from development by 2033	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund % per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund for 25 years (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance % per annum	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance for 25 years (£)	Cost of meeting the demand from the development including full lifecycle costs (£)
SE costs		£ 450,059		0.50%	£ 2,250	£ 56,257	1.00%	£ 23	£ 563	£ 56,820
Local costs	24.33	£ 450,000	26.69	0.49%	£ 2,205	£ 55,125	0.90%	£ 20	£ 496	£ 55,621

Step 3
Other facility types calculate automatically below

Fitness stations											
		Capital cost per station (building and equipment)	Fitness station demand @ 10.05 stations per 1,000 population	Health & Fitness capital requirement (building and equipment)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund % per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund for 25 years (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance % per annum	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance for 25 years (£)	Cost of meeting the demand from the development including full lifecycle costs (£)
SPONS + current mkt cost		£ 16,400		£ 382,382	0.50%	£ 1,912	£ 47,797.80	1.00%	£ 3,824	£ 95,596	£ 143,393
Local costs		£ 16,000	23.32	£ 373,056	0.49%	£ 1,828	£ 45,699.36	0.90%	£ 3,358	£ 83,938	£ 129,637

Studio space											
		Capital cost per studio: cost per sq m	Studio space demand @ 0.12 studios per 1,000 population	Studio capital requirement at average size of 140 sq m	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund % per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Sinking fund for 25 years (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance % per annum	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance per annum (£)	Lifecycle cost: Maintenance for 25 years (£)	Cost of meeting the demand from the development including full lifecycle costs (£)
SPONS + current mkt cost		£ 1,800		£ 70,157	0.50%	£ 351	£ 8,769.60	1.00%	£ 702	£ 17,539	£ 26,309
Local costs		£ 1,750	0.28	£ 68,208	0.49%	£ 334	£ 8,355.48	0.90%	£ 614	£ 15,347	£ 23,702

Total capital cost based on SE or similar national cost estimates	£ 1,271,986	Total lifecycle costs (25 years)	£ 273,157
Total capital cost based on local cost estimates	£ 1,241,264	Total lifecycle costs (25 years)	£ 252,221

Harlow Demographics for Sports Facilities Calculator

		2033	2033
persons	All ages	103983	

Males	0-4	3626	7%
	5-9	3573	7%
	10-14	3508	8%
	15-19	3388	5%
	20-24	3085	6%
	25-29	3238	6%
	30-34	3224	6%
	35-39	3438	7%
	40-44	3185	6%
	45-49	2969	6%
	50-54	2943	6%
	55-59	2686	5%
	60-64	2688	5%
	65-69	2600	5%
	70-74	2253	4%
	75-79	1792	4%
	80-84	1287	3%
	85+	1311	3%
	All ages	50793	100%

Females	0-4	3483	7%
	5-9	3422	6%
	10-14	3339	7%
	15-19	3148	5%
	20-24	2902	5%
	25-29	3261	6%
	30-34	3256	6%
	35-39	3354	6%
	40-44	3400	6%
	45-49	3355	6%
	50-54	3233	6%
	55-59	2843	5%
	60-64	2951	6%
	65-69	2872	5%
	70-74	2600	5%
	75-79	2103	4%
	80-84	1616	3%
	85+	2053	4%
	All ages	53190	100%

Sports Facilities Calculator

Accessed via Sport England Active Places Power web, for which the authority will require a log-in.
<https://www.activeplacespower.com/reports/sports-facility-calculator>

Go to
Reports
Sport Facility Calculator
Guide for instructions

Application of local costs

Where a project has specific known costs, these should be used, both for new build and refurbishment

National costs information

Sport England costs information:
<https://www.sportengland.org/facilities-planning/design-and-cost-guidance/cost-guidance/>
The facility capital costs information is dated Quarter 2 2016
The lifecycle costs information is dated April 2012

SPON's costs information:
The capital costs are from Spon's Architect's and Builder's Price Book 2016

Rates of participation and provision per 1,000 population

For fitness stations and studio space, these are derived from the Harlow Sports Facilities Strategy

APPENDIX 4:
Harlow's significant sports sites - protect, enhance, provide list

APPENDIX 4: Harlow's significant sports sites - protect, enhance, provide list

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

Site Name	Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball, tennis courts, MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	Ownership	Access Type	Management	Comments/ proposal	Project partners (Harlow Council includes s106 funding)	Action	Action Plan date	Estimated capital cost	Priority	Timescales for investment
Strategic facilities																	
Harlow Leisurezone	8 court hall (P)	P	X	P	X		2 indoor tennis courts	Harlow Council	Pay and play & membership	Harlow & District Sports Trust	Limited KPI information available, and limited contact with Harlow Council. Need to strengthen partnerships	Trust and Harlow Council	Need to strenthen partnerships	2017/18	N/a	H	n/a
							4 glass backed squash courts (P)										
							Climbing wall										
Mark Hall Academy Sports Centre	6 court hall (P)	X	E + PR	P	P	PPS	8 lane athletics track	Mark Hall Academy	Pay and play & clubs	Academy	Athletics track in poor condition so can only be used for training. Existing 3G pitch meets FA register standards. Proposed to convert field area of athletics track to second 3G pitch. No links with Harlow Council.	Acacdemy, Harlow Council, FA, England Atheltics, Clubs	Need to strengthen partnerships. Undertake reviw of operation of centre and options for future of track. Need to review existing lease arrangements with clubs. Need feasibility confirmation of options for track.	2017	Track improvements: tbc 3G pitch £700 excl VAT and fees	H	Track improvements: 2017/2018. 3G pitch 2018/19.
School facilities																	
Burnt Mill Academy	P	E	X	NA	NA	NA		Academy	Clubs	Academy	Pool small and aging but well used by community. Improve pool and ancillary facilities. No existing community use agreement.	Academy, Harlow Council, clubs	Confirm and cost improvements required. Link investment to community use agreement.	2018		H	
														2019	tbc	H	2019
Passmores Academy	P	X	P	NA	NA	PPS		Academy	Clubs	Academy							
St Marks West Essex Catholic School	NA	X	X	NA	NA	NA		Academy	Private use only	Academy							
St Nicholas School (Independent)	P	X	X	X	NA	NA		Independent school	Clubs	Independent school							
Stewards Academy	P	E	X	NA	NA	PPS		Academy	Clubs for hall, pool, and pitches. Limited pay & play swimming for adults	Academy	Pool small and aging but well used by community. Improve pool and ancillary facilities. No existing community use agreement.	Academy, Harlow Council, clubs	Confirm and cost improvements required. Link investment to community use agreement.	2018		H	
														2019	tbc	H	
Other facilities with sports halls, pools and / or health and fitness facilities with more than 50 stations																	
Paringdon Sports and Social Club	Small hall (P)	X	P	P	P	X	1 x squash court	Club	Membership & club	Club							
							1 x boxing room										
							2 outdoor tennis courts										
							1 outdoor netball court										
Pure Gym	X	X	X	P	X	X		Commercial	Pay & play	Commercial							
Ripped Gym	X	X	X	P	X	X		Commercial	Membership	Commercial							
Xercise4less	X	X	X	P	X	X		Commercial	Pay & play	Commercial							

Site Name	Facilities	Ownership	Access Type	Management	Comments/ proposal	Project partners	Action	Action Plan date	Estimated capital cost	Priority	Timescales
Specialist sports facilities											
Harlow Lawn Tennis Club	4 covered tennis courts, 6 floodlit outdoor tennis courts (P)	Harlow Council	Club	Club	Improve clubhouse and ancillary facilities	Club, LTA, Harlow Council	Feasibility study to confirm costs and options.	2018	tbc	H	2022
Tye Green Indoor Bowls Centre	6-rink indoor bowls (P)	Harlow Council	Club	Club							
Norman Booth Centre	3 court hall used primarily for table tennis (P)	Harlow Council	Club	Club							
Sumners Community Leisure Centre	Dedicated gymnastics centre (P)	Harlow Council	Club	Club							
Canons Brook Golf Course	18 hole golf course (P)	Harlow Council	Membership & pay and play	Commercial							
Outdoor bowls											
Griffin Bowls Club	Outdoor bowls green (P)	Harlow Council	Club	Club							
Harlow Bowling Club	Outdoor bowls green (P)	Club	Club	Club							
Tye Green Bowls Club	Outdoor bowls green (P)	Harlow Council	Club	Club							