

MILTON KEYNES

Sport & Active Communities Strategy

FACILITIES

February 2014



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SECTION 1: FACILITY ASSESSMENT OVERVIEW

1. This Sport and Active Communities Strategy Facilities section reviews the facility provision needed to support the wider objectives of the Sport and Active Communities Strategy. It will ensure that a strategic network of facilities is 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 other planning framework documents for Milton Keynes, and also identify priorities for facilities investment. To ensure consistency with the Core Strategy timeframe, the end point for this Facilities section is 2026.
2. 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 (MKC) document, and the facility priorities emerging in this Facilities section therefore cover the whole facility network and are not restricted to those of Milton Keynes Council.
3. The Facilities section addresses the facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity, and specifically includes:
 - Sports halls
 - Swimming pools
 - Artificial grass pitches
 - Athletics tracks
 - Health and fitness
 - Indoor bowls
 - Indoor tennis
 - Squash
 - Outdoor tennis
 - Bowling greens
 - Community centres
4. The Facilities section also addresses sports and activities for which a formal planning standards approach is not required, including golf, cycling, and countryside and water sports.
5. Each facility type has been separately assessed, and formal standards of provision have been identified for the major facilities.
6. In relation to grass playing pitches, Sport England is currently revising its standardised methodology. Once the revised guidance is available, the playing pitch elements of the strategy will be completed, as far as possible in accordance with the new guidance. The findings and recommendations will be adopted by Milton Keynes Council as part of the action plan arising from the Strategy.

7. The facility assessment for Milton Keynes has identified a number of overarching themes which can or will impact on the facility network across the Borough in the next few years, including:
- The Community Asset Transfer programme
 - Reducing funding from Milton Keynes Council
 - Aging facilities in older areas
 - New facility for new housing growth
 - Achieving the International Sporting City vision
 - Community use of school sites – design and protection of use
 - Sustainable travel
 - Maximising funding opportunities.
8. The potential implications of the Community Asset Transfer programme is specifically considered in relation to each facility type, but the other themes are included in the assessments where they are relevant.

Community Asset Transfer programme

9. Milton Keynes Council's introduction to the Community Asset Transfer programme on the Council's web site (August 2013) states:

Community Asset Transfer (CAT) in Milton Keynes has a focus on 'the built community infrastructure' i.e. leisure and community facilities, libraries, open spaces and a variety of other sites and centres. The programme is about transferring these community assets from Milton Keynes Council (MKC) to other relevant organisations in line with the principles of localism.

The Council's approach to CAT has a long-term goal of "putting more control into the hands of our local communities". The Council recognises the value of enabling local community partners to take more responsibility for local assets and wishes to empower these new arrangements with those organisations that may be best-placed to achieve this. The aim is to work with community partners to provide and support the delivery of effective local community assets and related services for the people of Milton Keynes.

10. A high proportion of the sport, recreation and community facilities owned by Milton Keynes Council have or will be going through the CAT process, and the list of sites is provided in Appendix 3, with the timetable and progress to date given in Appendix 4.
11. The CAT programme requires that potential partner organisations who are applying to take on facilities under CAT should:
- have a strong track record and experience of delivering services (5years)

- be formally constituted / incorporated group e.g. Parish and Town Council, Registered Charity , Company limited by guarantee, Community Interest Company (CIC)
 - be locally run and controlled – ideally within the MK authority area, and at least 50% of the management committee/Town or Parish Council live within 3 miles of the site or MK authority boundary
 - be non-profit distributing (any surpluses to be reinvested into social aims of the organisation and for community benefit)
 - be inclusive
 - be democratic
12. Each transfer will be considered on case-by-case basis and will go through a two stage assessment process. It is expected that MKC and applicants will meet their own legal / surveying costs to proceed with transfer. There must be a credible business plan. Should the asset be transferred and use by the community not be continued, then MKC has the option of clawing back the facility.
13. The CAT programme is sufficiently flexible to respond to issues and concerns raised by the community. For example, a decision has now been made that Woughton Leisure Centre, Woughton-on-the-Green, Tattenhoe Pavilion and Windmill Hill Golf Centre will be excluded from CAT, and these facilities will now be included in a wider leisure contract in 2015.
14. Where sites are transferred to a partner they are responsible for setting the programme and pricing schedule, and for ensuring that community use continues. The sites will either need to break-even or to have subsidy from another organisation. As the freehold of the facility is being transferred away from MKC, there will be very limited MKC control over how the transferred sites are run in practice. For example, a sports site might have a change of use in the type of sport provided for or how the facility is programmed. An implication of the new focus might for instance be on the most income generating activities, rather than providing wider sports development initiatives, or for some existing uses by the local community.
15. The implications of the CAT programme therefore result in a significant degree of medium-longer term uncertainty about some of the facilities in the sports and community network. As this uncertainty affects a number of sites, and it is not known what the changes may be or the timescales for these, it has been assumed in the facility assessment that there will be status quo. Once any facility changes are known it will be essential to do a refresh of the strategy to take these into account.
16. The community centres which will be taken through the CAT process are anticipated to remain used largely as they are at present, but perhaps again with a stronger focus on income generating activities. This may have implications for some of the programming, particularly if the centres are currently used for low income earning uses such as some sports development programmes in the more deprived areas,

meaning that there may be less physical activity opportunities for some members of the community.

Reducing funding from Milton Keynes Council

17. Milton Keynes Council provides some revenue funding towards a small number of facilities such as Middleton Pool, Shenley Leisure Centre and the athletics track via the athletics club.
18. All of the facilities still provided with revenue support are now facing significant cuts in funding, cessation of funding, or the facilities becoming part of the CAT programme. The impact of these reductions/CAT process are not yet known, there are some real opportunities to improve sport and recreation, but there are also some risks to community sport and leisure if facilities are no longer “viable”.
19. Milton Keynes Council is unable to provide significant capital funding to any scheme which is not part of MKC’s assets, so innovative funding mechanisms, grant aid, and strong partnerships will be required to deliver almost all of the major investment items identified in this strategy.

Aging facilities in older areas

20. The leisure/sports facilities in the older city areas of Milton Keynes are reaching a stage where significant investment is needed to refurbish or replace them. The scale of the problem can be illustrated by Woughton Leisure Centre, which is now more than 30 years old. Its conditions survey of 2012 suggested that the costs of necessary works within 4 years would be around £868,000, and the total cost of maintaining the facility for a further 10 years would be around £930,000.
21. Stantonbury Campus sports facilities were built at a similar time to the Woughton Leisure Centre. The estimated costs of works based on a visual inspection in 2012 in the period up to 2016 are around £825,000 for essential maintenance works and DDA compliance.
22. Middleton Pool at Newport Pagnell was built in 1989, so it is also beginning to need substantial investment. The other main facility which will need to be refurbished/replaced but for which no comprehensive condition survey is yet available is the leisure centre at Sir Herbert Leon Academy in Bletchley.
23. The MKC assets which are proposed to be subject to the CAT programme have each been assessed in terms of their space available (what each site has) and the “suitability” which includes identification of some of the works needed, but these are not all costed. Sites such as New Bradwell Community Centre are noted to require “extensive works both internally and externally”.
24. Decisions will therefore need to be made about how to deal with these aging facilities. In some cases refurbishment will be the most appropriate, in others a

better option might be to seek an alternative site with new facility which can offer more to the community. Whatever the option, there will be costs associated with addressing the older facility stock and the investment necessary will need to be prioritised by MKC and its partners. One of the key action points in the Strategy is therefore to undertake conditions surveys where needed to inform the investment priorities for Milton Keynes as a whole.

New facilities for new housing growth

25. Milton Keynes is expected to continue to grow, particularly in the Expansion areas on the west and east sides of the authority, and in the Strategic Land Allocation Areas. These new communities will require access to new leisure and sports facilities, and these will need to be very largely funded by the developments. The adoption of provision standards for facilities is crucial to determine what needs to be provided, and the amount of money generated from developers' contributions must fully reflect the real costs of providing them.

Achieving the International Sporting City vision

26. Active progress is being made in relation to the International Sporting City (ISC) with:
- The adoption of the Core Strategy in July 2013 confirming that the ISC Report now is a material consideration in planning terms, including the principle of enabling development to help fund the ISC facilities.
 - A successful planning application for the new National Badminton Arena in April 2013 at the National Bowl site. This is in large part proposed to be funded through enabling housing development on the existing National Badminton Centre site at Loughton.
 - A Development Brief and Tender for operation of the National Bowl as a major venue for international, national and regional sport.
 - Stadium:MK has had its capacity increased from 22,000 to 32,000 and has been identified as a venue for the Rugby World Cup in 2015.
27. The achievement of the ISC facility objectives depend on the ability of a range of partners to work together, and the MK Sports Board is playing a significant part in this co-ordination.
28. The adopted Core Strategy sets out the requirements for MKC to identify the ISC's supporting infrastructure and the needs of the "Locations and Clusters" within the Plan:MK, the Local Investment Plan and any future SEMLEP policy and delivery documents. These should enable MKC to support and encourage the delivery of the ISC.

29. The National Bowl site was identified as one of the main potential locations for the development of ISC sports facilities. A decision on the future of the National Bowl site as a whole is expected to be made by MK Development Partnership in March 2014.
30. The Core Strategy also identifies early (2013/14) delivery needs for a grass pitch team training base, a major cycling facility and a sports science/medicine hub. The emerging National Bowl Development Brief and operations tender process perhaps offer the best chance of delivering these, especially as MKC working with the MKDP is able to take the opportunity to support the delivery of these facilities through positive land pricing, as well as through supporting enabling development.
31. The costs of high level sports facilities are significant and there is limited capital available from MKC or public funds to support the proposals directly. Innovative mechanisms which involve enabling development, as described above, are therefore essential.

Community use of school sites - design and protection of use

32. In relation to design, the issues facing the dual use sites in Milton Keynes include the current restrictions/expectations for child protection. The design of the Stantonbury Campus site for example reflects the previous “open” nature of the school design, at a time when community users were encouraged to be on the school campus during the school day with no or very limited segregation between the community and school. The leisure centre at Stantonbury is central to the school campus and the requirement for segregated community access during the school day is therefore extremely difficult to achieve. The day time community use is becoming increasingly limited, and the site appears less than welcoming with its high security fencing and control gate erected between the car park and the leisure centre main reception.
33. Later designs for dual use centres have seen the leisure centre element being separated from but adjacent to the school buildings, as at Oakgrove. This has worked to a degree but community users are said to be “uncomfortable” using the site during the school day and the facilities actually available to the community are limited, the reception area is unwelcoming, and car parking very limited. Furthermore as the school at Oakgrove is under increasing pressure due to rising school student numbers, there is increasing pressure on the leisure centre to enable greater school access to the “community facilities” during the school day.
34. Future designs of dual use centres will need to take these issues into account, and more of a “stand alone” leisure centre design is preferred, giving greater access to the community during the school day.
35. In relation to the formal protection of community use, there is a real need to ensure that dual use arrangements are legally enforceable, and are enforced in practice. Oakgrove Leisure Centre for instance has no formal community use agreement although the site was designed and built as a dual use centre. With the forthcoming

CAT for the site, there is no guarantee that community use will continue to the extent or intensity that was originally envisaged when the site was built.

36. The legal agreement for community use should cover both the sports facilities and the necessary ancillary facilities which enable a sports/leisure/community centre to operate, including sufficient dedicated car parking if the site is to be made available for community use in the school day. The legal agreements must be monitorable, and the enforcement measures and responsibilities clearly set out.
37. In relation to the growth areas of Milton Keynes, the schools in both the Western Expansion Area (WEA) and Brooklands are expected to have community use of their school sports facilities. However if this use is going to be successful then there is a need for appropriate overall design of the sites, appropriate specifications and design to enable community use, and strong and enforceable legal agreements to ensure this use long term.

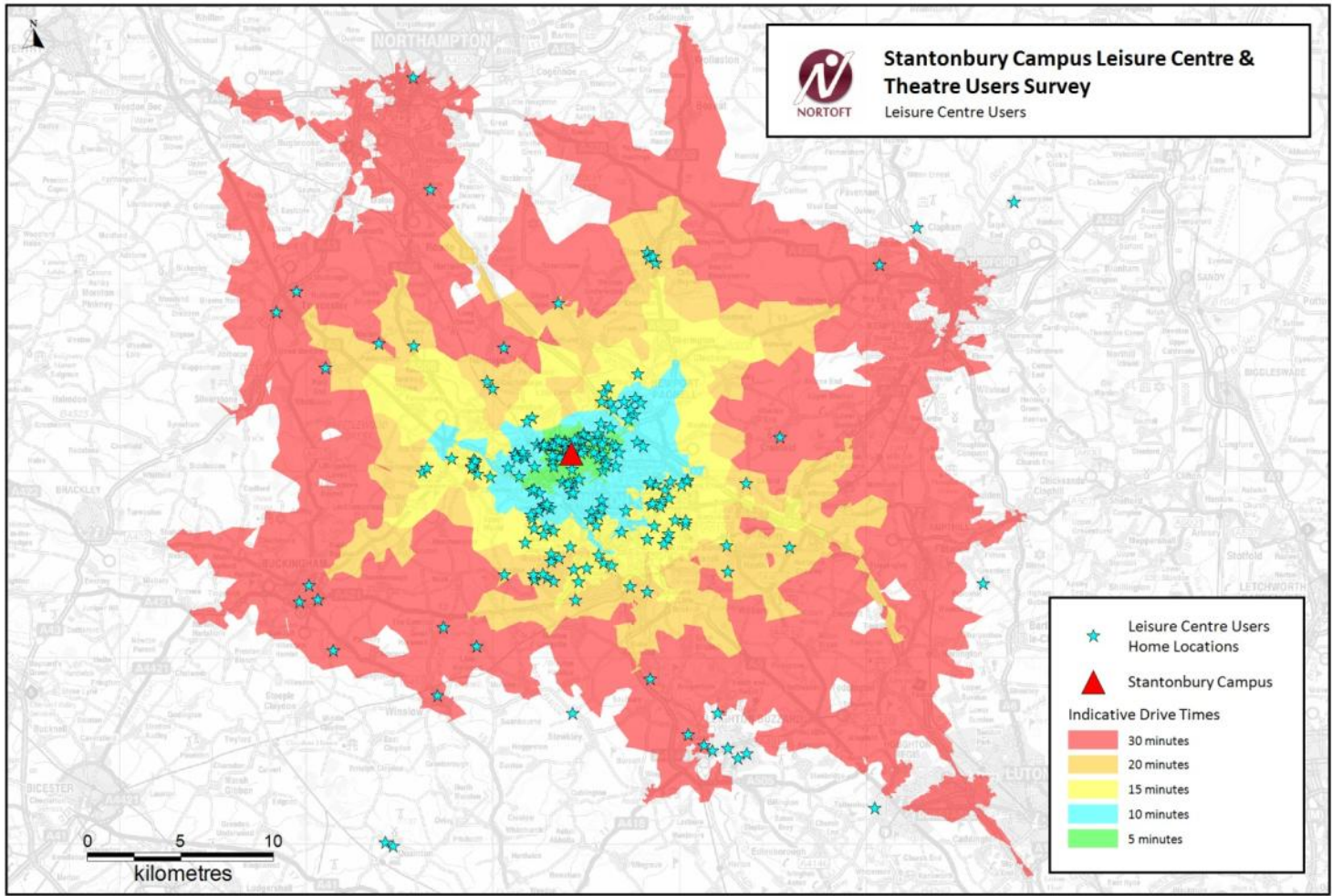
Sustainable travel

38. Milton Keynes was designed as a multi-centred city with an efficient grid road system. The Core Strategy notes that it is expected that the car will remain the main mode of transport for the foreseeable future, but there is a need to reduce its use and to maximise both the public transport opportunities and the Redway network.
39. For the larger sports facilities such as sports halls, swimming pools, and AGPs, most users will drive, with a travel time of up to 20 minutes. The 2012 Stantonbury Campus research on the home locations of the leisure centre users confirms this finding (Figure 1).
40. The relatively high levels of car ownership in Milton Keynes, the relatively poor public transport routes, and the issues associated with the Redway network, particularly at night, suggest that a high proportion of community sports facility users at peak time will continue to travel by car. The planning standards emerging from this report are therefore based on a 20 minute drive time to facilities except in relation to the most specialist facilities such as athletics tracks to which people will travel further, and local facilities particularly community centres which have smaller catchment areas.
41. However as the Core Strategy objective is to encourage sustainable transport, the network of sports facilities in the urban area need to be considered in relation to their walking catchment. One of the modelling tests for sports halls, swimming pools and AGPs is therefore a 1.6 km catchment, which approximately equates to 20 minutes walk. Similarly for community centres which are reviewed with an 800 m catchment. One of the principles for new facilities should therefore be that they should be located to “fill the gaps” in the urban area.

Maximising funding opportunities

42. The reduction of funding to public bodies coupled with the move to independent status of schools (academy or other) and the CAT programme which will take most facilities outside of the control of MKC, means that there is a need to consider a wide range of funding options and innovative partnerships for any project requiring significant capital.
43. As a number of funding opportunities may arise within the lifetime of this strategy and Milton Keynes needs to be in a position to respond. Local facilities for local community use are just as important as the larger or high profile facilities, perhaps associated with the ISC. For local facilities, it is essential that developers' contributions via the MK tariff and other mechanisms fully reflect the costs of the leisure and community facilities which the population in the new housing developments will require.
44. In relation to high profile facilities which help to fulfil the ISC vision, the ISC objective contained in the Core Strategy gave weight to the concept of enabling funding to support the development of sports facilities which meet the ISC criteria.

Figure 1: Home locations of Stantonbury Leisure Centre users



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FACILITY ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

45. The assessment of each facility type draws on a number of different elements:
- The theoretical demand for, and the supply of sports facilities based on various modelling tools;
 - The results of consultation;
 - Issues associated with facility quality, accessibility for the community etc;
 - The future population changes, including planned growth in some areas and aging populations in others;
 - The Council's policies on participation, and sports development objectives;
 - The resources which may be available to meet the future requirements;
 - National governing body strategic requirements.
46. As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations contained within this Facilities section of the Strategy will need to be kept under review. Of particular importance would be any significant changes in the facilities available to the community as a result of the implementation of the CAT programme, and changes to the population forecasts linked to the rate of new housing growth. It is proposed that there should be an interim review in 2017 (3 years from the adoption of the Strategy) with a full review in 2019. The interim review would also be able to take account of new information, for example findings from Facility Planning Model scenario testing, should these be undertaken.

Modelling tools

47. There is no one theoretical modelling tool which provides the answer to facility planning. A number of different tools need to be employed and the results of each synthesised together to provide a recommendation for Milton Keynes.
48. The following paragraphs provide a detailed explanation of each methodology.

Facilities Planning Model

49. The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) has been developed as a planning tool by Sport England for the strategic assessment of the community needs for swimming pools, sports halls and large size artificial grass pitches. The modelling provides an objective assessment of the balance between the supply of the sports facilities and the demand for them at "peak time", which is in the evenings Monday-Friday, and during the daytime at weekends.
50. The FPM assessments take into account key factors influencing participation at the local level, including; the age profile of residents, levels of deprivation, and car ownership. In relation to the individual facilities, it can take into account the hours actually available to the community and weight the facilities for their attractiveness

(usually associated with the age of the facility). More details on the FPM are included in Appendix 1.

51. The FPM tool is much more sophisticated than the Active Places Power tools available on the Sport England interactive web-site, although it is only available for halls, pools, AGPs. For these facility types no additional analysis of the *current* balance in supply and demand has therefore been undertaken.
52. Sport England undertakes a “national run” of each facility type early in the calendar year, based on the facility information known to them and standardised parameters. This gives a good current picture of provision, but does not forecast future demand. The key findings from the national assessments for 2013 are included in the sports halls, swimming pools and AGP sections.
53. The FPM is a particularly valuable tool for scenario “testing” local facility proposals or the impact of population changes. This scenario testing is available through Sport England, and may be a useful follow up to this Strategy as specific proposals are developed.

Nortoft Calculator

54. Nortoft has developed a calculator which helps to forecast future need for each facility type based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation. In this strategy it has been used for halls, pools, AGPs, indoor bowls, outdoor bowls, indoor tennis, athletics, health and fitness, outdoor tennis, and squash.
55. The agreed rate of additional participation per annum applied to the Calculator is 1%. This is a 13% increase over and above the demand expected to be generated from the population growth alone. The justification behind the 1% increase in participation is given in detail in the Growth in Participation per Annum sub-section below.
56. The Nortoft Calculator is a simplistic tool, treating each facility type on a ‘provision per 1000’ basis. The authority is treated as an island and no account has been taken of facility quality, or of accessibility except where the “scaled by hours” figure has been used. The Nortoft Calculator also has no spatial element to it. These restrictions mean that, as with the other theoretical modelling, the findings of the Calculator then need to be considered in the light of the results from the other modelling, and also feedback from consultation.
57. The provision per 1000 calculations use different starting points for the assessment depending upon the nature of the facility, availability of information, and known issues in Milton Keynes.

For sports halls and swimming pools

58. The current South East regional average of publicly available supply of facilities, scaled by hours and as identified in the FPM reports of 2013.

For artificial grass pitches, athletics tracks and indoor bowls

59. The current South East regional average of publicly available supply of facilities, as identified in the FPM reports of 2013 for AGPs, and from the Sport England Active Places Power web site for athletics tracks and indoor bowls.

For outdoor bowls, health and fitness, squash and indoor tennis outdoor tennis and squash

60. The current Milton Keynes rate of provision per 1000.
61. The population base for each of the milestone years is based on the latest forecast from Milton Keynes intelligence Observatory, and includes all of the anticipated housing growth in the Borough up to 2026.

Active Places Power

62. The Active Places Power website of Sport England provides the most comprehensive database of facilities nationally. The information about the larger facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools is largely accurate, but there are a significant number of data inaccuracies for the newly included facilities such as outdoor tennis courts. Active Places Power currently has limited modelling capability although it can compare benchmark authority provision and provide information on the catchment of a single facility.

Comparator authorities

63. The Sport England recommends the use of the CIPFA grouping of authorities to enable comparisons. The 'Nearest Neighbour' model was developed by CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises. It is widely used across both central and local government. The model uses a number of variables alongside the traditional distance method to calculate similarity between local authorities. Examples of these variables include population, unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios.
64. The local authorities that are 'similar' to Milton Keynes are:
- City of Peterborough
 - Swindon
 - Thurrock
 - Warrington

65. Sport England’s Active Places Power web site can be used generate comparator authority figures for facilities, but this is simply on a per authority basis.

Growth in participation per annum

66. 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.
67. The latest figures from the Active People Survey 7 (October 2012- October 2013) has shown a statistically significant increase in participation in Milton Keynes since APS1, equating to a 7.7% increase in once a week participation in sport over the period 2005-06 and 2012-13. This exceeds the 1% target set in the last strategy for Milton Keynes.
68. As the overall policy objective is to continue this pace of growth in participation in Milton Keynes it is appropriate to undertake the modelling based on a 1% pa increase in participation.
69. The rates of participation in “trendy” activities such as zumba, will fluctuate from year to year as the activities gain popularity then reduce again. However most of these use activity room type spaces or programmed time in the pools, rather than taking up significantly more pool or hall time, so the overall strategic planning for facilities tends to be largely unaffected. Of more importance to the strategy is a need to reflect overall direction or balance within sports, for example an increase in mountain biking within cycling, or diving within swimming. These have been addressed within the strategy.

Community priorities for participation

70. This Strategy draws on the previous community consultations held by the Council and its partners at both the authority wide and more local levels. It also refers to feedback received from the consultations which have taken place throughout the Strategy process, including with stakeholders, sports club and organisations, parish and town councils, national governing bodies of sport, Councillors, and facility operators. The facility specific findings are identified under the relevant sections.

National Governing Body facility strategies

71. Where relevant, national governing body facility aspirations have been referred to as part of this Strategy. However, several of the NGB facility strategies are close to their end date and in many cases new priorities for Milton Keynes have yet to be set.

Costs of facility development

72. 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

73. The planning standards developed for each facility type are based on a number of factors. These include amongst others:
- The policy of the authority to seek to increase the rates of participation in all sports in the period up to 2026 by a rate of 1% per annum
 - The estimate of demand, now and in the future including taking account of sports development initiatives
 - The current facility network, its distribution, accessibility to the community and quality
 - Facilities over the border of the authority and their accessibility to residents
 - Future facility proposals and aspirations
 - Population distribution across the authority and expected population change including new housing growth
 - Feedback from consultation with stakeholders and the community.
74. The planning standards are given as a rate of provision per 1000 population. The rate of provision for any particular facility type will reflect the demand for it. For instance, a large proportion of residents want to swim in pools, so the standard reflects the amount of space needed to cater for this high level of demand. Conversely only a relatively small number of residents would wish to use a formal athletics track facility, so the rate of provision per 1000 for athletics tracks is much lower.
75. The policy of increasing rates of participation by 1% pa 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%. As an example if a current rate of provision of y facility is 5.00 per 1000, the expected rate of provision by 2026 would be $5.00 \times 113\% = 5.65$ per 1000.
76. The amount of facility needed is a relatively simple calculation; the rate of provision per 1000 population multiplied by the population.

77. The adoption of planning standards per 1000 is therefore applicable for both the authority as a whole and for calculating the expected demand for sports facilities from an individual housing development.

Summary

78. The recommendations in this Strategy are based on a facilities assessment taking account of: the site audits; the results of theoretical modelling; anticipated changes in the population; trends in participation in sport and recreation; priorities and issues in relation to increasing participation; an assessment of what monies may be realisable from any housing growth; the implications of the new National Planning Policy Framework in relation to cross-boundary working; and, the financial restrictions and opportunities faced by the Council and its partners.

SECTION 2: BUILT FACILITIES

79. This Section of the facility assessment considers built facilities for which planning standards are appropriate. Standards for playing field provision will be developed as part of the action plan of the Strategy.

SPORTS HALLS

Introduction

80. 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, 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. Only sports halls of 3+ court size are therefore included within this assessment, but smaller halls have been included where they are on the same site as a main hall of at least 3 courts.
81. 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.
82. Larger halls (6 plus badminton courts) may also provide the option for more than one pitch/court which increases flexibility for both training and competition. The following table (Figure 3), taken from the Sport England Design Guidance Note on Sports Hall Design and Layouts (2012) 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 better provide for 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 7.5 m.

Active People Survey findings

83. Sports halls are used for a wide range of sports and activities, see Figure 2. Information from the Sport England's Active People Survey findings for 2012-2013, which uses data from the Active People Survey 7 and compares it to Active People Survey 1 from 2005-2006, shows that in relation to participation on average once

per week, there has been a slight fall nationally in the rates for each of badminton, basketball and volleyball, although this downward trend does not appear to be the case in Milton Keynes, which has seen an increase in activity generally.

Figure 2: Most popular sports hall activities

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

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

Figure 3: Sports halls sizes

Overview of numbers of courts* / levels of play for nominal hall sizes							
Sport and level of play category**	4 Court hall (34.5 x 20.0 x 7.5 m)	5 Court hall (40.6 x 21.35 x 7.5 m)	8 Court hall (40.0 x 34.5 x 8.3 m)	10 Court hall (40.6 x 42.7 x 9.0 m)	12 Court hall (60.0 x 34.5 x 9.0 m)	15 Court hall (64.05 x 40.6 x 9.0 m)	General notes:
Badminton (with 1 dividing net per 4 or 5 court module)							
International ¹	4 ²⁺³	4 ²	8 ²	8	12	12	¹ Excludes officials zone.
Premier ¹	4 ²	5 ²	8 ²	10	12	15	² Requires a clear height of 9.0 m.
Club ¹	4	5	8	10	12	15	³ It is assumed that division nets are excluded.
Community ¹	4	5	8	10	12	15	
Basketball							
International	-	-	1	1	2	2	
Premier	-	-	1	1	2	2	
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Community ⁴	1	1	2	2	3	3	⁴ Excludes team / officials zone.
Reduced court size ⁵	2	2	4	4	6	6	⁵ Excludes team / officials zone.
Cricket practice / Indoor cricket							
Community ⁶	4	4	8	8	12	12	⁶ Includes allowance for a central 3.4 m wide (minimum) clear zone for basketball goals within each 4 or 5 court module.
Gymnastics							
International	-	-	-	O	P	P	
Premier	P	P	1	1/2P	1/3P	1/3P	The new hall sizes provide more space for all the gymnastics disciplines.
Club	P	1	1	1/2P	1/3P	1/3P	
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Five-a-side football / Futsal							
International	-	-	P	P	1	1	
Premier	P	P	1	1	3	3	The new hall sizes provide more space for Five-a-side football / Futsal.
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Handball							
International	-	-	-	1	1	1	
Premier	-	1	1	2	1	3	The new hall sizes provide more space for Handball.
Club	-	1	1	2	1	3	
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Indoor hockey							
International	-	-	-	1	1	1	
Premier	-	P	P	1	1	1	The new hall sizes provide more space for Indoor Hockey.
Club	-	P	P	1	1	1	
Community	1 Unihoc	1 Unihoc	1 Unihoc	2	1	2	
Korfball							
International	-	-	-	-	1	1	
Premier	-	-	1	1	1	2	The new hall sizes provide more space for Korfball.
Club	-	-	1	1	1	2	
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Netball							
International ^{7/8}	0	0	1	1	1	1	⁷ A practice area will be required close to the international competition court. ⁸ For International and Super League consult with England Netball on space required for tv equipment and anticipated club specific spectator requirements.
Premier	0	1 ⁹	1	2 ⁹	1	3 ¹⁰	⁹ The hall / module width needs to be increased to 23.35 m to allow for a 2.0 m wide team / officials zone which cannot be accommodated in the standard size hall. ¹⁰ Excludes team / officials zone which must be accommodated by increasing the hall size and/or by sharing team/official zones between multiple courts.
Club	1 ¹¹	1 ⁹	2 ¹⁰	2 ⁹	3 ¹¹	3 ¹⁰	¹¹ Where netball is not the primary sport, by agreement, England Netball will allow club netball to be played in this size hall, with reduced run-offs and no team and official zones.
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Sports hall athletics							
International	-	-	-	P	1P	1P	
Premier	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P	The new hall sizes provide more space for all the athletics disciplines.
Club	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P	
Community	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P	
Volleyball							
International	0	0	1	1	2	2	
Premier	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3	
Community ⁴	1	1	2	2	3	3	⁴ Excludes team / officials zone.
Training courts ⁴	2P	2P	4P	4P	6P	6P	⁴ Excludes team / officials zone.

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

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

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

Current and future provision

84. The sports hall provision in Milton Keynes is well distributed geographically and almost everyone with access to a car can reach a 3+ court hall within 20 minutes drive time.
85. The list of current facilities is given in the table Figure 4, which also includes the number of hours that each facility is available in the peak period (weekday evenings and weekends). The number of hours that each site is available is used by the Sport England's Facilities Planning Model to help determine the balance in the demand for sports hall space and its supply.
86. Figure 5 below shows the location and size of the sports halls in Milton Keynes and the surrounding local authorities. Milton Keynes currently does not have any hall larger than 7 courts, but there are large halls (6, 8 or 12 court) in the surrounding authorities (see Figure 6) and the proposed National Badminton Arena will have a 12 court hall plus a 5 court hall. This large sports hall space (12 courts) is needed to provide space both for performance sport and to provide a venue for sports events, as envisioned by the International Sporting City policy of Milton Keynes Council and the Milton Keynes Sports Board. This extra space will also meet some of the identified community sports hall space requirements for the period up to 2026.
87. In relation to the quality of the sports halls in Milton Keynes, this usually reflects the age of the facilities. For example, the new/newer facilities at Bletchley Leisure Centre and Oakgrove Leisure Centre and Milton Keynes Academy are high quality, whilst those which are older have significant quality issues for example at Stantonbury Campus and Sir Herbert Leon Academy.
88. The issues facing the dual use centres including current restrictions/expectations in relation to child protection have a significant impact on their accessibility during the school day. Even if some of the dual use sites are officially open to community use during the school day, the restrictions mean that it seems unwelcoming during the day, or that only a limited range of facilities are open, for example at Stantonbury Campus.
89. Of the sports hall sites in Milton Keynes, those open during the school day are limited to Bletchley Leisure Centre and Woughton Leisure Centre for pay and play, and the three "commercial" sites; Fusion at the National Badminton Centre, David Lloyd and Kents Hill Park.

Figure 4: Sports halls- current provision

Site Name	Number of courts	Access Type	Year Built	Hours available in the peak period
BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE	6	Pay and Play	2010	38
COURTSIDE SPORTS & FITNESS @ MILTON KEYNES COLLEGE	4	Pay and Play	2004	37
DAVID LLOYD CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	4	Registered Membership use	1997	38
FUSION HEALTH CLUB @ THE NATIONAL BADMINTON CENTRE	8	Registered Membership use	2000	38
KENTS HILL PARK HEALTH AND FITNESS CLUB	4	Registered Membership use	1992	36
LEON LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	1970	38
LORD GREY SCHOOL	4	Pay and Play		37
MILTON KEYNES ACADEMY	4	Sports Club / Community Association	2009	38
OAKGROVE LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	2005	37.5
OUSEDALE SCHOOL (NEWPORT PAGNELL CAMPUS)	3	Sports Club / Community Association	1963	20
OUSEDALE SCHOOL (OLNEY CAMPUS)	4	Sports Club / Community Association	2007	20
RADCLIFFE SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE	3	Sports Club / Community Association	1961	26.5
SHENLEY BROOK END SCHOOL	4	Sports Club / Community Association	2002	35.5
SHENLEY BROOK END SCHOOL	3	Sports Club / Community Association	2002	35.5
SHENLEY LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	1991	35.5
ST PAULS CATHOLIC SCHOOL	3	Sports Club / Community Association	1984	33
STANTONBURY CAMPUS LEISURE CENTRE	7	Pay and Play	1976	35.5
STANTONBURY CAMPUS LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	1976	35.5
THE HAZELEY ACADEMY	4	Sports Club / Community Association	2005	22.5
THE WEBBER INDEPENDENT SCHOOL (aka BURY LAWN SCHOOL)	4	Sports Club / Community Association	2004	17.5
WALTON HIGH SCHOOL	4	Pay and Play	2003	15
WOUGHTON LEISURE CENTRE	4	Pay and Play	1980	35.5

Figure 5: Sports Halls map (existing)

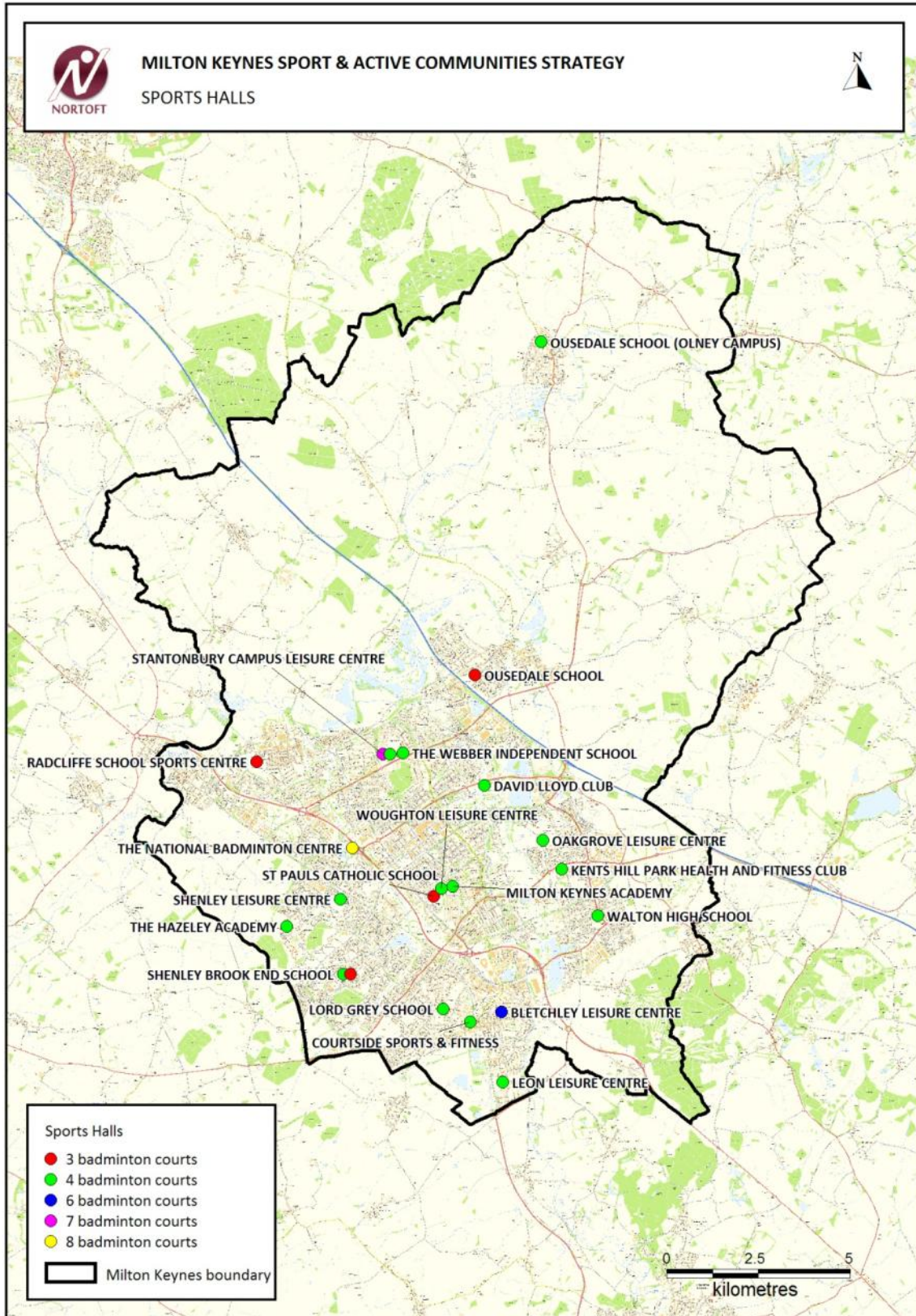
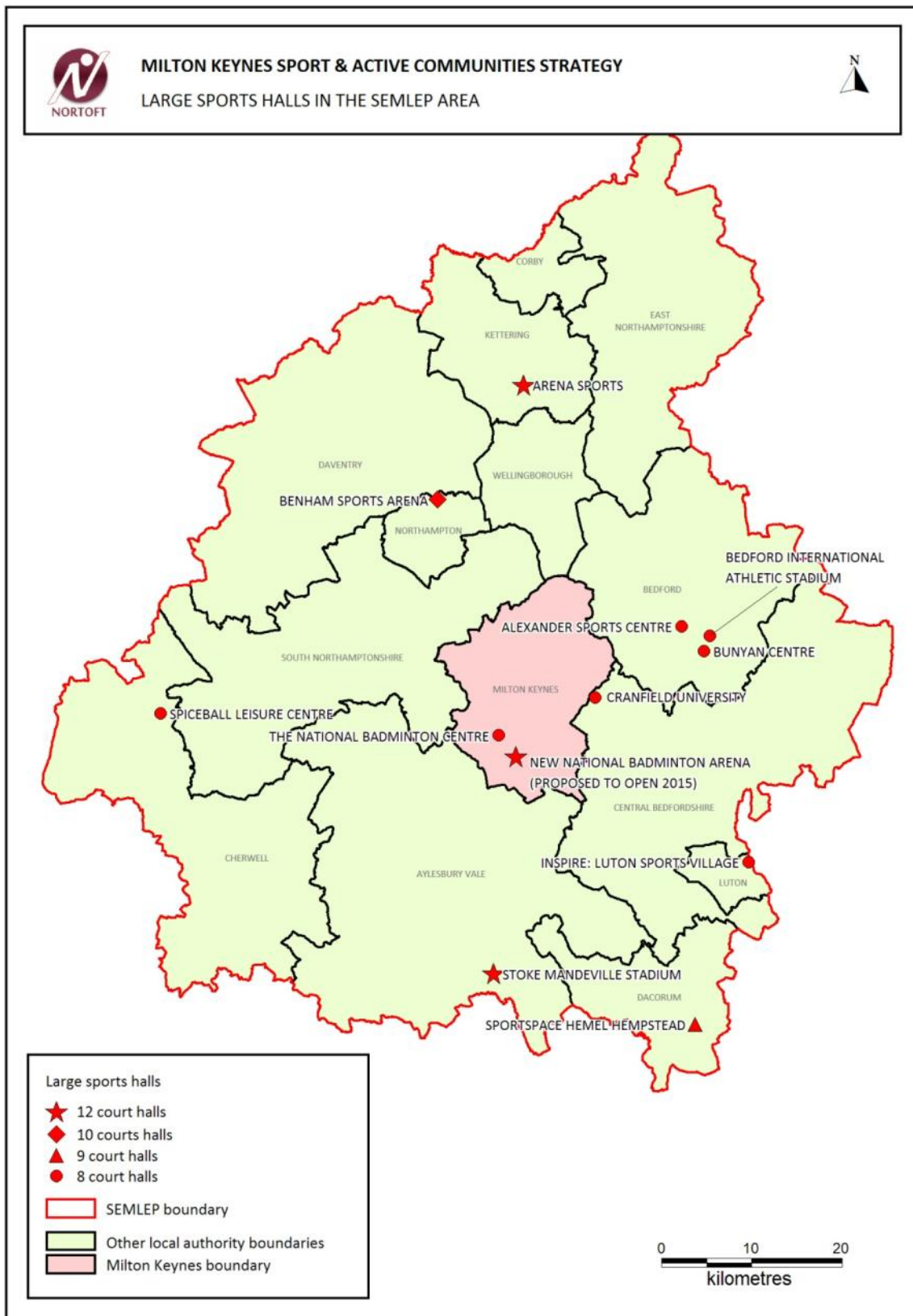


Figure 6: Large sports halls in the SEMLEP area



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Future changes

91. The development of the National Badminton Arena but the loss of the existing National Badminton Centre with its 8 courts, will give an overall increase in provision of sports hall space in Milton Keynes of 9 courts. The National Bowl site is slightly further south than the existing Loughton site, so will have a slightly different, though overlapping catchment. Badminton England expects that most of the space will be available for community use weekday evenings and at weekends, but a number of events are planned to take place and there may be demand for some training space during the peak period. For the purposes of this Strategy an average of 15 courts have therefore been assumed to be available for community use.
92. If the National Badminton Arena is not developed, then there will still be a requirement for a 12 court badminton hall within Milton Keynes to cater for both community use and events. This would require an alternative project and potentially different site, the potential for which was identified in the full ISC report of 2011.
93. The community access to school sports halls will remain a critical element of the network of opportunities across the authority into the long term. This includes both the existing schools and new schools being developed in the new housing growth areas. It is recognised however that where the management is by the schools themselves, that the majority of use will switch to block bookings, and that the hours available for use may be reduced on some sites in order to minimise management costs.
94. Radcliffe School is proposing to replace its existing 3 court hall with a 4 court hall within the next 1-2 years, and as funding is largely in place this development is expected to go ahead. It is expected that the facility will be managed by the school on a block booking basis.
95. In the period up to 2016 two additional secondary schools are planned, one for the Western Expansion Area, and one for Brooklands, and it is proposed that both of these will have community use. School facilities beyond this date are yet to be determined, although a further secondary school and two primary schools are proposed for the Strategic Land Allocation area in the south east of the authority. The secondary school in the SLA will have at least a 4 court hall to meet the requirements of education.
96. Stantonbury Campus is currently at the early stage of considering the future of its two sports halls, which may see the reduction in size of its 7 court hall to 6 courts, and possibly refurbishment of the 4 court hall. However as capital has not yet been identified for these works, this may be a longer term aspiration.
97. A potentially significant, but as yet unquantifiable, factor is the potential changes 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.

98. The older schools with dual use, such as Leon, will require significant investment in their facilities if the sports halls are to be able to meet community needs in the medium-longer term.

Modelling

99. A number of different modelling tools are used to assess future needs, and the results for sports halls are set out below. The details about each of the modelling tools are provided in the Methodology section above.

Facilities Planning Model

100. Sport England undertakes a “national run” of each facility type early in the calendar year, based on the facility information known to them and standardised parameters. More details about the FPM are provided in Appendix 1, but the table (Figure 7) below highlights some of the most important sports hall parameters used in the model. These include the number of hours that facilities are expected to be open to cover the “peak period”, what the “peak period” is, how long people are usually willing to travel to a sports hall (the catchment area), and the level of use of a facility when it is considered to be “full”.
101. The findings from the National Run of the Facilities Planning Model of 2013 can generally be considered reasonably robust, although the MK Lions Academy has been included but no longer exists, and the MK Academy has been excluded. If these changes are taken into account, the current provision of sports hall space (scaled by hours) is approximately in line with the South East average.
102. The findings from the FPM report (but with the MK Lions Arena included and excluding the MK Academy) can be summarised as:
- About 95% of the potential demand for sports hall space is currently met, either by facilities within the authority area or by facilities in the adjoining local authorities.
 - Most of the satisfied demand is met within the authority (96%), with 4% exported to elsewhere.
 - 8% of the use of MK halls is by people living elsewhere.
 - MK is a net importer of hall users of around 514 visits per week in the peak period.
 - Most of the unmet demand is from people without access to a car who cannot reach a facility by walking.
 - The best used facilities are: Bletchley Leisure Centre, Fusion, David Lloyd, Oakgrove, Ousedale (Olney Campus), Shenley Leisure Centre, Walton High School and Woughton Leisure Centre – all of which the model estimates are running at

peak times at more than what Sport England considers to be “full” ie. at more than 80% of their potential capacity.

- The least used are: Courtside, Radcliffe School, Kent’s Hill, Leon and the Hazeley Academy, all of which appear to be running at 50% full or less.
- The least good Relative Share area is around Olney.
- About 5% of the potential demand is unmet, and almost all of this is due to people living too far from a sports hall to walk and them not having access to a car. Most of this unmet demand is spread across the central and southern areas of the city, in Newport Pagnell and Olney. It reaches a maximum of 0.2 of a badminton court within any 1 sq km area. This is illustrated by the map in Figure 8.
- The aggregated unmet demand map shows that there is no one place in MK where a new sports hall would be justified at this time (Figure 9). Aggregated unmet demand is measured in the number of badminton courts within a 1 km area. The map in shows that there is less than one badminton court unmet aggregated demand in any part of Milton Keynes.

Figure 7: Facilities Planning Model key parameters halls

At One Time Capacity	20 users per 4-court hall, 8 per 144 sq m of ancillary hall.
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.
Peak Period	Weekday: 17:00 to 22:00 Saturday: 09:30 to 17:30 Sunday: 09:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 19:30 Total: 40.5 hours
Percentage of use taking place within the Peak Period	60%
Utilised capacity considered “busy”	80% = “comfort factor”

103. The FPM, which is the most accurate tool for assessing the supply/demand balance for sports halls at the present time therefore leads to the conclusion that although there is unmet demand for sports hall space, this is spread widely and that no additional sports hall space is currently required. However these findings do need to be considered in the light of the exclusion of the MK Academy 4 court hall, and the two 3 court halls which were previously the MK Lions Arena.

Figure 8: Sports Halls FPM map – unmet demand

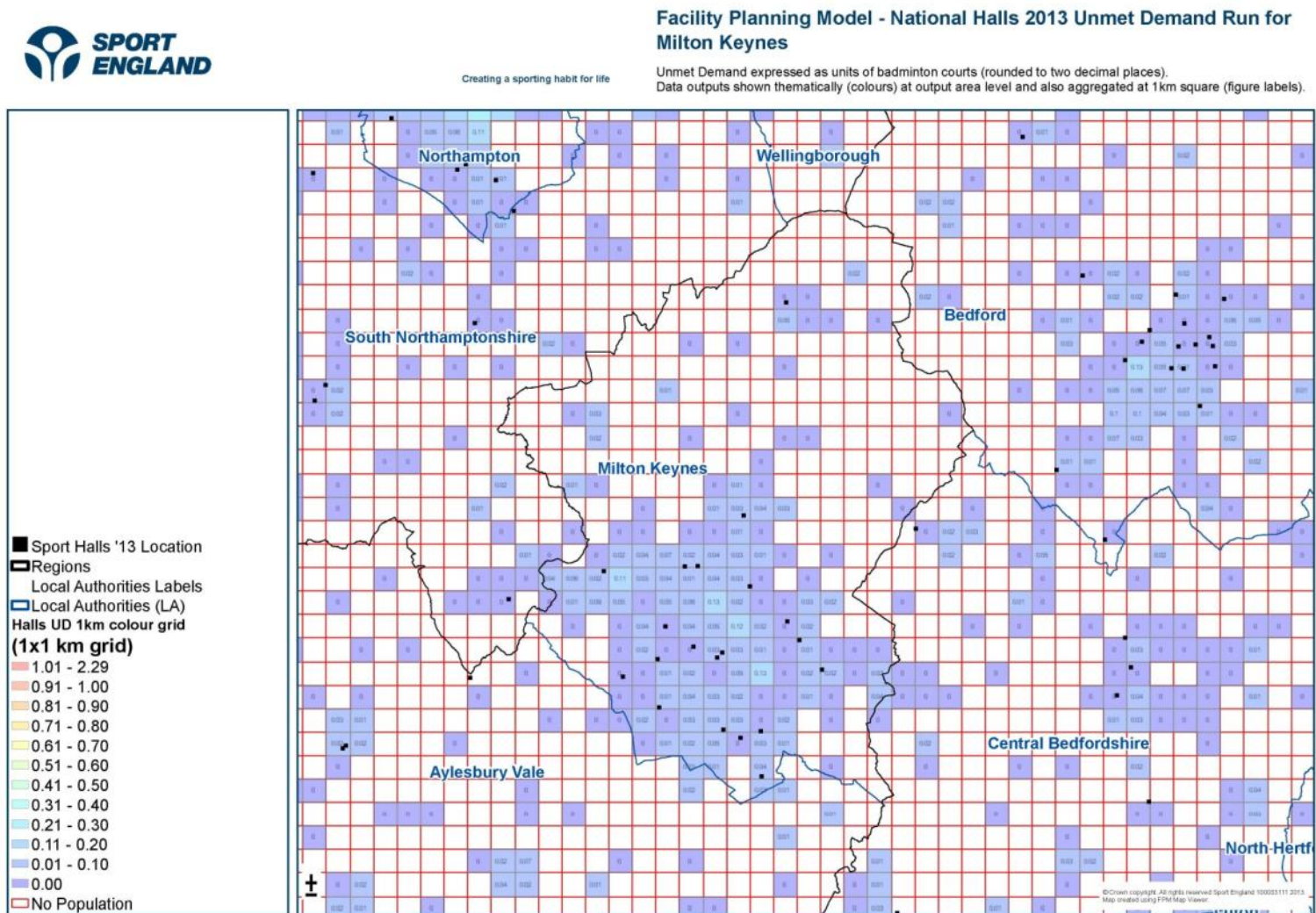
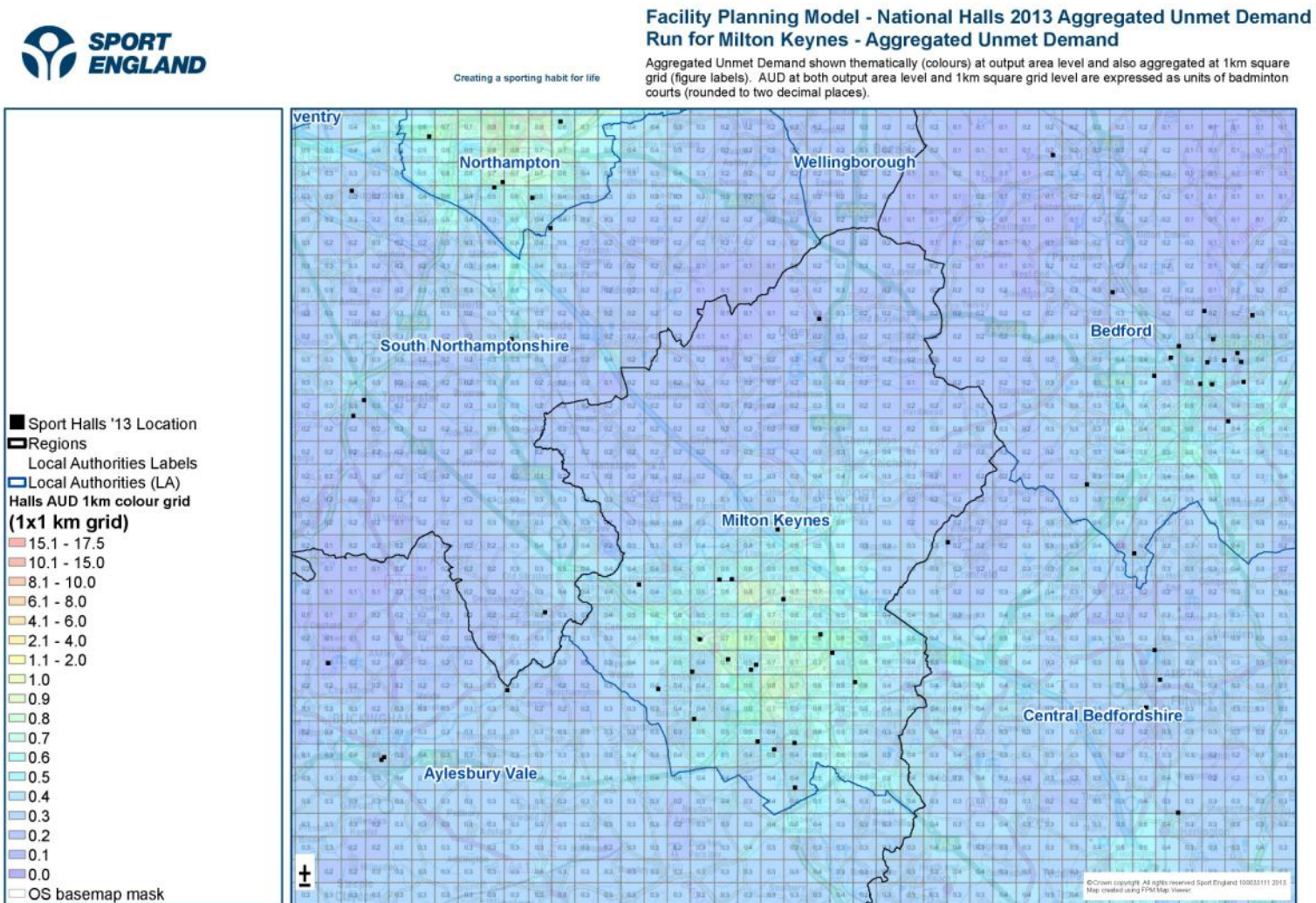


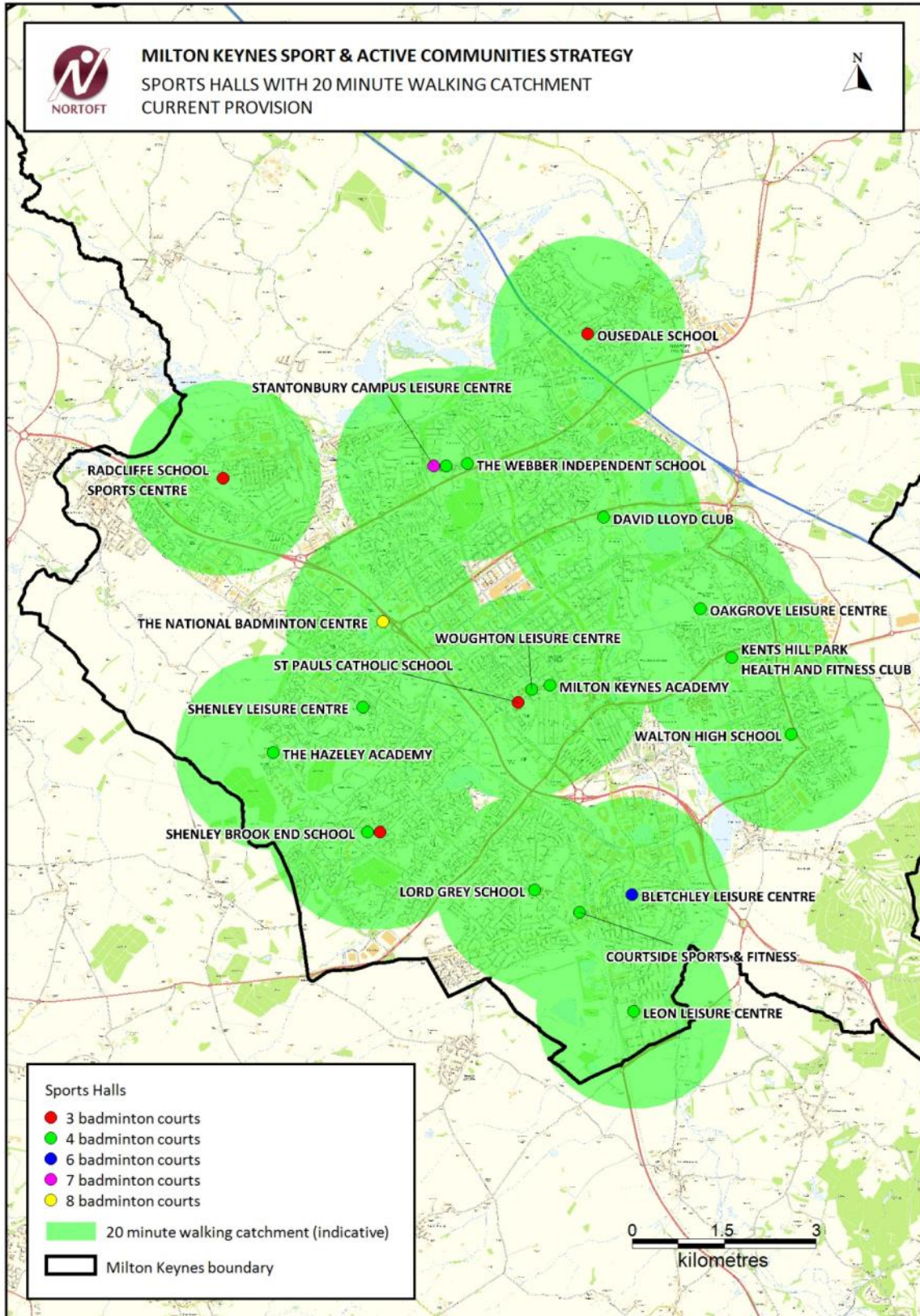
Figure 9: Sports Halls FPM map – aggregated unmet demand



Catchment mapping

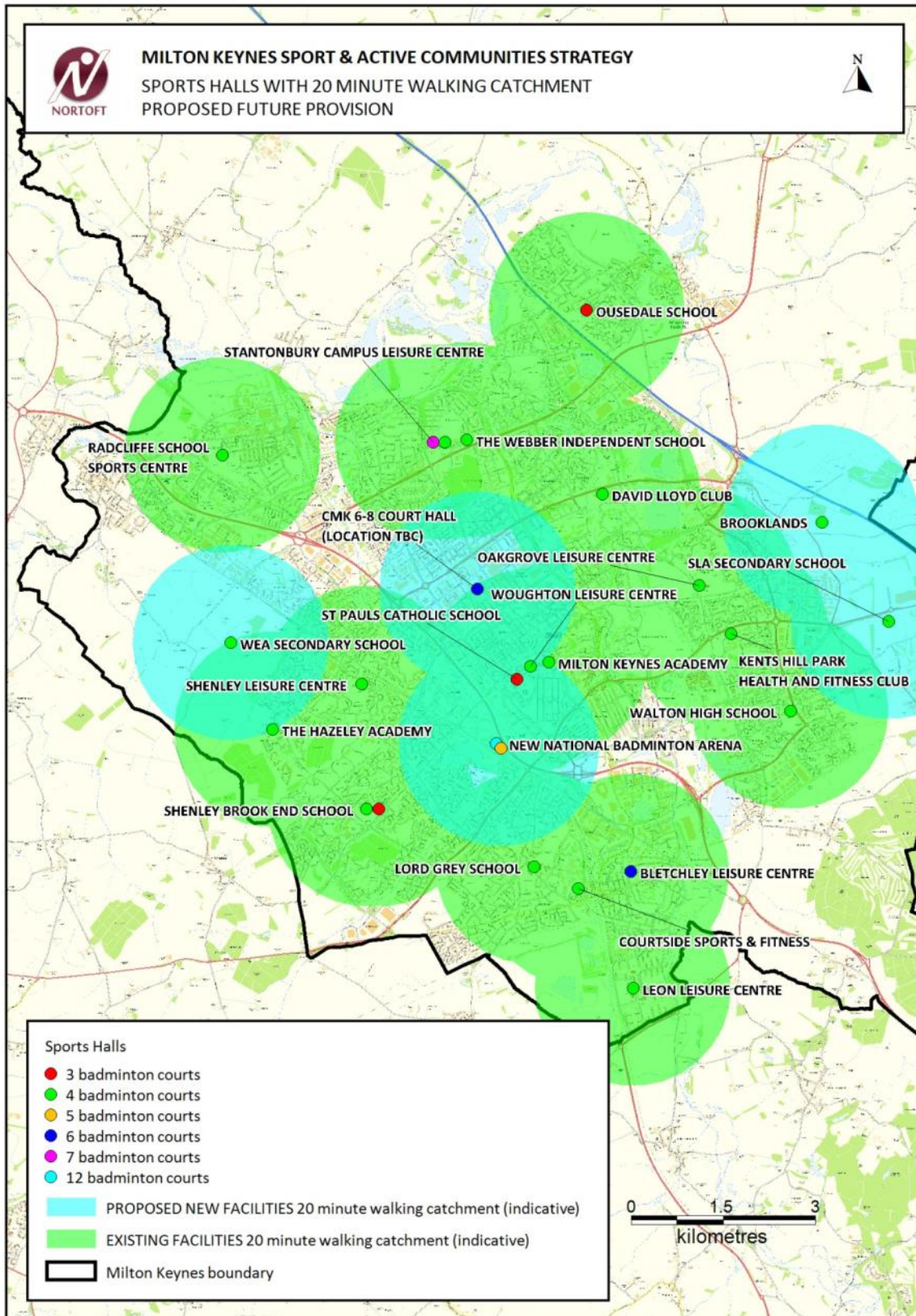
104. The Core Strategy places emphasis on sustainable travel, in particular walking and cycling, so it is useful to get an overview of the network of sports halls across the city and to identify where there are “gaps” in provision i.e. no sports halls within 1.6 km. This information can then be used to help prioritise future investment in facilities.
105. Figure 10 shows the current sports hall network with a 1.6 km buffer around each, approximating to the 20 minutes walking time. This shows that most of the city has, in theory, reasonable walking access to a sports hall, though there are some gaps in provision around the Simpson area and also in; part of the CMK area, the Beanhill/Netherfield Area, and to the north west around the Hodge Lea area.
106. Figure 11 is a similar catchment map but with the addition of the National Badminton Arena at the National Bowl site plus the proposed secondary school sports halls in Brooklands, the Western Expansion Area, the SLA and a central MK 6-8 court hall. The current National Badminton Centre has been removed as it is proposed to be closed. This map suggests that although provision improves in parts of the city, a fairly significant gap in provision would arise in the CMK area without the addition of a new sport hall in this area.
107. Catchment mapping for the more rural areas of Milton Keynes is not needed as everyone with an access to a car can reach a sports hall within 20 minutes drive time, whether this is within Milton Keynes or outside of the authority boundary. Walking catchments in the rural areas are not appropriate because of the low population density.

Figure 10: Sports halls in the city current – walking catchment



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Figure 11: Sports halls in the city future – walking catchment



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Nortoft Calculator

108. The FPM scaled by hours figure for Milton Keynes needs some adjustment from the FPM report because of the changed facilities. The calculation behind this is provided in Figure 12.

Figure 12: Calculation of MK scaled by hours figure for halls

	Population	England 53783807	SE Region 8815342	Milton Keynes 251900
Halls				
FPM report	Supply of hall space in courts	21386	3704	106
	Supply of publicly available hall space in courts (scaled with hours available in peak period)	16371	2850	84
	Total courts per 1000	0.30	0.32	0.33
	Total courts per 1000 scaled by hours	0.30	0.32	0.33
Changes				
Exclude	Milton Keynes Lions Area (2 x 3 courts) = 6 @ 38 hrs per week = 5.6 courts			
Add	Milton Keynes Academy 4 courts @ 25 hours per week = 2.5 courts			
Amended MK figure	Supply of publicly available court space (scaled with hours available in peak period)			80.9
	Total courts per 1000 scaled by hours			0.32

109. The current South East average of provision (scaled by hours) has been used to assess the current and future requirements in relation to sports halls for Milton Keynes in the Nortoft Calculator (Figure 13). Notably it is the same as the current rate of provision in Milton Keynes.

110. The scaled by hours average enables comparison between areas which have different characteristics, for example an area with large numbers of independent schools who offer only very limited access for the community, with an area where most of the sports provision is provided with the support of the local authority via leisure centres.

111. The Calculator forecasts the future need for facilities based upon both changes in the population within Milton Keynes and the policy decision about the anticipated growth in participation of 0.5% per annum. It suggests that a total of 27 extra badminton courts of provision will be required by 2026.

112. However as the FPM has demonstrated, there are areas of Milton Keynes which are currently more under pressure than others, and the population change maps illustrate where the future pressures will be. The future 27 badminton court need is not therefore evenly distributed across the authority, but mainly arises in the areas of new housing growth. These will be in part met by the three planned school 4-court halls at Brooklands, the Western Expansion Area (WEA), and the Strategic Land Allocation Area (SLA) (totalling 12 courts).

Figure 13: Nortoft Calculator results

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply (No of courts scaled by hours)	Current units per 1000 (scaled by hours)	South East provision per 1000 @ 2013 (scaled by hours)	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with South East average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing plus new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Sports Halls England average = 0.30 SE average = 0.32	Whole Authority	Courts	81	0.32	0.32	0	7	17	27	81	88	98	108

Comparator authorities' provision

113. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 14. In the case of sports halls the figures relate only to those halls which are 3 badminton courts and above. This is a very coarse assessment tool as the "number of sites" takes no account of their size, accessibility, opening hours, or distribution. This comparison suggests that the provision in Milton Keynes is approximately in a median position compared to the provision in the benchmark authorities.

Figure 14: Sports halls - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Number of sites with courts (halls of 3 or more courts)
Milton Keynes	251,900*	22**
City of Peterborough	183,400	14
Swindon	209,200	21
Thurrock	157,700	10
Warrington	202,200	21

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Summary of modelling findings

114. At present there are about 84 badminton courts available at peak time in the weekday evenings and less at weekends. This level of provision is in line with that for the South East region. There is no one place where there is very significant unmet demand or any one place where a new sports hall is justified at the present time based on community demand alone.
115. The modelling suggests that by 2026 a further 27 badminton courts will be required. This new provision will need to be located where there are particular pressures from increased housing growth in the future and where there are gaps in the network; around CMK, and on the west and east sides of the authority.
116. The new school sites are expected to provide for 12 courts in total (3 x 4-court halls), and the National Badminton Arena will provide a net increase of 7 courts. The NBA will have a surface which is not suitable for all hall sports. There is a need for a 6 or 8 court hall to meet the expected growth in participation, and a clear gap in provision in the central area of Milton Keynes. The logic is therefore to develop a leisure centre in the central area, with a large sports hall suitable for sports such as basketball, korfbal and wheelchair use, alongside the proposed community pool.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

117. The findings from the residents survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to sports halls are:
- 9% of people play either badminton or basketball
 - 8% took part in badminton, of which 7% took part at least once a month and 1% at least once a week
 - 1% took part in basketball at least once a month
 - Of the people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 46% were satisfied
 - 43% had no view or did not know
 - 11% were dissatisfied
 - 24% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be and of these the views were
 - 71% said improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 39% said provide new

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

118. The following clubs responded to the club survey.

Badminton

119. Two badminton clubs responded to the survey; the MK2000 Junior Badminton Club and the MKFAB Badminton club.
120. The MK2000 Junior Badminton Club draws its members from west Milton Keynes. They are a small club with about 5 mini and 20 junior members, and they link with the Loughton Primary School. The club expects to grow in the next 5 years and does not have a waiting list. The club currently uses the National Badminton Centre which they use year round 1 or 2 times a week on weekday evenings. Booking is however difficult and the main issue facing the club is a lack of facilities/access to facilities.
121. The MKFAB Badminton club draws most of its members from the central Milton Keynes area, and they play at Hazeley Academy. They have about 50 members of which 35 are seniors/veterans, 5 are juniors and 10 are minis. Most travel 11-20 minutes to play. The club has a substantial waiting list, with between 30 and 60 people waiting to join at any one time, spread across the age groups but particularly weighted towards the seniors. The club has a development plan and expects to grow, but a lack of court space and the cost of facilities are the main issues faced by the club. The club uses Hazeley Academy 1-2 times per week but finds booking very

difficult. The club would prefer to be located closer to the central Milton Keynes area.

Basketball

122. The Milton Keynes Basketball Association draws its members from west Milton Keynes. They use Shenley Brook End school both for their matches and training which they book year round 3-6 times per week. The sports hall is reasonably easy to book although there are some pressures at peak times. The club comments that the facility is expensive and inflexible.
123. They have about 15 minis, 16 juniors and 55 senior members. The club expects to grow over the next 5 years and does not have a waiting list. A number of issues face the club in trying to expand including both facility issues, and a lack of volunteers and coaches.
124. The club comments that the sports hall roof sometimes leaks and that the facility lacks a water fountain.

Netball

125. The MK Fusion Netball Club train in the old sports hall at Radcliffe School, which is due to be replaced as part of the school's investment. The club has a junior membership of about 16 players, who mainly live in west Milton Keynes. There is a school club link in place – with the Leon School Sport Partnership. The club has a development plan and expects to grow in the next 5 years but faces volunteer, coach and facility issues, as well as having difficulties recruiting members. There is no security of tenure for the use of Radcliffe which they use except in the summer months 1-2 times a week. The sports hall at Radcliffe is too small for netball although the floor and lighting are acceptable. The changing is also poor. These facility quality issues are however expected to be resolved once the new sports hall has been opened.
126. The club would prefer to be based in the Shenley Brook End area, and they train on the Shenley Brook End school outdoor courts during the summer. However these courts are in relatively poor condition as are their surrounds and there is no access to indoor shelter or changing.
127. The club comments that the cost of hire of facilities varies dramatically across the city, that many facilities are fully booked and others "price you out of being able to use them". The club goes outside in the summer to reduce costs and save on the hire costs of indoor hall facilities.

Boxing

128. The Milton Keynes Victors Amateur Boxing Club uses a small building on the Sir Herbert Leon Academy site, 3-6 times per week and year round. They have about 70

members, the majority being juniors and minis. Most of the members come from Milton Keynes and most will travel up to 20 minutes to get to the site. There is usually a waiting list of between 11-20, of which 15 are boys.

129. The main problem is lack of space and equipment, although the costs of facilities and lack of funding are also issues faced by the club. The club currently leases its facility from the school on a 6 month lease. The club would prefer their site to be more centrally located in Milton Keynes so it is more easily reached by public transport. They need a larger facility and replacement equipment, mainly gloves and bags.
130. The club comments that their current facility is very under-funded. They need more space, and for the longer term the rent is too expensive. The club keeps costs low in order to be inclusive and enable participation from low income groups.

Draft report responses

Roller skating

131. The Grid City Division of Roller Derby highlighted a lack of sports hall space suitable for their activity. They require a 6 court hall for training and an 8 court size hall for competitions. The surface of the hall needs to be sufficiently robust to withstand the use and this sport is not therefore compatible with sports such as badminton. Stantonbury is currently used two evenings a week and there is some additional capacity here.
132. The existing roller skating venue at Agora in Wolverton is due to close which will reduce the availability of roller skating space in Milton Keynes.
133. It is therefore appropriate to keep the needs of roller skating under review, and to consider this usage if a new large sports hall or other appropriate space potentially becomes available.

Martial arts

134. The Seibukan Aikido UK martial arts organisation identified difficulties in securing suitable premises for martial arts and proposed the development of a Japanese style "Bundo centre".
135. The martial arts centre at Woughton Leisure Centre is closing because of a lack of uptake and an apparent unwillingness of clubs to share facilities. It is not therefore considered that a large facility solely for martial arts clubs is justified. However a martial arts/boxing centre may be justified. This requires confirmation of need and the identification of a potential location.

National Governing Body strategies

Badminton

136. The Badminton England National Facilities Strategy 2012-16 specifically refers to the proposal to replace the National Badminton Centre with new provision, probably on a new site in Milton Keynes. This has now developed into the proposal for the National Badminton Arena to provide a 12 court and a 5 court hall, based at the MK Bowl. There are a number of sites where badminton is offered, and a number of badminton clubs in Milton Keynes.

Basketball

137. The England Basketball Facilities Strategy 2009-13 priority is for club managed sports halls with a minimum of two basketball courts.

Volleyball

138. Volleyball England's Strategic Plan 2013-2017 primarily focuses on the sports development elements of the sport, but the national governing body also has technical guidance for the development of facilities. No geographical locations are prioritised for investment. There is one volleyball club currently playing in Milton Keynes, based at Woughton Leisure Centre.

Handball

139. England Handball released its 4 year national strategy in December 2013. There is one community club and one school currently playing handball in Milton Keynes. There is no facilities strategy to guide investment in this sport.

Korfball

140. There are two korfball clubs in Milton Keynes, training at five different venues across the authority and the matches being held by one of the clubs at Bletchley Leisure Centre. The England Korfball Association is a relatively young national governing body and as yet has not identified geographical priorities for investment.

Market Segmentation and sport development

141. Sports halls are one of the primary sports facilities for community sports because they can provide a venue for many different activities. This facility type therefore is and will remain one of the most important for Milton Keynes in the period up to 2026.

CAT programme implications

142. The CAT programme may have some significant implications for the future of community use, particularly at Oakgrove Leisure Centre which is at Stage 2 of the process. The school has indicated that it would wish to bid for the facility, and if successful may change the nature of the site to one of club/community bookings only, rather than pay and play as at present. The extent of community use, the hours and the nature of the programme may all therefore be effectively reduced.
143. These potential changes cannot be assessed with any certainty, but they will need to be kept under review, as at least some of the current community use at the site may need to be replaced in other facilities elsewhere.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

144. The 2009 Strategy and its Refresh of 2011 were based on an expected rate of increase in participation from 1% pa. The latest statistics on participation suggests that Milton Keynes has achieved this objective, so the same level of increase in participation will be continued for the next strategy period.
145. The recommendations in the 2011 Refresh were:

The proposed facilities are:

1 x 6 court hall at the new secondary school in the WEA (size dependent upon wider network);

1 x 4 court hall at the new secondary school in the EEA;

plus

1 x 4 or 6 court hall at Radcliffe;

1 x 12 court central area (site to be identified), but ideally centrally located.

- *In addition to providing for the extra demand linked to new housing growth, there will be a need to meet increasing demand from the existing population. This is the equivalent of around 13-15 badminton courts (approx 3-4 x 4-court*

halls) spread across the authority, and may be most appropriately met through a combination of increasing opening hours and intensity of use of the existing sports halls, and/or private sector developments;

- *The 12 court hall proposal should be progressed as soon as possible as there is clear justification in terms of demand for a performance/high level training venue, as identified by the national governing bodies and major local clubs. There is also some need to provide space for local community use, particularly as new housing in the central area of Milton Keynes comes forwards. The amount of time programmed for general community use will therefore need to be balanced with the demands for training and events from the national governing bodies. If the 12 court hall proposal cannot be realised, other large (6 or 8 court) sports halls should be developed when opportunities arise;*
- *The timetabling of the school linked facilities will need to reflect the development timetable for the new schools in the western and eastern expansion areas. The proposal at Radcliffe was included as a high priority in the Strategy of 2008 and should remain a key proposal;*
- *The school dual-use halls would be satellite facilities, therefore developers' contributions from the relevant sub-areas should contribute towards them;*
- *The 12 court hall is envisaged to be multi-purpose and to provide for a range of high level (performance) events. It is likely to be developed as a public-private partnership but would need detailed feasibility studies and business planning to confirm the potential programming and viability.*

146. Most of these recommendations remain valid.

Development of planning standards

147. The planning standards are derived from a synthesis of the findings from the modelling, consultation responses, and the policy decision about the growth of participation.

Rate of provision per 1000

148. The current rate of provision is calculated on the capacity of sports halls actually available in the peak period (the Sport England "scaled by hours" figure), rather than the total amount of facilities available. In Milton Keynes the current rate of provision per 1000 is approximately in line with that of the South East region, and although some facilities are running more than what is considered to be "full", others have spare capacity which means that there is an approximate balance overall.

149. As the South East/Milton Keynes current rate of provision appears to be delivering an appropriate level of facility to meet the needs of the community, it is proposed to

use this as the starting point for determining the future rate of provision. This figure is currently 0.32 per 1000 (source, Sport England 2013), and if increased by 13% to reflect the potential increase in participation in Milton Keynes up to 2026, would be 0.36 badminton courts per 1000.

150. It is proposed that the rate of provision per 1000 provision will be measured using Sport England's annual National Run for the Facilities Planning Model.

Standard for accessibility

151. Although the Core Strategy has an objective of reducing car travel in Milton Keynes, the majority of sports hall users will travel by car. A drive time catchment of 20 minutes is therefore appropriate, reflecting the fact that Sport England research has shown that the majority of people will travel for up to this amount of time to reach a sports hall.

Standard for design and quality

152. The third element of the planning standards is that of quality and design. The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.
153. The planning standard is therefore 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.

Conclusions and Recommendations

154. The current levels 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. There is no one place in Milton Keynes where a new sports hall is currently required based on community demand alone.
155. The assessment and analysis above has shown that there is a requirement in the period up to 2026 to provide for a further 27 badminton courts of space. This is to cater for both the new populations, primarily in the west, east and central areas of Milton Keynes and also a steady rate of growth of participation of 1% per year.
156. The detailed programming of the proposed National Badminton Arena is still to be confirmed but Badminton England expect that almost all of the space would be usually 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 then. An average of 15 courts space has therefore been estimated for the site as a whole across the peak period. However, in terms of overall impact of the proposed Arena on sports hall needs, the net increase following the closure of the existing National Badminton Centre will be 7 courts.

157. 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 site would need to be brought forwards.
158. The phasing of the school linked facilities will need to reflect the development timetable for the new schools in the western expansion areas, Brooklands, and the SLA area. Critical to their use as significant community facilities will be their appropriate design, and the implementation of strong and enforced community use agreements.
159. The boxing club based at the Sir Herbert Leon Academy has a large waiting list and is constrained by its current site. Ideally the club would seek to move more centrally into Milton Keynes but needs to be easily accessible by public transport. It is known that other boxing clubs in Milton Keynes face a similar scenario.
160. At least one martial arts club is also struggling to find suitable and affordable space, so the Strategy proposal is to consider the development of a new martial arts/boxing venue. This requires further confirmation both in terms of the justification of need and potential location, as well as the facility mix.

Recommendations

161. The planning standard is therefore 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.
162. The amount of provision per 1000 to be monitored via the Sport England annual National Run for the Facilities Planning Model.
163. The priorities for the future are:
- New facilities:
 - 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.
- plus
- 6-8 court sports hall in central Milton Keynes area
- Improvements to existing network
 - undertake conditions surveys and feasibility studies to confirm the options for each site for refurbishment or replacement including addressing issues of accessibility on school sites where the facilities have community use during the school day
 - maintain the “newer” facilities to a high standard
 - the priority sites are (subject to conditions surveys and feasibility studies):
 - 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

Introduction

164. 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.
165. 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.
166. The largest pool is at Bletchley Leisure Centre which has a 25m x 8 lane competition pool.

Pool design and activities

167. 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. They can also be more expensive to operate relative to larger pools. General community needs should ideally also be balanced with the wider sports development requirements, including support to clubs to offer opportunities in a wide range of pool-based activities such as:
 - Swimming
 - Water Polo
 - Synchronised Swimming
 - Canoeing
 - Lifesaving
 - Diving
 - Sub Aqua
168. 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 sub-divide pools and moveable floors that can vary water depth can significantly increase a pool's flexibility.
169. Teaching or learner pools provide the opportunity to offer a wide range of activities catering for the maximum number of users possible. Teaching pools can be

maintained at a slightly higher temperature than main pools making them suitable for use by young children, non swimmers and those with a disability. They offer income generating potential not only through pool parties and other hirings, but also by reducing the impact on programming in the main pool. A teaching pool significantly enhances the 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.

170. In relation to Learn to Swim type programmes, the majority of swimmers are primary school aged i.e. aged 5-11 years. In Milton Keynes there is expected to be about an extra 5,000 children of this age by 2026 compared to the number in 2013, as the expected population rises from about 24,000 to 29,000.
171. A typical 25m x 6 lane pool is approximately 325m². With the addition of a learner pool this would typically increase by 160m² giving a total water space area of 485m². The area of an 8 lane x 25 m pool is 435 m².
172. In determining the best locations for new swimming pool provision a number of factors need to be considered. Ideally they should also be accompanied by other facilities such as a fitness suite to help ensure financial viability, or adjacent to school sites where both school and community use can be easily facilitated.

Active People Survey findings

173. Nationally over 2.9 million adults are swimming at least once a week making it the largest sport, but the number of people swimming has fallen between 2007/08 and 2012/13, particularly amongst those from the lower socio-economic backgrounds. The age of swimmers is reasonably evenly split across adults, but more women swim (approx 2/3rds) than men (1/3rd), and more are in the higher socio-economic groups than the lower.

Current and future provision

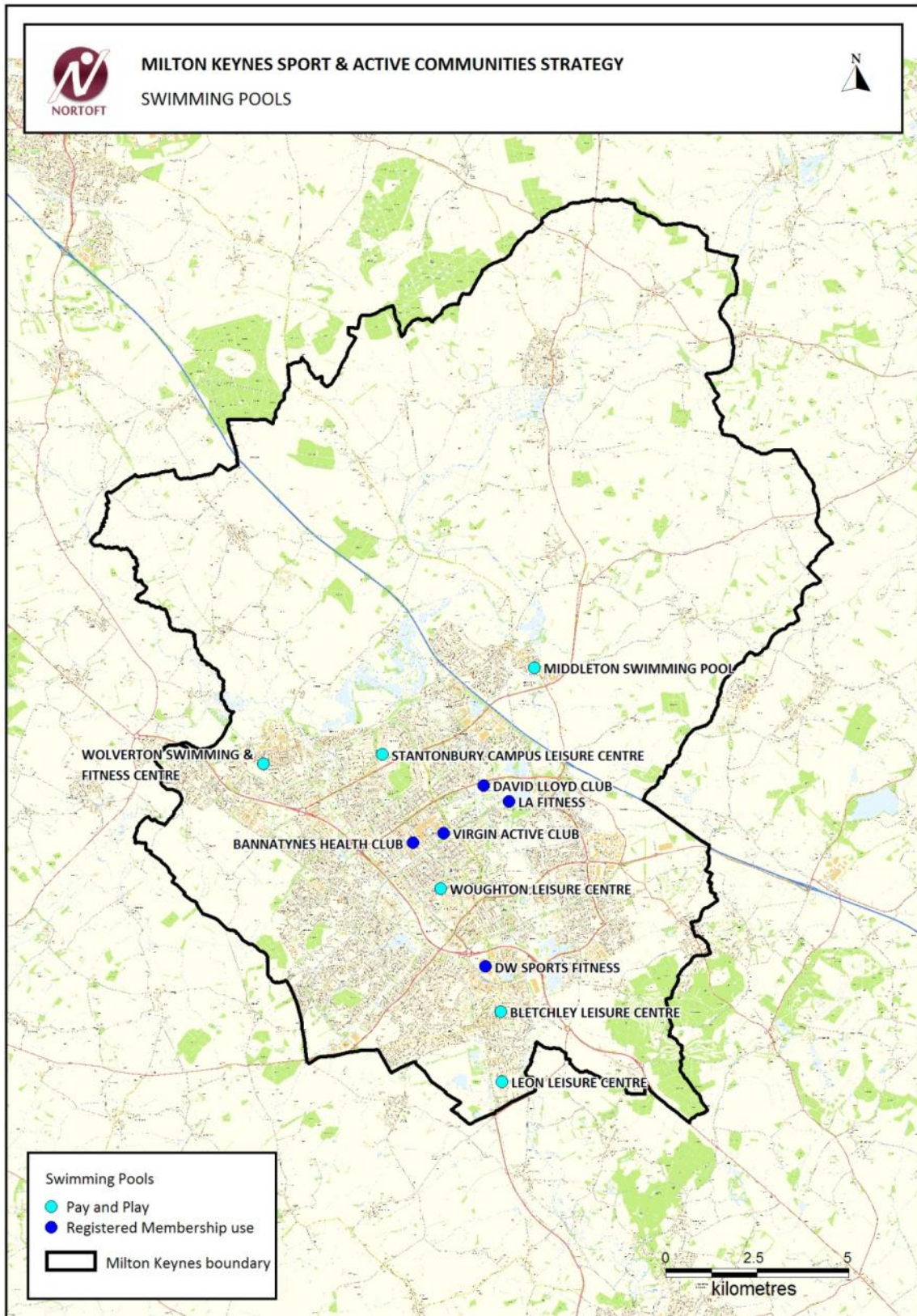
174. Figure 15 lists all of the indoor water space in Milton Keynes, and Figure 16 maps their locations. None of the pools currently provide diving platforms.
175. The current total water space in Milton Keynes is 3274 sq m, of which 1351 sq m is commercial, i.e. 41%.
176. One new pool is currently planned (has planning permission), at the proposed National Badminton Arena at the National Bowl site of 20 x 8 m in size.
177. The new pool at Bletchley Leisure Centre is in good condition, as is the newly opened pool at Wolverton. Woughton Leisure Centre pool has had recent refurbishment. Middleton, Stantonbury and Sir Herbert Leon (Leon Leisure Centre) pools each need significant investment.

Figure 15: Swimming pools - current provision

Site Name	Facility Sub Type	Access Type	Year Built	Year Refurb	Number of Lanes	Width (m)	Length (m)	Area	Management
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	1987	2008	4	8	23	184	Commercial Management
BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	2010		8	17	25	437	Local Authority Contract
DAVID LLOYD CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	1997	2007	6	13	25	325	Commercial Management
DW SPORTS FITNESS (MILTON KEYNES)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	2009		0	8	20	160	Commercial Management
KENTS HILL PARK HEALTH AND FITNESS CLUB	Main/General	Registered Membership use	1992			8	16	128	Commercial Management
LA FITNESS (MILTON KEYNES)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	2001	2003	1	8	15	120	Commercial Management
LEON LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	1970		4	7	25	180	School/College/ University (in house)
LIVINGWELL HEALTH CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	Learner/Teaching /Training	Registered Membership use	1994		0	6	8	48	Commercial Management
MIDDLETON SWIMMING POOL	Main/General	Pay and Play	1989	2008	5	10	33	333	Town Council
MIDDLETON SWIMMING POOL	Learner/Teaching /Training	Pay and Play	1989	2008	0	5	10	50	Town Council

Site Name	Facility Sub Type	Access Type	Year Built	Year Refurb	Number of Lanes	Width (m)	Length (m)	Area	Management Code
SPIRIT HEALTH CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	1986	2009	0	8	16	128	Commercial Management
STANTONBURY CAMPUS LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	1976	2010	6	12	25	300	School/College/ University (in house)
STANTONBURY CAMPUS LEISURE CENTRE	Learner/Teaching /Training	Pay and Play	1976	2010	0	5	8	40	School/College/ University (in house)
VIRGIN ACTIVE CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	Main/General	Registered Membership use	2000	2001	3	12	20	240	Commercial Management
VIRGIN ACTIVE CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	Learner/Teaching /Training	Registered Membership use	2000	2001	0	3	6	18	Commercial Management
WOLVERTON SWIMMING & FITNESS CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	2013		6	13	25	325	Trust
WOLVERTON SWIMMING & FITNESS CENTRE	Learner/Teaching /Training	Pay and Play	2013		0	7.5	13	98	Trust
WOUGHTON LEISURE CENTRE	Main/General	Pay and Play	1980	2010	4	8	20	160	Local authority

Figure 16: Swimming pools - current provision



Modelling

178. A number of different modelling tools are used to assess the future needs for sports facilities. The results for swimming pools are set out below.

Facilities Planning Model

179. Sport England undertakes a “national run” of the Facilities Planning Model for each facility type early in the calendar year, based on the facility information known to them and standardised parameters. The findings from the Facilities Planning Model of 2013 can be considered reasonably good guide to the balance in the supply and demand for swimming pools in Milton Keynes. More details about the FPM are provided in Appendix 1, but the table below (Figure 17) highlights some of the most important parameters used in the model in relation to pools. Of particular importance in Milton Keynes is the accessibility criteria of 20 minutes travel time, and the percentage of use at peak time of a pool at which stage the pool is considered by Sport England to be “busy”.

Figure 17: 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
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”

180. The FPM national assessment for 2013 gives a useful indication of the current supply and demand for swimming in Milton Keynes, although Watling Way was included in

the assessment and has now been replaced by the larger Wolverton Pool. The findings can be summarised as:

- The current provision of swimming pool space (scaled by hours) is lower than both the SE and national average [with facility changes made].
- About 93% of all demand for swimming is currently “satisfied”, a rate which is higher than either the South East or national averages.
- Of this, about 93% of the satisfied demand is met within the authority, with 4% exported to elsewhere.
- 11% of the use of MK pools is by people living elsewhere.
- MK is a net importer of pool users of about 1230 visits per week in the peak period.
- Less than 1% of unmet demand is because of the lack of capacity.
- Around 6% of possible demand is unmet because people are outside of a catchment area of a pool, mainly from people without access to a car who cannot reach a facility by walking.
- Five of the 9 pools included in the FPM analysis are estimated as running 100% full at peak time, and a further 3 are running at over 70% capacity. Only the DW Fitness site and Sir Herbert Leon Academy (Leon Leisure Centre) are estimated at running at less than the 70% capacity, which is considered by Sport England as being “busy”. The pool at the Sir Herbert Leon Academy is least well used.
- The least good Relative Share areas are in the southern part of the authority.
- There is no spare capacity to cater for increased population or increased participation.
- The aggregated unmet demand map suggests that the central area of MK is most likely to cater for the unmet demand, but that the level of unmet demand at this time is insufficient to justify a large new facility.

181. The FPM map of 2013 showing the pattern of unmet demand for swimming across Milton Keynes is given as Figure 18. This shows that the areas with the greatest unmet demand are across the central parts of the city, where the maximum demand in any one square kilometre is about 5.4 sq m of water space.

182. This is followed by a map showing the aggregated unmet demand for swimming pools in Figure 19. This map is useful to determine if a new pool can be located at any one place which would cater for unmet demand within its catchment. The blue/blue-green areas of the map show that there is less than about 30 sq m of aggregated unmet demand in many parts of the authority. The areas shaded yellowish have unmet demand of up to about 50 sq m, and the deepest shading between the Portway and the Woughton on the Green area reaches about 60 sq m of aggregated unmet demand. To put this into context, a teaching pool is usually about 160 sq m, so the worst area is approximately the equivalent less than one half of a teaching pool, nowhere near the amount required to justify a new pool.

183. The FPM may also be identifying the more central area of Milton Keynes because most of the pools here are available to registered members only, so not as

affordable or accessible to those people with lower incomes, within this less affluent area of the city.

184. The FPM, which is the most accurate tool for assessing the supply/demand balance for swimming pools at the present time, therefore leads to the conclusion that although there is unmet demand for swimming, that no new pools are currently required.
185. The FPM assessment is a snap-shot of the current situation. The FPM can also be used for scenario testing for specific facility changes, and may be useful to test proposals as they emerge both in relation to the location of the proposed new facilities and in relation to the refurbishment/replacement options for the older pools in the network.

Catchment mapping

186. As the Core Strategy emphasises sustainable travel, particularly on foot and by cycle, it is useful to get an overview of the city area of Milton Keynes to identify if there are significant gaps in provision. Figure 20 shows the current swimming pool network with a 1.6 km buffer (20 minutes walking time) around each facility (green), and the new proposed pool at the National Badminton Arena (blue). This shows that although there is, in theory, relatively good access to pools within 20 minutes walking time in the central part of Milton Keynes, there is effectively no access for either the western side or eastern side of the authority. However this map does not take into account the type of pools (several are commercial) or the ability of people with lower incomes to access them.
187. Catchment mapping for the more rural areas is not needed as everyone with an access to a car can reach a swimming pool within 20 minutes drive time, whether this is within Milton Keynes or outside of the authority boundary. Walking catchments in the rural areas are not appropriate because of the low population density.

Figure 18: Swimming pools – unmet demand

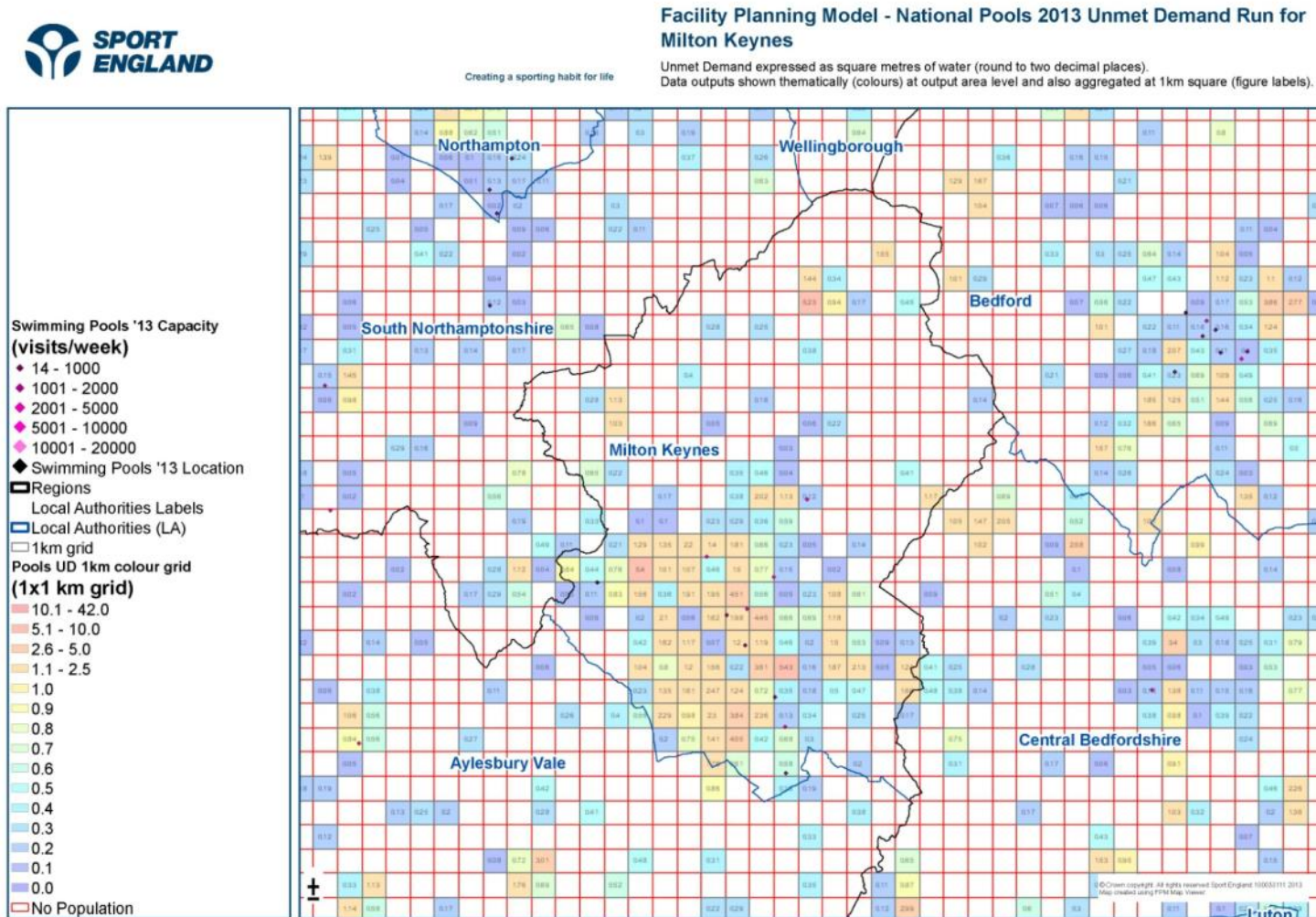


Figure 19: Swimming pools – aggregated unmet demand



Creating a sporting habit for life

Facility Planning Model - National Pools 2013 Aggregated Unmet Demand Run for Milton Keynes

Aggregated Unmet Demand shown thematically (colours) at output area level and also aggregated at 1km square grid (figure labels). AUD at both output area level and 1km square grid level are expressed as square metres of water (rounded to two decimal places).

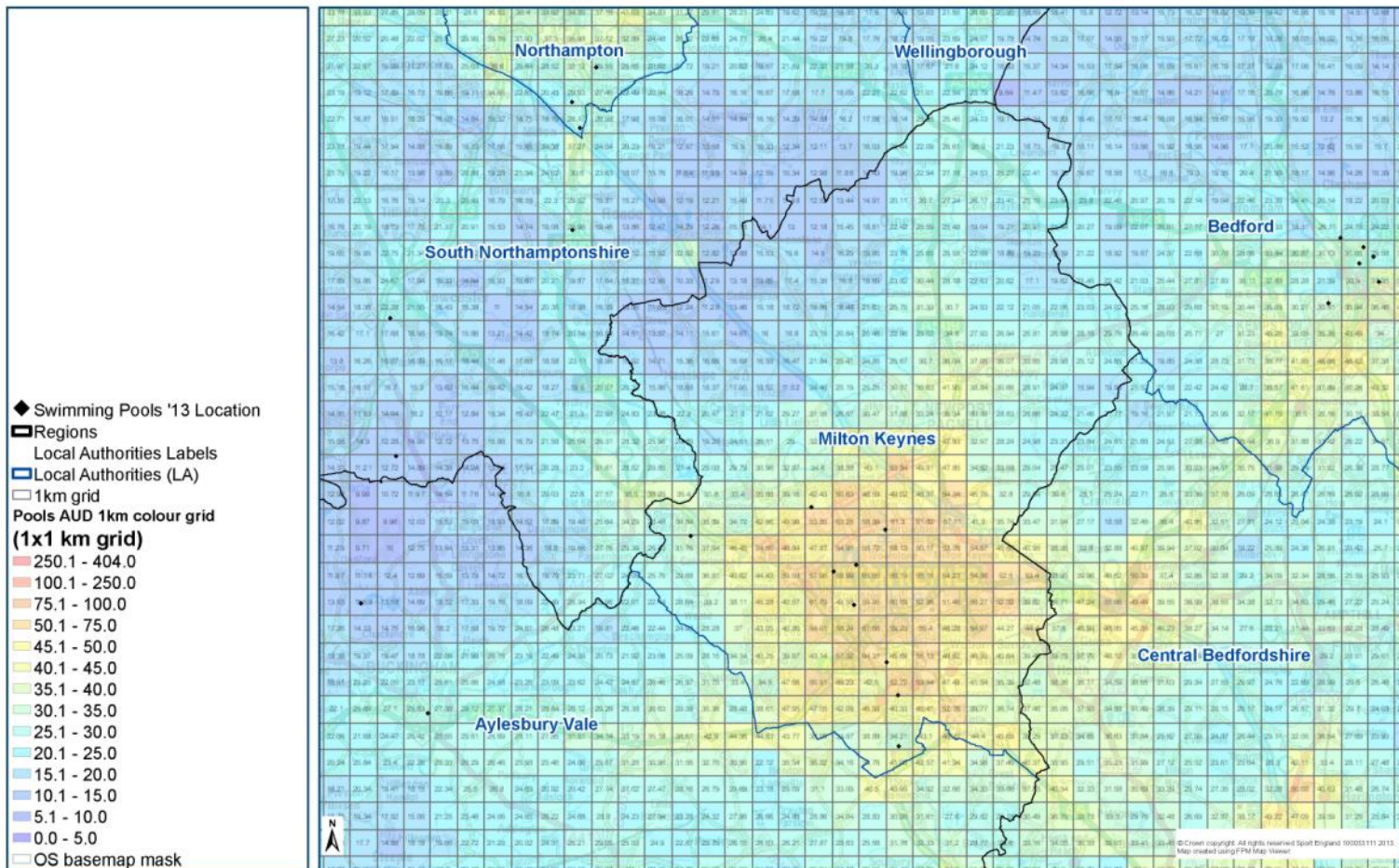
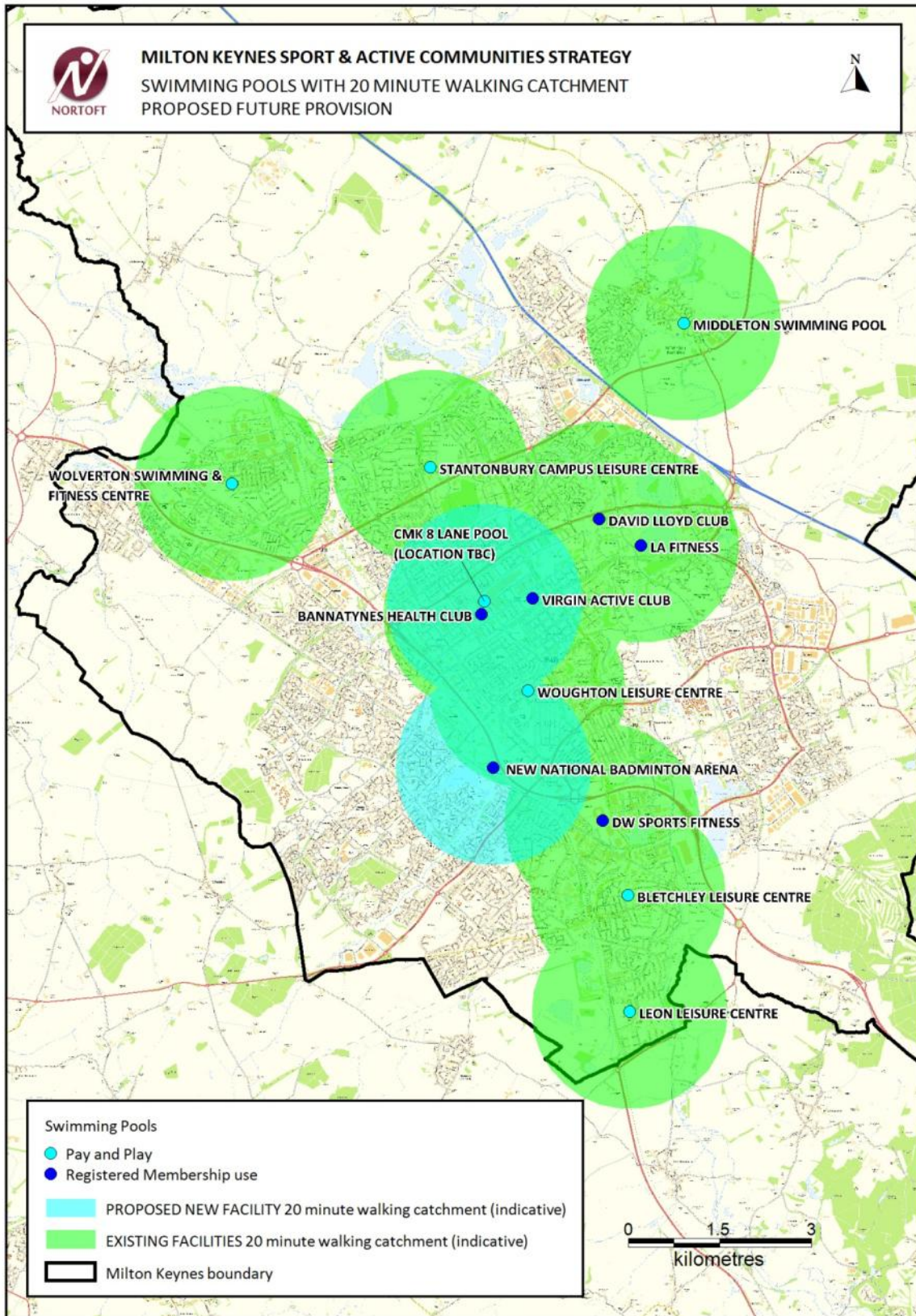


Figure 20: Walking catchments to swimming pools in the city



Nortoft Calculator

188. There is a need to slightly amend the FPM water space figures because they do not take into account the closure of Watling Way and the opening of Wolverton pools. The following amendments have therefore been made, to give a water space figure scaled by hours for Milton Keynes of 10.2 sq m per 1000 (Figure 21).

Figure 21: Scaled by hours figure for Milton Keynes swimming space

		England	SE Region	Milton Keynes
	Population	53783807	8815342	251900
Pools				
FPM report	Supply of total water space in sq m	685690	123305	2597.5
	Supply of publicly available waer space in sq m (scaled with hours available in peak period)	568554	99880	2318
	Total water space per 1000	12.75	13.99	10.06
	Total water space per 1000 scaled by hours	10.6	11.3	9.2
<i>Changes</i>				
<i>Exclude</i>	Watling Way @ 150 sq m @ 34 hrs per week = 98 sq m			
<i>Add</i>	Wolverton pools 325 sq m + 98 sq m = 423 sq m @ 52 hours			
	Supply of publicly available waer space in sq m (scaled with hours available in peak period)			2643
Amended MK figure	Total water space per 1000 scaled by hours			10.5

189. The current South East average of provision (scaled by hours) has been used as the starting point in the Nortoft Calculator to assess the current and future requirements in relation to swimming pools. This rate has been chosen because the pools in Milton Keynes are almost all running at what would be considered as more than “busy”, so additional capacity is needed.
190. The scaled by hours average enables comparison between areas which have different characteristics, for example an area with large numbers of independent schools who offer only very limited access for the community, with an area where most of the sports provision is provided with the support of the local authority via leisure centres. The Nortoft Calculator provides a forecast of future need for swimming pool space based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation, see Figure 22.
191. The Nortoft Calculator estimates that if the amount of pool space was to be increased in line with the South East average in 2013 but adjusted for population growth and a 1% increase in participation, that a further 1163 sq m of water space will be needed by 2026, or the equivalent of an 8 lane pool with teaching pool, plus 2 6-lane 25m community pools.
192. Of this total demand, the planned population growth of about 45,410 will require additional pool space of about 581 sq m, calculated on a rate of provision of 12.8 sq

m per 1000, or more than the size of an 8 lane x 25 m pool with teaching pool. The remainder is the additional capacity needed to allow for increased participation at 1% per annum and to allow for some additional space to reduce the pressures on the existing network.

Comparator authorities' provision

193. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 23. In the case of swimming pools the figures relate only to pools which are 120 sq m or above, or 20 m in length or greater with public access. This is a very coarse assessment tool as the "number of sites" takes no account of their size, accessibility, opening hours, or distribution. This comparison suggests that the provision in Milton Keynes is approximately in a median position compared to the provision in the benchmark authorities.

Figure 23: Swimming pools - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Number of pools with public access greater than 120 sq m or 20 m in length
Milton Keynes	251,900*	10
City of Peterborough	183,400	4
Swindon	209,200	10
Thurrock	157,700	5
Warrington	202,200	11

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Figure 22: Nortoft Calculator results – swimming pools

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply (Water space scaled by hours)	Current units per 1000 (scaled by hours)	South East provision per 1000 @ 2013 (scaled by hours)	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with South East average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing plus new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Swimming Pools England average = 10.60 SE average = 11.33	Whole Authority	m ²	2643	10.49	11.33	211	468	842	1163	2854	3111	3485	3806

Summary of modelling findings

194. The FPM and Nortoft Calculator both suggest that there are relatively low levels of swimming pool space in Milton Keynes, but that at present no new large pools are currently justified. However as the population in Milton Keynes grows and participation rates increase additional space will be needed in the period up to 2026. This is equivalent to:
- 1 x 8 lane 25 m pool = 425 sq m
 - 1 x teaching pool = 160 sq m
 - 1 x 6 lane 25 m pool = 325 sq m
- TOTAL WATER SPACE = 910 sq m
195. Plus additional commercial pool space e.g. National Badminton Arena planned pool at 160 sq m, totalling 253 sq m of water space. There is the expectation that the commercial sector would provide 22% of the new water space.
196. The priority is for an 8 lane pool to be developed by 2021, plus the proposed community pool (25m x 6 lane), ideally in the west of Milton Keynes.
197. As new pool proposals are developed, scenario testing using the Sport England FPM model would help to confirm the options, particularly in relation to the potential locations of the new pools and the refurbishment/replacement alternatives for the older pools in the network.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

198. The findings from the residents survey are a good indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to swimming pools are:
- 29% of people swim or do pool based activities
 - 18% swim at least once a week, while 10% swim at least once a month
 - 78% of those responding had a view about swimming pools. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 53% were satisfied
 - 18% had no view or did not know
 - 37% were dissatisfied
 - 42% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be and of these the views were
 - 55% improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 59% provide new

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

199. The Bletchley and District Swimming Club responded to the club survey. They currently have about 80 members, evenly split between juniors, and seniors/veterans. The membership is drawn from all over Milton Keynes, but the minis and juniors tend to live within 10 minutes of the Sir Herbert Leon Academy site whilst the adults travel for up to 20 minutes. The club has a development plan and has links with both the school and Bletchley Leisure Centre. There is no waiting list at present. The main issues facing the club are a lack of coaches, a lack of funding, and the recruitment of new members. If members drop out this impacts on the club's ability to afford to hire the facility.
200. Leon is the preferred venue for the club and they use it 3-6 times per week, and find it easy to book. The club describes the facility and its changing of being of "average" quality. There is no seating for spectators.

Draft report responses

201. The City of Milton Keynes Swimming Club would wish to see the installation of a moveable floor in the proposed 8 lane competition pool to enable water polo to be played. They would also note that there is no current provision in Milton Keynes for springboard or platform diving.
202. The Newport Pagnell Swimming Club supports the development of a competition pool because the "swimming clubs lack facilities that are crucial in moving younger children into competitive swimming and then retaining these swimmers in the sport".
203. An 8 lane competition pool is proposed in the Strategy, and both a moveable floor and diving provision will be considered as part of the new pool facility. However their provision will be subject to sufficient funding being available.

National Governing Body strategies

Swimming

204. The ASA is the national governing body for swimming and the lead for facility strategies. The ASA current national strategy, the ASA Strategic Plan 2013-17 sets the direction for the sport in the next few years. It includes the aspiration for more new 50m and 25m pools, and international standard diving provision.
205. As identified in the comments from the swimming clubs, the key issue in Milton Keynes is a lack of competition swimming facilities, as only Bletchley Leisure Centre pool is the correct size. Stantonbury is used extensively for training but is now

technically too short for competition swimming. The swimming clubs also use Leon and Middleton pools. They would like to have access to a 50m pool for training.

Canoeing

206. Swimming pools provide an important resource for canoe training during the winter months and both sufficient storage space and programming time are looked for by the British Canoe Union.

Market Segmentation and sports development

207. The Sport England Market Segmentation analysis suggests that several of the segments currently enjoy swimming and find swimming appealing, particularly amongst women. This helps to confirm the importance of providing accessible swimming opportunities across the authority.
208. Swimming is an important and attractive activity for everyone in the community and swimming is seen as an important life skill, and is a requirement for primary school pupils. Swimming pool space is therefore seen as a high priority facility for the authority and its partners. Reasonable access to a pool for everyone is an important issue in terms of the equality objectives of Milton Keynes, and will need particular attention where there is low car ownership, poor access to a pool because of travel time and distance, or because pools are available to registered members only and at relatively high cost.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

209. The expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa has been kept from the previous strategy because this rate of participation growth has been achieved in Milton Keynes.
210. The recommendations in the 2011 Refresh were:

Public pools

- *a new 25 m x 8 lane competition pool plus teaching pool (equivalent to 625 sq m) in the central area of Milton Keynes by 2021;*
- *a new 25 x 8 lane pool plus teaching pool (equivalent to 625 sq m) either in the western or eastern expansion area of the authority, possibly linked to the proposed schools as an adjacent leisure centre facility.*

Commercial pools

- *Water space equivalent to:*
 - *a new 25 m x 8 lane pool plus teaching pool (equivalent to 625 sq m);*

Or

- 1 x 25 m x 6 lane pool plus teaching pool (equivalent to 475 sq m), and 1 x 25m x 4 lane pool (equivalent to 213 sq m);

Or

- 1 x 25 m x 5 lane pool plus teaching pool (equivalent to 413 sq m), and 1 x 25m x 4 lane pool (equivalent to 213 sq m);

- Should Watling Way be closed new additional provision will be required;
- All main pools should be a minimum size of 160 sq m;
- Three of these pools will need to be in place by 2021 to meet the needs of the population by this date, if the rate of provision is at adopted Strategy rate.

211. These requirements have not changed significantly since the 2011 Refresh.

212. In relation to other changes needed to these recommendations, the Watling Way pool has now been closed and replaced by a new larger pool at Wolverton.

CAT programme implications

213. The CAT programme excludes the swimming pools, so has no implications for this facility type.

Development of planning standards

214. The assessment and analysis of pool requirements above lead to the following recommendations in relation to standards of provision.

Rate of provision per 1000

215. The proposed standard to 12.8 sq m per 1000 for Milton Keynes up to 2026.

216. This approach is justified because:

- The amount of swimming pool space within Milton Keynes at the present time is lower than the regional average of provision.
- There is unmet demand across much of the city area.
- Most pools are either running 100% full at peak time, or are running at over 70% capacity, which is considered as being “busy” by Sport England.
- Swimming is amongst the most important activities amongst the different community groups in Milton Keynes and is likely to remain so.
- There is an expected increase in the number of primary aged children of around 5000 in the period up to 2026, many of whom would wish to take part in Learn to Swim programmes
- There is insufficient water space to enable swimming as a sport to retain its members.

- There is a policy to encourage increased participation in swimming at a rate of 1% pa.

217. The rate of provision per 1000 will be measured using Sport England's annual National Run for the Facilities Planning Model.

Standard for accessibility

218. In the city area of Milton Keynes the Core Strategy policy is to encourage the switch away from car use, however as the majority of users are still expected to travel to a swimming pool by car, a 20 minute drive time catchment is appropriate.

219. The authority wide planning standard is therefore 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

Standard for design and quality

220. The third element of the planning standards is that of quality and design. The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the relevant national governing bodies. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

221. The 8-lane pool should have a moveable floor and potentially a diving pit.

Conclusions and Recommendations

222. The rate of provision currently 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.

223. 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, including about 5000 extra primary aged children, many of whom will take part in Learn to Swim type opportunities.

224. 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

pools, 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 to reduce the current pressures on the pool network.

225. 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, co-located with the new 6 or 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 area of the city.
226. One commercial pool proposal is known about, the 160 sq m pool at the National Badminton Arena. It is expected that the commercial sector will respond to “fill the gap” in terms of the amount of public swimming space provided and the total required.
227. All of the public 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.
228. 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.

Recommendations

229. The authority wide planning standards are therefore 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. The 8-lane pool should have a moveable floor and potentially a diving pit.

230. The new pools required are:
- Public pool: a new 8 lane pool plus teaching pool in the central area of Milton Keynes by 2021, co-located with the new large sports hall
 - Public pool: a new 25 m x 6 lane pool ideally in the west of Milton Keynes by 2026.
 - Commercial pool:
 - the development of a small commercial pool at the proposed National Badminton Arena
 - other commercial pools, to be confirmed
231. Priorities for improvement/refurbishment, based on full conditions surveys and feasibility studies to provide a costed programme of works:
- Sir Herbert Leon Academy
 - Middleton Pool
 - Stantonbury Campus
232. To consider undertaking Sport England scenario testing to confirm the pool proposals as the locations for the new pools and refurbishment/replacement options become clearer.

ARTIFICIAL GRASS PITCHES

Introduction

234. 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 playing pitch strategy which will be a key action arising from the main strategy work. The findings and recommendations in this section will need to be reviewed in the light of the playing pitch strategy findings, but are not expected to be needed to be changed significantly.
235. 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. The recommendations in this section of the Strategy have been agreed by the national governing bodies for football, rugby and hockey.
236. AGPs are often considered revenue generators so can be an important source of income for schools, clubs and leisure centres. However all too often insufficient money is set aside to re-carpet the pitch at the end of its lifespan (often about 10 years) so issues arise in terms of maintaining and retaining the facility.

Pitch types

237. There are three main types of Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs): sand based/sand filled; 3G; and water based. 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.
- **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 the longest established. 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 have a specialist hockey surface but can also be used for football and non-contact rugby training. There is one water based pitch at Tattenhoe.
238. The demand for AGPs is one of the fastest growing of all sports facilities, and the National Governing Bodies (NGBs) are responding to this with 'new' surfaces and new competition rules. AGPs are also vital for many clubs for training, even if matches are played on grass. The guidance from Sport England and the NGBs ('Selecting the Right Artificial Surface', 2010) provides more detail on the types of

surface and their expected use (see Figure 24 below). However this advice may now be superseded by emerging policy from England Hockey, the FA, and RFU which may put much more emphasis on sports specific surfaces rather than shared surfaces.

239. AGPs are seen as a major benefit for schools, both in the public and independent sectors. Many schools therefore have aspirations for AGPs as do the higher and further education sectors.

Active People Survey findings

240. AGPs are used primarily for football and hockey. Sport England has published detailed sport evidence packs, which bring together data from the Active People Survey. This shows that football participation rates by adults have fallen in recent years, but have been stable for hockey.
241. For football, there is a clear overlap between the small sided game played on large size pitches that have been divided up, and the specialist small sided (sometimes commercial) pitch complexes. Of the two, the small sided commercial pitch complexes tend to be more attractive to senior players, for example the 12 pitch site at Walnut Tree. The cost of hiring artificial surfaces can prohibit use by mini and junior teams, but the newly launched Football Association national facilities strategy places heavy emphasis on AGPs, and contains an aspiration for all teams of all age groups to have access of at least one hour per week on a 3G pitch for training.
242. For rugby, good quality natural turf remains the surface of choice for both matches and training. However, where there is limited space, 3G artificial grass pitches with the appropriate length pile and shock pad offer a real opportunity to provide a quality surface upon which to play the game. The RFU however will generally only prioritise AGP development where a pitch is on a rugby club site, or is adjacent to it, or possibly where a school has a very strong background in rugby.

Figure 24: AGP surfaces and use by sport

Pitch type	Rubber crumb type			Sand type		Water type
Category	Long Pile 3G (65mm with shock pad)	Long Pile 3G ¹ (55-60mm)	Short Pile 3G ¹ (40mm)	Sand Filled ¹	Sand Dressed ¹	Water based ¹
Comments on sports surfaces	Rugby surface	Preferred football surface	Acceptable surface for some competitive football and hockey	Acceptable surface for competitive hockey and suitable for football training	Preferred surface for competitive hockey and suitable for football training	High level competitive hockey and suitable for football training if pitch irrigated
Sport						
Hockey	○○○○○○	○○○○○○	●●○○○○ ²	●●●○○○ ²	●●●○○○ ²	●●●●●● ²
Rugby League	●●●○○○ ³	●●●○○○ ³	●●○○○○ ⁴	●○○○○○ ⁵	●○○○○○ ⁵	●○○○○○ ⁵
Rugby Union	●●●●●● ⁶	●●○○○○ ⁷	●○○○○○ ⁵	●○○○○○ ⁵	●○○○○○ ⁵	●○○○○○ ⁵
Football	●●●●●● ⁸	●●●●●● ⁸	●●●○○○ ⁸	●○○○○○ ⁹	●○○○○○ ⁹	●○○○○○ ⁹
Key	○○○○○○ Not suitable for use ●○○○○○ Surface for modified games/training on but not suitable for serious training / competition ●●○○○○ Surface for training/recreational use ●●●○○○ Surface for training and for some competition ●●●●○○ Surface for competition and training ●●●●●○ Surface for competition and training (regional / national) ●●●●●● Surface for high level competition/training (national/international)			¹ Shockpad optional: often needed to meet appropriate performance requirements ² Surface must comply with FIH Standard (insitu tested) ³ RFL currently evaluating surface standard - see their website for latest information ⁴ No full contact ⁵ Can only be used for Tag and Touch Rugby / Handling skills ⁶ Surface must comply with IRB type 22 with enhanced HIC requirement ⁷ RFU currently evaluating surface standard - see their website for latest information ⁸ Surface must comply with FIFA 1 star or IATS equivalent approval required ⁹ Surface must comply with BSEN 15330-1 (2007)		
Note:	All users should refer to the individual NGB guidance, available on line, for specific information on the preferred categories					

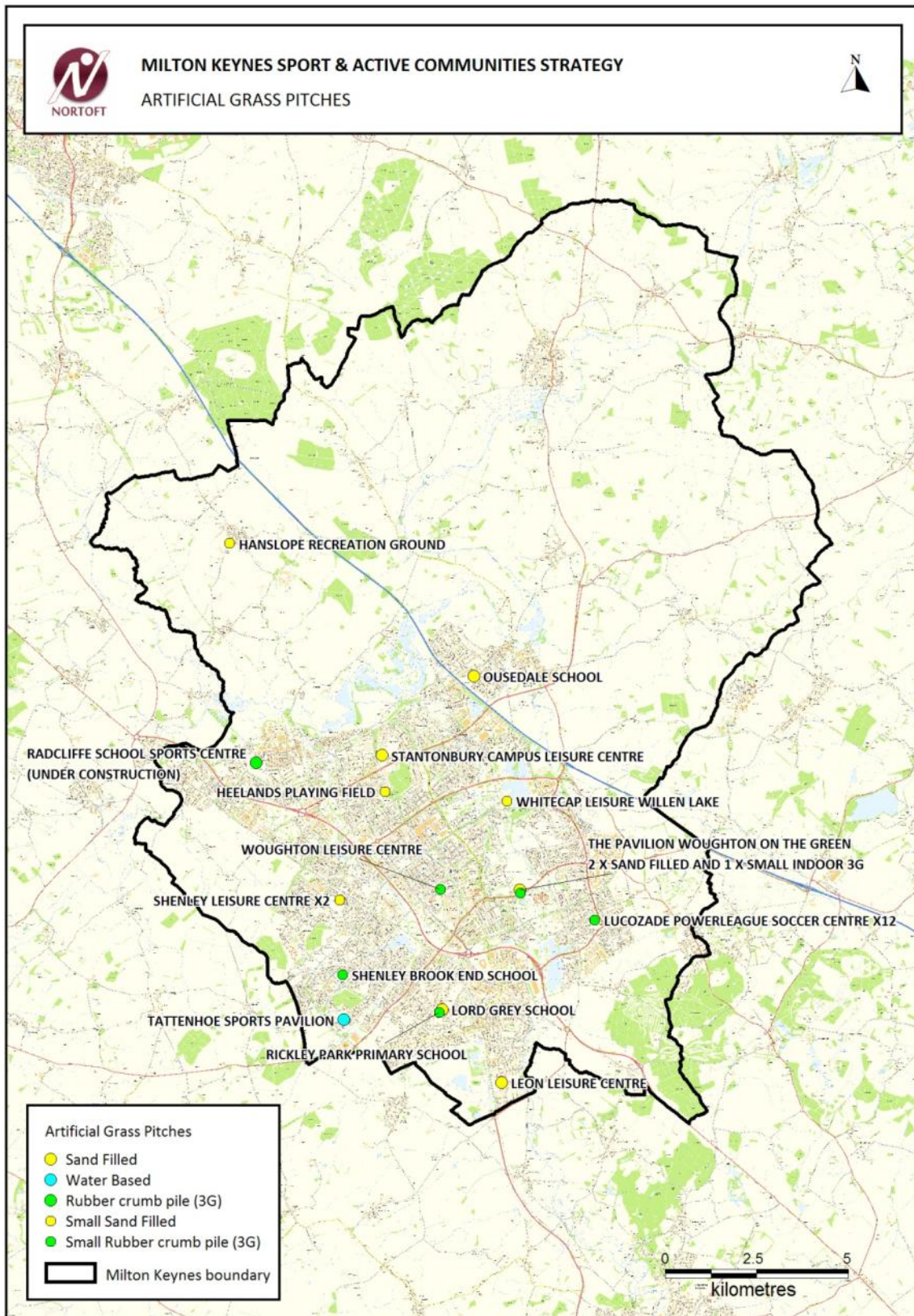
Current and future provision

243. Figure 25 gives the current list of AGPs in Milton Keynes, and the map in Figure 26 shows their location. There are currently 15 sites across the authority, with 8 large size pitches, and 21 small sized. The 21 small sized pitches include 12 commercial pitches for football at Walnut Tree. There is also a small sized 3G pitch in the dome at The Pavilion at Woughton on the Green, but this is almost exclusively used by the MK Dons and the Academy.
244. Most of the large sized pitches are sand filled, including the newly resurfaced double pitch site at Woughton on the Green. The new pitch at Radcliffe School is the first large size 3G pitch in the authority. There is also one water based pitch at Tattenhoe.
245. One new pitch is planned for CMK using funding from developers contributions. The location has been agreed but the final facility mix on the site is still to be determined.
246. There are also proposals for the resurfacing of some of the large pitches, with the priority being Sir Herbert Leon Academy which is either likely to be a 3G surface, or a hybrid pitch to cater for both football and school hockey. Stantonbury Campus is beginning to consider its options, but would prefer a 3G surface when resurfacing becomes necessary. The water based pitch at Tattenhoe is now almost exclusively used for football, so may be resurfaced to 3G when re-carpeting becomes necessary.
247. The new FA strategy places strong emphasis on the provision of AGPs but the community market for AGPs is not inexhaustible and all proposals for AGPs should have a rigorous business plan to demonstrate their viability in the longer term if they are dependent on revenue from the community. If new AGPs are proposed to be built on existing grass pitches, the loss of the grass pitches and the impact upon the grass playing field stock should also be given detailed consideration, both in relation to summer and winter sports.

Figure 25: AGPs in Milton Keynes

Site Name	Facility Sub Type	Size (number of pitches)	Access Type	Management	Year Built
HANSLOPE RECREATION GROUND	Small Sand Filled	Small (1)	Pay and Play	Parish Council	1997
HEELANDS PLAYING FIELD	Small Sand Filled	Small (1)	Pay and Play	Sports Club	2007
LEON LEISURE CENTRE	Sand Filled	Large (1)	Pay and Play	Academy	2004
LORD GREY SCHOOL	Sand Filled	Large (1)	Pay and Play	Foundation School	2001
LUCOZADE POWERLEAGUE SOCCER CENTRE (MILTON KEYNES)	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (12)	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	2007
OUSEDALE SCHOOL (NEWPORT PAGNELL CAMPUS)	Sand Filled	Large (1)	Sports Club / Community Association	Academy	2006
RADCLIFFE SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Large (1)	Sports Club / Community Association	School/College/University (in house)	2013
RICKLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (1)	Sports Club / Community Association	Academy	2010
SHENLEY BROOK END SCHOOL	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (1)	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School	2003
SHENLEY LEISURE CENTRE	Small Sand Filled	Small (2)	Pay and Play	Trust	1991
STANTONBURY CAMPUS LEISURE CENTRE	Sand Filled	Large (1)	Sports Club / Community Association	School (in house)	1980
TATTENHOE SPORTS PAVILION	Water Based	Large (1)	Pay and Play	Trust	2005
THE PAVILION WUGHTON ON THE GREEN	Sand Filled	Large (2)	Pay and Play	Local Authority (in house)	1991
WHITECAP LEISURE WILLEN LAKE	Small Sand Filled	Small (2)	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	
WUGHTON LEISURE CENTRE	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (1)	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority (in house)	2011

Figure 26: Artificial Grass Pitches



Modelling

Facilities Planning Model

248. The Sport England Facilities Planning Model for AGPs currently considers only large size pitches. It is a useful starting point to the balance in supply and demand, but does not take account of any impact of small-sided football pitches. The key parameters used in the FPM are set down in Figure 27. The key points to note are: the dominance of football overall, the much higher percentage of male users than female, and the rapid fall off in users with age.

Figure 27: FPM AGP parameters

	Parameter	Comments
Participation -% of age band	0-15 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55+	
	Male 3.37 7.72 4.93 2.71 1.26 0.17	
	Female 3.16 2.70 0.94 0.46 0.18 0.07	
Frequency - VPWPP	0-15 16-24 25-34 35-44 45-54 55+	Football 75.2% Hockey 22.7% Rugby 2.1%
	Male 1.81 1.67 1.27 1.06 1.07 0.97	
	Female 1.02 1.45 1.34 1.31 1.21 1.32	
Peak Period	Monday-Thursday = 17.00 – 21.00 Friday = 17.00 – 19.00 Saturday = 9.00 – 17.00 Sunday = 9.00 – 17.00 Total Peak Hours per week = 34 hrs Total number of slots = 26 slots Percentage of demand in peak period = 85%	Mon-Friday = 1 hr slots to reflect mixed use of activities –training, 5/7 a side & Informal matches Weekend = 2 hrs slots to reflect formal matches.
Duration	Monday - Friday = 1 hr Saturday & Sunday = 2 hrs	
At one time capacity	30 players per slot Mon to Fri; 25 players per slot Sat & Sun 30 X 18slots = 540 visits 25 X 8slots = 200 visits Total = 740 visits per week in the peak period	Saturday and Sunday capacity to reflect dominance of formal 11-side matches i.e. lower capacity
Catchments	Overall catchment for all users 82% travelling 20 minutes or less during week – within a distance decay function of the model Users by travel mode 81% Car borne 15% Walk 4% Public Transport	

249. Unfortunately there are a number of data errors about the usage of the different pitches by hockey and football, so the sports specific mapping and analysis for Milton Keynes is not a reliable guide. The new large size 3G pitch at Radcliffe School is also now open but is not included in the FPM report.
250. The national assessment findings from Sport England for AGPs as a whole can be summarised as (excluding the Radcliffe pitch):
- The rate of provision of large size pitches per 1000 is lower than either the national (0.35 pitches per 1000) or regional average (0.38 pitches per 1000).
 - There is an overall deficit of large pitch space of 2.29 pitches.
 - About 68% of total demand for AGPs is satisfied.
 - Of the demand met, 42% was exported to surrounding authorities, but about 30% of the use of the pitches is actually by people living outside of the area.
 - Most of the unmet demand is due to a lack of capacity, equivalent to 2.7 pitches.
 - 93% of visits are by people using a car.
251. Figure 28 provides in a map the picture of unmet demand per square km. This shows that the maximum amount of current unmet demand in any one square km of the authority is 0.09 of a pitch. The areas with the highest amount of current unmet demand are in the central and southern parts of the city. Figure 29 provides the aggregated unmet demand overview for the authority. This map does not identify any particular place where additional large size AGP space should be located as all of the authority appears to be a similar blue colour. The high level of car use for this type of facility coupled with the excellent road network of Milton Keynes means that, in theory, any site could draw in the unmet demand from a very wide area.
252. In summary, the FPM concluded that there was a need for a further 2-3 large size pitches in Milton Keynes. However this excludes the Radcliffe pitch and also any consideration of the impact of the small-sided pitches.
253. In previous MK strategies the small sided pitches were included in the assessment, equating 3 small sided pitches to 1 large size. If they were still included on this basis, the 21 pitches small size pitches account for 7 large pitch equivalents.

Catchment mapping

254. The Core Strategy for Milton Keynes encourages sustainable transport, particularly walking and cycling, so within the city area of Milton Keynes it is useful to get an overview of the network of facilities and where there are significant gaps. Figure 30 shows the current large size AGP network with a 1.6 km buffer around each facility, coloured according to the surface type. Large AGPs are considered the most useful size of this type of facility, and are the priority for Sport England, the FA and England Hockey. Notable is the large area across from west to east across the central part of Milton Keynes with effectively no access to a large pitch within walking distance.

255. Figure 31 demonstrates the coverage of AGPs should new facilities be developed in CMK and in association with the two secondary schools, in the Western Expansion Area (WEA) and Brooklands. The new pitches would cover the needs arising from housing growth in their immediate vicinity and also improve the overall access to large size pitches across this central belt of the authority.
256. Catchment mapping based on walking for the more rural areas is not needed as everyone with an access to a car can reach a pitch within 20 minutes drive time, whether this is within Milton Keynes or outside of the authority boundary.

Figure 28: AGP Combined FPM map - unmet demand

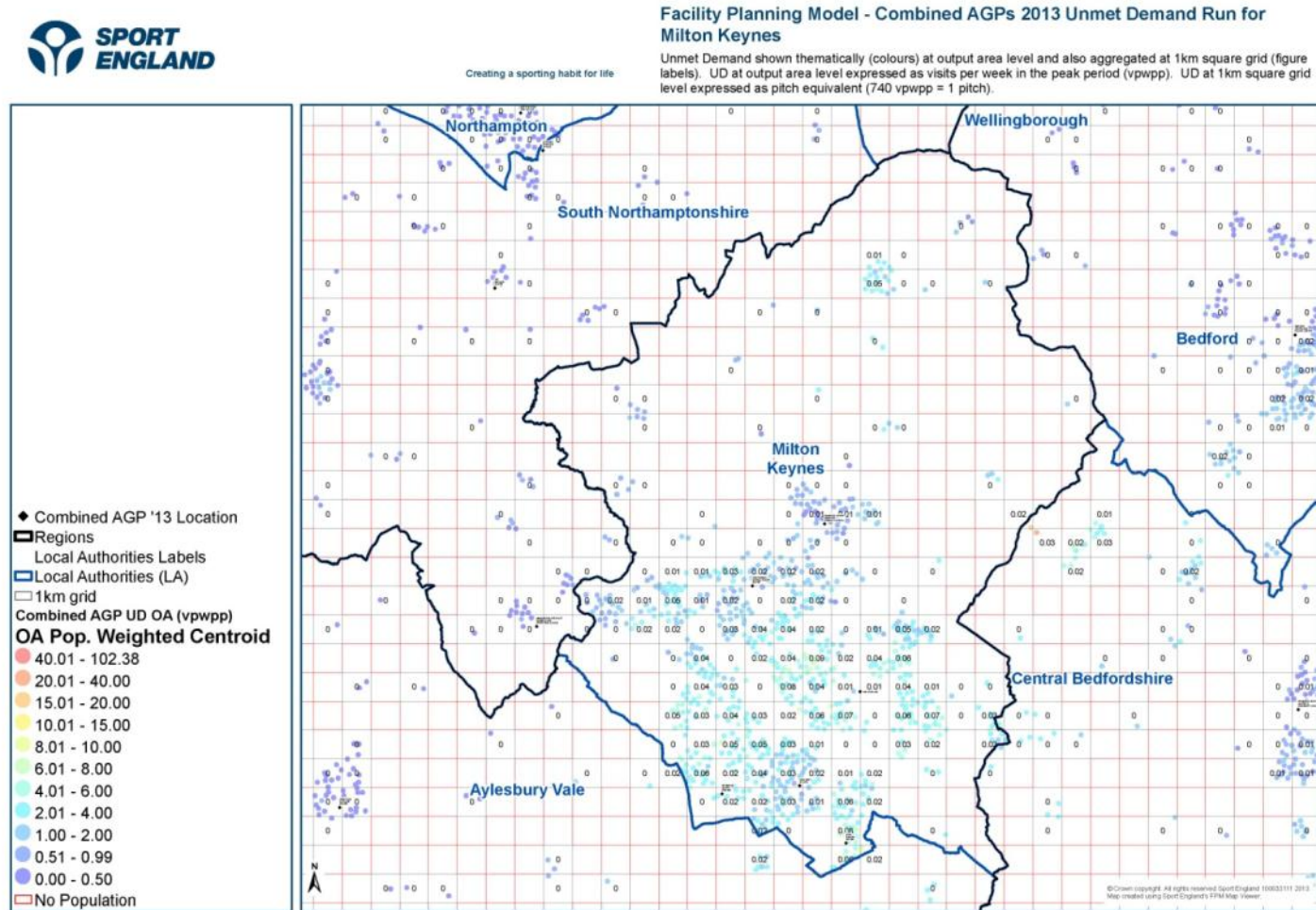


Figure 29: AGP Combined FPM map- aggregated unmet demand

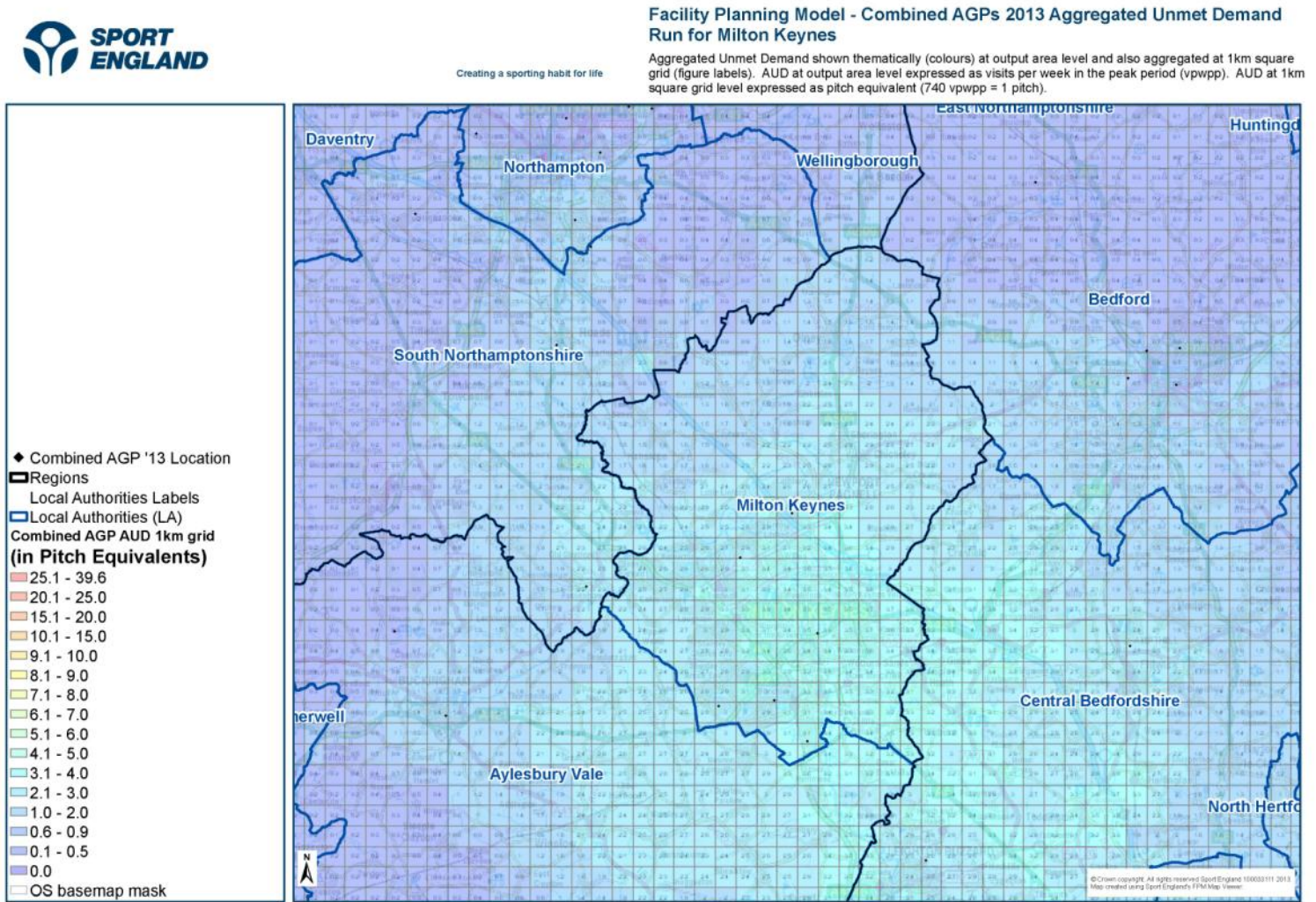
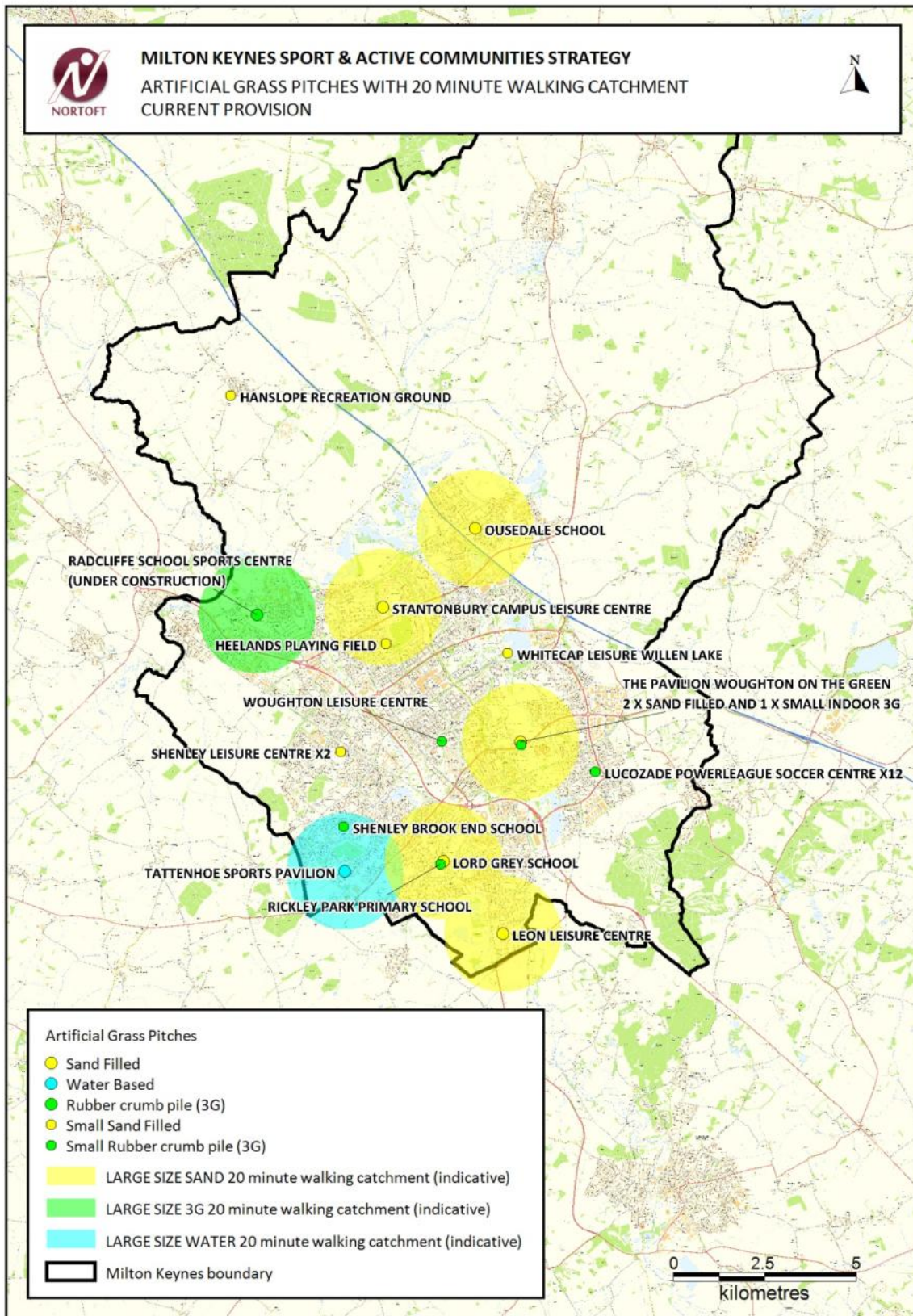
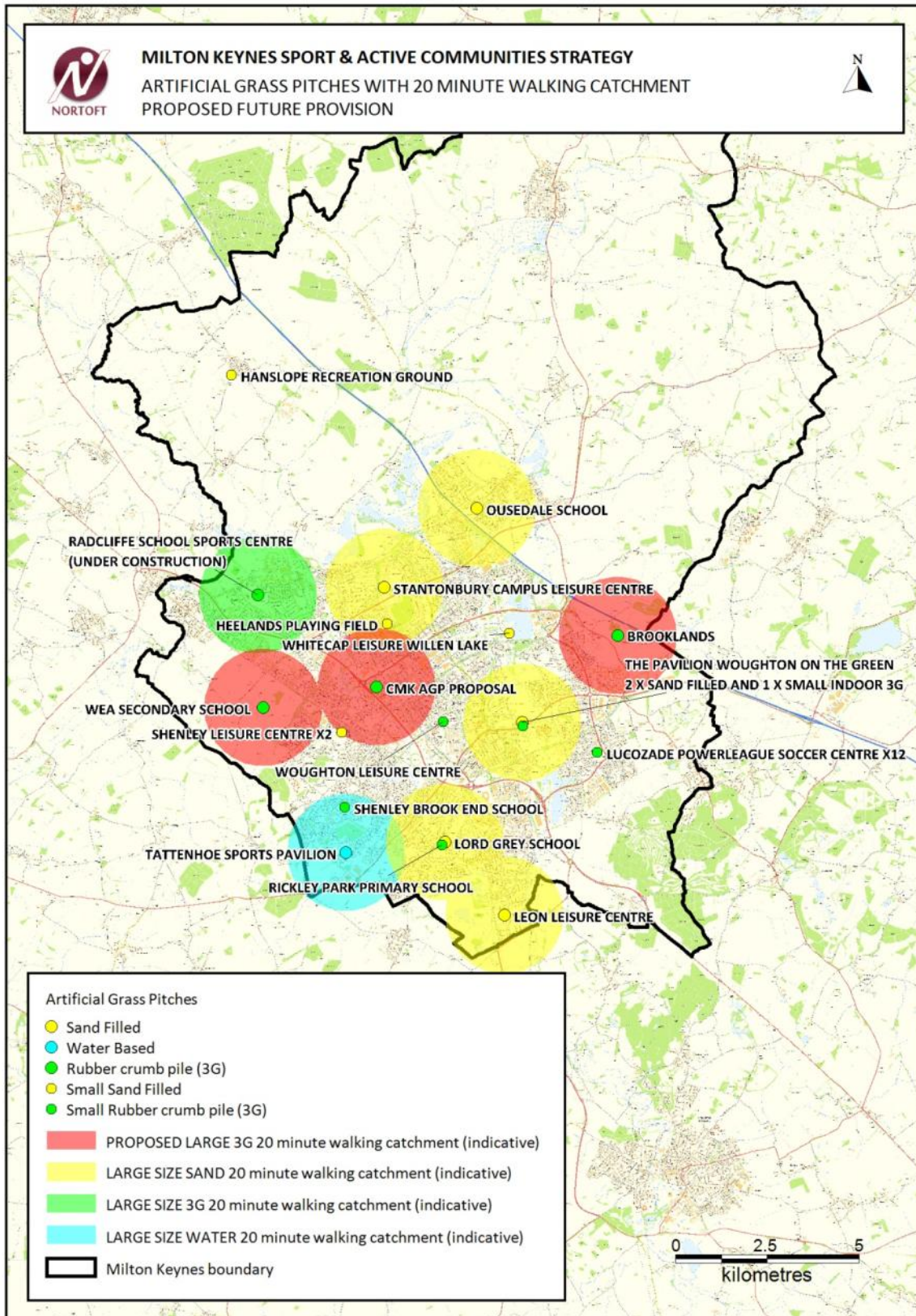


Figure 30: Current large size AGPs walking catchment



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Figure 31: AGPs proposed network with walking catchment



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FA aspiration for pitch provision

257. The FA have an aspiration that each football team should have access at least one hour a week to a 3G AGP, and they have developed their own model to calculate the amount of 3G AGP pitch space required. The FA model utilises the latest Sport England research “AGP’s, The state of the Nation 2012” which showed that for 3G AGP’s built since 2001, that 51% of the usage was from sports clubs, 40% pay and play, and 9% commercial. The FA assumes in their model that the 3G AGPs are available from 6pm-10pm midweek and 9am-5pm on weekends, and that the pitches are available for club training as follows:

Pitch size and nature	Number of hours available for club training
Full size	56
Stadia	46
Multi Use Games Area	18
Commercial 5 aside centres	10
Pro club indoor and outdoor facilities	0

258. The FA model identifies how many more hours are required in each local authority to potentially provide every affiliated club with the opportunity to train for one hour per week. Based on the number of affiliated teams (434), the FA is therefore seeking 434 hours of training time on 3G pitches, the equivalent of 7.8 large size 3G pitches.
259. The table in Figure 32 considers the number of hours the pitches in MK are currently available for training, based on the FA model. In total and including the new pitch at Radcliffe, this gives a total of 139 training hours. If 434 hours are required in total, then this leaves a requirement for 295 hours. At 56 hours per large size 3G pitch, this is a deficit of 5.3 large size pitches.
260. If the FA requirement is increased by the 0.5% per annum, then this would increase the total training need to 462 slots per week by 2026, or a deficit of 323 hours, the equivalent of 5.7 large size 3G pitches. However this does not also take into account the anticipated increase in the population of MK.
261. The FA model therefore implies that every site other than the double pitch site at Woughton on the Green would need to be converted to 3G (6 pitches) and that one extra pitch should be developed to cater for increased participation rates over the period up to 2026.

Figure 32: FA model and 3G provision in Milton Keynes

Site Name	Facility Sub Type	Size (number of pitches)	Current provision based on FA model (number of hours)
HANSLOPE RECREATION GROUND	Small Sand Filled	Small (1)	
HEELANDS PLAYING FIELD	Small Sand Filled	Small (1)	
LEON LEISURE CENTRE	Sand Filled	Large (1)	
LORD GREY SCHOOL	Sand Filled	Large (1)	
LUCOZADE POWERLEAGUE SOCCER CENTRE (MILTON KEYNES)	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (12)	10
OUSEDALE SCHOOL (NEWPORT PAGNELL CAMPUS)	Sand Filled	Large (1)	
RADCLIFFE SCHOOL SPORTS CENTRE (UNDER CONSTRUCTION)	Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Large (1)	56
RICKLEY PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (1)	18
SHENLEY BROOK END SCHOOL	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (1)	37
SHENLEY LEISURE CENTRE	Small Sand Filled	Small (2)	
STANTONBURY CAMPUS LEISURE CENTRE	Sand Filled	Large (1)	
TATTENHOE SPORTS PAVILION	Water Based	Large (1)	
THE PAVILION WOUGHTON ON THE GREEN	Sand Filled	Large (2)	
WHITECAP LEISURE WILLEN LAKE	Small Sand Filled	Small (2)	
MK ACADEMY	Small Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Small (1)	18
Number of hours available			139
Number of hours required @ 1 per team = 434			434
Number still required			295

Nortoft Calculator

262. The Nortoft Calculator considers large size pitch provision only as it is using as its comparison the information from the FPM for the South East regional average for large pitches. The current rate of provision for Milton Keynes at 0.32 includes the new pitch at Radcliffe school, so is higher than the figure in the FPM report of 2013 for Milton Keynes.

263. It forecasts the future need for facilities based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation (at 1% pa). The findings in Figure 33 suggest that 5 additional large size pitches are required to meet the needs of Milton Keynes up to 2026, of which 4 should be developed in the period up to 2021.

Comparator authorities' provision

264. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 34. This analysis is simplistic as it considers all sizes and types of AGPs and does not take account of their accessibility, opening hours, distribution, or quality.

Figure 34: AGPs - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	AGPs (all types, all sizes)
Milton Keynes	251,900*	28
City of Peterborough	183,400	22
Swindon	209,200	19
Thurrock	157,700	6
Warrington	202,200	26

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Summary of modelling findings

265. The modelling suggests that there is some current unmet demand spread across the much of the city and also in parts of the rural area. There is no one place which would be a significantly better location for new pitches if the assumption that most people will travel by car is retained, other than broadly in the central / southern parts of the authority.
266. The FA's own modelling suggests that Milton Keynes currently needs a total of 7.8 3G pitch space, which might be met by converting every large size pitch other than the Woughton on the Green double hockey pitch to football use, and the provision of an extra pitch. There would be some increase in demand in the period up to 2026.
267. The Nortoft Calculator result suggests that as Milton Keynes grows and if participation increases by 1% a year, that a further 5 large size pitches will be required up to 2026, with 4 of these in the period up to 2021.

Figure 33: Nortoft Calculator results – AGPs

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	South East provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with South East average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing plus new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
AGPs England average = 0.035 SE average = 0.038	Whole Authority	Pitches	8	0.032	0.038	2	2	4	5	10	10	12	13

Residents survey (2013)

268. The findings from the residents survey are useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to AGPs are:
- 58% of those responding had a view about AGPs. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 26% were satisfied
 - 57% had no view or did not know
 - 17% were dissatisfied
 - 19% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be and of these the views were
 - 53% improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 60% provide new

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

Hockey

269. The Milton Keynes Hockey Club draws its membership from across Milton Keynes and it currently has about 360 members across the age groups, with the majority being seniors or vets. The club expects to grow over the next five years and does not have a waiting list. They currently play at Woughton on the Green which they use for both matches and training all year, 3-6 times per week, at weekends and weekday evenings. The carpet is very good as it has been recently re-laid but the floodlights urgently need attention as they are poor and do not enable league matches to be held.

Football

270. Six football clubs who regularly use AGPs responded to the club survey; City Colts, Shenley FC, United MK FC; MK Wanderers, Newton Longville, and Roman Rangers Youth FC.
271. City Colts are based around central Milton Keynes and with 345 members at across all the age groups identifies the lack of AGPs for winter training as one of the main constraints on their potential growth over the next five years. They also comment:

There is a "Severe shortage of convenient, available, all-weather pitches suitable for football training during the winter. We need to be able to block-book facilities, and ideally want to reduce down to one or two centres to make it easier to manage. All facilities are overstretched and can only manage a few time slots. Juggling bookings

for 25 teams for winter training facilities over 5 different locations is very challenging for a volunteer-run club.”

272. The club uses the AGPs at Woughton on the Green for training during the autumn and winter 3-6 times per week in the evenings. However booking can be difficult. The club notes that the surface is good quality and that they do not use the changing facilities.
273. City Colts also use the Powerleague site at Walnut Tree (Walton High) for training during the autumn and winter months 1-2 times per week. Booking can be quite difficult at peak times and although the pitches are excellent quality are too small for most of the club’s teams. The larger pitches are block-booked by other clubs and not available. Again the changing facilities are not used.
274. City Colts additionally uses the MUGA at Oakgrove Leisure Centre for training during the autumn and winter months on weekday evenings 1-2 per week. The club notes that although the pitches are adequate in size the surface is not really suitable for football training. Again the changing facilities are not used.
275. City Colts use the Whitecap Leisure small sized sand filled pitches at Willen for training in the autumn and winter, 1-2 times a week on weekday evenings. The facility is often quite difficult to book but the surface is good quality. The changing facilities are not used.
276. The MK Wanderers FC have about 225 members across all age groups, mainly drawn from the south MK area. The club uses the AGP at Sir Herbert Leon Academy for training. The booking is on an “informal” basis and the club uses the pitch during the winter months 3-6 times a week on weekday evenings. They find booking the pitch easy as it is always available. They note that whilst the surface is “pretty good” and the floodlights are adequate, the equipment is poorly maintained. The club does not use the changing facilities.
277. Shenley FC which has 300 junior members mainly drawn from the west of Milton Keynes uses AGPs for their training, although they use grass pitches for matches. Shenley Brook End small size AGP is the club’s main site, which is used every day except during the summer. It is easily available and is considered of excellent quality. The club does not use the changing facilities.
278. Shenley FC also uses Tattenhoe AGP for training, for which they have a lease running up to 2015. It is used year round 1-2 times a week, and although it is considered as being well maintained, the club notes that the pitch surface is “getting old”. They do not use the changing facilities on site.
279. The United MK Football Club is based in north Milton Keynes and has about 120 mini and junior members. The club uses Stantonbury Campus AGP for training which is divided into three, but with no barriers between. The club notes that the AGPs is old and poor quality, and the hire is expensive, but they use it during the winter months

3-6 times per week, on weekday evenings. Booking can be quite difficult. The club does not use the changing in the leisure centre.

280. Newton Longville FC based around south Milton Keynes and with 150 mini and junior members use the Tattenhoe AGP for training for the older teams during autumn, winter and spring. They usually book it 1-2 times per week on weekday evenings but find booking can be quite difficult. The pitch is described as being “fairly good quality” and the changing rooms are not used.
281. The Roman Rangers Youth FC is based in west Milton Keynes and has around 172 mini and junior members. The club uses the Lord Grey School AGP for winter training 1-2 times per week on weekday evenings. The club finds the pitch relatively easy to book although there is some pressure at peak times. The club comments that the pitch needs “modernising” and that no changing provision is available.

National Governing Body Strategies

Hockey

282. England Hockey does not currently have a facility strategy but estimate that the hockey needs in Milton Keynes equate to approximately 2.5 large size pitches. England Hockey’s main concern is to retain the status and quality of the recently resurfaced double pitch site at The Pavilion, Woughton on the Green which is the home of the Milton Keynes Hockey Club. This club has approximately 200 senior members and 40 juniors, with 5 men’s teams and 3 ladies’ teams.
283. The Enigma Ladies club is based at Tattenhoe but also uses Sir Herbert Leon Academy (Leon Leisure Centre). They have less than 50 members and run one or two teams per season. Their ethos is based on fun hockey rather than serious competition and training.
284. Sports development priorities for England Hockey include their Back to Hockey and Rush hockey programmes. These can use facilities either indoor (minimum of a 4 court hall) or outdoor, including small sizes AGPs with a sand based surface. The Bucks Hockey Academy currently uses the pitches at Sir Herbert Leon Academy.
285. Hockey England has confirmed that they would have no objection as an NGB to the resurfacing of Leon or Stantonbury to 3G, so long another full size pitch remains available in addition to the Woughton on the Green double pitches, to take the displaced hockey demand from Leon.

Football

286. The new FA National Facilities Strategy was launched in February 2013. It places heavy emphasis on the development of new AGPs and on the re-carpeting of some of the existing AGPs to 3G from sand filled/dressed. The objective is to give every

team the opportunity to at least train on a 3G pitch, and the FA estimate that one pitch is needed for every 60 teams in an area. Based on the number of affiliated teams (434), the FA have estimated there is a need for 7.8 full size equivalent 3G football turf pitches in Milton Keynes to cater for training. This is in addition to the current matches being played, either as 11-a-side games or small-sided.

287. The FA have a preference for large size AGPs as these provide both training and match opportunities and can be flexible in their format. Smaller size training pitches are however welcomed where large size pitches would not be possible to develop.

Rugby

288. The National Facilities Strategy 2013-2017 from the RFU sets the criteria for the County Board investment strategies which will be developed during 2013. One of the priorities for investment includes “Increase the provision of artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development outcomes”.

289. The RFU strategy states:

“The use of artificial grass pitches and in particular IRB 22 compliant surfaces has the potential to offer wider opportunities for the growth of the game, particularly when taken in the context of those communities that do not have access to natural turf facilities or when natural turf facilities are unavailable or unusable. Artificial grass pitches can offer a quality playing surface throughout the year, allowing for increased opportunities for training and match competition at all levels and ages. In a wider context and when delivered against a strategic setting such as a school, college or university site, they enhance curricular activity, opportunities for intra-mural social and competitive rugby and provide quality playing opportunities for the wider community.

Previous strategic investment in artificial grass pitches that deliver wider game development outcomes remain valid and investment will continue into sites that service a number of rugby partners at a local level.”

290. The last paragraph suggests that RFU investment on 3G pitches will be focussed on sites which “service a number of rugby partners”. The RFU clubs in Milton Keynes do not share their sites with education, although Olney RFU club’s site is adjacent to the football club. The RFU does not currently consider AGPs as a high priority for the clubs in Milton Keynes and has no specific aspirations at this time.

Market Segmentation and sports development

291. The use of AGPs is primarily by young men for football, and there is also use to a lesser extent by both men and women for hockey, and some use for rugby training. Only a relatively small number of the dominant market segments in Milton Keynes

are likely to use these facilities on a regular basis, and this is mostly for football. The Sport England market segmentation analysis suggests that the people most likely to use AGPs live in the central Milton Keynes city area, the Kev and Jamie market segments (see the Background section of the Strategy).

292. At present there are no large size AGPs in the central area of Milton Keynes between Stantonbury Campus and Woughton on the Green, but if one of the objectives of the Strategy is to encourage sustainable transport, a priority location for new provision should be around here, and the proposed CMK pitch would fulfil this need. The CMK pitch could be developed as a standalone community facility because of the large number of commuters in the area which are likely to create peaks of demand both during lunch times and evenings, in addition to use by local residents.
293. Other AGP proposals should be developed in conjunction with secondary schools, because AGPs on school sites improve the sporting opportunities within the curriculum, and also support school-club links. Co-locating these facilities with school sites also means that their use is maximised.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

294. The 2009 Strategy and its Refresh of 2011 were based on an expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa. As this objective has been achieved in Milton Keynes, the same rate has been applied in this Strategy.
295. The 2009 Strategy (with its larger population estimate) and the Refresh proposed rate of provision was 0.05 pitches per 1000. This has now come down to a proposed standard of 0.04 per 1000. The previous strategy estimated a need for 15 large size AGPs by 2026 (or the equivalent). This has reduced to 13 large size pitches.
296. The recommendations in the 2011 Refresh were:
- *There are a number of alternative sites and locations that could potentially meet the anticipated increases in demand. With the adopted rates of provision maintained, the following options should be actively explored in relation to new provision.*
 - *Potential sites:*
 - *CMK – full size 3G AGP (location TBC)*
 - *Radcliffe – full size AGP*
 - *Secondary School in WEA – full size AGP*
 - *Secondary School in EEA – full size AGP*
 - *The remaining demand may be met through a combination of:*
 - *Increased use of the existing facilities, in particular longer opening hours on school sites;*

- *Commercial sector small-sided football provision, particularly if this is in multi-pitch venue(s) (at a conversion ratio of 1 large size pitch : 3 small-sided);*
 - *The development of new large size pitch(es), particularly linked to school sites.*
- *The detail and phasing of these development options will depend upon a number of factors, but the CMK facility is expected to be developed during 2011-12;*
 - *When pitches are due for resurfacing, the nature of the new carpet will need to be carefully considered as the change from one surface to another will have major impacts on the community's (and school's if appropriate) usage, not least in relation to which sports can be provided for.*
297. The potential sites for new AGPs identified in the 2011 Refresh are still relevant, and the pitch at Radcliffe is now open. There is however now more of an emphasis by the FA and Sport England on large size pitches because they are more flexible and potentially useful for both matches and training.

CAT programme implications

298. The CAT programme initially included both the Woughton on the Green site and Tattenhoe Pavilion, but a decision was made in November 2013 to instead include the sites in a wider leisure contract in 2015. This decision gives comfort to the users of the sites, particularly to hockey at Woughton on the Green, and makes the planning for AGP future use much clearer than would have been the case under CAT.

Development of planning standards

299. The assessment and analysis undertaken in relation to AGP provision in Milton Keynes has led to the following proposed standards.

Rate of provision per 1000

300. A rate of provision of 0.04 large size pitches per 1000 for Milton Keynes up to 2026.
301. This approach is justified because:
- The amount of large size pitch space in Milton Keynes at the present time is lower than the regional average of provision, and there is unmet demand across much of the city area.
 - Football on AGPs is becoming increasingly in demand.
 - The Football Association is placing new emphasis on all teams having an opportunity to train on a 3G AGP each week for at least an hour. The FA estimate that there is a need for the equivalent of 7.8 large size 3G AGPs in 2013.

- There are significant numbers of people keen on playing football across Milton Keynes, but particularly in the central and southern parts of the city.
- The Milton Keynes Hockey Club is successful and requires the long term continued provision of a double pitch site, surfaced and maintained at a level appropriate for national level hockey games.

302. The rate of provision per 1000 provision will be measured using Sport England's annual National Run for the Facilities Planning Model.

Standard for accessibility

303. Within the city area of Milton Keynes the Core Strategy policy is to encourage the switch away from car use, however most people using AGPs will still travel by car. An accessibility standard of 20 minutes drive time catchment to a large size pitch is therefore appropriate for all parts of the authority.

304. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as a 20 minutes drive time catchment.

Standard for design and quality

305. The third element of the planning standards is that of quality and design. The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the relevant national governing body. This should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.

Conclusions and Recommendations

306. AGPs are becoming an important part of the sports facility network in Milton Keynes and the demand for them is growing. The different sports using these facilities have different requirements and preferences, so ideally need to be considered separately. However football's use of the sand based pitches (of all sizes) and the water based pitch at Tattenhoe is critical to their viability.

307. All club hockey in Milton Keynes is now based on sand based/dressed AGPs, and The Pavilion at Woughton on the Green with its newly resurfaced double pitch site is seen as the premier hockey facility in the authority area. Most of the hockey demand can be catered for here although the equivalent of 0.5 of a pitch is needed elsewhere.

308. 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 3G AGPs although training size pitches of 60 x 40 m are welcomed.

309. 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.
310. Milton Keynes has a large number of small sided pitches, both sand based and 3G, and these also need to be factored into the assessment of supply, which the FA's modelling does in relation to the 3G pitches.
311. 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 a need for 5 additional AGPs, ideally large size to meet the sports development aspirations of the FA and Sport England. Assuming that the hockey pitches at Woughton on the Green remain and that the hockey use at the Sir Herbert Leon Academy can be relocated to elsewhere, 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.
312. 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

313. The authority wide planning standard is therefore 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.
314. The five new large size 3G pitches required are:
- CMK: large size (but may be 60 x 40 m)
 - 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 schools
315. Priorities for improvement/refurbishment, 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
316. The double artificial pitches at Woughton on the Green will be retained as a hockey surface and at least one other large size pitch suitable for hockey and available for community use will be available elsewhere in Milton Keynes.
317. Work with Hockey England to increase community delivery and support club development ensuring access to local clubs and national programmes.

ATHLETICS TRACKS

Introduction

318. 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 (see Figure 35). Further consideration as to how non-track based opportunities might be provided would therefore be of potential benefit, and directly links to the proposals associated with the Redways and the parks across Milton Keynes.

Current and future provision

319. There is one 8-lane athletics track in Milton Keynes adjacent to the Stantonbury Campus, mapped in Figure 36. This is classed by England Athletics as a Grade A track and was certified to November 2013. It is suitable for league and other competitions.
320. No new tracks or athletics facilities are currently planned. The track and clubhouse are owned by Stantonbury Campus and leased by them to the athletics club. Milton Keynes Council currently provides grant aid to the athletics club to support sports development initiatives.

Modelling

321. A number of tools have been used to assess the future needs for athletics tracks and the results are set out below. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model and Sports Facility Calculator are not available for athletics tracks.

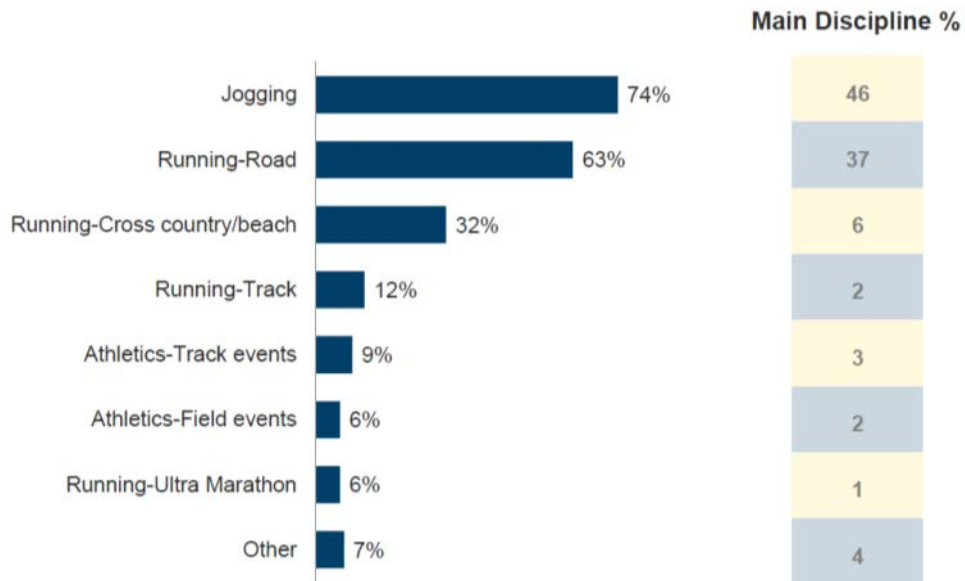
Nortoft Calculator

322. The Nortoft Calculator predicts future need for facilities based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation of 1% per annum. Figure 37 shows that based on the South East average figure the population of Milton Keynes would normally be expected to need the equivalent of 5 further lanes of athletics tracks now, rising to a total of 17 lanes, or two eight-lane tracks by 2026.

Figure 35: Athletics participation details

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

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



Q. In what setting do you usually run?

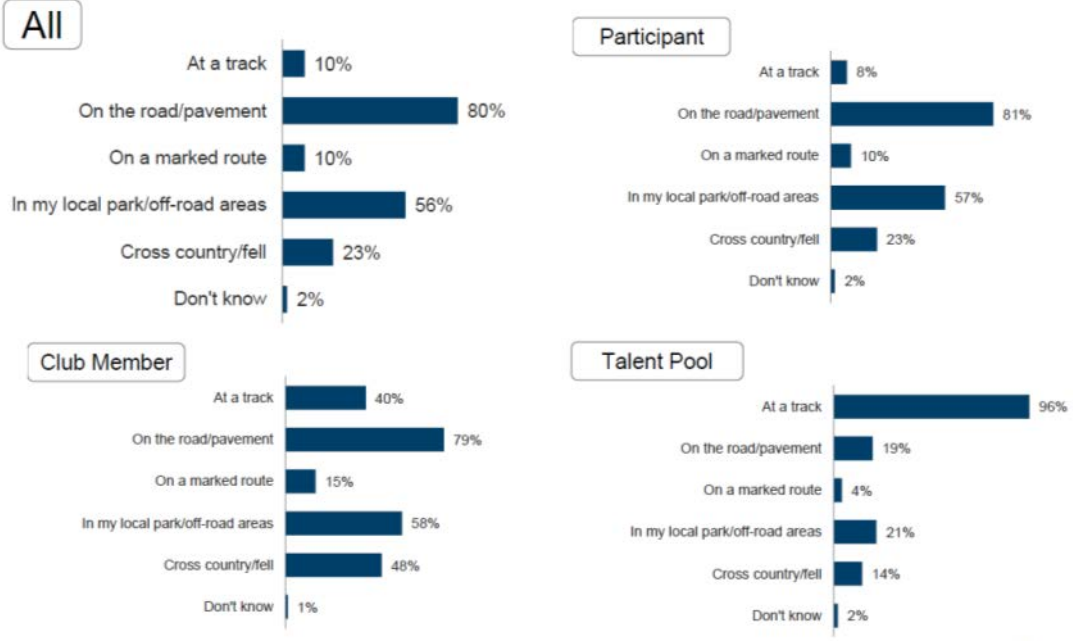
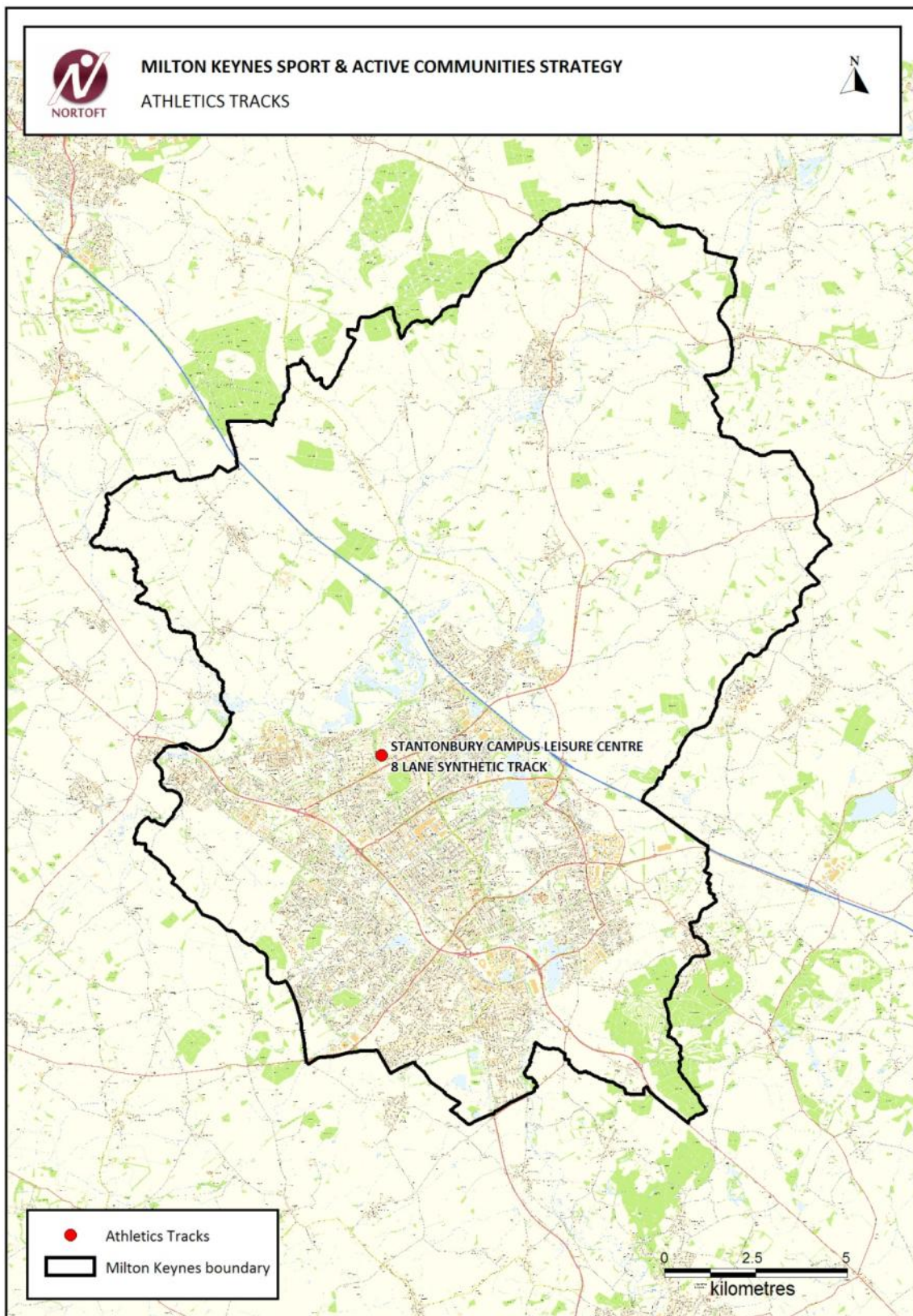


Figure 36: Athletics tracks location



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Figure 37: Nortoft Calculator results – athletics tracks

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	South East provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with South East average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing plus new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Athletics Tracks England average = 0.05 SE average = 0.05	Whole Authority	Lanes	8	0.03	0.05	5	6	7	9	13	14	15	17

Comparator authorities' provision

323. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 38. This analysis is simplistic as it considers just the number of athletics tracks and does not take account of their size, accessibility, opening hours, distribution or quality. All of the benchmark authorities have a single athletics track but as Milton Keynes has a greater population than the others, the rate of provision is the lowest.

Figure 38: Athletics - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Number of athletics tracks
Milton Keynes	251,900*	1
City of Peterborough	183,400	1
Swindon	209,200	1
Thurrock	157,700	1
Warrington	202,200	1

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Summary of modelling findings

324. The modelling tools indicate that compared to the South East regional average, the authority has about half of the specialist athletics provision. The rate of provision will fall further as the population of Milton Keynes grows, and if the rate of participation in athletics continues to increase as per the sports development policy objective.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

325. The findings from the residents survey are useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to all types of running and athletics are:
- 45% of people walk or run
 - 39% walk or run at least once a week, while 14% do so at least once a month
 - 70% of those responding had a view about the traffic free walking and running routes. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 75% were satisfied
 - 13% had no view or did not know
 - 11% were dissatisfied

- 22% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to the traffic free walking and running routes. Of these the views were
 - 86% improve the existing facilities
 - 39% provide new
- 55% of those responding had a view about athletics facilities. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 17% were satisfied
 - 79% had no view or did not know
 - 30% were dissatisfied
- 10% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to athletics facilities. Of these the views were
 - 44% improve the existing facilities
 And/or
 - 69% provide new

Club consultation

326. The Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club based at Stantonbury is a very active club which has achieved club mark status and had a gold medal winner at the 2012 Olympics, Greg Rutherford. The club has long held an aspiration for an indoor athletics training venue to supplement the track, also to be located at Stantonbury Campus. The proposal for an indoor training centre was specifically identified in the 2009 Leisure and Community Facilities Strategy and again in the International Sporting City report.
327. The club has been actively pursuing the proposal and their current ideas and their document making the case for the facility are given in Appendix 5. The consultation on the draft strategy gained strong support from a number of members, coaches and others at the club in respect to the need for and development of the indoor facility.
328. The cost of the indoor facility has to date been the major issue as none of the partners has the capital funding available to actively progress the scheme. As the scheme will impact upon Stantonbury Campus school, there will also be a need to ensure that the needs of the school are met, possibly replacing the existing hard court area. Detailed discussions and initial feasibility studies have been completed and it appears that a new indoor training facility may be possible to develop on site, although further detailed work is required to take forwards the idea.

Other consultation

329. Consultation during the strategy process with Stantonbury Campus representatives confirmed that the school has been in discussion with representatives of the athletics club and with Milton Keynes Council about the options for developing an indoor athletics training facility which also takes into account the needs of the school. These discussions are still at a relatively early stage.

330. Milton Keynes Council leisure officers are of the view that new outdoor athletics tracks are not reasonably deliverable because of their high capital cost and subsequent running costs, even if an appropriate site was identified. However MKC is supportive of the concept of an indoor athletics training facility.
331. The Milton Keynes Parks Trust is supportive of initiatives which can increase the use of the park and green spaces in Milton Keynes, and have identified links and improvements of the Redways as a priority.

Market Segmentation and sports development

332. The Market Segmentation information from Sport England suggests that athletics (including jogging etc) is an appealing activity for several of the largest Market Segments in Milton Keynes.

National Governing Body Strategies

333. England Athletics' Strategic Facilities Plan 2012-2017 has a number of sections and also identifies priority locations for England Athletics investment, which does not include Milton Keynes. The strategy recognises the Marshall Milton Keynes Athletics Club as an example of good practice in relation to their taking on responsibility for the track and club house, and the partnerships with Stantonbury Campus and Milton Keynes Council. The key points from the England Athletics strategy are drawn out below.

Road and Off-Road Running

334. The development and promotion of at least one running route in every town or city with a population of over 100,000 by 2017. Opportunities should be actively sought to develop 3-2-1 measured routes in association with Run England and other partners, which in Milton Keynes is likely to include the MK Parks Trust, and using the Redways. Milton Keynes is not considered one of the priorities for England Athletics funding support.

Track and Field

335. Drive the development of Sustainable Facilities Frameworks (SFF) within each Athletics Network to determine local priorities for improvement and investment.

Indoor Facilities

336. Training facilities are either purpose built or conversions or extensions to existing large halls, which can also be used for limited competition. Ideally these are co-located at tracks. Most indoor athletics training facilities, other than those used for elite and high performance training, now usually share space with other sports in order to generate revenue and maximise use. Purpose-built halls normally

incorporate long straights of 80m to 100m with run-offs, whilst multi-purpose halls may include 80m straights as a maximum.

337. Sports halls are a key component of club athletics activity and are a vital resource particularly during the winter months for circuit training and other forms of fitness training. Although multi-purpose, they provide indoor space for sports hall athletics, entry level activities for young people, and a range of other athletics training and learning programmes.
338. The national governing bodies for athletics (England Athletics and UK Athletics) recognise 5 levels of indoor athletics facility, from Level 5 which can cater for indoor international competition down to Level 1 which is “other provision”, usually to cater for mass participation events. The details of Level 3 and 2 are given below.

<p>Level 3 (England Athletics)</p> <p>Area/Regional training centre. Network & regional development programmes, club training use and some club competition</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6-8 lane straight • Some indoor field event provision
<p>Level 2 (England Athletics)</p> <p>Club training centre. Clubs, schools, limited school competition use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May incorporate a permanent running straight and/or compact athletics facility (predominantly at school site or inner city area) • Sports halls and large multi-sport indoor spaces

339. The Bedford Athletic Stadium at Barkers Lane (Level 3) is one of only 11 indoor facilities in England. This facility is 60 m total length with 4 lanes, and a 4 lane straight. It is about 18 miles from Stantonbury, at a travel time of about 35-40 minutes, so well within the England Athletics 60 minute recommended travel time. The other indoor facilities are much further away, with the nearest being in Birmingham, Loughborough or London.
340. In relation to the design of indoor athletics training facilities, England Athletics suggests that where space permits, the ideal solution is to have indoor provision for training co-located with tracks and to utilise the indoor space for other sports and activities as well as athletics to maximise revenue streams. Ideally such buildings or structures would be physically linked to clubhouses and changing facilities to provide control and ease of access to the main functions.

341. A dedicated athletics training hall will be approximately 132m x 25m x 8m (3,300m²), and the types of activity that will normally take place in this size of space include: sprinting and hurdling, horizontal jumping, high jumping, pole vaulting, throwing, weight training, warm-up.
342. A Level 3 athletics-dedicated indoor training facility should have the following facilities and provision: 6 or 8 lane 60-80m permanent straight (excluding run-off), long jump/triple jump facility with flush fitting cover for landing area depending on siting within hall), high jump facility, athletics-compatible floor surface system throughout (spike resistant preferred – although use for other activities must be considered), large storage provision for athletics equipment with racks and trolleys, strength and conditioning suite, wall bars and medicine ball throws wall, discrete sports medicine and injury area, meeting room, changing facilities, café / refreshments area. It may also ideally incorporate: pole vault (if unobstructed height of building is a minimum of 7m) plus flush fitting cover for pole vault box, throws area (with cushioned floor mats to prevent floor damage)
343. The local priorities for indoor training will be identified by the local athletics network.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

344. The 2009 Strategy was based on an expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa, and the new population forecast by around 25,300. The 2011 Refresh did not review the provision for athletics. The 1% pa increase in participation has been achieved by Milton Keynes, so the modelling for the next strategy period takes this forwards at the same rate.
345. The 2009 Strategy proposed rate of provision of 0.07 lanes per 1000 but this is now proposed as 0.06 lanes per 1000.
346. The recommendations in the 2009 Strategy were:

2009-2011

Retain and improve the quality of the existing facilities (including support facilities), and provide some outdoor training facilities linked to school sites.

2012-2016

1 x 6 lane track by 2016, located in the Central or East areas of MK, or possibly linked to a potential future MK University site.

2017-2021

Outdoor training facilities provided on 1 - 2 new school sites (geographically located away from the tracks).

2022-2026

1 x 8 lane track plus indoor training and ancillary facilities in the SW Strategic Development Area located at the Leisure Centre.

347. Since 2009 the Stantonbury athletics track has been extended from 6 lanes to 8, but no other progress has been made towards providing any new athletics facilities. There is still a need for additional athletics provision and new emphasis should also be placed on encouraging and supporting non-track based athletics such as jogging and running across Milton Keynes.

CAT programme implications

348. The CAT programme does not affect the athletics track at Stantonbury Campus as the site is owned by the school and the track and clubhouse are leased to the athletics club.

Development of planning standards

349. The assessment and analysis of the needs for Milton Keynes in relation to athletics suggests that the priorities are for an indoor athletics training facility and also support to other athletics non-track facilities, including 3-2-1 routes as promoted by Run England.

Rates of provision per 1000

350. The provision of 1 indoor athletics training facility for the authority.
351. Two 3-2-1 marked routes linking the parks with the Redways, one in Western Expansion Area and one in Brooklands.
352. This approach is justified because:
- The amount of athletics track provision at the present time is less than half the rate of provision average across the South East region.
 - The success of the Marshall Milton Keynes Athletic Club including a gold medal Olympian is helping to encourage others to participate.
 - There are significant numbers of people keen on athletics across Milton Keynes, though only some of these will use the track facilities.
 - An indoor facility will help to meet the increased demand for athletics provision in Milton Keynes, as an alternative facility to additional outdoor athletics tracks.

Standard for accessibility

353. There is a single site in Milton Keynes which caters for all of the athletics track and potentially the indoor training facility demand. The catchment is therefore the whole Borough and no specific accessibility standard is required.

Standard for design and quality

354. The third element of the planning standards is that of quality and design. 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 for the track, new build for the indoor training centre and the measured running routes.

Conclusions and Recommendations

355. 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.
356. 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, the provision of an indoor athletics training facility, ideally on the Stantonbury Campus site and co-located with the existing track.
357. The Marshall 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.
358. There is also a clear need to support the non-track based athletics activity in the authority, and Run England is supporting a 3-2-1 measured route approach. In Milton Keynes these should link the parks with the Redways. New routes should be developed which maximise the Redways, parks and traffic free routes across the Borough. It is proposed that some of these routes are based on the England Athletics approach, and that there should be a minimum standard of one route per 100,000 people, i.e. two routes in Milton Keynes, one in the Western Expansion Area area and one in the Brooklands area.
359. The more informal jogging and running provision should also be addressed in the wider physical activity, well-being and sustainable transport strategies for Milton Keynes including via the MK Parks Trust, as the facilities will include the Redways and parks, in addition to pavements and alongside roads.

Recommendations

360. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as:
- One indoor Level 2 indoor athletics training facility
 - 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 as in addition to any new facility, and refurbishment proposals as well as new build.
361. The priorities for new facilities are, 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.
362. The other priorities are to:
- Maintain the existing outdoor track at a level which ensures it retains its accreditation as a competition centre.

HEALTH AND FITNESS

Introduction

363. 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).
364. 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 the charges as far as possible and have almost a pay-and-play offer, sometimes making them cheaper for the user than the leisure centres.
365. The Inclusive Fitness Initiative encourages equipment and facilities to be fully accessible to people with a range of disabilities. At present there are two ITI accredited facilities in Milton Keynes, at Bletchley Leisure Centre and at Wolverton Swimming and Fitness Centre.
366. Health and fitness facilities are often needed to be co-located with other sports facilities, particularly swimming pools because as a net income earner, they can support a site's overall financial viability.

Current and future provision

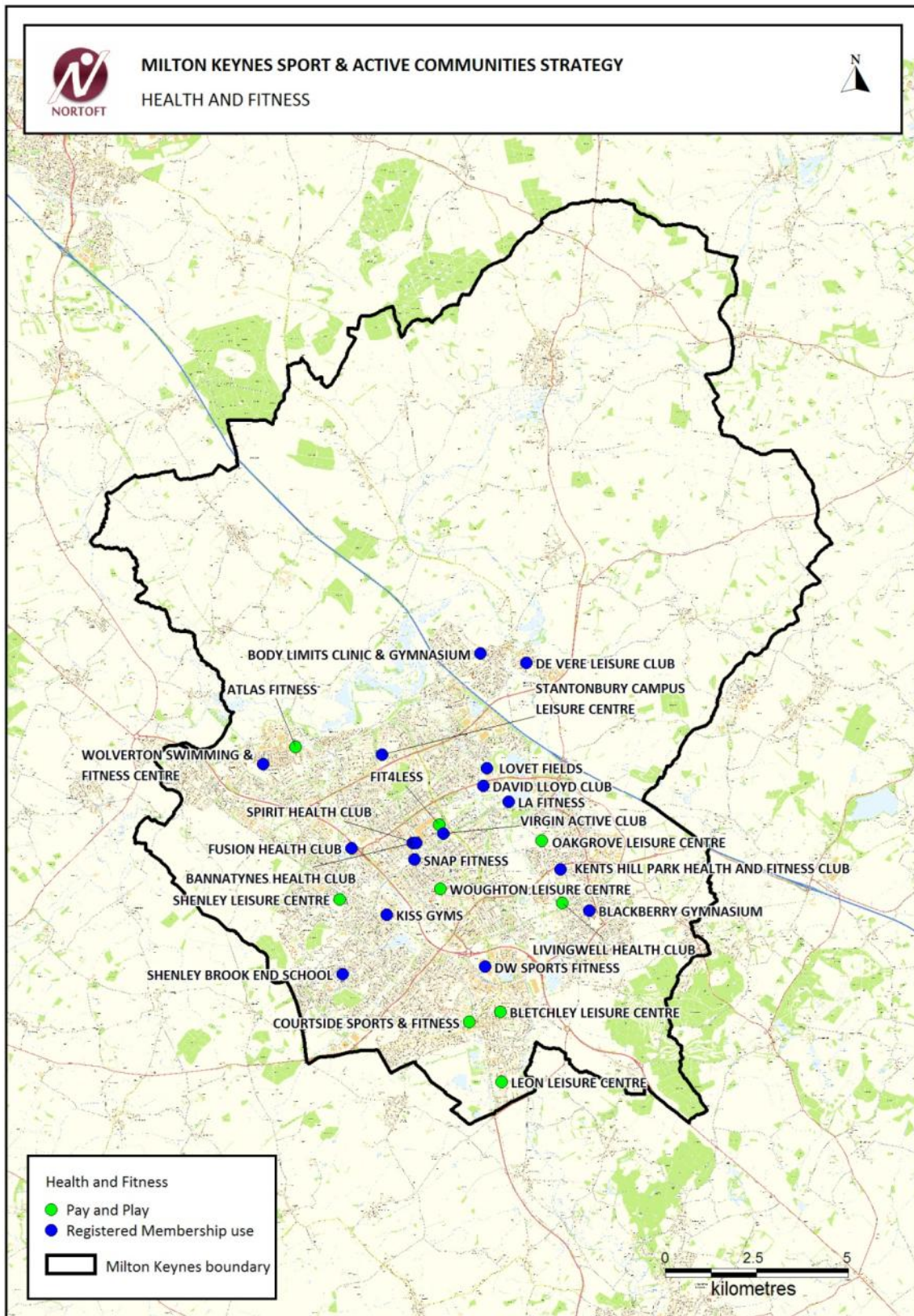
367. There are currently 25 sites in Milton Keynes with a total of 1706 fitness stations (Figure 39). The commercial sector provides about 75% of the current provision. The remainder is provided via the leisure centres at Bletchley and Oakgrove, school sites (Stantonbury Campus, Sir Herbert Leon Academy/Leon Leisure Centre, and Shenley Brook End), Trusts (Wolverton, and Shenley Leisure Centre), and there is a small amount of provision at Courtside (Milton Keynes College). There are also private gyms/fitness suites at The Quadrant (Network Rail HQ) and Lovat Fields (retirement home) which have no general community use.
368. The two smallest sites have 10 stations, 7 sites have between 100-130 stations and the largest the David Lloyd Club has 300 stations.

369. There are two extra facilities planned, one is the relocation of Fusion to the National Bowl as part of the National Badminton Arena which will see their number of fitness stations rise to 120 from 63.
370. The other proposal in Newport Pagnell, where it is hoped to develop new dry-side facilities by extending the Middleton Pool building in order to offset the costs of running the pool. This would include dance studios and a fitness facility.
371. There is land adjacent to the pool that could be used for the extension. The land is owned by Milton Keynes Council and is cemetery land, however it is not suitable for burials. The Town Council is currently seeking to go into partnership with an organisation for the purpose of financial restructuring, which it is hoped will help to make the Middleton Pool and Tickford Centre more financially sustainable. The plan of the proposals is provided as Appendix 6.
372. Figure 40 below shows the location of the health and fitness suites in Milton Keynes Borough. Most of the current provision is in the central areas of the city, with less in the west including Tattenhoe Park area and the east.
373. The quality and “offer” of the fitness facilities varies widely. For example the new equipment at Bletchley Leisure Centre is high quality and the centre has staff to support GP referrals, and has physios on site. In comparison, the Stantonbury Campus fitness equipment is variable in quality and age, but the centre also prides itself on offering high levels of support to GP referrals and others who are less fit. At the other extreme, the fitness stations and the room in which they are located at the Sir Herbert Leon Academy are old and tired. There is very little on site support from staff for the community use, but the equipment still attracts a local users.
374. The commercial gym and fitness centres vary too, from those which offer very little support to users but can offer a relatively cheap package, to those which are more expensive and offer individually tailored and monitored intensive fitness programmes.
375. Much of the pay and play provision is at the leisure centres; Bletchley, Woughton, Oakgrove, Wolverton, Shenley, and at Sir Herbert Leon Academy, although there are also two large commercial pay and play facilities, Atlas Fitness with 130 stations and Fit4Less which has a 100 stations.

Figure 39: Health and fitness - current provision

Site Name	Number of Stations	Access Type	Ownership Type
DE VERE LEISURE CLUB (HARBEN PLACE)	10	Registered Membership use	Commercial
LIVINGWELL HEALTH CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	10	Pay and Play	Commercial
BODY LIMITS CLINIC & GYMNASIUM	16	Registered Membership use	Commercial
SPIRIT HEALTH CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	18	Registered Membership use	Commercial
SHENLEY BROOK END SCHOOL	21	Registered Membership use	School (in house)
BLACKBERRY GYMNASIUM	22	Registered Membership use	Commercial
LEON LEISURE CENTRE	22	Pay and Play	Academy
SHENLEY LEISURE CENTRE	23	Pay and Play	Trust
COURTSIDE SPORTS & FITNESS @ MILTON KEYNES COLLEGE	25	Pay and Play	Further Education (in house)
OAKGROVE LEISURE CENTRE	27	Pay and Play	Trust
KENTS HILL PARK HEALTH AND FITNESS CLUB	40	Registered Membership use	Commercial
WOUGHTON LEISURE CENTRE	40	Pay and Play	Local Authority (in house)
FUSION HEALTH CLUB @ THE NATIONAL BADMINTON CENTRE	63	Registered Membership use	Commercial
WOLVERTON SWIMMING & FITNESS CENTRE	65	Registered Membership use	Trust
SNAP FITNESS (MILTON KEYNES)	80	Registered Membership use	Commercial
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	85	Registered Membership use	Commercial
LA FITNESS (MILTON KEYNES)	89	Registered Membership use	Commercial
BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE	100	Pay and Play	Local Authority (Trust)
FIT4LESS (MILTON KEYNES)	100	Pay and Play	Commercial
KISS GYMS (MILTON KEYNES)	100	Registered Membership use	Commercial
STANTONBURY CAMPUS LEISURE CENTRE	100	Registered Membership use	School (in house)
DW SPORTS FITNESS (MILTON KEYNES)	110	Registered Membership use	Commercial
VIRGIN ACTIVE CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	110	Registered Membership use	Commercial
ATLAS FITNESS	130	Pay and Play	Commercial
DAVID LLOYD CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	300	Registered Membership use	Commercial

Figure 40: Health and Fitness Facilities in Milton Keynes



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Modelling

Nortoft Calculator

376. The Nortoft Calculator (Figure 41) predicts future need based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation. The rate of provision of health and fitness stations in Milton Keynes per 1000 at 6.77 per 1000 is currently much higher than either the South East regional average of 5.66 stations per 1000, or the national average of 5.88 stations per 1000. This means that there is approximately 20% more provision per 1000 than the regional average, or 15% more than the national average.
377. As about 75% of the provision is commercial, this suggests that the current supply is approximately in line with demand. For this reason, the Nortoft Calculator uses as the starting point the current rate of provision per 1000 in Milton Keynes, and then predicts the need up to 2026 by applying the population growth and the increased rate of participation of 1% per annum.
378. The Nortoft Calculator suggests that there will be a requirement for an additional 568 stations in the period up to 2026, with about 376 in the period up to 2021. Of these additional stations, about 350 are justified by the increase in population, and the remainder by the increase in participation policy of 1% pa.

Figure 41: Nortoft Calculator results – health and fitness

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	MK current provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with Milton Keynes average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing <i>plus</i> new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Health & Fitness	Whole Authority	Stations	1706	6.77	6.77	-1	153	376	568	1705	1859	2082	2274

Comparator authorities' provision

379. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 42. This comparison suggests that the provision in Milton Keynes is on the higher side in relation to the total number of sites for health and fitness suites with public access, compared to some of its benchmark authorities.

Figure 42: Health and Fitness - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Health and Fitness Suites (number of sites)
Milton Keynes	251,900*	29
City of Peterborough	183,400	21
Swindon	209,200	27
Thurrock	157,700	11
Warrington	202,200	22

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Summary of modelling findings

380. There are currently high levels of health and fitness provision in Milton Keynes, higher than the regional or national averages, and amongst the highest of the benchmark authorities. As about 75% of the provision is being met by the commercial sector, this suggests that there is an approximate balance between the current supply and demand for the facilities.
381. With the expected growth in population and participation, there will be a need for around 568 extra fitness stations by 2026.
382. With only two accredited Inclusive Fitness Initiative sites at Bletchley Leisure Centre and Wolverton Swimming and Fitness Centre, there is a need to develop more sites which are fully inclusive.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

383. The findings from the residents survey are a good indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to gym and fitness are:
- 31 % of people take part in gym or fitness activities

- 25% take part at least once a week, while 6% do so at least once a month
- 68% of those responding had a view about gym and fitness provision. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 63% were satisfied
 - 22% had no view or did not know
 - 15% were dissatisfied
- 19% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to gym and fitness provision.
 - 70% said improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 33% said provide new facilities

Market Segmentation and sports development

384. Fitness gym and related activities are either the most popular or second most popular activity of every one of the 10 largest Market Segment groups in Milton Keynes. Even if people were given opportunities for other activities, fitness gym would stay as either the second or third most popular. This level of interest largely explains the very high levels of current provision and will help to justify further health and fitness provision within the authority.

National Governing Body Strategies

385. There are no sport National Governing Bodies for fitness and gym so there are no strategies to guide investment.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

386. The 2009 Strategy was based on an expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa. With the success of Milton Keynes in achieving this level of participation growth, the 1% pa has been continued for this next strategy period.
387. The 2009 Strategy proposed rate of provision of 10 stations per 1000. This has now come down to a proposed standard of 7.65 per 1000. The recommendations in the 2009 Strategy were:

Develop health and fitness facilities as the population of Milton Keynes grows, in line with the population. If a standard is adopted, this should be 10 stations per 1000 population.

Develop:

- By 2011: around 300 new stations*
- By 2016: a further 450 new stations*
- By 2021: a further 500 new stations*
- By 2026: a further 500 new stations*

A minimum of 50% of facilities should be provided by the public sector, initially targeted at the most deprived areas of the city. These should be the highest priority up to 2016.

Planning policy should positively enable the commercial development of new facilities as the market requires within the Expansion areas of Milton Keynes, and within CMK. If an average commercial provider has 100 stations, this will mean the development of 6 commercial fitness facilities up to 2021, and a further 3 commercial sites by 2026.

In the longer term, if a new leisure centre is developed, part of the facility mix of should include health and fitness provision

388. These recommendations are still basically sound although the total amount of expected new provision which will be needed is less, and the balance between the commercial and other sector provision is now 75%:25%.

CAT programme implications

389. The CAT programme is likely to have some impact on health and fitness provision as Oakgrove will be one of the facilities which will be going through the CAT process. The Leisure Centre currently offers one of the relatively few pay and play type opportunities in the area. However it seems likely that the Leisure Centre's new operators would wish to at least retain, if not improve and extend the fitness offer to generate revenue.

Development of planning standards

390. The following standards are proposed based on the assessment and analysis in above in relation to health and fitness provision.

Rate of provision per 1000

391. The proposed rate of provision is 7.65 stations per 1000 for the period up to 2026 at 5 sq m per station.
392. This approach is justified because:
- The amount of provision in Milton Keynes is currently above either the South East or national average.
 - The Market Segmentation analysis suggests that the take up of fitness and gym facilities is high in Milton Keynes and will continue to be so.
 - The policy on sports participation is to increase the rates of participation by 1% per annum.

393. The rate of provision per 1000 will be measured using Sport England's Active Places database.

Standard for accessibility

394. A 20 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for health and fitness facilities.
395. This is justified because Sport England research has shown that the majority of people are prepared to travel for up to 20 minutes to take part in an activity. This has also been confirmed in the travel time catchment mapping of Stantonbury Leisure Centre.

Standard for design and quality

396. 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.

Conclusions and Recommendations

397. Milton Keynes has as 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, suggesting that the balance in supply and demand is probably about right.
398. This is high level of demand is expected to continue over the foreseeable future. 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. This provision should be linked to other community sports facilities, such as the proposals for the swimming pools as they will benefit from the fitness gym as a source of revenue. Developers' contributions should be sought towards the cost of the building, but not the fitness equipment.
399. The number of accredited Inclusive Fitness Initiative sites is low, at only two sites. Improving accessibility for disabled people to fitness gyms should be a high priority, both for existing facilities and at new sites.
400. 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.

Recommendations

401. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as:

- 7.65 fitness stations per 1000 based on 5 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.
402. The delivery priorities are:
403. 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
 - Western Expansion Area and Brooklands areas linked to with the other sports facilities required in these areas, 100 stations each.
404. The other priorities are, following a detailed condition surveys and feasibility studies:
- To refurbish the gym/fitness facilities at
 - Sir Herbert Leon Academy
 - Stantonbury Campus.
405. The development of Inclusive Fitness Initiative sites, both at existing facilities and new sites.

INDOOR BOWLS

Introduction

406. 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, and authority is expected to have the biggest rise nationally in the number of people aged over 65 years by 2030.
407. Indoor bowls is not universally popular throughout England. 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.
408. 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. As the population in the city area of Milton Keynes grows older, interest in indoor short mat bowls is also expected to grow significantly.

Current and future provision

409. 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.
410. There are a number of village and community centres providing for short mat bowls, particularly in the more rural areas of the Borough. 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.

Modelling

Nortoft Calculator

411. The Nortoft Calculator (Figure 43) predicts the future need for specialist indoor bowls facilities based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation. Using the regional average provision per 1000, this suggests that the current rate of provision for indoor bowls rinks is below that of the regional average. If the regional average is used as the starting point for the rate of provision but increased by 13% to allow for a 1% increase in participation per annum, the

Nortoft Calculator suggests that a further 8 rinks will be required in the period up to 2026.

412. The national average for indoor bowls is not as relevant as the regional one because it also includes those areas of the country which have no tradition or provision of indoor centres.
413. If the number of people aged 55 years plus alone are considered, then the current rate of provision is 0.15 rinks per 1000. By 2026 the Nortoft Calculator would suggest a rate of provision of 0.19 rinks per 1000 of those aged 55+ years, or an increase in provision of 127%. Given that the number of people aged over 55 years will increase by 147% this seems not unreasonable, or even too low.

Comparator authorities' provision

414. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 44. This comparison suggests that the provision in Milton Keynes is about average in relation to the total number of sites with indoor bowls with public access compared to its benchmark authorities. This analysis does not however take account of the size, distribution or quality of the facilities. It should be noted that Warrington is within an area of crown green bowling, and indoor bowls rinks are not a facility in demand in this area.

Figure 44: Indoor Bowls - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Indoor bowls centres
Milton Keynes	251,900*	2
City of Peterborough	183,400	2
Swindon	209,200	2
Thurrock	157,700	1
Warrington	202,200	0

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Figure 43: Nortoft Calculator results – indoor bowls

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	South East provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with South East average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing plus new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Indoor Bowls England average = 0.04 SE average = 0.05	Whole Authority	Rinks	9	0.04	0.05	4	5	6	8	13	14	15	17

Summary of modelling findings

415. The current amount of provision of indoor bowls is approximately in line with its benchmark authorities, which are all “new towns”. The current rate of provision per 1000 however is lower than the regional average, reflecting the relatively young population of the expanding city. This situation will need to change over the next few years as the communities age, and more people switch to bowls as their choice of activity. A new indoor bowls facility will therefore be required.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

416. The findings from the residents survey are a useful indication of residents’ views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to indoor bowls are:
- 2% of people use indoor bowls facilities, all of whom play at least once a week
 - Although only a small number of people play regularly, 55% of people responding to the survey had a view about the current indoor bowls facilities. In the responses:
 - 11% were satisfied
 - 86% had no view or did not know
 - 2% were dissatisfied
 - 4% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to indoor bowls. They were approximately evenly split between the need for new facilities and the need to improve the existing.

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

417. The Bletchley Indoor Bowls Club responded to the survey. It has about 390 members, of which about 340 are veterans, 40 are seniors and the remainder are juniors. They play at Bletchley Leisure Centre and most members travel up to 20 minutes to get there, and most are from the south Milton Keynes area. The club does not have a formal development plan, is not expecting to grow in the next 5 years, and does not have any school links. There are no specific issues hindering their development.
418. The club plays at Bletchley Leisure Centre all year except for the summer months, but they are unhappy with the relatively new provision, describing it as “sub-standard”. Their main concerns were water dripping onto the surface, and a lack of handrails to help access onto the green.
419. The club supports the strategy objective of developing another indoor bowls centre in the north of the city, and has offered to be involved in the project.

National Governing Body strategies

420. The Bowls Development Alliance generally supports the development of specialist indoor bowling facilities, but Milton Keynes has not been identified as one of their “hot spot” areas.

Market Segmentation and sports development

421. The Market Segmentation analysis from Sport England suggests that bowls is only participated in by one of the ten largest market segments, the retirement home singles. This reflects the characteristics of the sport, which primarily attracts older people. However the sport of bowls is likely to become increasingly well supported in Milton Keynes city area as the communities age.
422. The sub areas with the largest population of people aged over 60 years in 2011 were the North and the South, although these are not identified in the Market Segmentation analysis because there are still more middle aged people in most of these sub areas overall.
423. In relation to the wider sports development initiatives, although bowls as a sport continually attempts to attract younger players and those with disabilities, the majority are still retired.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

424. The 2009 Strategy was based on an expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa, which has been achieved in Milton Keynes according to the latest Active People Survey statistics. The 2009 Strategy proposed rate of provision of 0.06 rinks per 1000, which remains the same in the new Strategy recommendations.
425. The recommendations in the 2009 Strategy were:

2009-2011

Support short-mat bowls by ensuring sufficient storage space is available at local facilities.

2012-2016

Develop one 6-rink centre on the north side of central Milton Keynes.

2022-2026

Develop one 6-rink centre developed in /close to the Eastern Expansion area

These should be treated as strategic facilities as they should attract users from across the authority.

426. If the 0.06 per 1000 standard is adopted there is still a need to develop one extra indoor bowls centre by 2026, but a third centre would probably not be justified until after 2026, particularly if support is provided to the development of short mat bowls. The need to support short mat bowls in village halls and community centres continues.

CAT programme implications

427. The CAT programme is not likely to have an impact on the provision of the specialist indoor bowls centre at Bletchley Leisure Centre as this is outside of the scope of the CAT programme. The other site is run by the retirement home as their own facility.
428. The greater concern is impact of CAT on existing and potentially future short mat bowls opportunities at the community centres. If a facility is to provide for short mat bowls it needs to have sufficient storage space for the mats. This is a design issue. Also important however is the programming as some of the short mat bowls activity takes place in the day time. It will be important to ensure as far as possible that this type of activity is not largely prevented/displaced by other uses, for example pre-school provision.

Development of planning standards

429. The following standards relate to specialist indoor bowls facilities and are based on the findings from this assessment. Provision for bowls within community centres and village halls is addressed under that section of this report.

Rate of provision per 1000

430. The proposed standard for indoor bowls centres is 0.06 rinks per 1000.
431. This is justified because:
- The amount of specialist indoor bowls provision in Milton Keynes is currently below the regional average, but the population in Milton Keynes is expected to age significantly in the period up to 2026, with 28,000 extra people aged 55 years plus between 2013 and 2026.
 - Bowls is one of the few sports that attract regular participation from older people and should be expected to increase strongly in the next few years.
432. The rate of provision per 1000 provision for specialist indoor bowls rinks will be measured using Sport England's Active Places database.

Standard for accessibility

433. A 20 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for specialist indoor bowling rinks.

434. This is justified because both the Sport England research has shown that the majority of people are prepared to travel for up to 20 minutes to take part in a sports activity, and the Bletchley Indoor Bowls Club confirms this catchment area in relation to its own membership.

Standard for design and quality

435. 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.

Conclusions and Recommendations

436. At the present time the provision for indoor bowls is relatively limited, with specialist indoor bowls rinks only at Bletchley Leisure Centre and at Lovat Fields retirement village. The rate of provision of this specialist space is lower than the average for the South East region. This is not surprising given the young age profile to date of the authority.
437. However the new communities are expected to age in situ and Milton Keynes will consequently face a rapidly aging population over the next few years, with more than 28,000 extra people aged over 55 years than now by 2026. There is a need to plan for this aging, by providing sport and recreation facilities which meet the needs of older people.
438. Indoor bowls primarily attracts those of retirement age but the national governing body considers that those aged 55 years and above are the key targets. Both specialist indoor provision and new opportunities for short mat bowls at village and community centres such as at Broughton will be important, providing both evening and daytime opportunities. Provision in community centres and village halls is addressed in more detail in a later section of this report.

Recommendations

439. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as:
- 0.06 rinks per 1000
 - 20 minute drive time catchment
440. 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.
441. The delivery priorities are:
- Develop one 6-rink centre on the north side of central Milton Keynes by 2021.

INDOOR TENNIS

Introduction

442. Tennis participation nationally has decreased slightly during the period 2007/08 to 2012/13. The sport attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups.
443. 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.

Current and future provision

444. At present the David Lloyd Club is the only site that provides indoor tennis in Milton Keynes, and it 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.
445. 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.
446. The map in Figure 45 shows the location of both the David Lloyd Club and the National Badminton Arena. If the courts at the Arena are developed, almost everyone in Milton Keynes who has access to a car can reach indoor tennis within a 20 minutes drive time.

Modelling

Nortoft Calculator

447. The Nortoft Calculator uses the current rate of provision of indoor tennis courts in Milton Keynes as the starting point, which is 0.05 courts per 1000. This is higher than the regional average of 0.03 courts per 1000 and reflects the current demand in the area. The Nortoft Calculator suggests that there will be a need for 4 additional courts in the period up to 2026 (see Figure 46).

Figure 45: Indoor Tennis location

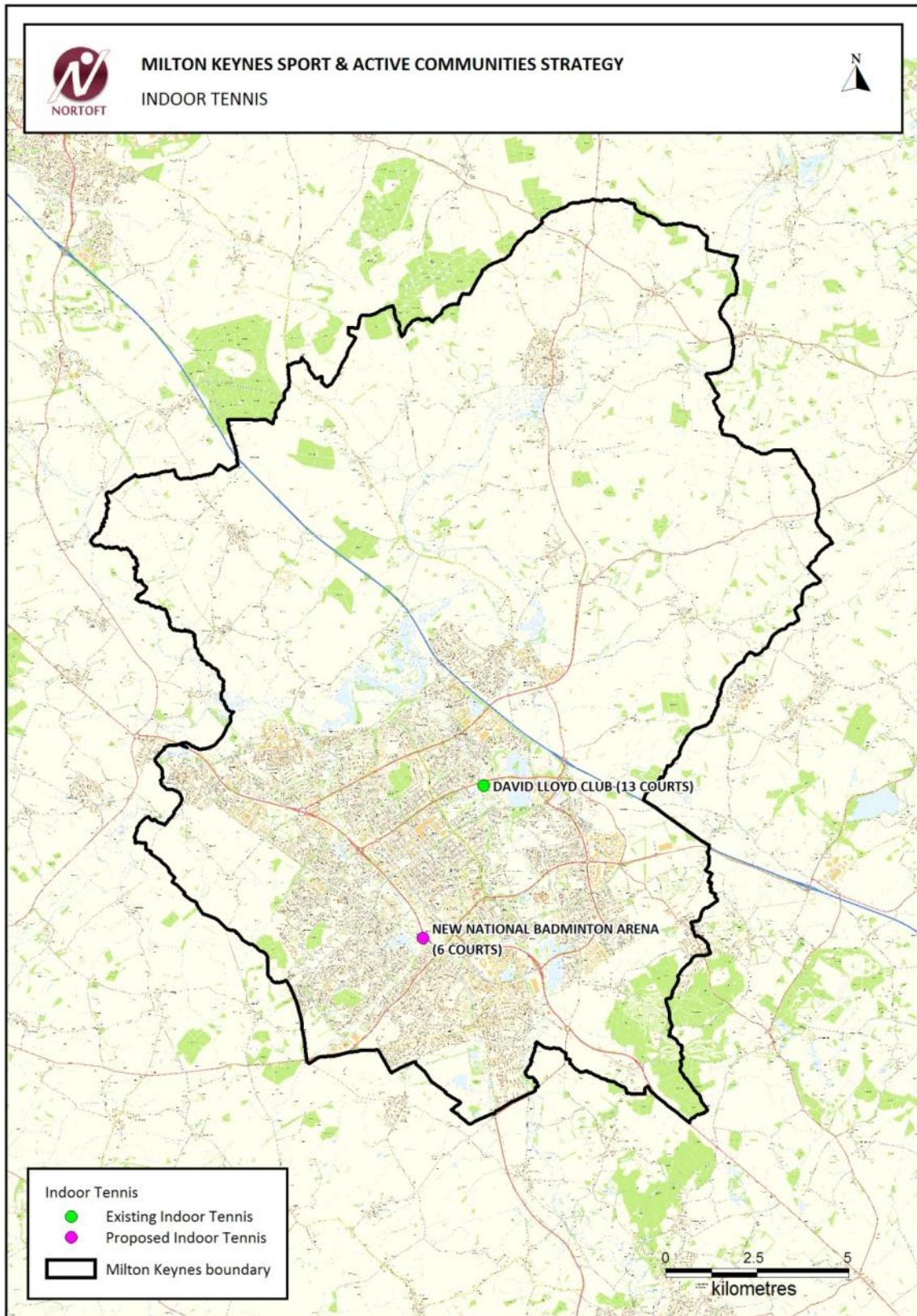


Figure 46: Nortoft Calculator indoor tennis

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	MK current provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with Milton Keynes average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing <i>plus</i> new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Indoor Tennis	Whole Authority	Courts	13	0.05	0.05	0	1	2	4	13	14	15	17

Comparator authorities' provision

448. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 47. This comparison suggests that the provision in Milton Keynes is second best compared to its comparator authorities in terms of the number of courts available for community use. This analysis does not however take account of the distribution or quality of the facilities.

Figure 47: Indoor Tennis - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Indoor tennis sites and (total number of courts)
Milton Keynes	251,900*	1 (13)
City of Peterborough	183,400	1 (4)
Swindon	209,200	3 (14)
Thurrock	157,700	1 (2)
Warrington	202,200	2 (6)

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Summary of modelling findings

449. The amount of indoor tennis provision is good in Milton Keynes and the fact that the only site is commercial suggests that the demand at least matches the supply of facilities. There is some need for additional indoor courts in the period up to 2026 for community use, particularly if this includes some pay and play opportunities. There may also be a need for further additional space if the LTA use the National Badminton Arena site as a performance centre and requires space for training in the evenings and at weekends.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

450. The findings from the residents survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to gym and fitness are:
- 1 % of people take part in indoor tennis, and of these they are equally split between weekly and monthly participation.
 - Despite this low level of participation, 55% of people had a view about indoor tennis provision. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 9% were satisfied
 - 81% had no view or did not know

- 10% were dissatisfied
- 7% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to indoor tennis.
 - 17% said improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 83% said provide new facilities

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

451. The Wolverton Sports Club (Tennis section) raised the issue of a lack of covered courts as being one of their restrictions on being able to grow in membership in the next 5 years.

National Governing Body strategy

452. The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition. The LTA's overall aim for the period 2011-2016 is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area. In relation to indoor tennis, the NGB's aspiration is that everyone should have access to indoor courts within a 20 minutes drive time.
453. The LTA has been actively supporting the proposal for additional indoor tennis provision at the National Badminton Arena as they recognise a need for both additional community tennis opportunities, and the site as a potential performance centre.

Market Segmentation and sports development

454. The Market Segmentation analysis suggests that tennis in Milton Keynes currently attracts middle-aged ladies in full time employment, but that the sport is also potentially attractive to five of the other largest market segments across the age groups.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

455. The number of indoor courts has not changed between the 2009 strategy and now, so the relative rate of provision per 1000 has decreased over time as the population of Milton Keynes has grown.
456. The 2009 Strategy was based on an expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa, which has been achieved in Milton Keynes and has therefore been continued in this Strategy period.
457. The 2009 Strategy proposed rate of provision of 0.07 courts per 1000. This has now come down to a proposed standard of 0.06 per 1000 for the period up to 2026. This

reduction and the significantly lower population forecast for 2026 compared to the 2009 forecast, has had an impact on the expected requirements for indoor courts.

458. The recommendations in the 2009 Strategy were:

2012-2016

- *4 additional courts located in the south of Milton Keynes, possibly as a public-private partnership. They should be linked to outdoor courts and developed to meet the criteria of a High Performance Centre for tennis, which includes fitness gym facilities.*

2022-2026

- *6+ courts possibly in the north/north west of the city, or in the Newport Pagnell area. Likely to be commercially provided although with some pay and play provision as part of the planning conditions.*

It may be most appropriate to develop the first of these facilities through a partnership with the commercial sector, which ensures the 'pay and play' opportunity is available for a significant proportion of the peak time.

The authority may therefore wish to develop appropriate planning policies to support this facility type, but may decide that the actual provision is via the commercial sector or via a partnership arrangement.

CAT programme implications

459. The CAT programme is not likely to have an impact on the provision of indoor tennis as the current provision is wholly on a commercial basis and any new provision at the National Badminton Arena would be via the national governing bodies and/or a commercial provider.

Development of planning standards

460. The assessment and analysis of the needs for indoor tennis provision above have led to the following proposals in relation to the planning standards.

Rate of provision per 1000

461. The proposed standard is 0.06 courts per 1000.

462. This approach is justified because:

- The most appropriate starting point for the planning standard for indoor tennis is the current rate of provision for Milton Keynes which is 0.05 courts per 1000.

- With an increase of 1% per annum in participation over the period up to the standard at 0.06 courts per 1000 is required.
- This standard allows for the assumption that if the indoor tennis courts are developed at the National Badminton Arena that up to three of the six planned courts will be used substantially during community peak hours for junior and performance training, so not effectively available to the community or club use.

Standard for accessibility

463. A 20 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for indoor tennis courts.
464. This is justified by the LTA's Places to Play Strategy of 2009 which has this as its target for indoor tennis provision.

Standard for design and quality

465. The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body.

Conclusions and Recommendations

466. At the present time the only provision of indoor tennis is the David Lloyd Club with its 13 permanent indoor courts. The previous Leisure and Community Strategy identified a need for additional indoor tennis courts as an LTA performance centre, and this is now proposed as part of the National Badminton Arena at the National Bowl site, where planning permission for 6 indoor courts plus outdoor courts has been achieved.
467. 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.
468. 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, as in the planning permission.

Recommendations

469. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as:
- 0.06 courts per 1000
 - 20 minute drive time catchment

470. 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.
471. The delivery priorities are:
- Development of the proposed 6 indoor tennis courts as part of the National Badminton Arena.

SQUASH

Introduction

472. Squash as a sport has slowly declined over a number of years and squash courts have often been converted into other uses across the country. The sport is dominated by males, making up 86% of participants. It also attracts the more affluent.

Current and future provision

473. 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.
474. There are also courts at the Eaglestone Meeting Place but these are unused and have not been included in the assessment.
475. The sites are listed in Figure 48, and mapped in Figure 49.

Figure 48: Squash courts in Milton Keynes

Site Name	Type	Courts	Ownership	Management Type
BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE	Normal	2	Local Authority	Trust
BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE	Glass-backed	2	Local Authority	Trust
DAVID LLOYD CLUB (MILTON KEYNES)	Normal	4	Commercial	Commercial Management
KENTS HILL PARK HEALTH AND FITNESS CLUB	Glass-backed	2	Commercial	Commercial Management
MK SQUASH AT KILN FARM CLUB	Normal	1	Commercial	Commercial Management
MK SQUASH AT KILN FARM CLUB	Glass-backed	2	Commercial	Commercial Management
OAKGROVE LEISURE CENTRE	Normal	2	Foundation School	Trust
OPEN UNIVERSITY SQUASH CLUB	Normal	2	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/University (in house)
OUSEDALE SCHOOL (NEWPORT PAGNELL CAMPUS)	Normal	3	Academies	School/College/University (in house)
SHENLEY LEISURE CENTRE	Glass-backed	2	Foundation School	Trust

Figure 49: Squash court locations



Contains Ordnance Survey data © Crown copyright and database right 2013.

Modelling

476. The Nortoft Calculator (Figure 50) predicts the future need for squash courts based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation. The current rate of provision for squash in Milton Keynes at 0.09 courts per 1000 is below that of the regional average which is 0.11 courts per 1000, but higher than the national average of 0.08 courts per 1000.
477. As participation in squash is gradually decreasing it is more appropriate to use the current Milton Keynes provision per 1000 as the starting point than the South East regional average. If this is then increased by 13% to allow for a 1% increase in participation per annum, the Nortoft Calculator suggests that a further 8 courts will be required in the period up to 2026.

Comparator authorities' provision

478. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 51. This comparison suggests that the provision in Milton Keynes is about the median compared to its comparator authorities in terms of the number of courts available for community use. This analysis does not however take account of the distribution or quality of the facilities.

Figure 51: Squash - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Number of squash courts
Milton Keynes	251,900*	22
City of Peterborough	183,400	8
Swindon	209,200	27
Thurrock	157,700	10
Warrington	202,200	22

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Figure 50: Nortoft Calculator squash courts

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	MK current provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with Milton Keynes average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing plus new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Squash Courts	Whole Authority	Courts	22	0.09	0.09	1	3	6	8	23	25	28	30

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

479. The findings from the residents' survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to squash and racketball are:
- 7% of people take part in squash and racketball
 - 14% take part at least once a week, while 86% do so at least once a month

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

480. Two squash clubs responded to the club survey, the Shenley Junior Squash Club and MK Squash.
481. Shenley Junior Squash Club is based at Shenley Leisure Centre and has 80 junior members and 20 minis. They mainly come from west Milton Keynes, with the juniors travelling up to 20 minutes to play and minis up to 10 minutes. The club currently has a waiting list of up to 10 minis and 10 juniors at any time and hopes to grow over the next 5 years. The club has a development plan and links with three local schools including Denbeigh School. The main issues which affect their expansion include a lack of facilities, a lack of coaches, limited funding, and no recognised squash club in the city.
482. The Junior Squash club plays 3-6 times a week all year round but finds booking the facilities quite difficult. However the club likes the site and feels that the facility is high quality with excellent courts which they use for both matches and training. The club also uses Kiln Farm for training 3-6 times a week year round. The courts there are described as good although one court needs work on its floor. The changing is described as high quality but the ancillary facilities such as car parking are described as below average.
483. MK Squash are based at Kiln Farm and they currently have about 86 members; 38 seniors, 12 vets, 6 juniors. Most of the members live in west Milton Keynes with the minis travelling up to about 5 minutes to play whilst the seniors travel 20 minutes and vets up to 30 minutes. The club expects to grow in the next 5 years but currently does not have a development plan, any school links or waiting list. The issues impacting upon their expansion include a lack of volunteers, recruitment of members and lack of funding.
484. The Kiln Farm site is leased on an annual basis and most activity is in the weekday evenings. The club is trying to negotiate a longer lease which would help them to unlock external funding.

National Governing Body strategy

485. The England Squash and Racketball Strategy 2008-13 is broad brush. They make no specific facility comments, but do state that they would oppose closure of squash courts.

Market Segmentation and sports development

486. Of the ten largest market segments in Milton Keynes, none regularly take part in squash and it is not a sport which significantly appeals to them. In relation to the wider sports development objectives of increasing participation, the sport is not generally attractive to those with less disposable incomes and therefore is not a priority for the Council to provide directly.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

487. The 2009 Strategy did not consider provision for squash in any detail and no specific recommendations were made in relation to planning standards or facility priorities.

CAT programme implications

488. The CAT programme will involve the Oakgrove Leisure Centre where there are two courts which are currently open for use every evening and at weekends. After the CAT process there will be no requirement on the new site owners to retain squash, or to retain the number of hours the courts are open if other uses are more commercially valuable. The amount of provision would therefore decrease if Oakgrove did not keep the courts, unless new sites are developed elsewhere by commercial interests.

Development of planning standards

489. The following standards are based on the assessment for squash above.

Rate of provision per 1000

490. A standard of 0.1 courts per 1000 is proposed for the period up to 2026.
491. This approach is justified because:
- The most appropriate starting point for the planning standard for squash in Milton Keynes is the current rate of provision and with an increase of 1% per annum over the period up to 2026, to allow for increased rates of participation.
 - Squash is relatively minor participation sport in Milton Keynes, but there is still a desire to see increased participation over the next few years so retaining the facility network is important.

492. The rate of provision per 1000 provision for squash will be measured using Sport England's Active Places database.

Standard for accessibility

493. A 20 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for squash courts.
494. This is justified because Sport England research has shown that the majority of people are prepared to travel for up to 20 minutes to take part in an activity at a sports centre, but much less at a local community facility. This is confirmed by the travel time for members of the two squash clubs responding to the survey.

Standard for design and quality

495. 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.

Conclusions and Recommendations

496. Squash is a relatively minor sport in Milton Keynes compared to others such as swimming, and it has seen a gradual decline in participation nationally over the past few years. Milton Keynes's rate of current provision falls between the national and regional averages. The objective should be to retain and enhance a network of courts over the period up to 2026 to reverse the decline in the sport and enable new participation opportunities.
497. About 40% of the current provision is commercial and just over third is provided by the leisure centres. As the CAT programme moves forwards, it is possible that the courts at Oakgrove may 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

498. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as:
- 0.1 squash courts per 1000
 - 20 minute drive time catchment
499. 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.
500. No developers' contributions will be sought for this facility type.

501. The priorities are:

- To retain the squash court provision at Oakgrove Leisure Centre
- Support new commercial led provision by positive planning policies

OUTDOOR TENNIS

Introduction

502. Tennis participation nationally has slightly decreased during the period 2007/08 to 2012/13. The sport attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups.

Current and future provision

503. There are 17 sites used by the community for tennis in the Borough, with a total of 72 courts. Of these sites, 11 are only used for tennis with a total of 42 courts. Seven of these sites host LTA clubs. The other sites are mostly schools, though one is at Castlethorpe Recreation Ground. The sites are listed in Figure 52, and mapped in Figure 53. The map also shows those areas which are within 10 minutes drive time of LTA Clubmark Accredited clubs, and it also includes the proposal at the National Badminton Arena which is expected to host a new club.
504. 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 MK Academy.

Figure 52: Outdoor tennis courts with community use

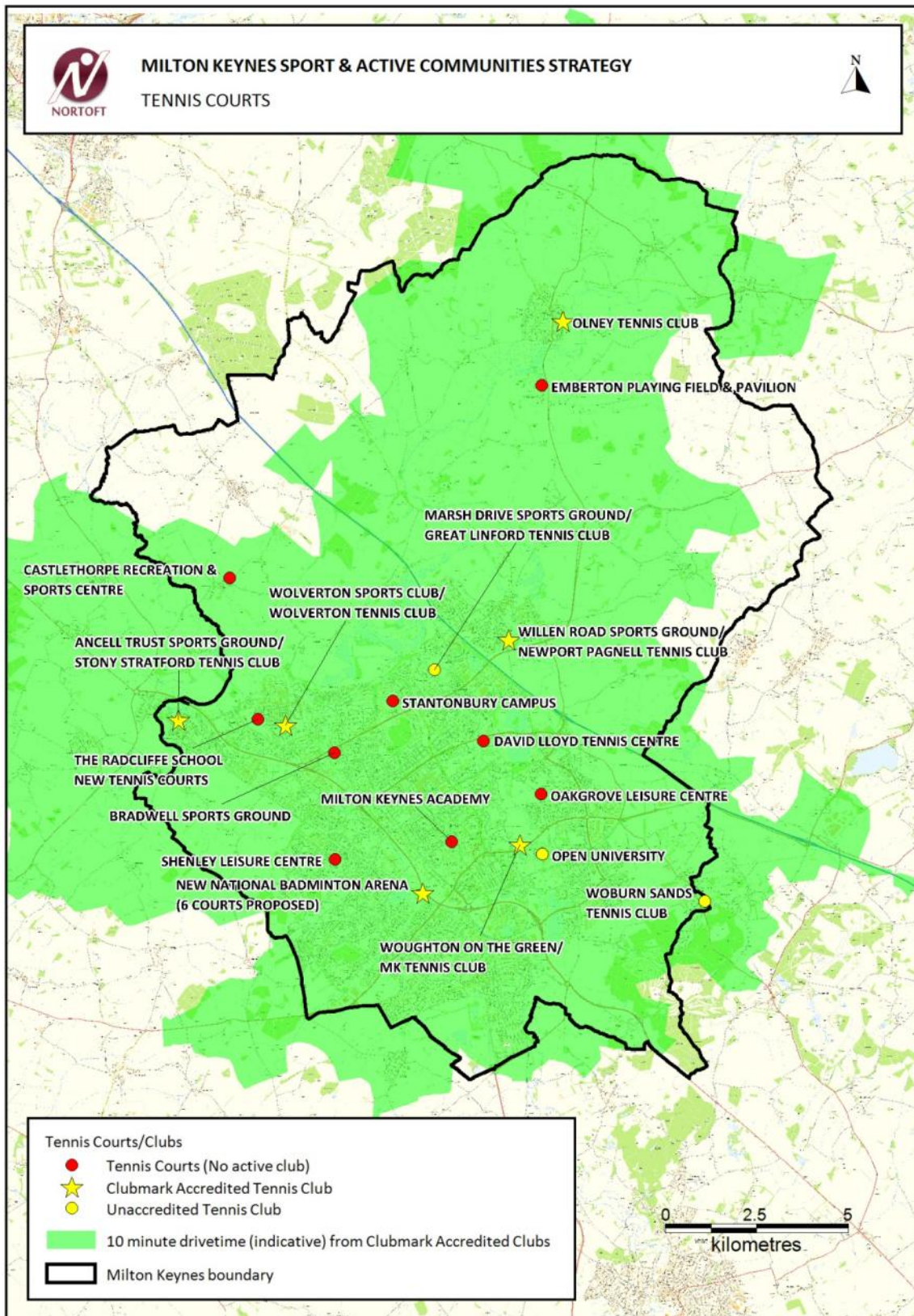
Site Name	Number of Courts	Comment	Club	Clubmark Club
Sites only used for tennis				
Ancell Trust	2	Porous tarmac. Not floodlight but has planning permission for lights. Good quality, including fencing etc. High quality club house.	Stony Stratford	✓
	7	Synthetic turf. Has floodlights. Good quality, including fencing etc. High quality club house		
Bradwell Sports Ground	2	Porous tarmac. Below average surface quality. Average fencing quality. No floodlighting. Has car park but no pavilion.		
David Lloyd Centre	5	Polymeric surface. Excellent condition. Floodlit.		
Emberton Playing Fields	1	Porous tarmac. Above average surface condition, average quality fencing. No changing. No floodlights. Sited away from main car park.		
Marsh Drive, Great Linford	3	Porous tarmac. Average quality surface but below average fencing. Basic floodlights. Average quality changing. Good car park.	Great Linford Tennis Club	
Olney Rec/Olney Town	4	Porous tarmac. High quality surface and fencing with good floodlights. Has separate pavilion/clubhouse for the tennis	Olney Tennis Club	✓
Open University	4	Porous tarmac. High quality surface and fencing with good floodlights. Beside main sports buildings.	Open University Squash Club (?)	
The Pavilion, Woughton on the Green	2	Porous tarmac of high quality surface, fencing, floodlights. Small hut on site. Changing and car park shared with other site users. Will require refurbishment during 2014.	MK Tennis Club & Milton Keynes Community Tennis	✓
	4	Synthetic turf of high quality surface, fencing, floodlights. Small hut on site. Changing and car park shared with other site users.		
Willen Road, Newport Pagnell	4	Porous tarmac of average quality surface and fencing. Good floodlights and car park. No clubhouse/pavilion	Newport Pagnell Tennis Club	✓
Wolverton Sports Club	5	Porous tarmac. Above average surface condition and floodlighting. Good quality changing rooms. fencing. No changing. No floodlights. Sited away from main car park.	Wolverton Sports Club (tennis section)	✓
Woburn Sands Bowls and Tennis Club	2	Porous tarmac of average quality surface. Poor fencing. Has floodlights and car park. No clubhouse/pavilion	Woburn Sands Tennis Club	

Sites used for tennis plus other sports				
Castlethorpe Recreation Ground	2	Porous tarmac. Average quality surface and good quality fencing. Also marked out for netball (1 court) and football.		
Denbigh School/ Shenley Leisure Centre	6	Synthetic turf of average quality with average quality fencing. Has floodlights. Above average pavilion facilities and car parking		
Milton Keynes Academy	4	Porous tarmac recently refurbished. Floodlit. Access to changing at leisure centre.		
Oakgrove Leisure Centre/ Oakgrove School	2	Polymeric surface. High quality with floodlights		
	2	Polymeric surface. High quality with floodlights. Also marked for netball, basketball and 5-a-side football		
Stantonbury Campus	5	Porous tarmac. Average quality surface and fencing. Changing available at leisure centre but too far away. Car parking average/poor.		
The Radcliffe School	6	Porous tarmac. Floodlights. New.		

Catchment mapping

505. The map in Figure 53 shows almost all of Milton Keynes can access a Clubmark tennis club within 10 minutes drive time, meeting the LTA strategy objective.

Figure 53: Outdoor tennis locations and catchment



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Modelling

Nortoft Calculator

506. The Nortoft Calculator (Figure 54a and 54b) predicts the future need for outdoor tennis courts based upon both changes in the population and the anticipated growth in participation. Figure 54a keeps the rate of provision as at present, whilst Figure 54b increases the rate to take account of a 1% growth in participation.
507. As Sport England only records on its Active Places database those outdoor tennis courts which are solely marked out and used for tennis, this approach has been used as the starting point for the modelling for Milton Keynes. Although this excludes some use of some tennis courts, most courts at school sites have only limited use in practice, so this approach is probably more accurate than the inclusion of all of the tennis courts potentially available for community use.
508. The current rate of provision for outdoor tennis courts in Milton Keynes at 0.17 courts per 1000. This is lower than the south east region average provision per 1000 of 3.1 courts per 1000.
509. If the current rate of provision per 1000 is retained of 0.17 courts per 1000 up to 2026, then 8 additional courts will be required to cater for the additional population. If the rate of participation is increased by 1% pa, then 14 new tennis courts will be required in the period up to 2026, as the rate of provision rises to 0.19 courts per 1000.

Figure 54a: Nortoft Calculator and outdoor tennis provision- retention of current rate of provision

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	MK current provision per 1000	Rate of provision retained as in 2013.				Total provision proposed (existing <i>plus</i> new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Tennis Courts	Whole Authority	Courts	42	0.17	0.17	0	2	5	8	42	44	47	50

Figure 54b: Nortoft Calculator and outdoor tennis provision- increased rate of provision

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	MK current provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with Milton Keynes average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing <i>plus</i> new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Tennis Courts	Whole Authority	Courts	42	0.17	0.17	0	4	9	14	42	46	51	56

Comparator authorities' provision

510. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 54c. This comparison suggests that the current levels of provision in Milton Keynes are in line with both Peterborough and Warrington, though higher than Swindon and Thurrock. This analysis does not however take account of the distribution or quality of the facilities.

Figure 54c: Outdoor tennis courts - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Number of tennis courts	Provision per 1000
Milton Keynes	251,900*	42	0.17
City of Peterborough	183,400	32	0.17
Swindon	209,200	22	0.11
Thurrock	157,700	11	0.07
Warrington	202,200	36	0.18

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

511. The findings from the residents survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to tennis outdoors are:
- 2% of people take part in tennis using outdoor courts, at least once a month
 - 58% of those responding had a view about hard court/multi use games area provision. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 15% were satisfied
 - 62% had no view or did not know
 - 23% were dissatisfied
 - 18% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to hard courts and MUGA provision.
 - 69% said improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 59% said provide new facilities

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

512. Two of the outdoor tennis clubs responded to the club survey. The following summarises their comments.
513. The Wolverton Sports Club (Tennis section) are based at the Wolverton Sports Club. They draw most of their members from north Milton Keynes and currently have about 100 seniors, 30 juniors and 30 mini members. The minis tend to travel up to 20 minutes to reach the club whilst the juniors and seniors are drawn from a 30 minute catchment area. The club has a development plan and local primary school links and anticipates growing in the next 5 years. There is no waiting list for membership but issues facing the club include a lack of facilities including covered courts, and a lack of funding. The Wolverton Sports Club owns the site and there are 5 courts, of which 3 are floodlit and are to match standards. The courts are used year round and are available both daytime and evenings. The changing provision is of average quality but the car parking and other ancillary facilities are poor.
514. Woburn Sands Tennis Club is based on the outdoor courts at Woburn Sands. They have about 45 members of which all are seniors/veterans although they do have a junior coach. They draw most of their members from the east of Milton Keynes, with a catchment area of about 10 minutes for minis and juniors, and 20 minutes for the seniors and vets. The club does not have a development plan and there are no school club links. There is no waiting list for membership and the club does not expect to expand in the next 5 years. The courts are available for use both during the day and evenings, year round.
515. The major issue impacting upon the ability of the club to plan for its future is its lease, which ran out about two years ago. The landowner is currently trying to sell the club site which was part of a larger social club. The club currently only has access to one small building and the courts need resurfacing. Until the site issues are resolved however no progress can be made. Ideally the club would wish to stay in its current location.
516. The courts at MK Academy are currently underused as they are of poor quality. However MKC leisure officers are of the view that there would be significant demand for their use if they were improved.
517. In relation to potential new tennis court provision, stand-alone tennis clubs with high quality courts and ancillary facilities, and access during the day as well as evenings, is the preferred option compared to dual use courts at school sites.

National Governing Body strategy

518. The LTA is committed to growing their sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition. Their overall aim at the national level for the next 5 years (2011-2016) is to ensure that, as far as practicably possible, the

British population has access to and are aware of the places and high quality tennis opportunities in their local area.

519. In summary the LTA objectives are:

- Access for everyone to well maintained, high quality tennis facilities which are either free or pay as you play.
- A Clubmark accredited place to play within a 10 minute drive of their home.

520. The LTA is a key partner in the proposed National Badminton Arena site at the National Bowl where it is proposed to develop both indoor and six outdoor courts. This site will also be used as a performance centre.

521. In relation to the wider priorities for support by the LTA, only projects that will increase the number of adults and juniors participating and competing on a regular basis will be supported for funding. The tennis provider will also need to:

- be a registered place to play.
- have a proven leadership team in place.
- have a robust business plan showing financial sustainability.
- be Clubmark accredited. New sites can be Beacon accredited and working towards Clubmark, but must be able to become Clubmark accredited within 6 months of application.
- have the required level of partnership funding.
- provide a long term security of tenure i.e. freehold or leasehold with minimum of 21 years and the ability to assign the lease.

522. Each project will be individually assessed for funding, and the levels of potential capital funding are:

Outdoor Projects

The applicant should provide a minimum of 25% of the project cost, which can comprise both of the applicants' own funds and external partnership funding.

Clubhouse Development Projects

British tennis will allocate a maximum of £100,000 loan only funding for clubhouse projects that will provide a measurable impact on British Tennis. The applicant should provide a minimum of 50% of the project cost, which can comprise both of the applicants' own funds and external partnership funding.

523. The current distribution of tennis clubs in Milton Keynes almost meets the LTA's aspiration of having a clubmark accredited place to play within 10 minutes drive time.

Market Segmentation and sports development

524. The Market Segmentation analysis suggests that tennis in Milton Keynes currently attracts middle-aged ladies in full time employment, but that the sport is also potentially attractive to five of the other largest market segments across the age groups.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

525. The 2009 Strategy was based on an expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa. As the rates of participation in sport in Milton Keynes has achieved this objective, the proposal is to continue the rate as previously.
526. The recommendations in the 2009 Strategy, based on a higher expected population were:

2009-2011

- *School dual-use provision: Hazeley of 3 flood-lit courts, Radcliffe of 4 courts.*

Up to 3 courts to be provided via club and other school-based dual use opportunities as they arise.

2012-2021

- *One site of a minimum of 12 courts to be developed in association with the proposed indoor centre, to be treated as a High Performance Centre meeting the LTA criteria. Site to be treated as a Strategic level facility.*
- *One site linked to each new secondary school in WEA and EEA of 4 courts providing for club or dual-use.*
- *2 sites of 4 courts each at new secondary school sites in WEA and EEA which provide for clubs or are dual-use provision and are flood-lit. To be treated as satellite provision.*

Provision should be delivered in line with the school building programme. Whilst this may not be wholly in line with the phasings envisaged in the Nortoft Calculator (based on projected housing growth) it is a more pragmatic approach and will ensure that sports facilities are provided for pupils as the school opens.

2022-2026

- *6 courts linked to the proposed commercial indoor tennis provision in the north/north east of the city or Newport Pagnell area.*

- *4 courts located in the western expansion/west flank to support the development of an independent tennis club.*
- *One other 4 court site, ideally located in the Central area of MK to be available for pay-and-play use in addition to club use.*

All 4 court sites to be treated as satellite provision.

527. Some progress has been made on these proposals, for example the new courts just developed at Radcliffe School, where there will be 6 courts rather than 4. New courts have also been developed at Oakgrove Leisure Centre/school as dual use facilities. Shenley Brook End and Walton Hall schools no longer have active use of their courts by the community, except on a limited basis, and the number of courts at Woughton Leisure Centre/MK Academy site have been reduced. The net impact of the changes is a reduction in the number of courts available in 2013 compared to 2009.

CAT programme implications

528. The CAT programme could have potentially significant impacts on the provision for tennis on outdoor courts as the following sites will be going through the CAT process:

Marsh Drive, Great Linford
Oakgrove Leisure Centre/Oakgrove School
Willen Road, Newport Pagnell

529. Of these sites, there is a club based at Marsh Drive, and a clubmark club at Willen Road. The sites at Marsh Drive and Willen Road are average in their quality, whilst the tennis provision at Oakgrove is high quality.
530. The courts at Marsh Drive would benefit from improvement but as the club based there is not Clubmark accredited, they would not be eligible for funding support from the LTA. Unless the courts are improved prior to the CAT process being completed, these courts might face further deterioration and eventual closure.
531. The Willen Road site has average quality courts and will require investment in the medium term. The site hosts a Clubmark club and would be eligible for LTA support, but without investment the club facilities would deteriorate and eventually become unplayable.
532. The courts at Oakgrove Leisure Centre are high quality and there appears to be no reason why tennis should not continue on this site so long as the income generated covers the costs of running the courts at evenings and weekends.

Development of planning standards

533. The following proposals have been developed in response to the assessment of outdoor tennis provision above.

Rate of provision per 1000

534. The proposed standard is 0.19 courts per 1000 based on courts solely marked out for tennis.

535. This approach is justified because:

- This considers only those courts specifically marked out for tennis and solely used for the sport.
- The current rate of provision in Milton Keynes is similar to those in two of the five benchmark authorities
- The 1% increase in participation in sport generally has been achieved in Milton Keynes and should be applied to specialist tennis courts.

Standard for accessibility

536. A 10 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for outdoor tennis courts.
537. This is justified by the LTA's Places to Play Strategy of 2009 which has this as its accessibility target for access to a LTA's Clubmark club. Most areas of Milton Keynes Borough area already fall within this standard.

Standard for design and quality

538. The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body. New courts should be provided as club sites with high quality tennis specific surfaces and access during the day as well as evenings and weekends. They should be solely used for tennis.

Conclusions and Recommendations

539. The current network of provision will need increasing to cater for the existing population and future population, and any increase in participation over the period up to 2026. The additional demand equates to 14 new courts in the period up to 2026. This new provision will in part be provided by the 6 courts at the National Badminton Arena. The other courts should be provided close to the main housing growth areas.
540. The CAT programme could potentially have significant impacts on tennis court provision. Any courts "lost" to tennis will need to be replaced, but not necessarily in the same locations, as the priority should be to support active clubs.

541. 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. These sites should therefore be priorities for investment.
542. 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. New court provision will be needed to meet the demands arising from Milton Keynes new population in the period up to 2026, and the preferred option is for a new tennis club site to be developed on the west flank of the city.
543. The Woburn Sands Tennis Club site issues need resolving and a replacement site provided in an appropriate location with appropriate ancillary facilities, if the current site should be developed. This should be a condition on any planning permission.
544. Outdoor tennis provision should be reviewed within 3 years to take account of changes to the network as a result of the CAT programme and progress on the National Badminton Arena courts.

Recommendations

545. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as:
- 0.19 courts per 1000 based on courts solely marked out for tennis
 - 10 minute drive time catchment
546. 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.
547. Developers' contributions to be calculated on the basis of the latest cost estimates from Sport England.
548. The delivery priorities are:
- New courts:
 - 6 outdoor tennis courts as part of the National Badminton Arena.
 - 8 new tennis courts as independent club site in west flank area.
 - Refurbishment and improvement, costs dependent on conditions surveys:
 - Marsh Drive
 - Willen Road
 - MK Academy
 - Woughton on the Green (2 x tarmac courts)
 - Replacement:

- Woburn Sands Tennis Club, including courts and ancillary facilities if the site is developed. This should be as a planning condition on the developer.

BOWLING GREENS

Introduction

549. 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, and authority is expected to have the biggest rise nationally in the number of people aged over 65 years by 2030.

Current and future provision

550. There are 11 outdoor bowl sites each with a single green. They are listed below with comments about the sites, and mapped in Figure 56. 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.
551. There is an existing proposal for one new bowls site, to be located somewhere in the west flank but the site location is to be confirmed.

Modelling

552. The Nortoft Calculator is the only modelling tool available for assessing demand for outdoor bowling greens. The current rate of provision of bowling greens in Milton Keynes has been used as the starting point as there are no national or regional comparators. This rate has been increased by 1% per annum to allow for an increase in participation over the period up to 2026.
553. The Calculator suggests that 2 additional bowling greens will be required in the period up to 2026. However if the number of people aged 55 years plus alone considered and there are about 60,000 of them now, giving a provision per 1000 of 0.18 greens per 1000 of 55 years plus. As the numbers increase by 28,000 in this age group and allowing for a 1% increase in participation per annum over the period, this suggests that almost a further 6 greens would be justified by 2026, i.e. a total of 17 greens across the authority.
554. If a 1% rate of provision per 1000 for the whole population was adopted for the period up to 2026, this would result in a requirement for 13 bowling greens in total, an increase of 2 on the current number. This is would seen to be too low, so a target of 4 new bowling greens would appear to be both justified and realistic.

Figure 55: Bowling green provision

Site Name	Comment	Club
Ancell Trust	1 green. Excellent quality. Good quality signage, changing/pavilion etc. Floodlit.	Stony Stratford
Bradwell Sports Ground	1 excellent quality green with fencing. Gulleys and benches good. Signage and changing pavilion average condition. Not floodlit.	Bradwell
Olney Rec/Olney Town	1 excellent quality green with fencing and gulleys. Benches and signage good. Good changing pavilion. Floodlit.	Olney
Rickley Park	1 excellent quality green with fencing and gulleys. Benches, signage and changing pavilion average quality. No floodlights. Use car park in Rickley Park.	Bletchley St Martins
Selbourne Avenue/Scot Sports	1 good quality green with good fencing and gulleys. Benches, signage average condition. No changing pavilion or floodlights. Does have portacabin.	Scot
North Crawley Recreation Ground	1 excellent quality green with fencing and gulleys. Benches and changing pavilion (shed) good. Signage average quality. No floodlights.	North Crawley
Newport Pagnell Bowling Club	1 good quality green with good fencing, gulleys, benches, and signage. Not floodlit. Average quality changing and car park (currently being extended). Good security and no evidence of vandalism.	Newport Pagnell
Woburn Sands Bowls and Tennis Club	1 good quality green with good gulleys. Signage, changing/pavilion and benches average condition. Poor fencing (part hedge) resulting in site having part open access. No floodlights.	Woburn Sands
Bletchley Town Bowls Club	1 good quality green with good fencing and gulleys. Benches, signage average condition. Poor changing pavilion. No floodlights.	Bletchley Town
Wolverton Sports Club	1 excellent quality green with fencing and gulleys. Signage, benches and changing pavilion average quality. Has floodlights.	Wolverton Town
Wolverton Park Bowls Club	1 excellent quality green with fencing and gulleys. Benches and signage good. Good changing pavilion. Floodlit.	Wolverton Park

Figure 56: Bowling green sites

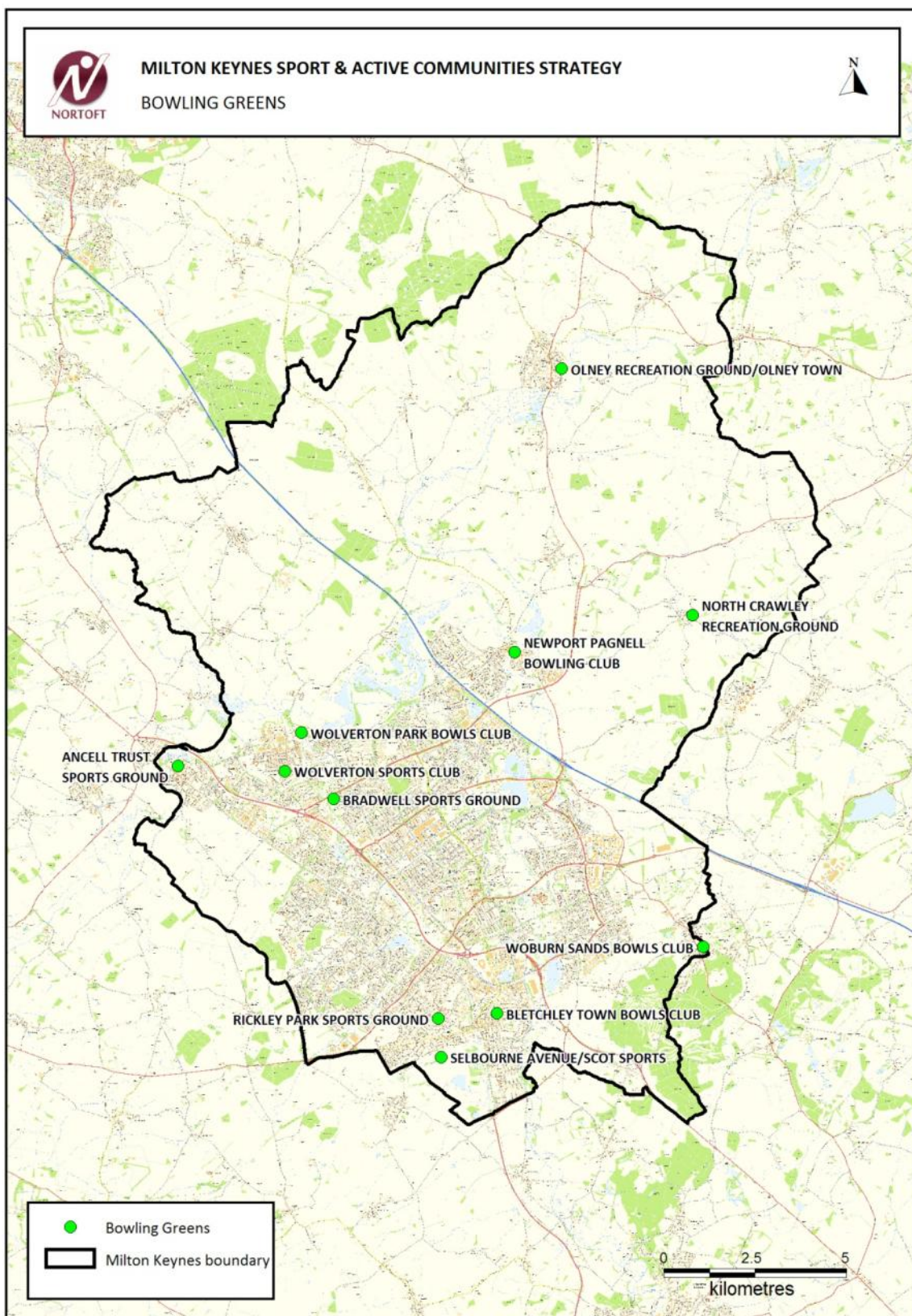


Figure 57: Nortoft Calculator and bowling greens

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	MK current provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with Milton Keynes average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing <i>plus</i> new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Bowling Greens	Whole Authority	Greens	11	0.04	0.04	0	0	1	2	11	11	12	13

Comparator authorities' provision

555. Comparator authority information is not available for bowling greens as there is no central national database for this facility type.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

556. The findings from the residents survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to outdoor bowling are:
- 1 % of people take part in outdoor bowls, equally divided between those that play on a weekly basis and those play at least once a month.
 - Despite the low number of people saying they play outdoor bowls, 55% had a view about bowling green provision. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 10% were satisfied
 - 88% had no view or did not know
 - 2% were dissatisfied
 - 6% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to outdoor bowls.
 - 60% said improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 40% said provide new facilities

National Governing Body strategy

557. The national governing body, Bowls England does not have a formal facilities strategy but does offer development loans of up to £20,000.

Market Segmentation and sports development

558. The Market Segmentation analysis from Sport England suggests that bowls is only participated in by one of the ten largest market segments in Milton Keynes, the retirement home singles. This reflects the characteristics of the sport, which primarily attracts older people. However the sport of bowls is likely to become increasingly well supported in the Milton Keynes city area as the communities age.
559. The sub areas with the largest population of people aged over 60 years in 2011 were the North and the South, although these are not identified in the Market Segmentation analysis because there are still more middle aged people in most of these sub areas overall.

560. In relation to the wider sports development initiatives, although bowls as a sport continually attempts to attract younger players and those with disabilities, the majority are still the reasonably active retired.

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

561. The 2009 Strategy was based on the expected rate of increase in participation of 1% pa, and a somewhat higher population forecast by 2026. The 2009 Strategy identified that there were 11 bowling club sites at that time but it anticipated the closure of the Woburn Sands site. The recommended rate of provision was 0.06 greens per 1000, which has now reduced slightly, to a recommended rate of 0.05 greens per 1000.

562. The recommendations in the 2009 Strategy were:

2012-2016

- *The provision of 2 new outdoor bowls greens as single site in the North*
- *one green in the Central area*
- *one green in the West*
- *one green to replace facility in Woburn Sands*

2017-2021

- *The provision of 2 new outdoor bowls greens,*
 - *one in the South*
 - *one in the West*

2021-2026

- *The provision of 2 new outdoor bowls greens,*
 - *one in the North*
 - *one in the Central area*

563. The 2009 strategy therefore proposed that there should be 8 additional bowling greens planned and provided for in the period up to 2026.

CAT programme implications

564. The CAT programme should have relatively limited impact on bowling greens as none of the sites are in the ownership of Milton Keynes Council. The only potential problem seems likely to be in relation to the car parking at Rickley Park, which the bowls club uses.

Development of planning standards

565. The following planning standards are based on the assessment of outdoor bowling green requirements, above.

Rate of provision per 1000

566. The proposed standard is 0.05 bowling greens per 1000.
567. This approach is justified because:
- The most appropriate starting point for the planning standard for outdoor bowling greens is the current rate of provision for Milton Keynes which is 0.04 greens per 1000.
 - There is a need to provide for: the increase in population overall; the increase in the rates of participation (at 1% per annum); and an increase in the proportion of people aged 55 years and over.

Standard for accessibility

568. A 10 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for bowling greens.
569. Most areas of Milton Keynes Borough area already meets this standard, and it reflect the fact that most bowling clubs draw their membership from a fairly small area.

Standard for design and quality

570. The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the National Governing Body.

Conclusions and Recommendations

571. The current network of provision is well distributed and the bowling greens generally look in either excellent or good order, suggesting that they are well used and supported. 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 the new communities in Milton Keynes, a policy objective of increased rates of participation, and the notably aging population of the city area.
572. It is estimated that four additional bowling greens will be required in the period up to 2026. One is planned for the west of the city, and the priorities for additional provision should also be the north with a double green site, and the central area of the city where there is no provision at this time.
573. The CAT programme seems unlikely to have any significant impacts on bowling green provision.

Recommendations

574. The authority wide planning standard is therefore proposed as:
- 0.05 bowling greens per 1000
 - 10 minute drive time catchment
575. 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.
576. The delivery priorities are:
- New facilities
 - 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

Introduction

577. 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 particularly important for those people without a car or 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.
578. 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.
579. 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 this section primarily focuses on these facilities.
580. The local management of community facilities is very much part of the long standing MKC policy of devolving the management of assets to volunteers and localities. Currently there are around 200 volunteers committed to managing facilities across Milton Keynes.
581. The geographical spread of village halls and community centres together with their quality, accessibility and attractiveness is more important than quantitative rate of provision in the more established areas of the Borough, both the rural areas and the city. A planning standard for the new areas of the city is however critical to ensuring that sufficient and appropriate local community facilities are provided. Similarly in the older areas which are facing additional housing, such around Stacey Bushes.
582. Milton Keynes Council has required the development of community centres as an integral part of the growth of the city, with a Supplementary Planning Guidance of 2005 being updated by the proposals emerging from the 2009 strategy. These have now developed further and new community centres with new designs have been developed in places such Broughton, and are now in hand for the Western Expansion Area, Brooklands, and Tattenhoe Park areas.
583. These experiences, recent feedback from the users via the 2013 residents survey, and consultation with stakeholders such as Milton Keynes Leisure Trust/Hertsmeres should now be used to revisit the standards for provision per 1000, accessibility and and design.

Current provision

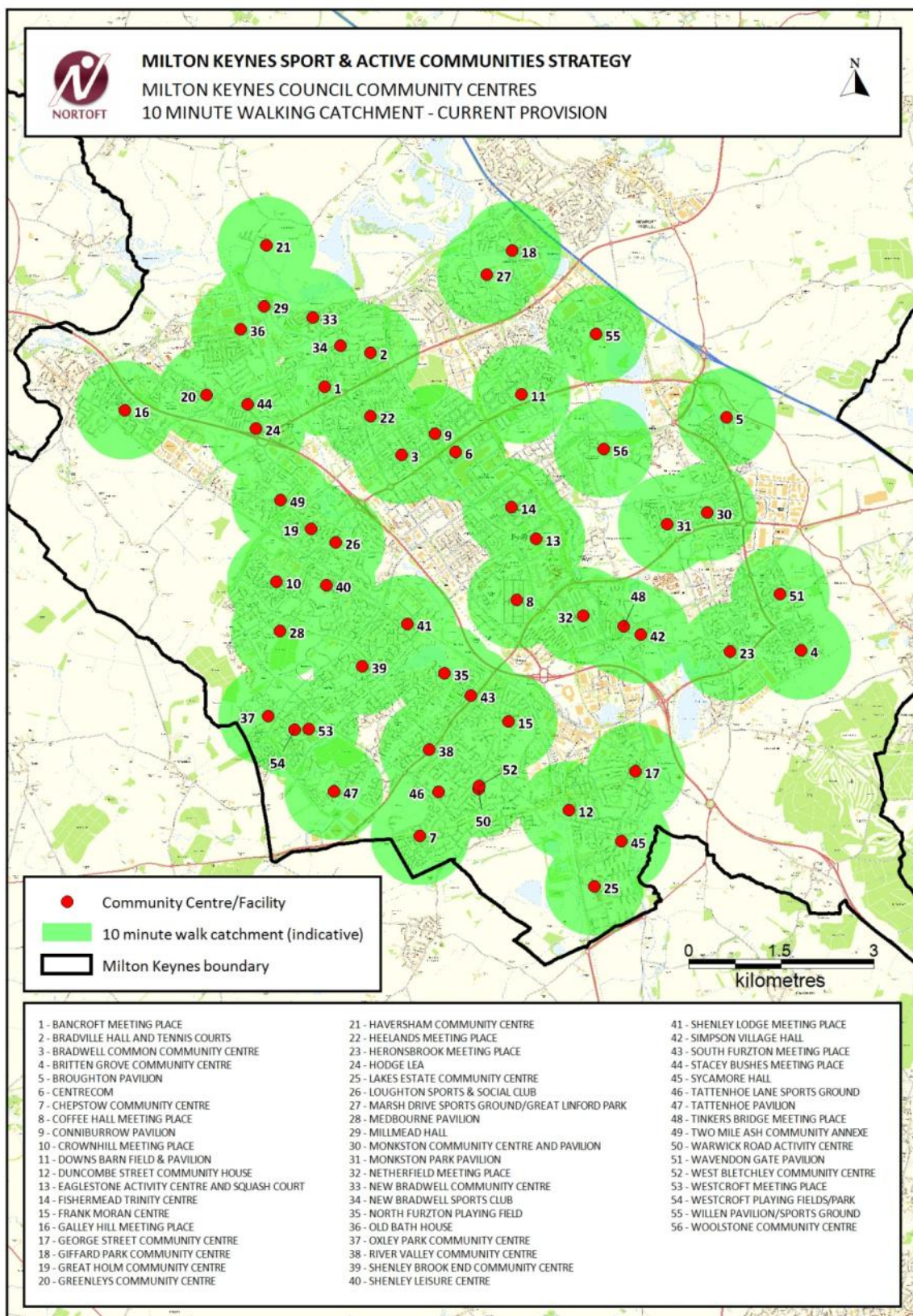
584. There are 52 community centres owned by Milton Keynes Council. These are listed in Figure 58, and mapped in Figure 59 with a 10 minute walking catchment (800m). This map suggests that most places in the city can reach a community centre fairly easily.

*Figure 58: Milton Keynes Council Community Centres List
(as at February 2014)*

BRADVILL HALL AND TENNIS COURTS
 BRADWELL COMMON COMMUNITY CENTRE
 BRITTEN GROVE COMMUNITY CENTRE
 BROUGHTON PAVILION
 CENTRECOM
 CHEPSTOW COMMUNITY CENTRE
 COFFEE HALL MEETING PLACE
 CONNIBURROW PAVILION
 CROWNHILL MEETING PLACE
 DOWNS BARN FIELD & PAVILION
 DUNCOMBE STREET COMMUNITY HOUSE
 EAGLESTONE ACTIVITY CENTRE AND SQUASH COURT
 FISHERMEAD TRINITY CENTRE
 GALLEY HILL MEETING PLACE
 GEORGE STREET COMMUNITY CENTRE
 GIFFARD PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
 GREAT HOLM COMMUNITY CENTRE
 GREENLEYS COMMUNITY CENTRE
 HAVERSHAM COMMUNITY CENTRE
 HEELANDS MEETING PLACE
 HERONSBROOK MEETING PLACE
 HODGE LEA
 LAKES ESTATE COMMUNITY CENTRE
 MARSH DRIVE SPORTS GROUND/GREAT LINFORD PARK
 MEDBOURNE PAVILION
 MILLMEAD HALL
 MONKSTON COMMUNITY CENTRE AND PAVILION
 MONKSTON PARK PAVILION
 NETHERFIELD MEETING PLACE
 NEW BRADWELL COMMUNITY CENTRE
 NEW BRADWELL SPORTS CLUB
 NORTH FURZTON PLAYING FIELD
 OLD BATH HOUSE
 OXLEY PARK COMMUNITY CENTRE
 RIVER VALLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE

SHENLEY BROOK END COMMUNITY CENTRE
SHENLEY LODGE MEETING PLACE
SIMPSON VILLAGE HALL
SOUTH FURZTON MEETING PLACE
STACEY BUSHES MEETING PLACE
SYACAMORE HALL
TATTENHOE LANE SPORTS GROUND
TATTENHOE PAVILION
TINKERS BRIDGE MEETING PLACE
TWO MILE ASH COMMUNITY ANNEXE
WARWICK ROAD ACTIVITY CENTRE
WAVENDON GATE PAVILION
WEST BLETCHLEY COMMUNITY CENTRE
WESTCROFT MEETING PLACE
WESTCROFT PLAYING FIELDS/PARK
WILLEN PAVILION/WILLEN VILLAGE SPORTS GROUND
WOOLSTONE COMMUNITY CENTRE

Figure 59: Community Centres owned by Milton Keynes Council - current



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585. New community facilities are planned and identified in the Core Strategy and include those in the Strategic Land Allocation area. These are mapped in Figure 60, again with a 10 minute (800m) walking catchment:

Western EA	2 x community centre / sports pavilion
Brooklands	2 x community centre / sports pavilion
Newton Leys	Community centre
Tattenhoe Park	Community centre / sports pavilion
Central MK	Community Sports Pavilion
Strategic Land Allocation area	1 x community centre/sports pavilion

586. These new facilities mainly address the community needs within the new areas of growth, and there are apparent gaps in provision across the city. However as this map again shows only the Milton Keynes Council facilities, it is not a complete picture of community provision.

587. Milton Keynes Council has undertaken a review of all of its community centres as part of its asset management. This provides information about the size of each of the facilities, the main components of each site, whether they are used as a pre-school venue, the suitability of the venues their use, and any major issues. As an example the New Bradwell Community Centre commentary is “Community Centre requires extensive works both internally and externally”, whilst CentreCom Meeting Place is noted as being a “Nice centre, clean and well cared for”.

588. For some considerable time, MKC community centres have had pre-schools and nurseries as anchor tenants, and from September 2013, 29 of the 52 community centres owned by Milton Keynes Council will be used for this purpose. This has the advantage of bringing in a regular income to the community centres but, for some of the smaller (one hall) community centres does mean that they are unavailable for other community use during the hours of operation. This could become an increasingly significant issue as the population of Milton Keynes ages and there is greater need for day time accessible facilities.

589. Government has announced plans to extend funding for pre-school to children of two years of age. This will result in a need for more facility space to cater for the increase in children being provided for by pre-schools and nurseries. There appear to be a number of potential community centre sites which could meet this need by extension, to save having to develop stand-alone facilities.

590. Milton Keynes had success with early provision for community activities in the expansion areas in the form of community houses. People in new housing areas feel it important to have a space to meet, form friendships, start clubs and groups so that they do not feel so isolated. Kindsmead Community House for example was host to several community groups including a successful pre-school group that moved into Oxley Park Community Centre when complete. Where provision has not been in place early, for example Broughton, it has also consequently been difficult to deliver the final project, to access the local community and find out their needs.

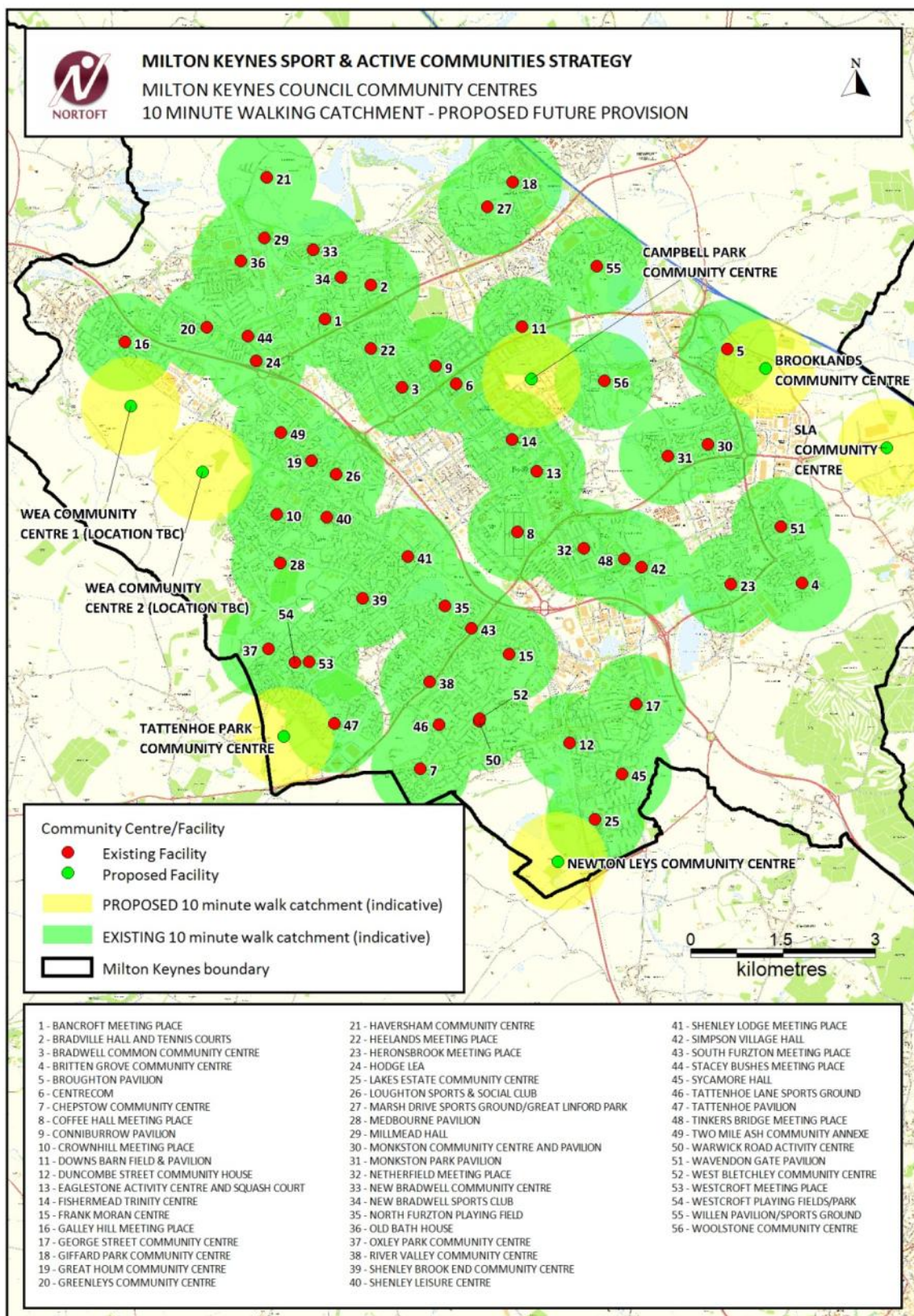
591. Ideally community and sports provision would be in place prior to residents moving in, but it is recognised that this is not always possible or practical depending on housing delivery and funding available. It is therefore important that alternative spaces are in place early, this could be a community house, or other similar provision. Ideally the space would be large enough to hold a variety of activities but it is especially important for children and young families i.e. pre-school or toddler groups.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

592. The findings from the residents survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to the community centres / village halls are:
- 99% of respondents commented on the importance of community centres/ village halls. Of these
 - 85% felt that the facilities were important to their community
 - 70% felt that these facilities were important to them personally
 - Everyone responding had a view about their satisfaction in relation to community centres/village halls.
 - 43% were satisfied
 - 43% had no view or did not know
 - 14% were dissatisfied
 - 27% of the respondents who commented about what the priority should be in relation to community centres and village halls
 - 70% said improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 41% said provide new facilities
 - Figure 61 summarises the types of use and the frequency of use of community centre and village halls. It is clear that there is a wide range of uses. The use which results in most visits per week is for nursery/pre-school, which is more than three times a week. Most other uses are once or twice a week. Private functions are usually on a less than once a month basis.
 - The reasons why people do not use community centres/village halls is primarily lack of interest, followed by lack of knowledge about what is on. Cost, travel to the facilities/activities, health issues and religious issues are not significant in comparison (see Figure 62).

Figure 60: Community Centres owned by Milton Keynes Council – future



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Figure 61: Use and frequency of use community centres/village halls

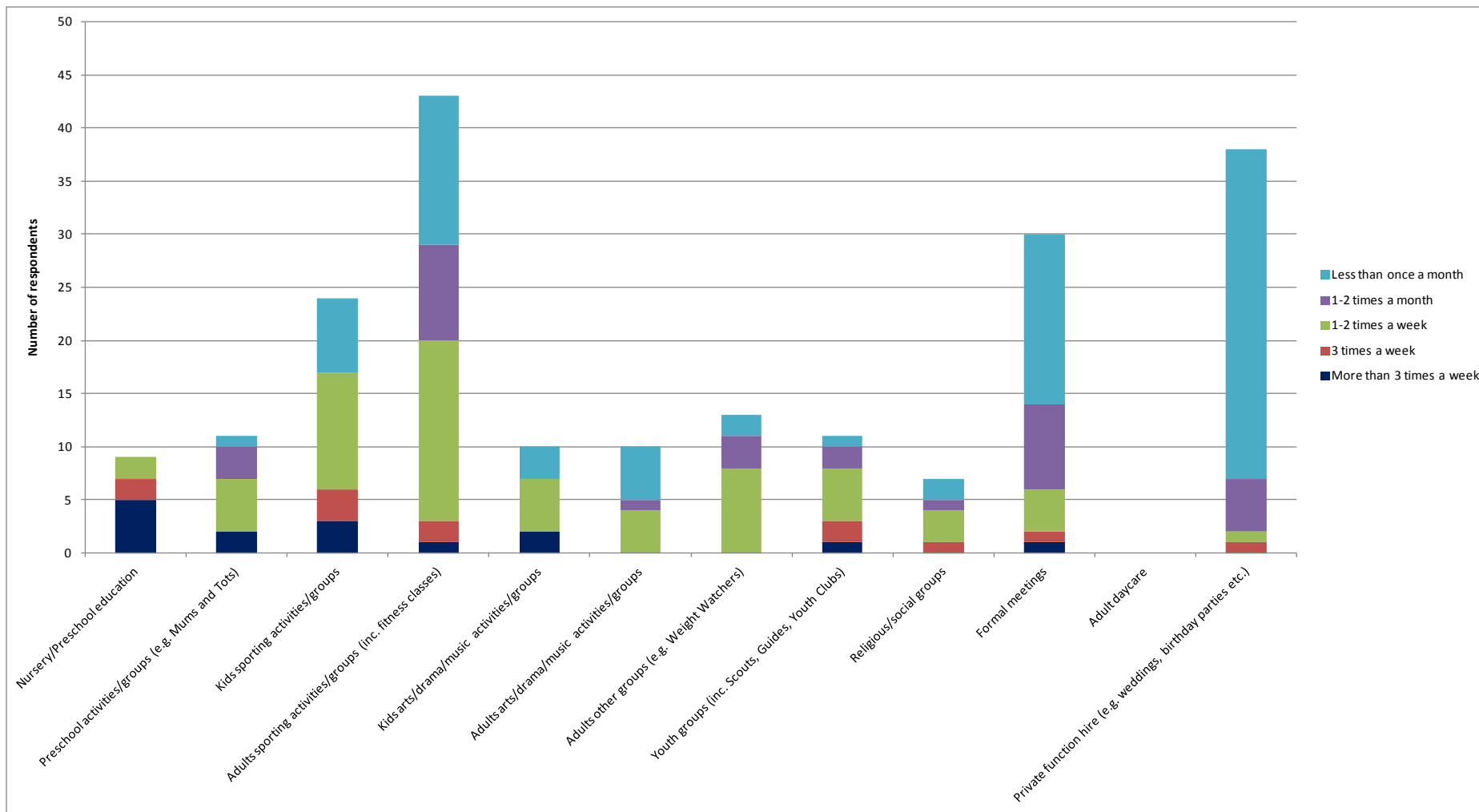
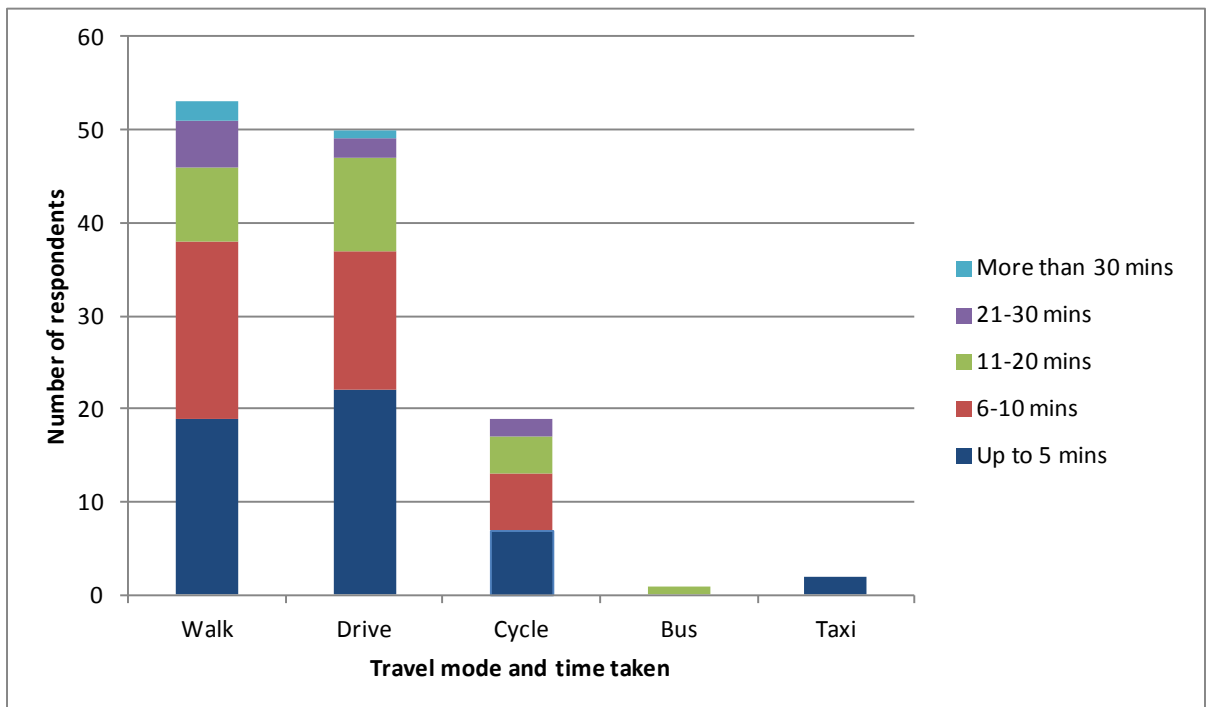


Figure 62: Reasons for not using community centres

Reason for not using	% response
Nothing of interest happening when I'm available	59
Lack of knowledge about what's on	32
Lack of free time	22
Lack of appropriate clubs	21
Other (please specify)	10
Cost	9
I don't know where the community centres are	8
Lack of people to go with	8
Family commitments/childcare arrangements	7
Difficulty travelling to facilities/activities	2
Ill health or disability	0
Religious reasons	0

593. More people walk to a community centre/village hall than drive, and 72% of these travel for up to 10 minutes. Cycling is reasonably important but only a very few people use a bus or taxi (Figure 63).

Figure 63: Travel mode and travel time to community centres



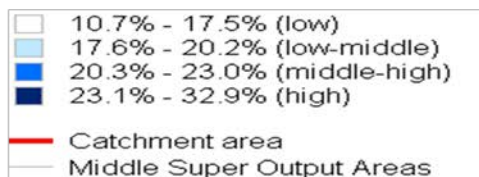
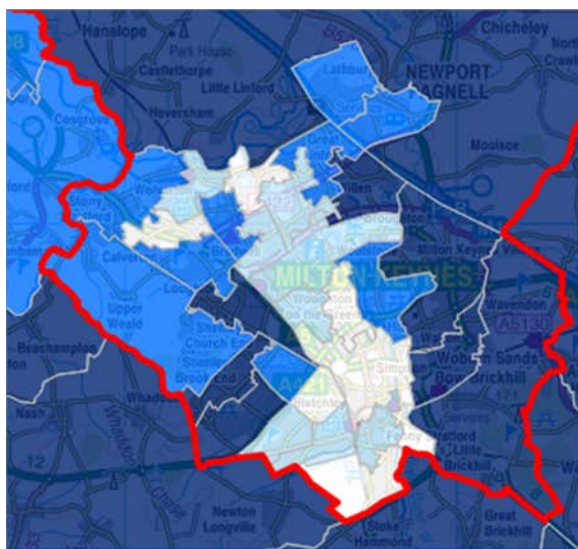
Consultation on draft report

594. A series of consultation sessions were held with those that use community centres as well as sport and recreation facilities in Milton Keynes. The outcomes supported the Strategy findings and proposals, in particular in relation to:
- Ensuring community centres are built to enable more than one group to use the centre at the same time, particularly pre-school and older community residents.
 - Ensuring that the new build centres are accessible, including for those people with mobility scooters and those with poor or failing eyesight.
 - Community centres need to have more storage in order for them to provide for a wider range of users, including outdoor storage areas for buggies/scooters.
 - The need to ensure that the CAT programme enhances community use of the centres rather than restrict usage.

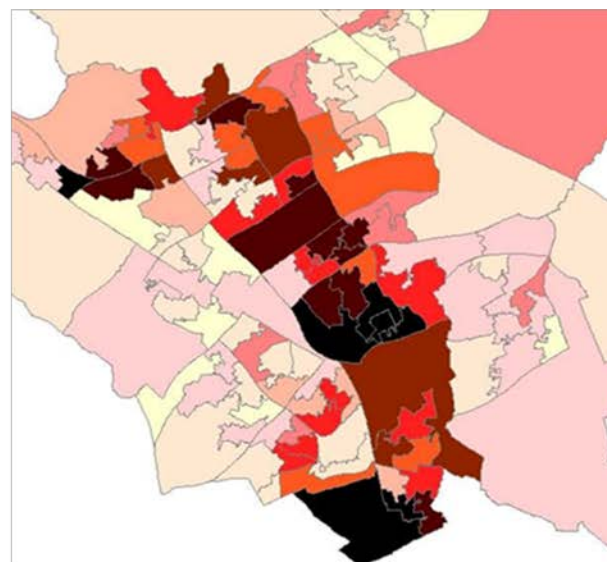
Market Segmentation and sports development

595. Community centres and village halls act as a venue for a range of low level sport and physical activity opportunities, and as they are relatively easily accessed by their local communities, have an important role to play, particularly in areas with multiple deprivation. The community centres within the more deprived areas of the city together with the village hall/community centres in the rural parts of the Borough, are therefore the priorities for retention and investment.
596. The Active People Survey Small Area Estimate map from Sport England can be used to show the amount of physical activity that residents in an area regularly undertake; the percentage of the adult population (age 16 and over) who participate in sport and active recreation, at moderate intensity, for at least 30 minutes on at least 12 days out of the last 4 weeks (equivalent to 30 minutes on 3 or more days a week). The activities includes light intensity activities (bowls, archery, croquet, yoga and pilates) for those age 65 and over.
597. Figure 64 compares the Small Area Estimate map with the multiple deprivation map for the city area of Milton Keynes. The similarities between the two maps are notable; those areas which have the highest rates of deprivation have the worst rates of physical activity. As the rates of physical activity impact on the health of the communities, the worst areas for physical activity also have the amongst the highest rates of ill health. These areas are therefore the priorities for ensuing locally accessible venues and opportunities, for sport and physical activity. These venues will often be the community centres.

Figure 64: Rates of participation and multiple deprivation in MK city area



Source: Sport England Small Area Estimate



Source: Department of Communities and Local Government, Indices of Deprivation 2010

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

598. The 2009 Strategy reviewed the 2005 Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) on Leisure, Recreation and Sport which had provided standards for the community centre provision. The SPG guidance states:

C4. The standard for provision of community centres in new developments is a ratio of 61 square metres per 1000 people.

C5. Any new community facility should be multi-purpose in nature providing indoor space for leisure, arts, community and entertainment events. It should be located in a central position, with good access for pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers. Ideally it should be combined with changing facilities on a sports field, for economy of scale and efficiency of management. Alternatively it could be positioned alongside, but independent from a school.

C6. The minimum standard of provision for a viable community centre will include a main hall of 18x9m, an auxiliary hall 10x10m, a committee room, a kitchen/ servery, an office/ reception, and toilets, changing facilities and showers plus storage. Ancillary provision should include secure cycle parking, dedicated car parking and an enclosed garden. The building must be fit for purpose, robust and of high quality finish; aesthetically pleasing but resistant to vandals.

599. The review recognised that the community centre guidance should encourage larger multi-purpose spaces which provided for both sport and active recreation and other community needs, as well as being more viable. The car parking proposal was for 10 dedicated spaces plus 40 additional spaces available during evenings and weekends. The 2009 proposals were for almost doubling the size of area to be provided per person, from 61 sq m to 120 sq m.

600. The recommendations in the 2009 strategy were:

A standard of provision for community pavilions in new developments of 120 sq m per 1000 population for the building, plus parking, cycle parking, cycle/pedestrian routes. This equates to one facility per 7,500 people (approx 900 sq m in size).

The design should follow the guidance provided by Milton Keynes Council.

They should be located on an easily accessible site within each estate as the catchment area for each community centre's built facilities is expected to be 800m.

New provision should be developed in accordance with the standards within each of the Expansion areas of Milton Keynes.

CAT programme implications

601. The CAT programme will impact upon many of the community centres over time, and it is MKC's objective is to transfer most of its community centre assets to other organisations.
602. Many of those organisations potentially interested in taking on the community centres are expected to be the local parish or town council. However the best/most financially secure facilities are likely to be the subject of competitive bidding from more than one organisation. Any new ownership or management of facilities must however take account of existing lease/tenancy arrangements with incumbent management committees, many of whom have long standing and committed volunteers involved with the running of the centres.
603. The financial viability of the community centres is a key issue. Although some centres are self-financing or are able to generate a profit, some are subsidised. For those which are subsidised the potential bidders will either need to find new sources of income or will need to be prepared to subsidise the centre themselves. Under this approach it seems likely that the poorer quality and less financially secure sites may generate no offers from partners. If the sites are transferred, there may be higher risks of them failing at a later date.
604. In seeking new sources of income, the organisations taking on the community centres may need to maximise the income earning potential at the expense of wider community uses, for example replacing low-income earning activities for people with limited incomes with other uses. This may have the effect of reducing the accessibility of community centres to those less able to travel or not able to afford other alternatives, for example older or disabled people attending luncheon clubs.
605. If the sites are not transferred out through the CAT process or are returned to Milton Keynes Council at a later date, a decision will need to be made about their future. It is not possible to consider the implication for each site at the borough wide strategy level, however the following questions may help to guide the decision on the next step for each of the individual sites:
- What are the main issues with the facility e.g. size, design, access, restricted car parking, area unattractive/considered unsafe, quality of decor etc?
 - What activities currently take place in the community centre, and when?
 - How many people on average attend these different sessions?
 - What are the socio-economic backgrounds of the main users?
 - Where is the site located – in an area with low participation in sport and recreation?
 - Is the site within 800 m of a community venue which is similar, whether or not this is another MK Council facility?
 - Is this other venue(s) reasonably accessible on foot/by cycle from the area around the existing community centre?

- Could the activities take place elsewhere – are the venues suitable, is there sufficient capacity in term of number of people, is the alternative facility(ies) already regularly booked?
 - What would be the capital costs of retaining the facility including meeting DDA etc requirements?
 - What is the current revenue support?
 - Would investment in a nearby facility e.g. expansion to add new activity room or improve storage, to cater for displaced demand be better than retaining the existing facility?
 - How much funding could be generated from other uses of the existing site?
 - How do the options compare financially?
606. In general terms, the priority should be to retain community facilities where there are no reasonably accessible alternatives, where use cannot be reasonably relocated, where the facilities are large enough to be flexible in their use, and in those areas where there are low levels of physical activity.
607. Where the community centre is not well used, is not fit for purpose without significant capital investment and there are similar facilities reasonably accessible on foot which could cater for any uses displaced, then these sites might be candidates for alternative uses or possibly site development.
608. Where sites are transferred out of the control of MKC, there needs to be a strong expectation that the range of community opportunities both during the day time and at evenings and weekends should cater for all sectors of the local community, including older people and those with limited disposable incomes.

Development of planning standards

609. The proposed standards reflect the assessment of community centres above.

Rate of provision per 1000

610. The proposed standard is 120 sq m per 1000 of community centre space.
611. This approach is justified because:
- This was the proposed standard in the 2009 strategy which was formally adopted and used to guide the development of the Broughton facility.
 - The new “standard” facilities are well liked by the community and the operators.
 - There is a need to provide for the planned increase in population.

Standard for accessibility

612. An 800m catchment for the city area of Milton Keynes. Elsewhere at a minimum of one village hall/community centre per parish.

613. Community centres should be located in a central position, with good access for pedestrians, cyclists and car drivers.
614. The justification is:
- The current spread of community centres owned by Milton Keynes Council provides a reasonable network of facilities in the city area. This catchment is based on the distance most people are prepared to walk to a community centre, but recognises that some people will use a car.
 - In the rural areas many people will drive to a village hall/community centre, although a significant proportion will walk.

Standard for design and quality

615. The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Milton Keynes Council and relevant organisations. Ideally a new community centre should be combined with changing facilities on a sports field, for economy of scale and efficiency of management. Alternatively they could be positioned alongside, but independent from a school.
616. New community centres should enable at least two separate groups to independently use the centres at the same time, without contact between the groups, e.g. for pre-school and for an adult social or activity group.
617. Centres should be fully accessible for those people using mobility scooters and with buggies, and should have outdoor storage/cover for these. The centres should also take account of people with poor or failing eyesight.
618. Where an existing community centre/village hall lacks storage space or does not meet modern requirements including in relation to the kitchen and dining areas, these should be improved. Priorities are where the facility can then be able to offer, or better provide for pre-school opportunities, or support adult social care.

Conclusions and Recommendations

619. There is a network of community centres, village halls and similar facilities across the Borough, some of which are owned by Milton Keynes Council and others by partner organisations ranging from parish and town councils to voluntary and church groups. These facilities provide the lowest level of activity space and they play an important role in the provision of a wide range of activities, particularly for older people including during the daytime, and younger people without access to a car. With the aging population and current trends of using facilities closer to home, these facilities are likely to become increasingly important.
620. Milton Keynes Council itself owns 52 community centre sites across the city area. They previously owned other sites but these have been transferred to organisations,

for example the Olney Community Annex has gone to the Olney Town Council. 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. The CAT programme 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.

621. Where however sites require significant investment and 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 that is a network of community facilities in all areas of the city, with the priority for retention/investment being those areas of the city with:
- relatively low levels of participation in physical activity.
 - facilities which that have the capacity to meet under 5s provision (pre schools and nurseries)
 - facilities that have the capacity to address the needs of adult social care e.g. luncheon clubs.
622. 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. 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, the improvements could be supported by developers' contributions from relevant development.

Recommendations

623. 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.
624. 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 separate groups to independently use the centres at the same time, without contact between the groups, e.g. for pre-school and for an adult social or activity group. Centres should be fully accessible for people using mobility scooters and for people with poor or failing eyesight.
625. Where an existing community centre/village hall lacks storage space or does not meet modern requirements including in relation to the kitchen and dining areas,

these should be improved. Priorities are where the facility can then be able to offer, or better provide for pre-school opportunities, or support adult social care.

626. New facility priorities:
- Brooklands
 - Tattenhoe Park
 - CMK community sports pavilion
 - Western Expansion Area (Area 10)
 - Western Expansion Area (Area 11)
 - Newton Leys
627. For existing facilities, improvements, based on conditions surveys and feasibility studies will provide 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.
 - village halls and community centres where improvements or extensions will enable the new or expansion of provision for pre-school and nursery places, or help to support adult social care, or older people opportunities.
 - generally and where justified, upgrading and refurbishing the kitchen and dining facilities to enable community centres to expand their offer to include small luncheon clubs
628. 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. The considerations will include the availability of alternative facilities which are reasonably accessible, and the need to retain local facilities particularly in areas with low rates of physical activity and high deprivation.
629. 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 for local community activities such as physical activity classes and adult social groups.

SECTION 3: FACILITIES WITHOUT PLANNING STANDARDS

630. This section of the strategy considers those facility types for which formal planning standards are not appropriate; golf, and countryside and water sports. These sports need to be considered in a different way from those which use built facilities because the opportunities depend largely on the availability of the appropriate natural resources, and/or the commercial market.

GOLF

Introduction

631. The Sport England statistics for participation in golf shows that amongst adults participation rates of at least once a week is at about 2% of the population overall, with men's participation being close to 4% and women less than 1%. Nationally the overall adult rate of participation in golf fell between 2007 and 2013, but previous work by Milton Keynes Council in 2012 suggest that this trend is reversed in Milton Keynes itself as the characteristics of the Borough's population is changing over time, and that nationally there has been growth in the junior game. The highest rates of participation in golf are amongst those aged 55 years plus, and amongst the more affluent socio-economic groups.

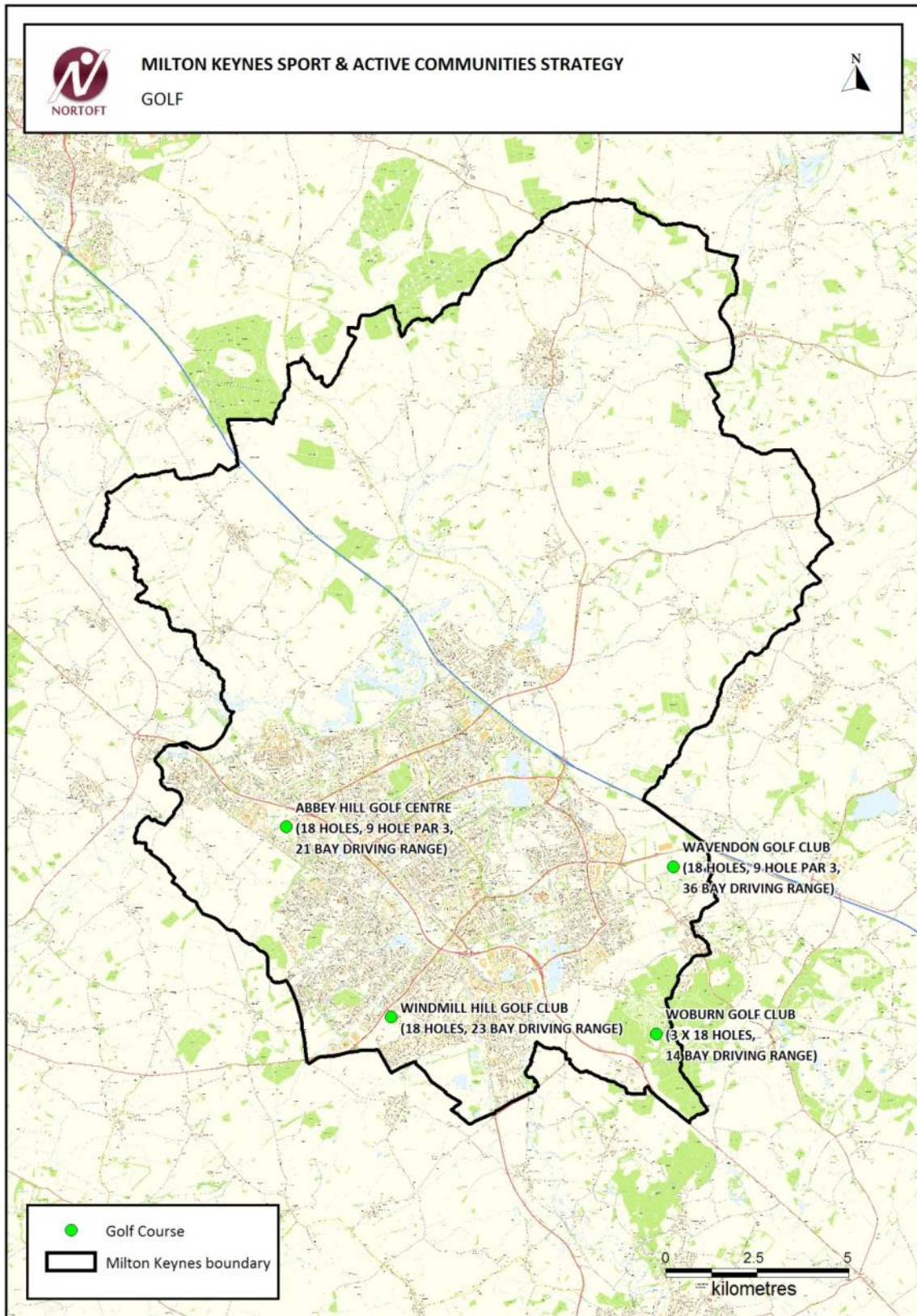
Current and future provision

632. 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. These are listed in Figure 65, and mapped in Figure 66. The different course lengths and characteristics are important because they provide different opportunities for golf. For example, a 9-hole course may have advantages in allowing play in under 2 hours and so be attractive to many golfers who have less golf leisure time than previously, whilst still offering the quality and challenges usually found on 18-hole courses. At present there are only two 9 hole courses, at Wavendon, compared to six 18-hole courses.

Figure 65: Golf provision - current provision

Site Name	Type of course	Number of holes/bays	Access Type	Ownership
ABBHEY HILL GOLF CENTRE	Standard	18	Pay and Play	Commercial
ABBHEY HILL GOLF CENTRE	Driving Range	21	Pay and Play	Commercial
ABBHEY HILL GOLF CENTRE	Par 3	9	Pay and Play	Commercial
WAVENDON GOLF CLUB	Standard	18	Pay and Play	Commercial
WAVENDON GOLF CLUB	Par 3	9	Pay and Play	Commercial
WAVENDON GOLF CLUB	Driving Range	36	Pay and Play	Commercial
WINDMILL HILL GOLF CLUB	Standard	18	Pay and Play	Local Authority
WINDMILL HILL GOLF CLUB	Driving Range	23	Pay and Play	Local Authority
WOBURN GOLF CLUB	Standard	18	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial
WOBURN GOLF CLUB	Driving Range	14	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial
WOBURN GOLF CLUB	Standard	18	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial
WOBURN GOLF CLUB	Standard	18	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial
ABBHEY HILL GOLF CENTRE	Standard	18	Pay and Play	Commercial

Figure 66: Golf courses



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633. The Wavendon Golf Centre course lies across Lower End Road in Wavendon. The land to the north of the road which includes the 9 hole, pitch and putt, floodlit golf range and club house, is identified within the Strategic Land Allocation area for development. The land to the south of the road is currently an 18 hole golf course.
634. The text on page 36 in the Development Framework for the Strategic Land Allocation area was negotiated between MKC, the landowners and Sport England before the Core Strategy Examination. It is:

The DF states that prior to the physical redevelopment of the 9 hole course land, the landowners will bring forward proposals for enhancement of the golf facilities to the south of Lower End Road to contribute to the aims and objectives of Milton Keynes Council's up to date planning policies, sports and leisure policies and national planning policy, subject to the proposals being commercially viable and also having regard to the other financial commitments that may be required from the landowner under the MK Tariff arrangements, Section 106 Agreements and Community Infrastructure Levy, if appropriate...

The proposals will be informed by an up to date assessment of the supply and demand for golf facilities, at the time of physical redevelopment of the land. This will be based on identified, justified and required sport/leisure facilities for golf set out in an up to date Sport and Leisure Strategy authored by MKC within six months of the physical redevelopment or a golf assessment provided by the developers and agreed with MKC.

635. There were strong representations about the potential loss of golf at this site by Woburn Sands Town Council, Wavenden Parish Council and Cllr Peter MacDonald in their responses to the SLA Development Consultation of summer 2013. It is clear that there is a need for any facilities lost to development to be replaced in the local area, and specifically shown as part of any masterplan.
636. This approach maintains the Milton Keynes Council position that the loss of a needed sporting facility will not be acceptable, and the masterplan will therefore need to be revisited to retain the existing facilities, potentially using land adjacent to mitigate what would otherwise be an unacceptable loss of sporting facilities.
637. Elsewhere, as golf is primarily provided via the commercial sector, the development of courses will reflect a combination of demand and appropriate site opportunities.

Modelling

638. The Milton Keynes Council research undertaken in relation to the proposed planning application at Wavendon suggests that most players drive up to 20 minutes to reach a golf course. The English Golf Union confirms that a 20 minute catchment is the maximum for the adult game, though the catchment is less than 15 minutes for the junior game.
639. In terms of capacity the Milton Keynes 2012 report concluded that although there may sufficient capacity in the area around Wavendon to cater for the demand for 18 hole courses (taking into account both sites within the Borough and elsewhere) there was insufficient capacity for to meet the demand for 9 hole courses, floodlit driving ranges or pitch and putt facilities.
640. The Nortoft Calculator can be used to help estimate the future need for golf provision, based on the current rate of provision in the authority and adding a 1% rate of participation increase over the period up to 2026 (Figure 68). This suggests that the Borough will need 2 additional standard courses, 1 additional par 3 course, and 31 driving bays in the period up to 2026.

Comparator authorities' provision

641. Using the data available on Active Places it is possible to compare the general levels of facility provision for Milton Keynes with its CIPFA benchmark authorities, see Figure 67. This comparison suggests that the provision in Milton Keynes of standard courses is on the lower side for the benchmark authorities, that the number of Par 3 courses is similar, and that there are more driving ranges. This analysis does not however take account of the distribution or quality of the facilities.

Figure 67: Golf - comparator authorities

Local authority	Population (from ONS, as at 2011, rounded)	Number of standard courses	Number of Par 3 courses	Number of driving ranges
Milton Keynes	251,900*	6	2	4
City of Peterborough	183,400	6	2	2
Swindon	209,200	4	2	2
Thurrock	157,700	8	0	2
Warrington	202,200	7	0	2

* 2013 population from MKi: ** updated based on strategy audit

Figure 68: Nortoft Calculator and golf

Milton Keynes Local Authority Population Projections													
		2013	2016	2021	2026								
Population		251,900	266,600	284,800	297,310								
Facility type	Authority	Unit of measurement	Current supply - number of units	Current supply units per 1000	MK current provision per 1000	Change in provision required to bring levels in line with Milton Keynes average (with assumed 1% increase in participation per year)				Total provision proposed (existing plus new)			
						2013	2016	2021	2026	2012	2016	2021	2026
Golf standard courses	Whole Authority	Courses	7	0.028	0.03	0	1	2	2	7	8	9	9
Golf par 3 courses	Whole Authority	Courses	2	0.008	0.008	0	0	0	1	2	2	2	3
Golf driving range	Whole Authority	Bays	94	0.37	0.37	0	8	21	31	94	102	115	125

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

642. The findings from the residents' survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to golf are:
- 9% of respondents take part in golf
 - 59% play golf at least once a week, while 42% play at least once a month
 - 87% of those responding to the survey had a view about golf provision. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 40% were satisfied
 - 55% had no view or did not know
 - 5% were dissatisfied
 - 13% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be and of these the views were
 - 76% improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 29% provide new

National Governing Body strategy

643. The England Golf Partnership is the coordinating body for golf in England and comprises England Golf and the Professional Golfers Association. It is responsible for golf's Whole Sport Plan. The plan seeks to increase adult golf participation by developing a clear plan to grow the game that puts the grass roots players first, with a focus on young players. These include initiatives in schools (Tri-Golf and Golf Xtreme), and Junior Golf Passports for the community game.

Market Segmentation and sports development

644. The Market Segmentation information from Sport England suggests that currently golf is a sport which appeals to three of the ten largest Market Segments in Milton Keynes. These market segments groups are expected to grow over time because of they are all aged over 45 years and Milton Keynes has an overall aging population.
645. At present these Market Segment groups are not likely to be high priorities for sports development initiatives, in part because they are already relatively active. However given the generic objectives of sports development within the Borough, Milton Keynes may wish to encourage new forms of golf aimed at younger people as part of the sports development programmes, including Tri Golf.
646. Sport England's Satisfaction with the Quality of the Sporting Experience survey (SQSE 4), Results for Golf: Trends 2009-2012 (July 2012) provides a useful picture of the way in which the different golf opportunities are taken up by those aged 16 and

over. This shows that although most people use 18 hole courses most often (their main discipline) they also use a range of other golf facilities, with 74% using driving ranges and about 50% using both putting and short-course/par 3/pitch and putt courses. This confirms the need for a range of golf facilities in Milton Keynes (Figure 69).

Figure 69: Golf – rates of participation in different golf venues

Source: Satisfaction with the Quality of the Sporting Experience survey (SQSE 4), Results for Golf: Trends 2009-2012 (Sport England, July 2012)

Question: Thinking about golf, please state which disciplines you participate in:

	Participate in % of respondents	Main discipline % of respondents
Full course	93	82
Driving range	74	6
Putting	50	2
Short course/Par 3/Pitch and Putt	45	10

Comparison to Leisure/Communities Facilities Strategy 2009

647. The 2009 strategy did not propose any specific standards for golf provision but recognised that there would be more demand arising from both the increase in population in Milton Keynes, and growth in the game. At that stage it was expected that there would be both a higher population in 2026 than is now forecast, and a 1% growth in the game each year.

648. The facility recommendations in the 2009 Strategy were:

To provide planning policies that will enable the development of golf opportunities including:

2009-2016

2 x 18 hole courses

1 x Par 3 course

27 x golf driving range

2017-2026

2 x 18-hole standard golf courses

1 x Par 3 course

37 golf driving range bays

649. The 2009 strategy therefore proposed that a larger amount of new facilities would be required by 2026 than is currently estimated.

CAT programme implications

650. The CAT programme will not have any impact on the provision for golf as the only facilities owned by Milton Keynes Council, Abbeyhill Golf Centre and Windmill Hill Golf Club are outside the scope of the programme.

Development of planning standards

651. As the provision for golf is very largely met through the commercial market no formal policy planning standards are proposed for golf.

Conclusions and Recommendations

652. The game of 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.
653. 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.
654. Formal planning standards are not proposed but there is clearly a need to protect the existing network of provision and 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. The planning policies for golf will also need to be balanced with other policies which minimise the impact on the countryside and on neighbours.
655. The development proposals at Wavendon which impact upon the existing golf course and clubhouse will require to be replaced locally.
656. The CAT programme should have no impact on golf.

Recommendations

657. 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.
658. The delivery priorities in the period up to 2026 are:

- 2 x standard 18 hole courses
- 1 x par 3 9 hole course
- 31 driving range bays

659. The proposed loss of the golf course and clubhouse at Wavenden will need to be replaced locally.

CYCLING

Introduction

660. 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 importance of cycling is confirmed by the Market Segmentation analysis from Sport England which shows that every one of the 10 largest market segments currently enjoy cycling, and all except for the retirement home single men and young single women have identified cycling within their current top three activities. Given the opportunities they too would include cycling within their top three sports.
661. 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 leisure routes available for commuting and leisure.
662. MK has hosted a stage of the Tour of Britain in 2008 and there have been previous plans, supported by the British Cycling Federation, to provide enhanced cycling facilities at the National Bowl. New proposals for a major cycling centre are currently being developed.
663. 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, with repeat events in 2012 and 2013. The event is sponsored by Sky and has the objective of encouraging one million more people to cycle regularly by 2013 across the country. Where this event has been established for longer, the numbers of participants are higher, for example up to about 15,500 people taking part in Birmingham. This is the only Sky Ride in the SEMLEP area. There is usually good spectator involvement at these events, with a festival/entertainment built around them. Given the success of the events in 2011 and 2012, and the levels of support to this type of event elsewhere, it is seems likely that the Sky Ride will grow in popularity year on year.
664. 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 2012 and beyond, building on the range of amenities opened across all cycling disciplines in 2011.

Competitive cycling

665. The current major project for British Cycling is the delivery of the Derby Indoor Velodrome and associated closed road circuit, which is currently being designed for completion in 2014. The main focus for the British Cycling Facilities Programme in 2012/2013 are to provide closed road circuits in Sheffield, York and Bath, mountain bike facilities in Manchester and Essex and a BMX track in Burgess Park, London.
666. The following considers the different elements of competitive cycling in more detail.

Road racing

667. This discipline has long been established at the National Bowl on the closed track. It is anticipated that cycling here will be enhanced, but should cycling no longer be possible at the Bowl because of other uses, then a planning condition will require the development of an alternative track elsewhere, ideally as part of a cycling centre of excellence.

BMX

668. There is an identified need for a national standard facility/track in the area.

Mountain Biking

669. Ideally a mountain bike track(s) should be provided. However, these tend to use large woodland or forestry areas, which in much of Milton Keynes, even in the rural areas, would be difficult, although Brickhill Woods is a popular venue at present. There are however a few sites just over the boundaries of the authority, particularly Salcey Forest and around Yardley Chase in Northamptonshire.

Cyclo Cross

670. It may be that the proposed new facilities at Furzton could cater for the needs of cyclo cross, although the range and nature of facilities is still to be determined.

Cycle Speedway

671. There are no specific requirements in Milton Keynes.
672. 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 was included in the National Bowl proposal and tender brief of summer 2013. Should the existing cycling provision not be retained and the proposed centre of excellence at the National Bowl not be progressed, then site(s) elsewhere will need to be progressed.

Developing a cycling centre of excellence

673. British Cycling's advice in relation to a multi-discipline venue, contained in the 2009 strategy included:
- The road circuit should be at least 1km long and include a facilities building. It is anticipated that this can be delivered for around £700,000, and is the main priority.
 - There is a great demand for outdoor velodrome tracks since the existing tracks in England are being used to capacity, and this should also be considered.
 - BMX tracks can be cheap to produce at base level. However, the facilities required for a national standard track would cost around £350,000.

- Mountain biking and cyclo cross can be easily accommodated at a very low cost, but the existing terrain at the needs to be challenging.
674. In 2009 British Cycling estimated that a scheme which includes a road circuit, velodromem, and a BMX circuit was likely to cost a total of around £2 million
675. The success of an application for external funding would depend on the site providing more than road racing. Providing opportunities for training, coaching and development work, as well as drawing in other sports such as triathlon, road running and roller skating would increase the community usage of the centre.

Informal cycling

676. 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 pedestrian use of the Redways, and leisure cycling routes elsewhere in the Borough. The recommendations include improvements to the existing Redway network including lighting and surfaces, and 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 confirms the high priority that should be placed on cycling and walking across Milton Keynes.

Recent consultation findings

Residents survey (2013)

677. The findings from the residents survey are a useful indication of residents' views on the provision of sport and recreation opportunities in the Borough. The key findings relating to cycling are:
- 25% of people cycle
 - 16% cycle at least once a week, while 8% cycle at least once a month
 - 78% of those responding had a view about cycling on the Redways. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 59% were satisfied
 - 15% had no view or did not know
 - 26% were dissatisfied
 - 40% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to the Redways, and of these the views were:
 - 85% improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 28% provide new
 - 65% of those responding had a view about specialist cycling facilities. Of these people commenting about their satisfaction with the facilities:
 - 7% were satisfied
 - 79% had no view or did not know
 - 14% were dissatisfied

- 19% of the respondents commented about what the priority should be in relation to specialist cycling facilities, and of these the views were:
 - 46% improve the existing facilities
 - And/or
 - 81% provide new

Clubs and organisations survey (2013)

678. The club Team Milton Keynes has about 500 members approximately evenly split in age from minis through to vets. Of these about half also compete in triathlons/duathlons etc so the club has wide ranging interests. The club draws its membership from across Milton Keynes, with most people travelling up to 20 minutes to reach the club. The club expects to grow in the next 5 years and has both a development plan and links with various schools in the area. Their main site is the National Bowl, which has a purpose built cycling track and accommodation though this is aging and there are problems with the lighting. The use is 3-6 times per week year round, both weekday evenings and weekend daytime. The site is used on an annual lease basis.
679. Other sites used by the club are Ousedale School, Wolverton Leisure Centre, Stantonbury Campus and Emberton Park.
680. The club does not have a waiting list but the issues affecting the club's expansion include; lack of coaches, lack of volunteers, access to facilities/lack of facilities, and a lack of funding.

Conclusions and Recommendations

681. To develop a cycling centre of excellence which can provide for a number of disciplines, as well as the required ancillary facilities.
682. Action the facility priorities identified in the Cycling Strategy (April 2013) to support informal cycling.

GYMNASTICS

683. The MK Springers Gymnastic Club is one of four gymnastics and trampolining clubs in Milton Keynes, mainly operating out of Kiln Farm. The club responded to the strategy consultation stating that it is keen to develop a specialist gymnastics centre. This would be a second large centre as there is already a gymnastics centre at Kingston, the base for MK Gym. There is also a smaller gymnastics centre as part of the Bletchley Leisure Centre.
684. 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.

685. 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 in its current facilities strategy, and has not indicated what type of facility they would support.
686. 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

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

ADVENTURE SPORTS

688. 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.
689. To a large extent the fact that there are a number of successful urban adventure facilities already in Milton Keynes provides the evidence for the demand for this type of activity. For example: :
- Willen Lakes high ropes course
 - Big rock climbing centre
 - Xscape (SNO!zone; Airkix and Vertical Chill)
 - BMX at Pineham
 - Daytona Racing
 - Dragon Boat Racing
 - Skateboarding in CMK
690. These sports are clearly popular, particularly amongst young people, and these types of activities are in line with the Milton Keynes’ image of a young, vibrant, skilled, healthy, adventurous, can-do city. The activities also lend themselves well to co-location with retail and cultural opportunities, and to day trips and weekend breaks.
691. In relation to skate parks, a discussion paper/action plan on wheeled sports facilities including skate parks was published in 2012 by Milton Keynes Council. It has a

number of case studies and provides facility guidance for planning in the expansion areas of Milton Keynes. Skate parks and similar facilities are not therefore specifically addressed in this strategy.

Ice rink

- 692. 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.
- 693. 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.
- 694. Standards of provision for ice are not required.

Watersports

- 695. Sports associated with the lakes, rivers, and the canal in Milton Keynes are an increasingly important element of the opportunities offered by Milton Keynes. These sports include sailing, canoeing, rowing, dragon boat racing, waterskiing, plus angling. The draft report produced a strong response about the need to strengthen the watersports section of the final report from several consultees including The Parks Trust, British Canoe Union, and local canoe clubs.
- 696. Caldecotte Lake and Willen Lake are both managed by The Parks Trust, and along with Haversham Lake offer the main watersports facilities in Milton Keynes, although the Grand Union Canal is also important, particularly for canoeing and canal boating. The rivers additionally offer opportunities for angling along with some commercial centres.
- 697. The ISC report of 2011 generally welcomed opportunities to enhance the watersport facilities to support the wider ISC objectives.
- 698. The CAT programme does not impact upon watersports because the facilities are not owned by Milton Keynes Council.

Caldecotte Lake

- 699. The Watersports Centre on the east shore of Caldecotte Lake is home to the MK Sailing Club, MK Rowing, Milton Keynes Canoe Club, and the Paddlesports Racers Association, and provides for both training and events. On the north lake, watersports are the responsibility of the Caldecotte Project, an outdoor education

centre which works principally with school and youth groups but which also has public events. It additionally offers caving and archery.

700. The Caldecotte Lake Watersports Centre is on a tight site with relatively poor access, and there have been long standing issues about the sharing of waterspace between the clubs, which has only recently been improved. The lack of waterspace and time has had a negative impact on the ability of the clubs to grow and retain their membership. Ways of generally supporting increased watersports use of Caldecotte Lake both North and South therefore need to be explored.
701. The Parks Trust has previously explored the option of moving the rowing club onto a new area, but the costs of the move could not be met by the club. Ways of improving the existing Watersports Centre are therefore being considered jointly between the clubs, with a proposal to bid for Inspired Facilities Funding.
702. Caldecotte Lake has recently passed a water quality test which could allow open water swimming at the site, and The Parks Trust are at an early stage of considering how or if this should be introduced on the lake. Any open water swimming would be in a managed and controlled way, for example via a triathlon club.

Willen Lake

703. Willen Lake South currently provides for sailing, windsurfing, paddlesports and cable-tow waterskiing. It is managed by Whitecap Leisure, a trading subsidiary of The Parks Trust. The site offers sail and paddlesports training courses and is also a site for some events such as the annual dragon boat race. The site additionally offers land-based adventurous activities including a high-ropes course.
704. This lake has also recently passed a water quality test which could allow open water swimming at the site, and The Parks Trust are at an early stage of considering how or if this should be introduced on the lake. Any open water swimming would similarly be in a managed and controlled way, for example via a triathlon club.

Furzton Lake

705. Furzton Lake is used for dragon boat training by Secklow Hundred but there are no ancillary facilities. The Parks Trust has previously explored the option of developing a stand-alone clubhouse/changing facility for the site, but it would not be financially sustainable. There is currently a proposal for a cycling/visitor centre/cafe and this may be a way of providing the necessary changing and ancillary facilities to encourage greater use of the site.

Grand Union Canal

706. The Grand Union Canal is used by the Paddlesports Racers Association at Downhead Park and Old Wolverton for training. Improved access to the canal side with parking, boat storage and clubhouses would enable canoeing to increase its use. Of

particular need is the site at Old Wolverton which is used for raft training. Ideally a permanent canal-side compound should be provided to enable more teams to use the site.

The sports

Canoeing and Dragon Boat Racing

707. There are two canoe clubs in Milton Keynes: MK Canoe Club which offers mainly recreational canoeing; and the Paddlesport Racers Association which offers competitive canoeing, dragon boat racing, rafting, and Paddle-ability (disability canoeing). The Paddlesport Racers Association uses the Grand Union Canal and Furzton Lake for training in but their main base is Caldecotte Lake.
708. The PRA report that they “struggle to attract and retain membership”, mainly because of a lack of access time to water and suitable facilities, particularly at Caldecotte. There is a need for the expansion of the water sport facilities at Caldecotte and ideally additional flat water space suitable for training and competition.
709. There is a proposal to submit a bid for grant aid to improve the facilities and to extend the Watersports Centre at Caldecotte Lake, which is jointly supported by the PDA, rowing and sailing.
710. The Secklow Hundred Dragon Boat club train at both Caldecotte and Furzton Lakes and compete in the national dragon boat league.

Rowing

711. There is one rowing club, the Milton Keynes Rowing Club, with its junior section called Row Caldecotte. The club is based at the Caldecotte Watersports Centre. British Rowing is currently reviewing its Whole Sport Plan for the period 2013-2017 and is seeking comments from its clubs as to their future facility needs. No specifics are currently identified.

Sailing

712. There are three RYA clubs in Milton Keynes; Milton Keynes Sailing Club based at Caldecotte, Haversham Sailing Club, and Emberton Park Sailing Club. The RYA sees Milton Keynes as a key area of opportunity for development of the sport and as such is part funding the employment of a Development Officer in Milton Keynes based at the Caldecotte Xperience (Milton Keynes’s Outdoor Education Centre).

Angling

713. Milton Keynes Angling Association is the coarse (non trout) angling body, making fishing available on the majority of waters where angling is allowed in and around the city.
714. To fish on The Parks Trust waters, anglers must hold a rod licence and be a member of the MKAA. Venues include Furzton, Willen, Caldecotte, Jubilee, Bradwell, Wolverton Mill and Lodge Lakes plus the Teardop Lakes, Loughton Lakes, the lakes and river at Emberton Park and Dimmocks Pit at Newton Longville. The ticket also includes around nine of the 12 miles of canal through MK, much of the River Ouzel and the Upper Great Ouse (including the special syndicate section at Adams Mill), and two sections of the River Tove at Castlethorpe.
715. Elsewhere in the borough there are a small number of commercial angling centres and also opportunities to fish on the rivers and canals.

Open water swimming

716. Open water swimming is attracting increasing numbers of individuals, either swimming in its own right or as part of triathlon. There is a need for a suitable venue in Milton Keynes and the recent water quality tests at Willen Lake and Caldecotte Lake may enable new opportunities to be offered.
717. Any open water swimming is dangerous, and needs careful control and management. Open water swimming in Milton Keynes on these lakes will only therefore be allowed via organised groups and clubs, at agreed times and locations.

Future water space opportunities

718. The water used by the watersports in Milton Keynes is flat water and as interest in the sports have grown, the capacity of the lakes to cater for the demand is stretched. Ideally additional watersports space should be developed, with either a 1km or 2km flat water racing site. However there no obvious options to provide this space, even in the long term, because of the large land area involved, the planning issues, and very high costs. In the medium term, there is a proposal to develop a new 2.3 km rowing lake at Bedford which may reduce some of the pressure in terms of events.
719. The proposed wide waterway canal link between Bedford and the Grand Union Canal in Milton Keynes passes through the Strategic Land Allocation area, and the line of the canal route has been safeguarded. This would potentially provide significant new training and possibly event opportunities, for canoeing, rafts, and dragon boats.

Conclusions and Recommendations

720. 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.
721. 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 and on agreed sites.
722. 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

723. Improve the watersports centre at Caldecotte to enable greater and improved usage.
724. Provide changing accommodation and ancillary facilities at Furzton Lake, particularly to support dragon boat and canoe training.
725. Provide a secure compound to support rafting and canoeing at Old Wolverton on the Grand Union Canal.
726. Support the greater usage of both north and south Caldecotte Lake.
727. Introduce controlled open water swimming on both Willen and Caldecotte Lakes.
728. 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

729. 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 recreation 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.

730. 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.
731. Although motorsports can be controversial to provide, it is important that the opportunities in Milton Keynes are retained and enhanced. This will help to ensure 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

732. 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.

SECTION 4: PLANNING POLICIES

Introduction

733. 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; and
 - The Core Strategy, adopted July 2013.
734. Extracts from the National Planning Policy Framework is provided in Appendix 2, and the overall planning policy framework for Milton Keynes is provided in the Background section to this Strategy. The following section provides more detail about developers' contributions in Milton Keynes and how they can support the development of sport and community facilities.
735. The following section primarily focuses 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.

Developer contributions, investment plans and frameworks, and other funding

736. The current mechanisms for requiring developer contributions towards infrastructure to support developments include the existing MK Tariff and section 106 agreements. Developer contributions are *currently* sought under different policies for different areas of MK:
- In the Urban Development Area (UDA);
 - Outside the UDA but in the built (city) area;
 - In the rural areas outside the UDA and built areas.

MK Urban Development Area Tariff SPD, November 2007

737. The 'Tariff' is an amount of money per residential unit, or per hectare of employment development, that is payable by owners of land in the Urban Development Area (UDA). The UDA covers land to the north, east and west of the City where future expansion will, or is likely to take place, (although the Tariff will

not apply to the Northern Expansion Area or Oxley Park as legal agreements for these sites have already been completed). The Tariff money will go towards funding infrastructure and services, including leisure and community facilities that are required to support the growth of the City to 2016. The Framework Agreement binds the landowners who have signed up to it to paying the Tariff, and to its terms and conditions. The Framework Agreement also sets out the matters to be addressed in Section 106 site specific agreements for sites where the Tariff applies. The SPD applies to new development in the Eastern and Western Expansion Areas, the Strategic Land Allocations, and the new development areas of Tattenhoe Park and Kingsmead South.

738. The Tariff and the SPD apply to all planning applications for major new housing and employment developments within the UDA. In addition, land is to be provided at nil value for education, community uses, public open space and recreation (including sports halls, swimming pools and allotments).
739. The SPD states that “not all local infrastructure is currently identified for funding through the Tariff. MKC and MKP will maintain contact with service providers and will reconsider their growth related infrastructure requirements when the Tariff is reviewed in 5 years’ time”. *Once adopted this Sport and Active Communities Strategy (2013) will be a key evidence base for the reconsideration of relevant growth related infrastructure requirements.*
740. The SPD states that for new development outside the area covered by the Tariff, developers should refer to the Council’s other documents that provide guidance on the type of infrastructure for which the Council will be seeking contributions. These include the Social and Community Infrastructure and Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) covering Education Contributions and Leisure, Recreation and Sports Facilities (amongst others).

MK Supplementary Planning Guidance on Planning Obligations for Leisure, Recreation and Sport Facilities (adopted 2005)

741. This Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) covers the built up area of the City of Milton Keynes, including the City Expansion Areas, with the exception of Central Milton Keynes, which has its own SPG. Where proposals for new housing fall outside this area, planning obligations for open space, leisure and recreation will be sought by the Council in line with relevant Local Plan policies.

MK Local Plan (2005)

742. The Local Plan, adopted December 2005, sets out how Milton Keynes will be developed up until 2011. It includes details covering the amount and location of housing, employment, shopping and community facilities required. The Local Plan will eventually be replaced by the Local Development Framework. The relevant saved Local Plan policies (agreed by the Secretary of State, October 2008) are listed below.

- L1 Facilities Acceptable in the Parks System
- L2 Protection of Public Open Space and Existing Facilities
- L3 Standards of Provision
- L4 Sites Allocated for New Facilities
- L5 Golf Courses
- L6 Horse-Related Development
- L7 Criteria for the Location of Water Sports
- L8 Criteria for the Location of Noisy Sports
- L9 Arts, Entertainment and Commercial Leisure Facilities
- L10 Visitor Accommodation
- L11 Camping and Touring Caravans
- L12 Milton Keynes Bowl and Elfield Park
- L13 Multi-Purpose Sports and Spectator Events Stadium
- C1 Location of Community Facilities
- C2 Loss of Community Facilities
- C3 Meeting Halls/Community Centres
- C4 Education
- C5 Health and Community Care Facilities

Possible introduction of CIL

743. 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 SPD to inform s106 negotiations for local, site-specific infrastructure requirements which will replace the existing SPDs, and will operate alongside the CIL.
744. Strategic sports and community facilities (i.e. not local, site-specific facilities such as a local play area or facilities funded from 5 or fewer s106 agreements) will be identified in the Borough-wide Local Investment Plan for which the public consultation ended on 31 August 2013, and in a new Development Framework SPD for the Strategic Land Allocation which was consulted upon up to the end of September 2013. Sport and Active Communities Strategy is the evidence base that will be able to inform these documents.
745. In the case of the Strategic Land Allocation (SLA) area, it is intended that developer contributions will be collected through the MK Tariff Framework Agreement whereby a contribution is made to infrastructure costs through Tariff payments. At present it is anticipated planning permissions will be in place for the development of the SLA by April 2014. Those applications that are however permitted after a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is adopted by MKC will be subject to the CIL and will be required to pay a non-negotiable charge, plus any site specific S106

contributions. Tariff areas that received permission (either outline or full) before the CIL is adopted will continue to make their payments into the Tariff fund, and will not be liable to pay CIL or any other S106 contributions.

746. After 6 April 2014, or potentially a later date depending on the outcome of recent Government consultation on further reforms of the CIL regulation, the MK Tariff can no longer be operated on sites that are not permitted before that date due to the restrictions on pooling S106 agreements. MKC 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 CIL for local site-specific infrastructure requirements (which can themselves be delivered through s106 agreements, assuming the pooling restriction of five agreements is not exceeded).

Current planning mechanism

747. In relation to current planning mechanisms, the Sport and Active Communities Strategy should also be used to inform the existing frameworks for the current Western Expansion Area (WEA) and Brooklands, particularly where the old standards of provision are being updated. This will require discussion and agreement with relevant parties.
748. In relation to new development proposals, MKC has a number of existing Supplementary Planning Documents and Guidance Notes which set out the requirements for contributions to infrastructure from developers outside of the area covered by the Tariff. These cover topics such as education, social infrastructure, and leisure and recreation facilities. It will be important that the Sport and Active Communities Strategy is used best in the negotiation and pre-application discussions with developers, at a stage when its recommendations and requirements can be fed in early to their plans.
749. Once the Sport and Active Communities Strategy is adopted significant weight can be given to it by the Council as a material consideration in plan making, decision taking, and at appeal. This will include the identification of developer contributions, as well as in informing Plan:MK, the extant and emerging Borough-wide Local Investment Plan, the SLA-based Development Framework and the future s106-focussed Planning Obligations Supplementary Planning Document.
750. This policy weighting is justified through the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF):

“Planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessment of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision ...and ... information gained from these assessments should be used to determine what open spaces , sports and recreation provision is required” (NPPF para 73).

751. The NPPF is also specific in that:

“... a set of core land-use planning principles should underpin both plan making and decision-making”.

752. One of the 12 principles is that:

“... planning should ... take account of and support local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all, and deliver sufficient community and cultural facilities to meet local need” (NPPF para 17).

753. The NPPF also identifies that planning obligations (including developer contributions) should only be sought where they meet all 3 tests of NPPF para 204 (and related to CIL Reg 122).

- *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.*

754. Examples of the recommendations of the strategy meeting these tests are given below:

Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms because:

755. This Sport and Active Communities Strategy robustly identifies the supply, demand and need for facilities in relation to detailed current and predicted demographics, and identifies what facilities are needed where, and (where appropriate) when they are needed. If the leisure and community infrastructure is not provided it will be unacceptable as it will not meet the needs of this and other relevant strategies and policies and will lead to: increased pressure on the existing facilities e.g. by taking them beyond their capacity, and this would require new or upgraded facilities to cater for this increased use; or leading to increased need to replace or refurbish existing facilities so requiring proportionate funds to mitigate this impact.

Directly related to the development:

756. Those s106 contributions not already agreed through other methods e.g. the Tariff or Development Frameworks and in future the CIL, are based on infrastructure needs directly related to the demand raised by the development, linked to the appropriate MK standards of provision, typically a facility need per 1000 people, and the accessibility of a facility from the development.

Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development:

757. The basis for the calculation on infrastructure provision is taken from the demand raised by the number of dwellings, multiplied by the housing multiplier (i.e. 2.5

people per dwelling). The MK specific standards of provision (typically facility need per 1000 people) and catchment areas related to the development are then applied.

758. Sport remains a high priority for Council funding from its own resources where this supports its own priorities. For example in supporting:

“High quality and major (sports) events ... and also improve the Borough's profile nationally and internationally and bring large numbers of visitors into the local economy. The Council's Corporate Plan states the World Class MK shall be delivered by being a 'Premier Sporting City'. Growth and diversification of the cultural infrastructure is required to ensure the Borough is capable of staging and hosting major world class events and meeting the ongoing cultural needs of communities”. (Core Strategy July 2013, para 13.17, supported by Core Strategy Objective 14).

759. The Council, Parish Councils and other community organisations can also bid for government money for sport, leisure and community infrastructure. The Council has previously done so through the then Growth Area and Community Infrastructure Funds, and at regional level the Regional Infrastructure Fund, Regional Funding Allocation, and other sources. As a growth area, the Council will continue to lobby the government and other agencies, including the National Lottery, Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport, for resources to deliver necessary sporting infrastructure. The Council is also exploring the New Homes Bonus and Tax Increment Financing options as other possible funding streams.

760. Plan:MK, the LIP, SLA Development Framework, and the Planning Obligations SPD will give prominence and priority to supporting the delivery of the International Sporting City (ISC). The Core Strategy has specifically identified the ISC as one of the 16 Core Strategy Objectives and identifies how funding and delivery should be supported:

“The sites and policies needed to help deliver facilities relating to the International Sporting City will be considered through the forthcoming new Local Plan (Plan:MK). This should include consideration of delivery and funding arrangements that could be explored, including the potential for land use exchanges and/or opportunities for enabling development in accordance with relevant planning policy. Where appropriate, this will also be reflected in the development of the new (or future revised) Local Investment Plan. When considering any early proposals relating to the ISC project, the economic and other benefits should be recognised”. (MK Core Strategy, July 2013, para 16.10)

761. Enabling development to help fund or deliver the ISC may include the identification of land that currently lies outside (or is identified in later stages of) planned areas of development. This would need to meet other appropriate planning policies, but such developments may pay less contribution where the equivalent or more value would be invested in ISC delivery. This would be entirely at the Council's discretion, but this approach is supported through the Core Strategy. The Council's decisions in relation to the National Badminton Arena, where the delivery is proposed to be via linked

enabling housing development and reduced s106 costs, have shown how it may be applied.

762. Full opportunity should be sought to work with, and to support, private sector delivery of community accessible leisure, recreation and sports facilities, especially given the year-on-year net reductions in central government funding of Local Authorities, and the decrease in public funding generally. Commercial organisations can provide a major source of funding and delivery of leisure, sports and community infrastructure.
763. In line with national planning policy the Council will plan positively to deliver social and recreational facilities and services the community needs (NPPF para 70). When determining planning applications, the Sport and Active Communities Strategy will be a material planning consideration.
764. 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.
765. In relation to cross-border cooperation, there are currently no mechanisms in place which would enable Milton Keynes to contribute towards other authorities in relation to sports facilities, or vice versa, particularly in relation to developers' contributions.

Planning standards

Policy on participation up to 2026

766. The overall policy to support sports development is a 0.5% growth rate in participation per annum i.e. a growth of 6.5% from 2013 to 2026, on top of the current rates of demand. This should be applied to all facility use across all of the built sports facilities within the Borough.

Planning standards

767. A key output from the Sport and Active Communities Strategy is the development of proposed planning standards for Milton Keynes for the period up to 2026. There are three elements:
- Quantity – a rate of provision of a facility per 1000, based on a combination of the current amount of provision, the policy principle of increasing participation rates by 0.5% per annum across all sports, plus the findings from various modelling, and wide ranging consultations.
 - Accessibility standard – based on the catchment area for each facility type
 - Quality standard – for both new build and refurbishment
768. The table in Figure 70 summarises the proposed planning standards for each facility type addressed by the strategy, in terms of the rate of provision and the accessibility.
769. Only the quantity and accessibility standards are given. The design and quality standards will be based on current best practice or current guidance notes from the relevant sport's national governing body, or from Sport England.
770. The justification and details behind each of these planning standards are contained within the assessment section of the report.

Figure 70: Summary of proposed planning standards

Facility type	Proposed new planning standards	
	Quantity per 1000 population	Accessibility (time by car)
Sports halls	0.36 badminton courts fully available* at peak time	20 minutes
Swimming pools	12.8 sq m water space fully available* at peak time	20 minutes
Artificial grass pitches (full size)	0.04 pitches	20 minutes
Athletics tracks	1 Level 2 indoor athletics training facility	Whole authority
Health and fitness	7.65 stations	20 minutes
Indoor bowls	0.06 rinks	20 minutes
Indoor tennis	0.06 courts	20 minutes
Squash	0.1 courts	20 minutes
Tennis outdoor	0.19 courts	10 minutes
Bowling greens	0.05 greens	10 minutes
Community centres	120 sq m space	800 m

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

Standards for quality

771. There is now an extensive set of sports facility design advice available from Sport England and the major national governing bodies of sport. The planning policies for Milton Keynes in relation to the quality standards for sports facilities should therefore refer back to this guidance, both for design and layout.
772. In relation to community centres, MKC has developed best practice from the lessons learned from earlier designs, and the newer designs for Broughton and Medbourne should be seen as a guide.

SECTION 4: IMPLEMENTATION

Priorities for Action

773. 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.

Facility priorities and phasing

774. The proposals emerging from this Strategy primarily address the community needs in Milton Keynes for the period up to 2026, for both sport and the wider uses of the community centres. The ISC facilities will almost all rely extensively on regular community use to provide the baseline income and therefore they must be justified both on community terms, and in relation to higher level performance sport or event venue need. Some of the ISC facilities have been incorporated into the investment table below, but there are others which still need to be developed from initial concept and for which no investment costs are currently identified.
775. The following table (Figure 71) summarises the proposed facility investment needs up to 2026. 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 effectively costed.
776. Other delivery priorities which may not require allocated funding include:
- Support Enigma Hockey club to relocate to other large size sand based pitch eg. Lord Grey School.
 - The existing athletics track should be maintained/refurbished/developed as necessary at a level which ensures it retains its accreditation as a competition centre.
 - To retain the squash court provision at Oakgrove Leisure Centre

Figure 71: 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
Brownwood 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

Review and Monitoring

777. 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.



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