

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

### Client Distribution List

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

## CONTENTS

<b>1:</b>	<b>Introduction and Strategic Context</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>2:</b>	<b>Facility Needs Assessment</b>	<b>16</b>
	• <b>Swimming</b>	<b>16</b>
	• <b>Sports Halls</b>	<b>22</b>
	• <b>Health and Fitness</b>	<b>30</b>
	• <b>Squash and Racketball</b>	<b>35</b>
	• <b>Gymnastics and Trampolining</b>	<b>39</b>
	• <b>Athletics, Running and Walking for Health</b>	<b>41</b>
	• <b>Tennis</b>	<b>43</b>
	• <b>Netball</b>	<b>48</b>
	• <b>Cycling</b>	<b>50</b>
	• <b>Archery</b>	<b>52</b>
	• <b>Bowls and Croquet</b>	<b>54</b>
	• <b>Golf</b>	<b>57</b>
	• <b>Climbing</b>	<b>62</b>
	• <b>Boxing and Martial Arts</b>	<b>64</b>
<b>3:</b>	<b>Action Plan</b>	<b>66</b>
<b>4:</b>	<b>Conclusion</b>	<b>70</b>

**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 Guidance<sup>1</sup> (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

<sup>1</sup> Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance, Sport England (2019)  
[www.continuumleisure.co.uk](http://www.continuumleisure.co.uk)



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:
- *Places Leisure Eastleigh* - A replacement, larger centre for the former Fleming Park Leisure Centre that opened in November 2017.
  - *Hiltingbury Hub* - A new community sports hall in Chandler's Ford opened in July 2019.
  - *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**

##### **Forward Planning**

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.

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) data<sup>2</sup> for approximately 12,200 more people living in Test Valley by 2036.

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.

##### **Health and Wellbeing**

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.

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.

<sup>2</sup> 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)<sup>3</sup>.
- 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

<sup>3</sup> English Indices of Deprivation 2019, Office of National Statistics (ONS)

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

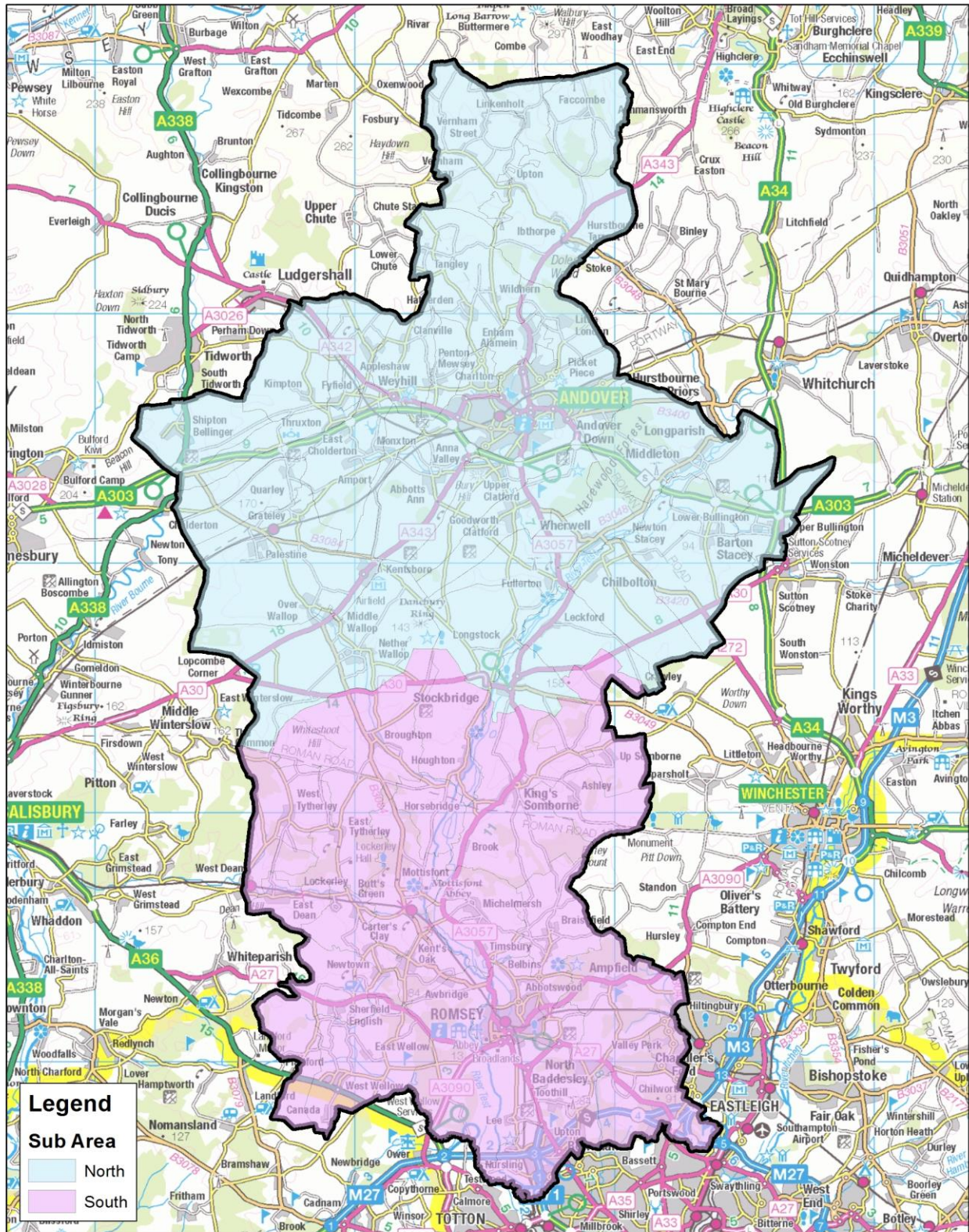
- 1.6.1 The study relates to the area within the borough of Test Valley. For reporting purposes, the borough has been divided into the following two sub-areas based on Ward boundaries reflecting the distribution of the main centres of population and the predominant travel patterns of residents seeking 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



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey Material with the Permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of her majesty's stationery office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings.  
 Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2019.



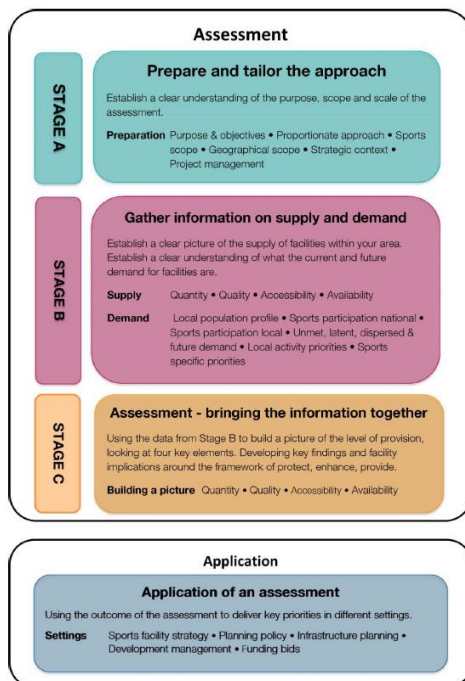


- 1.6.3 As referenced in paragraphs 1.2.7 and 1.2.8 above, supply of significant sports facilities located in neighbouring local authority areas with easy access for Test Valley residents (i.e. a 15-20 minute journey time by car) has been taken into consideration in determining current and future facility 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)<sup>4</sup>, 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

<sup>4</sup> Assessing Needs & Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor & Outdoor Sports Facilities, Sport England (July 2014)

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 nationally<sup>5</sup>.

**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)<sup>6</sup> 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

<sup>5</sup> Indices of Deprivation 2015 and 2019, Department of Communities & Local Government and Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government

<sup>6</sup> 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.
- 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 2018/19 Active Lives Children & Young People Survey<sup>7</sup> 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.
- 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.
- 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.

**Investments 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 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.
- 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.
- 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).
- 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.
- 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.

<sup>7</sup> 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



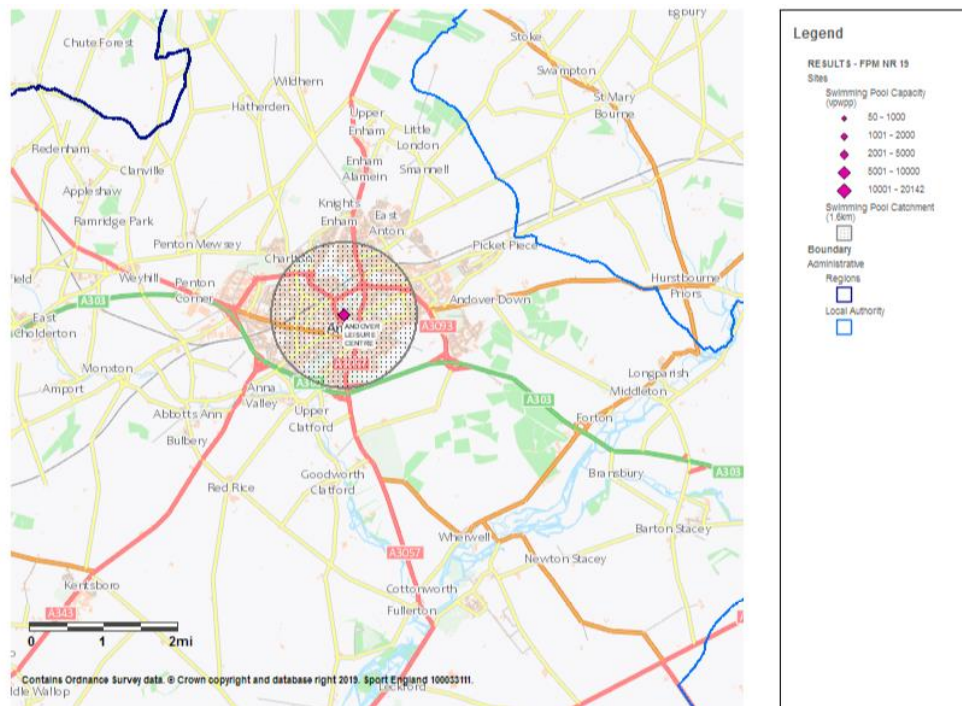
- necessary to install water heating and filtration and a lightweight structure to cover the pool as a minimum.
- 2.2.4 There is also a small health club pool for club members and their guests at The Club @ Chilworth Manor Hotel (in Chilworth, Nursling & Rownhams Ward) close to the boundary with Southampton.
- 2.2.5 Figures 9 and 10 show the distribution of the supply of indoor pools of 20m / 160 m<sup>2</sup> in the north and south sub-areas respectively. This is derived from the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) strategic Assessment of Swimming Pools for Test Valley<sup>8</sup>. 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 capacity<sup>9</sup> 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.

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

<sup>9</sup> 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.

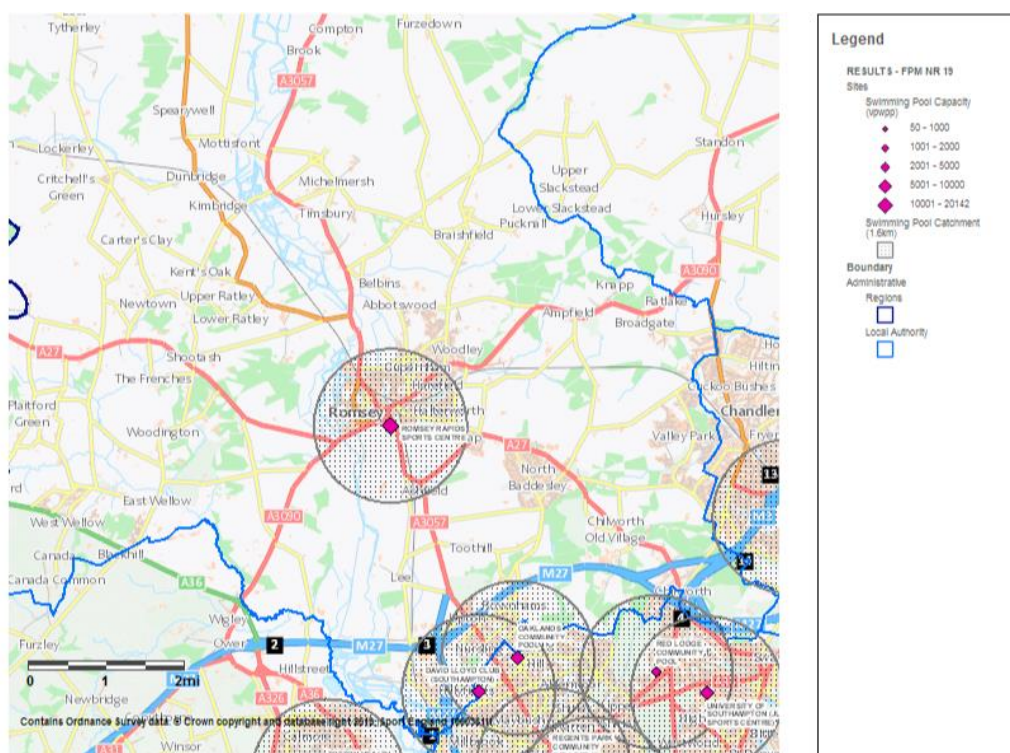
- 2.2.13 With regard to community swimming clubs, the two public pools accommodate demand from the following well-established clubs:
- Andover Swimming & Water Polo Club
  - Romsey & Totton Swimming Club
- 2.2.14 The year-round Learn to Swim programme run by Places Leisure at the Andover Leisure Centre 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) findings<sup>10</sup> 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**



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.  
21/8/2019 17:08

<sup>10</sup> 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**

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. 21/8/2019 17:19

- 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:
- 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).
  - 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).
  - 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

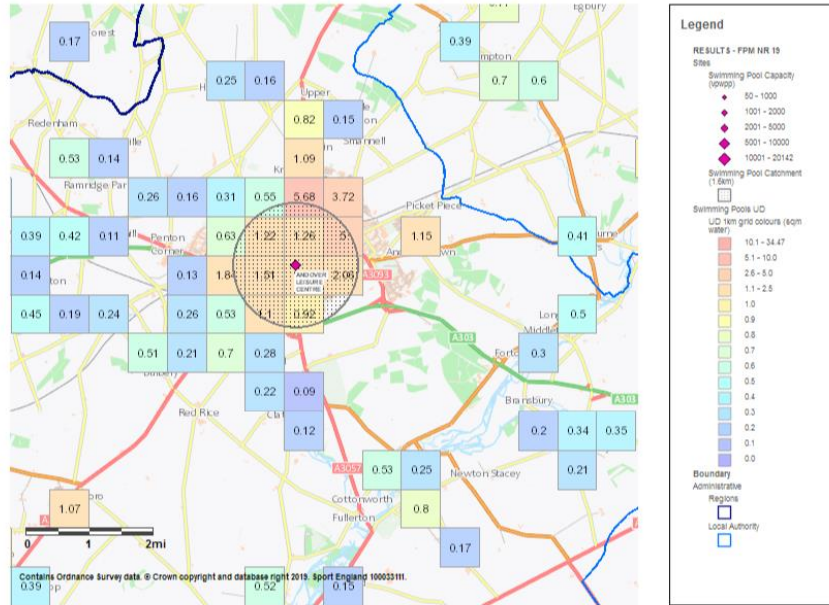


metres of water, the darker beige squares 2.5 – 5 sq metres of water and the darkest beige squares 5 – 7.5 sq metres of water.

**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).

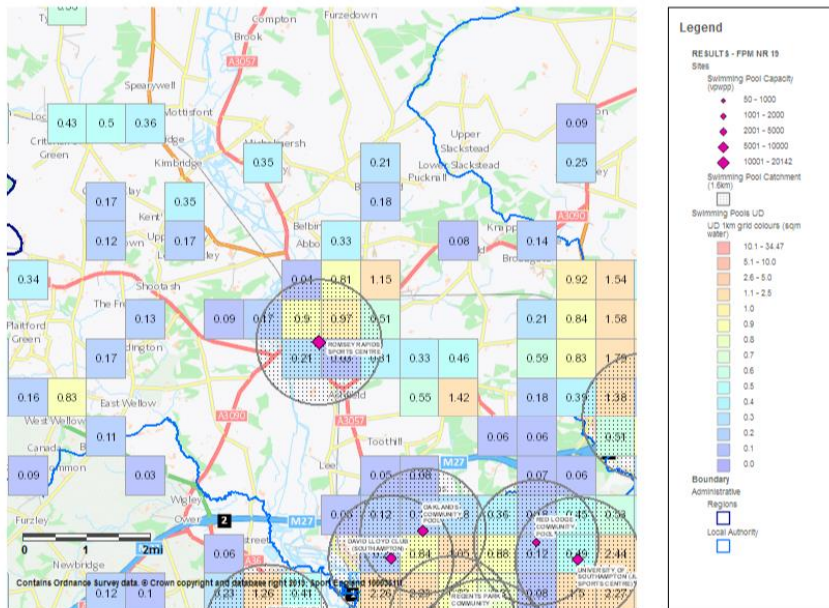


Sport England assumes no responsibility for the completeness, accuracy and currency of the information contained on this map/report. This information is taken from the Active Places Power website and its terms and conditions apply. 21/8/2019 17:11

**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).



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. 21/8/2019 17:21



- 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 forecasts<sup>11</sup>. 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 123m<sup>2</sup> of water space which is equivalent to 0.6 of a 25m x 4 lane pool. If this future demand of 123m<sup>2</sup> is added to the 114m<sup>2</sup> of existing unmet demand found by the FPM analysis, a needs case for further capacity of 237m<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>11</sup> Office for National Statistics (ONS) 2016-based Sub-National Population Projections  
[www.continuumleisure.co.uk](http://www.continuumleisure.co.uk)

**Figure 14: Swimming Facility Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<b>Prioritised Actions</b>		
<b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre.</li> <li>School Pools - Assess with relevant schools the feasibility of expanding community access and any associated investment needs.</li> </ul>		
<b>Longer Term</b>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>		

## 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		

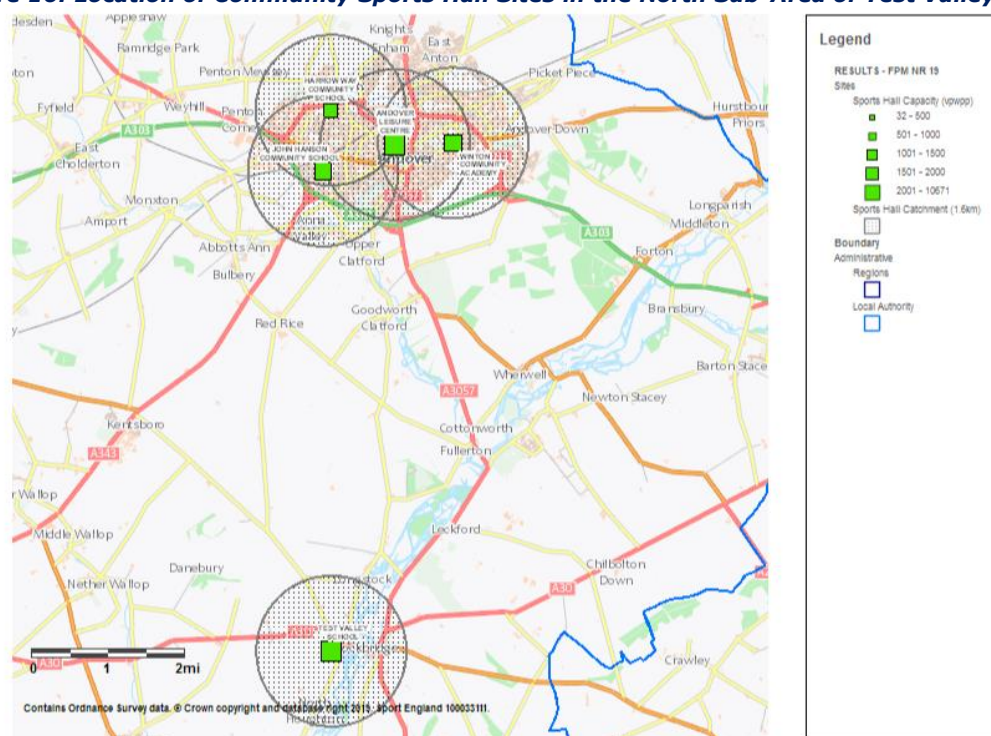
Source: Test Valley Sports Halls Facilities Planning Model National Assessment Report, October 2019

\* 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 Valley<sup>12</sup>, 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.

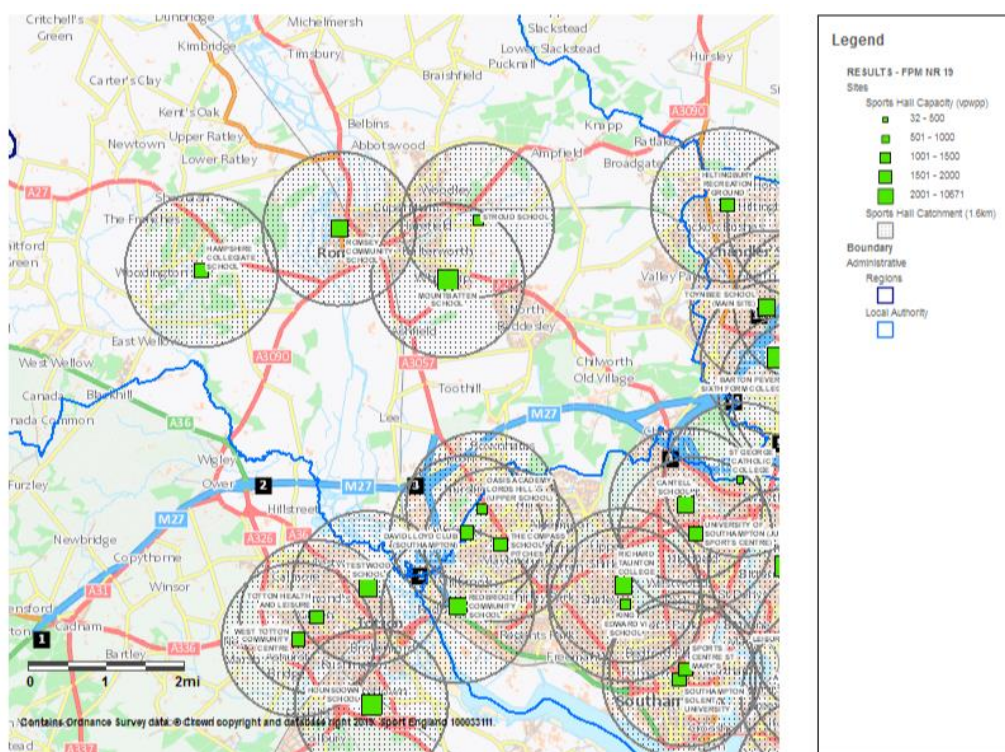
**Figure 16: Location of Community Sports Hall Sites in the North Sub-Area of Test Valley**



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

<sup>12</sup> 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 Survey<sup>13</sup> 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.

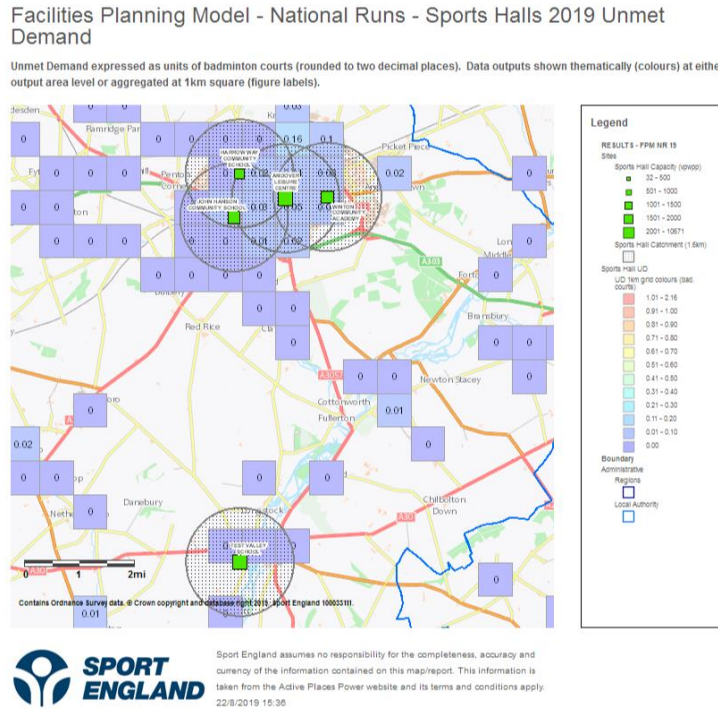
<sup>13</sup> Active Lives Adult Survey May 18/19 Report, Sport England (October 2019)



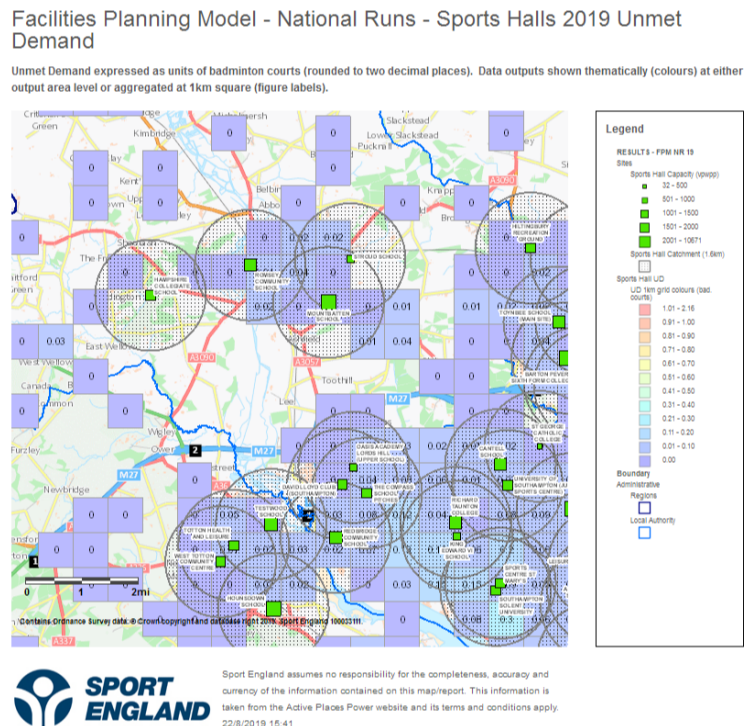
- o No location is identified as having sufficiently high unmet demand to warrant increasing the provision of sports halls to improve accessibility. However, in the future there will be a need to address the shortfall in Romsey of a purpose-designed sports hall available to the community during the day.

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"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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).</li> <li>○ Establish any facility enhancement investment needs to facilitate this access and additional capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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).</li> </ul>

#### 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.

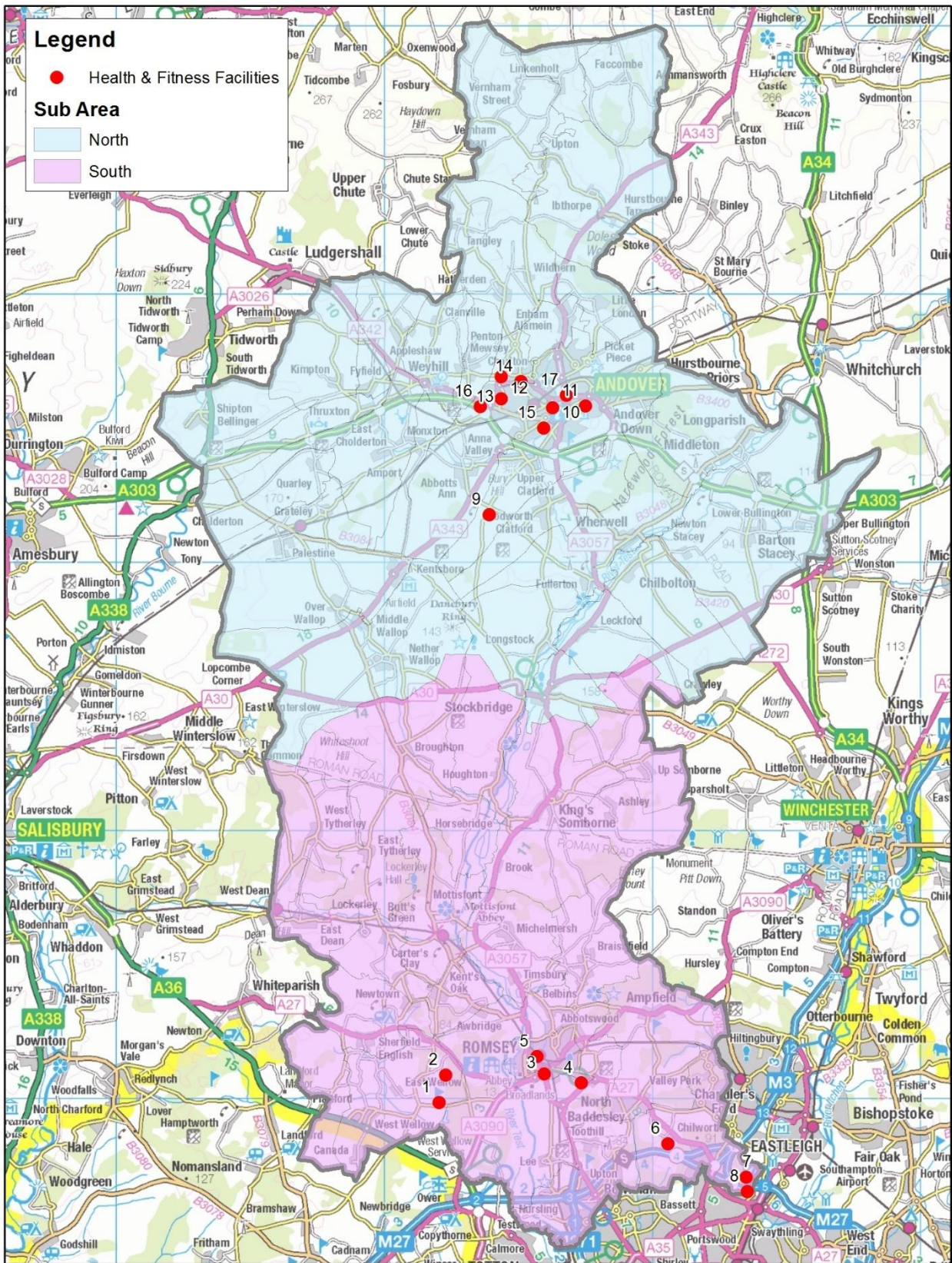
Accordingly, it will be important to ensure that this supply is protected and maintained to a good standard.

- 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



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey Material with the Permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of her majesty's stationery office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2019.



- 2.4.15 In terms of health and fitness demand trends, the latest annual state of the industry report<sup>14</sup> 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 England<sup>15</sup>. 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.

---

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

<sup>15</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>Establish any facility enhancement investment needs to facilitate this access and additional capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

**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
<b>Total Courts</b>			4	9	13

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

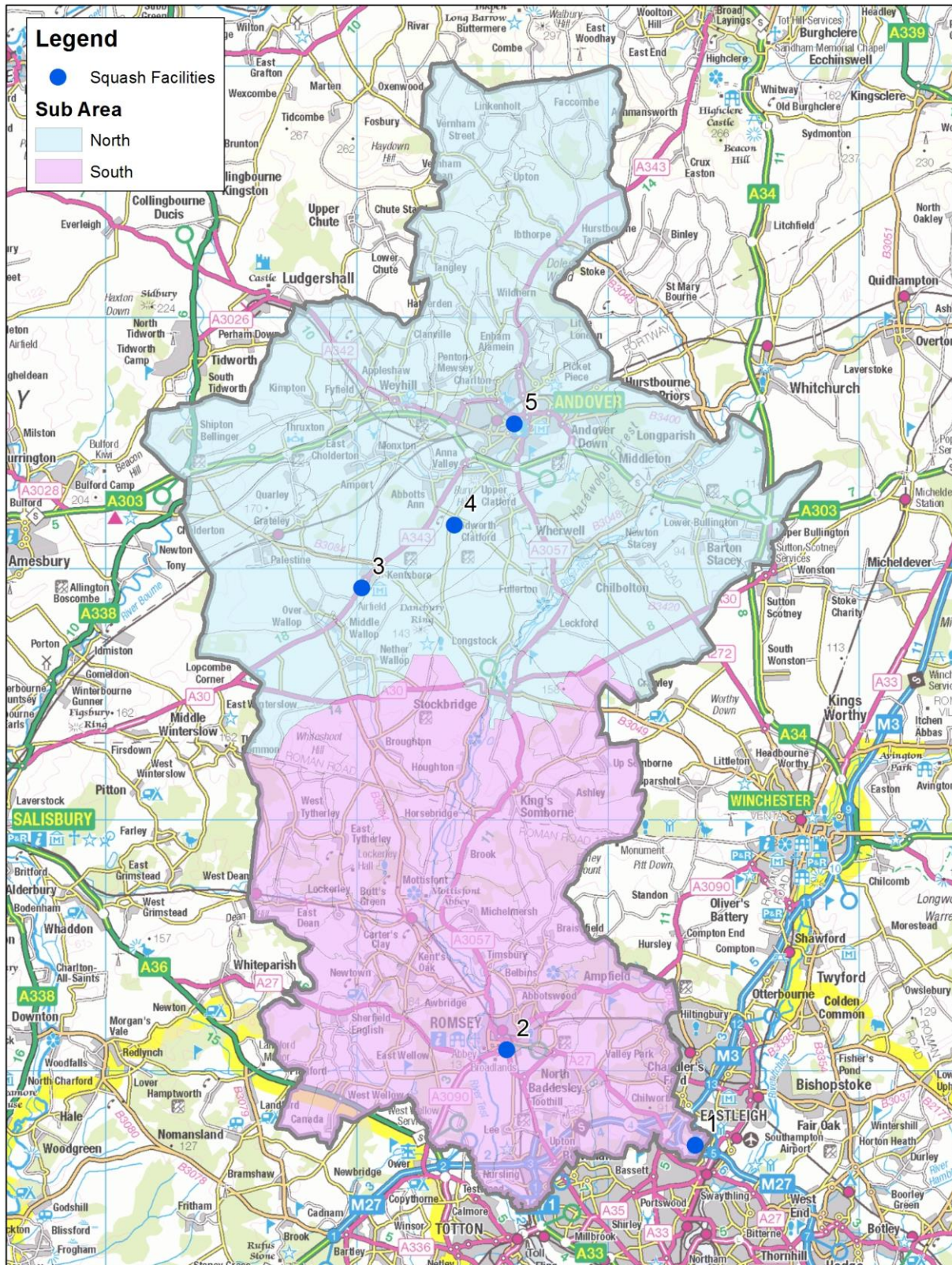
- 2.5.2 There is no existing community access to 5 of the 13 courts, those at Middle Wallop Station and Farleigh School, leaving 8 courts with full community access and availability (6 in the south at Trojans and Romsey Rapids Sports Complex and 2 in the north in the Andover Leisure Centre).
- 2.5.3 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 re-provision 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:
- Sunday 6pm - Squash Club night
  - Monday 4pm - Racketball Club night
  - Wednesday 6pm - Squash Club night
  - Thursday 4pm - Racketball Club night
  - Friday 6pm - Juniors
  - 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



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey Material with the Permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of her majesty's stationery office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2019.



- 2.5.12 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings<sup>16</sup> 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.

---

<sup>16</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Establish any facility enhancement needs to facilitate this access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Trojans Sports Club - Upgrade the ancillary changing and social facilities, including improve access for disability users.</li> <li>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).</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>		

## 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 findings<sup>17</sup> 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.

<sup>17</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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).</li> <li>Establish any facility enhancement investment needs to facilitate this access and additional capacity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>

#### 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:
- Romsey
  - Andover
  - North Baddesley
  - Stockbridge
  - Valley Park
  - East Anton (Andover)
  - Abbotswood (Romsey)
  - Picket Piece (Andover)
  - Braishfield
  - 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 findings<sup>18</sup> 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"> <li>○ The Borough Council to continue to protect the existing track &amp; 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> <li>○ Resurfacing of the synthetic track and replacement of field cages at Charlton Sports Centre as and when required.</li> </ul>		

<sup>18</sup> 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.
<b>Totals</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2</b>		<b>866</b>	

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
<b>Totals</b>		<b>24</b>	<b>5</b>		



- 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
<b>Totals</b>		<b>50</b>	<b>34 (+4 at Romsey School out of commission)</b>		

- 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.

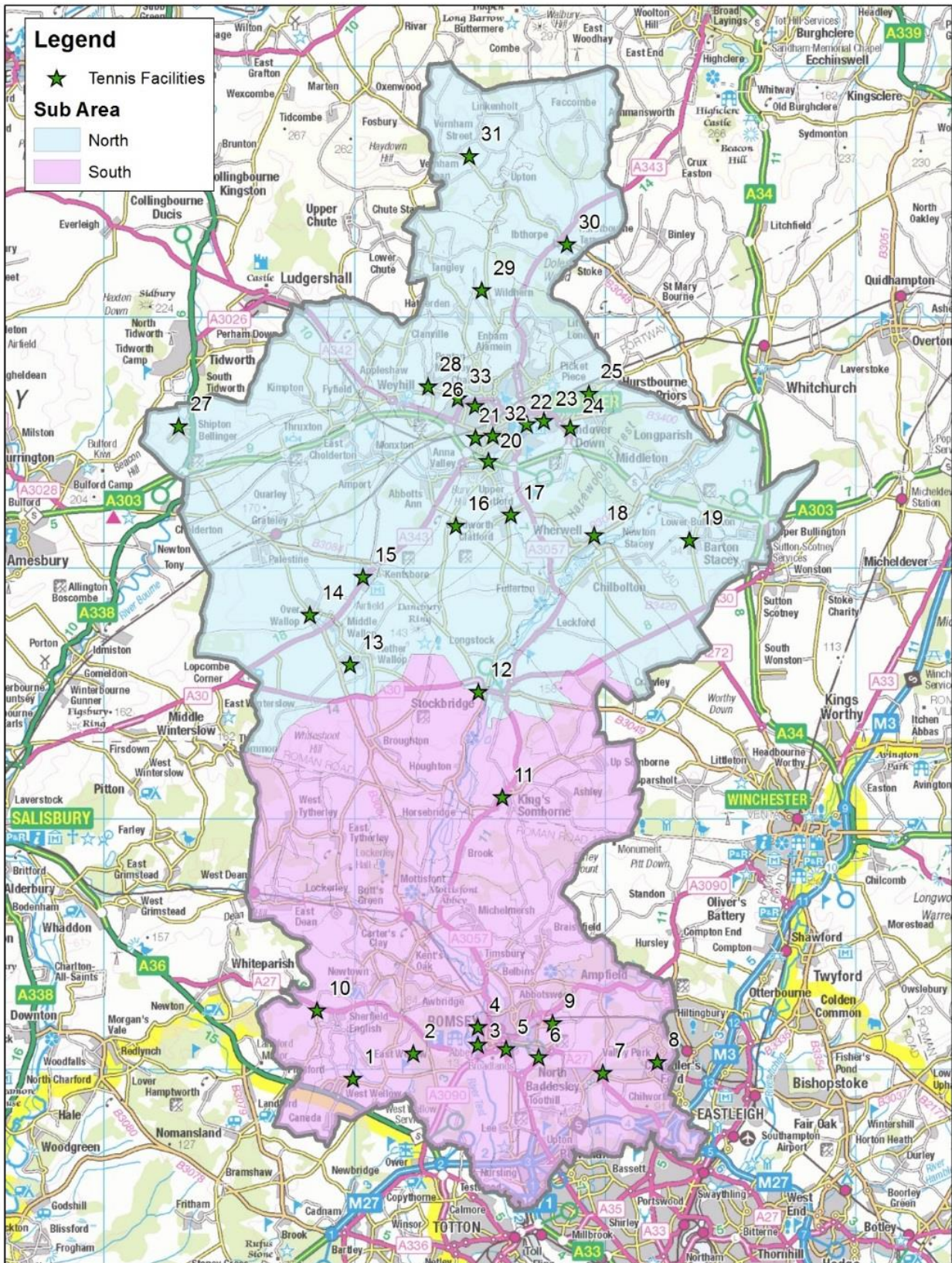
2.8.21 In the longer term, there may be opportunities to improve year-round availability of community tennis in Romsey by installing a lightweight dome cover to existing courts subject to feasibility, planning and funding. However, it is noted that Romsey is not on the priority list of 72 locations across 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



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey Material with the Permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of her majesty's stationery office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2019.





- 2.8.23 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings<sup>19</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

#### 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 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.

<sup>19</sup> 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 findings<sup>20</sup> 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.

---

<sup>20</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regularly review netball facility needs with England Netball, The Andover &amp; 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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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 &amp; Abbey Tennis Club.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the feasibility of resurfacing the Winton School courts and upgrading the floodlights for secured community use.</li> <li>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.</li> </ul>		

## 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 findings<sup>21</sup> 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.

<sup>21</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Utilise the government new walking and cycling strategy to ensure provision meets wider need. (Department of transport, 2020)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> <li>Knightwood BMX Track - Establish the feasibility of installing an electricity supply for lighting and CCTV to extend hours of availability.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Train more volunteer cycle leaders (road and off-road) including female leaders.</li> <li>Improve way marking and promotion of shorter/easier road routes attractive to novice riders.</li> <li>Improve route marking and promotion of more off-road routes.</li> <li>Consider potential location and site opportunities for a destination off-road bike park and/or cyclocross track in the Borough.</li> </ul>		

## 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 findings<sup>22</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p>		

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

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

## 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
<b>North*</b>							
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
<b>South**</b>							
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.

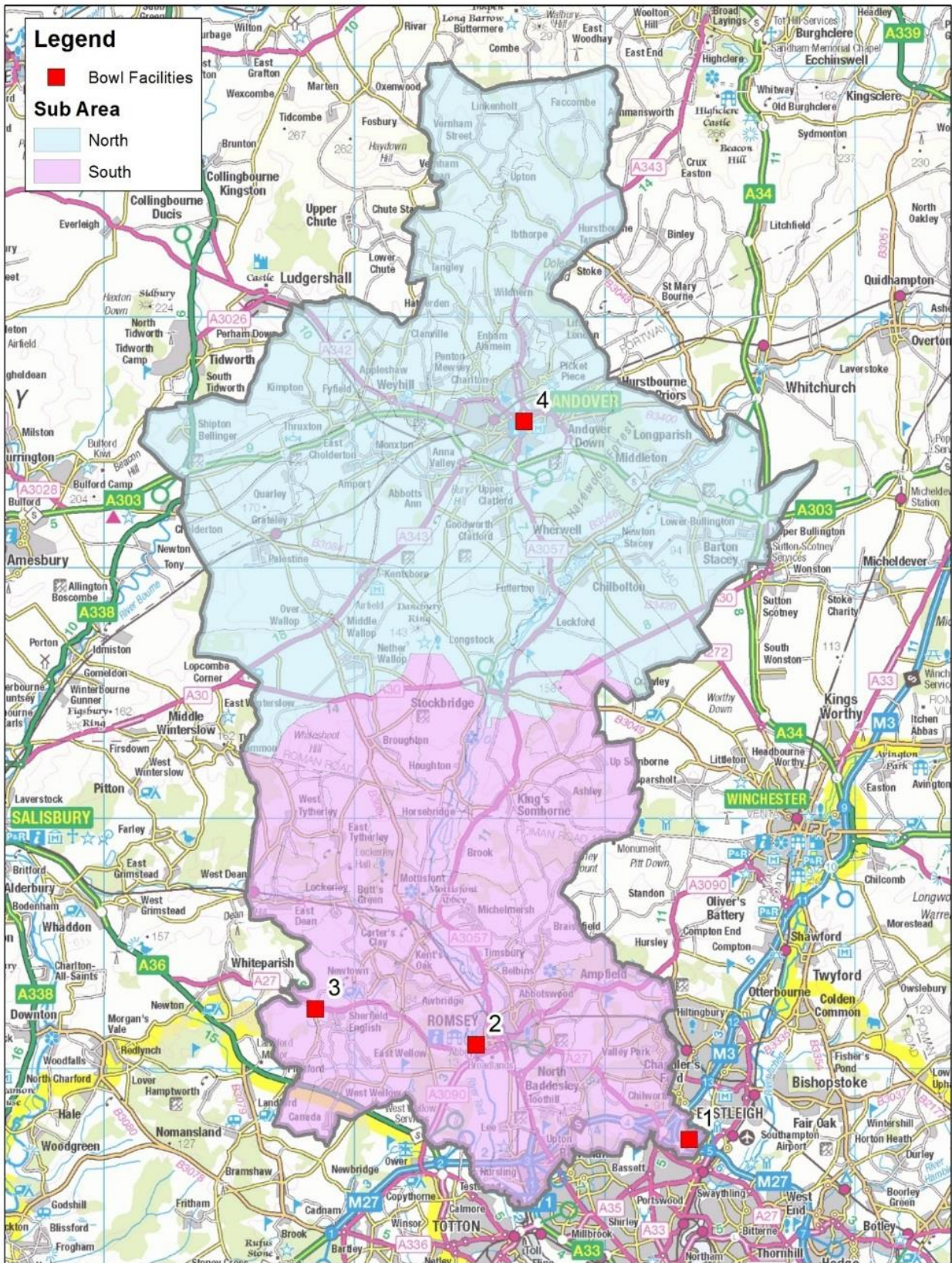
- 2.12.5 Overall, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings<sup>23</sup> indicate a significant downturn in demand for bowls nationally over the last three years. 0.7% of adults (16+) in England participated in bowls at least twice in the last 28 days in 2018/19 i.e. 293,000 people. This represents 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

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



Figure 39: Bowls Facilities in Test Valley



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey Material with the Permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of her majesty's stationery office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2019.





- 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:
- Andover BC - A replacement, larger pavilion adjacent to the green, subject to funding and planning.
  - 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"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ To assess with Andover Bowls Club the feasibility, costs and funding strategy for a replacement pavilion overlooking the green.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>

#### **Prioritised Actions**

##### **Short Term (1-2 years)**

- 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).
- Romsey Bowls Club and Borough Council to liaise concerning options to improve parking/reduce parking costs for visiting club teams for competitions.

##### **Longer Term**

- 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"> <li>Green Fee (adult from £10 weekday twilight to £22 for 18 holes weekend peak)</li> <li>Membership (adult from £325 pa for flexible option to £588 pa for 7 day)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Green Fee (adult from £7.50 academy course to £25 for 18 holes weekend peak)</li> <li>Foot Golf (adult £8, u15s £5)</li> <li>Membership (adult from £199 pa for 9 hole academy course only, to £945 pa for 7 day all facilities)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>£5 per day at all times.</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Adult (£5.25 for 18 holes)</li> <li>Adventure golf - £2.50 (£5 club deposit).</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Adult membership £610 pa, junior £155 (concessions for Waitrose Partners)</li> </ul>
Romsey Golf Club	South	18 hole course	Private Members Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Fee (adult from £15 weekday twilight to £32 weekend peak)</li> <li>Membership (adult from £325 pa for flexible option)</li> </ul>
Wellow Golf Club	South	3 x 9 hole courses, grass tee practice area	Private Members Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Fee (adult from £11 for 9 holes weekday twilight to £31 for 18 holes weekend peak)</li> <li>Membership (adult from £390 pa for flexible option)</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Green Fee (adult from £60 winter weekday to £90 weekend peak)</li> <li>Membership (adult from £1,150 pa for 5 day plus £500 joining fee).</li> </ul>
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"> <li>Green Fee (adult from £20 for 18 holes weekday with a Club Card costing £55 pa)</li> <li>Membership (adult from £570 pa for 5 day)</li> </ul>
Ampfield Golf & Country Club	South	18 hole par 3 course	Proprietary Club <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Green Fee (adult from £17 for 18 holes weekday to £19 weekends with concession of £3 if playing with a member)</li> <li>Membership (adult from £150 pa for flexible option).</li> </ul>

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 342<sup>24</sup>. 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' website<sup>25</sup> 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)

<sup>24</sup> Golf Participation Report for Europe 2019, KPMG (October 2019)

<sup>25</sup> www.Golfshake.com

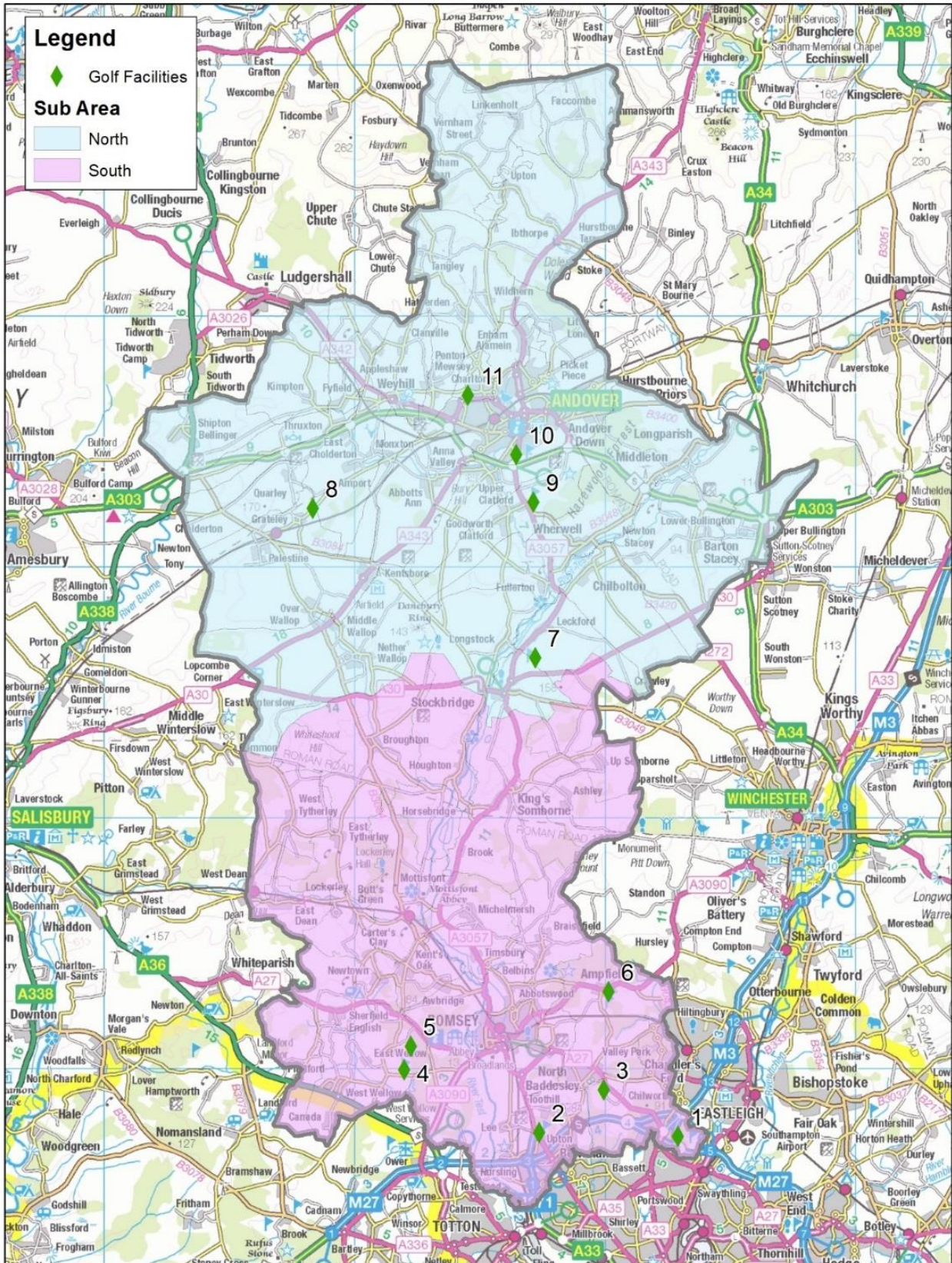
- 2.13.12 Overall, there is good distribution of supply to serve residents in both the north and south sub-areas of Test Valley as shown in Figure 43.
- 2.13.13 In terms of demand, the most recent Active Lives Survey findings<sup>26</sup> indicate broadly stable levels of adult demand for golf nationally 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		

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



Figure 43: Golf Facilities in Test Valley



This map is reproduced from Ordnance Survey Material with the Permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of the controller of her majesty's stationery office © Crown Copyright. Unauthorised reproduction infringes Crown Copyright and may lead to prosecution or civil proceedings. Test Valley Borough Council 100024295 2019.





**Figure 44: Golf Facility Recommendations**

Protect	Enhance	Provide
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>

**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 findings<sup>27</sup> 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.

---

<sup>27</sup> 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"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prioritised Actions</b></p> <p><b>Short Term (1-2 years)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Andover Leisure Centre - Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility, and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer Term</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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"> <li>The future provision of sports facilities on the Romsey Rapids Sports Complex site</li> <li>The future upgrade/replacement of the sports hall at Mountbatten School (replacing the outdated wall in the current sports hall).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		

## 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 findings<sup>28</sup> 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"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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).</li> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ 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.</li> </ul>

#### **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.

<sup>28</sup> 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
<b>Andover Leisure Centre</b>	○ Review of the ancillary facilities, accessibility and peak time customer experience at the Andover Leisure Centre.	○ Places Leisure	○ TVBC	○ To be determined
<b>St Edwards School and Farleigh School</b>	○ 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**

<b>Project Site</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Cost</b>
	Community Use Agreements being implemented).			
<b>Trojans Sports Club</b>	○ Upgrade changing facilities	○ Trojans Sports Club	○ NGBs	○ c. £500k
<b>Foxcotte Sports Park</b>	○ 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.	○ Clubs (3)	○ TVBC ○ FA ○ RFU	○ Officer time
<b>Charlton Sports Centre</b>	○ 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).	○ TVBC	○ Places Leisure	○ Staff time
<b>Romsey School</b>	○ Upgrade tennis / netball courts and lights.	○ Romsey School	○ LTA ○ Romsey & Abbey LTC ○ TVBC	○ c. £30k resurfacing ○ c. £45k lighting
<b>BMX Track sites</b>	○ Assess opportunities for the clubs to enhance their sites, including the improvement of power supply, lighting, CCTV and water supply at the BMX track.	○ British Cycling ○ Andover BMX ○ Knightwood BMX	○ TVBC	○ To be determined

**Figure 48: Longer Term Actions**

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



**Figure 48: Longer Term Actions**

<b>Project Site</b>	<b>Proposed Action</b>	<b>Lead</b>	<b>Partners</b>	<b>Cost</b>
<b>East Anton (Site to be determined)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>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.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>TVBC</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Housing Developers</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To be determined</li> </ul>

## 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.