

CHERWELL DISTRICT COUNCIL

**OPEN SPACE, SPORT AND RECREATION
ASSESSMENT AND STRATEGIES**

**Part 2:
Sports Facilities Strategy**

August 2018



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INTRODUCTION

This Sports Facilities Strategy forecasts the future needs for sport and recreation up to 2031, and takes into account the housing requirements identified in the adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Cherwell District Council, 2015) and the draft requirements of the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 (Part 1) Partial Review - Oxford's Unmet Housing Need Proposed Submission Plan (Cherwell District Council, 2017).

It sits within the suite of Sport and Leisure evidence base documents which are:

Part 1: National and Local Policy Context

Part 2: Sports Facilities Strategy

Part 3: Playing Pitch Strategy

Part 4: Open Space Strategy

A key driver for the production of this document is to deliver an evidence base to support and inform planning policy documents, development management decisions, infrastructure planning, funding bids and investment decisions. The strategy will help the authority to:

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

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

The scope of this strategy is Cherwell district, but takes into account the influence of facilities in adjacent local authority areas where appropriate, in accordance with the brief. The assessment has identified high levels of cross-boundary movement for some sports, particularly around the Kidlington area. If major new housing is delivered outside of the district but close to the boundaries of Cherwell near to Kidlington without additional sports facilities, then this may increase the demand for sports provision within Cherwell. Conversely if, for example, a new large new leisure centre with swimming pool is provided just outside of Cherwell in West Oxfordshire or Oxford, then this may meet some of the sports needs of the planned housing in Cherwell. This is considered further within the report.

SECTION 1: ASSESSMENT PROCESS AND METHODOLOGY

- 1.1 This Part 2 strategy considers the built facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity. The approach to this assessment and the development of the recommendations reflects the guidance contained in the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance of Sport England of 2014 (Sport England, 2014).

Cherwell within the sub-region

- 1.2 Cherwell is a predominantly rural district, with two towns, Banbury in the north and Bicester in the south east, and a third urban centre at Kidlington, a large village in the south of the district immediately north of Oxford. Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington contain the majority of the built sport facilities in the district, each having leisure centres. Government planning guidance in the NPPF emphasises that local planning authorities should meet the needs of their area. However there is some cross-border movement of people to take part in sport due to the location of facilities and their catchments. Cherwell is a neighbour of Oxford and there are significant levels of cross-border movement between the authorities for some sports including hockey, rugby and golf. The rural boundaries of Cherwell generally experience less cross boundary movement, though specialist sites such as Wade Gymnastics Club in South Northamptonshire have a high proportion of members from Cherwell, and there is some export of football to the Brackley area.
- 1.3 Most of the planned growth in Cherwell district is adjacent to Banbury and Bicester, though the Submission Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1 (2011-2031) – Oxford’s Unmet Housing Need also proposes more development in the Kidlington area. Most of the additional demand for sports facilities is therefore likely to be on the existing towns together with Kidlington, although the housing growth at the former RAF Upper Heyford will bring some of its own pressures, with some facilities to be provided on site. The cross-boundary movement between authorities may intensify somewhat with housing growth as there are planned housing developments in the adjacent authority areas within the Plan period (2031) with the following dwelling numbers reasonably close to the Cherwell boundary (see Figure 1):

Figure 1: Housing in adjacent authority areas

Authority	Location	Number of dwellings
Oxford City	City wide	10,212
West Oxfordshire	Chipping Norton	1,400
	West Eynsham	1,000
	West Oxfordshire Garden Village	2,200
	Woodstock	670
South Northamptonshire	Brackley	1,730
Stratford-on-Avon	Gaydon/Lighthorne Heath	2,300
Aylesbury	No major housing developments within the catchment of Cherwell's facilities	
Vale of White Horse	No major housing developments within the catchment of Cherwell's facilities	
South Oxfordshire	No major housing developments within the catchment of Cherwell's facilities	

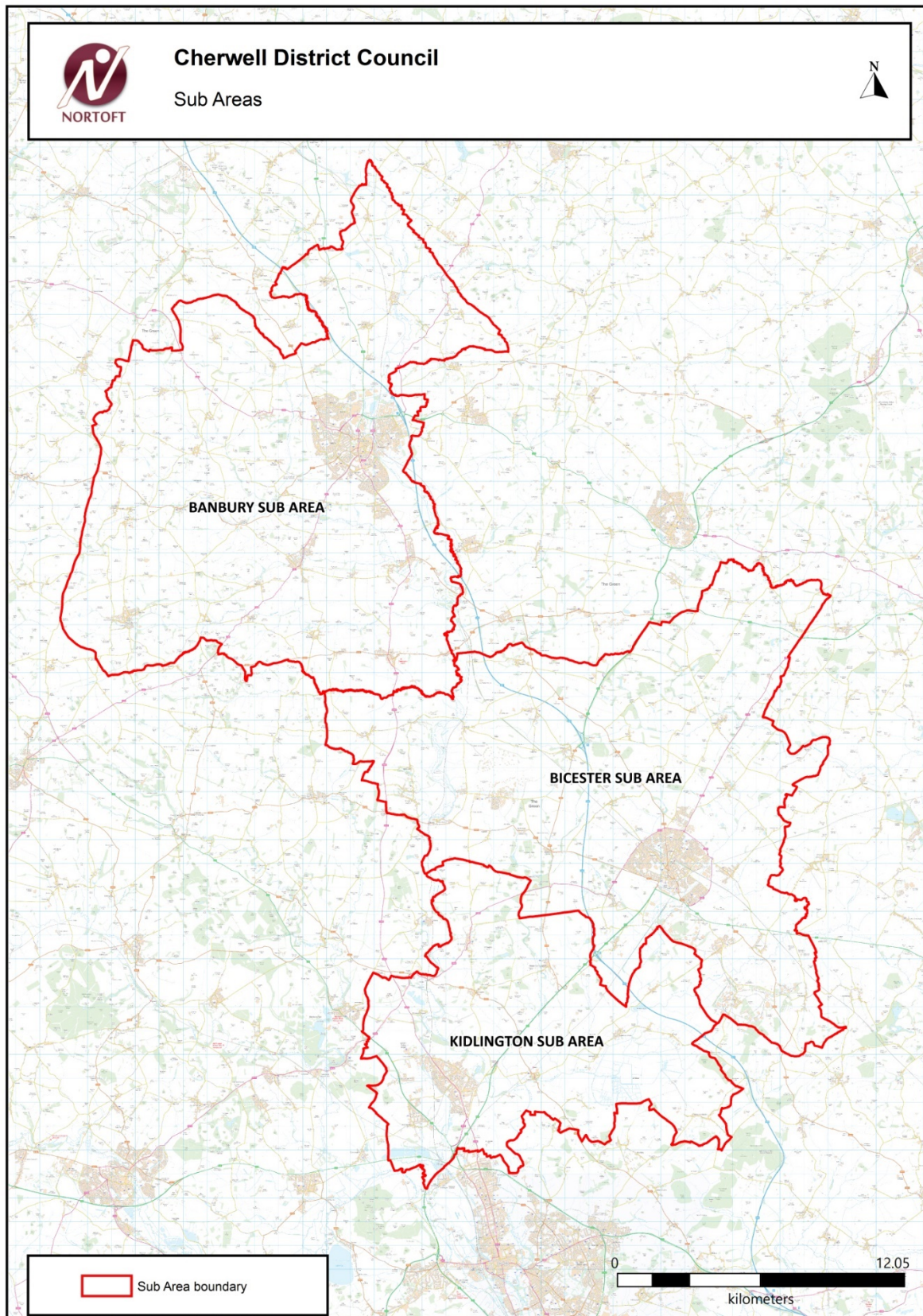
- 1.4 The main facility change which is anticipated in the future in the adjacent authorities is at Brackley in South Northamptonshire, which will have new, main and trainer pools and a larger health and fitness suite. A summary of the current sports strategies of the adjacent authorities is given in the Part 1 Appendices, and the implications are reviewed for each sports facility type within this report.

Sub areas for the strategy

- 1.5 Cherwell is a large authority and even at off peak times the travel time is greater than 20 minutes across the authority, particularly north to south.
- 1.6 The catchments for different sports' assessments are based on the latest research evidence, either from Sport England or from a sport's national governing body. As several of the main sports facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools, have approximately a 20 minute drive time catchment (as demonstrated by Sport England research) it is appropriate to consider the authority in sub areas based around Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. The boundaries of the sub areas are based on the pre-2016 ward boundaries, which are also used as the unit for the demographic forecasting which underpins the strategy work. Population data is not yet available for the new Wards.
- 1.7 The Former RAF Upper Heyford strategic housing site is included within the Bicester sub area as it is considered that the area more naturally looks to Bicester rather than Banbury for its services. However there will be some on site sport and recreation provision.

1.8 A map showing the sub areas used in the strategy is given Figure 2, followed by the list of parishes and wards within each sub area.

Figure 2: Strategy sub areas



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Sub Area	Civil Parish	Ward
Banbury	Adderbury	Adderbury Ward
	Banbury	Banbury Calthorpe Ward
	Barford St. John and St. Michael	Banbury Easington Ward
	Bloxham	Banbury Grimsbury and Castle Ward
	Bodicote	Banbury Hardwick Ward
	Bourton	Banbury Neithrop Ward
	Broughton	Banbury Ruscote Ward
	Claydon with Clattercot	Bloxham and Bodicote Ward
	Cropredy	Cropredy Ward
	Deddington	Deddington Ward
	Drayton	Hook Norton Ward
	Epwell	Sibford Ward
	Hanwell	Wroxton Ward
	Hook Norton	
	Horley	
	Hornton	
	Milcombe	
	Milton	
	Mollington	
	North Newington	
	Prescote	
	Shenington with Alkerton	
	Shutford	
	Sibford Ferris	
	Sibford Gower	
	South Newington	
	Swalcliffe	
	Tadmarton	
	Wardington	
	Wigginton	
Wroxton		

Bicester	Ambrosden	Ambrosden and Chesterton Ward
	Ardley	Bicester East Ward
	Arncott	Bicester North Ward
	Bicester	Bicester South Ward
	Blackthorn	Bicester Town Ward
	Bucknell	Bicester West Ward
	Caversfield	Caversfield Ward
	Chesterton	Fringford Ward
	Cottisford	Launton Ward
	Duns Tew	The Astons and Heyfords Ward
	Finmere	
	Fringford	
	Fritwell	
	Godington	
	Hardwick with Tusmore	
	Hethe	
	Launton	
	Lower Heyford	
	Middle Aston	
	Middleton Stoney	
	Mixbury	
	Newton Purcell with Shelswell	
	North Aston	
	Piddington	
	Somerton	
	Souldern	
	Steeple Aston	
	Stoke Lyne	
	Stratton Audley	
	Upper Heyford	
	Wendlebury	

Kidlington	Begbroke	Kidlington North Ward
	Bletchington	Kidlington South Ward
	Charlton-on-Otmoor	Kirtlington Ward
	Fencott and Murcott	Otmoor Ward
	Gosford and Water Eaton	Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton Ward
	Hampton Gay and Poyle	
	Horton-cum-Studley	
	Islip	
	Kidlington	
	Kirtlington	
	Merton	
	Noke	
	Oddington	
	Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp	
	Weston-on-the-Green	
	Yarnton	

Methodology

1.9 The assessment of each facility type draws on a number of different elements:

- The findings from the site audits, including an assessment of the used capacity of the facilities and management considerations;
- The theoretical demand for facilities based on various modelling tools such as the Sport England Facilities Planning Model and Sports Facilities Calculator;
- The results of consultation;
- Issues associated with facility quality, accessibility for the community etc.;
- The future population characteristics;
- The Council's policies on participation, and sports development objectives;
- The resources which may be available to meet the future requirements;
- National governing body strategic requirements;
- The network of facilities and housing growth.

1.10 As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations will need to be kept under review. Details of the methodology are provided in Appendix 1, and the consultation process with the national governing bodies of sport and clubs in the district is given in Appendix 4.

SECTION 2: THE LEISURE NETWORK

- 2.1 This section of the report provides an overview of the facility network in Cherwell. There are four public leisure centre facilities: Spiceball Leisure Centre, Bicester Leisure Centre, Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre and Woodgreen Leisure Centre. Woodgreen Leisure Centre is solely a public leisure centre, and the other three have joint day time use, and all are managed by Parkwood Leisure under the Legacy Leisure Trust arm.
- 2.2 The main leisure centres; Spiceball, Bicester, and Kidlington and Gosford are mapped in Figure 3 with a 20 minute drive time catchment. This shows that together, most of the district has access to one of the leisure centres. There is only limited overlap of the Spiceball catchment with that of the other two, but rather more catchment overlap between Bicester and Kidlington and Gosford.

Spiceball Leisure Centre

- 2.3 This public leisure centre is close to the centre of Banbury and was built in 2009. It has the following facilities:

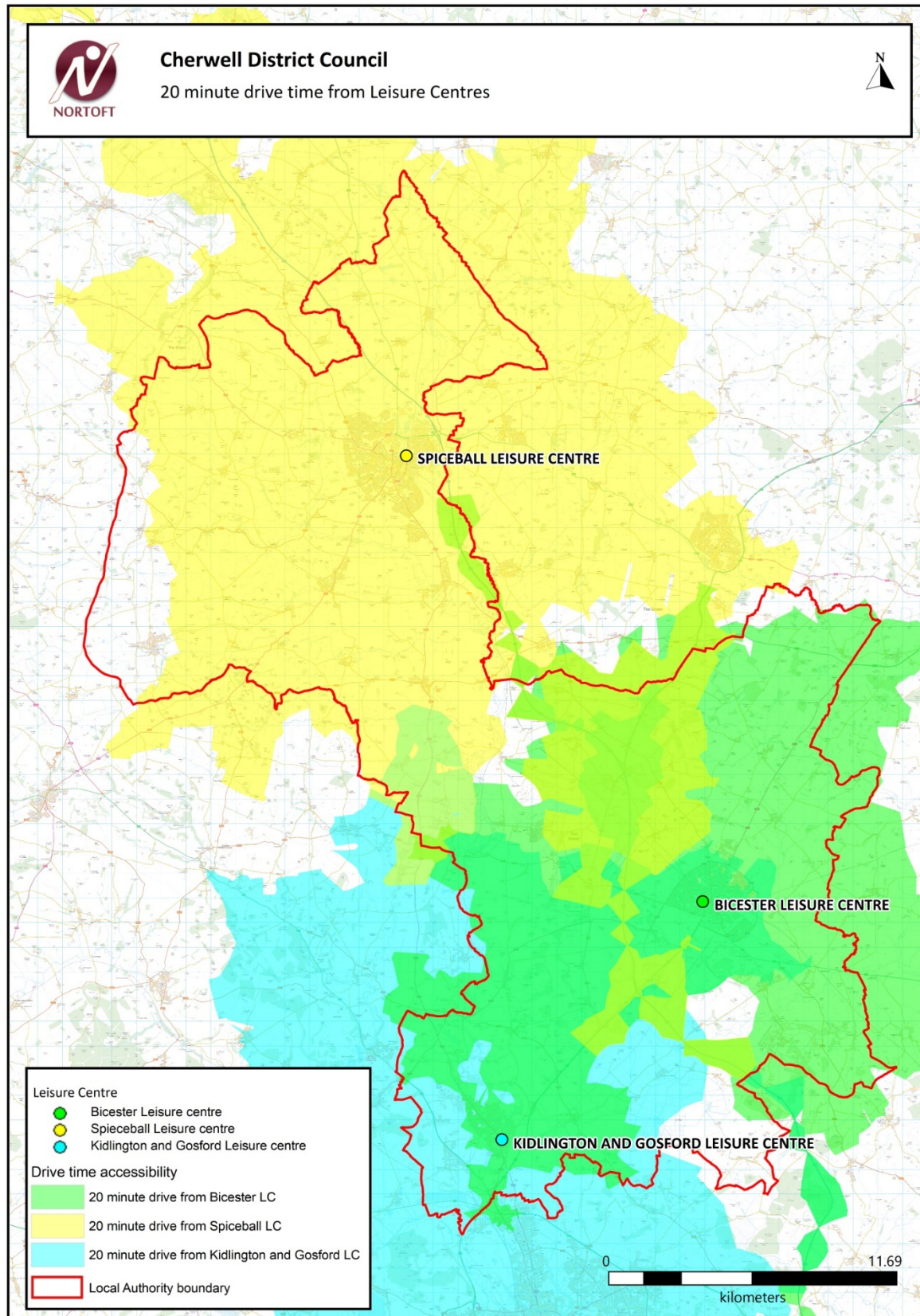
- 25m x 6 lane pool with spectator seating
- 20m x 10m learner pool with moveable floor
- 8 badminton court sports hall
- 150 station fitness gym
- 2 x studio
- 2 x squash courts, “normal type”
- Crèche
- Health Suite
- Soft Play
- Treatment rooms

- 2.4 The annual community use throughput of the site and its facilities in 2016 was:

	Community use throughput
Swimming pool	184,045
Sports hall	88,815
Gym and fitness	256,606
Squash courts	10,500
TOTAL	539,966

- 2.5 The sports hall figures do not fully represent the current usage of the sports hall as it is actually used at about 80% of the available capacity across the peak time because of the way in which the facility is programmed.

Figure 3: Leisure Centres with pools and drive time catchments



- 2.6 The centre has a full wet side joint use agreement with local primary school term time use of both pools.
- 2.7 The 2009 leisure contract also included full building lifecycle provision within the 25 year contract term which will ensure the building is handed back to the council in its as built condition.

Bicester Leisure Centre

- 2.8 This is a joint use site with a 25 year agreement which started in December 2009. The partners to the agreement are Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Bicester Community College (now The Bicester School, which is an academy). The agreement requires Oxfordshire County Council to provide an annual contribution towards the operating costs of the site. The centre had a £5.5m refurbishment in 2009 (excluding pool provision) and has the following sports facilities:
- 25m x 6 lane pool
 - 12 x 7 pool with beach entry
 - 4 badminton court sports hall
 - 96 station fitness gym
 - 1 spin studio
 - 1 multi-use studio
 - 3 x squash courts, “normal type”
 - 1 x activity hall (large studio)
 - 2 x small sided 3G artificial grass pitches (AGP) (previously the hard play areas)
 - health suite
 - crèche
 - Ten pin bowling (6 lanes)
- 2.9 The centre has a full wet and dry side joint use agreement however currently only the sports hall is used by The Bicester School during the school day so the other dry side facilities are open for community use most of the time.
- 2.10 The site has a new biomass boiler which is helping to reduce energy costs. The sports hall floor is good. Cricket clubs and gymnastics use the hall. The pool is a 1970s build so ageing. The gym has approximately 1,600 members.
- 2.11 The annual community use throughput of the site (excluding the bowling) in 2016 was:

	Community use throughput
Swimming pool use	149,802
Sports hall	42,271
Gym & fitness incl studio	121,163
All weather pitch (AGP)	16,508
Squash	12,999
TOTAL	342,743

- 2.12 The sports hall figures do not fully represent the current usage of the sports hall as it is actually used at about 80% of the available capacity across the peak time because of the way in which the facility is programmed.
- 2.13 The May 2014 condition survey for the site identified a number of items in the building which were either “Poor – exhibiting major defects and /or not performing as intended” or “Bad – life expired and / or in serious risk of imminent failure”. A high proportion of these problems have now been addressed. The 2008 Sports Modernisation work estimated the costs to be £7.5m. The 2008 leisure contract included full building lifecycle provision within the 25 year contract term which will ensure the building is handed back to the council in its refurbished condition.
- 2.14 Part of the joint use site and part of the agreement is a 10 pin bowling alley, Bicester Bowl, which is open 14.00-22.00 on weekdays, 10.00-22.00 on Saturdays, and 10.00-20.00 on Sundays. This facility is managed by the Bicester Leisure Centre operator, Legacy Leisure. The usage was approximately 31,650 visitors in 2016, up on 2015 by 3,650.
- 2.15 Due to the Bicester housing growth Cherwell District Council has been actively exploring a centralised indoor leisure provision for the town by carrying out a feasibility study on options for the site, in particular whether there is scope to extend the pool, gym, sports hall, and car parking provision. The result of this study is pending later in 2018. The leisure centre site is constrained, but there appear to be some opportunities.

Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre

- 2.16 This is a joint use site with a 25 year agreement which started in December 2009, but with a lease of the sports centre land to the District Council of 125 years starting in 2008 from Oxfordshire County Council. An updated agreement was signed in 2011. The partners to the agreement are Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and Gosford Hill School, which is now an academy. The agreement requires Oxfordshire County Council to provide an annual contribution towards the operating costs of the site. As owner of the building the District Council is responsible for cleaning, maintenance, repair and insurance of the leisure centre building and for all operating costs. The centre had a £3.5m refurbishment in 2009 (excluding pool provision).

2.17 The site's sports facilities include:

- 25m x 4 lane pool without spectator seating
- 4 badminton court sports hall
- 50 station fitness gym
- 1 spin studio
- Functional training room (gym with fitness equipment)
- 1 multi use studio
- 2 x squash courts, "normal type"
- activity hall (studio)
- 97 x 55 m sand filled artificial grass pitch (AGP)
- Crèche
- Health Suite

2.18 The sports hall and AGP are used by the school during the school day but the other facilities are open for community use most of the time. There is no use of the pool by the secondary school, however as the pool is used by local primary schools this does restrict day time community access. The floor in the sports hall is good having been refurbished in 2009 which included a replacement Desso floor. The AGP was resurfaced by Cherwell District Council in 2016.

2.19 Due to the potential housing growth in the south of the district Cherwell District Council has been actively exploring centralised indoor leisure provision for Kidlington by carrying out feasibility studies on options for extension for the site, in particular whether there is scope to extend the pool, gym, sports hall, and car parking provision. The result of this study is pending in 2018. The annual community use throughput of the site and its facilities in 2016 was:

	Community use throughput
Swimming pool	43,757
Sports hall	22,388
Gym and fitness	55,719
All weather pitch (AGP)	18,157
Squash courts	4,895
TOTAL	144,915

2.20 The sports hall figures do not fully represent the current usage of the sports hall as it is actually used at about 80% of the available capacity across the peak time because of the way in which the facility is programmed.

2.21 The May 2014 condition survey for the site identified a number of items in the building which were either "Poor – exhibiting major defects and /or not performing as intended" or "Bad – life expired and / or in serious risk of imminent failure". A high proportion of these problems have now been addressed. The 2008 new leisure contract also included full building lifecycle provision within the 25 year contract

term which will ensure the building is handed back to the council in its refurbished condition.

Woodgreen Leisure Centre

2.22 This is an unusual type of leisure centre comprising:

- 50m x 8 lane outdoor swimming pool
- aqua zone and single flume
- indoor bowls centre with 6 rinks
- 60 station fitness gym
- 1 multi use studio
- 1 spin studio
- functional training room (small gym with fitness equipment)
- integrated library provision
- café

2.23 The centre underwent a £1.2m refurbishment in 2016/17, providing new dry side facilities and there was a £1.5m wet side refurbishment in 2010.

2.24 The annual throughput of the site in 2016 was around 53,000 which was an improvement on 2015 but slightly lower than the maximum recorded throughput in 2013 of 53,100. Detailed usage information is not available for the whole of 2016, but the outdoor pool had about 22,200 visits in the period May-September.

School facilities managed direct by Cherwell District Council

2.25 There are two schools with facilities managed directly by Cherwell District Council.

The Cooper School, Bicester

2.26 The sports facilities on the school site which are subject to the joint use agreement and managed by Cherwell District Council are:

- artificial grass pitch (full size, sand dressed)
- 4 badminton court sports hall
- performance hall with 250 seats [when not used for sport such as table tennis, martial arts and dance]

2.27 This is a joint use site with a 20 year agreement which started in December 2001. The partners to the agreement are Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and The Cooper School, which is now part of the Bicester Learning Academy. The agreement makes the District Council responsible for the artificial grass pitch (its management, maintenance and repair as needed including the floodlights) and the school and County Council responsible for the sports hall and performance hall, but with a contribution towards the costs by the District Council.

The management of the site during the community use hours is the responsibility of the District Council.

- 2.28 The facilities at The Cooper School are hired via Cherwell District Council and are available from 17.45-22.15 weekdays and 09.00-18.00 weekends during term time, and all day during school holidays.
- 2.29 The booking process includes a requirement of a minimum 7 days period prior to the hire date, with signed booking forms being returned to the Council prior to booking confirmation. There is also a requirement on hirers for them to hold public liability insurance of £5,000,000 and evidence has to be provided of this as part of the booking confirmation process.
- 2.30 This hiring process means that, in effect, the site can really only be used for block bookings by affiliated clubs, although for an additional charge which includes public liability individual sessions could be booked. This will improve once an on line booking system is introduced by the council early 2018. The main user of the AGP is Bicester Hockey Club.
- 2.31 The annual community use throughput of the site and its facilities in 2016 was:

	Community use throughput
Sports hall and performance hall	26,026
Artificial grass pitch, hockey	15,922
Artificial grass pitch, football	17,153
TOTAL	59,101

- 2.32 At the time of the site audit (July 2016) the sports hall was closed for repairs due to a leaking roof, but these problems were remedied over the summer months.
- 2.33 The performance hall roof was replaced during summer 2017 and the floor replacement works are planned for summer 2018.

North Oxfordshire Academy

- 2.34 The sports facilities on the school site which are subject to the joint use agreement and managed by Cherwell District Council are:
- artificial grass pitch (full size, sand dressed)
 - athletics track with 8 lanes
 - grass pitch inside the athletics track
 - climbing wall
- 2.35 This is a joint use site with a 60 year agreement which started in April 2000. The partners to the agreement are Cherwell District Council, Oxfordshire County Council and North Oxfordshire Academy (previously Drayton School). The agreement makes the District Council responsible for the maintenance of all of the

facilities and for the management of the site during the community use hours which are 17.45-22.15 weekdays and 09.00-18.00 weekends, and all day during the school holidays.

- 2.36 The artificial pitch was resurfaced for hockey in 2017.
- 2.37 The facilities at North Oxfordshire Academy are hired via Cherwell District Council. The booking process includes a requirement of a minimum 7 days period prior to the hire date, with signed booking forms being returned to the Council prior to booking confirmation. There is also a requirement on hirers for them to hold public liability insurance of £5,000,000 and evidence has to be provided of this as part of the booking confirmation process.
- 2.38 This hiring process means that, in effect, the site can really only be used for block bookings by affiliated clubs, although for an additional charge which includes public liability insurance, individual sessions could be booked. This will improve once an on line booking system is introduced by the council early 2018. The main user of the AGP is Banbury Hockey Club and the athletics track is the home of Banbury Harriers Athletics Club.
- 2.39 The annual community use throughput of the site and its facilities in 2016 was:

	Community use throughput
Athletics track	16,294
Artificial grass pitch, hockey	18,899
Artificial grass pitch, football	12,663
TOTAL	47,766

Overview of the facility portfolio

- 2.40 The strengths of the Council's facilities portfolio are that it provides good geographical coverage in each of the main centres of population in the district and delivers a varied programme of activities ranging from swimming to athletics. The public pools offer the only significant casual swimming opportunities in the district.
- 2.41 The leisure centre facilities managed by Parkwood Leisure (aka leisurecentre.com) are marketed and promoted by the operator, they offer pay and play opportunities, and there is good information about the usage of the different facilities within each leisure centre. This contrasts with the management of The Cooper School and North Oxfordshire Academy which is in house by the District Council where the booking process is suited to club block bookings rather than irregular hirers.
- 2.42 The joint use agreements (JUA) have some important potential weaknesses:
- Despite the joint use agreements at the school sites, as the focus of Oxfordshire County Council moves away from education and facility provision, and with the

move to academy status of the schools, the sites may become increasingly reliant on alternative daytime income to offset the potential reducing JUA contributions to the council. However this will be subject to a long negotiation process.

- The joint use agreements were signed before the schools became academies, and, if issues arose, may be difficult to retain and subject to long negotiation.
- The joint use facilities at Bicester and Kidlington are ageing and the condition surveys have identified the need for significant capital expenditure over the next five years, however this will be addressed through the contract as this includes full building lifecycle arrangements with the Leisure Operator.
- There is reliance on the District Council to replace the artificial grass pitch carpets at the joint use centres (completed in 2017), as well as maintaining the athletics track, which was resurfaced in 2015.

Other schools

- 2.43 A high proportion of built sports facilities in Cherwell are provided on school sites, including 10 of the 11 sports halls and 4 of the 6 larger swimming pools. This is because secondary schools were generally built with, or have developed, dedicated sports facilities and playing fields which can provide important opportunities for community use. Conversely, primary school sites, although providing some opportunities for activities that can take place in a hall setting, such as exercise classes, do not usually have specialist sports facilities.
- 2.44 A summary of the non-joint use school facilities but which are available for community use in Cherwell is given in Figure 4. All of the facilities other than the formal joint use sites addressed above, are managed in-house by the schools themselves.
- 2.45 Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre) and Sibford School, both independent, offer important opportunities to the community as they have some casual swimming times in addition to club use, plus sports halls and fitness facilities.
- 2.46 The key findings across the schools currently being used by the community for sport are:
- Most schools do not provide for casual 'pay and play' access, which restricts usage of many facilities to members of organised clubs and groups.
 - There are no formal joint use agreements in place for the facilities, apart from those sites / facilities managed by Parkwood Leisure or the District Council.

- There are no subsidies to support community use, other than at the joint use sites.
- There is limited scope to increase peak time community utilisation rates at most schools' facilities.

Figure 4: Community use of school sports facilities excluding joint use facilities/sites

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available in the peak period (PP)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
BANBURY ACADEMY	4 Standard quality hall and changing		100 x 60 sand filled Very poor quality pitch		Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Sat 9am-6pm Sun 9am-1pm 11.5 hrs in PP Not available Mar- July	Hall: 50% Pitch: 40% restricted due to quality
BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL (THE MONSI SPORTS CENTRE) BANBURY	4 Good quality hall and standard changing		100 x 60 sand filled Standard quality pitch recent investment but drainage issues unresolved		Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Mon-Fri 5pm-10pm Sat/Sun 9am-6pm 39 hrs in PP	Hall: 80% Pitch: 75%

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
BLOXHAM SCHOOL (DEWEY SPORTS CENTRE)	4 Good quality hall and changing	4 lane 22.8 m Good quality pool and changing	97 x 61 m Sand filled 92 x 54 sand filled Standard quality pitches	10 station gym 2 squash courts, glass backed 3 outdoor tennis courts Climbing wall	Independent School	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial Management	Hall: Mon-Fri 6pm-9pm Sat 6pm-9pm Sun 8am-9pm 26 hrs in PP Pool: Mon 7.15am-8.15am, 7pm-9pm Tues 6am-8am, 4pm- 6pm Wed 7.15am-8.15am, 6pm-8pm Thurs 6am-8am, 7pm-9pm Fri 7.15am-8.15am Sat 7am-12.30pm 11.5 hrs in PP	Hall: 95% Pool: 90%
GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL [sports hall, pool and AGP at adjacent leisure centre]	Ancillary hall Standard quality hall and changing		.	2 netball courts (used by Kidlington Kites)	Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Mon-Fri 5pm-10pm Sat/Sun 9am-6pm 39 hrs in PP	Ancillary hall: 20%

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
HEYFORD PARK FREE SCHOOL, UPPER HEYFORD	4 Good quality hall and changing			20 station gym, 1 studio 1 squash court, normal 3 netball/4 tennis Good quality	Free School	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Mon-Fri 5-10pm Sat/Sun 9.30-5pm 40.5 hrs in PP	Hall: 25% New/refurbished facilities not yet fully developed, marketed or promoted
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ACADEMY, BANBURY [AGP and athletics track managed by CDC]	4 Standard quality hall and changing				Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	Trust	Mon-Fri 5-10pm Sat/Sun 9.30-5pm 40.5 hrs in PP	Hall: 80%

Site Name	Sports Halls: Number of Badminton Courts	Swimming pools	Artificial pitches	Other Facilities Available for Hire	Ownership Type	Access Type	Management	Total hours available	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit
SIBFORD SCHOOL	4 Good quality hall and changing	4 lane x 25 m Good quality pool and changing		1 studio 2 squash courts, normal	Independent School	Pay and Play	School	Hall: Mon-Fri 4.30pm- 10pm Sat/Sun 9am-6pm 39 hrs in PP Pool: Mon 8.30pm-10pm Tues 7pm-9.30pm Wed 6pm-9.30pm Thurs 7pm-9.30pm Sat 4pm-9.30pm Sun 1pm-6.30pm 17 hrs in PP	Hall: 60% Pool: 40%
THE BICESTER SCHOOL [sports hall on adjacent site managed by Parkwood Leisure]	Ancillary hall Standard quality hall and changing				Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Ancillary hall: Mon-Fri 4.30pm- 10pm Sat/Sun 9am-6pm 39 hrs in PP	Ancillary hall: 70%
THE WARRINER SCHOOL, BLOXHAM	4 + Ancillary hall Standard quality hall and changing			Netball courts (Cherwell League home site)	Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Mon-Fri 5.30pm- 9.30pm Sat/Sun 9am-4pm 33 hrs in PP	Hall: 80%

SECTION 3: SPORTS HALLS

- 3.1 Sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport because they are able to provide a venue for many different activities (see Figure 5). This strategy section considers sports halls of 3+ badminton court size, primarily those which are designed for sport.

Figure 5: Sports hall activities

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

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

- 3.2 The main tool for assessing the trends in activity is the Active People Survey of Sport England (Sport England , 2016). In the future, the new Sport England Active Lives survey will replace the Active People Survey. The national trends in the main hall sports over the period 2005/06-2015/16, have been a fall in participation in badminton, basketball, and football, a steady situation for volleyball, but an increase in netball. Information about the trends in hall sports below this national level are not available or are too statistically unreliable for it to be of value in this strategy. The national trends are therefore assumed to be reflected by the local situation in Cherwell.
- 3.3 Sports halls generally have most community use during the winter months as some activities move outside during the summer months, for example sports hall athletics, or are primarily a winter sport such as football. During the school exam periods, the sports halls on school sites are often unavailable for community use, and are therefore both less attractive to community clubs and have lower levels of

use. The peak time assessment for sports hall use therefore considers the winter months. Sport England regularly reviews its parameters behind the FPM model, and the December report (Sport England and sportscotland, 2015) suggests that, on average sports halls have the following programming, see Figure 6.

Figure 6: National average programming

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

- 3.4 Details about the methodology for assessing sports halls including drive times, is given in Appendix 1. In summary the standard methodology for measuring sports halls is by the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. However it is recognised that there is extensive use of these types of facility by a wide range of other sports including basketball, volleyball, handball etc. Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least 3+ badminton court size, and with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. This is therefore the minimum size of hall considered in this section of the report.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 Larger halls (6 plus badminton courts) may also provide the opportunity for more than one pitch/court which increases flexibility for both training and competition. The table in Appendix 2 is from the Sport England Design Guidance Note on Sports Hall Design and Layouts (2012) (Sport England, 2012) and identifies the hall size required to accommodate a range of sports at different levels of play. This updates previous guidance. There is also now a strong recommendation for a slightly larger size 4-court hall for schools, to enable more community use as well as more flexibility for education. The new minimum size proposed for 4-court halls by Sport England is 34.5m x 20.0m x 7.5 m, rather than the previous standard of 33m x 18m x 7.5m.

Current provision

- 3.7 There are a number of sports halls across Cherwell and they are reasonably well distributed geographically. The list of current sports halls of 3+ badminton court size and above which are available for community use is given in the table Figure 7 and mapped in Figure 8. The table in Figure 7 also includes the estimated used capacity at peak time from the audit, and from the Sport England Facilities Planning Model report for 2016 (see para 3.64 onwards).
- 3.8 This provision gives a current total of 48 badminton courts available for at least some of the peak time. The usage of the sites as estimated by the audit and from the throughput information provided from Cherwell District Council for the leisure centres and joint use sites suggests that the following sites are operating close to the 80% used capacity rate which Sport England considers to be “busy” during the times that they are open. These are:
- Spiceball, Banbury
 - Bicester Leisure Centre
 - Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre
 - Blessed George Napier Catholic School, Banbury
 - Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre), Bloxham
 - North Oxfordshire Academy, Banbury
 - The Warriner School, Bloxham, Banbury
- 3.9 The refurbished sports hall at Heyford Park Free School opened in 2015 and has yet to fully establish itself. The current usage is therefore much lower than might be expected to be the case in the longer term.
- 3.10 The map in Figure 8 gives the location of the 3+ badminton court sites plus an indicative drive time catchment from those sites with at least some pay and play access; the three leisure centres and Sibford School. The green shading shows that almost all of the district has access to a pay and play facility, and that there are only very small rural areas of the district with no access to any sports hall, within or outside the authority within the 20 minute drive time.

Figure 7: Sports halls 3+ courts - current provision

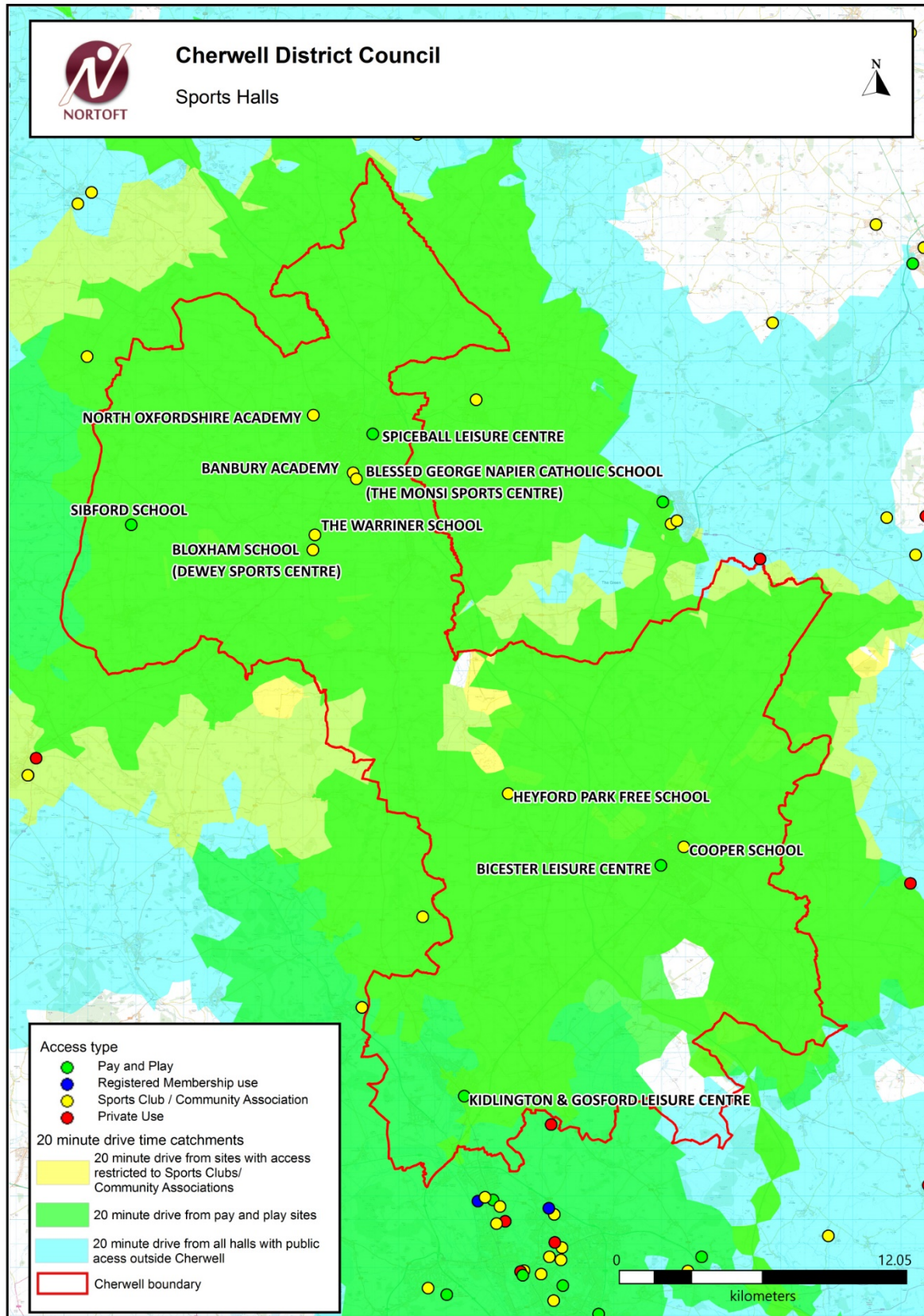
Sub Area	Site Name	Number of badminton courts	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Availability in the peak period (max 45.5hrs)	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from audit	Estimate of used capacity at peak time from FPM model	Spare capacity in number of courts scaled by hours
Banbury	BANBURY ACADEMY	4	Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Sat 9am-6pm Sun 9am-1pm 11.5 hrs in PP Not available Mar-July	50%	48%	0
Bicester	BICESTER LEISURE CENTRE	4	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	All	80%	100%	0
Banbury	BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL (aka THE MONSI SPORTS CENTRE) BANBURY	4	Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Mon-Fri 5pm-10pm Sat/Sun 9am-6pm 39 hrs in PP	80%	39%	0
Banbury	BLOXHAM SCHOOL (DEWEY SPORTS CENTRE)	4	Independent School	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial Management	Mon-Fri 6pm-9pm Sat 6pm-9pm Sun 8am-9pm 26 hrs in PP	95%	67%	0
Sub Area	Site Name	Number of badminton	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Availability in the peak period	Estimate of used	Estimate of used	Spare capacity

		courts				(max 45.5hrs)	capacity at peak time from audit	capacity at peak time from FPM model	in number of courts scaled by hours
Bicester	THE COOPER SCHOOL BICESTER	4	Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	Cherwell District Council	Mon-Fri 5.30pm-10pm Sat 10am-6pm Sun 11am-6pm 34 hrs in PP	75%*	100%	0.2*
Bicester	HEYFORD PARK FREE SCHOOL, UPPER HEYFORD	4	Free school	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Mon-Fri 5-10pm Sat/Sun 9.30-5pm 40.5 hrs in PP	25%	Not included in FPM (re-opened 2016)	2
Kidlington	KIDLINGTON & GOSFORD LEISURE CENTRE	4	Academy	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	All	80%	100%	0
Banbury	NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ACADEMY, BANBURY	4	Academy	Sports Club / Community Association	Trust	Mon-Fri 5-10pm Sat/Sun 9.30-5pm 40.5 hrs in PP	80%	87%	0
Banbury	SIBFORD SCHOOL	4	Other Independent School	Pay and Play	School	Mon-Fri 4.30pm-10pm Sat/Sun 9am-6pm 39 hrs in PP	60%	31%	0.7
Banbury	SPICEBALL LEISURE CENTRE, BANBURY	8	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	All	80%	100%	0
Sub Area	Site Name	Number of badminton courts	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Availability in the peak period (max 45.5hrs)	Estimate of used capacity at	Estimate of used capacity at	Spare capacity in

							peak time from audit	peak time from FPM model	number of courts scaled by hours
Banbury	THE WARRINER SCHOOL, BLOXHAM	4	Foundation School	Sports Club / Community Association	School	Mon-Fri 5.30pm-9.30pm Sat/Sun 9am-4pm 33 hrs in PP	80%	32%	0

Note: * The Cooper School is used for netball clubs and leagues, so used capacity is higher than the standard audit suggests. Spare capacity reduced to reflect.

Figure 8: Sports Halls (3+ courts) map



Assessment of current supply/demand

3.11 The current supply of sports halls by sub-area, together with the current population, and provision per 1,000 population is given in Figure 9. This shows that the Banbury area has the most provision per 1,000 population and that both the Bicester and Kidlington have much lower levels of current provision.

3.12 For comparison purposes, the national rate of provision per 1,000 population is currently 0.28 courts per 1,000 population. The Banbury area, even using the lower “scaled by hours” figure is therefore much better provided than the national average. Neither Bicester’s or Kidlington’s rates of provision are close to the national average.

Figure 9: Current sports hall provision by sub area

Banbury	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use (number of badminton courts)	32
	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use (number of badminton courts), scaled by hours open	25
	Sub area population	71,923
	Provision per 1,000 population	0.34 courts
Bicester	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use (number of badminton courts)	12
	Total amount of sports halls with some public use (number of badminton courts), scaled by hours open	11
	Sub area population	50,984
	Provision per 1,000 population	0.21 courts
Kidlington	Total amount of sports hall provision with some public use (number of badminton courts)	4
	Total amount of sports halls with some public use (number of badminton courts), scaled by hours open	4
	Sub area population	25,368
	Provision per 1,000 population	0.16 courts

3.13 The headline emerging from the audit of sports halls across Cherwell, is that there is almost no spare capacity at peak time:

- Banbury: 0.7 badminton courts at Sibford School

- Bicester: 2.2 badminton courts; 2 at Heyford Park School, 0.2 at The Cooper School
 - Kidlington: 0 badminton courts
- 3.14 Although the throughput figures for sports hall use in the leisure centres are well below what the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) estimates, the way in which they are programmed means that they are effectively being used for about 80% of the peak time. The used capacity is based on the current opening hours of the facilities.
- 3.15 The sports hall facility at Spiceball was built in 2009 and is well used. The consultation feedback identified that the floor may now need attention, however, this will be addressed through the contract lifecycle obligations.
- 3.16 The hall at Bicester Leisure Centre was built in 1970 and the floor was replaced in 2008. The hall at Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre was built in 2009. Both are joint use facilities. The facilities are ageing and there are some issues reported from consultees about the quality of their day to day management and cleanliness.
- 3.17 There is one other sports hall managed by the Council, The Cooper School in Bicester, open for 34 hours of the peak period. This site has both a sports hall and a performance hall, and the usage figures encompass both facilities and some arts programming.
- 3.18 Of the school facilities, the new sports complex at Bloxham independent school is very well used but is only open for about half of the peak time. Sibford independent school is also well used, and the facility is in standard condition and is open for most of the peak time.
- 3.19 The Warriner School is well used and plays a major role in netball, acting as the district league centre. It is open for about 33 hours per week, or 73% of the peak period.
- 3.20 North Oxfordshire Academy's sports hall is managed by the school itself rather than as part of the Council's portfolio on this site, and it is also well used. It is open for most of the peak period.
- 3.21 The Blessed George Napier Catholic School (the Monsi Sports Centre) has a wide range of users and is again well used. It is open for about 85% of the peak period.
- 3.22 The least well used site is Banbury Academy which is only open for 11.5 hours during the peak period and is closed to community use during May-July for exam use. It is used at about 50% of its capacity.
- 3.23 The Heyford Free School has an excellent quality sports hall which is managed by the school. It is only however lightly used as it has only been recently opened. In the long term, the extent of its use will be affected by its rural location, and local

future housing growth but it is not likely to attract many users from Bicester, even though the site is within about 15 minute drive of Bicester town centre.

- 3.24 In terms of the quality of the sports halls across the network, there does not appear to be any very significant issues, although the sport hall roof was leaking at The Cooper School at the time of the audit (July 2016), which was addressed in summer 2016.

Consultation findings

Club comments

- 3.25 A number of clubs who use sports halls responded to the clubs online survey, and their comments are summarised below.

Banbury Marlborough Badminton Club

- 3.26 This club has about 50 members, mostly seniors or veterans and living in the Banbury area. The club plays in the Banbury Town League and is a “premier clubmark” club. It plays at the Blessed George Napier School. The club does not have a waiting list but does have a development plan which is sports development focussed. It does not include any facility plans.

Bicester Badminton Club

- 3.27 This club has about 40 members, most of whom are again seniors or veterans. Most come from the Bicester area but a few are drawn from Upper Heyford, Banbury and its surrounding villages and from outside of Cherwell. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years and does not anticipate growing in the future. The issues restricting the club include a lack of facilities and the cost of hire, but also important are a lack of interest in the local secondary schools, a lack of volunteers and lack of coaches.
- 3.28 The club plays at the Bicester Leisure Centre once or twice a week on weekday evenings. It finds booking fairly easy. The club describe the sports hall as being poor quality and being poorly maintained, including a lack of cleaning. The nets are poor and incorrectly erected. The courts are sometimes double booked.

Bicester and District Table Tennis Club

- 3.29 This club has about 40 members, most of whom are seniors or veterans. Most (about 80%) live in the Bicester area, though 20% live outside of Cherwell. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years, does not have any waiting lists, but does anticipate growing in the next 5 years. The main problem restricting this growth is a lack of coaches and volunteers.

- 3.30 The club uses Launton Sports and Social Club as their home site. They use it 1-2 times a week, year round on weekday evenings. It is their preferred location and is fairly easy to book. The club considers the changing facilities and ancillary facilities on the site to be of average quality but did not comment on the quality of the hall that they use.
- 3.31 The club also uses the activity hall at The Cooper School, Bicester for training, also 1-2 times a week on weekday evenings and year round. No comment is provided in relation to the quality of the hall, but the club notes that it does not use the changing rooms. The ancillary facilities on this site are noted to be above average quality.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

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

Badminton

- 3.33 Badminton England's National Facilities Strategy 2012-16 (Badminton England, 2012) provides the framework for investment priorities. The governing body does not have any specific capital or revenue investment planned for Cherwell.
- 3.34 The consultation feedback from Badminton England confirms that they are not aware of a serious lack of facilities compared to demand, however that there are difficulties accessing court time during peak hours.
- 3.35 Badminton England considers that there is some potential for growth. Their records show 7 facilities which provide community access for pay and play badminton so this could be increased. The leisure centre sites managed by Parkwood Leisure are all signed up to run Badminton England programmes, and there is scope within these to increase participation. A Junior Badminton project is also underway with sessions running at Kidlington & Gosford and Bicester Leisure Centres. This is expected to increase demand, both within those facilities and in local clubs.

Basketball

- 3.36 The Basketball England facilities strategy for 2017 (Basketball England, 2017) onwards is currently being developed with Sport England.
- 3.37 Basketball is a sport dependent upon the availability of affordable indoor facilities and equipment. For the sport to maintain and grow participation, the ongoing development of a comprehensive network of indoor facilities is required. Basketball England is therefore working alongside partners to create affordable, accessible and suitable indoor facilities.

- 3.38 Access to secondary school indoor basketball facilities is seen of prime importance and vital for the successful delivery of Basketball England's sports development programmes. As well as improving access to existing indoor sports facilities, the national governing body will therefore continue to develop capital projects, building facilities with multiple basketball courts for use by clubs and to boost participation and drive talent outcomes. There are no projects known to the national governing body for Cherwell.
- 3.39 Basketball England has two affiliated clubs in Cherwell; Banbury Thunder who play at The Warriner School, and Bicester Tigers who play at The Cooper School. Both clubs are senior men (16 plus years) only.

Football Association

- 3.40 Futsal, the indoor version of the game, is growing quickly as a sport, especially in those areas with large housing growth. Due to the popularity of futsal, the Football Association (FA) would like to see any new sports hall development to be designed to the larger 4 court hall recommended dimensions of Sport England. The FA believes that the income generated by futsal is crucial to the long term sustainability of sports halls.
- 3.41 Futsal is described by the FA as a five-a-side game, normally played on a flat indoor pitch with hockey sized goals and a size four ball with a reduced bounce. It is played to touchlines and all players are free to enter the penalty area and play the ball over head-height. Games are 20 minutes per half, played to a stopping clock (similar to basketball) with time-outs permitted.
- 3.42 There are a number of differences to England's traditional version of small sided football, but the dominant elements are the absence of rebound boards and amendments in the laws that encourage and foster skilful, creative play above the physical contact that tends to be a feature of English five-a-side.

Gymnastics

- 3.43 Gymnastics is a significant user of sports hall space and the needs of this sport are explored in the Gymnastics section of this report, including the advice from the national governing body.

Volleyball

- 3.44 Volleyball England does not have a facilities strategy.
- 3.45 There was previously one affiliated volleyball club in Cherwell, which had junior members and played in the local league. It was based at The Cooper School in Bicester. There are currently no active clubs in the district.

Netball

- 3.46 Netball is traditionally played on outdoor courts with educational sites being the most highly used. However there is increasing demand for indoor facilities as the average recreational netballer prefers to play indoors and there is a requirement for performance programmes to be based at high quality indoor venues. Netball is considered within the specialist sports section of this report. However the relevant points in relation to sports halls are the use of The Warriner School and The Cooper School as club venues, and Warriner as a league venue.
- 3.47 Netball is a non-asset owning sport and access to facilities can be a real challenge. The quality of the facilities can also affect the customer experience and affect participation levels if not given sufficient thought.
- 3.48 The national average rate of provision is 1 indoor court for every 12,000 adult females (England Netball , 2016).
- 3.49 England Netball (England Netball, 2016) notes that the key facilities for the sport in Cherwell are:
- The Cooper School which is considered by England Netball as having poor quality outside courts and very limited availability during the peak period for the sports hall at times which would ideally suit netball.
 - The Warriner School where the outdoor netball facilities are assessed as poor by England Netball.
- 3.50 England Netball relies heavily on The Warriner School as it has both indoor and outdoor space for the sport. England Netball notes that the site is being improved, but not with any financial support from the national governing body. The site is used by the Cherwell League, comprising 24 teams in 3 divisions, plus a junior recreational level netball. The site is used at weekends throughout the winter, summer evenings and the summer holidays.
- 3.51 England Netball consider that there is potential to grow the sport, but this is dependent on more floodlit outdoor courts and more indoor space being made available.

Individual online survey results

- 3.52 A full summary of the individuals' consultation survey responses are given in Part 1 of the report. In relation to sports halls, the responses suggest that about a third of the respondents used sports halls and that the majority felt that there was about the right amount of provision, although about 40% felt that there was too little. Almost no one felt that there was too much provision. In terms of relative importance of sports halls for the respondents, they are about 5th most important, behind walking and running routes, cycle routes, swimming pools and community centres/village halls.

3.53 The percentage of respondents who said that they took part in sports hall activities at least once a month in Cherwell is compared to the national average rate of participation by adults in the 2015-2016 Sport England Active People Survey in Figure 10. This suggests that the participation in these sports hall activities is higher in Cherwell than the national average, though still only a small proportion of individuals are involved on a regular basis.

Figure 10: Sports hall activity rates by sport

Activity	Cherwell residents participating at least once a month (from survey)	National rate of participation by adults (16 and over) at least once a month
Badminton	4%	1.63%
Basketball	3%	0.55%
Martial arts	2%	0.86%
Judo		
Volleyball	2%	0.14%

3.54 Of the 28% of respondents who said that they used sports halls, 43% felt that there was about the right amount of provision, whilst 52% said that there was too little provision.

3.55 There were only a small number of site specific comments in relation to sports hall provision. These were mostly in relation to Bicester Leisure Centre which was considered as needing modernisation and updating, but also improved cleaning and maintenance.

3.56 However there was also feedback in relation to the Spiceball Leisure Centre where comment was made that the sports hall floor markings were worn, that the centre is cramped and lacks viewing areas. Also, that is it expensive to book.

Local Plan Part 2 comments

3.57 Representations to the Local Plan Part 2 Issues Consultation (January 2016) have been checked for comments relevant to this study. There were no specific comments on sports halls in the Local Plan Part 2 Issues Consultation. Sport England made reference to the 2014 FPM report; this strategy will update the previous Sport England 2014 FPM report findings.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

3.58 A review of the sports hall provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendices). In summary:

- The Aylesbury Vale strategy of 2012 concluded that there would be a need for a 6-court sports hall in the Aylesbury area by 2031. There was a general indication that the sports hall space was working to capacity. The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 concluded that there was an approximate balance between the import and export of sports hall uses across this border.
- Oxford City's Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 drew on a local FPM scenario test. It concluded that there was a small under supply of sports hall space approximating to 4 courts, rising to 6 courts by 2025. Ferry Leisure Centre, close to Kidlington, was however operating close to full at peak time. The FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 also concluded that there was an approximate balance between the import and export of sports hall uses across this border.
- In South Northamptonshire the draft strategy showed that there are four sports halls close to the Cherwell border, Brackley Leisure Centre, Madgalen College in Brackley, Winchester House in Brackley, and Chenderit School in Middleton Cheney. These facilities' drive time catchment includes parts of Cherwell district, for example Brackley Leisure Centre is within 20 minutes drive of the centre of Bicester. The Sport England FPM local scenario test report, summarised in the draft South Northamptonshire strategy, estimated that there was a net export of visits to South Northamptonshire from Cherwell of around 170 visits per week.
- South Oxfordshire's draft strategy of December 2017 concluded that there was sufficient sports hall space to cater for the planned growth up to 2033, except in the Didcot area where some additional provision is required. There is no change expected in the areas of the district bordering Cherwell, and no change expected in the import/export across this border. This confirms the FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014.
- The Stratford-on-Avon's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment was published in 2011 and updated in 2014. It concluded that there was surplus provision but that the geographical spread was poor and that additional provision was required in Shipston on Stour and Wellesbourne. The FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 also concluded that there was an approximate balance between the import and export of sports hall uses across this border.
- The Vale of White Horse's 2014 Leisure and Sports Facilities Study concluded that although most of the district had sufficient sports hall space now and in the future to cater for the planned growth up to 2031, there was a specific need in Wantage, Grove and around Didcot. The FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 concluded that there is negligible cross-boundary movement for sports hall users over this boundary.

- West Oxfordshire does not have a sports facilities strategy but the Infrastructure Delivery Plan of 2016 concluded that “Major sports facilities in the district are considered to be well within an acceptable travel time and distance for the residents in a rural district. However, some of the facilities are poor quality and there are some deficiencies”. In terms of built indoor facilities, the District Council is investigating options and developing plans for the long term future of the Windrush Leisure Centre, Witney. The Sport England FPM local scenario test report estimated that there was an approximate balance between the import and export of sports hall users over this border. However there is proposed housing growth close to the border with Cherwell close to Kidlington, and the potential impact of this has not yet been assessed.

3.59 In summary, the location of the sports halls in Cherwell, with most being located in the towns, means that there is only limited cross-boundary movement for sports hall use. Only in relation to South Northants is there a small net movement across the border, from Cherwell to South Northants.

Modelling

Market Segmentation

- 3.60 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) findings suggest that sports halls will only attract limited use from the largest market segment groups for adults in Cherwell, mainly for keep fit/gym. This suggests that the level of demand for this type of facility will not increase on average beyond 0.5% per annum over the period up to 2031.
- 3.61 Sports halls remain however one of the primary sports facilities for community activity because they can provide a venue for many different activities. This facility type therefore is and will remain one of the most important for the district into the long term.

Facilities Planning Model

- 3.62 The table in Figure 7 above includes the current number of hours that each facility is available in the peak period (weekday evenings and weekends). Opening hours information is used by the Sport England’s Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to help determine the balance in the demand for sports hall space and its supply, however it is important to note that the opening hours for some facilities, particularly for halls in school sites, can change fairly quickly, so the FPM can only be a snapshot in time. The FPM also considers the extent of cross-border movement, which is important for the district.
- 3.63 The table in Figure 11 highlights some of the most important sports hall parameters used in the model (see Appendix 3 for full details). This identifies the number of hours that facilities are expected to be open to cover the “peak period”, what the

“peak period” is, and how long people are usually willing to travel to a sports hall i.e. the catchment.

Figure 11: Facilities Planning Model key parameters halls 2016

At one time capacity	24 users per 4-court hall, 13 per 144 sq m of ancillary hall.
Duration of visit	60 minutes
Catchments	<p>Car: 20 minutes</p> <p>Walking: 1.6 km</p> <p>Public transport: 20 minutes at about half the speed of a car</p> <p>NOTE: Catchment times are indicative, within the context of a distance decay function of the model.</p>
Peak Period	<p>Weekday: 09.00-10.00; 17:00 to 22:00</p> <p>Saturday: 09:30 to 17:00</p> <p>Sunday: 09:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 19:30</p> <p>Total: 45.5 hours</p>
Percentage of use taking place within the Peak Period	62%
Utilised capacity considered “busy”	80% = “comfort factor”

3.64 The main findings from the Sport England FPM national run report of July 2016 for sports halls are summarised below. These however need to be considered in the light of the findings from the audit stage of this strategy, which show some significant differences between the FPM report theoretical assessment and the actual usage of the individual sports halls across the district.

- There are about 41 courts available at peak time for community use when scaled by opening hours.
- With a district population of 148,276 in 2016, this gives a rate of provision of 0.28 courts per 1,000 population.
- There is total current demand for around 40.5 courts at peak time, so there appears to be a balance between existing demand and supply at the whole authority level.
- About 92% of the potential demand for sports hall space is currently met, either by facilities within the district or by facilities in the neighbouring authorities. This is slightly lower than the South East average but higher than the national average. It is the same as for the Vale of White Horse.
- About 87% of this demand is met by sites within the district.

- Most of the “unsatisfied demand” arises where people do not have access to a car and live too far away from a facility to walk there. However the model also suggests that there is a small lack of capacity in the sports halls network results, the equivalent of about 62 visits per week at peak time. Most of this unmet demand is in Banbury and Bicester.
- The total average sports hall usage at 73% is below what Sport England considers busy (80%), but some of the facilities are modelled as running at 100% full at peak time; Bicester Leisure Centre, Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre, and Spiceball Leisure Centre.
- The concluding statement of the report from Sport England is:

Used capacity figures are above national and regional levels at 73.4%. The three key leisure centre sites are all forecast as being at 100% capacity during the weekly peak periods which suggest that may well not be any further opportunities at these sites for greater levels of community usage. Three of the other sites are also forecast as being full or well used suggesting that there may be limited, if any, opportunities at these sites too.

Overall, the data suggests that consideration could be given to increasing the levels of sports hall provision in order to meet the needs of a growing population. This is particularly pertinent in certain parts of the district such as Bicester where there are plans for circa 13,000 new homes in the coming years. Current facilities in the town are anticipated as being extremely well used (or even full) with Bicester LC and The School forecast as having use capacity figures of 100% in the peak periods.

- 3.65 The conclusions from the FPM model are that the current demand for sports hall space is just about in balance with the available supply, although the FPM does not take into account the new facility at Upper Heyford. This suggests that the total demand for sports hall space within Cherwell is slightly higher than the FPM demand element suggests.

Summary of current situation

- 3.66 The demand for sports hall space in Cherwell is approximately in balance with the available supply, and the demand appears to have evened itself out across most of the facilities, particularly in the Banbury sub area. This means that most of the facilities are running at a used capacity rate close to 80% at peak time, a level which Sport England considers busy. Most of the demand appears to be met within the district, and the area which has the greatest export of users is around Kidlington. There is relatively little importation of users to Cherwell facilities from the adjacent authorities.
- 3.67 The facilities are generally of good or standard quality, but some management issues have been flagged, particularly at Bicester Leisure Centre. These are actively being addressed by the Council under the terms of the leisure contract.

- 3.68 The joint use sports hall facilities at Bicester Leisure Centre, Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre, and The Cooper School all have current joint use agreements, of varying length.
- 3.69 The independent schools of Bloxham and Sibford are an important part of the facility network, and the quality of their facilities are reasonably good.
- 3.70 The newly refurbished sports hall at Upper Heyford is good quality but its location and relatively recent opening mean that it seems unlikely to become fully used, perhaps even in the long term and after the development in the area is complete.
- 3.71 The local authority leisure centres are located in Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. The 20 minute drive time catchment for each of the leisure centres have relatively little overlap, except for the area between Kidlington and Bicester. The feedback from the clubs confirms that they tend to draw the majority of their members from the sub area in which they are located.
- 3.72 The current sports hall programming for the leisure centres means that they are not having as high a throughput on each site as the theoretical FPM model, which uses the national programming parameters (Figure 11) in practice each of the leisure centres are running at rates which would be considered by Sport England as being “busy”, around 80% of used capacity at peak time.
- 3.73 There are no known changes to the sports hall facility network close to Cherwell within the adjacent districts. The planned housing in the adjacent districts is mostly too far from the Cherwell boundary to have any significant increase in demand for sports hall space within the authority area. An exception may be housing yet to be confirmed in the West Oxfordshire area, which may impact on Kidlington.

Assessment of Future Needs

Facilities Planning Model scenario test 2014

- 3.74 An FPM scenario test was commissioned by Cherwell District Council in 2014 to inform the Local Plan. This used a population estimate of 145,207 based on 2013, with a forecast future population by 2031 of 167,928. The Local Run report did not change the “supply” of halls in the modelling so only tested the impact of the increased population growth.
- 3.75 The latest agreed population estimates produced by Oxfordshire County Council on behalf of Cherwell District Council are: 148,276 in 2016, rising to 202,675 in 2031. There is therefore a very significant difference in estimates, of 34,747 by 2031. This large population difference means that the forecast findings of the 2014 Local Run report have needed to be revisited, and the new assessment is contained in this report. However, even with the lower population estimates, the FPM 2014 report identified a need for additional hall capacity around Bicester. The report also

recommended ensuring that the existing network of facilities were retained, remain high quality and attractive to users.

Balance in supply and demand

- 3.76 The Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) is the best way of estimating future demand for sports halls. Figure 12 shows the results of the SFC at the sub area level, using the demographics for each sub area and for each milestone date, as agreed with Cherwell District Council. Two versions are presented in this table, one which assumes that there will be no increase in the rates of participation in sports hall activities up to 2031, and a second which models the demand if there was to be an increase in participation per annum of 0.5%.
- 3.77 The estimated additional demand is then offset against the known supply of the existing facilities. As there is effectively no spare capacity across the sports halls network at the present time, the results indicate what additional capacity in terms of badminton courts will be required at 2021, 2026 and 2031 for each sub area, if there was to be no change in the current network of supply, for example programming or available hours made available for community use.
- 3.78 In summary, there is a potential need for the following additional sports halls by 2031, based on the current supply of facilities:
- Banbury sub area – no additional provision required
 - Bicester sub area – three additional four court halls plus ancillary hall
 - Kidlington sub area – one additional four court hall by 2026 and a further 4 court hall by 2031
- 3.79 This demand assessments assumes that the proportion of activities currently taking place in smaller halls, including ancillary halls on the school sites, and community and village halls will remain approximately the same as at present.

Figure 12: Extra demand for sport hall space to 2031

Note: Unit is number of badminton courts
 Demand from Sports Facilities Calculator
 Supply from Figure 7

		Banbury					Bicester					Kidlington					Total demand
		Supply			Balance in supply vs demand	Comment	Supply			Balance in supply vs demand	Comment	Supply			Balance in supply vs demand	Comment	
		Total no. badminton courts with some public use	Scaled by hours open				Demand	Total no. badminton courts with some public use	Scaled by hours open				Demand	Total no. badminton courts with some public use			
Sports Halls (badminton courts)																	
0.5% pa increase in participation per annum	2016	20	32	24.6	5	No additional provision required	14	12	10.5	-4	3 x 4 court halls by 2026	7	4	4	-3	1 x 4 court hall by 2026, plus 1 x 4 court hall by 2031	41
	2021	24			1		18			-8		7			-3		42
	2026	25			-1		22			-12		8			-4		44
	2031	25			0		24			-13		11			-7		46
Sports Halls (badminton courts)																	
No increase in participation	2016	20	32	24.6	5	No additional provision required	14	12	10.5	-4	3 x 4 court halls by 2026	7	4	4	-3	1 x 4 court hall by 2026, plus 1 x 4 court hall by 2031	41
	2021	23			2		18			-8		7			-3		42
	2026	24			1		21			-11		8			-4		43
	2031	23			2		22			-12		11			-7		46

Meeting the needs of the future

- 3.80 In considering Cherwell District’s future needs, the size of the district, the location and catchment area of its sports facilities and the location of the planned housing means that the future supply of facilities should also be considered at the sub area level in addition to the district wide level.
- 3.81 The ways in which additional “capacity” might be unlocked across the current network of halls could include:
- Via the provision of 3G pitches, to allow football to be relocated to the pitches.
 - Via specialist provision, for example provision of a dedicated gymnastics centre to allow the relocation of Bicester and District Gymnastics Club from Bicester Leisure Centre.
 - Extending the opening hours at the school operated facilities.
 - New sports halls provided on new secondary school sites, designed and managed during the peak period for community use.

New 3G artificial grass pitches

- 3.82 At the present time there is only one full size 3G pitch, at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground in Bicester and two small size pitches at Bicester Leisure Centre which are suitable for football use, as recommended by the Football Association. This means that some football training, futsal and the small sided game are regularly taking place in sports halls. The concurrent Cherwell Playing Pitch Strategy has estimated that if four 3G pitches were provided in Banbury, 3-4 in Bicester and 1-2 in Kidlington, these could provide every football team an hour’s space for training across the district by 2031.
- 3.83 It is known that on average nationally, football use accounts for about 13% of the sports hall programming time. However, in places such as Northampton where there is a relatively high level of 3G pitch provision, football use has switched out of sports halls to 3G pitches, freeing up sports hall space.
- 3.84 Banbury has proposals for 3G pitch provision at: North Oxfordshire Academy, Banbury Academy, Banbury United Football Club (at the proposed relocation site), and the Windmill Centre at Deddington. It is not expected that they will all be delivered, but assuming that at least two full size 3G pitches are, then this would meet half of the football training demand in the area. This would be expected to be felt in the demand for football use within sports halls in the Banbury area. It strengthens the modelling findings in Figure 12, that no additional sports hall provision is required for the Banbury area.
- 3.85 In Bicester the full size pitch at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground is also designed and being marketed for rugby. The Playing Pitch Strategy estimates that, even with this pitch in place, there would still be a need for a further three 3G pitches in the sub area by 2031 to provide the level of pitch access that the Football Association

recommends. At the present time there are no other planned 3G pitches in this area though there is likely to be one extra sand based pitch. Estimating the impact of these pitches on the sports hall programming is difficult, but if all of the football use was to move out of the sports halls in this area, then this might reduce the sports hall demand to about 21 badminton courts by 2031, or the equivalent of 4 x 4-court halls, and one 5 court hall. The current supply of 3+ court sport halls scaled by hours is only about 10 badminton courts. As the deliverability of further 3G pitches in this area is uncertain, the estimated need for sports hall space remains as modelled in Figure 12.

- 3.86 The modelling in Figure 12 for the Kidlington area shows a need for one additional four court hall by 2026 and a further hall by 2031, as the estimated unmet demand is for 7 courts. There is currently no planned 3G provision for the Kidlington area, but the Playing Pitch Strategy is proposing the long term re-carpeting of the pitch at the leisure centre to 3G. This would leave a need for one further pitch by 2033. If both of these were to come forwards this may reduce the demand for sports hall space to 9.5 courts. With only one 4 court hall currently available, this would still leave a need for development of a further 4 court hall plus ancillary hall space. However with the uncertainties over the 3G pitch provision, sufficient sports hall space should be planned for at this time to meet all of the need including for futsal and other indoor football.

Specialist sports facilities

- 3.87 There is a clear request from the Bicester and District Gymnastics Club for a specialist facility. If this was to be developed, then this would release sports hall programming time at Bicester Leisure Centre. The Bicester Athletics Club use the sports hall at Bicester Leisure Centre during the winter months for training. Should a compact athletics training facility be developed, then this may also release some of the demand.

Extending the opening hours

- 3.88 The schools operating their own facilities, including the independent schools, seem unlikely to be willing to extend their opening hours further, either because the facilities are in use for the school, or the costs of doing so are too high. Where the facilities are simply closed during the peak period, then there may be opportunities for the Council (and through them, clubs) to explore supporting the schools to extend their hours. However at this time, significant changes to the opening hours of the facilities on school sites is not anticipated.

Options at the leisure centres

- 3.89 Cherwell District Council in recognition of the findings emerging from this strategy has been exploring ways in which to increase the capacity of the sports halls across the leisure centres.

- 3.90 At Spiceball, Banbury there is a waiting list for clubs at peak times for the sports hall but the operator considers that it may be possible to reduce the height of half of the 8 court sports hall to put additional fitness provision in the upper area of the converted 4 courts. Although this would increase the fitness provision on site and income for the centre, it would mean that the authority no longer had any sports hall in the district larger than 4 courts. This would be a significant negative factor in terms of sports development opportunities both in Banbury and the wider district as the only 6 plus badminton court sports halls with community use in the adjacent authorities are not particularly easy to access: south Oxford (Leys Pools and Leisure Centre), Abingdon (White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre, and School of St Helen and St Katherine), Stratford-upon-Avon (Stratford Leisure Centre), and Daventry (Daventry Leisure Centre). It is therefore proposed that the 8 court hall should be retained, and that 3G artificial grass pitch space is developed as a priority in Banbury to release some of the pressures on the space for sports halls.
- 3.91 One of the main users of the Bicester Leisure Centre sports hall is gymnastics, but the club is now at a size where it really needs to have a dedicated gymnastics facility. Developing such a facility plus additional 3G artificial grass pitch space in Bicester would help to relieve some of the capacity pressures faced by the site. The options are still at an early stage of consideration by Cherwell District Council. However even with some capacity being released at Bicester Leisure Centre, there will still be a need for additional sports hall capacity as the town grows.
- 3.92 There will be a need for an additional 4 court hall for the Kidlington area if the additional development being proposed in the Partial Review of Local Plan Part 1 is confirmed. Cherwell District Council has undertaken an initial feasibility assessment of the leisure centre and the conclusions are that its expansion to provide an additional sports hall would not be possible. Although some use may be relocated out of the sports hall by the provision of 3G pitch space in the area, this is not likely to release sufficient capacity to meet the long term needs of the expanding community. A further sports hall site in the Kidlington area therefore needs to be provided in the medium-longer term, and to this end Policy PR8 of the Partial Review Submission Plan (Land east of the A44) indicates required provision of a new secondary school to incorporate a 4 court sports hall to Sport England specification, made available for community use.

New sports halls on school sites

- 3.93 The proposed and planned changes to the education facility network are:
- Banbury
 - Possible secondary school (east of Oxford Road adjacent to Bankside Phase 2) – size to be confirmed, delivery approximately 2024.
 - Bicester
 - North West Bicester secondary school – timing dependent on rate of housing growth but not currently planned to have community use

- South West Bicester secondary school – early stages of planning. Due to open in September 2019.
 - Kidlington
 - A secondary school required in association with additional growth proposed in the Partial Review (PR8). Dependent on discussion/advice from Oxfordshire County Council in relation to the trigger point and the phasing of the housing delivery, this is currently anticipated to be required between 2021 and 2026. The sports hall at this school is proposed to be designed and made available for community use.
- 3.94 The sports hall at the proposed school in Kidlington will help to address the needs of Kidlington up to 2026 once it is open, so long as the facility is appropriately designed for community use and this use is made secure in the long term.
- 3.95 In the following period up to 2031 in Kidlington, there is justification for a further four court sports hall based on the level of predicted demand. If however two full size 3G football turf pitches are developed in the Kidlington area, then the football use of the sports halls could be relocated to these pitches. In which case it may be possible to meet the remaining sports hall demand via ancillary hall space rather than an additional full size four court hall.
- 3.96 The two planned schools in Bicester are currently not being designed or planned to be made available for community use. If there is no or very little community use, then there will still be an outstanding need to provide three further four-court halls or the equivalent by 2026 in Bicester. However there may still be an opportunity at the secondary school in North West Bicester as the site is potentially large enough to accommodate community use. If this is possible to deliver, then this would reduce the outstanding need to two 4 court halls.
- 3.97 The Banbury school is also not planned to have community use, but as there is sufficient sports hall capacity in the sub area up to 2031, there is no requirement for this to be provided.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 3.98 Given the extent of the housing proposed in Cherwell district, there is a need to assess the amount of demand which will potentially arise from each housing development, and then to consider if there are facilities within an appropriate catchment which can meet these needs, and if so if they are of sufficient quality. This approach reflects the current policy advice of Sport England.
- 3.99 The assessment of the supply and demand for 3+ size sports halls up to 2031 by strategy sub area is given in Figure 13 together with the recommended overview of priorities for investment.

3.100 If the housing proposals contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the demand for sports halls in the Kidlington area is likely to remain largely the same as at present. If there is no additional sports hall provision, then current export of demand will continue to facilities outside of Cherwell district.

Figure 13: Sport halls summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury		Bicester		Kidlington	
	Balance in provision (no badminton courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no badminton courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no badminton courts)	Facility requirements
2016	4.6	Retain existing network.	-3.5	Provide 3 x 4 court halls by 2026 plus ancillary hall space.	-3	1 x 4 court hall by 2026, plus 1 x 4 court hall by 2031.
2021	1.0	Investment as needed to improve quality.	-8.0	Investment as needed to improve quality for existing facilities.	-3.2	Investment as needed to improve quality for existing facility.
2026	-0.6		-11.6		-4.4	
2031	-0.13		-13.2		-6.8	

Quantity

3.101 The Sports Facility Calculator has been used (see Figure 12) to identify the demand for sports hall space which will be generated per 1,000 population at 2031 for each sub area. These rates of demand change between the sub areas because of the different sub-areas' forecast population profiles for 2031, and each includes a participation rate of growth of 0.5% per annum over the period. Appendix 1 provides more details about this methodology.

- Banbury: 0.28 badminton courts per 1,000 population
- Bicester: 0.30 badminton courts per 1,000 population
- Kidlington: 0.30 badminton courts per 1,000 population

Accessibility

3.102 The majority of sports hall users in Cherwell will travel by car and national research shows that sports halls have an approximate drive time catchment of up to about 20 minutes. Almost everyone in the district lives within 20 minutes' drive of a sports hall available for community use, but there are only a small number of sites with secure community use. A formal accessibility planning standard of 20 minutes' drive time is therefore proposed.

Design and quality

- 3.103 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. Facilities should also have at least a “very good” Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method (BREEAM) rating. This policy should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.
- 3.104 These guidelines are summarised in the Provision Guide, Figure 64 in Section 14 of this report.

Recommendations for sports halls

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

- 3.106 To support the Council’s policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to sports halls at its leisure centres and via its partners.
- 3.107 It is recommended that the Council keep under review the recommendations contained in this strategy, including changes to the housing proposals upon which this assessment is based which may have an impact on the supply and demand for facilities, and the provision or otherwise of other sports facilities such as 3G pitches which will impact on the demand for sports hall space.
- 3.108 It is recommended that the identified projects are included in the review of the IDP.
- 3.109 It is recommended that the Council seek to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 3.110 It is recommended that the existing network of sports halls across the district is protected and maintained, and that the facilities should remain affordable to clubs and individuals.
- 3.111 It is recommended that where possible, formalised community use agreements are established with schools to protect community use.
- 3.112 It is recommended that the following should be protected for community use:
- 8 court hall at Spiceball Leisure Centre
 - 4 court hall at Bicester Leisure Centre

- 4 court hall at Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre
- School sites with community use

Enhance and Provide

- 3.113 Investment in 3G artificial turf pitches in Bicester and Kidlington and a dedicated gymnastics centre at Bicester is recommended, which would have the effect of releasing capacity in the existing sports hall network by enabling the relocation of football demand and gymnastics use to elsewhere.
- 3.114 It is recommended that the following is provided, subject to feasibility assessments including site availability:
- One four court sports hall in association with the proposed secondary school at Begbroke near Kidlington (PR8), designed for and made available for community use. (Subject to the outcome of the Partial Review Submission Local Plan proposals)
 - Design and make available for community use the four court sports hall at the planned secondary school in North West Bicester.
 - Provide in Bicester one additional four court sports by 2026, and a further four court sports hall by 2031, both designed and made available for community use. Sites to be confirmed.
 - Provide one additional sports hall designed and made available for community use in Kidlington by 2031 (unless demand is significantly reduced by relocating football demand to 3G pitches). Site to be confirmed. (Subject to the outcome of the Partial Review Submission Plan Local Plan proposals).
- 3.115 It is recommended that new planned secondary schools are designed and developed for community use, and that this use is secured via formal legal agreements. The site layout must facilitate this, and the sports halls designed with the minimum size for community use, as set out in the Sport England guidance (Sport England, 2012).
- 3.116 It is recommended that an increase in the hours which the existing network of sports halls on school sites are open for community use at peak time is sought.
- 3.117 It is recommended that appropriate land for the new community sports halls for which sites are still to be confirmed should be identified and secured through the planning process.
- 3.118 It is recommended that all new facilities supported by capital monies from public sources or grant aid should be secured for community use via a binding legal agreement. The length of the agreement to reflect the size of the public support/grant involved.

SECTION 4: SWIMMING POOLS

- 4.1 Swimming pools might be considered the most important sports facility type in Cherwell as they are used by most of the community, from the very youngest through to people in old age. This assessment considers only indoor pools which are open year round and excludes lidos and other outdoor pools which are only open during the summer months such as the outdoor pool at Woodgreen Leisure Centre at Banbury. This is the basis on which Sport England assesses the balance in supply and demand for pools through their Facilities Planning Model.
- 4.2 Swimming is an attractive activity for everyone in the community and swimming is considered to be an important life skill. Primary schools are required to arrange some swimming lessons for pupils, and the public pools are used to cater for schools swimming.

Pool design and activities

- 4.3 As with sports halls, the aspiration to make swimming as accessible as possible to the largest number of people would suggest that a network of small pools would be best. However, small pools limit flexibility in terms of the range of activities that can be undertaken, the ability to operate more than one activity at any time, and the level of performance that can be accommodated. They can also be more expensive to operate relative to large pools. General community needs should ideally also be balanced with the wider sports development requirements, including support to clubs to offer opportunities in a wide range of pool-based activities such as:
- Swimming
 - Water Polo
 - Synchronised Swimming
 - Canoeing
 - Lifesaving
 - Diving
 - Sub Aqua
- 4.4 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.
- 4.5 Moveable bulkheads that can sub-divide pools and moveable floors that can vary water depth can substantially increase a pool's flexibility, but the design of any new pool will determine what activities can be accommodated.

- 4.6 The national governing body responsible for high performance swimming is British Swimming, and its guidance note, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles* (British Swimming, n.d.) provides a useful summary of the minimum depths of water for different activities (Figure 14).

Figure 14: Pool depths for range of activities
(based on British Swimming, *Reasons for Pool Water Depths and Traditional Profiles*)

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

- 4.7 Separate small teaching or learner pools with shallower depths on the same sites as main pools provide the opportunity to offer a wide range of activities catering for the maximum number of users possible. Teaching pools can be maintained at a slightly higher temperature than main pools making them suitable for use by young children, non swimmers and those with a disability. They offer income generating potential not only through pool parties and other hirings, but also by reducing the impact on programming in the main pool. A teaching pool enhances the local authority's ability to deliver its Learn to Swim programme and therefore it is seen as desirable that there should be at least one in each major centre of population.
- 4.8 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.

Participation in swimming

- 4.9 Nationally over 2.5 million adults are swimming at least once a week, but the number of people swimming has fallen between 2007/08 and 2015/16, particularly amongst those from the lower socio-economic backgrounds. The age of swimmers is reasonably evenly split across adults, but more women swim (approx 2/3rds) than men (1/3rd), and more of those in the higher socio-economic groups.
- 4.10 The overall participation rate in swimming in Cherwell appears to be slightly above the national average by about 2%. This is not surprising given the nature of the district, including relatively high socio-economic characteristics of many areas. This is slightly above the rate of current participation that has been incorporated into the assessment, but its impact is relatively modest, much less than a potential 0.5% pa increase in participation over the whole strategy period.

Current provision

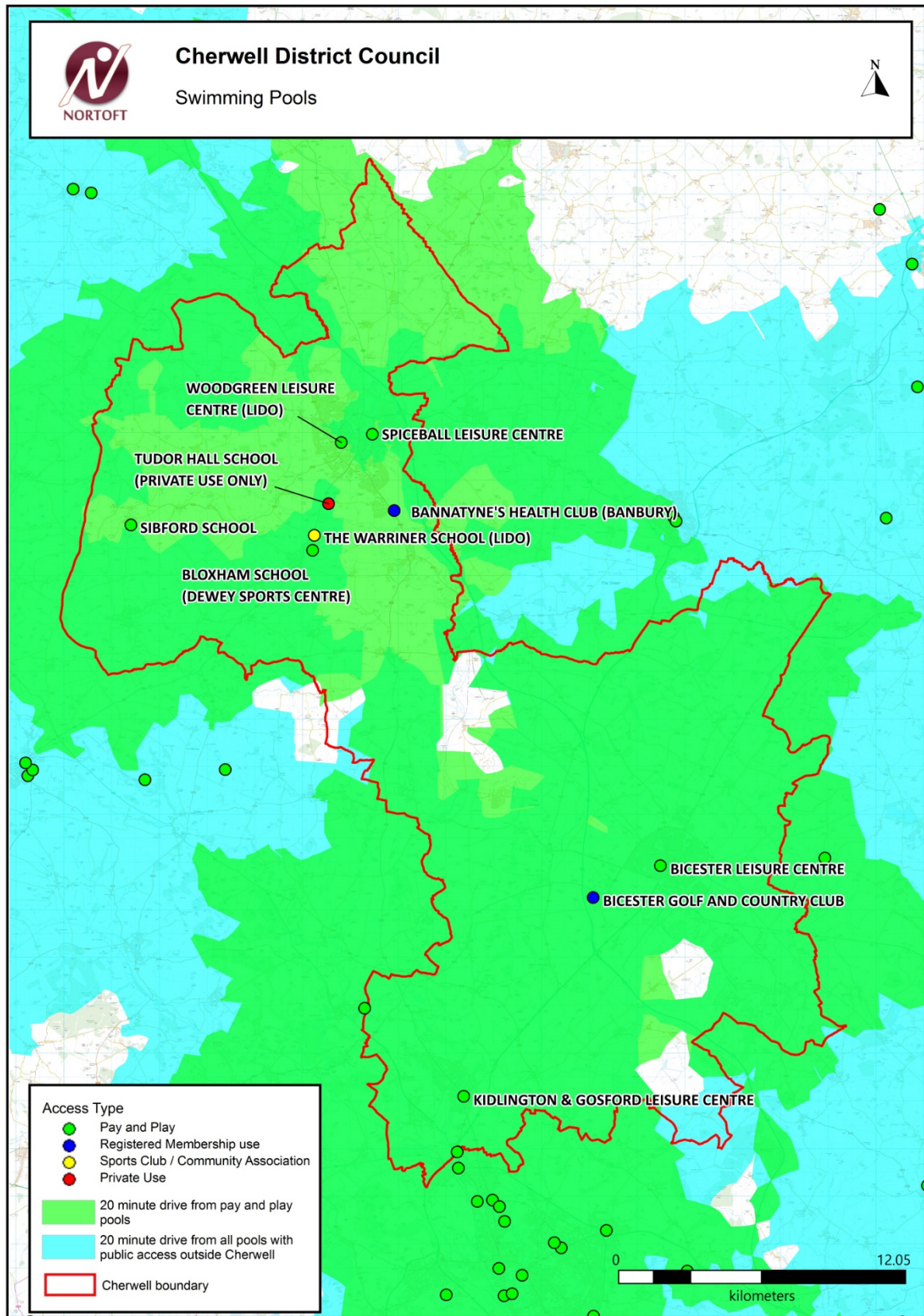
- 4.11 Figure 15 lists the indoor water space available for community use in Cherwell. There is a mix of ownership for the pools available for public use across the district, and there are five facilities which offer at least some pay and play access: Spiceball Leisure Centre in Banbury, Bicester Leisure Centre, Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre, Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre), and Sibford School. The leisure centres are all managed by Parkwood Leisure.
- 4.12 In addition to these are two commercial sites which offer swimming on a registered membership basis: Bannatyne's Health Club in Banbury, and the Bicester Golf and Country Club.
- 4.13 Figure 16 shows the pool locations, together with those in the surrounding authorities. The green shading on the map shows the accessibility of pay and play swimming pools to Cherwell residents based on a 20 minute drive time. This suggests that almost everyone with access to a car can reach a pay and play pool within 20 minutes, with only some small rural areas being outside the drive time catchment of any pool.
- 4.14 The usage information for the leisure centres is based on the annual returns from the operator to Cherwell District Council. The information for the usage of the school pools is based on information provided by the managers. No throughput information is available for the commercial pools as this is commercially sensitive information.

Figure 15: Indoor swimming pools open to the public

Site Name	Number of lanes	Length m	Width m	Area sq m	Ownership type/ nature of site	Access type	Management	Availability in the peak period	Estimate of used capacity at peak time based on audit	Estimate of used capacity by FPM
BANNATYNE'S HEALTH CLUB (BANBURY)	2	20	8	160	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management	All	Not available	55%
BICESTER GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	1	20	7	140	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management	All	Not available	42%
BICESTER LEISURE CENTRE	6	25	12	300	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	All	72%	87%
	0	12	8	96						
BLOXHAM SCHOOL (DEWEY SPORTS CENTRE)	4	22.8	7.3	166.44	Independent School	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	Mon 7.15am-8.15am, 7pm-9pm Tues 6am-8am, 4pm-6pm Wed 7.15am-8.15am, 6pm-8pm Thurs 6am-8am, 7pm-9pm Fri 7.15am-8.15am Sat 7am-12.30pm 11.5 hrs in PP	90%	67%
KIDLINGTON & GOSFORD LEISURE CENTRE	4	25	10	250	Community school	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	All	32%	61%

Site Name	Number of lanes	Length m	Width m	Area sq m	Ownership type/ nature of site	Access type	Management	Availability in the peak period	Estimate of used capacity at peak time based on audit	Estimate of used capacity by FPM
SIBFORD SCHOOL	4	25	8.5	212.5	Independent School	Pay and Play	School	Mon 8.30pm-10pm Tues 7pm-9.30pm Wed 6pm-9.30pm Thurs 7pm-9.30pm Sat 4pm-9.30pm Sun 1pm-6.30pm 17 hrs in PP	40%	25%
SPICEBALL LEISURE CENTRE, BANBURY	6	25	13	325	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management	All	59%	93%
	0	20	10	200						

Figure 16: Swimming pools map



Assessment of current supply and demand

- 4.15 Details about the methodology for assessing swimming pools including drive times, is given in Appendix 1.
- 4.16 The current supply of swimming pool space by sub-area, together with the current population, and water space area in metres square per 1,000 population is given Figure 17. This shows that the Banbury area has the most provision per 1,000 population.
- 4.17 For comparison purposes, the national rate of provision per 1,000 population is currently 10.72 square metres of water space per 1,000 population. The Banbury area, even using the lower “scaled by hours” figure is therefore better provided than the national average. However both Bicester’s and Kidlington’s rates of provision are close to the national average.

Figure 17: Current swimming pool provision by sub area

		Swimming pool water space (sq m) with 2% higher participation rate than national average
Banbury	Total amount of swimming pool space with some public use (square metres of water space)	1064
	Total amount of swimming pool space with some public use (square metres of water space)	792
	Sub area population	71923
	Provision per 1,000 population	11.01
Bicester	Total amount of swimming pool space with some public use (square metres of water space)	536
	Total amount of swimming pool space with some public use (square metres of water space), scaled by hours open	530
	Sub area population	50984
	Provision per 1,000 population	10.40
Kidlington	Total amount of swimming pool space with some public use (square metres of water space)	250
	Total amount of swimming pool space with some public use (square metres of water space), scaled by hours open	250
	Sub area population	25368
	Provision per 1,000 population	9.85

- 4.18 The 20 minute drive time catchments of the three public leisure centres with pools overlap (see Figure 16) but the bulk of the usage is likely to come from the relevant towns.
- 4.19 The District Council has confirmed its long term commitment to public pools, though it recognises that there may need to be changes to the facility network, particularly in Bicester and Kidlington in order to respond to the planned housing growth, and the age and size of the existing pools. The council has therefore been actively considering its options for Bicester Leisure Centre and for the Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre.
- 4.20 The information on the usage of the public pools suggests that they are not running as full as the Sport England FPM model suggests, but that the school pools at Bloxham and Sibford are both used more intensively than the FPM indicates.
- 4.21 The commercial pools operate on a registered membership basis. Of the pools larger than 160 sq m or at least 20 m in length and available for community swimming, the commercial sector accounts for only around 11% of the water space. This percentage is low compared to that which might be typically found in a larger urban authority, but is slightly higher than two of Cherwell's CIPFA benchmark authorities, whilst two of the other CIPFA benchmark authorities have no water space in the commercial sector:
- | | |
|----------------------|---------------------------|
| Basingstoke and Dean | 7% commercial water space |
| Huntingdonshire | 0% commercial water space |
| Test Valley | 0% commercial water space |
| Vale of White Horse | 8% commercial water space |
- 4.22 The quality of the public leisure centres varies from the Spiceball Leisure Centre which was built in 2009 and is generally good quality to the pools at Bicester Leisure Centre built in 1970 and Kidlington and Gosford built in 1976, which are both ageing. The Bloxham School pool (Dewey Sports Centre) was built in 1994 and is standard-good in quality, as is the Sibford School pool.
- 4.23 The Bicester Leisure Centre pool is now too small to hold formal swimming competitions because the swimming competition regulations have changed since it was built. Therefore although the pool has been refurbished, the design restricts the options for its use. Both this pool and Kidlington and Gosford pools are however still able to hold local club galas.
- 4.24 The Woodgreen Leisure Centre pool is a lido and was built in 1936, and although it was refurbished 2010 its use is restricted because it is outdoors. The changing for the lido is standard-poor when compared to the expectations for an indoor pool.

4.25 The Warriner School pool is another lido. It was built in 1971 and its tank was replaced in 2009. The quality of the pool surrounds is poor although the pool itself is standard quality. There was no community use of the pool in 2016.

Consultation findings

Club comments

4.26 There are four swimming clubs in Cherwell:

- Banbury Swimming Club mainly based at Spiceball Leisure Centre
- Bicester Blue Fins mainly based at Bicester Leisure Centre
- Kidlington and Gosford based at Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre
- Four Shires mainly based at Chipping Norton, but using Sibford School for some training.

4.27 A summary of the club consultation returns is provided below.

Banbury Swimming Club

4.28 The Banbury Swimming Club has about 150 members covering all ages, but the majority of swimmers are aged 11-15 years. Most members travel for up to 30 minutes to the club but all come from Banbury and its surrounding villages. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years and does not have any waiting lists. It does not expect to grow in the next 5 years. The club has a development plan and there are no issues restricting the growth of the club.

4.29 The club uses Spiceball Leisure Centre 3-6 times a week on weekday evenings and at weekends. It finds booking easy. The site is described as good quality and the club has not raised any issues about its use.

4.30 The club also uses Bloxham School pool for training, again on weekday evenings and 3-6 times a week. This pool is fairly easy to book and the site quality is good.

4.31 In the summer the club also used the outdoor pool at Woodgreen Leisure Centre once or twice a week on weekday evenings. It is always easy to book and the facilities are described as good or above average quality.

Bicester Blue Fins Swimming Club

4.32 This is a large club with around 250 members. About half of the members are of primary school age, with a further 34% being aged 11-15 years. The members travel for up to 20 minutes to the club and about 70% come from Bicester and its surrounding villages. About 15% come from the Kidlington area, and 10% from either the Banbury area or Upper Heyford area. About 7% come from outside of Cherwell.

- 4.33 The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but has long waiting lists for every age group, with waiting times being up to 6 months. A lack of facilities is the main restriction on growth.
- 4.34 The club uses Bicester Leisure Centre 3-6 times a week both during the day and in the evenings. The facility is in the club's preferred location, but the pool is now the wrong dimensions for a 25m competition pool, it has poor poolside space, small changing areas and natural light only via the roof glazing. The changing facilities are described by the club as poor.
- 4.35 Bicester Blue Fins also uses Stowe School near Buckingham, for training. It is used 3-6 times a week year round on weekday evenings. It is fairly easy for the club to book. This pool is good quality and the correct size for competitions. The site has above average quality changing and ancillary facilities.

Kidlington and Gosford Swimming Club

- 4.36 The Kidlington and Gosford Swimming Club has about 70 members, with about 80% being either primary school age or under 16 years. The members travel up to 20 minutes to the club and about 90% come from the Kidlington area, with the rest about equally split between Bicester and Upper Heyford.
- 4.37 The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years and does not anticipate growing, mainly because the club is restricted by the size of the pool (4 lanes) and with limited club availability. However a lack of coaches and volunteers, and the cost of pool hire are also restrictive factors. The club has a small waiting list for minis, mainly because they do not have sufficient basic swimming skills to join the club.
- 4.38 The home site for the club is Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre which is used for training. The club use is 3-6 times a week, both during the daytimes and evenings. The club however finds booking quite difficult for peak times due to other activity programming.
- 4.39 The leisure centre is in the club's preferred location and is described as being dated but in reasonable condition. The main problem is its size, which is inhibiting club development. The changing facilities and ancillary facilities are above average quality, but there are child protection concerns when the public has access to the changing rooms at the same time as the club members.

Four Shires Swimming Club

- 4.40 This club is mainly based at Chipping Norton Leisure Centre in West Oxfordshire, but uses Sibford School pool for some training, about 2-3 times a month on weekday evenings or weekend evenings. The pool and the facilities at Sibford School are described as good or above average quality, and the facility is fairly easy to book.

- 4.41 About 40% of the club's membership of 150 are from Cherwell district, either from the Banbury area and surrounding villages or from the Upper Heyford area and surrounding villages. About 60% of the club's total membership are minis, with about 30% aged 11-15 years. The club does not have any waiting list and its membership has increased over the last 5 years. The main issues restricting the club's growth are a lack of facilities and hiring costs, and the general recruitment of members.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 4.42 British Swimming (previously the Amateur Swimming Association) considers that there is sufficient capacity within the district at the present time, but that there should be no planned reduction without replacement.
- 4.43 British Swimming notes that the Active People data for swimming in the district (April 16 APS 10-Q2) indicates that at a level of 7.88%, Cherwell is above the national participation average of 5.68%. This indicates that current demand is good in the area and could be built on further. It should be noted that that the current level has "flattened out" recently and it is possible this is because of water capacity which although appearing adequate at the present time – and clearly able to cope with the current levels – may be a factor in why the level hasn't continued to rise. Given that there is major population growth anticipated in the district, this may well need to be factored into any estimation of what the aquatic stock should look like in the future.
- 4.44 The pools in the district are either recently built or recently re-furbished. In addition, at least two of the school pool stock have received recent refurbishments. This would suggest that the current facility stock is of good quality. British Swimming has no current information regarding any pools at risk in the district.

Individual online survey results

- 4.45 The individuals' online survey responses highlight the importance of swimming in Cherwell, with about 51% of respondents saying that they use swimming pools. Of these, about 70% swim at least weekly, with the others swimming at least once a month, and 65% considering that there is too little provision for swimming, with 32% considering that there is about the right amount of provision.
- 4.46 If the non-swimmers are also included in the assessment, 44% consider that there is too little provision, whilst 40% consider that there is about the right amount of provision. Only about 2% consider that there is too much provision.
- 4.47 Of the people using Bicester Leisure Centre for swimming, 17 respondents (73%) consider that it needs improvements. The comments from the respondents fall into the following main groups:

- Pool needs updating/replacement (7 comments)
- Pool needs to be larger (5 respondents)
- Pool needs to have longer public swimming hours in term time (3 comments)
- Pool needs to be more affordable (1 comment)

4.48 A small number of respondents using Spiceball for swimming had views on its quality, with just 5 respondents feeling that it needed improvement. Two of these relate to a lack of capacity, one to the need for a fun pool, one to the need for free parking, and one for lower prices for children under 5 years.

4.49 There were no comments about the Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre pool.

Local Plan Part 2 comments

4.50 Representations to the Local Plan Part 2 Issues Consultation (January 2016) have been checked for comments relevant to this study. There were limited comments concerning swimming provision in the district, but one comment referred to the need for an additional hydrotherapy pool, and a query as to whether the Bicester Leisure Centre pool provision would be adequate to meet the growing needs of the area.

4.51 Sport England's representations stated that the 2014 FPM reports are now out of date. The reports will be replaced by this strategy as the updated evidence base.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

4.52 A review of the swimming pool provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendices). In summary:

- The Aylesbury Vale strategy of 2012 concluded that no additional pool space was needed in the period up to 2031. The FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 concluded that there was no significant movement of swimmers across this border.
- Oxford City's Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 drew on a local FPM scenario test. It concluded that there was sufficient swimming pool space up to 2025. The FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 estimated that almost 7% of the satisfied demand for swimming in Cherwell was met by the facilities in Oxford, but that there was no significant import of swimmers from Oxford into Cherwell.
- South Northamptonshire's draft strategy identifies that the district has two public pools, Brackley (which will be replaced by summer 2018 by two new pools) and Towcester. Once the Brackley pool has been completed, there is no need for additional pool provision in the authority up to 2029. The FPM scenario test for South Northants of March 2016 suggested that there was a

net import of swimmers to Cherwell of around 580 visits per week. However the modelling did not take into account the development of the new pool at Brackley, which is likely to absorb much of this demand, and potentially attract people from Cherwell district. 580 visits per week in the peak period equates to pool demand of 67 sq m of water space per hour at peak time. The new pool at Brackley will therefore help to relieve some pressures on both Banbury and Bicester pools, potentially with a greater impact at Bicester, as this is closer to Brackley.

- South Oxfordshire's emerging strategy which takes account of the latest housing proposals has concluded that there will be a slight shortfall in swimming pool space in the North of the district, closest to Cherwell, by 2033. There will also be a significant shortfall in the Didcot area. The authority's priorities are to consider how to meet these needs by provision at Didcot and potentially Berinfield. These sites are too far away from Cherwell to be of significance to swimming in Cherwell district.
- Stratford-on-Avon's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment was published in 2011 and updated in 2014 concluded that there was surplus pool provision but that the geographical spread was poor and that additional provision was required in the Kineton/Gaydon/Lighthorne area. The FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 reflects this lack of provision in Stratford-on-Avon district, and estimated that Cherwell imported about 2% of its pool users over the border.
- The Vale of White Horse's 2014 Leisure and Sports Facilities Study concluded that there was sufficient swimming pool space in the Abingdon and Oxford Fringe area to cater for the planned growth up to 2031. The FPM local scenario report for Cherwell in 2014 concluded that there is negligible cross-boundary movement for swimmers over this boundary.
- West Oxfordshire does not have a sports facilities strategy but the Infrastructure Delivery Plan of 2016 concluded that "Major sports facilities in the district are considered to be well within an acceptable travel time and distance for the residents in a rural district. However, some of the facilities are poor quality and there are some deficiencies". In terms of built indoor facilities, the District Council is investigating options and developing plans for the long term future of the Windrush Leisure Centre (Witney). The Sport England FPM 2014 local scenario test report for Cherwell did not identify any significant import or export of swimmers over this border. The authority is currently considering development close to Kidlington, but the sporting implications of this have yet to be determined.

4.53 In summary, the location of the pools in Cherwell, with most being located in the towns, means that there is only limited cross-boundary movement of swimmers. There is some export of swimmers to Oxford, and some import of swimmers from South Northamptonshire. In relation to Oxford, the Oxford strategy assessment will

have included the importation of swimmers from Cherwell, and the conclusion was that there is sufficient capacity in the long term to meet all of the demands, as assessed at the time of the report.

- 4.54 The opening of the new pools at Brackley may attract back almost all of the exported demand from South Northants, relieving some of the pressure on both the Bicester Leisure Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre. The extent of this change would need to be confirmed by an FPM local scenario test, but could be in the order of around 67 sq m of “freed up” water space.

Modelling

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

Market Segmentation

- 4.56 The Sport England Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) analysis suggests that several of the segments currently enjoy swimming and find swimming appealing, particularly amongst women. In fact, given the opportunity, almost every one of the larger market segments would swim as their first choice of activity. This helps to confirm the importance of providing accessible swimming opportunities in Cherwell.

Facilities Planning Model

- 4.57 The FPM is a planning model developed by Sport England which has standardised parameters and format. The information on swimming pool capacity and demand is calculated on an authority wide basis, however the balance in supply and demand includes consideration of the facilities which are potentially available to the authority’s residents, up to about 20 minutes drive time, and also the demand arising from this wider area, even if this is outside of the authority. Also built into the model are other considerations, for example the demographic profile of the authority and factors such as levels of car ownership.
- 4.58 The table below (Figure 18) highlights some of the most important parameters used in the model in relation to pools. It should be noted that the accessibility criteria of 20 minutes travel time is not a fixed boundary as the formula behind the FPM uses a distance decay function, however 20 minutes drive time catchment area is generally considered a good “rule of thumb”. More details behind the FPM parameters are provided in Appendix 3.

Figure 18: Facilities Planning Model key parameters pools

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

4.59 The FPM assessment for July 2016 based on the "national run" estimated the total supply of pool space to be 1,843 and the amount scaled by hours in the peak period to be 1586.5. This compares to the audit figures of 1850 sq m and 1572 sq m when scaled by hours. The differences are due to shorter available hours for Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre) which are now 11.5 hours compared to the FPM figure of 15 hours.

4.60 The FPM July 2016 report suggested that, for Cherwell as a whole district:

- 90% of potential swimming demand is currently met and the unmet demand is from people who live outside the walking catchment of a pool and do not have access to a car.
- The pools on average are estimated to be operating at 71% used capacity, which is above the national and regional levels.
- The highest areas of unmet demand are around Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington.
- Bicester Leisure Centre and Spiceball Leisure Centre are estimated as being extremely busy.
- Additional pool capacity may be required to meet growth.
- There is a net import of swimming visits of around 837 visits per week. The 2016 national run does not identify the cross-border movement by individual authority, but cross-referencing this FPM report with that of the 2016 local scenario test for South Northants, suggests that a high proportion of the import is from that district.

Balance in supply and demand

4.61 The Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator can be used to consider the demand for swimming at the sub area level, using the demographics provided by Cherwell District Council. This demand can then be set against the known supply of facilities, confirmed by the site audits. The table in Figure 19 considers the demand arising from Cherwell residents and met by the facilities within the district. Although this assessment excludes importation of demand from South Northants and from Stratford-on-Avon, and the export of demand to Oxford, the broad picture of supply and demand for each sub area can be discerned; that there is about a balance between the supply and demand for water space in Banbury, but that Bicester is short of space as is Kidlington.

4.62 Two scenarios are tested, one with the national participation rate, and one with an increase of 2% over the national participation rate, reflecting the higher rates for swimming in Cherwell. The difference between the two sets of results are not significant in swimming pool terms as the difference in square metres (sq m) of water space areas are less than the size of a teaching pool.

Figure 19: Swimming pool balance in supply/demand by sub area 2016

			Swimming pool water space (sq m) with 2% higher participation rate than national average	Swimming pool water space (sq m) based on national average participation rate
Banbury	Demand		792.54	777
	Supply	Total amount of facilities with some public use	1064	1064
		Scaled by hours open	792	792
	Balance in supply vs demand		-1	15
Bicester	Demand		573.24	562
	Supply	Total amount of facilities with some public use	536	536
		Scaled by hours open	530	530
	Balance in supply vs demand		-43	-32
Kidlington	Demand		273	268
	Supply	Total amount of facilities with some public use	250	250
		Scaled by hours open	250	250
	Balance in supply vs demand		-23	-18

4.63 This result confirms the picture which emerged from the 2016 FPM report, and provides some indication of scale of the problem faced by the authority in terms of meeting the needs for swimming.

Summary of current situation

4.64 Swimming in Cherwell is a popular activity and the historical rates for swimming participation appear to be slightly above the national average, as confirmed by the national governing body for swimming, though the evidence also shows that swimming participation has stagnated recently. The historical rate is about 2% above the national average.

4.65 The current provision in the Banbury area is about in balance with the supply as the good quality Spiceball Leisure Centre pool is supplemented by good quality facilities at Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre) and Sibford School. There is also a commercial facility in this area, the Bannatyne's Health Club. The Woodgreen Leisure Centre has a 50m outdoor pool which is open during the summer months and is seen as reasonable quality.

4.66 All of the modelling and consultation responses provide a clear picture for Bicester; that there is too little water space in the sub area, that there is only one main pool

and this is ageing. Its design means that it is no longer able to be used for competitive swimming, but individuals too have provided negative feedback about this site. The pool is a joint use facility which has an agreement valid up to 2034. The only other pool in this sub area is the Bicester Golf and Country Club but this is a small pool and only available for registered members.

- 4.67 The Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre pool is the only pool in this sub area. It is 25m x 4 lane. The pool is ageing and its size is restricting use, particularly by the swimming club. At the present time, there is a shortfall of water space to meet the needs of the local community, and this is being reflected in the FPM report finding, of an export of swimmers to Oxford.

Assessment of Future Needs

Facilities Planning Model scenario test 2014

- 4.68 Cherwell District Council commissioned a local Facilities Planning Model (FPM) scenario test for swimming pools in 2014 which considered the impact of the then anticipated growth in population, though at that time this was lower than is now forecast. Sport England in their comments on the Cherwell Local Plan Part 2 have stated that the 2014 reports are now out of date, so should not be relied on for this strategy update.
- 4.69 The 2014 FPM scenario test did not provide specific recommendations, but the findings were consistent with this swimming assessment, identifying a need for additional swimming pool space.

Balance in supply and demand

- 4.70 The Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) is the best way of estimating future demand for swimming. Figure 20 shows the results of the SFC at the sub area level, using the demographics for each sub area and for each milestone date, as agreed with Cherwell District Council. It then compares the demand generated by the Sport England Sports Facilities Calculator with the available supply. For this modelling, three scenarios have been tested against the population forecasts:
- 2% above the national rate of participation and 0.5% pa increase in demand for swimming
 - the national rate of participation and 0.5% pa increase in demand for swimming
 - the national rate of participation

Figure 20: Pool supply/demand balance to 2031

	Banbury					Bicester					Kidlington					Total demand (sq m water space)	
	Demand	Supply		Balance in supply vs demand	Comment	Demand	Supply		Balance in supply vs demand	Comment	Demand	Supply		Balance in supply vs demand	Comment		
		Total amount of facilities with some public use	Scaled by hours open				Total amount of facilities with some public use	Scaled by hours open				Total amount of facilities with some public use	Scaled by hours open				
Swimming pool water space (sq m) with 2% higher participation rate than national average																	
0.5% pa increase in participation plus 2% on baseline	2016	793	1064	792	-1	Equates to small	573	536	530	-43	Equates to 25m x 6 lane pool with teaching pool by 2026	273	250	250	-23	Equates to small community pool 20 m x 4 lane by 2031	1639
	2021	955			-163		712			-182		286			-36		1953
	2026	1004			-212	community pool of 25m x 4 lane by 2026	865			-335		334			-84		2202
	2031	1000			-208		926			-396		423			-173		2349
Swimming pool water space (sq m) based on national average participation rate																	
0.5% pa increase in participation per annum	2016	777	1064	792	15	Equates to small	562	536	530	-32	Equates to 25m x 6 lane pool with teaching pool by 2026	268	250	250	-18	Equates to small community pool 20 m x 4 lane by 2031	1607
	2021	937			-145		698			-168		281			-31		1916
	2026	985			-193	community pool of 25m x 4 lane by 2026	848			-318		328			-78		2161
	2031	981			-189		909			-379		415			-165		2306
Swimming pool water space (sq m) based on national average participation rate																	
No increase in participation	2016	777	1064	792	15	Equates to teaching pool of 10 x 12m by 2026	562	536	530	-32	Equates to 25m x 6 lane pool by 2026	268	250	250	-18	Equates to small community pool 20 m x 4 lane or teaching pool of 10 x 13 m by 2031	1607
	2021	914			-122		681			-151		274			-24		1869
	2026	938			-146		808			-278		312			-62		2058
	2031	913			-121		846			-316		386			-136		2145

- 4.71 This modelling indicates that, if there is no additional supply of facilities and if Cherwell District Council wishes to meet most of the demand for swimming within its boundaries, additional provision is required. This is simply to meet the needs of the growing population, even without planning for any increase in participation in this activity.
- 4.72 Partially because of the existing shortfall of pool space in Bicester, the highest priority is additional provision for this town. However additional pool space is also required for both Banbury, and Kidlington if the housing proposed in the Partial Review goes ahead.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 4.73 The Council has been actively considering options to enhance the swimming pool offer in the main towns. There are a number of uncertainties around the swimming pool options in each location, so the authority should consider using the Sport England Facilities Planning Model Local Scenario test facility as part of the next stage of feasibility work.

Banbury

- 4.74 In Banbury, the Spiceball pool is well used but appears to currently have some spare capacity at peak time (the equivalent of about 58 sq m) of water space. However by 2021 this will have been absorbed by the growth in the town.
- 4.75 The Council has previously considered the option of covering the lido pool which is 50 m x 18 m (900 sq m), but this would provide a capacity well above the extra space likely to be needed by the Banbury area, even up to 2031 (between 120 sq m and 200 sq m). The capital costs of covering the pool would need to be ascertained, and the revenue costs of running it though the winter would be much higher than for a modern indoor pool. Further work would need to be undertaken to establish if this is a potential option for meeting unmet demand.
- 4.76 The school pools at Bloxham and Sibford may be able to extend their hours a little as demand arises, but the schools' needs will remain the priority, and it is unlikely that formal community use agreements will be possible to achieve.
- 4.77 The remaining swimming pool demand for Banbury in the period up to 2031 is the equivalent of a small community pool. There is currently one commercial pool in the Banbury area, but as the population grows, it is likely that there will be sufficient demand for additional commercial fitness provision, which could include a swimming pool.
- 4.78 Given this, the approach towards the provision of swimming pool space in Banbury is to:

- Ensure that the existing pool at Spiceball is retained and maintained at high quality.
- Seek to increase the community hours at Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre).
- Have positive planning policies to enable development of new commercial fitness provision which include swimming pool space of at least 120 sq m in size.

Bicester

- 4.79 At the present time there is a very slight shortfall in swimming pool space in Bicester sub area, about 43 sq m. This is too small to justify a new pool. However the planned housing growth in the Bicester sub area will lead directly to demand for new pool space of around 353 sq m.
- 4.80 Cherwell District Council has started considering a number of options for the existing leisure centre. In principle, they would like to retain the children's pool but the key issue is that the site is restricted, and there are no easy solutions to expand and improve this joint use facility. One of the options being considered is relocation of the 5-a-side artificial grass pitches to adjacent land (not currently in Cherwell District Council ownership) and locate a new learner pool with moveable floor on the existing land. Early negotiations with Oxfordshire County Council have commenced for additional land, however the feasibility study is also looking at expansion within the current footprint.
- 4.81 Although this new learner pool will help to provide some additional capacity, it will not be sufficient to address the major anticipated shortfall in pool space in the Bicester area by 2031, which is estimated to be between around 320 and 400 sq m of water space, the equivalent of a 25 m x 6 lane competition pool plus teaching pool. There is therefore still a clear need for an additional pool facility in Bicester, but no site or options for delivery have yet been identified.

Kidlington

- 4.82 At the present time there is a very slight shortfall in swimming pool space in the Kidlington sub area of about 23 sq m. This is too small to justify a new pool. However the planned housing growth in the sub area will lead directly to demand for new pool space of around 150 sq m. This means that by 2031 there will be a need for between 140 and 170 sq m of water space, the equivalent of an additional 20m x 4 lane pool. The existing pool, 25 m x 4 lane is aging and the site of the current leisure centre is leased from Oxfordshire County Council. The pool is not fully used at peak time, in part because it is relatively unattractive.
- 4.83 Cherwell Council has undertaken initial feasibility work to consider the options to meet the identified swimming future needs, but has not yet come to any conclusions as it awaits the sports study findings. The options for the existing site include the installation of a moveable floor, which although providing some

additional capacity in terms of lesson space, would not provide the sufficient additional pool space to meet the new swimming demand arising from the new housing in the area. The Council is therefore also considering options for alternative sites, which would need full feasibility assessments.

- 4.84 Identifying site for new facilities would need further consideration and investigation as there would be a number of obstacles to overcome, such as:
- acquiring suitable land and funding a new build scheme.
 - the strategic development sites in the district are for the most part committed/ under construction and there is therefore lack of opportunity to secure sites or funding through new development.
 - In Kidlington the Partial Review Submission Plan strategic site allocations are intended to contribute by provision of a 4 court sports hall as part of the secondary school site on PR8 Begbroke, and contributions towards improvements/extension to the existing Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 4.85 Given the extent of the housing proposed in Cherwell district, there is a need to assess the amount of demand which will potentially arise from each housing development, and then to consider if there are facilities within an appropriate catchment which can meet these needs, and if so if they are of sufficient quality. This approach reflects the current policy advice of Sport England.
- 4.86 The assessment of the supply and demand for swimming pool space by strategy sub area is given in Figure 21, together with the overview of priorities for investment.
- 4.87 If the housing proposals in the Kidlington sub area contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the priority will be to retain and improve the existing facility, rather than seeking additional water space.

Figure 21: Swimming water space summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury		Bicester		Kidlington	
	Balance in provision (sq m water space)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (sq m water space)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (sq m water space)	Facility requirements
2016	-1	Need for additional small community pool of 25m x 4 lane by 2026. Proposed to be met by commercial sector. Retain and maintain existing pools.	-43	Need for additional 25m x 6 lane pool with teaching pool by 2026. Retain and maintain/replace existing pools.	-23	Need for additional community pool 20 m x 4 lane by 2031. Retain and maintain/replace existing pools.
2021	-163		-182		-36	
2026	-212		-335		-84	
2031	-208		-396		-173	

Quantity

4.88 The Sports Facility Calculator has been used to identify the demand for swimming pool space which will be generated per 1,000 population at 2031 for each sub area. However the base model requires to be adjusted by an uplift of 2% to recognise the high level of swimming participation in Cherwell. The rates of demand change between the sub areas because of the different sub-areas' forecast population profiles for 2031. They each include a participation rate of growth of 0.5% per annum over the period. The detailed methodology underpinning the assessment is given in Appendix 1.

4.89 The estimated demand per 1,000 population at 2031 for each sub area is:

- Banbury: 11.40 sq m water space per 1,000 population
- Bicester: 11.72 sq m water space per 1,000 population
- Kidlington: 11.76 sq m water space per 1,000 population

Accessibility

4.90 The majority of swimming pool users in Cherwell will travel by car and national research shows that swimming pools have an approximate drive time catchment of up to about 20 minutes. Almost everyone in the district lives within 20 minutes'

drive of a swimming pool available for community use. A formal planning standard of 20 minutes' drive time is therefore proposed.

Design and quality

- 4.91 The quality and design of facilities should reflect current best practice, including design guidance from Sport England and the national governing bodies. . Facilities should also have at least a "very good" BREEAM rating. This policy should apply to refurbishment proposals as well as new build.
- 4.92 This guidance is summarised in the Provision Guide (Figure 64) contained in Section 14.
- 4.93 If CIL is adopted, the swimming pool proposals should each be specifically included in the district infrastructure list.

Recommendations for swimming pools

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

- 4.95 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council provides attractive swimming facilities available to the whole community which complements the wider provision of recreation opportunities in the private, education, community and voluntary sectors. It is recommended that the Council ensures that there is a network of accessible swimming pools available to all residents on a pay and play basis.
- 4.96 The network of pools provided by the Council as a whole should be financially self-sustaining both in relation to capital and revenue costs.
- 4.97 The Council and Banbury Town Council support the retention of the lido pool at Wood Green Leisure Centre but due to the nature of this facility do not consider that it can form part of the indoor swimming pool provision that is required by the community without significant further investment.
- 4.98 It is recommended that the Council consider undertaking Sport England Sports Facilities Planning Model local scenario tests to supplement the Council's understanding and confirm the details of the options for pools in each of the towns.
- 4.99 It is recommended that the identified projects will be included in the review of the IDP.
- 4.100 It is recommended that the Council seek to utilise a range of funding sources to

deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 4.101 It is recommended that all the existing swimming pools with community use are protected, retained and maintained at high quality, where the size is greater than 120 sq m.

Enhance

- 4.102 It is recommended that the existing Bicester Leisure Centre pool is retained and refurbished, or replaced.
- 4.103 It is recommended that the Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre pool is retained, refurbished and extended, or replaced with a larger leisure centre.
- 4.104 It is recommended that hours for community use at Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre) and Sibford School are increased, and use secured through formalised community use agreements.

Provide

- 4.105 It is recommended that the following provision is sought, subject to feasibility assessments including site availability:
- New community pool of 25 m x 6 lane competition pool plus teaching pool in Bicester. Site to be confirmed.
 - New small community pool size 25 m x 4 lane in the Kidlington area by 2031 as part of a new leisure centre. Site to be confirmed.
- 4.106 Have positive planning policies to enable development of new commercial fitness provision in Banbury which includes swimming pool space of at least 120 sq m in size.

SECTION 5: HEALTH AND FITNESS

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

Participation in fitness activities

- 5.5 Indoor gyms and studios attract all socio-economic groups and a wide spread of ages. However, there are more women users than men, and most people are aged under 45 years.
- 5.6 The Sport England Active People Survey (as reported in the Local Profile Tool, (Sport England, 2016) concludes that the most important activity in Cherwell is gym, and that fitness classes are the 5th most important activity. The rates for both are above the national and regional averages.
- 5.7 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) results confirm that gym/fitness activities are of high importance at the present time, though this might fall slightly if swimming was more available. Note that Market Segmentation does not include walking/rambling as an activity, as this would come out the highest of all.

Current provision

- 5.8 At the time of the strategy audit in early 2017 there were 20 health and fitness sites with public access in Cherwell, of which 14 had fitness station equipment (see Figure 23). This gave a total of 1,046 stations and 19 studios. The fitness gyms varied in size, from the largest with 150 stations at Spiceball Leisure Centre in Banbury, down to 6 stations at the EP Gym site. There were only 2 sites with over 100 stations, the other large one being The Fitness Company in Bicester. There were two sites which only had studio space. About 61% of the fitness stations were at commercial fitness sites, but about 58% of fitness stations were available on a pay and play basis.
- 5.9 With the geographical spread of sites within and on the border of the authority, almost everyone with access to a car can reach a site within 15 minutes' drive, though there are some gaps in the more rural areas of the district, see Figure 24

Assessment of current supply/demand

- 5.10 Details about the methodology for assessing health and fitness provision including drive times, is given in Appendix 1.
- 5.11 Health and fitness facilities are often co-located with other sports facilities because as a net income earner, they can support the financial viability of other facilities, particularly swimming pools. However most of the facilities in Cherwell are commercial fitness sites with no pools.
- 5.12 There is no easy way of assessing the balance in supply and demand, as no throughput information is available from the commercial facility operators. However as over 60% of the fitness gyms with fitness stations and studios were based at commercial sites, it can be assumed that the demand for these facilities balances the supply. The approach towards the capacity assessment for fitness facilities is set out in Appendix 1.
- 5.13 The use of the health and fitness facilities are a major aspect of each of the leisure centres, and the throughput information from the centres for 2016 is given in Figure 22.

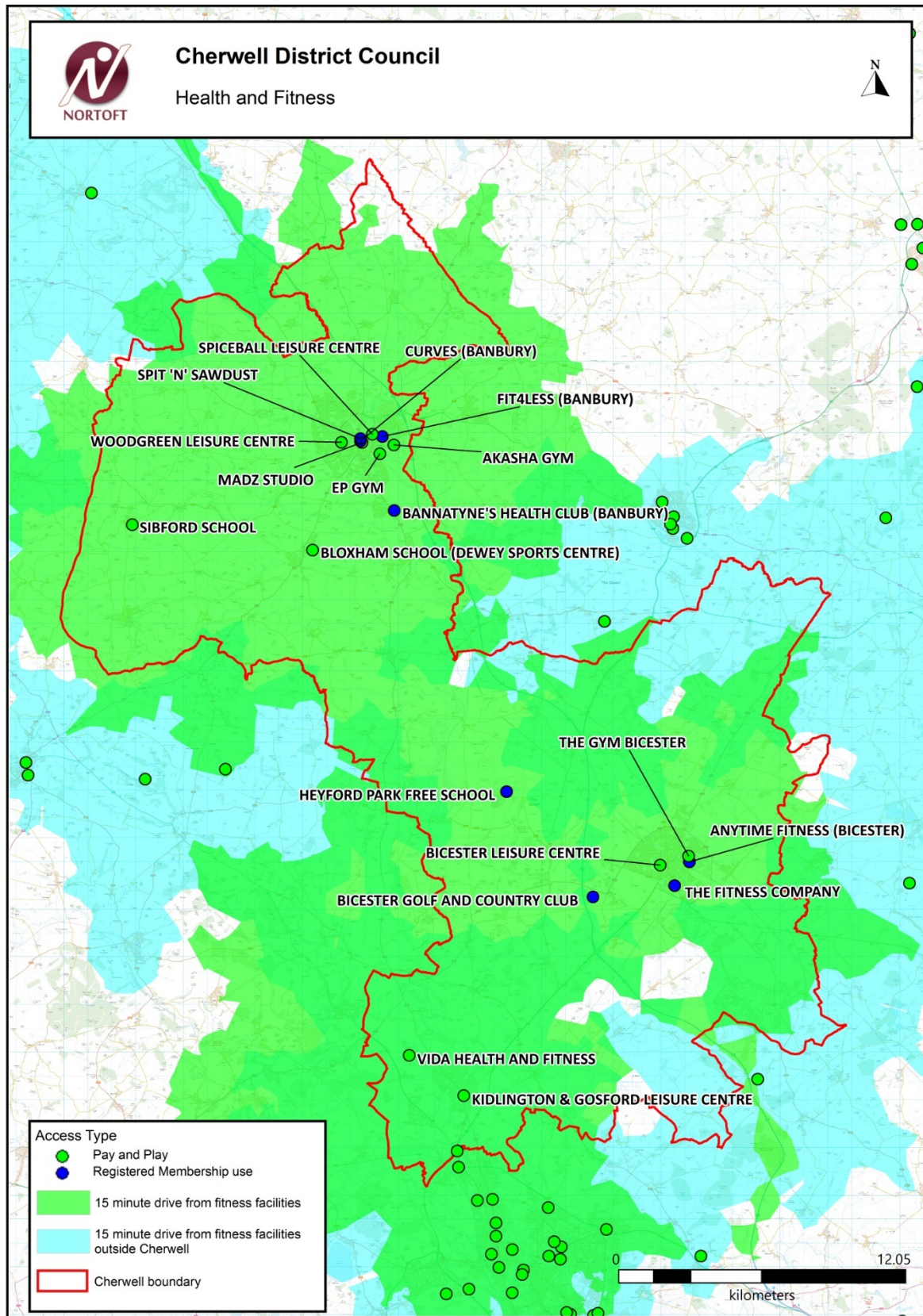
Figure 22: Health and fitness throughput at leisure centres

Leisure Centre	Visits in 2016 for health and fitness	Number of fitness stations	Visits per station
Bicester	121,163	96	1,262
Kidlington	55,719	80	696
Spiceball	256,606	150	1,711
Wood Green	13,090 (May – Dec only, but excluding October)	60	218 [not comparable]

Figure 23: Health and fitness- current provision

Site Name	Number of stations	Number of studios	Ownership Type/ Nature of Site	Access Type	Management
AKASHA GYM	50		Commercial	Pay and Play	Commercial Management
ANYTIME FITNESS (BICESTER)	60		Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management
BANNATYNE'S HEALTH CLUB (BANBURY)	84	2	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management
BICESTER GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	80	2	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management
BICESTER LEISURE CENTRE	96	2	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management
BLOXHAM SCHOOL (DEWEY SPORTS CENTRE)	10		Other Independent School	Pay and Play Available 6-9pm Mon-Fri	Commercial Management
CURVES (BANBURY)	12		Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management
EP GYM	6	1	Commercial	Pay and Play	Commercial Management
FIT4LESS (BANBURY)	50	1	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management
HEYFORD PARK FREE SCHOOL	20	1	Free School	Registered Membership use	School
KIDLINGTON & GOSFORD LEISURE CENTRE	80	2	Community school	Pay and Play	Commercial Management
MADZ STUDIO		1	Commercial	Registered Membership Use	Commercial Management
SIBFORD SCHOOL		1	Independent School	Pay and Play	School
SPICEBALL LEISURE CENTRE	150	2	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management
SPIT 'N' SAWDUST	10		Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management
THE FITNESS COMPANY	120	1	Commercial	Registered Membership use	Commercial Management
THE GYM BICESTER	63		Commercial	Pay and Play	Commercial Management
VIDA HEALTH AND FITNESS	100	1	Commercial	Pay and Play	Commercial Management
WOODGREEN LEISURE CENTRE	60	2	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Commercial Management

Figure 24: Health and Fitness sites with fitness stations map



- 5.14 The operator at Spiceball Leisure Centre, together with the Council, is actively considering ways of increasing the health and fitness offer at the centre. The membership of the gym is reported to be at around 3,000, which with 150 stations, is 20 members per station. This is slightly below what is often considered as the realistic maximum membership capacity per station of 25. There are a number of build options being considered, but the feasibility work is still at an early stage.
- 5.15 There are no membership numbers for the other leisure centres, but it is clear that the rate of throughput varies between the centres, with Bicester reasonably close to the usage per station to Spiceball, but with much lower rates of usage at Kidlington.

Consultation findings

- 5.16 There are no independent sports clubs for health and fitness, so there are no club surveys on which to draw. However the individuals' online survey provides some useful detail about the importance of this type of provision, and site issues.

Individual online survey

- 5.17 A full summary of the individuals' survey responses are given in Part 1 of the report. In relation to health and fitness, about 23% of the respondents to the individuals' survey said that they use gym and fitness facilities, and about 20% of the respondents take part in gym or fitness activities at least once a week. Of those with an opinion about the amount of gym and fitness provision, a clear majority (73%) of respondents say that the amount of provision is "about right". Only about 15% of respondents however classed this type of facility as either very important or quite important to them.
- 5.18 The comments made about individual fitness facilities were small in number, and reflected the desire for improved facilities in Bicester Leisure Centre, and the limited size and fitness class options at Kidlington and Gosford. The Bloxham School facility was considered by one respondent to need improved equipment.

Local Plan Part 2 comments

- 5.19 Representations to the Local Plan Part 2 Issues Consultation (January 2016) have been checked for comments relevant to this study. There were no specific comments on health and fitness provision in the Local Plan Part 2 Issues consultation.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 5.20 The fitness provision situation within the adjacent authorities to Cherwell are:

- The Assessment of Leisure and Cultural Facilities for Aylesbury Vale of 2012 considered the implications of the housing growth of 13,500 dwellings in the period up to 2031. There were no specific recommendations for health and fitness facilities.
- South Northamptonshire’s draft strategy findings have identified that (away from the Northampton area) there will be a small need of around 40 fitness stations and 1 studio in the period up to 2029, and that this need can be met by a combination of the expanded 100 station Brackley Leisure Centre.
- The Oxford City Leisure and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020 does not provide an assessment or recommendations for health and fitness provision.
- The South Oxfordshire draft strategy concludes that no major new gym and fitness provision was required to meet the future demands, except in the West area, where approximately 145 additional stations and 6 studios are likely to be required in the period up to 2033.
- Stratford-on-Avon’s strategy of 2014 did not assess gym and fitness provision.
- The Vale of White Horse’s 2014 Leisure and Sports Facilities Strategy concluded that all residents could reach gym facilities within 15 minutes drive time, and that new fitness gym facilities would be required to meet the demands of the growing population, but that this would be mainly around Didcot.
- West Oxfordshire’s Infrastructure Development Plan’s main leisure proposal is to review the future of the Windrush Leisure Centre but no specific recommendations are made in respect to health and fitness facilities.

Modelling

Comparator authorities’ provision

5.21 The Facilities Planning Model is not available for the assessment of health and fitness provision, so other methods are required. Using Active Places Power (Sport England , 2017) data it has been possible to calculate the current level of provision of fitness stations and the number of studios per 1,000 head of population for Cherwell and its CIPFA comparators, see Figure 25. For this assessment all sites with public access have been included in the figures.

5.22 In relation to the number of fitness stations, this comparator authority analysis suggests that the current rate of provision in Cherwell is well above that of the comparators and also above both the regional and national averages. This may reflect the nature of the communities in Cherwell and their relative affluence, and also the fact that both Banbury and Bicester are major service centres and employment centres. The rate of provision per 1,000 population of studio space is

more in line with the comparator authorities but is still higher than the national and regional averages.

Figure 25: Health and fitness - comparator authorities

CIPFA comparator	Population at 2016 for Cherwell (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)	Health and Fitness (number of stations)			Studios (number of)	
		Total	Per 1000 population	% commercial	Total	Per 1000 population
Cherwell	148,276	1051	7.05	61%	19	0.13
Basingstoke and Dean	176,200	934	5.30	50%	23	0.13
Huntingdonshire	176,200	695	3.94	21%	15	0.09
Test Valley	120,800	516	4.27	38%	16	0.13
Vale of White Horse	127,000	596	4.69	36%	20	0.16
South East	9,024,500	50322	5.58		1105	0.12
England	57,885,413	331649	5.73		6246	0.11

Summary of current situation

- 5.23 The fitness and gym provision in terms of both the number of fitness stations and the number of studios in Cherwell is much higher than the regional or national average and the rates of provision in the CIPFA benchmark authorities. There is a wide geographical spread of sites which means that most people can reach a facility within 15 minutes drive time.
- 5.24 About 61% of the provision is in commercial fitness facilities, but there are only three sites with 100 stations or more. The largest site, Spiceball Leisure Centre, has 150 stations.
- 5.25 In Cherwell, the percentage of commercial fitness provision is higher than in the CIPFA benchmark authorities but the size of the individual fitness gyms is smaller than is often the case in the commercial sector in larger urban centres.
- 5.26 The operator of Spiceball is keen to extend the health and fitness offer at the centre, and has been considering options.
- 5.27 This suggests that the fitness market is probably at a fine balance between supply and demand in the authority. However as the market in fitness gyms responds rapidly to demand, it is likely that there will continue to be regular changes to the supply of gyms in the future.

Assessment of Future Needs

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

Extrapolating current demand and current supply

5.29 The current rate of provision in Cherwell 7.05 fitness stations and 0.13 studios per 1,000 population. With a modelling rate of 0.5% per annum growth in participation, reflecting the approach used in the sports halls and swimming scenario testing, this gives expected rates of demand for fitness provision in 2031 of 7.58 stations per 1000 population, and 0.14 studios per 1,000 population.

5.30 With the forecast population within the district of 202,676 in 2031 gives an expected need for 1,526 stations and 28 studios, an increase of 480 stations and 9 studio spaces. Figure 26 looks at how this translates into demand across the sub areas of the authority, assuming a 0.5% growth in participation per annum and no change in the supply of facilities.

5.31 This table suggests that Banbury is short of provision now in terms of fitness stations but that there is a balance in studio demand. The deficit in fitness provision in Banbury is expected to rise to around 232 stations and 2 studios by 2031.

5.32 In Bicester there appears to be a surplus of fitness station provision currently, but by 2031 the modelling suggests that there will be a deficit of about 165 stations and 5 studio spaces.

5.33 In Kidlington there is currently a balance in supply and demand both for the number of fitness stations and in relation to the studio spaces. By 2031 there is expected to be a deficit of about 92 fitness stations, and 2 studios.

Figure 26: Health and fitness supply/demand to 2031

	Demand per 1000 population (increased at 0.5% pa from 2016)		Demand		Current supply		Balance supply/demand	
	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios	Stations	Studios
2016								
Banbury	7.05	0.13	507	9	432	10	-75	1
Bicester	7.05	0.13	359	7	434	6	75	-1
Kidlington	7.05	0.13	179	3	180	3	1	0
Total	7.05	0.13	1045	19	1046	19	1	0
2021								
Banbury	7.23	0.13	612	11	432	10	-180	-1
Bicester	7.23	0.13	451	8	434	6	-17	-2
Kidlington	7.23	0.13	189	3	180	3	-9	0
Total	7.23	0.13	1252	23	1046	19	-206	-4
2026								
Banbury	7.40	0.14	648	12	432	10	-216	-2
Bicester	7.40	0.14	546	10	434	6	-112	-4
Kidlington	7.40	0.14	220	4	180	3	-40	-1
Total	7.40	0.14	1414	26	1046	19	-368	-7
2031								
Banbury	7.58	0.14	664	12	432	10	-232	-2
Bicester	7.58	0.14	599	11	434	6	-165	-5
Kidlington	7.58	0.14	272	5	180	3	-92	-2
Total	7.58	0.14	1536	28	1046	19	-490	-9

Meeting the needs of the future

5.34 The facility network is expected to alter over time as the commercial facilities open and close according to the market, but with the housing growth there will be a need for new provision. A high proportion of this new provision may be met via the commercial sector, but any new, enhanced or replacement leisure centre facilities, particularly those with pools, will require large fitness gyms and studio spaces to help offset the costs.

- 5.35 It is therefore likely that the bulk of the additional demand in Banbury (around 230 fitness stations and 2 studios) will need to be used to support the development of a new pool, either via the commercial sector or publicly provided, identified as needed in the Swimming Pools section of this report (Section 4). Although the current operator of Spiceball is keen to extend the fitness provision, this would need to be limited, to leave the balance of provision to help revenue support a new pool facility.
- 5.36 The Council is undertaking feasibility studies at the leisure centres with the objective of improving/expanding provision. The outcomes of these studies are expected later in 2018.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 5.37 Given the extent of the housing proposed in Cherwell district, there is a need to assess the amount of demand which will potentially arise from each housing development, and then to consider if there are facilities within an appropriate catchment which can meet these needs, and if so, if they are of sufficient quality. This approach reflects the current policy advice of Sport England.
- 5.38 The assessment of the supply and demand for health and fitness provision by strategy sub area is given in Figure 27 together with the overview of identified future needs. It is recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards health and fitness provision.
- 5.39 If the housing proposals contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the demand for fitness facilities in the Kidlington area will need to be reviewed as no further provision will be required.

Figure 27: Health and fitness summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury		Bicester		Kidlington	
	Balance in provision (no fitness stations & studios]	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no fitness stations & studios]	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (no fitness stations & studios]	Facility requirements
2016	-75 1	One large fitness gym (90 stations) facility by approx 2020, with 140 station fitness provision by 2031 to link to new swimming pool. Both with studio space.	75 -1	One large fitness gym (100 stations) facility by approx 2026, with further moderate-large fitness provision by 2031. Both with studio space.	1 0	One medium large fitness gym (40 stations) facility by approx 2026, with further either additional moderate-large fitness provision by 2031. Both with studio space.
2021	-180 -1		-17 -2		-9 0	
2026	-216 -2		-112 -1		-40 -1	
2031	-232 -5		-165 -2		-92 -2	

Quantity

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

- 7.58 fitness stations
- 0.14 studios

5.41 Unlike for swimming and sports hall use there is no robust publicly available research which would enable the authority to use sub-area demographics. This estimate of demand therefore applies district wide.

Accessibility

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

Design and quality

5.43 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.

- 5.44 The area for each indoor fitness station is taken to be an average of 5 sqm. It is appropriate that developers should be asked for a contribution towards the building cost for the health and fitness space at public leisure centres as well as the equipment itself.
- 5.45 These guidelines are summarised in the Provision Guide, Figure 64 in Section 14.

Recommendations for health and fitness

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

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

5.48 It is recommended that the Council has positive planning policies which enable the development of a commercial health and fitness centre in Banbury which also includes a pool of approx 25 m x 4 lane size.

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

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

Sites

Protect

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

Enhance

5.52 It is recommended that the health and fitness facilities at Bicester Leisure Centre and Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre are refurbished, improved, expanded or replaced.

5.53 It is recommended that limited extended fitness provision including gym and studio space is provided at Spiceball Leisure Centre.

Provide

5.54 It is recommended that the priorities for new delivery and which need to be confirmed through feasibility work, where appropriate, are:

- Banbury: large fitness gym and studio spaces to support new provision of additional swimming pool space, either as a public or commercial facility. Site and details to be confirmed.
- Bicester: large fitness gym and studio spaces as part of a new wet/dry leisure centre. Site and details to be confirmed.
- Kidlington: large fitness gym and studio spaces as part of a new wet/dry leisure centre. Site and details to be confirmed.

5.55 Appropriate land for the leisure centres should be identified through the planning process.

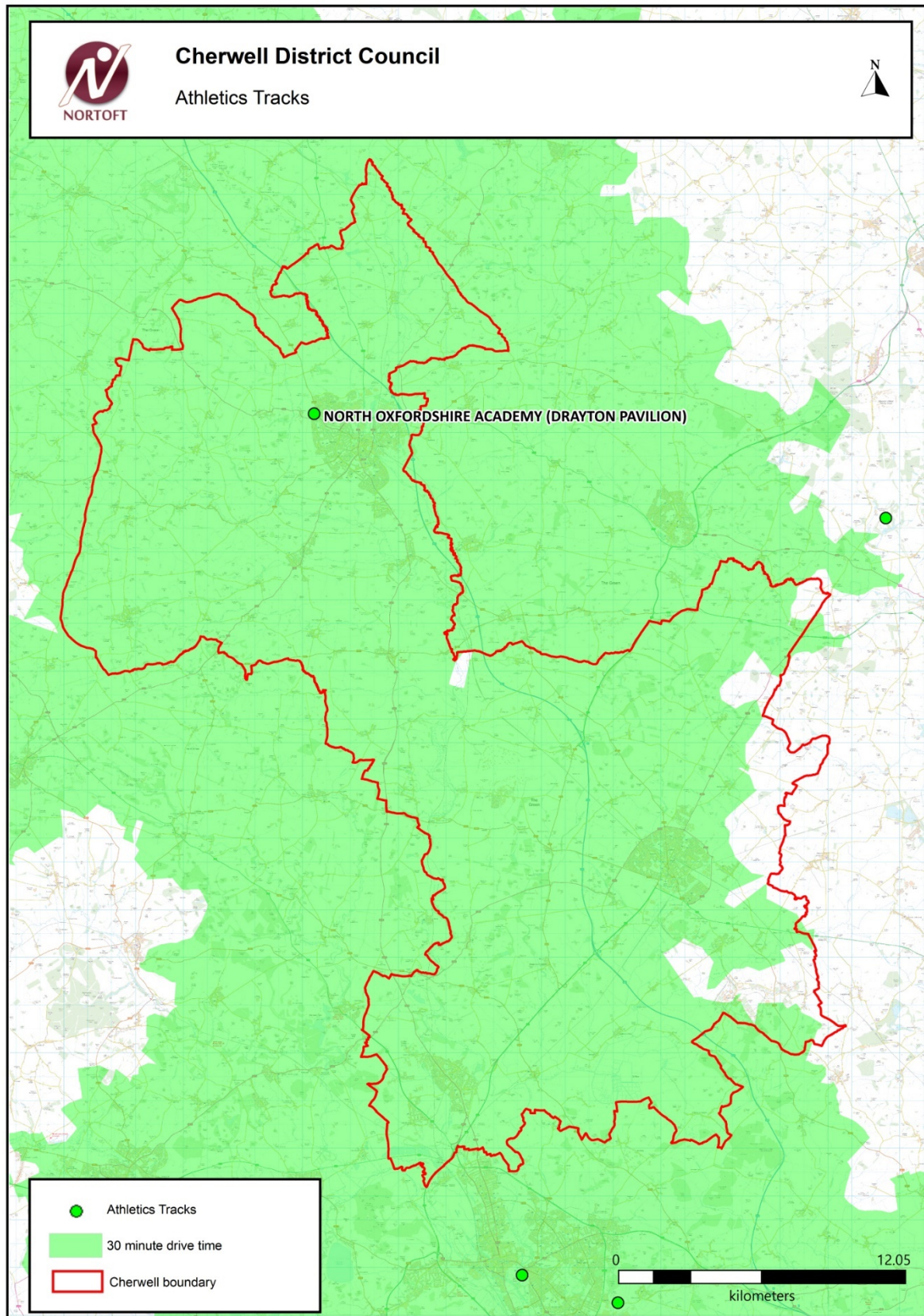
SECTION 6: ATHLETICS

- 6.1 Participation in athletics includes field and track activities taking place at athletics tracks, and as cross-country running, road running, marathon/ultra-marathon running, and jogging. Participation has increased nationally during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16 to a total of around 3.33 million adults (16 years and over) taking part at least once a month (Sport England, 2017). Athletics generally attracts more men (60%) than women (40%).
- 6.2 The size of the Active People Survey undertaken by Sport England means that the smallest area for which there are reasonably good statistics is the county sports partnership area of Oxfordshire. Oxfordshire is following the national level, with a gradual increase in the number of people taking part. At this time, athletics is the 4th most popular sporting activity in Cherwell, after gym, cycling and swimming.
- 6.3 Research by Sport England has shown that about 10% of athletics activity takes place at a track, with 90% elsewhere (Sport England, 2012). This report therefore considers both synthetic athletics track provision and other athletics needs.

Current provision

- 6.4 There is one 8 lane floodlit track at the North Oxfordshire Academy site, known as the Drayton Athletics track. This has a pavilion and car parking. The track is certified by UK Athletics as “Full”, and is therefore able to host events at all permit levels in all events (UK Athletics, 2017).
- 6.5 A realistic travel time to athletics tracks is around 30 minutes, and Figure 28 shows which parts of Cherwell are within the travel time of athletics tracks either within or outside of the area. It is clear from the map that most people with access to a car has access to athletics track facilities, however those living to the east of Bicester are outside of a 30 minute catchment area of any track with regular community use.
- 6.6 Bicester Athletics club uses Bicester Community College and the Alchester Running Club is a road running club, also based in the town.

Figure 28: Athletics tracks map



Consultation findings

Individual online survey results

- 6.7 In Cherwell more people take part in walking than any other activity, and a high proportion also run or do some form of athletics, whether this is formal or simply jogging. About 43% of the respondents use traffic free routes, and 11% use athletics facilities. 86% of people had an opinion about the provision of traffic free walking and running routes, and of these, almost half thought that there was too little provision, whilst 35% felt that there was about the right amount. Only 1% felt that there was too much provision.
- 6.8 In relation to athletics facilities, about 44% of the respondents expressed an opinion. Of these, 65% felt that there was too little provision.
- 6.9 More people feel that walking/running routes are as important to them than any other type facility provision.

Local Plan Part 2 comments

- 6.10 Representations to the Local Plan Part 2 Issues Consultation (January 2016) have been checked for comments relevant to this study. There were no specific comments on athletics provision in the Local Plan Part 2 Issues consultation, but a point was made about improving the footpath network.

Club comments

- 6.11 The following clubs provided a response to the club survey.

Bicester Athletics Club

- 6.12 This is a fairly large club with about 210 members, of which 40% are of primary school age, and 46% are aged 11-16 years. All of the members live within 20 minutes of the club's home site, in and around Bicester. The membership of the club has increased over the last 5 years and the club expects to continue to grow in the future. They have a short waiting list for minis.
- 6.13 The club uses a grass pitch at Bicester Academy for training on which they have an annual agreement. The use is during the summer months, once or twice a week, on weekday evenings. There is no changing available on site. The club would prefer a different site, controlled by Cherwell District Council.
- 6.14 During the autumn, winter and spring months the club uses the Bicester Leisure Centre sports hall for both training and matches. Again, the club meets once or twice a week. The booking is fairly easy.

- 6.15 The club also uses Boston Road Park for training during the autumn and winter, once or twice a week. The site does not have changing provision and the ancillary facilities are described as being of poor quality.

Alchester Running Club

- 6.16 The Alchester Running Club has about 125 members, all of whom are seniors or veterans. They mostly come from Bicester and the surrounding villages, but some come from the Upper Heyford area and a small number from outside of the district. The club has increased in the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow. The issues identified by the club as restricting its growth are a lack of coaches and volunteers, but also access to facilities. The club is relatively informal, so this is also an issue for some prospective members.
- 6.17 The club meets at Bicester Leisure Centre and then runs on the roads. It meets once or twice a week on weekday evenings throughout the year.

Cherwell Runners and Joggers

- 6.18 This club has seniors and veterans and has about 100 members, all living in Banbury and the surrounding villages. The club has grown in the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow. It does not have a waiting list.
- 6.19 The club uses Woodgreen Leisure Centre as a meeting point for their training runs which are outdoors. They run once or twice a week year round and weekday evenings. The club finds the facility easy to book and is in the preferred location.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 6.20 There are two governing bodies overseeing athletics in England; England Athletics and UK Athletics. UK Athletics provides the UK framework for the activity and is also responsible for athletics track certification. England Athletics leads the development work with clubs and is the key body at the district level.

UK Athletics Facilities Strategy 2014-2019

- 6.21 The strategy (British Athletics, 2014) has two main sections; Track and Field, and Running Facilities. In relation to Track and Field, UK Athletics have recognised a need to make the current network of outdoor tracks more sustainable, and also a need for the development of 'Compact Athletics Facilities' which are designed to encourage and support entry level track and field athletics. These simple facilities are expected to be flexible in design and provide basic run/jump/throw opportunities. There are no set layouts or requirements, so there are no set costs. However, co-location with other facilities or sports is encouraged.
- 6.22 UK Athletics are seeking access to appropriate indoor training opportunities year round, ideally within a 20 minutes' drive time of all residents. These facilities are

usually expected to be multi-purpose, and in most cases are likely to be a sports hall, often on a school site.

- 6.23 In relation to other running facilities, the UK Athletics strategy focuses on supporting new running facility solutions in areas where the removal of physical barriers will help unlock latent demand. UK Athletics are proposing three levels of routes; beginner fitness routes (Greenline) primarily in city areas which are designed to be safe and well-marked for absolute beginners; marked national running routes that provide easy access to local running/jogging opportunities; and closed circuit training and competition routes which are traffic free. The Greenline and marked routes approach were promoted by England Athletics through the Run England programme up to the end of 2016. RunTogether is the new England Athletics beginner running programme replacing Run England at the start of 2017, and whilst England Athletics branded routes are no longer a focus of RunTogether; the aspiration to ensure safe places to people to run remains.

England Athletics' Strategic Facilities Plan 2012-2017

- 6.24 The England Athletics' Facility strategy (England Athletics, 2012) is yet to be updated. It has a number of sections and also identifies priority locations for England Athletics investment, which are mainly large cities.
- 6.25 England Athletics considers that following the national trends, the sport has potential to grow in the area and that the greatest growth would be in running rather than track and field.

Road and Off-Road Running

- 6.26 The strategy seeks the development and promotion of at least one measured running route in every town or city with a population of over 100,000 by 2017.
- 6.27 Although neither Banbury or Bicester meets this minimum population size, the feedback from the consultation and trends in active lifestyles suggest that the authority should actively explore the option of developing marked running routes and/or closed circuit routes in appropriate locations. Cherwell District Council has recently responded to this need at Bicester, where a tarmac cycle/jogging track has been installed around the perimeter of the Whitelands Farm Sports Ground's pitches.
- 6.28 England Athletics recognises the opportunities to influence facility planning to provide safe, traffic-free running routes as part of future development considerations and this follows in the areas of new development within Bicester. Given the current propensity for lead running groups and informal running opportunities; such opportunity could be linked to the Whitelands Farm Sports Ground and / or provided elsewhere.

Track and Field

- 6.29 The facility priorities for 2012-2017 include the upgrading of field event facilities and equipment, clubhouse modernisation projects, access improvements for disabled athletes, and track floodlighting. Until the updated strategy England Athletics strategy is completed, the national governing body is unable to advise on what are likely to be their new priorities, other than their key strategic ambitions to retain and maximise usage of the current track stock in England.
- 6.30 Banbury Harriers are a very proactive club growing in membership and use the Drayton Athletics track facility based at North Oxfordshire Academy. This facility is an important asset to the north of the county for track and field athletics provision and used by the club on a regular basis with training taking place 2/3 times per week all year round.
- 6.31 The national governing body is aware of the current facility limitations faced by Bicester Athletics Club, including the insecurity of their site. It is understood that the club sourced their own funding themselves and built throws and jumps areas, recently tree root damage has impacted on the suitability of the jumps area. The club also use a marked grass track during the summer months, which is inadequate in wet weather. Additionally there are also issues over security of the club equipment stored on site. The cost of remedial works to the tree root damage is around £40,000. It is known that the club have a strong drive for an alternative facility within Bicester, which they feel would be a base to grow their membership.
- 6.32 Whilst no formal assessment has been carried out by the England Athletics, they have been involved in discussions between the club and Cherwell District Council around the possibility of alternative provision, and have suggested consideration being given to a compact athletics facility being included in the design for the leisure facilities around the Whiteland Farm Sports Ground or other developed area in Bicester.

Indoor Facilities

- 6.33 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.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 6.34 A review of the athletics provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendices). In summary:
- Aylesbury Vale's strategy of 2012 identified a need for improvements to the existing athletics provision.

- Oxford City’s strategy for 2015-2020 recommended improvements to the Horsepath Athletics track, which have now been completed. This track is within the drive time of the southern part of Cherwell.
- South Northamptonshire’s draft strategy proposes exploring the further development of the athletics training facilities at Silverstone as a compact athletics training facility. This will however be too far away from most Cherwell residents to be relevant.
- South Oxfordshire has the Horspath athletics track within the district although this is owned and managed by Oxford City Council. No further track based investment is proposed in the draft strategy, although the need for compact athletic training facilities are proposed to be kept under review for Henley and Thame. The main focus is investment in traffic free routes, linked to sustainable transport.
- The Stratford-on-Avon strategy does not refer to athletics provision and the track at Stratford is too far away to be within a realistic drive time of most residents of Cherwell.
- The Vale of White Horse has two good quality athletics tracks, one at Tilsley Park, which has now been transferred to Abingdon School but retains community use. The track at Radley College however has effectively no community use. The track at Tilsley Park is well within the drive for some residents of Cherwell, particularly those living in the Kidlington area.
- West Oxfordshire does not have any athletics tracks, and the draft IDP does not propose providing any new facilities.

6.35 The review of the strategies from the adjacent authorities suggests that there will be no major changes to the network of facilities, but that the tracks in Oxford and in the Vale of White Horse provide an important resource for Cherwell residents.

Modelling

Market Segmentation

6.36 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) information from Sport England suggests that athletics (including jogging etc.) is a popular activity now, and is an appealing sport for several of the largest market segments in Cherwell. However this is often considered as the 4th or 5th most attractive sport.

Comparator authorities’ provision

6.37 Using Active Places Power (Sport England, 2017) data it has been possible to review the athletics track provision for each of the Cherwell authorities and the CIPFA comparators. This comparator authority analysis (Figure 29) suggests that Cherwell is in line with its benchmark authorities, in that each has a track with community use.

Figure 29: Comparator authority's athletics provision

Nearest Neighbour	Population at 2016 for Cherwell (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)	Number of athletics tracks (synthetic)
Cherwell	148,276	1
Basingstoke and Dean	176,200	1
Huntingdonshire	176,200	1
Test Valley	120,800	1
Vale of White Horse	127,000	1
South East	9,024,500	46
England	54,316,600	250

Summary of the current situation

- 6.38 There is one 8-lane athletics track, the Drayton track at North Oxfordshire Academy in Banbury. This is a joint use facility and has a “Full” certificate from UK Athletics which enables it to host events at all permit levels in all events. The catchment of this track is about 30 minutes drive time, so it is accessible to much of Cherwell district. Banbury Harriers Athletics Club uses the site as their home venue. This facility, managed by Cherwell District Council, is available for daytime school use during term time and available for club and public hire evenings and weekends term time and daytime in the school holidays.
- 6.39 There is one other track and field athletics club, the Bicester Athletics Club. This club uses the sports hall at Bicester Leisure Centre in the winter and uses a grass field at Bicester Academy a local park in the summer. The club invested its own money in a jump and throws area, but there are now significant problems. The grass track is considered inadequate by England Athletics. Both the club and England Athletics consider that there is good potential for growth of the club if the club's facilities could be improved.
- 6.40 The Horspath track owned and managed by Oxford City and the Tilsley Park track at Abingdon both provide important opportunities for athletes in the south of Cherwell.
- 6.41 Other running clubs use the leisure centres at Woodgreen, Kidlington and Gosford, and Stratfield Brake, as a meeting point, but then use the roads around the area for running.
- 6.42 There is clear demand from the survey returns for more traffic free walking and running routes, and this type of provision has also been identified by the national governing bodies as a priority.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 6.43 The national governing bodies' priorities are to retain the existing network of athletics tracks, and to support the development of compact athletics facilities where there is local need.
- 6.44 The priorities for the future in terms of track and field athletics are therefore to retain and maintain the Drayton track at North Oxfordshire Academy at high quality, including the retention of the "Full" Certification of the track by UK Athletics.
- 6.45 There has already been some exploration of the options to develop a compact athletics training facility to respond to the needs of the Bicester Athletics Club. This is the highest priority for the future in terms of track and field athletics.
- 6.46 The development of marked running routes would offer a real opportunity for many people as a major theme from the consultation feedback has been the importance of traffic free walking and running routes. There are a number of traffic free routes already in existence, and there may be opportunities to develop these further.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 6.47 The Compact Athletics Facilities programme is designed to be flexible and to fit with both the local needs and opportunities. There may be opportunities on the planned Kingsmere Secondary School site at Bicester to provide for this need, but this needs to be confirmed and planned into the design. If it is not possible to deliver here, then an alternative appropriate site is urgently required.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 6.48 It is recommended that developer contributions are sought for the existing athletics track in Banbury towards specific improvements, when identified and costed, which will help to enhance its capacity and address the anticipated greater levels of wear on the track and its ancillary facilities from new housing. Housing sites within 30 minutes drive time of the track may be asked for this contribution.
- 6.49 It is recommended that contributions are also sought for the proposed compact athletics facility which will help serve the Bicester and Kidlington sub areas, to be located in Bicester. The costs, options and delivery of this facility will require confirmation through the proposed project feasibility work.
- 6.50 Major developments will be expected to incorporate on-site marked running routes with an all weather surface and which link to the wider network of parks, open spaces, public rights of way and traffic free routes. Contributions to off-site provision may be sought where on-site provision is not appropriate.

6.51 This guidance is summarised in the Provision Guide, Figure 64 in Section 14.

Recommendations for athletics

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

6.53 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence. It is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to athletics tracks and training facilities.

6.54 It is recommended that the identified projects are included in the review of the IDP.

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

Protect

6.56 It is recommended that the Drayton track at North Oxfordshire Academy, including the retention of its Full certificate awarded by UK Athletics, is protected.

Enhance

6.57 It is recommended that the delivery priorities are:

- Improvements to routes through parks and open spaces to encourage walking and running.
- Future improvements to the Drayton athletics track at North Oxfordshire Academy, as may be identified and costed.

Provide

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

6.59 It is recommended that, subject to feasibility assessment including site availability, a compact athletics facility is sought in Bicester to meet the needs of Bicester Athletics Club. The suggested preferred location is the Kingsmere secondary school site mainly due to its proximity to the adjacent Sports Ground and an opportunity for the operator to manage such a facility for community use should this also be required.

SECTION 7: SQUASH

- 7.1 Nationally, Sport England estimates that around 342,300 people play squash or racketball at least once a month, but there has been a gradual decline since 2007 (Sport England, 2017). Sport England research in 2009 (Sport England, 2012) gave an overview of the participants playing at least once a week, and this showed that about 87% of the players are male, with the peak numbers being amongst those aged between 35 and 64 years. A high proportion of players are from the most affluent socio-economic groups.
- 7.2 The size of the sport and the sample size of Sport England’s Active People Survey mean that more local, and even regional level statistics for this sport, are unreliable. It is therefore assumed that the trends occurring nationally are being reflected in Cherwell. As squash as a sport has slowly declined over a number of years and the courts have often been converted into other uses, so there are only a few sites left in the area.

Current provision

- 7.3 There are two types of squash court, glass-backed and “normal” or enclosed. There are currently 8 sites in Cherwell with a total of 15 squash courts. Of these 3 are glass backed courts with the remainder being normal courts, see Figure 30.
- 7.4 The locations of the squash courts are mapped in Figure 31. The map clearly demonstrates that although there are a limited number of sites, almost everyone with access to a car can reach a squash facility within 20 minutes drive, either within or outside of the authority area.
- 7.5 The availability of the courts for community use varies as each of the three main leisure centres have squash courts, there is one independent sports club, one commercial site, two independent school sites, and one free school. The only squash club in the district is the Banbury West End Lawn Tennis and Squash Club.
- 7.6 There is squash coaching at Bicester Leisure Centre and the Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre, as well as at the club site, but not elsewhere.
- 7.7 The courts at Spiceball Leisure Centre were used about twice as much as those at Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre in 2016 according to the usage information provided by the operator. The majority of use is at peak times (5pm onwards for weekday evenings, and all day at weekends).

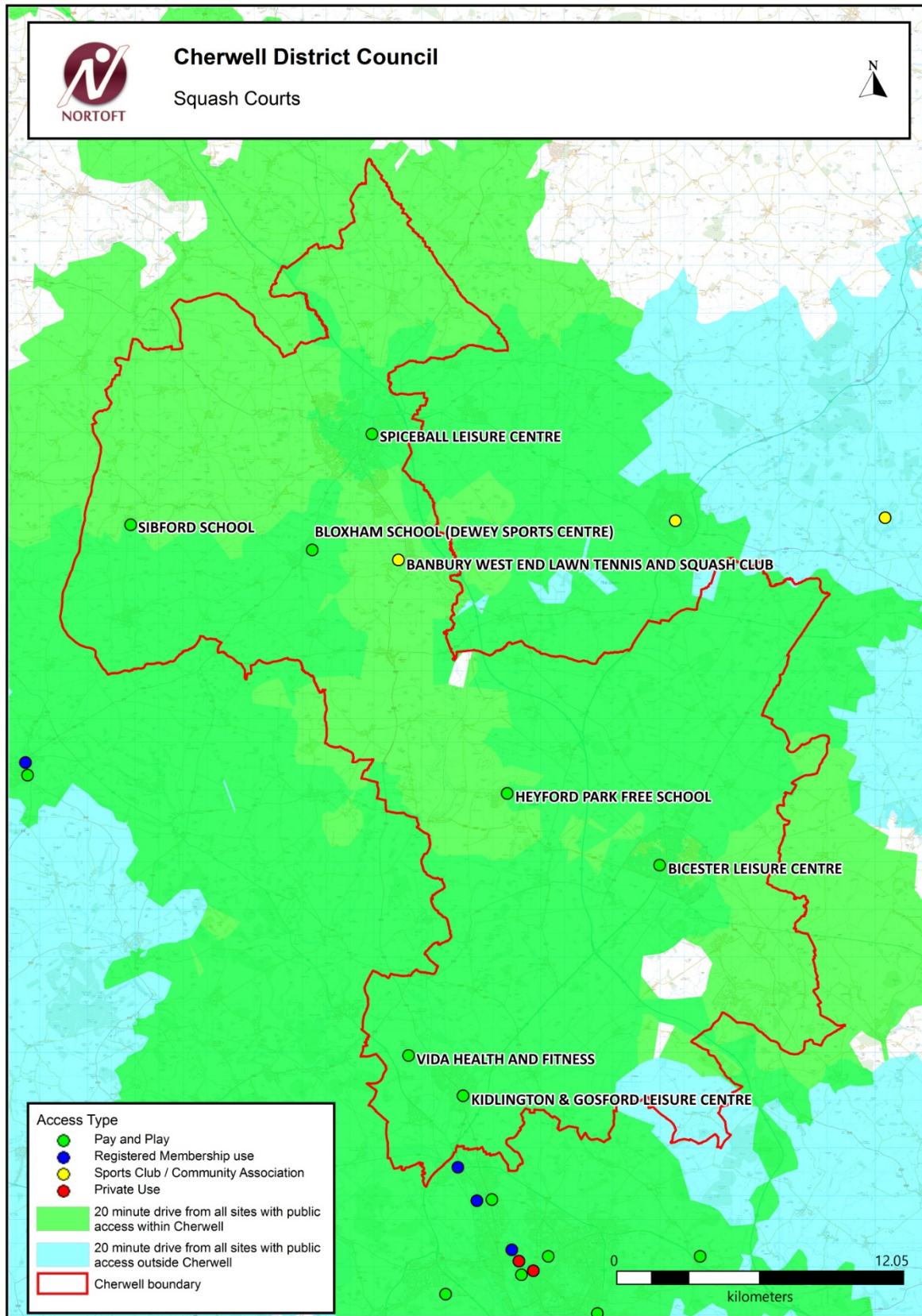
Figure 30: Squash courts current provision

Sub Area	Site Name	Number of Normal courts	Number of Glass backed courts	Management Type	Access Type	Community use hours if limited, number of hours open in Peak Period (PP) and used capacity at peak time	Spare capacity at peak time (number of courts, rounded)	Spare capacity if facility expected to operate at maximum of 80% capacity (rounded)
Banbury	BANBURY WEST END LAWN TENNIS AND SQUASH CLUB	2		Sport Club	Sports Club	60%	0.8	0.4
Bicester	BICESTER LEISURE CENTRE	3		Commercial Management	Pay and Play	60%	1.2	0.6
Banbury	BLOXHAM SCHOOL (DEWEY SPORTS CENTRE)	2	2	Commercial Management	Pay and Play	Mon-Fri: 18.00-21.00 Sat: 09.00-12.00, 17.00-19.00 Sun: 09.00-19.00 25.5 hours in PP 75%	1.0	0.1
Bicester	HEYFORD PARK FREE SCHOOL	1		School	Pay and Play	New facility, not yet marketed and limited use. 15%	0.9	0.7

Kidlington	KIDLINGTON & GOSFORD LEISURE CENTRE	2		Commercial Management	Pay and Play	34%	1.4	0.9
Banbury	SIBFORD SCHOOL	2		School	Pay and Play	25%	1.5	1.1
Banbury	SPICEBALL LEISURE CENTRE	2		Commercial Management	Pay and Play	72%	0.6	0.2
Kidlington	VIDA HEALTH AND FITNESS		1	Commercial Management	Pay and Play	30%	0.7	0.5

Sub area totals				
	Number of Normal courts	Number of Glass backed courts	Spare capacity at peak time (number of courts) rounded	Spare capacity if facility expected to operate at maximum of 80% capacity
Banbury	8	2	3.9	1.8
Bicester	4	0	2.1	1.3
Kidlington	2	1	2.1	1.4
District total	15	2	8.1	4.5

Figure 31: Squash court locations



7.8 The known throughput and estimated peak time use at the leisure centres is given below (Figure 32) based on singles matches, 45 minute booking slots and use 51 weeks a year. It is estimated that 85% of the use is at peak time, and the peak period is the same as for sports halls, totalling 45.5 hours:

Weekday: 09.00-10.00; 17:00 to 22:00
 Saturday: 09:30 to 17:00
 Sunday: 09:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 19:30

Figure 32: Usage of the leisure centre squash courts

Leisure Centre	Number of courts	Actual throughput per annum	Number hours use per week per court	Number of hours use at peak time @ 85% of use	Used capacity at peak time
Bicester	3	13,000	32	3.8	60%
Kidlington and Gosford	2	4,900	18	15	34%
Spiceball	2	10,500	39	33	72%

7.9 On average the facilities are operating at just over 53% at peak time though clearly some sites are experiencing much more use than others (see Figure 30). The Heyford Free School and Vida Health and Fitness sites each only have one court. These are less attractive to players and not particularly suitable to club use. The current total spare capacity at peak time across all of the network of squash courts in the district is estimated to be around 8 courts. However an 80% used capacity at peak time is a realistic maximum, which means that the total spare capacity across each of the sub areas of the district is, as follows, based on the audit findings in Figure 30:

- Banbury – spare capacity of 1.8 courts
- Bicester – spare capacity of 1.3 courts
- Kidlington – spare capacity of 1.4 courts

7.10 The operator at Spiceball Leisure Centre is seeking to increase the level of health and fitness provision in the centre. One option that is being considered is to convert one of the squash courts to a two level fitness gym space. This would leave only one court at the centre. As the two courts together are operating at peak time at about 72% used capacity, it is clear that the demand could not be met by a single court. Reducing the number of courts to one would also have a detrimental impact on the ability to provide effectively for the sport, as coaching and competition opportunities would be severely limited. It is therefore important to retain both courts at the leisure centre.

- 7.11 There is one affiliated England Squash club in the district based at Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club, plus one unaffiliated club based at Bicester Leisure Centre.
- 7.12 Squash ladder leagues are run directly by the leisure centres.

Consultation findings

Individual online survey

- 7.13 Reflecting the relatively low level of regular participation in squash, only 4% of respondents said that they used squash courts in Cherwell although 5% said that they played squash, half saying that they played weekly and half playing at least once a month. Of the people playing squash, the majority hold the view that the amount of provision is about right.
- 7.14 However, of the total survey, 55% had no views about the level of squash provision in the district, 31% felt that there was about the right amount of provision, and 12% felt that there was too little. Only 1% considered that there was too much provision. There was no comment on the quality of the squash courts.

Club comments

- 7.15 There is only one squash club in Cherwell which is affiliated to England Squash, the Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club. The information provided by the club does not differentiate between the tennis and squash membership. In total the club has about 260 members, with about 69% being seniors and veterans, with 19% minis, and 12% aged 11-15 years. The minis and juniors tend to be drawn from a 10 minute drive time area, whilst the seniors and veterans drive up to 20 minutes to reach the club. Just over half of the members are from Banbury and the surrounding villages, with most of the others equally drawn from the Kidlington area, Bicester area and Upper Heyford area. There are a small number of members who live outside of Cherwell.
- 7.16 The club as a whole has stayed the same size over the last 5 years and does not anticipate growing. It does not have any waiting lists and there are no specific issues which are limiting the club's expansion, although the club has a development plan to improve its ancillary facilities, particularly the changing which is described as being poor quality. No comments were provided about the quality of the squash courts nor any issues associated with them.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 7.17 The national governing body is England Squash, and its Game Changer Participation Strategy 2015-17 (England Squash & Racketball, 2015) sets out to increase the overall participation in squash as a game. Through this, it hopes to be able to protect and enable improvements to the existing courts and generate sufficient demand for new courts. During 2015/16 the national governing body hopes to arrest the decline of the sport, and during 2016/17 see a 5-10% increase in participation.
- 7.18 The strategy identifies that there are currently 4,190 courts in England, of which 45% are in public and private leisure facilities, 38% are in clubs, and the remainder on education sites.
- 7.19 The target capacity per court on club sites of the national governing body is 100 members. In public and private leisure centres, a main objective is to integrate squash into fitness programmes.
- 7.20 England Squash has identified North Oxford as a priority area for the sport with good potential for growth. There are a number of planned sports development programmes planned together with some investment. The national governing body has recently invested in glass doors for squash courts at: Spiceball Leisure Centre, Banbury and West End Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, and Sibford School. The national governing body comment that there is a good mix of facility types, but that more pay and play squash courts are needed along with more squash sports development programmes.
- 7.21 Cherwell District Council has previously delivered squash participation programmes with England Squash in within Cherwell area.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 7.22 A review of the squash court provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendices). In summary:
- South Northamptonshire's draft strategy noted the strong squash club at Winchester House in Brackley, and proposed that an additional court should be provided to cater for the demand.
 - South Oxfordshire has a high rate of squash court provision but the draft strategy also identifies that most clubs were facing declining memberships. The proposed priority is to support those sites with strong and active clubs. Parks Sports Centre at Wheatley is within a 20 minute drive time of parts of Cherwell, but there is no club based there.
 - The Vale of White Horse also has a relatively high number of squash courts, but the growth in the district is expected to generate sufficient demand to justify the retention of the existing courts.
 - No specific recommendations for squash were made in the strategies for:

- Aylesbury Vale
- Oxford City
- Stratford-on-Avon
- West Oxfordshire

7.23 This review of the adjacent authorities' strategies suggests that it is unlikely that new squash facilities will come forwards unless promoted by the commercial sector.

Modelling

Market Segmentation

7.24 Squash is a relatively low participation sport and it does not appear for any of the market segments in Cherwell (Sport England, 2017). However the socio-economic characteristics of much of the area (middle-aged and from the higher socio-economic groups) suggest that the sport will have higher participation rates than the national average.

Comparator authorities' provision

7.25 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England, 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of squash court provision per 1,000 head of population for Cherwell, together with the CIPFA comparator authorities, and the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 33). This analysis suggests that the current rate of provision of squash courts in Cherwell is relatively high, above the regional and national averages and most of the CIPFA comparators. Only the Vale of White Horse has a higher rate of provision.

Figure 33: Squash - comparator authorities

Nearest Neighbour	Population at 2016 for Cherwell (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)	Squash courts normal		Squash courts glass backed		Squash courts all	
		Total	Per 1000 population	Total	Per 1000 population	Total	Per 1000 population
Cherwell	148,276	11	0.07	5	0.03	16	0.11
Basingstoke and Dean	176,200	11	0.06	2	0.01	13	0.07
Huntingdonshire	176,200	9	0.05	6	0.03	15	0.09
Test Valley	120,800	6	0.05	2	0.02	8	0.07
Vale of White Horse	127,000	6	0.05	13	0.10	19	0.15
South East	9,024,500	587	0.07	213	0.02	800	0.09

England	54,316,600	2678	0.05	1176	0.02	3854	0.07
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Summary of current situation

- 7.26 There are 8 sites which cater for squash in Cherwell with 15 courts in total. All of the sites are pay and play, except for the one club site, Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club which is available to members only. Most sites have 2 or 3 courts, but there is only one court at Heyford Free School and Vida Health and Fitness. The Bloxham School site and Spiceball are well used, but there appears to be spare capacity across the rest of the network.
- 7.27 Cherwell is considered to be a priority area for England Squash with significant opportunities for the growth of the game, and the national governing body has recently completed an investment programme to install glass doors at several sites.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 7.28 The squash national governing body's objective is to halt the decline in the sport and then to re-grow it through an increase in participation. Participation in the sport has been declining for years despite the marketing efforts of the national governing body. Therefore there is a reasonable expectation that participation numbers will remain steady over the next 5 years, at which point this strategy will be subject to review. It is proposed that the current rate of provision per 1000 population is retained up to 2031, i.e. there is an increase in facilities in line with the growth of the population.
- 7.29 There are no known proposals for new squash courts in the surrounding areas.
- 7.30 There may be benefit in exploring the use of moveable walls for the squash courts to allow for greater use during the non-peak periods.

Extrapolating current demand and current supply

- 7.31 The current rate of provision across Cherwell for squash courts is 0.11 courts per 1000 population but the South East average rate of provision is 0.09 courts per 1000 population. Using these two rates of provision as the starting points for the assessment of future needs, provides a slightly different outcome, see Figure 34. Notably the total spare capacity identified in the audit, implies that the rates of participation in Cherwell are close to the average for the South East region.
- 7.32 Figure 34 also considers the how far the current spare capacity of courts can meet the anticipated future demand. Whichever rate of participation is applied, it appears that both the Banbury and Kidlington sub areas will have just about sufficient capacity up to 2031, but that Bicester may require 1-2 additional courts by 2031.

7.33 However those sites with single squash courts are less attractive to the sport, and are unlikely to be used to their full capacity, even in the long term.

Figure 34: Squash need up to 2031

	Retain existing rate of provision per 1000 population of 0.11 courts			Reduce rate of provision to South East average of 0.09 courts per 1000		
	Demand	Current supply	Spare capacity at 80% maximum used capacity at peak time (from audit)	Demand	Current supply	Spare capacity at 80% maximum used capacity at peak time (from audit)
	Courts	Courts	Courts	Courts	Courts	Courts
2016						
Banbury	8	10	1.9	6	10	1.9
Bicester	6	4	1.3	5	4	1.3
Kidlington	3	3	1.4	2	3	1.4
TOTAL	17	17	4.6	13	17	4.6
2021						
Banbury	9	10	0.9	7	10	0.9
Bicester	7	4	0.3	6	4	0.3
Kidlington	3	3	1.4	2	3	1.4
TOTAL	19	17	2.6	16	17	2.6
2026						
Banbury	10	10	-0.1	8	10	-0.1
Bicester	8	4	-0.7	7	4	-0.7
Kidlington	3	3	1.4	3	3	0.4
TOTAL	21	17	0.7	18	17	-0.4
2031						
Banbury	10	10	-0.1	8	10	-0.1
Bicester	9	4	-1.7	7	4	-0.7
Kidlington	4	3	0.4	3	3	0.4
TOTAL	23	17	-1.4	18	17	-0.4

Meeting the needs of the future

7.34 This analysis suggests that the level of squash court provision in Cherwell should be retained and if the Bicester Leisure Centre was to be replaced, that the squash courts should also be replaced.

7.35 If, however, squash as a sport grows as hoped by the national governing body, there will be demand for additional courts. The most appropriate mechanism for

the delivery of new courts would be via the commercial sector, so the key priority is for positive planning policies supporting the development of appropriate sites.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 7.36 Developers' contributions are not required towards increasing amount of squash court provision, but there is justification for requiring contributions towards the improvement of existing facilities at a rate which is in line with the amount of anticipated demand arising from new developments. This will help to ensure that the new demand arising from the new developments is met by the facilities available.

Recommendations for squash

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

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

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

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

Protect

7.41 It is recommended that the existing squash facilities are protected, particularly at the leisure centres. They should be refurbished as needed to maintain them at a high quality. Where there is a justified need, investment should be into moveable walls to enable more flexible use of the courts at off peak time.

Enhance and provide

7.42 It is recommended that there should be positive planning policies to enable the development of commercial squash clubs in the future.

SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS AND RELATED ACTIVITIES

- 8.1 This section of the strategy addresses gymnastics and related activities, including baton twirling. Some of the gymnastics activity is within affiliated clubs of the national governing body, British Gymnastics, but other activity is not affiliated or the activity is not one of the British Gymnastics' recognised disciplines.
- 8.2 This section considers the needs of the gymnastics as a sport. There are also however some commercial trampoline centres in the district such as Rebound Revolution in Bicester. The purely commercial centres do not provide sports development programmes and are effectively not available or not suitable for gymnastic club activities.
- 8.3 Gymnastics does not have a strong club network in Cherwell as there are only three affiliated British Gymnastics clubs in the district: Bicester and District Gymnastics Club, Ricochet Trampoline Club and Kidlington Gymnastics Club. This may in part reflect the fact that there are two large clubs just outside the district: Wade Gymnastics Club in South Northamptonshire, about 10 minutes drive from the centre of Banbury and about 25 minutes from Bicester, with 840 members, and: Cherwell Gymnastics Club in Oxford with 220 members, which has two sites: Cherwell School on Marston Ferry Road, approximately 15 minutes from Kidlington, and Blackbird Leys Leisure Centre to the south of the city.
- 8.4 There is also cheerleading taking place in the district, at the Elite Cheer United club based at Bicester Rugby Club. Cheerleading is not a Sport England recognised sport and does not therefore have a recognised national governing body.
- 8.5 The total number of people taking part in gymnastics and related activities at sites within the district is about 370. The clubs, their memberships and sites are listed in Figure 35.
- 8.6 The peak in participation for gymnastics according to British Gymnastics is at around 9 years. This young participation is not identified by Sport England's Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) which has focussed mainly on adult participation for those aged 16 years and over, although the survey expanded to include those aged 14 and over from October 2012.
- 8.7 Nationally, the affiliated membership of British Gymnastics membership reached almost 343,200 in 2016, and its membership has been growing rapidly with at least a 12% increase each year since 2012. Most of this growth remains at the young age groups but there has also been a notable increase in the number of teenagers and young adults up to the age of 25 years. The future priority for British Gymnastics will be the foundation level of the sport, those aged 5-11 years.

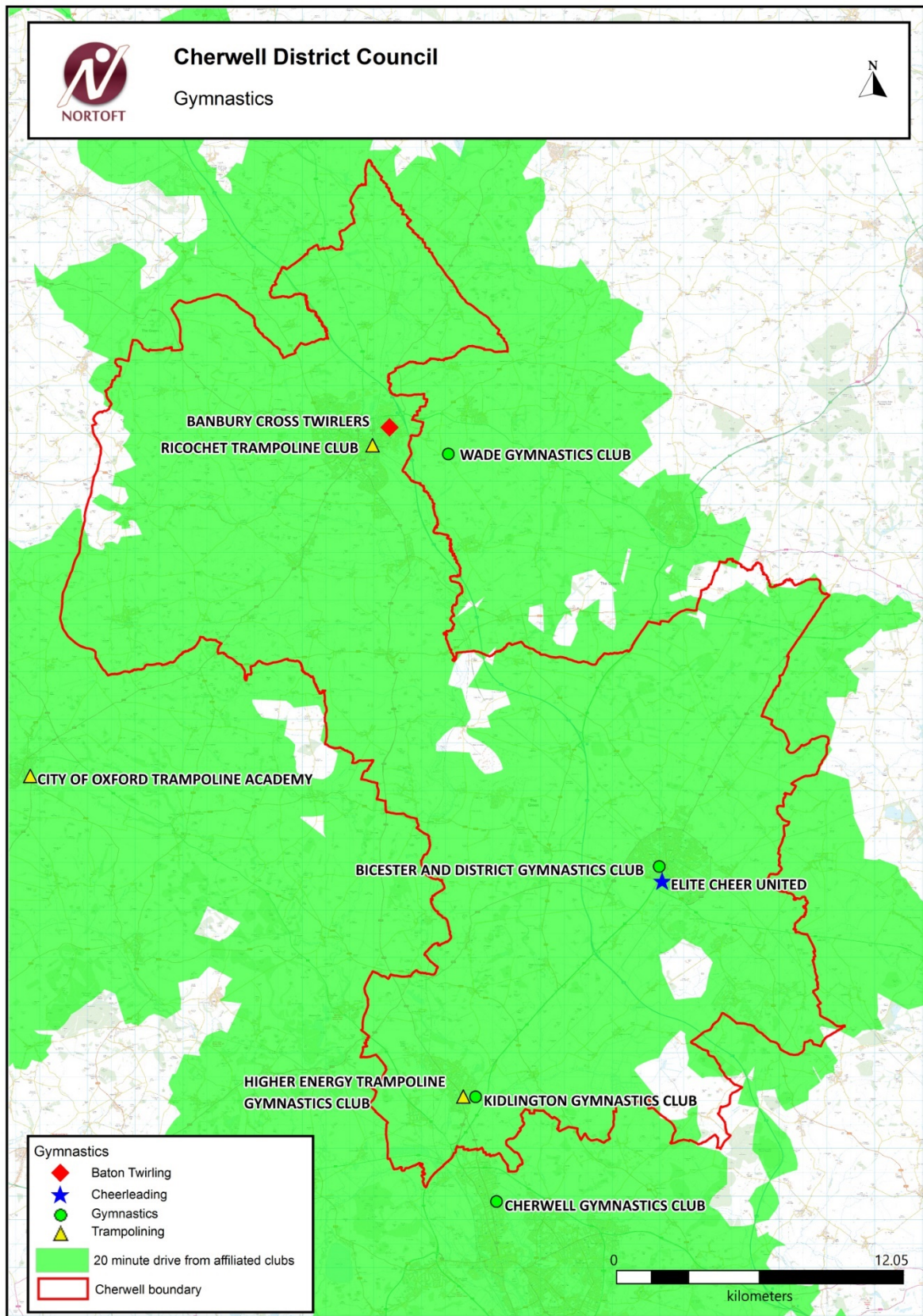
Figure 35: Gymnastics club membership and location

Club and activity	Home site(s)	Dedicated site	Number of members (March 2017)	Comment
Banbury Cross Twirlers (baton twirling)	Ruscote Community Centre, North Oxfordshire Academy, Chacombe Village Hall (S Northants)		15	Recognised sport but no recognised national governing body
Bicester and District Gymnastics Club	Bicester Leisure Centre		118	Affiliated to British Gymnastics
Elite Cheer United	Bicester Rugby Club		20 (estimate)	Not a recognised sport and no recognised national governing body
Ricochet Trampoline Club	Bridge Wharf Banbury	Yes	35	Affiliated to British Gymnastics
Higher Energy Trampoline Gymnastics Club (also includes City of Oxford Trampoline Academy)	Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre		45 (estimate)	No longer separately affiliated to British Gymnastics
Kidlington Gymnastics Club	Gosford School gym		138	Affiliated to British Gymnastics

Current provision

- 8.8 The clubs, activities and home sites are mapped in Figure 36 with a drive time of 20 minutes from the British Gymnastics affiliated clubs. This shows that almost everyone living in Cherwell has access to an affiliated British Gymnastics club within 20 minutes drive, either to a club within or outside of the authority area.

Figure 36: Location of affiliated gymnastics clubs



Consultation findings

Individual online survey

8.9 The Cherwell individual online survey results showed that 5% of the respondents, took part in gymnastics including trampolining, with most of these taking part on a weekly basis. Of those providing information about their age, half were aged under 16 years, but with a spread of the other respondents across the age groups.

8.10 These findings reflect the national characteristics of this sport; the fact that it is primarily attractive to young people, whilst the individual online survey was mainly completed by people aged over 25 years.

8.11 Individual comments about gymnastics and related sports provision in the district include:

- There needs to be provision for competitive cheerleading. The equipment required is almost identical to that of gymnastics, so the two sports should be able to use the same facilities and/or be practiced together.
- The provision of a specialist gymnastics hall as part of Bicester Leisure Centre should be considered, possibly a similar model to that at Bletchley Leisure Centre.
- The Phase 3 of Kingsmere should accommodate gymnastics.

Club comments

8.12 There were four club returns for the club survey for the clubs located within the district.

8.13 It should be noted that the Cherwell Gymnastics Club is based at Cherwell School in Oxford, not in Cherwell district. Wade Gymnastics is located in South Northamptonshire.

Bicester and District Gymnastics Club

8.14 This is a women's artistic gymnastics club, which according to British Gymnastics, has around 130 members. Most of the junior and mini members live locally, within about 10 minutes drive of the club, but the seniors travel much further, mostly for over 30 minutes. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years, but has waiting lists of 20-30 members for each age group, and the waiting times are for up to 3 years. The club has clear potential to grow but is limited by its access to facilities and a lack of storage space for equipment, and by a lack of volunteers and coaches.

8.15 The club uses the sports hall at Bicester Leisure Centre as their home site, 3-6 times a week both on weekday evenings and at weekends. Although the facility is fairly

easy to book, it is not the preferred location for the club, who want a dedicated gymnastics facility.

- 8.16 Feedback on Bicester Leisure Centre relates primarily to poor cleaning and maintenance, but also issues associated with the incorrect handling and storage of gymnastics equipment, leading to damage. The lack of storage space in part reflects the fact that other clubs are now using the storage which was originally planned to cater only, or mainly, for the gymnastics club.

Higher Energy Gymnastics Club

- 8.17 This club uses multiple sites including in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire. The club currently has around 150 members, all of whom travel up to about 20 minutes to reach their preferred site. The club has grown in the last five years and expects to continue to grow in the future. There are waiting lists for each age group, but these vary in length: 5-10 people for minis (primary school years); 30+ people for juniors (aged 11-16 years); less than 5 for seniors and veterans (people aged over 16 years). The club as a whole however has waiting lists of up to 2.5 years. The restrictions on growth include a lack of facilities, but also a lack of coaches and lack of funding.
- 8.18 The main site in Cherwell is the Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre sports hall which the club uses once or twice a week on weekday evenings. The club finds the hall easy to book and is in the preferred location. The quality of the hall is described as good, with the changing of average quality and the ancillary facilities above average.

Ricochet/Go Trampolining

- 8.19 This club has about 62 members, most of whom travel up to 30 minutes to the club, and over 80% are from the Banbury area, with the remainder from: outside of Cherwell; from Bicester; and from the Upper Heyford area. The club has grown in the last 5 years but is now at full capacity and does not expect to grow further. The club has a waiting list, but information about the size of the list and waiting times has not been provided. The issues restricting the growth of the club are seen as being a lack of facilities and a lack of funding.
- 8.20 The club uses the dedicated trampolining centre at Banbury Wharf, which is leased to the club up to 2023. The site is used by the club at all times on all days of the week. The venue is described as “fantastic”, but does not have changing provision and car parking can be a problem.
- 8.21 This site is not a commercial trampoline venue.

Banbury Cross Twirlers

- 8.22 This is a small club in Banbury with 15 members. Baton twirling is not a recognised discipline by British Gymnastics. The sport is formally recognised by Sport England, but does not have a formally recognised national governing body. The members live locally to Banbury, travelling up to about 10 minutes to the club. The size of the club has stayed the same over the last 5 years but it expected to grow in the future. There is no waiting list at present. The main issue faced by the club is the cost of facility hire.
- 8.23 The club uses Ruscote Community Centre for their training, once or twice a week and year round on weekday evenings. The facility is always easy to book. The hall and ancillary facilities are considered to be good quality but the hall has a low ceiling. Changing facilities are not required.
- 8.24 The club also uses North Oxfordshire Academy sports hall for training. This is also used once-twice a week but on weekends. It is fairly easy to book. The facility is adequate for the activity but is too cold in the winter. The ancillary facilities are adequate but the car parking can be very busy at weekends.
- 8.25 The club's third venue is Chacombe Village Hall for training, which is in South Northamptonshire. The site is used 2-3 times a month at weekends. The facility has a good hall and the ancillary facilities are average quality.
- 8.26 The fourth site used by the club is Spiceball Leisure Centre sports hall which is again used for training on an occasional basis on weekday evenings. The club reports that the hall is difficult to book, but the hall is good as it has a high ceiling. The hire costs limit the club's use of this site.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 8.27 As noted above British Gymnastics is the national governing body for gymnastics and trampolining. They were consulted about the needs and issues for the sport in Cherwell. Their Facility Strategy 2013-17 identifies the key issues facing the sport. The two most notable are enabling demand to be met locally and having enough hours available to cater for demand. The response of the national governing body is a planned investment programme which aims to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes, and also support to clubs using non-dedicated centres such as schools and local community halls.
- 8.28 The strategy provides an overview of the different roles of the dedicated and non-dedicated gymnastics facilities (see Figure 37). This is important as it gives the justification for British Gymnastics' focus on the development of new dedicated sites, as well as what is needed to enable gymnastics at other venues.

Figure 37: Role of dedicated and non-dedicated gym facilities

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

- 8.29 There are no identified priority projects for the British Gymnastics within the district, but the national governing body notes that they are currently assisting Cherwell Gymnastics Club, which is based in Oxford City, to move to its own dedicated facility.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 8.30 A review of the gymnastics provision and proposals within the strategies of the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. In summary:
- 8.31 The South Northamptonshire draft strategy noted that the sport is popular and that there is a dedicated gym with a large club, the Wade Gymnastics Club in Warkworth. It is proposed to protect this club and support justified expansion in the future. The strategy also identified the need for:
- more programme time for gymnastics clubs in sports halls and similar spaces.
 - potentially the development of additional dedicated centres in the longer term.
 - potentially the development of multi-functional hall and studio space which can be used by gymnastics during school hours.

- South Oxfordshire has two dedicated gymnastics centres, but the one closest to Cherwell at Berinsfield, is too far for most Cherwell residents to reach. The emerging strategy includes both a general proposal to support the development of new multi-use venues for more gymnastics use and the development of more dedicated centres, particularly in the West of the authority.
- No specific recommendations for gymnastics were made in the strategies for:
 - Aylesbury Vale
 - Oxford City
 - Stratford-on-Avon
 - Vale of White Horse
 - West Oxfordshire

Assessment of Future Needs

- 8.32 The assessment of future needs recognises that much of any new demand will be met at sites over the border of the authority, particularly at the Wade Gymnastics club in South Northamptonshire, and by Cherwell Gymnastics Club in Oxford.
- 8.33 The Cherwell Gymnastics Club in Oxford is hoping to develop a dedicated gymnastics centre which will result in some additional gymnastics capacity. However the development of a new centre might also attract more usage from across Oxford City itself. The club has recently failed to achieve planning permission for a dedicated centre, but it is anticipated that the club will continue to seek alternative premises in the future.
- 8.34 The Wade Gymnastics Club in South Northants is likely to experience increased demand due to the planned housing growth around Bicester, Banbury and Brackley. This large club may therefore need some expansion, but there are no specific projects at this time.
- 8.35 The Bicester and District Gymnastics Club has long and large waiting lists, and the facility issues are restricting their expansion. The club also needs to strengthen its sports development, with more coaches and volunteers. There appears to be justification for exploring whether a dedicated gymnastics centre can be made available, either on a separate site, or as part of an expanded/redeveloped Bicester Leisure Centre. If provided on a separate site, then this would also release some of the sports hall programming time, so meeting the broader demands for sports hall space from the Bicester area as it grows. The nature of the dedicated centre would also need to be confirmed, as some dedicated centres are effectively hall spaces, using converted warehouses or industrial units. Others have trampoline pits and similar, and are more likely to be specially built facilities.

- 8.36 The trampoline centre at Banbury (Go Trampolining Centre or Ricochet Trampoline Club) is relatively new, so the priorities here are to retain the site, and to support further growth of the sport in the town.
- 8.37 The trampoline centre at Talisman Business Park in Bicester which received planning permission in 2017, is a commercial trampoline site, not connected to the gymnastics club. If the club wished to use the site, it would need to negotiate with the operator. It seems unlikely that the club would be able to use training times to suit the club, even if the facility was suitable.
- 8.38 The use of the Kidlington and Gosford Leisure Centre is expected to continue for trampolining, as with the established use of Gosford Hill School’s ancillary hall for gymnastics.
- 8.39 The need for improved access to multi-functional halls or activity spaces is also expected to continue to be needed, both during the school day and at evenings and weekends. Where appropriate and justified, additional storage space at community centre type venues may therefore support use by gymnastics and related activities.
- 8.40 Figure 38 summarises the provision needs for gymnastics now and in the future.

Figure 38: Gymnastics summary of deficiencies and needs up to 2031

	Banbury sub area	Bicester sub area	Kidlington sub area
2017	No known deficiencies.	Club uses sports hall at Bicester Leisure Centre and is at capacity with waiting list.	No known deficiencies. Club uses leisure centre.
2021 to 2031	Support to village and community halls to provide storage space for gym equipment where there is demand.	Dedicated gymnastics hall where equipment can be permanently set up is required by 2021. Support to village and community halls to provide storage space for gym equipment where there is demand.	Support to village and community halls to provide storage space for gym equipment where there is demand.

- 8.41 The rate of provision for the gymnastics facility in the Bicester area is 0.01 per 1000 population.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 8.42 It is not recommended that developers' contributions are sought for formal gymnastics facilities in the Kidlington sub area as there appears to be sufficient capacity, but local projects which support the development of storage for expanding the use of village and community halls may be subject to developers' contributions.
- 8.43 It is recommended that developer contributions are sought towards the proposed dedicated gymnastics centre in Bicester which will primarily serve the Bicester sub area, as most of the users are likely to travel up to 20 minutes to the facility. The costs, options and delivery of this facility will require confirmation through the proposed project feasibility work. Contributions in Bicester sub area should be sought on a proportional basis: new development will result in a new population of approximately 28,100 by 2031, or 35.5% of the total population of the area.
- 8.44 As the relocation of gymnastics out of the Bicester Leisure Centre would also help to free up sports hall capacity in the town, consideration could be given to the additional allocation of sports hall developers' contributions to this facility.
- 8.45 It is recommended that consideration is given to seeking contributions towards the improvement of changing provision and car parking to support the British Gymnastics affiliated trampolining club at Banbury.
- 8.46 Local projects which support the development of storage for expanding the use of village and community halls in the Bicester sub area may be subject to developers' contributions.
- 8.47 This guidance is summarised in the Provision Guide, Figure 64 in Section 14.

Recommendations for gymnastics

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

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

8.50 It is recommended that a dedicated gymnastic centre for Bicester is included in a review of the IDP.

8.51 Local projects to support increased storage provision at village and community halls with the purpose enabling the sites to then provide for, or better provide for

gymnastics may be included in the IDP or may be treated as a local facility for S106 funding. If or when CIL is in place, the Council will be mindful to avoid double dipping between CIL and S106.

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

Protect

- 8.53 It is recommended that the existing trampoline centre in Banbury, and the halls used by gymnastics elsewhere are retained and maintained at high quality.

Enhance and Provide

- 8.54 It is recommended that, subject to feasibility assessments including site availability and the options for the potential reuse of an existing building, a dedicated gymnastics facility at Bicester is sought for the Bicester and District Gymnastics Club.
- 8.55 It is recommended that proposals for changing facilities and improved car parking provision at Ricochet Trampoline Centre, Banbury are supported.
- 8.56 Improved storage at village and community halls where justified to enable the provision of gymnastics.

SECTION 9: BOWLS

9.1 This section of the report considers the demand for bowls, both indoor and outdoor. There is some cross-over between indoor and outdoor bowls as some players are active year round, and some sites have both indoor and outdoor rinks. However many players only either play indoors or outside, and the governing body structure is different, with Bowls England and Bowls Oxfordshire representing the outdoor game, and the English Indoor Bowling Association the indoor game.

Participation in bowls

9.2 Sport England estimates that nationally about 271,000 adults take part in bowls at least once a month, but there is no specific split between different types of bowling, so this figure covers crown green outdoors and indoors, flat green outdoor and indoors, short mat and carpet (Sport England, 2017). The sport draws the largest proportion of its players from the higher socio-economic groups.

9.3 In terms of the trends in indoor bowls and bowls generally at the more local level, the Active People Survey sample size is too small even at the County Sports Partnership level to provide any real guidance.

9.4 According to the Sport England Active People Survey (Sport England , 2016), over 77% of players are aged 65 years and over and 19% are aged 55-64 years. Only 4% of players are aged under 55 years. The Market Segmentation analysis from Sport England (Sport England, 2017) suggests that bowls is participated in by only four of the market segments in the district, and they are of retirement age or close to it. This reflects the characteristics of the sport, which primarily attracts older people although the sport continually attempts to attract younger players.

9.5 The total number of people playing at outdoor bowls clubs which are affiliated to Bowls Oxfordshire was just over 400 in 2016, with the split in membership being around 74% men and 26% women.

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

Impact of population change in Cherwell

9.7 In 2016, there was estimated to be around 33,700 people aged 60 or over in Cherwell district. This number is expected to rise to around about 53,850 by 2031. There is therefore expected to be an increase in the number of people bowling over the next few years, particularly around Bicester where the number of people aged 60 and over will almost double over the period, from 9,850 to 19,200, see Figure 39.

Figure 39: Increase in 60+ years population to 2031

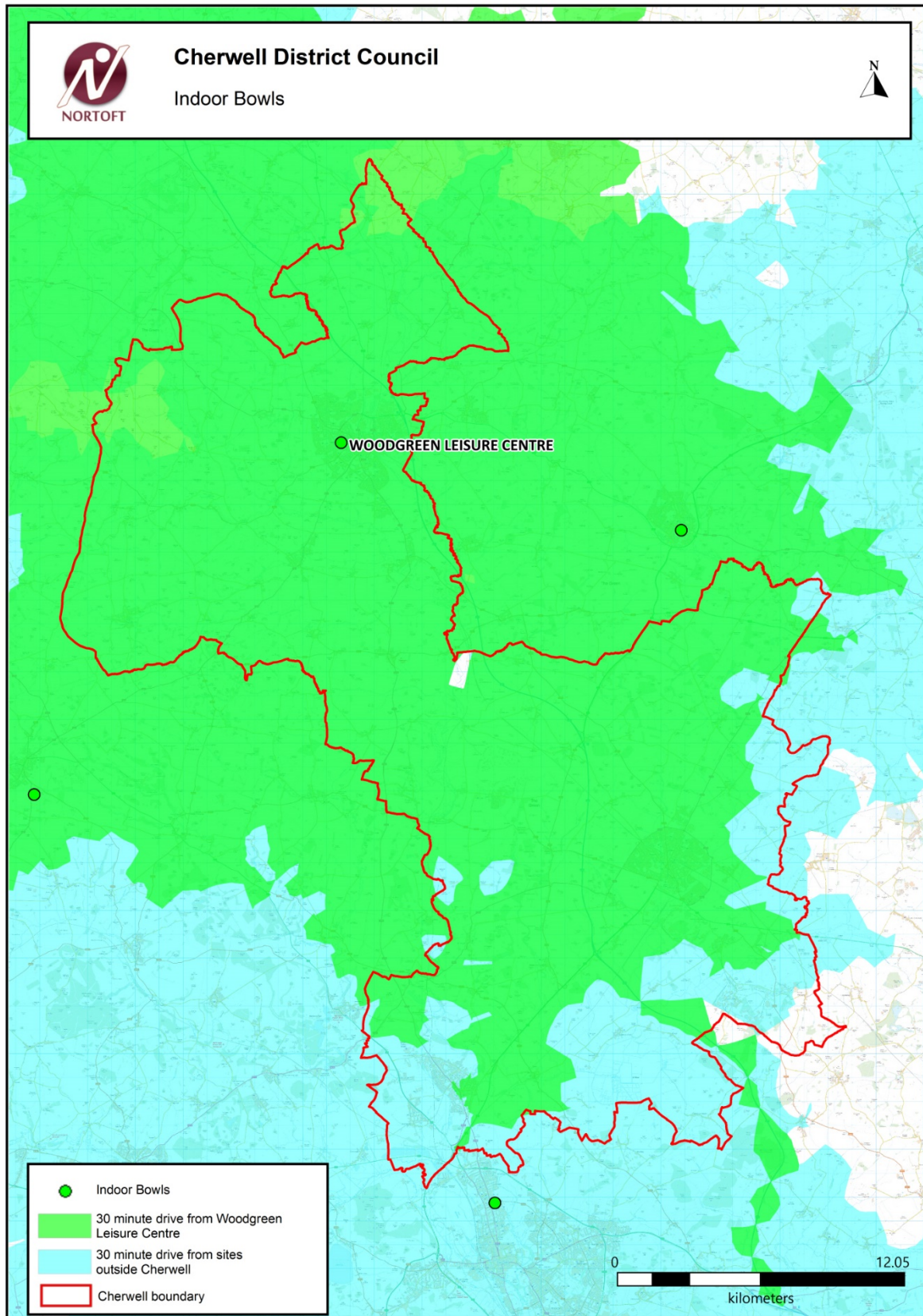
	Banbury popln 60+ years	Banbury % growth	Bicester popln 60+ years	Bicester % growth	Kidlington popln 60+ years	Kidlington % growth	District wide popln 60+ years	District wide % growth
2016	17041		9832		6835		33708	
2021	19821	116%	12421	126%	7580	111%	39823	118%
2026	22822	134%	15936	162%	8505	124%	47263	140%
2031	25382	149%	19178	195%	9266	136%	53827	160%

INDOOR BOWLS

Current provision

- 9.8 Indoor bowls greens at specialist centres normally have multiple rinks, but these can vary in number. The minimum size of an indoor bowls site should be 3 but preferably 4 rinks. Two rinks is probably the smallest usable size but would generally only be built where there are other facilities or adjacent outdoor greens. Otherwise 4 rinks is usually the smallest potentially viable size of facility. The larger sites often have 8 rinks or more.
- 9.9 There is one specialist indoor bowls site in Cherwell, at Woodgreen Leisure Centre which has 6 rinks. This site is available October-April to the club, but the green is then boarded over and the green area used for other purposes. The site is mapped in Figure 40 together with sites in the adjacent authorities with 30 minute drive time catchments. This map shows that almost all Cherwell residents have access to indoor bowls provision within 30 minutes.
- 9.10 It is also likely that the village and community hall network is providing important opportunities for many people in terms of short mat bowls.

Figure 40: Indoor Bowls map



Assessment of current supply and demand

9.11 Indoor bowling centres can cater for a high membership, and the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) advises that 80-100 members per rink should be used to assess the capacity. The capacity assessments based on the membership of Banbury Cross club based at Woodgreen and those of the closest facilities outside of the district are given in Figure 41. It should be noted that the membership figures are from the EIBA, but as memberships fluctuate, the numbers given in this table do not necessarily match those given by the clubs in their survey returns.

Figure 41: Indoor bowls and capacity

Site	Number of rinks	Capacity of site @ members per rink		2016 club membership	Used capacity % (at 80 per rink)
		@ 80 members per rink	@ 100 members per rink		
Banbury Cross (Woodgreen), Banbury	6	480	600	198	41%
Brackley and District Brackley	5	400	500	115	29%
Chipping Norton	4	320	400	150	47%
Oxford and District	6	480	600	245	51%
Oxford City and County	6	480	600	395	83%
Carterton	2	160	200	71	44%

9.12 This assessment suggests that the Woodgreen site has significant spare capacity, as do all of the sites in the adjacent authorities other than the Oxford City and County Club at Marston Ferry Road, Oxford. There is also good coverage of indoor bowls provision, either within or outside of the authority.

9.13 The English Indoor Bowling Association advises that indoor bowling now tends to be a year round activity. Given this, the closure of the Woodgreen indoor bowls facility between mid-April and early September, is likely to be restricting the sport at this site, though historically the summer usage was low.

Consultation findings

Individual online survey results

9.14 Of the respondents to the individual online survey, 5% said that they played indoor bowls in Cherwell but only 2% play monthly. However given that the regular players were under 16 years, it is likely that they may have assumed that this question included 10-pin bowling.

- 9.15 Of all respondents to the survey, only 26% commented on the amount of indoor bowls provision. Of these, 62% considered that there was about the right amount of indoor bowls provision, whilst about 20% considered that there was too little.

Club comments

Banbury Cross Indoor Bowls Club

- 9.16 This is the only club at the single specialist facility in Cherwell. The club has around 220 members (higher than the EIBA recorded figure of 198), all of whom drive up to 20 minutes to the club. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years but does anticipate growing in the next 5 years. The main factors restricting the growth of the club are a lack of coaches and the recruitment of members.
- 9.17 The club uses Woodgreen Leisure Centre during the winter months and following refurbishment in 2016, the green and the ancillary facilities are good.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 9.18 The national governing body for indoor bowls is the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) which forms part of the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA). For the period 2013-2017 the BDA has secured funding from Sport England to: grow participation across the adult population aged 55+ years; to provide excellent sporting experiences for existing participants in order to retain membership levels, and; to grow participation of those who have disabilities (Bowls England, 2017). The Bowls Development Alliance has just launched a new funding package which covers both indoor and outdoor bowls clubs to encourage membership recruitment.
- 9.19 The EIBA vision for 2017-21 (English Indoor Bowling Association, 2017) aims to increase participation across several groups, but with the recognition that the recruitment and retention of those aged 45 years and over, and those aged over 70 will require different versions/formats of the game.
- 9.20 The EIBA will also continue to seek increased participation in the 12-18 age range, amongst women and people with disabilities. The strategy priorities include the retention and improvement of existing facilities, and new indoor facilities in areas of low supply and high demand.
- 9.21 The EIBA provided the latest available (2016) membership figures for each of the clubs in Cherwell and the surrounding areas.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 9.22 A review of the indoor bowls provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken (see Part 1 Appendices). In summary:

- Aylesbury Vale’s strategy of 2012 identified a need for 1 additional indoor bowls rink in Aylesbury up to 2031.
- The draft strategy for South Northamptonshire concluded that there was a large amount of spare capacity at Brackley and no additional specialist provision was required, other than potentially close to Northampton.
- South Oxfordshire does not have any indoor bowls provision. The draft assessment concluded that no new provision was required and none is proposed in the draft strategy.
- The Vale of White Horse district does not have any indoor bowls provision. The strategy recommended the development of an indoor bowls facility in the Wantage/Grove area in association with an outdoor club.
- The strategies for these authorities make no reference to indoor bowls:
 - Oxford City
 - Stratford-on-Avon
 - West Oxfordshire

Modelling

Comparator authorities’ provision

9.23 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England, 2017) it has been possible to calculate the levels of indoor bowls provision per 1,000 head of population for Cherwell and the CIPFA benchmark comparator authorities, together with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 42).

Figure 42: Indoor Bowls centres - comparator authorities

Comparator	Population at 2016 for Cherwell (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)	Indoor bowls centres		Indoor bowls centres (number of rinks)	
		Total	Per 1000 population	Total	Per 1000 population
Cherwell	148,276	1	0.01	6	0.04
Basingstoke and Dean	176,200	2	0.01	12	0.07
Huntingdonshire	176,200	2	0.01	14	0.08
Test Valley	120,800	1	0.01	8	0.07
Vale of White Horse	127,000	0	0.00	0	0.00
South East	9,024,500	65	0.01	374	0.04
England	57,885,413	323	0.01	1688	0.03

9.24 The rate of indoor bowls provision in Cherwell is in line with the south east regional average, which is slightly higher than the national average. Some of the benchmark authorities have more provision, but others have none.

Summary of current situation

- 9.25 Given the accessibility of sites in the adjacent authorities to Cherwell and the capacity of the existing provision, the amount of provision of indoor bowls facilities does not appear to be out of step with the demand in Cherwell. However the boarding over of the Woodgreen facility during the summer months means that there is no accessible indoor bowls provision from mid-April to early September for parts of the district.

Assessment of future needs

- 9.26 The following assessment looks at the impact of the ageing population of Cherwell and considers whether there is sufficient provision of indoor bowls in the longer term. As a high proportion of members of indoor bowls clubs are aged 60+ years, this is the age group considered in the analysis. The anticipated change in the number of people aged 60 and over is given in Figure 39.
- 9.27 In summary, there is expected to be around a 159% increase in those aged 60 years and over between 2016 and 2031. There will be around 8,300 extra people of this age in the Banbury area, 9,300 in the Bicester area, and 2,400 in the Kidlington area. Taken together, the growth in the number of those aged 60 and over in both the Banbury and Bicester sub areas is around 166%.
- 9.28 Assuming that the membership of Banbury Cross club at Woodgreen catered for all of this extra demand, a 166% increase in the number of members would take the club to 328 members, still easily within the capacity of this 6-rink site. The boarding over of the green in summer is however likely to be restricting the potential of the site, as indoor bowls is now played year round. If sufficient summer demand could be demonstrated, consideration should be given to providing bowls year round.
- 9.29 For many people living in the Kidlington area, the Banbury Cross club at Woodgreen will be too far away to access within 30 minutes drive time. These residents are most likely to use the Oxford City and County site in Oxford, or to play the short mat form of the game in village and community halls.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 9.30 The Banbury Cross indoor bowls green at Woodgreen provides a facility which is not otherwise available to most residents in Cherwell, and its catchment area of 30 minutes drive time includes all of Bicester and stretches down towards Kidlington. However, the club is relatively small and is only using about 40% of the site's capacity.
- 9.31 Unless the rate of participation in indoor bowls increases, then the club might only grow to around 330 members even by 2031 and assuming that, it meets the needs

of all the residents of both the Banbury and Bicester areas. This would take the used capacity of the site to about 70% by 2031.

- 9.32 Given that the Woodgreen site is the only indoor bowls facility in the district, the site should, if possible be retained. However if this is not financially sustainable, then alternative provision might be considered, perhaps providing either a 4 or 6 rink indoor facility adjacent to an existing bowls club. This would need to be either in Banbury or Bicester towns in order to maximise the catchment.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 9.33 It is not recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards indoor bowls in Cherwell district as there is sufficient existing capacity to meet future demand up to 2031.

Recommendations for indoor bowls

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

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

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

Protect

9.37 It is recommended that the existing indoor bowls provision at Woodgreen Leisure Centre is protected and maintained. Sports development initiatives to support the club to increase their membership more widely should be explored to encourage more players, both older and younger people.

OUTDOOR BOWLS

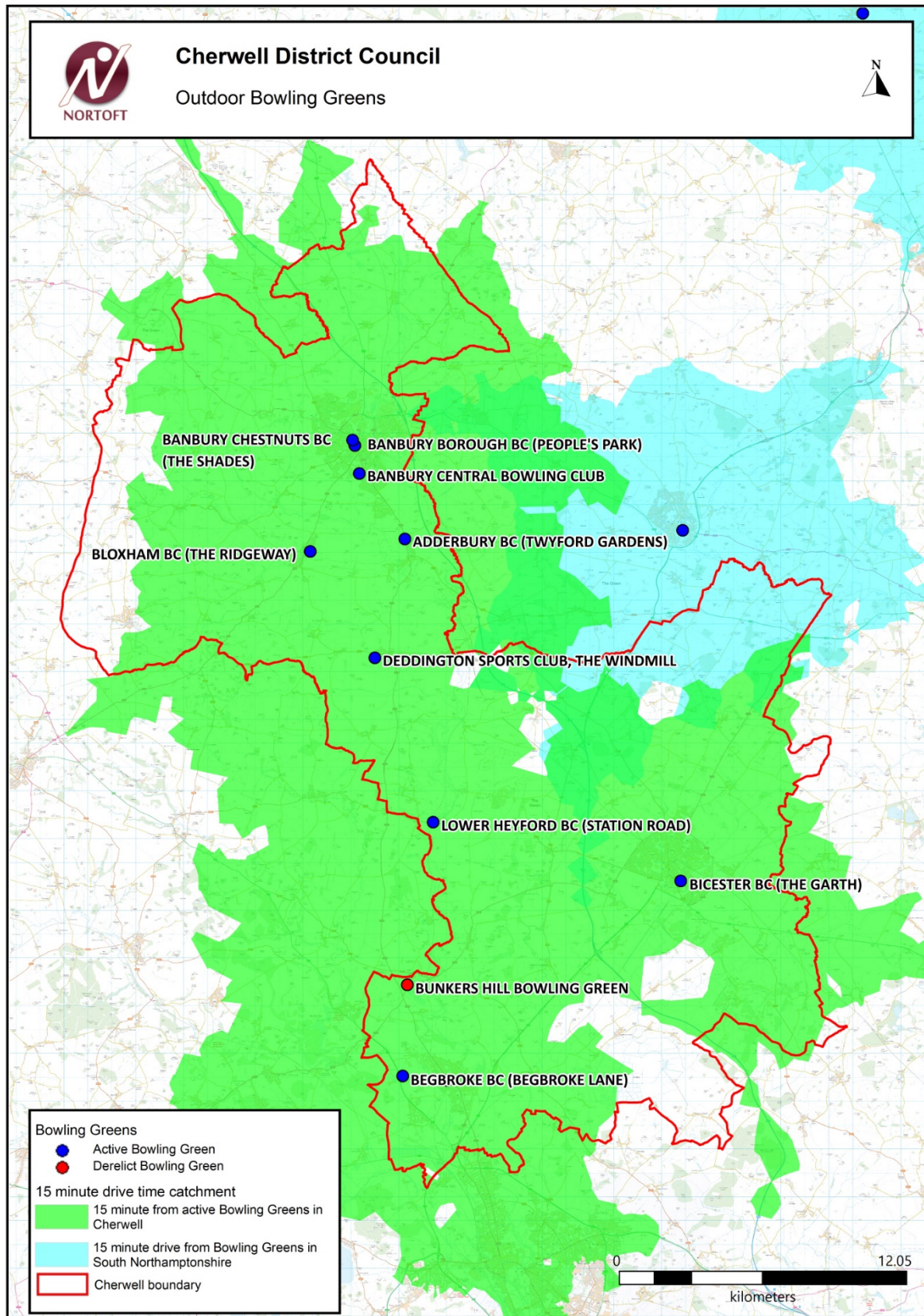
Current provision and assessment

- 9.38 There are 10 outdoor bowls sites in Cherwell. Each site has one green but the number of rinks varies from 4 to 6. There is one derelict site, Bunkers Hill at Shipton on Cherwell. The sites are listed in Figure 43 together with the clubs using each of the sites, the site management, and site quality. This information has been confirmed with Bowls Oxfordshire. The sites are mapped in Figure 44.

Figure 43: Outdoor bowls greens

Club	Number of greens, Number of rinks	Settlement	Site management	Summary score for green quality, management and maintenance	Summary score for general characteristics and accessibility	Summary score for pavilion facilities	Membership in 2016	Comments
Begbroke Bowls Club	1,5	Begbroke	Club	100%	100%	80%	22	New but small clubhouse
Bicester Bowls Club	1,6	Bicester	Club	96%	100%	95%	39	
Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club	1,6	Banbury	Club	100%	92%	95%	38	
Banbury Borough Bowling Club	1,6	Banbury	Club	100%	96%	95%	72	
Bloxham Bowls Club	1, 4	Bloxham	Club	100%	100%	100%	35	
Kidlington Bowls Club	1,6	Kidlington	Club	100%	96%	100%	54	
Derelict - no club	0	Shipton on Cherwell						Derelict site
Lower Heyford Bowls Club	1,5	Lower Heyford	Club	93%	85%	80%	Not affiliated	
Adderbury Bowls and Social Club	1,5	Adderbury	Club	100%	79%	95%	62	
Banbury Central Bowling Club	1,6	Banbury	Club	100%	96%	100%	84	
Deddington Beeches Bowls Club	1,6	Deddington	Club	100%	96%	100%	Closed Sept 2016	

Figure 44: Outdoor bowling greens map



Consultation findings

Individual online survey results

- 9.39 Only 2% of the respondents to the online survey use outdoor bowls greens in Cherwell. Most respondents to the survey had no opinion on outdoor bowls provision but of those with a view, most felt that there was about the right amount of provision. The low return rate makes any meaningful statistical analysis problematic and therefore no further investigation has taken place with respect to the online survey for bowling.

Club comments

- 9.40 A summary of the responses to the club survey are given below. There was no return from clubs in the Bicester area.

Banbury sub area

Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club

- 9.41 The Banbury Chestnuts Bowls club has about 40 members, most of whom are veterans, though there are some seniors. There are no younger members. All of the players come from a travel time of about 10 minutes, almost all from Banbury and the surrounding villages. The membership has decreased over the last five years, and is not expected to grow again. The club does not have a waiting list. A key issue identified by the club is the competition for members by the other clubs nearby.
- 9.42 The club has its own site which is considered high quality, hosting county level games. The ancillary facilities are of average quality.

Banbury Central Bowling Club

- 9.43 This club has around 85 members, 91% of which are veterans, with a small number of seniors and one junior. The members travel up to 20 minutes to reach the club and almost all live within Banbury and its surrounding villages. The club membership has fallen over the last 5 years and it is not expected to increase in the future. There is no waiting list for club membership. The main problems faced by the club are a lack of coaches, lack of volunteers and the recruitment of members.
- 9.44 The club leases the green at Horton View in Banbury. The lease runs to 2037. The comments about the green are:

“The playing surface has been fairly good although there has been some problems with fox and badger damage resulting in the need to use an electric fence as a

deterrent. The contractor has done the basic maintenance on the green but there has been little specialist work on the surface and it has a tendency to become bumpy and uneven.”

- 9.45 The pavilion facilities including the kitchen require refurbishment, and there is no disabled toilet facility.

Kidlington sub area

Kidlington Bowls Club

- 9.46 The Kidlington Bowls Club has about 50 members, all of whom are veterans and live locally, within about 5 minutes drive time of the site. Almost all come from the Kidlington area. The club does not have any waiting list.
- 9.47 No information was provided in relation to their facility.

Begbroke Bowls Club

- 9.48 The Begbroke club has 22 members, all of whom are veterans. They mostly come from the Kidlington area, but a small number come from outside of Cherwell district. The club membership has increased in the last 5 years and the club expects this trend to continue into the future. There is no waiting list. The issues faced by the club are a lack of funding and the recruitment of members.
- 9.49 The club has its own site in Begbroke which it uses once or twice a week during the summer months. The club did not provide a comment about the quality of the site, but notes that changing provision is not required and that the ancillary facilities are average quality.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 9.50 The main national governing body for flat green bowls is Bowls England, which was formed by the unification of the English Bowling Association and the English Women’s Bowling Association. The Bowls England Strategic Plan 2014-17 (Bowls England, 2013) sets out its structure and the organisational links with the Bowls Development Alliance (BDA), which is the body recognised by Sport England for the development of the sport, particularly at the grass roots level. The objectives of the strategic plan are the promotion of the sport, the recruitment of members, and their retention.
- 9.51 The BDA Whole Sport Plan 2013-17 (Bowls Development Alliance, 2017) background information about the sport identifies that:
- The majority of people come into bowls around the age of 54 years, with a peak in the late 70s and early 80s, and that there is an even spread between club and non-club members.

- About 25% of participants have a disability or long-term limiting illness.
- Flat green bowls is the most popular discipline, with participation alternating between indoor and outdoor bowls with the seasons. Participation in short mat and carpet bowls is more consistent throughout the year.
- 60% of the players are male.
- The majority of female players are retired and married, and the sport is less attractive to single females.
- The sport is primarily played by those of a white origin.
- Bowls is often the only sport played by its participants.

9.52 The BDA 2013-17 Delivery Summary (Bowls Development Alliance, 2013) identified geographical hot spot areas for focussing their sports development work. The Play Bowls Strategy 2017-2021 (unpublished) introduces a wider sports development scheme and new funding programme which will be available to all clubs seeking to increase their memberships.

9.53 The affiliated club membership information has been provided by Bowls Oxfordshire, the county association. They advise that the maximum reasonable capacity of a 6 rink green for most clubs is around 100 members, i.e. around 17 members per rink. However, the “capacity” of the most competitive clubs would be potentially lower than this figure, whilst the membership capacity of the most “social” clubs might be higher.

9.54 Where the clubs manage their own sites, their viability appears to primarily depend on their ability to recruit and retain volunteers for the green and site management. There is therefore no minimum size of club, although around 40 members is probably a realistic sustainable minimum for most club-managed sites.

9.55 The county bowls association also confirms that a 15 minute drive time is realistic for outdoor bowls.

Adjacent authorities’ provision and strategies

9.56 The adjacent local authority strategies in relation to bowls are summarised below.

- The strategy for Oxford City concluded that there was a sufficient supply of bowls greens for the long term, but that the situation should be kept under review.
- South Northamptonshire’s nearest club is at Brackley, which is well used and expected to be fully used as the town grows. Its catchment covers some of the rural area to the east of Bicester.
- The bowls clubs in South Oxfordshire generally have spare capacity, although the club at Thame is already close to being fully used. There are no recommendations for additional provision. There are no sites close to the boundary of Cherwell.

- The Vale of White Horse strategy recommends the retention of the existing provision but no extra sites.
- The following authorities' strategies do not have recommendations for outdoor bowls:
 - Aylesbury
 - Stratford-on-Avon
 - West Oxfordshire

Summary of current situation

- 9.57 There are 10 bowling green sites within the district and each site has a single green, but with the number of rinks varying from 4 to 6. There is one derelict site at Shipton on Cherwell. The quality of the sites is generally very good.
- 9.58 Most of the feedback from the clubs shows a membership situation which is either steady or declining, with only the very small Begbroke club saying that its membership had increased. One club ceased in September 2016, at Deddington. Overall the club membership numbers are low, with only Banbury Borough and Banbury Central having over 70 members.
- 9.59 Although there is no minimum number of members required for a sustainable club, 40 is probably realistic for many. Of the clubs in Cherwell district, Begbroke is much lower at 22 members, but Bicester Bowls Club, Banbury Chestnuts, and Bloxham Bowls Club all have between 35 and 39 members.
- 9.60 There is no information about the number of members of the Lower Heyford club as this is no longer affiliated. This site has the lowest quality, but the green and ancillary facilities are still of a reasonable standard.
- 9.61 The sites are all managed by the clubs themselves and most are owned by the clubs. The exception is the Horton View site used by Banbury Central.
- 9.62 The relatively small drive time catchment for outdoor bowls greens, a maximum of 15 minutes, means that there is limited cross-authority boundary movement of members. There are no additional sites planned in the adjacent authorities and their strategies conclude that there is sufficient provision in the long term to meet their needs.

Modelling and assessment of future needs

- 9.63 The population of Cherwell who are aged 60 and over is expected to rise in the period up to 2031. Figure 45 models what may happen to the demand in each sub area at each outdoor bowls club. The calculation assumes that the current membership level at each club is projected forward based on the percentage growth in the relevant sub area of those people aged 60 and over. The calculation also assumes that the current rate of participation per 1,000 population will remain

constant over the period, so the only growth is in direct correlation to the change in population.

9.64 Alternative scenarios are tested in these forecasts:

- Banbury sub area
 - With Deddington retained i.e. club re-established following closure in 2016
 - Without Deddington i.e. site closed permanently

- Bicester sub area
 - Lower Heyford unaffiliated club assumed to have 15 members in 2016 and retained long term
 - Lower Heyford closed and members not transferred to other clubs
 - Lower Heyford closed and assumed membership of 15 in 2016 transferred to other sites

- Kidlington sub area
 - Begbroke retained
 - Begbroke site closed and membership transferred to Kidlington

9.65 The outcomes of this modelling are summarised below.

Banbury sub area

9.66 With Deddington retained, there would remain spare capacity of 128 members, and even if it is closed permanently there would still be spare capacity of 26 members. There does not appear to be any strategic justification for retaining the Deddington site. Some of the clubs would be expecting to be running close to full capacity, but there is sufficient capacity overall for the demand to be absorbed elsewhere. Deddington is within 15 minutes drive time of Banbury.

Bicester sub area

9.67 If the Lower Heyford site was closed, then there is sufficient capacity at the Bicester Bowls Club to cater for all of the demand, even if the assumed membership of 15 of the unaffiliated club was transferred to Bicester Bowls Club. Lower Heyford is within 15 minutes drive time of Bicester Bowls Club. The supply/demand balance would mean that the Bicester Bowls Club would be operating at maximum capacity by 2031.

Kidlington sub area

9.68 If the very small club at Begbroke was unable to sustain itself in the long term, there is sufficient capacity at Kidlington for the members to transfer. In this case the club at Kidlington would be running close to the maximum capacity.

Figure 45: Outdoor bowls demand and capacity up to 2031 scenario tests

Banbury – assuming Deddington is retained

Club	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population in sub area aged 60+ years	Forecast population in sub area aged 60+ in 2031	Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2031	Spare capacity in number of members of site at 2031
Adderbury Bowls & Social	1	5	62	12	85	23	73%	17041	25382	92	-7
Banbury Borough	1	6	72	12	102	30	71%			107	-5
Banbury Central	1	6	84	14	102	18	82%			125	-23
Banbury Chestnuts	1	6	38	6	102	64	37%			57	45
Bloxham	1	4	35	9	68	33	51%			52	16
Deddington	1	6	0	0	102	102	0%			0	102
			291		561		52%			433	128

Banbury – assuming Deddington is closed

Club	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population in sub area aged 60+ years	Forecast population in sub area aged 60+ in 2031	Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2031	Spare capacity in number of members of site at 2031
Adderbury Bowls & Social	1	5	62	12	85	23	73%	17041	25382	92	-7
Banbury Borough	1	6	72	12	102	30	71%			107	-5
Banbury Central	1	6	84	14	102	18	82%			125	-23
Banbury Chestnuts	1	6	38	6	102	64	37%			57	45
Bloxham	1	4	35	9	68	33	51%			52	16
			291		459		63%				

Bicester with both Bicester Bowls Club and Lower Heyford

Club	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population in sub area aged 60+ years	Forecast population in sub area aged 60+ in 2031	Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2031	Spare capacity in number of members of site at 2031
Bicester Bowls Club	1	6	39	7	102	63	38%	9832	19178	76	26
Lower Heyford	1	5	15	3	85	70	18%			29	56
			54		187		28%			105	82

Bicester with closure of Lower Heyford and transfer of membership

Club	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population in sub area aged 60+ years	Forecast population in sub area aged 60+ in 2031	Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2031	Spare capacity in number of members of site at 2031
Bicester Bowls Club	1	6	54	9	102	48	53%	9832	19178	105	-3
			54		102		53%			105	-3

Bicester with closure of Lower Heyford but no transfer of membership

Club	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population in sub area aged 60+ years	Forecast population in sub area aged 60+ in 2031	Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2031	Spare capacity in number of members of site at 2031
Bicester Bowls Club	1	6	39	7	102	63	38%	9832	19178	76	26
			39		102		38%			76	

Kidlington with both Kidlington and Begbroke retained

Club	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population in sub area aged 60+ years	Forecast population in sub area aged 60+ in 2031	Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2031	Spare capacity in number of members of site at 2031
Begbroke	1	5	17	3	85	68	20%	6835	9266	23	62
Kidlington	1	6	54	9	102	48	53%			73	29
			71		187		36%			96	91

Kidlington only retained with transfer of members from Begbroke

Club	Number of greens	Number of rinks	Number of members in 2016	Number of members per rink 2016	Max capacity @ 17 members per rink	Spare capacity (number of members)	Used capacity in 2016 %	Current population in sub area aged 60+ years	Forecast population in sub area aged 60+ in 2031	Future number of members per site with current rate of participation at 2031	Spare capacity in number of members of site at 2031
Kidlington	1	6	71	12	102	31	70%	6835	9266	96	6
			71		102		70%			96	6

Meeting the needs of the future

- 9.69 Bows primarily attracts older people (retirement age and older), and although there is a generally aging population in Cherwell, the number of people participating in outdoor bowls has not kept fully in line with the increase in the number of older people. The modelling for the strategy has taken a precautionary approach, assuming that future demand for bowls increases in line with the number of older people. Bowls greens are expensive to establish and to maintain, so this approach ensures that there will be into the long term, a network of bowls greens available across the district.
- 9.70 The existing network of outdoor bowls greens has more than sufficient spare capacity to cater for outdoor bowls in the period up to 2031. The club at Deddington closed in 2016 and the Lower Heyford club is now unaffiliated. The club at Begbroke is small and may not be sustainable in the long term. The catchments of these sites overlap with those of the larger and more successful clubs, and therefore do not appear to be essential to the bowls network in the long term.
- 9.71 A high priority is to support the volunteers in the clubs to help them to manage their sites effectively, and to encourage increased participation.
- 9.72 Where a site is disused for bowls, then consideration should be given to alternative sport, recreation or green space use in accordance with national planning policy guidance and the Local Plan Part 1, taking into account the findings of the open space, sport and recreation assessments and strategies.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 9.73 It is not recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards outdoor bowls facilities in Cherwell district as there is sufficient existing capacity to meet future demand up to 2031.

Recommendations for outdoor bowls

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

- 9.75 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to outdoor bowls provision via its partners.
- 9.76 It is recommended that any future identified projects be included in a review of the IDP.

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

Protect

9.78 It is recommended that the bowling greens at the following sites should be retained and maintained at high quality:

Bicester Bowls Club
Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club
Banbury Borough Bowling Club
Bloxham Bowls Club
Kidlington Bowls Club
Adderbury Bowls and Social Club
Banbury Central Bowling Club

9.79 It is recommended that the future of the following sites should be kept under review and will be dependent on their membership levels being sustainable:

Begbroke Bowls Club
Lower Heyford Bowls Club

Dispose

9.80 It is recommended that the following sites should not be retained for bowls unless there is local demand:

Deddington Beeches Bowls Club
Bunkers Hill Bowling Green, Shipton on Cherwell

9.81 Where a site becomes disused for bowls, then consideration should be given to alternative sport, recreation or green space use in accordance with national planning policy guidance and the Local Plan Part 1, and taking into account the findings of the open space, sport and recreation assessments and strategies.

SECTION 10: TENNIS

- 10.1 This section of the strategy considers the demand for tennis, both indoor and outdoor. Specialist indoor tennis centres have a large catchment area, whilst outdoor tennis is usually more local, except for the largest and most successful clubs.
- 10.2 Although this section considers indoor and outdoor tennis provision separately, at the club level they can be considered together, since covering courts, either on a permanent or seasonal basis provides significant extra capacity.

Participation in tennis

- 10.3 Nationally tennis attracts more men (60%) than women (40%), and the higher socio-economic groups. Sport England's Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) suggests that tennis participation has decreased during the period 2007/08 to 2015/16. The Market Segmentation analysis (Sport England, 2017) suggests that tennis in Cherwell is currently played by just one of the larger market segment groups, women aged around 46-55 years. However, tennis is attractive to a higher proportion of Cherwell residents, generally as a 4th or 5th level activity.
- 10.4 The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) affiliated club information gives a figure of 1,238 club members.

National governing body objectives

- 10.5 The LTA is committed to growing the sport to ensure that more people are playing tennis more often at first class tennis facilities, with high quality coaching programmes and well organised competition (LTA British Tennis, 2016). The LTA's overall aim for the period 2011-2016 set out in their Places to Play strategy (LTA British Tennis, 2017) 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 minute drive time, and within 10 minutes drive of a tennis club whether indoor or outdoor.

INDOOR TENNIS

Current provision

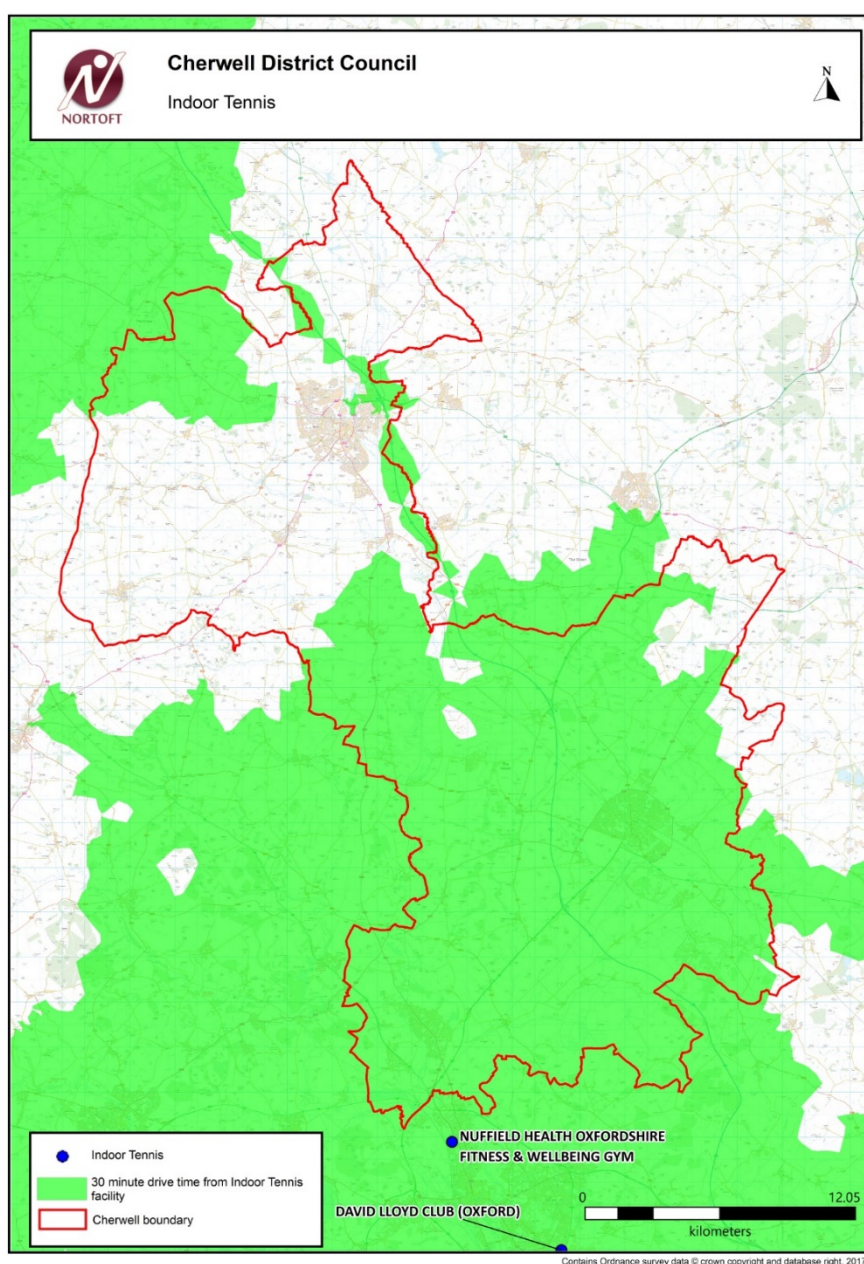
- 10.6 Specialist indoor tennis facilities tend to be strategically located and often serve a wider than local catchment. They are important recreational facilities for casual play but are often equally important for training and the development of elite tennis players, and for higher level competitions. Indoor tennis centres usually have a number of courts (4, 6 or 8) that are associated with outdoor courts.

10.7 There is currently no indoor tennis provision in Cherwell.

Assessment of current supply and demand

10.8 Indoor tennis facilities have around a 30 minute drive time catchment, and although Cherwell does not have any indoor tennis provision at the present time, much of the authority does have access to facilities in the adjoining authorities; in Oxford and in Stratford. The area without any access to an indoor tennis site is Banbury town and some of the rural area to the west of Banbury, see Figure 46.

Figure 46: Indoor Tennis accessibility to sites outside Cherwell



Consultation findings

Individual online survey

- 10.9 There are no indoor tennis facilities in Cherwell district, but 36% of the respondents had some opinion. Of these 61% considered that there was too little provision whilst 35% considered that there was about the right amount of provision.

Club comments

- 10.10 There are no indoor tennis clubs in Cherwell.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 10.11 The LTA's general guide for club membership numbers and facility requirements are: 60 members for a floodlit court, and 200 members for an indoor court. Community tennis venues are however expected to accommodate much higher numbers. The LTA club membership figures show that Banbury West End and Bicester LTC both have over 300 members, so potentially meet the LTA criteria for indoor court provision.
- 10.12 The LTA estimates that the capital cost of an air hall is around £100,000 per court but the cost of maintaining an air hall is around £20,000 per annum for a 3 court hall. A frame construction is around £200,000 per court to build, i.e. double the cost of an air hall, but the running costs are much lower. The Sport England estimated costs as at quarter 2 of 2016 for a traditional building is around £2.35m for a 3 court facility.
- 10.13 The LTA county association notes that in practice, players from north Oxford are unlikely to travel to Abingdon to use the indoor courts. Further that the Nuffield centre in Oxford charges £130 per month for tennis membership with access to the indoor courts.
- 10.14 The LTA county association has been working with Banbury Tennis Club as a focus club in the region. They have plans to cover 3 courts and have spoken with and received positive feedback from both the town and district councils. The LTA supports the recommendation that indoor courts are required in Banbury.
- 10.15 The LTA is not aware of the Banbury West End facility plans, but would not consider them to be the priority for indoor provision in the area.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 10.16 A review of the indoor tennis provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. Most of these strategies have not made specific reference to, or provided recommendations for indoor tennis provision which is

relevant to Cherwell. The exception is the Vale of White Horse where the recommendation is to retain the existing facility at Abingdon, and potentially enable the development of further indoor courts in the future.

- 10.17 This review of the adjacent authorities' strategies suggests that it is unlikely that new indoor tennis facilities would come forwards even in the medium-longer term.

Modelling

Comparator authorities' provision

- 10.18 Using Active Places Power data (Sport England, 2017) it has been possible to compare the lack of indoor tennis provision in Cherwell with provision in the CIPFA comparator authorities and with the regional and national rates of provision (see Figure 47).

- 10.19 This analysis suggests that the current lack of indoor tennis provision in Cherwell is out of step with its benchmark comparators, and with both the England and regional rates of provision. If the South East provision per 1,000 population is applied to Cherwell and its sub areas, then this would suggest that there would be justification for a total of 4 indoor courts now, rising to 6 by 2031. At the sub area level, the indoor court provision which could be justified for Banbury sub area, is currently 2 courts, rising to 3 by 2031. Bicester sub area would justify 2 courts both now and into the future. The population of the Kidlington sub area on this basis would justify a single court now and the same by 2031.

Figure 47: Indoor Tennis centres - comparator authorities

Nearest Neighbour	Population at 2016 for Cherwell (ONS figure, at 2014 for others)	Indoor Tennis Centre		Indoor tennis courts	
		Total	Per 1000 people	Total	Per 1000 people
Cherwell	148,276	0	0.00	0	0.00
Basingstoke and Dean	176,200	3	0.02	11	0.06
Huntingdonshire	176,200	1	0.01	3	0.02
Test Valley	120,800	1	0.01	2	0.02
Vale of White Horse	127,000	1	0.01	6	0.05
South East	9,024,500	74	0.01	248	0.03
England	57,885,413	350	0.01	1341	0.02

Summary of current situation

- 10.20 There is no indoor tennis court provision in Cherwell at the present time, but much of the district is within a 30 minute drive time of a facility. Banbury town and the some of the rural area to the west of the town is without any access to a facility within 30 minutes.
- 10.21 Although tennis as a sport has declined over the last few years, most of the affiliated clubs in Cherwell are large, and both Banbury West End and Bicester LTC meet the minimum size guidelines from the LTA for indoor court provision.

Assessment of Future Needs

- 10.22 The assessment of future needs takes into account the balance between indoor and outdoor tennis court provision, the current balance in supply and demand, and the accessibility of the indoor tennis centres outside of the authority.
- 10.23 The lack of capacity on the club sites in Banbury and the fact that this area of the authority is outside of the catchment of any existing facility, suggests that indoor tennis provision should be actively explored in the town. This would need to be led by the clubs and the LTA but support from Cherwell District Council towards the capital and potentially revenue costs would be justified.
- 10.24 Cherwell District Council and the LTA have therefore started consideration of the construction of new covered courts to serve the Banbury area. Banbury Tennis Club is the LTA priority focus club for the area, although their membership is not yet at a level which meets the LTA's benchmark for indoor provision. The "Banburyshire Tennis Partnership" has been formed to support the development of clubs and to explore the options for a new covered court facility.
- 10.25 The site currently under active consideration is at Grimsbury, but should this site not be feasible, then Cherwell District Council would wish to explore the option of investing in the existing hard courts at North Oxfordshire Academy, and bringing them into community use for tennis.
- 10.26 Bicester is within the catchment area of the indoor tennis provision in Oxford, and additional outdoor courts are planned as part of the Sports Village at Kingsmere. This new provision should help to relieve the pressures on the Bicester Lawn Tennis Club, although may be insufficient to cater for all future needs. The need for indoor tennis provision in association with Bicester Lawn Tennis Club should therefore be kept under review, and may be justified in the longer term.
- 10.27 Kidlington is within easy travel time of the Nuffield site in Oxford and within about 20 minutes of the David Lloyd centre also in Oxford. Kidlington is also within about 20 minutes drive time to the White Horse Leisure and Tennis Centre at Abingdon. The one-court indoor tennis demand estimated using the South East regional average will have already been absorbed by these facilities, and the demand is not

likely to increase significantly in the future. Furthermore, there are no clubs in this area which would be able to host such a facility. No indoor tennis provision is therefore justified for this area of the authority.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 10.28 There are no new indoor tennis facilities planned for Cherwell or in the adjacent authorities. There appears to be justification for indoor provision in Banbury now, and potentially in the longer term, in the Bicester area.
- 10.29 There is an emerging proposal for Banbury which is still at an early stage, and the site, feasibility, type of cover, and financial sustainability is still to be confirmed. The need for and options for covered courts in Bicester should be kept under review.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 10.30 It is recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards an indoor tennis facility in Banbury to serve the Banbury sub area. The cost and timescales will need to be confirmed via the proposed project feasibility study. The rate of provision to be applied is 0.01 indoor tennis facility per 1000 population.
- 10.31 This guidance is summarised in the Provision Guide, Figure 64, Section 14.

Recommendations for indoor tennis

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

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

10.34 It is recommended that the proposed indoor tennis project at Banbury is included in a review of the IDP.

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

Provide

10.36 It is recommended that indoor tennis provision in Banbury is developed in association with the Banburyshire Tennis Network. The site, costs, timescales,

sustainability, and deliverability need to be confirmed through a feasibility study.

- 10.37 If indoor tennis provision elsewhere is not deliverable, then it is recommended that consideration is given to the improvement of the existing hard courts at the North Oxfordshire Academy, and securing them for community use.
- 10.38 It is recommended that the need for indoor tennis court provision in Bicester is kept under review.

OUTDOOR TENNIS

Current provision and assessment

- 10.39 Outdoor tennis courts in Cherwell are an important facility type and there are both club sites and open access courts. This section of the strategy primarily looks at dedicated tennis courts because multi-use courts on school sites and elsewhere tend only to be available for community use during the summer months, with the courts being converted to netball and other sports for much of the rest of the year. Currently there are no school sites with dedicated tennis courts that are regularly used by the community. Open access multi use games areas (MUGAs) are often marked out for tennis in addition to other sports. Therefore, other than at Launton, The Forum Youth Centre at Kidlington, and Hornton which are promoted and clearly used for tennis, they are not considered as part of this assessment as their main function is as part of the provision for children and young people.
- 10.40 Mini courts are not recorded below as they are not included in the LTA capacity assessment.
- 10.41 Club sites are considered separately from open access sites as the number of courts, the quality of the courts and the ancillary facilities needs to be much higher than a facility aimed at casual play. Most clubs also need at least some flood-lit court space to enable the sport to be played year round. The levels of use of open access sites are more difficult to assess accurately as no or only partial information is collected about their use.
- 10.42 There are 11 sites within Cherwell with tennis courts available and promoted for community use. Of the 11 sites, 6 have affiliated clubs, there is one unaffiliated club site, and there are 4 community court sites. These are listed in Figure 48 together with the assessment of their quality, and mapped in Figure 49.
- 10.43 Generally the court quality across all of the sites is good, with the exception of the Forum Youth Centre at Kidlington where the surface is very mossy. All except for the People's Park Courts in Banbury have access to changing facilities. The Horton,

Launton and Kidlington sites are also multi-use games areas, marked out for other sports.

- 10.44 The LTA's general guide for club membership numbers and facility requirements are: 60 members for a floodlit court and 200 members for an indoor court (para 10.11). Community tennis venues are however expected to accommodate much higher numbers. A 10 minute drive time catchment for outdoor tennis sites is considered by the LTA to be an appropriate basis for modelling. The map in Figure 49 has green shading for the catchments from LTA affiliated clubs, with the yellow shading from the unaffiliated club and community tennis courts. This map shows that there are large gaps in the access to local tennis court facilities, although there are accessible affiliated LTA clubs for each of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington (in Oxford and West Oxfordshire). The Upper Heyford area is least well served at the present time.
- 10.45 The LTA have provided an assessment of used capacity at the affiliated club sites, given in Figure 50. This shows that all of the clubs, other than Hook Norton, are very close to their expected capacity or have exceeded the number of members that the LTA would expect to be able to be catered for with the club's existing courts. All of the clubs, other than Cropredy, have strong junior and mini memberships in addition to adults.
- 10.46 The LTA advise that the usage of parks and open access courts is usually around a maximum of 20% at peak time during the summer months. This is confirmed by parks bookings from other authorities, but cannot be confirmed for the Cherwell sites because of the nature of the use, that it is unrecorded. It is therefore assumed that the sites in the People's Park in Banbury, Hornton, Horton cum Studley, Launton and Kidlington are therefore used at about 20% capacity.

Figure 48: Outdoor tennis sites, clubs and quality

Settlement	Site	Club or Community site. Affiliated clubs highlighted	Number of courts, type and floodlights						Summary scores for quality		Access				Comments
			Surface type A	No. of courts for type A	No. of floodlit courts	Surface Type B	No. of courts for type B	No. of floodlit courts	Condition and quality of courts	Changing pavilion	Open access, informal use	Publicly accessible, available for hire	Restricted to specific club	Summary score for signage about the site	
Banbury sub area															
Alderbury	Banbury West End TC, Meadow View	Banbury West End Lawn Tennis and Squash Club	Porous macadam	2	0	Artificial grass	4	4	100%	88%			Y	100%	Club on slope, only the tarmac courts have level access. All other courts, club house and squash courts accessed by steps
Banbury	Banbury Tennis Club, Horton View	Banbury Tennis Club	Porous macadam	6	2				92%	100%		Y		100%	
Banbury	People's Park Tennis Courts	Community facility	Porous macadam	2	0				90%	No pavilion	Y			100%	Lot of leaf mulch across courts
Cropredy	Cropredy Tennis Club	Cropredy Tennis Club	Porous macadam	2	0				90%	100%			Y	67%	
Deddington	Deddington Tennis Club, The Windmill	Deddington Tennis Club	Porous macadam	3	0				95%	88%			Y	67%	
Hook Norton	Hook Norton Sports and Social Club Tennis Courts	Hook Norton Tennis Club	Artificial grass	3	3				96%	75%			Y	67%	
Hornton	Hornton Tennis Court	Community facility	Porous macadam	1	0				95%	94%	Y			100%	Tennis and MUGA
Bicester sub area															
Bicester	Bicester Tennis Club	Bicester Lawn Tennis Club	Porous macadam	3	3				100%	100%			Y	67%	
Horton cum Studley	Horton Cum Studley Playing Field Tennis Courts	Horton cum Studley Tennis Club	Porous macadam	2	0				95%	100%			Y	100%	
Launton	Launton Playing Fields Tennis Courts	Community facility	Artificial grass	1	1				100%	100%		Y		67%	MUGA with tennis and basketball
Kidlington sub area															
Kidlington	The Forum Youth Centre Basketball Court	Community facility	Porous macadam	3	1				88%	100%	Y			67%	Surfaces very mossy. MUGA

Figure 49: Tennis courts with drive time catchments

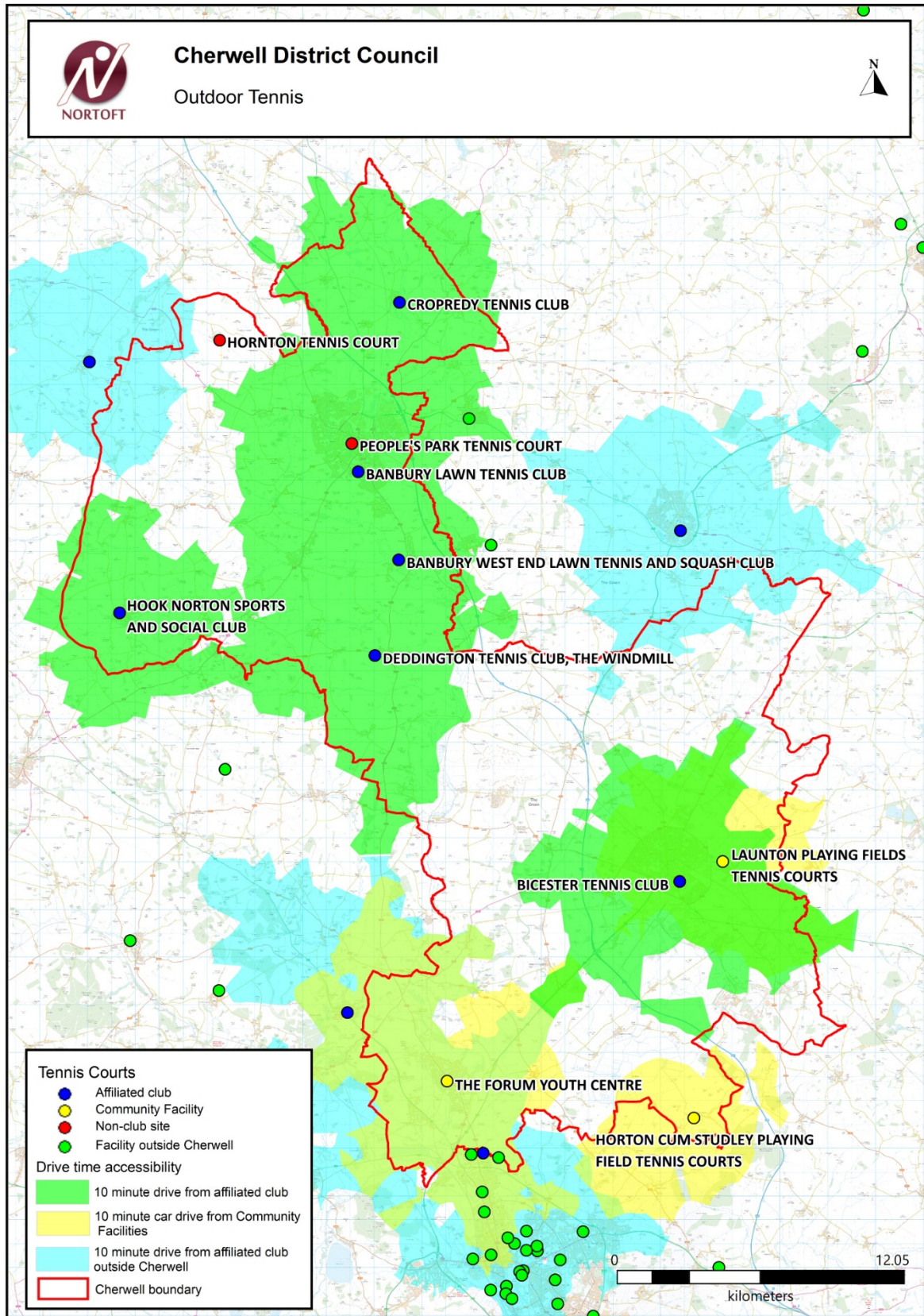


Figure 50: LTA affiliated clubs, membership and capacity

Club	Facilities – Number Of Non Floodlit Courts	Facilities – Number Of Floodlit Courts	Current Adult Membership	Current Junior Membership	Current Mini Membership	Membership – Total Current Membership	Membership – Overall Club Capacity (outdoor + indoor)	Membership – Percentage Capacity (+/- % Capacity) 2016
Banbury Lawn Tennis Club	4	2	70	30	52	152	280	54%
Banbury West End Lawn Tennis & Squash Club (BWELT&SC)	2	4	201	89	80	370	320	116%
Bicester LTC	0	3	146	92	62	300	180	167%
Cropredy Tennis Club	2	0	98	10	8	116	80	145%
Deddington Tennis Club	3	0	74	32	23	129	120	108%
Hook Norton Tennis Club	0	3	88	30	53	171	180	95%
						1238		

Consultation findings

Individual online survey

- 10.47 The Cherwell individuals online survey included tennis within the provision of outdoor hard courts/multi use games areas and 16% of the respondents said that they used these facilities. Of those expressing a view about the amount, about 64% felt that there was too little provision of hard court/multi use games areas.
- 10.48 Of the total number of respondents, 9% played tennis outdoors at least once a month with slightly more playing on a weekly basis rather than a monthly basis. The ages of the respondents playing tennis were about evenly split, with slightly more being aged 46-60. Of those playing tennis, there was a strong view that there was too little hard court provision.
- 10.49 In relation to individual sites:
- Two of the respondents cited Bicester LTC as their most used sports venue. They comment that the courts are very heavily used and more courts are required.
 - One respondent uses Cropredy Tennis Club and identifies that floodlights are needed on the site.

Club comments

- 10.50 Only one of the tennis clubs responded to the web based survey.

Banbury Lawn Tennis Club

- 10.51 This club has about 150 members, of which almost half are seniors or veterans, and a third are minis. The members travel up to 20 minutes to reach the club and almost all come from within Banbury or its surrounding villages. The club does not have any waiting lists and has stayed the same size over the last 5 years. The issues restricting the club's growth are a lack of funding and the recruitment of members.
- 10.52 Banbury LTC uses Horton View Sports Ground, on which it has a lease up to 2029. The site is used every day at all times, and year round. The courts are currently good condition but the clubhouse does not have changing facilities.
- 10.53 The club has a comprehensive development plan in place for Horton View. The club currently has 6 all weather courts of which 2 are floodlit and a wooden clubhouse. The club plan to resurface and floodlight all of the courts within the next 2 years, and to replace the clubhouse. The club would like to have a seasonal bubble to cover 3 courts. The LTA and Banbury Town Council are actively working with the club to move the project forwards.

10.54 The club also used Blessed George Napier sports halls in the winter for training once or twice a week, weekday evenings and weekends. The hall is described as “fantastic” but multi-purpose, so not ideal. The changing and ancillary facilities at this site are also considered by the club to be of high quality.

Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club

10.55 The information that was provided by the club does not differentiate between the tennis and squash membership. In total the club has about 260 members, with about 69% being seniors and veterans, with 19% minis, and 12% aged 11-15 years. The minis and juniors tend to be drawn from a 10 minute drive time area, whilst the seniors and veterans drive up to 20 minutes to reach the club. Just over half of the members are from Banbury and the surrounding villages, with most of the others equally drawn from the Kidlington area, Bicester area and Upper Heyford area. There are a small number of members who live outside of Cherwell.

10.56 The club as a whole has stayed the same size over the last 5 years and does not anticipate growing. It does not have any waiting lists and there are no specific issues which are limiting the club’s expansion, although the club has a development plan to improve its ancillary facilities, particularly the changing.

10.57 The club owns its own site which is used daily and year round. The tennis courts are described as being the best in North Oxfordshire but the changing facilities are poor.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

10.58 The LTA assesses the capacity of affiliated club sites using the following formula:

- Maximum capacity of a non-floodlit court: 40 members
- Maximum capacity of a floodlit court: 60 members
- Minimum size of club to justify indoor court: 200 members

10.59 The LTA does not assess the open access / community hire courts in terms of capacity, but has agreed that:

- The peak period is May-August
 - Weekdays 16.00-21.00
 - Saturdays 10.00-17.00
 - Sundays 10.00-14.00

10.60 It is estimated that open access courts/courts available for hire or used by unaffiliated clubs only are used at an average of around 20% of the time in the peak period. Where there is also a club on site, the pay and play use is around 10% of the time in the peak period. These estimates have been confirmed with the LTA as a suitable basis for modelling.

- 10.61 The LTA modelling for the club sites and the agreed approach for the open access / for hire sites, has been used in the assessment of capacity modelling in this study.
- 10.62 The LTA does not have any specific projects or priorities for Cherwell district but is working with Oxford City to improve the quality of the parks courts there and to encourage more use.

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

- 10.63 The coverage of outdoor tennis courts in the adjacent authorities' strategies is summarised below:
- Aylesbury Vale's strategy of 2012 identified a need for 8 additional outdoor courts for Aylesbury and 3 for Buckingham to meet future needs.
 - Oxford City's strategy of 2015 identified 5 clubs and 240 courts, of which about 25% are owned by the City Council, of which about 2/5ths are grass with the others tarmac. The conclusions were that there were sufficient tennis courts now and for the future, but that some sites needed improvement.
 - In South Northamptonshire the draft strategy concluded that the club at Brackley is busy but that the priority was to retain and maintain the existing courts there, with new provision in Towcester, Silverstone and Roade.
 - South Oxfordshire's draft strategy concluded that there was sufficient capacity on most sites to cater for future demand and no changes are proposed to those sites close to the Cherwell boundary.
 - The Vale of White Horse strategy recommends the retention of the existing facility network.
 - The Stratford-on-Avon and West Oxfordshire strategies do not include recommendations for outdoor tennis.

Summary of current situation

- 10.64 Most of the outdoor tennis provision in Cherwell is on tennis club sites, but there are also a small number of community sites. Most of the sites are good quality, although there are some issues on the community courts, particularly in Kidlington.
- 10.65 The LTA's capacity assessment of club sites suggests that all of the clubs are running at above their expected capacity levels, with only Banbury LTC having spare capacity. Two of the clubs are at a membership level which could justify indoor provision. Figure 51 provides summary of the excess demand together with proposals to extend the capacity at the club sites.

Figure 51: Outdoor tennis - excess demand and options to address

Club	Excess demand over supply	Equivalent in number of courts	Options to address
Banbury West End	50 members	1 floodlit court	Floodlight the 2 non-floodlit courts on existing site Or Cover 2 courts
Bicester LTC	120 members	2 floodlit courts	Cover 2 courts Or Additional courts/new site
Cropredy	36 members	1 non-floodlit court	Floodlight both existing courts
Deddington	9 members	No additional court provision required	No additional court provision required
Hook Norton	In balance no spare capacity		No additional court provision required

10.66 The community courts are likely to be running at around 20% used capacity at peak time, including the courts used by and only available to, the unaffiliated club at Horton cum Studley.

10.67 The travel time to tennis courts is less than to other facility types, with the exception of the large club sites which are likely to draw from a wider area, such as the Banbury West End club. If a drive time of 10 minutes is used as the guide to the spread of facilities across the district, then there is a clear gap in provision in the Upper Heyford area.

10.68 There are no clubs in the Kidlington area, but this part of the district is well served by provision in Oxford City.

Modelling and assessment of future needs

10.69 There are two elements to forecasting the demand for outdoor tennis: affiliated club demand (approx 80% of total play); and casual demand (approx 20% of total play). The affiliated tennis requires high quality courts, ancillary facilities such as clubhouses, and often floodlights. Casual play often takes place in parks or open access village tennis court sites.

Affiliated tennis

10.70 The assessment of the used capacity is a key factor in determining the future investment requirements for the sport. The current capacity assessment provided by the LTA for the club sites (see Figure 50) is developed in the modelling in Figure 52. This modelling assumes that the current relative membership size of the clubs

are carried forwards up to 2031, so the most attractive and active clubs continue to develop the most.

- 10.71 The assessment has been done by sub area, Banbury and Bicester, in order to determine the impact of the housing growth in each area. As there are no tennis clubs in the Kidlington sub area, a different approach towards modelling is required for this part of the district (see para 1.1 onwards and Figure 53). Figure 52 shows that none of the club sites other than Banbury LTC will have sufficient capacity to meet future demand. Altogether the number of additional tennis club members is expected to be between 450 and 560 district-wide, depending on the growth of the game up to 2031.
- 10.72 The demand for additional courts which are expected to arise from this extra LTA affiliated membership, based on the LTA's capacity assessment of 40 members per non-floodlit court and 60 per floodlit court is:
- Banbury sub area: 205-280 extra members = 5-7 non-floodlit courts, or 3-5 floodlit courts
 - Bicester sub area: 165-200 extra members = 4-5 non-floodlit courts, or 3 floodlit courts.
- 10.73 The total future provision for club tennis in Banbury and Bicester needs to take into account both the current shortfalls in supply (see Figure 50) and the new demand arising directly from housing growth.
- 10.74 There is no LTA affiliated tennis club in Kidlington so this sub area is not included in the assessment in Figure 52, but has been separately modelled in Figure 53. This modelling uses the district-wide rate of affiliated membership of LTA clubs (8.3 members per 1,000 population). The result suggests that the current affiliated tennis demand is 3.5 courts, but this must be being exported out of the area as there no affiliated clubs within the sub area. As there are no known risks to tennis sites in or around Kidlington, this current demand is expected to continue to be exported in the future.
- 10.75 The modelling also suggests that 1.5 courts of affiliated tennis demand would be directly linked to the new housing around Kidlington.

Figure 52: Affiliated club outdoor tennis assessment

District wide

Club	Facilities – Number Of Non Floodlit Courts	Facilities – Number Of Floodlit Courts	Current Adult Membership	Current Junior Membership	Current Mini Membership	Membership – Total Current Membership	Membership – Overall Club Capacity (outdoor + indoor)	Membership – Percentage Capacity (+/- % Capacity) 2016	Forecast growth in tennis membership based on current rates of participation	Forecast growth in tennis membership based on increased rate of participation of 0.5% pa	Forecast growth of individual clubs - no increase in participation	Forecast growth of individual clubs - with increased participation	Membership - percentage capacity no increase in participation	Membership - percentage capacity with increase in participation
Banbury Lawn Tennis Club	4	2	70	30	52	152	280	54%	1692	1802	208	221	74%	79%
Banbury West End Lawn Tennis & Squash Club	2	4	201	89	80	370	320	116%			506	539	158%	168%
Bicester LTC	0	3	146	92	62	300	180	167%			410	437	228%	243%
Cropredy Tennis Club	2	0	98	10	8	116	80	145%			159	169	198%	211%
Deddington Tennis Club	3	0	74	32	23	129	120	108%			176	188	147%	156%
Hook Norton Tennis Club	0	3	88	30	53	171	180	95%			234	249	130%	138%
						1238					1692	1802		

Sub area: Banbury

Club	Facilities – Number Of Non Floodlit Courts	Facilities – Number Of Floodlit Courts	Current Adult Membership	Current Junior Membership	Current Mini Membership	Membership – Total Current Membership	Membership – Overall Club Capacity (outdoor + indoor)	Membership – Percentage Capacity (+/- % Capacity) 2016	Forecast growth in tennis membership based on current rates of participation	Forecast growth in tennis membership based on increased rate of participation of 0.5% pa	Forecast growth of individual clubs - no increase in participation	Forecast growth of individual clubs - with increased participation	Membership - percentage capacity no increase in participation	Membership - percentage capacity with increase in participation
Banbury Lawn Tennis Club	4	2	70	30	52	152	280	54%	1692	1802	208	221	74%	79%
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Bicester LTC	0	3	146	92	62	300	180	167%			410	437	228%	243%
Croprey Tennis Club	2	0	98	10	8	116	80	145%			159	169	198%	211%
Deddington Tennis Club	3	0	74	32	23	129	120	108%			176	188	147%	156%
Hook Norton Tennis Club	0	3	88	30	53	171	180	95%			234	249	130%	138%
						1238	1160				1692	1802		

Sub area: Bicester

Name	Facilities – Number Of Non Floodlit Courts	Facilities – Number Of Floodlit Courts	Current Adult Membership	Current Junior Membership	Current Mini Membership	Membership – Total Current Membership	Membership – Overall Club Capacity (outdoor + indoor)	Membership – Percentage Capacity (+/- % Capacity) 2016	Forecast growth in tennis membership based on current rates of participation	Forecast growth in tennis membership based on increased rate of participation of 0.5% pa	Membership - percentage capacity no increase in participation	Membership - percentage capacity with increase in participation
Bicester LTC	0	3	146	92	62	300	180	167%	465	500	258%	278%

Figure 53: *Affiliated club demand in Kidlington sub area*

Population of sub area in 2016	Population of sub area in 2031	% increase in population	District wide rate of LTA membership per 1,000 population in 2016	Estimated affiliated membership in 2016	Forecast tennis membership for sub area by 2031 based on district current rates of participation	Forecast tennis membership based on increased rate of participation of 0.5% pa	Number of floodlit courts required @ 60 per court, no increase in participation	Number of floodlit courts required @ 60 per court, with increase in participation
25368	35934	142%	8.3	211	300	323	5	5

Casual tennis

- 10.76 Additional to the affiliated club membership assessment above there will be casual tennis demand, estimated to be approximately 20% of total court use. This equates to:
- Banbury sub area: 1-1.5 non floodlit courts, or 0.6-1 floodlit courts
 - Bicester sub area: 0.8-1 non floodlit court, or 0.6 floodlit court
 - Kidlington sub area: 1 non-floodlit court
- 10.77 There are generally sufficient non-club sites in each of the sub areas which can absorb this casual demand, so no additional provision is required for casual play in the towns. However there are gaps in accessibility of tennis courts elsewhere, such as Upper Heyford. Provision of new tennis courts in these areas should be a priority. Such courts could also provide a home for a future tennis club.

Meeting the needs of the future

Banbury sub area

- 10.78 Banbury Lawn Tennis Club is the focus for development by the LTA and Cherwell District Council. There is an emerging proposal to provide covered courts in association with this club, but the details and delivery are still to be confirmed. Even if new covered courts are developed, there would still be justification for supporting the other clubs in the sub area to increase their capacity by floodlights or by extra courts.
- 10.79 The two non-floodlit outdoor courts at Banbury West End could be floodlit, increasing the capacity of the site by about 40 members, but this would not sufficiently address the forecast deficit of courts on this site. There would be justification for an additional 3 floodlit courts for this club if some of the demand cannot be transferred to improved facilities at Banbury Lawn Tennis Club, located within the town. However the deliverability at this club of both the floodlighting and additional courts is not known.
- 10.80 The courts at Cropredy and Deddington are not floodlit, but they are already at capacity. The first priority for these clubs is therefore to floodlight all of the courts at both sites, or to increase the number of courts available. Floodlighting all of the courts would appear to provide sufficient capacity for Deddington, but there would still be a shortfall of capacity at Cropredy of around 40-50 members.
- 10.81 Hook Norton tennis club is effectively at capacity, and there is justification for a further flood-lit tennis court by 2031 to meet the additional forecast demand.
- 10.82 If the provision of covered courts is not deliverable, then there is justification for improving the existing hard courts at North Oxfordshire Academy to a quality suitable for affiliated tennis club use.

Bicester sub area

- 10.83 Planning permission has been granted for a 6-court tennis site at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, Bicester, but the timescales and funding have yet to be confirmed. With the increase in tennis membership for Bicester forecast to rise from about 300 to between 465 and 500 members, the 6-courts will meet this anticipated need, so long as the new courts are floodlit. If floodlit, then these courts plus the courts at Bicester Tennis Club would give a potential capacity of 540 members, leaving some space for pay and play.

Kidlington sub area

- 10.84 There are no new courts planned in the Kidlington sub area, but by 2031 there would be justification for 2 courts to meet the demand arising from the new housing growth, provided as an affiliated club site. In the short-medium term, the courts at the Youth Forum should be improved, including by the provision of floodlights to improve the casual play opportunities.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 10.85 The assessment of the supply and demand for outdoor tennis provision by strategy sub area is given in Figure 54 together with the overview of identified future needs.
- 10.86 It is recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards tennis provision in each of the sub areas. As there are no affiliated tennis clubs in the Kidlington area the need is to meet the new demand arising from the planned increased population, a total of 2 courts.
- 10.87 If the housing proposals contained in the Partial Review do not come forwards, then the demand for tennis facilities in the Kidlington area is likely to remain at similar levels to present, and new additional tennis facilities will not be required.

Figure 54: Tennis summary of deficiencies and needs to 2031

	Banbury sub area		Bicester sub area		Kidlington sub area	
	Balance in provision (number of courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (number of courts)	Facility requirements	Balance in provision (number of courts)	Facility requirements
2016	-2 non-floodlit courts	Cover courts at Banbury LTC to increase capacity.	-2 floodlit courts	Provision of 6 additional floodlit courts available during school day and suitable for club use (delivery at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground).	-3.5 floodlit courts	Provision of 2 additional floodlit courts with ancillary facilities available during school day and suitable for club use.
2031	-9 floodlit courts	<p>Floodlight courts at Cropredy and Deddington suitable for club use.</p> <p>Develop 1 additional floodlit court at Hook Norton.</p> <p>Explore option of additional courts at North Oxfordshire Academy</p> <p>Develop single non-floodlit courts in village locations where there is potential demand but no access to a court within 10 minutes drive</p>	-8 floodlit courts	<p>Develop single non-floodlit courts in village locations where there is potential demand but no access to a court within 10 minutes drive</p>	-5 floodlit courts	<p>Develop single non-floodlit courts in village locations where there is potential demand but no access to a court within 10 minutes drive</p>

Quantity

10.88 The modelling findings suggests that demand for tennis courts at 2031 and including a participation rate of growth of 0.5% per annum over the period is 0.48 courts per 1,000 population.

Accessibility

- 10.89 A 10 minute drive time catchment is appropriate for outdoor tennis club sites, as advised by the LTA.

Design and quality

- 10.90 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.
- 10.91 This guidance is summarised in the Provision Guide, Figure 64 in Section 14.

Recommendations for outdoor tennis

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

- 10.93 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to outdoor tennis provision.
- 10.94 It is recommended that the identified projects are included in a review of the IDP.
- 10.95 It is recommended that the Council seeks to utilise a range of funding sources to deliver the identified projects, taking into account: what monies are already available, the capital programme of the Council, the opportunities for funding via S106 or CIL, and current funding opportunities from a range of external agencies.

Protect

- 10.96 It is recommended that the existing sites used for outdoor tennis, including both those sites which host tennis clubs and those which are community sites are protected.

Enhance

- 10.97 It is recommended that the following are enhanced:
- Cropredy tennis courts by floodlighting both courts
 - Deddington tennis courts by floodlighting all 3 courts
 - Youth Forum, Kidlington by improving courts and providing floodlights
 - Floodlighting all courts and improving changing provision at Banbury West End, Adderbury

- Providing an additional floodlit court at Hook Norton.

Provide

10.98 It is recommended that the 6-court outdoor tennis site at Whitelands Farm Sports Ground, Bicester is delivered as planned. Ensure that the floodlighting is appropriate for match play.

10.99 It is recommended that covered courts are provided in Banbury. Site, club, cost and deliverability to be confirmed through a feasibility study.

Or if not deliverable:

10.100 It is recommended that additional floodlit courts are provided at Banbury as a single site of no less than 4 courts. This new provision may be achieved by investing in the existing hard courts at the North Oxfordshire Academy to improve their quality and provide floodlighting suitable for tennis match play, and securing their community use.

Or if not deliverable:

10.101 A new dedicated tennis club site will be required with no less than 4 floodlit courts.

10.102 It is recommended that Kidlington is provided with 2 additional floodlit courts with ancillary facilities available during the school day and suitable for club use by 2031.

10.103 It is recommended that a new community tennis court is provided in village locations where there is a strategic gap in provision and locally identified demand. Floodlights not required but preferred.

SECTION 11: GOLF

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

Golf design and activities

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

Participation in golf

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

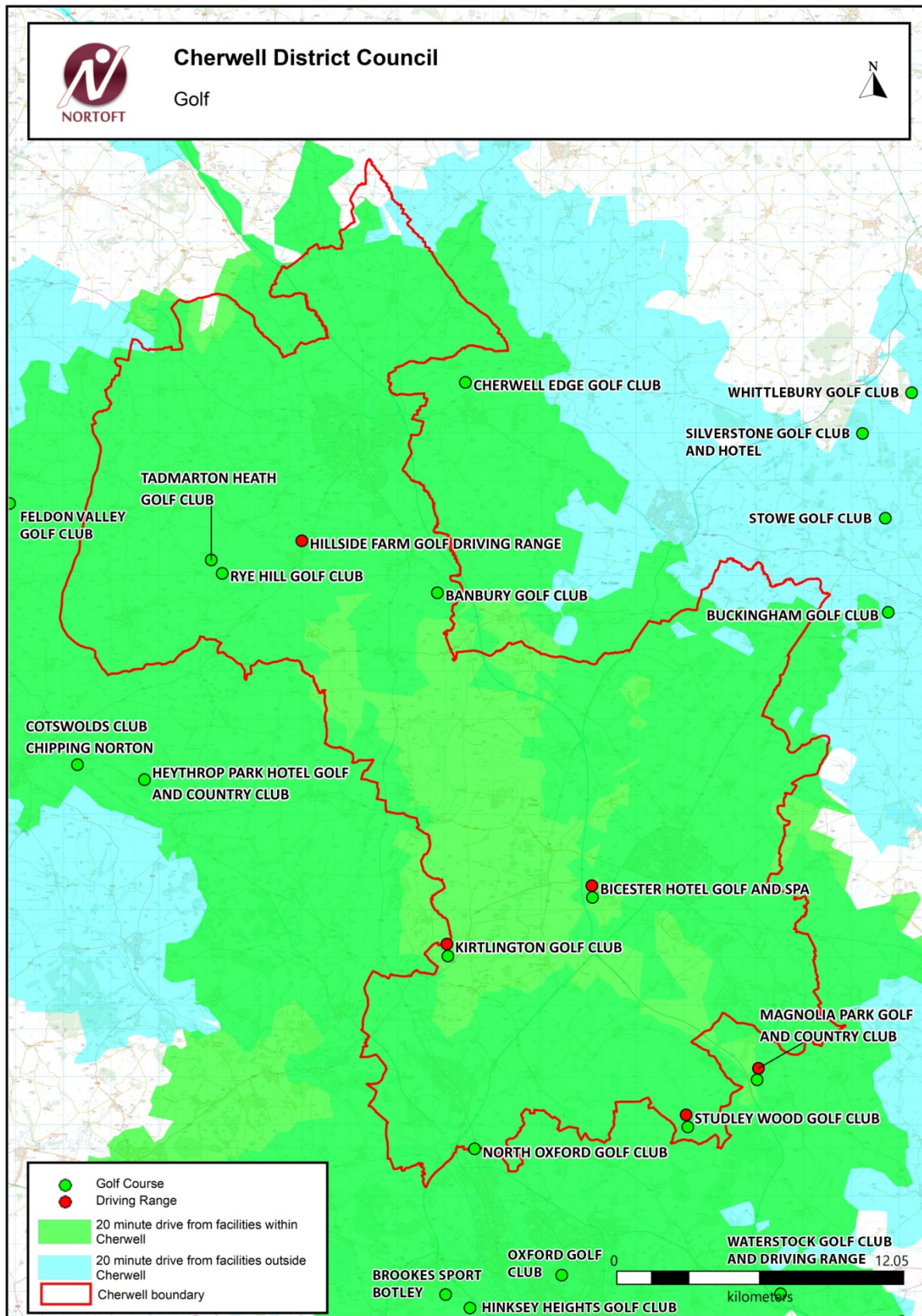
Current provision

11.7 There are currently 8 golf sites in Cherwell. These are listed in Figure 55, and mapped in Figure 56. Notably, there are no Par 3 courses in Cherwell since the closure of the Drayton Leisure and Golf site near Banbury, and the Kirtlington Course is a 9-hole loop.

Figure 55: Golf facilities in Cherwell

Sub area	Site Name	Facility type	Size (holes/bays)	Access	Affiliated to England Golf
Banbury	Banbury Golf Club	Standard course	18	Pay and play & membership	Yes
Banbury	Hillside Farm Golf Driving Range, Bloxham	Driving range	15	Pay and play	No
Banbury	Rye Hill Golf Club	Standard course	18	Pay and play & membership	Yes
Banbury	Tadmarton Heath Golf Club	Standard course	18	Pay and play & membership	Yes
Bicester	Bicester Hotel Golf and Spa	Standard course	18	Pay and play & membership	Yes
		Driving range	10		
Bicester	Studley Wood Golf Club	Standard course	18	Pay and play & membership	Yes
		Driving range	13		
Kidlington	Kirtlington Golf Club	Standard course	18	Pay and play & membership	Yes
		Standard course	9		
		Driving range	20		
Kidlington	North Oxford Golf Club	Standard course	18	Pay and play & membership	Yes

Figure 56: Golf courses map



Assessment of current supply and demand

- 11.8 The spread of golf provision means that everyone with access to a car can reach a course within 20 minutes drive time. The current balance in supply and demand is not possible to assess accurately as the membership figures and pay and play use of the individual golf sites are commercially sensitive information. England Golf has however developed golf participation modelling.
- 11.9 It is known that golf facilities are sensitive to economic changes. One of the sites close to Banbury closed in 2014, and a stand-alone golf driving range at Heathfield near Bletchingdon is currently subject to a planning application to convert the site to footgolf and two small sided grass football pitches. These closed facilities have not been included within the assessment. At least one other golf course has changed ownership in recent years, so this would suggest that there may be a slight excess of supply over demand or just about a balance in supply and demand at the present time. England Golf latent demand analysis suggests there may be the potential for more demand, but in Cherwell the current 18 hole dominant format may be hindering this potential.
- 11.10 Figure 57 shows the average membership of the Cherwell clubs and of surrounding districts, provided by England Golf. The average membership levels in these four Oxfordshire districts (26 clubs in total) are similar though significantly below the national average. Whilst all courses and sites will be different, this suggests there could be some spare capacity. Not included however in these numbers are any pay and play usage of courses.

Figure 57: Membership of golf clubs in Oxfordshire

District	Average affiliated members per club
Cherwell	385
Vale of White Horse	364
South Oxfordshire	320
West Oxfordshire	385
England	460

Source England Golf and EG Club Survey 2016

- 11.11 The North Oxford Golf Course has a club with no security of tenure, and the landowners have put the site forward for housing development. The site has been included as a proposed urban extension in the Submission Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan (Part 1): Oxford's Unmet Housing Need.
- 11.12 The distribution of the golf courses is uneven across the authority, with more than double the number of golf course holes per 1,000 population in the Kidlington area which is within easy reach of Oxford, than in either the Banbury or Bicester area, see Figure 58. This suggests that a significant proportion of the players in the courses in the Kidlington area travel from outside the district, most likely from Oxford City.

Figure 58: Current rates of provision of golf by sub area

Golf facility	Current provision			Current rate of provision per 1000 population for sub area		
	Banbury	Bicester	Kidlington	Banbury	Bicester	Kidlington
Golf courses, number of holes	54	36	45	0.75	0.71	1.77
Driving ranges, number of bays	15	13	20	0.21	0.45	0.79

Consultation findings

Club comments

11.13 Consultation was undertaken via England Golf. None of the golf clubs responded to the web based survey.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

11.14 Sport England recognises England Golf as the lead national governing body for this sport.

11.15 The England Golf Strategic Plan 2014-17 (England Golf, 2014) aims to increase golf participation, to increase the number of members of clubs, to strengthen clubs generally, and to support talented golfers. There are no specific facility proposals for Cherwell. This plan is due to be updated in summer 2017.

11.16 England Golf provided information for Cherwell from their recent (unpublished) England Golf Club Survey. This suggests that the rate of membership of Cherwell clubs is approximately in line with the rates across the other authorities in Oxfordshire excluding Oxford City itself, but that these are lower than the average for England.

11.17 England Golf also provided information about their market segmentation work undertaken to support sports development. This is based on a 20 minute drive time catchment, and 9 golfing segments. These segments are different from those used by Sport England, and are:

- Segment 1: Casual/Relaxed Member
- Segment 2: Older Traditionalist
- Segment 3: Young Family Members
- Segment 4: Young Fanatics
- Segment 5: Young Actives
- Segment 6: Enthusiasts

- Segment 7: Occasional/Time Pressed
- Segment 8: Social Couples
- Segment 9: Casual Fun

11.18 England Golf comments that there are good levels of interest across all 9 of the market segments in Cherwell, both club based and independent.

11.19 The national governing body commented that the number of affiliated clubs and driving ranges in Cherwell which have pay and play access in addition to membership, means that there is good open access to golf, though there are no Par 3 courses or other shorter formats which are more suitable for the beginner and for young people.

Individual online survey results

11.20 Only 17 (9%) of the respondents to the individual online survey said that they use golf courses. About 45% of individuals responding to the survey had views about the amount of golf course provision in the district and of these, 13% felt that there was too much provision for golf, 77% felt that there was about the right amount of provision, and 10% felt that there was too little.

11.21 Of the respondents who play golf, the key points are:

- 15 of the 17 either live or work in the district
- Of the 17 respondents:
 - 64% are male: 36% are female
 - About 50% were aged 25-45 years, with about 30% aged 45-60 years old, and 20% over 60 years. There were no respondents playing golf aged under 25 years
 - 63% of people playing golf are either professionals or managers/directors/company owners, whilst 18% are retired, and 9% are at home and not seeking work
 - 90% consider themselves to be white
 - 81% feel that there is about the right amount of golf provision
 - 70% play at least once a month, with about 30% playing on a weekly basis

Adjacent authorities' provision and strategies

11.22 A review of the coverage of golf provision and proposals within the adjacent authorities has been undertaken. In summary:

- The Aylesbury Vale strategy of 2012 concluded that the district was well served by golf courses with a mixture of 18 and 9 hole courses and driving ranges. The courses are well geographically spread across the district. There was no indication that the courses were operating at full capacity, and the conclusion was that no additional courses were required.
- Oxford City's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Strategy 2012-2026 identified one course in the city (Southfield) which had community use. The strategy notes the courses on the periphery of the city; North Oxford Golf Course in Cherwell, and Hinksey Heights in the Vale of White Horse. These sites mean that all Oxford residents have access to a golf facility within 15 minutes drive. The Southfield Golf Club was considered to be under used, and the strategy did not identify a need for additional facilities within the city. The strategy proposed sports development initiatives at Southfield, and the introduction of "extreme golf" in the leisure centres.
- South Northamptonshire's draft strategy included golf. It noted that the Cherwell Edge course is close to Banbury. The priorities are to retain and maintain the existing golf courses and facilities but also to support the golf sites to remain open in economically challenging times. There may be a need to enable the development of new courses and driving ranges where appropriate.
- South Oxfordshire's emerging strategy which takes account of the latest housing proposals recommends that the existing golf courses should be protected and that planning policies should be flexible to support new golf provision in various formats.
- Stratford-on-Avon's Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment was published in 2011 and updated in 2014 but did not address golf provision.
- The Vale of White Horse's 2014 Leisure and Sports Facilities Study concluded that current distribution of golf courses and driving ranges is uneven across the Vale, but as almost everyone playing the sport has access to a car, they can reach courses and driving ranges within 20 minutes. The priority is to encourage the existing golf sites to remain open, and if possible enable the development of new courses and driving ranges in the Wantage/Grove area.
- West Oxfordshire does not have a sports facilities strategy but the sports proposals are contained in the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) of 2016. However, the IDP does not assess or propose anything associated with golf.

11.23 Golf in the adjacent rural authorities shows a similar pattern as golf in Cherwell, with capacity at most sites and little immediate demand for new facilities. Significantly the Oxford strategy confirms that there is only one golf course in the city with community use, at Southfield, and that Oxford relies on its neighbours for further provision.

Modelling

Market Segmentation

11.24 The Market Segmentation information from Sport England suggests that golf is a sport which appeals to six of the market segments in Cherwell, all over 45 years of age. None of these market segment groups are likely to be high priorities for sports development initiatives, in part because they are already relatively active.

Summary of current situation

11.25 The network of golf provision across the district is uneven. It is likely that the courses and driving ranges in the Banbury and Bicester sub areas are primarily catering for the population within those sub areas, although there will be some cross-border movement of players, particularly where sites are close to the authority boundary, for example Cherwell Edge. The rate of provision per 1,000 population in these areas are similar, both in relation to the number of holes on courses, and the number of driving range bays.

11.26 The situation in the Kidlington sub area is notably different, with a rate of provision for golf courses at about 235% more than the rates of provision for Banbury and Bicester sub areas. This high rate of provision must be being sustained by the import of players, and this is likely to be mostly from Oxford, as there is only one course in the city.

11.27 As an average across the district, England Golf's club membership information suggests that the rate of membership for Cherwell is approximately in line with the other authorities in Oxfordshire, but this is lower than the national average. This suggests that there is, on average, spare capacity at the existing club sites.

11.28 Unfortunately because of commercial sensitivities, the actual membership of each club is unknown.

Assessment of Future Needs

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

11.30 Three approaches to the modelling of future needs are considered below. None provides a complete "answer" to the assessment of future needs across the district, but taken together they paint a similar picture. The first two tests forecast forwards

the needs for golf based on the current provision. The third considers the likely growth in club membership in the sub areas, using the average club membership figures per club provided by England Golf.

- 11.31 The modelling includes the golf sites within Cherwell, but excludes sites outside of the district.
- 11.32 Importantly, none of the three models is able to effectively assess the level of imported demand into the Kidlington sub area, likely to be primarily from Oxford. Each of the models consider the demand generated by the forecast population up to 2031, including the new growth from the Partial Review housing.

Average rate of provision across the district

- 11.33 This approach takes the current district wide average rate of supply of golf facilities per 1,000 population and forecasts this forwards based on the population growth of Cherwell for each sub area, Figure 59.

Figure 59: Future golf need based on district average

		Golf courses, number of holes			Driving ranges, number of bays		
		Current supply	Need based on district average rate per 1000	Shortfall	Current supply	Need based on district average rate per 1000	Shortfall
Supply of golf facilities in 2016		135			58		
District rate of provision per 1000 in 2016	District	0.91			0.39		
Current provision	Banbury	54			15		
	Bicester	36			23		
	Kidlington	45			20		
Banbury	2016		65	-11		28	-13
	2021		77	-23		33	-18
	2026		80	-26		34	-19
	2031		80	-26		34	-19
Bicester	2016		46	-10		20	3
	2021		57	-21		24	-1
	2026		67	-31		29	-6
	2031		72	-36		31	-8
Kidlington	2016		23	22		10	10
	2021		24	21		10	10
	2026		27	18		12	8
	2031		33	12		14	6

- 11.34 The outputs in this table suggest that there are current shortfalls in golf provision, of both courses and driving ranges in Banbury, and of golf courses in Bicester. In

the Kidlington sub area however, provision is well above what is needed for the residents now and into the future. Based on this model, the need for golf provision in each sub area by 2031 to meet the needs of the sub area forecast population, including the Partial Review growth around Kidlington is:

- Banbury: 1 x 18 hole course (or 2 x 9 hole courses as alternative), 1 x 9 hole course, 19 driving range bays
- Bicester: 2 x 18 hole courses (or 4 x 9 hole courses as alternatives), 8 driving range bays
- Kidlington: no additional provision

11.35 However, if North Oxford Golf Club was lost to development (as proposed in the Partial Review of the Local Plan) without a replacement facility being provided, this would indicate sufficient provision up to 2026, but a shortage of 6 holes by 2031. To meet Cherwell's own needs a 9 hole replacement golf facility would be required.

11.36 Given that golf facilities are independent and reflect local market demand, the mismatch of supply/demand in this first test does not appear to be a sound basis for future facility planning.

Sub area rate of provision

11.37 This second test takes the current rate of provision of golf facilities within each of the sub areas as the starting point for the future modelling, see Figure 60. This model suggests that additional provision, both of courses and driving range bays will be required across the district in the period up to 2031 to meet the needs of the sub area forecast population, including the proposed Partial Review growth around Kidlington:

- Banbury: 1 x 9 hole course plus some other golf provision with equivalent capacity to 3 holes, 3 driving range bays
- Bicester: 1 x 18 hole courses (or 2 x 9 hole courses as alternatives), 13 driving range bays
- Kidlington: 1 x 18 hole courses (or 2 x 9 hole courses as alternatives), 8 driving range bays

11.38 The level of additional demand in the Banbury and Bicester areas is probably more realistic in this second test than the level suggested by the district-wide modelling. However the outcome for Kidlington is skewed by the current high rate of provision in this sub area, and the demand suggested by 2031 is probably well beyond that which will really be required by the growth in local population.

Figure 60: Golf need based on sub area rates of provision

		Golf courses, number of holes			Driving ranges, number of bays		
		Current supply	Need based on sub area rate per 1000	Shortfall	Current supply	Need based sub area rate per 1000	Shortfall
Supply of golf facilities in 2016	Banbury	54			15		
	Bicester	36			23		
	Kidlington	45			20		
Rate of provision per 1000 in 2016 by sub area	Banbury	0.75			0.21		
	Bicester	0.71			0.45		
	Kidlington	1.77			0.79		
Banbury	2021		64	-10		18	-3
	2026		66	-12		18	-3
	2031		66	-12		18	-3
Bicester	2021		44	-8		28	-5
	2026		52	-16		33	-10
	2031		56	-20		36	-13
Kidlington	2021		46	-1		21	-1
	2026		53	-8		23	-3
	2031		64	-19		28	-8

Modelling future growth based on membership

- 11.39 The third modelling test forecasts forwards the expected membership of Cherwell golf clubs based on the population growth. This is based on the known average club membership figure of 385 for Cherwell, based on the England Golf 2016 information for the 7 membership clubs in the district, giving a total of 2,695 golf members in 2016. With a current Cherwell population of 148,276, this gives an average rate of golf club membership of 18.18 per 1,000 population.
- 11.40 As it is not possible to determine what proportion of the golf membership is from people living outside of the district, or conversely how much demand is exported, for example to South Northants, it is assumed that the export and import of golfers is balanced.
- 11.41 The current national average rate of membership per golf course is 460 members, based on information provided by England Golf. The “used capacity” of the clubs in Cherwell can therefore be assessed by comparing their average membership to the national average. Unfortunately, as the actual memberships of individual clubs is commercially sensitive information, it is not possible to accurately assess the take up of golf in different areas of the district, nor how well supported are the individual golf sites. The outcomes of this modelling can again therefore only be used indicatively.

11.42 This model suggests that additional golf club provision is likely to be needed in parts of the district in the period up to 2031 to meet the needs of the sub area forecast population (which includes the Partial Review growth around Kidlington):

- Banbury: possible need for one additional club (unmet demand equates to just under half of a club)
- Bicester: one extra club
- Kidlington: no additional provision required

Figure 61: Forecast golf membership to 2031

		Clubs in sub area	Estimated capacity of clubs based on national average of 460	Estimated used capacity of clubs based on Cherwell average of 385	Current spare capacity (number of members)	Membership by sub area based on district average of 18.18 per 1000	Membership growth	Balance in supply and demand by membership
Banbury	2016	Banbury Golf Club,	1380	1155	225	1307		73
	2021	Rye Hill Golf Club,				1539	232	-159
	2026	Tadmarton Heath				1592	285	-212
	2031	Golf Club				1593	286	-213
Bicester	2016	Bicester Hotel Golf	920	770	150	927		-7
	2021	and Spa, Studley				1135	208	-215
	2026	Wood Golf Club				1341	414	-421
	2031					1437	510	-517
Kidlington	2016	Kirtlington Golf Club,	920	770	150	461		459
	2021	North Oxford Golf				475	14	445
	2026	Club,				540	79	380
	2031					653	192	267
District	2016		3220	2695	525	2695		525
	2021					454	71	
	2026					777	-252	
	2031					989	-464	

11.43 In the Banbury area whether there is sufficient unmet demand by 2031 in the sub area to justify a new golf site is uncertain and will largely depend on the way in which the sport develops in the next few years. Perhaps more likely will be the desire of the existing sites to develop new forms of the game, potentially with new additional shorter courses.

11.44 In the Bicester sub area, there is already a slight shortfall of provision, but this will increase in the period up to 2031 at a level which will mean that a new golf club is very likely to be required with a standard course(s) and driving ranges. Alternatively the existing clubs may also wish to expand, potentially with new shorter courses and/or new forms of the game.

11.45 In the Kidlington area there is currently a significant surplus of supply, and even with the growth in the population in the sub area up to 2031, there will still be a surplus of 0.5 courses by 2031, see Figure 61. If North Oxford Golf Club is lost to development without replacement (assuming a loss of 460 members based on the national average membership) this would suggest a deficiency in supply and

demand by membership of -1 in 2016, -80 in 2026 and -193 members in 2031; less than an average club membership. However this does not take into account any additional demand arising from outside of Cherwell but being met by courses in Kidlington.

Summary of the modelling

- 11.46 There are no robust mechanisms for assessing the supply / demand balance for golf as the usage information for the individual golf courses is commercially sensitive. The England Golf modelling is based on a drive time catchment of 20 minutes, which for the Kidlington area, encompasses almost all of Oxford, parts of the Vale of White Horse and West Oxfordshire, each of which have golf courses. For Banbury and Bicester, the 20 minutes drive time catchments also cover areas within the adjacent authorities, and there are golf courses there within easy reach of the towns.
- 11.47 Each of the modelling tests suggest a similar picture; that by 2031 there will be a need for additional golf provision for both Banbury and Bicester. The amount of existing provision in Kidlington is sufficient to meet the needs of the forecast population of the sub area alone up to 2031, but this excludes any consideration of imported demand from Oxford or elsewhere.
- 11.48 The table in Figure 62 provides a summary of the modelling, taking into account the overall findings of the three modelling tests, rather than relying on one specific model.

Figure 62: Golf course and driving range deficiencies and needs up to 2031

	Banbury sub area	Bicester sub area	Kidlington sub area
2016	No known deficiencies	No known deficiencies	No known deficiencies
2031	1 x nine hole course At least 3 bays	1 x 18 hole course or 2 x 9 hole courses 8 bays	Retain current level of course provision or if appropriate replace with shorter formats

Meeting the needs of the future

- 11.49 Cherwell District Council is only able to make a significant impact on golf provision through the local plan policies as golf courses are generally provided by the commercial sector. Given that there may be a need for more provision into the long term due to housing growth, particularly in the Banbury and Bicester sub areas, it is recommended that planning policies should generally be positive towards new golf

proposals and seek to protect existing sites. There may also be a need to replace or redevelop some of the existing 18 hole courses to enable shorter game formats, to support and widen participation, where such proposals are likely to be viable.

- 11.50 The Kidlington area appears to have some spare capacity at the present time and the growth in the population alone for this area within Cherwell District is not likely to take up all of the spare space even in the longer term, indicating Cherwell's needs can be met. However, the area is likely to be providing golf opportunities for people living elsewhere, likely to be predominantly Oxford. It should be assumed that this demand will remain in the long term, and potentially grow with additional population planned within the catchment areas for the clubs, both in Oxford City and West Oxfordshire.
- 11.51 Should the North Oxford Golf Course be confirmed for housing development (as proposed in the draft Partial Review of the Plan), the above analysis indicates (based on the district average of demand, Figure 59) that the long term shortfall in provision to meet the demands of the forecast population in the Kidlington sub area alone may be in the order of 6 holes. The minimum replacement facility requirement to solely meet the needs of the Kidlington population (excluding consideration of any imported demand) is therefore one 9 hole golf course.
- 11.52 However as there appears to be a significant level of importation of golf players into the Kidlington area, additional analysis would need to be undertaken in relation to the potential loss of the North Oxford Golf Course to confirm whether full replacement is needed.
- 11.53 As golf has a significant commercial element, the provision for this sport is likely to respond most to economic conditions and will change to reflect patterns of demand. Over time the expectations for golf change and it will be important for the golf clubs to respond to these in order to keep the facilities as viable and vibrant as possible. England Golf advises that more flexibility in membership options and in course formats are part of the changes needed to ensure increased viability.
- 11.54 Assuming that the economic conditions remain similar or better than today into the long term, the increase in housing numbers in Cherwell and its surrounding authorities will bring more direct demand for golf in its various forms. The currently forecast long term need is for additional provision by 2031 of:
- Banbury sub area: 1 x nine hole course, 3+ driving range bays
 - Bicester sub area: 1 x 18 hole course or 2 x 9 hole courses, 8 driving range bays

Justifying developers' contributions

- 11.55 It is not recommended that developers' contributions are sought for improving golf facilities in Cherwell district as in the longer term it is anticipated that the commercial sector will respond to the changing demand for golf.

Recommendations for golf

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

11.57 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to golf opportunities via its partners.

Protect

11.58 The existing golf course sites should be protected, unless the tests set out in the National Planning Policy Framework are met.

11.59 Should there be a loss of the North Oxfordshire Golf Course to housing development, then alternative golf provision may be appropriate if a replacement facility is required, informed by an assessment of need.

Enhance and provide

11.60 It is recommended that positive planning policies are adopted to enable the development of new golf provision, in various formats, both on existing sites and on new sites. However these policies must also be balanced with other policies relating to the impact of golf on the countryside.

11.61 The expected new golf requirements up to 2031 are:

- Banbury sub area: 1 x nine hole course, 3+ driving range bays
- Bicester sub area: 1 x 18 hole course or 2 x 9 hole courses, 7 driving range bays

- 12.4 The Cherwell Local Plan 2011-31 has a number of references to cycling including the enhancement of the Oxford Canal to better enable cycling as its use as a corridor route. In Banbury a key objective is to establish a series of open spaces linked by public footpaths and cycleways, in order to create a linear park and thoroughfare from the north of the town and Grimsbury reservoir to the new park south of Bankside (Policy Banbury 11).
- 12.5 The Local Plan Part 1 Policy ESD17 relates to green infrastructure including cycleways to be integral to new developments. The Part 1 plan also refers to a number of proposals to enhance the cycle route network in both Banbury and Bicester.
- 12.6 There are no specialist cycling facilities in the district, for example large BMX sites, cycle speedway or closed road tracks.

Consultation findings

Individual online survey results

- 12.7 In the individual online survey, 16% of respondents said that they cycled at least once a week and 11% said that they cycled at least once a month. The survey suggests that more females than males cycle, and most of the cyclists in the survey were aged between 25 and 60 years. The results of the individual online survey are significantly different from the national picture which shows a higher proportion of men cycling than women, and may in part reflect the fact that more women than men responded to the survey (46% male, 54% female). Most of the cyclists considered that there was too little cycling route provision.
- 12.8 This compares to the survey as a whole, with almost 50% of all respondents considering that there are too few cycling routes. This compares with 23% considering that there is sufficient, and only 2% considering that there are too many.

Club comments

- 12.9 British Cycling circulated the club survey to all of the cycling clubs within about a 30 mile radius of Cherwell, so there were a number of returns from outside of the district. The club responses relevant to Cherwell are summarised in detail below.

Banbury Star Cyclist's Club

- 12.10 This cycling club has about 140 members and almost all are either seniors or veterans. About 90% are drawn from the Banbury area, with the remainder from outside of the district. The club's membership has increased over the past 5 years and is expected to continue to grow. There is no waiting list to join. The issues

hampering the expansion of the club are a lack of specialist cycling facilities, particularly traffic-free, a lack of volunteers and a lack of coaches.

- 12.11 The cycling club uses the roads, but the poor state of the roads, particularly potholes, around Banbury is a major concern.

Bicester Millennium Cycling Club

- 12.12 The Bicester based club has around 300 members, of whom about 75% are seniors or veterans. The juniors are involved with cyclocross and time trails, and the seniors and veterans are also involved with road racing. The minis and juniors tend to live within about 10 minutes drive time of the club, whilst the seniors and veterans are drawn from an area within about 20 minutes drive time. Most of the members live in Bicester, but a small number are from other areas in the district and from outside.

- 12.13 The club has grown in the last 5 years and anticipates growing further in the future. There are no waiting lists.

- 12.14 The different disciplines and age groups have different facility needs. Access to facilities, storage for kit, a meeting place pre and post ride, traffic free opportunities for juniors and opportunities to experience and train in the different cycling disciplines are all aspirations. Club equipment is currently stored in around 8 different locations.

- 12.15 The juniors currently use The Cooper School's car park and cyclocross skills sessions are held on the playing field, but there are restricted access times. Time trials training takes place at an airfield. The monthly team meets are at Wendlebury Village Hall.

- 12.16 A better base for the club which meets the needs of the different disciplines is a key priority and seen as essential to enable this club to grow.

Mercedes AMG Petronas Cycling Club

- 12.17 The club, based in Brackley, has around 130 members but is restricted to the employees. All of the members are seniors or veterans, and all travel around 30 minutes to reach the club. The club draws its membership from across Cherwell and the surrounding authorities, and about 50% of the members live in the district. The club has increased its membership in the last 5 years, and expects to continue to grow. There are no issues limiting its growth and there is no waiting list.

Zappi Racing Team

- 12.18 This club draws from a wide geographical area, and about 40% of its members live in Cherwell district. There are about 70 members of the club involved with various disciplines.

- 12.19 The club gives as its home site the Newport Velodrome in Wales, but the club also uses Cherwell School's hard courts in Oxford for some training of bike skills. The other sites hired by the club are in Derby and London.
- 12.20 Other returns were received from the following but several of them were incomplete:
- A5 Rangers Cycling Club, Towcester
 - Aylesbury Cycling Club, Aylesbury
 - Beaconsfield Cycling Club, Beaconsfield
 - Broughton Cycling Group, Milton Keynes
 - Cowley Road Condors, Oxford
 - Daventry Cycling Club, Daventry
 - Icknield Road Club, Bedfordshire and Luton
 - Mickey Cranks Cycling Club, Witney
 - Newbury Road Club, Newbury
 - Oxford Cycling Club, Oxford
 - Oxford University Cycling Club, Oxford
 - Python Racing Team, various
 - Reading Cycling Club, Reading
 - Sprokets Cycling Club, Wokingham
 - Stowe School Cycling Club, Buckingham
 - Swan Wheelers, Buckingham
 - Team Vision Innovative Leisure, various
 - Thame Cycling Club, Thame
 - Witney Mountain Bike Club, Witney
 - Willesden Cycling Club, London

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 12.21 The strategic facility priorities identified by British Cycling (British Cycling Federation, 2017) are:
- A comprehensive network of accessible traffic-free multi-disciplined cycling facilities enabling the effective and safe delivery of cycling activities both at a participation and excellence level.
 - Support for clubs and groups who wish to develop new, or improve existing, facilities and infrastructure.
- 12.22 The consultation return from British Cycling notes that whilst Cherwell District itself has not been identified as a priority for investment, the consultation undertaken to inform British Cycling's new Facilities Strategy has identified a strategic need for developing Closed Road Circuits in the following locations:

- Worcester - Redditch - Stratford – Evesham
- Reading - Bracknell - Slough (M4 Corridor)
- Oxford
- High Wycombe - Aylesbury
- Milton Keynes
- Luton - Bedford
- Northampton – Kettering

- 12.23 Due to the catchment of these regional level facilities they would expect that a number would potentially be within acceptable travel time/ distance to residents in Cherwell District.
- 12.24 The likely demand for a regional/ national level cycling facility in the Cherwell District itself is not likely to provide an acceptable investment return on the capital build costs and/ or be sufficient enough to establish a viable business case to make a facility sustainable for years to come.
- 12.25 Given the widespread shortage of cycling facilities generally, there are likely to be significant needs for developing traffic-free places for people to cycle in the district. Like other sports facilities, cycling facilities can be designed to accommodate particular levels of play depending on the needs of the local community.
- 12.26 For example, there could be a significant demand for mountain bike trails or community level BMX tracks suitable for recreational cycling, coaching and training. There are also likely to be demands and benefits for providing cycle trails (non-technical) for social/ recreational cycling in a traffic-free environment. Consideration should be given as to how all cycling facilities, regardless of their level of play will be sustainable. British Cycling supports the principles of co-locating cycling facilities with other sports and community facilities in order to share services and resources.
- 12.27 British Cycling would like to see the strategy specifically to include exploring the potential for a dedicated ‘destination’ venue for off-road cycling (non-technical and technical trails) with the necessary ancillary provision such as car parking, bike hire, café and shop.

Summary of current situation

- 12.28 Cycling is a popular activity in Cherwell with high levels of participation by both men and women. There are also a small number of active clubs. There are limited traffic free routes and cycling opportunities, which restricts the ability of juniors to cycle on a regular basis.
- 12.29 The Local Plan has strong recommendations to support cycling both within the new developments and to develop safe routes in both Banbury and Bicester. These will help to meet this need, but are still relatively limited.

- 12.30 Bicester Millennium Cycling Club has a good number of minis and junior as well as senior members. They are however seriously restricted by the appropriateness and availability of facilities, particularly those which are traffic free.

Assessment of future needs

- 12.31 The Market Segmentation (Sport England, 2017) information from Sport England suggests that cycling is a popular activity. Cycling is an appealing activity for all of the larger market segment groups, though possibly as a 2nd or 3rd most attractive activity. There is therefore significant potential to increase rates of activity generally if cycling was made more easily available, attractive and promoted.
- 12.32 Currently 12.5% of Cherwell residents cycle at least once a month, equating to around 18,550 regular cyclists. With an increase in population this would mean that 25,335 cyclists are expected by 2031, even with no overall increase in participation. However achieving this will depend on sufficient routes and safe cycling being available.

Meeting the needs of the future

- 12.33 The proposed safe cycling routes and extensions to the cycling network should be delivered, according to the Local Plan policies.
- 12.34 There is also a need to provide more opportunities for traffic free cycling in all areas of the authority, for example the Bicester Millennium Cycling Club is seeking improved facilities. However, the priorities and the deliverability need will need confirming through feasibility work involving the clubs across the district, British Cycling Federation as the national governing body, and the District Council.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 12.35 It is recommended that developers' contributions are sought towards a specialist cycling facility which will meet the needs of the whole district. The details, costs and deliverability will need to be confirmed via a project specific feasibility study. The developers' contributions should be sought on a proportional basis: new development in Cherwell will result in a new population of approximately 54,400 by 2031, or 27% of the total population of the district.
- 12.36 The contribution is summarised in the Provision Guide, Figure 64 in Section 14.
- 12.37 Oxfordshire Cycling Design Standards provide advice for developers on the provision of cycleways in association with new development.

Recommendations for cycling

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

12.39 To support the Council's policies on health and well-being, as well as supporting sports participation, performance and excellence, it is recommended that the Council continues to support community access to a range of cycling opportunities.

12.40 It is recommended that if a cycling centre project comes forwards this should be identified in a review of the IDP.

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

Protect

12.42 It is recommended that the existing network of routes suitable for cycling across Cherwell are protected and maintained.

Enhance

12.43 it is recommended that the development of an improved cycling network across Cherwell should be a major focus of future investment, both to support sustainable travel and to respond to the high level of cycling interest.

Provide

12.44 It is recommended that a traffic free cycling centre is sought to be delivered which meets the needs of the clubs in the district. The nature of the site, its cost, sustainability, and deliverability would need to be confirmed via a feasibility study.

SECTION 13: OTHER SPORT AND RECREATION ACTIVITIES

- 13.1 There are a number of sports facilities in Cherwell which have specialist facilities, either built facilities, or primarily using countryside and water spaces.
- 13.2 Those sports using specialist facilities in this section have relatively low participation rates, so are not specifically identified in the consultation or in the Sport England research (Active People Survey, Market Segmentation).
- 13.3 The sport and recreation activities which are based in the countryside using the natural resources include amongst others; walking, horse riding, water sports, motorsports such as motorcycle trials, and air sports. The appeal of these types of sports in Cherwell is wide, with every one of the larger market segments using the countryside for at least one activity, particularly cycling.
- 13.4 Most of the countryside and water based activities will take place at sites which are outside of the control of the local authority, so the Council's role in relation to these activities is necessarily different compared to that for the built facilities, namely:
- As an advocate working with partners to gain and retain access to a wide range of "natural resources".
 - Providing positive planning policy to encourage provision for, and access by, a range of sport and recreation activities.
 - Supporting clubs and partners to achieve grant aid to gain, maintain and improve their facilities, particularly where this encourages or enables new participation.
- 13.5 A good example of this group of sports is gliding at Bicester Gliding Centre, based at the ex RAF Bicester Airfield site, lying between Skimmingdish Lane and Buckingham Road (A4421). Gliding has taken place on the site since 1956 and the gliding club operates every day of the week, weather permitting. The site is a junior gliding centre and Oxford University Gliding Club also operates from the site. The club offers trial and experience flights as well as providing for its members. The site is an important open space in the Bicester area, but it does not have public access for informal recreation.

Netball

- 13.6 Netball is primarily a female activity and has been growing in popularity over the last 10 years. Nationally, Sport England (Sport England , 2016) estimates that 0.51% of adults aged 16 years and over take part in netball at least once a month.

- 13.7 Most of the netball activity takes place outdoors, although some clubs have some training indoors. To be used for netball, halls are required to be at least 34.5 x 18.25 m in size.
- 13.8 The Facilities Factsheet of England Netball for Oxfordshire includes information collected by the national governing body in 2014/15. Most of the information is provided on a county basis, and the factsheet identifies that there is a higher rate of provision of outdoor courts across the county than the national average which is 2 courts per 10,000 females aged 16 and over, but that the provision of indoor courts is approximately in line with the national average (1 court per 12,000 females aged 16 and over). Across the county the feedback from clubs shows that:
- 34% of venues are education sites
 - About 50% of clubs consider that the changing facilities are inadequate for their needs
 - 46% of clubs consider the venues to be very good, with the rest being either good or average
 - 57% of clubs find it easy to book venues
- 13.9 Two of the four sites in Oxfordshire which are considered by England Netball to be key venues, instrumental to both achieving the growth targets and delivering a first class experience for existing members are in Cherwell; The Cooper School, Bicester and The Warriner School, Bloxham. These sites are a base for central venue competitions and/or are a venue for participation and performance programmes.
- 13.10 The Cooper School netball facilities are considered to be average quality though with poor outside courts, but the ancillary facilities are good. Booking can be difficult. This site is owned and managed by the academy.
- 13.11 The Warriner School has 2 outdoor courts and a sports hall and is the more important venue of the two as it hosts the Cherwell League, with 24 teams in 3 divisions plus juniors. The site is used for netball 2-3 evenings a week during the netball season and also at weekends. The England Netball factsheet identified that the courts needed improving, but the ancillary facilities are considered to be good. England Netball noted in their consultation response that this facility was being improved, but without the direct support of England Netball.
- 13.12 None of the netball clubs responded to the club survey.
- 13.13 If the number of teams is forecast forwards based on the expected population and a growth in participation of 0.5% per annum, then it could be expected that there would be about 31 senior teams in the Cherwell League by 2031. This would be an increase of 7 teams, or potentially 3.5 matches per week plus training. It is likely that this number of matches can be absorbed into the existing facilities at The Cooper School in Bicester and/or at The Warriner School in Banbury if the facility quality is good.

- 13.14 If further additional facilities are required, then there is a potential option of investing in the existing, poor quality, outdoor courts at the North Oxfordshire Academy, and to make them available for regular community use for both netball and tennis. However this use would need to be secured by a community use agreement, and suitable management arrangements put in place.

Justifying developers' contributions

- 13.15 It is not recommended that developers' contributions are sought for specific additional netball facilities in Cherwell district as there is sufficient capacity to meet the expected demand. However contributions towards the improvement of the existing facilities at The Cooper School and The Warriner School may be sought on a proportional basis in Bicester sub area and Banbury sub area respectively, subject to the sites having formal long term community use agreements.

Recommendations for netball

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

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

13.18 It is recommended that any future identified projects will be included in a review of the IDP.

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

Protect

13.20 It is recommended that the existing facilities which are used for netball are protected, in particular at The Warriner School and The Cooper School.

Enhance and provide

13.21 It is recommended that the quality of the netball facilities at The Cooper School and The Warriner School, which are owned and managed by the academies, are improved. Any investment would be subject to a long term formal community use agreement.

13.22 It is recommended that where there is local demand, floodlit courts are provided to enable winter evening use.

13.23 It is recommended that the courts at North Oxfordshire Academy are improved if justified by demand. Any investment would be subject to a long term formal community use agreement and would be most likely to be managed by Cherwell District Council or their appointed operator.

Table tennis

13.24 Nationally, Sport England (Sport England , 2016) estimates that 0.50% of adults aged 16 years and over take part in table tennis at least once a month, and there has been an increase in participation over recent years. Much of the table tennis activity takes place in village halls, community centres or in ancillary halls, but the Premier Club at Kidlington has its own purpose built venue.

Kidlington Forum

13.25 Kidlington Forum is the only Premier Club in Oxfordshire. This has purpose built facilities at the Exeter Close Pavilion in Kidlington. This club has open sessions, junior and senior coaching, and teams playing in both junior and senior leagues.

13.26 The club currently has 120 members and it has grown over the last year. Of these members, 87% are male. Almost half of the club's membership are veterans, with a further 20% being seniors.

13.27 In addition to the club nights, there are open nights each week on Thursdays and Fridays, which often brings in new members.

Banbury and District Table Tennis Association

13.28 The Banbury and District Table Tennis Association has about 100 members, all of whom are either minis or juniors. The minis tend to live within about 10 minutes of the club, and the juniors within 20 minutes. All of the members come from Banbury and its surrounding villages. The club has increased its membership over the last five years and expects to continue to grow. There is no waiting list at the present time. However there are issues which will restrict the growth of the club; the availability and cost of facility hire, a lack of volunteers, and a lack of coaches.

13.29 The club uses Blessed George Napier School as their home site once or twice a week on weekday evenings from autumn to spring, but also use several other schools in the area. The club finds the site can be quite difficult to book as peak times are busy. The quality of the hall is described as excellent, and the ancillary facilities as above average. The club does not use the changing facilities.

Bicester and District Table Tennis Club

13.30 This club has around 40 members, almost all of whom are either seniors or veterans. They travel up to 30 minutes to the club, with about 80% living in the

Bicester area and the remainder outside of Cherwell district. The club has stayed the same size over the last 5 years and does not expect to grow. There is no waiting list for the club and the main issues limiting its growth are a lack of volunteers and a lack of coaches.

- 13.31 The club uses Launton Sports and Social Club as their home site, once or twice a week year round on weekday evenings. It is fairly easy to book and is in the club's preferred location. The changing and ancillary facilities are described as average quality but no comment is provided in relation to the hall itself.
- 13.32 The club also uses The Cooper School ancillary hall, again once or twice a week year round on weekday evenings. No comment is made about the quality of the hall space but the ancillary facilities are described as being above average and the changing facilities are not used.
- 13.33 There are other Cherwell clubs playing either in the Banbury Table Tennis or Oxford Table Tennis Leagues:

Club	Home site
Bloxham	Bloxham Ex-Serviceman's Hall
Millennium	Mollington Village Hall
Bodicote	Bodicote Village Hall
North Newington	Bishop Carpenter C of E Primary School
Tadmarton	Tadmarton Village Hall
Begbroke	Begbroke Village Hall

Justifying developers' contributions

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

Recommendations for table tennis

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

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

Protect

- 13.37 It is recommended that the existing facilities which are used for table tennis, in particular the Forum Centre at Kidlington, are protected.

Enhance and provide

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

Archery

- 13.39 There are two archery clubs in Cherwell district; Banbury Cross Archers who use The Warriner School both for their indoor and outdoor activities, and Bicester Archers who use Heyford Free School at Upper Heyford for indoor activities, and Bicester Sports Association at Chesterton for their outdoor activities.

Bicester Archers

- 13.40 This archery club has about 40 members, of which 75% are seniors or veterans. Most live within about 10 minutes of the home sites, but the veterans tend to travel up to 20 minutes. There is a waiting list of 5-10 people for each age group. The club has grown over the last 5 years and expects to continue to grow but there are issues with a lack of facilities, the hire costs and a lack of funding.
- 13.41 The club's home site is the Bicester Sports Association site at Chesterton which it uses during the summer and autumn. The site is used 3-6 times a week during weekday evenings and weekends. Although the grounds are excellent, there are no toilet facilities within 200m, and no changing provision is available.
- 13.42 The club's second site is Heyford Park Free School where the club uses the sports hall once-twice a week during the winter and spring months. This is used weekend daytimes but booking is difficult as it is taken up by football. The facility quality is good and the changing facilities are not required. The cost of hire is high and it is really too far away for most members.

National Governing Body comments and strategies

- 13.43 Archery GB has a current facility development plan and a new programme, "New Places for Target Faces". This is a new programme developed to make archery more accessible by opening up new archery venues around the country. Research has shown that current archers would like to shoot more often, but they are restricted by the availability of facilities. It also shows that there is a considerable demand for new archers to take up the sport. Alongside easy to follow advice and tailored support, an additional benefit for venue owners and managers who become involved in the programme is that they can apply to Archery GB for a start-up grant of up to £1000. This can be used to purchase equipment or train staff in

the delivery of the sport. The new programme is therefore facility owner and operator led.

- 13.44 Key facts from the strategy include that most clubs rent or hire the facilities they use, whether this is indoors or outdoors. Schools and leisure centres are important in the provision of indoor spaces (usually sport halls), but private landowners and similar are more important for the outdoor facilities. Where a club shares the outdoor space, this is mostly with football, rugby or cricket, and the sport considers itself to be a pitch sport.
- 13.45 It is not known if the sport has particular growth potential in Cherwell, and there are no national governing body identified priorities for investment.

Recommendations for archery

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

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

Protect

13.48 It is recommended that the existing outdoor archery facilities, particularly at the Bicester Sports Association site at Chesterton, are protected.

Enhance and provide

13.49 The Bicester Sports Association and archery clubs should explore the option of providing a basic pavilion close to the archery range at the Chesterton Bicester Sports Association site, as part of the future planning for this site.

13.50 It is recommended that support is given to the archery clubs to access sports halls for winter training as part of wider sports development initiatives led by Cherwell District Council.

SECTION 14: DELIVERING THE STRATEGY

- 14.1 The study is intended to inform not only planning documents and development management decisions but also recreation infrastructure planning and information to support funding bids by both the Council and other providers. All sources of funding and other means of delivery will be required to deliver the facilities needed.
- 14.2 As the responsibility for provision of sport and recreation facilities is shared between the District, Town and Parish Councils, sports clubs and associations, delivering the strategy will require partnership working.

Maximising health and well-being outcomes

- 14.3 Cherwell District Council and its partners have a clear stated objective of improving the health and wellbeing of the communities across the district, set out in well-established key documents such as the Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 where Strategic Objective SO10 is:

To provide sufficient accessible, good quality services, facilities and infrastructure including green infrastructure, to meet health, education, transport, open space, sport, recreation, cultural, social and other community needs, reducing social exclusion and poverty, addressing inequalities in health, and maximising well-being.

- 14.4 This sports facilities assessment and strategy has considered the current patterns of participation in sport and active recreation across all the communities in the district, and across all providers, and forecasts forwards the anticipated needs up to 2031 based on the expected future population, its age structure, and socio-economic characteristics. The strategy has taken these into account, and the facility proposals reflect what is expected to be required to meet the needs of the different communities across the district up to 2031. The network of sports facilities will be an essential element in the delivery of the health and wellbeing objectives for the district.

Maximising cost effectiveness

- 14.5 The Site Specific Proposals in Figure 66 identifies a number of facility priorities which are expected to be the most cost-effective and deliverable route of achieving the facilities required. This is based on a recognition that the most cost effective options may in fact not be deliverable because of factors outside of the control of Cherwell District Council, and a recognition that the Council itself only controls a small proportion of the facilities across the district. Each main element of the Action Plan should however in practice start with the most cost-effective option as the preferred option, moving to the more expensive as needed.
- 14.6 As an example, there is a future need for sports hall space, particularly around Bicester. The potential options to address this demand are set out below, in order

of increasing cost to public leisure. However, each of these are reliant on the agreement of stakeholders and only those facilities not used by education are likely to be able to be regularly made available during the school day, as well as during weekday evenings and weekends.

- Encourage schools to open sports hall facilities during the school day for community use and open for longer during the peak periods. Seek to secure that use via legal agreements. The Cooper School facility is managed by the District Council outside of school hours, from 17.45-22.15 on weekdays. Opening the school sports hall to community use during the school day would provide new “off-peak” opportunities, but the sports hall is already open and busy for most of the peak time on weekday evenings and weekends.
- Secure community access to any new sports halls being developed on existing school sites by the schools themselves to meet curriculum needs. The secondary schools around Bicester already have sports halls, so this option does not apply.
- Secure appropriately designed new sports hall provision on new school sites where a new hall is being proposed and which can be made available to the community on a pay and play or club booking basis. The proposed secondary school at North West Bicester has not to date been considered as being required for community use. However there may be opportunities to provide a sports halls designed for community use on this site.
- Extend or remodel an existing leisure centre to provide additional space. This is an option being considered at Bicester Leisure Centre.
- Secure appropriately designed new sports hall provision on an adjacent site to a new school which can be a shared facility, available to both the school and community. Can be made available for pay and play access including during part of the school day. May be part of leisure centre. This could apply to the South West Bicester secondary school which is at an early stage of planning.
- New sports hall on separate leisure centre site. There is an identified need for additional water space so new wet/dry leisure centre to meet the needs of Bicester is justified. No options for this provision have yet been identified by the authority.

14.7 A fundamental principle for the provision of public leisure facilities are that they must be financially sustainable. It is also essential that any public investment into school sites should be linked to a legal agreement securing community use for an appropriate length of time, usually 25 years, either via a planning obligation or other mechanism.

Working across authority boundaries

14.8 The strategy has identified a number of sports facilities where there is cross-boundary movement of participants over the boundaries. These include the export of gymnasts to Oxford and South Northants, the import of golfers from Oxford to Cherwell, and the export of hockey and tennis players to Oxford. The part of the district where there appears to be most movement is the Kidlington sub area.

- 14.9 The strategy recommendations are based on the expected population growth and changes up to 2031 within the authority itself, including the impact of the new housing proposed in the Partial Review. In effect these recommendations assume that there will be no significant changes in the cross-boundary movement of participants in the individual sports, either from new housing growth just across the boundary, or because there are new sports facilities provided within the adjacent authorities which are easily accessible to Cherwell residents.
- 14.10 However there are planning proposals for new housing development close to Kidlington in West Oxfordshire. If this goes ahead, with or without new sports facility provision in West Oxfordshire, this is likely to exacerbate the cross-boundary movement. In particular this may increase the amount of demand for swimming pool space, for sport hall space and for 3G artificial turf pitch space, unless new facilities are provided in West Oxfordshire. Local authorities should plan to meet their own needs. However as there is already a forecast deficit of these facilities in the Kidlington area, if any additional demand arises from outside of the district this demand would be unmet.
- 14.11 In planning the sports provision in the Kidlington area, there is therefore a need to work strategically cross-boundary, to ensure that the sports facility provision both meets the needs of the expanding community and is provided in the most cost-effective way. A joint study is therefore recommended to look at specific strategic needs, with a narrow focus on specific types of sports facilities and with a specific geographical area. To be avoided are both the duplication of facilities, and a failure to provide any facilities to meet the demand expected to arise. Such outcomes would fail to deliver the necessary infrastructure to support health and wellbeing, and / or be much more expensive and less financially sustainable in the long term.
- 14.12 Part of any joint study could consider potential mechanisms for the sharing of developers' contributions where these meet the CIL tests.

Securing provision of sport through development

- 14.13 A key output from the strategy is the securing of sports provision through development. This can include on-site provision through master-planning and planning obligations, and securing developers' contributions to off-site provision. These contributions can be secured through CIL where this is adopted or through S106 contributions. The shortfall in funding for specific facilities will need to be met by other funding sources, for example grant aid from the National Governing Bodies of sport, lottery funding, private funding, and housing infrastructure funds, see Section 16.
- 14.14 The Council has a Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document which supports the adopted Local Plan policies on sport and recreation and explains the existing approach to developer contributions. The authority seeks

contributions via S106 but it will still be necessary to meet the three CIL tests set out in CIL Reg 122 and NPPF para 204:

- Necessary to make the development acceptable in planning terms
- Directly related to the development
- Fairly and reasonably related in scale and kind to the development.

14.15 In addressing the CIL tests, it is first necessary to have a robust and up-to-date evidence base for sporting provision need. This strategy provides the framework to determine the nature, location and level of sports facility needs that may be generated from new developments. Planning policies and supplementary planning guidance will need to be updated in due course to reflect the findings of the strategy.

Calculating contributions

Demand

14.16 The Provision Guide (Figure 64) should be used to calculate the amount of expected demand being generated by a development for sports halls, swimming pools, fitness facilities and outdoor tennis. It provides quantity of facility per 1,000 of population, accessibility and quality standards, and has been directly derived from the strategy's assessment process.

14.17 In addition to the demand to be estimated using the Provision Guide, there is a need to provide specific new facilities, such as new leisure centres.

Figure 64: Recommended Provision Guide for new housing developments

Facility type	Quantity per 1000 population	Accessibility	Quality
Sports Halls	Banbury sub area 0.28 badminton courts fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
	Bicester and Kidlington Sub Areas 0.30 badminton courts fully available at peak time		
Swimming pools	Banbury sub area 11.40 sq m water space fully available at peak time	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
	Bicester sub area 11.72 sq m water space fully available at peak time		
	Kidlington sub area 11.76 sq m water space fully available at peak time		
Fitness facilities (stations)	All areas 7.58 stations fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance
Fitness facilities (studios)	All areas 0.14 studios fully available at peak time	15 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England guidance
Outdoor tennis	0.48 dedicated tennis courts fully available at peak time	10 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
Specialist cycling facility	District wide 1 facility 0.005 facility per 1,000 population	District wide	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
Athletics compact training facility	Bicester and Kidlington sub areas 1 facility 0.009 compact athletics facility per 1,000 population	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
Dedicated gymnastics centre	Bicester sub area 1 facility 0.01 dedicated gymnastics centre per 1,000 population	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance

Indoor tennis facility	Banbury sub area 1 facility 0.01 indoor tennis facility per 1,000 population	20 minutes by car	Design and quality to meet Sport England or the relevant national governing body guidance
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*Note: **fully available** at peak time means open to community use in the evenings and weekends.*

SECTION 15: PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- 15.1 It is recommended that Cherwell District Council treat this assessment and the recommendations as a living document and aim to undertake a number of action points arising from it. The findings and recommendations contained in the study will be used to inform the Council's leisure masterplan. It is recommended that the first priorities for implementation are as set out in the Action Plan (Figure 65) and that the Council use it as a basis for liaising with key stakeholders to determine how the strategy recommendations are best achieved. The Action Plan elements recommend what needs to be done to take forward the planning policy and project specific proposals in Figure 66 which have arisen from the strategy.
- 15.2 The Action Plan sets the recommended priorities for Years 1-3 (2018-2021). It should be reviewed annually along with a review of the key project proposals, which will help to maintain the momentum and commitment to its implementation. The Action Plan will inform the basis of a leisure master plan for the district, linked to GIS mapping, providing supporting evidence for securing S106/CIL contributions, sports development plans and projects delivered by the council and their partners such as parish and town councils as well as the private sector partners.

Figure 65: Action Plan for built sports facilities

Proposal / Facility	Action required	Lead organisation	Key partners	Date for action
Forward and development planning				
Sport and recreation strategy review	Review and confirm the proposals in this strategy once the Partial Review is complete (to ensure the assumed amount and location of growth to meet Oxford's unmet need remains unchanged).	CDC		Year 1
Major new housing developments in Cherwell	Ensure that major new housing sites have policies for sports provision, on or off site as appropriate.	CDC	Sport England	On-going
Planning policies on sport and recreation	Update planning policies on sport and recreation through the Local Plan process to reflect updated standards of provision	CDC		Year 2-3
Developer Contributions Supplementary Planning Document	Update the Supplementary Planning Document as policy guidance on the delivery of sport and recreation facilities and playing pitches for new developments.	CDC		Years 2-3
New swimming provision for Bicester	Complete feasibility study to confirm the preferred option for the delivery of new swimming provision in Bicester, likely to be associated with additional 4-court sports hall and health and fitness provision.	CDC	Sport England Swim England	Year 1
New swimming provision for Kidlington	Complete feasibility study to confirm the preferred option for the delivery of new swimming provision in Kidlington and consider association with additional 4-court sports hall and health and fitness provision.	CDC	Sport England Swim England	Year 1
Planning applications	Respond to planning applications for development to ensure that the necessary sports provision is achieved. If a sport and recreation site has become disused, consideration should be given to other sport, recreation or open space use,	CDC	Sport England	On-going

	having regard to deficiencies identified in the assessments and strategies.			
Cross boundary working with West Oxfordshire and Oxford	Work with West Oxfordshire District Council and Oxford City to identify if there are options for strategic provision of sports facilities, and ways in which they can be funded.	CDC	West Oxfordshire District Council Oxford City Council	Year 1-2
SW Bicester secondary school	Explore whether the proposed school site can respond to the potential options identified in the feasibility study for new swimming provision for Bicester. This may include developing the site for joint use.	CDC	Oxfordshire County Council	Year 1-2
Proposed secondary school at Begbroke	Confirm proposal for 4-court sports hall designed and made available for community use	CDC	Oxfordshire County Council	Year 1-2
Traffic free walking and cycling routes	Ensure that planning policy requires the provision of linked traffic free walking and cycling routes as part of new developments.	CDC	Developers	On-going
	Development of traffic free running and cycling routes linking existing green spaces in Banbury and Bicester as an integral part of sustainable transport networks.	CDC	Banbury Town Council Bicester Town Council	On-going
Golf planning policies	Positive planning policies should be adopted to enable the development of new golf provision, in various formats, both on existing sites and on new sites, where there is a demonstrated need.	CDC		Year 3
New provision and investment				
Community use agreements on school sites	Ensure that any public investment, and where relevant, planning permission for sports facilities on school sites is linked to formal community use agreements, the terms of which should reflect the size of the investment and the identified need for those facilities in the catchment of the site i.e. small levels of capital investment would usually be expected to have less onerous conditions and over a shorter period than major investment. For example resurfacing of hard courts at a school site, compared to the	OCC / CDC	OCC Schools	Linked to specific projects

	development of a sports hall.			
4-court sports halls for Bicester	Undertake feasibility options study for the delivery of two 4 court halls for Bicester. One to be delivered by 2026, the other by 2031.	CDC		Year 1-2
4-court sports halls for Kidlington	Undertake feasibility options study for the delivery of one 4 court hall for Kidlington by 2031.	CDC		Year 2-3
Specialist gymnastics centre, Bicester	Undertake feasibility study to identify options, costs, deliverability and sustainability of developing a dedicated gymnastics centre for club use in Bicester. May be part of wider review of site options for Bicester Leisure Centre, if so may be more urgent to complete.	CDC	Bicester and District Gymnastics Club, British Gymnastics	Year 2
Covered tennis courts, Banbury	Undertake feasibility study to identify site options, costs, deliverability and sustainability of providing covered courts in association with Banbury Lawn Tennis Club. If not achievable then: Deliver 4-floodlit courts, site to be confirmed but potentially at North Oxfordshire Academy by improving existing hard courts.	CDC	Banbury Lawn Tennis Club Lawn Tennis Association	Year 3
		CDC	North Oxfordshire Academy Lawn Tennis Association	Year 3
Traffic free cycling centre	Undertake a feasibility study into the development of a traffic free cycling centre to identify options, costs, deliverability and sustainability. Site also to be confirmed.	CDC	British Cycling Cycle clubs	Year 3
Sports development and other actions				
Community use agreements on school sites	Seek to develop community use agreements on school sites where a school acts as an important community sports facility.	CDC	Schools	On-going

SECTION 16: FACILITY SPECIFIC PROPOSALS

- 16.1 Figure 66 provides a summary of the main sites identified in this strategy and their investment needs. The list also includes new projects for which no specific sites have yet been identified. Some projects will be impacted upon by actions arising from the concurrent Playing Pitch Strategy, for example sports hall demand for football programme time is influenced by the availability of artificial grass pitches. Specifically, where a 3G football turf pitch is also available for hire in a locality, this will attract football training away from a sports hall as it is the preferred facility. The Playing Pitch Strategy is intended to be reviewed on an annual basis, and these built facility proposals should also be updated each year.
- 16.2 Several of the specific projects are at relatively early stages of feasibility assessment, and therefore the costs and deliverability are still to be confirmed. The estimated capital costs in the table are taken from the Sport England Facilities Costs of Second Quarter 2017 (Sport England, 2017). It should be noted that these exclude lifecycle costs of facilities, on which Sport England provides separate guidance dated 2012. The estimated sinking fund requirements for built facilities at that time were estimated to be between 0.3% and 0.5% per annum, with a maintenance figure of around 1% for sports halls and swimming pools (Sport England, 2012).
- 16.3 The assessment of the deliverability of the projects, including the achievement of planning permission, will need to be kept under regular review and alternative options identified if the preferred site/location is not possible to deliver.
- 16.4 The recommended priorities for the specific projects are identified as High, Medium and Low. These are defined as:

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

Figure 66: Recommended site specific proposals by sub area

BANBURY SUB AREA

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Leisure Centres						
Spiceball Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: 8 badminton court sports hall Swimming pool Fitness gym Studios Squash courts Health Suite	H	On-going		Operator	Site also has creche, soft play and treatment rooms.
	Extend fitness provision, subject to feasibility study. The proposals should not impact on the sports hall or swimming pool.	H	St	tbc	Leisure Centre operator CDC	Feasibility study completed 2018.
Woodgreen Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: Fitness gym including studio Indoor bowls centre with 6 rinks Outdoor pool	H	On-going		Operator	Need to support bowls club with sports development programmes to widen and increase membership. Consider retaining bowls green though summer months if sufficient bowls demand.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Schools						
Banbury Academy	Retain and maintain: Sports hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy.
	Resurface very poor quality artificial grass pitch.	H	St	£470,000	Academy	Proposed to resurface existing very poor quality hockey surface pitch.
	Develop full size 3G football turf pitch with floodlights	H	Mt	£935,000	Academy / Developer	Academy has unfulfilled S106 requirement for full size 3G pitch. Timing of delivery linked to housing completions.
Blessed George Napier Catholic School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by school
	Consider development of an artificial grass pitch full size 3G football turf, or conversion of existing hockey surface to 3G. Alternatively retain at high quality the existing hockey surface and make available for hockey club use.	M	Lt	£250,000 (conversion) - £935,000	Academy Football club	Proposed as part of possible joint option with Easington Sports and Social Football Club.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Bloxham School (Dewey Sports Centre)	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Swimming pool Full size sand filled hockey pitch Small size sand filled hockey pitch Fitness gym 2 squash courts 3 outdoor tennis courts	H	On-going		School	Good quality facilities, owned and managed by independent school. Seek to increase opening hours for community use. Considering development of additional hockey pitch.
North Oxfordshire Academy	Retain and maintain at good quality: Artificial pitch sand dressed Athletics track Grass pitch inside track Climbing wall	H	On-going		CDC	Joint use facilities
	Retain and maintain at good quality: Sports hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy
	Provide: Full size 3G football artificial grass pitch with floodlights	H	St	£935,000	Academy CDC	Academy has unfulfilled S106 requirement for full size 3G pitch.
	Extended/new clubhouse with additional changing.	H	St	Tbc for extension £500,000 for new 4 team changing	Academy CDC Clubs	Existing clubhouse insufficient to cater for number of teams. Requires extension or new additional building.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
	Improve hard courts.	L	Mt	tbc	CDC Academy	Improve hard courts for netball and tennis use, if other netball provision elsewhere and covering of tennis courts elsewhere not deliverable. Would require to be managed by CDC and also require extension of the Joint Use Agreement.
Sibford School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Swimming pool Studio Squash courts	H	On-going		School	Good quality facilities, owned and managed by independent school.
The Warriner School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Ancillary hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy. Additional hard court facility being delivered in 2018. Public investment would need to be linked to a joint use agreement.
	Improve quality of outdoor hard courts, particularly for use by netball	M	St	tbc	Academy	
Other sites						

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Outdoor bowls facilities	Retain and maintain the greens and ancillary facilities at: Banbury Chestnuts Bowls Club Banbury Borough Bowling Club Bloxham Bowls Club Adderbury Bowls and Social Club Banbury Central Bowling Club	H	On-going		Clubs	
	Keep under review need for outdoor bowls facility at Deddington. If not required consider alternative use for sport, recreation or open space.	L				
Cropey tennis courts	Floodlight 2 courts.	H	St	£25,000	Club LTA Parish Council	
Deddington tennis courts	Floodlight 3 courts.	M	Mt	£35,000	Club LTA Parish Council	
Banbury West End Tennis Club,	Floodlight 2 courts.	M	Mt	£25,000	Club LTA Parish	

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Adderbury					Council	
	Improve changing provision.	M	Mt	tbc	Club LTA Parish Council	
Hook Norton Tennis Club	Provide additional floodlit tennis court	M	Mt	£165,000	Club Parish Council	
Ricochet Trampoline Club	Provide changing and improve car parking	M	St	tbc	Club	A British Gymnastics affiliated club, not commercial centre.
Village and community halls	Improve storage and quality to enable greater range of sport and active recreation to be provided.	H	On-going	tbc	Site owners/ma nager, Town and Parish Councils, CDC	Costs dependent on needs. Support participation growth though sports development plans.
Village hard courts/tennis courts	Provide tennis court for pay and play or with open access where there is no access to such a court within 10 minutes drive	L	Mt	£120,000 per court	Parish Councils	
New sites						

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated capital cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
New commercial fitness provision. Site to be confirmed	New community pool expected to be provided via the commercial sector. New provision will require large fitness gym to support revenue.	H	Mt	n/a	Commercial	No site yet identified.
Covered tennis courts, Banbury	Identify site to provide covered tennis courts in association with Banbury Lawn Tennis Club. Subject to feasibility assessment and planning.	M	Mt	tbc	CDC Club LTA Town Council	Costs dependent on design. Feasibility study required to confirm options and likely planning issues.
Walking, running and cycling routes	Development of improved networks of walking, running routes (including measured marked routes), and cycling routes utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free opportunities in and around Banbury. Development within new housing, and also as links across Banbury.	H	St, Mt, Lt	tbc	Town Council CDC Developers	Proposals to better link both existing green spaces/routes and with and within new developments.

BICESTER SUB AREA

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Leisure Centre						
Bicester Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Swimming pool Fitness gym Studio Squash courts Activity hall 2 x small sided 3G AGPs Health suite Creche	H	St	tbc	Leisure Centre operator CDC	Joint Use Agreement for sport hall (The Bicester School).
	Extend fitness provision, subject to feasibility study.	H	St	tbc		Feasibility study completed 2018.
	Consider the options for increasing capacity of pool through installation of moveable floor.	M	St	tbc		
	Review future of bowling alley as part of wider site review.	L	St			
Schools						

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
The Bicester School	Retain and maintain: Ancillary hall and changing	M	On-going		Academy	Managed by academy. Sports hall on adjacent site part of Joint Use Agreement (Bicester Leisure Centre)
The Cooper School	Retain and maintain: Artificial grass pitch	H	On-going		CDC	Joint use agreement for AGP (managed by CDC)
	Retain and maintain: 4 court sports hall Performance hall	H	On-going		Academy	Managed by school. Performance hall floor and seating replacement planned for 2018.
	Improve quality of outdoor hard courts, particularly for use by netball	M	St	tbc	Academy	Investment would need to be linked to a joint use agreement.
Heyford Park Free School	Retain and maintain: Sports hall Fitness gym Squash court Netball / tennis courts	M	On-going		Free School	New/refurbished facilities. Requires more extensive marketing, including for use of the hard courts for tennis. Further housing development will require a whole site leisure master plan for co-ordinated sports facilities.
Other sites						

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Outdoor bowls facilities	Retain and maintain the greens and ancillary facilities at: Bicester Bowls Club	H	On-going		Club	
Outdoor bowls facilities	Keep under review need for outdoor bowls facility at Lower Heyford. If not required consider alternative use for sport, recreation or open space.	L	On-going		Parish Council CDC	
Whitelands Farm Sports Ground	Deliver 6 floodlit tennis courts.	H	Mt	£248,000	CDC Operator LTA Club	Planned provision but timescales and funding to be confirmed. Large playing field site with artificial grass and natural grass pitches. Addressed in the Playing Pitch Strategy.
Bicester Sports Assn, Chesterton,	Review options for provision of a pavilion for archery.	L	Mt	£200,000 archery pavilion Other costs tbc	BSA Clubs	Large playing field site providing for cricket, football, rugby and archery. Primarily addressed in the Playing Pitch Strategy, but needs of archery also need to be considered

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Village and community halls	Improve storage and quality to enable greater range of sport and active recreation to be provided.	H	On-going	tbc	Site owners/ manager, Town and Parish Councils, CDC	Costs dependent on needs. Support participation growth through sports development plans.
New sites						
NW Bicester Secondary School	Design and make available for community use the four court sports hall at the planned secondary school in NW Bicester.	H	Mt	£2,340,000	OCC CDC Developer	Specification and design may need review as site not originally planned to have community use. Formal community use agreement required.
SW Bicester Secondary School	Design and make available for community use the four court sports hall at the planned secondary school in SW Bicester.	H	St	£2,340,000	OCC CDC Developer	Ensure design and specification enable community use. Formal community use agreement required.
New leisure centre. Site to be confirmed	New leisure centre with: 25m x 6 lane competition pool plus teaching pool. Health and fitness	H	Mt	£9,485,000	CDC	Proposal not yet explored. Feasibility, site and deliverability to be confirmed as may be accommodated within Bicester Leisure Centre expansion plans.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Compact Athletics training facility. Site to be confirmed	A compact athletics facility in Bicester to meet the needs of Bicester Athletics Club.	M	Mt	tbc	CDC OCC	Preferred location is the new Alchester Academy secondary school. Costs dependent on design. Liaise with OCC and school sponsor.
Bicester Gymnastics Club. Site to be confirmed.	Development of a specialist gymnastics facility at Bicester for the Bicester and District Gymnastics Club, subject to a feasibility study, including the options for the potential reuse of an existing building.	H	St	tbc	CDC Club British Gymnastics	Costs dependent on site and design.
Village hard courts/tennis courts	Provide tennis court for pay and play or with open access where there is no access to such a court within 10 minutes drive	L	Mt	£120,000 per court	Parish Council	
Walking, running and cycling routes	Development of improved networks of walking, running routes (including measured marked routes), and cycling routes utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free opportunities in and around Bicester.	H	St, Mt, Lt	tbc	Town Council CDC Developers	Proposals to better link both existing green spaces/routes and with and within new developments.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
	Development within new housing, and also as links across Bicester.					

KIDLINGTON SUB AREA

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Leisure Centre						
Kidlington & Gosford Leisure Centre	Retain and maintain: Sport hall Swimming pool	H	St	tbc	Leisure Centre operator CDC	
	Increase capacity of pool through installation of new learner pool with moveable floor.	M	St	tbc		Subject to feasibility study.
	Extend fitness provision, subject to feasibility study.	M	St	tbc		Subject to feasibility study.
	Consider resurface AGP to 3G when Gosford Hill open for hockey use.	L	Mt	£250,000	School	Depends also on 3G AGP options elsewhere in Kidlington.
Schools						
Gosford Hill School	Retain and maintain: Ancillary hall and changing Netball courts	M			School	Sport hall, pool and AGP managed as part of JUA as the leisure centre.
Other sites						
Forum Youth Centre	Improve court quality and provide floodlights.	M	Mt	tbc	Parish Council	
Kidlington Forum Table Tennis Club	Retain and maintain	H			Club	Recent purpose-built facility

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
Outdoor bowls facilities	Retain and maintain the greens and ancillary facilities at Kidlington.	H	On-going		Club	
Outdoor bowls facilities	Keep under review need for outdoor bowls facility at Begbroke and Bunkers Hill, Shipton on Cherwell. If not required consider alternative use for sport, recreation or open space.	L			Parish Councils CDC	
North Oxford Golf Course Replacement site to be confirmed	If developed and a replacement facility is required, give consideration to shorter golf formats.	H	If required	N/a	Developer	Proposed redevelopment of North Oxford Golf Course yet to be confirmed through the local plan process.
Village and community halls	Improve storage and quality to enable greater range of sport and active recreation to be provided.	H	On-going	tbc	Site owners/ manager, Town and Parish Councils, CDC	Costs dependent on needs. Support participation growth through sports development plans.

Project name	Main aim	Priority H = High M = Medium L = Low	Phasing St 2018-2021 Mt 2021-2026 Lt 2026-2031	Estimated cost (£000's)	Main delivery partners	Comment
New sites						
New 4-court hall, Site PR8	One four court sports hall in association with the proposed secondary school at Begbroke (PR8), designed for and made available for community use.	H	Mt	£2,340,000	OCC CDC Developer	
New leisure centre. Site to be confirmed	New community leisure centre with: 4-court sports hall 25 m x 4 lane pool Health and fitness	M	Lt	£7,345,000	CDC Developer	Proposal not yet explored. Feasibility, site and deliverability to be confirmed. May be incorporated within leisure centre expansion plans.
Walking, running and cycling routes	Development of improved networks of walking and running routes (including measured marked routes), and cycling routes utilising open spaces, parks and traffic free opportunities in and around Kidlington. Development within new housing, and also as links across Kidlington.	H	St, Mt, Lt	tbc	Parish Council CDC Developer s	Proposals to better link both existing green spaces/routes and with and within new developments.

Funding

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

Procurement and management

- 16.8 The nature and process of the procurement of the facilities covered by this strategy and their long term management will fundamentally depend upon the type and scale of facility. It is likely that many sports and recreation facilities will increasingly become the responsibility of a sports club(s), but the leisure centres are likely to remain the council's responsibility, either directly or indirectly.

Review and monitoring

- 16.9 The final stage in the strategy is its delivery, and making sure that it is kept up to date. Sport England recommends that a process should be put in place to ensure regular monitoring of how the recommendations and action plan are being delivered. Understanding and learning lessons about how the strategy has been applied is also a key component of monitoring its delivery. This should be an on-going role of the steering group. To this end the Council plans to produce a Leisure Strategy and Delivery Plan during 2018.
- 16.10 As a guide, if no review and subsequent update has been carried out within three years of the strategy being signed off, then Sport England may consider the strategy and the information on which it is based, to be out of date.
- 16.11 Ideally the strategy should be reviewed on an annual basis. This will help to maintain the momentum and commitment that has been built up when developing the strategy, and also ensure that the supply and demand information is no more than two years old without being reviewed.
- 16.12 An annual review should not be regarded as a particularly resource intensive task. However, it should highlight:
- How the delivery of the recommendations and action plan has progressed and any changes required to the priority afforded to each action (e.g. the priority of some may increase following the delivery of others)
 - How the strategy has been applied and the lessons learnt
 - Any changes to particularly important sites and/or clubs in the area (e.g. the most used or high quality sites for a particular sport) and other supply and demand information, what this may mean for the overall assessment work and the key findings and issues
 - Any development of a specific sport or particular format of a sport.
 - Any new or emerging issues and opportunities.

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GLOSSARY

AGP	Artificial Grass Pitch
APS	Active People Survey
BDA	Bowls Development Alliance
BREEAM	Building Research Establishment Environmental Assessment Method
BSA	Bicester Sports Association
CDC	Cherwell District Council
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy
CIPFA	The Chartered Institute of Finance and Accountancy
CP	Civil Parish
ECB	England and Wales Cricket Board
EG	England Golf
FA	Football Association
FPM	Facilities Planning Model
GIS	Geographical Information Systems mapping
IDP	Infrastructure Development Plan
IFI	Inclusive Fitness Initiative of English Federation of Disability Sport
JUA	Joint Use Agreement
LC	Leisure Centre
LP	Cherwell District Council Local Plan Part 1
LTA	Lawn Tennis Association
LTC	Lawn Tennis Club
NGB	National Governing Body of sport
NPPF	National Planning Policy Framework
NW	North West
OCB	Oxfordshire Cricket Board
OCC	Oxfordshire County Council
ONS	Office for National Statistics
PP	Peak Period
RFU	Rugby Football Union
S106	Planning obligations under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990
SFC	Sports Facilities Calculator
SW	South West



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APPENDIX 1: ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY FOR BUILT FACILITIES

- 1.1 The Part 2 strategy considers the built facilities used by the community for sport and physical activity. The approach to this assessment and the development of the recommendations reflects the guidance contained in the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance of Sport England of 2014 (Sport England, 2014).
- 1.2 The assessment of each facility type draws on a number of different elements:
- The findings from the site audits, including an assessment of the used capacity of the facilities and management considerations;
 - The theoretical demand for facilities based on various modelling tools;
 - The results of consultation;
 - Issues associated with facility quality, accessibility for the community etc.;
 - The future population characteristics;
 - The Council’s policies on participation, and sports development objectives;
 - The resources which may be available to meet the future requirements;
 - National governing body strategic requirements;
 - The network of facilities and housing growth.
- 1.3 As each assessment is based on a number of factors which can change over time, the recommendations will need to be kept under review. Details of the methodology are provided below, and the consultation process with the national governing bodies of sport and clubs in the district is given in Appendix 4.

Modelling tools

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

Facilities Planning Model

- 1.6 The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) has been developed as a planning tool by Sport England for the strategic assessment of the community needs for swimming pools, sports halls and large size artificial grass pitches (AGPs). The modelling provides an objective assessment of the balance between the supply of the sports facilities and the demand for them at “peak time”, which is in the evenings Monday-Friday, and during the daytime at weekends.
- 1.7 The FPM assessments take into account key factors influencing participation at the local level, including; the age profile of residents, levels of deprivation, car ownership,

and travel time to facilities/facility catchments. 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). The FPM appendix which Sport England provided as part of the FPM reports is provided as Appendix 5. It gives more detail on how the FPM works and the research behind the parameters used in the model.

- 1.8 The FPM tool is much more sophisticated than the Active Places Power tools available on the Sport England interactive website, although it is only available for halls, pools, and large size AGPs.
- 1.9 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 FPM can also be used to scenario test sports facility options, and this was commissioned by Cherwell District Council in 2014 to consider the implications of the planned growth, to inform the Local Plan. The key findings of the 2014 FPM local scenario test are given in the Part 2 report.

Extrapolating current demand and current provision

- 1.10 One way of assessing the likely future sporting requirements of the community for the facilities other than sports halls and swimming pools is to consider the current demand for each sports facility type and to extrapolate this demand to take account of the forecast growth in the population and the anticipated growth in participation. This extrapolated figure can then be compared to the known supply of facilities, to assess the likely future balance in supply and demand.
- 1.11 This approach is a useful guide to the scale of the future provision which may be needed for facilities such as outdoor bowling greens, but does not take into account the quality of the facilities, their opening hours, the location of facilities, or the impact of an ageing population. The findings therefore need to be reviewed within the context of the results from the other modelling, and also the feedback from consultation.

Active Places Power

- 1.12 Active Places Power (APP) (Sport England, 2017) is a website developed by Sport England to help those involved in providing sport provision with a series of tools to guide investment decisions and develop sport provision strategies.
- 1.13 The website is underpinned by a single database that holds information on sports facilities and clubs (pilot data) throughout England. The data held on APP for each facility includes the type of facility, location, size, ownership and management, opening times, age, refurbishment date and access type. The tools within the website have a range of capabilities from quick searches and simple reports to a series of analytical tools.

- 1.14 In this assessment the APP database has been used to inform the strategy, for example as a source of information about facilities outside of Cherwell.

Sports Facilities Calculator

- 1.15 The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) (Sport England, 2017) has been developed by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches) is generated as a result of new growth linked to specific development locations. It is one of the Sport England Active Places Power web tools.
- 1.16 The SFC has been used to help local authorities in infrastructure planning, devising supplementary planning documents, negotiating Section 106 agreements, and in preparing for the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). It helps with quantifying the demand side of the facility provision equation, for example it can answer questions such as, “How much additional demand for swimming will the population of a new development area generate?”, and “What would the cost be to meet this new demand at today’s values?”. The figures it produces represent total demand for the chosen population.
- 1.17 The SFC is designed to estimate the needs of discrete populations for sports facilities created by a new community of a residential development. It is important to note however that the SFC looks only at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities. The SFC has therefore been used in relation to the planned housing growth at the sub area level using the agreed forecast demographics. The SFC can also be used to assess the potential impact of individual housing sites.

Comparator authorities

- 1.18 Comparing Cherwell with its Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) benchmark authorities as listed on the Active Places Power web site, (Sport England, 2017) in terms of the scale of provision of a facility can be a helpful guide towards the overall amount of provision which might be expected. However the CIPFA comparison should be treated with some caution and not used as a justification in its own right for the amount of provision which there “should” be within the authority. Due to the differing size of authorities, this comparison needs to be on a provision of a sports facility per 1000 population basis.
- 1.19 The ‘Nearest Neighbour’ model was developed by CIPFA to aid local authorities in comparative and benchmarking exercises. It is widely used across both central and local government. The model uses a number of variables to calculate similarity between local authorities. Examples of these variables include population, unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios.

- 1.20 The local authorities that are considered to be ‘similar’ to Cherwell by CIPFA are: Basingstoke and Dean, Huntingdonshire, Test Valley and the Vale of White Horse.

Growth in participation per annum

- 1.21 An important consideration in the modelling to assess future facility needs is to determine what the likely growth in participation each year will be. This will impact upon the overall level of demand for each facility type. Participation rates in adult sport (16 years and over but now moving towards a 14 years and over baseline) was previously monitored nationally by Sport England through their Active People Survey (Sport England, 2017) and is successor survey, Active Lives. This is the mechanism which Cherwell District Council also uses to assess the success of its policy objectives of getting more people active.
- 1.22 The Active People Survey (APS) up to mid 2016 has effectively shown limited change in the rates of overall participation in sport and active recreation over the last few years in Cherwell, and this is mirrored by the fact that very few national governing bodies have seen an increase in their sport’s rate of participation.
- 1.23 The rates of participation in “fashionable” sports activities will fluctuate from year to year as the activities gain popularity then reduce again. However most of these use activity room or studio type spaces, or programmed time in the pools, rather than taking up much more pool or hall time, so the overall strategic planning for facilities tends to be largely unaffected.
- 1.24 A participation rate increase for the purposes of modelling future demand has been agreed with the steering group for each facility type. For sports halls and swimming pools this was 0.5% per annum. This approach has also been followed for other sports facility types unless participation information is available which suggests that another approach is appropriate.
- 1.25 The reasoning behind this approach is that a 0% growth rate in participation would mean that the District Council’s objective of getting everyone more active may be difficult to achieve if the facilities available only provided for the current rate of participation.
- 1.26 However a 1% per annum increase in demand for facilities is probably too high, given that there has been no overall increase in rates of participation across the district in the last few years.
- 1.27 The rates of participation across all sports and consequently the demand for facility space will be kept under review, and will be a key consideration when this strategy is fully reviewed in approximately 5 years.

Assessing the capacity of facilities

- 1.28 The assessment of the capacity of the existing facility network needs to draw on a range of sources and there is always a need to make some assumptions. The approach towards the assessment of capacity for different facility types has been agreed with officers, and this is set out at the end of this Appendix in the landscape tables (Figure 1).

Travel times and travel modes to facilities

- 1.29 The travel time and mode of travel to sports halls, swimming pools and artificial grass pitches is based on Sport England research, which in turn informs the Facilities Planning Model (FPM), see above. The travel time and modes to other facility types used in the assessments are primarily based on advice provided the relevant national governing body of sport. This has however been checked against the sports club survey returns which specifically requested information on the travel times of members.
- 1.30 Nortoft uses a specialist drive time software package, “Routefinder”, which is based on the actual road network and takes account of the nature of the network e.g. rural roads as well as the distance.

Community priorities for participation

- 1.31 This report draws on the extensive consultation with the community, stakeholders and partners undertaken as part of the strategy development process. The findings from this consultation which relate to specific facilities are included within the relevant facility sections and summarised in Appendix 4.
- 1.32 The detailed responses from stakeholders, the national governing bodies and clubs have proven very informative to the strategy process, and all of the specialist sports sections’ findings and recommendations have been confirmed with the relevant sport’s national governing body.
- 1.33 The number of responses to the individuals’ online survey mean that the findings need to be treated as indicative rather than statistically robust. Due to the relatively low numbers of responses is it not possible to undertake further analysis in terms of the demographics.

National Governing Body Strategies

- 1.34 Sport England and UK Sport have a formal recognition process for both activities and for National Governing Bodies (NGBs). The latest list of both sports and NGBs for England can be found on Sport England’s web site (Sport England, 2017)
- 1.35 The NGB picture is complex as some sports will have different NGBs for England, Great Britain or the UK (for example athletics), some have different NGBs for different

disciplines (for example shooting), some have specialist interests (for example disability specific sport organisations), and some sports will be “recognised” but have no officially “recognised” NGB in England (for example Gaelic Football). There are also other activities which are not officially recognised as sports by Sport England, examples being general fitness and gym activities, and parkour.

- 1.36 The assessment for each facility type includes relevant NGB strategy reviews and priorities where these are appropriate. Where a facility such as a sports hall is used by a number of different sports, there will be more than one NGB strategy reviewed. Similarly, where a sport has more than one relevant NGB, more than one NGB may be referred to in the assessment.
- 1.37 It should be noted that many of the small-medium NGBs do not have specific facility strategies, and even the larger ones such as the Amateur Swimming Association rarely make specific reference to Cherwell.
- 1.38 A further general issue is that where facilities strategies have been produced previously, several are close or beyond their end date, and in many cases new priorities have yet to be set. Where a previous strategy is still relevant, the key points are identified.

Costs of facility development

- 1.39 The costs of the proposals are primarily addressed in the Implementation section of this Strategy. The costs are based on Sport England’s regularly updated list of facilities and their development costs, which are largely based on typical schemes funded through the Lottery, with layouts developed in accordance with Sport England Design Guidance Notes.
- 1.40 As and when new facilities are proposed Cherwell District Council will refer to the current Sport England guidance on the expected costs (Sport England, 2017)
- 1.41 Where the facility issues are ones of improvement rather than new provision, the costs of the works required will need to be based on a condition survey of each individual facility.

Figure 1: Facility Capacity Assessment Methodology

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Facility type	Sources of information / standard modelling	Issues	Methodology for capacity assessment
<p>Multi use games areas (MUGAs) on managed/closed sites e.g. schools</p> <p>[note – MUGAs provided as part of play provision are addressed in Part 4 – Open Spaces report]</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site visit • NGB comments and participation information for relevant sports (primarily netball and football) • Club consultation • Consultation with site manager • Club membership numbers and trends • Booking information (if available) in relation to individual sites showing use at peak time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Variable facility size and type from multi-court with floodlights to single court with no lights • Variety of management but primarily education • Lack of usage information for most facilities 	<p>Assessment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review stated club/NGBs demand/needs/aspirations against availability and quality of existing facilities. • Identify those sites with spare capacity and those without.
<p>Golf</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • England Golf facility information – courses and driving ranges • England Golf district average club membership • Club consultation • Drive time catchments to clubs estimated to be 20 minutes by England Golf. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual site membership is usually commercially sensitive information so site used capacities cannot be confirmed. • England Golf membership information does not include visitor use, pay and play, or activities such a footgolf. • There has been a national downward trend in golf membership, and locally some sites may be suspected to be at or below levels which are financially sustainable. • Simple assumption that demand equals supply is not therefore robust in all cases. 	<p>Assessment:</p> <p>Test 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Count number of holes and driving range bays, authority wide and by sub area. • Extrapolate current supply per 1,000 population to estimate future demand against future populations at milestone dates. <p>Test 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Calculate club membership per 1,000 population for whole authority. Extrapolate expected membership based on future populations at whole authority and sub area level.

Peak period

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

Source for facilities not addressed by FPM:

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

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APPENDIX 2: SPORT ENGLAND SPORTS HALLS DESIGN GUIDANCE NOTE EXTRACT

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

Overview of numbers of courts* / levels of play for nominal hall sizes						
Sport and level of play category**	4 Court hall (94.5 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 6.3 m)	10 Court hall (40.6 x 42.7 x 9.0 m)	12 Court hall (60.0 x 34.5 x 9.0 m)	15 Court hall (64.05 x 40.6 x 9.0 m)
General notes:						
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unless noted otherwise all sizes include for team / officials zones but DO NOT include for any spectator provision. • The number of courts noted for each hall size does not take into account the additional option of inclusion of 'Show Court' overlays. 						
Badminton (with 1 dividing net per 4 or 5 court module)						
International ¹	4 ²⁺³	4 ²	8 ²	8	12	12
Premier ¹	4 ²	5 ²	8 ²	10	12	15
Club ¹	4	5	8	10	12	15
Community ¹	4	5	8	10	12	15
Basketball						
International	-	-	1	1	2	2
Premier	-	-	1	1	2	2
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3
Community ⁴	1	1	2	2	3	3
Reduced court size ⁵	2	2	4	4	6	6
Cricket practice / Indoor cricket						
Community ⁶	4	4	8	8	12	12
Gymnastics						
International	-	-	-	O	P	P
Premier	P	P	1	1/2P	1/3P	1/3P
Club	P	1	1	1/2P	1/3P	1/3P
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Five-a-side football / Futsal						
International	-	-	P	P	1	1
Premier	P	P	1	1	3	3
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Handball						
International	-	-	-	1	1	1
Premier	-	1	1	2	1	3
Club	-	1	1	2	1	3
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Indoor hockey						
International	-	-	-	1	1	1
Premier	-	P	P	1	1	1
Club	-	P	P	1	1	1
Community	1 Unihoc	1 Unihoc	1 Unihoc	2	1	2
Korfball						
International	-	-	-	-	1	1
Premier	-	-	1	1	1	2
Club	-	-	1	1	1	2
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Netball						
International ^{7/8}	0	0	1	1	1	1
Premier	0	1 ⁹	1	2 ⁹	1	3 ¹⁰
Club	1 ¹¹	1 ⁹	2 ¹⁰	2 ⁹	3 ¹¹	3 ¹⁰
Community	1	1	2	2	3	3
Sports hall athletics						
International	-	-	-	P	1P	1P
Premier	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P
Club	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P
Community	P	P	2P	2P	3P	3P
Volleyball						
International	0	0	1	1	2	2
Premier	1	1	2	2	3	3
Club	1	1	2	2	3	3
Community ⁴	1	1	2	2	3	3
Training courts ⁴	2P	2P	4P	4P	6P	6P

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

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

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

APPENDIX 3: SPORT ENGLAND FACILITIES PLANNING MODEL



Creating a sporting habit for life

Appendix – Model description, Inclusion Criteria and Model Parameters

Included within this appendix are the following:

- Model description
- Facility Inclusion Criteria
- Model Parameters

Model Description

1. Background

- 1.1. The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) is a computer-based supply/demand model, which has been developed by Edinburgh University in conjunction with **sportscotland** and Sport England since the 1980s.
- 1.2. The model is a tool to help to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities in an area. It is currently applicable for use in assessing the provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls centres and artificial grass pitches.

2. Use of FPM

- 2.1. Sport England uses the FPM as one of its principal tools in helping to assess the strategic need for certain community sports facilities. The FPM has been developed as a means of:
 - assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale;
 - helping local authorities to determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs;
 - helping to identify strategic gaps in the provision of sports facilities; and

- comparing alternative options for planned provision, taking account of changes in demand and supply. This includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities, and the likely impact of population changes on the needs for sports facilities.
- 2.2. Its current use is limited to those sports facility types for which Sport England holds substantial demand data, i.e. swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches.
- 2.3. The FPM has been used in the assessment of Lottery funding bids for community facilities, and as a principal planning tool to assist local authorities in planning for the provision of community sports facilities. For example, the FPM was used to help assess the impact of a 50m swimming pool development in the London Borough of Hillingdon. The Council invested £22 million in the sports and leisure complex around this pool and received funding of £2,025,000 from the London Development Agency and £1,500,000 from Sport England¹.

3. How the model works

- 3.1. In its simplest form, the model seeks to assess whether the capacity of existing facilities for a particular sport is capable of meeting local demand for that sport, taking into account how far people are prepared to travel to such a facility.
- 3.2. In order to do this, the model compares the number of facilities (supply) within an area, against the demand for that facility (demand) that the local population will produce, similar to other social gravity models.
- 3.3. To do this, the FPM works by converting both demand (in terms of people), and supply (facilities), into a single comparable unit. This unit is 'visits per week in the peak period' (VPWPP). Once converted, demand and supply can be compared.
- 3.4. The FPM uses a set of parameters to define how facilities are used and by whom. These parameters are primarily derived from a combination of data including actual user surveys from a range of sites across the country in areas of good supply, together with participation survey data. These surveys provide core information on

¹ Award made in 2007/08 year.

the profile of users, such as, the age and gender of users, how often they visit, the distance travelled, duration of stay, and on the facilities themselves, such as, programming, peak times of use, and capacity of facilities.

- 3.5. This survey information is combined with other sources of data to provide a set of model parameters for each facility type. The original core user data for halls and pools comes from the National Halls and Pools survey undertaken in 1996. This data formed the basis for the National Benchmarking Service (NBS). For AGPs, the core data used comes from the user survey of AGPs carried out in 2005/6 jointly with Sportscotland.
- 3.6. User survey data from the NBS and other appropriate sources are used to update the models parameters on a regular basis. The parameters are set out at the end of the document, and the range of the main source data used by the model includes:
- National Halls & Pools survey data –Sport England
 - Benchmarking Service User Survey data –Sport England
 - UK 2000 Time Use Survey – ONS
 - General Household Survey – ONS
 - Scottish Omnibus Surveys – Sport Scotland
 - Active People Survey - Sport England
 - STP User Survey - Sport England & Sportscotland
 - Football participation - The FA
 - Young People & Sport in England – Sport England
 - Hockey Fixture data - Fixtures Live
 - Taking Part Survey - DCMS

4. Calculating Demand

- 4.1. This is calculated by applying the user information from the parameters, as referred to above, to the population². This produces the number of visits for that facility that will be demanded by the population.

² For example, it is estimated that 7.72% of 16-24 year old males will demand to use an AGP, 1.67 times a week. This calculation is done separately for the 12 age/gender groupings.

- 4.2. Depending on the age and gender make-up of the population, this will affect the number of visits an area will generate. In order to reflect the different population make-up of the country, the FPM calculates demand based on the smallest census groupings. These are Output Areas (OA)³.
- 4.3. The use of OAs in the calculation of demand ensures that the FPM is able to reflect and portray differences in demand in areas at the most sensitive level based on available census information. Each OA used is given a demand value in VPWPP by the FPM.

5. Calculating Supply Capacity

- 5.1. A facility's capacity varies depending on its size (i.e. size of pool, hall, pitch number), and how many hours the facility is available for use by the community.
- 5.2. The FPM calculates a facility's capacity by applying each of the capacity factors taken from the model parameters, such as the assumptions made as to how many 'visits' can be accommodated by the particular facility at any one time. Each facility is then given a capacity figure in VPWPP. (See parameters in Section C).
- 5.3. Based on travel time information⁴ taken from the user survey, the FPM then calculates how much demand would be met by the particular facility having regard to its capacity and how much demand is within the facility's catchment. The FPM includes an important feature of spatial interaction. This feature takes account of the location and capacity of all the facilities, having regard to their location and the size of demand and assesses whether the facilities are in the right place to meet the demand.
- 5.4. It is important to note that the FPM does not simply add up the total demand within an area, and compare that to the total supply within the same area. This approach would not take account of the spatial aspect of supply against demand in a particular

³ Census Output Areas (OA) are the smallest grouping of census population data, and provides the population information on which the FPM's demand parameters are applied. A demand figure can then be calculated for each OA based on the population profile. There are over 171,300 OAs in England. An OA has a target value of 125 households per OA.

⁴ To reflect the fact that as distance to a facility increases, fewer visits are made, the FPM uses a travel time distance decay curve, where the majority of users travel up to 20 minutes. The FPM also takes account of the road network when calculating travel times. Car ownership levels, taken from Census data, are also taken into account when calculating how people will travel to facilities.

area. For example, if an area had a total demand for 5 facilities, and there were currently 6 facilities within the area, it would be too simplistic to conclude that there was an oversupply of 1 facility, as this approach would not take account of whether the 5 facilities are in the correct location for local people to use them within that area. It might be that all the facilities were in one part of the borough, leaving other areas under provided. An assessment of this kind would not reflect the true picture of provision. The FPM is able to assess supply and demand within an area based on the needs of the population within that area.

- 5.5. In making calculations as to supply and demand, visits made to sports facilities are not artificially restricted or calculated by reference to administrative boundaries, such as local authority areas. Users are generally expected to use their closest facility. The FPM reflects this through analysing the location of demand against the location of facilities, allowing for cross boundary movement of visits. For example, if a facility is on the boundary of a local authority, users will generally be expected to come from the population living close to the facility, but who may be in an adjoining authority

6. Calculating capacity of Sports Hall – Hall Space in Courts(HSC)

- 6.1. The capacity of sports halls is calculated in the same way as described above with each sports hall site having a capacity in VPWPP. In order for this capacity to be meaningful, these visits are converted into the equivalent of main hall courts, and referred to as 'Hall Space in Courts' (HSC). This "court" figure is often mistakenly read as being the same as the number of 'marked courts' at the sports halls that are in the Active Places data, but it is not the same. There will usually be a difference between this figure and the number of 'marked courts' that is in Active Places.
- 6.2. The reason for this, is that the HSC is the 'court' equivalent of the all the main and ancillary halls capacities, this is calculated based on hall size (area), and whether it's the main hall, or a secondary (ancillary) hall. This gives a more accurate reflection of the overall capacity of the halls than simply using the 'marked court' figure. This is due to two reasons:
- 6.3. In calculating capacity of halls, the model uses a different 'At-One-Time' (AOT) parameter for main halls and for ancillary halls. Ancillary halls have a great AOT capacity than main halls - see below. Marked Courts can sometimes not properly

reflect the size of the actual main hall. For example, a hall may be marked out with 4 courts, when it has space for 5 courts. As the model uses the 'courts' as a unit of size, it is important that the hall's capacity is included as a 5 'court unit' rather than a 4 'court unit'

- 6.4. The model calculates the capacity of the sports hall as 'visits per week in the peak period' (VPWPP), it then uses this unit of capacity to compare with the demand, which is also calculated as VPWPP. It is often difficult to visualise how much hall space is when expressed as vpwpp. To make things more meaningful this capacity in VPWPP is converted back into 'main hall court equivalents', and is called in the output table 'Hall Space in Courts'.

7. Facility Attractiveness – for halls and pools only

- 7.1. Not all facilities are the same and users will find certain facilities more attractive to use than others. The model attempts to reflect this by introducing an attractiveness weighting factor, which effects the way visits are distributed between facilities. Attractiveness however, is very subjective. Currently weightings are only used for hall and pool modelling, with a similar approach for AGPs is being developed.
- 7.2. Attractiveness weightings are based on the following:
 - 7.2.1. Age/refurbishment weighting – pools & halls - the older a facility is, the less attractive it will be to users. It is recognised that this is a general assumption and that there may be examples where older facilities are more attractive than newly built ones due to excellent local management, programming and sports development. Additionally, the date of any significant refurbishment is also included within the weighting factor; however, the attractiveness is set lower than a new build of the same year. It is assumed that a refurbishment that is older than 20 years will have a minimal impact on the facilities attractiveness. The information on year built/refurbished is taken from Active Places. A graduated curve is used to allocate the attractiveness weighting by year. This

curve levels off at around 1920 with a 20% weighting. The refurbishment weighting is slightly lower than the new built year equivalent.

- 7.2.2. Management & ownership weighting – halls only - due to the large number of halls being provided by the education sector, an assumption is made that in general, these halls will not provide as balanced a program than halls run by LAs, trusts, etc, with school halls more likely to be used by teams and groups through block booking. A less balanced programme is assumed to be less attractive to a general, pay & play user, than a standard local authority leisure centre sports hall, with a wider range of activities on offer.
- 7.3. To reflect this, two weightings curves are used for education and non-education halls, a high weighted curve, and a lower weighted curve;
 - 7.3.1. High weighted curve - includes Non education management - better balanced programme, more attractive.
 - 7.3.2. Lower weighted curve - includes Educational owned & managed halls, less attractive.
- 7.4. Commercial facilities – halls and pools - whilst there are relatively few sports halls provided by the commercial sector, an additional weighing factor is incorporated within the model to reflect the cost element often associated with commercial facilities. For each population output area the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) score is used to limit whether people will use commercial facilities. The assumption is that the higher the IMD score (less affluence) the less likely the population of the OA would choose to go to a commercial facility.

8. Comfort Factor – halls

- 8.1. As part of the modelling process, each facility is given a maximum number of visits it can accommodate, based on its size, the number of hours it's available for community use and the 'at one time capacity' figure (pools =1 user /6m² , halls = 6 users /court). This gives each facility a "theoretical capacity".
- 8.2. If the facilities were full to their theoretical capacity then there would simply not be the space to undertake the activity comfortably. In addition, there is a need to take

account of a range of activities taking place which have different numbers of users, for example, aqua aerobics will have significantly more participants, than lane swimming sessions. Additionally, there may be times and sessions that, whilst being within the peak period, are less busy and so will have fewer users.

8.3. To account of these factors the notion of a 'comfort factor' is applied within the model. For swimming pools 70%, and for sports halls 80%, of its theoretical capacity is considered as being the limit where the facility starts to become uncomfortably busy. (Currently, the comfort factor is NOT applied to AGPs due to the fact they are predominantly used by teams, which have a set number of players and so the notion of having 'less busy' pitch is not applicable.)

8.4. The comfort factor is used in two ways;

8.4.1. Utilised Capacity - How well used is a facility? 'Utilised capacity' figures for facilities are often seen as being very low, 50-60%, however, this needs to be put into context with 70-80% comfort factor levels for pools and halls. The closer utilised capacity gets to the comfort factor level, the busier the facilities are becoming. You should not aim to have facilities operating at 100% of their theoretical capacity, as this would mean that every session throughout the peak period would be being used to its maximum capacity. This would be both unrealistic in operational terms and unattractive to users.

8.4.2. Adequately meeting Unmet Demand – the comfort factor is also used to increase the amount of facilities that are needed to comfortably meet the unmet demand. If this comfort factor is not added, then any facilities provided will be operating at its maximum theoretical capacity, which is not desirable as a set out above.

9. Utilised Capacity (used capacity)

9.1. Following on from Comfort Factor section, here is more guidance on Utilised Capacity.

9.2. Utilised capacity refers to how much of facilities theoretical capacity is being used. This can, at first, appear to be unrealistically low, with area figures being in the 50-60% region. Without any further explanation, it would appear that facilities are half

empty. The key point is not to see a facilities theoretical maximum capacity (100%) as being an optimum position. This, in practise, would mean that a facility would need to be completely full every hour it was open in the peak period. This would be both unrealistic from an operational perspective and undesirable from a user’s perspective, as the facility would completely full.

9.3. For examples:

A 25m, 4 lane pool has Theoretical capacity of 2260 per week, during 52 hour peak period.

	4-5pm	5-6pm	6-7pm	7-8pm	8-9pm	9-10pm	Total Visits for the evening
Theoretical max capacity	44	44	44	44	44	44	264
Actual Usage	8	30	35	50	15	5	143

9.4. Usage of a pool will vary throughout the evening, with some sessions being busier than others though programming, such as, an aqua-aerobics session between 7-8pm, lane swimming between 8-9pm. Other sessions will be quieter, such as between 9-10pm. This pattern of use would give a total of 143 swims taking place. However, the pool’s maximum capacity is 264 visits throughout the evening. In this instance the pools utilised capacity for the evening would be 54%.

9.5. As a guide, 70% utilised capacity is used to indicate that pools are becoming busy, and 80% for sports halls. This should be seen only as a guide to help flag up when facilities are becoming busier, rather than a ‘hard threshold’.

10. Travel times Catchments

10.1. The model uses travel times to define facility catchments in terms of driving and walking.

10.2. The Ordnance Survey (OS) Integrated Transport Network (ITN) for roads has been used to calculate the off-peak drive times between facilities and the population, observing one-way and turn restrictions which apply, and taking into account delays

at junctions and car parking. Each street in the network is assigned a speed for car travel based on the attributes of the road, such as the width of the road, and geographical location of the road, for example the density of properties along the street. These travel times have been derived through national survey work, and so are based on actual travel patterns of users. The road speeds used for Inner & Outer London Boroughs have been further enhanced by data from the Department of Transport.

- 10.3. The walking catchment uses the OS Urban Path Network to calculate travel times along paths and roads, excluding motorways and trunk roads. A standard walking speed of 3 mph is used for all journeys
- 10.4. The model includes three different modes of travel, by car, public transport & walking. Car access is also taken into account, in areas of lower access to a car, the model reduces the number of visits made by car, and increases those made on foot.
- 10.5. Overall, surveys have shown that the majority of visits made to swimming pools, sports halls and AGPs are made by car, with a significant minority of visits to pools and sports halls being made on foot.

Facility	Car	Walking	Public transport
Swimming Pool	76%	15%	9%
Sports Hall	77%	15%	8%
AGP			
Combined	83%	14%	3%
Football	79%	17%	3%
Hockey	96%	2%	2%

- 10.6. The model includes a distance decay function; where the further a user is from a facility, the less likely they will travel. The set out below is the survey data with the % of visits made within each of the travel times, which shows that almost 90% of all

visits, both car borne or walking, are made within 20 minutes. Hence, 20 minutes is often used as a rule of thumb for catchments for sports halls and pools.

	Sport halls		Swimming Pools	
Minutes	Car	Walk	Car	Walk
0-10	62%	61%	58%	57%
10-20	29%	26%	32%	31%
20 -40	8%	11%	9%	11%

- 10.7. For AGPs, there is a similar pattern to halls and pools, with Hockey users observed as travelling slightly further (89% travel up to 30 minutes). Therefore, a 20 minute travel time can also be used for 'combined' and 'football', and 30 minutes for hockey.

Artificial Grass Pitches						
	Combined		Football		Hockey	
Minutes	Car	Walk	Car	Walk	Car	Walk
0-10	28%	38%	30%	32%	21%	60%
10-20	57%	48%	61%	50%	42%	40%
20 -40	14%	12%	9%	15%	31%	0%

NOTE: These are approximate figures, and should only be used as a guide.

Inclusion Criteria used within analysis

Swimming Pools

The following inclusion criteria were used for this analysis;

- Include all Operational Indoor Pools available for community use i.e. pay and play, membership, Sports Club/Community Association
- Exclude all pools not available for community use i.e. private use
- Exclude all outdoor pools i.e. Lidos
- Exclude all pools where the main pool is less than 20 meters OR is less than 160 square meters.
- Include all 'planned', 'under construction, and 'temporarily closed' facilities only where all data is available for inclusion.
- Where opening times are missing, availability has been included based on similar facility types.
- Where the year built is missing assume date 1975⁵.

Facilities in Wales and the Scottish Borders included, as supplied by **sportscotland** and Sports Council for Wales.

Sports Halls

The following inclusion criteria were used for this analysis;

- Include all Operational Sports Halls available for community use i.e. pay and play, membership, Sports Club/Community Association
- Exclude all Halls not available for community use i.e. private use
- Exclude all Halls where the main hall is less than 3 Courts in size
- Include all 'planned', 'under construction, and 'temporarily closed' facilities only where all data is available for inclusion.
- Where opening times are missing, availability has been included based on similar facility types.
- Where the year built is missing assume date 1975⁶.

Facilities in Wales and the Scottish Borders included, as supplied by **sportscotland** and Sports Council for Wales.

⁵ Choosing a date in the mid '70s ensures that the facility is included, whilst not overestimating its impact within the run.

⁶ Choosing a date in the mid '70s ensures that the facility is included, whilst not overestimating its impact within the run.

Artificial Grass Pitch

The following inclusion criteria were used for this analysis:

- Include all outdoor, full size AGPs with a surface type of sand based, sand dressed, water based or rubber crumb – varied by sport specific runs.
- Include all Operational Pitches available for community use i.e. pay and play, membership, Sports Club/Community Association
- Exclude all Pitches not available for community use i.e. private use
- Include all 'planned', 'under construction, and 'temporarily closed' facilities only where all data is available for inclusion.
- Minimum pitch dimension taken from Active Places – 75m x45m.
- Non floodlit pitches exclude from all runs after 1700 on any day.
- Excludes all indoor pitches.
- Excludes 5-a-side commercial football centres and small sided 'pens'.
- Excludes MUGA's, redgra, ash, marked out tarmac areas, etc.
- Carpet types included:
 - Combined Run – all carpet types, using the sport run criteria below.
 - Hockey Run – all water based weekend/weekday, all sand based/sand dresses weekend only.
 - Football Run – all rubber crumb weekend/weekday, sand based/sand dressed weekday.

Facilities in Wales and the Scottish Borders included, as supplied by **sportscotland** and Sports Council for Wales.

Model Parameters used in the Analysis

Pool Parameters

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

Halls parameters

At one Time Capacity	<p>24 users per 4-court hall, 13 users per 144 square meters of ancillary hall.</p>																																																	
Catchment Maps	<p>Car: 20 minutes Walking: 1.6 km Public transport: 20 minutes at about half the speed of a car</p> <p>NOTE: Catchment times are indicative, within the context of a distance decay function of the model.</p>																																																	
Duration	60 minutes																																																	
<p>Percentage Participation</p> <p>Frequency per week</p>	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>0-15</th> <th>16-24</th> <th>25-34</th> <th>35-44</th> <th>45-59</th> <th>60-79</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>9.78</td> <td>16.31</td> <td>13.17</td> <td>10.37</td> <td>7.04</td> <td>4.98</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>9.79</td> <td>14.42</td> <td>13.68</td> <td>13.80</td> <td>11.89</td> <td>9.86</td> </tr> <tr> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <th>Age</th> <th>0-15</th> <th>16-24</th> <th>25-34</th> <th>35-44</th> <th>45-59</th> <th>60-79</th> </tr> <tr> <td>Male</td> <td>1.23</td> <td>1.04</td> <td>0.97</td> <td>1.06</td> <td>1.11</td> <td>1.34</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Female</td> <td>1.15</td> <td>0.99</td> <td>0.98</td> <td>1.01</td> <td>1.03</td> <td>1.03</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Age	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-79	Male	9.78	16.31	13.17	10.37	7.04	4.98	Female	9.79	14.42	13.68	13.80	11.89	9.86								Age	0-15	16-24	25-34	35-44	45-59	60-79	Male	1.23	1.04	0.97	1.06	1.11	1.34	Female	1.15	0.99	0.98	1.01	1.03	1.03
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<p>Peak Period</p> <p>Percentage in Peak Period</p>	<p>Weekday: 9:00 to 10:00; 17:00 to 22:00 Saturday: 09:30 to 17:00 Sunday: 09:00 to 14:30, 17:00 to 19:30 Total: 45.5 hours</p> <p>62%</p>																																																	

APPENDIX 4: NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY AND CLUB CONSULTEES

The Cherwell Sports Facilities Strategy has been extensively consulted upon. The key stages have been:

June 2016	<p>Initial consultation</p> <p>A request to all national governing bodies (NGBs) for key points from their latest national, regional and county strategies via the Oxfordshire County Sports Partnership (CSP).</p> <p>A request to all Cherwell district non-pitch sports clubs to complete an online survey about their club, including membership, facilities used and plans for the future.</p>
September 2016 – January 2017	<p>A number of follow-up reminders to national governing bodies by the CSP and by the consultant.</p> <p>A number of follow-up reminders to clubs who had not responded via their NGB and directly by Cherwell District Council</p>
April 2017	<p>Circulation of full draft report to NGBs who had engaged with the strategy process, and amendments as required to report:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Archery Athletics Badminton Basketball Bowls outdoor Cycling Golf Gymnastics Indoor bowls Netball Squash Swimming Table Tennis Tennis <p>Circulation of strategy link to NGB contact list held by CSP, via CSP.</p> <p>Follow up with key individual clubs where information still outstanding.</p>
May 2017	<p>Report amendments to take into account feedback from NGBs and clubs.</p>

National governing bodies

All non pitch sports' national governing bodies which are funded by Sport England were consulted by the CSP. These are listed below. The pitch sports for football, rugby, cricket and hockey were separately consulted as these sports primarily relate to the Playing Pitch Strategy for the district rather than the built facilities strategy.

Angling
Archery
Athletics
Badminton
Baseball/Softball
Basketball
Boccia
Bowls
Boxing
Canoe
Cricket
Cycling
Equestrian
Exercise Movement and Dance
Fencing
Goalball
Golf
Gymnastics
Handball
Judo
Lacrosse
Modern Pentathlon
Mountaineering
Netball
Orienteering
Rowing
Sailing
Shooting
Snowsports
Squash
Swimming
Table Tennis
Taekwondo
Tennis
Triathlon

Volleyball
Waterskiing and Wakeboard
Weightlifting
Wheelchair Basketball
Wheelchair Rugby
Wrestling

Clubs

All clubs in the district were given the opportunity to respond to the club on line survey which was circulated to them as link, via their NGB, via Cherwell District Council and via the CSP. All club responses which provided any detail about their activities have been summarised in the relevant section of the strategy report.

The clubs who responded to the survey and which are either based in Cherwell district or have a significant number of their members living in the district, are listed below.

4 Shires Swimming Club
Alchester Running Club
Alchester Running Club
Aylesbury Cycling Club
Banbury & District Table Tennis Association
Banbury Blue Star Cyclist's Club
Banbury Borough Bowling Club
Banbury Central Bowling Club
Banbury Cross Indoor Bowls Club
Banbury Lawn Tennis Club
Banbury Marlborough Badminton Club
Banbury Swimming Club
Banbury West End Tennis and Squash Club
Bicester & District Table Tennis Club
Bicester & District Gymnastics
Bicester Archers
Bicester Athletic Club
Bicester Badminton Club
Bicester Blue Fins
Bicester Millennium Cycling Club
Bicester Trampoline Club
Cherwell Runners and Joggers
Higher Energy Trampoline Gymnastics Club
Kidlington and Gosford Swimming Club
Kidlington Forum Table Tennis Club
Kidlington Gymnastics Club

Mercedes AMG Petronas Cycling Club

Ricochet/ Go Trampolining

Team Cherwell Multisports Club

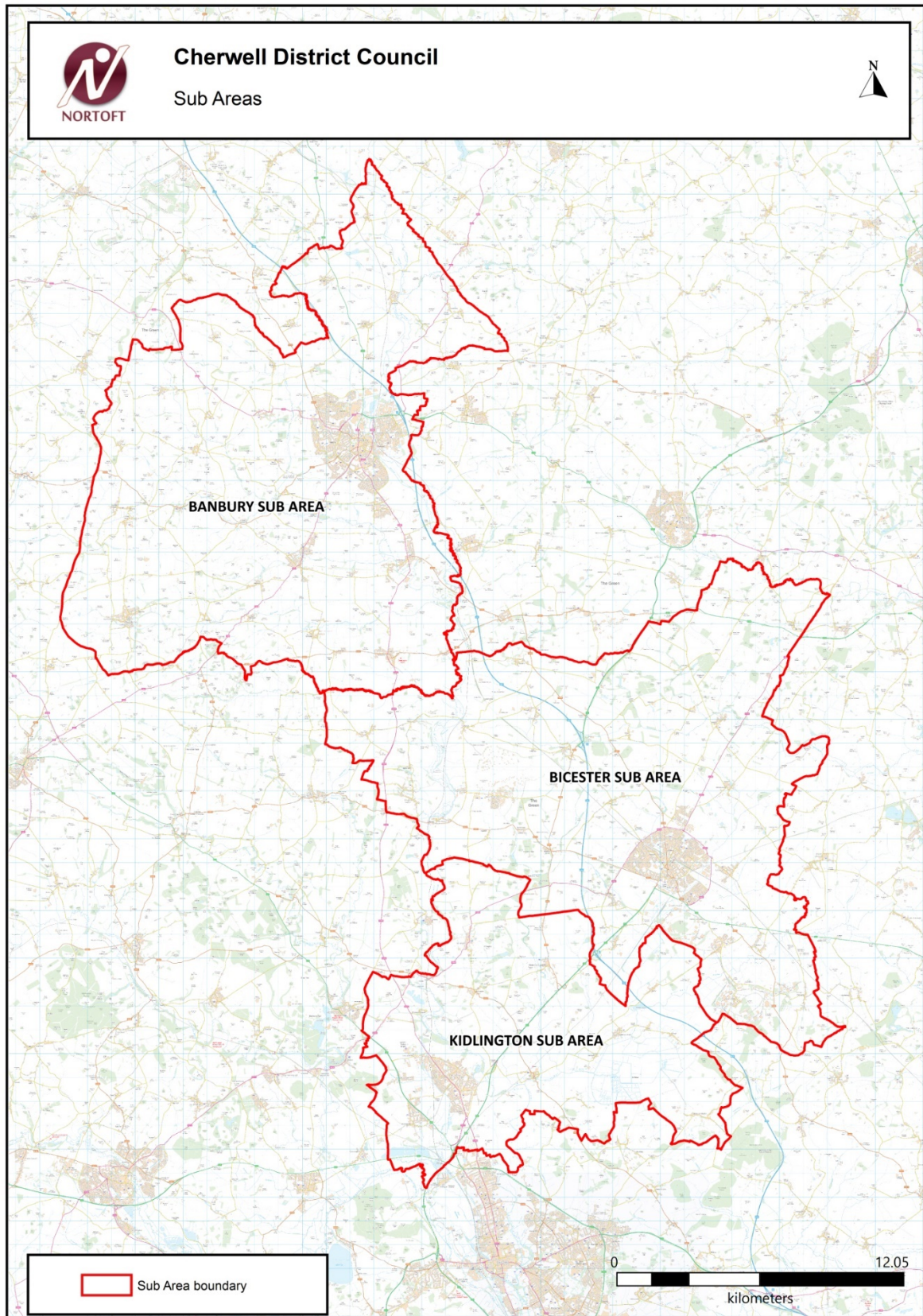
Zappi Racing Team

APPENDIX 5: STRATEGY SUB-AREAS AND POPULATION FORECASTS

Strategy sub areas

- 1.1 Cherwell is a large authority and even at off peak times the travel time is greater than 20 minutes across the authority, particularly north to south.
- 1.2 The catchments for different sports are based on the latest research evidence, either from Sport England or from a sport's national governing body. As several of the main sports facilities such as sports halls and swimming pools, have approximately a 20 minute drive time catchment (as demonstrated by Sport England research) it is appropriate to consider the authority in sub areas based around Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington. The boundaries of the sub areas are based on the pre-2016 ward boundaries, which are also used as the unit for the demographic forecasting which underpins the strategy work.
- 1.3 The Upper Heyford site is included within the Bicester sub area as it is considered that the area more naturally looks to Bicester rather than Banbury for its services.
- 1.4 A map showing the sub areas used in the strategy is given Figure 1, and the list of parishes and wards within each sub area are given as Figure 2.

Figure 1: Strategy sub areas



Contains Ordnance survey data © crown copyright and database right. 2017

Figure 2: Sub areas, parishes and wards

Sub Area	Civil Parish	Ward
Banbury	Adderbury	Adderbury Ward
	Banbury	Banbury Calthorpe Ward
	Barford St. John and St. Michael	Banbury Easington Ward
	Bloxham	Banbury Grimsbury and Castle Ward
	Bodicote	Banbury Hardwick Ward
	Bourton	Banbury Neithrop Ward
	Broughton	Banbury Ruscote Ward
	Claydon with Clattercot	Bloxham and Bodicote Ward
	Cropredy	Cropredy Ward
	Deddington	Deddington Ward
	Drayton	Hook Norton Ward
	Epwell	Sibford Ward
	Hanwell	Wroxton Ward
	Hook Norton	
	Horley	
	Hornton	
	Milcombe	
	Milton	
	Mollington	
	North Newington	
	Prescote	
	Shenington with Alkerton	
	Shutford	
	Sibford Ferris	
	Sibford Gower	
	South Newington	
	Swalcliffe	
Tadmarton		
Wardington		
Wigginton		
Wroxton		

Bicester	Ambrosden	Ambrosden and Chesterton Ward
	Ardley	Bicester East Ward
	Arcott	Bicester North Ward
	Bicester	Bicester South Ward
	Blackthorn	Bicester Town Ward
	Bucknell	Bicester West Ward
	Caversfield	Caversfield Ward
	Chesterton	Fringford Ward
	Cottisford	Launton Ward
	Duns Tew	The Astons and Heyfords Ward
	Finmere	
	Fringford	
	Fritwell	
	Godington	
	Hardwick with Tusmore	
	Hethe	
	Launton	
	Lower Heyford	
	Middle Aston	
	Middleton Stoney	
	Mixbury	
	Newton Purcell with Shelswell	
	North Aston	
	Piddington	
	Somerton	
	Souldern	
	Steeple Aston	
	Stoke Lyne	
	Stratton Audley	
	Upper Heyford	
	Wendlebury	

Kidlington	Begbroke	Kidlington North Ward
	Bletchington	Kidlington South Ward
	Charlton-on-Otmoor	Kirtlington Ward
	Fencott and Murcott	Otmoor Ward
	Gosford and Water Eaton	Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton Ward
	Hampton Gay and Poyle	
	Horton-cum-Studley	
	Islip	
	Kidlington	
	Kirtlington	
	Merton	
	Noke	
	Oddington	
	Shipton-on-Cherwell and Thrupp	
	Weston-on-Green	
	Yarnton	

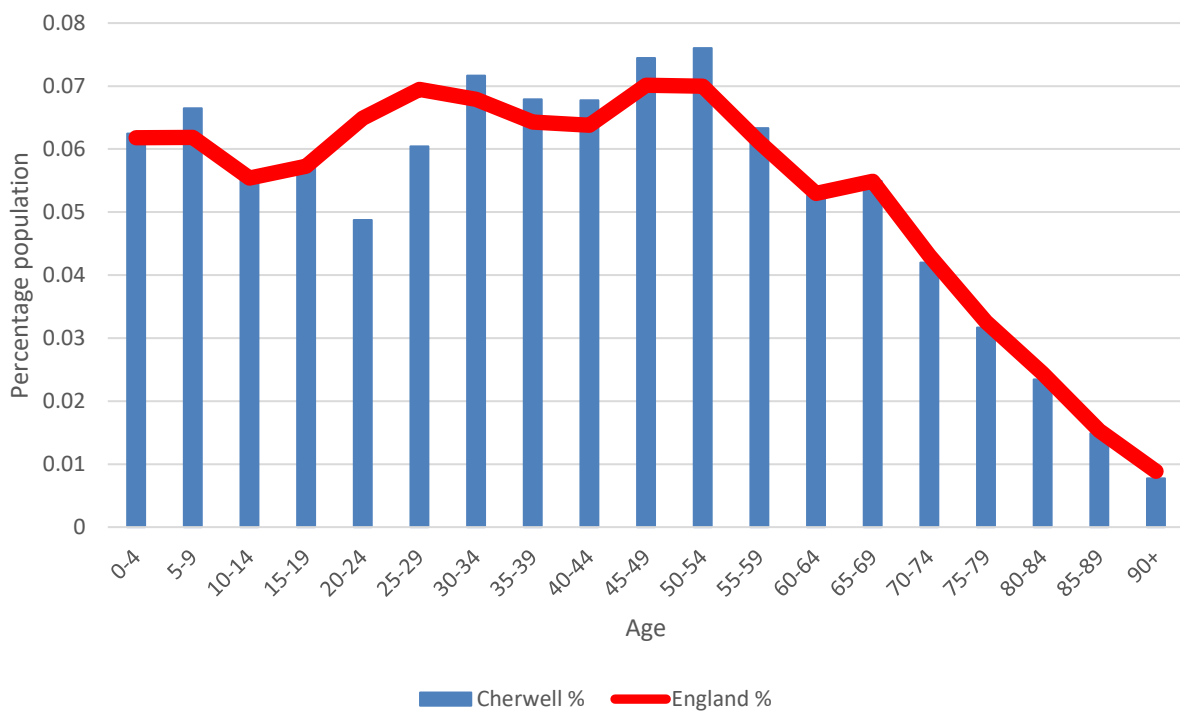
Population forecasts

- 1.5 The following paragraphs are taken from the Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment and Strategies Context Report of July 2017.
- 1.6 The adopted Cherwell Local Plan 2011-2031 Part 1 (Cherwell District Council, 2015) sets out the planning strategy with the exception of the commitment by the Council to help to address the unmet objectively assessed housing need from elsewhere in the Oxfordshire Housing Market Area (HMA), particularly from Oxford City. The agreed apportionment of Oxford's unmet needs is 4,400 homes to Cherwell District between 2011 and 2031. The Council is currently considering how Cherwell should contribute through a Partial Review of Part 1 of the Local Plan.
- 1.7 The Local Plan Part 1 was informed by the Oxfordshire Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2014 (SHMA) and the apportionment for the Partial Review by work undertaken by the Oxfordshire Growth Board including examining the capacity of the city of Oxford. The main planned growth contained in the adopted Local Plan, is around Banbury, Bicester, and at Upper Heyford. The Proposed Submission Partial Review Plan focusses additional growth to meet Oxford's unmet housing need in the Kidlington area.
- 1.8 The suite of sport, recreation and open space documents uses forecast population information for the period up to 2031, including that arising from the proposed housing in the emerging Part 1 Partial Review of the Cherwell Local Plan Part 1: Oxford's unmet housing need. The detailed forecasts are given in Figure 9.

Current population

- 1.9 The population of Cherwell in 2016 was estimated in the OCC projections to be around 148,280. The current population structure of Cherwell is fairly similar to that of England as a whole, though there is a dip in the relative percentage of people aged 20-29 years (Figure 3).

Figure 3: Cherwell current population structure compared to England
(Source: ONS and OCC projections)



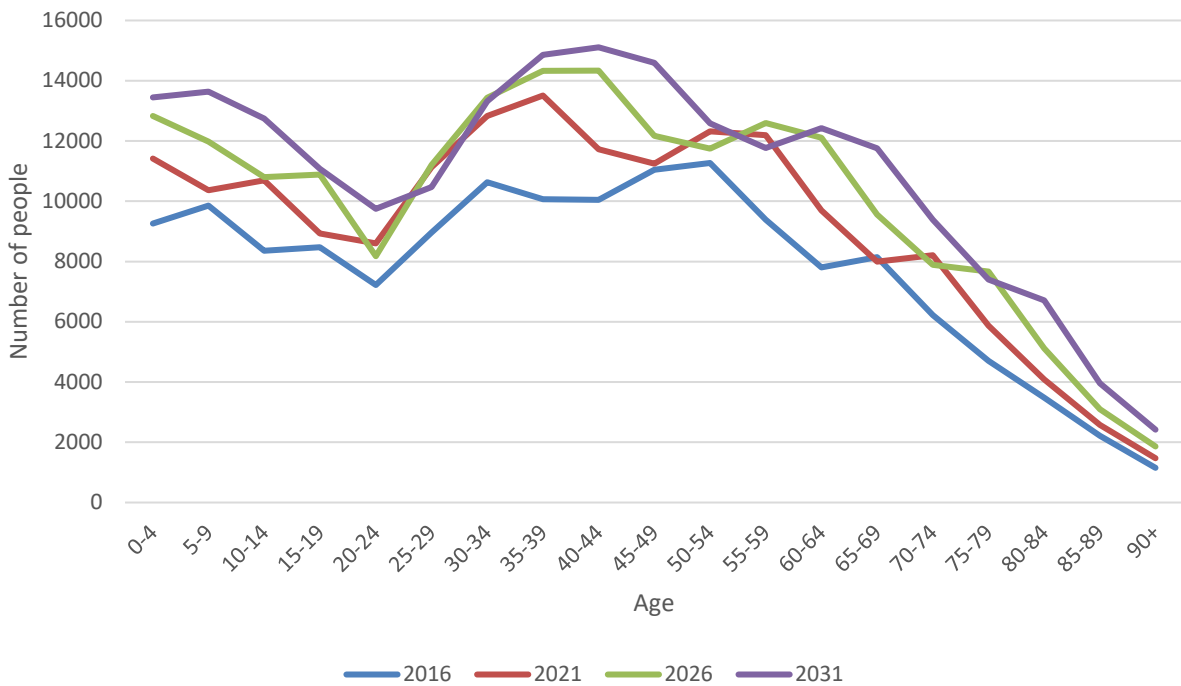
Future population projections

- 1.10 The OCC projections for Cherwell District show that the population is expected to grow significantly as a result of the adopted Local Plan housing growth to 192,160 people by 2031. However this does not include the additional 4,400 homes proposed in the Partial Review. Like all population forecasts these are informed estimates and will be effected by changes including the completion rates of planned housing. The population projections and 5-year age breakdowns are shown at Figure 4 and graphed in Figure 5.
- 1.11 It is clear from these figures that there will be an increase in the number of people in every age group in Cherwell, with particularly high growth in numbers of children and young people under 20 years, and in those aged 30-44 years. The dip in the number of young people aged 20-29 years is not unusual for an authority without a large higher education institution.

Figure 4: Cherwell population up to 2031 including Partial Review growth

Age	2016	2021	2026	2031
0-4	9263	11234	12744	12907
5-9	9859	10211	11908	13163
10-14	8361	10554	10732	12321
15-19	8471	8824	10831	10762
20-24	7224	8530	8141	9526
25-29	8958	10997	11141	10073
30-34	10627	12650	13355	12770
35-39	10066	13328	14245	14313
40-44	10043	11578	14267	14668
45-49	11040	11153	12123	14317
50-54	11270	12242	11714	12359
55-59	9387	12158	12578	11670
60-64	7799	9659	12092	12320
65-69	8148	7977	9549	11708
70-74	6225	8197	7888	9346
75-79	4697	5860	7664	7377
80-84	3475	4080	5110	6700
85-89	2213	2578	3101	3956
90+	1151	1470	1861	2419
TOTAL	148276	173281	191042	202675

Figure 5: Cherwell growth; 2021, 2026 and 2031



1.12 The growth in and/or on the edge of Banbury, Bicester and Kidlington is responsible for the majority of this population increase, plus the housing growth at the former RAF Upper Heyford. By comparison, the rural areas are likely to have very little population growth as there is limited housing planned.

1.13 The new housing areas around the towns are, and will continue to attract young people which has an impact on the population structure of the towns. For example, as shown by the OCC forecasts for Bicester, there is expected to be growth of around 22,540 people between 2016 and 2031. There will be more people in every age group, particularly at primary school age and in the age group 35-49 years. There are also forecast to be significant numbers of older people, most of whom are already living in the town, see Figure 6. This differs to the rural wards/areas, which are expected to experience much less change in population, with notably fewer people of school age by 2031 as shown by Figure 7 for Hook Norton.

Figure 6: Bicester population change 2016-2031

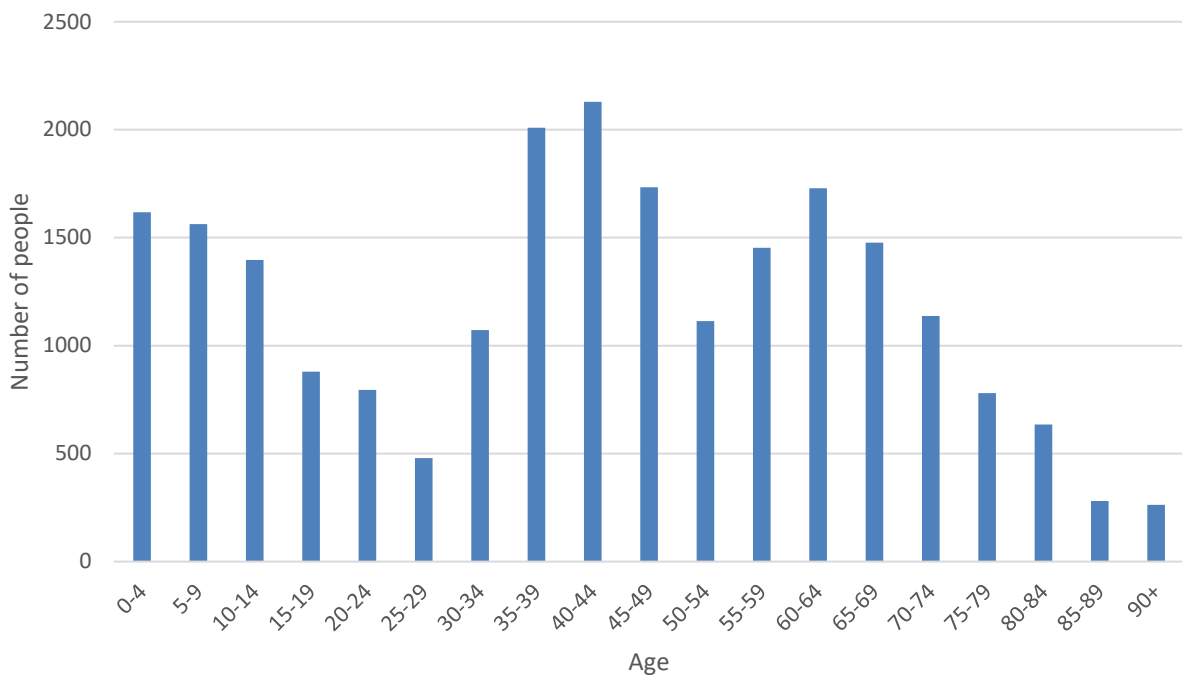
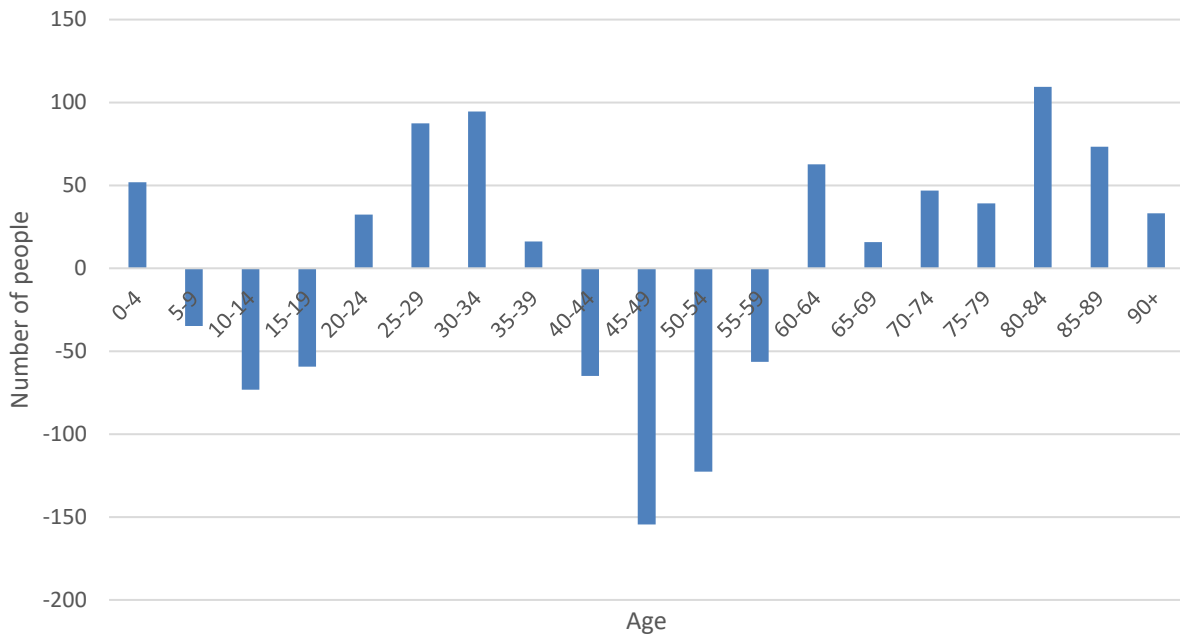


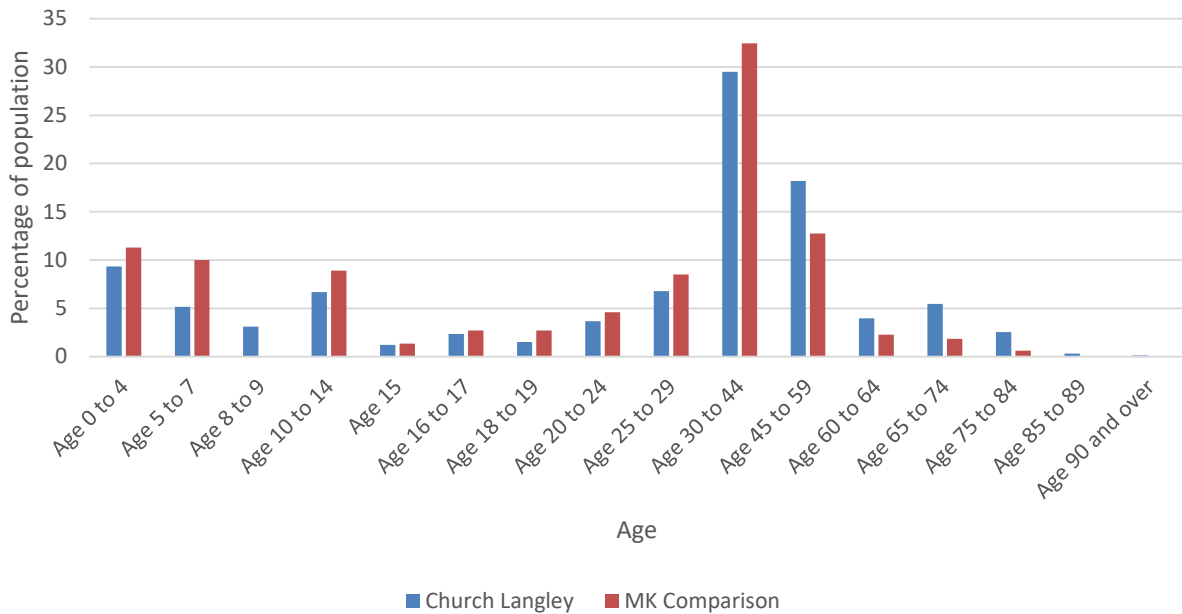
Figure 7: Hook Norton population change 2016-2031



The impact of sustainable urban extensions

- 1.14 The population projections provided by Cherwell District Council have included the younger population profiles for the growth locations within the adopted Local Plan Part 1, but did not include the impact of the Partial Review proposed housing, 4,400 homes mainly around the Kidlington area.
- 1.15 Population research at a number of locations in England, for example for Milton Keynes, has shown that sustainable urban extensions (SUEs) have a very different population profile than well established communities.
- 1.16 The SUE population structure used in this study to assess the impact of the proposed new housing around Kidlington proposed in the Partial Review has been tested in a number of areas including: Rugby Borough, Milton Keynes, Harlow, East Hertfordshire, Northampton, South Northampton and Daventry. Figure 8 shows how two SUEs, one from Milton Keynes and one from Harlow compare. The Church Langley site in Harlow is older than the Milton Keynes SUE which has aged a little, but the influx of those aged 30-49 is very clear, with a corresponding growth in young children. It should be noted that relative numbers of people aged about 50 years and over in SUEs are much fewer than the average for the district.

Figure 8: Population profile across SUEs: Milton Keynes and Harlow



- 1.17 This population age structure which major locations for housing usually experience is important, as many sports primarily attract those aged under 45 years, particularly the pitch based sports. In terms of open spaces, the high numbers of children and young people in these areas confirm the need for good provision in relation to children’s play and youth facilities.
- 1.18 The sport facilities and playing pitch and strategies therefore consider if there is justification for additional sports facilities or playing pitches, as well as priorities for investment on existing sites. Within the SUEs there is also a need to consider both the capacity and accessibility of the existing and potential sports facilities, pitches and open space, to determine what provision needs to be on site, and what off-site contributions should be required.

Figure 9: Population projections by urban area, ward, and sub area

Population projections by urban area/ward

Ward	2016	2021	2026	2031
Adderbury	3,170	3,625	3,566	3,528
Ambrosden and Chesterton	4,342	4,829	4,705	4,568
Banbury	48,715	59,061	62,530	62,881
Bicester	32,253	40,932	50,981	54,798
Bloxham and Bodicote	6,554	7,576	7,267	7,118
Caversfield	3,206	3,427	3,355	3,264
Cropredy	2,796	3,033	3,027	3,028
Deddington	2,704	3,056	3,029	3,023
Fringford	2,352	2,440	2,375	2,328
Hook Norton	2,676	2,874	2,804	2,774
Kidlington	16,018	16,109	15,798	15,560
Kirtlington	3,231	3,569	3,488	3,441
Launton	3,722	3,7754	3,602	3,449
Otmoor	2,513	2,644	2,618	2,611
Sibford	2,658	2,730	2,672	2,641
The Astons and Heyfords	5,109	7,067	8,735	10,664
Wroxton	2,651	2,739	2,691	2,678
Yarnton, Gosford and Water Eaton	3,606	3,814	3,802	3,804

Population projections by sub area (excluding proposed growth in the Partial Review Plan)

Sub Area	2016	2021	2026	2031
Banbury	71,923	84,696	87,585	87,671
Bicester	50,984	62,449	73,754	79,070
Kidlington	25,368	26,136	25,706	25,416
District Total	148,276	173,281	187,045	192,158

Population projections by sub area (including proposed growth in the Partial Review Plan)

Sub Area	2016	2021	2026	2031
Banbury	71,923	84,696	87,585	87,671
Bicester	50,984	62,449	73,754	79,070
Kidlington	25,368	26,136	29,703	35,934
District Total	148,276	173,281	191,042	202,676

APPENDIX 6: SITES, FACILITIES AND QUALITY

Banbury sub area

Site Name	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Facility quality: G = good, S = standard, P = poor, NA = facility not available for community use, Y = grass pitches used by community see Playing Pitch Strategy for details, X = facility does not exist on site							Comments
				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball/ tennis courts/ MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
ADDERBURY BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB	Club	Cub	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (6 rink) G	
AKASHA GYM	Commercial	Pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	S	X	X	X	
BANBURY ACADEMY	Academy	Club	School	S	X	Sand filled P	X	S	Y		
BANBURY BOROUGH BOWLS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (6 rink) G	
BANBURY CHESTNUTS BOWLS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (6 rink) G	
BANBURY GOLF CLUB	Commercial	Pay and play and registered members	Commercial	X	X	X	X	X	X	18 hole golf course G	
BANBURY WEST END LAWN TENNIS AND SQUASH CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 x squash S 2 x outdoor tennis G	Poor changing and ancillary facilities. Poor disability access.

Site Name	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Facility quality: G = good, S = standard, P = poor, NA = facility not available for community use, Y = grass pitches used by community see Playing Pitch Strategy for details, X = facility does not exist on site							Comments
				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball/ tennis courts/ MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
BANNATYNE'S HEALTH CLUB	Commercial	Registered members	Commercial	X	160 sq m G	X	G	X	X		
BLESSED GEORGE NAPIER CATHOLIC SCHOOL (aka THE MONSI SPORTS CENTRE) BANBURY	Academy	Club	School	G	X	Sand filled P	X	S	Y		Standard quality pitch recent investment but drainage issues unresolved
BLOXHAM BOWLS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (4 rink) G	
BLOXHAM SCHOOL (DEWEY SPORTS CENTRE)	Independent School	Club	Commercial Management	G	22.8 m x 4 lane G	3 x Sand filled S	G	G	NA	2 x Squash G 3 x outdoor tennis courts S Climbing wall S	
CROPREDY TENNIS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	2 x outdoor tennis courts G		

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				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball/ tennis courts/ MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)			
CURVES	Commercial	Registered membership	Commercial	X	X	X	S	X	X		Small facility (12 stations)	
EP GYM	Commercial	Pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	S	X	X		Small facility (6 stations, 1 studio)	
FIT4LESS	Commercial	Registered membership	Commercial	X	X	X	S	X	X			
HILLSIDE FARM DRIVING RANGE	Commercial	Pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	X	X	X	Golf driving range S		
HOOK NORTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	Sand filled, small P	X	X	Y	6 x outdoor tennis courts G		
HORNTON TENNIS COURT	Parish	Parish	Parish	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 outdoor tennis court G	Open access	
HORTON VIEW	Banbury Town Council	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	Y	1 bowls green (6 rink) G	Bowls changing requires refurb and disability facilities to be improved	
										8 outdoor tennis courts G		

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				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball/ tennis courts/ MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)			
MADZ STUDIO	Commercial	Registered membership	Commercial	X	X	X	S	X	X		Small facility (1 studio)	
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE ACADEMY, BANBURY	Academy	Club	CDC		X	Sand dressed G	X		Inside athletics track	Athletics track G Community pavilion G Climbing wall S	Part of site managed by CDC, remainder by school.	
	Academy	Club	School	S	X			P	NA			
PEOPLE'S PARK	Banbury Town Council	Open access	Town Council	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 x outdoor tennis court S		
RUSCOTE COMMUNITY CENTRE	Community centre	Club	Community association	X	X	X	X	X	X	Ancillary hall S	Regular use for baton twirling	
RICOCHET TRAMPOLINE CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	Trampoline centre G But no changing and car parking problems	New centre but lacks changing and has insufficient car parking	

Site Name	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Facility quality: G = good, S = standard, P = poor, NA = facility not available for community use, Y = grass pitches used by community see Playing Pitch Strategy for details, X = facility does not exist on site							Other facilities	Comments
				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball/ tennis courts/ MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)			
RYEHILL GOLF CLUB	Commercial	Registered members & pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	X	X	X	18 hole golf course S		
SIBFORD SCHOOL	Other Independent School	Pay and Play	School	S	25 m x 4 lane G	X	S	NA	NA	2 x squash S		
SPIT 'N' SAWDUST	Commercial	Registered membership	Commercial	X	X	X	S	X	X		Small facility (10 stations). Also boxing	
SPICEBALL LEISURE CENTRE, BANBURY	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Leisure centre operator	G	25 m x 6 lane 20 x 10 m G	X	G	X	X		8 court sports hall	
TADMARTIN HEALTH GOLF COURSE	Commercial	Registered members & pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	X	X	X	18 hole golf course S		
THE WARRINER SCHOOL, BLOXHAM	Foundation School	Club	School	S	X	X	X	S	NA	Ancillary hall S	Used as netball league centre	
WINDMILL CENTRE, DEDDINGTON SPORTS CLUB	Community Assn	Club	Community Assn	X	X	Sand dressed Small P	X	X	Y	Ancillary hall S		
										1 bowls green (6 rink) S	Green closed Sept 2016	
										3 x outdoor tennis courts G		

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				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball/ tennis courts/ MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
WOODGREEN LEISURE CENTRE	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Leisure centre operator	X	Outdoor 50 x 8 m	X	G	X	X	Indoor bowls (available autumn-spring) G	Site refurbished 2016/2017

BICESTER SUB AREA

Site Name	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Facility quality: G = good, S = standard, P = poor, NA = facility not available for community use, Y = grass pitches used by community see Playing Pitch Strategy for details, X = facility does not exist on site							Comments
				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball, tennis courts, MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
ANYTIME FITNESS	Commercial	Registered members	Commercial	X	X	X	S	X	X		
BICESTER BOWLS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (6 rink) S	
BICESTER GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB	Commercial	Registered members & pay and play	Commercial	X	140 sq m	X	G	X	X	18 hole golf course G	Small pool (140 sq m)
BICESTER LAWN TENNIS CLUB	Town Council	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	6 x outdoor tennis courts G	

Site Name	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Facility quality: G = good, S = standard, P = poor, NA = facility not available for community use, Y = grass pitches used by community see Playing Pitch Strategy for details, X = facility does not exist on site							Comments
				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball, tennis courts, MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
BICESTER LEISURE CENTRE	Local Authority	Pay and Play	Leisure centre operator	S	25 m x 6 lane main, 12 x 8 m learner S	2 x small size 3G S	S			Activity hall S Squash courts S Health suite S Creche S 10 pin bowling S	Site with joint use agreement (The Bicester School). School uses hall during day. Pool now too small for formal competition use. Some concerns from club users about quality of sports hall and swimming changing.
THE BICESTER SCHOOL	Academy	Club	School	X	X				Y Used by athletics club in summer	Ancillary hall S	
BICESTER SPORTS ASSOC, CHESTERTON	Trust	Trust	Trust	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Archery	Archery requires pavilion facilities closer to range

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				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym or studio space	Netball, tennis courts, MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)			
THE COOPER SCHOOL BICESTER	Academy	Club	Cherwell District Council	S	X	G	X	X	NA	Performance hall	Joint use site.	
			Academy					P			Outdoor courts managed by school and used for club netball.	
THE FITNESS COMPANY	Commercial	Registered members	Commercial	X	X	X	G	X	X			
THE GYM	Commercial	Pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	G	X	X			
HEYFORD PARK FREE SCHOOL, UPPER HEYFORD	Free school	Club	School	G	X	X	G	G		1 squash G	New/refurbished facilities not yet fully developed, marketed or promoted	
LAUNTON SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	Y	Ancillary hall	Used 1-2 times a week for club table tennis	
											MUGA	
LOWER HEYFORD BOWLS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (5 rink)	Very small membership	
STUDLEY WOOD GOLF CLUB	Commercial	Registered members & pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	X	X	X	18 hole golf course: G Driving range		

KIDLINGTON SUB AREA

Site Name	Ownership type	Access type	Management	Facility quality: G = good, S = standard, P = poor, NA = facility not available for community use, Y = grass pitches used by community see Playing Pitch Strategy for details, X = facility does not exist on site							Comments
				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym and studio space	Netball, tennis courts, MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
BEBROKE BOWLS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (5 rink) S	New but small club house. Very small membership
THE FORUM YOUTH CENTRE	Community Assn	Open access	Community Assn	X	X	X	X	X	X	MUGA (3 outdoor tennis courts) S	
GOSFORD HILL SCHOOL	Academy	Club	School	X	X	X	X	S	NA	Ancillary hall S	Most of site is joint use as leisure centre - see Kidlington and Gosford LC below Used by gymnastics club
HORTON CUM STUDLEY	Parish	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	2 X outdoor tennis courts G	

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				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym and studio space	Netball, tennis courts, MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
KIDLINGTON & GOSFORD LEISURE CENTRE	Academy	Pay and Play	Leisure Centre operator	S	25 m x 4 lane S	S	S	X	NA	Activity hall S Squash courts S Health suite S Creche S	Joint use facility. Hall and AGP used by school during day. Sports hall floor refurb 2009. AGP refurb 2016 but smaller than competition size for hockey. Pool too small for formal competition use.
KIDLINGTON BOWLS CLUB	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	1 bowls green (6 rink) S	

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				Sports hall	Swimming pool	Artificial pitch	Fitness gym and studio space	Netball, tennis courts, MUGA	Grass pitches (see PPS for details)	Other facilities	
KIRTLINGTON GOLF CLUB	Commercial	Registered members & pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	X	X	X	18 hole golf course G 9 hole golf course G Driving range G	
KIDLINGTON FORUM	Club	Club	Club	X	X	X	X	X	X	Hall developed as table tennis centre G	
NORTH OXFORDSHIRE GOLF CLUB	Commercial	Registered members & pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	X	X	X	18 hole golf course S	Proposed to be developed for housing
VIDA HEALTH AND FITNESS	Commercial	Pay and play	Commercial	X	X	X	G	X	X	1 x squash court S	