

MILTON KEYNES

Sport & Active Communities Strategy

FACILITIES: SUMMARY

February 2014



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FACILITY ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

1. The Sport and Active Communities Strategy will enable the effective delivery of leisure services across Milton Keynes, and help to ensure that a strategic network of facilities are in place to cater for the needs of the current and expected future population. The Strategy will additionally provide the evidence base for relevant planning policies contained within the Core Strategy and the priorities for other investment.
2. This Summary of the Facilities part of the Sport and Active Communities Strategy covers the period up to 2026. This is longer than the main Strategy period which runs to 2023 because it needs to be consistent with the planning framework for Milton Keynes, and the Core Strategy runs to this later date.
3. It is important to note that the Sport and Active Community Strategy including this Facilities Section is a Milton Keynes document, shared and developed in association with partners, and led by the Milton Keynes Sports Board. It is not a Milton Keynes Council document, and the facility priorities emerging therefore cover the whole facility network and are not restricted to those of Milton Keynes Council.
4. The Facilities section addresses the facilities used by the community, specifically:
 - Sports halls
 - Swimming pools
 - Artificial grass pitches
 - Athletics tracks
 - Health and fitness
 - Indoor bowls
 - Indoor tennis
 - Squash
 - Outdoor tennis
 - Bowling greens
 - Community centres
5. The section also considers sports and activities for which a formal planning standards approach is not required including golf, cycling, and countryside and water sports.
6. Each facility type has been separately assessed, and formal standards of provision have been identified for the major facilities.
7. In relation to grass playing pitches, Sport England has recently revised its standard methodology. The playing pitch elements of the strategy are now being assessed using the new methodology and the findings and recommendations will be adopted by Milton Keynes Council as part of the action plan arising from the Strategy.

8. The facility assessment for Milton Keynes has identified a number of overarching themes which will impact on the facility network across the Borough in the next few years, including:
- **The Community Asset Transfer programme:** a number of Milton Keynes Council facilities will be transferred to community organisations and although community use is expected to continue at the facilities, the amount of community use, the type of programmes run, charging regimes etc will be for the new owner/operator to determine. In some places this may bring new opportunities for the community, but there are risks where existing uses or users are less able to pay, or are not fully compatible with the main objectives of the new owner. In turn this could result in significant differences to the network of sports facilities or community centres and their "offer" for the future. However as the CAT programme is still at an early stage, the full implications are not yet possible to determine.
 - **Reducing funding from Milton Keynes Council:** some facilities which have previously received annual funding are facing reducing funding or cessation. This will have an impact on the nature of the programmes they run or bookings that they are able to take. In some cases, it may not be possible to retain the facility long term without revenue support from some source.
 - **Aging facilities in older areas:** the facilities which were built in the older areas of Milton Keynes city are now reaching the end of their economic life span. The cost of replacement or refurbishment can be several £millions for major facilities such as leisure centres, particularly those with swimming pools. Some of these older facilities are in the ownership/management of academy schools or other partner organisations, so coordination and cooperation will be essential to ensure that the cost of the necessary works are properly identified, for example through conditions surveys and feasibility assessments. There will then be a need to work together to identify ways in which the necessary funding can be secured.
 - **New facilities for new housing growth:** the new housing in the west, east and central areas of Milton Keynes will require new facilities to meet the new demand from the new communities. This applies to both sports facilities and community centres.
 - **Achieving the International Sporting City vision:** the ISC's objectives include bringing high level events to Milton Keynes and providing facilities for performance training for athletes. These objectives are balanced by improvements in community sports and local opportunities. The fulfilment of the ISC vision will require innovative partnerships and funding, including the use of enabling development.
 - **Community use of school sites:** the effectiveness of a school as a dual use or joint use facility providing for community sport will depend on the design of the facility, its programming, and its management during community use hours. These need to be considered at the outset in the development of new schools where community use is anticipated. The use of the facility by the community (including any dedicated ancillary elements such as car parking) must be assured long term through formal legal agreements which are enforceable.

- **Sustainable travel:** there is a general objective of encouraging travel on foot and by cycle, and reducing the use of cars within Milton Keynes. Where possible, new facilities should be sited in areas where there are "facility gaps" but where sustainable travel can be maximised. Similarly the community centre network should, as far as possible, enable access on foot.
- **Maximising funding opportunities:** as there are limited public funds to support new facility development or the refurbishment/renewal of facilities, the partners in Milton Keynes should be innovative and opportunistic, responding to funding schemes and programmes which become available. The projects supported should however fit within the overall approach of this Strategy.

Growth in participation per annum

9. An important consideration in the modelling to assess future facility needs is to determine what the likely growth in participation each year will be. This will impact upon the overall level of demand for each facility type. Participation rates in adult sport (16 years and over) is monitored nationally by Sport England through their Active People Survey. This is the mechanism which Milton Keynes also uses to assess the success of its policies.
10. The latest Active People Survey results have shown that rates of participation in Milton Keynes has achieved the 1% per annum objective, set down in the previous strategy. This rate of participation increase has therefore been continued forwards for the next strategy period for the modelling to assess the amount of community sports facilities which will be needed.

Costs of facility development

11. Sport England produces a regularly updated list of facilities and their development costs which are largely based on typical schemes funded through the Lottery with layouts developed in accordance with Sport England Design Guidance Notes. The estimated costs of facility development are primarily taken from the Sport England website, which is regularly updated. As and when new facilities are proposed in the Borough, Milton Keynes Council should refer to the current lists for guidance on the expected costs.

The development of planning standards

12. The planning standards have been developed for each facility type, and relate to quantity, quality and accessibility. The quantity standards are given as a rate of provision per 1000 population, and the current rate of provision for any particular facility type will reflect the demand for it. For example more swimming pools are needed than athletics tracks because many more people wish to swim than take part in athletics at a formal track facility.
13. The increase in anticipated use of sports facilities, i.e. the 1% per annum, is applied to the rate of provision per 1000, so for the period from 2013 to 2026 the expected growth in participation is 13 years x 1% pa, or a growth in participation of 113%.
14. The amount of facility required is a relatively simple calculation; the rate of provision per 1000 population multiplied by the population. The adoption of planning standards per 1000 is therefore applicable to both the authority as a whole, and as a

method for calculating the expected demand for facilities from an individual housing development.

15. The standard for quality refers to the latest best practice guidance, which for sports facilities is available from Sport England and the relevant national governing body.
16. The standard for accessibility reflects the catchment area of a facility. Most swimming pools and sports halls have about a 20 minute travel time catchment, and the majority of people will travel by car to this type of sports provision. More specialist facilities such as high quality hockey pitches and athletics tracks tend to draw people from a wider area, whilst community centres and village halls are often accessed on foot and have about a 10 minute walking time catchment for many of their activities.

SPORTS HALLS

17. Sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport because they are able to provide a venue for many different activities. The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is by the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. However it is recognised that there is extensive use of these types of facility by a wide range of other sports including basketball, volleyball, and handball. 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.
18. A spread of 4 court halls is often the most effective way of achieving the greatest accessibility for general community use, but larger halls are needed to accommodate higher level training and/or competition.
19. Milton Keynes currently lacks any sports hall capable of hosting major sports events, and the current National Badminton Centre is no longer meeting the needs of high level performance training for the sport. A requirement for a new large hall is therefore specifically identified in the International Sporting City report. At the general community use level, the current amount of provision of sports halls in Milton Keynes is approximately in line with demand and although there is a small amount of “unmet demand” this is mainly from people who do not have access to a car and live more than 20 minutes walk away from a facility.
20. In the period up to 2026 there will be a need to provide for approximately a further 27 badminton courts of space for general community use. This is to cater for both the new population, primarily in the west, east and central areas of Milton Keynes, and a steady rate of growth of participation of 1% per year.
21. The detailed programming of the proposed National Badminton Arena is still to be confirmed but Badminton England expects that almost all of the space would be available for community use weekday evenings, and that the 5 court hall would be available most weekends. The 12 court hall will be actively marketed for events at the weekends, so may not be available to the community at this time. An average of 15 courts space has therefore been estimated across the peak period. However as the Arena is a partial replacement for the existing National Badminton Centre, the additional court space available for community use at peak time would be around 7 courts.

22. If the National Badminton Arena is not developed then there will still be a need to develop a 12 court hall in Milton Keynes, and an alternative project and possibly an alternative site, would need to be brought forwards.
23. The expected increase in population together with the expected increase in participation would justify a 6-8 court hall in the central of Milton Keynes. This would be best co-located with the proposed new 8 lane competition swimming pool and health and fitness facilities.
24. The phasing of the school linked facilities will need to reflect the development timetable for the new schools in the western expansion area, Brooklands, and the Strategic Land Allocation area to the south east. Critical to their use as significant community facilities will be their appropriate design, and the implementation of strong and enforced community use agreements.
25. A potentially significant, but as yet unquantifiable factor is the potential change which the CAT programme might bring to the availability of facilities for community use. If the CAT programme was to lead to greater focussing on income generation or lead to the restriction of community use at sites such as Oakgrove Leisure Centre, this will impact upon the balance of provision across the network as a whole.
26. A specific potential need has been identified during the consultation in relation to boxing and martial arts. The boxing club based at the Sir Herbert Leon Academy has a large waiting list and is constrained by its current site, and would ideally seek to move more centrally into Milton Keynes. It is known that other boxing clubs and possibly martial arts clubs in Milton Keynes face a similar scenario, so one of the Strategy proposals is to develop a new boxing–martial arts venue. However this requires further confirmation, in terms of the justification of need, the potential location, and the facility mix.
27. Roller skating has recently lost one of its key venues and there is also some demand from Roller Derby which requires a 6-8 court hall. Further feasibility work is needed to confirm the requirement and how this could be best fulfilled.

Recommendations

28. The planning standard is proposed as:
 - 0.36 badminton courts per 1000 (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
 - 20 minutes drive time catchment
 - design and quality standard to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body standards.
29. The amount of provision per 1000 to be monitored via the Sport England annual National Run for the Facilities Planning Model.
30. The priorities for the future are:
 - New facilities are:
 - 1 x 4 court hall at the new secondary school in the Western Expansion Area
 - 1 x 4 court hall at the new secondary school at Brooklands

- 1 x 4 court hall at the new secondary school in the Strategic Land Allocation area
- plus
- 1 x 12 court hall plus 1 x 5 court hall at National Badminton Arena to provide for community use, and to act as a high level training/performance venue, and events venue.
 - 6-8 court hall in the central Milton Keynes area
- Improvement/refurbishment of the existing network, based on full conditions surveys and feasibility studies to provide a costed programme of works:
 - Sir Herbert Leon Academy
 - Stantonbury Campus
 - Woughton Leisure Centre
 - Proposals requiring further feasibility study:
 - develop a new boxing and martial arts venue, but location and facility mix to be confirmed
 - develop a new location for roller skating, either as a user of a large sports hall (with appropriate floor) or as a separate venue.

SWIMMING POOLS

31. Swimming pools might be considered the most important sports facility type in Milton Keynes as they are used by most of the community, from the very youngest through to people in old age. Local pools are often much valued and even the pools in the poorest condition will have groups of committed users.
32. There is a mix of ownership and management of the water space in Milton Keynes with 9 of the 14 swimming pool sites being commercial, 2 being school/academy sites, and one each of MKC, MKC/Newport Pagnell Town Council, and local trust.
33. The largest pool is at Bletchley Leisure Centre which has a 25m x 8 lane competition pool. As with sports halls, the aspiration to make swimming as accessible as possible to the largest number of people possible would suggest that a network of small pools would be best. However, small pools limit flexibility in terms of the range of activities that can be undertaken, the ability to operate more than one activity at any time, and the level of performance that can be accommodated.
34. In general terms, the higher the level of performance, the greater the demands on pool size, depth and specific competition requirements (spectator capacity and specialist equipment). For example, a 25m x 6 lane pool can accommodate local/club level swimming galas but a 25m x 8 lane pool with electronic timing is required for county galas and league events. Moveable bulkheads that can subdivide pools and moveable floors that can vary water depth can significantly increase a pool's flexibility.
35. Teaching or learner pools provide the opportunity to offer a wide range of activities catering for the maximum number of users possible. A teaching pool significantly 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.

36. There is no diving facility in Milton Keynes at present, and the nearest diving centres are at Luton and Corby. The option of including a diving pit should therefore be explored as part of the new central Milton Keynes leisure centre proposal.
37. The current rate of provision of swimming pool space in Milton Keynes is less than the South East average, and most pools are running at either 100% full at peak time or over the 70% capacity figure, which is considered as “busy” by Sport England. However the unmet demand is spread fairly widely there is no one place where a new pool could meet *all of* the unmet swimming demand. The area with most unmet demand lies approximately between the Portway and Groveway to the east of the A5, and a new public pool even in 2013 in this area would help to relieve the pressures on pools across the authority.
38. Swimming is a very popular sport in Milton Keynes and the 1% per annum anticipated rate of growth in demand seems likely to be justified if there is sufficient pool space. There will also be additional demand arising from the new population.
39. By 2026 it is estimated that an extra 1163 sq m of demand will be generated, i.e. more than one 8 lane x 25 m pool with teaching pool, plus one 6 lane x 25 m lane pool, plus other pool space. Of this total demand, the planned population growth of about 45,410 will require additional pool space of about 581 sq m. The remainder is the additional capacity needed to allow for increased participation at 1% per annum and a recognition that there needs to be some additional capacity overall to reduce the current pressures on the pool network.
40. The new pools should be located to maximise the accessibility. The 8 lane pool should be located in the central part of the city between Portway and Groveway to the east of the A5, and co-located as a leisure centre with the proposed new 6-8 court sports hall. The 6 lane pool should be ideally located in the west flank to meet the needs of the population in this growing area of the city.
41. One commercial pool proposal is known, the 160 sq m pool at the National Badminton Arena. However as no other pools greater than 160 sq m are expected to come forwards in the short-medium term, the additional provision of swimming pool space will need to be largely led by Milton Keynes Council.
42. All of the pools in the existing network other than the new pools at Bletchley Leisure Centre and Wolverton, and the recently refurbished pool at Woughton Leisure Centre, are aging and need to be either replaced or substantially refurbished. These older pools require urgent conditions surveys and feasibility studies on how improvements can be achieved, and the likely costs.
43. The only pool currently able to provide for swimming competitions is the new Bletchley Leisure Centre pool. Stantonbury is now too short for competition swimming but the costs of remedying this situation are prohibitive.
44. Undertaking scenario testing by Sport England to confirm the future network of pools in Milton Keynes may be valuable as the options for new pools on new sites and the refurbishment/replacement of pools becomes clearer.

Recommendations

45. The authority wide planning standards are proposed as:

- 12.8 sq m per 1000 (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
 - 20 minutes drive time catchment
 - the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing body.
46. The priorities for the future are:
- New pools:
 - Public pool: a new 8 lane pool plus teaching pool in the central area of Milton Keynes by 2021. The main pool to have a moveable floor and ideally a diving pit.
 - Public pool: a new 25 m x 6 lane pool, ideally in the west of Milton Keynes by 2026.
 - Commercial pools:
 - the development of a small commercial pool at the proposed National Badminton Arena
 - other commercial pools, to be confirmed
 - Improvement/refurbishment of the existing network, based on full conditions surveys and feasibility studies to provide a costed programme of works:
 - Sir Herbert Leon Academy
 - Middleton Pool
 - Stantonbury Campus
47. Consideration should be given to undertaking Sport England scenario testing to confirm the pool proposals once the options for the new pool locations and the feasibility of replacing/refurbishing the other pools become clearer.

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES

48. AGPs are an important part of the sports facility network in Milton Keynes and the demand for them is growing. The demand for AGPs is from three sports: hockey which is now solely played on artificial surfaces within the community; football which is increasingly using these pitches for training and matches; and rugby which has just started using artificial surfaces for matches, although the preferred surface for the community game is natural grass.
49. The number and distribution of artificial grass pitches (AGPs) and future provision in Milton Keynes needs to be considered both as part of the built facility strategy and in association with the subsequent playing pitch strategy. The findings and recommendations in this section will therefore need to be reviewed in the light of the playing pitch strategy findings, but are not expected to change significantly.
50. Reflecting the needs of the sports, there are three main types of AGPs:
- **Sand based/sand filled** pitches have a short pile, which is most suited to hockey but can be used for football and non-contact rugby training. This is the most common surface for school sites, and is the longest established type of AGP. There are a number of these pitches in Milton Keynes.
 - **3G or rubber crumb** which has a long pile and is the preferred surface for football and rugby (if with a shock pad), but has very limited use for hockey. The new pitch at

- Radcliffe school is the first large size pitch in Milton Keynes with this surface, although there are a number of small sized pitches.
- **Water based** pitches are a specialist hockey surface but can also be used for football and non-contact rugby training. There is one water based pitch at Tattenhoe.
51. AGPs are often considered revenue generators so can be an important source of income for schools, clubs and leisure centres. These pitches can withstand high levels of use if they are maintained carefully, but are only really of value to the community if they are floodlit to enable evening use. Each of the sports of hockey, football and rugby recommend specialist AGP surfaces, and there are no surfaces which can provide for every sport. This means that the provision of AGPs needs to be largely considered on a sport-by-sport basis, although football training is often the majority user of sand-based/filled pitches, and this use is critical to the revenue generation of many of the sites.
 52. Hockey at club level in Milton Keynes is mainly focussed around The Pavilion at Woughton on the Green with its newly resurfaced sand filled double pitch site. This site is seen as the premier hockey facility in the authority area and most of the hockey demand can be catered for here. However the equivalent of about 0.5 of a pitch is needed elsewhere, to enable the Enigma Hockey Club to remain independent.
 53. Football generates the majority of the demand for AGPs, primarily for training although matches, including small-sided and Futsal, are increasingly popular. The FA's priorities are for large size AGPs although training size pitches of 60x40 m are welcomed. Rugby clubs can benefit from training on AGPs, but the focus of game is still grass pitches and a rugby specific AGPs is not currently a priority in Milton Keynes.
 54. Milton Keynes currently has 8 large size AGPs and 21 small size AGPs. With the growth in Milton Keynes itself and with the addition of a 1% per annum increase in participation over the period up to 2026, there is an estimated need for 5 additional large size AGPs.
 55. The hockey pitches at Woughton on the Green are secure because the site is outside of the CAT process. If the hockey use at the Sir Herbert Leon Academy and Tattenhoe can be relocated to elsewhere (to a sand based/filled large size pitch), then no new hockey specific pitches are required in the period up to 2026. As AGPs are not priorities for rugby, all of the new pitches and resurfaced pitches should be considered as surfaces for football (3G), but this will depend also upon the views of the schools where they are located.
 56. The proposed new pitches in CMK, in the Western Expansion Area and at Brooklands are well sited to maximise the opportunities for sustainable travel and will provide a good coverage of facilities for Milton Keynes city. In the longer term any other new large size pitches which are considered for development should ideally be located at secondary school sites which are designed and fully signed up to long term community use. This helps to maximise the use of AGPs which otherwise largely stand empty during the school day.

Recommendations

57. The authority wide planning standard is proposed as:

- 0.04 large size pitches per 1000 (fully available to the community at peak time i.e. weekday evenings and weekends)
- 20 minutes drive time catchment elsewhere
- the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing body. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

58. The priorities for the future are:

- New large size 3G pitches:
 - CMK (or possibly a 60 x 40 m training pitch)
 - Western Expansion area in association with the new secondary school
 - Brooklands in association with the new secondary school
 - 2 x other sites/venues to be confirmed, ideally linked with a secondary school
- Improvement/refurbishment of the existing network based on full conditions surveys and feasibility studies to provide a costed programme of works:
 - Sir Herbert Leon Academy, re-carpet to 3G
 - Stantonbury Campus, re-carpet to 3G
 - Other sites as re-carpeting becomes necessary

59. Retain the double artificial pitches at Woughton on the Green as a hockey surface and ensure that there is at least one other large size pitch suitable for hockey and available for community use. Work with Hockey England to increase community delivery and support club development ensuring access to local clubs and national programmes.

ATHLETICS TRACKS

60. Participation in athletics which includes athletics field, athletics track, running track, running cross-country/road, running road, running ultramarathon, and jogging has increased nationally during the period 2007/08 to 2012/13 from 1.6 million adults taking part at least once a week to 1.9 million. Athletics generally attracts more men (60%) than women (40%). Research by Sport England has shown that about 10% of athletics activity takes place at a track, with 90% elsewhere. Further consideration as to how non-track based opportunities might be provided and improved would therefore be of benefit, including the links between the Redways and the parks across Milton Keynes.

61. Milton Keynes hosts a successful athletics club who are based at the only stadium facility, at Stantonbury. The 8 lane track is managed during community hours by Marshall Milton Keynes Athletic Club along with the clubhouse, but the site is owned by the Stantonbury Campus school. The track is currently considered Grade A and is awaiting recertification for competition use.

62. Compared with the average rate of athletics track provision across the South East, Milton Keynes has less than half the track space available. A second track could already be justified on this basis alone. By 2026 it is likely that a third track would be close to being needed. However it is clear that additional outdoor athletics track facilities are unlikely to be deliverable within the required timescales, so an alternative approach is proposed which is the provision of an indoor athletics training

facility, ideally on the Stantonbury Campus site and co-located with the existing track.

63. The Marshalls Milton Keynes Athletic Club has been actively exploring with the school and other partners the development of this proposed indoor athletics training facility, which had been previously flagged in the ISC report. This would be a Level 2 indoor facility in relation to the England Athletics Facilities Strategy.
64. There is also a clear need to support the non-track based athletics activity across the authority, for example but not restricted to, supporting the Run England 3-2-1 measured route approach. In Milton Keynes these should link the parks with the Redways. New routes should be developed, and it is proposed that at least two new 3-2-1 routes are developed, meeting the England Athletics standard of one route per 100,000 people. The priorities should be the Western Expansion Area and the Brooklands area.

Recommendations

65. The authority wide planning standard is proposed as:
 - one indoor Level 2 indoor athletics training facility to provide for the authority as a whole.
 - accessibility - applicable to the whole authority
 - the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing body. This should apply to the track in addition to the indoor training facility.
66. The priorities for the future are:
 - New facilities, following confirmation via a full feasibility study:
 - develop a new indoor athletics training facility, with the preferred site at Stantonbury Campus, to England Athletics Level 2 standard.
 - improve and extend running routes generally, linking the parks with the Redways.
 - develop two 3-2-1 measured routes in association with Run England and other partners, particularly MK Parks Trust, and utilising the Redways or the extension thereof.
 - The other priority is to:
 - maintain the existing outdoor track at a level which ensures it retains its accreditation as a competition centre.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

67. The provision of health and fitness facilities (typically including fitness stations) is potentially a key element in achieving increased participation in physical activity. The activities include those such as: gym, step machine, yoga, pilates, body combat, gym running, aerobics, and exercise bike. There is no simple way of assessing participation in individual gym and fitness activities, nor the spaces they need. One method is to analyse the provision per 1000 people of the health and fitness facilities which have a number of 'stations'. (A station might be for example a single treadmill).

68. Health and fitness gyms attract all socio-economic groups and a wide spread of ages. However, there are more women users than men, and most people are aged under 45 years. The commercial sector clubs have traditionally provided for the more affluent, whilst local authority facilities provide for a wider social range, albeit with less facility investment. One of the recent trends in the commercial sector provision is however to reduce costs as far as possible and have almost a pay-and-play offer, sometimes making them cheaper for the user than the leisure centres. Currently access to fitness gyms for people with disabilities in Milton Keynes is limited, and there are only two accredited Inclusive Fitness Initiative sites, at Bletchley Leisure Centre and Wolverton Swimming and Fitness Centre. There is therefore a need to develop more sites which are fully inclusive.
69. 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.
70. Milton Keynes has a high level of fitness gym provision compared to either the national and regional averages, reflecting the fact that a large proportion of the population regularly take part in fitness and gym activities. As about 75% of the provision is commercial, this suggests that the current balance in supply and demand is about right.
71. Demand is expected to continue over the foreseeable future, and by 2026 there will be a need for around 570 additional health and fitness gym stations, of which about 375 will be needed by 2021. The proposed National Badminton Arena will have 120 fitness stations (a net increase of about 60 over and above the current provision at the National Badminton Centre which will be replaced). It is proposed that a minimum of 100 stations are designed in as part of each of the new swimming pool developments in the central Milton Keynes area and potentially the west flank, and possibly also to support community use of school in Brooklands. The extension of the Middleton Pool building at Newport Pagnell will also provide a number of extra fitness stations.
72. As there should be opportunities for commercial investment in the health and fitness facilities developers should be asked to contribute towards the cost of the building, but not the fitness equipment.
73. One key issue is the quality of the facilities. Stantonbury Campus and Sir Herbert Leon Academy have aging equipment in a relatively poor environment, but they provide important local opportunities for those using the facilities and in both cases the income helps to support the leisure centre, particularly the pools.
74. Another issue is the accessibility of the facilities in terms of pay and play opportunities. At the moment the leisure centres provide several of the opportunities for pay and play, although there some commercial sites too. However with the changes in the health and fitness market, pay and play or no contract opportunities are expected to remain.

Recommendations

75. The authority wide planning standard is proposed as:
- 7.65 fitness stations per 1000 based on 6 sq m per 1000 space

- 20 minute drive time catchment
- the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England. This should apply to both new facilities and refurbishment.

76. The priorities for the future are:

- New facilities:
 - Extension of Middleton Pool to provide fitness stations and studio space
 - National Badminton Arena @ 120 stations
 - central Milton Keynes area in association with the proposed swimming pool @ approximately 100 stations
 - west flank in association with the proposed swimming pool @ approximately 100 stations
 - Brooklands at the secondary school in association with the dual use facilities, @ 100 stations.
- Improvement/refurbishment of the existing facilities based on full conditions surveys and feasibility studies to provide a costed programme of works:
 - Sir Herbert Leon Academy
 - Stantonbury Campus.
- The development of Inclusive Fitness Initiative sites, both at existing facilities and new sites.

INDOOR BOWLS

77. National level research demonstrates that bowls is one of the very few sports which primarily attracts older people (55 years plus), and that it draws the largest proportion of its players from the higher socio-economic groups. Milton Keynes has a rapidly aging population and there is expected to be an increase of about 28,000 people aged over 55 years between 2013 and 2026, with authority having the biggest rise nationally in the number of people aged over 65 years by 2030. As the population in the city area of Milton Keynes grows older, interest in indoor bowls is therefore expected to grow significantly.
78. Indoor bowls is not universally popular throughout England, and there are significant regional variations in the provision of indoor bowls centres (IBCs) across the country. Historically, indoor bowls has proved more popular in areas of England where the outdoor game is 'flat green' rather than 'crown green'. Bowling in Milton Keynes is primarily flat green.
79. There are two specialist indoor bowls centres in Milton Keynes, the new 7 lane rink at the Bletchley Leisure Centre which is available on a pay and play basis, and a two rink facility at the Lovat Fields retirement complex which is available to registered members. No other specialist indoor bowling facilities are currently planned within the authority area.
80. Indoor short mat bowls is also a popular activity often hosted in village halls and community centres, for example at Castlethorpe and Sherington village halls, at the Olney Centre, and at Monkston Park. Some of this activity takes place during the

evenings and some during the day time. A key issue for the hosting of short mat bowls is the availability of sufficient storage for the mats when not in use.

81. At the present time the provision for indoor bowls is relatively limited, but this is not surprising given the young age profile to date of the authority. However as the Milton Keynes communities are expected to age in situ, it will necessary to plan for this aging by providing sport and recreation facilities which meet the needs of older people.
82. Both specialist indoor provision and new opportunities for short mat bowls at village halls and community centres such as at Broughton will become increasingly important, providing both evening and daytime opportunities. Short mat bowls is addressed as part of the section on Community Centres below, but there is a recommendation that a new specialist 6-rink facility should be developed by 2021 in the north part of the city.

Recommendations

83. The authority wide planning standard for specialist indoor bowls centres is proposed as:
 - 0.06 rinks per 1000
 - 20 minute drive time catchment
 - the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to both new facilities and refurbishment.
84. The priority for the future is:
 - Develop one 6-rink centre on the north side of central Milton Keynes by 2021.

INDOOR TENNIS

85. Nationally tennis participation has decreased slightly during the period 2007/08 to 2012/13, though this may be reversed in Milton Keynes given its overall level of growth in participation. The sport attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups.
86. Indoor tennis facilities tend to be strategically located and often serve a wider than local catchment. They are important recreational facilities for casual play but are often equally important for training and development of elite players and for higher level competitions.
87. At present the David Lloyd Club is the only site that provides indoor tennis in Milton Keynes, and has a total of 13 permanent courts, situated near CMK. This club is only for use by registered members, meaning there are no indoor courts available on a pay and play basis.
88. There is planning permission to develop 6 additional indoor tennis courts at the National Badminton Arena alongside 6 outdoor tennis courts. However how this development will be phased is not yet known.

89. Tennis currently attracts some of the largest market segments in Milton Keynes but with new provision could potentially generate interest from a much wider range of people, from young adults through to those who are retired. The “extra” court space planned at the National Badminton Arena will enable a range of junior and performance training to take place at the same time as the community use during the peak period of evenings and weekends.
90. The 20 minute drive time catchment for indoor tennis would mean that almost everyone in Milton Keynes could have access to indoor courts if the National Badminton Arena is developed.

Recommendations

91. The authority wide planning standard is proposed as:
- 0.06 courts per 1000
 - 20 minute drive time catchment
 - the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to both new facilities and refurbishment.
92. The priority for the future is:
- Development of the proposed 6 indoor tennis courts as part of the National Badminton Arena.

SQUASH

93. Squash is a relatively minor sport in Milton Keynes compared to others such as swimming, and the national level the sport has slowly declined over a number of years, resulting in some squash courts being converted to other uses. The sport is dominated by males, making up 86% of participants. It also attracts the more affluent.
94. The objective should be to retain and enhance the network of courts over the period up to 2026 to reverse the decline in the sport and to enable new participation opportunities.
95. Milton Keynes’s rate of current provision falls between the national and regional averages. There are currently eight sites providing for community squash, with a total of 22 courts. The sites are reasonably spread across the Borough, enabling most people with a car access to reach squash within about 20 minutes. Of the existing provision, more than a third is provided by the leisure centre network and just over 40% is commercial. The Ousedale School facilities are only open weekdays for 2 hours per evening. There are also courts at the Eaglestone Meeting Place but these have been unused for a period of time, and have therefore not been included in the assessment.
96. As the CAT programme moves forwards, it is possible that the courts at Oakgrove Leisure Centre may be converted to other uses or become less available for the community during evenings and weekends. This may mean that they will need to be replaced elsewhere in the longer term.

Recommendations

97. The authority wide planning standard is proposed as:
- 0.1 squash courts per 1000
 - 20 minute drive time catchment
 - The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to both new facilities and refurbishment.
98. No developers' contributions will be sought for this facility type.
99. The priorities for the future are:
- To retain the squash court provision at Oakgrove Leisure Centre
 - Support new commercial led provision by positive planning policies

OUTDOOR TENNIS

100. Tennis currently attracts some of the largest market segments in Milton Keynes but with sports development support, could potentially generate interest from a much wider range of people, from young adults through to those who are retired.
101. There are 11 sites which have courts dedicated to tennis with a total of 42 courts. Seven of these sites host LTA clubs. There are a further 7 sites which have courts nominally available for community use with a further 30 courts, mostly on school sites although one is at Castlethorpe Recreation Ground.
102. The quality of the outdoor courts available to community use is very variable, from high quality courts at Woughton on the Green and David Lloyd, to poor quality at the Stantonbuty site. Due to this variation in quality and also accessibility, Sport England only records those sites solely used for tennis on their Active Places website. It is therefore appropriate to consider the only the specialist tennis sites in the modelling and production of standards, rather than all courts.
103. The current network of provision is sufficient to cater for the existing population and any increase in participation over the period up to 2026, but there is a need to provide for the new housing growth, equating to 14 new courts in the period up to 2026. This new provision will in part be provided by the proposed 6 courts at the National Badminton Arena. The other courts should be provided close to the main housing growth, and the preferred option is for a new tennis club site to be developed on the west flank of the city.
104. The CAT programme could potentially have significant impacts on tennis court provision because the courts at Marsh Drive, Oakgrove Leisure Centre, and Willen Road will all be subject to CAT. In the short-medium term the courts at Marsh Drive and Willen Road, both of which host tennis clubs, could be at risk because of the cost of site improvements. It will be important to retain these tennis sites, so they should therefore be high priorities for investment.
105. As it will be important to retain the overall level of tennis court provision in Milton Keynes, if sites are lost through the CAT process or for other reasons, these will need to be replaced elsewhere.

106. A site specific issue is noted in relation to the Woburn Sands Tennis Club, which is potentially under threat from development. An alternative appropriate site should be provided if the development goes ahead.

Recommendations

107. The authority wide planning standard is proposed as:
- 0.19 courts per 1000 based on courts solely marked out for tennis
 - 10 minute drive time catchment
 - the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to both new facilities and refurbishment.
108. The delivery priorities for the future are:
- New courts:
 - 6 outdoor tennis courts as part of the National Badminton Arena.
 - 8 new tennis courts as an independent club site in west flank area.
 - Improvement/refurbishment of the existing network based on full conditions surveys and feasibility studies to provide a costed programme of works:
 - Marsh Drive
 - Willen Road
 - Woughton on the Green (2 x tarmac courts)
 - Replacement if site lost to development:
 - Woburn Sands Tennis Club, including courts and ancillary facilities. This should be as a planning condition on the developer.

BOWLING GREENS

109. National level research demonstrates that bowls is one of the very few sports which primarily attracts older people (55 years plus). The national research on participation in bowls does not differentiate between indoor and outdoor bowls, so the information is the same for both.
110. There are currently 11 outdoor bowl sites each with a single green. Each site hosts a club and the greens are generally in excellent or in very good condition. There are a few issues associated with the ancillary facilities or the sites on which they are located. This suggests that the sites are well supported and have sufficient demand to meet the costs of their upkeep.
111. There is an existing proposal for one new bowls site, to be located somewhere in the west flank but the site location is still to be confirmed.
112. The current network of provision is well distributed and the bowling greens appear well used. The starting point for the assessment is therefore that the current provision approximately balances with demand, so new provision will be required to cater for both the new communities, and existing but aging communities.
113. It is estimated that four additional bowling greens will be required in the period up to 2026. One is already planned for the west of the city. A double green site is the most attractive in terms of the sport and should be a future priority.

114. The CAT programme seems unlikely to have any significant impacts on bowling green provision.

Recommendations

115. The authority wide planning standard is proposed as:
- 0.05 bowling greens per 1000
 - 10 minute drive time catchment
 - the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. This should apply to both new facilities and refurbishment.
116. The priorities for the future are:
- New bowling greens:
 - delivery of the proposed bowling green in the west of Milton Keynes
 - a double green site in the north/central area of the city
 - a single green site in the central/east area of the city.

COMMUNITY CENTRES

117. Community centres, village halls and similar venues provide essential space for many activities, including a range of opportunities such as pilates, martial arts, short mat bowls, circuit training, and non-sport social activities. These facilities are especially important for those people without a car or who do not wish, or are not able to travel to a main sports centre to participate. Village halls and community centres are therefore particularly important for young people and older people, and are often used during the day time as well as the evening.
118. The value of such a facility in a local community cannot be underestimated as it creates an important hub for local people to gather, make friendships and provide cohesion on estates and in villages where there may be limited other venues to meet.
119. There are a wide range of community centres and village halls in Milton Keynes, ranging from scout huts through to multipurpose pavilions as at Broughton. Milton Keynes Council still owns a large number of the facilities developed as part of the planned growth of the city, and the Facilities section of the strategy primarily focuses on these facilities.
120. Milton Keynes Council itself owns 52 community centre sites across the city area. They previously owned some additional sites, but these have already been transferred to community organisations. The community centres vary in their size, age, condition and usage. The Council has recently undertaken an asset management review of the facilities in preparation for the CAT programme which will impact upon many of the community centres over time. Those facilities which are well supported and financially viable seem likely to be transferred, and there could be a number of bidders for the same property.
121. Where however sites require significant investment and/or making them self-sustaining would be difficult, there may be no potential partners coming forwards to

enable the transfer of the asset. If they do, the sites are more likely to be at risk of failing and returning to the Council. It is not possible for this Strategy to determine if individual community centres should be retained if they cannot be transferred, as there are a number of detailed questions to be considered at the specific site level. However the priority should be to ensure that there is a good network of community facilities in all areas of the city, with the priority for retention/investment being sites in those areas of the city with relatively low levels of participation in physical activity, and which have capacity to meet under 5s provision (pre schools and nurseries), and which have the capacity to address the needs of adult social care e.g. luncheon club.

122. Those facilities which are not owned by Milton Keynes Council such as the village halls in the rural areas will need to be retained, and if necessary improved to meet modern standards and expectations. For example, where the halls do not have good levels of storage provision and there a need or potential need, for example to enable short mat bowls or preschool equipment storage, the improvements could be supported by developers' contributions from relevant development.

Recommendations

123. The planning standard relating to new housing growth of:
- 120 sq m community centre space per 1000
 - 800 m catchment and easily accessible on foot and by cycle in the urban area
 - the quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Milton Keynes and relevant agencies. New community centres should enable at least two groups to independently use the centres at the same time, without contact between the groups. Centres should be fully accessible, including people with mobility scooters or buggies, and people with poor or failing eyesight. Storage should be sufficient to enable a range of activities to be based on site, and outdoor storage areas for scooters and buggies should be provided.
124. The priorities for the future are:
- New community centres:
 - Brooklands
 - Tattenhoe Park
 - CMK community sports pavilion
 - Western Expansion Area (Area 10)
 - Western Expansion Area (Area 11)
 - Newton Leys
 - Strategic Land Allocation Area
125. Improvement/refurbishment of the existing facilities based on full conditions surveys and feasibility studies to provide a costed programme of works:
- community centres owned by MKC to enable them to be transferred successfully from MKC to community organisations
 - other community centres, village halls and similar to enable them to offer a wider range of activities and to meet modern standards for H&S, DDA etc.
 - generally and where justified, upgrading and refurbishing the kitchen and dining facilities to enable community centres to expand their offer to potentially include small luncheon clubs or extend provision for preschool places.

- generally and where justified provision of new storage space to enable activities such as short mat bowls or pre schools.
126. There will also be a need to review the future of sites not transferred out or being returned to Milton Keynes Council at the individual site level to determine the appropriate course of action. .
127. Where sites are transferred out, there will need to be an expectation on the new owners that a range of community activities should be retained, including some access during the day time.

GOLF

128. The Sport England statistics for participation in golf shows that about 4% of men and 1% of women take part in the sport, and participation in golf in Milton Keynes appears to be growing, counter to the national trend which is experiencing a decline. This is not surprising as the population in Milton Keynes is expanding and aging, bringing more people into the age groups which dominate the game. New forms of golf aimed at young people are also enjoying success.
129. There are a 5 sites providing for golf in Milton Keynes as a mixture of 18 holes, 9 holes, par 3 courses, and driving ranges. The different course lengths and characteristics are important because they provide different opportunities for golf.
130. The course and golf clubhouse at Wavendon is proposed to be developed as part of the Strategic Land Allocation area, and there will be a need to replace these facilities locally.
131. Research by Milton Keynes Council in 2012 suggests that although the network of standard golf courses currently meets demand, that there is too little par 3 and possibly driving centre provision. These will come under increasing pressure as the population changes.
132. As golf is primarily provided via the commercial sector, the development of courses will reflect a combination of demand and appropriate site opportunities. Formal planning standards are not proposed, but there is clearly a need to protect the existing network of provision and also to encourage further provision over the next few years. In relation to the existing golf sites, there is also a need for positive planning policies which will enable the golf “offer” to evolve to retain and encourage use, whilst minimising the impact on the countryside and on neighbours.
133. The CAT programme should have no impact on golf.

Recommendations

134. Ensure that positive planning policies are in place to support golf as a sport, which will enable golf providers to respond to changing demand, and provide new sites whilst balancing this need with wider policies minimising the impact upon the countryside and upon neighbours.
135. The delivery priorities in the period up to 2026 are:
- 2 x standard 18 hole courses
 - 1 x par 3 9 hole course
 - 24 driving range bays
136. The development proposals at Wavendon which impact upon the existing golf course and clubhouse will require to be replaced locally.

CYCLING

137. Cycling is very popular in Milton Keynes. There are strong cycling clubs, an active users group and cycling association, and excellent commercial cycle shops. The existing facilities include: BMX at Pineham (likely to move to a new site), track facilities at the National Bowl, bike hire at Willen Lake, cycling routes (including a national Sustrans cycling route), and 290 km of Redways plus more than 70 km of routes available for commuting and leisure.
138. MK has hosted a stage of the Tour of Britain in 2008 and the first Sky Ride event at Milton Keynes led by British Cycling took place in the centre of Milton Keynes in August 2011, with over 4000 participants. This was repeated in 2012 and 2013. Given the success of the events, and the levels of support to this type of event elsewhere, it seems likely that the Sky Ride will grow in popularity year on year.
139. Forming part of British Cycling's Whole Sport Plan, expanding the nationwide network of traffic free cycling facilities will continue to be a key goal for British Cycling.

Competitive cycling

140. The National Bowl is currently used for cycling and as part of the International Sporting City report of 2011 a major cycling centre option was potentially identified at the National Bowl/Elfield Park/Furzton Lake or alternatively at the North MK Lakes (Haversham) and Stanton Low Country Park area. These have yet to be progressed, but a cycling centre of excellence is included in the National Bowl proposals/tender briefs of summer 2013. If the cycling centre of excellence is not progressed at the Bowl, then an alternative site will need to be brought forwards.

Informal cycling

141. The Cycling Strategy of April 2013 which is one of the sub-strategies of the Transport & Vision Strategy for Milton Keynes addresses informal cycling and also pedestrian use of the Redways, and leisure cycling routes elsewhere in the Borough. The recommendations include improvements to the existing Redway network such as lighting and surfaces, together with the extension of the network into CMK and the new expansion areas of the city. As informal cycling facility issues have been

recently been addressed in detail, this Strategy reaffirms the high priority that should be placed on cycling and walking across Milton Keynes.

Recommendations

- 142. To develop a cycling centre of excellence which can provide for a number of disciplines.
- 143. Action the facility priorities identified in the report Cycling (April 2013) to support informal cycling.

GYMNASTICS

- 144. The MK Springers Gymnastic Club is one of four gymnastic and trampolining clubs in Milton Keynes. The club responded to the strategy consultation saying that it operates out of Kiln Farm, and is keen to develop a specialist gymnastics centre. This would be a second large centre, as there is an existing gymnastics centre at Kingston, which is the base for MK Gym. There is also a smaller gymnastics centre as part of the Bletchley Leisure Centre.
- 145. The MK Springers Club has over 1000 current members and has a waiting list of around 100. The need for an expanded or new specialist gymnastics facility to support continued increases in participation and athlete development therefore seems potentially justified.
- 146. The aspiration is for a facility which can cater for international competition in addition to training. British Gymnastics is broadly supportive of improved gymnastics facilities in Milton Keynes but has no current commitments to investment within the authority, and has not indicated what type of facility they would support.
- 147. The exact nature, location and size of the facility therefore needs further feasibility work to confirm, along with estimated costs. In particular, the need for a competition centre and if so what size, spectator seating etc. If a facility is developed, it is likely that the broad support of British Gymnastics would also need to be firmed up, and at least some financial support given to the facility.

Recommendation

- 148. The justification and costs of a second large specialist gymnastics facility should be explored through a feasibility study.

ADVENTURE SPORTS

- 149. Indoor, urban and outdoor adventure sports are increasing in popularity, particularly in places like Milton Keynes, however because of the “unstructured” nature of some activities such as parkour and skateboarding it is very difficult to measure participation in the same way as for more traditional sports. Where national level information is available, for example for cycling and mountaineering these have shown a steady rate of participation at a time when many other sports have seen a decline.

Ice rink

150. There is currently one ice rink in Milton Keynes, which is being refurbished and is due to reopen in summer 2014. Planet Ice owns the facility which is located in Central Milton Keynes and which has been used both for community ice sports and as the home of the MK Lightning ice hockey team.
151. The existence of the ice facility in Milton Keynes gives the residents more access to this type of facility than in many other authorities, and the main users of rinks are people aged 45 years or under.
152. Standards of provision for ice are not required.

Recommendations

153. Planet Ice's continued presence and enhancement should be supported through the planning process, although provision is always likely to be via the private sector.

Watersports

154. Caldecotte Lake and Willen Lake along with Haversham Lake offer the main watersports facilities in Milton Keynes along with the Grand Union Canal.
155. The amount of accessible water space in Milton Keynes is unable to meet the demand from the water sports of sailing, rowing, canoeing and dragon boating. Ideally new specifically designed and accessible flat water racing and training space would be made available, but the development of this is not realistic given the costs and planning issues that it would bring. The proposed new wide waterway linking Bedford to the Grand Union Canal may offer some opportunities in the longer term for canoeing, dragon boating and rafting, and the proposed rowing centre at Bedford may also offer some opportunities for Milton Keynes residents.
156. There is increasing interest and demand for open water swimming but the inherent dangers to individuals mean that this will only become available via clubs and organised groups on agreed sites.
157. Overall there is a need to retain and enhance the existing opportunities for watersports, and improvements to and new facilities at Caldecotte Lake and Furzton Lake are the highest priorities.

Recommendations

158. Improve the watersports centre at Caldecotte to enable greater and improved usage.
159. Provide changing accommodation and ancillary facilities at Furzton Lake, particularly to support dragon boat and canoe training.
160. Provide a compound to support rafting and canoeing at Old Wolverton on the Grand Union Canal.
161. Support the greater usage of both north and south Caldecotte Lake.

162. Introduce controlled open water swimming on both Willen and Caldecotte Lakes.
163. Develop the Bedford-Grand Union Canal Waterway and take watersports potential into account in the design, including access points, clubhouse(s) and boat storage.

Motorsports

164. Motorsports are a large industry in and around Milton Keynes, and the opportunity to take part in a variety of motorsports in Milton Keynes is an important sport and recreational facet of the area. Motorsports are officially recognised as “sports” by Sport England, and have national governing bodies in the same way as other sports such as swimming or badminton.
165. There are a number of clubs and venues offering motorsports opportunities in the authority area, and two of the sites are owned by The Parks Trust: a motorcycle trails site at Mount Farm, and Pineham which is a motocross track and is adjacent to the M1. Both sites are well used but the site at Pineham is currently under threat.
166. Although motorsports can be controversial to provide, it is important that the opportunities in Milton Keynes are retained and enhanced. This will help to provide a positive image of the area linking to the motorsports industry, and also help to manage the demand, which would otherwise occur more often on unsuitable and unmanaged sites, to the detriment of the wider community.

Recommendations

167. To retain the existing motocross facility at Pineham and to support the development of further sites for recreational motorsports where these are in line with wider planning policies.

PLANNING POLICIES

168. There are a number of key planning policy documents which guide the provision of sport and recreation, including the:
 - The National Planning Policy Framework, March 2012
 - The Core Strategy, adopted July 2013
169. The following paragraphs primarily focus on Milton Keynes, but it will also be important that Milton Keynes Council can influence decisions about large scale developments over the border of the authority. In particular and with immediate importance is the proposal for an 1850 dwelling development, the South West Milton Keynes Development which is located in Aylesbury Vale and expected to come forwards in 2014. The development will have a direct impact on Milton Keynes services and residents because the new community is most likely to use Milton Keynes as the location for sport and active recreation rather than the Aylesbury Vale towns because Milton Keynes’ facilities are closer and offer a wider range of opportunities.

170. The policy framework for Milton Keynes is supplemented by detailed policies on developers' contributions, but developer contributions are *currently* sought under different policies for different areas of MK, including:
- MK Urban Development Area Tariff SPD, November 2007
 - MK Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations for Leisure, Recreation and Sport Facilities (adopted 2005)
 - MK Local Plan (2005)
171. In line with national planning policy the MKC will plan positively to deliver social and recreational facilities and the services that the community needs (NPPF para 70). When determining planning applications MKC will consider the Sport and Active Communities Strategy as a material planning consideration.
172. This Strategy cannot provide a detailed list of all investment priorities, particularly at the local level, but new development will clearly bring additional pressure on the facility stock. The monies generated through the developers' contribution should therefore be allocated to both the larger strategic facilities such as swimming pools, and more local facilities such as playing fields used for football or community centre/village hall improvements. The priorities for investment at the local level will be guided by the advice from Milton Keynes Council and also from the relevant Parish or Town Council around the time of the planning application.
173. The Core Strategy specifically identified the ISC as one of its Objectives. The Plan:MK, the LIP, the Strategic Land Allocation Development Framework, and the Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document support its delivery, including via enabling development which is being used in relation to the National Badminton Arena.
174. Private sector delivery of leisure, recreation and sports facilities for the community will continue to be important in Milton Keynes, so needs to be supported by appropriate positive planning policies. Private sector developments would not however generally be eligible for any separate funding from developers' contributions.
175. In relation to existing Frameworks for the current Expansion Areas, the opportunity should be taken to review the proposals relating to sport recreation and community centres to take account of the new recommendations in the Strategy.

Possible introduction of CIL

176. In the future it is likely there will be:
- a Community Infrastructure Levy charging schedule (CIL) used to gather contributions towards strategic infrastructure, alongside s106 agreements for local, site-specific infrastructure requirements.
 - a new Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document to inform s106 negotiations for local, site-specific infrastructure requirements which will replace the existing SPDs, and will operate alongside the CIL.
177. Strategic sports and community facilities will be identified in the Borough-wide Local Investment Plan, the public consultation phase of which closed on 31 August 2013,

and at a more local level in the Strategic Land Allocation Development Framework Supplementary Planning Document.

178. After 6 April 2014, or potentially a later date depending on the outcome of recent Government consultation on reforms of the CIL regulations, the MK Tariff can no longer be operated on sites that do not already have planning permission. The Council is therefore considering whether to introduce a CIL charging schedule to operate across the Borough, to help deliver strategic infrastructure. A new Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document will also be prepared which will replace those existing, to operate alongside Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) for local, site-specific infrastructure requirements.

IMPLEMENTATION

179. This Sport and Active Communities Strategy has reviewed the sports facility and community centre proposals from the previous Leisure and Community Facilities Strategy of 2009 and also the proposals from the adopted International Sporting City report.
180. The following table summarises the proposed facility investment needs up to 2026 and provides an indication of the timescales for their development. Some of these are new build whilst others are priorities for refurbishment. New build facilities have been provided with an estimated cost, but the refurbishment proposals require conditions surveys and feasibility assessments before they can be detailed out, and accurately costed.

REVIEW AND MONITORING

181. There should be an interim review in 3 years to take account of the implications of the CAT programme and progress on housing development, and a full review of the Strategy in 5 years to take account of:
- Anticipated housing growth;
 - The further outcomes of the Community Asset Transfer programme;
 - General changes in participation and attractiveness of individual sports;
 - Technical changes to sport facility requirements;
 - The development of new or loss of existing facilities since the Strategy was completed;
 - Facilities developed or lost to community use within the adjacent authorities;
 - Cross-boundary co-ordination between local authorities;
 - Facility investment decisions by the MKC and its partners.

FACILITY INVESTMENT SUMMARY TABLE

NEW BUILD				
Facility	Project	Project Cost	Funding Year/s	Funding Source (where known)
Brooklands (EEA Phase 2)	Combined sports pavilion and community centre	2,400,000	2014-16	Tariff
Tattenhoe Park	Combined sports pavilion and community centre	2,400,000	2016-19	Tariff
Western Expansion Area Community House	Community House in the early residential development	60,000	2014-15	S106
Woolstone Sports Ground	Construct new pavilion to serve existing pitches	600,000	by 2026	MKC
Brownswood Sports Ground	Construct new pavilion to serve existing pitches	600,000	by 2026	TBC
Campbell Park	Construct new community sports pavilion	1,500,000	by 2026	S106
Western Expansion Area (Area 10)	Combined sports pavilion and community centre	2,400,000	2015	Tariff
Western Expansion Area (Area 11)	Combined sports pavilion and community centre	2,400,000	2017-18	Tariff
Future Expansion Swimming Pools (ideally in West)	Swimming Pool	7,000,000	2024-26	TBC
CMK Leisure Centre	6-8 court sports hall/pool complex	15,000,000	By 2021	TBC
Future Expansion - Strategic Reserve Site (Building 1)	Multi use community sports pavilion	2,500,000	2017-18	Tariff
Newton Leys	Multi use community sports pavilion / community centre only	N/a		Developer in kind

Western Expansion Area secondary school	4 court hall, 3G pitch, health & fitness for dual use	Discussion required about additional costs associated with dual use	2016	Tariff
Brooklands secondary school	4 court hall, 3G pitch and fitness facilities for dual use	Discussion required about additional costs associated with dual use	2016	Tariff
National Badminton Arena, Bowl	12 court hall, 5 court hall, 6 indoor tennis, 6 outdoor tennis, fitness gym, pool, 120 fitness stations, offices	TBC	2013-15	Enabling development, grant aid, investment by partners
CMK	3G pitch with pavilion	2,000,000	2014-2015	S106
North MK (site TBC)	6 rink indoor bowls centre	1,665,000	2020-2026	TBC
North MK (site TBC)	1 x double bowling green site	220,000	2023-2026	TBC
Central/east MK	1 x bowling green	110,000	2023-2026	TBC
West flank	1 x bowling green	110,000	2015-16	Tariff
Golf standard course	2 x courses	Commercial	2016-2021, 2021-2026	TBC
Golf Par 3 course	1 course	Commercial	2013-2016	TBC
Golf driving range	24 bays	Commercial	2016-2026	TBC
Site TBC	Cycling Centre of Excellence	2,000,000	2014-2016	Enabling development, grant aid, investment by partners
National Bowl	Grass pitch training ground	TBC	2014-2015	Enabling development, grant aid, investment by partners
West flank	8 x court tennis club facility (site TBC)	485,000	2016-26	Tariff
Stantonbury	Level 2 Indoor Athletics Training Facility	TBC	2015-16	Enabling development, grant aid, investment by partners
Site TBC	Martial arts - boxing training venue	TBC	2016-18	TBC

Furzton Lake	Changing and ancillary facilities for watersports developed in association with visitor/ cycling centre	TBC	2016-18	TBC
Old Wolverton Grand Union Canal	Compound for canoeing/watersports	TBC	2016-18	TBC
Bedford-Grand Union Canal waterway	Develop facilities to provide for watersports (canoeing etc) as integral part of waterway.	TBC	TBC	TBC
Site TBC	Specialist gymnastics centre, subject to feasibility study	TBC	TBC	TBC

REFURBISHMENT/REPLACEMENT/EXTENSION

Facility	Project	Project Cost	Funding Year/s
Middleton Pool dry side extension	Extension to provide fitness stations and studio space	1,800,000	2018-2021
Undertake conditions surveys and feasibility studies for the sites below and confirm costs of works to be undertaken.		TBC	2014-2015
Sir Herbert Leon Academy	Refurbish/replace: AGP (3G), pool, hall, gym, activity room, grass pitch improvements	TBC	2016-2020
Stantonbury Campus	Refurbish/replace: AGP (3G), pool, hall, gym, activity rooms, grass pitch improvements.	TBC	2017- 2021
Village/community centres	Refurbish kitchen and dining areas. Provide sufficient storage for short-mat bowls and pre-schools where appropriate. Refurbish. Extend identified facilities to cater for pre-school.	TBC	On-going
Marsh Drive tennis courts	Refurbish	TBC	2014-15
Willen Road tennis courts	Refurbish	TBC	2014-15
MK Academy tennis courts	Refurbish	TBC	2014-15
Windmill Hill Golf Course	Driving range improvements/enhancements	TBC	2015-16
Woughton on the Green	Refurbish 2 x tarmac courts	TBC	2014-15
Caldecotte Watersports Centre	Improve and extend to enable greater usage.	TBC	2014-15
Various	Inclusive Fitness Initiative fitness gym/equipment	TBC	TBC



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