

HARBOROUGH DISTRICT COUNCIL

Built Sports Facilities Strategy

Draft final report

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INTRODUCTION

This Sports Facilities Strategy forecasts the future needs for sport and recreation up to 2031 and takes into account the housing requirements in the recently adopted Harborough Local Plan 2011-2031 (Harborough District Council, 2019).

It is a complementary strategy to the Harborough District Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 (Harborough District Council, 2018) which forms part of the Local Plan evidence base and has already proven valuable in guiding local priorities, investment and policies.

The assessment methodology follows the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) (Sport England, 2014), including consultation with the local clubs, parish councils and national governing bodies of sport, as well as Harborough District Council.

A key driver for the production of this document is to deliver an evidence base which can support the planning policy for the Harborough Local Plan. The strategy will help the Council and its partners to:

- Understand provision needs now and in the future.
- Determine planning applications.
- Ensure that the management and maintenance of sports facilities is appropriate and sustainable.
- Prioritise local authority capital and revenue investment, including S106 and any future Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Prioritise and support bids for external funding to assist in the delivery of sporting infrastructure.
- Identify the role of the education sector in supporting the delivery of community sporting facilities.
- Contribute to the aims and objectives of improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.

Achieving this will guarantee the effective delivery of sport and leisure services across the district and ensure that a network of sports facilities is in place to cater for the needs of the current and future population.

The geographical scope of this strategy is Harborough district, but it takes into account the influence of facilities in adjacent local authority areas where appropriate, in accordance with the brief. The assessment has identified high levels of cross-boundary movement for some facilities, particularly around the Market Harborough and Great Glen areas.

If major new housing is delivered outside of the district but close to the boundaries of Harborough without additional sports facilities, then this may increase the demand for sports provision within the district. Conversely if, for example, should a new large new leisure centre with swimming pool be provided just outside of Harborough's boundaries, then this may meet some of the sports needs of the district's residents. Cross-boundary issues are therefore specifically considered for each facility type within this report.

SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 This strategy considers the built facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity. The approach to this assessment and the development of the recommendations reflects the guidance contained in the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance of Sport England of 2014 (Sport England, 2014). It specifically considers the impact of the proposed housing contained within the emerging Local Plan. The forecast populations have been developed from bespoke modelling work undertaken for the strategy and take into account both the proposed housing and what is likely to happen to the demography of the existing population.
- 1.2 Geographical sub areas were specifically designed and agreed for the preceding Playing Pitch Strategy (Harborough District Council , 2018) as there was no simple fit with any of the other sub areas being used by the district council. The sub areas also needed to reflect the practical experiences of the sports across the district to take account of:
- the distance and travel time to sports sites.
 - the need to assess the supply and demand relating to the anticipated housing growth in each area of the district.
- 1.3 The sub areas chosen for the Playing Pitch Strategy also work effectively for this built facilities strategy and therefore form the basis of the assessment.

The provision and protection of sports facilities

- 1.4 The National Planning Policy Framework, 2019 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019) encourages local authorities to plan positively for sports provision and it also protects existing facilities. This strategy fulfils the policy requirements expected of local authorities.

- 1.5 Paragraph 92 states:

To provide the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services the community needs, planning policies and decisions should:

a) plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;

- 1.6 Paragraph 96 of the NPPF states:

Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or

surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.

1.7 Paragraph 97 of the NPPF states:

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.*

1.8 Similar to the Playing Pitch Strategy, the built facilities strategy has the following key objectives.

Objective 1 - To protect the existing supply of sports facilities where facilities are required for meeting current or future community sports needs.

Objective 2 - Secure tenure and access to sites for community use including via sports clubs, through a range of solutions and partnership agreements. Additionally, to maximise community use of education sites where there is demand.

1.9 A number of sports facilities currently being used by the community across the district do not have any security of access, particularly the schools. A priority for these sites is to ensure that the long-term security of community use is achieved, and Sport England has produced guidance (Use Our School), online resources and toolkits to support negotiations (Sport England , 2017).

Financial sustainability and sports development

1.10 In order to achieve financial sustainability, local sports clubs will need to be supported by partners including the Council, national governing bodies and the County Sports Partnership across a range of areas including management, membership, funding, facilities, volunteers and partnership working for example with volunteer support agencies and local businesses. As part of club development there will be a need to encourage clubs to develop sound business as well as sports development plans. Most clubs would also benefit from considering management models, including registering as Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASC) or as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). There are benefits of both routes, and individual clubs would need to decide their best option. Clubs should also be encouraged to work with partners locally, possibly via volunteer support agencies or linking with local businesses.

1.11 Some clubs who currently hire their facilities may also be able to consider, should the opportunity arise, becoming more responsible for their facilities. Should asset transfer

options be considered, any club must have a full business plan to ensure the proposal is financially sound, in the short, medium and long term.

- 1.12 On-going sports development is therefore an essential requirement for the delivery of this strategy, in addition to the facility elements.

Methodology

Overview

- 1.13 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 such as those on the Sport England Active Places Power website;
 - The results of consultation with local clubs, national governing bodies of sport, and site managers;
 - 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;
 - The network of facilities and housing growth.
- 1.14 As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations will need to be kept under review. Details of the methodology are provided in Appendix 1.

Consultation

- 1.15 The consultation process with local clubs and national governing bodies is detailed in Appendix 2, including the list of which clubs and NGBs responded.
- 1.16 The local sports clubs were identified through:
- Club details held by Harborough District Council
 - Club details held by Leicestershire and Rutland Sport
 - The relevant national governing bodies of sport
 - The leisure centres
 - Facility managers at school and other sites e.g. Fleckney Sports Centre
 - Web research
- 1.17 Direct contact was made by the consultants via e mail or via a club's own web site contact form where this information was available. The leisure centres, facility managers and national governing bodies also contacted their local clubs on behalf of the study with a cover note and link to the online survey form. All of the known clubs

were therefore given the opportunity to complete the online survey form about their club, the facilities they use, their aspirations and any issues.

- 1.18 There is no comprehensive list of sports clubs in the district, but 34 separate clubs completed the web survey, with some providing additional information by phone or by e mail to the consultants. At least two reminders were sent out to all clubs if they had not responded to the survey, either directly by the consultants, or via the NGBs and facility managers.
- 1.19 Most Sport England funded NGBs (excluding the pitch sports) were contacted with a short survey to ask about their priorities and any known issues for the district. Most NGBs responded, but only a small number had locally identified priorities.
- 1.20 All of the individual club and NGB consultation responses are summarised within the relevant section of this strategy report. Appendix 3 provides a summary of the club returns for the district and Appendix 4 provides the detailed feedback from the national governing bodies.
- 1.21 Complementary to this Sports Facilities Strategy is a separate assessment of community and village halls. This includes a summary of the investment priorities for individual facilities and an updating of the current design advice for such facilities.

SECTION 2: PROFILE OF HARBOROUGH

- 2.1 This section of the strategy provides a profile of the district, with more detail provided in Appendix 5. This section of the report is replicated from the adopted Harborough District Playing Pitch Strategy 2018 (Harborough District Council , 2018) and is repeated here so that the Sports Facilities Strategy can be more easily read as a standalone document.

Introduction to the district

- 2.2 Harborough District covers an area of 238 square miles of rural south and east Leicestershire, a map of the district is provided at Figure 1. The district's central location means that it has good access to regional and national transport links. The M1 passes through the district in the west whilst the M6/A14 is located to the south. Other main routes include the A6, A47 and A508 which between them provide links to Leicester, Northampton, Kettering and Corby.
- 2.3 Most of the district's population is found in the two market towns of Market Harborough and Lutterworth together with the larger villages of Broughton Astley, Great Glen, Kibworth and Fleckney. Bushby, Thurnby and Scraptoft form part of Leicester's Principal Urban Area. Just under a third of the district's population live in the smaller rural settlements, 71 of which have a population of less than 500 people.
- 2.4 Overall the district is one of the least deprived areas in England and the least deprived district in Leicestershire. However, central Market Harborough has been identified as a neighbourhood which suffers multiple deprivations. There are also significant barriers to housing and services in the more rural parts of the district, which have very limited public transport. Car ownership levels are high, with almost half of households having more than one car.
- 2.5 People in Harborough are generally healthier than the rest of Leicestershire and are significantly healthier than England as an average. The Sport England Active Lives Survey (Sport England , 2019) suggests that for the year November 2017-2018 Harborough residents were also more active than the county, region or England as a whole, see Figure 2.

Figure 1: Map of Harborough with its surrounding districts



Figure 2: Sport and Physical Activity Levels
(Sport England , 2019)

Where	Percentage rates of activity November 2017-18 per 1000 population aged 16 years and over			Change from November 2015-16
	Active (150+ minutes a week) %	Fairly Active (30-149 minutes a week) %	Inactive (<30 minutes a week) %	
Harborough	64.7	12.9	22.3	No change
Leicestershire	60.0	13.0	27.0	No change
East Midlands	61.2	12.5	26.3	No change
England	62.6	12.3	25.1	More people active

- 2.6 In Harborough district, the majority of residents are middle-aged, economically active, and relatively affluent. They are mainly attracted to sports such as swimming, cycling and gym, but also play football and tennis. There are however a relatively high number of older residents, particularly in the rural areas, some of which play bowls.

Strategy sub areas and settlement hierarchy

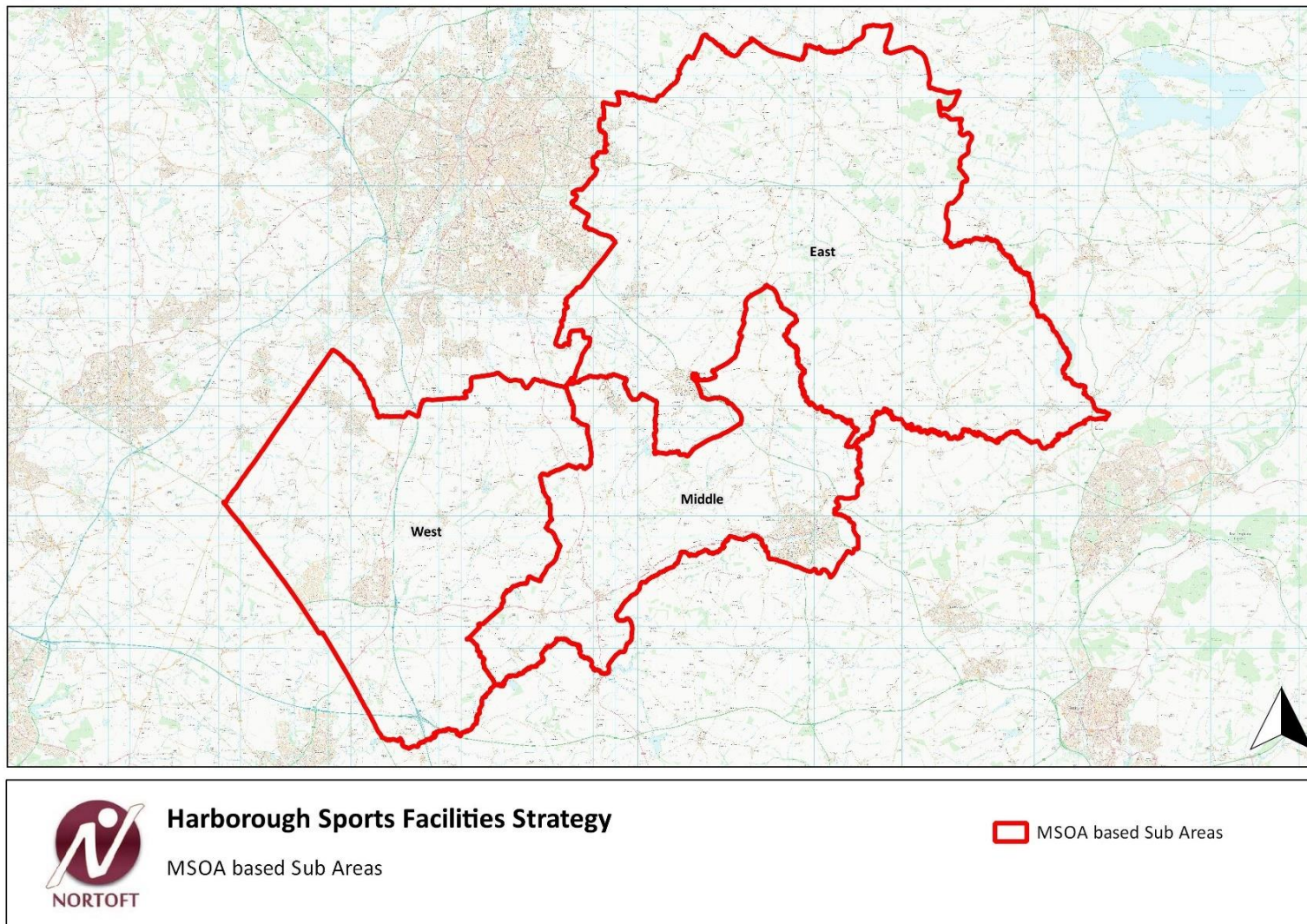
- 2.7 The geographical sub areas used in this strategy recognise that there is no simple fit to any other existing sub areas being used by the District Council, and that new sub areas are needed to reflect the patterns of travel and facility use by sports participants across the district. There is also a need to reflect the characteristics of the district, with the two market towns with their sports provision, the influence of the Leicester fringe, and the strategic development areas identified for new housing.

- 2.8 The agreed strategy sub areas are mapped in Figure 3. In summary these are:

- West sub area: Lutterworth, Broughton Astley and surrounds
- Middle sub area: Market Harborough and surrounds
- East sub area: Kibworth, edge of Leicester and surrounds

- 2.9 The Local Plan's settlement hierarchy is given in Appendix F of the Local Plan (Harborough District Council, 2019) and is summarised in Figure 4.

Figure 3: Strategy sub areas



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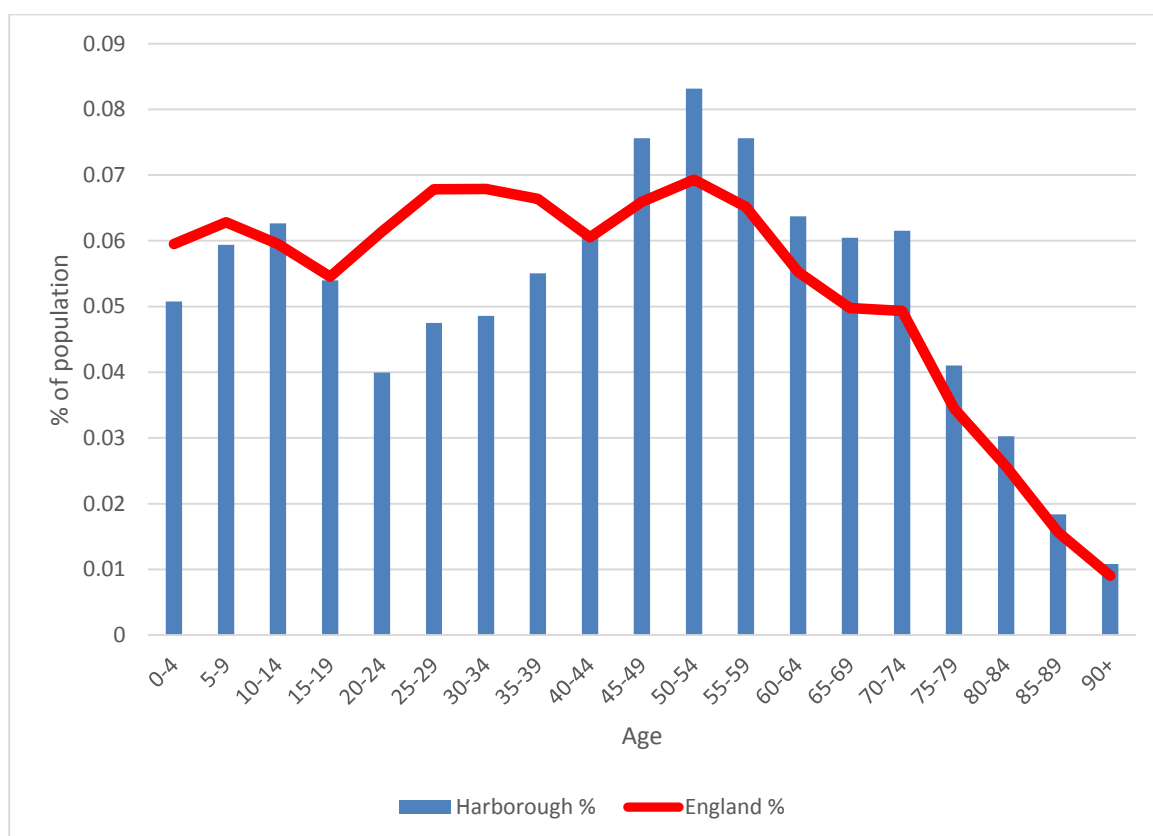
Figure 4: Settlement hierarchy

Settlement hierarchy	Definition	Settlements
Principal Urban Area (PUA)	Settlement forms part of the built up area of Leicester and consequently there is access to a wide range of services, facilities and employment opportunities.	Thurnby and Bushby, Scraptoft
Sub Regional Centre	Settlement has wide range of retail, service and employment provision, good road and rail links and performs a sub regional role equivalent to other centres in the Leicester and Leicestershire Housing Market Area (HMA).	Market Harborough
Key Centres	Settlement has a range of retail, service and employment and is a significant residential area	Lutterworth, Broughton Astley
Rural Centres	Rural Centres are identified on the basis of the presence of least four of the six key services (food shop, GP surgery, library, post office, primary school and pub) and a minimum of 400 households. A village's relationship with larger settlements higher up in the hierarchy has also been taken into account. Rural Centres are a sustainable location for rural housing and additional employment, retail and community uses to serve the settlement and the surrounding area.	Billesdon, Fleckney, Great Glen, Houghton on the Hill, Husbands Bosworth, The Kibworths, Ullesthorpe
Selected Rural Villages	Selected Rural Villages are identified on the basis of presence of at least 2 of the 6 key services and a minimum of 100 households. Where neighbouring villages share a primary school which is within acceptable and safe walking distance, they have been grouped as joint Selected Rural Villages.	Bitteswell, Church and East Langton, the Claybrookes, Dunton Bassett, Foxton, Gilmorton, Great Bowden, Great Easton (with Bringham), Hallaton, Lubenham, Medbourne, North Kilworth, South Kilworth, Swinford, Tilton on the Hill, Tugby.
Other Villages and Rural Settlements	These are rural villages and settlements that do not meet the criteria for identification as Selected Rural Villages due to their size and/or level of services.	Others not named above

Current population

- 2.10 The population of Harborough in 2017 was estimated by ONS to be around 89,900, and the latest set of ONS projections released in May 2018 estimated that the population in 2019 would be 92,600. The current population structure shows a much higher percentage of those aged 45-74 years than the national average, whilst there are much lower numbers of people aged 20-39 years, and in those aged 0-4 years, see (Figure 5).

Figure 5: Harborough current population structure compared to England
(Source: ONS)



Population forecasts

- 2.11 The ONS population forecasts for Harborough which were available in 2017 included some housing growth, but not the amount being proposed in the emerging Local Plan. It was therefore necessary to develop a bespoke population methodology to underpin the playing pitch strategy, the steps and outcomes of which were agreed by Harborough District Council. These projections have been used to underpin the modelling of this Harborough Sports Facilities Strategy.
- 2.12 The starting point for the future population estimates were the ONS estimates for each of the Middle Super Output Areas for 2014 aggregated into the sub areas. The

balance in the population across the district by sub area, based on the MSOA estimates in 2014 were:

- Middle sub area: Market Harborough and surrounds – 40.79%
- West sub area: Lutterworth, Broughton Astley and surrounds – 31.83%
- East sub area: Kibworth, edge of Leicester and surrounds – 27.38%

2.13 Harborough District Council has advised that the housing in the following proposed strategic development areas (SDA) and housing allocations from the draft housing trajectory of May 2017 should be added to the ONS population forecasts, with the number of houses completed by each milestone date of 2021, 2026 and 2031 being:

- Middle

North West Market Harborough SDA			Overstone Park			East of Blackberry Grange			Arnesby Rd and Fleckney			Burnmill Farm		
2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031	2021	2026	2031
329	600	571	62	335	201	0	14	335	0	181	117	0	90	0

- West

East of Lutterworth SDA		
2021	2026	2031
0	412	1088

- East

Scraptoft North SDA		
2021	2026	2031
0	524	676

2.14 The modelling for the above sites uses a housing multiplier of 2.3 persons per dwelling, with a population structure reflecting a typical sustainable urban extension, as tested in Northamptonshire, Hertfordshire, Oxfordshire and Milton Keynes. The SDA sites are consequently expected to have a much higher proportion of young families, and very few older people.

2.15 With the inclusion of the new growth from the strategic housing areas, the population of the authority as a whole is expected to rise to around 116,673 by 2031, with about 44% in the Middle sub area, 30% in the West, and 26% in the East. The summary of the district wide population and sub area populations for 2017, 2021, 2026 and 2031 is provided in Figure 6. These forecasts underpin the estimated future demand for sport during the period up to 2031.

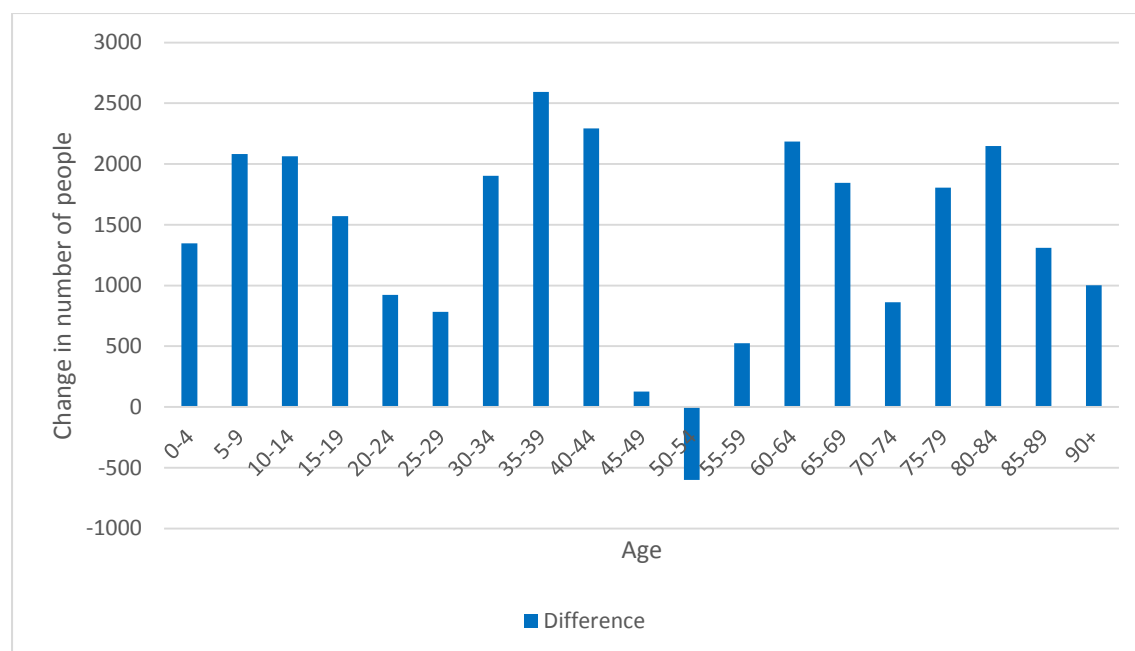
- 2.16 The forecast population for 2031 using this methodology is higher at 116,673 than the 2016 ONS based estimate of 2018 for 2031 which is 101,000. At this time, the difference between the ONS estimate and the estimated strategy population is the equivalent to additional demand for approximately 1.5 sports halls and 158 sq m of water space across the district. This is not significant in the sports strategy planning.
- 2.17 It is intended that this strategy will be regularly reviewed, and this will include updating population estimates and assessing the implications thereof.

Figure 6: *Harborough population up to 2031*

		Populations at 2017, 2021, 2026, 2031															
		2017				2021				2026				2031			
		Middle	West	East	District	Middle	West	East	District	Middle	West	East	District	Middle	West	East	District
Males	0-4	979	764	657	2400	1028	764	657	2449	1221	847	750	2817	1373	931	769	3073
	5-9	1142	891	767	2800	1185	891	767	2843	1409	969	852	3230	1778	1142	971	3891
	10-14	1142	891	767	2800	1262	955	821	3038	1425	995	873	3293	1769	1139	973	3882
	15-19	1061	828	712	2600	1090	828	712	2629	1301	922	806	3028	1555	1013	868	3436
	20-24	816	637	548	2000	754	573	493	1820	845	594	519	1959	1118	723	621	2462
	25-29	938	732	630	2300	975	732	630	2337	1028	707	624	2360	1234	792	665	2691
	30-34	857	668	575	2100	1029	764	657	2450	1264	849	752	2865	1475	911	766	3151
	35-39	979	764	657	2400	1028	764	657	2449	1396	943	833	3173	1786	1114	947	3847
	40-44	1101	859	739	2700	1142	859	739	2740	1357	934	821	3112	1811	1151	985	3946
	45-49	1468	1146	986	3600	1290	987	849	3126	1329	950	828	3108	1625	1069	920	3614
	50-54	1550	1210	1040	3800	1530	1178	1013	3721	1416	1040	904	3360	1560	1071	919	3551
	55-59	1346	1050	904	3300	1477	1146	986	3609	1525	1155	997	3678	1479	1065	919	3463
	60-64	1101	859	739	2700	1274	987	849	3110	1477	1124	971	3573	1596	1182	1014	3793
	65-69	1142	891	767	2800	1106	859	739	2704	1292	991	854	3137	1507	1136	979	3622
	70-74	1061	828	712	2600	1146	891	767	2804	1080	831	717	2628	1278	970	833	3081
	75-79	653	509	438	1600	899	700	602	2202	1073	830	715	2618	1014	774	666	2453
	80-84	489	382	329	1200	531	414	356	1301	779	605	521	1906	914	704	606	2224
	85-89	245	191	164	600	286	223	192	700	368	286	246	901	535	414	357	1306
	90+	122	95	82	300	163	127	110	400	204	159	137	500	286	223	192	701
	Total	18192	14196	12211	44600	19194	14642	12595	46431	21789	15733	13721	51244	25694	17523	14970	58186
Females	0-4	897	700	602	2200	987	732	630	2349	1139	783	695	2617	1291	868	714	2873
	5-9	1061	828	712	2600	1063	796	685	2543	1287	873	770	2930	1655	1046	889	3591
	10-14	1061	828	712	2600	1180	891	767	2838	1303	900	791	2993	1647	1044	891	3582
	15-19	979	764	657	2400	967	732	630	2329	1178	826	724	2728	1432	917	786	3136
	20-24	693	541	465	1700	672	509	438	1620	723	498	437	1659	996	627	539	2162
	25-29	857	668	575	2100	893	668	575	2137	987	675	597	2260	1153	728	610	2491
	30-34	897	700	602	2200	1029	764	657	2450	1223	817	725	2765	1434	879	739	3051
	35-39	1061	828	712	2600	1151	859	739	2749	1437	975	860	3273	1745	1082	920	3747
	40-44	1224	955	821	3000	1223	923	794	2940	1439	997	875	3312	1852	1183	1012	4046
	45-49	1509	1178	1013	3700	1331	1019	876	3226	1411	1014	883	3308	1707	1132	975	3814
	50-54	1591	1241	1068	3900	1571	1210	1040	3821	1457	1072	931	3460	1560	1071	919	3551
	55-59	1305	1019	876	3200	1518	1178	1013	3709	1607	1219	1052	3878	1520	1096	946	3563
	60-64	1142	891	767	2800	1233	955	821	3010	1558	1188	1026	3773	1637	1214	1042	3893
	65-69	1142	891	767	2800	1106	859	739	2704	1251	959	827	3037	1589	1200	1034	3822
	70-74	1101	859	739	2700	1227	955	821	3004	1121	863	744	2728	1278	970	833	3081
	75-79	693	541	465	1700	899	700	602	2202	1155	893	769	2818	1095	837	721	2653
	80-84	571	446	383	1400	653	509	438	1601	820	637	548	2006	1036	799	688	2524
	85-89	408	318	274	1000	449	350	301	1100	531	414	356	1301	657	510	439	1606
	90+	286	223	192	700	326	255	219	800	408	318	274	1000	531	414	356	1301
	Total	18478	14419	12403	45300	19480	14865	12786	47131	22034	15924	13885	51844	25816	17618	15052	58486
Total		36670	28615	24615	89900	38674	29506	25381	93562	43824	31657	27606	103087	51510	35141	30021	116673

- 2.18 Across the district as a whole and across each of the sub areas there is expected to be an increase in the number of people in every age group except for those aged 50-54 years. Figure 7 illustrates this growth.

Figure 7: District wide population change 2017-2031

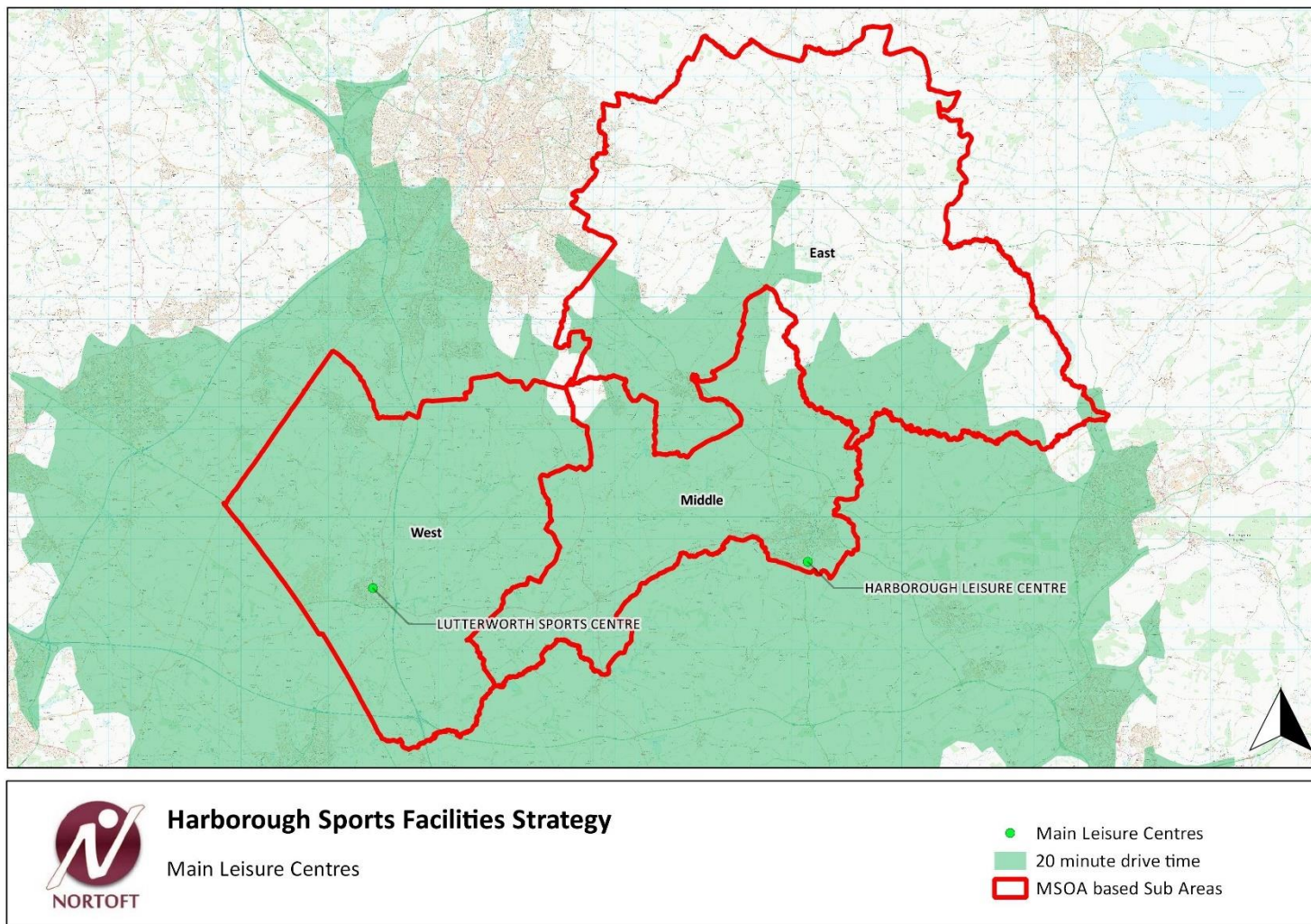


- 2.19 This population change suggests that the planned housing growth will be partially balanced out by the overall aging population in the district, particularly across the rural areas. The strategy therefore needs to consider the justification for additional sports facilities based on these population forecasts, as well as priorities for investment on existing sites. Within the proposed SDAs and housing allocations there is also a need to consider both the capacity and accessibility of the existing and potential sports facilities to accommodate additional users. This will help to determine what provision needs to be on site and what off-site contributions should be expected of the developers.
- 2.20 Where new provision is required on site, it will be essential that sufficient and suitable land and facilities are provided in accordance with the Council's policy and supplementary planning guidance requirements.

SECTION 3: THE LEISURE NETWORK

- 3.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the built sports facility network in Harborough.
- 3.2 There are two public leisure centre facilities, at Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre. The management of these facilities changed on 1st April 2019 from the Harborough District Leisure Trust and their managing agent Serco, to Sports & Leisure Management operating under the brand Everyone Active.
- 3.3 The two public leisure centres have 20-minute drive time catchments stretching across most of the district, with the exception of the north east which is bounded by Leicester City, Charnwood, Melton and Rutland. The leisure centres deliver a varied programme of activities and offer the only casual swimming opportunities and day time access to sports halls in the district. The 20 minutes' drive time catchments of the two public leisure centres is shown in Figure 8.
- 3.4 Sports halls in the district are mainly located on secondary school sites. There are only a small number of formal agreements which secure the facilities' long-term use by the community, generally at those sites where there has been public funding support, grant aid or lottery funding for the facility(ies).
- 3.5 There is one swimming pool used by the community at a school site, Leicester Grammar, which is restricted to club swimming. There are no commercial swimming pools other than a small pool at Ullesthorpe which forms part of a hotel and golf club leisure complex.
- 3.6 Health and fitness gyms are often commercially provided, though both the leisure centres also have fitness gyms.
- 3.7 There are also a small number of specialist facilities operated by sports clubs, such as the Saddington Sailing Club or the Bowmen of Glen archery site.

Figure 8: District leisure centres and drive time catchment



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Harborough Leisure Centre

3.8 This public leisure centre is located on the south side of Market Harborough close to the district border with Daventry. Most of the centre was built in 1991 and it has the following facilities:

- 357.5 sq m of water space comprising:
- 25m x 6 lane pool with limited spectator seating
- 20 sq m learner pool
- Beach / leisure water area
- 4 badminton court sports hall
- 70 station fitness gym
- 2 x studio
- Dome with 3 tennis courts/2 netball courts
- 6 rink indoor bowls
- Creche

3.9 The annual total throughput of the site and its facilities for the year ended March 2018 was 822,018. The Key Performance Indicator (KPI) information gathered by the operator provides some additional usage information about the key facilities:

	Total throughput
Swimming pool	328,402
Dryside including sports hall and dome	186,184
Health and fitness	305,180

Lutterworth Sports Centre

3.10 The leisure centre is located reasonably centrally to Lutterworth town, immediately adjacent to Lutterworth College. The centre opened in 2004 and has the following facilities:

- 25m x 6 lane pool (325 sq m of water space) without spectator seating
- 4 badminton court sports hall
- 70-station fitness gym
- Studio
- Spin studio
- Meeting room

3.11 The annual total throughput of the site and its facilities for the year ended March 2018 was 499,503. The KPI information provides some additional detail:

	Total throughput
Swimming pool	183,499
Dryside (sports hall)	87,989
Health and fitness	227,665

Broughton Astley Leisure Centre (under construction)

- 3.12 The new Broughton Astley Leisure Centre on Broughton Way will have a 4-court hall, full-size outdoor floodlit 3G football turf pitch, a 70-station fitness gym, 2 studios, creche and outdoor play area. The centre is due to open in early 2020.
- 3.13 The site is owned by Broughton Astley parish council and will be made available for hire to Thomas Estley school to help them deliver the curriculum during some of the school hours.

Schools

- 3.14 A high proportion of built sports facilities in Harborough are provided on school sites, including 7 of the 10 sports halls which are 3 badminton courts or larger, and 1 of the 3 swimming pools. These are mostly secondary school sites because these were generally built with, or have developed, dedicated sports facilities and playing fields. There is one primary school with a 3-court sports hall, Meadowdale Primary in Market Harborough. Many of the other primary schools in the district have smaller multi-purpose halls and provide for activities such as exercise classes, but do not otherwise have specialist sports facilities.
- 3.15 A summary of the school sports facilities which are available for community use in Harborough is given in Figure 9. All of the facilities are managed in-house by the schools themselves, sometimes via an external letting agent.
- 3.16 There is a generally positive approach by the schools towards the community use of their facilities within Harborough district, and most are intending to retain approximately the same level of community use going forwards. Robert Smyth Academy in Market Harborough is the exception and this school is actively exploring ways increase community use, including potentially exploring the option of a hockey surface full-size floodlit AGP as well as possibly other facilities.
- 3.17 The key findings across the schools are:
- All of the schools restrict their facility use to members of organised clubs and groups, so there is no casual or 'pay-and-play' access.
 - There is no community access to the school facilities during the school day.

- The only secure community use sites are those which have received external grant aid or lottery funding within the last few years, where a formal use agreement was a prerequisite for the funding support.
- There are no subsidies to support community use.
- The quality of the school facilities varies from excellent to very poor.
- The quality of the school facilities is strongly reflected in the level of usage by the community.
- All schools require a manager to be on-site during community hours, and to complete the final lock-up procedures.
- Community use of school facilities needs to be financially self-sustaining, and the costs of opening may be more than a school can generate from lettings. This can limit the ability and willingness of a school to open for community use.

Figure 9: School sports facilities

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts and quality	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available in the peak period (PP)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
Leicester Grammar School LE8 9FL	6 Very good quality hall and changing	25 x 6 lane (325 sq m) Very good quality pool and changing. Limited spectator provision	1 x full size sand dressed, floodlit 1 x full size water based floodlit Good quality	Fitness gym 20 stations Studio Both good quality and available during opening hours	Independent School	Club	In house by school	30.5 hours	70% of hall 100% of pool 50% gym 65% studio
				Hard courts 8 tennis/6 netball floodlit Not regularly hired out					15%
				Grass pitches: rugby and cricket					

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available in the peak period (PP)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
Lutterworth College LE17 4EW	4 Poor quality hall and changing	x	1 x 97 x 61 m sand filled, floodlit Floodlights out of order since spring 2018. Aging surface.	26 x 12 m ancillary hall Performance hall with stage. Standard quality.	Academy	Club	In house by school	20 hours hall Ancillary hall not regularly booked 3 hours (Sunday) AGP	25% hall 0% ancillary hall 10% AGP
Lutterworth High School LE17 4QH	x	x	x	Ancillary hall Standard quality.	Academy	Club	In house by school	2.5 hours	80%
Meadowdale Primary School LE16 7QX	3 New hall, excellent quality hall and changing	x	x	x	Academy	Club	In house by school	39 hours	80% Mon-Sat, 50% Sun
Robert Smyth Academy LE16 7JG	4 & 3 Poor quality. 4 court hall dimensions small. Poor quality changing	x	x	Dance / drama studio within main school buildings Standard quality	Academy	Club / block bookings	In house by school	35.5 hours	25% 4 court hall 30% 3 court hall 50% studio

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available in the peak period (PP)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
The Kibworth School LE8 0LG	4 Good quality. Limited changing as shared with AGP	x	1 x 3G AGP for U11/U12. Good quality but changing shared with sports hall	Ancillary hall within main building Shared with dining. Standard quality	Academy	Club	In house by school	28 hours hall 10 hours ancillary 35 hours AGP	40% hall 10% ancillary 55% AGP
Thomas Estley Community College LE9 6PT	x	x	x	Ancillary hall within main building. Standard quality School performance theatre. Standard quality Hard courts Standard quality	Academy	Club	In house by school	4 hours ancillary hall 3 hours theatre 2 hours hard courts	100% ancillary 100% theatre 100% hard courts [only open during bookings]

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available in the peak period (PP)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
Welland Park Academy LE16 9DW	4 Poor but being refurbished in summer 2019. Standard quality changing	x	1 x sand filled full size, floodlit. Standard quality	Ancillary hall Good quality	Academy	Club	In house by school	37 hours hall 37 hours ancillary 37 hours AGP	80% hall 30% ancillary 80% AGP

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 (see Figure 10). This strategy section considers sports halls of 3+ badminton court size and larger, primarily those which are designed for sport. Smaller sports hall facilities such as the Fleckney Sports Centre and the Coplow Centre at Billesdon have limitations on their use for sport and are regularly used for other community activities, such as amateur theatre. These facilities are addressed in a separate supplementary report which covers all village and community halls, produced by Harborough District Council.

Figure 10: Sports hall activities

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

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

- 4.2 The main tool for assessing the trends in activity up to 2016 was the Active People Survey of Sport England (Sport England, 2016). This has now been replaced by the Sport England Active Lives. The national trends in the main hall sports over the period 2005/06-2015/16 were a fall in participation in badminton, basketball, and football, a steady situation for volleyball, but an increase in netball.
- 4.3 The Active Lives Survey latest data of October 2018 (Sport England, 2018) shows that for the main hall sports there has been generally little change in the rates of participation for adults over the age of 16 years between May 2017 and May 2018.

However there has been an increase in participation for combat sports, martial arts and target sports, whilst badminton has seen a significant decrease in participation.

- 4.4 Information about the trends in hall sports at a more local level are either not available or are too statistically unreliable to be of value in this strategy. The national trends are therefore assumed to be reflected by the local situation in Harborough.
- 4.5 Sports halls generally have most sports use during the winter months as some activities move outside during the summer months, for example sports hall athletics, or are primarily a winter sport such as football. During the school exam periods, the sports halls on school sites are often unavailable for community use and are therefore both less attractive to community clubs and have lower levels of sports use. The peak time assessment for sports hall use therefore considers the winter months. Sport England regularly reviews its parameters behind the FPM model, and the 2015 report (Sport England and sportscotland, 2015) suggests that, on average, sports halls have the following programming, see Figure 11.

Figure 11: 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	11%	20%

- 4.6 Details about the methodology for assessing sports halls including drive times, is given in Appendix 1. In summary 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.
- 4.7 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.

- 4.8 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 6 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 proposed for 4-court halls by Sport England is 34.5m x 20.0m x 7.5 m, rather than the previous standard of 33m x 18m x 7.5m.

Current provision

- 4.9 There are currently 8 sites offering community access to sports halls of 3 badminton court size and above. In addition to these, a new sports centre is being developed at Broughton Astley and is expected to be open in 2020. It will be situated across the playing fields from the Thomas Estley College and will be operated on behalf of the parish council. This new 4 court sports hall will be hired by the school to deliver its curriculum, but details still to be agreed.
- 4.10 The list of sports halls of 3+ badminton court size and above which are available for community use is given in Figure 12 and mapped in Figure 13. The table in Figure 12 also includes the estimated used capacity at peak time from the audit. The estimate of use has generally been provided by the site manager, based on the booking records.
- 4.11 This provision gives a current total of 40 badminton courts available for at least some of the peak time, and an adjusted total of 32 badminton courts when taking into account the number of hours which each site is open.
- 4.12 Sport England considers that a sport hall is “busy” if it is used at around 80% of its capacity during the time that a facility is open. From the table in Figure 12 it is clear that some facilities are running close to, or at capacity for much of the peak period, whilst others are used much more lightly. This usage generally reflects the quality of the facility, the main exception being The Kibworth School sports hall which has spare capacity though it is good quality.
- 4.13 The map in Figure 13 gives the location of the 3+ badminton court sites plus an indicative drive time catchment of 20 minutes for each. The green shading represents the catchments of pay-and-play sites such as Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre, and the yellow shading is the catchment of sites with more restricted access, such as Leicester Grammar. It is clear that most of the district has access to a pay-and-play facility either within or outside of the

authority, but there are small rural areas in the east of the district with more limited access.

- 4.14 Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre are the only sites with mid-week day time community access within the district.

Figure 12: Sports halls 3+ courts - current provision

Middle Sub Area

Site Name	Number of badminton courts	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Availability in the peak period. No. hours (max 45.5hrs)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit	Equivalent number of courts scaled by hours open at peak time	Spare capacity in number of courts scaled by hours (80% used assumed full)
Harborough Leisure Centre LE16 9HF	4	Harborough District Council	Pay and Play	Commercial	45.5	80%	4	0
Meadowdale Primary School LE16 7QX	3	Academy	Club	In house by school	39	70%	3.5	0.4
Robert Smyth Academy LE16 7JG	4	Academy	Club / block bookings	In house by school	35.5	25%	3.1	1.7
	3					30%	2.3	1.2
Welland Park Academy LE16 9DW	4	Academy	Club / block bookings	In house by school	37	80%	3.3	0
	18				157		16.2	3.3

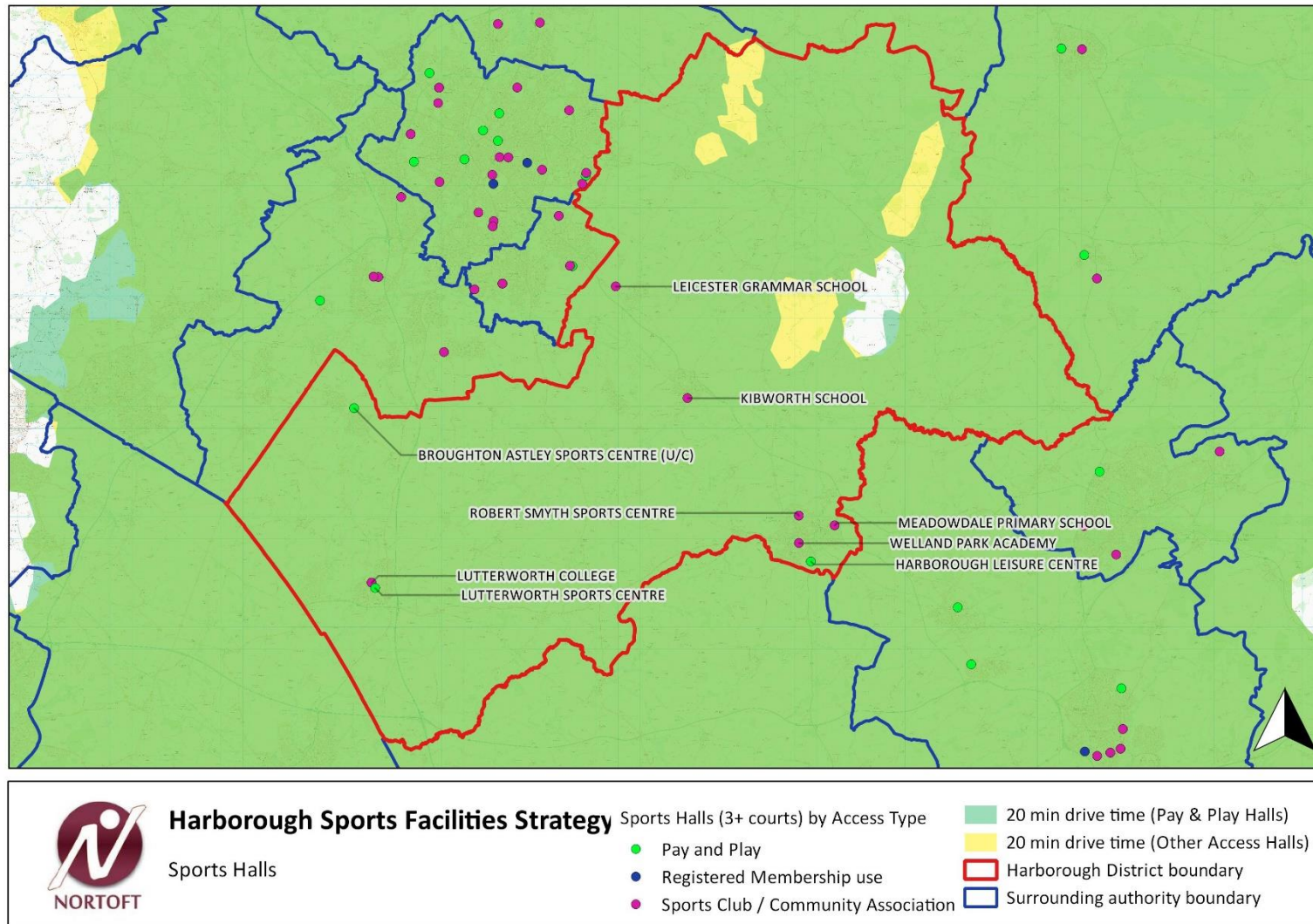
West sub area

Site Name	Number of badminton courts	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Availability in the peak period. No. hours (max 45.5hrs)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit	Equivalent number of courts scaled by hours open at peak time	Spare capacity in number of courts scaled by hours (80% used assumed full)
Lutterworth Sports Centre LE17 4EW	4	Harborough District Council	Pay and Play	Commercial	45.5	65%	4	0.6
Lutterworth College LE17 4EW	4	Academy	Club	In house by school	20	25%	1.8	1
Broughton Astley LE9 6TH	4	Parish Council	To be confirmed	Commercial	40	Opening 2020, to be confirmed	3.5	Tbc
	12				105.5		9.3	1.6

East sub area

Leicester Grammar School LE8 9FL	6	Independent School	Club	In house by school	30.5	70%	4	0.4
The Kibworth School	4	Academy	Club	In house by school	28	40%	2.5	1
	10				58.5		6.5	1.4

Figure 13: Sports Halls (3+ courts) map



Assessment of current supply/demand

- 4.15 Sports halls are 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 into the long term.
- 4.16 Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) has modelling parameters which are based on national research, so the FPM's parameters are relevant to the way in which the supply and demand balance for sports halls should be considered in Harborough district. The main FPM parameters are summarised in Figure 14, including the number of hours that the 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.
- 4.17 In relation to the catchment area for sports halls, 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 14: 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.
Duration of visit	60 minutes
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"

Quantity

- 4.18 The current balance in the supply and demand of sports halls by sub area is given in Figure 15. This takes account of the actual opening hours of each facility and the demand as generated from the Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator for the sub area's population.
- 4.19 This shows that there is currently "spare capacity" in the Middle sub area which includes Market Harborough, the equivalent of 1.5 four badminton court halls. However, in the West sub area with the inclusion of the new Broughton Astley site, the demand and supply will be almost in balance, with a very small surplus. In the East, there is again an approximate balance between supply and demand.
- 4.20 The current rate of provision based on the actual amount of space available in the district at peak time for Harborough varies from 0.44 courts per 1000 population in the Middle sub area, to 0.25 courts per 1000 population in the East sub area.

Figure 15: Current sports hall provision by sub area

Sub Area	Assessment	Number of badminton courts at peak time	Population in 2017
Middle	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use	18	
	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use scaled by hours open	16.2	
	Sub area sports hall demand from Sports Facilities Calculator	10.1	
	Balance in supply/demand	6.1	
	Population in 2017		36670
	Provision per 1000 (scaled by hours)	0.44	
West	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use [including Broughton Astley]	12	
	Total amount of sports halls with some public use scaled by hours open	9.3	
	Sub area sports hall demand from Sports Facilities Calculator	7.9	
	Balance in supply/demand	1.4	
	Population in 2017		28615
	Provision per 1000 (scaled by hours)	0.33	
East	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use	10	
	Total amount of sports halls with some public use scaled by hours open	6.5	
	Sub area sports hall demand from Sports Facilities Calculator	6.8	
	Balance in supply/demand	-0.3	
	Population in 2017		24615
	Provision per 1000 (scaled by hours)	0.25	

- 4.21 The headline emerging from the audit of sports halls across Harborough, is that there appears to be a small amount of spare capacity in all areas of the district, see Figure 12. The audit assessment conclusions are compared with the theoretical supply /demand balance in Figure 16 to determine which is the most appropriate basis for the future assessment of the balance between demand and supply.

Figure 16: Theoretical supply/demand balance vs audit

Sub area	Theoretical supply /demand balance (Figure 16)	Audit findings supply/demand balance (Figure 12)	Comment
Middle	6.1	3.3	<p>Harborough attracts high numbers of users from Northamptonshire, so use is higher than the theoretical demand which is modelled for the sub area alone.</p> <p>Recommend: use audit findings to assess future requirements.</p>
West	1.4	1.6	<p>Some cross-boundary movement, but relatively limited. Similar results between theoretical balance and actual.</p> <p>Recommend: use theoretical figure as audit skewed by poor quality facility at Lutterworth College.</p>
East	-0.3	1.4	<p>Likely to be some export of sports hall demand from the sub area to adjacent authorities as the catchments of Kibworth School and Leicester Grammar do not reach across all of the sub area, and facilities in adjacent authorities will be closer.</p> <p>Recommend: use audit findings to assess future requirements.</p>

4.22 The only school sites with secured community use are currently Meadowdale Primary in Market Harborough and The Kibworth School, where formal agreements have been linked to grant aid for the facilities. Welland Park Academy will also become subject to a community use agreement once refurbished in summer 2019.

4.23 There are no known threats to the current community use of the school sites without formal community use agreements.

Quality

4.24 The quality of the sports halls across the district was assessed as part of the site audit against the following criteria:

- The sports hall including floor, lighting, walls, storage, dimensions etc
- Changing facilities servicing the hall
- Disabled access
- Maintenance and cleanliness
- Car parking and accessibility

4.25 The audit findings are summarised below:

- Good quality halls and facilities: Leicester Grammar, The Kibworth School, Meadowdale Primary School.
- Standard quality halls and facilities: Harborough Leisure Centre, Lutterworth Sports Centre.
- Poor quality halls and facilities: Welland Park Academy, Robert Smyth Academy, Lutterworth College.

4.26 The hall at Welland Park Academy is due for major refurbishment during summer 2019, so this should bring it up to good quality.

Accessibility

4.27 Sport England's national research has demonstrated that a 20-minute travel time catchment is appropriate for sports halls, equating to 1.6 km walk. The research also concluded that on average across England, 75% of users travel by car to a sports hall (Sport England and sportscotland, 2015).

4.28 The location of the current Harborough Leisure Centre means that only some of the town's residents can reach the facility on foot. The Lutterworth Sports Centre is more centrally located in the town and is therefore relatively more accessible on foot.

4.29 Of the other facilities, the ones in Harborough and Lutterworth College are reasonably accessible to the towns' residents on foot, but the other facilities are located in more rural areas and will have a higher proportion of users relying on their car for access. The walking catchments of the facilities in Market Harborough are relatively separate.

4.30 The catchments of Lutterworth Sports Centre and Lutterworth College almost entirely overlap as the sites are adjacent. There is also a significant overlap of the drive time catchments between The Kibworth School and Leicester Grammar, which are around 11 minutes' drive apart.

Consultation findings

- 4.31 Consultation responses were received in relation to sports hall use from both local clubs and national governing bodies of sport. As sports halls can provide for a wide range of activities, the responses recorded below relate to those sports which primarily use the sports hall space in Harborough district.
- 4.32 Those sports who use sports halls as a secondary facility or which require specific consideration are addressed in other sections of this strategy report:

Sport	Report Section
Netball	Indoor netball and tennis
Gymnastics	Gymnastics and related activities
Table tennis	Community and village halls
Archery	Other sport and recreation activities

Club comments

- 4.33 As part of the strategy process, extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face. A number of the clubs who use sports halls responded to the survey and their comments are summarised below.

Badminton

- 4.34 Harborough Valley Badminton Club uses the sports hall at Robert Smyth Academy and commented that the facility 'provides a high-quality space, but we are unable to book during school holidays or when school needs hall for exams, parent evenings etc'.
- 4.35 Harborough Feathers Badminton Club uses the sports hall at Welland Park Academy and commented that 'the facilities are not well maintained. The floor often requires repairs during sessions. Lighting is poor and badly positioned. Toilets are not clean or maintained to a satisfactory level. Inadequate equipment storage space. Insufficient space around/between courts'.
- 4.36 Harborough Leisure Centre Junior Badminton Club uses the sports hall at Harborough Leisure Centre and commented that
- 'For Badminton, we really require suitable lighting to be lengthways down the sides of the court and not over the courts. The type of lighting to consider for any new Sports hall should be as at the LBA hall, Babington Academy, Leicester. The current facility really needs a cleaner floor and removal of any lines that are no longer required for other sports that are not carried out at the facility'.

- 'In the future, we would like to have a sports hall with more than 4 badminton courts (maybe six). Also, a dance studio with mirrors that could be used by Badminton club for footwork and movement exercises without a shuttlecock'.

4.37 Lutterworth Badminton Club uses the sports hall at Lutterworth Sports Centre and commented that 'the facility generally is good. The main issue our club has is with the quality and cleanliness of the sports hall floor where we play badminton. It is very slippery and always dirty, affecting our ability to play good badminton. More importantly, it is an accident risk for all players. The wooden floor also has faults (holes, uneven patches/fixes) and has tape regularly put down for other sports that causes trips. The floor is an embarrassment for our club when we host away matches for our Rugby District League, and other clubs have made complaints about it. Lighting, equipment etc otherwise is good'.

Basketball

4.38 Market Harborough Basketball Club uses the sports hall at Harborough Leisure Centre and commented that 'it's fit for purpose, a bit tired but ok for what we need. Additional/new court would be nice but not essential'.

Dance and drama

4.39 The Lemon Jelly Arts company uses the sports hall at Leicester Grammar. It has around 40 members, all of whom are either minis or juniors, and about 90% live in Harborough district. The membership has stayed the same over the last 5 years but is expected to grow in the future. The main issues restricting growth are the cost of facility hire and the recruitment of members.

4.40 Lemon Jelly's home site is the sports hall at Leicester Grammar which is used 3-6 times a week on weekday evenings and weekends daytime. The facility is generally described as good quality.

4.41 Lemon Jelly uses as a second site, Kibworth Village Hall 1-2 times per week on weekday evenings. The hall is described as "great" with above average space, good changing and average quality car park, storage etc.

4.42 The organisation also uses Kibworth School 1-2 times per week on weekday evenings, using a variety of rooms. The space is described as being above average space with high quality ancillary facilities.

4.43 Lemon Jelly also uses Huncote Pavilion in Blaby district 1-2 times per week on weekday evenings,

National Governing Body comments

- 4.44 There are a number of sports and activities which use sports halls and some of these have design requirements. However, none of these have facilities strategies with investment priorities of specific relevance to the district. The following are the most relevant national governing body (NGB) strategies.

Badminton

- 4.45 Badminton England's National Facilities Strategy 2012-16 (Badminton England, 2012) still provides the framework for the national governing body's investment priorities. The strategy lists the specific requirements of facilities used for badminton:

- The hall should have a sprung floor as a minimum.
- The lighting must be suitable (no lights above courts and no natural light).
- There should be appropriate space around the court for safety.
- The walls must be the right colour (green or blue).
- The ceiling must be the appropriate height (6.7m).

- 4.46 The governing body does not have any specific capital or revenue investment planned for Harborough, but the District is an area where Badminton England would like to support the growth of activity, as geographically, the district services both Leicestershire and Northamptonshire. The North West side of Northamptonshire would benefit from continued club development. A large junior club currently operates out of the local leisure centre and so the infrastructure exists to support the centre to deliver further badminton programmes, such as No Strings Badminton, and junior programmes feeding into the club set-up, particularly as some of the focus has recently been on developing and supporting workforce.

- 4.47 There have not recently been any club led projects; Harborough Leisure Centre Junior Badminton Club have in recent years continued to do outreach work in the local schools through their head coach to recruit and offer a signposting opportunity to the club where children want to pursue their badminton further.

- 4.48 Currently, Badminton England understands that the club structures based within Harborough are well sustained and the pathway from junior club to senior club has recently improved. As school engagement appears to have been good across the district, Badminton England would like to look at supporting this delivery further using The Racket Pack offer to improve the exposure of young children to badminton and encourage them to engage long-term. This may also include utilising the leisure centre site to take on centre delivery to offer holiday and weekend sessions, for example.

- 4.49 Due to the geographical location of Harborough, the district has a reduced number of workforce and Badminton England has recently supported new workforce development in the district, to ensure that the existing club structures do not

collapse. The process of workforce and young leader development is an area in which badminton needs to be grown in the district specifically. There are also several miles between Harborough's cluster of clubs, and the next available affiliated club (nearest in Northamptonshire and Leicestershire are Guilsborough and Thornby Badminton Club and Leicester Lions, respectively). Badminton England has the capability to support the development of new affiliated clubs and would encourage club who would like to establish or develop to approach Badminton England for further discussion.

- 4.50 Collectively, membership of the three badminton clubs in Harborough increased from 113 in 2016/17 to 128 in 2017/18.

Basketball

- 4.51 The Basketball England strategy Growing Basketball Together 2018 – 2024 (Basketball England, 2017) includes facilities objectives to 'enhance the playing experience through an appropriate network of innovative and inspirational facilities and playing environments that not only meet the needs and demands of the game but inspire growth within the sport'.
- 4.52 The Harborough Area Profile produced by Basketball England identifies that:
- There is one club (Harborough Basketball Club) with 78 members based at Harborough Leisure Centre. The membership numbers are higher than Basketball England's projected demand for the district, based on local demography.
 - There are 13 Outdoor Basketball Initiative posts and backboards at 10 (mostly school) sites in the district.
 - Indoor facility supply for basketball in the district is balanced both currently and in 2027.

Fencing

- 4.53 British Fencing confirmed that it does not have a current facilities strategy. The sport generally utilises non-specialist space within sports halls. It also confirmed that Harborough is not a priority area and it is not aware of any current issues or proposals in the district.

Handball

- 4.54 England Handball confirmed that it does not have a current facilities strategy but stated that 'we are in desperate need for facilities that handball can be played in, with courts that are 20m x 35m as a minimum'.
- 4.55 There are no handball clubs in Harborough but 'some investment is being made to increase handball activity across the county, some of which may occur in the Harborough district. This activity has the potential to develop into new community club activity'.

Martial arts

- 4.56 The AKA Market Harborough Martial Arts club responded to the club survey. The club has about 28 members; 10 minis, 10 juniors and 8 seniors. All live in Harborough district with the minis traveling up to about 10 minutes and the others up to about 20 minutes to reach the site. The membership of the club has increased in the last 5 years and is expected to continue to grow. However, there are a number of issues that the club faces including a lack of facilities, limited space and cost of facility hire.
- 4.57 The club uses a site at 67 St Mary's Road, Market Harborough. It has a small matted area and the ceiling is low. There is no changing provision or car park.
- 4.58 The site is leased up to 2020, and it is used 3-6 times a week year-round on weekday evenings.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 4.59 A review of the sports hall provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Appendix 5). In summary:
- Blaby District Council does not have a current sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of sports hall needs.
 - The 'Charnwood Indoor Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2017 - 2036' (Charnwood Borough Council , 2018) concluded that sports hall provision meets all current needs. Two further halls are needed in the future and will be provided as part of two new Sustainable Urban Extensions.
 - The 'Corby Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy' (Corby Borough Council , 2017) concluded that sports hall usage is close to capacity, with limited daytime access. Additional provision will be required to meet future needs.
 - 'Planning the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire' (Daventry District Council , 2017) concluded that sports hall provision in Daventry meets current and future needs, although a further sports hall will be required in Daventry if access to existing education facilities cannot be extended.
 - The 'Hinckley and Bosworth Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy' (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, 2011) concluded that sports hall provision meets all current needs, although the sports hall at Hinckley Leisure Centre should be updated and a new sports hall provided to meet future needs.
 - Kettering's 'Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2021' (Kettering Borough Council , 2011) concluded that there is sufficient provision at present, but

Desborough Leisure Centre should be replaced. Additional provision will be required to meet future needs.

- Leicester City Council does not have a current sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of sports hall needs.
- The 'Melton Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 - 2021' (Melton Borough Council, 2017) concluded that existing sports halls meet current needs, but additional capacity equivalent to two badminton courts will be needed by 2021.
- The Oadby and Wigston 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study' (Oadby and Wigston Borough Council, 2009) concluded that, based upon the identified standard of provision, there is a current shortfall of sports halls.
- The 'Rugby Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy' (Rugby Borough Council, 2015) concluded that sports hall provision meets all current and future needs.
- The 'Rutland Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2015-2036' (Rutland County Council, 2015) concludes that sports hall provision meets all current and future needs.

4.60 In summary, there is limited spare capacity in any neighbouring areas to accommodate additional exported sports hall demand from Harborough district. In terms of imported demand, the sports hall at Leicester Grammar School attracts significant usage from people living outside of the district.

Summary of current situation

4.61 The demand for sports hall space in the West and East of Harborough is approximately in balance with the currently available supply, taking into account the opening hours of the school facilities. The Middle sub area has a theoretical surplus of supply, but the facilities are being used at a higher rate than the modelling suggests, probably due to an import of users from Northamptonshire.

4.62 Not all of the East sub area is within a 20-minute drive time of a sports hall within the district, and there appears to be an export of users to the adjacent authorities.

4.63 The catchments of Lutterworth Sports Centre and Lutterworth College are the same, whilst the catchments for the sports halls in Market Harborough have similar drive time catchments, although the walking catchments are different. The drive time catchments of The Kibworth School and Leicester Grammar also overlap significantly, which may be impacting upon the level of bookings at Kibworth.

4.64 The only sports halls with day-time access are the two public leisure centres.

- 4.65 The poorer quality facilities at Lutterworth College and Robert Smyth have notably lower usage levels than the better-quality facilities. The Welland Park Academy facilities are currently poor but have high levels of use.
- 4.66 The only school sites with secure community use are; Meadowdale Primary in Market Harborough and The Kibworth School. An agreement will also be in place for Welland Park Academy linked to the sports hall refurbishment works.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 4.67 An important consideration in the modelling to assess future facility needs is to determine what will be the likely growth in participation each year. Participation rates in adult sport (16 years and over) was previously monitored nationally by Sport England through their Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) and now by its successor survey, Active Lives (Sport England , 2018). This is the mechanism which Harborough District Council also uses to assess the success of its policy objectives of getting more people active.
- 4.68 There has been a gradual decline in participation in the main sports hall sports over the last few years. The modelling in the strategy has therefore been based on the assumption that the current (2019) rates of participation per 1000 population will be sustained in the future.
- 4.69 The rates of participation in “fashionable” sports activities using sports halls 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, rather than taking up much more sports hall time, so the overall strategic planning for sports halls tends to be largely unaffected.

Balance in supply and demand

- 4.70 The Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) is an effective way of estimating future demand for sports halls as it can take into account both the population size and demographics. Figure 17 shows the results of the SFC at the sub area level, using the demographics for each sub area at 2031.
- 4.71 The theoretical SFC estimated additional demand is then offset against the known spare capacity of the existing facilities. The findings show a very small deficit of space by 2031 in each sub area, but the levels are equivalent to less than 0.5 badminton court. This suggests that there is sufficient capacity within the current network of sports halls and with the current opening hours (including the new sports hall at Broughton Astley) to meet the needs of the community at peak time across the district up to 2031.

Figure 17: Sports hall balance in supply/demand at 2031

Sub Area	Assessment	Number of badminton courts	Population in 2031
Middle	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use	18	
	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use scaled by hours open	16.2	
	Current spare capacity (from audit)	3.3	
	Sub area sports hall demand from Sports Facilities Calculator at 2031	13.9	
	Increase in demand compared to 2019	3.8	
	Balance in supply/demand at 2031 (spare capacity minus new demand)	-0.5	
	Population in 2031		51510
	Provision required per 1000 population at 2031	0.27	
West	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use [including Broughton Astley]	12	
	Total amount of sports halls with some public use scaled by hours open	9.3	
	Current spare capacity (from theoretical balance)	1.4	
	Sub area sports hall demand from Sports Facilities Calculator at 2031	9.4	
	Increase in demand compared to 2019	1.5	
	Balance in supply/demand at 2031 (spare capacity minus new demand)	-0.1	
	Population in 2031		35141
	Provision required per 1000 population at 2031	0.27	
East	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use	10	
	Total amount of sports halls with some public use scaled by hours open	6.5	
	Current spare capacity (from audit)	1.4	
	Sub area sports hall demand from Sports Facilities Calculator at 2031	8.0	
	Increase in demand compared to 2019	1.5	
	Balance in supply/demand at 2031 (spare capacity minus new demand)	-0.1	
	Population in 2031		30021
	Provision required per 1000 population at 2031	0.27	

- 4.72 This assessment assumes that the dome at Harborough Leisure Centre is either retained or replaced, and that the current netball demand does not need to be accommodated within the existing sports hall network. If netball demand needs to be met within sports halls, this will require an additional 8 court sports hall in order to provide for the two indoor netball courts which support the netball league matches.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 4.73 The assessment shows that there is sufficient provision across the existing sports hall network up to 2031 in the district to meet the anticipated community demand. This assumes that the netball requirements can be met via a dome or similar structure.
- 4.74 The priorities for the future are given below.

Middle sub area

- 4.75 The Welland Park Academy planned refurbishment should be completed in 2019. The funding for this project is already in place.
- 4.76 If Harborough Leisure Centre is replaced there is justification for a full replacement of the 4-court hall plus a dome or equivalent with a minimum of 2 netball courts. Alternatively, a larger size 8 court hall would enable netball league matches to be held. This would provide for some but not all of the existing use (equivalent to 4 courts plus the dome) so additional investment off site would be required to improve the existing hall space (or replacement thereof) at Robert Smyth Academy.

West sub area

- 4.77 There will be a need for a total of 8 badminton courts to meet the demands from the population projected in the West sub area. This need can be met by the existing sports hall at Lutterworth Sports Centre together with the new sports hall at Broughton Astley which is due to open in 2020. There does not appear to be sufficient unmet demand for sports hall space to justify investment into sports halls other than to maintain and retain the sports halls at Lutterworth Sports Centre and Broughton Astley.
- 4.78 The Lutterworth College sports hall has some community use and the site is adjacent to Lutterworth Sports Centre. The facility is poor quality, has limited opening hours and is lightly used by the community. The completely overlapping catchments with the Sports Centre mean that external investment for community sport into the sports hall at the school is a low priority.
- 4.79 Lutterworth High School has aspirations for a sports hall facility as it currently only has an ancillary hall which is glazed on one side, has no separate storage and has a low ceiling. The site is approximately 10 minutes' walk from Lutterworth Sports Centre and therefore also has a significant overlapping catchment. There is again no clear justification for investment in a sports hall on this site to meet community needs.

- 4.80 The priority for the West sub area is therefore to retain and maintain the existing sports hall facility at Lutterworth Sports Centre, and to help ensure the delivery of the Broughton Astley sports hall as proposed in 2020.

East sub area

- 4.81 There is insufficient new demand by 2031 to justify any new sports hall facility and the eastern edge of the district is likely to remain outside the catchment of any facility within the district even in the long term. However, sports hall facilities in the adjacent authorities of Rutland, Melton, Charnwood, Leicester and Oadby and Wigston are within a 20-minute drive, and will continue to meet the needs of Harborough's residents into the long term.
- 4.82 The priorities are to retain in community use and maintain as high quality, the sports halls at The Kibworth School and Leicester Grammar.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 4.83 All new housing will generate new demand for sports hall space. Though additional sports halls are not required in the period up to 2031 beyond that being provided at Broughton Astley, there is a general need to retain and maintain the existing network at high quality. This includes any replacement sports hall should Harborough Leisure Centre be replaced.
- 4.84 New developments should therefore be expected to contribute towards projects which will improve the existing facilities to make them better able to meet the demand for sports hall space arising from the residents of the new housing.

Quantity

- 4.85 The amount of sports hall space required across each of the sub areas at 2031 has been assessed as 0.27 courts per 1000 population, see Figure 17.

Accessibility

- 4.86 The majority of sports hall users in Harborough will travel by car and national research shows that sports halls have an approximate drive time catchment of up to about 20 minutes. Almost everyone in the district lives within 20 minutes' drive of a sports hall available for community use. A formal accessibility planning standard of 20 minutes' drive time is therefore proposed.

Design and quality

- 4.87 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. Facilities should also have at least a “very good” Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating. This policy should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

Recommendations for sports halls

- 4.88 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address sports hall provision in the district:

- 4.89 To support the Council’s policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to sports halls at its leisure centres and via its partners.
- 4.90 It is recommended that the Council keep under review the recommendations contained in this strategy, including changes to the housing proposals upon which this assessment is based which may have an impact on the supply and demand for facilities.
- 4.91 It is recommended that the identified projects are included in the review of the IDP.
- 4.92 It is recommended that the Council seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 4.93 It is recommended that the existing network of sports halls across the district is generally protected and maintained and that the facilities should remain affordable to clubs and individuals.
- 4.94 It is recommended that where possible, formalised community use agreements are established with schools to protect community use.

Enhance and Provide

- 4.95 It is recommended that the following sports hall facilities are improved to enable them to meet future sports hall demand:
- Re-provision of a 4-badminton court hall (at minimum) if Harborough Leisure Centre is replaced

- Welland Park Academy: planned refurbishment in 2019 to be completed
- Broughton Astley: delivery of the planned 4-court hall as part of a new sports centre
- Robert Smyth Academy: refurbishment of existing 4-court and 3-court halls and the ancillary facilities.

4.96 It is recommended that all new or improved 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 Nationally over 4.7 million adults are swimming at least twice a month (Sport England , 2019), but the number of people swimming has fallen since 2015/16.
- 5.2 Swimming pools are one of the most important sports facility type in Harborough as they are used by the very youngest residents, through to people in old age. This assessment considers only indoor pools which are open year-round, which is in line with Sport England's approach to swimming pool assessment.
- 5.3 Swimming is an attractive activity for everyone in the community and swimming is considered to be an important life skill. Primary schools are required to arrange some swimming lessons for pupils, and the public pools are used to cater 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 geographical 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 proportionally more expensive to operate relative to larger pools. General community swimming 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 such as 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 and spectator space 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 substantially 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 18).

Figure 18: Pool depths for range of activities
(based on British Swimming, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles*)

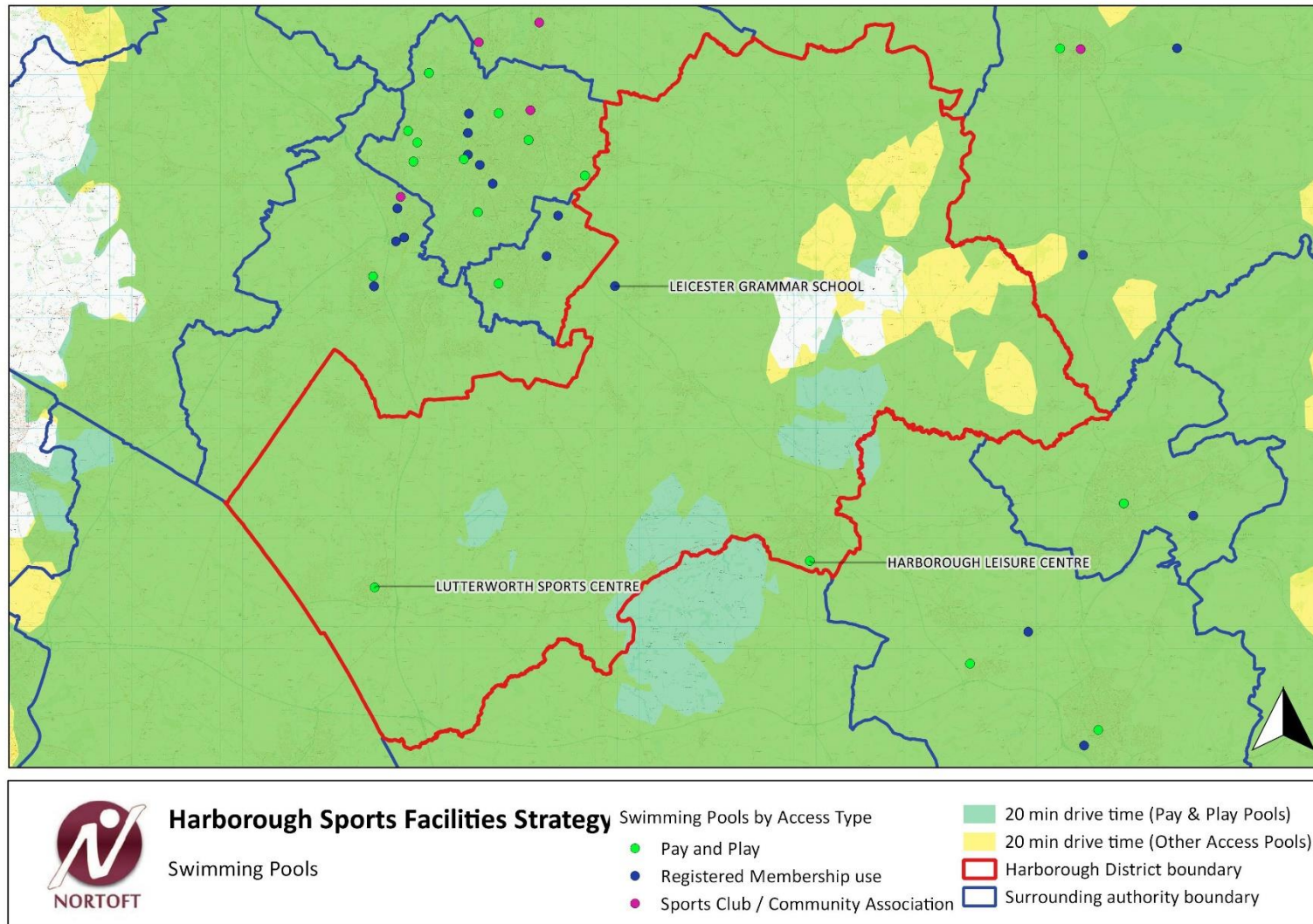
Activity	Minimum water depth				
	1.2m	1.5m	1.8m	2.0m	2.4m
Competition swimming (starting blocks)	x				
Teaching shallow dives and racing starts			x		
Synchronised swimming, low level training			x		
Synchronised swimming, advanced training			x		10x12m area
Water polo (for some or all of pool)			x		
Sub-aqua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

- 5.8 Separate small teaching or learner pools with shallower depths on the same sites as main pools provide the opportunity to offer a wide range of activities catering for the maximum number of users possible. Teaching pools can be maintained at a slightly higher temperature than main pools making them suitable for use by young children, non-swimmers and those with a disability. They offer income generating potential not only through pool parties and other hirings, but also by reducing the impact on programming in the main pool. A teaching pool enhances the local authority's ability to deliver its Learn to Swim programme and therefore it is seen as desirable that there should be at least one in each major centre of population.
- 5.9 A typical 25m x 6 lane pool's area is approximately 325 sq m. With the addition of a learner pool this would typically increase by 160 sq m giving a total water space area of 485 sq m.

Current provision

- 5.10 There are three pool sites which are available for community use: Harborough Leisure Centre, Lutterworth Sports Centre and Leicester Grammar. These are mapped in Figure 19 together with a 20 minute drive time catchment.
- 5.11 The two public leisure centres offer casual and club swimming. Harborough pool appears to be operating at maximum capacity for significant periods, whilst Lutterworth has spare capacity.
- 5.12 Leicester Grammar's excellent quality pool (25m x 6 lane, 325 sq m) is only available for hire to external clubs and organisations and it does not offer any casual (pay-and-play swimming). It is owned and managed by the independent school. The school reports that the pool is booked for almost 100% of the available community time (weekday evenings and weekends). There is no security of community use of the site, but use is well-established for a number of facilities including the sports hall and AGPs.
- 5.13 The small Ullesthorpe Court Hotel and Golf Club is only available on a minimum of 3 month membership at £132.00 pp. The pool is within a spa and is not appropriate or available for general swimming. It is therefore not considered further as a facility able to respond to general swimming demand.
- 5.14 The Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) parameters estimate peak community use to be 63% of the community use throughput, which excludes curriculum swimming. As it is not possible to exclude the school swimming from the leisure centre KPIs, it is not possible to directly compare the throughput figures with FPM model's approach.
- 5.15 The FPM At One Time Capacity for community use of pools is 1 person per 6 sq m water. Sport England considers that a pool operating at 70% of its At One Time Capacity is "busy" i.e. effectively full.
- 5.16 The total throughputs for the two leisure centre pools including school curriculum swimming for 2017-18 (March-April) for which there is the latest complete set of information were:
- Harborough 328,402
Lutterworth 183,499

Figure 19: Swimming pools map



Harborough Leisure Centre

- 5.17 The area of Harborough Leisure Centre's pools is 358 sq m comprising 313 sq m of main pool (25 m x 6 lane), approx 20 sq m of learner pool and 25 sq m of leisure water beach area linked into the main pool. Based on Sport England's At One Time Capacity rate, this means that the pool's maximum capacity is at one time is 59.58 people. At 52 hours peak time per week, this gives a max usage of 3,098 people per week, or 161,113 visits per year. 70% of the max capacity per year = 113,568 visits during peak community hours, the level of use which Sport England would consider as "busy", or effectively full.
- 5.18 Comments provided by the manager that the pool is regularly running "at maximum capacity" appear justified.
- 5.19 Swim lessons for 2017-18 were running at over 90% capacity.

Lutterworth Sports Centre

- 5.20 The area of Lutterworth pool is 325 sq m, so has at one-time capacity of 54.17 people. At 52 hours peak time per week, this gives a maximum usage of 2817 people per week, or 146,466 visits per year. 70% of this maximum capacity is 102,526 visits during peak community hours.
- 5.21 The comments from the manager were that the site rarely operated at full capacity and that the main restriction was in relation to the number of lifeguards on duty. This seems to be borne out by the usage statistics, which include school swimming.
- 5.22 Swimming lessons are operating at about 91% of capacity.
- 5.23 Overall, Lutterworth Sports Centre's pool is operating at about 61% of the use at Harborough Leisure Centre per sq m of water space.

Assessment of current supply and demand

- 5.24 Harborough District Council commissioned bespoke modelling for swimming pools in the district using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) and the report was produced in June 2019. This report provides the most comprehensive objective assessment of the current swimming pool provision in the district. It was also used to test options for future provision.
- 5.25 The FPM has standardised parameters, see Figure 20 which summarises 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".

- 5.26 The 70% utilised capacity threshold in the FPM parameters is the level beyond which Sport England considers a pool to be operating at an uncomfortable level, i.e. that the pool itself becomes too crowded to swim comfortably, and that the changing and circulation areas also become too crowded. The 70% threshold also takes into account the range of activities which usually take place in pools, for example aqua aerobics will have significantly more participants than lane swimming sessions. Additionally, there may be times and sessions that, whilst being within the peak period, as less busy and so will have fewer users.

Figure 20: 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><tr><td>Age</td><td>0 - 15</td><td>16 - 24</td><td>25 - 39</td><td>40 - 59</td><td>60-79</td><td>80+</td></tr><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></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																						
Female	13.42	14.68	16.23	12.74	7.62	1.60																						
Frequency per week	<table><tr><td>Age</td><td>0 - 15</td><td>16 - 24</td><td>25 - 39</td><td>40 - 59</td><td>60-79</td><td>80+</td></tr><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></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 Total: 52 Hours																											
Percentage of use taking place within the Peak Period	63%																											
Utilised capacity considered “busy”	70% = “comfort factor”																											

Quantity

- 5.27 The FPM modelling provides a district wide total of the amount of water space available, both overall and as scaled by the number of hours available in the peak period. It should be noted that the FPM baseline information incorrectly recorded

Leicester Grammar as being 25m x 10m with a water area of 250 sq m, when its actual size is 25 x 13 m, so with a water area of 325 sq m.

- 5.28 The FPM report's and the actual level of water space provision is given in Figure 21. This change increases the amount of water space per 1000 population slightly, but this change is not significant in the overall strategy for community swimming nor in relation to the findings and conclusions of the FPM assessment.

Figure 21: Water space in Harborough district

	FPM	Actual (taking into account larger water area at Leicester Grammar)
Number of pools	3	3
Number of pools	4	4
Supply of total water space in sq m	933	1008
Supply of water space in sq m, scaled by hours available in the peak period	810	885
Supply of total water space in visits per week peak period	7027	7678
Population of Harborough in 2019	92565	
Water space per 1,000 population	10.1	10.9

- 5.29 Although there is a relatively low level of water space per 1000 population in Harborough district compared to the East Midlands average of 12 sq m, and England average of 13 sq m, the availability of pools outside of the district means that most residents can access at least one swimming pool within 20 minutes' drive.
- 5.30 The "satisfied demand" for swimming in Harborough district is therefore high according to the FPM assessment at around 92%, with around 41% of the residents' swimming demand being exported to adjacent authorities' pools. Most of this exported demand from the district goes to Oadby and Wigston (14%) and to Leicester (9%).
- 5.31 Almost all of the unmet demand for swimming in the district (about 8% in total) is due to living too far away from a pool to walk, and individuals not having access to a car.
- 5.32 The FPM report estimates the used capacity of the pools at peak time; evenings and weekends. Harborough Leisure Centre is estimated to be used at about 63% capacity at peak time, whilst Lutterworth Sports Centre is estimated to be used at 46% capacity. The existing KPI information for the two pools does not differentiate between community and school use, so these theoretical estimates cannot be checked against the actual throughputs of the pools. However, the anecdotal evidence of the managers in January 2019 suggests that the FPM usage estimates are about correct.

- 5.33 The FPM suggests that around 24% of the visits to the Harbrough pools are from people living outside of the district. This importation of demand is spread across the adjacent authorities, with the most coming from Daventry (6%) followed by Kettering (4%) and Oadby & Wigston (3%).

Quality

- 5.34 The quality of the swimming pools were assessed as part of the site audit against the following criteria:
- The swimming pool
 - Changing facilities
 - Disabled access
 - Maintenance and cleanliness
 - Car parking and accessibility
- 5.35 The Leicester Grammar pool is a standard tank and its ancillary facilities are high quality, but there is very limited spectator seating. Disabled access is via a hoist.
- 5.36 The Harbrough Leisure Centre is standard quality and it has a small amount of spectator seating next to the café. The facilities are aging and car parking is a significant problem during much of the leisure centre's opening hours. Disabled access to the pool is reasonable, in part because of the beach area.
- 5.37 Lutterworth Sports Centre pool which is overall of standard quality, has a standard tank, but with a moveable floor over the deep end. Disabled access is via a hoist. There is no direct pool side spectator seating. The changing is standard quality. Car parking is not usually a problem, even at peak times.

Accessibility

- 5.38 The FPM report of June 2019 found that almost 90% of all visits to the pools in Harbrough were by car, whilst about 7% of visits was by walkers and about 3.5% of visits was by public transport.
- 5.39 The location of the current Harbrough Leisure Centre means that a proportion of the town's residents can reach the facility on foot. The Lutterworth Sports Centre is more centrally located in the town and is therefore relatively more accessible on foot.
- 5.40 Leicester Grammar is close to the border with Oadby and Wigston and its 20-minute catchment extends across that authority together with much of Leicester and Blaby.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 5.41 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they faced. There are two swimming clubs in Harborough and both responded:
- Market Harborough Swim Club based at Harborough Leisure Centre.
 - Leicester Sharks Swimming Club based at Leicester Grammar School and Lutterworth Sports Centre.
- 5.42 A summary of their consultation returns is provided below together with that from Lutterworth Sub Aqua Club.

Market Harborough Swimming Club

- 5.43 This is a large club with around 250 members. 85% of the members are drawn from Harborough district. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but has waiting lists totalling around 50 swimmers. A lack of facilities is the main restriction on growth.
- 5.44 The club uses Harborough Leisure Centre 3-6 times a week during the evenings. The facility is in the club's preferred location, but the equipment is described as being in urgent need of replacement, storage is very poor and the overall facility is rated as below average.
- 5.45 The club also uses Corby Swimming Pool for training. It is used 1-2 times a week year-round on weekday evenings.

Leicester Sharks Swimming Club

- 5.46 The Leicester Sharks Swimming Club has about 300 members covering all ages, but the majority of swimmers are aged 11-15 years. Because of its proximity to Leicester, only 35% of members are drawn from Harborough district. The club has grown over the last 5 years and is currently operating at close to capacity due to no further availability of pool time. The club has a development plan.
- 5.47 The club uses the pool at Leicester Grammar School 3-6 times a week on weekday evenings and at weekends. It finds booking easy. The site is described as good quality and the club has not raised any issues about its use.
- 5.48 The club also uses Lutterworth Sports Centre pool for training, again on weekday evenings and 3-6 times a week. This pool is fairly easy to book and the site quality is considered to be above average.

Lutterworth Sub Aqua Club

- 5.49 This club has around 40 members, most of which are seniors. About 60% of the divers are from Harborough, but the club also draws from Blaby, Rugby and Charnwood. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but anticipates growing in the next 5 years. There are no issues restricting their growth.
- 5.50 The club uses Lutterworth swimming pool as its home site, which it uses 1-2 weekday evenings throughout the year. The pool and access to a meeting room are the club's main requirements and these are met by the site. The quality is considered to be average. The main problem reported is a lack of storage.

National Governing Body comments

Swim England

- 5.51 Dennis Freeman-Wright, Swim England's Head of Facilities, expressed the following views on provision in the district:

'Although we are aware of some of the issues in Harborough District Council we cannot understand why the two community facilities in question at 27 years old (Harborough LC) and 15 years old (Lutterworth LC) are being considered for replacement as they are both relatively new builds and should not have deteriorated to that extent'.

'It is acknowledged that the two community pools have limited use for competitive swimming but they do provide the expected range of community activities'.

'Leicester Sharks use the Harborough District pools simply because there is limited supply in Leicester'.

'Harborough District is bounded on the north by the City of Leicester, which although it has a water deficit provides a number of substantial leisure centres with swimming pools; and Corby District is to the east and provides a 50-metre pool complex for major competition'.

'With a current population of nearly 92,000 Harborough District has a water deficit of approximately 125m² but only has two major population conurbations at Market Harborough and Lutterworth and even with a significant population increase is unlikely to require a third community swimming facility. Inevitably there will be 'swimmer export' to the pools in Leicester and Corby'.

'From Swim England's perspective the obvious solution would be to develop one of the two existing facilities. Lutterworth could certainly do with an additional learner pool'.

‘If there is some pressing reason why one of the current facilities must be replaced then an enlarged main pool would be the obvious option. With Market Harborough being the largest population base in the District it would make sense to have a 25m x 8-lane pool plus learner pool with some spectator seating there’.

‘With regards to the development at Scraptoft, clearly this area is orientated towards Leicester and residents are extremely unlikely to consider Harborough District as their leisure and recreation provider; pressure will undoubtedly grow for Leicester to provide extra facilities in the east of the city’.

British Sub Aqua Club

5.52 This is the main national governing body for the sport. No comments were received in relation to the strategy.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

5.53 A review of the swimming pool provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Appendix 4). In summary:

- Blaby District Council does not have a current sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of swimming pool needs.
- The ‘Charnwood Indoor Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2017 - 2036’ (Charnwood Borough Council , 2018) concluded that additional water space is needed to meet current demand and that further space equivalent in size to a learner pool will be required to cater for the extra demand up to 2036.
- The ‘Corby Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy’ (Corby Borough Council , 2017) concluded that swimming provision meets all current and projected future needs.
- ‘Planning the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire’ (2017) concluded that swimming pool provision meets current needs, although a further pool will be required to meet future needs as part of a shared project with Northampton BC and South Northants DC.
- The ‘Hinckley and Bosworth Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy’ (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, 2011) concluded that swimming provision meets all current needs, although the pool at Hinckley Leisure Centre should be updated and a new pool provided to meet future needs.
- The ‘Kettering Sports Facilities Strategy and Action Plan 2011-2021’ (Kettering Borough Council , 2011) concluded that there is a shortfall of swimming provision in the borough, which should be addressed through expanded pool space at Kettering Swimming Pool.

- Leicester City Council does not have a current sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of swimming needs.
- The 'Melton Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 - 2021' (Melton Borough Council, 2017) concluded that there is a current swimming pool shortfall equivalent to 54sq.m. A new 6-lane 25m pool with learner facilities should be provided by 2021, to replace an existing ageing facility.
- The Oadby and Wigston 'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Facilities Study' (2011) concluded that, based upon the identified standard of provision, there is a shortfall of pool space.
- The 'Rugby Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy' (Rugby Borough Council, 2015) concluded that swimming pool provision meets all current and future needs.
- The 'Rutland Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2015-2036' (Rutland County Council, 2015) concluded that additional pool provision is needed in Oakham to meet current and future needs.

5.54 In summary, several of the adjacent districts have shortfalls in swimming pool provision, which are likely to lead to imported demand to Harborough, particularly from Kettering to Harborough Leisure Centre.

Summary of current situation

- 5.55 Swimming in Harborough is a popular activity. There are two public pools which offer casual swimming as well as club opportunities; Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre. There is one other pool in the district and this is owned and managed by the independent school Leicester Grammar. The school pool only provides for club swimming.
- 5.56 The quality of the pools at Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre are both standard. There is a need to consider the future of both public facilities, Harborough Leisure Centre in the short-medium term and Lutterworth Sports Centre in the longer term as this facility ages.
- 5.57 The FPM assessment of June 2019 demonstrated that Harborough district has a low level of pool water space per 1000 population compared to the regional and national average, but because there are relatively high rates of car ownership and there are pools in the adjacent authority areas, the level of "satisfied demand" for swimming is high. Around 41% of the current demand is exported out of the district whilst about 24% of the visits to the Harborough pools is from people living in the surrounding authorities, giving a net export of around 1,184 visits per week, mostly to Oadby & Wigston and Leicester.

- 5.58 Harborough Leisure Centre is estimated by the FPM to be running at about 63% full at peak times, whilst the pool at Lutterworth is running at about 46%. This is difference was confirmed by the views of the managers expressed in January 2019, but the available KPI information is not available to reality-check the theoretical figures.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 5.59 As with sports halls, an important consideration in the modelling to assess future facility needs is to determine what will be the likely growth in participation each year. Participation rates in adult sport (16 years and over) was previously monitored nationally by Sport England through their Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) and now by its successor survey, Active Lives (Sport England , 2018). This is the mechanism which Harborough District Council also uses to assess the success of its policy objectives of getting more people active.
- 5.60 There has been a gradual decline in swimming participation over the last few years. The modelling in the strategy has therefore been based on the assumption that the rates of participation per 1000 population will remain at the current (2019) levels over the next few years. Generally, there will higher rates of facility demand from younger families, but this will be offset by lower demand from older people.
- 5.61 The rates of participation in “fashionable” sports activities using pools will fluctuate from year to year as the activities gain popularity then reduce again. This will change the programming of pools but is unlikely to impact on the overall demand for swimming pool space.

Balance in supply and demand by 2031

- 5.62 The FPM June 2019 report modelled two options for the period up to 2031:

Option A

Replacement leisure centre for Market Harborough with :

- 25 m x 8 lane main pool (425 sq m)
- 10m x 8 m leisure pool (80 sq m)
- 5m x 4m learner/teaching/training pool (20 sq m)

The replacement Harborough Leisure Centre site is proposed to be within the North West Market Harborough SDA.

Option B

Pool network remains unchanged.

- 5.63 The other pools (Lutterworth Sports Centre and Leicester Grammar) remained unchanged in the modelling.

Demand for swimming

- 5.64 By 2031 there is expected to be an increase in demand for swimming of around 21%, slightly below the increase in population. This is largely due to the fact that, although there is some new housing, the demands from the new younger age population attracted to the housing developments will in part, be balanced out by an aging population across the rest of the district. As older people swim less frequently than younger people, the increase in swimming demand is lower than the increase in population.

Option A – replacement leisure centre with more pool space

- 5.65 The key findings from the modelling are that the replacement Harborough Leisure Centre would result in the following at 2031:
- Very little change in the overall rate of satisfied demand for swimming across the district
 - There would be an increase in the percentage of swimming visits retained within the district, increasing from about 58% to 66%. The fall in the number of exported visits changes most in relation to Oadby & Wigston and Leicester.
 - The percentage of visits to the pools from people living outside of the district (imported) will fall from about 24% to 21%.
 - The New Harborough Leisure Centre pool would be expected to be used at about 66% of its capacity.
 - The proposed location of the New Harborough Leisure Centre would be less accessible on foot to the town's residents than the current site.
 - The Lutterworth Sports Centre pool will reach about 56% used capacity.

Option B – no change in the pool network

- 5.66 If no changes were to be made to the pool network, the implications by 2031 are:
- Very little change in the overall rate of satisfied demand for swimming across the district.
 - Very slight increase in the number of swimming visits retained within the district at about 2.4%.
 - An increase in the number of visits exported each week (about 300 visits) but a fall in the percentage of demand exported as most housing growth is around Market Harborough and there is relatively little pool choice for residents here.
 - The used capacity of the Harborough Leisure Centre pool would be around 77%.
 - There would be a slight fall in the percentage of visits being imported from elsewhere, as the Harborough Leisure Centre pool becomes increasingly busy and less attractive compared to other pool options.
 - Overall there is a shortage of pool supply.

- 5.67 The primary issue with the “do nothing” option is the lack of pool space in the Market Harborough area, resulting in the fact that the Harborough Leisure Centre pool would be operating, on average across the peak period, at levels well above what Sport England considers to be comfortably full.

FPM conclusions

- 5.68 The FPM report concludes that the proposed swimming pool provision at the replacement Harborough Leisure Centre is appropriate to meet the needs of the future:

The combination of individual swimming pools at the new centre provide for ALL swimming activities and for this to take place in separate and dedicated pools. The increase to a 25m x 8 lane main pool, from the 25m x 6 lane main pool at the existing centre, is much more suited to meeting swimming competition programmes. It does however also provide more water space for (say) lane and fitness swimming and recreational swimming to take place at the same time.

The addition of a leisure pool will provide a pool to develop confidence in water and provide for fun and family-based activities.

Overall, it is a very balanced swimming pool project in scale and facility mix - it provides for all swimming activities and meets swimming competition needs. The facilities planning model supply and demand assessment supports a project of this scale, to meet the projected demand for swimming in Harborough District up to 2031.

- 5.69 The FPM notes that the proposed location of the replacement Harborough Leisure Centre would be less accessible on foot than the current location for the town’s residents.
- 5.70 The findings of the FPM report also confirm that there is no need for additional water space in Lutterworth up to 2031 and that a new pool in the east of the district is not justified.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 5.71 Given the findings of the FPM report, the site audits, and the consultation feedback undertaken as this strategy has developed, the priorities for swimming are:

- The increase in the amount of swimming pool space in Market Harborough, most likely through a replacement leisure centre with the following:
 - 25 m x 8 lane main pool (425 sq m)
 - 10m x 8 m leisure pool (80 sq m)
 - 5m x 4m learner/teaching/training pool (20 sq m)

- Retention at good quality the swimming pool at Lutterworth Sports Centre. However, to keep under review the long-term options for the refurbishment or replacement of the Sports Centre from 2031 onwards. The Sports Centre should remain within the existing town area of Lutterworth to maximise sustainable transport by the Sports Centre's users.
- Encourage Leicester Grammar school to retain the existing levels of club and swimming lesson use of their site, ideally through an agreement to secure community use.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 5.72 All new housing will generate new demand for swimming pool space. New developments should therefore be expected to contribute towards projects which will help meet this demand, either via a new facility or extension, or improvements to existing facilities.

Quantity

- 5.73 The amount of water space needed to meet the demand from swimming required by 2031 in total across the district, as calculated in the FPM report, is 1118 sq m, or 9.6 sq m per 1000 population. A formal standard of 9.6 sq m per 1000 is therefore recommended.

Accessibility

- 5.74 The majority of swimming pool users in Harborough district will travel by car and national research shows that swimming pools have an approximate drive time catchment of up to about 20 minutes. Almost everyone in the district lives within 20 minutes' drive of a swimming pool available for community use. A formal planning standard of 20 minutes' drive time is therefore proposed.

Design and quality

- 5.75 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. Facilities should also have at least a "very good" BREEAM rating. This policy should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

Recommendations for swimming pools

5.76 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address swimming pool provision in the district:

5.77 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council provides attractive swimming facilities available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the private, education, community and voluntary sectors.

5.78 The leisure centres at Market Harborough and Lutterworth should, as far as possible, be financially self-sustaining.

5.79 It is recommended that the identified projects will be included in the review of the IDP.

5.80 It is recommended that the Council seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

5.81 It is recommended that:

- Lutterworth Sports Centre pool is retained and maintained at good quality. Also, that it is potentially replaced after 2031 on a site within the existing town area of Lutterworth, in order to maximise sustainable transport options for users.
- Leicester Grammar School's pool is retained and maintained at good quality and that the current levels of community use remains long term. If possible, an agreement should be put in place to secure this long-term community use.

Provide

5.82 It is recommended that the following provision is sought in Market Harborough, subject to feasibility assessments including site availability for a replacement leisure centre:

- 25 m x 8 lane main pool (425 sq m)
- 10m x 8 m leisure pool (80 sq m)
- 5m x 4m learner/teaching/training pool (20 sq m)

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. There are a range of types of fitness gym established in Harborough district, from what might be called “standard” fitness gyms to those specialising in particular types of fitness e.g. the CrossFit site in Lutterworth or providing for particular sectors, such as the women only Curves gym in Market Harborough. The private sector plays a major role in health and fitness provision and is likely to continue to do so in the future.
- 6.2 Indoor gyms and studios attract all socio-economic groups and a wide spread of ages and overall there are more women users than men (Sport England , 2019). The provision of health and fitness facilities (typically including fitness stations) is therefore potentially a key element in achieving increased participation in physical activity. However, there is no simple way of assessing rates of 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), together with the number of studio spaces.
- 6.3 There are no National Governing Bodies for fitness and gym activities.

Current provision

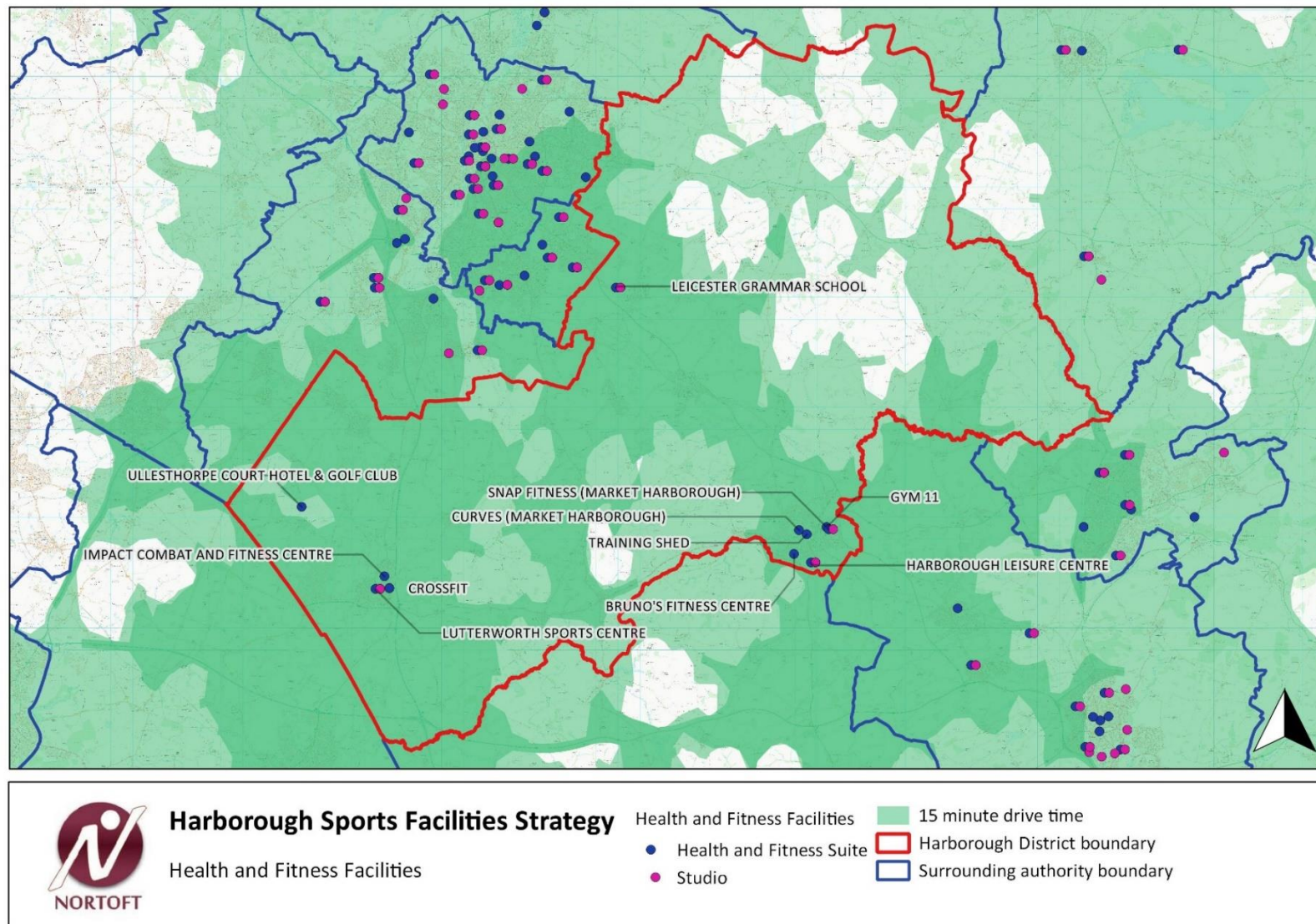
- 6.4 At the time of the strategy audit in spring 2019 there were 11 health and fitness sites with public access in Harborough, all of which had fitness station equipment and five of them also had studios. There were a total of about 510 stations and 7 studios. The fitness gyms varied in size, from the largest with about 80 stations at two commercial sites, Snap and Gym11 both in Market Harborough, down to 8 stations at the CrossFit gym. About 71% of the fitness stations were at commercial fitness sites.
- 6.5 Some of the secondary schools also have a small fitness gym usually with around 6 stations. Only Leicester Grammar school allows community use, and this is by clubs hiring other facilities on site. Elsewhere, the fitness gyms are for school use only and have been provided to support the delivery of the curriculum.
- 6.6 The health and fitness sites are listed in Figure 22 and mapped in Figure 23. With the geographical spread of sites within and on the border of the authority, almost everyone with access to a car can reach a site within 15 minutes’ drive, though there are some gaps in the more rural areas of the district, see Figure 23.

Figure 22: Health and fitness- current provision

Site Name	Number of stations	Number of studios	Ownership Type/ Nature of Site	Access Type	Management	Specialism/comment
Bruno's Gym Market Harborough LE16 9PL	30	0	Commercial	Pay and play and membership	Commercial	Older equipment and separate weights area. On street parking.
CrossFit Lutterworth LE17 4DY	8	1	Commercial	Membership	Commercial	Specialist cross fit site with small number of stations in large area.
Curves Market Harborough LE16 7FS	12	0	Commercial	Membership	Commercial	Small gym for women only. Within industrial area. Limited parking.
Gym11 Market Harborough LE16 7PT	80	0	Commercial	Pay and play and membership	Commercial	Large number of stations. Very limited mat area. Within industrial area. Limited parking.
Harborough Leisure Centre Market Harborough LE16 9HF	70	2	Leisure centre	Pay and play and membership	Commercial	Standard fitness gyms and studio space.
Impact Combat and Fitness Centre Market Harborough LE17 4NY	40	1	Commercial	Membership	Commercial	Site specialises in martial arts and includes large area with matting and cage.
Leicester Grammar School Great Glen LE8 9FL	20	1	Independent school	Club	School in house	Only available to clubs using site.
Lutterworth Sports Centre Lutterworth LE17 4RB	70	2	Leisure centre	Pay and play and membership	Commercial	One studio used permanently for spin. Standard type fitness gym.
Snap Fitness	80	1	Commercial	Membership	Commercial	Standard type fitness gym.

Site Name	Number of stations	Number of studios	Ownership Type/ Nature of Site	Access Type	Management	Specialism/comment
Market Harborough LE16 7QE						
Training Shed Market Harborough LE16 7DS	35	0	Commercial	Pay and play and membership	Commercial	Basic gym but with large open area for free weights and classes.
Ullesthorpe Hotel and Golf Club Ullesthorpe LE17 4NY	35	0	Part of golf club/hotel	Membership	Commercial	Poor disability access. High membership costs.

Figure 23: Health and Fitness sites with fitness stations map



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Assessment of current supply/demand

- 6.7 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. However, most of the facilities in Harborough are commercial fitness sites with no pools.
- 6.8 There is no easy way of assessing the balance in supply and demand, as no throughput information is available from the commercial facility operators. However as over 70% of the fitness gyms with fitness stations and studios were based at commercial sites, it can be assumed that the demand for these facilities balances the supply.
- 6.9 Health and fitness facilities are major elements of the leisure centres and the throughput information from the centres for the year ended March 2018 (the latest full year available) is given in Figure 24. Although the overall throughput at the two leisure centres for health and fitness was significantly different as the figures cover the studio use in addition to the fitness gyms, the average number of members per fitness station across the year is the same.

Figure 24: Health and fitness throughput at leisure centres

Leisure Centre	Visits in 2017-18 for health and fitness	Members per station
Harborough	305,180	30
Lutterworth	227,665	30

- 6.10 The operator for the two leisure centres changed in April 2019 and there was significant investment into the fitness equipment on both sites. It is too early to assess the impact of this investment.

Consultation findings

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

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 6.12 The fitness provision situation within the adjacent authorities to Harborough are:
- The 'Charnwood Indoor Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2017 - 2036' (Charnwood Borough Council , 2018) concluded that existing levels of provision should be at least maintained. The commercial sector is likely to cater for additional needs to 2036.

- The 'Corby Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy' (2017) concluded that supply and demand are currently balanced, so additional provision will be required to meet future needs.
- 'Planning the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire' (2017) concluded that provision meets current needs, although a further 331 fitness stations will be required to meet future needs
- Leicester City Council does not have a current sports facilities strategy so there is no detailed analysis of health and fitness needs.
- The 'Melton Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 - 2021' (Melton Borough Council, 2017) concluded that there was a current shortfall of 27 stations, rising to 30 stations by 2021.
- The 'Rugby Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy' (Rugby Borough Council, 2015) concluded that provision meets current needs, although a further 185-260 fitness stations will be required to meet future needs.
- The 'Rutland Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2015-2036' (Rutland County Council, 2015) concluded that provision meets all current and projected future needs.

6.13 Health and fitness requirements were not addressed in the relevant strategies for Hinckley and Bosworth, Kettering, Oadby and Wigston, and there are no current published strategies for Blaby or Leicester.

6.14 As health and fitness facilities have an approximate 15 minutes' drive time catchment, the cross-boundary movement of users is less than for swimming or sports halls.

Modelling

Comparator authorities' provision

6.15 Using Active Places Power (Sport England, 2019) data it has been possible to calculate the current level of provision of fitness stations and the number of studios per 1,000 head of population for Harborough's CIPFA comparators together with the provision for the East Midlands region and England as a whole, see Figure 25. For this assessment all sites with public access have been included in the figures.

6.16 In relation to the number of fitness stations, this comparator authority analysis suggests that the current rate of provision in Harborough is slightly higher than the CIPFA comparators, but slightly below the regional and national averages.

- 6.17 For studio space, the provision in Harborough is broadly similar to that of the local authority comparators and also to the regional average. All of these are however higher than the national average.
- 6.18 These findings are likely to reflect the nature of the communities in Harborough and their relative affluence, as it is known that affluence correlates closely with levels of activity (Sport England , 2019).

Figure 25: Health and fitness - comparator authorities

CIPFA comparator	Estimated population at 2019 (ONS 2016 baseline)	Health and Fitness (number of stations)		Studios (number of)	
		Total	Per 1000 population	Total	Per 1000 population
Harborough	92,600	510	5.51	7	0.08
Ribble Valley	59,300	186	3.14	7	0.12
South Northamptonshire	92,000	391	4.25	8	0.09
Maldon	64,300	267	4.15	6	0.09
Daventry	82,500	357	4.33	7	0.08
East Midlands	4,816,800	29055	6.03	508	0.11
England	56,357,500	360053	6.39	6503	0.03

Summary of current situation

- 6.19 There are 11 health and fitness sites across Harborough with a total of approximately 510 fitness stations and 7 studios. Most of the sites are in Market Harborough and Lutterworth, but the 15-minute drive time catchment for these types of facilities means that most residents have access to a site, either within the district or in an adjacent authority.
- 6.20 The fitness and gym provision in terms of both the number of fitness stations and the number of studios in Harborough is broadly in line with the CIPFA comparator authorities. The district has slightly more fitness stations than the comparators, but this is lower per 1000 population than the national and regional averages. The rate of studio provision per 1000 population is broadly similar to the CIPFA comparators, but this is slightly below the regional average rate.
- 6.21 Just over 70% of the provision is via commercial fitness facilities, and the largest sites are in the commercial sector, with around 80 stations. Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre both had an average of around 30 members per fitness station for the year 2017-18, but the overall health and fitness throughput at Harborough was much higher than at Lutterworth.
- 6.22 There are a wide variety of types of fitness facility in the district, catering for different markets, either providing specialist environments e.g. cross fit or martial arts or targeting specific markets e.g. women.

- 6.23 The fitness market is probably at a fine balance between supply and demand. As the market in fitness gyms responds rapidly to demand, it is likely that there will continue to be regular changes to the total supply and its nature in the future.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 6.24 Although the fitness market and the “supply” of facilities tends to change fairly rapidly, the modelling is based on an assumption that there are no major anticipated changes to the facility network within or on the boundaries of the authority. It should also be noted that because the fitness trends are fast changing, the number of fitness stations identified in the assessment below should be taken as a guide to the scale of potential need, rather than as a definitive figure.

Extrapolating current demand and current supply

- 6.25 The current rate of provision in Harborough is 5.51 fitness stations and 0.08 studios per 1,000 population. Sport England’s latest Active Lives Survey report of November 2018 (Sport England , 2019) does not provide trends information for fitness activities because the monitoring methodology changed recently. The assessment of future need for Harborough is therefore based on two scenarios, one with no change in the rate of participation, and one with a 0.5% growth per annum.
- 6.26 The district has been treated as a whole because of the concentration of health and fitness facilities in the Market Harborough and Lutterworth areas. If there was no increase in participation the calculations in Figure 26 suggests that there would be a need for an extra 133 fitness stations and 2 extra studios by 2031. If there was a growth in participation, then the demand could be expected to rise to around 171 stations and 3 studios.
- 6.27 The forecast demand associated with each of the SDAs is given in Figure 27. This suggests that the amount of demand generated by each of the SDAs is for a maximum of 20 fitness stations, but that the increase in population is not enough by itself to generate demand for any extra studio space.

Figure 26: Health and fitness supply/demand to 2031

Demand per 1000 population retained at same rate as 2019		Demand		Current supply		Balance supply/demand	
Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios
5.51	0.08	643	9	510	7	-133	-2

Demand per 1000 population (increased at 0.5% pa from 2019)		Demand		Current supply		Balance supply/demand	
Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios
5.84	0.08	681	10	510	7	-171	-3

Figure 27: Health and fitness demand linked to SDAs

SDA	Demand with no increase in participation		Demand with 0.5% increase in participation	
	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios
Market Harborough	18	0	19	0
East of Lutterworth	18	0	20	0
Scraptoft	15	0	16	0

Meeting the needs of the future

6.28 The facility network is expected to alter over time as the commercial facilities open and close according to the market, but with the housing growth there will be a need for new provision. A high proportion of this new provision could be met via the commercial sector, but there is justification for the leisure centres, particularly any replacement Harborough facility to have a large fitness gym and studio spaces to help offset the costs of the swimming pools. The leisure centre fitness facilities would still need to compete effectively with the purely commercial fitness sites.

6.29 The Broughton Astley sports centre, due to open in 2020, will have a 70-station fitness gym and 2 studios. This site is approximately 14 minutes' drive from

Lutterworth Sports Centre, so there will be some overlapping catchment. However, it is also close to the district boundary and its catchment extends into Blaby district, including the new planned development at Whetstone Pastures, much of which will be within 10 minutes' drive of the new sports centre. This suggests that there is likely to still be demand at Lutterworth, including in association with the SDA.

- 6.30 The Kibworth School is considering converting an existing building close to the road into a small fitness gym which would have community access. This project is still at an early stage. The site is within about 10 minutes' drive of the proposed location for the replacement Harborough Leisure Centre so is well within the approximately 15-minute drive time catchment. It is not therefore likely to be a high priority for community investment, though it would potentially offer new opportunities for residents of some of the East sub area such as Billesdon, which would be just within the 15-minute drive time catchment.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 6.31 All new housing will generate demand for health and fitness stations and studio space. New developments should therefore be expected to contribute towards projects which will help meet this demand, either via a new facility or extension, or improvements to existing facilities.

Quantity

- 6.32 The modelling findings suggests that the demand for health and fitness provision which will be generated per 1,000 population at 2031 and including a participation rate of growth of 0.5% per annum over the period is:
- 5.84 fitness stations
 - 0.08 studios

Accessibility

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

Design and quality

- 6.34 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.
- 6.35 The area for each indoor fitness station is taken to be an average of 5 sqm. It is appropriate that developers should be asked for a contribution towards the building cost for the health and fitness space at public leisure centres as well as the equipment itself.

Recommendations for health and fitness

6.36 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address health and fitness provision in the district:

6.37 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, it is recommended that the Council provides attractive health and fitness facilities which are available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the education, commercial, community and voluntary sectors. This provision will be made in association with the public leisure centres, where the revenue generated from health and fitness can help balance the cost of maintaining the centres.

6.38 It is recommended that the identified public projects will be included in a review of the IDP.

6.39 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Sites

Protect

6.40 It is recommended that the existing network of health and fitness sites which have 50 stations or more are generally protected and maintained.

Enhance

6.41 It is recommended that the health and fitness facilities at Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre are refurbished, improved, expanded or replaced.

Provide

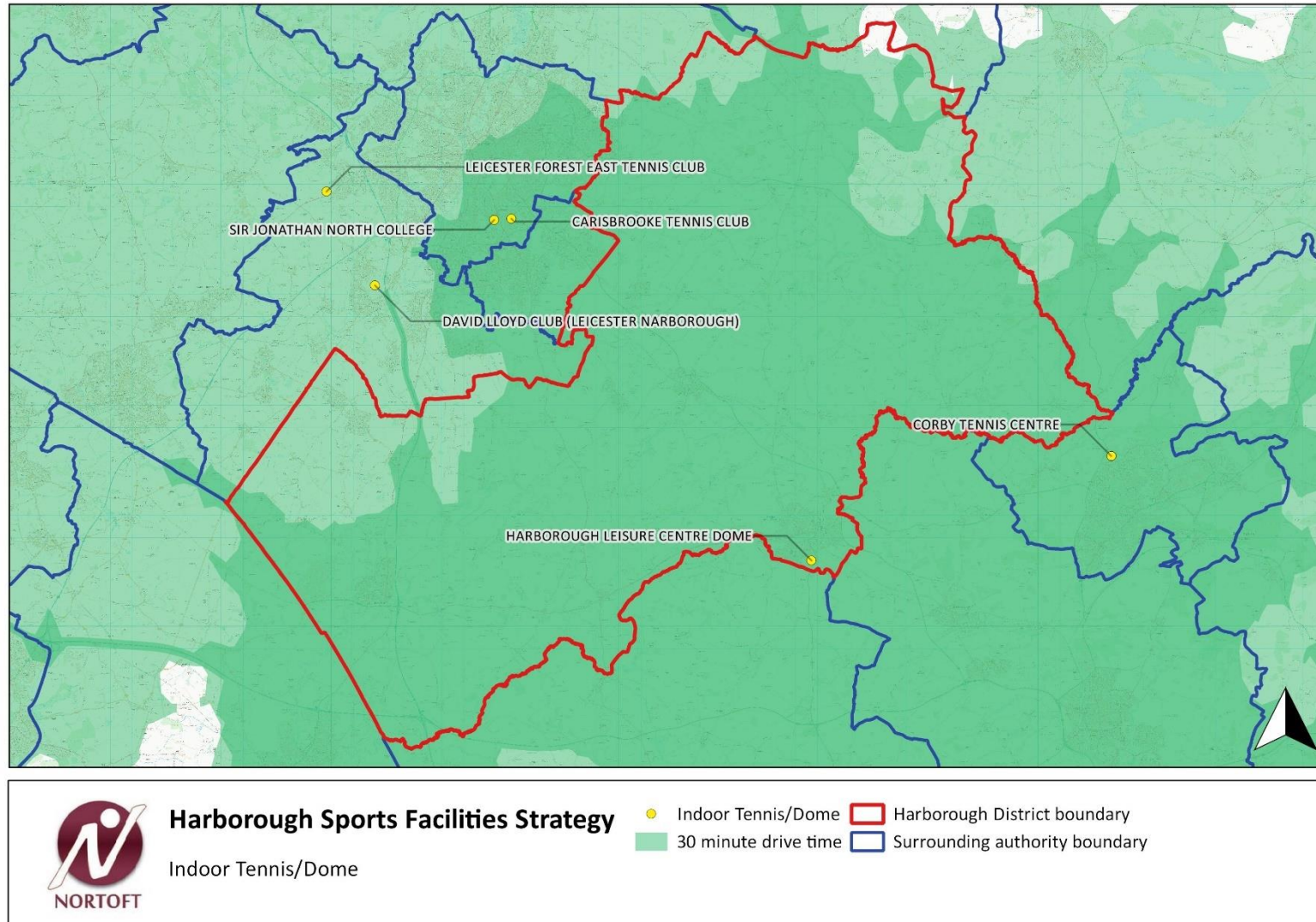
6.42 It is recommended that the priority for new delivery (which needs to be confirmed through detailed feasibility work) is the possible replacement leisure centre for Market Harborough. This should include a large fitness gym and a number of studio spaces. Site and details to be confirmed.

6.43 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified through the planning process and made available free of charge.

SECTION 7: INDOOR NETBALL AND TENNIS

- 7.1 There is only one indoor netball/tennis facility in Harborough district, located at the Harborough Leisure Centre, which was built in 2004. It is an aging air hall which is marked out for 3 tennis courts, 3 small-sided football and 2 netball courts. It is floodlit but does not have direct access to changing facilities.
- 7.2 The primary users of the dome are the two netball leagues, the Market Harborough Netball League and the Market Harborough Youth Netball League. There is some tennis use and a small amount of football use.
- 7.3 The catchment of the dome is 20 minutes' travel time for netball, which is the same as for swimming at Harborough Leisure Centre.
- 7.4 Indoor tennis catchment areas are larger, 30 minutes' drive time, and the map illustrating the indoor tennis provision within and outside the authority is given in Figure 28. This shows that everyone is within a 30 minutes' drive of an indoor tennis facility, either at Harborough Leisure Centre or outside the district.

Figure 28: Indoor tennis map 30 minutes' drive catchment



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Assessment of current supply/demand

- 7.5 The KPI percentage use information for the air dome is based on the total number of hours from 09.00 to 22.00 every day. The latest available information for a whole year is for April 2017-March 2018 and this shows that the dome is used all year and overall at about 40% of the time. The manager's view was that at peak time the dome is used at around 70% of the available time.
- 7.6 The two netball leagues and team training together book the facility for the following hours:
- | | |
|-----------|---|
| Wednesday | 18.00-21.00 |
| Thursday | 19.00-21.00 (May-July from 19.00-22.00) |
| Saturday | 13.00-17.00 |
| Sunday | 16.00-18.00 (Jan-Feb) |
- 7.7 England Netball confirms the local leagues' comments that additional time is being sought by them and also by the teams for training, but that this is not available. There are therefore waiting lists for the youth league. There is also a wish to introduce Walking Netball on site.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 7.8 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face. The online survey was followed by more detailed information provided in writing by the clubs and netball league.

Netball

- 7.9 Market Harborough Netball League uses the dome at Harborough Leisure Centre and commented that the facilities are 'generally ok, the floor can sometimes be slippery dependant on weather conditions and timing of the heating. Heating is an issue in winter, it's either off and can be extremely cold, alternatively can be too warm when it's on - no temperature control. Occasionally not all the lights are working. The League has contributed to the cost of sunken posts being installed'.
- 7.10 Market Harborough Youth Netball League uses the Dome at Harborough Leisure Centre and commented that:
- 'We have been at full capacity for two years and cannot take more members or deliver more sessions as there are no facilities available for us at the leisure centre'.

- 'The surface is worn and slippery and the temperatures in winter can be too cold for youngsters'.
- 'We cannot let young people use the changing rooms and showers unattended as there are often adults showering or using the facilities who are not leisure centre users'.

7.11 The following information is provided by the two netball leagues within their survey returns and provides more information about the users.

	Number of members in each age group Feb 2019			
	Mini	Junior	Seniors	Vets
Mkt Harb Netball League	0	15	200	0
Mkt Harb Juniors Netball League	50	120	20	0

7.12 Both of the leagues draw from a wide area, but about 70-75% of the members come from within Harborough district.

Tennis

7.13 Although there is some use for tennis, none of the clubs who responded to the survey use the dome. The clubs were: Great Glen, Kibworth, Houghton, Husbands Bosworth, Lutterworth, Harborough. The manager reports however that there is some tennis use by the Welland Park and Great Bowden tennis clubs.

7.14 Lutterworth Tennis Club has a desire for both more courts and to cover two of the club's existing courts at Bitteswell. Its justification is that there is insufficient capacity both for juniors and adults. Covering courts and extending them would enable the club to further expand. The Bitteswell site is approximately 30 minutes from both the current Harborough Leisure Centre site and the preferred leisure centre replacement site to the north of the town.

National Governing Body comments

Netball

7.15 Netball is one of the fastest growing sports in the country, and this is mirrored at Harborough Leisure Centre. The following membership information has been provided by England Netball from their affiliation records and all use the dome.

Adult Clubs	2018/19	2017/18	2016/17
Aircare Compressors	30	29	29
Club Correze	28	24	29
Harborough BC's	27	22	39
Harborough Harriers	21	22	22
Lutterworth Robins	39	29	28
RuralTrading Foxton	28	27	33
Siamo Sirens	21	0	0
Snow Finders	25	18	22
Webbs	18	19	20
	237	190	222
Juniors			
Market Harborough Juniors League	168	150	139
	405	340	361

7.16 England Netball advises that nationally, on balance most players train indoors and play outdoors, but there is a preference for indoor provision. Their research shows that changing facilities are often not used, so are not a high priority. England Netball is keen to see the retention of a dome or similar provision which will enable the clubs to further expand in the future. It considers that provision of outdoor courts alone would not be as attractive.

7.17 England Netball confirmed that:

- 'It is a priority for England Netball to protect and support the improvements of key venues to sustain and grow our core market. Market Harborough Leisure Centre is the home venue for a number of Clubs who compete in the Harborough Netball League and so is a key venue that we would wish to protect and support improvements to'.
- 'There is an active senior and junior netball league currently operating from Harborough Leisure Centre (within the Dome) and we are aware that both leagues would like to expand. The adult league for example would like to deliver programmes such as walking netball. We would envisage the Junior League being engaged in the delivery of 'Bee Netball' which is an under 11 product being launched in July 2019 at the Netball World Cup'.
- 'If the Leagues could find access to suitable replacement facilities, and a greater number of courts, the sport has the potential for growth'.
- 'Both adults and junior membership levels have increased over the past 3 years. Adult growth -7%, Junior growth - 21%'

Tennis

7.18 The Lawn Tennis Association has not provided any formal response to inform this sports facility strategy for Harborough, but it is understood that there have been

‘initial discussions with Leicester Grammar School about a potential indoor tennis centre at the school’. Should this proceed, it would be likely to cater for demand for indoor tennis from much of Harborough district.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

7.19 The situation within the adjacent authorities to Harborough is as follows:

- Daventry’s ‘Planning the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire’ (Daventry District Council , 2017) concluded that current needs are met in part by the covered courts at Harborough Leisure Centre. Two indoor courts will be required in Daventry to meet future needs.
- The ‘Hinckley and Bosworth Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy’ (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, 2011) concluded that current needs are met by facilities outside the district, including the covered courts at Harborough Leisure Centre. Provision will be required in Hinckley and Bosworth to meet future needs.
- The ‘Melton Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 - 2021’ (Melton Borough Council, 2017) concludes that there is no strategic priority for indoor tennis/netball provision.
- The ‘Rugby Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy’ (Rugby Borough Council, 2015) concludes that two indoor tennis/netball courts are required in Rugby to meet current and future needs.
- The ‘Rutland Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2015-2036’ (Rutland County Council, 2015) concludes that current needs in Rutland are met in part by the covered courts at Harborough Leisure Centre and there is insufficient future local demand to justify providing an indoor tennis centre in Rutland.

7.20 In summary, there is an overt recognition in the needs assessments of several neighbouring areas that the indoor courts in the dome at Harborough Leisure Centre meet the needs of their residents. However, this does not appear to be confirmed by the bookings at the dome, which has limited use for tennis. The need for additional indoor court provision has been recognised in Daventry, Hinckley and Rugby.

7.21 Indoor tennis has not been addressed in the latest sports strategies for Charnwood, Corby, Kettering, Oadby and Wigston, and there are no current published sports strategies for Blaby or Leicester which provide an assessment of how important or otherwise the dome is for their authorities.

Modelling

Comparator authorities' provision

- 7.22 Using Active Places Power (Sport England, 2019) data it has been possible to review the provision of indoor tennis sites and number of courts across Harborough's CIPFA benchmark authorities, the region and England, and also to calculate the current level of provision per 1,000 head of population. For this assessment all sites with public access have been included in the figures. There is no separate assessment for the number of facilities primarily used for netball.
- 7.23 This shows that Harborough's current provision is unusual amongst the benchmark authorities, with only Ribble Valley having a higher level of provision. The rate of provision per 1000 population in terms of number of tennis courts is also higher in Harborough, including in relation to the regional and national averages, again other than Ribble Valley.

Figure 29: Indoor tennis facilities/dome type provision - comparator authorities

CIPFA comparator	Estimated population at 2019 (ONS 2016 baseline)	Indoor tennis/dome facilities incl seasonal		Indoor tennis (number of courts)	
		Total	Per 1000 population	Total	Per 1000 population
Harborough	92,600	1	0.01	3	0.03
Ribble Valley	59,300	2	0.03	4	0.07
South Northamptonshire	92,000	0	0.00	0	0.00
Maldon	64,300	0	0.00	0	0.00
Daventry	82,500	0	0.00	0	0.00
East Midlands	4,816,800	26	0.01	108	0.02
England	56,357,500	359	0.01	1373	0.02

Summary of current situation

- 7.24 The primary use of the dome at Harborough Leisure Centre is for netball, and there are over 400 women and girls using the facility for the adult and junior leagues during the winter months. Increasing participation in sport by women and girls is a key priority for Harborough District Council.
- 7.25 The dome also provides for some tennis training and a small amount of small-sided football, which is primarily provided for via the two full size 3G artificial grass pitches next to Harborough Leisure Centre which are better suited to the sport.
- 7.26 The current facility is aging and expensive to retain and maintain.

- 7.27 There are two potential sites for indoor tennis being considered, one at Leicester Grammar and one at Lutterworth Tennis Club. Both of these projects are at an early stage of consideration.

Assessment of Future Needs

Netball

- 7.28 Alternative sites have been considered for netball use, based on the findings from the audit. Currently only Leicester Grammar could provide for two netball courts.
- 7.29 Leicester Grammar has 6 floodlit outdoor courts but these are not generally hired out and are only used for around 20% of their available time. The netball leagues have previously contacted the school to explore the option of more regular hire, but have been informed that this is not possible, in part because the hard courts are permanently used for tennis during the summer term and summer holiday. It is also known that Leicester Grammar is exploring the option of covering the hard-court area for an indoor tennis facility. If this went ahead, then it is not known if the site would be readily available for netball hiring throughout the winter.
- 7.30 Leicester Grammar's 6 court hall could provide for one netball court but not two but is also already booked for about 80% of the available time during weekday evenings.
- 7.31 Leicester Grammar is more than 20 minutes' drive from Harborough Leisure Centre. Given that the majority of netball players live within 20 minutes of the leisure centre site, moving as far as the Leicester Grammar site would be likely to have a major impact on the league's ability to retain and further grow their membership.

Indoor tennis

- 7.32 There is currently low demand for indoor tennis at Harborough Leisure Centre, but both Leicester Grammar and Lutterworth Tennis Club are at an early stage in considering covering tennis courts.
- 7.33 The two emerging tennis facility proposals are just under 30 minutes' drive time apart, so they would have some overlapping catchment. The Lutterworth Tennis Club is within about 9 minutes' drive of the proposed Whetstone Pastures housing development in Blaby, so its membership is likely to be drawn from the west side of Harborough district and from Blaby.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 7.34 Given the demand for netball at Harborough Leisure Centre and the demand for tennis at Lutterworth Tennis Club, it seems unlikely that a single facility can provide easily for both netball and indoor tennis, so the facilities seem best to be considered separately.
- 7.35 There several design alternatives which might provide effectively for indoor netball and for tennis. Sport England has recently produced guidance “Designing for Physical Activity, Covered Outdoor Spaces” (Sport England , 2019), but advice is also available from England Netball and the Lawn Tennis Association.

Netball

- 7.36 Should the Harborough Leisure Centre be replaced, then replacement of the dome with an indoor facility which can provide for 2 netball courts seems justified as integral part of any replacement leisure centre for Harborough, or potentially on an alternative site.
- 7.37 There are a number of “dome” alternative structures available and these should be explored as part of the next stage of feasibility work on the replacement centre or with alternative sites. The provision of a small number of adjacent outdoor floodlit netball courts to supplement the indoor provision should also be explored.
- 7.38 Robert Smyth Academy in Market Harborough is one potential alternative site and is already used by some netball teams for training. The site has one 4-badminton court hall and one 3 badminton court hall, so it could not provide for 2 indoor netball courts. The 4 court hall dimensions however are too small to allow safe umpiring and cannot therefore be used for matches. The school’s outdoor hard courts are not adjacent to the sports hall, are not floodlit and the surface is poor. Use of Robert Symth an alternative location for the netball leagues would therefore require significant investment to improve / replace the outdoor courts and to cover and floodlight them. The minimum specification would need to meet the England Netball criteria for league netball.
- 7.39 The Robert Smyth Academy site has a 20-minute drive time catchment stretching across much of the authority area.

Indoor tennis

- 7.40 Both of the proposed indoor tennis facilities, at Leicester Grammar and at Lutterworth Tennis Club are at early stages of consideration and further feasibility studies will be required to confirm their viability. The national governing body, the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) has not committed to either scheme.
- 7.41 It is possible that both schemes prove to be viable, in which case both will offer community use. Of the two, the hours of community use likely to be offered via the

Lutterworth Tennis Club would be greater, as there would be access during the school day. The Lutterworth scheme would have security of community use, but the Leicester Grammar project would probably not have secure community use, in line with the other sports facility use on this independent school site.

- 7.42 Both projects are at too early a stage to determine if support should be offered by Harborough District Council to their development, or the level of that support. However, both should be further explored in association with the LTA.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 7.43 All new housing will generate demand for netball and tennis. New developments should therefore be expected to contribute towards projects which will help meet this demand, either via a new facility or extension, or improvements to existing facilities.
- 7.44 If the dome and its associated facilities (changing, car parking etc) at Harborough Leisure Centre is lost to development, then there would be a planning requirement for it to be "replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location" (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019).

Quantity

- 7.45 The modelling findings suggests that the demand for indoor netball is 2 netball courts whilst the demand for indoor tennis is 4 tennis courts. This gives rates of provision of:

Across the district:

- 0.02 indoor netball courts per 1000 population
- 0.02 outdoor netball courts per 1000 population adjacent to any replacement dome
- 0.04 indoor tennis courts per 1000 population

Accessibility

- 7.46 District wide catchment for indoor netball facilities.
- 7.47 A 30-minute drive time catchment for indoor tennis facilities.

Design and quality

- 7.48 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies of sport.

Recommendations for indoor netball and indoor tennis

- 7.49 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address provision in the district:

7.50 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, it is recommended that the Council in association with its partners seeks to provide for both netball and tennis indoors.

7.51 It is recommended that projects which are proposed to be supported by public funds are included the IDP.

7.52 It is recommended that, as appropriate, the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Sites

Protect

7.53 It is recommended that the existing dome facility with 2 netball courts is retained and maintained at high quality, or else replaced with a suitable and accessible alternative. If replaced, the site should have secure long-term community use.

Enhance

7.54 It is recommended that 2 outdoor floodlit netball courts are provided to immediately adjacent to any replacement dome facility.

Provide

7.55 It is recommended that the priority for delivery is the replacement dome facility together with changing facilities and car parking if the Harborough Leisure Centre including the dome is relocated.

7.56 Indoor tennis facilities proposed to be provided by partners should be subject to detailed feasibility studies to confirm long term viability. Public funding support should be linked to secure community use.

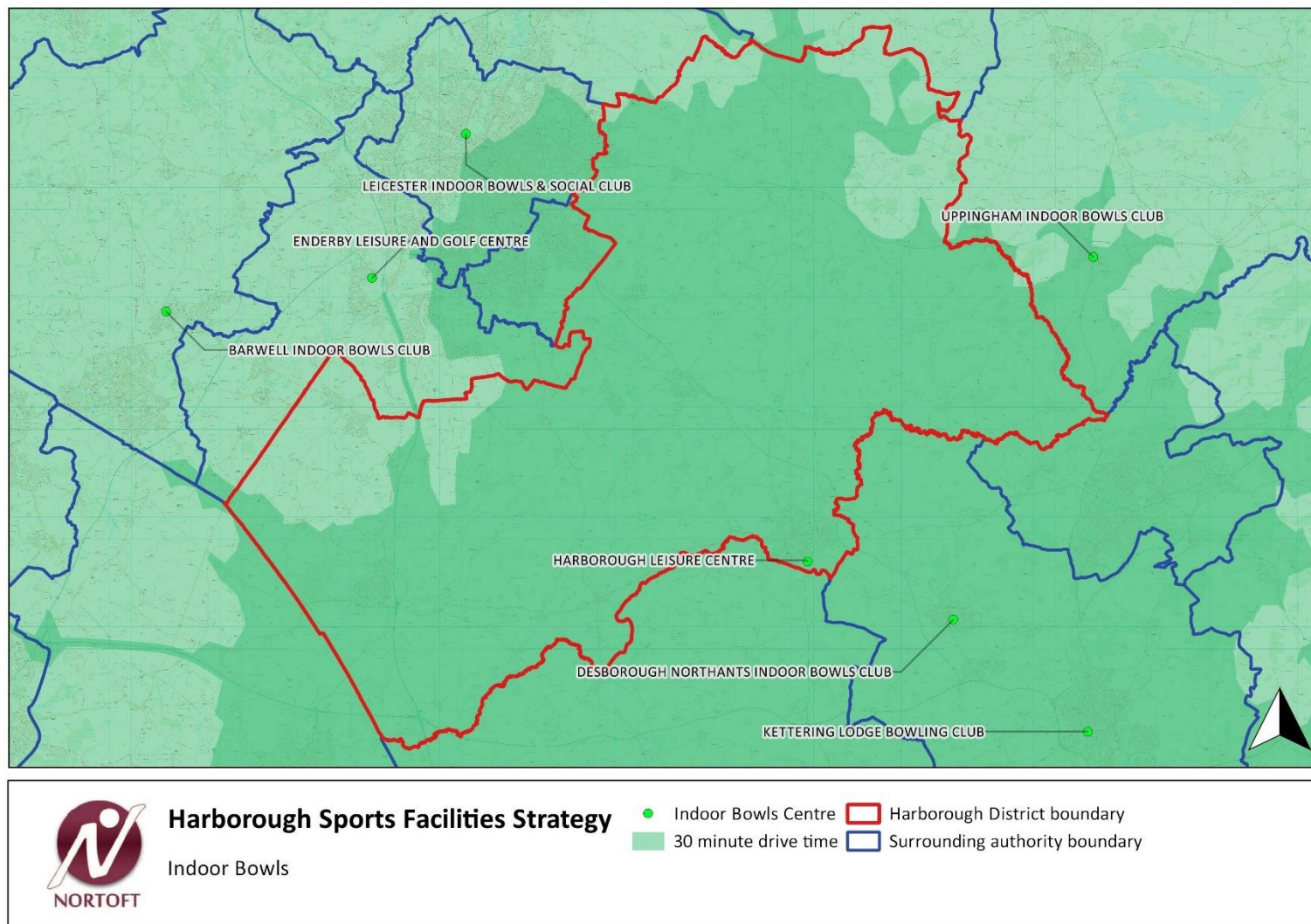
SECTION 8: INDOOR BOWLS CENTRE

- 8.1 This section of the report considers indoor bowls. Although there is some cross-over between indoor and outdoor bowls as some players are active year-round, and some sites have both indoor and outdoor rinks, many players only either play indoors or outside.
- 8.2 Indoor bowls greens at specialist centres normally have multiple rinks, but these can vary in number. Two rinks is probably the smallest usable size but would generally only be built where there are other facilities or adjacent outdoor greens. Otherwise a facility with 4 rinks is usually the smallest viable size. The larger sites often have 8 rinks or more.
- 8.3 Sport England estimates that nationally about 331,400 adults aged 16 and over take part in bowls at least twice a month, but there is no 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 , 2019). There has been no significant change in participation since 2015. The sport draws the largest proportion of its players from the higher socio-economic groups.
- 8.4 According to the Sport England Active People Survey (Sport England , 2016), 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.
- 8.5 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 to any large extent in the future. However, the affiliated membership of the Harborough & District Indoor Bowls Club has increased slightly from 122 members in December 2015 to 156 members in December 2018.
- 8.6 It is also likely that the village and community hall network is providing important opportunities for many people in terms of short mat bowls.

Current provision

- 8.7 The indoor bowls centre at Harborough Leisure Centre is the only specialist facility in the district but there are facilities in some adjacent and nearby authorities at: Desborough (6 rinks), Rugby (6 rinks), Uppingham (2 rinks), Barwell in Leicester (6 rinks), Enderby (6 rinks), Leicester (9 rinks). The drive time catchment for indoor bowls is 30 minutes, as advised by the English Indoor Bowls Association. The location of the indoor bowls centre in Harborough and the adjacent authorities is mapped in Figure 30. This shows that all parts of the district are within a 30-minute drive of at least one indoor bowls facility.

Figure 30: Indoor Bowls map



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Assessment of current supply/demand

- 8.8 The current club membership from the survey return is 181 members, almost all of which are veterans. This is slightly higher than the number of affiliated members recorded by the English Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA). The club membership has become increasingly male-dominated, moving from 58% to 76% over the last four years. Over this same period, based on figures from the EIBA the club membership has increased from 122 to 156.
- 8.9 The usage of the bowls hall is recorded in the KPI as usually less than 20% of the hours 09.00-22.00 every day. The manager confirmed that the bowls hall is used between 10.00-12.00 and 14.00-16.00 daily. The facility is noted as being expensive to maintain and cannot usefully be used for other activities.
- 8.10 The national governing body, the English Indoor Bowling Association usually considers that indoor facilities have a capacity of around 80-100 members per rink, but the actual level of use will depend on the individual programming of the club, the number of junior members, regularity of matches etc. The level of the indoor bowls membership at Harborough Leisure Centre is therefore well below the potential capacity of 600 and has not changed significantly over recent years.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 8.11 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face.
- 8.12 The Harborough and District Indoor Bowling Club provided two club survey returns. It is clear from the comments made that the club likes the location of the facility in a general sense. However, the club is not happy with the facility for a number of reasons, including a lack of social space, disturbance by other adjacent activities, that the hall is too cold and that the playing surface carpet is aging.

NGB comments

- 8.13 The English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) confirmed that:
- It does not have a facility strategy, the EIBA and Bowls England are in discussion with Sport England regarding its 'sports facility interventions'.
 - It is seeking to develop 'effective partnerships with local authorities/leisure providers', from which will 'develop an overall facility strategy/action plan.

8.14 It also confirmed that:

- ‘We consider the Indoor Bowls facility at the Harborough Leisure Centre, and the facilities in adjoining areas are sufficient to meet present and future needs’.
- Membership of Harborough and District club increased from 122 in 2015 to 156 in 2018 (a 27.9% increase).

8.15 EIBA has provided the membership information for each of the bowling clubs in the nearby authority areas, see Figure 31. The memberships have been compared with the potential capacity of each site and it is clear that there is some spare capacity at most indoor bowls centres in the adjacent authorities. Desborough and Kingsthorpe which are the two closest sites to Market Harborough are running at somewhere between 64% and 80% capacity. The Northampton and District club, the only one really operating at full capacity, is too far away from the district to serve Harborough residents.

Figure 31: Indoor bowls and capacity

Site	Number of rinks	Capacity of site @ members per rink		2018 club membership	Used capacity % (at 80 per rink)	Used capacity % (at 100 per rink)
		@ 80 members per rink	@ 100 members per rink			
Harborough and District	6	480	600	156	33%	26%
Barwell, Hinckley	6	480	600	462	96%	77%
Carlton, Blaby	6	480	600	309	64%	52%
Desborough, Kettering	6	480	600	383	80%	64%
Kingsthorpe Daventry district	6	480	600	386	80%	64%
Leicester	9	720	900	612	85%	68%
Melton and District	8	640	800	585	91%	73%
Northampton and District	8	640	800	760	119%	95%
Rugby Thornfield	8	640	800	356	56%	45%

8.16 In addition to these sites is a two-rink indoor facility at Uppingham which has an unaffiliated club.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

8.17 The situation within the adjacent authorities to Harborough is as follows:

- The 'Charnwood Indoor Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2017 - 2036' (Charnwood Borough Council, 2018) concluded that additional capacity should be provided to meet future demand.
- 'Planning the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire' (2017) concluded that there is a current spare indoor bowls capacity, which should also be sufficient to meet all future needs.
- The 'Hinckley and Bosworth Open Space, Sport and Recreation Strategy' (Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council, 2011) concluded that provision meets all current and projected future needs.
- The 'Melton Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 - 2021' (Melton Borough Council, 2017) concludes that existing provision can meet all current and future needs.
- The 'Rugby Open Space, Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities Strategy' (Rugby Borough Council, 2015) concludes that existing provision can meet all current and future needs.
- The 'Rutland Sport and Recreation Facilities Strategy 2015-2036' (Rutland County Council, 2015) concludes that existing provision can meet all current and future needs.

8.18 Indoor bowling was not addressed in the relevant strategies for Corby, Kettering, and Oadby and Wigston, and there are no current published strategies for Blaby or Leicester.

Modelling

Comparator authorities' provision

8.19 Using Active Places Power (Sport England, 2019) data it has been possible to calculate the current level of provision of specialist indoor bowls centres and number of rinks per 1,000 head of population for Harborough's CIPFA comparators together with the provision for the East Midlands region and England as a whole, see Figure 32. For this assessment all sites with public access have been included in the figures.

8.20 This comparator authority analysis suggests that there is a range of provision. Daventry's provision is skewed because although one of the sites is within Daventry town, the other is on the immediate border with Northampton and primarily serves the residents of that town.

- 8.21 The current rate of provision is slightly above that for the East Midlands region but is almost double the national average.

Figure 32: Indoor bowls - comparator authorities

CIPFA comparator	Estimated population at 2019 (ONS 2016 baseline)	Number of indoor bowls centres		Number of rinks	
		Total	Per 1000 population	Total	Per 1000 population
Harborough	92,600	1	0.01	6	0.06
Ribble Valley	59,300	0	0.00	0	0.00
South Northamptonshire	92,000	1	0.01	5	0.05
Maldon	64,300	1	0.02	7	0.11
Daventry	82,500	2	0.02	12	0.15
East Midlands	4,816,800	36	0.01	226	0.05
England	56,357,500	314	0.01	1663	0.03

Summary of current situation

- 8.22 The indoor bowls facility at Harborough Leisure Centre is used at about 30% of its potential capacity based upon the club's 180 members as the site could provide for up to around 600 members. The current facility appears to be unsatisfactory both from the perspective of the club and that of the operator as it is expensive to retain and maintain.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 8.23 Indoor bowls is primarily played by people aged 60 years and over, so the level of future demand for bowls can be assessed by considering the forecast change in the number of people over 60 years in the period up to 2031.

Figure 33: Increase in 60+ years population to 2031

	District wide population 60+ years	District wide % growth
2019 (ONS, 2016 base)	26,500	50%
2031 (Agreed forecast demographics)	39,622	

- 8.24 With a current membership of around 180 members, this suggests that the demand for indoor bowls might rise to around 270 members by 2031, reflecting the aging population of the authority.
- 8.25 The EIBA suggests that a 4-rink facility is the minimum size which should be considered, so this would potentially cater for up to 400 members. If the rate of participation was maintained up to 2031, then this would mean that a 4-rink facility would be operating initially at around 45% capacity, rising to 68% capacity by 2031.
- 8.26 Short mat bowls is likely to remain an important activity in village and community halls. Where halls lack sufficient storage space and there is potential demand for bowls, then extensions to halls to provide mat storage should be a priority.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 8.27 There are two main alternatives for indoor bowls provision in Harborough district, if the current specialist bowls centre is not retained. These are explored below.
- 8.28 The considerations are:
- If a replacement facility is provided, the EIBA recommendation is that the minimum size should be 4 rinks, which would have a capacity for 320-400 members.
 - The demand for indoor bowling is expected to rise to around 270 members by 2031, assuming the rates of participation per 1000 population remain the same.
 - A 4-rink facility would be used to around 68-85% capacity by 2031 but be used at between around 40-50% initially.
 - The Harborough and District Indoor Bowling Club draws around 63% of its members from Harborough district, 27% from Leicester and 4% each from Kettering and Corby.
 - A social area and appropriate changing facilities are essential.
 - Good disability access is essential.
 - Indoor and outdoor bowling clubs often have very separate memberships, but sites with both are becoming more common.
 - A specialist bowling surface cannot be used for other activities without serious risk to its quality.
 - A 30 minutes' drive time catchment is considered appropriate for this type of facility.
 - There is sufficient capacity at the closest alternative indoor bowls sites to absorb the 156 current displaced members:
 - Desborough has spare capacity of 100-200 members (13 minutes' drive)
 - Kingsthorpe has spare capacity of 100-200 members (23 minutes' drive)

Replacement facility

- A 4-rink facility is the maximum that could be sustained long term, but there may be issues with viability of a separate facility with its own clubhouse etc, particularly in the short-medium term.
- A replacement facility could be moved northwards without significantly seriously impacting upon the club membership levels.
- An existing outdoor bowls club site which has the necessary social facilities might be a good location for a 4-rink specialist facility.
- The capital costs of a specialist indoor bowls facility may be around £1.46m (based on Sport England cost for 6 rink centre) which excludes the club/function room.
- Because there is spare capacity within the drive time catchment for any displaced members, requiring replacement of an indoor bowls facility elsewhere funded by developer contributions would not be CIL compliant.
- The costs of a new/replacement facility would probably need to be met by the District Council from other funding sources.
- It is assumed that the revenue costs and management requirements would be met by the club.

No replacement facility

- All Harborough residents can reach an alternative 6 rink or larger specialist indoor bowls facility within 30 minutes' drive (see Figure 34). It should be noted that this map treats Uppingham differently, as this site has only 2 rinks and the club is unaffiliated.
- There is no capital cost to Harborough District Council associated with this option.

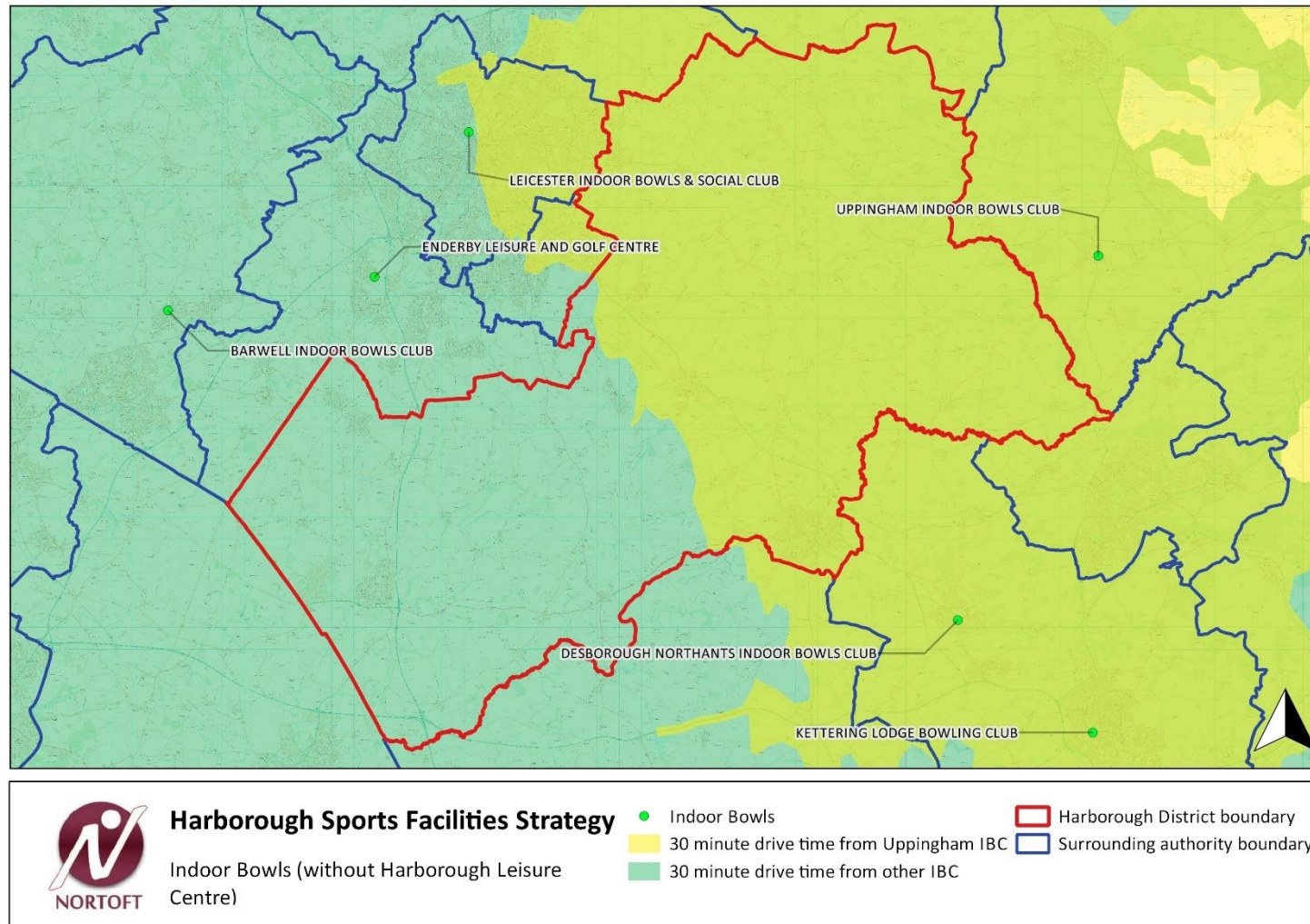
8.29 The NPPF 2019 para 97 provides the overall planning policy guidance for the protection of sports facilities:

Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:

- a) an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- b) the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- c) the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.*

8.30 Considering the NPPF tests; the amount of spare capacity of indoor bowling centres within the adjacent authorities but within the 30 minutes' drive time catchment suggests that all future demand for a specialist indoor bowls centres could be met elsewhere. The test of NPPF 97(a) is therefore met and a replacement facility is not a priority for Harborough district. The NPPF para 97(b) and (c) are not relevant.

Figure 34: Impact of closing Harborough Indoor Bowls



Justifying developers' contributions

- 8.31 It is not proposed to seek developer contributions for a specialist indoor bowls facility. The provision of additional storage at village, community halls and similar which will enable new short mat bowls to be provided should be supported via developers' contributions on a project-by-project basis.

Recommendations for indoor bowls

- 8.32 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address indoor bowls provision in the district:

8.33 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to indoor short mat bowls provision.

8.34 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect and enhance

8.35 It is recommended that the existing indoor short mat bowls provision at village halls and community centres is protected and maintained.

8.36 It is recommended that additional storage should be provided where justified for additional storage at village halls, community centres and similar facilities.

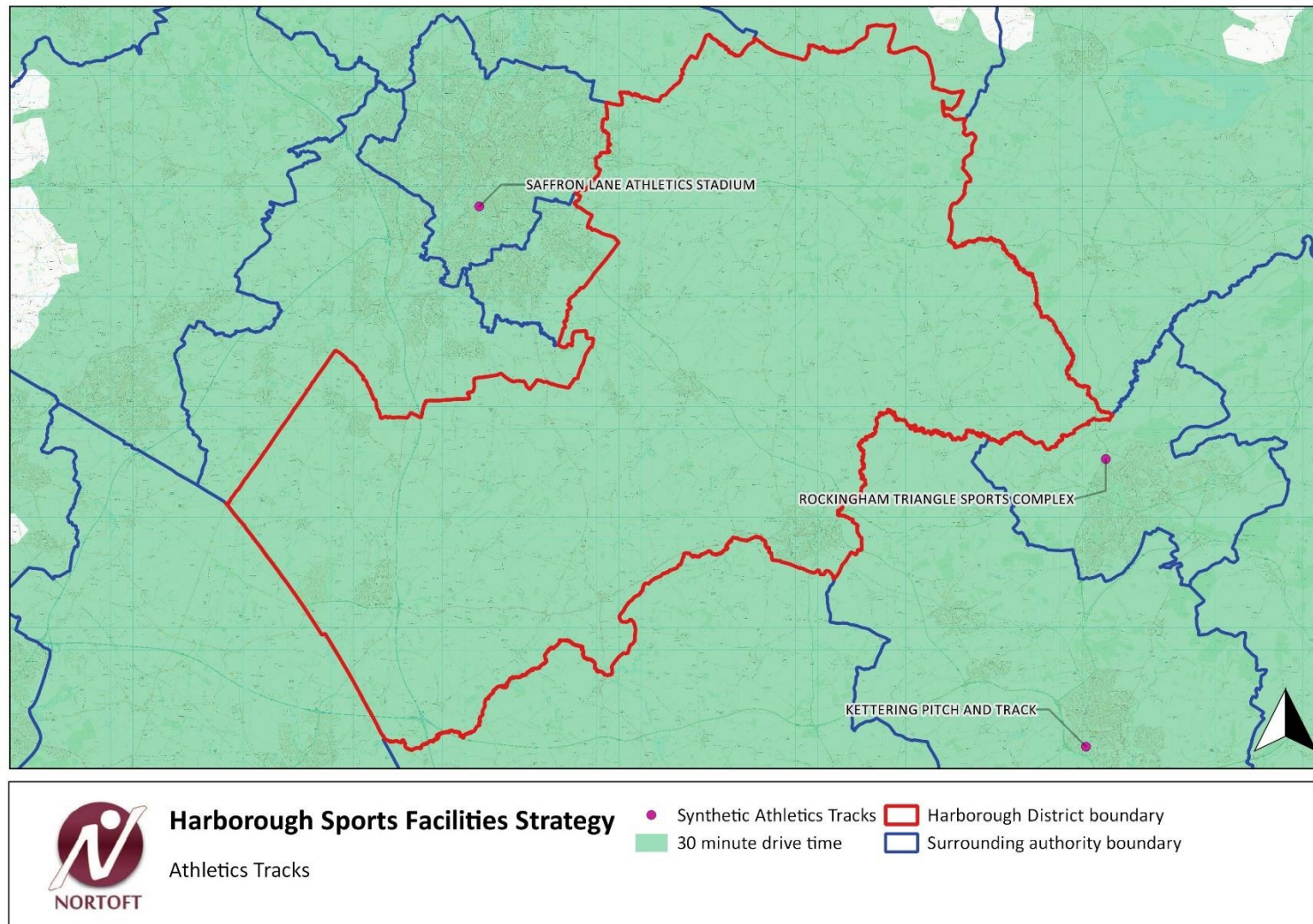
SECTION 9: ATHLETICS

- 9.1 Participation in athletics includes field and track activities taking place at athletics tracks, cross-country running, road running, marathon/ultra-marathon running, and jogging. Participation amongst adults (16 years and over) at least twice in 28 days in “running, athletics or multi-sports” was estimated to be around 6.9 m nationally during the period November 2017 to November 2018 (Sport England , 2019). Athletics generally attracts slightly more men (55%) than women (45%).
- 9.2 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.

Current provision

- 9.3 There are no publicly available synthetic athletics tracks in Harborough district, but there are tracks in the adjacent and nearby authorities: Daventry, Rugby, Nuneaton, Leicester, Charnwood, Corby and Kettering.
- 9.4 A realistic drive time to synthetic athletics tracks is around 30 minutes. The map in Figure 35 shows that all of Harborough’s residents who have access to a car are able to reach an athletics track within 30 minutes.
- 9.5 Regular parkrun events take place in Welland Park in Market Harborough and routes such as the Brampton Valley Way are well used for informal running together with cycling and walking.

Figure 35: Athletics tracks map



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Consultation findings

Club comments

- 9.6 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face.
- 9.7 The only response received was from the Harborough Athletics Club which has 192 members and is based at the Training Shed in Market Harborough. The club exists to provide 'the opportunity to take part in many athletic events including track and field, road running, cross-county, triathlons and other athletic events'.

National Governing Body comments

- 9.8 There are two governing bodies overseeing athletics in England; England Athletics and UK Athletics.

UK Athletics

- 9.9 UK Athletics provides the UK framework for the activity and is also responsible for athletics track certification.
- 9.10 The UK Athletics Facilities Strategy 2014-2019 (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.
- 9.11 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.
- 9.12 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 running 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 were promoted by England Athletics through the Run England programme up to the end of 2016. RunTogether is the new England Athletics beginner running programme replacing Run England at the start of 2017, and whilst England Athletics branded routes are no longer a focus of RunTogether; the aspiration to ensure safe places to people to run remains.

England Athletics

- 9.13 England Athletics leads the development work with clubs and is the key body at the district level. The England Athletics Facilities Strategy 2018-2025 (England Athletics, 2018) has a number of sections and also identifies priority locations for England Athletics investment, which are mainly large cities.
- 9.14 England Athletics considers that following the national trends, the sport has potential to grow in the area and that the greatest growth would be in running rather than track and field.

Road and Off-Road Running

- 9.15 England Athletics recognises the opportunities to influence facility planning to provide safe, traffic-free running routes as part of future development considerations.

Track and Field

- 9.16 The strategy recognises a hierarchy of facilities including:
- **Club Training Venue** - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club with 100+ track and field members. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage.
 - **Compact Athletics Facility** - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping-stone into Club Venues. They are designed to fit available spaces and budgets and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the fundamental athletics movement skills.
- 9.17 England Athletics confirmed that Harborough district is not a priority area for facilities provision, although it acknowledges that Harborough Athletics Club has growth potential.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

9.18 None of the strategies or sports facilities needs assessments in neighbouring areas considers athletics tracks, but existing facilities with 30-minute drive time catchments that cover Harborough district are as follows:

- Saffron Lane, Leicester.
- Rockingham Triangle Sports Complex, Corby.
- Kettering Athletics track.

Comparator authorities' provision

9.19 Using Active Places Power (Sport England, 2019) data it has been possible to review the athletics track provision for each of the Harborough benchmark CIPFA comparators. Of the comparators, only Daventry has an athletics track, which is at Moulton College which is close to the Northampton boundary and arose due to relocation of the track from Northampton.

Summary of the current situation

9.20 There are no synthetic athletics tracks in Harborough district but there is access within 30 minutes' drive time to a track within a nearby authority for all residents. However, the majority of running type activities take place away from formal athletics tracks and include parkruns as at Welland Valley Park in Market Harborough.

9.21 As all of Harborough has access to a synthetic athletics track, there is no demand for a separate compact athletics facility.

9.22 Traffic free walking and running routes have been identified by the national governing bodies as a priority.

Assessment of Future Needs

9.23 The national governing bodies' priorities are to retain the existing network of athletics tracks rather than provide more.

9.24 The development of marked running routes in traffic free environments would offer a real opportunity for many people. There are a number of traffic free routes already in existence, and there may be opportunities to develop these further.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 9.25 There is justification to seek coordinated traffic-free marked walking and running routes to link the new SDAs with their surrounding areas and also as opportunities arise, to link green spaces with new or improved routes within the towns and larger villages.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 9.26 The importance of traffic free running routes is recognised and major developments should therefore be expected to incorporate on-site marked running routes with an all-weather surface and which link to the wider network of parks, open spaces, public rights of way and traffic free routes. Contributions to off-site provision may be sought where on-site provision is not appropriate.

Recommendations for athletics

- 9.27 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address athletics provision in the district:

- 9.28 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to traffic free running, walking and cycling routes.

- 9.29 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 9.30 It is recommended that existing traffic free routes for running, walking and cycling are protected.

Enhance

- 9.31 It is recommended that improvements are sought to routes through parks and open spaces to encourage walking, running and cycling.

Provide

- 9.32 It is recommended that measured walking and running routes are provided in association with England Athletics and other partners, utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free routes.

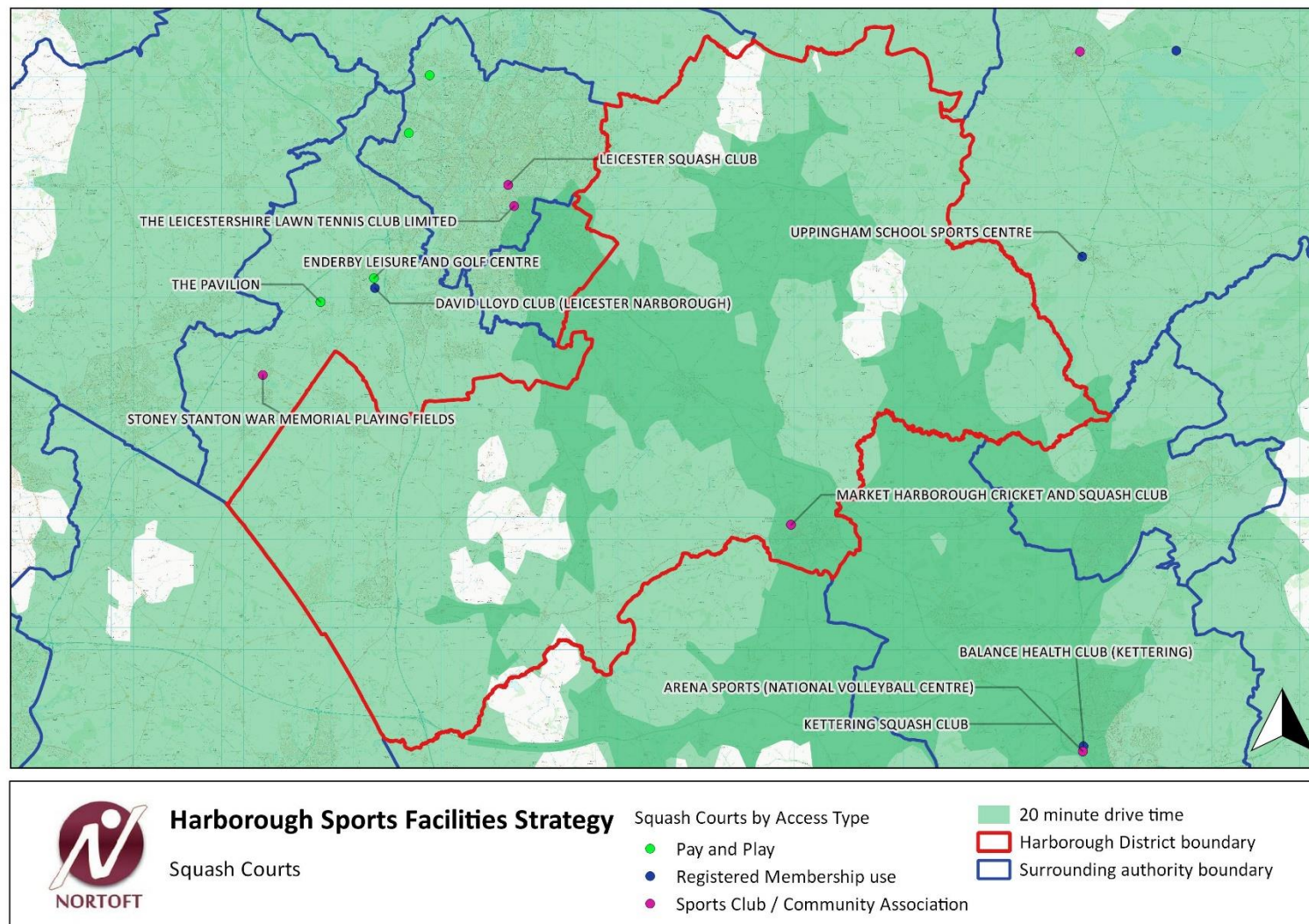
SECTION 10: SQUASH

- 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, 2017). Sport England research in 2009 (Sport England, 2012) gave an overview of the participants playing at least once a week and this showed that about 87% of the players are male, with the peak numbers being amongst those aged between 35 and 64 years. A high proportion of players are from the most affluent socio-economic groups. It is assumed that the trends occurring nationally are being reflected in Harborough.

Current provision

- 10.2 There are two types of squash court, glass-backed and “normal” or enclosed. There is one squash site in the district, the Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club with 5 courts, of which 2 are glass-backed courts and the others are normal courts. The club operates on a sports club membership basis.
- 10.3 The site is owned by Bowden Harborough Trust and is on lease to the club (due for renewal in 2023). The club currently has about 430 members, the majority of which belong to the squash element of the club. The cricket element has been in decline but there are still adult teams and junior sports development schemes. There are no female cricket players.
- 10.4 The club has seen relatively recent investment in new squash courts but the design of the site’s buildings appears uncoordinated and fails to make the most of the opportunities of the site. The current social area for squash is not appropriate for cricket, and vice versa.
- 10.5 The location of Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club is mapped in Figure 36 together with other squash courts with public access outside of the authority. The map demonstrates that there are some limited parts of each sub-area that are more than 20 minutes’ drive of a squash facility, either within or outside of the authority area.

Figure 36: Squash court locations



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Assessment of current supply and demand

Quantity

- 10.6 The club reports that there is spare capacity on the squash courts even at peak time as they are used at around 60% capacity. The club also reports that it has picked up new members relocating from squash sites which have closed elsewhere.
- 10.7 Of greatest concern is the relatively short lease that the club has left on site.

Quality

- 10.8 The glass courts were opened in 2015 and they are generally good quality although there had been a design issue which had allowed in moisture from the roof. The normal courts are standard quality. The changing facilities are standard quality. There is no disabled access to the social area above the courts.
- 10.9 The separate changing for the cricket lies directly between the squash building and the cricket pitch (obscuring the view from ground level) and is also separate from the current cricket clubhouse.
- 10.10 There appears to be a need to review the buildings on site as a whole to determine how best to use the space available and to ensure the long-term viability of this multi-sport hub site.

Accessibility

- 10.11 The drive time catchment for squash is approximately 20 minutes. The map in Figure 36 shows that residents across most of the district can access squash facilities, within or outside of the authority.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 10.12 As part of the strategy process, extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face.
- 10.13 There is one squash club in the district, the Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club, which responded to the club survey. Key officers of the club also met with the strategy consultants on site. The club has a total of about 430 members, most of whom are squash members. Around 87% of the members are drawn from Harborough district. The club has grown over the last 5 years and is planning to grow further in the next five years. The club has a development plan and there are no current issues impeding its expansion.

- 10.14 The club has a 20+ year lease on its site, although it is due to expire in 2023. The club commented that:
- ‘The playing facilities are well maintained – the club includes maintenance plan in its development plan. This includes appropriate floor and wall work when required’.
 - ‘The changing rooms need some updating, car park a bit small at some times but can overflow in summer onto cricket ground, bar area just been renovated’.

National Governing Body comments

- 10.15 England Squash states that there has been investment into the local County Association and Regional Forum, who have in turn worked closely with local clubs, schools and leisure centres in Leicestershire. In comparison to other counties, the need for investment and required impact on deliverers makes Harborough a key area for future delivery and squash participation. The specific demographic within the local area also lend itself to squash participation and target markets for the sport. The county association is proactive and there is an abundance of competition in Nottingham and the East Midlands.
- 10.16 England Squash comments that there is a poor spread and choice of facilities across the area. The governing body’s view is that the geography of the area (rural and large towns nearby) means that there needs to be a large spread of courts to meet the needs of the local population in cluster towns. As such it is imperative sites are maintained and more sites are added in the future. There are currently 3 sites within a 10-mile radius of Market Harborough, with two of those being in Kettering.
- 10.17 The amount of courts in Harborough does not meet the England Squash national requirement of 1 court per 10,000 people (the current district figure is 1:17,490 approx.). England Squash believes that more investment is immediately required into new fully accessible facilities.
- 10.18 England Squash advises that any 3-court venue is capable of delivering festivals, team squash, junior coaching and ‘Copper’ events (local junior competitions that form the first level of the England Squash Talent pathway). Its flagship programme, Squash 101, aims to get more participants engaged in the sport and as the Market Harborough site has 5 courts, this can be delivered in the area. England Squash is offering community programmes and support locally through partner organisations, such as the Regional Forum. The governing body believes that losing any courts would have a detrimental impact on the sport.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 10.19 The only adjacent local authorities that include an assessment of squash needs in their sports facilities strategies are Daventry, Rugby and Rutland. Daventry and Rutland have sufficient squash capacity into the long term, but Rugby identified a future shortfall of two courts.

Summary of current situation

- 10.20 There is one squash site in the district, the Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club which has around 340 senior members and 60 juniors, most of which play squash. The club has 5 courts, of which the 2 glass-backed courts were opened in 2015. The others are standard quality. The changing is standard quality and the social area is acceptable but does not have disabled access.
- 10.21 The site's buildings have developed in an uncoordinated way and do not operate effectively. There is a desire to improve the cricket clubhouse on the site. The site is owned by the Bowden Harborough Trust and the lease is up to 2023.
- 10.22 Although the NGB has suggested that there is a lack of provision in the area, almost all Harborough residents can access squash courts within a 20 minutes' drive, so the lack of additional squash provision within the district is not of concern.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 10.23 The club reports that the courts are used for around 60% of their capacity at peak time and the it considers that the current level of provision will meet the needs of the district with the current level of proposed housing.
- 10.24 The total growth in population across the district is between 2019 and 2031 is expected to be around 30%, so if the rate of participation in squash remained similar, then the used capacity of the courts could be expected to rise from 60% now to just below 80%. This is an acceptable level of used capacity and further courts would not be required.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 10.25 The primary need in relation to squash is a review of the buildings on site to ensure that they are as efficient as possible and ideally work more effectively as a single sports hub facility. This review should also consider if other activities could use the site, particularly the clubhouse facilities.
- 10.26 There will also be a need to seek confirmation of the lease renewal for a time period long enough to enable external funding to be offered to the club.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 10.27 All new housing will generate demand for squash courts, and the Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club is the single squash site in the district. New developments should therefore be expected to contribute towards projects which will help meet this demand via improvements to the existing facilities.

Quantity

- 10.28 The 5 courts are sufficient provision up to 2031, so the rate of provision is 0.04 courts per 1000 population.

Accessibility

- 10.29 The accessibility standard is 20 minutes' drive time.

Design and quality

- 10.30 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. Facilities should also have at least a "very good" BREEAM rating. This policy should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

Recommendations for squash

- 10.31 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address squash provision in the district:

- 10.32 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to squash courts.

- 10.33 It is recommended that future identified projects should be included in the IDP.

- 10.34 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 10.35 It is recommended that the existing squash facilities at the Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club are protected. They should be refurbished as needed to maintain them at a high quality. If there is a justified need, investment should be considered into moveable walls to enable more flexible use of the courts at off peak time.

- 10.36 The lease for the site should be secured and extended to enable external funding for the facilities to be offered.

Enhance and provide

- 10.37 It is recommended that a review is undertaken of the buildings as a whole at the Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club with the view of considering how the site might be made better coordinated and potentially provide for additional sports and community activities to enable the site to be fully sustainable long term.

SECTION 11: GYMNASTICS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 11.1 This section of the strategy addresses gymnastics and related activities. Some of the gymnastics activity is within affiliated clubs of the national governing body, British Gymnastics, but other activity is not affiliated, or the activity is not one of the British Gymnastics' recognised disciplines.
- 11.2 This section considers the needs of the gymnastics as a sport. It does not include consideration of the commercial trampoline centres in the adjacent authorities, such as the Boost Trampoline Park in Leicester. This is because these sites do not provide sports development programmes and are effectively not available or not suitable for gymnastic club activities.

Current provision

- 11.3 There are four affiliated gymnastics clubs in Harborough district, and the table in Figure 37 gives their size and home location. It is notable that other than in Market Harborough, the gymnastics club network is relatively weak, which is likely to reflect the fact that there are strong clubs in the adjacent and nearby authorities, including in Rugby, Hinckley, Leicester and Northampton.

Figure 37: Gymnastics clubs in Harborough

Club	Number of members affiliated to British Gymnastics (Jan 2019)	Home site
Market Harborough Gymnastics Club	149	Meadowdale Primary School, Market Harborough
Market Harborough Trampoline Academy	42	Welland Park Academy and Robert Smyth Academy, Market Harborough
Market Harborough Leisure Centre	20	Harborough Leisure Centre
Lutterworth Sports Centre	Not available	Lutterworth Sports Centre

- 11.4 The peak age for participation in gymnastics according to British Gymnastics is at around 9 years. This young participation is not identified by Sport England's Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) which has focussed mainly on adult participation for those aged 16 years and over, although the survey expanded to include those aged 14 and over from October 2012.
- 11.5 Nationally, the affiliated membership of British Gymnastics reached almost 390,500 in 2017, and its membership has been growing rapidly at around a 12% increase each year between 2013 and 2017. Most of this growth remains at the young age groups but there has also been a notable increase in the number of teenagers and

young adults up to the age of 25 years. The future priority for British Gymnastics will be the foundation level of the sport, those aged 5-11 years.

- 11.6 The larger gymnastics clubs tend to have a drive time catchment of 20 minutes. The Market Harborough town clubs therefore have approximately the same catchments, though the activities offered by the trampolining club are different from the others. There is little overlap between the catchments of the clubs in Market Harborough and that of Lutterworth.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 11.7 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face. Only one of the four gymnastics clubs responded to the survey.

Market Harborough Trampoline Academy

- 11.8 The Market Harborough Trampoline Academy uses the sports halls at Welland Park Academy and Robert Smyth Academy and commented that:
- 'The facilities at Welland Park Academy have a ceiling that is under a slanted roof and we require minimum 8 meters height. Preferable 10 meters for regional events. The floor is being replaced summer 2019. But we use gymnastics matting anyhow so not relevant to us. We have an overhead rig installed and wall bars'.
 - 'The facilities at Robert Smyth Academy have a lower ceiling than Welland Park which prohibits the use of high-performance trampolines. The heating during the winter however is top notch. Storage is reasonable'.
- 11.9 The club has around 50 members, almost all of which are either minis or juniors, whom travel up to about 10 minutes to the club. Almost all live in the district. The club has grown over the last 5 years but although it has waiting lists of up to 10 for both minis and juniors, the club is not expecting to grow more in the future. The main issues restricting development are a lack of coaches and also facility restrictions (too little storage space, and too low ceilings). High facility hire charges also restrict growth.

National Governing Body comments

- 11.10 British Gymnastics is the national governing body for gymnastics and trampolining. They were consulted about the needs and issues for the sport in Harborough. Their

Facility Strategy 2013-17 provided an overview of the different roles of the dedicated and non-dedicated gymnastics facilities (see Figure 38). This is important as it gives the justification for British Gymnastics' focus on the development of new dedicated sites, as well as what is needed to enable gymnastics at other venues.

Figure 38: 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 In relation to Harborough, British Gymnastics confirmed that:

- There are four clubs in the district, all of which use non-specialist facilities.
- There is limited access to facilities within Harborough with all clubs having waiting lists restricting access to gymnastics activities due to the lack of time within non-dedicated facilities.
- As the area is fairly rural it is likely to be difficult to identify appropriate sites to convert into dedicated sites.
- There is a large demand for more gymnastics opportunities and clubs all have large waiting lists.

- 11.12 There are no identified priority projects for the British Gymnastics within the district but Welland Park Academy's sport hall refurbishment is partially based on the strong links with the gymnastics club and its needs.
- 11.13 As no club returns were received from Market Harborough Gymnastics Club or the two clubs operating out of the leisure centres, the extent of waiting lists cannot be confirmed.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 11.14 The only adjacent local authorities that include an assessment of gymnastics needs in their sports facilities strategies are as follows:
- The 'Charnwood Indoor Built Sports Facilities Strategy 2017 - 2036' (Charnwood Borough Council , 2018) concluded that additional dedicated gymnastics facilities are required to meet current and future needs.
 - The 'Melton Sports Facilities Strategy 2016 - 2021' (Melton Borough Council, 2017) concludes that there is no strategic need for dedicated facilities, but additional sports hall space is needed for gymnastics.
 - 'Planning the Future of Open Space, Sport and Recreation in West Northamptonshire' (Daventry District Council, 2017) identifies the need to 'retain and support the existing gymnastics facilities across West Northamptonshire, which should be protected and maintained at high quality'. It further establishes the need for increased facilities capacity at an existing or new site.
 - The 'Rugby Sports Facilities Strategy' (2016) confirms that 'there is one dedicated gymnastics centre at Lower Hillmorton Road in Rugby which is hoped by the club to be replaced by a new, larger centre, at a site to be confirmed. Non-specialist sites are also used for gymnastics across the borough'. The recommendations include the need to provide a new specialist gymnastics facility.
 - The 'Corby Indoor and Built Sports Facilities Strategy' (2017) contains a recommendation to 'work with the Corby Gymnastics Academy to ensure the facility is maintained to a high standard to support the development of the sport'. It does not identify any additional specialist facilities needs.

Summary of current situation

- 11.15 The gymnastics clubs are concentrated in the Market Harborough area, with two independent clubs and one operating through the leisure centre. There is a small club at Lutterworth centre, but the affiliation numbers have not been provided to British Gymnastics. This pattern of clubs probably reflects the existence of a number of strong gymnastics clubs in the adjacent and nearby authorities, which attract members from Harborough.

- 11.16 Most gymnastics activity is by minis and juniors, and although British Gymnastics has stated that there are long waiting lists at clubs, this is not really borne out by the return from the Trampoline Academy, and there was no response from the largest club, Market Harborough Gymnastics Club.
- 11.17 All of the clubs operate out of multi-sport facilities, including Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 11.18 The assessment of future needs recognises that much of any new demand will be met at sites over the border of the authority.
- 11.19 The use of the leisure centres is expected to continue along with the current use of the school sites.
- 11.20 The need for improved access to multi-functional halls or activity spaces is also expected to continue to be needed, both during the school day and at evenings and weekends. Where appropriate and justified, additional storage space at community centre type venues may therefore support use by gymnastics and related activities.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 11.21 It is not recommended that developers' contributions are sought for formal gymnastics facilities but local projects which support the development of storage for expanding the use of village and community halls may be subject to developers' contributions.

Recommendations for gymnastics

- 11.22 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address gymnastics provision in the district:

- 11.23 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to gymnastics provision.
- 11.24 Local projects to support increased storage provision at village and community halls with the purpose enabling the sites to then provide for, or better provide for gymnastics may be included in the IDP or may be treated as a local facility for S106 funding.
- 11.25 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via

S106, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 11.26 It is recommended that the existing gymnastics use of the leisure centres and schools is retained and maintained at high quality.

Enhance and Provide

- 11.27 It is recommended that the planned refurbishment of Welland Park Academy's sport hall is completed in summer 2019 as planned.
- 11.28 It is recommended that, subject to feasibility assessments the 3-court sports hall at Robert Smyth Academy is improved to better provide for gymnastics.
- 11.29 It is recommended that improved storage at village and community halls is supported where justified to enable the provision of gymnastics.

SECTION 12: CYCLING AND WALKING FOR LEISURE

- 12.1 The number of adults aged 16 and over cycling at least twice a month for leisure and sport nationally is around 6,170,000 people, and around 3,116,000 cycled for travel. Over 60% of the cycling for leisure and sport and about 70% of cycling for travel was by men. The rates of participation have fallen slightly since 2015.
- 12.2 The number of adults walking for leisure at least twice a month in the period up to November 2018 was around 19,069,000 and the walking for travel figure was 14,914,500. Both have seen an increase since 2015. Slightly more women than men walk for both leisure and travel (Sport England , 2019). The Ramblers Association has published the following figures on walking for leisure:
- Around 63% of English adults walk for leisure at least once a year, and around 20 million people say they walk for leisure at least once a month (National Transport Survey (NTS), 2017).
 - 38% of English adults have used a “strategic recreational route” such as a National Trail or long-distance path in the past year (NTS 2017).
 - Walking is the joint most popular activity (along with eating out) for people taking days out in England, and the most important reason for 18% of the 3.6 billion trips per year. It is the main activity on 36% of countryside and 33% of seaside visits (Natural England, 2016).
 - Of 386.1million trips on the National Cycle Network per year, 191.4million, or around half, are on foot (Sustrans, 2018).
 - A third of adults in Britain say walking for more than 10 minutes is their only form of exercise in a typical month (Office of National Statistics, 2016).
- 12.3 The ‘Harborough Physical Activity Strategy 2018-3035’ (2018) includes actions to:
- ‘Provide a number of opportunities across the district free of charge that are of real value to our residents. Examples include outdoor fitness equipment, playgrounds, parkrun, well-maintained cycle tracks and walking routes’.
 - ‘Integrate walking and cycling routes into our local public transport network and encourage their use in commuting and school travel by clearly mapping safe routes throughout the district’.

Current provision

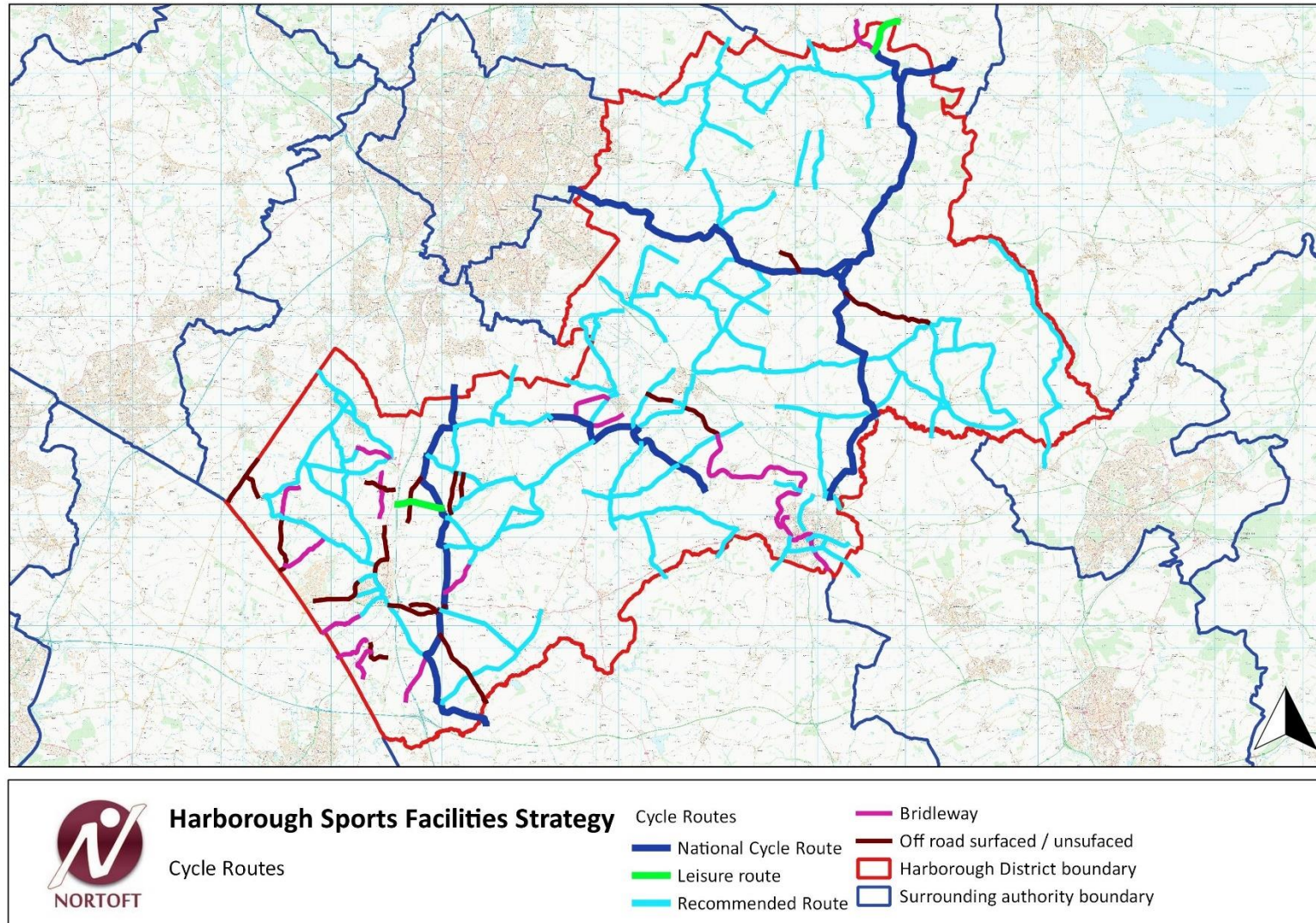
Cycling

- 12.4 In relation to the long-distance national cycle routes crossing Harborough, numbers 6, 50, 63 and 64 pass through the district. Of these only the southern section of route 6 is mainly traffic free. A map showing these national routes plus other promoted cycle routes is given in Figure 39. This shows that although there are a promoted routes in many parts of the district, these are often unconnected and also the availability of traffic-free routes (bridleways and off-road routes) is very limited.
- 12.5 There are no specialist cycling facilities in the district, for example large BMX sites, cycle speedway or closed road tracks.

Walking

- 12.6 The Walking for Health Scheme in Harborough - named Healthy Harborough Walks - has been running for 10 years in the district. There are four weekly, led walks throughout the District of Harborough, two from Market Harborough, one from Lutterworth and one from Broughton Astley. All are under two miles and are buggy friendly. The walks are led by trained volunteer walk leaders and all ages and abilities are welcome.
- 12.7 Market Harborough Rambling Club organises group walks of between five and eight miles every Sunday throughout the year and on Wednesday evenings during the summer.
- 12.8 Other existing promoted provision for leisure walking in Harborough includes:
- Six designated 'Heritage Trails' (in Market Harborough, Lubbenham, Lutterworth, Kibworth/Harcourt, River Soar and Thurnby and Bushby).
 - 31 designated self-guided 'Parish Walks'.
 - The Brampton Valley Way, which links Market Harborough to Northampton.
 - Four designated 'Long Distance Paths' pass through Harborough district. They are the 'Leicester Line Canal Walk' (Grand Union Canal) 79 miles), the 'Leicestershire Border Walk' (198 miles), the 'Market Harborough Round' (71 miles) and the 'Hobblers Way' (the Severn to the Wash, 193 miles).

Figure 39: Sustrans and promoted cycle routes



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Consultation findings

Club comments

- 12.9 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face.
- 12.10 There are three cycling clubs in the district, Welland Valley, Mega Bike Race Team and Cats MTB. Of these, the Welland Valley club is the largest and most progressive and was the only one to respond to the survey.

Welland Valley Cycling Club

- 12.11 Welland Valley Cycling Club responded to the clubs' survey as follows:
- The club has more than 300 members, 70% of whom are drawn from Harborough district. Membership has increased over the past five years and further increases are projected in the next five years.
 - The limiting factors to expansion are a lack of coaches and shortage of facilities. 'We do not have a home site. We use a range of courses and HQs across the cycling disciplines over the year'.
- 12.12 The NGB reports that the club is prominent in the Leicester Cyclo-cross league, and that the club also holds Time Trials and Sportives. The club uses a circuit at New College in Leicester. The club supports Talent Development sessions at Leicester which are facilitated by the regional team.
- 12.13 The club has an aspiration for a closed road track in the Harborough area which might be around 2km in length with a width of 8 m. The project is still at an early stage and no site or costed options have yet been developed.

National Governing Body comments

- 12.14 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.

- 12.15 In relation to Harborough, British Cycling does not consider the district to be a high priority for large scale investment, which instead will be focussed on high population areas such as Leicester and Nottingham. The national governing body's priority for Harborough would be to support development of accessible places to ride traffic free environments, including parks, open spaces and school playing fields.
- 12.16 At this time, it therefore appears that British Cycling would be unlikely prioritise for support the aspiration of Welland Valley Cycling club for a traffic free circuit in Harborough.
- 12.17 There are no specific national governing bodies for walking, although the Ramblers Association is one of the most important, particularly in terms of the protection of public rights of way in the district.

Summary of current situation

Cycling

- 12.18 Cycling is a popular activity in Harborough with high levels of participation by both men and women. There are also a small number of active clubs. There are limited traffic free routes and cycling opportunities, which restricts the ability of juniors to cycle on a regular basis.
- 12.19 The Local Plan has strong recommendations to support cycling both within the new developments and to develop safe routes.
- 12.20 Welland Valley Cycle Club is keen to develop traffic free opportunities, but do not have any particular project that they are working on. British Cycling would probably not see a facility in Harborough as a high priority for its financial support.

Walking

- 12.21 There is an extensive network of public footpaths in the district, some of which have been designated as 'Heritage Trails', 'Parish Walks' or 'Long Distance Trails'.
- 12.22 'Healthy Harborough Walks' and the Market Harborough Rambling Club provide opportunities to participate in leisure walking on an organised basis.

Assessment of future needs

- 12.23 As the population of Harborough increases, the demand for cycling and walking is likely to grow, particularly in relation to traffic free routes.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 12.24 The proposed safe cycling and walking routes and extensions to the cycling and walking network should be delivered, according to the Local Plan policies.
- 12.25 There is also a need to provide more opportunities for traffic free cycling in all areas of the authority.
- 12.26 In a relation to a specific cycling facility, the proposal from the cycling club requires further development with the support of the British Cycling as the national governing body to firm up the details.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 12.27 It is recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards improvements in the network of cycle and walking routes; on site to connect the development to the wider network, and off-site to identified projects within a 20-minute drive time catchment.

Recommendations for cycling and walking

- 12.28 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address walking and cycling provision in the district:

- 12.29 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to a range of cycling and walking opportunities.
- 12.30 It is recommended that if a major cycling facility or route, or walking route, project comes forwards this should be identified in the IDP.
- 12.31 It is recommended that the Council should seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver such projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 12.32 It is recommended that the existing network of routes suitable for cycling and walking across Harborough are protected and maintained.

Enhance

- 12.33 It is recommended that the development of an improved cycling and walking network across Harborough should be a major focus of future investment, both to support sustainable travel and to respond to the high level interest in both activities.

SECTION 13: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- 13.1 There are a number of sports facilities in Harborough which have specialist facilities, either built facilities, or primarily using countryside and water spaces.
- 13.2 Those sports using specialist facilities in this section have relatively low participation rates, so are not specifically identified in the consultation or in the Sport England research (Active People Survey, Active Lives Survey).

Table tennis

- 13.3 Nationally, Sport England estimates that 422,200 adults aged 16 years and over took part in table tennis at least twice a month between November 2017 and November 2018. There has been no change in participation rates since November 2015. Much of the table tennis activity takes place in village halls, community centres or in ancillary halls.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 13.4 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face.
- 13.5 There are two main clubs, Harborough Table Tennis Club and Fleckney Spinners. Neither club is affiliated to the national governing body but both responded to the survey.

Harborough Table Tennis Club

- 13.6 This club has a total of around 23 members, which are a mix of juniors, seniors and veterans. The members travel up to 20 minute to reach the home site which is Langton Community Hall. Almost all of the members live within the district.
- 13.7 The number of members has fallen over the past 5 years and the club does not expect to grow in the future. It faces a number of issues including a lack of coaches and volunteers, lack of access to facilities and the recruitment of members.
- 13.8 The hall at Langton Community Centre is used 1-2 times per week from autumn through to spring. The facility is described as excellent although the club had to pay for a lighting upgrade, and the club does not require changing provision. However, the club would prefer to be located in Market Harborough as the relocation to Langton resulted in a loss of membership. The club has sought alternative venues in Market Harborough but has been unable to find anything suitable.

Fleckney Spinners Table Tennis Club

- 13.9 This club has around 15 members, all of whom are veterans. They live within 10 minutes of Fleckney and most are from Harborough district. The club has grown over the last 5 years and expects to continue to do so, though they have issues with a lack of funding and aging equipment.
- 13.10 The club uses Fleckney Sports Centre 3-6 times a week year-round during both weekday daytime and evenings. Although the location is considered good in general terms, the club notes that the hall is painted too light a colour for the sport, the changing is poor quality, and there is a major problem with a lack of storage.

National Governing Body comments

- 13.11 The Table Tennis England Facilities Strategy 2015 - 2025 (2015) identifies that table tennis takes place in a variety of settings. To support sustainable clubs, the priorities are:
- Establish a minimum of one accessible, high quality dedicated multi-table facility in every active county.
 - Support current clubs to ensure long-term security of use of their facilities and to develop facilities or access multisport and multi-use environments.
- 4.38 To support the social recreational game, the priorities are:
- Support the implementation of free-to-use outdoor tables, prioritising centres of population.
 - Establish a network of social table tennis venues offering vibrant informal environments for all.
- 13.12 Table Tennis England states that there are no specific local facilities priorities in Harborough.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 13.13 It is not proposed to seek developers' contributions for table tennis facilities as there is sufficient capacity for the growth of the sport, and no specific investment needs have been identified.

Recommendations for table tennis

13.14 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address table tennis provision in the district:

13.15 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to table tennis provision.

Protect

13.16 It is recommended that the existing facilities which are used for table tennis are generally protected, unless the use can be relocated to a more suitable, accessible facility.

Enhance and provide

13.17 It is recommended that the opportunities offered at table tennis club venues are improved by investment projects which may be identified and justified in the future.

Countryside and Water Sports

13.18 The sport and recreation activities which are based in the countryside using the natural resources include amongst others; horse riding, water, motorsports such as motorcycle trials, archery and air sports.

13.19 Most of the countryside and water-based activities will take place at sites which are outside of the control of the local authority, so the Council's role in relation to these activities is necessarily different compared to that for the built facilities, namely:

- As an advocate working with partners to gain and retain access to a wide range of "natural resources".
- Providing positive planning policy to encourage provision for, and access by, a range of sport and recreation activities.
- Supporting clubs and partners to achieve grant aid to gain, maintain and improve their facilities, particularly where this encourages or enables new participation.

Archery

- 13.20 Nationally, Sport England estimates that around 38,600 adults aged 16 years and over took part in archery at least twice a month between November 2017 and November 2018. There has been a significant increase in participation rates since November 2015.
- 13.21 There are three archery clubs in Harborough which are well spread geographically at Market Harborough, Walcote and Great Glen. The Market Harborough site is a playing field shared with football which also has informal public access. The other two sites are dedicated to archery.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 13.22 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face. Two of the three archery clubs responded.
- 13.23 Lutterworth Archery Club responded to the clubs' survey as follows:
- The club has 50 members, 75% of whom are drawn from Harborough district. Membership has increased over the past five years and further increases are projected in the next five years.
 - The limiting factors to expansion are a lack of coaches and volunteers. The club leases a field at Buckwell Lodge, North Kilworth for its main activities, but also hires the sports hall at Lutterworth Sports Centre for winter training. Both facilities meet all the club's needs.
- 13.24 Bowmen of Glen Archery Society responded to the clubs' survey as follows:
- The club has 102 members, 85% of whom are drawn from Harborough district. Membership has increased over the past five years and further increases are projected in the next five years.
 - The limiting factors to expansion include a lack of facilities. The club owns its own site at Newton Lane, Great Glen, but there is no on-site changing and its poor-quality pavilion is in need of replacement.

National Governing Body comments

- 13.25 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 £1000. 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.

- 13.26 Key facts from the strategy include that most clubs rent or hire the facilities they use, whether this is indoors 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.

Recommendations for archery

- 13.27 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address archery provision in the district:

- 13.28 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to archery provision.

Protect

- 13.29 It is recommended that the existing outdoor archery facilities are protected.

Enhance and provide

- 13.30 It is recommended that the Bowmen of Glen Archery Society be supported in their efforts to improve clubhouse provision at their site.
- 13.31 It is recommended that support is given to the archery clubs to access sports halls for winter training as part of wider sports development initiatives led by Harborough District Council.

Equestrian

- 13.32 Nationally, Sport England estimates that 276,0000 adults aged 16 years and over took part in equestrian sports, mainly horse riding, at least twice a month between November 2017 and November 2018. There has been a fall in participation rates since November 2015. The sport is primarily female, with over 88% of regular adult riders being women.

- 13.33 The relatively affluent rural area of Harborough has enabled high levels of participation both amongst young people and adults.
- 13.34 Regular riding takes place in a wide range of venues, and traffic free routes are particularly important. For training and competitions, the use of all-weather surfaces is now critical, with all dressage competitions and most show jumping competitions taking place at all-weather facilities, both indoors and outdoors. The discipline of eventing mainly uses grass facilities, particularly for the cross-country phase of competitions.
- 13.35 The clubs do not have home sites but use a number of venues across the district which are privately owned.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 13.36 As part of the strategy process extensive attempts were made to contact all clubs in the district to give them an opportunity to respond to an online club survey which asked specific questions about the facilities that they use, their club's aspirations and any issues that they face.
- 13.37 There are three main youth riding clubs which provided responses to the clubs' survey. There are also adult riding clubs operating in the area including the larger Misterton. The three Pony Club branches responded to the survey.

Fernie Hunt Pony Club

- 13.38 The Fernie club has about 70 members, of which about 80% live in Harborough district, with the remainder from Blaby. The membership has decreased over the last 5 years but expects to grow again in the next 5 years. There are a number of issues facing the club. The club previously used Home Farm, Hothorpe (just within Daventry district) as a regular venue, but this site has been sold recently to British Showjumping and new hiring arrangements are not yet in place.

Atherstone Hunt Pony Club

- 13.39 The Atherstone main home base is in the west of the district stretching over towards Atherstone. However, a lack of facilities in Warwickshire means that the club also uses many facilities in Harborough district. The club has around 150 members and it has grown over the last 5 years. There are around 120 members aged under 16 years, with the others being aged 17-25 years. The club faces a number of issues such as a lack of volunteers, access to facilities and their cost, and a lack of funding, but still expects to grow further in the next 5 years.

Woodland Pytchley Pony Club

- 13.40 The club has around 105 members, of whom about 80 are juniors or minis. The club draws most of its members from the Kettering area, but about 15% are from Harborough. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but anticipates growing in the next 5 years. The main issues restricting growth are in relation to a lack of facilities and the costs of hire. The main outdoor venue used by the club is at Brigstock.
- 13.41 The club's primary facility need is for a local indoor training venue. Members travel to Moulton College for some training and the club used to hire Hothorpe Home Farm.

National Governing body comments

- 13.42 Each of the competitive equestrian disciplines have their own national governing body, as do the Pony Clubs, Riding Clubs, British Horse Society, and the Riding for the Disabled groups. Their umbrella body is the British Equestrian Federation.
- 13.43 There are no national facility strategies for the equestrian sports.
- 13.44 No comments were received from the British Equestrian Federation or the constituent bodies.

Recommendations for equestrian sports

- 13.45 It is recommended that the Council and relevant stakeholders consider the following to address equestrian provision in the district:

- 13.46 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to equestrian facilities and places to ride.

Protect

- 13.47 It is recommended that the existing equestrian specialist facilities used for training and competition are protected.
- 13.48 It is recommended that the existing network of bridleways, traffic free routes and lightly trafficked roads across Harborough are protected and maintained.

Enhance and provide

- 13.49 It is recommended that the development of improved bridleway and traffic free routes are a key element of future investment, with a recognition that these

routes can also provide for walkers and cyclists.

- 13.50 It is recommended that the Council has positive planning policies which support the provision of all-weather surfaces for both training and competition, including where justified, indoor riding centres.

Canoeing

- 13.51 Nationally around 167,200 adults take part in canoeing at least twice a month and there has been a fall in participation since 2015/16 (Sport England , 2019). About 60% of the adult canoeists are male.
- 13.52 There are no affiliated canoe clubs in the district, the nearest ones are at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre and Hinckley Canoe Club. The nearest paddling centres are at Leicester Outdoor Pursuits Centre and Rutland Watersports. There are no British Canoe Union “Paddling Trails” in Harborough.
- 13.53 The Break Out Canoe Club (Leicestershire Scouts) provides a canoeing opportunity for Harborough and draws most of its 65 members from the district. The club uses Hinckley Water Activities Training Centre as its home site for 1-2 weekday evenings, year-round. The club notes that the site is not ideally located, but there are no sites available within the district for canoeing.
- 13.54 No comments were received from the British Canoe Union which is the national governing body for the sport.

Recommendations for canoeing

- 13.55 It is recommended, that should opportunities arise which would enable a new canoeing opportunity in Harborough district, for example a canoe trail or new club base, that these should be encouraged and supported. There are no specific projects at this time.

Golf

- 13.56 Golf provision is not specifically included within the brief for the Sports Facilities Strategy. It is anticipated that the existing golf courses will be retained and maintained, with the exception of the Scraftoft Golf Course. This course will become part of the Scraftoft North Strategic Development Area. A replacement golf course is required as part of Local Plan Policy SC1:

4. Land to the east of Houghton on the Hill, as shown on the Policies Map, is allocated for a replacement golf course subject to the following criteria:

a. the layout does not sever or severely disrupt the public right of way network;

- b. a satisfactory access is provided and there is capacity in the local road network to accommodate traffic generated by the development;*
- c. the location and design of the buildings and the landscaping of the course minimise visual impact upon the surrounding open countryside;*
- d. all built facilities proposed are related to the use of the land for the proposed golf activities in nature and scale;*
- e. details of the course construction are submitted with the planning application;*
- and*
- f. light spillage from any proposed lighting installations is minimised.*

13.57 This re-provision is expected to meet the National Planning Policies Framework requirements for the protection of sports facilities. Golf England, the national governing body for the sport, has been consulted about the new site.

SECTION 14: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

- 14.1 The strategy is intended to inform not only planning documents and development management decisions, but also recreation infrastructure planning and information to support funding bids by both the Council and other providers. All sources of funding and other means of delivery will be required to deliver the facilities needed.
- 14.2 As the responsibility for provision of sport and recreation facilities is shared between the District, Town and Parish Councils, schools, sports clubs and associations and in some instances commercial providers, delivering the strategy will require partnership working. The District Council's direct role in the provision of sport and leisure facilities is twofold; firstly, via its ownership of Harborough Leisure Centre and Lutterworth Sports Centre, and secondly via the provision and application of planning policy to secure new or improved facilities from new developments.
- 14.3 The facility proposals identified in this strategy are not all intended to be provided or funded directly by the Council and it should not be assumed that the Council will automatically make additional funds available to assist other bodies to provide new or improved facilities. It also does not mean that the Council will take responsibility for more facilities.
- 14.4 Harborough District Council will however support clubs and external providers with guidance on the strategic requirements, external funding and the planning process where there is an identified need for new or improved sport and leisure facilities.

Maximising health and well-being outcomes

- 14.5 Harborough District Council and its partners have a clear stated objective of improving the health and wellbeing of the communities across the district, as set out in the Harborough Physical Activity Strategy 2019-2029.
- 14.6 This sports facilities assessment and strategy has considered the current patterns of participation in sport and active recreation across all the communities in the district, and across all providers, and forecasts forwards the anticipated needs up to 2031 based on the expected future population, its age structure, and socio-economic characteristics. The strategy has taken these into account, and the facility proposals reflect what is expected to be required to meet the needs of the different communities across the district up to 2031. The network of sports facilities will be an essential element in the delivery of the health and wellbeing objectives for the district.

Maximising cost effectiveness

- 14.7 The table, Site Specific Proposals (Figure 42) identifies a number of facility priorities which are expected to be the most cost-effective and deliverable route of achieving

the facilities required. This is based on a recognition that the most cost effective options may in fact not be deliverable because of factors outside of the control of Harborough District Council, and a recognition that the Council itself only controls a small proportion of the facilities across the district. Each main element of the Action Plan should, however, in practice start with the most cost effective option as the preferred option, moving to the more expensive as needed.

- 14.8 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

- 14.9 The strategy has identified that there is significant cross-boundary movement of participants between different local authority areas, for example the export of swimmers to Oadby & Wigston but also the import of swimmers from Daventry district. This cross-boundary movement is apparent in all areas of the district and for most facility types. In planning the sports provision there is therefore a need to work strategically cross-boundary, to ensure that the sports facility provision both meets the needs of the expanding communities and is provided in the most cost-effective way.

Securing provision of sport through development

- 14.10 A key output from the strategy is the securing of new and improved sports provision through development. This can include on-site provision through master-planning and planning obligations, and by securing developers' contributions to off-site provision. Any shortfalls in funding for specific facilities will need to be met by other funding sources, for example grant aid from the National Governing Bodies of sport, lottery funding, private funding, and housing infrastructure funds.
- 14.11 The authority seeks contributions via S106 but it will still be necessary to meet the three CIL tests set out in CIL Reg 122 (Government uk, 2010) and NPPF para 56 (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2019):
- 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.
- 14.12 In addressing the CIL tests, it is first necessary to have a robust and up-to-date evidence base for sporting provision need. This strategy provides the framework to determine the nature, location and level of sports facility needs that may be generated from new developments. Planning policies and supplementary planning guidance will need to be updated in due course to reflect the findings of the strategy.

14.13 The Provision Guide (

14.14 Figure 40) is a summary of the proposals which have been derived from the strategy's assessment process. It is a quick reference guide to help calculate the amount of expected demand being generated by a development, the relevant catchment area and relevant quality standards. Note: fully available at peak time means open to community use in the evenings and at weekends.

Figure 40: Recommended Provision Guide for new housing developments

Facility type	Quantity per 1000 population	Accessibility	Quality
Sports Halls	0.27 badminton courts fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England and the relevant national governing body guidance
Swimming pools	9.6 sq m water space fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England and the relevant national governing body guidance
Fitness facilities (stations)	5.84 stations fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance
Fitness facilities (studios)	0.08 studios fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance
Indoor netball courts and associated floodlit outdoor courts	0.02 indoor courts fully available at peak time 0.02 floodlit outdoor courts fully available at peak time	District wide	Design and quality to meet Sport England and the relevant national governing body guidance
Indoor tennis	0.04 indoor tennis courts fully available at peak time	30 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England and the relevant national governing body guidance
Squash courts	0.04 courts fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England and the relevant national governing body guidance
Village and community halls	Additional and improved facilities including storage to enable more sports activities to be offered, such as gymnastics and short mat indoor bowls.	10 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet local needs
Walking, cycling and horse riding routes	Towards improvements in the network of walking, cycling and horse riding routes; on site to connect the development to the wider network, and off-site to identified projects	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet local needs

Planning for sport and recreation

14.15 The table in Figure 41 relates to the planning functions of Harborough District Council, and identifies the actions and priorities relating to planning policy and development control which will be required to implement the strategy.

Figure 41: Actions for forward and development planning

Proposal / Facility	Action required	Lead organisation	Key partners	Date for action
Major new housing developments	Ensure that major new housing sites have policies for sports provision, on or off site as appropriate.	HDC	Sport England Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport	On-going
Planning policies on sport and recreation	Update planning policies on sport and recreation to reflect updated standards of provision, including in relation to village and community halls.	HDC		Year 1
Developer Contributions	Update the policy guidance on the delivery of sport and recreation facilities and playing pitches for new developments.	HDC	Sport England Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport	Year 1
Replacement leisure centre for Harborough	Complete feasibility studies to confirm the preferred option for the location of the proposed replacement leisure centre for Harborough, and the build and funding options.	HDC	Sport England	Year 1
Lutterworth Sports Centre	Identify long term site options for Lutterworth Sports Centre (from 2031) within existing town area. Include within future planning policies.	HDC		Year 3
Planning applications	Respond to planning applications for development to ensure that the necessary sports provision is achieved. If a sport and recreation site has become disused, consideration should be given to other sport, recreation or open space use, having regard to deficiencies identified in the assessments and strategies.	HDC	Sport England	On-going

Community use agreements on school sites	Ensure that any public investment, and where relevant, planning permission for sports facilities on school sites is linked to formal community use agreements, the terms of which should reflect the size of the investment.	HDC	Schools Sport England Funding bodies	Linked to specific projects. On-going
Traffic free walking, and cycling routes	Ensure that planning policy requires the provision of linked traffic free walking and cycling routes as part of new developments.	HDC	Developers	On-going
	Development of traffic free running and cycling routes linking existing green spaces as an integral part of sustainable transport networks.	HDC	Leicester-Shire & Rutland Sport	On-going
Horse riding routes	Development of traffic free or lightly trafficked links to enhance the existing bridleway routes.	HDC		On-going
	Positive planning policies to enable development of all-weather surfaces for training and competition, including where justified, indoor riding centres.	HDC		On-going
Golf	Ensure that Scraptoft Golf Course is replaced as proposed.	HDC	Developer	On-going

Site specific investment proposals

- 14.16 The table in Figure 42 provides a summary of the investment needs identified in this strategy.
- 14.17 Several of the specific projects are at relatively early stages of feasibility assessment, and therefore the costs and deliverability are still to be confirmed. The estimated capital costs in the table are taken from the Sport England Facilities Costs Second Quarter 2018 (Sport England , 2018). It should be noted that these exclude lifecycle costs of facilities, on which Sport England provides separate guidance dated 2012. The estimated sinking fund requirements for built facilities at that time were estimated to be between 0.3% and 0.5% per annum, with a maintenance figure of around 1% for sports halls and swimming pools (Sport England, 2012).
- 14.18 The assessment of the deliverability of the projects, including the achievement of planning permission, will need to be kept under regular review and alternative options identified if the preferred site/location is not possible to deliver.

14.19 The recommended priorities for the specific projects are identified as High, Medium and Low. These are defined as:

High priority	Facility or project essential for meeting the current and future projected needs of the community across Harborough, particularly for the sports/facilities with high levels of participation, for example swimming. High priority is also given to projects which will attract those less active or sited in areas with deprivation.
Medium priority	Facility or project which will help to meet the current and future projected needs of the community across Harborough for the sports/facilities with moderate levels of participation, for example tennis.
Low priority	Facility or project which will help to meet the current and future projected needs of the community across Harborough but where the sport/facilities have lower levels of participation for example archery, or where the project's aims are already partially addressed by other projects in the area identified at higher levels of priority.

Figure 42: Recommended site specific proposals

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2019-2022 Mt 2022-2027 Lt 2027-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Leisure Centres						
Harborough Leisure Centre replacement	Replace leisure centre with sports facility elements including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 badminton court sports hall • 25m x 8 lane pool with spectator accommodation • 10m x 8m leisure pool • 5m x 4m learner/teaching/training pool • Large fitness gym (number of stations tbc) • Studios /multi-activity rooms (number and size tbc) • 2 indoor netball courts • 2 floodlit outdoor netball courts adjacent to indoor 	H	St Feasibility, construction and opening	£15.1m plus up to £5m for commercial opportunities	HDC Sport England Operator/ construction partner	Facility mix to be confirmed. If netball provision not made via replacement dome type facility, then will require 8 badminton court sports hall plus investment off site to improve sports halls at Robert Smyth.
Lutterworth Sports Centre	Retain and maintain Potentially expand health and fitness provision, subject to local justification.	H M	On-going	tbc	Operator	For longer term, need to confirm future of site. If Sports Centre requires relocation, alternative town centre site will be required to be identified.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2019-2022 Mt 2022-2027 Lt 2027-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Broughton Astley	Opening of new sports centre by parish council.	H	St	n/a	Broughton Astley Parish Council	Construction underway. Due to open in 2020 with 4 badminton court sports hall, floodlit 3G pitch, 70 station gym, 2 studios.
Schools						
Welland Park Academy	Refurbishment of sports hall	H	St	n/a	Academy	Refurbishment due summer 2019. Fully funded.
Robert Smyth Academy	Refurbishment of existing sports halls (4-court and 3-court) together with changing provision	M	Mt	tbc	Academy	Halls currently too small to provide for netball leagues.
Leicester Grammar	Retain and maintain current levels of community use. Potentially site for indoor tennis	L	Mt	n/a	School LTA	School has no security of community use. Tennis facility may be fully funded by school. Would need to be considered in the light of the proposal from Lutterworth Tennis Club.
Other						
Market Harborough Cricket and Squash Club	More intensive use of site as sports hub and for wider community activity. Review of buildings and their uses on site. Requires detailed feasibility study.	M	St	tbc	Club	Site lease needs to be extended to secure long-term community use. Also home to cricket club.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2019-2022 Mt 2022-2027 Lt 2027-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
	Retain and maintain squash courts.	H	On-going	n/a	Club	
Bowman of Glen	Improve clubhouse facilities	L	St	tbc	Club	
Lutterworth Tennis Club	Cover some of existing courts.	L	Mt	tbc	Club LTA	Proposal at early stage of consideration. Would need to be considered in the light of any proposal emerging from Leicester Grammar.
Village and Community Halls	Provide additional storage to enable sites to offer activities such as gymnastics and short mat bowls	M	On-going	tbc	Hall trusts Parish Councils	Needs and costs will need to be justified locally
Walking, running and cycling routes	Improvements to existing routes and development of new links to extend network, particularly of traffic free routes. Improved linking of open spaces. Provision of distance markers on routes.	H	On-going	tbc	HDC Developers	Routes within and linking developments to wider network. Improvements to existing network of routes.

Review and monitoring

- 14.20 The final stage in the strategy is its delivery and making sure that it is kept up to date. Sport England recommends that a process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. Understanding and learning lessons about how the strategy has been applied is also a key component of monitoring its delivery.
- 14.21 As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of a strategy being signed off, then Sport England may consider the strategy and the information on which it is based, to be out of date. Ideally the strategy should therefore be reviewed on an annual basis. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that has been built up when developing the strategy, and also ensure that the supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.
- 14.22 An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:
- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others).
 - How the strategy has been applied and the lessons learnt.
 - Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues.
 - Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
 - Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

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GLOSSARY

AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
ANOG	Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
CASC	Community Amateur Sports Clubs
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIO	Charitable Incorporated Organisation
CIPFA	The Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy
EIBA	English Indoor Bowls Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GP	General Practice Doctors Surgery
HMA	Housing Market Area
IDP	Infrastructure Development Plan
KPI	Key Performance Indicator
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
MSOA	Middle Super Output Area
NGB	National Governing Body of sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PP	Peak Period
PUA	Leicester Principal Urban Area
S106	Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
SDA	Strategic Development Area
SFC	Sports Facilities Calculator



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