

Notice of Meeting

Cabinet

- Date:** Wednesday 9 September 2020
- Time:** 5.30 pm
- Venue:** Being held virtually by Microsoft Teams. The public can listen to a live stream here:
<http://www.audiominutes.com/p/player/player.html?userid=tvbc>

For further information or enquiries please contact:

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Legal and Democratic Service

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This is formal notice under The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that part of this meeting may be held in private because the agenda and reports for the meeting may contain exempt information under Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) and that the public interest in withholding the information outweighs the public interest in disclosing it.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION SCHEME

If members of the public wish to address the meeting they should notify the Legal and Democratic Service at the Council's Beech Hurst office by noon on the working day before the meeting.

Membership of Cabinet

MEMBER

WARD

Councillor P North (Chairman)

Bourne Valley

Councillor N Adams-King (Vice-Chairman)

Blackwater

Councillor P Bundy

Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams

Councillor D Drew

Harewood

Councillor M Flood

Anna

Councillor I Jeffrey

Mid Test

Councillor A Johnston

Mid Test

Councillor T Tasker

Andover Romans

Cabinet

Wednesday 9 September 2020

AGENDA

**The order of these items may change as a result of members
of the public wishing to speak**

- 1 Apologies**
- 2 Public Participation**
- 3 Declarations of Interest**
- 4 Urgent Items**
- 5 Minutes of the meeting held on 15 July 2020**
- 6 Recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny
Committee: None**
- 7 Revenue Grants Programme 5 - 10**

Community and Leisure
To consider a Revenue Grants review with a proposed
one year extension (2021 – 2022) and approach to review
for 2022 – 2025.
- 8 Test Valley Playing Pitch and Sports Facilities
Strategies 11 - 154**

Community and Leisure
To consider that the Test Valley Borough Playing Pitches
and Sports Facilities Strategies be approved.
- 9 Test Valley Borough Green Spaces Strategy 155 - 183**

Community and Leisure
To consider the Test Valley Borough Green Space
Strategy be approved and published following a period of
public and partner consultation.

10 Corporate Financial Monitoring

184 - 208

Finance

To compare actual revenue income and expenditure against profiled budget for the four months ended 31st July 2020.

ITEM 7

Revenue Grants Programme

Report of the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

1. To extend the current funding arrangement for grant recipients under the Revenue Grant programme by one year on the current terms plus an appropriate provision for inflation, subject to any adjustments made as a result of savings identified under recommendation 3 to the report.
2. That a decision on extending Community Transport funding after March 2021 is considered later this year in coordination with Hampshire County Council as primary funder.
3. That the offer to extend the current funding arrangements by one year will take in to account where organisations have suspended services included within their grant agreement due to Covid-19 and have made savings as a result.
4. That the review of the Revenue Grant programme be deferred by twelve months.

SUMMARY:

- This report recognises and values the work of charities and community and voluntary organisations in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. It also sets out the challenges that the Covid-19 pandemic has presented in undertaking a review of the Revenue Grants programme, which is in the final year of a three-year cycle.
- Because of these continuing challenges it offers options for the continuation of the grant programme beyond March 2021.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Revenue Grant programme provides support to community organisations to provide specific services and activities that improve the quality of life for residents of Test Valley.
- 1.2 It is a three-year programme with all funding agreements come to an end in March 2021. Ordinarily the final year of the funding cycle would be used to undertake a review of the programme, which organisations are funded and for what in order to inform recommendations for a further three year funding programme.

- 1.3 The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic has meant that funded organisations have had to respond and adjust their services and the way that they are delivered. To attempt to engage with organisations and stakeholders to undertake this review as we would normally do would create additional demand on their capacity at a time when in many cases their service users are in particular need. There also remains uncertainty about what the key needs of organisations and their service users will be as society, and organisations themselves, move in to recovery, making an effective review to guide funding for the next three years particularly difficult. This report sets out those challenges and makes recommendations for the continuation of the grant programme after March 2021.

2 Background

- 2.1 The Revenue Grant programme aids the delivery of important core services that support some of the most vulnerable members of the community. For a number of years the Council has provided a three year programme of funding, which gives these important services a degree of financial security and allows them to plan for the future. Most of these are traditional grant arrangements but three represent services that the Council commissions from community providers.
- 2.2 The 2018-21 grant programme included a further, fourth commissioned service from Tourism South East. A new contract for that service will commence in April 2021 and therefore is not included in the recommendations of this report. A full list of organisations which were funded in the 2018-21 programme and which are covered in the recommendations of this report is at Annex 1 to the report.
- 2.3 We are currently in the final year of the three year cycle and would normally use this year to engage with funded organisations and stakeholders to reflect on the current three year period, to consider the expected demand on their services over the next three years, to understand their plans over that period and, in light of all of this, ultimately to explore whether it is still appropriate to continue to provide funding (and to what level). Where it would still be appropriate to continue funding, the evidence gathered during the review would also allow the Council to work with organisations to identify clear outcomes for the funding.
- 2.4 The Covid-19 pandemic has effected all organisations funded by the Revenue Grant programme. For example, Unity's voluntary sector support function turned virtually its entire effort to supporting the response to the pandemic, by supporting community groups and coordinating their own volunteers to support people across the borough, whilst their community transport and Shopmobility services effectively ceased for much of lock down and some staff associated with these functions were furloughed. Citizen Advice Test Valley redesigned their business to focus on over the phone support, setting up their staff to work from home whilst dealing with the inevitable influx of clients as residents face new challenges as a result of the national response to the pandemic.
- 2.5 For others, such as King John's House, they largely ceased operating for a period in lockdown and furloughed some or all of their staff.

- 2.6 As the nation comes out of lockdown and finds new ways to function, these organisations must themselves face the challenge of negotiating the new normal and focus their efforts on developing and adapting their offer in a way that continues to deliver essential services to their clients in a Covid-secure manner.
- 2.7 In the current climate it has been impossible to engage in meaningful consultation on future funding or to identify what the right manner of funding may be in the post Covid-19 environment. This is compounded by the fact that, as described above, many groups are either extremely busy with the response to Covid-19 or their staff have been furloughed and in either case may find such consultation a particularly challenging additional demand on their time.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 Services and organisations funded by the Revenue Grant programme contribute towards commitments made under the *Communities, People and Local Environment* priorities within the Corporate Plan 2019-23.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 Informal conversations have been had with all grant recipients and there is a consensus of support for the proposal.

5 Options

- 5.1 As Hampshire County Council is the primary funder for Community Transport, in the case of each option below, a decision on extending Community Transport funding after March 2021 should be considered later this year in coordination with them.
- 5.2 **Option One** – Carry out a ‘light touch’ review of the programme to inform recommendations for the next three year cycle (2021-24).
- 5.3 **Option Two** – Defer the review of the programme by one year and offer all organisations a twelve month extension on their current terms, plus an appropriate provision for inflation, regardless of the financial impact to services during the pandemic and its response.
- 5.4 **Option Three** - Defer the review of the programme for one year. Offer all organisations who have continued to provide services associated with their grant funding throughout lockdown and the Covid-19 pandemic a twelve month extension on their current terms, taking account of any savings and service pressures, plus an appropriate provision for inflation.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 **Option One** – A ‘light touch’ review is not appropriate for the value of the grant programme, which is currently in excess of £1.5million over three years. This is particularly so when considered in the context of the significant and as yet not fully understood impact of Covid-19 on communities in Test Valley.

- 6.2 A light touch review would almost certainly fail to fully comprehend and account for the nature and extent of the impact of Covid-19 on communities and the services provided by funded organisations over the next three years.
- 6.3 **Option Two** – This would provide a boost to the financial security of funded organisations whilst also allowing time for a more comprehensive review of the programme to be undertaken before bringing recommendations for a three-year funding programme to commence in April 2022.
- 6.4 However, by not seeking to understand where organisations may have made savings as a result of not providing services they are funded for, we risk over paying or funding additional activities outside the scope of the grant funding.
- 6.5 **Option Three** - This would also provide a boost to the financial security of funded organisations whilst allowing time for a proper review of the programme to be undertaken before bringing recommendations for a three-year funding programme to commence in April 2022.
- 6.6 Asking organisations which ceased providing services during Covid-19 to account for any savings they may have benefitted from demonstrates proportionate action to ensure proper use of Council funds.
- 6.7 Under this option, where an organisation demonstrates they have not made a saving, or the saving is negligible, they would be offered a twelve month extension on their current terms, plus an appropriate provision for inflation.
- 6.8 Where organisations have made a significant saving, they would be offered a twelve month extension on their current terms plus an appropriate provision for inflation subject to the organisation either:
- a) Offering to take a corresponding reduction in the amount of their grant for the one year extension.
- Or
- b) Providing evidence of both a need and a plan to utilise the surplus to temporarily increase capacity as a direct result of the impact of Covid-19 on their client base.
- 6.9 By inviting organisations who have made a saving to either offer up a reduction or utilise the saving in direct response to the impact of Covid-19, we are offering flexibility and an opportunity to boost services where there may be a particular need in response to Covid-19, within current budgets.
- 6.10 Option three is the recommended option.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 There is no direct financial pressure posed by the recommended option. Option three may provide modest savings where organisations have ceased services and offer to take a corresponding reduction subject to approval of the Council's full Budget in February 2021.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 There are no legal implications of approving the recommendations of this report.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 The EQIA has not identified any potential for discrimination or adverse impact and all opportunities to promote equality have been taken.

11 Wards/Communities Affected – All

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 12.1 Approval is sought to undertake the actions detailed in option three. This will provide valuable stability to the third sector which will play an important role in the successful recovery of communities in Test Valley whilst demonstrating due diligence in regards to the use of public funds. It will also allow time for an appropriately delivered review of the programme before committing to a three year cycle.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Community and Leisure) Councillor I Jeffrey			
Officer:	Dave Growcott	Ext:	8606
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	9 September 2020

ANNEX

Table showing organisations funded in the 2018-21 funding programme and included within the recommendations of this report.

	Revenue Grant Funding		
	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Citizen Advice Test Valley	£261,874	£264,196	£266,551
Unity*	£43,888	£36,234	£36,586
Unity Community Transport**	£18,735	£18,883	£19,032
Unity Shopmobility	£30,236	£30,474	£30,717
King John's House	£44,066	£44,265	£44,467
Youth in Romsey	£8,228	£8,319	£8,410
Andover Mind	£2,518	£2,536	£2,554
Relate Solent	£3,114	£3,146	£3,179
Age UK Andover	£4,145	£4,182	£4,219
Alamein Community Association	£2,734	£2,768	£2,801
<u>Commissioned Services</u>			
Hampshire Wildlife Trust	£5,039	£5,078	£5,117
Andover Crisis and Support Centre	£12,028	£12,157	£12,287
Two Saints Housing - for Dene Court	£10,578	£10,656	£10,736
TOTAL	£447,183	£442,894	£446,656

*Funding reduced by £8,000 per annum from 2019/20 to reflect change to peppercorn rent at Andover Bus Station site.

**Funding after March 2021 to be considered in coordination with Hampshire County Council as primary funder.

ITEM 8 Test Valley Borough Playing Pitch and Sport Facilities Strategies

Report of the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

- 1. That the Test Valley Borough Playing Pitch Strategy (Annex 1 to the report), Sport Facilities Strategy (Annex 2 to the report) and Executive summary (Annex 3 to the report), be approved and published.**
- 2. That an Annual Monitoring report will be produced to keep the strategies current.**

SUMMARY:

- The purpose of this report is to seek approval of the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Sport and Facilities Strategy (SFS) as linked documents that will continue to guide the Council's current and future strategic direction for sport, recreation and physical activity provision.

1 Introduction

- 1.1** The Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Sport Facilities Strategy (SFS) are key policy documents which are used to set out the approach to protection, enhancement and investment in sport, recreation, and physical activity pursuits across the borough. These strategies will inform the future Local Plan and other Council strategies.
- 1.2** These two strategies work in unison to represent and report on a full range of physical activity pursuits. The PPS and SFS will inform future planning documents to guide the approach for new developments and facilities which reflect the needs of communities.
- 1.3** In line with Sport England guidance, annual reviews will be undertaken to ensure they remain up to date. The new strategies will therefore replace the 2014 and 2015 documents.
- 1.4** The purpose of this report is to seek approval of both the PPS and SFS 2020, The strategies and the action plans they contain will inform the to sport, recreation and physical activity going forward. It will be essential for us to continue a joined up approach to implementation, including with the National Governing Bodies, local sports clubs and communities.

2 Background

- 2.1 In the past six months the value of accessible physical activity pursuits has been emphasised by the impact of Coronavirus. This highlights the importance of having and maintaining clear strategies regarding sport and physical activity provision. This links to wider strategies within the council including the Green Space Strategy which demonstrates the value of green spaces for peoples physical and mental wellbeing and ability to pursue physical activity.
- 2.2 The National Planning Policy Framework sets out that planning policies should be based on robust and up to date assessments of the needs for sport and recreation facilities. Sport England has provided specific guidance on the preparation of Playing Pitch Strategies, with wider guidance of relevant to the assessment of non-pitched based sports and physical activities.
- 2.3 The previous PPS and SFS (known previously as the Sport and Recreation Strategy) were developed in 2014/2015. A vast amount of development has been seen across the borough from the opening of Andover Leisure Centre, to new pitches in both the north and south. Wider forms of physical activity have seen investment including new Skate parks and a new Park Run in Romsey. The next 12 months will also see new pitches at Abbotswood open for public use and the adoption of Ganger Farm Sports Ground and all its facilities.
- 2.4 The guidance provided by Sport England highlights the importance of reviewing and, where relevant, updating such strategies to ensure they remain robust. Taking account of the changes in provision for sports and recreation, it was necessary to update the PPS and SFS. Therefore, the new strategies will replace the previous documents.
- 2.5 To develop the strategies, the Sport England guidance was followed, whilst taking account of locally specific considerations. A consultant was appointed to undertake the preparation of the strategies. Their work was co-ordinated by a steering group including representatives of Sporting National Governing Bodies (Rugby, Football, Hockey, Cricket), Sport England, Energise Me, and the local leisure provider (Places Leisure). Wider community engagement was undertaken with schools, Parish Councils and local sports clubs between February 2019 and December 2019 to inform the strategies.
- 2.6 The outcomes of the PPS and SFS will feed into the preparation of the next Local Plan. The strategies set out the objectives for the facilities and types of provision needed for the sports and physical activities considered, inform the approach to relevant planning applications and highlight future need across the borough.
- 2.7 Both the PPS and SFS are therefore key documents which will inform the Council's priority areas which can be incorporated and implemented over the coming years. In line with Sport England guidance, annual reviews will be undertaken to ensure they remain up to date.

- 2.8 These strategies have been developed as a cross service project between Community and Leisure and Planning Policy to ensure a thorough understanding and value of the outcomes. Thus enhancing the Council's ability to implement both strategies and priorities.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 The PPS and SFS function as key supplementary planning documents in addition to service led implementable action plans to better provide for the evolving needs of borough residents.
- 3.2 The PPS and SFS provide implementable action plans which help to meet the ambitions of the Corporate Plan, growing the potential of current sport and physical activity provision and identify wider areas which should be protected or enhanced to better meet community needs.
- 3.3 The strategies identify a number of strengths within current provision but also priority areas for action by the Council, national governing bodies, clubs and other organisations. Strength lies in the current pitch stock and facility provision. Although some reconfiguration is required to make the best use of these facilities, there is a good supply of pitches across Test Valley. Another strength is in the quality of the cricket provision, particularly in the south of the borough.
- 3.4 Priority areas include improvement to ancillary provision for local sports teams, an aging supply of unsecured halls provision, and an undersupply of artificial pitches for both football and hockey.
- 3.5 It is important to emphasise that the provision for sport and physical activity is an ongoing and ever changing challenge. In response to Covid-19, there may be clubs and organisations that emerge as priority groups requiring additional assistance not currently identified within the strategies.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 The development of the PPS and SFS followed Sport England guidance, including their terms of consultation and engagement. The outputs are essential to ensure the PPS and SFS are based on a complete understanding of the current and future needs of specific sports and physical activities. This was led by a consultant who completed consultation with clubs, user groups and other stakeholders (including parish councils) over an eleven month period. The national governing bodies aided in the dissemination of information to relevant sports clubs.
- 4.2 The responses were reviewed by members of the steering group, this included representatives from Sport England, as well as Rugby, Football, Cricket and Hockey National governing bodies. The steering group members are expected to be represented in the annual reviews of the strategies.

5 Options

- 5.1 The consideration is whether or not to approve the Playing Pitch and Sport Facilities Strategies.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 The consideration is whether or not to accept and publish the Playing Pitches and Sport Facilities strategies.
- 6.2 Sport England guidance (on PPSs) sets out that local authorities should approve the output strategies – it is one of the ten stages in PPS preparation. This is to ensure the status of the documents is recognised so as to aid in its implementation and the weight it is afforded in making relevant decisions. In order to comply with the Sport England guidance, it is recommended that the strategies are approved.

7 Risk Management.

- 7.1 Agreeing and implementing up to date strategies concerning Playing Pitches and Sport and Recreation facilities protects existing sites and enabled a better understanding of the borough wide requirements for future changes or development.
- 7.2 These strategies provide the rationale to direct the council in the sport and physical activity provision required – ensuring that required community provision is protected. Without such documents this cannot be demonstrated and our policy position is weakened.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 The principal resource in maintaining this document as current is an annual review of provision and demand and management of the steering group. This will require officer time.
- 8.2 There are no direct financial implications of approving these reports – however there is likely to be resources needed to implement specific projects. These will be subject to other Council consideration and approval processes as appropriate – Annual Budget setting, asset management planning, capital planning, grants, CIL bidding etc. Approval in the strategy does not imply financial commitment for project delivery at this stage.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council is expected to maintain a robust assessment of pitch quality and availability to assist Sport England as a statutory consultee. Both these strategies will act as key documents in regards to protecting, enhancing or investing in sport, physical activity or recreation in the future.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 By following the Sport England methodology both the PPS and SFS are considered to be inclusive reviews of individuals, organisations and sporting activities across the borough.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Community Safety – N/A
- 11.2 Environmental Health Issues – N/A
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – N/A
- 11.4 Property Issues – Both the PPS and SFS represent both the management of TVBC own estate, but also reporting on the availability, quality and accessibility of wider privately leased clubs, organisations, and facilities. The action plan highlights the ambitions of these groups and facilities, however does not financially commit the council to these ambitions.
- 11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – All.

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 12.1 As essential evidence documents for the Local Plan, maintaining a robust audit of supply and demand of all of our sporting infrastructure is essential. Adoption and approval of these strategies will ensure that our evidence base is up to date, enable robust defence of our sports infrastructure evidence of need, and assist in prioritising projects and resources going forward.

<u>Background Papers</u>			
Sport England https://www.sportengland.org/how-we-can-help/facilities-and-planning/planning-for-sport?section=assessing_needs_and_playing_pitch_strategy_guidance			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	3	File Ref:	N/A
Portfolio- (Community and Leisure) Councillor I Jeffrey			
Officer:	Kerry Wardell	Ext:	8765
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	9 September 2020

**Test Valley Borough
Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 to 2036
Full Report - July 2020**



Document control

Amendment History

Version no.	Date	Reference	Author(s)	Comments
1	27/02/20	Test Valley Borough Council – Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 to 2036 (Draft Report)	John Chapman, Lewis Evans, Nick Trim	Client Feedback
2	23/04/20	Test Valley Borough Council - Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 to 2036 (Full Report)	Lewis Evans, Nick Trim	All Client Team comments addressed.

Client Distribution List

Name	Position
Kerry Wardell	Sports Recreation Officer, Test Valley Borough Council
Karen Eastley	Senior Planning Officer, Test Valley Borough Council

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Appendices: Assessments of Need by Sport

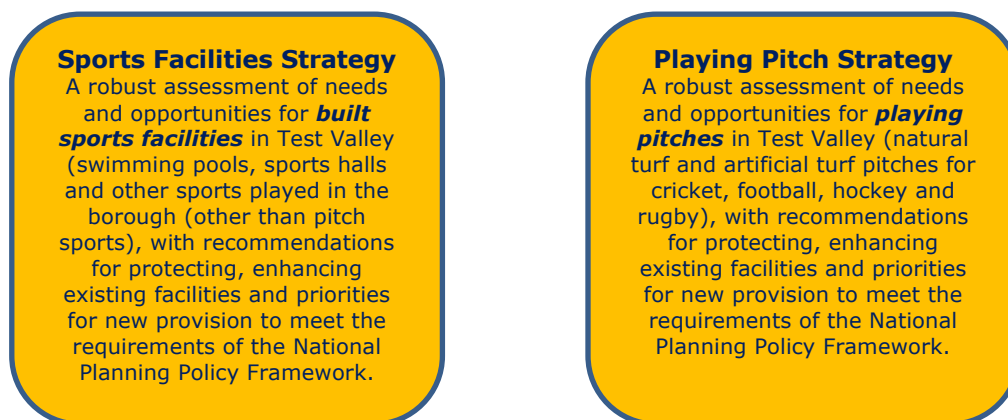
Appendix A:	Cricket
Appendix B:	Football
Appendix C:	Hockey
Appendix D:	Rugby

1 Introduction and Context

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) is one of two documents which combine to offer a robust and up to date assessment of sport and recreation facility needs across Test Valley Borough in 2020 and estimates future needs to 2036. The previous Playing Pitch Strategy for Test Valley was published in 2014 and a Sport and Recreation Strategy (SRS) in 2015. Sport England recommend that local authorities refresh sports facility strategy documents every 3 years. A separate Executive Summary summarises the key findings of both studies (the Sport Facilities Strategy (SFS) and the PPS).
- 1.1.2 The 2014 PPS and 2015 SRS documents formed part of the Council's leisure and planning policy evidence base for the relevant policies in the current Revised Local Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) 2011 - 2029, adopted by the Council in January 2016.
- 1.1.3 Playing pitches are considered separately from other types of sports and recreation facilities due to differences in the methodologies in national guidance, published by Sport England, for assessing the needs for playing pitches and other sports and recreation facility types. Figure 1 outlines the context of these two reports.

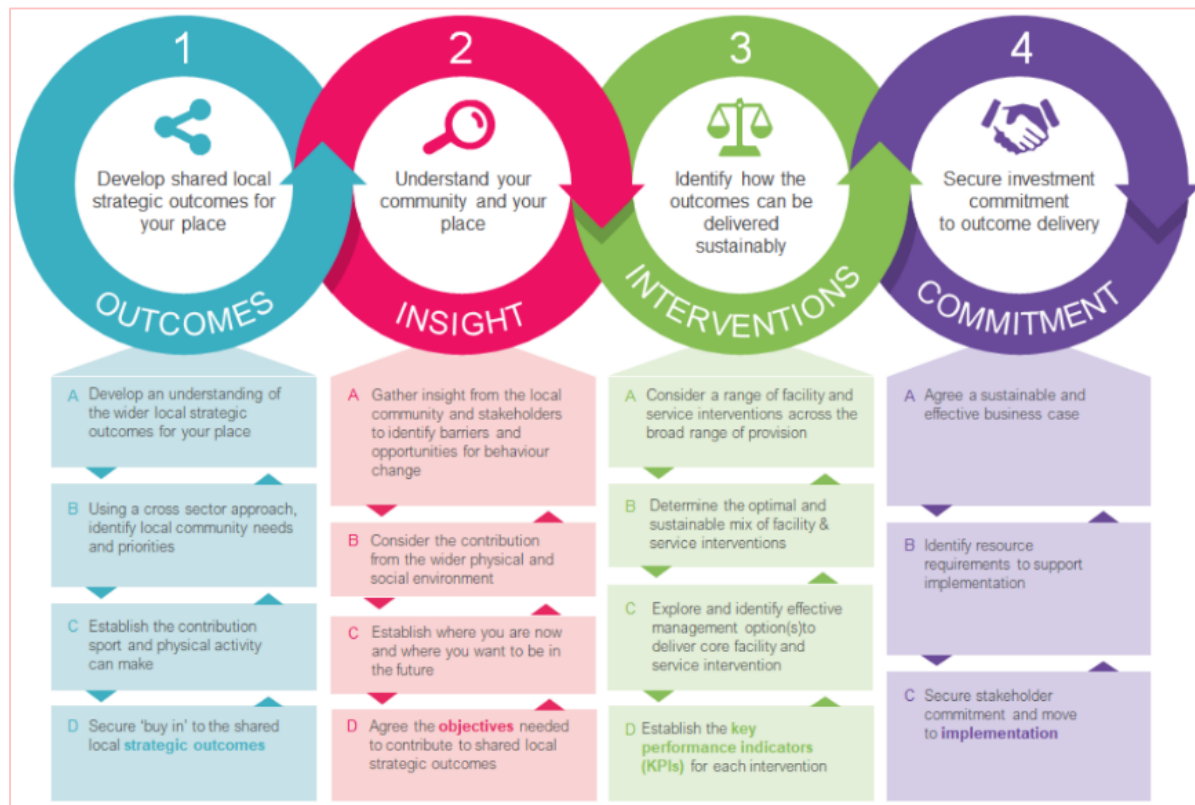
Figure 1: Study Overview



- 1.1.4 The sports facility strategy work also aligns directly with Sport England's high-level guidance for local authorities concerning the key planning stages and processes to follow to ensure that investment in sport and physical activity best meets local priority outcomes. Published in 2019, Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance¹ (SOPG) recognises that commitment from local authorities to the provision of physical activity and sport opportunities for local communities is essential and an important contributor to the active environment which people access for health, social and sporting benefits.
- 1.1.5 The Sport England SOPG also recognises local authorities are under increasing pressure to meet the growing needs of their communities with limited resources and using new approaches to commissioning services.
- 1.1.6 Robust, evidence-based planning of affordable and sustainable sport and physical activity facilities and services towards delivery of strategic outcomes that are shared by all key agencies and local stakeholders is the basis of the SOPG approach. The key SOPG stages are set out in Figure 2.
- 1.1.7 This Playing Pitch Strategy for Test Valley identifies (in section 1.4) shared strategic objectives and outcomes (*Stage 1 of the SOPG in Figure 2*), and recommends key interventions by the Borough Council and its strategic partners to protect, enhance and provide playing pitches that will contribute to delivering the outcomes (*Stage 3*). The recommendations are based on insight into the sport and physical activity needs and priorities of the Test Valley community and place (*Stage 2*) and realistic assessment of the potential investment commitment required (*Stage 4*).

¹ Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance, Sport England (2019)

Figure 2: Sport England Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance



1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 Most of the recommendations made in the previous sports facility and playing pitch strategies are now in place. Major sport facility improvement projects delivered include the flagship new Andover Leisure Centre and a major upgrade of the Romsey Rapids pool and wetside changing rooms. With regard to playing pitches, new playing fields with high quality sports pitches have been provided to serve the needs of the growing communities in the two main towns in Test Valley - for example at Picket Twenty and East Anton in Andover, and Abbotswood in Romsey.
- 1.2.2 Also in Romsey, a major development is well underway at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm to provide a new playing pitch hub site with both natural turf and artificial grass pitches. A three year project identified in the 2014 PPS to develop and improve the sports pitches and tennis courts at Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park is also now completed and floodlights have been installed to the second rugby pitch at Foxcotte Sports Park in Andover.
- 1.2.3 Since 2014/15 when the previous playing pitch and sports facilities strategies were produced, a number of schools in the borough - both in the state and independent sectors - have either upgraded their sports facilities or developed new provision. For example, the playing surfaces of the artificial grass pitches at both John Hanson School in Andover and the Romsey School have been replaced for hockey (the former with grant support from TVBC as a direct action of the playing pitch strategy), the roof and flooring of the sports hall at Harrow Way School have been renewed and the independent Farleigh School outside Andover has installed floodlights to its artificial grass pitch and replaced the cricket nets in the sports hall.
- 1.2.4 Since the last Test Valley PPS was published, major new playing pitches and pitch improvement works have also taken place on sites within and close to the borough's south-east boundary which change the overall picture of provision, most particularly the Stoneham Lane Football Complex within Eastleigh Borough.

1.3 The Drivers

- 1.3.1 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) initiated the development of updates to the 2014 Playing Pitch Strategy and the 2015 Sport and Recreation Strategy in response to the following drivers:

Figure 3: The Key Drivers	
<p>Forward Planning</p> <p>The Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the borough looking to the period to 2036. The new Local Plan will set out the number and type of new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed to support the Borough’s communities, and include planning policies which by law the Council is required to use as a starting point to determine planning applications in its area.</p> <p>Further new housing development will take place in the borough over the next Local Plan period with current forecasts based on Office for National Statistics (ONS) data², for approximately 12,200 more people living in Test Valley by 2036.</p> <p>The primary driver is therefore the need for a new strategy for sports facilities including playing pitches - based on robust, up to date assessment of needs - to inform relevant planning policies in the new Local Plan that will protect, enhance and improve the provision of sports facilities across the borough to meet the current and future needs of its resident communities.</p>	
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Strategies for sports and playing pitch facilities in the borough are needed to support the county-wide strategic health priority to promote positive health behaviours to improve public health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. Physical inactivity is a key lifestyle risk factor.</p> <p>Effective place-making by borough and district councils that includes planning facilities for sport and physical activity, can encourage and support residents to make healthy lifestyle choices. Good quality, accessible sports facilities and playing pitches provide opportunities for people to take part in sports and informal recreation for their physical health and mental wellbeing.</p>	
<p>Schools</p> <p>Access to school sports facilities in the evenings and/or at weekends is critical to the successful operation of many of the community sports clubs based in Test Valley, whether for match play or for coaching and training. With a growing population over the Local Plan period, the role of school sports facilities in providing for community sport is likely to grow in importance.</p> <p>Accordingly, exploring opportunities to both secure existing community use of school pitches and facilities and to widen community use are important drivers for the strategies.</p>	
<p>Developer Contributions & External Grants</p> <p>Lastly, there is a need to update the priority projects for new and enhanced sports facilities, playing pitches and pavilions in the borough and its sub areas to inform updates of the Borough Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the future investment priorities for the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and site-specific S106 Developer Contributions.</p> <p>Priority projects will also inform applications for external grant support to sports agencies such as Sport England, the Football Foundation and the national governing bodies of sport.</p>	

1.4 The Vision and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The Borough's Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy contribute to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan for 2019-2023 Growing Our Potential which identifies priorities for the next four years based on a programme of consultation with more than 2,000 borough residents. The Borough Council's priorities for investment over this period aim to grow the potential of:
- Town centres

² Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2016-based Sub-National Population Projections

- Communities
- People
- The Local Environment

1.4.2 Key objectives for the two sports facility strategy documents were set out in January 2019 in a brief to consultants:

1. *'To provide an evidence base and clear priorities for protecting and enhancing the existing provision of sports facilities and playing pitches and to inform responses to future planning applications, capital investment plans and external funding bids for new provision.*
2. *To improve health and wellbeing in Test Valley by ensuring all residents have access to good quality facilities for sport and physical activity'.*

1.4.3 The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Physical Activity Strategy 2017-21, co-ordinated by Energise Me the County Activity Partnership, has a vision to beat inactivity. A clear strategic priority of the partners is to reduce inequalities in physical activity. In Test Valley, this translates as a priority focus for physical activity interventions on areas with greatest inactivity in Andover which show closest match with the highest ranked Local Strategic Output Areas (LSOAs) on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)³.

1.4.4 In developing new housing and policies for developer contributions the Physical Activity Strategy for the county encourages developers and local authorities to adopt 'active design principles' to maximise active travel and minimise air pollution.

1.4.5 The focus on reducing inequality also points to prioritising investment in accessible, low cost types of physical activity (e.g. walking, cycling) and activities that appeal to the insufficiently active (e.g. walking football, netball) and providing sufficient and appropriate enabling infrastructure for these activities. The Borough Council is considering preparing a Walking & Cycling Strategy for the borough.

1.4.6 The strategic priorities of each of the playing pitch sport's national governing bodies to 2023 are summarised in the sport-specific appendices to this report.

1.5 Scope - Playing Pitch Sports Included

1.5.1 To align with national guidance published by Sport England for the scoping and preparation of local area playing pitch strategies, the development and delivery of the Playing Pitch Strategy was managed by the *Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group*.

1.5.2 The Steering Group comprised representatives from the Council's sports, leisure and planning policy teams, its key partner agencies for sport and leisure i.e. Sport England, Energise Me (the County Active Partnership for Hampshire & Isle of Wight) and Places Leisure (the Council's leisure management contractor) plus nominated representatives of the governing bodies of the four main playing pitch sports played in Test Valley Borough i.e. hockey (England Hockey), cricket (The England & Wales Cricket Board), rugby union (The Rugby Football Union), and football (The Football Association).

1.5.3 The Steering Group agreed at an initial meeting in March 2019 that the playing pitch strategy should include both natural and artificial playing surfaces as appropriate to these sports.

1.5.4 Archery and croquet were identified by the Steering Group as other sports using playing pitches in the borough. These sports are considered as part of the Sports Facilities Strategy as it was agreed these sports have negligible impact on the availability / capacity of pitches for the primary sports where they share the same playing area (i.e. Archery at Hardmoor Sports Ground and Croquet at Sherfield England Bowls Green) due to complementary programming. Archery at Foxcotte Sports Park and Croquet at Hunts Farm Playing Field have dedicated playing areas.

1.5.5 For each of the four main pitch sports, the strategy seeks as far as is practicable to include consideration of all forms of play whether:

³ English Indices of Deprivation 2019, Office of National Statistics (ONS)

- Club and league based (formal) play and training (including indoor nets for cricket),
- Small sided and recreational game formats currently growing in popularity e.g. soccer sixes, futsal (indoor), adult touch and 7s rugby, hockey sixes, All Stars Cricket (5-8 year olds), Dynamos Cricket (8-11 year olds), Softball Cricket (juniors and women's festivals etc), Tapeball (street cricket), Last Man Stands and Cage Cricket (played on MUGAs), or
- Unprogrammed play by groups of residents, workers, students, school friends out of school.

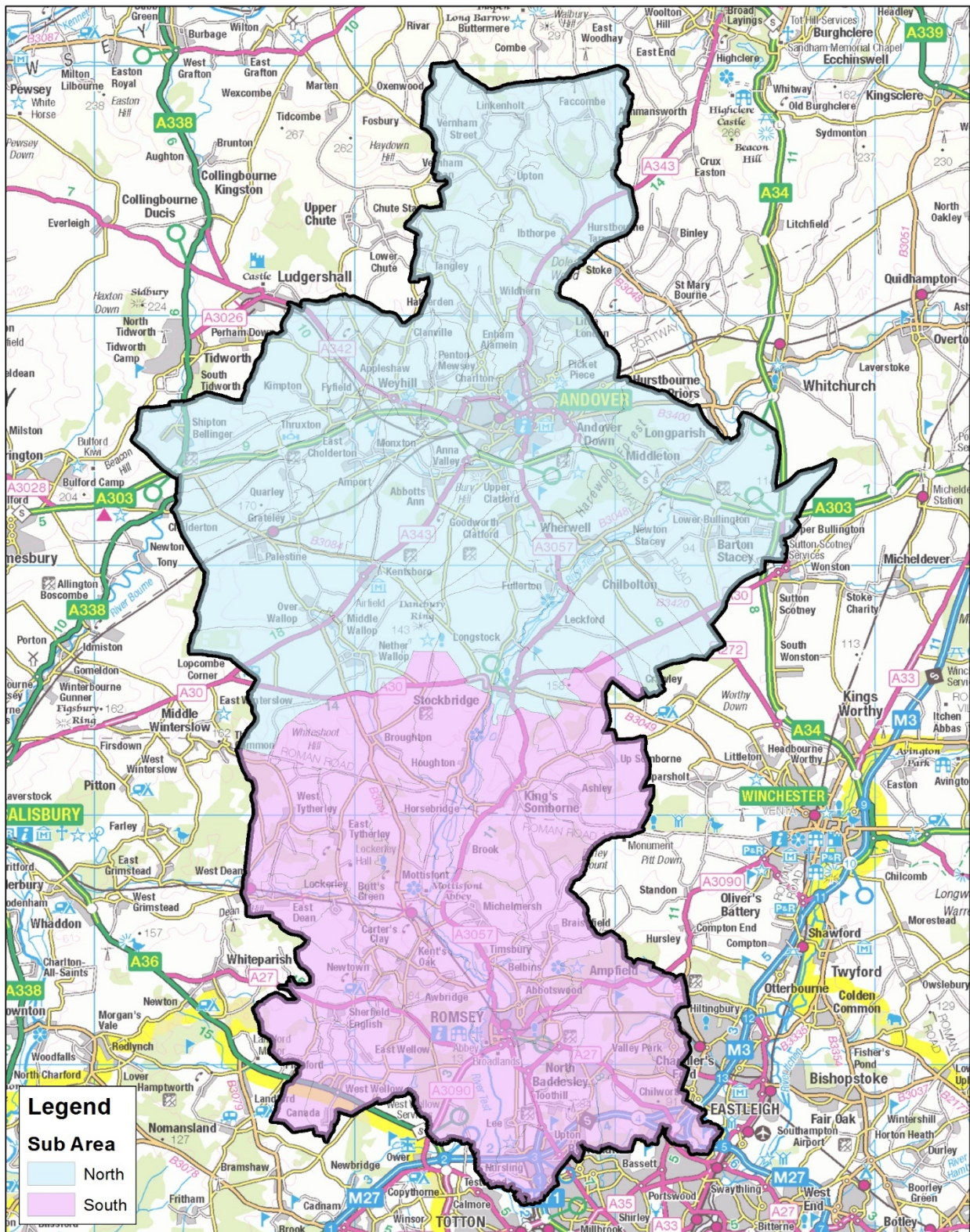
1.6 The Study Area

1.6.1 The study relates to the area within the borough of Test Valley. For reporting purposes, the borough has been sub-divided into the following two sub-areas, based on Ward boundaries, reflecting the distribution of the main centres of population and the predominant travel patterns of residents seeking to access community sports facilities. It broadly reflects the sub areas used for the 2014 Playing Pitch Strategy.

- **North** - Andover Town with a current resident population of c. 50,000 and surrounding parishes including Over Wallop (2,400), Charlton (2,000), Upper Clatford (1,600), Shipton Bellinger (1,500), Abbotts Ann (1,300), Ampport (1,200), Barton Stacey (1,000) Enham Alamein (1,000) and a further 24 parishes with fewer than a thousand residents. The total population of the North sub area in 2019 (based on Hampshire County Council's 2018 based Small Area Population Forecasts) is approximately 73,700.
- **South** - Romsey Town with a current resident population of c. 15,300 and surrounding parishes including Valley Park (7,500), North Baddesley (7,100), Romsey Extra (5,800), Nursling & Rownhams (5,400), Wellow (3,400), Ampfield (1,800), King's Somborne (1,600), Chilworth (1,200), Broughton (1,100) and a further 16 parishes with fewer than a thousand residents. The total population of the South sub area in 2019 (based on Hampshire County Council's 2018 based Small Area Population Forecasts) is approximately 57,000.

1.6.2 The playing pitch needs and recommendations in this strategy are presented by sub area and for the borough as a whole. The sub area boundaries are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Extent of Sub Areas



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- 1.6.3 Supply of artificial grass pitches and of playing pitch sites that host central leagues in neighbouring local authority areas with easy access for Test Valley residents (i.e. a 15-20 minute journey time by car) has been taken into consideration in determining current and future facility needs in the borough.
- 1.6.4 In terms of demand, the impact of sites in neighbouring authorities close to the borough boundary and allocated for large scale new housing developments is taken into consideration.
- 1.6.5 Also, the impact of 'displaced' demand is considered in relation to the sports and playing pitch facility needs in the borough and the two sub areas. This includes both exported demand (i.e. from Test Valley to access facilities in neighbouring local authorities) and imported demand (from neighbouring local authorities to access sports facilities in Test Valley). The neighbouring local authority areas to Test Valley are:
- **West Berkshire** - to the north
 - **Basingstoke & Deane** - to the north east
 - **Winchester** - to the east
 - **Eastleigh** - to the south east
 - **Southampton** - to the south
 - **New Forest** - to the south west
 - **Wiltshire** - to the west

1.7 Methodology

- 1.7.1 The approach to developing the playing pitch strategy is in line with Sport England's Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance⁴. Specifically, the approach adheres to the following ten steps as advocated in the Sport England guidance:
- 1.7.2 Stage A
Step 1. Prepare and tailor the approach
A Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group was convened in March 2019 to develop and agree the approach summarised below.
- 1.7.3 Stage B
Steps 2&3. Gather supply and demand information and views
Between May and November 2019, visits were made to 70 playing pitch sites in the borough (in parks and recreation grounds, at sports club grounds and schools with current community use) during the summer and winter playing seasons. Non-technical, visual assessments were made of each playing pitch and the ancillary facilities available at each site. In some cases, these visits included meetings on site with representatives of the site owner organisations, the user club or the site maintenance contractor.
- 1.7.4 Primary schools with playing fields not currently used by the community were also visited in the summer term to identify those with the greatest potential for community use in future.
- 1.7.5 Supply and demand information gathered from the site visits was augmented and verified through website research and by conducting an online survey of playing pitch sports clubs based in the borough. For rugby and hockey the club survey response rate was 100%, cricket 52% and football 45% including those clubs represented by club officials or groundstaff during site visits. The lower response rate for cricket and football is due in the main to the large number of single team clubs. Information and views were received from almost all the larger multi-team cricket and football clubs with junior sections. In terms of teams represented, the cricket club response rate was 75% of the total teams and football 60%.
- 1.7.6 The Parish Councils were contacted by email and asked to validate sports facility supply and demand information identified from desk-based research and invited to submit information and views by email or telephone. Two thirds of the parish areas responded by email and meetings were held with representatives of Andover Town Council, North Baddesley Parish Council and Stockbridge Parish Council.

⁴ Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, Sport England (October 2013) [Sport England Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance](https://www.continuumleisure.co.uk)
www.continuumleisure.co.uk

- 1.7.7 Leisure officers in the neighbouring local authority areas were contacted to identify any key playing pitch supply or plans and any relevant development proposals close to their borough/borough boundary with Test Valley.
- 1.7.8 National/county representatives of the four playing pitch sport governing bodies were consulted by email and telephone during the research phase to gather information, support the club survey distribution and to check and challenge the supply and demand audit findings by site for their sports.
- 1.7.9 Telephone consultation was carried out with lead personnel from Hampshire Public Health and EnergiseMe (the County Active Partnership working to reduce levels of inactivity across Hampshire).
- 1.7.10 A meeting was held in August 2019 with the Council's Policy & Projects team to consider the interface between the sports facilities strategy and infrastructure planning work led by partnerships of residents, businesses, community groups and public bodies in Romsey (*Romsey Future*) and Andover (*Andover Vision*).
- 1.7.11 Stage C
Step 4. Understand the situation at individual sites
The supply and demand information was summarised in the format of individual playing pitch site overviews. Summary spreadsheets for each sport were then prepared comparing the playing capacity by pitch and site in season with a best estimate of current use (informed by the research and consultation) in order to identify the current picture of provision.
- 1.7.12 **Step 5. Develop the current and future pictures of provision**
For each sport, drafts of the individual site overviews and summary spreadsheets of current provision were distributed to the National Governing Body (NGB) leads to check and challenge and to add any local knowledge and views concerning the current picture of provision and issues by site and sub area. The NGB feedback was reviewed and final versions of the site overviews prepared.
- 1.7.13 The Borough Council provided population growth forecasts to 2036 derived from ONS population projections. The projections show the impact of forecast population change on the main age groups for each playing pitch sport and pitch size (e.g. football and rugby pitch sizes in the junior age groups).
- 1.7.14 These population forecasts were used to calculate the potential number of additional teams for each sport and pitch size that would be generated by 2036 based on current 'team generation rates' (i.e. the number of people in the current population divided by the current number of teams).
- 1.7.15 This growth driver was considered together with information from the NGBs on national demand trends in their respective sports and from the clubs concerning local trends in demand and future aspirations.
- 1.7.16 With regard to hockey future demand, due to the way in which junior hockey play is organised by coaching squads and groups as opposed to teams, Sport England's *Playing Pitch New Development Calculator* tool was used, as advocated by England Hockey, to provide a more accurate assessment than team generation rates of the likely additional hockey pitch demand from the forecast new population in the borough by 2036.
- 1.7.17 The final factor considered to develop a future picture of provision was information provided by the Council, neighbour local authorities, Sport England and the National Governing Bodies concerning committed projects (i.e. with planning consent and funding secured) that will change the supply when implemented or completed (e.g. the new playing pitch hub site in development at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm in Romsey).
- 1.7.18 **Step 6. Identify the key findings and issues**
Based on the research and consultation in stages 1-5 above, key findings and issues for each sub-area and sport were identified in draft sport specific needs assessment reports for consideration by the members of the Steering Group at a meeting on 3rd December 2019. Final versions of these Assessment of Need Reports for the four playing pitch sports (Appendices A-D) were then prepared based on the feedback received prior to circulation for sign-off.

1.7.19 Stage D

Step 7. **Consider scenarios, develop recommendations and draft an initial action plan**

A number of potential future scenarios for changes in playing pitch provision were considered by the Steering Group - e.g. growth in demand from women and girls, loss of security of access to key existing sites, improved maintenance support for rural playing field sites, transfer of more play from grass to artificial turf, securing more access to facilities on school sites, together with the facility priorities for each sport, prior to the drafting of the strategic recommendations and an initial plan of sport/site specific actions.

1.7.20 Step 8. **Write the strategy**

A draft of the strategy, setting out the scenarios and options to address the facility needs identified for each sport together with strategic recommendations and an initial action plan, was prepared and circulated to the members of the Steering Group on 9th January 2020 for consideration and comment at a meeting on 23rd January 2020. A final draft was prepared and circulated to the members of the Steering Group for sign-off on 20th February 2020.

1.7.21 Stage E (ongoing delivery by Test Valley BC and partner organisations)

Step 9. Adopt and deliver the strategy

Step 10. Keep the strategy robust and up to date.

1.7.22 Methodology Summary

1.7.23 This document covers Stages A-D of the national guidance (as set out above), replaces the Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy (2014) and covers the period to 2036. Sport England recommends that local authorities refresh sports facility strategy documents every 3 years.

1.7.24 The strategic recommendations and site specific actions are based on critical evaluation of the current quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of playing pitch facilities available to residents of Test Valley borough.

1.7.25 Available secondary source evidence (e.g. relevant strategies, planning applications, demographic information, pitch booking records) has been considered and fieldwork carried out (including site visits and engagement with local sports clubs, town and parish councils, schools and other stakeholders) to establish existing and future priority needs.

1.8 Tailoring the Approach - Key Characteristics of Test Valley

1.8.1 Key features of Test Valley Borough and its two sub areas that impact on the supply of and demand for playing pitches and other sports facilities are summarised in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Relevant key characteristics of Test Valley

Demography

- The combined populations of Andover and Romsey and the settlements on the fringes of these two towns, account for approximately two thirds of the borough's total resident population of 129,000 people.
- Outside the two towns and their immediate catchment areas, the borough is rural in character. The historic market town of Stockbridge, close to the geographical centre of the borough, has just 600 permanent residents.
- This demography dictates that the two largest towns are the focus for indoor and outdoor built community sports infrastructure. The size of the towns' resident populations, and the travel time between, means that the core built sports facility types (e.g. pools, sports halls, fitness centres, bmx tracks) and community sports clubs (e.g. in tennis, netball, bowls and the four main playing pitch sports) are needed both in the north (Andover) and in the south (Romsey).
- The third of the borough's residents that live in the rural area rely heavily on cars to access community sports facility types other than village recreation grounds (many of which provide small scale local outdoor sports facilities (e.g. playing pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, MUGAs, skate ramps)) and village halls.
- Car ownership levels in Test Valley are high relative to the national and regional averages. Nearly half of all households (48%) owned two or more cars or vans at the last census in 2011. However, for those of the 6,426 (13%) households in the borough without a car or van located in the rural areas, there is negligible public transport available to access sports facilities in the towns in peak hours (evenings, weekends).

Figure 5: Relevant key characteristics of Test Valley

- Although the population of Romsey is approximately half that of Andover, the towns' catchment populations are of similar size due to the proximity of Romsey to Southampton to the south and Eastleigh to the east. Winchester (to the north-east) and Salisbury (to the west) are also both within half an hour drive (16 miles) of Romsey. As a consequence, there is a good deal of imported and exported demand for community sports facilities in the Romsey area.
- Whilst Andover's resident population is nearly double that of Romsey, there is much less cross borough boundary movement to access community sports facilities. Andover is surrounded by a large rural hinterland including, to the north, the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The nearest towns to Andover with large-scale community sports facilities are more than half an hour drive away - Winchester (18 miles) and Basingstoke (23 miles).
- The borough has an ageing population, particularly in the rural areas, which means there are fewer people year on year in the age groups with the highest levels of sports participation.

Socio Economics

- As a borough, Test Valley is relatively affluent, ranking 262nd out of 317 local authorities in 2019, using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) summary measure.
- However, the trend is one of rising relative deprivation. In 2015 the borough's IMD ranking was 16 places lower at 278 out of 317.
- There is just one neighbourhood (Local Super Output Area) in Test Valley ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally in the 2019 IMD. This is Andover Harroway Ward between Anton Lakes and Knight Enham Primary School.
- Most of the neighbourhoods within both Romans Ward (on the east side between the Andover town centre and Augusta Park/East Anton) and St Mary's Ward (from Andover High Street eastwards to Winton School on the north side of London Road) rank among the 40% most deprived nationally⁵.

Physical Activity

- Adults living in Test Valley are relatively active when compared to the national average and marginally more active than the average for Hampshire. The 2019 Active Lives Survey (ALS) results show 67.8% of the adult population (aged 16+) in Test Valley are 'Active' (i.e. 150+ minutes a week of moderate intensity physical exercise) and 11.9% are 'Fairly Active' (i.e. 30-149 minutes a week). This compares to the average for Hampshire of 66.0% Active and 12.4% Fairly Active and, for the country as a whole, of 63.2% Active and 12% Fairly Active.
- Whilst activity levels are relatively high, a fifth of adults in Test Valley (20.3%) were found to be 'Inactive' in the 2019 ALS. This evidences the importance of provision of accessible and affordable community facilities for sport and active recreation in Test Valley regardless of the borough's relative affluence and high activity levels.
- The 2019 ALS found that among adults the overall trend nationally in participation in sport and physical activity is increasing. 77.9% of the adult population in England participated at least twice in the last 28 days in the 2018/19 survey an increase of +0.8% since the first benchmark survey in 2015/16.
- Regular participation in walking for leisure (as opposed to travel) and adventure sports are the two fastest growing activities nationally among the 16+ age group.
- The Active Lives Children & Young People Survey in 2018 found that in Test Valley 22.8% of children (school years 1-11) met the recommended level of physical activity (i.e. Active for an average of 60mins or more daily). This compares to the average for Hampshire of 18.5% and nationally of 17.5%.
- In terms of the 'Less Active' children and young people survey measure (i.e. Active for an average of less than 30mins a day), the Test Valley figure is 26.6% - i.e. over a quarter of children in the borough are insufficiently active for their health. The picture is slightly worse at county level (30.8%) and worse still nationally (32.9%).

Growth

- Both towns, Andover and Romsey, have experienced significant growth in recent years through new housing development. The main growth areas are Abbotswood in Romsey and East Anton, Picket Twenty and Picket Piece in Andover.
- Further growth will take place through existing new housing permissions and allocations.

⁵ Indices of Deprivation 2015 and 2019, Department of Communities & Local Government

Figure 5: Relevant key characteristics of Test Valley

- At April 2018, in Romsey there were outstanding permissions for 777 new dwellings and an allocation for a further 1,300 new dwellings on the south side of the town at Whitenap (close to the Romsey Sports Centre/Romsey Rapids/Bypass Stadium sports hub), plus a further allocation for 300 dwellings a few miles to the south east of the town on the south western edge of North Baddesley.
- Also in the south sub area close to the M27, there were outstanding permissions for new housing developments at Rownhams (317 units) and Nursling (255 units).
- In Andover, there were outstanding permissions for 2,360 new dwellings mainly to the north and east sides of the town (at East Anton, Picket Twenty, Picket Piece).
- In both towns, incoming families will slow the ageing population trend and place more demands on community sports infrastructure.

Town Partnerships

- Both Andover and Romsey have set up partnerships of local residents, businesses, community organisations and public bodies (*Andover Vision* and *Romsey Future*) to develop distinct visions for the future of the two towns and to establish local priorities for projects.
- Both *Romsey Future* and *Andover Vision* include activities and actions linked to encouraging more residents to be more physically active as part of aspirations to improve the quality of life for people living, working or studying in the towns.

Investment in Sports Facilities

- Both towns have benefited from substantial investment in sports and recreation facilities over the last five years based on needs identified in the previous strategies for sports facilities and playing pitches.
- In Andover the new £16m Andover Leisure Centre opened in April 2019 and new playing fields with pavilions have been provided at Augusta Park/East Anton, Picket Twenty and Picket Piece.
- In Romsey, the Rapids swimming complex has undergone a £1.0m+ refurbishment of the wetside changing rooms (including new disabled access lockers, toilet and changing areas) and a new health suite (with sauna, steam, drench showers and treatment rooms), a new playing field for football and community building has been provided as part of the housing development at Abbotswood and will be programmed from September 2020. Additionally the Kings Chase/Ganger Farm development is due to be completed in Spring 2021 providing a new large-scale outdoor sports hub with a pavilion, two rugby pitches, one adult football, three junior football and two artificial grass pitches which will be available in 2021/22.
- At Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park, the Borough Council has invested in improved drainage to the sports pitches as well as upgrades to the tennis courts a new gym and refurbished changing rooms.
- On school sites, the artificial grass pitches at both John Hanson School in Andover and the Romsey School have been resurfaced (in 2015 and 2019 respectively).

Environment

- The natural environment, both within and outside the two major towns, is perhaps the borough's most valuable sports and recreation resource. There is extensive 'supply' in Test Valley for the most popular and free to access sports and recreation activities of walking and cycling. The borough has nine accessible nature reserves for walking (including two in Andover), The Test Way, Clarendon Way and other long distance paths and an extensive bridleway network providing many miles of off-road walking and mountain biking trails. The lanes around the villages provide excellent road cycling either recreationally or as part of a cycling club.
- The waterways and lakes (notably The River Test, Anton Lake and Rooksbury Mill Lake), whilst focused on the environment, provide significant opportunities for informal physical activity and recreation pursuits in the borough although not formal sports.
- Charlton Lakes are located within a multi use sports hub site and therefore have particular value for sport and physical activity including training and events.
- Sports and recreation in the countryside and on the waterways are important components of the attraction of Test Valley to visitors and make a substantial contribution to the local economy.

1.9 Playing Pitch Supply

1.9.1 The sites with **natural turf** (grass) playing pitches with community use in Test Valley are listed in Figure 6 by sub area and their locations shown in the sub area maps that follow (Figures 7 and 8). The new playing pitch site in development at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm in Romsey is included. So too is the Stoneham Lane Football Complex just outside the borough in Eastleigh. The natural turf pitches at these two key strategic playing pitch hubs serving Test Valley based clubs and borough residents will be fully available by 2021/22).

Figure 6: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites			
Map Ref.	Site Name	Postcode	Playing Pitch sport(s)
North - Figure 7			
27	Chilbolton Memorial Playing Field	SO20 6BD	Football
29	Test Valley School	SO20 6HA	Football, Rugby
30	Stockbridge FC	SO20 6EU	Football
31	Stockbridge Primary School	SO20 6EJ	Football
32	Nether Wallop Playing Field	SO20 8HB	Football
33	Longstock Recreation Ground	SO20 6EE	Football
34	Bakers Farm Cricket Ground	SO20 6JF	Cricket
35	Over Wallop Sports Field	SO20 8JH	Cricket, Football
36	Barton Stacey Recreation Ground	SO21 3RP	Football
37	Wherwell Playing Field	SP11 7JP	Cricket, Football
38	Goodworth Clatford Recreation Ground	SP11 7RQ	Football
39	Farleigh School	SP11 7PW	Cricket, Football, Rugby
40	Upper Clatford Sports Ground	SP11 7QP	Cricket, Football
41	Longparish Football Pitch	SP11 6PP	Football
42	Longparish Cricket Ground	SP11 6PR	Cricket
43	Bulbery Sport Field	SP11 7PN	Football
44	Amport Cricket Ground	SP11 8BB	Cricket
45	John Hanson School	SP10 3PB	Football, Rugby
46	Winton Academy	SP10 2PS	Football, Rugby
47	Picket Twenty Recreation Ground	SP11 6UF	Cricket, Football
48	London Road Recreation Ground	SP10 1HP	Cricket, Football
49	Andover Cricket Ground	SP10 1HP	Cricket
50	Harrow Way School	SP10 3RH	Football, Rugby
51	Charlton Leisure Centre & Park	SP10 3LF	Football, Rugby
52	Portway Stadium	SP10 3LF	Football
53	Kimpton Fyfield & Thruxton Playing Field	SP11 8NT	Football
54	Shipton Bellinger Playing Field	SP9 7TL	Football
55	Picket Piece Recreation Ground	SP11 6AZ	Football
56	East Anton Recreation Ground	SP11 6AB	Cricket, Football
57	Saxon Fields Playing Field	SP10 4NP	Football
58	Foxcotte Sports Park/The Goodship Ground	SP11 0TA	Football, Rugby
59	Penton Recreation Ground	SP11 0RD	Cricket
60	Ward Memorial Playing Field, Appleshaw	SP11 9BS	Cricket, Football
61	Wildern Playing Field	SP11 0JE	Football
62	King George V Playing Field, Hurstbourne Tarrant	SP11 0AX	Football
63	Burydene Playing Field	SP11 0JY	Football
South - Figure 8			
1	West Wellow Recreation Ground	SO51 6BT	Cricket
2	Hatches Farm Playing Fields	SO51 6BG	Football
3	Nursling & Rownhams Recreation Ground	SO16 0XH	Football
4	Stoneham Lane Football Complex *	SO16 2PA	Football
5	St George Catholic College	SO16 3DQ	Football, Rugby
6	Hardmoor Sports Ground	SO50 9HT	Cricket, Football, Rugby
7	Trojans Sports Club	SO50 9HT	Cricket, Rugby
8	Knightwood Leisure Centre	SO53 4SJ	Cricket, Football
9	North Baddesley Recreation Ground	SO52 9EA	Football
10	Mountbatten School	SO51 5SY	Football, Rugby
11	Romsey Sports Centre	SO51 8AF	Cricket, Football, (Rugby ⁶)
12	Romsey Town FC	SO51 8AF	Football
13	Embley (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School)	SO51 6ZE	Cricket, Football, Rugby
14	Romsey School	SO51 8ZB	Rugby

⁶ Relocating to Kings Chase / Ganger Farm Playing Fields in 2021/22

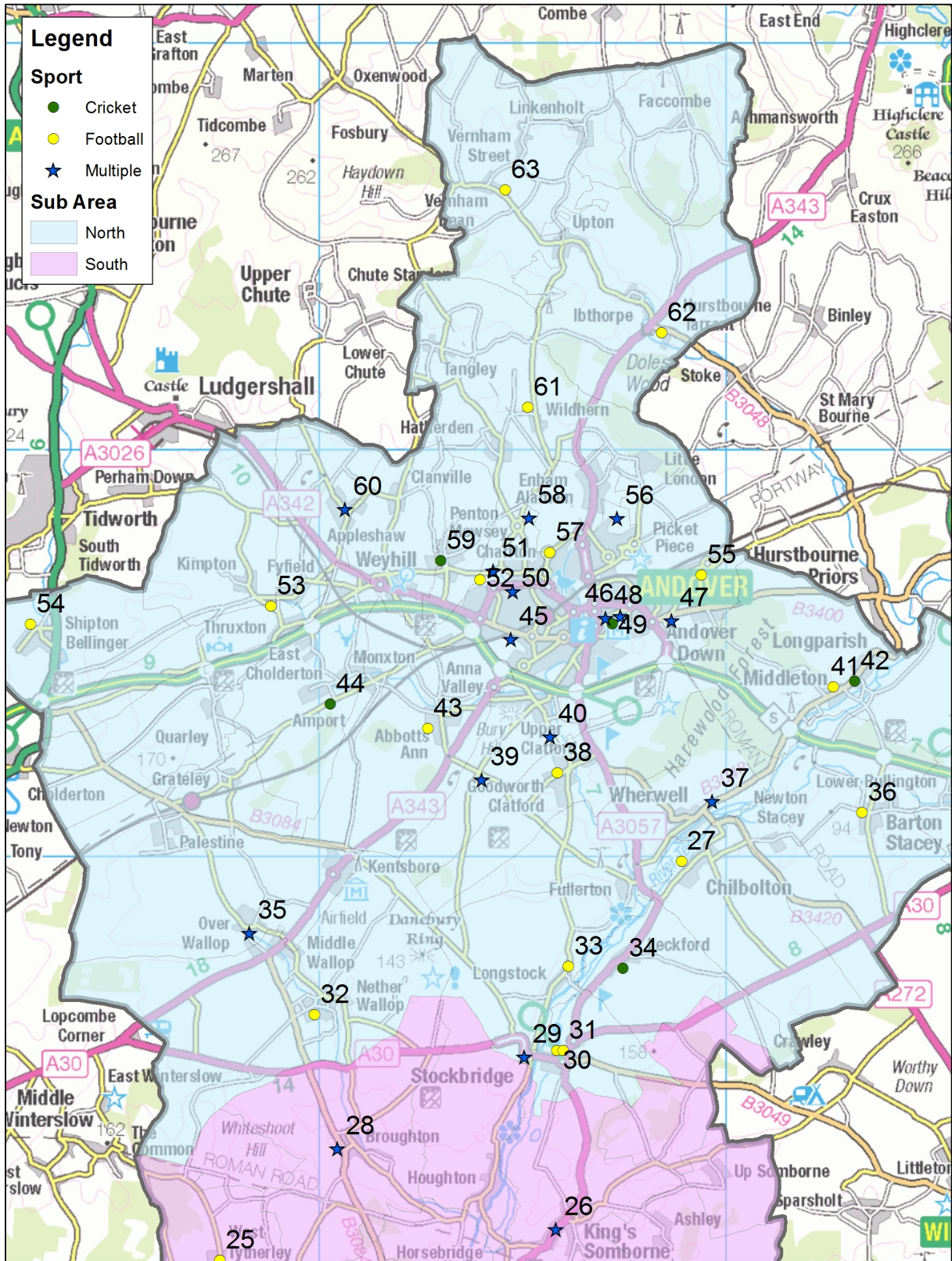
Figure 6: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites			
Map Ref.	Site Name	Postcode	Playing Pitch sport(s)
15	Sherfield English Sports Field	SO51 6FP	Football
16	Kings Chase / Ganger Farm Playing Fields	SO51 7PB	Football, Hockey, Rugby ⁷
17	Abbotswood Playing Field	SO51 0BL	Football ⁸
18	Ampfield Recreation Ground	SO51 9BQ	Cricket
19	Braishfield Recreation Ground	SO51 0PX	Football
20	Braishfield Cricket Ground	SO51 0QG	Cricket
21	Michelmersh & Timsbury Recreation Ground	SO51 0NJ	Cricket, Football
22	Hunts Farm Playing Fields	SO51 0NJ	Cricket, Football
23	Mottisfont Sports Field	SO51 0LR	Cricket, Football
24	East Tytherley Cricket Ground	SO51 0LW	Cricket
25	West Tytherley Recreation Ground	SP5 1NF	Football
26	King's Somborne Recreation Ground	SO20 6PP	Cricket, Football
28	Broughton Sports Field	SO20 8DA	Cricket, Football

* In Eastleigh Borough

⁷ Opening in 2021/22

⁸ Opening in 2021/22

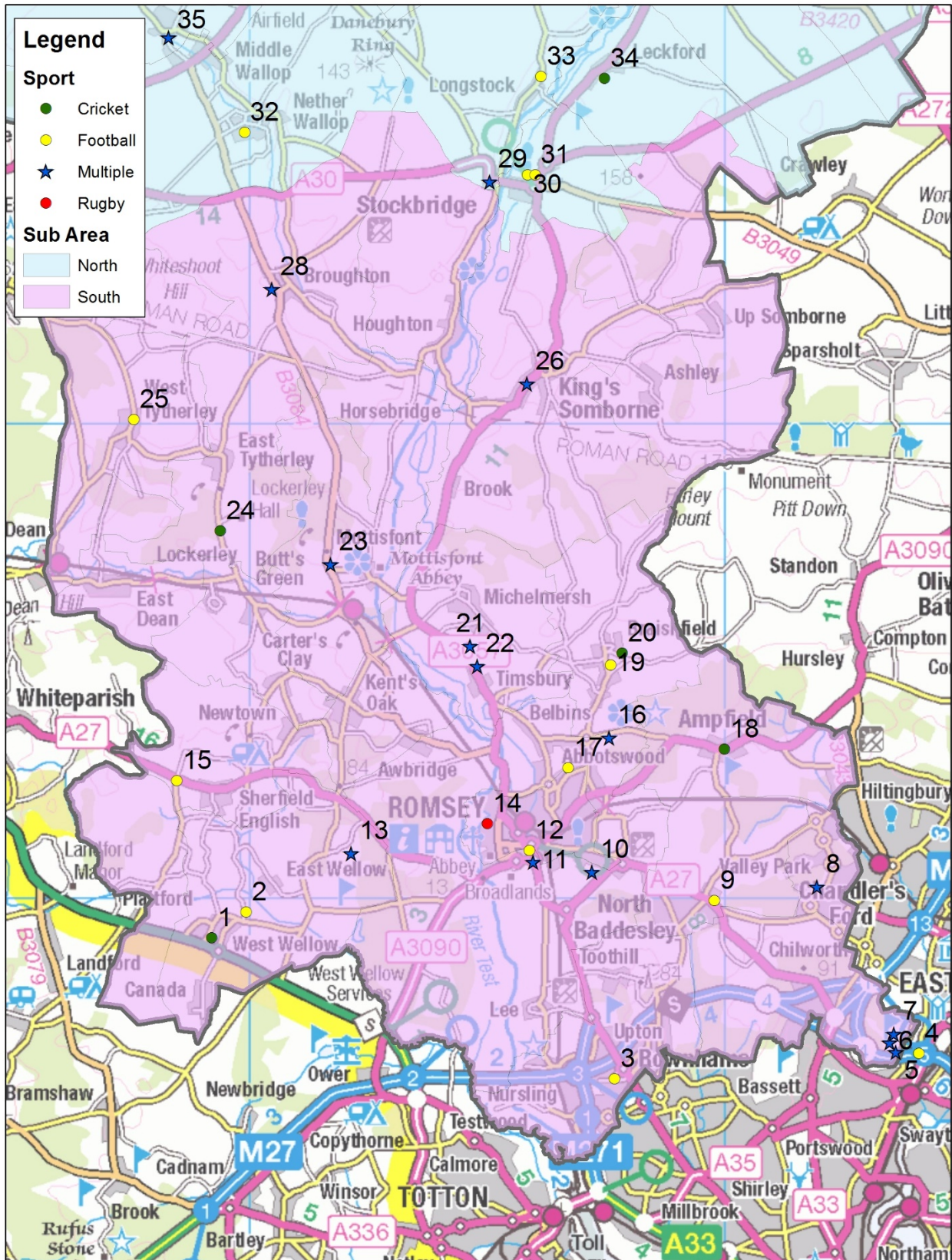
Figure 7: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites in North Sub Area



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Figure 8: Natural Turf Playing Pitch Sites in South Sub Area



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1.9.2 The **artificial grass playing pitch sites** (and the playing pitch sports each site currently provides for) are listed in Figure 9 and their locations shown in the sub area maps that follow (Figures 10 and 11). The new artificial turf pitches in development at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm are shown along with the Stoneham Lane Football Complex just outside the borough in Eastleigh. These key strategic playing pitch hubs for residents of Test Valley will be fully available in 2021/22).

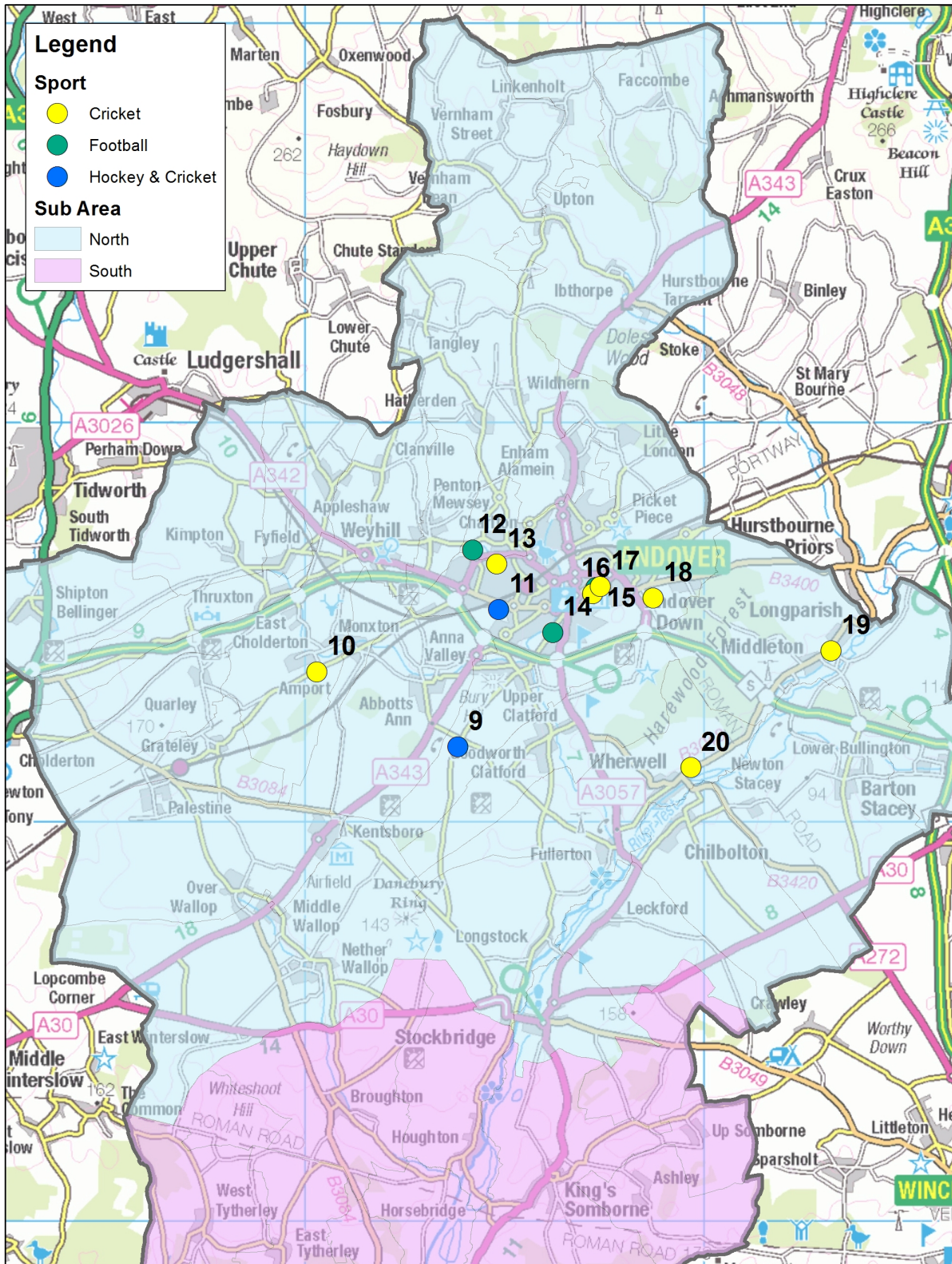
Figure 9: Artificial Turf Playing Pitch Sites				
Map Ref.	Site Name	Postcode	Type	Pitch sport(s)
North - Figure 10				
9	Farleigh School	SP11 7PW	Non Turf Pitch AGP Full size (sand)	Cricket Hockey
10	Amport Cricket Ground	SP11 8BB	Non Turf Pitch	Cricket
11	John Hanson School	SP10 3PB	Non Turf Pitch AGP Full size (sand)	Cricket Hockey
12	Charlton Leisure Centre	SP10 3LF	AGP Full size (3G)	Football
13	Harrow Way School	SP10 3RH	Non Turf Pitch	Cricket
14	Anton Junior School	SP10 2HA	AGP Small sided (3G) x 2	Football
15	The Mark Way School	SP10 1HR	AGP Small sided (3G)	Football
16	Andover Cricket Ground	SP10 1HP	Non Turf Pitch	Cricket
17	Winton Academy	SP10 2PS	Non Turf Pitch	Cricket
18	Picket Twenty Playing Fields	SP11 6UF	Non Turf Pitch	Cricket
19	Longparish Cricket Ground	SP11 6PR	Non Turf Pitch	Cricket
20	Wherwell Playing Field	SP11 7JP	Non Turf Pitch	Cricket
South - Figure 11				
1	Embley (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School)	SO51 6ZE	Non Turf Pitch AGP Full size (sand)	Cricket Hockey
2	Romsey School	SO51 8ZB	Non Turf Pitch AGP Full size (sand)	Cricket Hockey
3	Ganger Farm Playing Fields	SO51 7PB	AGP Full size (sand) AGP Full size (rugby)	Hockey ⁹ Rugby, Football ¹⁰
4	Mountbatten School	SO51 5SY	AGP Full size (3G)	Football
5	Knightwood Primary School	SO53 4HW	AGP Small sided (3G)	Football
6	Knightwood Leisure Centre	SO53 4SJ	AGP Small sided (3G) x 2	Football
7	Trojans Sports Club	SO50 9HT	AGP Full size (sand)	Hockey
8	St George Catholic College	SO16 3DQ	AGP Full size (3G)	Football
21	Stoneham Lane Football Complex*	SO16 2PA	AGPs Full size (3G) x 3	Football

* In Eastleigh Borough

⁹ Opening in 2021/22

¹⁰ Opening in 2021/22

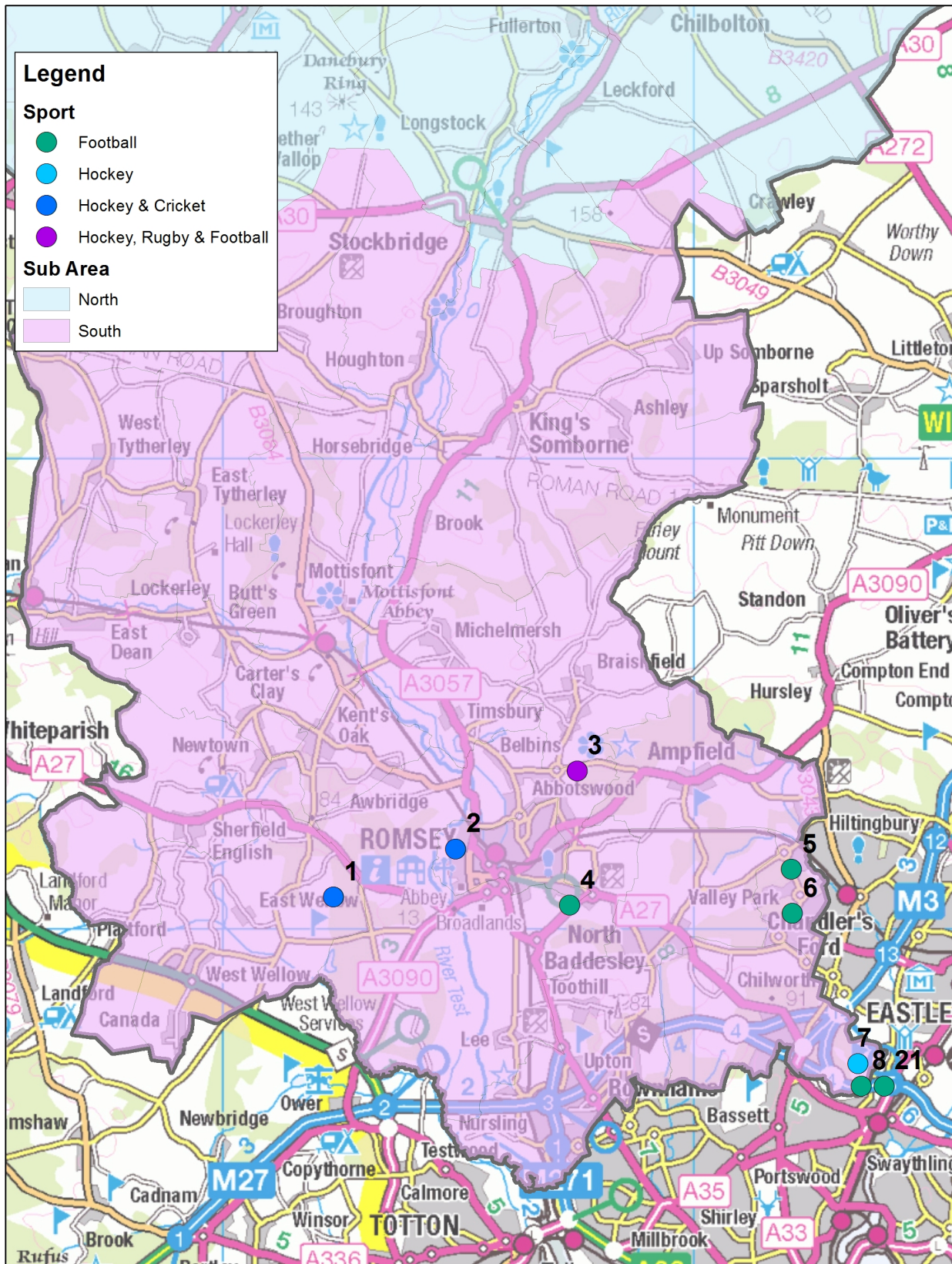
Figure 10: Artificial Turf Playing Pitch Sites in North Sub Area



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Figure 11: Artificial Turf Playing Pitch Sites in South Sub Area



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2 Issues & Findings

2.1 Issues (Stage A)

- 2.1.1 Representatives of the national governing bodies of the four major playing pitch sports identified key issues of relevance to their respective sports in Test Valley at a scoping meeting in March 2019 (Stage A of the playing pitch strategy development process). The issues identified at this initial meeting of the Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group are set out in Figure 12.

Figure 12: Playing pitch issues in Test Valley by sport national governing body
<p>Cricket - England & Wales Cricket Board (ECB)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pavilion enhancements have been identified as facility needs to be looked at with the clubs at Andover, Broughton, Romsey and Trojans Sports Club (on the border with Eastleigh). ○ Pitch drainage improvements need to be considered at Wellow & Plaitford. ○ <i>All Stars Cricket</i> continues to be a priority to drive participation within 5 – 8 year olds, 70 centres established across Hampshire in 2019. ○ Women and girls' cricket within the county is gathering significant momentum, particularly women's softball cricket. Clubs need to consider how they cater for a different market, which in many cases will include improving facilities, making them more welcoming and family friendly. ○ The new pitch at Picket Twenty in Andover presents cricket development opportunities.
<p>Football - Football Association (FA)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The positive impact on the supply/demand balance of recent new pitch provision in Andover (e.g. Augusta Park/East Anton and Picket Piece) should be considered. ○ The facility needs of large clubs in the south including the Chandler's Ford area (e.g. St Francis YFC) is also an issue to be considered in the context of the pitch drainage improvements at Knightwood Leisure Centre, Hunts Farm and the opening of the Stoneham Lane Football Hub close by which substantially increases the 3G supply for team training. ○ The FA has identified a needs case for additional 3G supply in Andover. ○ There are likely to be quality issues at key playing field sites in the rural areas. ○ Professional support is likely to be needed for the workforce both professional and voluntary in terms of both grounds maintenance and coaching. This should be reviewed between TVBC staff and professional institutions to pursue opportunities for continuous professional development. ○ There is a new strategic focus on encouraging more recreational participation which increases the value (and need for protection) of informal recreation spaces, and on growing the small-sided indoor football game of futsal.
<p>Hockey - England Hockey (EH)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The importance of securing use of school artificial grass pitches in meeting demands is key in the borough. ○ So too is encouraging the schools to budget adequate sinking funds to provide for periodic surface replacement. ○ Multi sport sites serving large catchments are supported going forward as the most conducive type of provision to financial sustainability given appropriate governance and management. There is a need to finalise this for the new multi sport hub at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm. ○ The Romsey School pitch was identified as in urgent need of resurfacing (<i>completed in 2019</i>).
<p>Rugby - Rugby Football Union</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The preferred model for community rugby is to consolidate all club activities - match play, training and social activities - on club owned sites (either freehold or long leasehold). This is relevant in Test Valley to Andover RFC whose ambition is to bring all of their activity to one site at the Goodship Ground in Foxcotte Park. ○ The impact on club rugby of loss of access to other forms of provision - i.e. in parks, on education or military playing fields - should be considered as a future supply scenario. ○ The potential impact on supply/demand balance of the new rugby compliant 3G at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm and future management of these facilities are a key issue for the future picture of provision for rugby. ○ The rugby facility needs of Eastleigh and Southampton should be considered in relation to Trojans Sports Club given the rugby club at this site draws its playing members from these local authority areas as well as from Test Valley.

2.2 Findings (Stage C)

- 2.2.1 The issues and opportunities identified by the NGBs, the Council's leisure and sport officers, Energise Me and Places Leisure at Stage A of the process were tested in gathering information and views in the research and consultation with clubs and facility providers (Stage B) and used to inform key findings and conclusions of the assessment of facility needs (Stage C).
- 2.2.2 The detailed research and consultation carried out in respect of each of the four playing pitch sports are set out in separate appendices (A to D). The key findings and conclusions (Stage C) are summarised in Figures 13 to 16.

Figure 13: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Cricket

<p>What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On a per capita basis, with 28 operational cricket pitches in 2019, Test Valley provided one cricket pitch per every 4,571 residents (based on 2018 population projections). In comparison with its neighbour local authorities, only Winchester has a higher per capita provision. ○ The supply of cricket pitches is equitably split between the north and south sub areas. ○ Reflecting the proximity of the pitch supply in the Romsey area (in the south sub area) to the City of Southampton, which has low secured pitch supply per capita, there is imported demand from a City-based cricket club. The borough's pitches are also used by lower sides of clubs from Eastleigh (Fair Oak), Winchester (IBM Hursley) and the New Forest (Totton & Eling). It is also likely that a significant proportion of the playing membership of the Romsey and Trojan clubs are resident in Southampton or Eastleigh Borough. ○ The tradition of village cricket remains strong in Test Valley although some village teams are struggling to maintain adult playing numbers (particularly for Sunday cricket which has largely gone) and pitch bookings on Saturdays and mid week evenings at several community sites - e.g. Hunt's Farm in Romsey - are in decline. Over two thirds of the 21 clubs now run just one adult team. ○ In contrast, junior cricket demand is strong and growing in part due to the influence of the independent schools in the borough. ○ Currently, opportunities for women and girls to play competitive cricket in Test Valley are quite limited. However, there is a good deal of current development focus on improving this position with several clubs in the borough delivering the All Stars programme for all children aged 5-8 and with development plan aims to establish women and girls sections. Within the borough, Trojans Cricket Club has taken the lead in this area.
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The findings of the detailed analysis of supply and demand for cricket pitches (at Appendix A) evidences that there is sufficient quantity of accessible and secured provision (26 pitches) to meet current demand.
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall, the pitches at the larger clubs are maintained to a good standard - at Andover Cricket Club by dedicated, skilled club volunteers, at Romsey Sport Centre by the Borough Council's ground staff with specialist support from experienced club volunteers and, in the case of the Trojans Sports Club, by professional ground staff. ○ There are long-standing issues with the quality of the outfield of the pitch at Romsey Sports Centre due to ground share between the Old Tauntonians & Romsey Cricket Club and Romsey Rugby Club. ○ Quality issues for club league cricket have been reported by the clubs using the public 'football share' cricket pitches at London Road Playing Fields and Knightwood Leisure Centre. Following visits to these sites (as well as Hunts Farm and Picket Twenty) by the Hampshire Cricket Board Pitch Advisor, recommendations have been made for a number of changes to the Council's maintenance tasks and programme prior to the start of the 2020 season. ○ The relatively poor standard of the pitches at some of the small village clubs is an issue. ○ In most cases, the outfields of the village pitches are maintained to a basic level by the parish councils, as their budgets allow, with club volunteers maintaining the squares. Where works are needed to bring these pitches up to suitable standard to sustain affiliated league fixtures, these are identified in the Action Plan at Section 5. ○ Several non-turf (artificial) pitches and net systems at grounds in the borough have reached the end of their safe usable lifespan and need resurfacing. Similarly, these needs are identified in the Action Plan. ○ The two senior club sites in the borough - Old Tauntonians & Romsey Cricket Club at Romsey Sports Centre and Andover Cricket Club at the London Road Cricket Ground - require enhanced or new pavilion facilities in the short term in order to sustain their

Figure 13: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Cricket

	<p>current cricketing activities and to enable the delivery of plans to develop playing opportunities for women and girls and for disabled people. In the villages, Broughton Sports Field is the priority site for a new pavilion.</p>
<p>What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assuming current cricket 'team generation rates' and the forecast population growth to 2036 in these age groups, growth in demand is likely to be minimal. ○ While most village clubs are likely to continue to struggle to sustain playing numbers, several of the larger cricket clubs perceive unmet demand for junior cricket and women and girls cricket. If the aspirations for growth by these clubs are achieved, it will also be a factor both in terms of supply of pitches (good quality NTPs) and in demand for appropriate spaces in pavilions. ○ Should the growth scenario for women and girls cricket play out in accordance with club and NGB development plans, it is estimated this could increase demand by 2036 by an additional 8-9 teams.
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet future demand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall, the findings of the detailed analysis of supply and demand for cricket pitches (at Appendix A) evidences that there are sufficient accessible and secured pitches to meet likely future demand when the unused capacity at the key community playing fields of Picket Twenty in the north and Hunts Farm in the south are taken into account as well as those village grounds that are currently under-used (e.g. Upper Clatford, Appleshaw, Longparish, King's Somborne). ○ The main cricket facility need to address future demand will be greater provision of non-turf pitches (NTPs) similar to the recent provision at Picket Twenty. The needs case for more NTPs is supported by relaxation of league rules to permit lower league adult fixtures to be played on artificial turf wickets. ○ Consideration should be given in the south sub area to replacing one of the two fine turf pitches at Hunts Farm with a NTP and to providing an NTP at Romsey Sports Centre. ○ In the north, consideration should be given to an NTP on the London Road Playing Fields adjacent to the Andover Cricket Club ground to address future demand for junior play and other cricket development demands. ○ The existing poor quality NTP at Winton Community School in Andover also needs to be replaced to complement those at the Harrow Way and John Hanson schools and the NTP at the Romsey Community School in the south sub area in order to facilitate a girls cricket programme in secondary schools (a strategic priority of the ECB). ○ The Borough Council supports the case for clubs to enhance capacity for growth of the game through installation of artificial wickets and has identified potential to work in partnership with clubs to aid fundraising initiatives towards delivery of this objective.

Figure 14: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Football

<p>What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On a per capita basis, with 107 operational football pitches in 2019, Test Valley provided one football pitch per every 1,196 residents (based on 2018 population projections). In comparison with its neighbour local authorities, this is a relatively high level of provision, on a par with Basingstoke & Deane with only Winchester having significantly more football pitches per head of population. ○ The distribution of supply of natural turf pitches is broadly equitably split between the north and south sub areas. ○ Despite the proximity of Romsey to the City of Southampton, which has low secured pitch supply per head, there is very little imported demand from City-based football club teams. However, it is likely that a significant proportion of the playing membership of the main community football clubs in Romsey (Romsey Town, St Francis) are resident in either the City of Southampton or Eastleigh Borough. ○ The tradition of mens' Sunday league football remains quite strong in Test Valley although it is clear that the national trend of decline in this form of the game has had an impact in recent seasons with a number of village teams folding and several parish councils no longer maintaining their recreation ground pitches for match play. ○ In contrast, affiliated youth football and mini soccer demand is strong and growing, particularly strongly focused on the main town-based youth football clubs - Romsey Town, St Francis, Andover Town, Andover New Street, CK Andover - but also in smaller settlements such as Braishfield, Wherwell (Shooters FC), Shipton Bellinger, Broughton, Wellow and Goodworth Clatford. ○ The largest multi-team youth football clubs - Romsey Town, St Francis, Andover Town, Andover New Street - currently play and train across several sites as there is no hub football site in either town with sufficient capacity in the peak to accommodate all home fixtures on pitches of the required sizes. ○ Opportunities for women and girls to play competitive football in Test Valley have expanded quite substantially in recent seasons - largely based around the
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Figure 14: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Football

	<p>development of new girls' teams from mixed age group teams in the largest clubs. There is latent demand for further growth in this area of the game.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Lack of sufficient floodlit 3G capacity in the borough for mini soccer league games on Saturdays and for team training in the peak Monday to Thursday evening slots is an issue although, in the south sub area, this is likely to be improved by the development of the Stoneham Lane Football Complex with 3 FTPs and youth grass pitches just across the borough boundary in Eastleigh.
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>current</u> demand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Overall, the findings of the detailed analysis of supply and demand for football pitches (at Appendix B) evidences that across the borough as a whole there is sufficient quantity of accessible and secured grass football pitch provision to meet current match play and recreational demand but there is a shortfall of provision of floodlit 3G pitches to allow all teams to train in the peak evening slots. o Whilst there is unused capacity for formal matches in the peak period in the borough, more than half the secured capacity is located in the villages outside of the most densely populated areas - i.e. the main towns of Andover and Romsey - where there are pressures. o The main pressure points relate to youth 11v11 and 9v9 pitches at weekends and 3G pitches for training in the evening peak. Recent new natural turf pitch supply in Andover - Picket Twenty, East Anton, Picket Piece - and new committed pitch projects in Romsey (Ganger Farm, Abbotswood) address current match day capacity needs although there is a needs case for some of the adult pitches at Picket Twenty to be changed to youth sizes.
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Overall, the three stadium football pitches, and the main public playing field sites in Andover and Romsey, are maintained appropriately. o There are localised drainage system issues at Hunts Farm Sports Ground due to the age of the system. o There is also a case for improving the aeration of pitches on the key football sites in the two towns (e.g. by regular verti-draining) although this would have cost implications for the Borough Council. o A number of the parish council maintained pitches that are used regularly for affiliated football are maintained to a lower standard and would benefit from enhanced regimes to improve the quality of player experience and, potentially, increase capacity - e.g. Wherwell, Wellow at Hatches Farm, Goodworth Clatford, Braishfield, Upper Clatford, Shipton Bellinger, North Baddesley, Nursling. o All of the Borough Council's public playing field sites for football have good quality ancillary facilities - changing, social, parking. o However, there are quality issues with ancillary changing, social and parking facilities at a number of football sites in the borough including two of the three football stadia - Foxcotte (Andover New Street) and the Bypass Ground (Romsey Town) - as well as at some of the parish council owned grounds that host affiliated football. Examples include: Broughton (pavilion), Upper Clatford (parking), Barton Stacey (pavilion).
<p>What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Assuming current football 'team generation rates' and the forecast population growth to 2036 in these age groups, growth in demand is likely to require capacity for 3 new adult teams and 3-4 youth teams, although based on the recent trend and the FA's development focus, this may be an underestimate due to growth in the women and girls' game. In light of these trends and development aspirations, it is reasonable to plan to provide sufficient playing and training capacity by 2036 to accommodate 16 additional teams: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o 4 new adult 11v11 teams (3 men, 1 women) o 6 new youth 11v11 teams (2 boys, 4 girls) o 6 new youth 9v9 teams (1 boys, 5 girls) o It is likely that demand for affiliated men's football in the villages will continue to experience decline given the established trends. The impact is already being seen with fewer parishes maintaining formal football facilities and giving over their recreation grounds to informal recreation. o However, this decline in demand for traditional men's football is likely to be offset by the growth trend in unaffiliated small-sided football and recreational football played on artificial grass pitches and for youth football, both for boys and girls requiring appropriate changing facilities in pavilions.
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The findings of the detailed analysis of supply and demand for football pitches (at Appendix B) evidences that there is an existing shortfall of youth pitches in the two towns which is likely to become more acute as a result of population growth and expansion of girls' youth football over the new Local Plan period if no new capacity is provided. This youth team growth, together with future adult demand for small-sided football and recreational football will further increase demand in the peak evening slots for the existing 3G pitches which are already at capacity during these times. o The options available to provide more capacity include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Improving the quality and playing capacity of existing youth football pitches

Figure 14: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Football

	<p>to include key sites in the rural areas, potentially by the governing bodies establishing a 'Maintenance Hub' with specialist equipment and training in its use for club /parish ground staff</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replacing or over marking some existing adult pitches as youth pitches ○ ○ Providing new supply (grass or 3G) in Romsey and Andover when opportunities arise with the priority in the short term of additional 3G capacity for team training and recreational football in Andover.
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Figure 15: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Hockey

<p>What are the main characteristics of the current supply of and demand for provision?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On a per capita basis, with 5 operational hockey pitches in 2019, Test Valley provided one hockey pitch per every 25,600 residents (based on 2018 population projections). In comparison with its neighbour local authorities, this is the highest level of provision, similar to Eastleigh Borough. Provision is much lower in the City of Southampton which places demand pressure on the Test Valley pitches with secured community access and availability in the south sub-area (i.e. Trojans Sports Club and Romsey School). ○ The distribution of supply of pitches is greater in the south of the borough than in the north. This distribution reflects the demography, travel patterns and sports market profile of hockey players and the location of the clubs. The south catchment area is larger than in the north as it draws in players from across the borough boundaries with Eastleigh and Southampton. The population in the south is also more closely matched to the hockey market profile. ○ Nationally, the Active Lives Survey shows a small decline in adults playing hockey regularly. The experience of two out of the three community hockey clubs in Test Valley (and of most other hockey clubs in Hampshire and east Wiltshire) is very different to the national trend. Programming of initiatives like drop in Back to Hockey sessions for women and girls and the training of more female coaches and officials have resulted in growth in players and team numbers in the women's game in particular. With Test Valley, hockey club player affiliations have grown by approximately 20% over the last four seasons. ○ There is also a growth trend in children and young people playing hockey in the borough's clubs with the teaching of hockey in the borough's secondary schools (in both the independent and state sectors) contributing to this growth. ○ Outside the secondary schools, hockey participation is centred around the two main towns - Andover and Romsey - and at a large community sports club on the borough boundary with Eastleigh (Trojans). This is due to the requirement to play the game on artificial grass pitches which are not viable to provide in village communities. ○ In Andover, Andover Hockey Club's current demand for pitch time is nearly all accommodated adequately on a secured home pitch at John Hanson School, although one introductory hockey session each week cannot be accommodated and, with no other hockey AGP in the town, takes place on a 3G artificial grass pitch at Andover Sports Academy. ○ In Romsey, the Romsey Hockey Club has two more adult teams than Andover Hockey Club and needs two pitches to accommodate home fixtures in the peak. This is currently achieved through secured use of the hockey AGP at Romsey School supplemented by hire of a second hockey AGP at Embley Park, an independent school located just outside the town. ○ From 2021/22, Romsey Hockey Club will have the opportunity to hire slots on a new hockey pitch and sports hub pavilion facilities in construction on a Council owned site at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm in Romsey. ○ The Trojans Hockey Club located on the south-east boundary of Test Valley borough, is larger still with over 640 hockey players in 2019/20 drawn from both boroughs and from Southampton. This club benefits from secured access to a dedicated hockey pitch (with no use for other sports) and requires additional capacity to accommodate its match play needs in the peak period. The club currently hires school and Council hockey pitches in Southampton and Eastleigh.
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Overall across the borough as a whole, the findings of the detailed analysis of supply and demand for hockey pitches (at Appendix C) evidences that there is a shortfall in the quantity of accessible and secured artificial grass pitch provision suitable for hockey (i.e. sand filled/based or water based) to meet current match play and training demand. The shortfall is greatest in the south sub area. ○ The Romsey Hockey Club relies on unsecured provision at Embley school to meet current demands. This will be addressed in 2021/22 through provision of a second hockey pitch with secured community use in Romsey at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm that clubs will be able to hire.

Figure 15: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Hockey

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Trojans Club relies on hockey AGPs in both Eastleigh and Southampton and aspires to develop a second pitch on the Trojans Sports Club site subject to feasibility and securing the necessary planning consents and funding. ○ The Andover Hockey Club relies on use of the 3G pitch at Charlton on Saturday mornings for an introduction to hockey session. The club does not currently have sufficient adult teams to meet England Hockey guidance to justify a second home pitch.
Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The three hockey pitches are provided and maintained to a good standard now that the Romsey School upgrade has been completed. ○ There is a lack of clubhouse facilities for the Andover and Romsey clubs. These clubs currently rely of access to school changing rooms. However, from 2021/22 a new clubhouse/pavilion will be available to hire in Romsey in association with the new pitch at the Kings Chase/Ganger Farm hub site.
What are the main characteristics of the <u>future</u> supply and demand for provision?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Analysis of the impact of forecast population growth in the youth age groups for hockey based on team generation rates suggests growth of at least one youth boys team and one youth girls team. ○ The team generation method of forecasting demand ignores the area of greatest growth in recent seasons - i.e. among younger primary age children - and the age group training squad approach to programming adopted by most community clubs. To account for these factors, England Hockey advocates that Sport England's Playing Pitch Calculator is used to forecast the likely impact of a population growth on additional playing capacity required. Application of the Playing Pitch Calculator to Test Valley indicates a potential requirement for a further additional hockey pitch by 2036 based on recent growth trends in player numbers across the three clubs. ○ Given the current hockey growth trend in the borough (5% per annum approximately) and the forecast population growth to 2036, there is likely to be a need for a further pitch in Andover to meet future demand.
Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet <u>future</u> demand?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In the new Local Plan period, based on recent growth trends, a second pitch is likely to be required to meet future demand in the Andover area where a high proportion of new housing and population growth is planned.

Figure 16: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Rugby

What are the main characteristics of the <u>current</u> supply of and demand for provision?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ On a per capita basis, with 32 operational rugby pitches in 2019, Test Valley provided one rugby pitch per every 4,000 residents (based on 2018 population projections). In comparison with its neighbour local authorities, this is the highest level of provision, similar to Winchester District. Provision is much lower in the City of Southampton which places demand pressure on the Test Valley pitches with secured community access and availability in the south sub-area (i.e. Trojans Sports Club and Romsey Sports Centre) as residents travel to access playing opportunities at the level of rugby they seek. ○ The distribution of supply of pitches is broadly even across the north and south sub areas although concentrated in the two main population centres of Romsey and Andover. The school pitch at Test Valley School in Stockbridge is the only provision in the rural areas. ○ This distribution reflects the demography, travel patterns and sports market profile of rugby players and the location of the clubs. The south catchment area is larger than in the north as it draws in players from across the borough boundaries with Eastleigh and Southampton. The population in the south is also more closely matched to the rugby market profile. ○ Nationally, the Active Lives Survey shows a small decline in adult males playing rugby regularly, partly offset by growth in women's participation in the game. The experience of the three community rugby clubs in Test Valley (and of most other rugby clubs in Hampshire) is different to the national trend. Programming of initiatives like 'pitch up and play' 02 Touch Rugby sessions for mixed groups and women only for example, a strong development focus on establishing women's teams and girls only rugby from age 12 upwards at Trojans, and the training of more female coaches and officials have resulted in growth in players and team numbers in the women's game in particular. ○ There is also a growth trend in children and young people playing rugby in the borough's clubs with the teaching of rugby in the borough's secondary schools (in both the independent and state sectors) contributing to this growth.
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Figure 16: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Rugby

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ In Andover, the club's demand for match play and training is accommodated mainly on its secured home Goodship Ground pitches at Foxcotte Sports Park just to the north of the town. The club currently hires Council pitches in Charlton Park half a mile away to accommodate upwards of 25 academy games/training sessions a season (depending on the weather conditions and wear and tear on its home pitches). ○ In Romsey, the club currently shares a playing field with the town's cricket club which constrains the capacity and growth potential for both sports clubs. However, this constraint will be removed from 2021/22 season when the rugby club relocates to a new playing field site in the town currently in development funded via a Section 106 planning legal agreement. The new site will provide additional playing capacity in the form of a full size floodlit rugby artificial grass pitch. ○ The Trojans club (located on the south-east boundary of Test Valley where it meets Eastleigh Borough and City of Southampton) is by far the largest of the three clubs, although its first side plays at the same level in the league structure as Andover RFC. Like Andover RFC, Trojans FC are also unable to accommodate all demand for match play on their home ground and the youth pitch the club manages on the adjacent Hardmoor Sports Ground. The club relies on hiring school pitches on an ad hoc basis particularly in periods of wet weather as the club pitches drain poorly.
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use provision to meet current demand?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The findings of the detailed analysis of supply and demand for rugby pitches (at Appendix D) evidences that of the 32 pitches only 11 are on secured community use sites. Whilst across the borough as a whole there is no shortfall in the quantity of accessible and secured rugby pitches and some unused capacity of one of two parks pitches in Andover in the north, in the south sub area there is insufficient accessible and secured provision to meet current match play and training demand. ○ However, from the 2021/22 season, with the completion of Kings Chase/Ganger Farm and the enhancement of the junior pitch at Hardmoor, both Romsey RFC and Trojans FC will have sufficient pitches with secured community access to meet current demands for match play and training at most times with only occasional need to hire school pitches.
<p>Is the provision that is accessible of sufficient quality and appropriately maintained?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The main pitch at Romsey Sport Centre is uneven and the Goodship Ground pitches at Foxcotte Sports Park leased by Andover RFC suffer from localised areas with poor grass cover and show some signs of soil compaction indicating a need for improved maintenance in some areas. ○ The pitch quality issue for Romsey RFC will be addressed from 2021/22 following this club's relocation to newly provided grass pitches (with pipe and slit drainage) and a new rugby AGP. ○ The Andover RFC pitches at Goodship Ground benefit from maintenance support from the Council (with grass cutting) but otherwise rely on club volunteers and expert advice from a retired RFU Head Groundsman at Twickenham. More remedial maintenance is needed requiring specialist equipment and increased budget provision. To reduce overuse and wear of pitches at the Goodship Ground the club are able to make better use of the pitches at Charlton Sport Centre. ○ The main pitch quality issue at Trojans FC is that the pitches, whilst well maintained, rely of natural drainage and are susceptible to water-logging and fixture call offs in periods of persistent rainfall. ○ The clubhouses at both Andover RFC and Trojans FC are in need of refurbishment and expansion to cater to changing to better accommodate growing demand among girls and women.
<p>What are the main characteristics of the future supply and demand for provision?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assuming current rugby growth trends in the borough and region (which differs to the national trend of slight decline shown in Active Lives Survey data), and the forecast population growth to 2036 in Test Valley, there is likely to be a need for further pitch capacity beyond the new supply at Ganger Farm and the enhanced junior pitch at Hardmoor Sports Ground which are needed to meet the current secured supply shortfall in the south sub area. This will require strategic leadership and investment from RFU. ○ Analysis of the impact of forecast population growth in the core age groups for rugby based on team generation rates suggest growth of at least 4 additional teams by 2036. Should the developments plans for women and girls rugby at the clubs be successfully delivered, it is reasonable to estimate that a further 6 girls and women's teams may be established - i.e. a total of 10 new teams requiring pitch capacity for matches and training by 2036.
<p>Is there enough accessible and secured community use</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The new supply of floodlit rugby artificial grass pitch and higher quality replacement grass pitches at Ganger Farm, together with the reinstatement of the enhanced junior pitch at Hardmoor Sports Ground, should be sufficient to address the capacity shortfall for adult and junior match play on Saturdays and Sundays and for evening training in the short term for both the Romsey club and Trojans.

Figure 16: Summary of Findings & Conclusions - Rugby

provision to meet future demand?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ However, the demographic profile and demand growth trend - together with the development plans of the Andover and Romsey rugby clubs for women and girls rugby supported by the RFU - strongly suggest the need for further capacity in the peak period with Trojans Sports Club the priority location for a second rugby AGP in Test Valley once Ganger Farm is established and the peak slots are filled at this new site. ○ Additional pitch capacity may also be required to meet future demand in the Andover area where a high proportion of the borough's new housing and population growth is planned. There is an opportunity to reconfigure the current pitch provision at Foxcotte Park to provide additional playing pitch capacity (rugby compliant). Involvement and investment from RFU will be required within such projects.
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2.3 Summary of Current Supply and Demand Balance

- 2.3.1 To facilitate easy comparison between the amount of play a site can accommodate (its carrying capacity) and how much play takes place there (its current use), the Playing Pitch Guidance recommends use of **Match Equivalent Sessions (MES)** as a comparable unit for natural turf pitches and, for artificial grass pitches, comparable unit of **Hours Per Week (HPW)** in the Peak Period.
- 2.3.2 For football and rugby union sites, the match equivalent session carrying capacity is estimated for a typical week in the main playing season with regard to the number and size of natural turf pitches on the site and their quality ratings. For cricket sites, the capacity is estimated for the season based on the number and quality rating of pitches and the size of the square which determines the number of wickets / strips that can be prepared in the season.
- 2.3.3 The current use for a typical week (football, rugby) or season (cricket) is then estimated for each site, taking into account home matches, training sessions and informal play both overall and in the peak weekend period. For football and rugby it is assumed each team generates on average 1.5 MES / week (i.e. a fortnightly home match plus weekly training). For cricket it is assumed each team generate on average 20 MES / season (i.e. approximately 10 home matches and a training session each week).
- 2.3.4 For hockey the carrying capacity is the total number of hours per week in the peak period aggregated across the available hockey AGPs compared to the existing hours of use in the peak period based, taking into account the clubs' programmes of home matches, training sessions and informal sessions (e.g. Back to Hockey).
- 2.3.5 As summarised in Figure 17, for cricket and football, grass pitch supply outweighs current demand for match play in the peak weekend period in both sub areas.
- 2.3.6 However, the unused capacity is located, in the main, at relatively poor quality village recreation ground sites in the rural areas, most of which are not accessible to children and young people living in the towns where the majority of demand is concentrated.
- 2.3.7 Based on secured supply and demand in the two towns only, the unused capacity for football match play in the peak is much lower. In Andover the unused capacity for match play in the weekend peak is just 16 MES a week compared to 39 MES across the north sub area as a whole. In Romsey, football pitch supply/demand for match play is broadly in balance with minimal unused capacity in the peak (1.5 MES). However, the addition of the new football pitches at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm from 2021/22 will increase the available capacity to 19.5 MES (compared to 41 MES across the south sub area as a whole).
- 2.3.8 The current supply and demand balance for hockey is a small shortfall of sand AGP capacity in the peak period in the north (displaced to an unsuitable 3G pitch). In the south, when the new pitch at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm comes available in 2021/22, there will be available capacity for hockey teams to hire for match play and training.
- 2.3.9 For rugby, there is a small amount of available capacity in the north (on the Council pitches in Charlton Park) and, in the south, when the new rugby AGP at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm comes available in 2021/22, there will be available capacity for rugby teams to hire for match play and training.

Figure 17: Existing Supply Demand Balance in Peak Period

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Sport	North Sub Area	South Sub Area	Test Valley
Cricket	+ 108 MES / Season	+ 53 MES / Season	+ 161 MES / Season
Football*	+ 39 MES / Week	+ 41 MES / Week	+ 80 MES / Week
Hockey*	-1 HPW / Week	+ 29 HPW / Week	+ 28 HPW / Week
Rugby*	+ 2 MES / Week	+ 15.25 MES / Week	+ 17.25 MES / Week

* Includes new pitches (natural turf and AGPs) at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm; Secured supply only (i.e. excludes unsecured school supply).

2.4 Summary of Future Supply/Demand Balance

- 2.4.1 Over the period of the strategy to 2036, it is currently estimated that there will be demand growth in all four playing pitch sports.
- 2.4.2 Figure 18 summarises the likely impact of the forecast growth on the supply/demand balance in the borough as a whole assuming no further playing pitch capacity is created (i.e. by providing new pitches, enhancing the quality and playing capacity of existing pitches, or changing playing surfaces from natural to artificial turf).

Figure 18 – Forecast Supply Demand Balance in Peak Period

Sport	Forecast Growth	MES/HPW	Supply/Demand Balance
Cricket	+ 8.5 teams	+170 MES per season	- 9 MES / season
Football	+ 17 teams	+ 26 MES per week	+ 54 MES / week
Hockey*	+ 5 matches & 10 training hours a week	+ 15 HPW	+ 13 HPW / week
Rugby	+ 10 teams	+ 15 MES per week	+2.25 MES / week

* The growth estimate for hockey is based on application of Sport England's *Playing Pitch Calculator* planning tool advocated by England Hockey as detailed at Appendix C paragraph 8.12

- 2.4.3 Figure 18 shows that forecast growth will take up most of the available unused capacity in the peak period to accommodate demands of the additional teams.
- 2.4.4 For cricket, at the forecast scale of demand growth, by 2036, there is likely to be a small shortfall of supply across the borough as a whole if there is no change in provision over the period. Most demand growth will take place in the two towns where the largest cricket clubs are located. This will mean that the shortfall will be higher in the towns supporting a needs case for the provision of more capacity at key cricket sites in Andover and Romsey through the installation of NTPs.
- 2.4.5 For football, although there is sufficient available capacity to accommodate the forecast team growth, as with cricket, this capacity is located mainly on village playing fields which are not accessible from the towns where most of the large community football clubs and players are based and, in many cases, offer relatively poor quality pitches and/or ancillary facilities.
- 2.4.6 For rugby, the new capacity provided by the AGP at Kings Chase / Ganger Farm would be sufficient to accommodate the forecast growth if all the growth were to take place in Romsey. However, the distribution of the three community clubs (and the rugby model to base activity at sustainable community club sites), supports the case for future provision of more playing capacity at both the other rugby club locations - i.e. at The Goodship Ground, Andover and at Trojans Sports Ground in the south east of the borough. As examined in Section 3 of the report, there are several future scenarios through which additional playing capacity could be achieved at these sites i.e. by improving pitch maintenance / quality, changing grass pitches to rugby AGP and/or providing new grass pitches.
- 2.4.7 For hockey, the future picture of provision is similar to rugby in that the new hockey AGP at Kings Chase / Ganger Farm will provide sufficient capacity in the peak to accommodate forecast growth in the borough if all growth were to take place in Romsey. However, the Andover Hockey Club is located outside the catchment area of this new supply and the largest club, Trojans, exports a substantial proportion of its existing demand to pitches outside the borough in Southampton and Eastleigh due to insufficient capacity on the club's home site. Both the Andover and Trojans

hockey clubs aspire to second pitches in future. Trojans already has sufficient players and teams to justify the provision of a second home pitch.

2.5 Summary of Facility Needs - Protect, Enhance, Provide

- 2.5.1 **Protect** - Although the general picture is one of apparent surplus of playing pitch supply, from the detailed assessment of the supply and demand information and views (summarised in this section and detailed in the appendices to this report), it is clear that there is a needs case to protect the existing playing pitch supply in the borough for the future, whether in current use for organised team sport or not.
- 2.5.2 Most demand for formal use (team match play and training) is centred on the two main towns where there is minimal unused capacity in the peak periods and, in Andover, a shortfall in 3G AGP capacity for football training. To a lesser degree, there is also a shortfall in sand AGP capacity for junior hockey in the town.
- 2.5.3 Protection of the existing pitch supply (natural and artificial grass) in the two towns is needed both to ensure sufficient unused capacity is available to allow pitch rotation (to protect against impacts of climate change), and to provide available capacity for growth in demand over the strategy period that is likely to take place as a result of:
- Sports development initiatives by sports clubs and the relevant sports agencies (notably to increase participation in pitch sports by women and girls), and
 - Increases in the resident population of Test Valley resulting from new housing developments.
- 2.5.4 Equally, over the period of the playing pitch strategy, it will be important to ensure all village playing fields continue to be protected, whether or not they are currently used / maintained for formal match play. Village playing fields are critical to maintain accessibility for children and young people living in villages outside the two main towns to play pitch sports informally.
- 2.5.5 **Enhance** - In terms of site specific facility needs, once the new playing pitch provision in development in Romsey at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm is completed and fully operational, the priority facility need will be to enhance existing key strategic playing pitch sites within the borough that are accessible to large numbers of residents and are of sufficient scale to sustain good quality ancillary facilities for changing and social activity. The priority multi pitch/multi sport playing pitch hub sites for improvement in Test Valley are:
- Foxcotte Sports Park – Ancillary facilities and rugby pitches, future planning for the site.
 - Romsey Sports Centre - Cricket pitch outfield and pavilion
 - Trojans Sports Club - Rugby pitches, pavilion
 - Hunts Farm - Drainage to football pitches
- 2.5.6 Major sport-specific playing field sites in the two towns with enhancement needs are:
- Andover Cricket Club Ground - pavilion
 - Bypass (Romsey) Football Ground - changing rooms (services etc).
- 2.5.7 It should be noted that with the exception of Hunts Farm and the playing fields at Romsey Sports Centre the facilities in need of enhancement are either in private ownership (Trojans), leased from a private landowner (Romsey Football Ground) or held by clubs on Council leases (Foxcotte Sports Park, Andover Cricket Ground). Lead responsibility for securing the required funding and consents to progress any recommendations made in this report for improvements to these privately owned or leased sites will rest with the clubs or sports associations in question.
- 2.5.8 In the rural areas, the main enhancement need is for support with pitch maintenance for the parishes, sports clubs and associations with sites used for affiliated league match play. The types of support needed are:
- access to specialist equipment for remedial works
 - access to specialist advice/expertise
 - training in sports turf maintenance for club volunteers and parish groundstaff.
- 2.5.9 There are also needs for enhanced pavilion facilities at several of the playing field sites outside the main towns that are in regular demand and use by football and/or cricket clubs. The Borough Council would encourage sport clubs or parish councils to investigate and apply for external funding (subject to planning). Sites with need for improved pavilions to support formal use of playing pitches for match play include:

- i. Broughton Sports Field
 - ii. Barton Stacey Recreation Ground
- 2.5.10 Pitch configurations should be re-assessed annually for all sites and effort made to accommodate different size pitches and pitch sports as demands change.
- 2.5.11 **Provide** - With regard to new provision for playing pitch sports, the priority need is for more football 3G Artificial Grass Pitch capacity in Andover particularly for team training and to accommodate growth in recreational participation and competitive play by women and girls.
- 2.5.12 Several potential locations have been identified for a second full size floodlit 3G AGP in Andover. A feasibility study is needed to establish which location offers the best potential to be both effective in addressing the need and deliverable in terms of land, planning, cost and funding.
- 2.5.13 Over the period of the strategy, a good needs case can be made for new provision of playing pitch facilities for rugby and, potentially, football at Foxcotte Sports Park. For example, a rugby compliant floodlit 3G AGP at Foxcotte may address the facility needs of both sports in Andover going forward and open up opportunities for a multi-sport hub approach to ancillary facilities to improve financial sustainability. As part of a AGP feasibility study for Andover, the accessibility and potential to grow the playing capacity at Foxcotte should therefore be fully examined taking into account the needs of the existing clubs on the site and the relative merits of the alternative location options identified.
- 2.5.14 At Trojans Sports Club in the south east of Test Valley, there is a strong existing needs case for a second hockey pitch and, potentially, for a rugby 3G AGP in future subject to feasibility. The needs case for new playing pitch provision on this site reflects the location of the club close to the M27 and accessibility from both Eastleigh and the City of Southampton. As there is a shortfall in secured pitches for hockey and rugby in Southampton and a hockey pitch was converted to football 3G in Eastleigh in the replacement of the Fleming Park Leisure Centre, the Trojans Club in Test Valley attracts a substantial amount of imported demand from both these neighbouring local authority areas.

3 Scenario Testing

3.1 Introduction

- 3.1.1 A range of 'what if' scenario questions were identified by the members of the Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group in discussion at a meeting of the group in December 2019. These included:
- Access to rugby pitches on club or on school sites is lost.
 - New access to school pitches for football is secured.
 - Playing pitch surfaces are changed.
 - There is large scale growth in women and girl's demand for playing pitches in response to the development focus of the sports governing bodies over the next four years.
- 3.1.2 These potential scenarios and their likely impact on the identified future playing pitch facility needs (or opportunities they present) are considered in Figure 19.

Figure 19: Scenarios	
Improved quality of sites	<p>Overall, the quality of the playing pitches on secured club and council owned sites in Test Valley - particularly in the two towns of Romsey and Andover - is generally good, relative to that found in many local authority areas in the country. As such, the potential to achieve more future playing capacity by means of pitch quality improvements is limited.</p> <p>However, to maintain the current good balance of supply and demand for cricket pitches, it will be vital to ensure that the Council-owned fine turf pitches at London Road Recreation Ground and Knightwood Leisure Centre are of suitable quality for the level of cricket league play required by Andover CC and Knights Valley CC respectively. Continued input from the Hampshire Cricket Technical Advisor is recommended to advise the Council and clubs on the future maintenance regimes at key sites.</p> <p>Improving the quality of drainage/maintenance of the rugby pitches at both Trojans and the Goodship Ground in Foxcotte Park to the optimum standard (M2/D3) would impact on playing capacity and sustaining club activity on both sites. The capacity of match equivalent sessions (MES) at Trojans would increase by 2 a week (from 12 MES to 14 MES). At the Goodship Ground by 4 from 10 MES to 14 MES. This would substantially reduce the need for Andover RFC to hire park pitches, and Trojans school pitches, off site.</p> <p>Establishing a football pitch maintenance hub resource with Hampshire FA would help the parish councils and football clubs with home grounds in the villages to improve the playing experience and reduce match cancellations. Sites that could potentially benefit from such an initiative include Hatches Farm (Wellow FC), Wherwell (Shooters FC) the two Clatford sites (CK Andover FC), Shipton Bellinger, North Baddesley, Nursling.</p> <p>If all the natural turf football pitches at these seven village playing fields were enhanced to 'good' quality, it would increase weekly playing capacity at these sites by a total of 27 MES (from 38 MES to 65 MES).</p>
More community use at education sites	<p>There is a need to clarify the scope and duration of existing formal security of access agreements for the community to playing pitches and ancillary facilities at schools in the borough. This is particularly important for community hockey but also for football training.</p> <p>In the south sub area, community use of the AGPs at Mountbatten School, Romsey School, St George's Catholic College and Knightwood Primary School is secured by means of conditions of capital grant awards for the provision or upgrading of these pitches. A community use agreement is also believed to be in force at Test Valley School in Stockbridge, although possibly restricted to the Sports Hall.</p> <p>At the state schools in the north of the borough with existing community use - e.g. Anton Junior School, Winton Academy, John Hanson School, Harrow Way School - the extent of security of the community access is not sufficiently clearly established.</p> <p>At most of these education sites, the scope of any planning and/or funding conditions that are in place (e.g. the sports facilities included, hours of availability and any pricing terms) are unclear at present. So too is the duration of the agreements and any monitoring arrangements.</p> <p>Securing more community use of the state secondary school playing fields would impact mainly on youth football in Andover. If Harrow Way School re-established community availability for its 3 youth pitches on Saturdays and John Hanson School made their 2 youth football pitches available to hire at weekends, the playing capacity would increase by 5 MES per week in the football season.</p>

Figure 19: Scenarios	
	<p>In addition to clarifying existing agreements and ensuring they remain in place, several potential opportunities for increasing community use of sports facilities on school sites have been identified in the course of the site visits and consultation. These opportunities should be explored to establish feasibility and local demand and include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Harrow Way School, Andover (interest expressed in a school/community partnership to provide a full size floodlit 3G pitch) ii. Portway Junior School (large playing field adjacent to Harrow Way School) iii. Knights Enham Junior School (primary interest is in securing a holiday programme provider) iv. Roman Way Primary School, Andover (as above) v. Rownham St Johns Primary School (interest in hire of playing field subject to a partnership to provide necessary player welfare facilities - WC, running water). <p>Independent schools in Test Valley are a substantial provider of community access to high quality playing pitches and ancillary facilities, most notably Farleigh School near Andover and Embley (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School) near Romsey. Although there is little potential to formally secure community access to these sites, they are a valuable component of overall supply particularly as overspill or temporary sports club venues for matches or training when the club's home pitch is unavailable or undergoing repairs, for inter school tournaments, for area/county training sessions and representative matches and for coach education or officials training courses. Schools in the independent sector are increasingly open to developing local community links to maintain charitable status.</p>
Change of use from one sport or pitch type to another	<p>With regard to hockey, to continue to meet the existing demand for the game in Test Valley, it is critically important that the current supply of sand based AGPs is protected. Although the Andover Hockey Club continues to programme an hour of junior coaching on the long pile 3G pitch at Charlton Sports Centre this is because it is the only option available to the club in the town at this peak time on a Saturday morning.</p> <p>In the case of cricket, the needs assessment supports retention of the supply of fine turf pitches to provide sufficient capacity to accommodate forecast growth from population change and investment in developing the women and girls game. However, now that lower league adult cricket can be played on non turf pitches (NTPs), there is a stronger case for providing more NTPs at cricket grounds either on existing fine turf cricket tables or, where there is sufficient land, as junior pitches separate from the cricket table. A good quality NTP has playing capacity of up to 60 adult match equivalent sessions or 80 junior sessions in a season.</p> <p>Introduction of NTPs would help to address both growth in demand and reduce match cancellations in both the north and south of the borough. Upgrade/replacement of the existing NTPs at Winton Academy in the north and Romsey School in the south would facilitate delivery of the ECB's new programme in secondary schools for girls cricket.</p> <p>Change of a floodlit grass rugby pitch to floodlit rugby compliant AGP at Trojans and/or the Goodship Ground in Foxcotte Park would substantial increase playing and training capacity for Trojans FC/Andover RFC - i.e. by approximately 16 MES per week at each club.</p> <p>In light of the priority need for more football 3G capacity in Andover for team training and to accommodate forecast growth in mini soccer and youth football (particularly among girls), change of an existing grass football pitch to 3G is the most likely scenario unless additional land is secured and used to extend an existing playing pitch site.</p> <p>A number of potential locations for a second 3G AGP in Andover with existing on site management and ancillary facilities have been identified for consideration as part of a future feasibility study. Provision of a second secured floodlit 3G AGP with full community access and availability would increase the supply capacity by up to 38 team training sessions a week plus at least 4 matches at weekends.</p>
Lose availability of a key site or sites	<p>In addition to the rugby club grounds at Foxcotte Sports Park (leased) and Trojans Sports Club (freehold), the three community rugby clubs based in Test Valley rely on regular access to Council owned pitches at Romsey Sports Centre, Charlton Park and Hardmoor Recreation Ground (in Test Valley, owned by Eastleigh Borough Council), as well as on occasional access to school pitches either in Romsey or outside the borough.</p> <p>From the 2021/22 season, Romsey Rugby Club will relocate to a new pavilion at Ganger Farm/Kings Chase. The two new Council owned pitches and a rugby compliant 3G pitch in development at Ganger Farm will be available for hire. This provision will replace the two</p>

Figure 19: Scenarios

	<p>pitches and grass training area at Romsey Sports Centre which will be reallocated to different sport and recreational use.</p> <p>Loss of availability of the pitches at any one of the clubs' home grounds - i.e. Foxcotte (2 floodlit pitches and academy pitch/training area), Kings Chase/Ganger Farm (2 pitches plus a floodlit 3G from 2021/22), Trojans (3 pitches of which 2 are floodlit) - would create a shortfall in supply capacity that would make delivery of the current community rugby programmes of these clubs impossible to sustain.</p> <p>There are only 2 alternative adult pitches in the borough (i.e. the Council's pitches in Charlton Park, Andover). Reliance on use of school pitches would be untenable. The rugby pitches on school sites are mostly youth size, most are maintained only to a basic standard and many are not available to hire on Sunday mornings, the peak time for junior rugby.</p> <p>For hockey, loss of access and programme time to either school pitch - Romsey School, John Hanson School - would make the respective clubs untenable. Ensuring access to these school pitches is secured for the long term is therefore critical to the future delivery of community hockey in Test Valley.</p> <p>For football, loss of any of the three stadium pitch sites, either of the two full size 3G pitches or the small sided 3G pitches at Knightwood Leisure Centre, Knightwood Primary School or Anton Junior School would impact negatively on the ability of the main community football clubs in the borough to continue to sustain the number of teams they currently put out.</p> <p>Similarly, the borough's community football clubs are heavily reliant on continued availability of key Borough Council / Parish Council grass pitch sites that offer two or more pitches (or one good quality pitch suitable for overmarking for junior play), plus ancillary facilities.</p> <p>In the north sub area the key natural turf football sites that would have substantial impact if lost are: East Anton, Picket Twenty, Saxon Fields, Wherwell Playing Fields, Goodworth Clatford Recreation Ground, Bulbery Sports Field.</p> <p>In the south, the key sites that would impact significantly on the supply/demand balance if lost are: Knightwood Leisure Centre, Hatches Farm Playing Fields, Broughton Sports Field, Sherfield English Sports Field, Braishfield Recreation Ground, Stockbridge Football Ground and North Baddesley Recreation Ground.</p> <p>In the south east, just over the borough boundary in Eastleigh, the key football site that would impact most on Test Valley clubs if lost is the new Stoneham Lane Football Complex.</p> <p>For cricket, unless provision is replaced or relocated, the key sites that would have the most impact if lost to the borough supply are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o In the north: Andover Cricket Ground, London Road Sports Ground, Amport Cricket Ground, Longparish Cricket Ground, Penton Recreation Ground, Wherwell Playing Fields. o In the south: Romsey Sports Centre, Trojans Sports Club/ Hardmoor Sports Ground, Hunts Farm, Knightwood Leisure Centre, Broughton Sports Field, West Wellow Recreation Ground, Michelmersh & Timsbury Recreation Ground, Mottisfont Sports Field, East Tytherley Cricket Ground.
<p>Provide new pitches</p>	<p>The supply of playing pitches in Test Valley has increased substantially in both Andover and Romsey in response to the findings of the last Playing Pitch Strategy and to provide accessible capacity for new residents moving into new housing developments within the two towns.</p> <p>In Andover, East Anton (Augusta Park) is a large, recently provided hub site for youth football and mini soccer with 8 new pitches and pavilion used extensively by Andover Town Youth and Baltic Youth teams. Picket Twenty, is a hub site for senior football in the town with 7 full size pitches used by CK Andover on Saturdays and by several Sunday morning league teams. This site also has a fine turf cricket table and non turf pitch.</p> <p>In Romsey, the new Kings Chase/Ganger Farm development includes a major new provision of two AGPs - one for hockey, one for rugby and football shared use - as well as two dedicated rugby pitches (replacing two shared pitches with cricket at Romsey Sports Centre) and four new football pitches (three junior, one adult size).</p> <p>Just outside Test Valley to the south east, the new Stoneham Lane Football Complex is also now nearing completion and adds very substantially to the accessible football supply to Test Valley residents and community football clubs in the south sub area, particularly for mini soccer as the new central venue for the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League.</p>

Figure 19: Scenarios	
	<p>These new, high quality hub sites - together with the smaller new playing field sites at Picket Piece in Andover and Abbotswood in Romsey - substantially increase the available capacity to Test Valley residents and clubs for all four playing pitch sports.</p> <p>It will take some time for the full impact of these new pitch developments on the balance of supply and demand for playing pitches in the borough to become apparent. In the short term, as the supply/demand balance analysis illustrates (Figure 17 at paragraph 2.3.9), these recent and committed new sites provide unused capacity.</p> <p>Looking forward, the priority need for new provision of pitches is for more 3G AGP capacity for team training and recreational football in Andover and to provide capacity to address latent demand and club growth aspirations (particularly for women and girls participation).</p> <p>As mentioned previously, there is an opportunity for a masterplan to reconfigure the current provision at Foxcotte Park this would potentially release the rugby pitches in Charlton Park for football and/or alternative sport and recreational use.</p>
Significant increase in demand in specific part of the borough	<p>The adopted Local Plan makes allocations for housing development, for the period up to 2029, which has yet to come forward, including additional development in Romsey and North Baddesley. However, the next Local Plan will need to plan for housing need for the period up to 2036, which may result in additional housing development. The scale and distribution of this across the borough is not yet known.</p> <p>Based on the adopted Local Plan, in the south sub area, the main area of housing growth and increased demand over the plan period will be on the south side of Romsey at Whitenap.</p> <p>Other areas in the south sub area likely to experience significant growth (albeit at a much smaller scale than Whitenap) are North Baddesley to the south east of Romsey and Nursling and Rownhams close to the M27 motorway.</p> <p>As indicated above, there is already a capacity issue for hockey and rugby at Trojans Sports Club as a consequence of imported demand from Eastleigh and Southampton (both local authority areas with shortfalls in playing pitch supply). The increase in demand resulting from housing development in Test Valley close to the south east boundary will, over time, increase the need for additional pitches for these sports in the south sub area.</p> <p>The relocation of Romsey Rugby Club from the Romsey Sports Centre site to Kings Chase/Ganger Farm, together with the need identified to upgrade or replace the Bypass (Romsey) Football Stadium and to plan for future indoor sports facility needs (considered separately in the Sports Facilities Strategy report) presents an opportunity for a detailed options appraisal to be carried out for the Sports Centre site and its environs. Increased demand from Whitenap will be a key consideration of the options appraisal.</p> <p>In Andover, the focus for future demand increases as a result of housing growth will continue to be to the north and east sides of the town where there are outstanding permissions for more than 2,300 new dwellings.</p> <p>Growth in the town will increase the needs case for expansion of the playing pitch facilities at Foxcotte Sports Park where both Andover Rugby Club and Andover New Street Football Club already have to hire pitches off site to deliver their community programmes and have aspirations for growth.</p>
Significant demand growth in a particular sport, gender or age group	<p>Based on recent trends in the four main playing pitch sports and the development focus for the governing bodies for at least the next four years, growth in demand from women and girls to play cricket, football and rugby is the most likely scenario. Female participation in hockey is already at a similar level to male participation.</p> <p>The priority needs to deliver this growth aspiration are: i) recruitment and training of more female volunteers as club coaches, team managers and officials and ii) more engagement of the NGBs and community clubs with school PE departments.</p> <p>In terms of facilities, growth in participation by women and girls in these sports will depend on available capacity in the peak times on 3G AGP pitches, Non Turf Cricket Pitches, and on good quality natural turf pitches, supported by good quality changing and social ancillary facilities.</p> <p>The development focus of the NGBs and many of the larger community clubs in Test Valley on women and girls participation, supports the needs case for the new AGPs and pavilion</p>

Figure 19: Scenarios

	facilities in development at Kings Chase/Gangers Farm as well as for additional 3G supply in Andover and for non-turf cricket pitches at key cricket sites.
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4. Recommendations

4.1 Planning Policy

- 4.1.1 **National Policy Context** - The relevant policy protecting existing sports facilities and land in the government's *National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) 2019* is paragraph 97:

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

- o An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- o The loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- o The development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.'*

- 4.1.2 **Local Policy Context** - The recommendations of this Playing Pitch Strategy for Test Valley are made in the context of the existing relevant policies within the *Revised Local Plan DPD 2011-2029* adopted in January 2016. Chapter 8 of the Local Plan considers the themes of *Leisure* and *Health and Wellbeing* together (*LHW*) for the purposes of planning policy.

- 4.1.3 *Policy LHW1* sets out policies for all types of public open space in connection with new housing development where there is a net increase in population. With regard to the public open space typology of *Outdoor Sports Facilities*, the policy requires provision of at least 1 hectare per 1,000 population of outdoor sports facilities (as part of a total provision of all typologies of open space to a standard of at least 3 hectares per 1,000 population).

- 4.1.4 The second part of the same planning policy provides protection of existing open spaces or other recreation facilities from development proposals that would result in their loss.

4.2 Provision Standards

- 4.2.1 **Quantity Standards** - With regard to playing pitches (as a typology of open space), Sport England's guidance¹¹ strongly advises local planning authorities to move away from the use of standards in assessing and determining quantitative needs. The guidance advocates gathering detailed local supply and demand data and assessment of area, sport and site specific needs in order to determine which existing pitches need to be protected and enhanced and priority areas/sites for new playing pitch supply based on this detailed assessment.

- 4.2.2 The guidance recognises that quantitative standards have become increasingly less useful and relevant as a planning tool for playing pitches with the variation in the playing capacity of natural turf pitches (depending on their quality) and the increase in provision and use of artificial grass playing surfaces which can provide much greater playing capacity than natural turf. Policy changes by the playing pitch sport governing bodies have also increased the use of artificial surfaces for competitive matches in addition to training.

- 4.2.3 Accordingly, the strategic recommendations for playing pitch provision to 2036 in Test Valley in this section of the report do not include a per capita quantity standard. Rather, in accordance with Sport England's published guidance, recommendations are made for a minimum quality standard for playing pitches and for the protection, enhancement and provision of new playing pitches on area and site specific bases.

- 4.2.4 **Quality Standards** - Pitch carrying capacity has a direct relationship with pitch quality. For example, raising the quality of a football pitch from 'Standard' to 'Good' would enable one additional game per week to be accommodated. Investment in quality enhancements to pitches at existing playing pitch sites with secure community access is, usually, more cost effective than investment in new provision.

- 4.2.5 It is therefore recommended that the Borough Council and its partner sports agencies seek to achieve and maintain 'good' quality (as determined by the latest NGB published guidance) for all

¹¹ Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance, October 2013 (Sport England)

playing pitches used for national governing body affiliated league standard of play. The current guidance is set out in Figure 20.

Figure 20 – Recommended Pitch Quality Standards

Pitch Quality Standards

Cricket: Good (i.e. an aggregate rating of 80% or more against ECB Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the outfield, grass wickets, changing pavilion, artificial wickets and non-turf cricket practice nets as applicable to the site)¹²

Football: Good (i.e. an aggregate rating of 80% or more against FA Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the assessment criteria and aggregate rating scores for the playing surface and maintenance programme)¹³

Rugby Union: Good (M2) rating (i.e. no action needed on maintenance) and D3 rating (i.e. no action needed on pitch drainage)¹⁴.

Hockey: Good (80% or more against Sport England Non-Technical Visual Quality Assessment proforma criteria and scoring mechanism for the AGP playing surface age, condition, markings, fencing, security, goals and posts and ancillary facilities)¹⁵.

- 4.2.6 To support community clubs and those Parish Councils with playing pitches used for affiliated games to achieve and maintain a 'good' quality standard, it is recommended that, the Borough Council continues to liaise closely with the playing pitch sport governing bodies and their pitch maintenance advisors to identify and prioritise the specific maintenance improvement works required to bring the quality of Standard rated pitches to Good quality. It is also recommended the Borough Council support the FA towards establishing a pitch maintenance hub resource (i.e. a shared equipment resource and training).
- 4.2.7 It is recommended that the FA and the Borough Council continue to support the three clubs in the borough that currently compete in the Football League System (FLS) at Step 6 to maintain the required FA Ground Grading certifications for their home grounds. Subject to feasibility (to include cost and planning considerations), the FA and Borough Council should also support future ground improvements that may be required for these clubs to progress in the FLS.

4.3 Protect

- 4.3.1 Test Valley Borough Council has undertaken a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and assessed existing and future needs for playing pitch provision across the borough. The firm conclusion is that there is an identified need to retain all existing playing pitches to meet either current or forecast future needs (to 2036) for the four main playing pitch sports played in the borough - i.e. football, cricket, hockey, rugby union (as well as for the minor pitch sports of archery, bowls and croquet considered in a separate Sports Facilities Strategy report).
- 4.3.2 Therefore, it is recommended that the provisions of NPPF paragraph 97 (as interpreted in the current Local Plan Policy LHW1 paragraphs d to f (see Figure 21 below), continues to be applied in future versions of the Local Plan to 2036.

Figure 21 - Extract from Test Valley Local Plan Policy LHW1

Development proposals that would result in the loss of existing open spaces or other recreation facilities will only be permitted if:

- d) the space or facility is not needed to meet the full range of leisure and recreational needs of the local community;*
- e) the proposed development is for an alternative open space, sport or recreation facility for which there is such a need as to outweigh the loss; or*
- f) any space or facility to be lost would be replaced by an equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality and be in a suitable location.*

Source: Test Valley Borough Council Adopted Local Plan 2011 -2029

¹² Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 3, October 2013 (England & Wales Cricket Board)

¹³ Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 2, March 2014 (Football Association)

¹⁴ Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 4, October 2013 (Rugby Football Union)

¹⁵ Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance Appendix 6, October 2013 (England Hockey Board)

- 4.3.3 Should a playing pitch exist in the borough that is not mentioned in this Playing Pitch Strategy or the Sports Facilities Strategy and appendices, its omission is not an endorsement by the Borough Council, Sport England or the relevant national governing body of that sport of its disposal.
- 4.3.4 Although regular, seasonal demand from club teams for football pitches on playing field sites in some of the rural villages has lapsed, these pitches continue to be of significant value to their local communities for informal play and occasional organised games. These playing fields (identified in the football audit at Appendix B) should therefore continue to be protected by Local Plan policy and equipped and maintained to an appropriate standard for informal, recreational use.
- 4.3.5 It is recommended that the Borough Council and its partner sports agencies actively support local community sports clubs to formalise and protect existing access arrangements to sports facilities (including playing pitches) and the necessary ancillary welfare facilities on school sites.
- 4.3.6 Where opportunities arise, the Borough Council or sports agencies should seek to formally secure existing community access and to secure new or extended community access (by means of community use agreements, grant terms & conditions and the development planning process).
- 4.3.7 At playing field sites in Local Authority ownership (whether County Council, Borough Council, Town/Parish Council), it is recommended that opportunities for transfer of playing pitches or pavilions to community clubs, sports associations or charities should only be considered where:
- The facilities are assessed as being of good quality by the relevant governing bodies of sport prior to completion of the transfer;
 - The community organisation taking on the asset is able to demonstrate it has the capacity and resources to: a) Maintain the facilities to a good standard (meeting any NGB affiliated league requirements) and, b) To deliver sustainable sports development outcomes;
 - A Service Level Agreement (SLA) is agreed between the parties prior to completion of the transfer setting out the maintenance standards and sports development outcomes;
 - Opportunities for informal play (either on the subject site or on another site in the same catchment area) are fully safeguarded.
- 4.3.8 At the four school sites in the borough with a playing pitch endorsed by England Hockey as suitable for hockey competition and training (EH Category 2 or 3) and accessed by community hockey clubs, it is recommended that the Borough Council encourage the schools to retain a hockey surface (as opposed to resurfacing in future as football 3G) so as to safeguard the pitch needs of the community hockey clubs based in the borough.
- 4.3.9 It is recommended that the Borough Council and those Parish Councils in Test Valley with playing field sites maintain their existing revenue budget allocations for playing pitch maintenance, with appropriate provision for inflation, in recognition of the contribution of playing pitches to the health and well being of local communities.

4.4 Enhance & Provide

- 4.4.1 It is recommended the Borough Council and those Parish Councils in Test Valley with playing field sites continue to seek the advice of the pitch sports governing bodies and their respective pitch advisers to secure maximum value from their respective budget allocations for maintenance of playing pitches.
- 4.4.2 Similarly, it is recommended that the Local Authorities continue to seek the advice of these sports bodies whenever pre-planning proposals or planning applications involving new playing pitches or ancillary facilities are brought forward or new S106 Agreements for playing pitches are drafted. This to ensure that the design, layout and management plans maximise the community value of the new facilities and that the pitch maintenance plans meet the relevant Performance Quality Standards (PQS).
- 4.4.3 It is recommended that pitch maintenance by Local Authority employed ground staff and community club volunteers should be supported through the provision and promotion of low cost training courses.

- 4.4.4 Where feasible, it is recommended that the providers of football pitches on formal sports sites, public parks and recreations grounds in Test Valley use moveable football goal post systems (procured from a supplier on the FA's approved list) to reduce wear and tear from informal play (particularly in goalmouths), and, where feasible, realign the pitch layouts on multi-pitch sites each season to reduce wear.
- 4.4.5 For new or replacement artificial grass pitches (AGPs) including those in development at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm, it is recommended that the facilities are tested, certified and maintained to the necessary standard for inclusion on the relevant NGB register:
- Football AGPs - FA Football Turf pitch register
 - Rugby AGPs - RFU World Rugby compliant pitch register
 - Hockey AGPs - EH register of pitches approved for Category 3 play or above.
- 4.4.6 With regard to playing pitches as a type of outdoor sports facility it is recommended that, from all new housing development where there is a net increase in population, contributions be sought (under Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or through the Community Infrastructure Levy mechanism) towards the delivery of priority projects in the Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy in the locality of the proposed development.
- 4.4.7 The priority playing pitch sites and projects are those set out in the Playing Pitch Strategy Action Plan current at the time the planning application is submitted. The initial priority projects are set out in Section 5.
- 4.4.8 As stated previously, the projects include playing pitch sites in private ownership and on school and parish sites outside the control of the Borough Council. Accordingly, the lead party responsible for progressing the actions is identified in the plan along with the key supporting agencies.
- 4.4.9 It is recommended that the Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group should review and update the Action Plan and priority projects periodically during the strategy period. The steering group, Council and wider stakeholders including Romsey Future, and Andover Vision should be incorporated in master planning and options appraisals for ongoing schemes to protect, develop, enhance, and provide sport and recreation facilities and infrastructure across the borough which reflect growing and changing needs of borough residents.

5. Action Plan

5.1 Introduction

- 5.1.1 Aligning with the strategic recommendations in Section 4, and following consideration by the Steering Group of a range of future scenarios and their impacts (Section 3), this final section of the Playing Pitch Strategy sets out an initial action plan for delivering the priority playing pitch facility projects for enhancements and new provision.
- 5.1.2 These projects have been prioritised as having the best potential to impact against the shared objective outcome of the organisations represented on the Test Valley Playing Pitch Steering Group to improve health and wellbeing by ensuring all residents have access to good quality facilities for sport and physical activity.
- 5.1.3 The first table of actions (Figure 22) have potential to be progressed in the short term (within 2 years).
- 5.1.4 Actions that relate to recommended projects that are likely to require longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large scale review of options, feasibility and viability - are set out in Figure 23.
- 5.1.5 In accordance with the published guidance for the preparation of playing pitch strategies, it is recommended the Borough Council convene and chair periodic meetings of the Playing Pitch Strategy Steering Group to review progress and update the Action Plan and the priority ranking of projects to reflect material changes in the picture of supply and demand and changing scenarios.
- 5.1.6 The updates to the Action Plan should in turn inform periodic updates of the Council's priorities for investment through capital grant and loan programmes.
- 5.1.7 Where capital budget sums are shown for new provision, these are indicative estimates derived from Sport England Facility Cost Guidance Sheet (Second Quarter 2019) or cost estimates provided by the sports governing bodies. Actual costs will need to be determined as part of project specific feasibility studies.
- 5.1.8 Where sites are not in local authority ownership, implementation of the recommended actions will be subject to the cooperation of the owner/leaseholder. In addition, the actions will be subject to the necessary planning processes and to securing of the required funding, both for the initial capital development and ongoing cost of maintenance.

5.2 Short Term

Figure 22: Short term actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
North Sub Area					
Andover (Site to be determined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football (Possibly rugby) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a feasibility study / site options appraisal for provision of a second 3G AGP in Andover in the medium term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA / FF Site owners Key clubs RFU (if at Foxcotte and rugby compliant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £12k study (£925k - £1.2m 3G AGP)
Foxcotte Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football / Rugby / Archery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and potential for shared provision to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC FA RFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer Time.

Figure 22: Short term actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
		improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs.			
Goodship Ground, Foxcotte Sports Park / Charlton Park	○ Rugby	○ Assess the feasibility of reconfiguring the current pitch provision to provide additional playing pitch capacity (rugby compliant).	○ Andover RFC	○ TVBC ○ RFU	○ c. £12k study ○ Any pitch reconfiguration cost: To be determined
Andover Cricket Ground	○ Cricket	○ Replace club pavilion (2 team)	○ Andover CC	○ ECB ○ TVBC	○ To be determined
London Road Playing Field	○ Cricket	○ Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19)	○ TVBC / ○ Andover CC	○ ECB	○ To be determined ○ c. £12k
Picket Twenty Recreation Ground	○ Cricket	○ Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) ○ Promote use of sites Non-Turf Pitch (NTP)	○ TVBC	○ ECB	○ To be determined
Picket Piece Recreation Ground	○ Football	○ Finalise handover of pavilion and pitch ○ Consider long term management arrangement	○ TVBC	○ Club users ○ FA - support as required	○ n/a
Harrow Way School	○ Football	○ Re-establish community use of pitches and ancillary facilities and consider potential for community programming links with Portway Junior School field.	○ Harrow Way School	○ TVBC ○ Portway Junior School ○ Andover New Street FC ○ Andover YFC	○ To be determined
Upper Clatford Sports Field	○ Football	○ Improvements to pavilion. ○ FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality.	○ Parish Council ○ FA		○ To be determined

Figure 22: Short term actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Bulbery Sports Fields, Abbots Ann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
South					
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> HCB Pitch Adviser to assess options to improve outfield In the long term, programme and mark the current rugby training area for youth football training, following the opening of Ganger Farm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OT&RCC ECB Romsey Youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined c. £12k n/a
Bypass (Romsey) Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade changing, showers (utilities etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romsey Town FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA/FF (FSIF grant) Site owner TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Kings Chase/ Ganger Farm Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey Rugby Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Complete new pitches and pavilion Finalise management arrangements, core programme and facility hire charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facility Operator NGBs - support as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded
Abbotswood Playing Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise handover of pavilion & pitches Finalise management arrangements, core programme and facility hire charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club users FA - support as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funded
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby Hockey Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade pavilion changing areas Commission a feasibility study for a 2nd hockey AGP and conversion of a rugby pitch to a rugby AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Eastleigh BC TVBC EH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £500k pavilion To be determined c. £10k AGP feasibility study
Hunts Farm Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA to assess options and costs to improve drainage to football pitches Improve levels of cricket squares by implementing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA ECB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined c. £12k

Figure 22: Short term actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
		actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) ○ Install a Non-Turf Pitch (NTP)			
Knightwood Leisure Centre	○ Cricket	○ Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19)	○ TVBC	○ ECB	○ To be determined
Broughton Sports Field	○ Cricket ○ Football	○ Replace pavilion (2 team)	○ Broughton PC	○ ECB ○ FA / FF ○ TVBC ○ Broughton clubs	○ c. £255k
North Baddesley Recreation Ground	○ Football	○ Implement actions recommended in FA pitch improvement report	○ Parish Council	○ FA	○ To be determined
Sherfield English Sports Field	○ Football	○ Complete new pavilion fit out	○ SERP Trust		○ To be determined
Mottisfont Sports Pitch	○ Football	○ FA to assess options and costs to improve pitch subject to confirmation by Sports Trust and Club of continued demand for affiliated play	○ Sports Trust	○ FA ○ Parish Council ○ Mottisfont FC	○ To be determined
Ampfield Recreation Ground	○ Cricket ○ Football	○ Improve car park, remove former pavilion building and relocate play area further from cricket boundary.	○ Parish Council		○ Funded (CAF, S106)

Figure 22: Short term actions (continued)

Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Boroughwide				
Football, Rugby & Cricket	○ Establish the extent of the need for, and the costs of providing, a maintenance hub resource with specialist equipment for hire to clubs, sports associations, parish councils in order to improve quality and capacity of club and parish pitches.	○ NGBs	○ NGB Pitch Advisors ○ TVBC	○ To be determined

Football, Rugby & Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise and promote sports turf maintenance training update sessions annually for grounds staff working on playing pitches in the borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC Sparsholt College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace fixed goalposts with moveable systems at all sites used for affiliated football. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA Parish Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

5.3 Longer Term

Figure 23: Longer term actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
North					
Foxcote Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football / Rugby / Archery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the progress of the short term recommendations (see 5.2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC FA RFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Andover (Site to be determined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hockey 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review a needs case for a second hockey AGP to serve demand in Andover and the site and funding options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> EH Andover Hockey Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £10k review (c. £800k sand dressed AGP)
Barton Stacey Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace pavilion (2 team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Barton Stacey PC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA / FF TVBC Barton Stacey FC & Youth FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £255k
Anton Junior School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurface 2 No. small sided 3G pitches 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anton Junior School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andover Town YFC Andover New Street FC FA - advisory support only (not a funding priority) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Andover Sports Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish feasibility/ business case of converting disused single tennis court to a small sided 3G AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andover Community Services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC FA - advisory support only (not a funding priority) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £405k
South					
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex Bypass (Romsey) Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a feasibility study / master plan to review all provision on the two sites (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities) and establish a preferred option, costs and funding strategy for enhancing this key sports hub, to include 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA / FF ECB OT&R CC Romsey Town FC Bypass Ground landowner Romsey Future Romsey Extra Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £20k feasibility study

Figure 23: Longer term actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
		replacement of the existing inadequate pavilion facilities of Old Tauntonian & Romsey Cricket Club and Romsey Football Club.			
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Rugby o Hockey o Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Subject to findings of feasibility study, provide a second hockey AGP and change of surface of a rugby pitch to 3G AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Eastleigh BC o TVBC o NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o £800k hockey AGP o £1.285k rugby AGP
Nursling & Rownhams Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Pavilion provision (4 team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Nursling & Rownhams PC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o FA / FF o TVBC o Newton Heath o Nursling Vets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o c. £665k

6. Conclusion

- 6.1 This Playing Pitch Strategy replaces the strategy published in 2014 and forms part of the evidence base that informs the review of the Local Plan for Test Valley Borough to 2036.
- 6.2 Since the last Test Valley Playing Pitch Strategy was published, the quantity of secured playing pitches available to residents of Test Valley and its catchment area has increased substantially. For example, to support new residential development and population increases in Andover, major new multi pitch playing field sites have been completed at Picket Twenty and East Anton/Augusta Park.
- 6.3 In addition, in Stoneham Lane just outside the borough boundary to the south, the FA has opened the first of a number of new Football Hub sites planned for the most densely populated parts of the county. This new provision (with three operational 3G football pitches and a number of natural turf pitches available from 2020/21) is accessible to residents in the south of Test Valley and accommodates a number of Test Valley club teams that compete in the Eastleigh & District Mini Soccer League.
- 6.4 The quality and playing capacity, of the pitch stock has also been enhanced at a number of key sites in accordance with recommendations in the 2014 PPS. Examples include Knightwood Leisure Centre (drainage), Foxcotte Sports Park (drainage and rugby floodlights), John Hanson School and Romsey School (AGP upgrades/resurfacing), Sheffield English Sports Field (pitch drainage and pavilion) Hardmoor Sports Ground¹⁶ (drainage and new pavilion).
- 6.5 It has been established that the current supply of pitches, together with new pitches at sites currently in development or recently completed, provide sufficient capacity to meet most of the demand of the current resident population in the peak period.
- 6.6 The main shortfall in the current picture of supply and demand for playing pitches is capacity for football team training and recreational small sided football in the peak weekday evening period in Andover. The Strategy recommends that a feasibility study be undertaken for the provision of a further 3G AGP in Andover to include consideration of the siting options identified in this study.
- 6.7 The strategy has identified the likely impact of the population growth currently projected on future demand for pitches for team games and training for the leading pitch sports within Test Valley and its two sub areas (north and south) as well as the potential impact of trends in the key sports, particularly growth in participation by women and girls.
- 6.8 In the future, population growth and participation trends in the sports together evidence a needs case for further playing pitch provision. Foxcotte Sports Park in Andover and the Romsey Sports Centre site in the south are key opportunity sites for revised and/or enhanced playing pitch provision as the population of the towns continues to grow in size. There is also strong needs case for further non-turf cricket pitches to be installed at the key cricket sites in the two towns. Finally, there is likely to be a need for an additional hockey AGP and, potentially, a further rugby compliant AGP to serve population growth in the catchment area of Trojans Sports Club taking in parts of south Test Valley, west Eastleigh Borough and north Southampton.
- 6.9 Whilst the current and forecast population increases are accounted for within the priority projects, there is a degree of uncertainty as to future allocations for new housing associated with the review of the Test Valley Local Plan. Should new allocations be made that result in substantially greater population growth than the current projections, there will be more demand for playing pitches than accounted for in this strategy. Such changes in the picture of demand should be taken into account (along with any changes in supply) in the process of periodic review and updating the strategy and action plan.
- 6.10 The main needs for enhancement of existing playing pitch sites relate to ancillary changing and social pavilions, for example at Andover Cricket Ground, Romsey Sports Centre, Broughton Playing Field as well as at two of the three football stadia in the borough (i.e. in Foxcotte Sports Park and at the Bypass (Romsey) Football Ground adjacent to Romsey Sports Centre).

¹⁶ By Eastleigh Borough Council

- 6.11 There is also a need for specialist equipment and regular training of volunteers and Council ground staff responsible for maintaining football and/or cricket pitches, particularly those in the rural areas that are used extensively by community clubs (for example in West Wellow, Wherwell, Sherfield English, and Braishfield).

**Test Valley Borough
Sport Facilities Strategy 2020 to 2036
Full Report - July 2020**



Document control

Amendment History

Version no.	Date	Reference	Author(s)	Comments
1	02/03/20	Test Valley Borough Council - Sport Facilities Strategy 2020 to 2036 (Draft Report)	John Chapman, Lewis Evans, Nick Trim	Client Feedback
2	23/04/20	Test Valley Borough Council - Sport Facilities Strategy 2020 to 2036 (Full Draft Report)	Lewis Evans, Nick Trim	Client Team comments Addressed
3	29/07/20	Test Valley Borough Council - Sport Facilities Strategy 2020 to 2036 (Final Report)	Lewis Evans, Nick Trim	Further Client Team Comments Addressed

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Appendix 1 – School Facilities Audit

Appendix 2 – Survey Response Summaries

1 Introduction & Strategic Context

1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 This Sports Facilities Strategy (SFS) is one of two documents which together provide a robust assessment of sport and recreation needs and provision across the borough of Test Valley. This document sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) to provide a full assessment of sport and recreation facilities within the Borough. The research for this strategy was completed in 2020 and examines the current provision and the future needs of the Borough up to 2036. Sport England recommend that local authorities refresh sports facility strategy documents every 3 years. A separate Executive Summary highlights the key findings of both studies (the SFS and the PPS).
- 1.1.2 The 2015 Sport and Recreation Strategy and 2014 PPS documents formed part of the Council's leisure and planning policy evidence base for the relevant policies in the current Revised Local Plan Development Plan Document (DPD) 2011 - 2029, adopted by the Council in January 2016.
- 1.1.3 Playing pitches are considered separately from other types of sports and recreation facilities due to differences in the methodologies in national guidance published by Sport England for assessing the need for playing pitches and other sports and recreation facility types. Figure 1 outlines the context of these two reports.

Figure 1: Study Overview

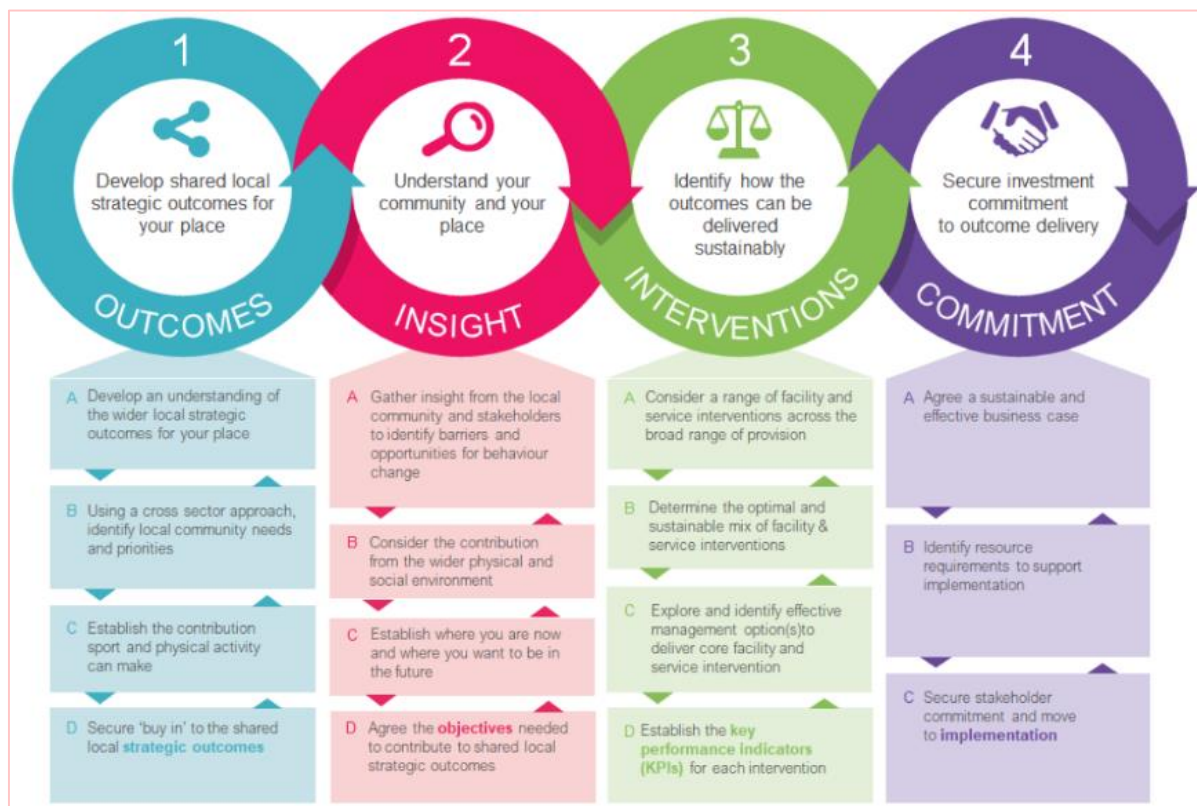


- 1.1.4 The sports facility strategy work also aligns directly with Sport England's high level guidance for local authorities concerning the key planning stages and processes to follow to ensure that investment in sport and physical activity best meets local priority outcomes. Published in 2019, Sport England's Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance¹ (SOPG) recognises that commitment from local authorities to the provision of physical activity and sporting opportunities for local communities is essential and an important contributor to the active environment, which people access for health, social and sporting benefits.
- 1.1.5 The Sport England SOPG also recognises local authorities are under increasing pressure to meet the growing needs of their communities with limited resources and using new approaches to commissioning services.
- 1.1.6 Robust, evidence-based planning of affordable and sustainable sport and physical activity facilities and services towards delivery of strategic outcomes that are shared by all key agencies and local stakeholders is the basis of the SOPG approach. The key SOPG stages are set out in Figure 2.
- 1.1.7 This Sports Facilities Strategy for Test Valley identifies (in Section 1.4) shared strategic objectives and outcomes (*Stage 1 of the SOPG in Figure 2*), and recommends key interventions by the Borough Council and its strategic partners to protect, enhance and provide sports facilities that will contribute to delivering the outcomes (*Stage 3*). The recommendations are based on insight

¹ Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance, Sport England (2019)
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into the sport and physical activity needs and priorities of the Test Valley community and place (*Stage 2*) and realistic assessment of the potential investment commitment required (*Stage 4*).

Figure 2: Sport England Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance



1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The majority of the recommendations made in the previous sport and recreation and playing pitch strategies are now in place. The Borough Council appointed a new operator and investment partner, Places Leisure, for 30 years from 2017. Major sport facility enhancement and redevelopment projects have been delivered, including the new flagship Andover Leisure Centre as well as a major upgrade of the wetside changing rooms and a new health suite at the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex.
- 1.2.2 Further enhancing activities (such as extreme sports) which can deliver physical activity to groups who would not normally participate in traditional sports have been supported. This includes the BMX facilities at Charlton Sports Centre in Andover and at Knightwood Leisure Centre in the south of the borough. In addition, the skate parks at Knightwood Leisure Centre and Romsey Rapids Sports Complex have been updated to reflect growing interest in skate as it is now an Olympic sport. The Borough Council has also been supporting events e.g. Andover CRIT and Andover Cycling Festival to further increase BMX participation in the Borough.
- 1.2.3 Access to the natural environment for sport and physical activity has also been promoted since 2015, particularly for cycling and running (Parkrun). Support has been provided to develop clubs and groups, an inclusive cycling festival in Andover and promotion of more routes.
- 1.2.4 With regard to playing pitches, new playing fields with high quality sports pitches have been provided to serve the needs of the growing communities in the two main towns in Test Valley. For example, at Picket Twenty and East Anton in Andover, and Abbotswood in Romsey in accordance with 2014 Playing Pitch Strategy action plan.
- 1.2.5 Also in Romsey, a major development is underway at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm to provide a new playing pitch hub site with both natural turf and artificial grass pitches (AGP). A three-year project identified in the 2014 PPS to develop and improve the sports pitches and tennis courts at Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park is also now complete. Additionally, floodlights have

been installed at the second rugby pitch at Andover RFC's Goodship Ground in Foxcotte Sports Park, Andover.

- 1.2.6 Since 2014/15, when the previous playing pitch and sport and recreation strategies were produced, a number of schools in the borough, both in the state and independent sectors, have either upgraded their sports facilities or developed new provision. For example, the playing surfaces of the artificial grass pitches at both John Hanson School in Andover and the Romsey School have been replaced for hockey (the former with grant support from the Borough Council as a direct action of the playing pitch strategy), the roof and flooring of the sports hall at Harrow Way School have been renewed and the independent Farleigh School outside Andover has installed floodlights to its artificial grass pitch and replaced the cricket nets in the sports hall.
- 1.2.7 Since the last Test Valley Sport and Recreation Strategy was published, major new or enhanced sports and leisure facilities have also been provided on sites within Eastleigh borough, close to the boundary with Test Valley, which change the overall picture of provision. The most relevant newly provided sports facilities located outside Test Valley and drawing users from the south east of the borough are:
- o *Places Leisure Eastleigh* - A replacement, larger centre for the former Fleming Park Leisure Centre that opened in November 2017.
 - o *Hiltingbury Hub* - A new community sports hall in Chandler's Ford opened in July 2019.
 - o *Stoneham Lane Football Complex* - Three floodlit 3G AGPs, a large pavilion with social and fitness facilities opened in autumn 2019, and enhanced grass pitches (in development).
- 1.2.8 Also of relevance is the development of a new £38 million leisure centre at Bar End in Winchester to replace the existing River Park Leisure Centre. This facility, currently in development, will provide a 50 metre (long course) competition swimming pool that will draw some users from Test Valley and complement the regional short course swimming and diving competition venue in Southampton, The Quays Swimming & Diving Complex, opened in 1999 and refurbished in 2006.

1.3 The Drivers

- 1.3.1 Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) initiated the development of a Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy to replace the 2015 Test Valley Sport and Recreation Strategy and the 2014 Playing Pitch Strategy in response to the following drivers:

Figure 3: The Key Drivers
<p>Forward Planning</p> <p>The Borough Council is preparing a new Local Plan for the borough looking at the period up to 2036. The new Local Plan will set out the number and type of new homes, jobs and infrastructure needed to support the Borough's communities. The Local Plan will include planning policies, which by law the Council is required to use as a starting point to determine planning applications in its area.</p> <p>Further new housing development will take place in the borough over the next Local Plan period with current forecasts based on Office for National Statistics (ONS) data² for approximately 12,200 more people living in Test Valley by 2036.</p> <p>The primary driver is therefore the need for a new strategy for sports facilities including playing pitches - based on robust, up to date assessment of needs. This is to inform relevant planning policies in the new Local Plan that will protect, enhance and improve the provision of sports facilities across the borough to meet the current and future needs of its resident communities.</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing</p> <p>Strategies for sports and playing pitch facilities in the borough are needed to support the county-wide strategic priority of promoting positive health behaviours to improve public health and wellbeing to reduce health inequalities. Physical inactivity is a key lifestyle risk factor.</p> <p>Effective place making by borough and district councils, which includes planning facilities for sport and physical activity, can encourage and support residents to make healthy lifestyle choices. Good quality, accessible sports facilities and playing pitches provide opportunities for people to take part in sports and informal recreation for their physical health and mental wellbeing.</p>

² Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2016-based Sub-National Population Projections

Figure 3: The Key Drivers

Schools

Access to school sports facilities in the evenings and/or at weekends is critical to the successful operation of many of the community sports clubs based in Test Valley, whether for match play or for coaching and training. With a growing population over the Local Plan period, the role of school sports facilities in providing for community sport is likely to grow in importance.

Accordingly, exploring opportunities to both secure existing community use of school sports facilities and to widen community use are important drivers for the strategies.

Developer Contributions & External Grants

Lastly, there is a need to update the priority projects for new and enhanced sports facilities in the borough and its sub-areas to inform updates of the Borough Council's Infrastructure Delivery Plan and the future investment priorities for the Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and site specific S106 Developer Contributions.

Priority projects will also inform applications for external grant support to sports agencies such as Sport England, the Football Foundation and the national governing bodies of sport.

1.4 The Vision and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The Borough's Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy contribute to the achievement of the Council's Corporate Plan for 2019-2023, Growing Our Potential, which identifies priorities for the next four years based on a programme of consultation with more than 2,000 borough residents. Key findings of this consultation which are of relevance to sports and leisure facilities included:
 - Over two thirds of residents who responded (68%) take part in more than two hours of physical activity a week.
 - 60% of respondents consider sports clubs (e.g. football, golf, parkrun) to be very important.
 - 63% of respondents consider leisure facilities (e.g. Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, Andover Leisure Centre, sports pitches) to be very important.
 - Facilities and natural resources for informal recreation (e.g. walks/trails/countryside/nature reserves) are rated as very important by more than 70% of residents who responded.
- 1.4.2 The Borough Council's priorities to 2023 are to grow the potential of:
 - Town centres
 - Communities
 - People
 - The local environment
- 1.4.3 Two key objectives for the two sports facility strategy documents were set out in January 2019 in a brief to consultants:
 - 'To provide an evidence base and clear priorities for protecting and enhancing the existing provision of sports facilities and playing pitches and to inform responses to future planning applications, capital investment plans and external funding bids for new provision.
 - To improve health and wellbeing in Test Valley by ensuring all residents have access to good quality facilities for sport and physical activity'.
- 1.4.4 The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Physical Activity Strategy 2017-21 coordinated by Energise Me, the County Active Partnership, has a vision to beat inactivity. A clear strategic priority of the partners is to reduce inequalities in physical activity. In Test Valley, this translates as a priority focus for physical activity interventions on areas with greatest inactivity in Andover, which show closest match with the highest ranked Local Strategic Output Areas (LSOAs) on the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD)³.
- 1.4.5 In developing new housing and policies for developer contributions, the Physical Activity Strategy encourages the adoption of 'active design principles' to maximise active travel and minimise air pollution.
- 1.4.6 The focus on reducing inequality also points to prioritising investment in accessible and low cost types of physical activity (e.g. walking, cycling) and activities that appeal to the insufficiently

³ English Indices of Deprivation 2019, Office of National Statistics (ONS)
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active (e.g. walking sports) and provide sufficient and appropriate enabling infrastructure for these activities.

- 1.4.7 The strategic priorities of each of the relevant sports' national governing bodies to 2023 (where available) are summarised in the sport specific facility needs assessments in Section 2 of this report.

1.5 Scope - The Sports Included

- 1.5.1 The scope of the community sports facility types, as agreed would be included in the study (and minimum facility scale thresholds where applicable), are set out below:

- Swimming Pools over 20m in length or 160sqm water area
- Sports Halls over 3 courts in size (or 27m x 17m)
- Health and Fitness Suites/Studios (gym space) with over 20 equipment stations
- Bowling Greens (indoor and outdoor) and Croquet Greens
- Squash Courts
- Tennis Courts (indoor and outdoor)
- Table Tennis Tables (indoor and outdoor)
- Netball Courts (indoor and outdoor)
- Athletics Facilities (including facilities for Parkrun and Health Walks)
- Climbing Facilities
- Gymnastics Centres
- Golf Courses
- Cycling Facilities
- Archery Ranges (indoor and outdoor)
- Boxing and Martial Arts Centres

- 1.5.2 It is noted that natural turf playing pitches and Artificial Grass Pitches (AGPs) are covered within the Playing Pitch Strategy report (under separate cover).

- 1.5.3 Community Activity Halls under 3 badminton courts in size are referenced in the sports halls section of this report where identified as being suitable, available and used regularly by the local community for indoor sports (e.g. dance, keep fit, yoga, short mat bowls, martial arts). The single court hall at Knightwood Leisure Centre, operated by Places Leisure, is a key example of this type of small-scale sports hall provision with high levels of availability and accessibility for community sport.

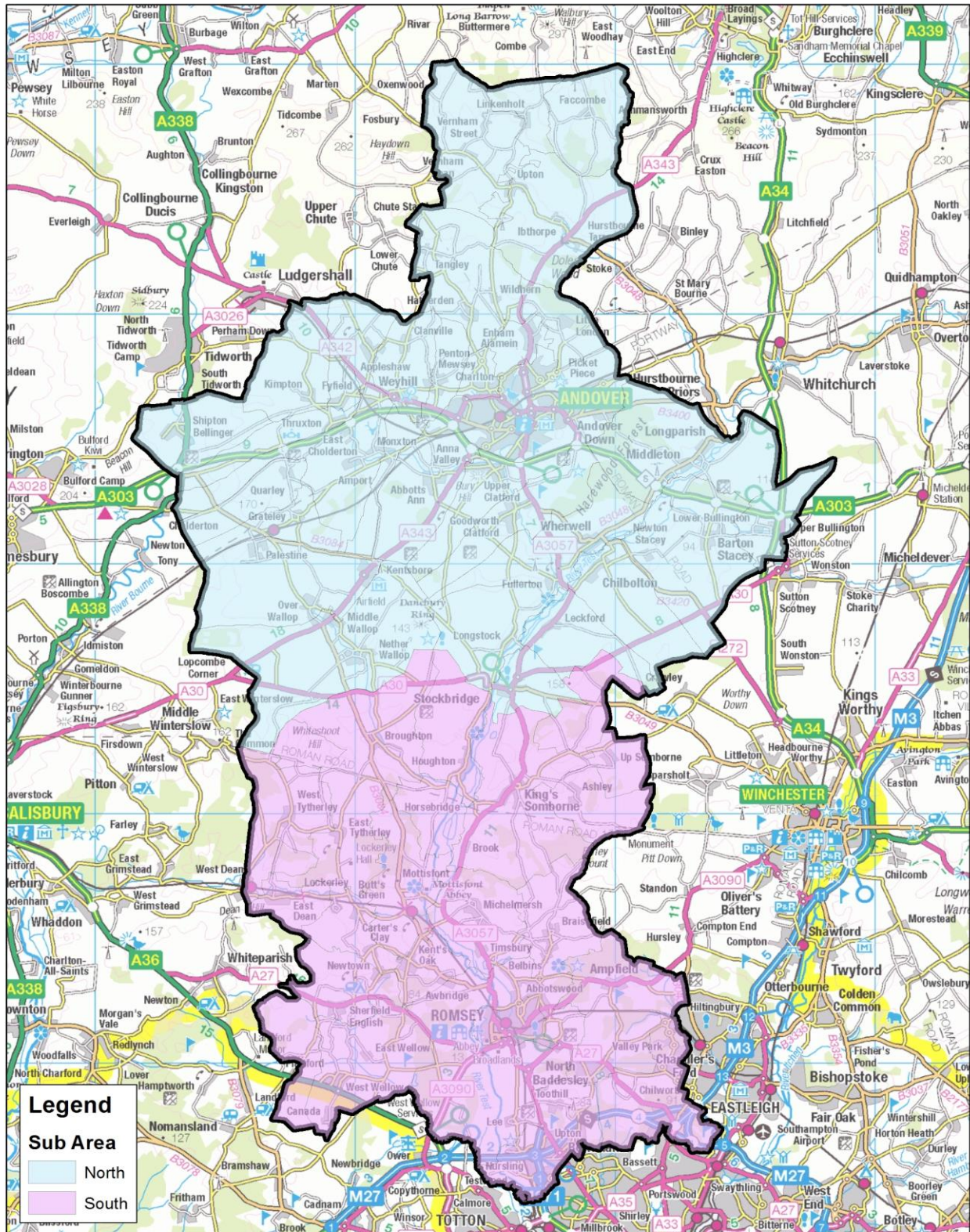
1.6 The Study Area

- 1.6.1 The study relates to the area within the borough of Test Valley. For reporting purposes, the borough has been divided into the following two sub-areas based on Ward boundaries reflecting the distribution of the main centres of population and the predominant travel patterns of residents seeking to access community sports facilities. It broadly reflects the sub areas used for the Test Valley Sport and Recreation Strategy (2015).

- **North** - Andover Town with a current resident population of c. 50,000 and surrounding parishes including Over Wallop (2,400), Charlton (2,000), Upper Clatford (1,600), Shipton Bellinger (1,500), Abbots Ann (1,300), Ampport (1,200), Barton Stacey (1,000), Enham Alamein (1,000) and a further 24 parishes with fewer than a thousand residents. The total population of the North sub-area in 2019 (based on Hampshire County Council's 2018 based Small Area Population Forecasts) is approximately 73,700.
- **South** - Romsey Town with a current resident population of c. 15,300 and surrounding parishes including Valley Park (7,500), North Baddesley (7,100), Romsey Extra (5,800), Nursling & Rownhams (5,400), Wellow (3,400), Ampfield (1,800), King's Somborne (1,600), Chilworth (1,200), Broughton (1,100) and a further 16 parishes with fewer than a thousand residents. The total population of the South sub-area in 2019 (based on Hampshire County Council's 2018 based Small Area Population Forecasts) is approximately 57,000.

- 1.6.2 The sports facility needs and recommendations in this strategy are presented by sub-area and for the Borough as a whole. The sub-area boundaries are shown in Figure 4.

Figure 4 – Extent of Sub-Areas



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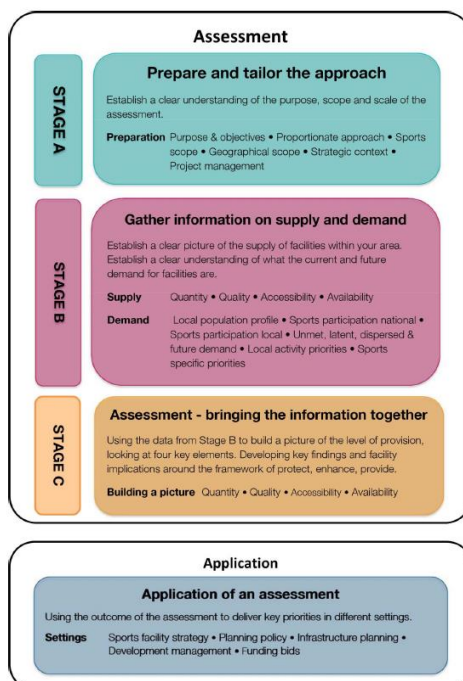


- 1.6.3 As referenced in paragraphs 1.2.7 and 1.2.8 above, supply of significant sports facilities located in neighbouring local authority areas with easy access for Test Valley residents (i.e. a 15-20 minute journey time by car) has been taken into consideration in determining current and future facility needs in the borough.
- 1.6.4 In terms of demand, the impact of sites in neighbouring authorities close to the borough boundary and allocated for large scale new housing developments is taken into consideration.
- 1.6.5 Also, the impact of 'displaced' demand is considered in relation to the sports and recreation facility needs in the borough and the two sub-areas. This includes both exported demand (i.e. from Test Valley to access facilities in neighbouring local authorities) and imported demand (from neighbouring local authorities to access sports facilities in Test Valley). The neighbouring local authority areas are:
 - **West Berkshire** - to the north
 - **Basingstoke & Deane** - to the north east
 - **Winchester** - to the east
 - **Eastleigh** - to the south east
 - **Southampton** - to the south
 - **New Forest** - to the south west
 - **Wiltshire** - to the west

1.7 Methodology

- 1.7.1 The method and approach used to develop the playing pitch strategy is in line with Sport England's Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG)⁴, tailored to the study area and strategic context (summarised in Section 1.8).
- 1.7.2 Specifically, the approach adheres to the following stages advocated in ANOG as detailed in Figure 5 below:

Figure 5 - ANOG Summary Stages



- 1.7.3 During the development of this strategy, the Consultant Team gathered a wide range of supply and demand information through analysis of strategic documents, planning tools, consultation and site audits. The Consultant Team analysed a wide range of strategic documents to help inform this

⁴ Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities, Sport England (July 2014)
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strategy, which included local, regional and national strategies. The Consultant Team utilised several planning tools, which included Facility Planning Model, Sports Facility Calculator and Active Places Power. There were 59 sites identified as part of the built facilities provision within the Borough. Two thirds of the sites were visited to inform the audit as were the majority of the primary schools in the Borough. These visits were to inform the visual quality assessment of each site, to help understand the quality of the supply in the Borough. To help inform our supply and demand analysis, the Consultant Team undertook an in-depth consultation process by speaking to a wide range of key stakeholders. These included National Governing Bodies of sport (NGBs), the Active Partnership, facility providers, clubs and parish councils. This process was used to develop a robust understanding of the supply and demand of facilities within Test Valley.

- 1.7.4 Following consideration of the findings, facility needs are identified for each sports facility type according to the following three potential strategic courses of action:
 - **PROTECT** sports facilities from loss as a result of development.
 - **ENHANCE** existing facilities through improving their quality, accessibility and/or management.
 - **PROVIDE** new or larger facilities that are fit for purpose to meet demands for participation now and in the future.
- 1.7.5 This process culminates in a clear set of priority projects for future investment in sports and recreation facilities in Test Valley Borough (other than playing pitch projects which are the subject of a separate report), based on a robust assessment of both facility needs and opportunities for new or enhanced provision.
- 1.7.6 With regard to future opportunities for facility development, the assessment recognises that projects need to have good potential to be deliverable in so far as securing both the necessary consents and funding and ongoing financial sustainability. Accordingly, in identifying projects, the strategy adopts a pragmatic approach that recognises the growing financial challenge facing all local authorities in continuing to deliver and support non-statutory sports and recreation services.
- 1.7.7 The recommended priority sports facility projects also considers the strategic focus of the Government and Sport England towards sport and recreation as a way to address the national public health crisis of obesity and other health conditions linked to physical inactivity. Increasingly, exchequer and sports lottery grant resources are prioritising those projects considered most effective at impacting sport and physical activity behaviour change among the inactive in local populations, as opposed to simply renewing outdated sports facilities used by those who are already active.
- 1.7.8 It is noted that the approach to identifying sports facility needs advocated to local planning authorities in Sport England's Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guidance (ANOG) is a significant change to the 'standards-based' methodology in the former Planning Policy Guidance Note No. 17 (PPG17). Since the publication of ANOG in July 2014, Sport England has advised local planning authorities to move away from the use of per capita based standards in assessing and determining quantitative needs for sports and recreation facilities.
- 1.7.9 In place of setting quantitative standards for each facility type, ANOG advocates gathering detailed local supply and demand data and assessment of area, sport and site-specific needs and opportunities. This is to determine which existing specific sites and facilities should be protected and the priority areas/sites for enhanced, new or expanded facilities. Accordingly, this updated study of sports facility needs in Test Valley is based on a detailed local assessment of the picture of supply and demand for each of the sports facility typologies in scope.

1.8 Tailoring the Approach - Key Characteristics of Test Valley

- 1.8.1 Key features of Test Valley Borough and its two sub-areas that impact on the supply of and demand for sports and recreation facilities are summarised in Figure 6.

Figure 6: Relevant Key Characteristics of Test Valley

Demography

- The combined populations of Andover and Romsey and the settlements on the fringes of these two towns account for approximately two thirds of the Borough's total resident population of 129,000 people.

Figure 6: Relevant Key Characteristics of Test Valley

- Outside the two towns and their immediate catchment areas, the Borough is rural in character. The historic market town of Stockbridge close to the geographical centre of the Borough has just 600 permanent residents.
- This demography dictates that the two largest towns are the focus for indoor and outdoor built community sports infrastructure. The size of the towns' resident populations, and the travel time between them, means that the core built sports facility types (e.g. pools, sports halls, fitness centres, BMX tracks) and community sports clubs (e.g. in tennis, netball, bowls and the four main playing pitch sports) are needed both in the north (Andover) and in the south (Romsey).
- The third of the borough's residents that live in the rural area rely heavily on cars to access community sports facility types other than village recreation grounds (many of which provide small scale local outdoor sports facilities e.g. playing pitches, tennis courts, bowling greens, MUGAs, skate ramps) and village halls.
- Car ownership levels in Test Valley are high relative to the national and regional averages. Nearly half of all households (48%) owned two or more cars or vans at the last census in 2011. However, for those of the 6,426 (13%) households in the Borough without a car or van located in the rural areas, there is negligible public transport available to access sports facilities in the towns in peak hours (evenings and weekends).
- Although the population of Romsey is approximately half that of Andover, the towns' catchment populations are of similar size due to the proximity of Romsey to Southampton (to the south) and Eastleigh (to the east). Winchester (to the north-east) and Salisbury (to the west) are also both within half an hour drive (16 miles) of Romsey. Consequently, there is a good deal of imported and exported demand for community sports facilities in the Romsey area.
- Whilst Andover's resident population is nearly double that of Romsey, there is much less cross-borough boundary movement to access community sports facilities. Andover is surrounded by a large rural hinterland including, to the north, the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. The nearest towns to Andover with large-scale community sports facilities, more than a half an hour drive away, are Winchester (18 miles) and Basingstoke (23 miles).
- The borough has an ageing population, particularly in the rural areas, which means there are fewer people year on year in the age groups with the highest levels of sports participation.

Socio Economics

- As a borough, Test Valley is relatively affluent, ranking 262nd out of 317 local authorities in 2019, using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) summary measure.
- However, the trend is one of rising relative deprivation. In 2015 the Borough's IMD ranking was 16 places lower at 278 out of 317.
- There is just one neighborhood (Local Super Output Area) in Test Valley ranked in the 20% most deprived nationally in the 2019 IMD. This is in the Andover Harroway Ward between Anton Lakes and Knight Enham Primary School.
- Most of the neighborhoods within both Romans Ward (on the east side between the Andover town centre and Augusta Park/East Anton) and St Mary's Ward (from Andover High Street eastwards to Winton School on the north side of London Road) rank among the 40% most deprived nationally⁵.

Physical Activity

- Adults living in Test Valley are relatively active when compared to the national average and marginally more active than the average for Hampshire. The 2019 Active Lives Survey (ALS)⁶ results show 67.8% of the adult population (aged 16+) in Test Valley are 'Active' (i.e. 150+ minutes a week of moderate intensity physical exercise) and 11.9% are 'Fairly Active' (i.e. 30-149 minutes a week). This compares to the average for Hampshire of 66.0% Active and 12.4% Fairly Active and, for the country as a whole, of 63.2% Active and 12% Fairly Active.
- Whilst activity levels are relatively high, a fifth of adults in Test Valley (20.3%) were found to be 'Inactive' in the 2019 ALS. This evidences the importance of provision of accessible and affordable community facilities for sport and active recreation in Test Valley regardless of the Borough's relative affluence and high activity levels.
- The 2019 ALS found that among adults the overall trend nationally in participation in sport and physical activity is increasing. 77.9% of the adult population in England participated at

⁵ Indices of Deprivation 2015 and 2019, Department of Communities & Local Government and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

⁶ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 6: Relevant Key Characteristics of Test Valley

least twice in the last 28 days in the 2018/19 survey an increase of +0.8% since the first benchmark survey in 2015/16.

- o Regular participation in walking for leisure (as opposed to travel) and adventure sports are the two fastest growing activities nationally among the 16+ age group.
- o The 2018/19 Active Lives Children & Young People Survey⁷ found that in Test Valley 22.8% of children (school years 1-11) met the recommended level of physical activity (i.e. Active for an average of 60mins or more daily). This compares to the average for Hampshire of 18.5% and nationally of 17.5%.
- o In terms of the 'Less Active' children and young people survey measure (i.e. Active for an average of less than 30mins a day), the Test Valley figure is 26.6%. i.e. over a quarter of children in the Borough are insufficiently active for their health. The picture is slightly worse at county level (30.8%) and worse still nationally (32.9%).

Growth

- o Both towns, Andover and Romsey, have experienced significant growth in recent years through new housing development. The main growth areas are Abbotswood in Romsey and East Anton, Picket Twenty and Picket Piece in Andover.
- o Further growth will take place through existing new housing permissions and allocations.
- o As of April 2018, in Romsey there were outstanding permissions for 777 new dwellings and an allocation for a further 1,300 new dwellings on the south side of the town at Whitenap (close to the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex/Bypass Stadium sports hub), plus a further allocation for 300 dwellings a few miles to the south east of the town on the south western edge of North Baddesley.
- o Also, in the south sub-area close to the M27, there were outstanding permissions for new housing developments at Rownhams (317 units) and Nursling (255 units).
- o In Andover, there were outstanding permissions for 2,360 new dwellings mainly to the north and east sides of the town (at East Anton, Picket Twenty, Picket Piece).
- o In both towns, incoming families will slow the ageing population trend and place more demands on community sports infrastructure.

Town Partnerships

- o Both Andover and Romsey have set up partnerships of local residents, businesses, community organisations and public bodies ("*Andover Vision*" and "*Romsey Future*") to develop distinct visions for the future of the two towns and to establish local priorities for projects.
- o Both "*Romsey Future*" and "*Andover Vision*" include activities and actions linked to encouraging more residents to be more physically active as part of aspirations to improve the quality of life for people living, working or studying in the towns.

Investments in Sports Facilities

- o Both towns have benefited from substantial investment in sports and recreation facilities over the last five years based on needs identified in the previous strategies for sports facilities and playing pitches. In Andover, the new £16m Andover Leisure Centre opened in April 2019 and new playing fields with pavilions have been provided at Augusta Park/East Anton, Picket Twenty and Picket Piece.
- o In Romsey, the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex has undergone a £1.0m+ refurbishment of the wetside changing rooms (including new disabled access lockers, toilet and changing areas) and a new health suite (with sauna, steam, drench showers and treatment rooms). A new playing field for football and community building has been provided as part of the housing development at Abbotswood and will be programmed from September 2020. Additionally, the Kings Chase/Ganger Farm development is due to be completed in Spring 2021 providing a new large-scale outdoor sports hub with a pavilion, two rugby pitches, one adult football, three junior football and two artificial grass pitches, which will be available in 2021/22.
- o At Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park, the Borough Council has invested in improved drainage to the sports pitches as well as upgrades to the tennis courts, a new gym and refurbished changing rooms. A new concrete skate park has been installed with flood lights.
- o On school sites, the artificial grass pitches at both John Hanson School in Andover and the Romsey School have been resurfaced (in 2015 and 2019 respectively).
- o BMX facilities have been updated with community clubs at key hub sites for sport and outdoor recreation in both the north (Charlton) and south (Valley Park) sub areas of the Borough.
- o Skate parks have been invested in across the borough with updated installations at Knightwood Leisure centre, Romsey Rapids Sport Complex, and in Smannell road, Andover.

⁷ Active Lives Children and Young People Survey Academic Year 2018/19, Sport England (December 2019)

Figure 6: Relevant Key Characteristics of Test Valley

With Skate becoming an Olympic sport there is scope for wider investment in the sport and to relocate or improve some ageing facilities.

Environment

- The natural environment, both within and outside the two major towns, is perhaps the Borough's most valuable sports and recreation resource. There is extensive 'supply' in Test Valley for the most popular and free to access sports and recreation activities of walking and cycling. The Borough has nine accessible nature reserves for walking (including two in Andover), The Test Way, Clarendon Way and other long-distance paths and an extensive bridleway network providing many miles of off-road walking and mountain biking trails. The lanes around the villages provide excellent road cycling either recreationally or as part of a cycling club.
- The waterways and lakes (notably The River Test, Anton Lake and Rooksbury Mill Lake), whilst focused on the environment, provide significant opportunities for informal physical activity and recreation pursuits in the Borough, although not for formal sports.
- Charlton Lakes are located within a multi-use sports hub site (Charlton Sports Centre) and therefore have value for sport and physical activity including training and events.
- Sports and recreation in the countryside and on the waterways are important components of the attraction of Test Valley to visitors and make a substantial contribution to the local economy.

1.9 Sports Facility Supply

1.9.1 The sites within the agreed scope of the assessment with sports facilities with community use in Test Valley are listed alphabetically in Figure 7. The distribution of facilities by sport is shown in the map figures contained in the sport specific needs assessments in Section 2 of this report.

Figure 7: Sports Facility Sites

Facility / Site	Postcode	Sub Area	Sport(s)
Ampfield Golf & Country Club	SO51 9BQ	South	Golf
Andover Golf Club	SP10 2EF	North	Golf
Andover Lawn Tennis Club*	SP11 7LW	North	Tennis
Andover Leisure Centre*	SP10 1QP	North	Pool, Hall, Squash, Climbing, Health & Fitness, Martial Arts
Andover Salto Gymnastics Centre*	SP10 4AJ	North	Gymnastics, Health & Fitness
Bakers Farm Cricket Ground*	SO20 6JF	North	Tennis, Golf
Banister Park*	SO50 9HT	South	Bowls (indoor and outdoor)
Barton Stacey Playing Field & Village Hall*	SO21 3RP	North	Tennis
Burydene Playing Field, Vernham Dean*	SP11 0JY	North	Tennis, Netball
Charlton Sports Centre /Andover Sports Academy*	SP10 3LF	North	Health & Fitness, Martial Arts, Athletics, BMX
Chilworth Golf Centre	SO16 7JP	South	Golf
Curves	SO51 8DU	South	Health & Fitness
Energie Fitness Club	SP10 2NJ	North	Health & Fitness
Farleigh School*	SP11 7PW	North	Pool, Hall, Squash, Health & Fitness, Tennis, Netball
Foxcotte Park (*field only)	SP11 0TA	North	Archery
Golden Gecko Climbing Centre	SO51 0HR	South	Climbing
Goodwood Clatford Tennis Club*	SP11 7RQ	North	Tennis
Embley (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School)*	SO51 6ZE	South	Pool, Hall, Golf, Health & Fitness, Tennis, Netball
Hampshire Golf Club	SP11 7TB	North	Golf
Hardmoor Sports Ground (*field only)	SO50 9HT	South	Archery (indoor and outdoor)
Harrow Way School*	SP10 3RH	North	Hall, Tennis, Netball
Hatches Farm Playing Field*	SO51 6BG	South	Tennis
Hunts Farm Playing Fields*	SO51 0NJ	South	Croquet
John Hanson School*	SP10 3PB	North	Hall, Tennis, Netball
King George V Field, Hurstbourne Tarrant*	SP11 0AX	North	Tennis
King's Somborne Recreation Ground*	SO20 6PP	South	Tennis
Knightwood Leisure Centre*	SO53 4SJ	South	Small Hall, Tennis, Martial Arts, BMX

Figure 7: Sports Facility Sites

Facility / Site	Postcode	Sub Area	Sport(s)
Middle Wallop Station	SO20 8DY	North	Squash, Tennis (<i>no availability/community access</i>)
Monxton & Grateley Golf Centre	SP11 8JG	North	Golf
Mountbatten School*	SO51 5SY	South	Hall, Health & Fitness, Tennis, Netball
Nether Wallop Playing Field*	SO20 8HB	North	Tennis
North Baddesley Recreation Ground*	SO52 9EA	South	Tennis
Over Wallop Sports Field*	SO20 8JH	North	Tennis
Penton Tennis Club	SP11 0RD	North	Tennis
Picket Twenty Recreation Ground*	SP11 6UF	North	Tennis
Picket Piece Recreation Ground*	SP11 6AZ	North	Tennis
Progression Fitness	SP10 5AZ	North	Health & Fitness
Pure Gym	SP11 8BF	North	Health & Fitness
Reasons Fitness	SP10 3LX	North	Health & Fitness
Romsey Golf Club	SO16 0XW	South	Golf
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex*	SO51 8AF	South	Pool, Health & Fitness, Squash, Tennis
Romsey School*	SO51 8ZB	South	Hall, Tennis, Netball
Romsey Starlight Gymnastics Centre	SO51 0HR	South	Gymnastics
Romsey War Memorial Park*	SO51 8HB	South	Bowls, Tennis
Rookwood School	SP10 3AL	North	Netball
Sherfield English Sports Field*	SO51 6FP	South	Tennis, Bowls, Croquet
Shipton Bellinger Sports Field*	SP9 7TL	North	Tennis
SNAP Fitness	SP10 1DS	North	Health and Fitness
St Edwards School*	SO51 6ZR	South	Pool, Golf
St George Catholic College	SO16 3DQ	South	Hall, Health & Fitness
Stoneham Golf Club	SO16 3TT	South	Golf
Stroud School	SO51 9ZH	South	Hall, Tennis
Test Valley School*	SO20 6HA	North	Hall, Tennis
The Club @ Chilworth Manor	SO16 7PT	South	Pool, Health & Fitness, Golf
Trojans Sports Club*	SO50 9HT	South	Health & Fitness, Squash, Bowls
Vigo Recreation Ground*	SP10 1HT	North	Bowls, Tennis
Wellow Fitness Club	SO51 6BD	South	Health & Fitness
Wellow Golf Club	SO51 6BD	South	Golf
Wherwell Playing Field*	SP11 7JP	North	Tennis
Wildhern Playing Field*	SP11 0JE	North	Tennis
Winton Academy*	SP10 2PS	North	Hall, Health & Fitness, Tennis, Netball

* sites visited

2 Facility Needs Assessment

2.1 Introduction

- 2.1.1 In the following section, the Consultant Team have outlined facility needs assessments for each type of facility within the Borough. These assessments provide a detailed analysis of the supply and demand of facilities for each type within the Borough. These assessments have considered several national sport facility planning tools (FPM data, Active Places & Sports Facility Calculator), desk-based research, and consultation with NGBs, partners and clubs. Where viable, the Council will support clubs and organisations with the delivery of their facility aspirations to enhance current facilities and provide new facilities that have been identified in the facility needs assessments (subject to feasibility and sources of funding).

2.2 Swimming Pools

- 2.2.1 Test Valley has two main public swimming centres as detailed in Figure 8.
- *Romsey Rapids Sports Complex* - A four lane 25m main pool, freeform leisure pool with water features plus a separate small teaching/training pool. Built in 1990, The Rapids was one of the first destination indoor leisure pool attractions in the country. The pool hall, changing areas, health and fitness studios and circulation spaces were refurbished in 2019.
 - *Andover Leisure Centre* – A six lane 25m x 13m main pool with an access pod, raised ends and seating for up to 150 (sufficient to host district level galas), plus a separate 15m x 10m teaching/training pool with a moveable floor to suit a wide range of pool programming needs. Built and opened in April 2019, this project was the priority in the Test Valley Sport and Recreation Strategy (2015) and replaced a leisure centre built in 1975 with a 12.5m x 25m main pool and a significantly smaller teaching/training pool (12.5m x 8m).

Figure 8: Supply of Public Pools in Test Valley

Name	Type	Dimensions	Area	Built	Refurbished
Andover Leisure Centre	Main/General	25 x 13	325	2019	
	Learner/Teaching/Training	15 x 10	150		
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	Main/General	25 x 6	150	1990	2019
	Leisure Pool	25 x 20	500		
	Learner/Teaching/Training	10 x 6	60		

Source: Test Valley Swimming Pools Facilities Planning Model National Assessment Report, October 2019

- 2.2.2 In addition to the two main public swimming centres, there are three independent schools for day and boarding pupils in the Borough that have indoor or covered pools of 18m or more in length. These swimming facilities are at:
- *Farleigh School* - A 22m, 4 lane pool that accommodates some community and 'learn to swim' instructed lessons demand. The pool has a school parent and community membership (capped at 130 with a waiting list). 10 local primary schools use this pool for curriculum swimming lessons. The school also has regular hires of programme slots to three professional swimming instructors to run private swimming lessons. In addition, a village swimming club called Abbots Ann Swimming Club have a regular hire of approximately 25 sessions per annum. The pool is used at close to its capacity in the peak community hours taking into account the needs of the school for its day and boarding pupils.
 - *Embley School (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School)* - An 18m long, 4 lane pool covered but unheated. This facility is a former lido and has no current community use and minimal potential for community use in the future without very significant investment to install pool heating and the necessary upgrade of the building to provide the adequate levels of insulation.
 - *St Edwards School* - A 20m, 4 lane pool with full pool heating and filtration plant in a purpose-built building with direct access from a car park adjacent and poolside changing rooms. This pool has potential to accommodate community group hires e.g. private instructed classes and/or school holiday swimming sessions with minimal capital investment (subject to approval by the school). The only current community use is by a water sports activity provider from Southampton running canoe training for its instructors.
- 2.2.3 In addition, The Test Valley Community School in Stockbridge has a disused, unheated lido (22mx15m, 3.2m deep). The pool tank has been drained and the school has no plans or the financial resources to bring the lido back into use. To have value as a community sports facility, it would be

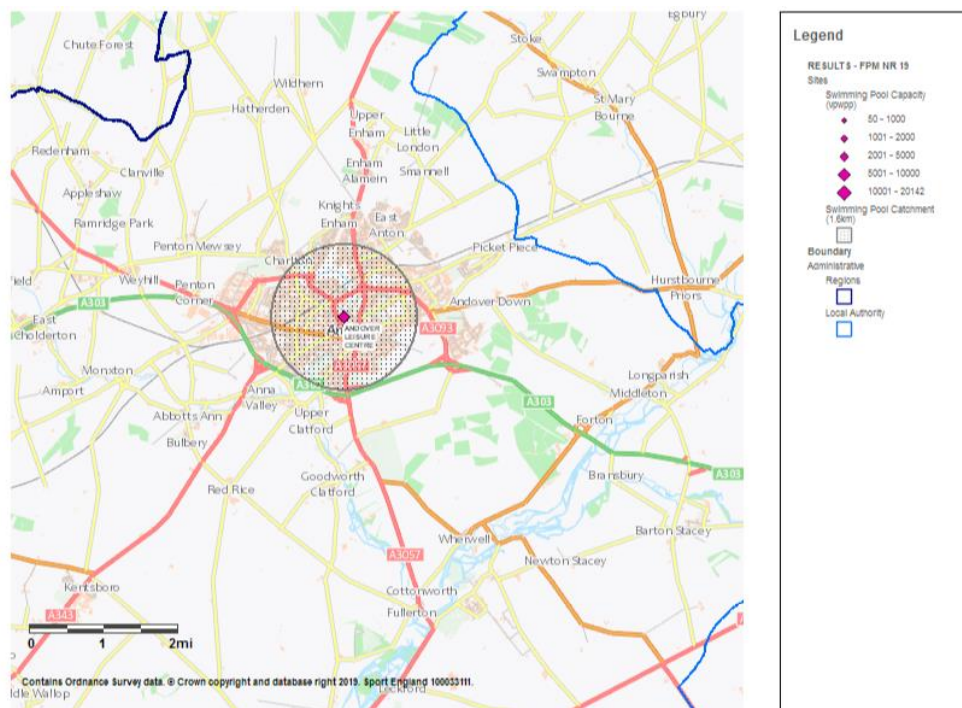
- necessary to install water heating and filtration and a lightweight structure to cover the pool as a minimum.
- 2.2.4 There is also a small health club pool for club members and their guests at The Club @ Chilworth Manor Hotel (in Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams Ward) close to the boundary with Southampton.
- 2.2.5 Figures 9 and 10 show the distribution of the supply of indoor pools of 20m / 160 m² in the north and south sub-areas respectively. This is derived from the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) strategic Assessment of Swimming Pools for Test Valley⁸. The maps include notional one mile walking catchment areas for the community swimming pools included. The two key sites (Andover Leisure Centre in the north and Romsey Rapids Sports Complex in the south) both provide good access by car, public transport as well as by cycle or on foot to most residents in the main towns. Community access to the independent school pool at Farleigh to the south of Andover (not shown on the map) addresses demand to learn to swim in nearby villages (e.g. Abbotts Ann). As the maps clearly illustrate, residents of many rural parts of Test Valley Borough fall outside the driving catchment area of a significant pool.
- 2.2.6 There is no provision for diving in the Borough. The Quays Swimming & Diving Complex with its Southampton Diving Academy (and separate 8 lane short course 25m main pool, teaching pool and small leisure pool) is the closest regional competition facility and is accessible from the south sub-area of Test Valley. The Highworth Phoenix Diving Club and West Wiltshire Diving Club in Trowbridge are both an hour drive from Andover and therefore not considered accessible.
- 2.2.7 Residents in the south east of Test Valley (Valley Park and Chilworth) are within the catchment area of the Places Leisure Eastleigh swimming pools (opened in 2017) as well as Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. A replacement for the River Park Leisure Centre at Winchester (to the east) with a 50m, 8 lane pool will have some impact from 2021 by expanding the available capacity from the existing 25m 6 lane pool. This will be mainly for regional competitions but some club and community swimmers from Test Valley are also likely to travel to access the new 50m pool.
- 2.2.8 To the south west, in New Forest District, some residents (and members of the Romsey & Totton Swimming Club) travel to swim in the 5 lane 25m pool at Totton Health & Leisure Centre and the 4 lane 25m pool at Romsey Rapids Sports Complex.
- 2.2.9 Overall, the FPM report shows that, in 2019, the estimated used capacity⁹ of the swimming pools as a Test Valley Borough average is 69% in the weekly peak period. This is just below the Sport England benchmark of pools being comfortably full (i.e. 70% of pool capacity in the weekly peak period).
- 2.2.10 There are high levels of imported demand at Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, a destination attraction for leisure water play. The nearest alternative large scale leisure water facility is at the Pyramids in Southsea, Portsmouth. The FPM finds that Test Valley Borough exports 1,701 swimming visits per week in the weekly peak period, and imports 1,262 visits in the same weekly peak period. In terms of visits, the FPM report finding is that Test Valley is a net exporter of 439 swimming visits in the weekly peak period.
- 2.2.11 The current quality rating of both the public pools is *good*, as to be expected given the investment in these sites since the last Sport and Recreation Strategy identified the need in 2015. So too are the two school pools that offer community access or have the potential to do so in future, at Farleigh School and St Edwards School respectively.
- 2.2.12 Availability to the community is very good at the two public pools. Andover Leisure Centre opening hours are from 0630 to 2200 on weekdays and 0830 to 1800 at weekends. Romsey Rapids Sports Complex is open from 0630 to 2200 on weekdays and 0800 to 1900 at weekends. At the two school based pools, availability is restricted in term time to a few hours a week during the evenings and at weekends due to the priority of the schools to meet the needs of their day and boarding pupils.

⁸ Strategic Assessment of Swimming Pool Provision Test Valley Borough Council Facility Planning Model National Run Report, Sport England (October 2019)

⁹ Used capacity - is a measure of usage and throughput, and estimates how well used/how full facilities are. The Facilities Planning Model is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which the venues are too full. The pool itself becomes too busy to be able to swim comfortably, plus the changing and circulation areas become too crowded.

- 2.2.13 With regard to community swimming clubs, the two public pools accommodate demand from the following well-established clubs:
- Andover Swimming & Water Polo Club
 - Romsey & Totton Swimming Club
- 2.2.14 The year-round Learn to Swim programme run by Places Leisure at the Andover Leisure Centre operates at close to capacity. In October 2019, there were approximately 1,400 children a week enrolled on the programme.
- 2.2.15 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey (ALS) findings¹⁰ indicate a slight downturn in adult demand for swimming nationally over the last three years. 10.4% of adults (16+) in England went swimming at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 4,690,400 people. This represents a significant decrease of -0.6% since the benchmark ALS in 2015/16. However, there has been an upturn (+0.4%) in the last 12 months since 2017/18.
- 2.2.16 Within the overall picture of swimming demand, there is clear growth in Wild Swimming and Open Water Triathlon Swimming which may account for the recent upturn. Within Test Valley, there are very limited opportunities currently for wild swimming. The nearest managed outdoor location for triathlon swimming training is the Hampshire Open Water Swimming Centre in the New Forest Water Park at Fordingbridge, half an hour by car from Romsey.

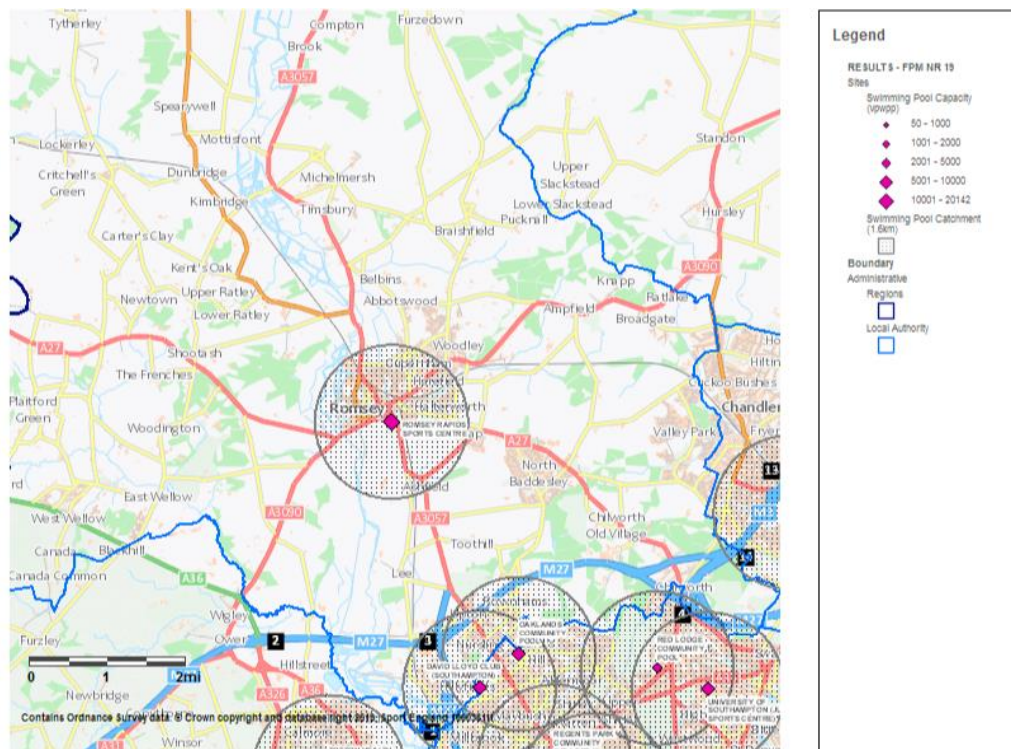
Figure 9: Location of Community Swimming Pool Sites in the North Sub- Area of Test Valley



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¹⁰ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 10: Location of Community Swimming Pool Sites in the South Sub-Area of Test Valley



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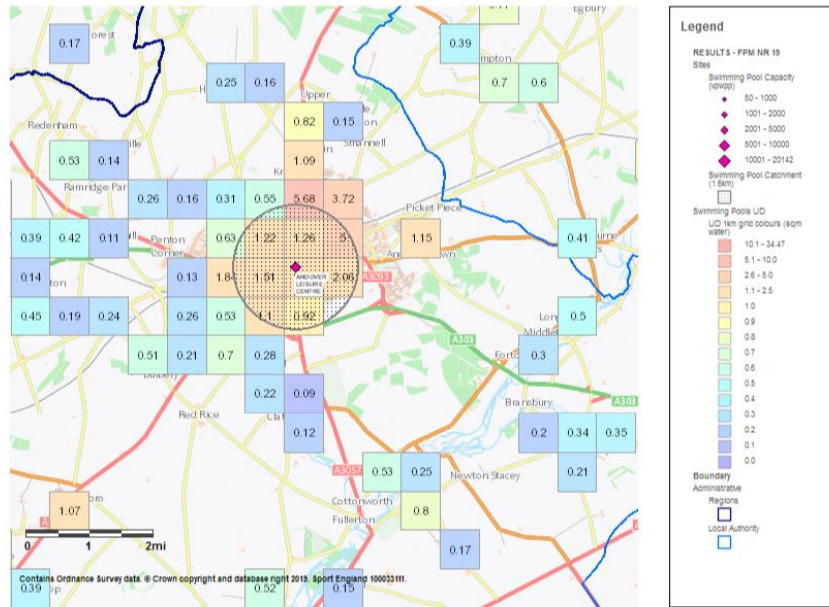
- 2.2.17 Sport England’s Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool estimates all those residents in an area who would like to do more of particular sports. Although outdated (the data is taken from the Active People Survey for the 12 months to April 2010), the SMS ‘would like to play’ measure provides a broad indication as to the extent of latent demand by area for particular sports. In Test Valley, the SMS finding is 12,524 of the adult (16+) population would like to participate in more swimming than they currently do. In percentage terms, this finding aligns closely with the county average latent demand for swimming.
- 2.2.18 From review of the findings of the Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) National Assessment Report for Swimming Pools in Test Valley (October 2019), the following main conclusions are drawn:
 - o Unmet demand for water space in Test Valley is 112sqm at current population levels and distribution (i.e. equivalent to approximately half a 25m 4 lane pool).
 - o The FPM shows that there is unmet demand in the Borough which relates to the access of swimming pools. This relates to population living outside the main catchment area of a pool (as opposed to the alternative FPM component measure of unmet demand i.e. lack of capacity at the existing pool sites that meet the FPM criteria. i.e. Andover Leisure Centre and Romsey Rapids Sports Complex).
 - o Unmet demand for indoor swimming water space in Test Valley is greatest in the rural areas in the north of the Borough, where it totals between 35 - 45 sq metres of water, than in the rural areas in the south of the Borough where it totals between 15 – 25 sq metres of water. The remainder of the unmet demand is distributed in low values across the rest of the Borough (see Figures 11 and 12). Whilst there are swimming pools located in the towns, it is likely there are residents who do not have access to a car and live outside the walking or public transport catchment area of the pool locations.
- 2.2.19 In Figures 11 and 12, the unmet demand for swimming pools by sub-area is set out in sq metres of water contained within one kilometre grid square and the squares are colour-coded. The blue to green squares has values between 0.1 – 0.7 sq metres of water, so very low values. The yellow squares represent 0.8 – 1 sq metres of water, the lighter beige squares 1. – 2.5 sq

metres of water, the darker beige squares 2.5 – 5 sq metres of water and the darkest beige squares 5 – 7.5 sq metres of water.

Figure 11: Unmet Demand for Swimming in Northern Sub-Area

Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Swimming Pools 2019 Unmet Demand

Unmet Demand expressed as square metres of water (round to two decimal places). Data outputs shown thematically (colours) at either output area level or aggregated at 1km square (figure labels).

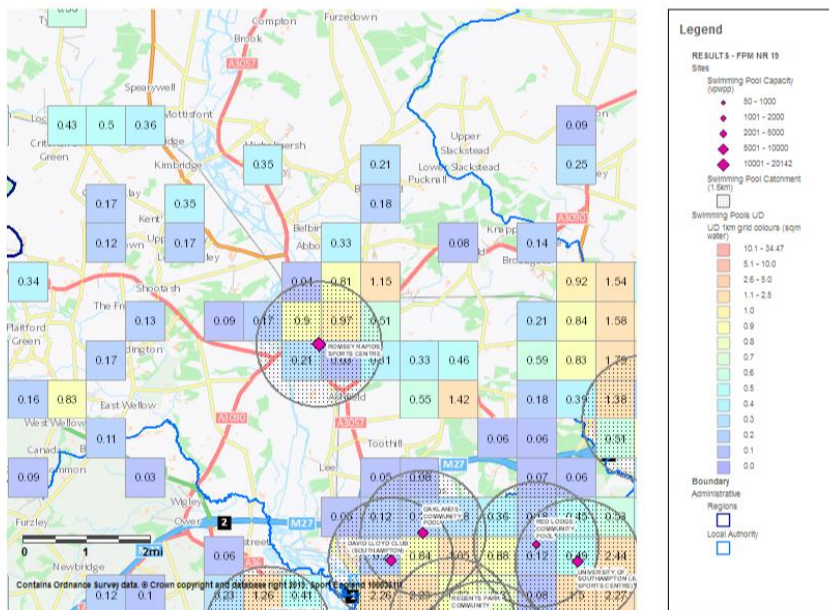


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Figure 12: Unmet Demand for Swimming in Southern Sub-Area

Facilities Planning Model - National Runs - Swimming Pools 2019 Unmet Demand

Unmet Demand expressed as square metres of water (round to two decimal places). Data outputs shown thematically (colours) at either output area level or aggregated at 1km square (figure labels).



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- 2.2.20 The FPM analysis is based on the existing population size. To consider the potential increase in demand for swimming within the Borough by 2036, Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) facility planning tool has been applied in Figure 13 below. The SFC provides a useful estimation of the likely facility needs of a particular population based on estimated demand for that facility type.
- 2.2.21 Figure 13 shows the total additional demand for swimming pools generated by the additional people living in Test Valley in 2036 i.e. approximately 12,200 according to the latest forecasts¹¹. It is noted that the SFC does not take into account the age and condition of existing facilities or the import and export of demand across borough boundaries. It is also noted that the calculation assumes no demand change in swimming participation (i.e. the proportion of the population who participate and frequency) over the period.

Figure 13: Sports Facility Calculator – Demand Generated by Forecast Additional Population

Swimming Pools	Additional demand
Square Metres	123
Lanes	2.32
Pools	0.58
Visits Per Week in the Peak Period	742

- 2.2.22 The SFC suggests that by 2036 population growth within Test Valley will generate demand for an additional 123m² of water space which is equivalent to 0.6 of a 25m x 4 lane pool. If this future demand of 123m² is added to the 114m² of existing unmet demand found by the FPM analysis, a needs case for further capacity of 237m² is made i.e. provision of the equivalent of an additional 25m 4 lane pool (with full community availability) in the peak period by 2036.
- 2.2.23 In consultation, Swim England provided the following views of relevance to the strategy:
- The FPM is likely to understate the current shortfall as 40% of public water space in Test Valley is leisure waters (at Romsey Rapids Sports Complex) and therefore not suited to learn to swim, swim fitness or competitive swimming.
 - Short term, given the relatively small water space deficit, the strategy should be to focus on securing more community use of school pools. Farleigh School pool, whilst excluded from the FPM analysis, is already quite well used. St Edward's School pool offers the best opportunity to expand capacity for learn to swim in terms of quality of existing provision and available capacity for community use in the peak hours. The feasibility of covering and opening the Test Valley School lido could be considered, subject to the interest of the school. However, the pool would be challenging to financially sustain with the limited catchment population available.
 - Long term, the strategy needs to recognise the need to plan to replace Romsey Rapids Sports Complex which will be 45yrs old by 2036. To maximise usage, Swim England's view is that the replacement provision should be a 25m x 8-lane swimming pool with a learner pool and a moveable floor to provide deep water for competition, water polo and synchronised swimming along with the usual community swimming and a leisure splash zone. Spectator seating in the region of 250 should also be considered.
- 2.2.24 The consultation with clubs and associations identified one facility improvement needed to the existing pool facilities. This was the installation of a handrail from the changing areas to poolside through the shower area at Andover Leisure Centre to assist access and egress for disabled and elderly users.
- 2.2.25 Based on the strategic context and the needs assessment findings, the recommended strategic priorities for swimming facilities in Test Valley to 2036 are summarised in Figure 14.

¹¹ Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2016-based Sub-National Population Projections
www.continuumleisure.co.uk

Figure 14: Swimming Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community operational swimming pools through planning policy and to ensure its leisure management service provider maintains the facilities and equipment to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the feasibility of expanding and securing community access to suitable indoor pools on school sites in the borough for group hire in the peak period (e.g. swim teaching, holiday programmes) where this is complementary to existing programmes (as opposed to displacing existing pool use), and establish any facility enhancement investment needs to facilitate this access and additional capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review indoor swimming facility needs with Sport England, Swim England and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, swimming participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions		
Short Term (1-2 years)		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre. School Pools - Assess with relevant schools the feasibility of expanding community access and any associated investment needs. 		
Longer Term		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review with the leisure management service provider and relevant sports bodies the needs case to review the provision at the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex with increased water space to accommodate forecast increases in demand for recreational and competition swimming (to include synchronised swimming and water polo). When appropriate, commission a feasibility study to establish a design brief for the replacement pools, capital cost estimates and a funding strategy as part of a wider master plan to review all sports facility provision on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex and the adjacent Bypass (Romsey) Football Ground. 		

2.3 Sports Halls

2.3.1 Test Valley has just two public sports halls with full community availability. These are the large (8 badminton court) sports hall on the first floor of the new Andover Leisure Centre and a small (1 badminton court) hall at Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park to the east of Romsey. The majority of the sports hall supply in Test Valley is on school sites (as detailed in Figure 15). These sports halls provide varying degrees of community access in the peak evening and weekend hours but no community access during the day in term time.

Figure 15: Supply of Sports Halls in Test Valley

Name	Sub Area	Type	Area	Built	Refurbished
Andover Leisure Centre	North	Main	1380	2019	
Embley School	South	Main	759	1995	*
Harrow Way Community School	North	Main	594	1967	2009
		Activity Hall	180		
John Hanson Community School	North	Main	594	2002	
		Activity Hall	180		
Mountbatten School	South	Main	690	1985	
		Activity Hall	306		
Romsey Community School	South	Main	690	1976	*
		Activity Hall	180		
St George Catholic College	South	Main	486	2003	
Stroud School	South	Main	690	2003	
Test Valley School	North	Main	690	2004	
		Activity Hall	180		
Winton Community Academy	North	Main	594	1990	2014
		Activity Hall	330		

Source: Test Valley Sports Halls Facilities Planning Model National Assessment Report, October 2019

* Note: Upgrades to the sports hall flooring at Romsey School and Embley School completed since the Sport and Recreation Strategy was published in 2015 are not reflected in the 2019 FPM report.

- 2.3.2 Additional sports halls of relevance that are not included in the Test Valley Facilities Planning Model National Assessment Report but have been included in the site audits and needs analysis due to the extent of their use in the weekly peak period for formal sports are:
- *Knightwood Leisure Centre* - In the south sub-area, this leisure centre has a good quality single badminton court size sports hall with full availability (i.e. including daytime) and an extensive programme of community use. Places Leisure reported that the hall is over-subscribed in the peak evening times with competing demand from badminton and fitness class activities as the leisure centre currently has no separate activity studio for exercise classes.
 - *Farleigh School* – Through consultation on a site visit, it was identified that the high quality 4 court sports hall at this independent school in the north sub-area close to Andover has availability in the peak period and some existing community use.
- 2.3.3 In addition, there is a large network of small multi-purpose activity halls used for small scale sport, health and fitness and active recreation activities across the Borough. These augment the purpose-designed sports hall supply and are particularly valuable community assets in the smaller settlements, where access to a main sports hall is poor. These smaller halls used for informal sport and physical activity are in primary and preparatory schools, community centres, village and church halls and pavilions.
- 2.3.4 Whilst outside the scope of the strategy and, in the main, not providing formal indoor sports courts, community hall facilities accommodate a significant amount of demand for informal sport and physical activity in the peak period. Although the sports facilities provided at these venues are generally unsuitable for club competition level sport, and the hours of availability in the peak period tend to be quite limited, community halls and primary school halls tend to be well located for local communities in terms of travel times and available at a cost that is accessible to most people.
- 2.3.5 Although not a complete list, examples of community venues where existing community sports use has been identified in the course of audit visits and/or consultations include:
- Abbey United Reform Church Hall, Romsey
 - Abbotswood Community Centre (new in 2018)
 - Andover Sports Academy Hall
 - Anton Junior School Hall
 - Awbridge Village Hall & Pavilion
 - Braishfield Social Club
 - Chilbolton (Painter) Village Hall
 - Grateley Village Hall
 - Hurstbourne Tarrant Community Centre (new in 2015)
 - Jubilee Hall, Michelmersh & Timsbury
 - King's Somborne Village Hall
 - North Baddesley Sports Pavilion
 - Nursling & Rownhams Village Hall
 - Rownhams St John's Primary School Hall
 - Shipton Bellinger Village Centre
 - Picket Twenty Sports Pavilion (new in 2018)
 - Vernham Dean Millennium Hall
- 2.3.6 Key sports halls located in neighbouring local authorities with catchment areas that extend into Test Valley on the east side of the Borough are:
- *Places Leisure Eastleigh (Eastleigh Borough Council)* - A large 15 court community sports hall suitable for regional events in a number of sports, opened in 2017.
 - *Hiltingbury Sports Hub (Chandler's Ford Parish Council)* - An upgraded and extended community hall providing a 4-court sports hall, opened in July 2019.
 - *Winchester Leisure Park (Winchester City Council)* – The current River Park Leisure Centre has an 8-court hall. This will be upgraded to an 8-court sports hall with spectator facilities in a new development which will be opening in 2021.
- 2.3.7 There are current proposals for new sports hall provision in Test Valley Borough as follows:
- *Enham Alamein (village north of Andover)* - There is a current proposal from the Enham Trust for a new community sports hall (size to be determined) on a site in the ownership of the Trust with housing and community facilities designed with the needs of disabled people as the priority. This location is within the drive-to catchment of the East Anton new housing area.

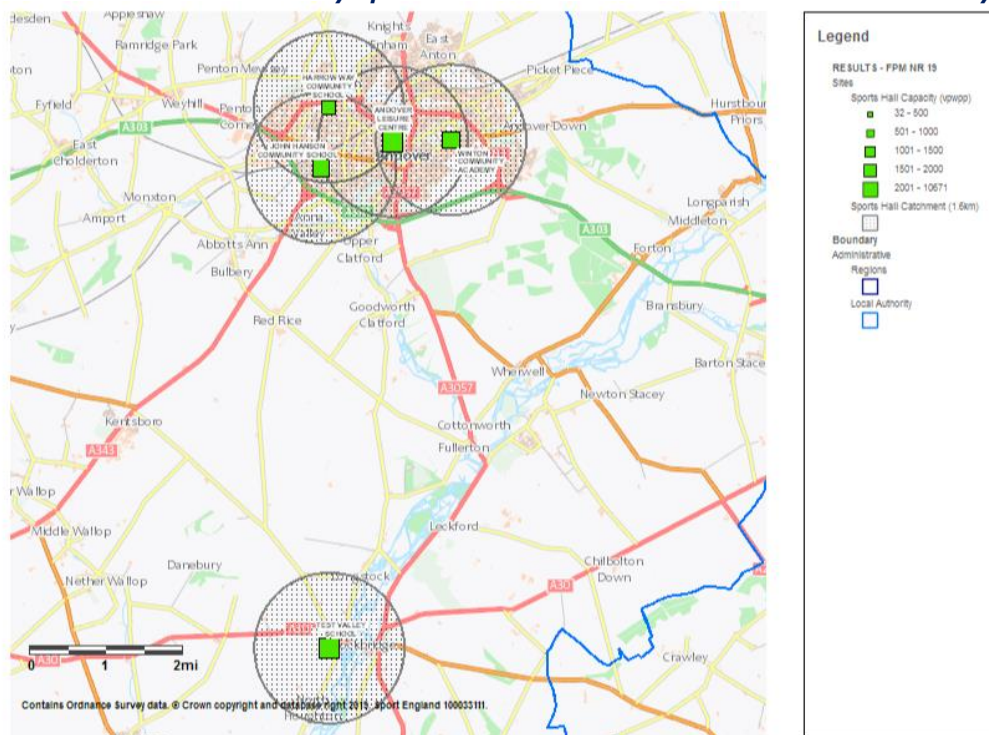
- Southern Local Centre, East Anton (Augusta Park) - Within this neighbourhood, a S106 agreement is in place for a new community centre with an activity hall suitable for a range of sports and active recreation activities (1 or 2 badminton court size, to be determined).

2.3.8 Figures 16 and 17, from The Facilities Planning Model (FPM) Strategic Assessment of Sports Halls for Test Valley¹², show the distribution of the supply of halls of 3 badminton courts or larger in the north and south sub-areas respectively. The maps include notional one mile walking catchment areas for the community sports halls shown.

2.3.9 Overall, the FPM report shows that, in 2019, the estimated used capacity of the sports halls as a Test Valley Borough average is 49% in the weekly peak period (week day evenings - up to 5 hours per day) and weekend days (up to 7 hours per weekend day). This is significantly below the Sport England benchmark of halls being comfortably full (i.e. 80% of hall capacity in the weekly peak period). However, it should be noted that this is an average and that there is considerable variation at each individual sports hall. The only purpose-designed sports hall with full community availability in Test Valley is the Andover Leisure Centre. The FPM shows that this facility is full in the peak period allowing for a comfort factor. By contrast, the FPM finds Test Valley School sports hall as at just 22% used capacity in the peak.

2.3.10 Given the lack of supply of community sports halls in the south sub-area and the availability of halls in Hiltingbury and Eastleigh, it is unsurprising that the FPM finds that Test Valley is a net exporter of sports hall visits in the weekly peak period. The 2019 FPM report finds that Test Valley imports 946 visits a week in the peak and exports 2,526 in the same peak, a net export of 1,580 weekly visits.

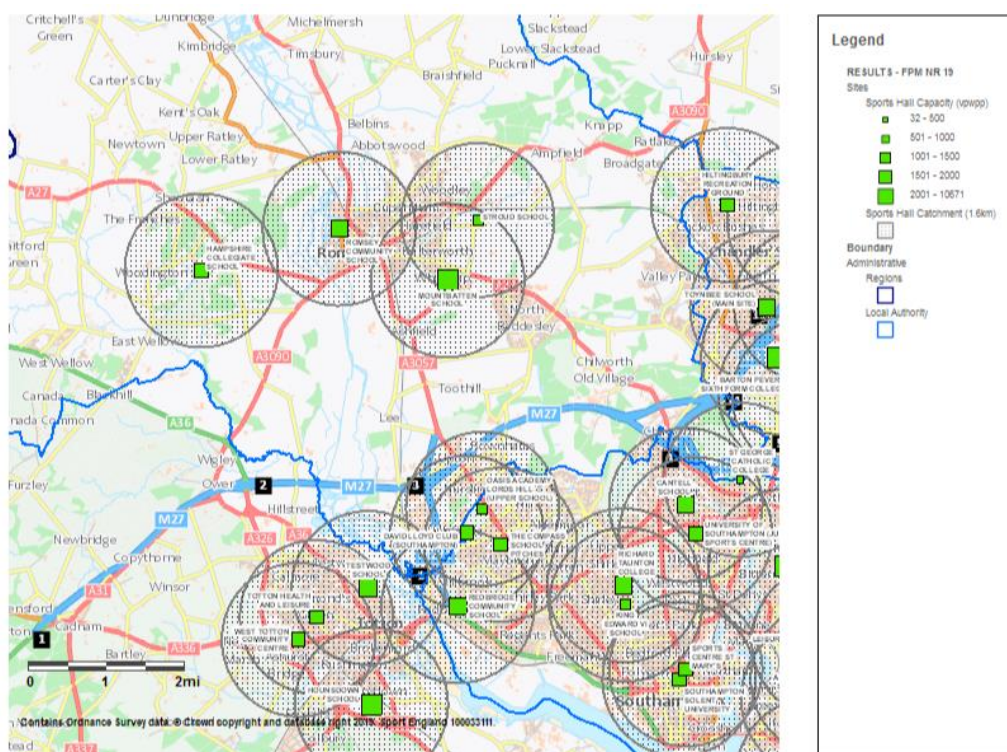
Figure 16: Location of Community Sports Hall Sites in the North Sub-Area of Test Valley



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 22/8/2019 15:34

¹² Strategic Assessment of Sports Hall Provision Test Valley Borough Council Facility Planning Model National Run Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 17: Location of Community Sports Hall Sites in the South Sub-Area of Test Valley



Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 22/8/2019 15:40

- 2.3.11 The quality of the sports hall supply is generally *good* with just two halls (those in Romsey at Romsey School and Mountbatten School) rated from visual inspection as *standard*.
- 2.3.12 Whilst the wood sports flooring at Romsey School has been replaced in the last 5 years and is good quality, the hall is a basic 1970s 'sports barn' design with sloping sidewall sections to the ceiling.
- 2.3.13 The sports hall at the Mountbatten School built in the mid-1980s has a worn, solid wood sports flooring system, the walls show signs of wear and tear from intensive use by both the school and the community and a climbing wall, although outdated and long disused, remains in place on an end wall. The school's traditional gymnasium (with wood floor and wall bars), marked for basketball and netball and hired to community groups, is in need of refurbishment. It is understood that the school has applied for Department for Education funding. A second activity hall (with a dividing screen) is used for table tennis and martial arts groups. Continued community access to these facilities is critical in view of the proximity of this school to the new housing areas in Whitenap.
- 2.3.14 The Winton School sports hall in Andover was re-roofed following a fire in 2014 and is good quality with a sprung wood sports flooring system. This school in London Road, Andover, is the most accessible of the three community secondaries in the town to new housing areas of Picket Twenty and East Anton on the north east side of the town. Continued community access to these facilities is critical in view of the proximity of this school to the new housing areas in East Anton and Picket Twenty.
- 2.3.15 The John Hanson School sports hall on the south side of Andover is now 17 years old but remains in good condition. A separate good quality activity hall with a sprung wood floor is hired extensively for instructed classes including junior martial arts and the school's main hall/dining hall is hired to Andover Table Tennis Club. The club's tables are stored on site for shared school and club use.
- 2.3.16 The third community secondary school in Andover, Harrow Way, to the north west of the town centre, has the oldest sports hall of the three (built in 1967). However, a new roof and sports

flooring were installed in the late 2000s and this facility is presented to a good standard. The sports hall climbing wall at this site has been upgraded since it was first built and remains in use with weekly instructed after school classes taking place in term time. The location of the Harrow Way school is closest of the three community secondaries to the Charlton Sports Centre and Park providing complementary community sports facilities for gymnastics, martial arts, football, rugby, BMX, athletics and parkrun.

- 2.3.17 Test Valley School in Stockbridge, in the rural centre of the Borough, has a sports hall purpose-designed for shared school and community use and is presented to a good quality, although the flat-roofed foyer/reception area requires remedial repairs to prevent future water ingress.
- 2.3.18 There are considerable variations with the availability of sports halls. The only sports hall with full community availability in Test Valley is the Andover Leisure Centre. Availability is variable to the sports halls on school sites. None are available during the school day. With the exception of the Test Valley School Sports Hall (and the Harrow Way School climbing wall), the school sports halls are also unavailable for community hire on those evenings when tables are laid out for school exams during the day. Several school sports halls currently do not offer availability at weekends - or if available at weekends, only on Saturdays (e.g. Harrow Way School).
- 2.3.19 There is also negligible pay and play availability (e.g. for casual badminton) with availability to the Borough's stock of school sports halls largely limited to club and organised group hires. The exception is Mountbatten School in Romsey, which offers badminton courts for casual community hire in either the sports hall or activity hall (subject to school use and community group hires) for between £5 and £8 per hour.
- 2.3.20 There is a clear shortfall in availability to the community of sports hall space in the south of the Borough in the daytime, with just the single court hall at Knightwood available during term time.
- 2.3.21 Accessibility to the school sports halls in Test Valley is good with regard to pricing. The school halls are hired at affordable rates. For example:
- Winton School's current block booking (VAT exempt) club/group hire rate for the whole hall is £29 adults, £20 juniors and senior citizens.
 - The Test Valley School hall hourly charges range from £17 to £27.50.
 - Mountbatten School's group rates are from £26 to £35 per hour.
 - Romsey School from £13.62 to £27.24 per hour.
 - Embley independent school hires its sports hall to a badminton club for 2hrs on one evening a week for £23.
 - Farleigh School hires the four newly replaced cricket nets in the sports hall with use of a bowling machine to clubs for £10 per hour per net.
- 2.3.22 With regard to community sports club demand, NGB-affiliated sports clubs using the Borough's sports halls (or secondary activity halls) identified in the course of the research include:
- Andover Badminton Club - Andover Leisure Centre, Winton School
 - Andover Table Tennis Club - John Hanson School and Andover Leisure Centre
 - Abbotswood Table Tennis Club - Abbotswood Community Centre
 - BGB Badminton Club - Embley
 - Charlotte Badminton Club - Harrow Way School
 - Chilbolton Badminton Club - Chilbolton (Painter) Village Hall
 - Mountbatten School Badminton Club
 - Mountbatten School Gymnastics Club
 - Red Hot Gymnastics Club - Winton School
 - Rockwood Climbing - Harrow Way School
 - Romsey Archers - Mountbatten School
 - Romsey & District Badminton Club - Romsey School
 - Romsey Pegasus Badminton Club - Mountbatten School
- 2.3.23 In addition, a large number of unaffiliated informal groups and community organisations (e.g. uniform groups, University of the Third Age, Age Concern, Help for Heroes Disability Sports) and sports coaching organisations (e.g. Soccer Tots, Rugby Tots) place demands on the available sports halls and small activity halls in community settings for recreational games of table tennis, badminton and other hall-based sports. One of the largest of these types of group in Test Valley, reflecting the older-than-average age profile of the resident population, is the Peter Pan Club for over 50s, a group of approximately 100 men and women with regular weekly sessions of badminton and table tennis at Andover Leisure Centre and in Grateley Village Hall (as well as a weekly

swimming session at Andover Leisure Centre). In consultation, this group identified no facility issues at these venues.

- 2.3.24 *Basketball*: There is no community basketball club based in Test Valley currently despite the availability of courts in the school sports halls as well as at Andover Leisure Centre. However, there are established England Basketball-affiliated clubs based at leisure centres in the catchment area for some Test Valley residents. For example, in Southampton (Badgers, Eagles), in Eastleigh at Places Leisure Eastleigh (Team Solent Kestrels), and in Winchester at River Park Leisure Centre (Diamonds Women & Girls).
- 2.3.25 *Volleyball*: Similarly, the Borough has no community volleyball clubs despite a very active volleyball association and club base in the south of the county. The main volleyball event venue in Hampshire is the new 2 volleyball court sports hall at The Bay House School in Gosport, which provides a home base for men’s and women’s team league series and hosts an annual mixed tournament. Volleyball coaching clinics take place at Sparsholt College Sport Hall in Winchester and Winchester Eagles Volleyball Club are based at River Park Leisure Centre and will relocate to the new replacement leisure centre in Winchester from 2021. Other opportunities in the drivetime catchment area for Test Valley residents are provided by Southampton Juniors at Crestwood School sports hall in Eastleigh and at South Hants Volleyball Club at Cams Hill School, Fareham and Roke Polonia Volleyball Club at Richard Taunton Sixth Form College, Southampton. There is a Sitting Volleyball Mini League established for disabled players in the region with a team representing South Hampshire.
- 2.3.26 *Futsal*: There is growing interest in the area in the indoor 5 a side game of futsal played in sports halls with a smaller ball. The Hampshire County Futsal League is in its third season and games are played on Friday evenings twice a month at Sparsholt College's Sports Hall in Winchester. Weekly sessions of Brazilian Samba Football, a similar game to futsal, take place in the sports hall at Winton Academy in Andover and are also well supported.
- 2.3.27 The most recent Active Lives Adult Survey¹³ findings show a static or slight downward national trend in adult participation in the primary sports hall sports as shown in Figure 18.

Figure 18: Participation Trend in Sports Hall Sports in England, Adults 16+

Participation by adults aged 16+	At least twice in last 28 days 2018/19	Total participant population	Change from benchmark 2015/16	Change in last 12 months
Badminton	1.8%	812,400	-0.3% significant	-0.1% no change
Basketball	0.6%	280,900	-0.1% no change	-0.1% no change
Table Tennis	0.9%	425,000	-0.1% no change	0.0% no change
Volleyball	0.2%	73,400	0.0% no change	0.0% no change

Source: (Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019))

- 2.3.28 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for these sports. In Test Valley, the SMS 'would like to play' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that the following numbers of adults resident in Test Valley would like to start or resume playing the sport or, if they already play it, to play more often:
- Badminton - 1,817
 - Basketball - 333
 - Table Tennis - 186
 - Volleyball - 100
- Badminton is therefore by some way the sports hall-based sport with the highest level of latent demand in Test Valley.
- 2.3.29 From review of the findings of the Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM) National Assessment Report for Sports Halls in Test Valley (October 2019), the following main conclusions are drawn:
- Unmet demand for sports hall space in Test Valley is less than 2 badminton courts at current population levels and distribution.
 - The unmet demand is distributed across the Borough i.e. not clustered in one location.

¹³ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

- o No location is identified as having sufficiently high unmet demand to warrant increasing the provision of sports halls to improve accessibility. However, in the future there will be a need to address the shortfall in Romsey of a purpose-designed sports hall available to the community during the day.

2.3.30 In Figures 19 and 20, the unmet demand for sports halls by sub-area is set out in units of badminton courts in one kilometre grid squares and the squares are colour coded with different values of unmet demand. The three shades of blue squares have unmet demand in the range 0 – 0.2 of one badminton court, i.e. very low values.

Figure 19: Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Northern Sub-Area

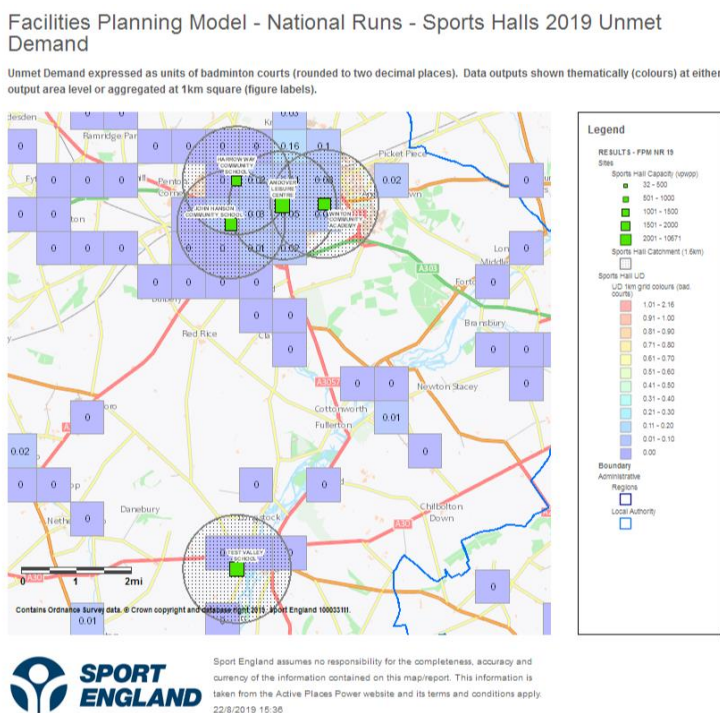
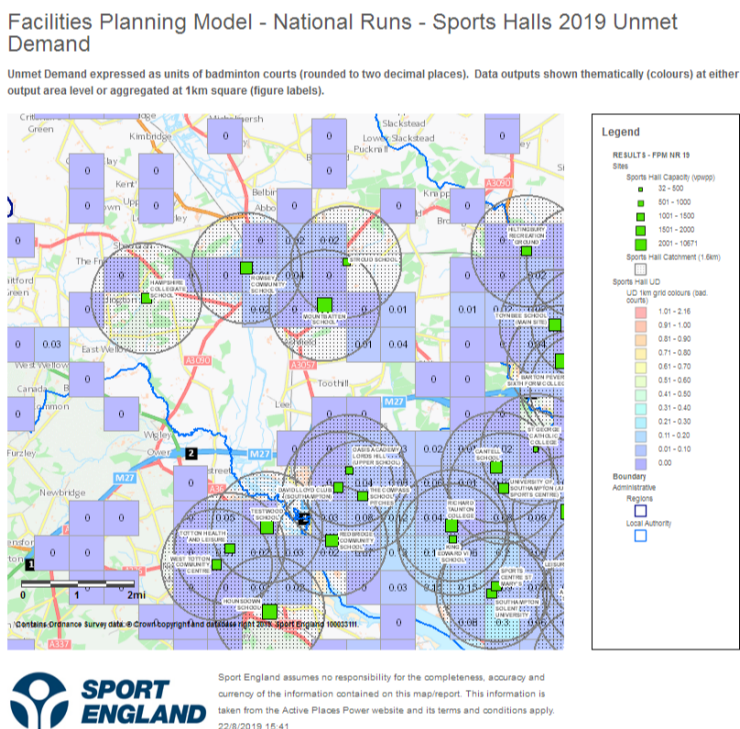


Figure 20: Unmet Demand for Sports Halls in Southern Sub-Area



2.3.31 The FPM analysis is based on the existing population size. To consider the potential increase in demand for sports halls within the borough by 2036, Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) facility planning tool has been applied. The SFC provides a useful estimation of the likely facility needs of a particular population based on estimated demand for that facility type. Figure 21 shows the total additional demand for sports halls generated by the additional people living in Test Valley in 2036 - i.e. approximately 12,200 according to the latest forecasts. It is noted that the SFC does not take into account the age and condition of existing facilities or the import and export of demand across borough boundaries. It is also noted that the calculation assumes no demand change in sports hall participation (i.e. the proportion of the population who participate and frequency) over the period.

Figure 21: Sports Facility Calculator – Demand Generated by Forecast Additional Population

Sports Halls	Additional demand
Badminton Courts	3.32
Halls	0.83
Visits Per Week in the Peak Period	968

2.3.32 The SFC findings indicate that by 2036 population growth within Test Valley will generate demand for an additional 3.32 courts which is equivalent to 0.83 of a 4-court sports hall. If this future demand of 3.32 courts is added to the 3 courts of existing unmet demand found by the FPM analysis, a needs case for further capacity of 6.32 courts is made i.e. provision of the equivalent of an additional 6 or 8 court sports hall (or up to two 4 court halls) with full community availability in the peak period by 2036.

2.3.33 In consultation, Table Tennis England expressed the view that there is considerable opportunity for further development of table tennis in Test Valley through commitment to partner with the national governing body on national initiatives to provide opportunities to play recreationally outside the traditional sports hall setting. These initiatives are:

- Outdoor Tables (either permanent such as the existing examples in Andover parks and at Vernham Dean Playing Field, or temporary installations in public areas with high footfall).
- Ping Pong Parlours (drop-in table tennis venues set up in unlet retail premises in town centres).
- Ping in the Community (support packages for club development in community halls).

2.3.34 Badminton England is committed to engaging with more facility providers to roll out more of the following development opportunities in existing sports halls and primary school halls:

- No Strings (drop in community pay and play sessions in school and community halls)
- Advisory support for existing badminton clubs with junior club development
- Racket Pack (introduction to badminton resources for use with primary age children).

2.3.35 Relevant findings for the facility strategy from consultation with facility providers were:

- There is a licensing constraint on the scale of sports events that can be hosted in the Andover Leisure Centre sports hall located on the first floor of the building. A short-term priority in the strategy should be to ensure an additional means of escape is available to facilitate hosting of sports events with spectators in the 8-court hall.
- The operator at the Andover Leisure Centre noted that the access and availability of the foyer toilet facilities at peak times needs to be reviewed to further enhance the customer experience.
- There is lack of clarity regarding security of existing community access for clubs and groups to sports halls at the community secondary schools since transfer to Academy status. A short-term priority should be to review existing community use agreements at the community secondary schools and, where possible, seek to extend availability and strengthen security of access for community sport.
- The priority school in Andover for expansion of community availability is Winton School, the closest to the Picket Twenty housing growth area, followed by Harrow Way School, closest to the complementary community sports facilities at Charlton.
- In Romsey, the priority is Mountbatten School in Whitenap Lane as the closest of the two secondary schools to the sites allocated to the south of the town for new houses, a primary school and a community hall.
- In the medium term, there will be a need to upgrade both the existing school sports halls and secondary activity halls available to the community in Romsey (at Mountbatten and Romsey schools).

- There will also be a need to address the shortfall in Romsey of a purpose-designed sports hall available to the community during the day taking into account further population growth and new demand in the area most particularly to the south of the town.
- Unused capacity in sports halls on independent school sites present opportunities to increase availability and access for community use in the peak hours where 'pinch points' arise, albeit on an unsecured basis.

2.3.36 Based on the strategic context and the needs assessment findings detailed above, the recommended strategic priorities for sports halls facilities in Test Valley to 2036 are summarised in Figure 22.

Figure 22: Sports Halls Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community sports halls through planning policy and to ensure its leisure management service provider maintains the facilities and equipment to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To accommodate new demand as a result of planned new housing, assessing the feasibility of expanding hours of availability for the most accessible sports halls to the growth areas in the north and south of the borough (i.e. East Anton and Whitenap) where this is complementary to existing programmes at the Council's sports hall venues (as opposed to displacing existing hall use). ○ Establish any facility enhancement investment needs to facilitate this access and additional capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review sports hall facility needs with Sport England, the leisure management service provider and the relevant sports' National Governing Bodies in relation to changes in accessible supply (e.g. potential new community halls in the north and south of the borough, participation trends in sports hall sports and population growth).

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility, and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre.
- Explore table tennis and badminton development opportunities with England Table Tennis and Badminton England respectively both in sports halls and in other community settings.

Longer Term

- School Sports Halls - Assess feasibility of expanding community access and hours of availability in the peak period, prioritising those in the catchments of large-scale new housing areas (Winton in Andover and Mountbatten in Romsey).
- Mountbatten School and Romsey School to assess the feasibility of upgrading or replacing their respective sports halls as capital budgets and grant opportunities allow.
- Assess the feasibility of provision of a purpose-designed sports hall of at least 6 courts with daytime availability in Romsey as part of the master planning considerations for the future provision of sports facilities on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex site.

2.4 Health and Fitness

- 2.4.1 There is a good level of provision of indoor facilities for health and fitness training and classes in Test Valley in both sub-areas. The existing provision provides accessible opportunities across the range of access types (pay as you go, membership), budget and mid-range price points and types of provision (cardio, weights, functional fitness, circuits, exercise to music classes, studio cycling etc.).
- 2.4.2 In Andover, the Caffreys Gym (weight training and body building) and the Andover Sports Academy gym facilities complement the 24/7 gyms in Andover (Pure Gym and SNAP Fitness) and the large scale health and fitness facilities available at Andover Leisure Centre and serve different market demands.
- 2.4.3 The expanded health and fitness offer in the leisure centre comprises a 155 station gym with functional training and warm up areas, 3 dedicated studios (with a total capacity for 118 people), plus poolside steam and sauna and additional studio space available if required on the two squash courts, which have a moveable side wall.

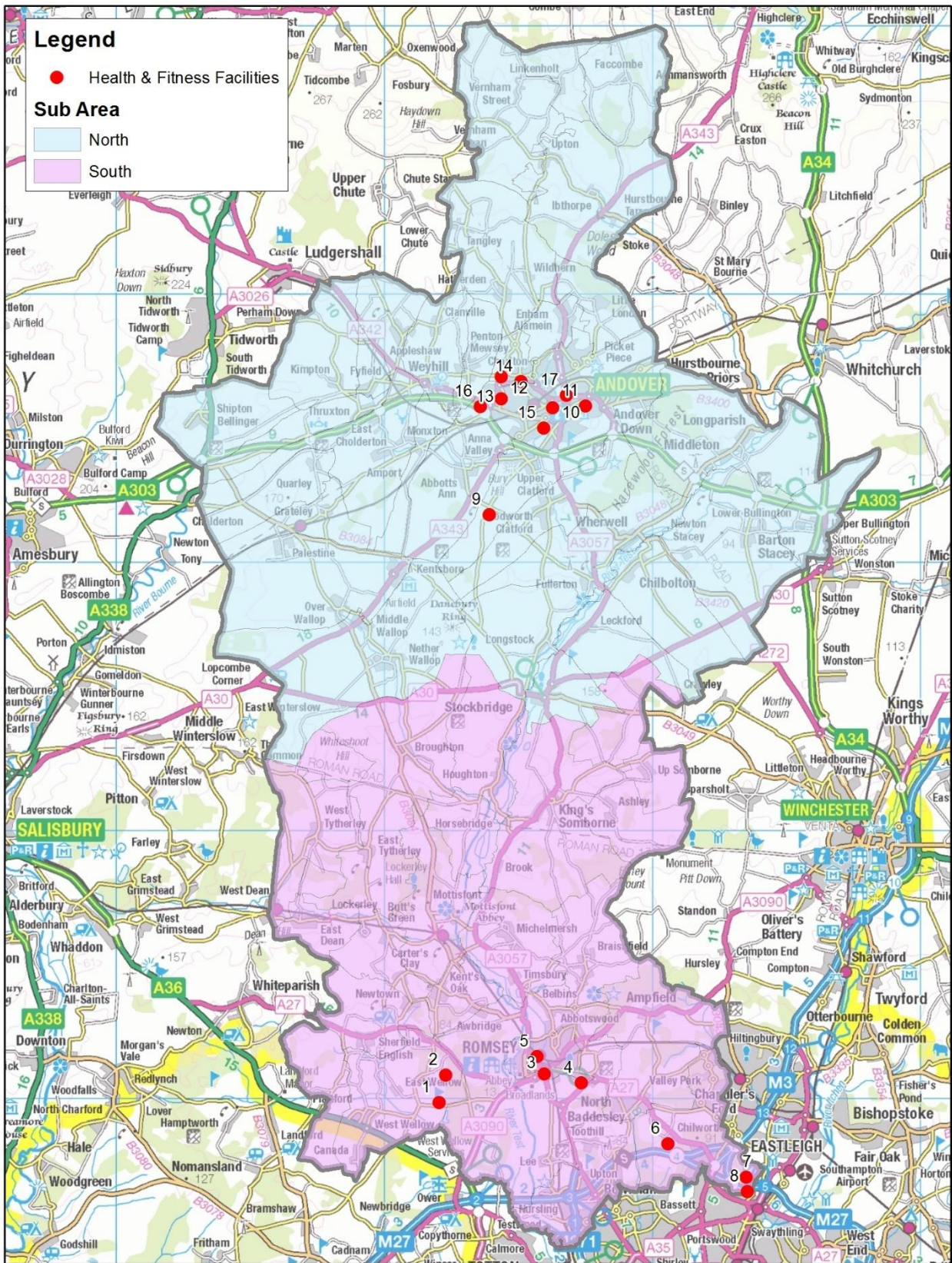
- 2.4.4 There are also three small scale private fitness clubs in Andover offering personalised and group training and classes: Reasons Fitness Club, Progression Fitness Studio and Energie Fitness with membership options ranging from approximately £20 to £50 per month.
- 2.4.5 Similarly, in the south sub-area, there are two small members' health and fitness clubs; Wellow Fitness Club (25 stations and studio) and Curves (a female only gym in Romsey). These small mid-range members clubs complement the much larger scale public health and fitness facilities (100 station gym, 3 studios, toning suite, infrared sauna, sports physio treatment room, beauty treatment room) available at The Romsey Rapids Sports Complex offering pay and play access in addition to memberships.
- 2.4.6 There is also community access to some health and fitness gyms and studios on school sites in Test Valley in both sub areas. Although the two largest independent schools, Embley School near Romsey and Farleigh School near Andover, both have equipped fitness suites. These are both small scale for student use and not suitable for community access. The main community provision on a school site in the south sub-area is a small (20 station) gym and studio (good quality, air conditioned) available from £15/month at Mountbatten School run by Persona Best Education. In the north sub-area, small scale school-based provision with community access is available at Anton Junior School (a standalone music and dance studio built in 2012 used for community street dance, afrobeat dance and yoga classes in the evenings and by a drama school on Saturdays), and at Winton Academy (a dance studio with a specialist sprung floor for ballet, hired in the evenings to dance and yoga instructors at £16 per hour for youth and senior citizens classes and £22 per hour for adult classes).
- 2.4.7 Close to the Borough's southern boundary there is a further school-based budget fitness gym at St George Catholic College and a hotel-based health club with a small (16m) pool in Chilworth, The Club@Chilworth Manor.
- 2.4.8 Co-located with the Trojans Sports Club site in Stoneham Lane on the Eastleigh boundary (which has a small gym for its sports club members largely used by the rugby club), is Therapeutics, a physiotherapy treatments and sports injury rehabilitation centre with a fitness gym and yoga/pilates studio. Also, in this location, the Banister Park Bowling Club provides a good quality dance studio on the first floor with a popular programme for older residents including tea dances, ballroom dance etc.
- 2.4.9 Other large scale public leisure centres with the latest health and fitness equipment and studio facilities within a 30 minute drivetime for many residents of Test Valley, include Places Leisure Eastleigh and, from 2021, the new Winchester Leisure Centre.
- 2.4.10 At the premium end of the family health and fitness market, the David Lloyd group has large clubs at Frogmore Lane, Southampton, just to the south of Nursling & Rownhams, within 15 minutes' drive of Romsey and at West End in Eastleigh within a 25 minutes' drive. Both these clubs have large scale health and fitness and swimming facilities.
- 2.4.11 Whilst there is likely to be a significant amount of imported demand from residents of neighbouring local authority areas to use the large scale health and fitness facilities at the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, this is likely to be largely offset by exported demand by Test Valley residents using leisure centre and health club venues located outside the Borough, in Eastleigh and Southampton in particular.
- 2.4.12 At present, two of the major high street budget gym companies offering low cost 24/7 access are present in Test Valley. SNAP Fitness and Pure Gym are located within Andover. In light of the revenue contribution made by health and fitness to the financial sustainability of the two main public leisure centres, it will be important to ensure that the health and fitness offers at the two centres remain competitive in relation to availability (opening hours), access (affordable membership options) and attractiveness (the quality of the studios, equipment, training and instruction).
- 2.4.13 As stated in the Sports Halls section (paragraph 2.2.3), there is extensive provision throughout Test Valley of small halls and sports pavilions on school and community sites with activity spaces suitable and used for group exercise classes. These types of multi-purpose spaces in highly accessible, familiar and non-intimidating community settings, providing low cost drop-in classes, perform a key role towards the strategic objective of addressing the public health crisis of inactivity.

Accordingly, it will be important to ensure that this supply is protected and maintained to a good standard.

2.4.14 The distribution of the following sites that offer purpose-designed health and fitness facilities to community users in Test Valley is shown in Figure 23:

Map Ref.	Site Name	Map Ref.	Site Name
1	Wellow Fitness Centre	9	Farleigh School
2	Embley	10	Andover Leisure Centre
3	Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	11	Winton Academy
4	Mountbatten School	12	Reasons Fitness
5	Curves Romsey	13	Andover Sports Academy / Charlton Sports Centre
6	The Club @ Chilworth Manor	14	Andover Salto Gymnastics Centre
7	Trojans Sports Club	15	Energie Fitness Club
8	St George Catholic College	16	Pure Gym (Andover)
		17	SNAP Fitness (Andover)

Figure 23: Health & Fitness Facilities in Test Valley



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- 2.4.15 In terms of health and fitness demand trends, the latest annual state of the industry report¹⁴ found that, in 2019, the penetration rate (i.e. the proportion of the adult population in the UK that were members of a gym in either the public or private sector) was at 15.6% up from 14.9% in 2018 and 2017. The penetration rate 5 years ago, in 2014, was 13.2% evidencing continuing growth in participation in health and fitness. This growth is in sharp contrast to the flat or slight downward participation trend in most recognised sports. Currently in the UK, 1 in every 7 people is a member of a gym. The 2019 report highlights that the industry, over the 12 month period to the end of March 2019, saw increases of 2.9% in the number of fitness facilities, 4.7% in the number of members and 4.2% in market value.
- 2.4.16 This evidence of the scale of UK health and fitness participation is supported by the findings of the Active Lives Survey for England¹⁵. 13.5% of adults (16+) in England took part in a gym session at least twice in the previous 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 6,048,700 people. The number of people taking part in a fitness class was a little higher at 14.1% (6,345,600 people).
- 2.4.17 Locally within Test Valley, Places Leisure report an increase in membership at the new Andover Leisure Centre of approximately 30% compared with the old centre, with approximately 4,484 centre members in February 2020. At Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, membership has also increased since the refurbishment was completed. Places Leisure reported in February 2020 a total membership of approximately 3,255 with a monthly increase (net of attrition) of around 100 towards a target comfortable capacity level of 4,000 members.
- 2.4.18 Sport England's Sport Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool indicates that there is latent demand for health and fitness in Test Valley among around 6,495 adults in the resident population i.e. 6,495 adults stated they would like to participate in keep fit and gym (including aerobics, yoga, classes) or to participate more often than they did at the time of the interview.
- 2.4.19 In consultation, Places Leisure identified the following short to medium term priorities for enhancement of the health and fitness offer at the two main leisure centres:
- To re-plan the 3 studios at the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex (to include enhanced acoustics to the first floor virtual spinning studio) to better meet customer demands and increase utilisation of the area adjacent to the centre entrance foyer (currently the yoga/pilates studio).
 - To review the equipment mix in the 150+ station Andover Leisure Centre gym to better meet peak demand for running/aerobic exercise.
 - Places Leisure have the aspirations to assess the feasibility of replacing the moveable dividing wall between studios 2 and 3 in the Andover Leisure Centre with a permanent wall or enhance the existing sound proofing.
- 2.4.20 The Andover Lawn Tennis Club has planning consent for an extension to the social/changing areas including improved circulation routes from the club's two indoor courts to the clubhouse facilities and a small fitness studio to improve future financial sustainability.
- 2.4.21 In the longer term, there is a clear need to plan for replacement of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, to include replacement and further expansion of the health and fitness facilities to accommodate new demand from housing and population growth to the south of the town.

¹⁴ The 2019 State of the UK Fitness Industry Report Leisure Database Company (May 2019)

¹⁵ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 24: Health and Fitness Facilities Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community health and fitness facilities through planning policy and to ensure its leisure management service provider maintains the facilities and equipment to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To accommodate new demand as a result of planned new housing, assess the feasibility of expanding hours of availability to the most accessible school fitness suite and studio facilities to the growth areas (i.e. Winton School, Mountbatten School) where this is complementary to existing programmes at the Council's sites (as opposed to displacing existing members and use). Establish any facility enhancement investment needs to facilitate this access and additional capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regularly review health and fitness facility and equipment needs with the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply (e.g. 24/7 budget gyms), fitness participation and industry trends and population growth.

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Andover Leisure Centre – Maintain suitable provision and flexible spaces to ensure peak demand can be met.
- Andover Leisure Centre - Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre.
- Andover Leisure Centre - Improve sound proofing between studios 2 & 3.
- Romsey Rapids Sports Complex - Assess feasibility of studio space reallocation to maximise potential of ground floor space adjacent to entrance.

Longer Term

- School Fitness Suites and Activity Studios - assess feasibility of expanding community access and hours of availability in the peak period, prioritising those in the catchments of large scale new housing areas (Winton in Andover and Mountbatten in Romsey).
- Consider options for expanding health and fitness facilities within feasibility assessments and future plans for the replacement of Romsey Rapids Sports Centre.

2.5 Squash and Racketball

2.5.1 The total supply of squash courts in Test Valley is 13 courts (9 standard, 4 glass back) across 5 venues as shown in Figure 25.

Figure 25: Supply of Squash Courts in Test Valley

Site Name	Postcode	Owner Type	Glass Courts	Standard Courts	Total Courts
Andover Leisure Centre	SP10 1QP	Local Authority	2	0	2
Farleigh School	SP11 7PW	Education	0	2	2
Middle Wallop Station	SO20 8DY	Ministry of Defence	0	3	3
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	SO51 8AF	Local Authority	0	2	2
Trojan Sports Club	SO50 9HT	Club owned	2	2	4
Total Courts			4	9	13

Sources: England Squash Facilities Report & Sport England Active Places Power

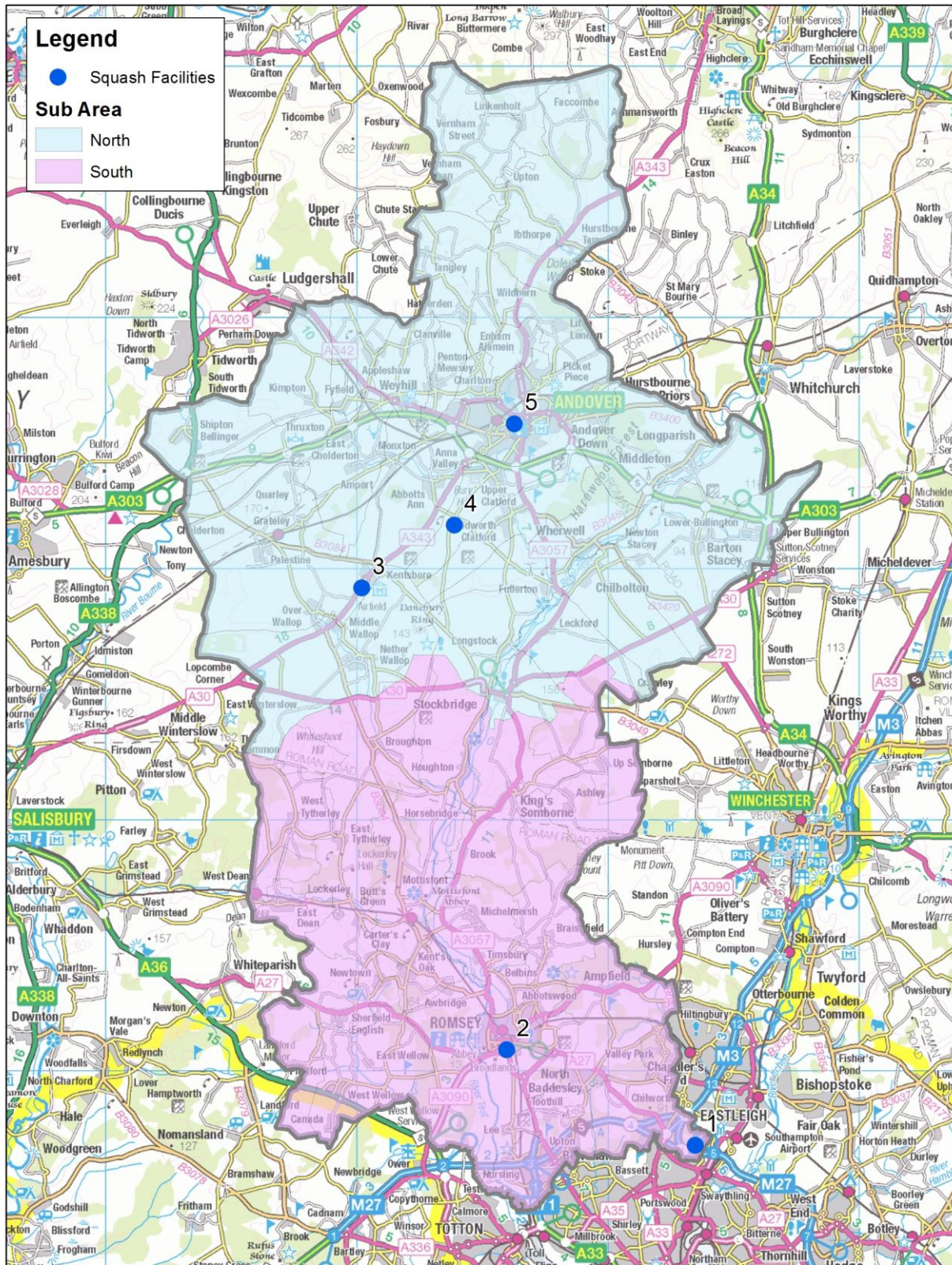
2.5.2 There is no existing community access to 5 of the 13 courts, those at Middle Wallop Station and Farleigh School, leaving 8 courts with full community access and availability (6 in the south at Trojans and Romsey Rapids Sports Complex and 2 in the north in the Andover Leisure Centre).

2.5.3 The level of overall supply meets the England Squash benchmark quantitative guidance standard of 1 court per 10,000 people. However, based on a supply of 8 accessible courts, the level of provision in Test Valley falls some way below the England Squash benchmark at approximately 1 court per 15,000 people. There is an under supply of approximately 4 accessible squash courts.

- 2.5.4 There is also likely to be a measure of imported demand at Trojans Sports Club and Romsey Rapids Sports Centre as there is only 1 court per 22,000 people in Southampton, namely 3 courts at the private members' David Lloyd Club plus the courts at the university. Community access to the squash courts at the David Lloyd club is restricted by cost, and to the university courts by lack of availability during the peak period (evenings and weekends).
- 2.5.5 In relation to exported demand, there are 4 glass back courts in the new Places Leisure Eastleigh centre in Eastleigh Borough, which is within the drivetime catchment area for some Test Valley residents. These new courts replaced courts in the former Fleming Park Leisure Centre and have improved the quality of supply accessible from the south sub area of Test Valley.
- 2.5.6 The replacement for the River Park Leisure Centre in Winchester, scheduled to open in 2021, includes the reprovision of the 4 existing courts. Similar to the recent new replacement provision in Eastleigh, this change will also improve the quality of the accessible supply in the area. However, at approximately 30 minutes' drive time from large parts of Test Valley, this is likely to have minimal impact on the supply/demand balance for squash in Test Valley.
- 2.5.7 The public courts at Andover Leisure Centre are new with a moveable dividing wall to maximise opportunities for alternative uses when not programmed for squash. However, Places Leisure report that, as the only two courts in the north of the Borough, squash demand is high during the peak period (evenings and weekends) - i.e. the times when the three studios in the leisure centre are most in demand. Places Leisure report no current demand in off peak hours that cannot be accommodated in the existing studios.
- 2.5.8 The public squash courts in the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex are located in a separate annex to the main leisure centre. Whilst well maintained and refurbished regularly, these are to a lower quality of presentation and not as welcoming and attractive to play on in comparison to the new courts in Andover.
- 2.5.9 The four club courts at Trojans Sports Club are the most heavily used of the three community venues. The facilities were provided in 1974 with support from Southampton City Council and Eastleigh Borough Council. The squash and racketball section currently have approximately 190 playing members. Eleven teams compete in the Hampshire Squash Rackets Association Leagues from premier division down to division three: 6 men's teams, a women's team, and four veterans' teams (over 45s). The club also organises monthly club tournaments, quarterly events, internal leagues, open mix in 'club night' sessions for squash and racketball, twice weekly group coaching sessions for juniors and half term coaching clinics. The weekly club schedule, around matches and internal club tournaments and leagues are accommodated using an online booking system, is as follows:
- o Sunday 6pm - Squash Club night
 - o Monday 4pm - Racketball Club night
 - o Wednesday 6pm - Squash Club night
 - o Thursday 4pm - Racketball Club night
 - o Friday 6pm - Juniors
 - o Sunday 9am - Squash Mini's
- 2.5.10 Whilst the courts are maintained to a good standard, the quality of the changing and social facilities shared by the members of the squash, fitness and field sports club and membership sections are in need of upgrade and improved accessibility for disabled people as identified on the site visit and in the sports club's survey response.
- 2.5.11 The distribution of the following five sites offering squash and racketball in Test Valley is shown in Figure 26.

Map Ref.	Site Name	Map Ref.	Site Name
1	Trojans Sports Club	4	Farleigh School
2	Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	5	Andover Leisure Centre
3	Middle Wallop Army Station		

Figure 26: Squash Facilities in Test Valley



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 Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2019.



- 2.5.12 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁶ indicate a slight downturn in adult demand for squash nationally over the last three years. 0.7% of adults (16+) in England played at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 315,300 people. This represents a significant decrease of -0.3% since the benchmark ALS in 2015/16. However, there was no significant change in demand in the 12 months from 2017/18 to 2018/19.
- 2.5.13 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for these sports. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 727 adult residents in the Borough would like to start participating in squash or racketball or to participate more often.
- 2.5.14 In consultation, England Squash consider Trojans to be the key site for community squash and racketball and inter-club competition in this part of the county, particularly in view of the relative paucity of provision in Southampton to the south. The NGB also consider that the location of the club very close to the boundary between Test Valley and Eastleigh requires a joint approach to supporting this club and its development for the benefit of both communities.
- 2.5.15 The National Governing Body's current flagship programme *Squash 101* aims to get more participants engaged in the sport, bringing people together to play squash in a fun, social and inclusive environment. England Squash consider there are opportunities for Squash 101 for adults to be delivered at venues in both the north and south sub-areas in Test Valley. England Squash offers support to clubs and leisure centres locally to establish and deliver less formal community participation programmes like Squash 101 through partner organisations, such as the South East Regional Squash Forum.
- 2.5.16 England Squash consider that losing any courts in Test Valley would have a detrimental impact on being able to provide this programme.
- 2.5.17 In the short term, the priority facility need for squash and racketball is for the Trojans Sports Club to deliver its plans with partner agencies and organisations to upgrade the ancillary changing and social facilities, including their accessibility for disabled users.
- 2.5.18 In the medium term, should the courts at Andover Leisure Centre become oversubscribed in the peak evening period, the opportunities to negotiate availability to the two courts at Farleigh School and/or the Ministry of Defence courts (3) at Middle Wallop Station could be considered. Although access to the MOD site at Middle Wallop Station is unlikely to happen in the foreseeable future, it should be reviewed by the Council in the medium to longer term.
- 2.5.19 In the longer term, as part of a replacement for the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex, a minimum of two glass back courts should be considered, possibly with a moveable dividing side wall to maximise programming flexibility and potential for income generation. Whilst it may not be cost effective, England Squash has confirmed a preference to increase the number of courts by one to three courts in any replacement facility for Romsey Rapids Sports Complex to maximise the potential of the venue in future to programme team events.

¹⁶ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 27: Squash Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community squash facilities through planning policy and to ensure its leisure management service provider maintains the courts to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Support proposals of Trojans Sports Club to upgrade its ancillary changing and social facilities. Regularly review squash demand in the peak at the leisure centres and if unmet demand is established in future seek to secure availability to the courts in the Borough. ○ Establish any facility enhancement needs to facilitate this access. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review squash facility needs with England Squash and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trojans Sports Club - Upgrade the ancillary changing and social facilities, including improve access for disability users. ○ Andover Leisure Centre/Romsey Rapids Sports Complex - Explore squash and racketball development opportunities in Test Valley with England Squash, the Regional Squash Forum and leisure management service provider (e.g. Squash 101). <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Keep under review the need for additional court capacity in the peak weekday evening period in the north (to complement Andover Leisure Centre) and, if unmet demand is identified, explore the feasibility of negotiating availability of the courts at Farleigh School and/or Middle Wallop Station and any associated investment needs. ○ Consider options for re-providing the squash courts (glass back and potentially with a moveable side wall) within the feasibility assessments and future plans for the replacement of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. 		

2.6 Gymnastics and Trampolining

- 2.6.1 Test Valley has dedicated gymnastics/trampolining club venues in both the north sub-area (Andover Salto Gymnastics Centre) and the south sub-area (Romsey Starlight Gymnastics Centre). Both these centres are located in converted light industrial units and have permanently erected specialist gymnastics equipment and inbuilt foam-filled landing pits.
- 2.6.2 Pre-school and other gymnastics and trampolining opportunities are provided within the community programmes offered in the multi-purpose sports halls at Andover Leisure Centre and in at least two of the Borough's secondary school sports halls - i.e. Red Hot Gymnastics Club at Winton Academy School in Andover and a gymnastics club based at the Mountbatten School in Romsey.
- 2.6.3 In addition, Personal Best (the sports development organisation hosted by Mountbatten School) provides gymnastics after-school club sessions in several primary schools in the south of the Borough, including Rownhams St John's Primary School and Wellow Primary School.
- 2.6.4 As well as the gymnastics programme at the Andover Leisure Centre, Places Leisure also offers pre school and junior gymnastics classes in the single court sports hall at Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park in the south sub area.
- 2.6.5 At a site meeting at the Salto Centre and in consultation with Places Leisure and British Gymnastics, waiting lists were reported indicating unmet demand for gymnastics in Test Valley, similar to the national picture.
- 2.6.6 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁷ indicated no significant change in adult demand for gymnastics and trampolining nationally over the three years 2015/16 to 2018/19. 0.6% of adults (16+) in England participated in gymnastics or trampolining at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 251,200 people. However, it should be noted that adult data is of limited value in estimating overall demand for the sport of gymnastics as most participation is by children under 16 excluded from this data source.

¹⁷ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

- 2.6.7 Similarly the Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool is of very limited value in seeking to establish the extent of latent demand for this sport. In Test Valley, the SMS 'would like to play' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 140 adult residents in the Borough would like to start to participate in gymnastics or trampolining or to participate more often.
- 2.6.8 The priority facility need at the Salto Centre at the time of the site visit was to expand capacity by extending the existing tumble track. This project was completed by the Gymnastics Centre in 2019.
- 2.6.9 In consultation with this Centre, the director identified improvements to the quality of the car park as the next facility enhancement priority. There is an opportunity to deliver the necessary upgrade (subject to fundraising and planning) in a partnership with Charlton Parish Council that has proposals for a new village hall on a site served by the same car park.
- 2.6.10 The two not-for-profit gymnastics centres in Test Valley also continually seek access to small scale grants and business sponsorship towards the cost of travel bursaries for talented gymnasts to attend competition, scholarships/subsidies for low income families and equipment renewals.
- 2.6.11 In the medium term, both clubs aspire to expand their facilities and capacity (subject to feasibility, funding and planning) to accommodate unmet, latent and future demand as the population of the two towns grows.
- 2.6.12 In Romsey, the Starlight Gymnastics Club are considering options to secure new, larger industrial premises to convert and equip. They have feasibility and business planning advice and support available from British Gymnastics and approved equipment suppliers.

Figure 28: Gymnastics Facilities Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community facilities for gymnastics and trampolining through planning policy and to ensure its leisure management service provider maintains the equipment for these sports in the Andover Leisure Centre and Knightwood Leisure Centre to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To accommodate new demand as a result of planned new housing, assess the feasibility of expanding hours of availability for gymnastics and trampolining at the most accessible sports halls to the growth areas (i.e. Winton School, Mountbatten School) where this is complementary to existing programmes at the two existing specialist gymnastics centres (Salto and Starlight) and at the Council's leisure centre sports halls (as opposed to displacing existing use). ○ Establish any facility enhancement investment needs to facilitate this access and additional capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review gymnastics facility needs with British Gymnastics, the Salto, Starlight and Red Hot gymnastics clubs based in Test Valley and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. ○ Subject to feasibility, funding and planning, support the Salto and Starlight clubs to expand their specialist permanent facilities and capacity in Andover and Romsey respectively.

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Secure improvement to the quality of the car parking available to visitors at the Salto Centre.
- Starlight Centre - to consider the feasibility, costs and funding options for relocation to a larger venue to provide additional capacity in the south sub-area.

Longer Term

- Provide assistance to the Romsey Starlight club and Andover Salto Club to enhance their facilities.
- Assess the feasibility of provision of a purpose-designed sports hall of at least 6 courts and suitable for gymnastics and trampolining with daytime availability in Romsey within feasibility assessments and future plans for the replacement of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex.

2.7 Athletics, Running, Walking for Health

- 2.7.1 Track & Field: Test Valley has one outdoor synthetic track with field athletics facilities for training and competition, at Charlton Sports Centre in Andover.
- 2.7.2 Built in 1983, the facilities provide a home venue for Andover Athletics Club with 240 members (across all ages and both genders) and programming of three training evenings (Monday, Wednesday, Thursday) in season.
- 2.7.3 The facilities and large pavilion are in good condition. However, a search of the UK Athletics online database suggests that the track does not currently hold a measurement and levels survey certificate for Level 2 competition. The throws cage at the site is listed as UKA Modified and therefore suitable for Level 2 category events. The Council should look to resurface the athletic track in the medium term to continually provide a good facility in the North of the Borough.
- 2.7.4 Residents to the west of Andover are also within the drive-to catchment area of track and field facility at Tidworth. The Tidworth Oval track (fully licensed to Level 2) is just 11 miles (15 minutes' drive time) from Andover and is convenient to access for residents of the villages of Shipton Bellinger, Kimpton & Fyfield and Thruxton.
- 2.7.5 The nearest track and field facility to residents of the south sub-area of Test Valley is the Level 2 licensed Southampton Sports Centre, SO16 7AY, just under 7 miles (an 18 minute drive time) from the centre of Romsey. Further afield (a 30-40 minute drive time), there are licensed tracks at Winchester, Salisbury and Basingstoke.
- 2.7.6 The only facility needs identified in consultation at the Andover Track is for the Borough Council to review the events license status of the running track with UK Athletics (UKA). Otherwise, the strategic facility issue identified in consultation with England Athletics is to ensure the track infield (used for football in winter) is protected and retained for field athletics use in the summer athletics season.
- 2.7.7 *Road Running:* Romsey Road Runners are the main road running club in the south sub-area of Test Valley. The club uses both Romsey Rapids Sports Complex and the Mountbatten School in Romsey by arrangement as muster/changing venues for its programmed group runs.
- 2.7.8 A female only road running club, the Solent Running Sisters (with 150 members) operate from B&Q House in Chandler's Ford and other venues in Eastleigh close to the boundary with Test Valley.
- 2.7.9 In the north sub-area, Muddy Runners are an England Athletics supported 'Run Together' recreational running group with approximately 150 runners (50/50 male/female). They meet for training runs at the Bulbery Playing Field Sports Pavilion in Abbots Ann village and at other venues in and around Andover, including the Charlton Athletics Track pavilion. Club runs are programmed on Saturday mornings, weekday mornings and evenings all year round. Most runs are on playing fields, paths and trails (i.e. off road). In consultation, the club forecast continued growth. The poor quality of the existing sports pavilion at Bulbery Playing Field was identified.
- 2.7.10 *Triathlon:* A well supported annual triathlon event is held in the Borough at Farleigh School near Andover. No facility requirements were identified in the consultation in connection with this event. The school has excellent quality parking and changing facilities available.
- 2.7.11 *Parkruns:* The Andover 5k Parkrun in Charlton Sports Centre/park (adjacent to the track with shared car parking) has been established for eight years. In summer, this social weekly run (9am Saturdays) attracts between 350 to 400 walkers and runners. The average attendance across the 450 weekly runs up to November 2019 was 196.
- 2.7.12 In the south of the Borough, a new 5k Parkrun was established in 2019 at Mountbatten School Playing Fields. By November 2019, 35 runs had taken place with an average attendance of 133.
- 2.7.13 The other weekly parkrun venues within 6 miles of Test Valley are in Eastleigh, Southampton, Winchester and at Netley Abbey.
- 2.7.14 *Health Walks:* Organised walks are coordinated by a Health Walks Coordinator employed by the Borough Council. In 2019/20 there are 12 regular walking groups with approximately 200

participants in total. Walks are programmed on either Saturday mornings or on a weekday morning across 11 different locations, a mix of towns and parishes.

- 2.7.15 The walks start and finish at a pavilion, village hall or other community venue with toilet and kitchen facilities (provided free of charge with refreshments). The walk venues in 2019/20 are:
- o Romsey
 - o Andover
 - o North Baddesley
 - o Stockbridge
 - o Valley Park
 - o East Anton (Andover)
 - o Abbotswood (Romsey)
 - o Picket Piece (Andover)
 - o Braishfield
 - o King's Somborne.
- 2.7.16 The programme has grown in recent years. The main facility issue identified in consultation is the variable quality of start/finish venues and the difficulties the coordinator experiences in finding new venues in suitable locations which have no hire charge.
- 2.7.17 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁸ indicate a stable picture in adult demand for running, athletics or multi sports nationally over the last three years. 15.7% of adults (16+) in England went running or took part in track or field athletics at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 (i.e. over 7 million people), similar to gym-based health and fitness membership. Walking for leisure has grown in popularity by 2.3% over the same three year period with 43.5% of adults taking part at least twice in the previous 28 days in 2018/19, over 19.6 million people.
- 2.7.18 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for athletics and running. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 2,648 adult residents in the Borough would like to start to participate in athletics and running or to participate more often.

Figure 29: Athletics, Running, Walking for Health Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Borough Council to continue to protect the existing track & field athletics facilities and ancillary changing, social and parking facilities at Charlton Sports Centre through planning policy and to ensure, in partnership with Hampshire County Council, the facilities and equipment, along with the footpaths, lighting, waymarking and other signage in other parks used for jogging and walking for health, are maintained to a good standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Borough Council to continue to work with other partners to inform future investment in infrastructure needed to support walking opportunities. This should include seeking to facilitate greater physical activity and supporting those with health conditions and / or disabilities. This should include input from the Ramblers, Energise Me and Walking for Health (national network of free group health walks). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Regularly review athletics and running facility needs with England Athletics, the Andover Athletics Club, Romsey Road Runners and Muddy Runners (Andover) and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Clarify the Charlton Athletic Track competition event license status with UK Athletics and consider the feasibility and costs of any improvement works required to secure a Level 2 competition certificate. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Abbots Ann Parish Council - upgrade or replace Bulbery Playing Field Sports Pavilion, protecting use by the Muddy Runners and other community groups for sport and physical activity. o Resurfacing of the synthetic track and replacement of field cages at Charlton Sports Centre as and when required. 		

¹⁸ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

2.8 Tennis

- 2.8.1 The total supply of outdoor tennis courts in Test Valley (excluding privately owned courts) is 91 courts of which half (45) have lighting.
- 2.8.2 There are 2 indoor tennis courts in Test Valley. The indoor courts are located in the north of the Borough at Andover Lawn Tennis Club on Era Business Park in Upper Clatford, just outside Andover.
- 2.8.3 A fifth of the total supply of outdoor courts (and the two indoor courts) are located at five tennis club sites, three in the north sub-area and two in the south, as detailed in Figure 30 below and in the map at Figure 33.
- 2.8.4 Courts at three of the tennis clubs are available to non-members to access on a pay and play basis.
- 2.8.5 All of the club courts are provided to a good quality. In the south sub-area, Wellow Tennis Club has submitted a planning application to install floodlighting to a further 2 courts at Hatches Farm Sports Field in West Wellow to increase the capacity at this site for year round tennis.
- 2.8.6 The main facility issues for the town tennis clubs relate to ancillary changing and social facilities for members and visitors.
- 2.8.7 Romsey & Abbey Tennis Club has a 5 year development plan with a priority for larger and affordable pavilion facilities to serve the social and changing needs of its members and visiting players. At present, the club has a small wooden pavilion courtside and shares access to changing rooms, toilets and car parking with users of the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. On occasion, for larger events, the club hires access to a youth club building located on the sports centre site next to the courts, 'Youth in Romsey'. Access to these facilities is restricted by cost of hire and availability on some evenings when in use for youth programmes.
- 2.8.8 The Andover Lawn Tennis Club has planning consent for an extension to the social/changing areas including improved circulation routes from the club's two indoor courts to the clubhouse facilities and a small fitness studio to improve future financial sustainability. The club also has planning consent for three additional outdoor courts and is seeking to raise the necessary funding. The access road and parking area to this site is of poor quality and needs upgrading.

Figure 30: Club Tennis Court Sites in Test Valley

Site	Sub-Area	No. Courts	Floodlit	Indoor	Pay & Play access?	No. Members	Condition
Andover Lawn Tennis Club, Era Park	North	5	3	2	Yes - keypad gate access	291	Excellent - recent provision (LTA loan and P&P condition).
Penton Tennis Club	North	2	0	0	No	93	Excellent - low fencing.
Goodworth Clatford Tennis Club	North	2	0	0	No	134	Good - low fencing.
Romsey & Abbey Tennis Club	South	4	4	0	Yes - keypad gate access	278	Excellent.
Wellow Tennis Club, Hatches Farm Playing Fields	South	4	2	0	Yes	70	Excellent. Planning consent sought by club to install lights to other 2 courts.
Totals		17	9	2		866	

Source of Membership Numbers: LTA September 2019

- 2.8.9 At public parks and recreation grounds there are 24 courts (5 floodlit) all of which are available for public hire on a pay and play basis or, in some cases, on an open access / free of charge basis. As detailed in Figure 31 below, the quality of these public courts is variable. The most significant provision of public courts is at Knightwood Leisure Centre, Valley Park. These three courts and two mini courts were resurfaced in 2019. A new coaching programming has been introduced by Places Leisure in partnership with Premier Tennis.

- 2.8.10 Good quality single open use public tennis courts have been installed at Picket Twenty and Picket Piece since the previous sports strategy to serve residents of new housing in these parts of Andover. A new multi-use games area (MUGA) equipped and used for tennis has also been installed recently on the Barton Stacey Recreation Ground in the north sub-area. Also, in the north of the borough, the public courts in the villages of Tangley, Hurstbourne Tarrant and Vernham Dean are also provided to a good standard having been resurfaced or re-fenced recently.
- 2.8.11 There are several courts in poor or very poor condition that require upgrade or change of sporting use. These are highlighted within Figure 31.
- 2.8.12 There are cracks in the surface to the single court to the rear of the Andover Sports Academy which render the court in its present condition unsafe to hire. As a single court, the facility operator considers there is no business case to retain and upgrade this provision as a hard court. Subject to planning and funding, the operator aspires to change the playing surface used to an artificial turf surface to enable hires for small sided football primarily, but which could also be marked and equipped for tennis.
- 2.8.13 The two courts on the rear section of the playing field at North Baddesley were badly affected by moss and leaf mould at the time of the site visit and require attention. North Baddesley Parish Council has planning consent for two additional courts and a pavilion extension. There are questions as to the demand and needs case for additional courts in this location. There is a case to be made to enhance the existing courts and promote their use (possibly with keypad gate access and an online membership) before considering additional courts.

Figure 31: Park Tennis Court Sites in Test Valley

Site	Sub Area	No. Courts	Floodlit	Pay & Play	Condition
Vigo Recreation Ground	North	2	0	Free	Fair - no fencing to one side
Andover Sports Academy	North	1 (netball share)	1	Yes	Very poor
Picket Twenty Recreation Ground	North	1	0	No	Excellent - recent provision
Picket Piece Recreation Ground	North	1	0	No	Excellent - recent provision
Wherwell Playing Field	North	2 (MUGA)	0	Yes	Good
King George V Field, Hurstbourne Tarrant	North	1	0	Yes (shared with Primary School)	Excellent - newly resurfaced by HCC
Barton Stacey Playing Field	North	1 (MUGA)	0	Yes	Excellent - recent provision
Vernham Dean Playing Field	North	1 (netball share)	1 - low level	Yes	Good - newly refurbished
Shipton Bellinger Recreation Ground	North	1 (MUGA)	0	Yes	Poor
Tangley Playing Field/Wildhern Village Hall	North	1	0	Yes	Good - recently resurfaced
Over Wallop (Alun Evans Memorial Ground)	North	1 (MUGA)	0	Yes	Fair - new perimeter fencing
Nether Wallop Playing Field	North	1	0	No	Good - poor perimeter fencing
Knightwood Leisure Centre	South	3 (netball share) + 2 Mini courts	3	Yes + Premier Tennis	Excellent - newly resurfaced
Romsey War Memorial Park	South	2	0	Free	Fair - leaf drop
Sherfield English Sports Field	South	2 (netball share)	0	Yes	Poor - moss
King's Somborne Recreation Ground	South	1 (MUGA)	0	Yes + Mon tennis club	Fair - new perimeter fencing
North Baddesley Recreation Ground	South	2	0	Yes	Very poor - moss, leaf mould
Totals		24	5		

- 2.8.14 The largest provision of tennis courts in the borough is on secondary school sites, as detailed in Figure 32 below. All six of the community secondary schools in Test Valley have tennis courts. Most are also marked and used for netball.
- 2.8.15 Of these, the most relevant in terms of community accessibility and availability in the peak hours year-round are the 6 floodlit courts at Mountbatten School. Given the proximity of these courts to Whitenap Lane and the housing growth areas of south Romsey, it will be important to ensure these courts continue to be maintained to a good quality, made available at affordable rates and promoted to the resident community.
- 2.8.16 Similarly, there is a good needs case at Romsey School to upgrade the courts and recommission the floodlights. The school is already a designated LTA Tennis School and has a coaching partnership with Romsey & Abbey Tennis Club, based close to the school on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex site. The school's physical education department aspires to work with the club, the LTA and other partners to secure the funding required to upgrade the school courts and floodlights. This is to provide more year-round playing capacity in the peak evening and weekend period in Romsey for the club's 280 playing members as well as helping to sustain and grow the club by developing more school age players.
- 2.8.17 In Andover, the nearest school tennis courts to the main housing growth areas on the north and east sides of the town are at Winton School. As the population grows in this area, there will be a needs case to resurface the courts and upgrade the existing lighting at this site.
- 2.8.18 The two largest independent boarding schools, Farleigh and Embley, have excellent floodlit courts. These courts are not generally available to the community outside the school summer holidays when coaching camps are offered. Potential for further community access in the peak period in term time is limited to an extent by the needs of these schools to provide access at these times to their boarding pupils.

Figure 32: School Tennis/Netball Court Sites in Test Valley

Site	Sub Area	No. Courts	Floodlit	Pay & Play	Condition
Harrow Way School	North	5 (netball share)	0 (no potential)	No	Good
Winton School	North	4 (netball share)	4 - low level	Yes (£9-£11/hr)	Fair - need resurfacing and improved lighting levels (subject to planning)
John Hanson School	North	5 (netball share)	5	Yes	Good surface, fencing, lights, poor nets
Farleigh School	North	6 (on AGP in summer term), 4 hard courts (netball share)	6 + 4	No - except tennis coaching in summer	Excellent
Rookwood School	North	3 (netball share)	3	No - Andover Arrows Netball weekly training	Good
Test Valley School	South	3 (netball share)	0 (no potential)	No	Very poor - slope
Mountbatten School	South	4 + 2 (netball share)	6	Yes + Absolute Tennis Coaching	Good
Romsey School	South	4 (netball share)	0 (broken lights)	Yes - an LTA Tennis School (£3-£5/hr)	Poor - root damage, leaf mould
Embley School (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School)	South	6 (netball share)	6	No - except Absolute Tennis Coaching in holidays	Excellent
Stroud Preparatory School	South	4 (netball share)	0	No	Excellent
Totals		50	34 (+4 at Romsey School out of commission)		

- 2.8.19 Within the travel catchment for residents in the parts of the south sub-area of Test Valley, the following tennis facilities in Eastleigh offer good quality floodlit outdoor courts for pay and play with comprehensive coaching programmes for adults and juniors:
- Hiltingbury Sports Hub in Chandler's Ford

- o Places Eastleigh Leisure Centre (Premier Tennis Coaching).

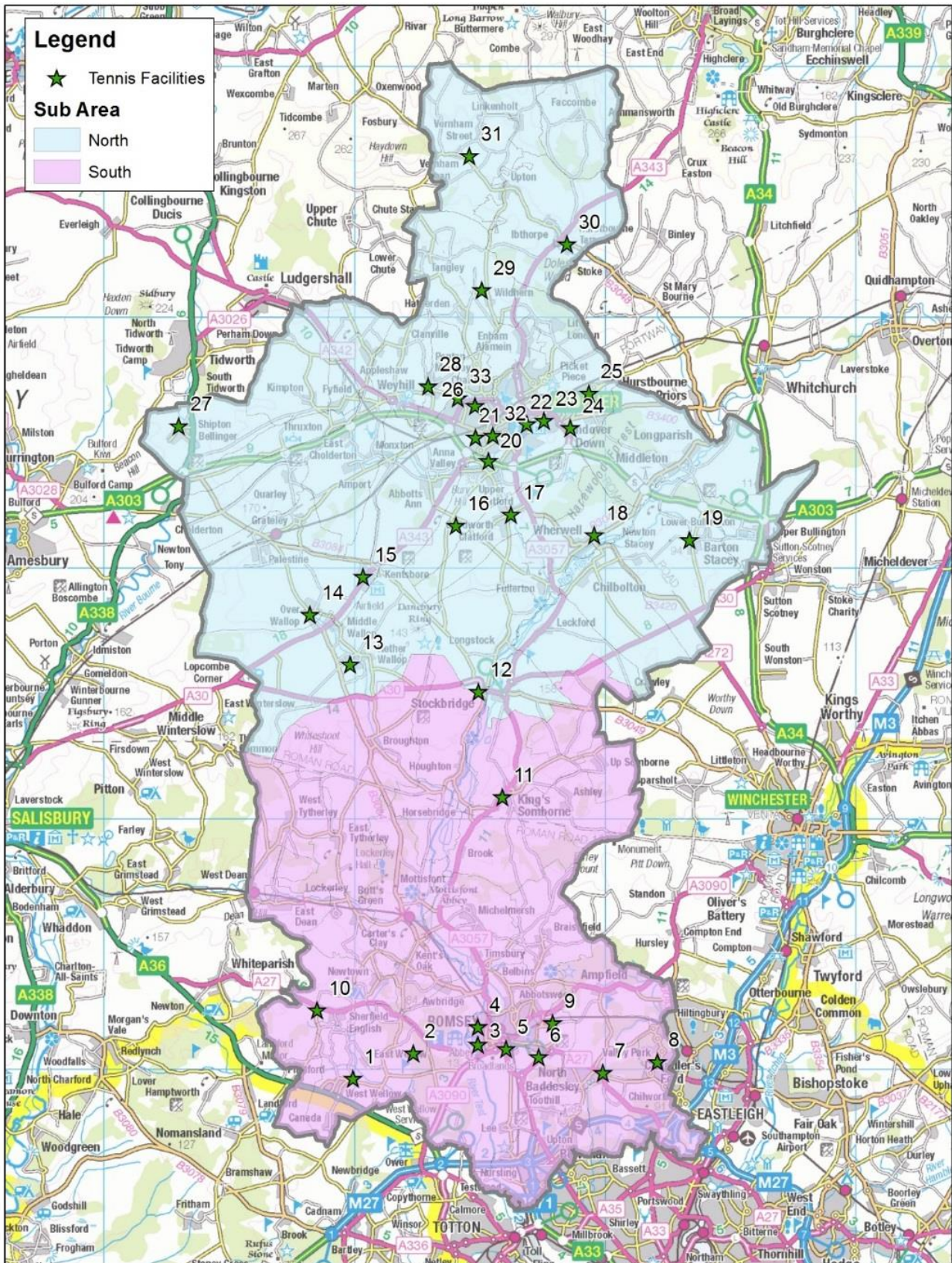
2.8.20 *Indoor Courts* - Residents in the north sub-area are able to access indoor courts (either as members or on a pay and play basis) at Andover Lawn Tennis Club in Era Park. However, there are no indoor or covered courts in the south sub-area of the Borough. The nearest are the two David Lloyd Clubs in Southampton at Nursling and West End. Although primarily private members clubs, the David Lloyd in Nursling offers some pay and play access as a legacy of LTA investment.

2.8.21 In the longer term, there may be opportunities to improve year-round availability of community tennis in Romsey by installing a lightweight dome cover to existing courts subject to feasibility, planning and funding. However, it is noted that Romsey is not on the priority list of 72 locations across England identified by the LTA in June 2019 for investment of up to £250,000 per site in covered courts. The nearest LTA priority locations for investment in new covered courts are in Salisbury, the Isle of Wight and Fareham.

2.8.22 The distribution of the following 33 sites offering tennis and or outdoor netball courts in Test Valley is shown in Figure 33:

Map Ref.	Site Name	Map Ref.	Site Name
1	Hatches Farm Playing Field	18	Wherwell Playing Field
2	Embley School	19	Barton Stacey Playing Field
3	Romsey War Memorial Park	20	Andover Lawn Tennis Club
4	Romsey School	21	John Hanson School
5	Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	22	Vigo Recreation Ground
6	Mountbatten School	23	Winton Academy
7	North Baddesley Recreation Ground	24	Picket Twenty
8	Knightwood Leisure Centre	25	Picket Piece
9	Stroud School	26	Harrow Way School
10	Sherfield English Sports Field	27	Shipton Bellinger Sports Field
11	King's Somborne Recreation Ground	28	Penton Tennis Club
12	Test Valley School	29	Wildern Playing Field
13	Nether Wallop Playing Field	30	King George V Field, Hurstbourne Tarrant
14	Over Wallop Sports Field	31	Burydene Playing Field, Vernham Dean
15	Middle Wallop Station	32	Rookwood School
16	Farleigh School	33	Andover Sports Academy
17	Goodwood Clatford Tennis Club		

Figure 33: Tennis/Netball Court sites in Test Valley



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- 2.8.23 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings¹⁹ indicate there has been a slight downturn in adult demand for tennis nationally over the last three years. 1.7% of adults (16+) in England participated in tennis at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 754,900 people. This represents a significant decrease of -0.3% since the benchmark ALS in 2015/16.
- 2.8.24 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for tennis. In Test Valley, the SMS 'would like to play' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 2,331 adult residents in the Borough would like to start to participate in tennis or to participate more often.

Figure 34: Tennis Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for tennis through planning policy. The Borough Council to ensure courts, fencing and nets in parks and at Knightwood Leisure Centre are maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To assess the feasibility, costs and funding strategy to upgrade poor quality provision in priority locations within the catchment areas of the main housing growth areas in the Borough. This includes Romsey School, Winton School and North Baddesley Recreation Ground. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review tennis facility needs with the Lawn Tennis Association, the 5 established community tennis clubs based in Test Valley and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Upgrade the access road and car parking at the Andover LTC site in Era Park, Upper Clatford.
- Assess the feasibility of enhancing the courts and lighting at Romsey School as a satellite play and play and coaching site for the Romsey School of Tennis in partnership with Romsey & Abbey Tennis Club.
- Review the business case options for upgrading/change of primary sports use of the single court at Andover Sports Academy.
- North Baddesley Parish Council to revisit the needs case for proposals for two additional courts and improve the quality of the existing courts.

Longer Term

- Assess the feasibility of resurfacing the Winton School courts and upgrading the floodlights for secured community use.
- Review the future provision for tennis in Romsey, to include the potential for covering existing courts and the needs of the Romsey & Abbey Tennis Club for enhanced ancillary changing and social facilities within feasibility assessments and future plans for the replacement of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex.

2.9 Netball

- 2.9.1 *Indoor Courts:* The main indoor provision for netball is the sports hall with two netball courts at Andover Leisure Centre, which hosts fixtures for the Andover & District Netball Association and some Hampshire Netball Association fixtures. The potential of this hall to host larger netball events is limited currently by means of escape and licensing restrictions as detailed in the sports halls section above. The leisure centre also programmes a summer holidays netball day camp.
- 2.9.2 Several of the secondary school sports halls in Andover are also used for winter netball training in combination with floodlit outdoor courts on these sites. For example, Vernham Dean Vixens regularly hire the sports hall at Harrow Way Community School in Andover in winter and the outdoor courts (with no lights) at other times. The sports hall at the independent Rookwood School in Andover is also used by the Andover Arrows Netball Club teams on occasions with most weekly training taking place outdoors on Monday evenings.
- 2.9.3 *Outdoor Courts:* Almost all of the outdoor courts for netball in Test Valley (44 of 49) are based on secondary school sites. These are hard court areas and are frequently dual marked for both netball and tennis, as shown in Figure 33 in the tennis section above. Approximately 70% (35 of the 49 courts) have some level of lighting.

¹⁹ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

- 2.9.4 The majority of the community schools make their courts available in the weekday evening peak period in term time at affordable hire fees for team training and recreational netball sessions. Availability is limited to the high-quality floodlit courts at some of the independent schools (particularly those with boarding students). The notable exception is Rookwood School in Andover.
- 2.9.5 The five netball courts with full community availability on community leisure centre or park sites are at:
- Knightwood Leisure Centre (3 dual marked floodlit courts, good quality).
 - Andover Sports Academy (single court with low level lights and restricted run offs).
 - Burydene Playing Field, Vernham Dean (single MUGA court, good quality).
- 2.9.6 Similar to tennis, the quality of netball courts in Test Valley is generally good with the main facility quality issues identified in the site visits and consultations as the following:
- Romsey School (poor playing surface with root damage and broken lights).
 - Winton School (poor playing surface and low lux level lighting).
 - Test Valley School (poor, sloping playing surface).
 - Andover Sports Academy (restricted run offs and low lux level lighting).
- 2.9.7 The Hampshire Netball League is based on the floodlit courts at the John Hanson Community School in Andover. The Andover District Netball Association host a netball social summer league at this school (on Wednesday evenings).
- 2.9.8 The main netball club in the Borough is Andover Arrows, established in 2002. They have a team in the Hampshire County League, 4 teams in the Andover & District Leagues and a junior development programme based for school Years 7&8 and 9&10. The club aspires to establish a 'High Fives' training group for school Years 5&6 from the 2020/21 season. The club's home floodlit training courts are at the independent Rookwood School in Weyhill Road in Andover. The club hires the courts from 6.15pm to 9.15pm on Monday evenings in season from September to May in term times. The club has three qualified coaches and offers free taster sessions. Fees are £3 per training session payable termly in advance.
- 2.9.9 Courts (tennis share with low level lighting) at Winton Community Academy (also in Andover) are hired by netball clubs and for an annual 'Daisy Jane' netball tournament.
- 2.9.10 Weekly 'Netball Now' or 'Back to Netball' daytime drop-in sessions supported by Hampshire Netball Community Coaches have previously been run at the Knightwood Leisure Centre in the south sub-area. Similar sessions have taken place in the past on the single court at Andover Sports Academy managed by Andover Community Services.
- 2.9.11 In Romsey and the south sub-area, club netball is not as well developed as in Andover and the north of the Borough. The Romsey Netball Club was established at Romsey School in 2015 to encourage people of all ages to get back into netball. For several seasons, this development club ran weekly open drop-in sessions under lights from 7-8pm on Thursday evenings at the school at a cost of £3.50 per session. The club no longer uses these courts due to their poor condition and broken lighting (see tennis section) and have since relocated to Knightwood Leisure Centre.
- 2.9.12 There may be further opportunities for development of netball in Test Valley at existing facilities in partnership with the County Netball Development Officer and Community Coach based at Places Eastleigh. Current initiatives are:
- Back to Netball
 - Walking Netball
 - Bee Netball (new U-11s programme)
 - Netball Now
 - Netball Youth Camps
- 2.9.13 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings²⁰ indicate no significant change in adult demand for netball nationally over the last three years. 0.7% of adults (16+) in England participated in netball at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 319,400 people. There has been an upturn (+0.1%) in the last 12 months since 2017/18.

²⁰ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

- 2.9.14 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for netball. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents, during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 361 adult residents in the borough would like to start to participate in netball or to participate more often.
- 2.9.15 In the short term, the facility priority for netball is to improve the playing surface and lighting at Romsey School (in a partnership with tennis to facilitate shared community use in the peak period by Romsey & Abbey Tennis Club and Romsey Netball Club).
- 2.9.16 In the medium or longer term there may be a community needs case to upgrade the courts and lighting at Winton School to meet demand for community netball generated by new residents in the housing growth areas close to this school (Picket Twenty and Picket Piece).
- 2.9.17 In terms of daytime availability of indoor netball, the south sub area does not currently offer a community sports hall of sufficient size to accommodate a netball court. There is also very limited availability for indoor netball in the evenings at the existing two school sports halls, at Mountbatten School and Romsey School, as netball competes with badminton and other sports for the available slots in the peak period for community demand (weekday evenings).

Figure 35: Recommended Netball Priorities

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and the availability of community facilities for netball through planning policy. The Borough Council should ensure the courts, fencing and nets at Knightwood Leisure Centre are maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To assess the feasibility, costs and funding strategy to upgrade poor quality provision in priority locations within the catchment areas of the main housing growth areas in the borough - i.e. at Romsey School and Winton School. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball, The Andover & District Netball League, Andover Arrows, Romsey Netball, village netball clubs and the leisure management service provider in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assess the feasibility of enhancing the courts and lighting at Romsey School to facilitate the return of Romsey Netball Club to this site to strengthen school and community netball development links with slots in the peak period shared between the netball club and the Romsey School of Tennis / Romsey & Abbey Tennis Club. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Assess the feasibility of resurfacing the Winton School courts and upgrading the floodlights for secured community use. ○ Assess the feasibility of providing a purpose-designed sports hall of at least 6 courts (suitable for netball) with daytime availability in Romsey within feasibility assessments and future plans for the replacement of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. 		

2.10 Cycling

- 2.10.1 There are BMX facilities in both the north sub-area, at Charlton Park, and in the south-sub area, at Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park.
- 2.10.2 These tracks are the home bases of well-supported BMX clubs. Test Valley Borough Council is responsible for the maintenance of the tracks and supporting facilities.
- 2.10.3 Both Andover BMX Club and Knightwood BMX clubs have achieved rapid growth, driven by elite level success of a number of its members.
- 2.10.4 In the short term, the provision of track lighting would extend the hours of availability and use at both tracks particularly in the winter months. However, this is subject to planning and funding.
- 2.10.5 In the longer term, both clubs have aspirations to upgrade the tracks.

- 2.10.6 *Road Cycling:* Road cycling is very popular in the Borough due to its excellent terrain and lanes through the villages. Test Valley hosts a number of community cycling events, sportives and festivals (including, since Summer 2019, an Andover Cycling Festival).
- 2.10.7 Test Valley has three British Cycling affiliated road cycling clubs; Andover Wheelers (the largest club, based at Picket Twenty Sports Pavilion), Romsey Cycle Club and Test Valley Cycling Club.
- 2.10.8 There are also many unaffiliated and unconstituted informal cycling groups riding socially, primarily at weekends and on summer evenings.
- 2.10.9 The main needs for the further development of road cycling are to continue to develop participation by women and girls through more initiatives like the Andover Ladies Breeze rides (formerly run from a cycle shop in Weyhill, Andover, now closed), more training of volunteer female ride leaders and improved way marking of shorter, easy/moderate grade circular routes.
- 2.10.10 There may also be opportunities to explore the potential of the Thruxton Racing Circuit in the Borough to accommodate more closed road circuit cycling events and training sessions in partnership with Andover Wheelers and British Cycling. This could help contribute to the local visitor and tourism economy.
- 2.10.11 *Track Cycling:* The closest indoor velodrome to residents of Test Valley is at the Calshot Activities Centre located on Calshot Spit at Fawley by the Solent. This facility is owned by Hampshire County Council. The only indoor banked velodrome in the South of England, this facility was built in 1997 and can be used by a wide range of cyclists from novices to international standard. 4 hour coached sessions for 11-15 year olds and adults are available at taster/beginner, improver and advanced levels most weekends for between £33 and £66 a session. Individual tuition is also available from £87 for 90 minutes. Calshot is an approximate 30 minute drive time from Romsey.
- 2.10.12 *Mountain Biking / Gravel Biking:* Although there is no dedicated Bike Park in Test Valley, the Test Way and the extensive bridleway network is a major resource for off-road trail riding.
- 2.10.13 The main strategic actions required to promote more use of bridleways for Mountain Bike (MTB) are:
- Training of more volunteer off-road ride leaders.
 - Improved route mapping and promotion.
 - Maintenance of Public Right of Way (PROW) network
- 2.10.14 *Cyclocross:* The first Cyclocross event was hosted in 2019 at Charlton Park. This area has been identified as a potential venue for larger events. This was in addition to training sessions in advance of the event.
- 2.10.15 There are likely to be suitable locations and sites in private ownership in the rural parts of Test Valley for the provision of dedicated MTB / Gravel Bike / Cyclocross tracks, skills training areas etc. The Borough Council should encourage proposals for these types of development in appropriate areas with suitable access, ancillary facilities and sustainable business plans. Destination off-road cycling venues have potential to be a significant contributor to the local visitor and tourism economy.
- 2.10.16 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings²¹ indicate no significant change in adult demand for cycling for leisure and sport nationally over the last three years. 13.8% of adults (16+) in England participated in cycling at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 6,258,500 people. This makes cycling the fourth most popular sports and leisure activity after walking, running/athletics and fitness classes.
- 2.10.17 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for cycling. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010 extrapolated that 5,383 adult residents in the Borough would like to cycle or to cycle more often.

²¹ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 36: Cycling Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the existing facilities for the various cycling disciplines through planning policy. The Borough Council should ensure, in partnership with local cycling clubs and Hampshire County Council, that the BMX sites in Charlton Park and Knightwood (Valley Park), along with existing cycle paths, cycle routes, lighting, waymarking and other signage are maintained to a good standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to work with other partners to inform future investment in infrastructure needed to support cycling opportunities. This should include seeking to facilitate greater physical activity and support those with health conditions and / or disabilities. This should include input from British Cycling, Cycling UK, Bikeability Cycle Training, Sustrans and Energise Me. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review cycling facility needs in the Borough with British Cycling, Andover Wheelers, Romsey Cycle Club, Test Valley Cycling Club, Andover BMX Club and Knightwood BMX Club in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth. ○ Utilise the government new walking and cycling strategy to ensure provision meets wider need. (Department of transport, 2020)
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andover BMX Track - Establish the feasibility of installing an electricity supply for lighting and CCTV to extend hours of availability and a water supply to facilitate track watering and maintenance. ○ Knightwood BMX Track - Establish the feasibility of installing an electricity supply for lighting and CCTV to extend hours of availability. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Train more volunteer cycle leaders (road and off-road) including female leaders. ○ Improve way marking and promotion of shorter/easier road routes attractive to novice riders. ○ Improve route marking and promotion of more off-road routes. ○ Consider potential location and site opportunities for a destination off-road bike park and/or cyclocross track in the Borough. 		

2.11 Archery

- 2.11.1 Test Valley is home to two major archery clubs with extensive dedicated facilities on local authority owned playing field sites.
- 2.11.2 In the south sub-area, Southampton Archery Club, established in 2002 and now one of the largest clubs in the country with a thriving junior section, are located at Hardmoor Sports Ground adjacent to the Trojans Sports Club. Although located in Test Valley, the Sports Ground is owned and maintained by Eastleigh Borough Council.
- 2.11.3 In 2018/19, Eastleigh Borough Council invested extensively in improving the Hardmoor Playing Field drainage and in a new, high quality clubhouse building and car park. The quality of these facilities is excellent.
- 2.11.4 There are advanced proposals for Eastleigh Borough Council to transfer the maintenance responsibility of the sports ground to Trojans Sports Club in return for access to the pitches for cricket, mini rugby and youth football for their large sports sections which have outgrown their current facilities.
- 2.11.5 The top section of the field nearest to the pavilion is dedicated to archery and is floodlit. For larger shoots and weekend afternoon tournaments, the club has access to parts of the field that are used by Trojans Sports Club at weekends, for cricket in summer and youth rugby and football in winter.
- 2.11.6 Southampton Archery Club members are able to use the ground year-round on Saturday and Sunday mornings from 9am until 12 noon, and also on Tuesday and Thursday evenings from 3pm until dusk. Many club members shoot for Hampshire in inter-county matches. The club enters teams in county, regional and national leagues. Many members regularly compete in local and national open tournaments. Six beginners' courses are programmed annually from March to

September. Each course is programmed over three consecutive Saturday mornings. The courses cost £60 for adults/£50 for under 18s accompanied by an adult.

- 2.11.7 In the north sub-area, Andover Archers lease from Test Valley Borough Council a dedicated archery field (accommodating up to 33 bosses and shooting distances of up to 100 yards) and a single storey brick-built clubhouse with an indoor range (for up to 8 archers and shooting lines of 20 yards, 18 metres and 20 metres) at Foxcotte Sports Park on the northern fringe of Andover. The lease has 28 years unexpired. The club shares a large, un-made car park with Andover Rugby Football Club and Andover New Street Football Club. The car park is poor quality and would benefit from surface improvements, kerbs and markings including dedicated disabled spaces.
- 2.11.8 The dedicated archery field and equipment and indoor range and clubhouse facilities built in 1994 are accessible to members of Andover Archers 7 days a week year-round. The ranges and ancillary facilities, now 26 years old, are rated by the club as 'Very Good' (both 5/5).
- 2.11.9 In Autumn 2019, Andover Archers reported in consultation that they have 129 active members (78 adult men, 30 adult women, 11 youth male and 10 youth female). By February 2020, the membership numbers on the club's website had increased to 138 (113 seniors, 25 juniors). The club membership has remained broadly static over the past three years.
- 2.11.10 The club reported no current growth plans and an aspiration to continue its current comprehensive programme of events, tournaments and beginners' courses, subject to the continued availability of sufficient volunteer members to support and coach. The novices programme includes sessions of: Tasters (hour for 1-2 people), Have a Go (two hours for groups of up to 16) and 4 x 7-week Beginners Courses per annum.
- 2.11.11 Within the Test Valley's travel time catchment area there is the recently built Places Eastleigh Leisure Centre, which hosts Hampshire Archery Association events including an annual Open Indoor Archery Weekend incorporating the Hampshire County Championship. AC Delco Bowmen at Highbridge in Eastleigh is also within the drive time catchment for some residents in the south of Test Valley. Southampton University has a large student Archery Club with outdoor ranges at its Wide Lane Sports Ground in Eastleigh close to Southampton Airport Parkway and a small 20yd indoor range available to student members daily in winter close to Wessex Lane Student Halls.
- 2.11.12 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings²² indicate that approximately 19,900 adults in England participated in archery at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 with no significant change compared with the benchmark survey year of 2015/16.
- 2.11.13 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for archery. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 136 adult residents in the Borough would like to start to participate in archery or to participate more often.

Figure 37: Archery Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for archery through planning policy and, in liaison with Eastleigh Borough Council and the two archery clubs, seek to ensure the existing archery facilities at Hardmoor and Foxcotte continue to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To assess with Andover Archers, and the other two sports clubs with leased sports grounds at Foxcotte Sports Ground, the options to upgrade the shared car park. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review archery facility needs in the Borough with Archery GB, Hampshire Archery Association and the two established community archery clubs based in Test Valley in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
Prioritised Actions		

²² Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Protect	Enhance	Provide
Short Term (1-2 years) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relevant parties to meet and agree options and way forward to upgrade the car park at Foxcotte Sports Park. 		
Longer Term <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a wide-ranging review of the long term ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs at Foxcotte Sports Park. 		

2.12 Bowls and Croquet

- 2.12.1 In the south sub-area, the Borough has good quality dedicated facilities for bowls and croquet as follows:
- Indoor bowls (8 rinks at Banister Park Bowls Centre).
 - Outdoor bowls (two greens at Banister Park and greens at Romsey War Memorial Park and Sherfield English Sports Field).
 - Croquet (dedicated green at Hunt's Farm Playing Fields and shared green with bowls at Sherfield English).
- 2.12.2 In the north sub-area, the Andover Bowls Club in Vigo Recreation Ground is the sole provision currently, although as Figure 38 shows, there is a small 4 rink indoor centre with spare capacity at Whitchurch within 20 minutes' drive time of Andover.

Figure 38: Indoor Bowls Club Sites in Approximate 30 Minutes' Drive Time

Indoor Club	No. Rink	Type	Drive time / Distance	Adult members per rink 2018	Adult members per rink 2016	Junior members total 2018	Junior members total 2016
North*							
Long Meadow, Whitchurch, Hampshire RG28 7RB	4	Indoor	19 mins (9 miles)	22	18	0	0
West Berks, Newbury RG14 7SW	6	Indoor	32 mins (18 miles)	70	61	6	3
Loddon Vale, Basingstoke RG22 6PG	8	Indoor	30 mins (21 miles)	53	63	17	15
South**							
Banister Park, Adjacent Trojans Sports Club, Test Valley SO50 9HT	8	Indoor/ Outdoor	18 mins (10 miles)	45	46	16	7
Five Rivers, Salisbury SP1 2JJ	4	Indoor	33 mins (16 miles)	51	55	5	7
Atherley, Southampton SO15 5DB	6	Indoor/ Outdoor	20 mins (8 miles)	52	46	2	7

* Drivetime measured from TVBC Council Offices

** Drivetime measured from Romsey Town Hall

Source: England Indoor Bowls Association October 2019

- 2.12.3 Four of the six clubs in an approximate 30 minute drive time catchment area of Test Valley (including Banister Park) are operating at very close to the national average of 54 indoor bowls members per rink (based on the clubs' declared figures to the EIBA for over 18s in December 2018). The trend over the past three years is relatively stable. Most popular sessions are during the daytime in the winter months, as many older people prefer not to travel after dark.
- 2.12.4 Indoor Bowls is attractive and accessible to people with disabilities (including wheelchair users and the visually impaired). Short mat bowls can also be played on indoor greens to assist with financial sustainability. With protection of the green, it is also possible to play Boccia. The EIBA considers that all of the indoor bowls clubs in the Test Valley drive time catchment area have

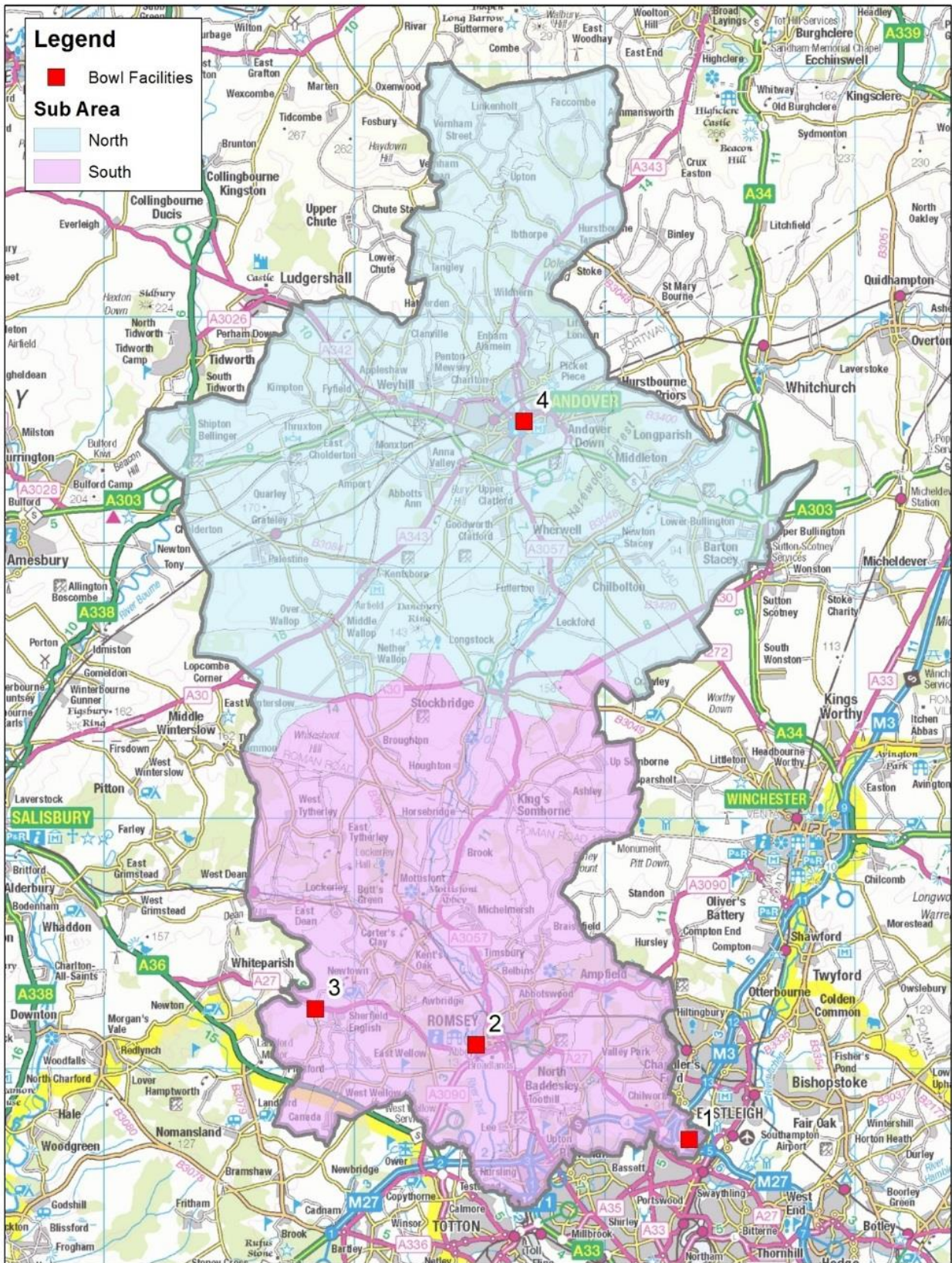
capacity to accommodate further members in the context of the ageing population profile and forecasts for Borough population growth.

- 2.12.5 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings²³ indicate a significant downturn in demand for bowls nationally over the last three years. 0.7% of adults (16+) in England participated in bowls at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 293,000 people. This represents a significant decrease of -0.1% since the benchmark ALS in 2015/16.
- 2.12.6 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for bowls. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 197 adult residents in the borough would like to start to participate in bowls or to participate more often.
- 2.12.7 Sport England's Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) planning tool is available for indoor bowls. For Test Valley, the SFC finding is that the additional population by 2036 (i.e. 12,200 people approximately current forecast), assuming no increase over the period in demand for indoor bowls, will require the equivalent of just under one additional indoor rink (0.95) to cater for 148 additional visits per week in the peak period. This level of additional demand does not justify new provision.
- 2.12.8 Unless there is a significant upturn in demand for the sport of indoor bowls over the period, the demand generated from the population growth will be accommodated within the existing capacity at Banister Park Indoor Bowls Club and the other indoor centres within the drive time catchment area of Test Valley.
- 2.12.9 The main facility issue identified in consultation with the Banister IBC relates to light interference from the Trojans Sports Club hockey pitch floodlights when in use on evenings at the beginning and end of the summer outdoor bowls season.
- 2.12.10 The distribution of the following 4 sites offering bowls in Test Valley is shown in Figure 39:

Map Ref.	Site Name	Map Ref.	Site Name
1	Banister Park Bowls Club	3	Sherfield English Sports Field
2	Romsey War Memorial Park	4	Vigo Recreation Ground

²³ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 39: Bowls Facilities in Test Valley



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- 2.12.11 As far as the outdoor clubs in Andover and Romsey are concerned, both are 6 rink greens with irrigation systems and are well maintained by trained and experienced volunteer members. The facility priorities identified in consultation are:
- o Andover BC - A replacement, larger pavilion adjacent to the green, subject to funding and planning.
 - o Romsey BC - Parking concessions for visiting players.
- 2.12.12 North Baddesley Parish Council secured planning consent for a bowling green and pavilion extension at the Recreation Ground in the south sub-area. Given the spare capacity at existing venues in the catchment area, the needs case for this provision is not strong.
- 2.12.13 Test Valley Croquet Club, based at Hunt's Farm Romsey, is a relatively small club of approximately 20 members with no plans for growth. The club considers that the two greens could be maintained to a higher standard.

Figure 40: Bowls and Croquet Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for indoor and outdoor bowls through planning policy and, in liaison with the four outdoor clubs, seek to ensure the existing facilities for bowls continue to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o To assess with Andover Bowls Club the feasibility, costs and funding strategy for a replacement pavilion overlooking the green. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Regularly review bowls facility needs in the Borough with the Bowls Development Alliance, England Bowls, England Indoor Bowls Association and the four established bowls clubs based in Test Valley in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- o Relevant parties to meet and agree options and costs to reduce floodlight interference between Trojans hockey floodlights and Banister Park outdoor bowls greens (e.g. installation of lighting cowls, activity programming).
- o Romsey Bowls Club and Borough Council to liaise concerning options to improve parking/reduce parking costs for visiting club teams for competitions.

Longer Term

- o Assess the feasibility, costs and funding strategy for a replacement pavilion or working with the clubs to assess feasibility for long term club maintenance and venues.

2.13 Golf

- 2.13.1 Within Test Valley, there are 4 golf facilities in the north sub-area and 7 in the more densely populated south sub-area, as summarised in Figure 41 below and mapped in Figure 43. Aside from the course on an independent boarding school site at Embley and the Leckford Estate Golf Club (owned by the Waitrose Partnership), the remaining 9 golf venues are all accessible to non-members on payment of a green fee.

Figure 41: Golf Sites in Test Valley

Site	Sub Area	Golf Facilities	Type & fees
Andover Golf Club	North	9 hole course	Private Members Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Fee (adult from £10 weekday twilight to £22 for 18 holes weekend peak) Membership (adult from £325 pa for flexible option to £588 pa for 7 day)
Hampshire Golf Club	North	18 hole course, 9 hole par 3 academy course (also used for foot golf), 10 bay practice range	Private Members Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Fee (adult from £7.50 academy course to £25 for 18 holes weekend peak) Foot Golf (adult £8, u15s £5) Membership (adult from £199 pa for 9 hole academy course only, to £945 pa for 7 day all facilities)
Monxton & Grateley Golf Centre	North	9 hole par 3 pitch and putt course, 25 bay practice range	Proprietary pay and play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> £5 per day at all times.
Charlton Sports Centre	North	18 hole par 3 pitch and putt course, adventure/crazy golf	Municipal pay and play <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult (£5.25 for 18 holes) Adventure golf - £2.50 (£5 club deposit).
Leckford Estate Golf Club, Bakers Farm	South	2 x 9 hole courses	Proprietary members and societies only (8 players minimum). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult membership £610 pa, junior £155 (concessions for Waitrose Partners)
Romsey Golf Club	South	18 hole course	Private Members Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Fee (adult from £15 weekday twilight to £32 weekend peak) Membership (adult from £325 pa for flexible option)
Wellow Golf Club	South	3 x 9 hole courses, grass tee practice area	Private Members Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Fee (adult from £11 for 9 holes weekday twilight to £31 for 18 holes weekend peak) Membership (adult from £390 pa for flexible option)
Embley (formerly Hampshire Collegiate School)	South	9 hole academy course, grass tee practice range, indoor coaching facility	School (Embley students can also play at Wellow GC)
Stoneham Golf Club	South	18 hole course	Private Members Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Fee (adult from £60 winter weekday to £90 weekend peak) Membership (adult from £1,150 pa for 5 day plus £500 joining fee).
Chilworth Golf Club	South	18 hole course, 36 bay floodlit practice range (mix of covered and open bays)	Proprietary Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Fee (adult from £20 for 18 holes weekday with a Club Card costing £55 pa) Membership (adult from £570 pa for 5 day)
Ampfield Golf & Country Club	South	18 hole par 3 course	Proprietary Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green Fee (adult from £17 for 18 holes weekday to £19 weekends with concession of £3 if playing with a member) Membership (adult from £150 pa for flexible option).

2.13.2 There is a good mix of entry level short courses and more challenging championship length courses in the supply of golf facilities in Test Valley.

- 2.13.3 Price accessibility is good with pay and play course fees as low as £5 and most of the nine proprietary or member owned courses that are accessible to non-members priced for adults at between £20 and £30 for 18 holes at the weekend, which are less on a weekday. All of the clubs offer reduced rates for juniors and young adults/students, and some for elderly people.
- 2.13.4 In terms of access to golf practice ranges in the south sub-area, at Chilworth Golf Centre close to the Borough boundary with Southampton, there is a large driving range available (7 days a week from 7am to 8pm or 9pm). 100 balls cost £6.40 with a range of cheaper options available for fewer balls and loyalty card rates.
- 2.13.5 In the north sub-area close to Andover there is a small, 10 bay, covered range at the Hampshire Golf Club refurbished in 2019. 100 balls cost £7. A large, more basic quality range is available at the Monxton & Grateley Golf Centre adjacent to an entry level par 3 pitch and putt course.
- 2.13.6 Embley independent school offers their students access to a golf talent development programme with on campus indoor and outdoor practice facilities and walk-on access to the 27 holes at nearby Wellow Golf Club. In consultation the school stated that, in principle, community availability to this course could be arranged at restricted times.
- 2.13.7 The 18 hole par 3 municipal golf course at Charlton Sports Centre is maintained by the Borough Council, with bookings and course operation managed by Places Leisure from the Cafe in the Park, along with a small adventure/crazy golf course.
- 2.13.8 Whilst access is pay and play for all, a constituted club, Charlton Lakes Golf Club (CLGC) provides opportunities to play social and competitive golf on the course to its members. The club is free to join and there are no membership fees.
- 2.13.9 The Charlton Sports Centre golf facilities provide excellent accessibility to entry level golf for residents of Andover. To access most of the courses in the Borough necessitates use of a car for the majority of residents.
- 2.13.10 Nationally, according to the main golf market research source, the KPMG Golf Advisory Group, the average population per golf course in England in 2018 was 29,459 and the average number of golfers per course 342²⁴. With 9 courses in Test Valley Borough offering community access, the population per course in the Borough is approximately 12,000 per course i.e. more than double the national average level of provision based on population numbers.
- 2.13.11 In terms of the quality of the supply, the 'Golfshake' website²⁵ provides online customer reviews; the following figure shows quality ratings for golf courses in Test Valley. The overall review scores are averaged from individual scores for factors including quality of course, facilities and services, course condition, pace of play, food and drink, practice facilities and value for money. The review ratings in Figure 42 show that, at all the Test Valley golf venues, over 90% of players that submitted reviews would play them again or recommend the venue to others. All nine venues covered by Golfshake were scored over 3 out of 5 between a range of 3.24/5 (Andover GC) and 4.51/5 (Stoneham GC). Test Valley therefore has good quality provision for golf.

Figure 42: Online Ratings of Test Valley Golf Courses

Club	Rating out of 5	% Would Play Again or Recommend	Sample of Reviews
Andover Golf Club	3.24	100%	32
Hampshire GC	3.76	94%	292
Leckford GC	3.83	100%	35
Monxton & Grateley GC	4.20	100%	30
Romsey GC	4.17	94%	91
Chilworth GC	3.61	99%	269
Ampfield GC	4.34	100%	48
Stoneham GC	4.51	95%	37
Wellow GC	4.40	98%	125

Source: www.Golfshake.com (February 2020)

²⁴ Golf Participation Report for Europe 2019, KPMG (October 2019)

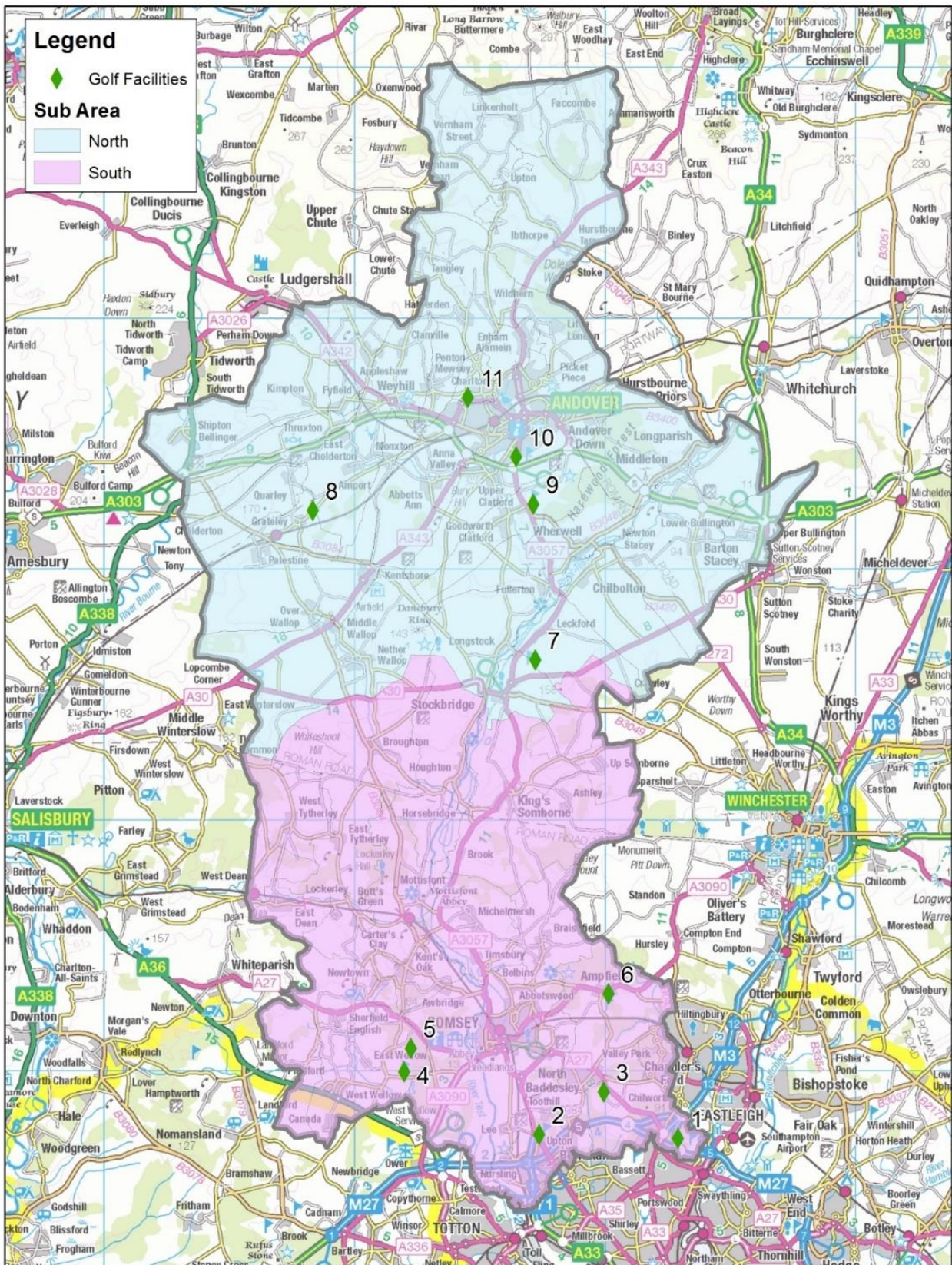
²⁵ www.Golfshake.com

- 2.13.12 Overall, there is good distribution of supply to serve residents in both the north and south sub-areas of Test Valley as shown in Figure 43.
- 2.13.13 In terms of demand, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings²⁶ indicate broadly stable levels of adult demand for golf nationally over the last three years. 2.2% of adults (16+) in England participated in golf at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 979,500 people.
- 2.13.14 The Active Lives Survey golf participation findings are supported by the main industry source of golf participation data, annual participation reports for golf in European countries produced by KPMG's Golf Advisory Practice. Similarly, KPMG's report finds that the golf market has largely stabilised over the last five years after many years of decline. However, the 2019 report found that the number of registered golfers in England fell by 1.63% between 2018 and 2019.
- 2.13.15 Another key source of golf market research is Sports Marketing Surveys Incorporated (SMS Inc.). This organisation monitors changes in the average monthly rounds per course at a large sample of golf courses across the United Kingdom on a quarterly basis. The SMS Inc. findings show that, subject to weather patterns, the average monthly rounds per course reach a peak of approximately 3,000 rounds/month in the peak months of July and August and fall to around 1,000 rounds/month in November to February.
- 2.13.16 The par 3 course at Charlton Sports Centre recorded a total of just 2,615 rounds in 2018/19 equating to an average per month of 218 rounds which is fewer than 10 rounds a day. The figures for the first 9 months of 2019/20 indicate slightly higher participation peaking at just over 60 rounds a day in the peak summer months of May to September. However, it is apparent that the use of the course at Charlton Sports Centre is very low in comparison with the UK course average.
- 2.13.17 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for golf. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 1,516 adult residents in the Borough would like to start to participate in golf or to participate more often.
- 2.13.18 In terms of golf development initiatives, England Golf are promoting a number of targeted programmes working with its affiliated membership clubs and other operators to address some of the key barriers to growing golf demand that were identified in market research commissioned to inform its current strategy, *Growing the Game of Golf in England 2017-2021* and *The Children and Young People's Plan for Golf 2017-2021*.
- 2.13.19 The focus of this work is to identify the make-up of the golfing market around individual clubs (i.e. market profiling), and to provide support to operators to proactively target under-represented audiences (the young, women and girls, ethnic minorities) by offering, shorter and less formal forms of the game and making it easier to book with more flexible payment options.
- 2.13.20 Alongside these types of initiatives, England Golf and the Golf Foundation are also encouraging clubs to offer more low cost opportunities for beginners to learn to play and to offer quicker, short 6 hole team competition formats (such as Golf Sixes), initiatives to attract more girls into golf (Girls Golf Rocks) as well as introducing complementary fun games to golf courses that have the potential to attract new and younger audiences (such as Footgolf).
- 2.13.21 The only issues raised in consultation with the clubs relate to recurring problems of damage to the greens at Charlton Sports Centre caused by rabbits and the hole flag markers being removed.
- 2.13.22 The distribution of the 11 sites offering golf facilities in Test Valley is shown in Figure 43.

Map Ref.	Site Name	Map Ref.	Site Name
1	Stoneham Golf Club	7	Bakers Farm, Leckford Estate, Longstock
2	Romsey Golf Club	8	Monxton & Grateley Golf Centre
3	Chilworth Golf Centre	9	Hampshire Golf Club
4	Wellow Golf Club	10	Andover Golf Club
5	Embley School	11	Charlton Sports Centre
6	Ampfield Golf & Country Club		

²⁶ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 43: Golf Facilities in Test Valley



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Figure 44: Golf Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current availability of community golf facilities through planning policy and to continue to maintain golf facilities in its ownership to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To assess options to improve the quality of the greens at Charlton Sports Centre Golf Course e.g. through use of any available proportionate, cost effective mechanisms to better protect the greens from damage by wildlife. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review entry level golf facility needs in the Borough with England Golf, The Golf Foundation, the leisure management services provider and Charlton Lakes Golf Club in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Liaise with England Golf regarding market profiling and development initiatives to increase the number of rounds played at the Charlton Sports Centre golf facilities.
- Consider any available, proportionate and cost-effective measures to reduce damage by wildlife and improve the quality of the greens at Charlton Sports Centre Golf Course.
- Improve security of the greens to better understand the use and demand.

Longer Term

- Review the needs case and viability of retaining 18 holes at Charlton Sports Centre Golf Course in the context of relatively low current demand and the costs to maintain and operate the course. As part of the review, consider a range of options to include:
 - Reducing the course to 9 holes.
 - Offering Footgolf on the course to attract new, younger users.
 - The potential for alternative, more cost-effective sports and recreation uses with broader appeal on the land released by reducing the size of the golf course.

2.14 Climbing

- 2.14.1 The Borough's new leisure centre in Andover has a 7.5m tall 'High Places Clip n' Climb' facility with 16 themed climbing walls of approximately 20 feet offering a range of climbing challenges including a 'leap of faith'.
- 2.14.2 Clip n' Climb facilities offer a good introduction to climbing experience and appeal, primarily, to a young market of children and first-time climbers as opposed to more experienced climbers.
- 2.14.3 The Andover High Places wall provides good availability offering three after school sessions in school term time on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday (4.30pm, 5.20pm and 6.10pm) and nine sessions starting at 9.50am on both Saturdays and Sundays. Six afternoon sessions from 12.20pm to 4.30pm are programmed Wednesdays to Fridays in all school holidays. Climbing adventure parties are also available at a group rate.
- 2.14.4 The wall has a licensed capacity for 20 persons at one time. In operation, Places Leisure cap capacity at 16 persons to ensure a good value for money experience with minimal waiting during sessions. At peak times, sessions cost £10 for 40 minutes climbing (plus a 30 minute pre-climb safety briefing and harness fitting). The minimum age is 4 years. Places noted that the access and availability of the foyer toilet facilities at peak times needs to be reviewed.
- 2.14.5 The wall is located in a prime, highly visible location off the centre foyer adjacent to a soft adventure play area for young children and a cafe. In consultation, Places Leisure reported good levels of demand, broadly in line with pre-opening forecasts.
- 2.14.6 Also in the north sub-area, Rockwood Climbing run weekly after school sessions in term time for pupils attending Harrow Way School. The instructors use a traditional, basic standard climbing facility built in 1967 and last refurbished in 2009, with holds built into the end wall of the sports hall.
- 2.14.7 In Romsey in the south sub-area, there is a well-established commercial indoor climbing facility, Golden Gecko Climbing Ltd, located in a converted industrial unit in Greatbridge Road (adjacent to Starlight Trampolining & Gymnastics Club).

- 2.14.8 The BMC stated in consultation that this club provides a good introduction to climbing experience for novices as well as an indoor training venue with a good range of facilities for experienced climbers comprising 10 auto belays on a 'challenge wall' plus a tower and separate bouldering wall.
- 2.14.9 Price accessibility to this climbing facility is good. 2020 rates for non-members to pay-and-climb sessions (subject to a Go Climb safety induction - £3) range from £7/hour for students and u18s for standard climb and bouldering up to £16/hour for an hour's supervised session on the auto belay challenge wall. Peak and off peak (weekday) rates are available. Inclusive membership rates for experienced climbers are available at £45/month (or £495 pa) for adults and under 18s at £35/month (or £385 pa).
- 2.14.10 Weekly hours of availability at Golden Gecko Climbing Centre are extensive, 10am to 10pm on weekdays, 10am to 8pm on Saturdays and 12noon to 8pm on Sundays.
- 2.14.11 The BMC stated in consultation that the development of specialist, dedicated climbing facilities is largely organic and led by entrepreneurial climbers. This contrasts with the more fun/adventure oriented Clip n' Climb venues which tend to be installed within public leisure centres and shopping centres as part of a much wider range of facilities. Nationally, there has been rapid growth in openings of both types of climbing facility over the past ten years and, most particularly, in large scale standalone bouldering centres in urban areas with young populations such as university towns and cities.
- 2.14.12 In Southampton, the Boulder Shack Climbing Gym in a converted industrial unit in the Portswood area of the city is a prime example of such a bouldering centre founded and run by climbers with a wide range of programming offers for all ages and abilities, including climbing fitness and yoga classes in a separate exercise studio. This venue has extensive opening hours (10am to 10pm on weekdays, 9.30am to 8.30pm at weekends) and affordable and flexible pricing ranging from as low as £6 for a junior off peak (weekday) day pass and concessions for the 65+, disabled people and people receiving benefits, up to £60 for all-inclusive single month adult membership. Students are a key market with 9 month memberships offered. Boulder Shack is 22 minutes' drive time from Romsey.
- 2.14.13 Also, approximately 30 minutes' drive from Romsey in Calshot is the Calshot Adventure Sport and Activities Centre, which is owned by Hampshire County Council. The indoor climbing facilities at Calshot are extensive and were upgraded in 2019 with new 'Tetris', 'Speed Climb' and 'Icicle' themed routes and a laser climb pay and play facility (£4 for 10 minutes). 45 minute climbing sessions for ages 6 and over are available for £9. This indoor venue also has a dry ski slope, velodrome and indoor adventure play facility with zip wires, high ropes course etc. (The Hanger).
- 2.14.14 The nearest alternative leisure centre with a Clip n' Climb offer is the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth, a 40-minute drive time approximately from Romsey. Additionally, there is also Rock up Climbing that is based at Whiteley Shopping Centre in Fareham, approximately a 30 minute drive from Romsey.
- 2.14.15 The most recent Active Lives Survey findings²⁷ indicate growth in adult demand for climbing and bouldering nationally over the last three years. 0.7% of adults (16+) in England went climbing or bouldering at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 327,600 people and increase of 0.1% since 2015/16.
- 2.14.16 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for these sports. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 403 adult residents in the Borough would like to start to participate in mountaineering or to participate more often.

²⁷ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

Figure 45: Climbing Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for climbing through planning policy and, in liaison with the leisure management service provider, seek to ensure the facilities for climbing in Andover Leisure Centre continue to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review climbing facility needs in the Borough with The British Mountaineering Council, the leisure management service provider and the Golden Gecko Climbing Centre in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.
<p>Prioritised Actions</p> <p>Short Term (1-2 years)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Andover Leisure Centre - Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility, and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre. <p>Longer Term</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Consider the needs/business case for providing an entry level climbing facility (Clip n Climb or similar) in Romsey (where this would be complementary to the existing privately owned climbing centre) as part of future considerations for either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The future provision of sports facilities on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex site ○ The future upgrade/replacement of the sports hall at Mountbatten School (replacing the outdated wall in the current sports hall). 		

2.15 Boxing and Martial Arts

- 2.15.1 *Judo:* In the north sub-area, the main dedicated provision is the judo school at the Andover Sports Academy. There is also a well-supported judo club based at Andover Leisure Centre.
- 2.15.2 In addition, there is a small judo club based at the Barton Stacey Village Hall with aspirations for growth as they are currently frustrated by lack of sufficient floor space, inadequate changing facilities and lack of permanent on site storage for mats.
- 2.15.3 *Karate:* In the south sub-area, Chandler’s Ford Karate Club with approximately 33 active members (mix of ages and both genders) is based in the Sports Hall at the Knightwood Leisure Centre. The club hires the hall on Sunday mornings and on one weekday evening. The club also hires a hall at Chandler's Ford Community Centre in Hursley Road (in Eastleigh Borough). The club has no growth plans or facility issues currently, rating the Knightwood Sports Hall and changing facilities as 'Good' (4/5).
- 2.15.4 *Boxing:* There is no boxing venue in Test Valley. The closest club is Golden Ring Amateur Boxing Club south of M27 but within the Romsey catchment area. This club was identified in consultation with England Boxing as 'competition oriented with some recreational boxing but little community outreach'.
- 2.15.5 England Boxing's strategic priorities for community boxing are to develop diversionary boxing programmes for young people in areas with high youth crime rates. Additionally, they want to run daytime activities for adults at existing dedicated boxing club sites with capacity of space and coaches in the off-peak hours, for example mental health (MIND) and disability programmes.
- 2.15.6 Test Valley is not a priority area in Hampshire for Boxing England. This is due to its low levels of deprivation in comparison to parts of Southampton and Portsmouth.

- 2.15.7 The most recent Active Lives Survey findings²⁸ indicate stable adult demand for boxing and boxing fitness classes nationally over the last three years. 1.7% of adults (16+) in England participated in these activities at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 745,300 people. A further 230,700 (0.5%) took part in martial arts disciplines.
- 2.15.8 Sport England's Sports Market Segmentation (SMS) planning tool provides a broad indicator of latent demand for these sports. In Test Valley, the SMS '*would like to play*' measure based on telephone interviews with a sample of adult (16+) residents during the 12 months to April 2010, extrapolated that 133 adult residents in the Borough would like to start to participate in boxing or to participate more often. No SMS figures are available for martial arts.
- 2.15.9 In consultation, the main facility issues raised for these sports in Test Valley were:
- Insufficient car parking at The Andover Sports Academy to cope with demand from judo players in the peak evening times.
 - Lack of space and poor storage and changing facilities for judo club members at Barton Stacey Village Hall.

Figure 46: Boxing and Martial Arts Facility Recommendations

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the current quantity and availability of community facilities for judo and other martial arts through planning policy and, in liaison with the local clubs, seek to ensure the facilities are to be maintained to a good quality standard. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To accommodate new demand for martial arts as a result of planned new housing, assess the feasibility of expanding hours of availability to the most accessible school studio facilities to the growth areas (i.e. Winton School, Mountbatten School) for martial arts programming where this is complementary to existing programmes at the Council's sites (as opposed to displacing existing members and use). ○ Review the demand of use at The Andover Sports Academy to ensure the site is an appropriate venue to cope with demand during peak times. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Regularly review facility needs for judo, karate, boxing and other martial arts in the Borough with the leisure management service provider, Andover Community Services, clubs based in the Borough and England Boxing in relation to changes in accessible supply, participation trends and population growth.

Prioritised Actions

Short Term (1-2 years)

- Review the supporting ancillary facilities of the current provision.

Longer Term

- School Activity Studios - assess feasibility of expanding community access and hours of availability in the peak period for martial arts and other programming, prioritising those in the catchments of large-scale new housing areas (Winton in Andover and Mountbatten in Romsey).
- Review the Andover Sports Academy future prior to the lease ending in 2027.

²⁸ Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)

3 Action Plan

- 3.1 This final section draws together the key findings of each sports facility type and provides Test Valley Borough Council with a detailed action plan. The recommendations of this Sport Facilities Strategy for Test Valley are made in the context of the existing relevant policies within the Revised Local Plan DPD 2011 - adopted in January 2016. Policy LHW1 provides protection of existing open spaces or other recreation facilities from development proposals that would result in their loss. From the detailed assessment of the supply and demand information, there is a needs case to protect all facilities that provide informal and formal recreation activity within the Test Valley Borough Council boundary for current and future needs.
- 3.2 Figure 47 and 48 below set out the short term and long term action plans. These sports facility projects and sites have emerged from the needs assessment research, consultation and analysis and represent the agreed priorities for built facilities in Test Valley. It should be noted that the action plans do not contain all of the actions from the assessments of needs and are predominantly focused on the leading projects identified during this study. Throughout the strategy there are a number of other actions identified that the Council acknowledge need to be addressed. Although they have not been included within the short and long-term action plans, they should continue to be pursued by the leading partners to help deliver better sporting provision within Test Valley borough. Where viable, the Council will support clubs and organisations with the delivery of their aspirations to enhance current facilities and provide new facilities (subject to feasibility and funding). Additionally, there are a number of resources that are potentially available to support clubs and organisations to reach their ambitions including Sport England grants, NGB grants (where possible), Community Infrastructure Levy and councillor grants.
- 3.3 The actions set out in the below table (Figure 47) have potential to be progressed in the short term (within 2 years).
- 3.4 Actions that relate to recommended projects that are likely to require longer to progress - for example projects dependent on acquisition of land, the outcome of wider area development planning or large scale review of options, feasibility and viability - are set out in Figure 48.
- 3.5 It is recommended the Borough Council undertakes a regular review. This is to monitor the progress of the action plan and to ensure this is updated to reflect any changes in the supply and demand of facilities. In turn the updates to the Action Plan should inform periodic updates of the Council's priorities for investment through capital grant and loan programmes.
- 3.6 Where capital budget sums are shown for new or enhanced provision, these are indicative estimates derived from Sport England Facility Cost Guidance Sheet (Second Quarter 2019) or cost estimates provided by the sport's governing bodies or the site operator. Actual costs will need to be determined as part of project specific feasibility studies. Where sites are not in local authority ownership, the Council will work with relevant partners to support the implementation of the recommended actions. In addition, the actions will be subject to the necessary planning processes and to securing the required funding, both for the initial capital development and ongoing cost of maintenance. Where possible the Council should support the ambitions to improve and increase the supply of facilities within the Borough.

Figure 47: Short Term Actions

Project Site	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Andover Leisure Centre	○ Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre.	○ Places Leisure	○ TVBC	○ To be determined
St Edwards School and Farleigh School	○ Assess the opportunity for community access/availability at St Edwards School and Farleigh School (subject to	○ School governing bodies	○ TVBC	○ To be determined

Figure 47: Short Term Actions

Project Site	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
	Community Use Agreements (being implemented).			
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade changing facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £500k
Foxcotte Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and potential for shared provision to improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC FA RFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer time
Charlton Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options to reconfigure the current facility with the potential for the introduction of Foot Golf to widen appeal. Also, consideration should be given to other alternative sports / recreation uses of potential land released from the reconfiguration (e.g. informal recreation / cycling and/or site for 3G AGP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places Leisure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff time
Romsey School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade tennis / netball courts and lights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romsey School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTA Romsey & Abbey LTC TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £30k resurfacing c. £45k lighting
BMX Track sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess opportunities for the clubs to enhance their sites, including the improvement of power supply, lighting, CCTV and water supply at the BMX track. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Cycling Andover BMX Knightwood BMX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Figure 48: Longer Term Actions

Project Site	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a feasibility study to establish a design brief, capital cost estimates and a funding strategy as part of a wider master plan to review all sports facility provision (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities and playing pitch provision) on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places Leisure FA / FF ECB OT&R CC Romsey Town FC Bypass Ground landowner Romsey Future Romsey Extra Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £20k feasibility study. From £11.125m (SE 'Affordable Model': 8l pool, learner pool, 5 ct sport hall, 100 stn gym, 2 studios)
Foxcotte Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the progress of the short-term actions (see Figure 47). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer time
Charlton Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Resurface the athletics track 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andover Athletics Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £150k
Romsey School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement sports hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romsey School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £2.5m
Mountbatten School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replacement sports hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mountbatten School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £2.5m
Winton School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade tennis/netball courts and lights 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Winton School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTA TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £30k resurfacing c. £45k lighting
North Baddesley Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade existing 2 tennis courts or replace in better location. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £20k resurfacing
Andover Sports Academy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Andover Sports Academy future prior to the lease ending in 2027. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Bowls Sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of all bowls facilities in the Borough (both north and south) to ensure they best meet the needs of the population. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC Andover Bowls Andover Vision Romsey Bowls Romsey Future Banister Park Bowling Club 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Figure 48: Longer Term Actions

Project Site	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
East Anton (Site to be determined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with housing developers to ensure appropriate facilities and physical activity provision is developed to meet the needs of the community based on a review of the delivery of the priorities within this strategy at the time of any site development. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing Developers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

4 Conclusion

- 4.1 This Sports Facilities Strategy replaces the Sport and Recreation Strategy published in 2015 and forms part of the evidence base that informs the review of the Local Plan for Test Valley Borough to 2036.
- 4.2 Since the last Strategy was published, the quality of secured sports facilities available to residents of Test Valley and its catchment area has improved substantially.
- 4.3 The Borough Council appointed a new operator and investment partner, Places Leisure, for 30 years from 2017 and major sport facility enhancement and redevelopment projects have been delivered including the flagship new £16 million Andover Leisure Centre as well as a major upgrade of the wetside changing rooms and a new health suite and treatment rooms at the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex with investment in this site in excess of £1 million. At Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park, the Borough Council and Places Leisure have invested in upgrades to the tennis courts, a new gym and refurbished changing rooms, as well as improved drainage to the sports pitches.
- 4.4 In addition, indoor tennis courts have also been provided in Andover following relocation of the town's tennis club to a larger site in Era Park. In addition, both the ATPs at John Hanson School and Romsey School have been resurfaced since the last strategy.
- 4.5 In terms of cycling, running and walking for leisure, demand has increased substantially since the last strategy. This can be seen by the large number of related activities taking place in the Borough, including the Andover weekly Parkrun and the new Parkrun established at Mountbatten School. Additionally, there is a large number of recreational cyclists on the Borough's lanes and bridleways at the weekend and on summer evenings, a new inclusive cycling festival event in Andover and growth in the programme of Health Walks supported by the Borough Council. The Department of transport released their new approach to Walking and Cycling in July 2020. This strategy should be utilized going forwards to make improvements to these networks.
- 4.6 The research and consultation has established that the current picture of provision for most sports facility types is broadly in balance and, in comparison to most local authority areas, the quality of the facilities for community sport in Test Valley Borough is good and well maintained. The boroughs green spaces are well utilised and can be further improved to aid accessibility to active travel, low cost physical activity, and connectivity of rural areas.
- 4.7 Free to access outdoor facilities for sports and recreation are particularly important in the context of cost availability. Although Test Valley has a relatively affluent population overall, there is a substantial minority of low income households, most particularly in the north sub-area in Andover. This means affordability is a barrier to regular use of a leisure centre or gym. Affordability and availability of transport is also a significant barrier to access for low income households in the rural villages outside the walk or cycle catchment area of a leisure centre, tennis courts or gym.
- 4.8 The substantial investment the Borough Council has made in its leisure centre stock over the last seven years has brought the current picture of formal sports facility provision in Test Valley to a position where supply and demand is largely in balance. The Borough Council is right to focus on reviewing the infrastructure needed to support walking and cycling as it is in these areas that the greatest gains are to be made in improving the health and wellbeing of residents through reducing levels of inactivity.
- 4.9 Therefore, it is important to note that in consultation with more than 2,000 residents to inform the 2019-2023 Test Valley corporate plan, it found that facilities for informal recreation (e.g. walks/trails/countryside/nature reserves) are rated the most important (70% rated as very important), compared with more formal built sports facilities (leisure centres etc.) which 63% rated as very important. This emphasizes the need to protect and enhance these areas and develop connectivity and accessibility.

- 4.10 However, population growth in the Borough, particularly around Andover and Romsey, will increase demand for formal sports facility provision. This will particularly affect the peak evening hours and at weekends, which will create shortfalls in some of the most popular sports such as swimming and gymnastics. In the south sub-area in particular, this growth will also create a shortfall in community sports hall capacity moving forward. In this context, consideration needs to be given to the options to secure more community availability (and associated investment needed) to pools, sports halls and other sports facilities on secondary school sites, particularly those closest to the planning areas for new housing. Finally, a further factor that needs to be considered is the age of Romsey Rapids Sports Complex and the need to plan for its replacement within the Local Plan period.
- 4.11 The Council and its partners have a good track record of investment in sport and leisure facilities and the Council has long recognised the value of sport and leisure facilities as a key contributor to health and wellbeing, quality of life and community development. Since the last strategy period the Council have invested in sport and leisure facilities in Test Valley to provide high quality opportunities for residents to improve the quality of life as well as the ability to lead active lifestyles and participate in sport and physical activity. The adoption and implementation of this overall strategy will ensure this can continue.
- 4.12 The Council and its partners have shown great vision in committing to this strategy and the overall Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy, as well as the subsequent potential delivery of the leading priorities and recommendations that have been detailed from the robust evidence base and research that supports this work.
- 4.13 The Council must now ensure that this Sports Facilities Strategy and the Playing Pitch Strategy, and the policies and recommendations presented within each of the leading reports, become embedded within the emerging Local Plan and the local planning process to ensure that sport, leisure and recreation can continue to get the investment it needs to make the lasting and positive impact that it has on the lives of the residents of Test Valley.

Test Valley Borough
Sports Facilities Strategy and Playing Pitch Strategy 2020 to 2036
Executive summary



1. Introduction

Test Valley Borough Council has a long tradition of supporting the provision and development of facilities for sport and physical activity for its residents and visitors. The Council recognises that these facilities, both formal and informal, are essential components of the borough's overall infrastructure which both drive and respond to growth, change and improvement across Test Valley.

The last assessment of facility needs for sport in Test Valley Borough was undertaken in 2013 for playing pitches and in 2014 for other sports facilities. Sport England recommends that local authorities refresh sports facility strategy documents every three years so that local area leisure and planning policies are based on robust, up to date, assessments of sports facility needs.

In March 2019, Test Valley Borough Council convened a Steering Group comprising representatives from the Council's sports, leisure and planning teams together with representatives of its key external partner agencies for sports and leisure including Sport England, EnergiseMe (the County Active Partnership for Hampshire & the Isle of Wight) and Places Leisure (the Council's leisure management contractor) plus nominated representatives of the governing bodies of the four main playing pitch sports, football, cricket, hockey and rugby union.

The Steering Group was tasked to guide the process of re-assessing sports facility needs in the borough for 2020 and to identify strategic priority sports sites and projects taking into account forecasts for population growth and potential facility needs by 2036.

The Steering Group agreed the following objectives for the two sports facility strategy documents in a brief to consultants:

1. *'To provide an evidence base and clear priorities for protecting and enhancing the existing provision of sports facilities and playing pitches and to inform responses to future planning applications, capital investment plans and external funding bids for new provision.'*
2. *'To improve health and wellbeing in Test Valley by ensuring all residents have access to good quality facilities for sport and physical activity.'*

Continuum Sports & Leisure were appointed in April 2019 to lead this work and draft a new Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy documents. These have been prepared in accordance with the guidance methodology published by Sport England in 2013 - *Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance*, and in 2014 - *Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities*.

For reporting purposes, the borough has been divided into two sub areas, North and South. This is based on Ward boundaries, the distribution of the main centres of population and the predominant travel patterns of residents seeking to access community sports facilities.

Both the main towns in Test Valley, Andover in the north and Romsey in the south have benefited from investment in sports and recreation facilities since the previous strategies (2013/14). These investments include:

In Andover the new £16m Andover Leisure Centre opened in April 2019. A number of new playing fields with pavilions have been provided at Augusta Park/East Anton, Picket Twenty and Picket Piece. The Rugby Football Union has grant aided the provision of additional pitch floodlighting at Andover

Rugby Club's home Goodship Ground in Foxcotte Sports Park. Sport England provided a grant support to the Andover Salto Gymnastics Club for facility enhancements. The Lawn Tennis Association has supported Andover Lawn Tennis Club to relocate to a larger site with indoor and outdoor courts. In 2015, the England Hockey Foundation supported the resurfacing of the artificial grass pitch used extensively by Andover Hockey Club at John Hanson School. TVBC have also provide funding to many of these projects through CAF grants. The recipients of these grants include, Andover Lawn Tennis Club, Andover hockey Club, Andover Salto Centre, and Andover Rugby Club.

In Romsey, the Rapids swimming complex has undergone a refurbishment of the changing rooms (including new disabled access lockers, toilet and changing areas) and a new health suite (with infra-red sauna, steam, drench showers and treatment rooms) has been provided. A new playing field for football and community building has been provided at Abbotswood and works are on site at Kings Chase/Ganger Farm towards development of a major new outdoor sports hub which will provide for sports clubs, schools and the wider community a large pavilion, two rugby pitches, one adult football pitch, three junior football pitches and two artificial grass pitches. At Knightwood Leisure Centre in Valley Park, the Council has invested in improved drainage to the sports pitches as well as upgrades to the tennis courts a new gym and refurbished changing rooms. These improvements were part funded by Sport England, The FA and the Football Foundation. In 2019 The England Hockey Foundation grant aided Romsey School to upgrade its artificial grass pitch used by Romsey Hockey Club.

Outside the borough boundary, but within the Test Valley catchment area, The Stoneham Lane Football Complex opened in 2019. This large football hub site partly funded by The Premier League and the Football Foundation,

hosts the largest community club mini-soccer league in the area, providing three full size third generation artificial grass pitches, a large new pavilion and new grass pitches (still in development) to community clubs and recreational players from Eastleigh, Southampton and Test Valley.

Overall, these recent and ongoing sports facility enhancements projects and new provision, along with ongoing maintenance of the existing stock of sports and recreation facilities, have gone a long way towards ensuring residents of Test Valley have access to good quality facilities for sport and physical activity. This is reflected in the higher than average levels of participation in sport and physical activity by both adults and children in Test Valley borough despite the older than average age profile of the population.

2. Planning for the Future

Whilst the picture of regular participation in sport and physical activity in Test Valley Borough is good, it remains a concern that a fifth of adult residents and a quarter of children living in the borough are insufficiently active to maintain a healthy lifestyle. There are also pockets of relative deprivation in Andover and in some of the rural areas of the Borough. In the more remote villages, for those without access to a car, lack of transport is a significant barrier to accessing the towns, where most of the larger community sports facilities are located.

Romsey falls within the drive catchment area of the northern wards in Southampton to the south of the M27. As such, the Romsey Rapids with its leisure water and flume ride is a destination for young families and attracts a significant proportion of visitors from outside Test Valley, which restricts availability for residents in the peak times.

There are also shortfalls in provision for playing pitch sports in Southampton which results in imported demand at the larger playing pitch sites, located in Test Valley, most notably Trojans Sports Club in the south east of the borough. This large community club provides for hockey, rugby, cricket, squash and fitness. There are also major archery and bowls centres located adjacent to Trojans, which makes this location a key hub for community sport not just for residents in the south of Test Valley but also for residents of Eastleigh Borough and parts of Southampton.

In addition to these existing challenges, in the strategy period to 2036, further population growth will take place. Current estimates suggest the resident population will grow by approximately 12,200 people over the next 16 years. Incoming families will slow the ageing population trend and place additional needs on the existing sports infrastructure in both towns.

3. Key Findings

In summary, the main findings of the sports facility needs assessments against measures of the *quantity, quality, accessibility and availability* of the existing provision are as follows:

- The substantial investment the Borough Council and its partners have made in the sports facility stock over the last seven years has brought the current picture of formal sports facility provision in Test Valley to a position where supply and demand is broadly in balance.
- Sport England's Facility Planning Model (FPM) highlights current shortfalls in provision for both swimming pools and sports halls. Additionally, the FPM data shows that the existing available provision in Test Valley is used close to capacity in the peak times. The shortfall is largely generated from residents in villages living outside the primary

catchment area of a pool or hall. No one area in the borough has a current shortfall that would justify provision of an additional community pool or a 4 court sports hall.

- Although the current supply and demand of sports facility provision is broadly in balance, there is likely to be increased shortfalls in the peak period (evenings and weekends) as the population of the Borough grows. There is expected population growth in both the Andover and Romsey area, which is likely to increase the demand for formal sports facility provision and increase the current capacity shortfalls (peak period) at the existing facilities for the most popular indoor sports (gymnastics and swimming).
- With regard to swimming, there may be the potential opportunities to address latent and future demand for learn to swim classes through negotiation of increased availability at existing school pools, for example at St Edwards School in the south and Farleigh School in the north.
- For gymnastics, both the specialist centres in Andover and Romsey have current aspirations to expand either in their existing premises (Andover Gymnastics Club) or by any opportunity of relocating to a larger premises (Starlight Gymnastics Club in Romsey) to accommodate their current waiting lists (i.e. current latent demand) and to provide additional capacity for future growth.
- In the south sub area growth will create a shortfall in community sports hall capacity moving forward, particularly given the current reliance on availability of school sports halls that are coming towards the end of their life at both Romsey School and Mountbatten School.

- In this context, consideration needs to be given to the options to secure more community availability to pools, sports halls and other sports facilities on secondary school sites, with particular priority afforded to those schools located closest to the planning areas for new housing. As part of this work with schools, any associated investment needed to secure greater availability for the community should also be assessed. If community access can be negotiated, then Community Use Agreements will need to be put in place.
- A further major consideration for the Borough Council and its partners over this strategy period is the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. This venue will be over 45 years old by 2036, there are existing management challenges caused by the separation of the squash courts and changing facilities from the main building, the cricket and tennis pavilions are no longer adequate to meet the needs of the respective clubs and the future of the rugby clubhouse needs to be decided when the rugby club relocates to the new sports hub in development at Kings Chase (Ganger Farm).
- The Council needs to begin to plan for the future provision of community sports and leisure facilities on the Romsey Sports Complex site, ideally in association with the adjacent Bypass (Romsey FC) Ground, which is in private ownership. Detailed consideration should be given to the opportunity to include a community sports hall as part of the master planning considerations for the future provision of sports facilities at the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex.
- In Andover, the playing pitch needs assessment identifies the need for more 3G AGP capacity particularly to meet the midweek evening training needs of mini-soccer and youth football teams of the several large community football clubs based in the town. A study is needed to identify the optimum location in the town for a second full size 3G AGP and how this new provision could be funded and managed to maximise its accessibility and availability. There are a number of potential locations available in the Andover area, which need to be explored in further detail to determine the best location for a new 3G AGP.
- Both Charlton Park and Foxcotte Sports Park, located within half a mile of each other, are key hub locations for outdoor sports and recreation participation and events in Andover and the established base for a number of key community sports clubs. Both sites have needs for facility enhancement in the short term as well as presenting possible opportunities for the future as the population of the town continues to grow.
- In the Charlton area there are sports facilities for athletics (track & field), football (a stadium pitch and a 3G artificial grass pitch), rugby (grass pitches), BMX, golf (18 hole par 3 and crazy golf) and a large judo centre. For informal recreation and community events the park has an excellent network of paths (for walking, running and cycling) and lakes (for angling, kayaking and other water-based activities).
- In the short term, both of the successful BMX club's (Andover and Knightwood) are looking to improve their facility by investing in track lighting. In the longer term, the par 3 golf course at Charlton needs to be reviewed to establish whether the site should be reconfigured to allow for the introduction of new activities (FootGolf) or potentially release land for alternative outdoor sports, recreation or play uses. Subject to feasibility assessment, a review of the course layout may present an opportunity to add other facilities on the site. For example,

to address the established need in Andover for a second 3G artificial grass pitch for football.

- The Foxcotte Sports Park provides facilities for rugby, football and archery on separate playing areas served by a shared access road and car park. The community clubs for each sport are well supported and have their own clubhouses.
- In the short term, a review needs to be completed to examine the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and the potential for shared provision to improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs. Similar to Charlton, Foxcotte could also be considered as a potential location for the second 3G AGP in Andover, taking into account the potential for shared use (football and rugby) to meet the aspirations of rugby to consolidate all playing and social activities at secured community club grounds. In the longer term the Council need to review the progress of the short term recommendations and support the clubs to implement any necessary actions that will improve Foxcotte Park.

The firm conclusion of the assessments is that with the current and future population projections, there is a need to retain all existing sports and recreation facilities including playing pitches to meet either current or forecast future needs (to 2036).

Therefore, it is recommended that the current Test Valley Local Plan Policy LHW1 paragraphs D to F (see Figure 1), continues to be applied in future versions of the Local Plan to 2036.

Figure 1 - Extract from Test Valley Local Plan Policy LHW1

Development proposals that would result in the loss of existing open spaces or other recreation facilities will only be permitted if:

d) the pace or facility is not needed to meet the full range of leisure and recreational needs of the local community;

e) the proposed development is for an alternative open space, sport or recreation facility for which there is such a need as to outweigh the loss; or

f) any space or facility to be lost would be replaced by an equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality and be in a suitable location.

Source: Test Valley Borough Council Adopted Local Plan 2011 -2029

4. Leading Priorities

The priority sites and projects for enhancement and/or new provision are set out in the Figures 2-5 on the following pages first for playing pitch facilities and, second for other built sports facilities. The recommendations for action are shown by sub area (North and South) and in the short term (1-2 years) and the longer term.

Figure 2: PLAYING PITCHES - Recommended Short Term Actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
North Sub Area					
Andover (Site to be determined)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football (Possibly rugby) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a feasibility study / site options appraisal for provision of a second 3G AGP in Andover in the medium term. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA / FF Site owners Key clubs RFU (if at Foxcotte and rugby compliant) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £12k study (£925k - £1.2m 3G AGP)
Foxcotte Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football / Rugby / Archery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and potential for shared provision to improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC FA RFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer Time.
Goodship Ground, Foxcotte Sports Park / Charlton Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rugby 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the feasibility of reconfiguring the current pitch provision to provide additional playing pitch capacity (rugby compliant). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andover RFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC RFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £12k study Any pitch reconfiguration cost: To be determined
Andover Cricket Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace club pavilion (2 team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Andover CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
London Road Playing Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC / Andover CC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined c. £12k
Picket Twenty Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) Promote use of sites Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ECB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Picket Piece Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Finalise handover of pavilion and pitch Consider long term management arrangement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Club users FA - support as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> n/a
Harrow Way School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Re-establish community use of pitches and ancillary facilities and consider potential for community programming links with Portway Junior School field. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Harrow Way School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC Portway Junior School Andover New Street FC Andover YFC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Upper Clatford Sports Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improvements to pavilion. FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Parish Council FA 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Bulbery Sports Fields, Abbotts Ann	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA Pitch Adviser to assess options and costs to improve pitch quality. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined
South					
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ HCB Pitch Adviser to assess options to improve outfield ○ In the long term, programme and mark the current rugby training area for youth football training, following the opening of Ganger Farm. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ OT&RCC ○ ECB ○ Romsey Youth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined ○ c. £12k ○ n/a
Bypass (Romsey) Stadium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade changing, showers (utilities etc.) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Romsey Town FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA/FF (FSIF grant) ○ Site owner ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined
Kings Chase/ Ganger Farm Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Hockey ○ Rugby ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete new pitches and pavilion ○ Finalise management arrangements, core programme and facility hire charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Facility Operator ○ NGBs - support as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funded

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
Abbotswood Playing Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Finalise handover of pavilion & pitches ○ Finalise management arrangements, core programme and facility hire charges 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Club users ○ FA - support as required 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funded
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rugby ○ Hockey ○ Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Upgrade pavilion changing areas ○ Commission a feasibility study for a 2nd hockey AGP and conversion of a rugby pitch to a rugby AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eastleigh BC ○ TVBC ○ EH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ c. £500k pavilion ○ To be determined ○ c. £10k AGP feasibility study
Hunts Farm Playing Fields	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football ○ Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA to assess options and costs to improve drainage to football pitches ○ Improve levels of cricket squares by implementing actions recommended in HCB Pitch Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19) ○ Install a Non-Turf Pitch (NTP) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA ○ ECB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined ○ c. £12k
Knightwood Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement actions recommended in HCB Pitch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECB 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined

Site	Sport(s)	Action(s)	Lead	Partners	Cost
		Advisor Ground Report (Dec 19)			
Broughton Sports Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Replace pavilion (2 team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Broughton PC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ ECB ○ FA / FF ○ TVBC ○ Broughton clubs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ c. £255k
North Baddesley Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Implement actions recommended in FA pitch improvement report 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined
Sherfield English Sports Field	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete new pavilion fit out 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ SERP Trust 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined
Mottisfont Sports Pitch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA to assess options and costs to improve pitch subject to confirmation by Sports Trust and Club of continued demand for affiliated play 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Sports Trust 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA ○ Parish Council ○ Mottisfont FC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ To be determined
Ampfield Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improve car park, remove former pavilion building and relocate play area further from cricket boundary. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parish Council 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Funded (CAF, S106)

Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Boroughwide				
Football, Rugby & Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish the extent of the need for, and the costs of providing, a maintenance hub resource with specialist equipment for hire to clubs, sports associations, parish councils in order to improve quality and capacity of club and parish pitches. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGB Pitch Advisors TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Football, Rugby & Cricket	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organise and promote sports turf maintenance training update sessions annually for grounds staff working on playing pitches in the borough. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC Sparsholt College 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Football	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Replace fixed goalposts with moveable systems at all sites used for affiliated football. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> FA Parish Councils 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Figure 3: PLAYING PITCHES - Recommended Longer Term Actions

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
North					
Foxcote Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Football / Rugby / Archery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the progress of the short term recommendations (see figure 2). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC FA RFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
<i>Andover (Site to be determined)</i>	○ Hockey	○ Review a needs case for a second hockey AGP to serve demand in Andover and the site and funding options.	○ TVBC	○ EH ○ Andover Hockey Club	○ c. £10k review ○ (c. £800k sand dressed AGP)
Barton Stacey Recreation Ground	○ Football	○ Replace pavilion (2 team)	○ Barton Stacey PC	○ FA / FF ○ TVBC ○ Barton Stacey FC & Youth FC	○ c. £255k
Anton Junior School	○ Football	○ Resurface 2 No. small sided 3G pitches	○ Anton Junior School	○ Andover Town YFC ○ Andover New Street FC ○ FA - advisory support only (not a funding priority)	○ To be determined
Andover Sports Academy	○ Football	○ Establish feasibility/ business case of converting disused single tennis court to a small sided 3G AGP.	○ Andover Community Services	○ TVBC ○ FA - advisory support only (not a funding priority)	○ c. £405k
South					

Site	Sport(s)	Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex Bypass (Romsey) Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Cricket ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commission a feasibility study / master plan to review all provision on the two sites (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities) and establish a preferred option, costs and funding strategy for enhancing this key sports hub, to include replacement of the existing inadequate pavilion facilities of Old Tauntonian & Romsey Cricket Club and Romsey Football Club. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA / FF ○ ECB ○ OT&R CC ○ Romsey Town FC ○ Bypass Ground landowner ○ Romsey Future ○ Romsey Extra Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ c. £20k feasibility study
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rugby ○ Hockey ○ Cricket 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Subject to findings of feasibility study, provide a second hockey AGP and change of surface of a rugby pitch to 3G AGP. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Eastleigh BC ○ TVBC ○ NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ £800k hockey AGP ○ £1.285k rugby AGP
Nursling & Rownhams Recreation Ground	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Football 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Pavilion provision (4 team) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nursling & Rownhams PC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ FA / FF ○ TVBC ○ Newton Heath ○ Nursling Vets 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ c. £665k

Figure 4: SPORTS FACILITIES - Recommended Short Term Actions

Project Site	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Andover Leisure Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places Leisure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
St Edwards School and Farleigh School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess the opportunity for community access/ availability at St Edwards School and Farleigh School (subject to Community Use Agreements being implemented). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> School governing bodies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined
Trojans Sports Club	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade changing facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Trojans Sports Club 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> NGBs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £500k
Foxcotte Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the ancillary facility needs of all three sports clubs (archery, rugby, football) and potential for shared provision to improve quality, inclusivity of access and financial sustainability of all three community sports clubs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC FA RFU 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer time
Charlton Sports Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review options to reconfigure the current facility with the potential for the introduction of Foot Golf to widen appeal. Also, consideration should be given to other alternative sports / recreation uses of potential land released from the reconfiguration (e.g. informal recreation / cycling and/or site for 3G AGP). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places Leisure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff time

Project Site	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Romsey School	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Upgrade tennis / netball courts and lights. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Romsey School 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> LTA Romsey & Abbey LTC TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £30k resurfacing c. £45k lighting
BMX Track sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Assess opportunities for the clubs to enhance their sites, including the improvement of power supply, lighting, CCTV and water supply at the BMX track. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> British Cycling Andover BMX Knightwood BMX 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To be determined

Figure 5: SPORTS FACILITIES - Recommended Longer Term Actions

Project Site	Proposed Action	Lead	Partners	Cost
Romsey Rapids Sports Complex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commission a feasibility study to establish a design brief, capital cost estimates and a funding strategy as part of a wider master plan to review all sports facility provision (including the indoor sports and leisure facilities and playing pitch provision) on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Places Leisure FA / FF ECB OT&R CC Romsey Town FC Bypass Ground landowner Romsey Future Romsey Extra Parish Council 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. £20k feasibility study. From £11.125m (SE 'Affordable Model': 8l pool, learner pool, 5 ct sport hall, 100 stn gym, 2 studios)
Foxcotte Sports Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the progress of the short-term actions (see Figure 4). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clubs (3) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> TVBC 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officer time

<i>Project Site</i>	<i>Proposed Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Cost</i>
Charlton Sports Centre	○ Resurface the athletics track	○ TVBC	○ Andover Athletics Club	○ c. £150k
Romsey School	○ Replacement sports hall	○ Romsey School	○ TVBC	○ c. £2.5m
Mountbatten School	○ Replacement sports hall	○ Mount-batten School	○ TVBC	○ c. £2.5m
Winton School	○ Upgrade tennis/netball courts and lights	○ Winton School	○ LTA ○ TVBC	○ c. £30k resurfacing ○ c. £45k lighting
North Baddesley Recreation Ground	○ Upgrade existing 2 tennis courts or replace in better location.	○ Parish Council	○ LTA	○ c. £20k resurfacing
Andover Sports Academy	○ Review the Andover Sports Academy future prior to the lease ending in 2027.	○ TVBC		○ To be determined
Bowls Sites	○ Review of all bowls facilities in the Borough (both north and south) to ensure they best meet the needs of the population.	○ TVBC ○ Andover Bowls ○ Andover Vision ○ Romsey Bowls ○ Romsey Future ○ Banister Park Bowling Club		○ To be determined
East Anton (Site to be determined)	○ Work with housing developers to ensure appropriate facilities and physical activity provision is developed to meet the needs of the community based on a review of	○ TVBC	○ Housing Developers	○ To be determined

<i>Project Site</i>	<i>Proposed Action</i>	<i>Lead</i>	<i>Partners</i>	<i>Cost</i>
	the delivery of the priorities within this strategy at the time of any site development.			

5. Summary

Test Valley Borough Council is in the midst of an important and defining time as the plans (and evidence base) are being put in place to ensure that the development and growth of its infrastructure and population provides the right amount of facilities for sport, physical activity recreation and playing pitches which can meet both current and future demand.

The overall strategy has shown evident need for investment into a number of built facilities and playing pitch facilities with the over-riding message that the Council needs to ensure not only the protection of (and retention of) their sports facilities but also the additional development of specific sports facilities types as set out in this summary document and the two leading full strategies that underpin this work.

The Council and its partners has a good track record of investment in sport and leisure facilities and the Council has long recognised the value of sport and leisure facilities as a key contributor to health and wellbeing, quality of life and community development. Since the last strategy period the Council have invested in sport and leisure facilities in Test Valley to provide high quality opportunities for residents to improve the quality of life as well as the ability to lead active lifestyles and participate in sport and physical activity. The adoption and implementation of this overall strategy will ensure this can continue.

The Council and its partners have shown great vision in committing to this strategy and the overall Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy

as well as the subsequent potential delivery of the leading priorities and recommendations that have been detailed from the robust evidence base and research that supports this work.

The Council must now ensure that the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facilities Strategy, and the policies and recommendations presented within each of the leading reports, become embedded within the emerging Local Plan and the local planning process to ensure that sport, leisure and recreation can continue to get the investment it needs to making the lasting and positive impact that it has on the lives of the residents of Test Valley.

ITEM 9 Test Valley Borough Green Space Strategy

Report of the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

- 1. That the Draft Green Space Strategy be approved subject to public and partner consultation.**
- 2. That the Head of Community and Leisure be authorised, in consultation with the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, to make any minor changes to the document following consultation.**

SUMMARY:

- The Green Space Strategy 2020 – 2030 sets out the way the Council will manage and improve its green spaces over the next 10 years, and how we will work with the community to manage, improve and create a resilient green space network.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The Green Space Strategy 2020 – 2030 builds on the Council’s first strategy document published in 2007. The strategy provides a planned approach to the management and improvement of Council green spaces working alongside the community and our partners.

2 Background

- 2.1 High quality, well-managed green spaces are a vital part of healthy sustainable communities. They are an essential aspect of everyday life that communities feel passionately about. The Council is committed to providing quality green spaces, across a spectrum of open space type, to provide places for fun, recreation, health and high quality space for the Borough’s wildlife.
- 2.2 The Green Space Strategy 2020 – 2030 seeks to identify the current issues facing green spaces, how they are used and managed and how we will work collectively with our local community, and our partners to address current and future pressures.
- 2.3 This planned approach to green space management enables sustainable long term investment to maximise the way spaces are used and managed. It enables the Council to work with local communities to plan facilities to meet the need of local people, and helps to ensure ecology and the conservation of the natural environment is at the forefront of our thinking.

2.4 **Key issues** – A number of key issues have been identified and has informed the way in which the strategy has been developed. These are summarised as follows:

- How do we continue to provide accessible and well managed spaces to support the health and wellbeing of our communities?
- How do we ensure biodiversity and access to nature is considered across our green spaces and not confined to nature reserves?
- How we respond to the climate emergency and ensure spaces provide cool and comfortable environment while maximising carbon sequestration opportunities?
- How do we manage trees in the landscape to ensure a sustainable tree stock in the face of a warming climate and increasing challenges from pests and diseases?
- How we meet the increasing demand for access to green space and ensure our spaces meet the needs of the community?
- How do we ensure that all green space on new housing development are appropriately located and laid out to a high standard?
- How we ensure we maintaining safe spaces where our community feel safe?

2.5 To respond these key issues the proposed strategic aims of the strategy are:

- To respond to the increasing pressure for more (and more diverse) green space to meet current and future demand
- To provide resilient spaces in the face of a changing climate
- To connect green spaces to form part of an ecological network
- To maintain safe and accessible green spaces
- Encourage community participation in green space management

2.6 These strategic aims reflect the current issues and will provide the means to work with communities to continue to make sustainable improvements. A new action plan has been prepared (see Appendix 1) to address how we will continue to deal with the issues facing our green spaces. This action plan will be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure our approach is effective and work is making a positive impact. This approach will enable the Council, community and our partners to be responsive to new opportunities, ideas and any funding opportunities, as they emerge.

2.7 The strategy will focus on areas of land owned or managed by the Council which measure over 0.2 hectares or 2000m² (for comparison purposes this would comparable to the size of 3 tennis courts). By placing this emphasis on larger spaces will help to target resources to sites which will have a maximum impact and benefit a greater number of residents.

3 Corporate Objectives and Priorities

- 3.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2019 - 2023, sets out four strategic aims for maintaining and improving quality of life in Test Valley. The Green Space Strategy will deliver aspirations for Growing the potential of Communities where residents feel empowered connected to build upon their strengths, and Growing the Potential of the local environment for current and future generations.
- 3.2 Through the review of our Local Plan and our strategies for green spaces, we will continue to identify opportunities to increase access to the countryside and green spaces for Test Valley residents.

4 Consultations/Communications

- 4.1 The strategy has been developed with a cross service working group.
- 4.2 It is proposed that the draft strategy is shared for public and partner comment for a 4 week period. The outcome of this consultation will be published on the Councils website along with a response to all comments.
- 4.3 Comments and suggestions which improve the strategy will be incorporated or an explanation given as to why they have been considered but not included.
- 4.4 Comments and suggestions which warrant reconsideration, or fundamental strategy or policy review, will be agreed with the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder and reported back to Cabinet for further consideration as appropriate.

5 Options

- 5.1 The option is whether the strategy is adopted and considered acceptable to be shared publicly for comment or whether further work is deemed required.

6 Option Appraisal

- 6.1 **Option 1 - The strategy is adopted subject to a period of public and partner consultation.** Following a strategic and planned approach to the management of green space is a more efficient and accountable way to improve these important community assets. Adopting the strategy is considered low risk but high value where we can work with our communities to achieve a resilient and multi functional green space network.
- 6.2 **Option 2 – Do not adopt the strategy and follow an adhoc approach to the management of the Councils green spaces.** Adopting a more reactive approach to the management of our green spaces will be less resource efficient and will not necessarily target the most in need spaces.
- 6.3 Option 1 is considered to be the most effective way to manage the Councils green space network and is therefore recommended.

7 Risk Management

- 7.1 An evaluation of the risks indicate that the existing controls in place mean that no significant risks have been identified at this time.

8 Resource Implications

- 8.1 A planned approach to the management of green space is an efficient use of both financial and staff resource which will help to ensure we prioritise areas most in need.
- 8.2 The adoption of the strategy itself presents no immediate or direct resource implications, however, in order to deliver aspirations within this strategy and where appropriate, bids will be made to the Councils capital programme and the Community Infrastructure Levy fund. This will support and complement existing resource allocation through service revenue budgets and the Councils asset management plan. Where funds are held for specific projects in specific borough wards, collected S106 contributions will be used to fund projects. Where new space is adopted by the Council on new housing developments, a commuted sum to cover the maintenance and care of spaces over a twenty year period will be collected.

9 Legal Implications

- 9.1 The Council has a duty of care under the 1974 Health and Safety at Work Act to do what is reasonably practical to ensure green spaces are safe for use. The Council has an obligation under the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act to consider biodiversity in all decisions.

10 Equality Issues

- 10.1 Green spaces are managed to ensure where reasonably practicable we comply with the Equalities Act 2010.

11 Other Issues

- 11.1 Community Safety Issues - Safe spaces are places where the community feel comfortable using them at all times of the day. The Council will work with partners to target issues if and when they arise.
- 11.2 Environmental Health Issues – The safety of the community who use our green spaces is a top priority. The Council will work to ensure it does what is reasonably practicable to ensure sites are appropriately inspected and properly managed.
- 11.3 Sustainability and Addressing a Changing Climate – The delivery of this strategy takes into account the need for appropriate management of the green space network in order to promote resilience in a changing climate.
- 11.4 Property Issues – The Council manage over 430 hectares of green spaces across the borough.

11.5 Wards/Communities Affected – All wards where the Council own and manage green spaces will be affected by the strategy.

12 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

12.1 The report seeks the approval that the Draft Green Space Strategy be approved subject to public and partner consultation.

12.2 That the Head of Community and Leisure be authorised, in consultation with the Community and Leisure Portfolio Holder, to make any minor changes to the document following consultation. This will help to ensure the published strategy is a robust and reflects the needs of our community.

<u>Background Papers</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	2	File Ref:	N/A
Portfolio- (Community and Leisure) Councillor I Jeffrey			
Officer:	Kevin Harrington	Ext:	8801
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	9 September 2020

Green Space Strategy 2020 to 2030 DRAFT

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Introduction

High quality, well-managed green spaces are a vital part of healthy sustainable communities. They are an essential aspect of everyday life that communities feel passionately about. Test Valley Borough Council (TVBC) is committed to providing quality green spaces, across a spectrum of open space type, to provide places for fun, recreation, health and high quality space for the Borough's wildlife. By virtue, our space should be benefiting both wildlife and people.

The Green Space Strategy 2020 – 2030 builds on the progress and improvements made through the implementation of the Borough's first Green Space Strategy, which was published in 2007. It looks to identify the current issues facing green spaces, how they are used and managed and how we will work collectively with our local community, and our partners, to address current and future pressures.

An action plan in appendix 1 has been prepared to address how we will begin to deal with the issues facing our green spaces. This is only the start of the story as we will seek to keep this action plan under continuous review. This will enable the Council, community and our partners to be responsive to new opportunities, ideas and any funding opportunities which may arise.

Why have a strategy?

A planned approach to green space management enables sustainable long term investment to maximise the way spaces are used and managed. It enables the Council to work with local communities to plan facilities to meet the need of local people, and helps to ensure ecology and the conservation of the natural environment is at the forefront of our thinking.

What do we mean by Green Space?

The Council owns and manages over 400 hectares of land which is categorised as green space. This land can be broadly divided into the categories below. A definition of each of these spaces can be found in appendix 1.

- Cemeteries
- Formal parks
- Green corridors
- Informal open space
- Nature reserves and countryside sites
- Play areas
- Suitable alternative accessible green space (SANG)
- Trees and woodland

The strategy will focus on land parcels owned or managed by the Council, which measure over 0.2 hectares or 2000m² (for comparison purposes this would be the area of approximately 3 tennis courts). Placing emphasis on larger spaces will help us to reach a greater number of residents and target resources appropriately.

What is not covered and why?

Although essential for the health and wellbeing of our local communities, the improvement and management of sports pitches, and areas for formal recreation, are not included in the scope of this strategy - this is because they are covered in detail in the Playing Pitch Strategy and Sports Facility Strategy, 2020.

While sports pitches and other formal recreation areas are outside the remit of this strategy, we will seek to take account of the identified aims in the way these provisions are managed. This includes considering the way in which sports sites can link with other green spaces to provide ecological networks, and the significant potential for ecological enhancement.

Strategic priorities

The priorities of this strategy are;

1. To respond to the increasing pressure for more (and more diverse) green space to meet current and future demand
2. Provide resilient spaces in the face of a changing climate
3. Connect green spaces to form part of an ecological network
4. Maintain safe and accessible green spaces
5. Encourage community participation in green space management

Relationship with national and local policy

National guidance and policy

25 Year Environment Plan 'A Green Future' 2018

The Government's plan '*A Green Future: Our 25 Year Plan to Improve the Environment (2018)*', seeks to deal with the past negative impact on the environment and sets out 10 goals to achieve over the life time of the plan. These are:

1. Clean air
2. Clean and plentiful water
3. Thriving plants and wildlife
4. A reduced risk of harm from environmental hazards such as drought and flooding
5. Using resources from nature more sustainably and efficiently
6. Enhanced beauty, heritage and engagement with the natural environment
7. Mitigating and adapting to climate change
8. Minimising waste
9. Managing exposure to chemicals
10. Enhancing biosecurity

Four key policies from this plan directly relate to this strategy and actions will be delivered to contribute to:

- Using and managing land sustainably
- Recovering nature and enhancing the beauty of landscapes
- Connecting people with the environment to improve health and wellbeing
- Increasing resource efficiency and reducing pollution and waste

Environment Bill 2020

This new legislation will deliver the ambitions set out in the 25 year Environment Plan. The Bill makes provision about targets, plans and policies for improving the natural environment; including improvement to environmental protection about waste and resource efficiency; air quality; standards; water; nature and biodiversity conservation.

Biodiversity net gain proposals will see a requirement for developers to demonstrate a minimum 10% gain for biodiversity within new schemes. All biodiversity sites linked to development will need to be recorded on a Biodiversity Sites Register and maintained to deliver their biodiversity objectives for 30 years.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Government's planning policies for England. Paragraph 73 stipulates that "access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities".

Local policy

In order to develop a successful Green Space Strategy, it is important to draw wider local policies together. The following plans, in addition to local research, mapping and surveys have informed the preparation of the Green Space Strategy.

Test Valley Borough Council Corporate Plan

During the summer of 2018, local councillors and officers attended more than 70 events across the Borough and engaged with more than 2000 residents discussing what was important to them and would improve their quality of life. The objective of this research was to strengthen the Council's evidence-led approach for developing new policy and strategy and the approach to understanding the experience people have of the services they receive. Overall the residents of Test Valley expressed their aspirations and determination to support and develop their Borough. Specifically:

- Residents are keen to take part in more leisure activities across the Borough making the most of Test Valley's Green Spaces
- Residents want to be able to easily access the countryside and green spaces within Test Valley
- There is an interest in more accessible and well-linked cycling and walking routes
- Residents support the continued investment in our Green Spaces and nature reserves

The Test Valley Borough Council Corporate Plan 2019 – 2023 *Growing Our Potential* sets 4 key priorities:

Town Centres, to adapt and be attractive, vibrant and prosperous places

Communities, to be empowered, connected and able to build upon their strengths

People, to be able to live well and fulfil their aspirations

The Local Environment, for current and future generations

The provision and management of high quality green space cuts across all of these priorities contributing to; a sense of place in town centres, enabling communities to feel empowered to be involved with decisions about, and actions to: assist their local environment as well as ongoing management, protection and enhancement.

For the Local Environment priority, the Council has pledged it will invest in:

- Providing high-quality green infrastructure such as green spaces and nature reserves for our communities to access and enjoy for generations to come. The protection of biodiversity will be integral to this.
- Enhancing the quality of the public realm to improve the local environment, so that these are attractive spaces and places that people can enjoy and spend time in.

- Expanding the network and usage of family friendly cycling and walking routes to make them accessible and well linked, in order to promote wellbeing and more sustainable travel.
- Making the most of the benefits from inward investment and economic growth. Promoting the Borough as an outstanding place to live and work, whilst safeguarding its heritage and natural assets.

Adopted Local Plan

The Local Plan provides the planning policies that will be used in the determination of planning applications. It includes proposals for new green spaces at a number of sites across the Borough, with Policy LHW1 setting out the requirement for open space as part of new residential development. Additionally, the Local Plan recognises the requirement for additional space to be provided to help address the impact of an increase in visitor pressure arising from proposed development on certain designated wildlife sites, such as the New Forest.

Community Plans

Both Andover Vision and Romsey Future's Vision documents contain a number of ambitions for the enhancement of the towns' green spaces. These plans give the local population the opportunity to inform the decision making which affects their lives and enables the Council to shape the plan around the community need.

The Council is committed to working with Andover Vision and Romsey Future, as well as other place-based community planning activities as they come forward, to develop and deliver green space enhancements that reflect the priorities of local people.

Public Open Space Audit 2018

The purpose of this audit was to identify existing provision, in terms of quantity and quality, of public open space within the Borough relative to the requirements of the Local Plan (Policy LHW1). It is used in assessing the justification for the provision of, or contributions towards, public open space associated with new residential development.

The audit also forms part of the evidence base, helping to inform policies and proposals relating to the provision, enhancement and protection of public open space. The audit does not cover all the types of green space considered in this strategy.

Sustainability Framework

This framework sets out the Council's objectives that will be taken into account, alongside other considerations, in delivering services and running the Council's estate. The objectives include conserving, and where possible enhancing, the local environment including biodiversity.

Climate Emergency Action Plan

This was approved in June 2020 and identifies a series of actions that the Council will take in moving towards achieving carbon neutrality. A series of actions have been identified in relation to the natural environment, some of which will influence the approach to management of our green spaces.

What are the key issues we are considering?

Health and wellbeing

It is our objective to make a positive contribution to enhance the physical, mental and social wellbeing of our residents. Statistics from Public Health England (2020) demonstrate increase demand placed on the health services for mental health issues, and obesity related illnesses.

In order to counter the rising level of obesity, particularly in children, we need to continue to create and maintain safe, enjoyable and challenging environments which encourage participation in physical activity. We also need to consider interventions where we encounter barriers to accessing green space. We need to work to increase use of, or engagement with, the natural environment and work with partners who use targeted health interventions based in green space.

Biodiversity and access to nature

The value of access to nature is well known and spaces dedicated to ecological protection are vitally important for both wildlife and people. The **25 Year Environment Plan 'A Green Future' 2018** sets out a powerful policy context for the protection and enhancement of the natural environment, and states the importance of "strengthening the connections between people and nature", through access to and enjoyment of natural spaces, and through educational opportunities. Additionally, the plan recognises the importance of volunteering as a beneficial way of experiencing the natural world, and highlights "the wealth of evidence on the positive effect that spending time in the natural environment" has on both physical and mental health.

Wildlife in an urban setting is progressively being squeezed into ever smaller areas due to development, pressure from recreation and inappropriate management. We will continue to work to protect these important spaces and look for opportunities to expand the boundaries creating a network of ecological corridors linking spaces. Alongside the approach to managing wildlife sites, we will also continue to explore opportunities to conserve, and where possible enhance, biodiversity in all green spaces.

Climate emergency

Changes in the climate, including a rise in global temperature, and current practices in the management of the natural world across the globe, have reached a critical point where changes are needed now to combat irreversible consequences.

In June 2019, the UK updated its target for reducing carbon emissions to achieve a 100% reduction relative to 1990 levels by 2050. At a local level, the Council has declared a climate emergency and put in place an action plan to continue the journey towards carbon neutrality. The action plan highlights some of the ways we will seek to reduce carbon emissions through the management of our green spaces. We will also need to be thinking about how we need to adapt the approach to the management of our green spaces to account for the

changes in climate, such as changes in the volume and intensity of rainfall and potentially the need to provide additional areas of shade.

Management of trees in the landscape

Trees are great - they make a significant contribution to the landscape, sense of place, provide a wide ecological resource, help regulate temperature and provide invaluable carbon capture. However, trees often require management to ensure longevity, harmony with communities and importantly to ensure ecological balance. The Council has an obligation to look after the Borough's tree resource to ensure sustainable management, which will include planting, appropriate care of veteran and future veteran trees. To manage the expectation, and in line with the emerging Environment Bill, a Tree Strategy will be developed, which will outline the Council's approach to managing trees, tree planting and options for future woodland creation.

Disease and invasive species

We work proactively to control the spread and, where required, manage the removal of invasive species located on Council land. These include Japanese knotweed, Himalayan Balsam and *Crassula helmsii*. The spread of new pests and disease, which impact on our native species and landscape, is becoming more frequent with proactive management required to do what is reasonably practicable to keep the public safe.

Ash dieback currently presents a significant landscape scale problem, which will have a massive impact on the Borough's ash trees. Current predictions suggest that up to 95% of all ash will die as a result. In response to this, we have prepared an action plan to manage the risk associated with the disease and how we will look to recover from the loss of tree cover from ash removal.

Meeting the increasing demand for access to green space

Whilst the borough is generally well served with green space, according to the Public Open Space Audit 2018, there is currently a deficit in the quantity of green space in a number of areas within Test Valley based on the requirements of the Local Plan. Whilst this deficit may not be obvious on the ground, certain spaces are under constant pressure.

This is often compounded by competing demands for the same space at the same time for different pursuits, which are not compatible or that the space cannot accommodate. This can have a corresponding impact on site character, maintenance standards, resources needed, or the perception of the safety of the space and can also impact on the site's ecological value. Whilst the concept of multi-functional spaces is generally a sound one, additional space will inevitably be needed, as well as developing new facilities within existing spaces appropriately, where possible, to cater for the increasing demand.

Meeting the needs of the community

Green spaces provide places where people can come together and are often at the heart of communities providing a space in which to spend time, meet, play and interact. These spaces help to define the cultural identity of a neighbourhood. Involving local communities in the planning of improvements, and then the site's ongoing management, helps to foster a sense of ownership in a space. Strong partnerships have been developed with friends groups, local naturalists volunteer groups, and civic societies across Test Valley. This has vastly increased the number of projects delivered jointly and their success as a result.

We will continue to work with the local communities and support voluntary groups, to deliver projects across the borough, with the aspiration to meet local needs and exceed expectations.

New housing development

Housing development provides an opportunity to create exciting well thought out green space, which connects new and existing communities. Conversely, they can also put pressure on existing green spaces when not enough thought is given to layout, design and end use or where recreational space is not provided onsite. The Local Plan policy LHW1 provides a mechanism to secure green space on site on developments. Where new green space is proposed on site, this is normally secured through a Section 106 Agreement.

Where a development is small in size, and it is impractical to achieve meaningful green space onsite, a financial contribution by way of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is required. This levy will be available to fund schemes to increase the capacity of an existing green space, through the improvement of facilities, or strategically to fund the purchase of additional land.

Where new green space is provided as part of new housing developments every effort is made throughout the process (from pre-application discussions to completion of the development) to ensure these spaces are set out and can be managed to the best possible standards.

To help ensure all new spaces meet the needs of new and existing communities, a design guide for the layout of new green space, including equipped children's play, will be developed. Through implementation and ongoing monitoring, we will look to put resources in place to manage the construction of spaces and then the ongoing management and maintenance.

Maintaining safe spaces

Test Valley Green Spaces are generally perceived as safe places to use and enjoy. However, there are occasions when a situation may arise where anti-social behaviour does occur. This can take the form of vandalism, threatening behaviour and trespass, nuisance dogs, fouling and litter. We will continue to work with our communities and partners to maintain safe spaces through targeted intelligence led campaigns and where required enforcement of Public Space Protection Orders.

Maintenance standards

Well set out and cared for green spaces provide a wealth of benefits to a local community. It is well documented that where standards do fall a corresponding decline in use, and the behaviour of those who continue to use the space, can follow. Ensuring the right resource and expertise is deployed is essential in maintaining the high standards expected by our community.

High standards does not necessarily translate to neat and tidy. As we move forward with the delivery of this strategy more emphasis will be placed on a gentler way of management where traditional grounds maintenance is balanced with appropriate timing, management and frequencies of operation (of grass cutting for instance) to achieve biodiversity gain.

To measure the standards of our current green spaces, and to plan where standards may need to be raised, we will undertake a comprehensive re-assessment of all spaces above 2000m². This assessment will be based on the criteria set out in the Green Flag Award as summarised in appendix 4. Each space will be evaluated, this will help to inform and prioritise the improvements that should be made. This will be periodically reviewed throughout the life of this strategy.

Resources

The adoption of the Green Space Strategy in 2007 paved the way for a more strategic way to prioritise improvements to the Borough's green spaces. Tangible improvements have been made and investment has been constant during this however, we are in uncertain times where pressure on local authority resources is an ever present challenge.

The Council, where the opportunity arises, will use external funding including developer contributions to bring about project delivery. It will also be important that, if we are to realise the ambition to continue to make long term sustainable improvements to our green spaces, we will need to look at alternative ways of working, innovative partnerships and further external funding opportunities.

Next steps

Involving local communities

Involving local communities in planning future improvements to their green space, and making use of local knowledge, will be one of the ways to ensure the success of a project. Where specific needs have been identified, or where major improvements are planned, we will work with local communities to ensure wherever possible that any improvement work meets the needs of the majority of local residents. This will include working with Romsey Future, Andover Vision and other community initiatives and community planning exercises to decide priorities for the action plan.

Monitoring and evaluation

The action plan in appendix 1 details how we will work to achieve the strategic priorities set out on page 4. It will be important that this strategy is treated as a live document. This will help us to react to new opportunities as they emerge and support projects that have been identified through community consultation. The action plan will be monitored through the Council's performance management framework.

Appendix 1 – Action Plan 2020 - 2030

Appendix 2 – Green Space Typologies

Nature Reserves and countryside sites – These sites are primarily managed to protect and enhance habitats and species, and provide wonderful opportunities for residents to learn about wildlife whilst enjoying all the benefits of being outdoors. Urban nature reserves have become increasingly important wildlife refuges with the potential to support increasingly more diverse ranges of species when managed appropriately.

The management of Borough Council nature reserves is directed by site specific management plans monitored throughout the year by professional staff. We work with a range of partner organisation such as Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, groups and individuals to ensure we maximise the ecological benefit of these sites for both wildlife and people.

Volunteering and community participation is absolutely key to successful management. A wide range of opportunities throughout the year are promoted to encourage community involvement such as; practical work parties, cattle overseeing, forest school, bush craft events, wildlife walks, recording, Bio Blitz events and the Community Woodfair. These events engage wider members of the community with our Green Spaces, encouraging engagement and commitment for the ongoing protection of these sites.

Green corridors - Green corridors can take numerous forms including cycle routes, river corridors, woodland and public rights of way. These can provide opportunities for walking, cycling or horse riding, whether for leisure purposes or travel. These green assets form the basis of the way in which people can move between Green Spaces and through the environment providing often traffic free links. Green corridors can provide important ecological links between habitats by provide stepping stones or routes for movement. Their presence helps to mitigate against habitat fragmentation.

A number of initiatives specifically target these green assets: these include the River Anton Enhancement Scheme and Romsey Waterways project.

Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG) - The Council has been proactive in purchasing land and working with landowner/developers to create Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space (SANG). This has a purpose to mitigate the potential impact of recreation pressure from new housing in the south of the borough on European protected sites. These spaces are established to offer safe and secure places to walk a dog helping to reduce the need to travel to places like the New Forest Special Areas_of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protection Area (SPA) and Solent SPA.

We opened the first SANG at Mill Lane, Sherfield English in 2019..

Informal open spaces – Informal Green Spaces are generally located in residential areas and are highly valued spaces, they provide important visual and recreational benefits, they help to shape and define the character of the neighbourhood and make space for informal recreation. These spaces fulfil a varied function with activities such as dog walking, informal ball games etc. and will often include the equipment for play, exercise and wheeled sports. Examples of this type of Green Space are Lavington Gardens in North Baddesley and Casterbridge Lane in Weyhill.

Formal Parks – Parks are highly visible and highly valued spaces, which can set the quality standards for an urban centre. Parks are often formally laid out with lawns, flower beds, paths, shrubs and trees and can be categorised for their historical significance. Parks are generally centrally located and provide key venues for high profile events which draw people from the local community. Landscaping would typically take the form of seasonal bedding schemes, trees and shrubs with facilities for children's play, bowling greens, tennis courts, kiosk/café, bandstands and sculptures and memorials. Examples of this type of Green Space are Vigo Recreation Ground in Andover and Romsey War Memorial Park.

Trees and Woodland - Trees are cared for across all of the Green Spaces and provide a whole host of benefits including; enhancing landscape character, improving air quality, reducing flood risk, enhancing health and wellbeing (including providing shading) and can provide significant biodiversity value. All decisions on management of trees take into account the role in respect of the significant landscape, ecological and emotional value trees play in the environment. The Council holds digital records of the location and condition of over 25,000 individual trees and the number is rising as we continue to survey our tree stock.

Cemeteries - Cemeteries are not only important for the relatives and friends of those whose remains have been committed but are also public open spaces offering place for quiet contemplation. Cemeteries often contain icons of community cultural heritage, such as memorials to events that remain in the community memory. Cemeteries can be bright, welcoming spaces packed with interest. More recently cemeteries have been identified as areas which can be ecologically important, offering a variety of undisturbed habitats for some of Britain's best loved wildlife.

Play Areas - Play takes a whole variety of forms and can combine a host of opportunities be it games in the street, exploring a woodland setting to exciting adventurous dynamic equipped play areas and everything in between.

Play provides a way to interact, exercise, learn and develop with the range of experiences offered which should be aimed at challenge. Play is good for you.

The wider Green Spaces including our woodlands and nature reserves provide well managed and accessible places for exploration and unstructured play. TVBC also manage over 100 equipped play facilities across the Borough, which are aimed at a range of ages from two years old upwards and include play areas, outdoor gyms, fitness trails, multi-use games areas and venues for wheeled sports.

Where new play areas are planned, we work with local residents on the design and equip these areas to create the correct facility for the location. Where new equipped play is planned on new housing sites, we will work with the developer team to ensure the best possible outcome for new and existing residents.

Appendix 3 - Assessment criteria based on the Green Flag Award criteria

Welcoming Place - First impressions are important and Green Spaces should be positive and inviting. Sites, where possible, will be made accessible to the whole community with provision for the elderly and disabled visitors as well as young people. Signs both inside and outside the space will be clear and of consistent design to offer appropriate information.

Healthy, safe and secure - Sites will be safe for all age groups and sectors of the community, including staff. Drinking water, first aid facilities, toilets and emergency equipment will be provided if appropriate to the site. An onsite presence in Green Spaces can make people feel safer and contributes to the general security of individual areas. A long term strategy to look at getting a visible presence in these spaces will be investigated. A Health and Safety policy will be put into practice and hygiene issues such as dog fouling will be addressed.

Clean and Well Maintained - The appearance and overall upkeep of a Green Space is a determining factor in whether local people use and respect the space. For aesthetic, environmental, health and safety reasons, litter, graffiti and waste management will be addressed. Flower beds, lawns, buildings, equipment, benches and water features will be evaluated, locations and conditions logged and facilities repaired or replaced if necessary.

Sustainability - The maintenance of Green Space and its facilities will be environmentally sound. The application of pesticides will be minimised and the use of horticultural peat will be eliminated. Wherever possible, waste vegetation will be recycled or composted and used on site, and priority will be given to low maintenance planting. The implementation of energy conservation measures and pollution reduction, where applicable, are considered as high priority as is the need to offset carbon emissions, including through increased tree planting.

Conservation and Heritage - Every Green Space is unique. Every effort will be made to conserve and manage any natural or built heritage. If appropriate, original land features and historical buildings will be restored and maintained to a high standard. Consideration will be given to increasing biological diversity, and conserving and creating new habitats will be incorporated at every opportunity.

Community Involvement - Public participation is essential to the success of any Green Space. Where we actively involve the local community and visitors, in the development and implementation of projects, improvements are more sustainable and have a higher success rate. Where possible, 'Friends' groups and other community-based strategies will be fostered to support the management and long term development of key sites.

Marketing - The local community will be made more aware of where Green Spaces are, what facilities are available and what events happen there. Methods to market the sites need to be diverse with site information publicised through tools such as leaflets, websites or notice boards.

Management - The development of 5-year management plans for specific sites to deliver sustainable improvements to Green Space will be reviewed, primarily for sites with the greatest visitor numbers. Management plans will illustrate the daily management prescriptions and operational schedules as well as a timescale for surveys. Management plans will be reviewed regularly.

Strategic Priority 1 –To respond to the increasing pressure for more (and more diverse) green space to meet current and future demand			
Action	Lead service	Measure	Timescale
Create an open space design guide which will include the communities and Council's expectation for the delivery of all green space (covering all typologies) on new developments	C&L / PB	Creation of green space and play design guide and review every 5 years	2021 & 2026
Review the management and monitoring process to ensure all land transferred to management companies is being undertaken in accordance with approved plans and legal agreements	PP & ED/C&L	Monitoring responsibilities are included in all s106 agreements including resource requirements	2021
Develop an online resource with information on open space location, provision and how to access for all spaces in the Borough including those managed by partners	C&L	Online resource available which will include site managed by partners	2022
Develop the new Urban Park at Town Mills, Andover in conjunction with the town's redevelopment	PB	New green space created alongside the River Anton	2022
Deliver access improvements to the countryside around Andover delivering obligations within the Picket Twenty Section 106 Agreement	PP& ED /C&L	A connected public rights of way network and access to a significant area of new semi natural green space	2023
Deliver opportunities for new community green space in Andover town centre through the delivery of the Andover Masterplan	PB	Opportunities to create new centrally located spaces and deliver improvements to existing spaces	Ongoing
Ensure where green spaces are provided on new housing developments, these are delivered to a high quality and in accordance with the green space design guide	C&L	Outputs of future public open space audits	Ongoing
Increasing the quantity and quality of green space through appropriate use of developer contributions and the Community Infrastructure Levy	C&L	Land secured and set out as public open space	Ongoing

Deliver on obligations to provide Suitable Alternative Natural Green Space	PP& ED /C&L	Achieving at least 8ha per 1000 population of appropriate provision in comparison to the population for which mitigation needs to be provided	Ongoing
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Strategic Priority 2 - Provide resilient spaces in the face of a changing climate			
Action	Lead service	Measure	Timescale
Develop a tree management strategy detailing how trees will be cared for to ensure a resilient and sustainable tree stock	C&L	Strategy adopted by TVBC Cabinet with annual reporting.	2021
Develop a strategy for tree planting. This should include prioritising local provenance stock, biosecurity and options for contract growing of seed collected in Test Valley	C&L	Strategy adopted	2021
Explore opportunities to set up a grant scheme for community for tree planting	C&L	Scheme set up and a target or 10 grants awarded in the first 12 months	2022
Explore opportunities for policies on tree planting and woodland creation to increase urban canopy cover within the emerging Borough Local Plan.	PP& ED	Draft policies written for inclusion in the BLP	2024
Work with partners to secure appropriate large scale nitrate mitigation which will contributed to carbon sequestration	PP/C&L	Additional land secured within and outside of the borough to secure meaningful ecological improvements	Ongoing
Secure appropriate additional land for woodland creation	PP& ED / C&L	Appropriate land secured with funding to plant and maintain new woodland	2030

Strategic Priority 3 – Connect green spaces to form part of an ecological network where spaces are joined			
Action	Lead service	Measure	Timescale
Review the way our green spaces are managed to increase biodiversity opportunities	C&L / Env S	Review completed and published and recommendations implemented	2022
Develop a 5 year management plan for the Romsey canal	Waterways Partnership	Management plan completed and resources for delivery are in place	2022
In partnership with Romsey Future and Andover Vision, launch and then deliver the Wilder Andover and Romsey projects	C&L	Scheme launched and baseline studies published. Action plans will be reviewed on an annual basis	2023
Deliver objectives within the River Anton Enhancement scheme focussing specifically on the town centre reaches and structure removal	C&L	Town centre restoration at Anton Mill and the Town Mill delivered	2023
Support Back from the Brink project in Andover which will focus on the Barberry Carpet Moth, Stripped Lynchus and small blue butterfly	C&L	Delivery of objectives within the project in accordance with Natural England targets	2024
Create a network of pollinator corridors linking open spaces, roadside verges and roundabouts	C&L / Env S	2 x 1-mile corridors created through habitat creation and changes to roadside verge management and open spaces	2024
In partnership with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, develop opportunities to extend the size of Fishlake Meadows	C&L	Size of Fishlake Meadows Nature Reserve extended	2026

Strategic Priority 4 – Maintain safe and accessible green spaces			
Action	Lead service	Measure	Timescale
Rapid condition assessment of all sites above 2000m2 in size against the agreed standards template	P&C M	Templates complete and full assessment completed. Priority list of projects and maintenance agreed Repeat at year 6	2021 & 2026
Deliver programme of improvements to green spaces across Test Valley	C&L	All projects delivered against annual programme	2021 and ongoing
Agree policy approaches to Public Spaces Protection Orders and drone usage across TVBC green space	C&L	Policy agreed and adopted by the Council	2022
Develop a management plan for Charlton Lakes	C&L	First draft available for public consultation 2021. Plan completed in 2022 and published on TVBC website	2022
Develop a management plan for Vigo Recreation Ground, Andover	C&L	First draft available for public consultation 2022. Plan completed in 2023 and published on TVBC website	2023
Apply for Green Flag Award for Charlton Lakes	C&L	Application for the Green Flag award submitted	2024
Apply for Green Flag Award for Vigo Recreation Ground, Andover	C&L	Application for the Green Flag award submitted	2025
Retain the Green Flag awards at Romsey War Memorial Park, Valley Park Woodlands and Rooksbury Mill	C&L / Env S	Annual application for award in January	Ongoing with annual application

Strategic Priority 5 – Encourage community participation in green space management			
Action	Lead service	Measure	Timescale
Undertake analysis of community need. Use local data, ward profiling and member priorities to deliver community led improvements to green space	C&L / CE	Report collated and information fed into the project development	2021 and ongoing
Involve local communities in decision making to ensure any improvements to green space meet local needs	C&L	Consultation on significant projects undertaken and outcome published on line	2021 and ongoing
Support the training of key volunteer groups across the borough with a focus on new communities within recent development	C&L	Organise / facilitate 2 training events per year	2021 and ongoing
Work with partners to promote volunteer activity on sites contracted out or managed by management companies	C&L	2 events held per annum	2021 and ongoing
Develop a conservation volunteer umbrella group to provide networking and knowledge sharing	C&L	First meeting held	2021
Lead 12 work parties/events across Council Green Space each year	C&L	Number of work parties completed and volunteer hours recorded	2021 and ongoing
Support third party events across TVBC green spaces particularly those delivering on the Council's key objectives	C&L	5 events held per annum	2021 and ongoing

<p>Work with local schools, colleges and universities to deliver educational opportunities at key green space as hubs to promote learning and a greater appreciation of the environment</p>	<p>C&L</p>	<p>Events programme publicised and participation level recorded</p>	<p>2021 and ongoing</p>
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Lead service abbreviations

C&L – Community and Leisure Env S – Environmental Services PP& ED – Planning Policy & Economic Development PB – Planning and Building CE – Chief Executive Service

ITEM 10

Corporate Financial Monitoring

Report of the Finance Portfolio Holder

Recommended:

That the financial position for each Portfolio and the key revenue areas contained in the Annex to the report be noted.

SUMMARY:

- This report reviews the Council's revenue spending for the first four months of the 2020/21 financial year.
- It also examines the main differences between the original estimate for 2020/21 and actual spend to 31 July 2020 and provides explanations for significant variances.
- Overall, net expenditure to 31 July 2020 was £544,000 more than budgeted at this stage of the year. This adverse variance comprises additional expenditure of £496,000 due to service related expenditure and £48,000 less income from the Council's investing and borrowing activities.
- This report should be read in conjunction with the report that was presented to the Special Council meeting on 5 August, 2020, as there are a number of exempt contractual matters that are not included in this report, but which take the overall adverse variance to just over £1M for the first four months of the year to 31 July, 2020.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 As part of responsible financial stewardship, it is recommended that the financial performance of the Council should be reviewed regularly.
- 1.2 Revenue budget monitoring is carried out every month for all Services and presented to Cabinet regularly throughout the year.
- 1.3 This report examines the income and expenditure of each portfolio over the first four months of the year. The Annex shows the financial summaries of each portfolio to 31 July 2020 together with an explanation of any significant variances.
- 1.4 Several key areas of income and expenditure, not all apparent within individual portfolios have also been analysed and are also shown in the Annex.

2 Background

Profiling of Income and Expenditure

- 2.1 Not all income and expenditure is incurred equally over the year. For example, some costs (e.g. lease costs) are allocated at the end of the year, and others are stepped throughout the year (e.g. rental income is invoiced quarterly in advance). The manner that income or expenditure is received or incurred over the course of the year is referred to as its profile.
- 2.2 In order to make the analysis more relevant, the actual income and expenditure to 31 July is being compared against its profiled position at this time.

Analysis of income and expenditure

- 2.3 The Annex shows, by portfolio, an analysis of original budget, profiled budget to date, actual expenditure to date and the variance between profiled budget and actual income / expenditure.
- 2.4 The Annex also shows an analysis of key areas of income and expenditure within the budget that are traditionally subject to variations in the year.

3 Analysis of Financial Performance

3.1 Leader's Portfolio

The Leader's portfolio shows net expenditure to the end of July of £620,000 against a profiled budget of £665,000. This represents a favourable variance of £45,000 to date.

This is due mainly to government grants for Brexit brought forward from 2019/20.

3.2 Deputy Leader & Planning Portfolio

The Deputy Leader & Planning Portfolio shows net expenditure of £929,000 compared with a profiled net expenditure estimate of £211,000 – an adverse variance of £718,000.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, free car parking was introduced across the Borough until 22 June, followed by two hours free for a further month. The estimated net loss of income from this after savings in collection costs is £610,000.

Covid-19 has also impacted on income from planning application fees and building control fees which are less than expected by an estimated £159,000.

These are partly offset by savings in employee costs due to vacancies.

3.3 Community & Leisure Portfolio

The Community & Leisure portfolio shows net expenditure to the end of July of £151,000 against a profiled estimate of £100,000. This is an adverse variance of £51,000.

This is mainly due to the impact of Covid-19 on income due to the closure of The Lights theatre and outdoor sports facilities, partly offset by savings on cleaning and promotional budgets.

3.4 Corporate Portfolio

The Corporate portfolio shows net expenditure to the end of July of £1.212M against a profiled budget of £1.205M. This represents an adverse variance of £7,000 to date.

Covid-19 has impacted on income from land charges and licensing and there are additional costs in IT for three months of video conferencing required for home working.

There are savings which partially offset these from lower travel claims due to meetings being held remotely, no mayor making ceremony and an unbudgeted government grant.

3.5 Economic Development & Tourism Portfolio

The Economic Development & Tourism Portfolio shows net expenditure of £102,000 against a profiled estimate of £134,000. This represents a favourable variance of £32,000.

This is due to reductions in grant payments due to Covid-19.

3.6 Environmental Portfolio

The Environmental portfolio shows net expenditure of £962,000 against a profiled estimate to the end of July of £946,000 – an adverse variance of £16,000.

Increased employee costs in waste and green waste due to covering for vacancies and sickness is offset by savings in grounds maintenance and street cleansing due to vacancies.

Lower than expected income from glass recycling and the costs of bulk buying glass banks is partly offset by additional net income from increased subscriptions to the garden waste scheme.

3.7 Finance Portfolio

The Finance portfolio has generated net income of £2.629M against a profiled estimate of £2.430M to the end of July. This is a favourable variance of £199,000.

This is due mainly to lower than expected staffing costs to date, prior year credits for the Chantry service charge and savings on office accommodation costs due to Covid-19.

3.8 Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio

- 3.9 The Housing & Environmental Health portfolio shows expenditure of £360,000 compared with the profiled estimate of £382,000. This is a favourable variance of £22,000.

Covid-19 has led to reductions in income from pest control, enabling fees and DFG administration fees and additional bed and breakfast charges. These are offset in part by savings in employee costs due to vacancies and an unbudgeted government grant.

3.10 Key areas of income and expenditure

The Annex also shows an analysis of significant items in the Council's budget. These can be spread across several Services or cost centres so may be included in more than one portfolio.

While not necessarily under the direct control of one budget manager it is important that these items are reviewed regularly in total as they provide a good indication of the overall variances within the budget.

3.11 Investment Funds and borrowing costs

Net investment income to 31 July 2020 was £161,000 compared with a profiled estimate of £209,000 – this represents an adverse variance of £48,000.

This is due to the reduction in the base rate to 0.10% in response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

4 Other Issues

4.1 Bad and doubtful debts/ rent deferrals

As part of the budget setting process in February, 2020, the Council included a provision for bad debts based on historic evidence and data. The financial effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have been severe and unprecedented especially in relation to third parties' ability to pay amounts owed to the Council. It is not clear at this stage of the year how much of the accumulating bad debts and rents will actually be collected as we move into a recovery phase. However, it is almost certain that the bad debt provision in the 2020/21 budget will prove to be inadequate and will need to be reviewed later in the year. Any increase in the provision will add to the in-year budget gap shown in this report.

4.2 Mitigating factors

- (a) Furlough Scheme – The Council has received £116,000 in Furlough Grants for the period April to June 2020 and this is reflected in this report. A further claim for £27,700 has been submitted to HMRC for July, but this has not yet been approved and so is not included in this report.
- (b) Government Covid-19 Emergency Grants – The Council has received emergency funding from MHCLG totalling £1,470,855 to address coronavirus pressures. Currently, this is being held in reserves to offset cashflow impacts and is not included in the figures in this report.
- (c) Income Compensation Scheme – The Government is introducing a new scheme that will “compensate councils for irrecoverable and unavoidable losses from sales, fees and charges income generated in the delivery of services, in the financial year 2020-21”. The key principle is that if councils budgeted for something as income (sales, fees and charges), and has suffered losses to that income, then compensation will be payable. Authorities will have to absorb the initial 5% of losses (the 5% deductible), with central government compensating 75% of losses above this threshold. A final version of the guidance was published on 24th August 2020: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-government-income-compensation-scheme-for-lost-sales-fees-and-charges>.
- (d) Losses in Council Tax and Business Rates Scheme - At last month’s Communities and Local Government Select Committee, ministers indicated that they were considering a scheme to fund Collection Fund losses. The secretary of state said, “When information is clearer about the scale of the losses of income with respect to council tax and business rates, if necessary, we will implement a similar mechanism to the one we have seen with respect to income losses”. According to the local government minister, “the principle has been accepted by the Treasury and I think that should reassure authorities that are concerned about council tax or business rates losses that there is serious protection on offer and that will be becoming fully clear in short order”.

5 Risk Management

- 5.1 This report is for information purposes so the Council’s Risk Management approach does not need to be applied.

6 Resource Implications

- 6.1 An adverse variance of £544,000 in the first four months of the year has been identified in this report. There is a mixture of adverse and favourable variances across the portfolios and these will continue to be monitored and reviewed as part of the Budget process.

7 Equality Issues

- 7.1 This report is for information purposes, so the Council’s EQIA process does not need to be applied.

8 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

- 8.1 Overall, net expenditure is £544,000 higher than forecast at 31 July. There are a number of areas with large variances between the profiled budget and the actual income / expenditure to date due to the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 8.2 The report does not make any recommendations for changes to budgets at this stage in the year and therefore the recommendation is that the current budget position be noted.

<u>Background Papers (Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D)</u>			
None			
<u>Confidentiality</u>			
It is considered that this report does not contain exempt information within the meaning of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, and can be made public.			
No of Annexes:	1	File Ref:	N/A
(Portfolio: Finance) Councillor M Flood			
Officer:	Jenni Carter/Will Fullbrook	Ext:	8236
Report to:	Cabinet	Date:	9 September 2020

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

ANNEX

TOTAL EXPENDITURE	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
Leader & Corporate Management Portfolio	1,918,617	665,334	620,551	(44,783)
Deputy Leader & Planning Portfolio	382,077	211,169	929,226	718,057
Community & Leisure Portfolio	212,100	99,649	150,715	51,066
Corporate Portfolio	3,507,422	1,204,828	1,212,473	7,645
Economic Development & Tourism Portfolio	308,495	134,071	102,471	(31,600)
Environmental Portfolio	3,718,731	946,434	962,644	16,210
Finance Portfolio	(5,701,163)	(2,430,612)	(2,629,244)	(198,632)
Housing & Environmental Health Portfolio	1,740,708	382,390	360,516	(21,874)
Net Investment Income	(626,000)	(209,000)	(161,000)	48,000
Borrowing costs	162,000	17,000	17,000	0
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	5,622,987	1,021,263	1,565,352	544,089

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

LEADER & CORPORATE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Chief Executive's Office</u>				
Chief Executive's Office	1,195,119	394,317	411,903	17,586
Human Resources Service	458,666	146,532	134,811	(11,721)
Net Expenditure	1,653,785	540,849	546,714	5,865
<u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u>				
Andover Town Centre Rejuvenation	77,752	77,752	77,752	0
Corporate Subscriptions	23,020	16,780	19,513	2,733
Corporate Public Relations, Information & Consultation	14,800	7,914	10,305	2,391
Corporate Management	134,560	11,140	(43,733)	(54,873)
Delivering Public Services Electronically	12,000	10,000	10,000	0
Strategic Partnership	2,700	899	0	(899)
Net Expenditure	264,832	124,485	73,837	(50,648)
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	1,918,617	665,334	620,551	(44,783)

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**LEADER & CORPORATE MANAGEMENT PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

	£ 000
Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	665
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>621</u>
Favourable Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>(44)</u></u>
<u>Chief Executive's Office</u>	
Recruitment costs offset in part by savings from vacant posts	14
Savings from new payroll service	(12)
<u>Corporate Management</u>	
Unbudgeted government grants brought forward from prior year	(53)
Sundry variance	<u>7</u>
	<u><u>(44)</u></u>

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

DEPUTY LEADER & PLANNING PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u>				
Planning Policy	485,602	175,609	181,412	5,803
Local Development Framework	107,634	38,526	40,658	2,132
Neighbourhood Planning	0	15,329	15,329	0
Net Expenditure	593,236	229,464	237,399	7,935
<u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u>				
Romsey Future	10,000	3,332	1,678	(1,654)
South of Romsey Town Centre Project	33,347	33,347	33,347	0
Net Expenditure	43,347	36,679	35,025	(1,654)
<u>Property & Asset Management</u>				
Estates Support Unit	27,250	8,949	8,625	(324)
Engineers	187,039	111,776	87,045	(24,731)
Highways	13,690	(1,538)	958	2,496
Parking	(1,507,126)	(490,596)	113,001	603,597
Community Transport	55,000	4,583	1,429	(3,154)
Net Income	(1,224,147)	(366,826)	211,058	577,884
<u>Planning & Building</u>				
Development Control & Enforcement	1,002,893	332,153	433,477	101,324
Building Control	(33,252)	(20,301)	12,267	32,568
Net Expenditure	969,641	311,852	445,744	133,892
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	382,077	211,169	929,226	718,057

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****DEPUTY LEADER & PLANNING PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

	£ 000
Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	211
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>929</u>
Adverse Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>718</u></u>
<u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u>	
Higher than budgeted employee costs due to no vacancies and temporary staff	9
<u>Engineers</u>	
Salary savings due to vacancy and reduction in hours	(21)
<u>Parking</u>	
Adverse variance in car parking income and penalty charge notices due to free parking being in place to 22/06/20 and then two hours parking remaining free for a further month due to the Covid-19 pandemic	657
Savings on costs of collection of car parking income	(47)
Prior year credits in respect of the multi storey car park service charge	(16)
<u>Development Control & Enforcement</u>	
Salary savings due to vacancies	(20)
Lower mileage claims due to vacancies / COVID	(6)
Lower than budgeted Pre Application Fees to date	17
Lower than budgeted Planning Application Fees to date	101
<u>Building Control</u>	
Salary savings due to vacancies	(4)
Lower than budgeted income to date	41
Sundry variance	<u>7</u>
	<u><u>718</u></u>

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

COMMUNITY & LEISURE PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Community & Leisure</u>				
Leisure Management				
Leisure Management	229,225	69,908	68,345	(1,563)
Net Expenditure	229,225	69,908	68,345	(1,563)
Parks, Countryside & Sport				
Managed Sports Facilities	(1,776,430)	(592,140)	(576,349)	15,791
Outdoor Sports Facilities	111,463	49,488	49,590	102
Playgrounds	8,910	2,968	780	(2,188)
Sports Development	14,050	4,680	3,225	(1,455)
Cemeteries	(100,790)	(17,690)	(9,366)	8,324
Grounds Maintenance	77,190	45,712	49,712	4,000
Nature Reserves	123,817	25,130	22,401	(2,729)
Urban Parks and Open Spaces	278,578	111,173	94,395	(16,778)
Net Expenditure	(1,263,212)	(370,679)	(365,612)	5,067
Community Development				
Community Engagement	956,232	372,227	361,409	(10,818)
Net Expenditure	956,232	372,227	361,409	(10,818)
Arts & Culture				
Andover Events Programme	10,850	3,612	380	(3,232)
Arts Function	21,234	6,972	6,223	(749)
The Lights	257,771	17,609	79,970	62,361
Net Expenditure	289,855	28,193	86,573	58,380
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	212,100	99,649	150,715	51,066

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION ANNEX**COMMUNITY & LEISURE PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

	£ 000
Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	100
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>151</u>
Adverse Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>51</u></u>
<u>Community & Leisure</u>	
Savings on cleaning services - site closures at the Lights and Outdoor Sporting facilities due to Covid-19 pandemic	(18)
Savings on promotions budgets mainly within the Lights and Community Engagement due to covid restrictions and closure.	(18)
<u>Parks, Countryside & Sport</u>	
Legal and contract support costs for the Managed Sports Facilities.	10
No income from outdoor sports facilities due to sites being closed due to Covid-19.	14
Cemeteries - Burial Fees income lower than budgeted.	10
Tree works	(6)
<u>The Lights</u>	
Reduced net ticket sales at the Lights due to Covid-19 closure.	36
Reduced net bar sales income at the Lights due to Covid closure.	34
No room hire income at the Lights due to Covid closure	24
Furlough grant payments for Lights Staff to June 2020.	(28)
No promotional post being sent due to Covid closure.	(4)
Sundry variance	<u>(3)</u>
	<u><u>51</u></u>

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

CORPORATE PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u>				
Emergency Planning	33,703	4,547	3,936	(611)
Councillors	461,750	154,905	139,230	(15,675)
Councillor Meetings	21,250	13,249	16,759	3,510
Mayoral Office	37,860	11,352	4,244	(7,108)
Civic Ceremonies	7,500	3,500	240	(3,260)
Allocated Central Overheads	68,812	47,545	45,113	(2,432)
Non-distributable Costs	190,600	0	0	0
Net Expenditure	821,475	235,098	209,522	(25,576)
<u>Information Technology</u>				
Management	150,071	53,863	51,154	(2,709)
Service Desk	68,264	36,712	42,191	5,479
Infrastructure	530,887	223,205	216,947	(6,258)
Corporate Services	398,785	140,169	157,814	17,645
Net Expenditure	1,148,007	453,949	468,106	14,157
<u>Legal & Democratic</u>				
Legal Service	767,258	258,558	260,178	1,620
Land Charges	(76,729)	(37,238)	(16,737)	20,501
Council Elections	147,765	57,335	56,023	(1,312)
Registration Of Electors	81,090	(10,920)	(24,623)	(13,703)
Lotteries, Amusements & Gaming Permits	(7,232)	(2,236)	95	2,331
Alcohol & Entertainment Licensing	(39,996)	(1,821)	3,563	5,384
Scrap Metal Dealers	2,258	740	(84)	(824)
Hackney Carriages & Private Hire Vehicles	6,876	6,810	7,628	818
Net Expenditure	881,290	271,228	286,043	14,815
<u>Revenues Service</u>				
Customer Services Unit	656,650	244,553	248,802	4,249
Net Expenditure	656,650	244,553	248,802	4,249
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	3,507,422	1,204,828	1,212,473	7,645

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****CORPORATE PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

	£ 000
Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	1,205
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>1,212</u>
Adverse Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>7</u></u>
<u>Corporate & Democratic Core</u>	
No claims for mileage due to COVID -19 as most meetings are remote	(4)
Lower spend in Supplies and Services with training in particular below profile, potentially due to COVID-19. Also Members Allowances currently showing a variance as increase has been budgeted but not yet applied	(9)
Favourable variance within Mayoral Office due to COVID-19 as no travel has been required and 2019/20 Mayor remained in post so no Past Mayor Badges were required	(6)
Favourable variance within Civic Ceremonies due to no Mayor Making Event taking place	(4)
<u>Information Technology</u>	
Unbudgeted Covid related costs including 3 months of StarLeaf and temporary staff due to delays in recruitment.	14
<u>Legal and Democratic</u>	
Land Charges Fees for HCC lower than profile due to COVID-19	(9)
Land Charges income is showing an adverse variance due to COVID-19, and is estimated to be a potential loss of 20% over the year.	35
Register of Electors - unbudgeted government grant brought forward from prior year	(14)
Small savings across Supplies and Services within Licensing	(3)
Licensing Income has been impacted by COVID-19 so is currently showing an adverse variance	14
Sundry variance	<u>(7)</u>
	<u><u>7</u></u>

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Community & Leisure</u>				
Heritage	45,830	22,233	22,233	0
Net Expenditure	45,830	22,233	22,233	0
<u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u>				
Planning Policy	96,325	32,108	32,245	137
Economic Development & Promotion	77,680	27,993	19,676	(8,317)
Promotion of Tourism	100,790	82,659	64,731	(17,928)
Town Centre Management	20,000	6,664	0	(6,664)
Net Expenditure	294,795	149,424	116,652	(32,772)
<u>Property & Asset Management</u>				
Andover Market	(29,690)	(36,774)	(36,804)	(30)
High Street Bookings	(2,440)	(812)	390	1,202
Net Expenditure	(32,130)	(37,586)	(36,414)	1,172
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	308,495	134,071	102,471	(31,600)

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION

ANNEX

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM PORTFOLIO

EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES

£ 000

Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	134
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>102</u>
Favourable Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>(32)</u></u>
<u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u>	
Limited payments on the Business Incentive and Independent Retailer Grant schemes	(6)
Reduced grant payment to Romsey Visitor Information Centre due to Covid-19 closure	(15)
No payments made for either Romsey or Andover Town Centre Management.	(7)
Sundry variance	<u>(5)</u>
	<u><u>(32)</u></u>

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Environmental Service</u>				
Grounds Maintenance	936,728	449,549	426,069	(23,480)
Waste Collection	1,911,756	541,459	590,604	49,145
Garden Waste Collection	(210,879)	(453,446)	(453,149)	297
Street Cleansing	816,633	217,638	189,472	(28,166)
Vehicle Workshop	(35,813)	(28,559)	(25,631)	2,928
ES Technical	287,320	79,710	94,470	14,760
Service Overhead Account	12,986	140,083	140,809	726
Net Expenditure	3,718,731	946,434	962,644	16,210
<u>Planning Policy & Economic Development</u>				
Sustainability	0	0	0	0
Net Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	3,718,731	946,434	962,644	16,210

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****ENVIRONMENTAL PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

	£ 000
Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	946
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>963</u>
Adverse Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>17</u></u>
<u>Grounds Maintenance</u>	
Salary savings due to vacancies	(25)
<u>Waste Collection</u>	
Increased employee costs due to covering vacancies/sickness/COVID cover	31
Additional repair material expenditure to date	28
Additional income throughout waste	(7)
<u>Green Waste</u>	
Increased employee costs due to covering vacancies/sickness/COVID cover	11
Purchase of equipment and materials (bins/bags)	34
Additional income to date from subscriptions	(41)
<u>Street Cleansing</u>	
Salary savings due to vacancies	(20)
Less than expected spend on diesel due to COVID-19 work impact	(8)
<u>ES Technical</u>	
Bulk buy of glass banks and maintenance kits	9
Less than expected income from glass recycling to date	11
Sundry variance	<u>(6)</u>
	<u><u>17</u></u>

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

FINANCE PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Property & Asset Management</u>				
Estates Support Unit	904,952	297,916	260,219	(37,697)
Business Park Development	(6,145,966)	(2,200,715)	(2,217,854)	(17,139)
Investment Properties	(1,287,696)	(517,926)	(504,218)	13,708
Corporate Properties	(615,415)	(239,757)	(233,223)	6,534
Union Street	(94,270)	(46,830)	(41,715)	5,115
Chantry Centre	(1,023,730)	(661,328)	(751,083)	(89,755)
Andover Bus Station	(2,050)	(6,615)	(11,180)	(4,565)
Andover Magistrates Court	0	0	591	591
Public Halls	(14,010)	(4,857)	(1)	4,856
Public Conveniences	115,210	35,965	31,400	(4,565)
Office Accommodation	221,679	46,137	75	(46,062)
Building Maintenance	93,425	29,934	19,271	(10,663)
Building Cleaning	6,380	1,550	8,513	6,963
Depot Costs	57,680	14,209	9,940	(4,269)
Leisure Facilities	38,510	9,628	5,455	(4,173)
Net Income	(7,745,301)	(3,242,689)	(3,423,810)	(181,121)
<u>Finance</u>				
Finance Service	909,280	304,585	276,751	(27,834)
Net Expenditure	909,280	304,585	276,751	(27,834)
<u>Revenues</u>				
Council Tax Support Administration	341,480	108,255	113,211	4,956
Housing Benefit	246,103	105,628	119,308	13,680
Local Taxation Services	547,275	293,609	285,296	(8,313)
Net Expenditure	1,134,858	507,492	517,815	10,323
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Income	(5,701,163)	(2,430,612)	(2,629,244)	(198,632)

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION ANNEX**FINANCE PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

	£ 000
Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	(2,431)
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>(2,629)</u>
Favourable Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>(198)</u></u>
<u>Property & Asset Management</u>	
Salary savings across the service due to vacancies & furlough grant income	(77)
<u>Business Park Development</u>	
Lower than estimated utility and waste collection costs	(4)
Additional rent due to rent reviews	(12)
<u>Investment Properties / Corporate Properties / Union Street</u>	
Lower than estimated rental income due to vacant properties	24
<u>Chantry Centre</u>	
Lower than estimated running costs including prior year credits for the service charge	(70)
Higher than estimated rental income	(20)
<u>Office Accommodation</u>	
Lower than estimated utility costs	(9)
Savings on Contract Catering due to Beech Hurst canteen being closed	(11)
Increase in rental income at Beech Hurst	(5)
<u>Finance Service</u>	
Employee related cost savings due vacancies and shared services not being fulfilled	(18)
<u>Revenues</u>	
Increased employee costs due to overtime / temporary staff	13
Sundry variance	<u>(9)</u>
	<u><u>(198)</u></u>

PORTFOLIO REVENUE INFORMATION

HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO	Updated Estimate 2020/21	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20	Actual Expenditure to 31/07/20	Adverse / (Favourable) variance
	£	£	£	£
<u>Housing</u>				
Housing Activities				
General Management	107,279	35,229	36,520	1,291
Housing Development	117,244	42,933	48,194	5,261
Hampshire Home Choice	966	(17,216)	(18,277)	(1,061)
Housing Options	529,877	16,105	1,078	(15,027)
Net Expenditure	755,366	77,051	67,515	(9,536)
Health Activities				
Business Support Team	110,562	34,335	34,287	(48)
Pollution	251,662	71,050	63,138	(7,912)
Health Protection	325,597	105,206	88,223	(16,983)
Animal Welfare	71,828	21,238	19,660	(1,578)
Pest Control	54,900	17,268	22,210	4,942
Housing Standards	170,793	56,242	65,483	9,241
Net Expenditure	985,342	305,339	293,001	(12,338)
Net Service Controlled Portfolio Expenditure	1,740,708	382,390	360,516	(21,874)

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION**ANNEX****HOUSING & ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH PORTFOLIO****EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES**

	£ 000
Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	382
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	<u>361</u>
Favourable Variance to 31 July 2020	<u><u>(21)</u></u>
<u>Housing & Environmental Health</u>	
Salary savings across the service due to vacancies	(17)
Reduced mileage costs due to home working and Covid-19 restrictions	(6)
Reduction in Enabling fee and DFG administration income due to Covid-19 restrictions.	20
<u>Housing options</u>	
Unbudgeted government grant for Rough Sleepers received.	(52)
Covid-19 related Bed & Breakfast costs	28
<u>Pest control</u>	
Pest control income reduced due to Covid-19 restrictions.	13
Sundry variance	<u>(7)</u>
	<u><u>(21)</u></u>

KEY FINANCIAL AREAS

	Updated Estimate 2020/21 £'000	Profiled Estimate to 31/07/20 £'000	Actual to 31/07/20 £'000	Adverse / (Favourable) Variance £'000	Comments
<u>Expenditure</u>					
Staff Costs	19,806	6,432	6,132	(300)	This includes all salary, recruitment, relocation and post entry training costs, net of the 4% vacancy management provision and income from the Covid-19 Job retention Scheme grant.
Borrowing Costs	162	17	17	0	This is the interest paid on external borrowing.
	19,968	6,449	6,149	(300)	
<u>Income</u>					
Investment Income	(626)	(209)	(161)	48	This is the net income generated by the management of the Council's cash investment portfolio.
Building Control Income	(428)	(143)	(102)	41	This is the income generated by fees in respect of Building Control work performed by the Council.
Car Parking Income	(2,325)	(789)	(132)	657	This includes season tickets and all on and off street parking income.
Development Control Income	(1,310)	(433)	(315)	118	This is income from Planning Applications and legal fees relating to the applications.
Investment Property Income	(8,194)	(2,916)	(2,927)	(11)	This includes the rental income for all the Council's industrial land and buildings, excluding those that have been purchased recently.
Investment Income from Property Purchases	(2,126)	(1,053)	(1,029)	24	This includes the rental income for investment properties that have been purchased recently and is expected to return a yield of 7.0% in the year on an investment of £30.2m.
Land Charges Income	(245)	(78)	(44)	34	This is income from Local Land Charge Search Fees.
Leisure Income	(2,543)	(890)	(715)	175	This includes all income from Community & Leisure services including indoor and outdoor leisure facilities, The Lights and cemeteries.
	(17,798)	(6,511)	(5,425)	1,086	
Total	2,170	(62)	724	786	

PORTFOLIO FINANCIAL MONITORING INFORMATION

KEY AREAS OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

EXPLANATION OF KEY VARIANCES

£ 000

Profiled Estimate to 31 July 2020	(62)
Actual Spend to 31 July 2020	724
Adverse Variance to 31 July 2020	786
<u>Staff Costs</u>	
Staff costs are lower than anticipated at this point in the year, mainly due to vacancies	(300)
<u>Income</u>	
Investment income is lower than budgeted due to a reduction in interest rates	48
Building Control Income is lower than estimated in the year to date	41
Car Parking Income is lower than estimated due to COVID-19 and parking being free from 1st April to 22nd June and then first two hours remaining free until 22nd July, this also impacted on season tickets and Penalty Charge Notices	657
Development income is lower than estimated in the year to date	118
Income from investment properties is lower than expected	13
Land Charges income is lower than estimated due to COVID19	34
Income across the Community & Leisure service is lower than anticipated due to Covid-19 closures	175
Sundry variance	0
	786