

# **Open Space, Sports and Recreation Study for Winchester City Council**

## **Part 4:**

# **BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

### **1. Introduction**

RQA was commissioned jointly by Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council, supported by Sport England, to undertake a Built Facilities Study according to the brief summarised below, and to provide input into the wider Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study being undertaken by Inspace Planning Ltd.

This evidenced based study was to:

- consider the corporate, community and sporting contexts of provision including to inform the Council's sports facilities strategy and the emerging Local Development Framework;
- review the core facilities for each authority from the perspectives of nature and quantity of provision, quality and accessibility;
- identify local issues and circumstances impacting upon geographical spread of facility provision, need and demand;
- consider the potential impacts of major development programmes such as new housing development proposals and Building Schools for the Future, for example.

The Study was to consider key issues and recommendations from its findings, propose local standards or levels of provision for each District and geographical area and propose Action Plans relevant to each authority's strategy for built sports facilities.

Within the agreed parameters of this Study we have commented on its strategic context including links to the Council's Local Development Framework and proposed Sports Facilities Strategy within Section 2. Sub Area analysis and detailed auditing of existing sports facilities (by type, quantity, quality and accessibility), also drawing from Sport England's Active People and Active Places Surveys and supply and demand modelling tools and the research work undertaken by Inspace Planning Ltd, is included in Sections 4 and 5 and in the Appendices. Our conclusions and recommendations are outlined in Section 6 and proposed Action Plans in Section 7.

### **2. Some key issues and recommendations**

The key issues that have emerged during the course of this Study are summarised here, in no order of priority:

- ***New housing development***

The Major Development Area at West of Waterlooville, and potential further major development at Winchester City (North) and North Whiteley, will require the provision of new sports facilities. This Study particularly emphasises the potential need for a 25m x 6 lane swimming pool and 4 court sports hall to serve the south of the district and the possible new housing development at North Whiteley, and in view of the existing high demand and inadequacy of provision at

Meadowside Leisure Centre. (A feasibility study into the future possible replacement of the Havant Leisure Centre is due in early 2008). Potential housing development options are subject to local consultation within an Issues and Options consultation document (February 2008).

- **Hierarchy of provision**

There is a need for adoption by the Council of an agreed hierarchy of provision of built sports facilities across Winchester District based on the outcomes of this Study and further detailed analyses of quantity and accessibility issues where appropriate. This will be linked to the role of the public, education, private and voluntary sectors and neighbouring authorities and the potential to develop more formal Community Use agreements with colleges, the University of Winchester and secondary schools which play an important role for community sport and recreation.

- **Community and village halls**

A Community Halls Strategy is needed to enhance the findings of this Open Space, Sport and Recreation Study (*Inspace Planning Ltd and RQA*) to identify more specifically the potential 'hub' facilities and community hall specifications that will provide community access to sport and recreational facilities. This must take account of the possible new housing development throughout the District and will complement or compensate for the location and access issues to the Council's leisure centres and sport specific venues.

The Study has identified in Section 5, paragraph 5.7, locations where facilities should be targeted for provision subject to more detailed analysis of multi activity requirements, specifications and accessibility issues.

- **Community transport**

In view of the difficulties of logistics and cost of leisure focused community transport extending into rural areas, there is a need, addressed though this Study, to provide accessible community/village halls of sufficient size and quality to accommodate a range of recreational sporting activities within key settlements.

This need not preclude the development of a possible community/leisure bus within the District that could operate with costs planned in association with sport specific programmes and events for example, as well as provision of safe cycle paths and footpaths.

- **Existing local authority stock**

A recent condition survey at River Park Leisure Centre indicates that ongoing works will be required in order to maintain the building to an acceptable standard. An appraisal of future options for the Centre taking account of possible new housing development north of

Winchester is needed including scope for a capital receipt being generated from the site.

Meadowside Leisure Centre was originally provided as a community centre and has been adapted for use as a leisure centre with some limitations which restrict use. This Study recommends that consideration should be given to provision of a swimming pool and 4 court sports hall at North Whiteley as part of the new housing development scheme should the area come forward for development.

- **Community access to education sites**

Community access to colleges and schools provide an important and significant contribution to the Council's sport and recreational offering to its residents. There is the potential to improve, increase and formalise such arrangements at some of the strategically located colleges and schools within the Winchester District.

The quality of provision and community access provided at colleges and schools in the District vary considerably. Those in most need of improving provision are Henry Beaufort and Westgate schools and Sparsholt College. Sparsholt College is considering the development of increased indoor recreation space subject to funding.

Education sites offer the potential for community access to synthetic turf pitches. Henry Beaufort School has received planning approval to its application for a 90% full size synthetic turf pitch. Winchester District Football and Rugby Clubs are looking at the potential for a synthetic turf pitch.

Hampshire County Council (HCC) has decided to close a significant number of primary school swimming pools. Ridgemedede Junior School's swimming pool will stay open and accessible for limited community use.

There will be little potential impact of the Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in the Winchester District until after 2015. Hampshire CC is developing its BSF Strategy during 2008. It is recommended that a local stakeholder group for Winchester District is established including inputs from the Winchester District Sport and Physical Activity Alliance and Council Officers.

- **Ministry of Defence**

The Study has discussed the potential to improve access to Army sites for community use. Opportunities are being explored to develop links between Sir John Moore Barracks and other facility providers such as Sparsholt College and local clubs, for example.

- **Winchester District SPAA (Sport and Physical Activity Alliance)**

There is Scope for increased joint working between facility providers and clubs under the auspices of the SPAA and also the

establishment of a facilities forum or sub group to share information and co-operate on projects and initiatives. The development of a Strategy for Sports Facilities could be undertaken by the SPAA working with other key partners. This would enable ownership across a range of partners and perhaps would provide enhanced opportunities for co-operation and joint-working.

- **Governing Bodies of Sport**

The Regional ASA and the Hampshire FA are currently drafting new or revised regional strategies and there is scope for Winchester City Council to have input into these documents as a consultee.

### 3. Recommendations for local standards/levels of provision for Winchester District

The table below translates a proposed standard per 1000 population into the number of facilities required commensurate with projected population growth from 2006 (c.113,000) to 2016 (c.125,000) and 2026 (c.132,000), compared to existing supply. The current shortfall per 1000 population (and number of facilities) compared to the proposed standard is shown in the shaded column.

The projected population growth does not take account of possible housing development other than West of Waterlooville.

<b>Sports Facility</b>	<b>Proposed standard per 1000 pop.</b>	<b>Proposed facility per no. pop.</b>	<b>Current provision per 1000 pop.</b>	<b>Current shortfall per 1000 pop.</b>	<b>Quantity required -shortfall by 2016</b>	<b>Quantity required -shortfall by 2026</b>
<b>Sports halls</b> <i>community access</i>	54.5m <sup>2</sup> (0.1 hall)	1 per 11,000	47.6m <sup>2</sup> (9 halls included)	<b>6.9m<sup>2</sup> (1.3 halls)</b>	11.3 (2.3)	12 (3)
<b>Swimming pools</b> <i>community access</i>	13m <sup>2</sup> (.04 pool)	1 per 25,000	8.6m <sup>2</sup> (3 pools included)	<b>4.4m<sup>2</sup> (1.53 Pools)</b>	5 (2)	5.3 (2.3)
<b>Fitness Gyms</b> <i>all provision</i>	4 stations -16 m <sup>2</sup> gym space	1 station per 250	3.7 stations (418 total)	<b>.3 stns (34 total)</b>	500 stations in total	528 stations in total
<b>Synthetic turf pitches</b> <i>all prov.</i>	330m <sup>2</sup> (.05 pitch)	1 per 20,000	283m <sup>2</sup> (0.04) (5 pitches included)	<b>47m<sup>2</sup> (0.8 pitches)</b>	6.3 (1.3)	6.6 (1.6)
<b>O/D Tennis Courts</b> <i>Club/public</i>	0.8 courts	2 per 2,500	0.6 court (74 courts included)	<b>0.2 (23 courts)</b>	100 (28 courts)	106 (34 courts)
<b>Indoor Bowls</b>	.05 rink	1 rink per 20,000	1 x 6 rink centre per 120,000	<b>No shortfall</b>	6 rink indoor centre	6 rink indoor centre

In order to make recommendations for a pertinent local standard for sports facilities on a geographical basis for the next ten years, it will be necessary to consider the detailed local circumstances 'overlay' for each sub area and each smaller geographical area, based upon current supply of sports facilities and future requirements linked to decisions to be made on possible housing development locations. This includes the issues of quantity, quality and accessibility which we have assessed within the course of the study.

The proposed average standards/levels of provision for Winchester District take account of the above comparisons and particular local circumstances, including migration of use outside the District boundary.

- **Sports Halls**

A current shortfall of the equivalent of 1.3 x 4 badminton court size sports halls has been identified. There are currently 9 equivalent x 4 court sports halls accessible for community use and a further three equivalent size halls will be required by 2026, subject to the level of housing development and projected population growth.

**A target of 1 x 4 court community accessible sports halls per 11,000 population is suggested representing 11.3 equivalent 4 court halls in Winchester District by 2016 and 12 equivalent sports halls by 2026** to meet projected population growth. With a 4 court sports hall measuring 33m x 18m (say 600m<sup>2</sup>), this would represent **a local standard/level of provision of 54.5m<sup>2</sup> (0.1 of a sports hall) per 1,000 population.**

While this is less than the average for the south east (based upon the Sport England APP model for all sports halls), there is the potential to increase the level of community access to college and school facilities through partnership working and community use agreements. Proposals to increase access to existing sports halls and potential locations for new facilities are contained in Sections 5 and 6.

- **Swimming Pools**

A current shortfall of the equivalent of half a 25m x 6 lane pool is identified. There are currently 3 pools identified available for 'pay and play' community use and a further 2 x equivalent size swimming pools will be required by 2016 (plus a further 0.3 pools by 2026) on the basis of projected population growth. (This excludes restricted community access and primary school swimming pools).

**A target of 1 x 6 lane 25m community accessible swimming pool per 25,000 population is suggested representing 5 equivalent swimming pools (or 30 lanes) in Winchester District by 2016 and 5.3 (or 33 lanes) by 2026**, subject to population growth following new housing development as identified. With a 25m x 6 lane community pool swimming measuring 25m x 13m (325m<sup>2</sup>), this would represent **a local standard/level of provision of 13 m<sup>2</sup> (0.04 of a swimming pool) per 1000 population.**

- ***Fitness Gyms***

The provision of gym equipment in the public and private sectors is not an exact science. The current level of provision falls below the average of just over 5 stations per 1,000 population for the region (including private sector provision). There is a current notional shortfall of 34 stations across the district to close the gap with a target provision of 4 stations per 1,000 population which we consider appropriate for the Winchester District demographics (just below the regional average).

**A target provision of 4 stations per 1000 population (or 16m<sup>2</sup> of gym space) per 1000 population (combined public and private sector provision) is therefore suggested**, subject to commercial considerations and review of this market which is potentially reaching saturation in some areas. This represents a total requirement of 500 stations by 2016 and 528 stations by 2026 compared to 418 stations currently.

- ***Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)***

The changing demand for different synthetic surface types for hockey and for football and the increasing level of supply within secondary schools, with varying levels of access by community clubs, will require periodic review and a separate strategy for STP provision.

**A target of 1 x community accessible full size floodlit STP per 20,000 population is suggested, representing 6.25 pitches by 2016 and 6.6 pitches by 2026.** With a full size STP between 6,400m<sup>2</sup> and 6,600m<sup>2</sup>, this would represent **a local standard/level of provision of 330m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population.**

- ***Outdoor tennis courts***

Based upon the open space minimum standards of 1.5 ha per 1000 population, 0.75 ha should be designated for outdoor sport including tennis court provision.

The proposed levels of provision, quality and access to public and private tennis courts varies considerably across the Winchester District according to local interest and the relative pro-activity of parish councils and tennis clubs. The Lawn Tennis Association South West Tennis Operations Manager and Sport England acknowledge that public and private sector provision in a given area are interdependent, with need and demand responding to local policies with regard to access and community programmes.

As a general guide, the LTA recommend the following standards for funding assistance based upon membership levels:

- one grass court per 40 members,
- one floodlit grass court per 60 members, and
- one indoor court per 200 members.



**A targeted minimum provision of 2 community accessible tennis courts per 2,500 population is suggested (inclusive of public sector and voluntary sector, or club, provision). This equates to a local standard of 0.8 tennis courts per 1,000 population.** Meeting this standard would provide 100 courts by 2016 and 106 by 2026, thereby increasing the current level of provision of 72 courts. Two tennis courts encourage greater use per court than single courts.

The Study identifies in Section 5 where shortfalls in public and/or private outdoor tennis courts need to be addressed and identifies how indoor tennis courts should be considered where management and additional facilities are already in place. An example of this is the Winchester Tennis and Squash Club which has recently been granted planning approval for four indoor tennis courts.

- **Indoor Bowls**

With reference to Sport England's sports and area profiles for Winchester District contained in the Appendices, our study concludes that there is no shortfall of current provision of indoor bowls centres compared to similar and family authorities. The need and demand is satisfied, now and in the future, by the 6 rink facility adjacent to the River Park Leisure Centre in Winchester. There are also accessible indoor bowling centres in neighbouring boroughs and districts (the Chawton Park Indoor Bowls Centre in Alton (6 rinks) in East Hampshire District and at Havant Leisure Centre (6 rinks)).

- **Community halls**

We concur with Inspace Planning Ltd's findings that there is no definitive local standard for the provision of local community halls in terms of scope and provision for sporting activities. The larger the local population the more multi-use community hall accommodation will be required. There is a diverse level of provision across Winchester District and through visits and community consultation Inspace Planning was able to assess quantity, quality and accessibility issues for the different sizes of settlements and sub areas.

The size of a community hall should be determined by the nature of the activities that it is designed to accommodate, the size of the population that it will serve and its accessibility (15 minute walk) to that population. A floor area of 400m<sup>2</sup> is suggested as a guide for the minimum size to provide the level of facility provision outlined in Section 5.

A target provision of one such facility per 2,500 to 5,000 population, giving a notional local standard of between 80m<sup>2</sup> and 160m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population, subject to issues related to accessibility and proximity to larger sports facilities within a particular sub area or cluster of settlements. In paragraph 5.7 the Study identifies the specific settlements where improvements or new provision of a community hall to this standard is recommended.

The Study examines existing and proposed standards of provision by geographical area within Sections 5, 6 and 7 (suggested Action Plans) identifying the particular requirements, opportunities and constraints by geographical area.

#### **4. Developer contribution rationale**

This Study has identified targeted local standards of provision where possible for a range of District and local community sports facility developments on a geographical basis in order to meet the needs and demand of existing communities and population growth through possible major new housing development.

It will be important to ensure that policies for developer contributions are such that they can be used to implement Winchester City Council's Strategy and Action Plans for the range of built sports facility provision (enhancement and replacement) and their on-going sustainability. As well as applying to capital schemes, policies should enable developer contributions to be used to underpin revenue initiatives and programmes that will turn vision into sustainable reality.

We thank all concerned for their enthusiastic and positive contributions to this Study.

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION AND METHODOLOGY**

RQA was commissioned jointly by Winchester City Council and East Hampshire District Council to undertake a Built Facilities Study according to the brief set out below, and working alongside Inspace Planning Ltd who are commissioned to produce a wider Open Space, Sport and Recreation review on behalf of both councils.

The Study is commissioned within the context of Government requirements that local authorities should develop local standards for open space, sport and recreation facilities according to guidance provided by PPG 17 in order to inform and develop planning policies linked to the Local Development Framework.

The two local authorities are also seeking both strategic and detailed recommendations from the Study that will inform their own Strategic Review of Open Space, Sport and Recreation and associated Action Plans.

### **1.1 The brief**

In summary, the consultant's brief required the identification for each authority of:

- future investment requirements for leisure facilities for the next ten years
- the number and type of built sports facilities to serve the District population
- the right locations for the facilities to ensure optimum access for residents and users
- the quality of provision that would serve diverse needs of user groups
- local standards/levels of provision required for the next ten years and beyond.

This evidenced based study was to:

- consider the corporate, community and sporting contexts of provision;
- review the core facilities for each authority from the perspectives of nature and quantity of provision, quality and accessibility;
- identify local issues and circumstances impacting upon geographical spread of facility provision, need and demand;
- consider the potential impacts of major development programmes such as new housing development proposals and Building Schools for the Future, for example.

The Study was to consider key issues and recommendations from its findings, propose local standards or levels of provision for each District and geographical area and propose Action Plans relevant and to each authority's strategy for built sports facilities.

## **1.2 Methodology**

The agreed methodology adopted for delivering the brief was to:

- review relevant documentation, reports and previous research relevant to the provision and condition of existing facilities;
- review the work and community survey conclusions of Inspace Planning Ltd identifying expressed needs and demand for built sports facilities within the District;
- visit key local authority operated venues, college, university and school sites and Ministry of Defence sports facilities providing community access to sport facilities to build up the detailed pictures and audit provision in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility;
- conduct face to face and/or telephone interviews with council officers, officers from neighbouring local authorities, key stakeholder groups and sports clubs, local sports councils and alliances;
- liaise with Sport England and draw from their Active Places Power and Active People diagnostic reports for geographical areas and facilities within Winchester District to provide guidance and benchmarking for existing levels and local standards of provision for sports facilities;
- produce a draft report drawing from the above information sources identifying conclusions, recommendations and suggested Action Plans for consideration.

Winchester City Council and RQA would like to thank all concerned for their positive contributions to this Study.

## **2.0 STRATEGIC CONTEXT**

Reference has been made during the course of this Study to:

- Planning Policy Guidance Note 17: Planning for Open Space, Sport and Recreation (*July 2002 - Office of the Deputy Prime Minister*), and
- Assessing Needs and Opportunities, a Companion Guide to PPG17.

This has provided the context and guidance underpinning the Study.

### **2.1 National, Regional and County context**

The Local Government Act 2000 places a duty on all local authorities to prepare a Sustainable Community Strategy. This overarching document must be supported by detailed plans and strategies including for sport and recreation provision.

The planning context for the study is the Council's emerging Local Development Framework which must conform with the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) for South East England. This will identify figures/quotas for new housing, affordable housing, and employment for each planning authority area, placing pressure on existing environments, transport and communication, on community services including the provision of suitable levels and locations for open space, sport and recreational facilities and activities.

It also conforms with any remaining 'saved' policies in the Hampshire County Structure Plan Review (1996 - 2011), which shapes the pattern of development and conservation of the environment until the South East Plan is adopted later this year.

For the Winchester District, an additional 12,240 dwellings are currently proposed to be accommodated in the District in the period 2006-2026, the period covered by the South East Plan.

Important features that must be taken into account when analysing needs and demand for the future provision of built facilities for sport and recreation within the district are:

- the quantity, quality and accessibility of existing provision, including facilities provided in neighbouring local authorities;
- natural and townscape environments such as Areas of Outstanding Beauty and Conservation Area designations;
- future population growth and the location of new housing development;
- local circumstances, such as the opportunities presented by the planned departure of military personnel and sale of land in the current ownership of the Ministry of Defence;

- levels of participation and trends in facility provision for sport and recreation;
- the wider sub-regional facility development plans of National Governing Bodies of Sport and the potential impact of the legacy of the 2012 Olympic Games, for example.

## **2.2 Local context**

The following documents have provided the local context for the Built Facilities Study:

- Winchester Corporate Strategy 2008-2013
- Winchester District Sport and Physical Activity Strategy (2006-2012)
- Winchester District Community Strategy
- Winchester District Local Plan Review (July 2006)
  
- Winchester District Working Draft Open Space Study (2007 - Inspace Consultancy)
  
- Sport England's Active People and Active Places Power Surveys and Tools
- Winchester District's Sporting Profile (Sport England)
  
- Built Facility and Catchment mapping produced by Inspace Planning Ltd, Sport England and Winchester City Council.

The key strategic outcomes and relevant priority objectives that relate to the Built Facilities Study identified within the **Winchester Corporate Strategy** are:

### **Safe and Strong Communities**

#### **What do we want Winchester to be like?**

*Citizens are happy in their day-to-day lives because they:*

*feel safe wherever they live, work or spend their leisure time  
can enjoy a healthy, active life, and receive the care they need when they need it*

*are not disadvantaged by where they live or the community they come from*

*are able to influence the future of their community*

#### **To help achieve this, the City Council will:**

##### ***Promote health and well being by:***

Supporting the promotion of healthy lifestyles

Making the full use of the opportunities presented by the 2012 games, paralympic games and The Cultural Olympiad as a

catalyst to increase participation in sporting and cultural activities

**Promote freedom from fear by:**

Working with local communities and our partners to reduce levels of crime and disorder and increase levels of safety

**Promote an inclusive society by:**

Promoting good relationships between all sections of the community

Improving access to local services for rural communities and those who have a disability

Taking steps to understand better the needs of all sections of the community

**High Quality Environment**

**What do we want Winchester to be like?**

*We are proud of our natural and built environment:*

*Resources are used efficiently, pollution levels are low and we are responding to the challenges of climate change*

**To help achieve this, the City Council will:**

Ensure that streets and open spaces are clean, attractive and accessible

Improve air quality in Winchester town centre

Reduce our emissions of 'greenhouse' gases and assist others to do the same

**Economic prosperity**

Support tourism businesses throughout the District

and from the **Winchester and District Sport and Physical Activity Strategy:**

- Increase the number of people who are physically active
- Increase the number of sports coaches, officials and volunteers
- Improve access to high quality sport and recreation facilities.

**2.3 Building Schools for the Future**

Contact was made with the Schools Organisation Officer (Children's Services Department), to ascertain Hampshire County Council's strategic approach to the Government's Building Schools for the Future programme and to improving community accessible sports facility provision on secondary school sites.

The Government's declared aim is to rebuild or renew every secondary school in the country over the next 50 years. The first 15 year programme identifying priority 'waves' (A-E) and areas for the redevelopment of schools include areas in Hampshire as follows:

Havant/Hayling/Waterlooville/Cowplain/Horndean	C	Years 7 - 9
Basingstoke & Deane/Andover	D	Years 10 -12
Fareham/Gosport/Hamble	D	Years 10 -12
Alton/Petersfield/Fair Oak/Hedge End/Eastleigh/Swanmore	E	Years 13 -15
Hart/Rushmoor	E	Years 13 -15
Totton/Waterside	E	Years 13 -15
West Hampshire	E	Years 13 -15

*Source: BSF Website*

However, it is expected that following a Government review of the policy and process there will be a more sensible lead in period for each area to develop its strategy and school development plans. The strategy for Hampshire, including more detailed proposals and priorities for the five individual secondary schools in the Winchester District, will be developed during the first half of 2008.

It can be seen that the programme embraces schools within Winchester well outside the 10 year period of this Study, with only one school (Swanmore) in the Winchester District highlighted in years 13 -15. This Study proposes within its Action Plan that meetings are held in the first half of 2008 involving Heads of schools, Senior Winchester City Council Officers, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Sport Partnership, Winchester SPAA and Hampshire's Education Planning Officers to assist in developing the strategy for the Building Schools for the Future programme aimed at identifying where schools can improve their community access and sports provision within their sub area.

### **Community Schools**

Changes in legislation since 1986 including the recent "Extended Schools" agenda have had a major impact on the life of schools notably outside school hours. School premises are now under the control of governing bodies within each school. Local authorities could issue direction about its use; however this cannot amount to control. 'Extended Schools' are themselves committed to developing closer relationships with their communities, not as a means of making money, but enhancing the curriculum experience of the pupils and the life of the community of which the school is a part. Head teachers are often acutely aware of the needs of the community and many of the issues.

Whilst Hampshire County Council are firmly committed to the development of community education for Adult Learning and opening schools up to the community, they are having to find new strategies to maintain this commitment. They have to do this in the face of reductions in local authority budgets, increasing independence of schools and increasing pressure to make more schools community orientated to meet government objectives through extended schools.



Some schools express concern that they do not have the time nor the staff to manage 'community use' properly outside school hours and that school pupils should not suffer as a consequence of use by the wider community. There are also issues around security, insurance, space, appropriateness of school furniture (including primary) and liability.

There needs to be a continuing emphasis to strengthen where possible access to primary school premises, particularly in villages and small communities. The importance of this aspect relates to the sizeable population that live in rural areas. Primary Schools are also expected to provide services to the community through the "Extended Schools" remit.

Projects would be dependent on approval by the Community School, Hampshire County Council and the ability to find the necessary funding from a number of different sources. The County Council is currently undertaking reviews to inform its long term planning including the "Building Schools for the Future" programme. Although the upgrading process does not directly include primary schools, given the rather disparate nature of sports and leisure provision in primary schools, it could be suggested that provision is improved across a "Cluster" of primary schools around a "hub" secondary school rather than all embracing provision on one set of premises. Opportunities should be planned on a whole year, seven days a week basis, not limited to school term and weekdays.

In the light of tighter financial restrictions, there are also higher customer expectations and competition from other leisure providers. This will require a commitment to high standards of customer service and facility design, fitting and layout if the leisure and community centres are to provide a viable and attractive alternative for the local community.

## **2.4 Ministry of Defence Estates**

This Built Facility Study takes account, as far as it is able, of the strategic plans of the Ministry of Defence Estates over the next 10 years and for specific sites within the Winchester District. Site visits and consultations have sought to determine potential MOD sites where community access might be gained or improved. Specific site issues are explored within Section 3 of the Study.

## **2.5 Neighbouring authorities**

Inevitably there is a degree of cross boundary migration of use of sports and leisure facilities by residents of each local authority district. This is likely to be influenced by:

- the nature of the facility, the activity or the instructor for example; or
- speed and convenience of access.

We have included a matrix of identified cross boundary facility use issues within Appendix E, further to our consultations with officers from the neighbouring districts.

In the main, local authorities do not keep records to be able to identify specific levels of cross boundary use and the evidence is largely anecdotal. Within our profiles of the sub areas for each district we have identified where residents are migrating out of the district for their sporting or recreational activities. In the main this is where a larger sports or leisure centre is more accessible or provides a wider range of facilities/activities than that within the district. Examples are the Havant Leisure Centre attracting usage from the southern part of Winchester, Fleming Park Leisure Centre in Eastleigh to the south of the district and Andover Leisure Centre in Test Valley Borough attracting some Winchester District residents in the north.

Sport specific facilities, events or clubs will draw people from greater distances (30 minutes to 1 hour plus travel distances). Examples are: athletics meetings, gymnastics clubs or events and swimming clubs and events; we anticipate use of the new 50m x 8 lane swimming pool at the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth (opening in 2009) will draw use by the Alton Swimming Club for example; the new 8 lane athletics track at Bar End, Winchester, will be a sub-regional facility and draw usage from Winchester's neighbouring authorities; the Aquadrome in Basingstoke, with its Lagoon and Flumes, is a family day out destination with a two hour catchment draw.

The Built Facilities Study takes account of the location of such facilities and does not propose replication within the local authority areas.

## **2.6 Governing Bodies of Sport and Sports Agencies**

As required by the brief, we have contacted the governing bodies of key sports where their strategic facility development plans may impact upon the existing or future provision of built facilities within the sub region and specifically within the Winchester District. Some of the larger sports clubs were also contacted to ascertain their needs and demands for their sport in relation to the quantity, quality and accessibility of facility provision. A Matrix of key issues and opportunities relevant to Winchester District is contained within Section 4 of the Study.

### **3.0 SUB AREAS ANALYSIS**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

Within this section we have followed the agreed sub-area division of the District adopted by the Council and followed and mapped by Inspace Planning Ltd within the Open Space Study.

Whilst it is recognised that such boundaries are somewhat artificial (as facilities are not used on this basis), this enables the study to analyse provision within the main settlements and their rural hinterlands from a number of perspectives, and following the recommended approach of PPG17 for the development of local standards of provision.

This section of the Study considers:

- the location, nature and issues relevant to each of the sub-areas drawing from our own visits and interviews with key stakeholders and drawing from the extensive community research and consultations undertaken by Inspace Consultancy during 2007 (see Inspace Parish profile Reports);

- an audit of existing built facilities providing community access within public, education, voluntary, private and Ministry of Defence Estates sectors;

- assessments of existing facilities based upon quantity, quality and accessibility, taking account of any proposed future developments;

- summary analysis of the larger main facilities providing sport and recreation opportunities (detailed assessment of community and village hall provision has been undertaken by Inspace Planning Ltd);

- facility provision, existing and planned, within neighbouring local authorities which may be used by residents of the district out of preference linked to convenience, accessibility or the quality or range of facilities and activities offered; and

- the facility development plans, strategies and guidance of National Governing Bodies of Sport, Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight and Community Sports Networks (Sport and Physical Activity Alliances).

The issues and findings of this analysis are then applied to the assessment of local standards of provision discussed in Section 4 of this Study including in more detail the potential impact and requirements linked to major housing development within the sub-region (as contained within the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East). Policy S7 of the Regional Spatial Strategy encourages an increase in sporting activity and participation which is in line with the objectives of Sport England and Winchester City Council, and local standards proposed by this Study are in excess of the current situation.

This approach therefore identifies expressed need and perceived and actual gaps in provision based on quantity, quality and accessibility perspectives, at the current time and projected within the 10 year study period.

Section 4 considers local standards of built facility provision making benchmark comparison with similar, neighbouring and 'family' local authorities where this is possible, overlaying the local factors, issues and judgements identified.

### **3.2 Sub Area analysis**

The Built Facilities Study has followed the geographical sub-areas already identified by Winchester City Council and by Inspace Planning Ltd within the wider Open Space study. The Winchester District has large rural areas with important 'hub' settlements.

We have set out below the existing key issues and opportunities relevant to the local context and accessibility based upon the main settlement areas as identified within the study brief.

We have drawn where appropriate from the Inspace Planning Ltd parish profiles following their survey analysis which include identification and commentary on village and community halls. We have not examined the level or potential for sport and recreation community use of all primary school halls within our brief for this Built Facilities Study. We do however recognise that they can play an important role in local community facility provision especially in rural areas where access to the local authority leisure facilities is difficult. We have identified examples of this in the analyses below.

Sub Area 5-7 have been analysed within the Inspace Planning Ltd report including identification of village/community hall provision. Meadowside Leisure Centre (Sub Area 7 - Whiteley) serves a wider catchment of Sub Areas and has grown beyond its intended local community provision.

#### **3.2.1 Winchester District Sub-areas**

##### **Sub Area 1 Population 2001 Census: 43,300**

*Comprising:* Badger Farm, Chilcomb, Littleton and Harestock, Olivers Battery, **Winchester**

##### **Sub Area 2 Population 2001 Census: 11,220**

*Comprising:* Crawley, Headbourne Worthy, **Kings Worthy**, Micheldever, South Wonston, Sparholt, Wonston

##### **Sub Area 3 Population 2001 Census: 10,706**

*Comprising:* Beauworth, Bighton, Bishops Sutton. Bramdean and Hinton Ampner, Cheriton, Exton, Itchen Valley, Kilmeston, **New Alresford**, Old Alresford, Itchen Stoke and Ovington, Tichborne, Warnford, West Meon

**Sub Area 4 Population 2001 Census: 12,597**

*Comprising: Bishops Waltham, Corhampton and Meonstoke, Droxford, Durley, Swanmore, Upham*

**Sub Area 5 Population 2001 Census: 9,757**

*Comprising: Colden Common, Compton and Shawford, Hursley, Otterbourne, Owslebury, Twyford*

**Sub Area 6 Population 2001 Census: 9,221**

*Comprising: Curdridge, Shedfield, Wickham*

**Sub Area 7 Population 2001 Census: 3,066**

*Comprising: Whiteley*

**Sub Area 8 Population 2001 Census: 10,530**

*Comprising: Boarhunt, Denmead, Hambledon, Soberton, Southwick, Widley.*

**3.2.2 Sub Area 1 -Winchester area**

Winchester is the largest settlement in the District with a population of c.43,300. Key features are:

- Historic City centre and surrounding housing, mostly private residential areas. Its eastern edge defined by the M3.
- The University of Winchester and Winchester College are significant land owners and contribute to the image of the City.
- Main Motorway link (M3) nearby. Park and ride scheme and robust parking enforcement with parking restricted on key sites such as the University, College and River Park Leisure Centre.
- The sub region has a range of sports and leisure facilities including education sites with varying degrees of access.
- Mainline trains and good public transport available.

**Venue Issues**

- A condition survey for River Park Leisure Centre has recently been completed and indicates the need for high expenditure on the building structure and plant over the next few years to maintain the building to an acceptable standard. Consideration will be required in due course of its future viability and potential refurbishment or replacement.
- Provision of sports and leisure is variable across school sites in the sub area – some such as Kings School have excellent provision while others are looking to improve facilities both for school use and to expand community access. Henry Beaufort School and Westgate School are two sites where opportunities are available to improve community access, with proposals for an STP and two additional badminton courts respectively.

***Sport Specific Issues***

- The University outdoor site at Bar End could be developed further as a strategic hub for sport in Winchester and the sub-region, including the 8 lane athletics track and STP for hockey, in partnership with the University of Winchester. This would be subject to normal planning considerations.
- The Rugby Club has been very successful with youth and community programmes and are hoping to access two further pitches to meet current demand. The Club are also undertaking a feasibility study to provide an STP both for rugby training and for hire for 5 – a –side football.
- Winchester Football Club wants to relocate its pitch closer to their clubhouse, subject to permission being granted to remove the original cinder running track. The Club are also considering the scope for provision of an STP. There is an opportunity for them to combine resources with the Rugby Club, particularly if seeking grant aid from governing bodies and the Football Foundation, for example.
- Winchester Lawn Tennis and Squash Club, supported by the Lawn Tennis Association, have recently been granted planning approval for 4 indoor courts, replacing 5 outdoor courts.
- The Hampshire Badminton Association want to increase provision by a further two courts at the Badminton Centre at Westgate School. The scheme will need to overcome access issues to gain planning permission.

***Issues identified***

- The long-term future of the River Park Leisure Centre could be reviewed including the scope for generating a capital receipt from the existing site to partially fund provision of a replacement facility, subject to the normal planning considerations.
- A number of proposals have been identified for provision of new STPs across the sub area (and also for the possible development of a commercial 5-a-side soccer centre at Westgate School). There is a need for joint working and planning to ensure a robust rationale and strategy for these schemes in order to avoid duplication and wasted effort.
- The possible displacement of current user clubs from Sir John Moore Barracks (MOD site) following a change in the Army's strategy for use.
- There is scope to improve community access at some school sites in the sub area, which is likely to require further investment in sports facilities and establishment of considered community use agreements.

- Opportunities to consider developing shared services (and facilities) with other local authorities including development of sub regional strategies for specialist sports provision (swimming, athletics, gymnastics, for example). This might include joint procurement exercises or and establishing common client monitoring arrangements.

### **3.2.3 Sub Area 2 Kings Worthy area**

The population of this sub area is c.11, 200. Kings Worthy is dominated by the Army Camp and associated military housing adjacent to the Camp. Access is good to the area, just off the A33.

#### ***Venue Issues***

- The Worthy Down Camp has a good range of facilities – physical exercise is a key part of the training of army personnel based on site and the facilities are made available to the community, particularly clubs and civilians employed at the Camp.
- There are community halls in Wonston, Micheldever, Crawley and Sparsholt.
- There is the potential to increase the level of community use at Sparsholt College where current indoor provision is very limited and consideration for increased community use should be given in any plans for provision of new indoor recreation facilities on the site.
- Princes Mead Preparatory School has excellent indoor provision which currently has a planning restriction preventing community access. The School is currently applying for a change in order to enable community access to be provided and a number of clubs have indicated a strong interest in making use of the venue. It is hoped that this application will be supported and discussions on developing programmes at the Centre for sports activities should also be explored.

#### ***Issues identified***

- There is the possibility at Worthy Down as with Sir John Moore Barracks that community access could be withdrawn if greater use is made by the Army. Joint working with other organisations including Sparsholt College should be explored. An example of joint working between the Army and a local provider has already been established between Winchester RUFC and the Apprentice School.

### **3.2.4 Sub Area 3 - New Alresford area**

The Sub Area, the north east quadrant of the District, has a population of c.10,700. Road access is good via the A31.

#### ***Venue Issues***

- Perins School has good facilities available for community use including its health and fitness facility and dance studio.

**Issues identified**

- Some facilities within Perins School could be improved. The sports hall is currently being refurbished
- The school site is spread over a large area. It could benefit from having a specific entry/area for community use.

**3.2.5 Sub Area 4 - Bishops Waltham area**

The area is largely rural with the town of Bishops Waltham being the main settlement. The Sub Area has a population of c, 12,600. Many residents commute to work to either Southampton or Portsmouth. Access is good with links to the A32/M27.

**Venue Issues**

- Swanmore College has undergone facility improvements in recent years, has good community provision for sport and recreation, serving the southern parishes of the district, including a separate community reception point. The Community Manager has developed a pro-active community programme. During the audit a youth sports programme and Portsmouth Football in the Community were both on site.
- Main issues with the venue concern outdoor provision. A reduced size (75%) STP which places restrictions on usage and a further outdoor games area is currently unusable due to its poor condition.
- Ridgemedede Junior School has a well used swimming pool which is not only used by other schools in the area but also extensively by the community. It is only one of fourteen pools in the County on school sites that will remain open. Other facilities at the School are also used by the community and it is recommended that there should be a review of potential further community use.

**Issues identified**

- Swanmore College is a good example of community use at an education site, particularly where access to local authority leisure facilities is not available.
- Improvements could be made to outdoor sports provision which would enhance the venue and increase usage.

**3.2.6 Sub Area 7 - Whiteley area**

Whiteley is dominated by its shopping village/retail outlet and new residential developments. Meadowside Leisure Centre is located off junction 9 of the M27 and is well signposted. There are a number of light commercial and office based enterprises close to the M27.

**Venue Issues**

- Meadowside Leisure Centre has limitations of use as a public sports and leisure centre owing to its original intended use as a local community centre.



- The external staining on the exterior of the building is being addressed. Weight restrictions on the first floor (and the slight slope!) limit usage to light activities such as Pilates and Yoga.

**Issues identified**

- There may be scope for the provision of a new swimming pool at North Whiteley, should the area come forward for development, possibly as part of any secondary school proposals. This could also provide an opportunity to provide improved alternative dry side facilities for the Whiteley area.
- Consideration could be given to investigating alternative commercial use for the Meadowside Leisure Centre.

The above analyses and findings assist in providing the local ‘overlays’ and judgements in determining the appropriate built facility recommendations for the District and its sub areas following our assessments in the next sections of the quality, quantity and accessibility of existing sport and recreation facilities (Section 4) broken down as local standards of provision (Section 5).

### **3.2.7 Village/Community Halls**

Village halls represent the largest network of community facilities in rural areas, apart from churches. Most village halls are managed by local communities through user committees or directly by the local parish council.

Village halls have in recent years become an extremely important resource for local communities – halls are not only used for the ‘traditional’ activities but also a wide range of education, welfare, sports and leisure activities. With the growing demise of local post offices and village shops they are increasingly being used as the base of essential services which could include GP surgery and Citizens Advice outlets for example (*cf. Hertfordshire Village Study 2007*).

Community halls are often used for leisure activities and sports including badminton (if safety margins allow), short mat bowls, fitness classes and table tennis as well as outdoor provision of multi sport games areas, sports pitches, play areas, and occasionally youth activities such as skateparks.

Funding for provision and upgrading for village halls is available from lottery funding programmes, the Landfill Tax Credit programme, occasionally through developer contributions or a capital receipt from the sale of the site of an existing village hall. An example of the latter is Upham Village Hall which replaced an older village hall now developed for housing.

It is most relevant to achieving the outcomes and strategic objectives of Winchester’s Community Strategy that residents within the outlying rural areas are able to gain comfortable access to village/community hall facilities for some of their community and/or recreational activities.

This is particularly relevant for the growing ageing population as well as for young people. The quality of provision is particularly important as well as the spatial requirements of these halls. Where access difficulties exist in remoter areas, which may be due to fear of travelling along country roads or after dark, then Community Transport has a role to play. We consider that improvement in community transport, with the possibility of a designated community mini bus, is an important element of the Built Facilities Study recommendations. Specific issues identified within the Inspace Planning Ltd Study are shown within Section 5 of this report.

To progress the strategy for community hall development for the District, it will be important to reference Action with Communities in Rural England (ACRE): Corporate Report (2007-2010) and make contact with the local Rural Community Council advisor covering Winchester District.

## **4.0 BUILT FACILITIES AUDIT - EXISTING AND PLANNED**

### **4.1 Introduction**

The Built Facilities Audit has been undertaken using a range of methodologies:

- visits to the Sub Areas of the District
- visits and inspections of key built facilities within each Sub Area
- discussion with Facility Managers and/or Heads of Schools and Community Managers as appropriate
- reference to Sport England Active Places data
- reference to relevant research undertaken by Inspace Planning Ltd
- information provided by Winchester City Council officers and DC Leisure staff.

We have built up a picture of facility provision within the public, private, education and voluntary sectors within the geographical sub areas of the District. In order to develop local standards of provision we have focused on quantity, quality and accessibility, and have detailed specifications of the facilities where these are available. We have referred to Condition Surveys of the main leisure facilities which were commissioned by Winchester City Council. This has assisted in the production of a Condition Rating and a Fit for Purpose Rating for the various facilities visited. Listings of Fitness Gyms provided within the public, private sectors and education sectors have been provided by Sport England's Active Places Survey.

A review of Community and Village Halls has been undertaken by Inspace Planning Ltd in terms of location (quantity and accessibility), and condition (quality). We have drawn from this study as appropriate within our Sub Area analysis and as part of our Hierarchy of Facilities review within Section 4, with specific issues and shortfalls in provision shown in Section 5. Reference has been made to Sport England's Design and Guidance for Village and Community Halls document (2001). We have in addition provided brief notes on the main community accessible facilities in the District.

## **QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE STANDARDS**

### **4.2 Built Facilities Audit**

The composite Built Facilities Audit information is contained at Appendix C. This provides detailed listings of sports facilities, activity areas, their condition (including reference to Condition Surveys) and fitness for purpose. The Audit draws from Sport England's Winchester City facility, area and sport specific profiles and facility listings, and similarly from the neighbouring authority facility listings provided by Inspace Planning Ltd.

## **QUALITATIVE ISSUES**

### **4.3 Main centres providing Community Access**

The following tables provide a brief summary of the access, operational and condition issues for the main built facilities used by the community within the District.

<b>FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE</b>			
<b>Leisure Venues</b>			
<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Community Access</b>	<b>Access Constraints</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p><b>Meadowside Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>Opened in 2000 – 3 badminton court sports hall, gym and meeting rooms and outdoor provision including tennis courts and skateboard ramp</p>	<p>Used by local community extensively and a base for community activities and events including a local martial arts club.</p>	<p>The Meadowside Leisure Centre was provided as a community centre – this does result in some limitations – these include usage of meeting rooms due to weight restrictions and some limited spaces – e.g. changing rooms, gym and reception area</p>	<p>The Centre despite its limitations is a well managed community leisure centre with a small and dedicated group of staff. To become Quest accredited was a good achievement and the opportunity to develop and implement an improvement plan could progress key actions including developing usage. The resolution of the building defect problem resulting in staining would improve the external appearance and potentially improve its image.</p>
<p><b>River Park Leisure Centre</b></p> <p>Opened in 1974 – 8 badminton courts, 25m by 6 lane pool – gym and outdoor provision including tennis courts and STP.</p>	<p>Well utilised leisure centre in a strong town centre location. One potential issue could be difficulty with parking – can be a deterrent to users/potential users.</p>	<p>A number of improvements have been made to the Centre and there is evidence of a broad range of activities – one area for improvement is to undertake research which could enable the programme to be refreshed/reviewed with input from sports development.</p>	<p>River Park Leisure Centre is a busy centre with a good programme for a range of users. The staff and management are committed and show good customer care skills. The Centre is showing its age in places and levels of maintenance could be reviewed. The Centre scored a creditable 73 % in its last Quest Assessment with an increase of 6% - there are a number of recommendations which should be considered and implemented where possible.</p>

FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE			
Leisure Venues			
Education	Community Access	Access Constraints	Comments
<p><b>University of Winchester</b></p> <p>3 court hall, gym and dance studio – used by students and community - outdoor provision including tennis courts – new provision of 8 lane athletics track and hockey STP at Bar End</p>	<p>The University have a range of facilities which are primarily used by students but can be used by the Community – The fitness facilities are available for community use.</p>	<p>The use by students needs to take precedence however there is scope for use by the community outside of term time</p>	<p>The new development at Bar End will provide excellent facilities for students and the wider community – some issues have been raised but resolved e.g. the loss of rugby pitches- Winchester RUFC have offered student membership . Scope to explore links with some of the courses at the University with leisure management work experience.</p>
<p><b>Winchester College</b></p> <p>4 court hall, swimming pool and stand alone squash centre ,dojo and extensive outdoor provision</p>	<p>The College is keen to engage with the local community and explore opportunities to develop use of its facilities – one key driver that has been identified the Charities Act and the requirements that are due to be placed on independent schools</p>	<p>The facilities are used by the pupils at the College although use by outside organisations appears to be accommodated without too much difficulty. One possible constraint is the limited availability of parking in and around the College</p>	<p>The College Bursar is keen to explore opportunities of working with others both to open up further the College facilities and access other provision for pupils at the College.</p>

<b>FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE</b>			
<b>Leisure Venues</b>			
<p><b>Perins School</b></p> <p>4 court hall being refurbished – Evolution Fitness Centre and outdoor provision including STP</p>	<p>The School as a specialist sports college has a range of facilities that are made available to the community as well as adult education</p>	<p>The School has a good range of facilities available for the community – excellent parking and a good location on the outskirts of the Town</p>	<p>The Sports hall is currently undergoing refurbishment. Evolution, the health and fitness club has the ambience of a private leisure club such as a David Lloyd or Virgin Active.</p>
<p><b>Swanmore College of Technology</b></p> <p>4 court hall, dance studio ,separate community access – 75% sized STP)</p>	<p>The College has some excellent facilities for community use including a purpose built separate reception and a wide range of activities</p>	<p>The STP is only 75% of a full-sized pitch so this restricts potential use and an outside games area is in need of refurbishment</p>	<p>The College has a good community programme and has been provided with facilities and arrangements that meet the requirements for successful community use</p>
<p><b>Ridgemedede Junior School</b></p> <p>Pool 20 x 8 m – 4 lanes – outdoor provision – netball basketball and grass football pitch</p>	<p>The School has a well-used school pool (20 x 8 m) which is used both by other schools as well as extensive use by the Community including during school time. Other facilities onsite include netball courts and basketball courts</p>	<p>The pool has been selected by Hants CC as 1 of only 14 pools for further investment – 41 will be closing. £700k will be available to those pools staying open. Ridgemedede is considering improvements to changing and some M and E works.</p>	<p>Ridgemedede is a good example of a school being used by the local community and particularly worthy of note is that some use is undertaken during the school day. Improvements to the pool are likely to promote further interest in community use, although school use must be a priority.</p>

FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE			
Leisure Venues			
<p><b>Kings School</b>  (4 court hall – 25 x 10.9 m pool ,gym –recently refurbished – outdoor provision including STP)</p>	<p>The School is used extensively by local clubs and the Community – it has possibly the best standard of facilities in the City and the Centre Management have been pro-active with pricing for example the recently refurbished Fitness Centre is attracting users from the River Park Leisure Centre..</p>	<p>The School has taken a ‘robust’ commercial approach to hire of facilities and it recognises that a different approach may need to adopted to encourage usage from a wider base. Scope maybe available to encourage target group usage – it has excellent disabled access and high standards of maintenance and cleanliness.</p>	<p>There are some limitations with use of leisure facilities for school activities – examinations currently are being held in the main sports hall. A number of clubs use the School as a base most significantly the Winchester Hockey Club. In comparison with other schools , the facilities at Kings are significantly better and standards are clearly maintained - it has the feel of a school from the independent Sector</p>
<p><b>Westgate School (incl. Westgate Badminton Centre)</b> 5 court hall – specialist provision – school gym and outdoor provision</p>	<p>The School is the site for the Westgate Badminton Centre, a regional centre of excellence managed by the Hampshire Badminton Association</p>	<p>The new head teacher Julie Turvey indicated some concerns over the management arrangements and access to the Badminton Centre – the view is that the current arrangements are disadvantageous to the School</p>	<p>The School is keen to improve other sports facilities on site and is exploring a possible development with a commercial operator for a 5 a side soccer centre as well as a health and fitness centre. The indoor sports facilities within the school complex are in need of refurbishment.</p>

<b>FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE</b>			
<b>Leisure Venues</b>			
<p><b>Henry Beaufort School</b></p> <p>4 court hall , outdoor provision including 3 grass pitches – new arts venue – and proposal for STP</p>	<p>The School prides itself on its community links and is the base for the Winchester Gym Club as well a range of sports and arts activities</p>	<p>The School has some physical constraints particularly that it is built on different levels – disability access is a problem. The sports hall is in need of refurbishment</p>	<p>The School is progressing an application for a Football STP – 90% full size. Planning permission has been granted. The prime intended use is for training and school use.</p>
<p><b>Peter Symonds College</b></p> <p>4 court hall – good standard gym and outdoor provision including 2 grass pitches</p>	<p>The College has a range of good sports facilities both indoor and outdoor – primary use is by students and the sports studies department are based in the Sports Centre</p>	<p>The Adult Education Programme makes significant use of the facilities at the College in the evening. Some opportunities maybe available to extend the range of sports available particularly via links with local clubs.</p>	<p>Sport plays an important role in the life of the College with a number of teams for students, with a number of students achieving international standard level. The Sports Studies department offers a good range of courses and students have achieved high standards.</p>
<p><b>St Swithin’s School</b></p> <p>Pool – 25 x 6 lane and learner pool – hired out for lessons ,outdoor provision including lacrosse pitches.</p>	<p>St Swithin’s has limited accessibility for the Community – the only significant use are swimming lessons provided by an external coach who hires the venue as a commercial let</p>	<p>Leisure facilities on the site are used by the girls attending the School</p>	<p>St Swithin’s has good facilities – the Pool and the outdoor facilities are particularly worthy of note. The School’s primary sport is lacrosse and it has 8 high quality pitches. A number of the girls play the game at representative level.</p>



<b>FACILITIES AVAILABLE FOR COMMUNITY USE</b>			
<b>Leisure Venues</b>			
<p><b>Sparsholt College</b></p> <p>Hall – location for climbing wall – gym facilities including converted squash court for loose weights, outdoor provision.</p>	<p>No access currently available for indoor provision ,although the site is used for outdoor events including schools cross county</p>	<p>Limited space available and requirements of students can't currently be met</p>	<p>As a result of linking with Andover College, development will be undertaken on both campuses – estimate of £25m at Sparsholt – will include indoor provision but some years away and there is an urgent requirement for additional indoor space for students.</p>
<b>Club</b>	<b>Accessible to Community</b>	<b>Availability Constraints</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<p><b>Winchester RUFC</b></p> <p>Clubhouse – upgraded and available for hire – grass pitches and considering STP.</p> <p>The Clubhouse is also available for hire and is used by a range of commercial users.</p>	<p>The Club has a strong ethos of youth and community development – facilities are of a good standard and the Club's Community Officer is undertaking innovative work including with people with learning difficulties and special needs groups.</p>	<p>The main constraint for the Club which they are currently pursuing is to access a further two pitches so that they can undertake all their programmes.</p> <p>The other facility constraint is the size and condition of the car park which can cause difficulties when major events are held</p>	<p>The Club are keen to forge links with other parties and this includes the University of Winchester Rugby Club and the Army who will be working with them developing skills for new recruits to the Apprentice School.</p> <p>The Club are also undertaking a feasibility study into provision of a ATP on the site which could be used for rugby training as well as being hired for five a side football</p>
<p><b>Winchester Lawn Tennis and Squash Club</b></p>	<p>Proposed indoor tennis courts will be available to LTA grass roots programmes.</p>	<p>Although a members club, community access is proposed.</p>	<p>Planning permission has recently been approved for four indoor courts.</p>



#### **4.4 Leisure centres operated by Winchester City Council**

##### **4.4.1 River Park Leisure Centre**

The River Park Leisure Centre, which is Winchester's main indoor leisure site, was opened in 1974 and a further dryside facility was added in 1980. The Centre is located close to the Town Centre and adjacent to a neighbourhood recreation ground with playing pitches. DC Leisure took over management of the Centre in 1980 and has made a number of improvements including providing a new fitness gym system and upgrading the air conditioning. The contract with DC Leisure is due to complete in 2011.

The Centre has been undertaking Quest over the last 3 years and has achieved a good score of 73 % in its last assessment. The Assessor noted a number of strengths including an excellent working relationship with the Client together with a busy well established activity programme backed up with high quality and effective publicity. The Centre has a 200 space pay entry car park which is often full which can cause difficulty and frustration for potential users

**The Condition Survey** completed in October 2007 highlights:

- some major concerns with the building fabric and plant and predicts a likely spend on essential works of some £2m over the next 10 years to maintain the Centre to its current standard;
- generally, the condition of the centre is poor and repairs have left a 'rather patchy appearance';
- necessary refurbishment and modernisation works should include the reception area which is now 'past its best'.

The Survey recommends a need to rationalise and develop a phased programme for refurbishment and plant replacement. Planned maintenance of heating and water systems should be in conjunction with regular testing and checking for legionella. The report also identifies the need to consider replacement of major elements of the ventilation system as a matter of priority. In order to prevent major disruption to the Centre, it may be prudent to consider the phased replacement of parts of the system.

##### **4.4.2 Meadowside Leisure Centre**

Meadowside Leisure Centre was opened in 2000 and was provided as a result of a planning gain agreement with housing developers. The Centre is located in Whiteley Village, a shopping outlet park close to the main M27 Motorway. The Centre was originally intended for use as a community centre and is also used as the base for the local parish council which holds meetings at the Centre. Outdoor provision managed by the Centre includes a skatepark and multi-games courts.

The Centre achieved a very creditable 63% for its first Quest Assessment in September and the Assessor noted the commitment being shown by the staff and the work with local sporting organisations and clubs to develop activities and events.

The Centre, due to its original proposed use as a community centre has limitations including a small reception area, a modest gym and weight restrictions on upstairs rooms which prevent their use for some physical activities other than Pilates and Yoga.

**The Condition Survey** that was completed in October 2007 concluded that:

- the overall appearance of the Centre 'is reasonable', particularly internally;
- there are some key problems including staining of external walls which are the subject of an insurance claim;
- a weak floor structure which limits usage may be 'difficult, costly and highly disruptive' to undertake; and
- problems were identified with rising damp.

The Survey identified issues relating to DDA compliance and concluded that major work would be required for the building to be accessible for wheelchair users. It also highlighted the need to undertake regular testing for legionella.

A number of improvements could be made to the management and operation of the Centre at little or nil cost by development of an upgraded Improvement Plan, based largely on the recommendations from the Quest report. The Plan could also highlight the improvements needed to the building fabric and infrastructure which could improve customer satisfaction.

#### **4.4.3 Review of Quest Scores**

QUEST is the Quality Assurance accreditation model adopted by public sector leisure centres (supported by the Institute of Sport, Parks and Leisure (ISPAL) and by Sport England). It provides quality systems, inspections and the Assessor scores out of 10 are shown below. QUEST has been embraced by leisure management contractors such as DC Leisure, and by Leisure Trusts, as a measure and benchmark against good performance for various aspects of operation.

<b>Management Issues</b>	<b>River Park</b>	<b>Meadowside</b>
<b>Cycle</b>	<b>2<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup></b>
Cleanliness	7	6
Maintenance	8	6
Changing Rooms	8	7
Health and Safety	8	6
Customer Care	7	7
Customer Feedback	8	6
Marketing and pricing	7	7
Reception and Administration	7	7
Programming and Sport Development	7	6
Continuous Improvement	7	5
Finance and IT	8	7
<b>Overall Score (%)</b>	<b>73</b>	<b>63</b>

Note : Scores (out of 10 ) are given by the Assessor based on a review of the Self Assessment Questionnaire completed by the Centre.

**River Park Leisure Centre** achieved a good score on its second assessment and it also improved by a significant percentage (6%) on its first score. River Park is strong on procedures and has established itself as a well-run busy centre, with a well established programme and effective marketing. The Assessor also commented on the quality of the workforce (DC Leisure) and the good working relationship with the Client. Some improvements are needed including formalising the Centre's Sports Development Plan and improving research and consultation with customers.

**Meadowside Leisure Centre** did well to achieve a pass score on its first attempt (63%). Some minor improvements that could have been implemented in the lead up to the Assessment probably would have raised the score by 3 to 4 %. The high standard of cleanliness and presentation was noted by the Assessor with a good range of equipment and staff who exhibited commitment and pride in their work. Some procedures and processes were not in place at the time of the Assessment and with the development of an Improvement Plan with realistic targets, a number of actions could be completed which would improve the score and with it the operation of the Centre.

#### **4.5 Neighbouring authorities**

We have set out at Appendix E the outcome of our discussions with neighbouring local authorities highlighting centres outside Winchester District potentially attracting residents for the District.

Of particular note is that the Havant and Waterlooville Centres, Fleming Park Leisure Centre in Eastleigh District, and Romsey Rapids and Andover Leisure Centre in Test Valley Borough all have usage 15 minute drive/usage catchments that extend into Winchester District. Specialist sports clubs based at the Alton Sports Centre (swimming, gymnastics, trampolining, climbing) and Chawton Park Indoor Bowls Centre in East Hampshire District draw a proportion of their membership from Winchester District.

#### **4.6 Governing Bodies of Sport**

We have set out below the responses from the National Governing Bodies of Sport and issues raised by some of the Sports Clubs with respect to issues surrounding facility provision. The tables highlight access issues from the point of view of availability of the facilities for community use.

**NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES OF SPORT - Summary of Consultation Responses**

<b>National Governing Body</b>	<b>KEY ISSUES</b> <i>relevant to the Winchester District</i>	<b>SPORTS CLUBS</b>	<b>OTHER SECTOR LINKS</b>	<b>REGIONAL STRATEGIC PLANS</b>
<p><b>Amateur Swimming Association</b></p> <p><i>Lee Spindlow</i></p>	<p>Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth 50metre pool - would not impact on the Meadowside pool proposal considered as part of this Study. Havant and Andover Leisure Centres redevelopment proposals. (Havant Report due 2008)</p>	<p>Strong clubs are Winchester penguins, Havant and Waterlooville SC (Water Polo Section are seeking a venue)</p>	<p>Education - Redevelopment of Andover College</p>	<p>New Regional Strategy 2009-2013 has been produced in draft for consultation. Local authorities to be consultees to assist their own strategic swimming pool proposals. ASA supporting pool redevelopment proposals.</p>
<p><b>UK Athletics</b></p> <p><i>Michael Coker</i></p>	<p>Bar End 8 lane track - completion April 08 pavilion - January 2009 - as sub regional facility</p>	<p>Winchester and District Athletics Club– well managed and with Clubmark</p>	<p>Proposed schools use and events at Bar End track. MOD sites – use could be explored for road running and cross-country use.</p>	<p>No further track developments proposed for sub region. J-track at Fleming Park proposed by Eastleigh BC officers, but unlikely to get support from UKA or SE.</p>

<p><b>Badminton England</b></p> <p><i>Helen Davies</i></p>	<p>Westgate Centre on school site seeking funding for additional courts</p>	<p>Development of junior club – linking with DC Leisure at River Park</p>		<p>BE has no strategic facility development plan for the sub region.</p> <p>Supportive of Westgate scheme.</p>
<p><b>England Netball</b></p> <p><i>Priya Samuel</i></p>	<p>Need for another indoor court (additional community provision) in Winchester</p>		<p>Scope to work with other NGBs to provide indoor facilities (e.g. EBA?)</p>	<p>Supportive of additional indoor provision if identified.</p>
<p><b>England Hockey</b></p> <p><i>Heather Windust</i></p>	<p>Bar End STP (Tiger Turf) - new home for Winchester leagues. STP proposal at Peter Symonds College Fareham HC proposal for a new clubhouse</p>	<p>Clubs struggling to book pitch time on STPs due to mainly football training bookings. Winchester Hockey Club - Club Mark.</p>		<p>New National Strategy – a Single System for Hockey – launched July 2006</p> <p>Lack of access to suitable facilities and limited number of coaches.</p>

<p><b>Hampshire Football Association</b></p> <p><i>Sacha Nicholas</i></p>	<p>STP at Henry Beaufort School, planning permission approved</p> <p>Other possible schemes for new pavilion and drainage (including Winchester FC at early stage)</p>	<p>Clubs seeking partnership funding and Football Foundation funding for said pitch improvements and upgrading clubhouses</p>	<p>FA are exploring opportunities that may be provided by Building Schools for the Future programme</p>	<p>Current Regional Strategy being reviewed – new document is being prepared for 2008 to 2012</p>
<p><b>England Basketball</b></p> <p><i>Sam Spare</i></p>	<p>A 2 court Basketball venue is needed within the sub-region.</p>	<p>No accredited clubs in Winchester although a number in County – lack of suitable facilities</p>	<p>BSF has been identified by the NGB as a major opportunity for development of provision on school sites</p>	<p>National Strategies – for outdoor and indoor facility provision. Main issue is lack of indoor space and availability. National Indoor Strategy recommends provision of 2 court venue – club managed and minimum of 25 hours access per week.</p>



<p><b>Lawn Tennis Association</b> <i>Sally Fray</i></p>	<p>Proposal for indoor court (4 courts) development (recently approved) at Winchester Tennis and Squash Club. Possibility to expand outdoor courts at River Park Leisure Centre site.</p>	<p>Priority for LTA is to develop talent and help improve provision across the County. Need for floodlighting at some clubs (eg. Steep and Swanmore Clubs).</p>	<p>Developing stronger links with commercial sector – e.g. David Lloyd ITI in Southampton.</p>	<p>LTA National Plan – key target is to develop talent alongside provision of facilities, especially indoor. Indoor courts should be encouraged where opportunities occur, and where viable management is in place.</p>
<p><b>Rugby Football Union</b> <i>Jon Brookstein</i></p>	<p>Identified need for clubhouse improvements</p>	<p>Winchester RFC strong with junior development - one of the leading clubs – also plans to work with Army</p>	<p>Links with Education – including Winchester University offering student membership.</p>	<p>Key priorities – Adult participation, school – club links and Schools of Rugby.</p>
<p><b>British Gymnastics</b> <i>Neil Burton</i></p>	<p>No current proposals for Winchester area – possible scope to link with other sports – could give consideration to MOD sites.</p>	<p>Possible future identification of a further dedicated Gymnastics Centre in the sub-region.</p>		<p>British Gymnastics Facility Strategy and England Gymnastics (South and South East) Development Plans</p>

<p><b>English Indoor Bowls Association</b></p>	<p>Club in Winchester – Riverside</p> <p>Other nearby clubs in Basingstoke and Havant(part of leisure centre).</p>	<p>One key focus area is developing the sport amongst young people, and to develop further off-peak use during the summer months.</p>		<p>National Strategic Development Framework – no plans identified for development of any indoor clubs in the sub region.</p>
<p><b>Squash Rackets Association</b> <i>Justyn Price</i></p>	<p>Total number of courts in Winchester is 14 Winchester College and Winchester Tennis and Squash Club. 4 courts at River Park Leisure Centre.</p>	<p>SRA is looking to develop county feeder squads and mini squash for 5 to 11 year olds</p>	<p>Links with Education are strong</p>	<p>SRA advises that no developments are planned in sub region. Winchester regarded as a Centre of Excellence for Squash</p>

#### **4.7 Winchester District Sporting Profile**

The Study has drawn from Sport England's Active People Survey contained at Appendix D which provides an outline of the level of participation in Winchester District for some of the main activities taking place within the built facilities, compared to regional and national averages for local authorities and compared to similar and family authorities.

Headline indicators reflecting levels of participation by people over 16 and for some of the specific sports that are relevant to this Study are listed below:

- levels of participation in moderate physical activity three times a week (25.6%) is higher than for the south east region (22.6%);

- membership of sports clubs at 28.9% is higher than the average for the region (27.6%) and volunteering is significantly higher at 6.6% than nationally (4.7%);

For some of the relevant indoor sports:

- Swimming participation is higher in Winchester District than the regional average, 14.2% of the over 18 population compared to 12.8% regionally;

- Hockey participation at (0.8%) is twice as high as for the regional average (0.4%), requiring synthetic turf pitches for matches and training;

- while Gymnastics participation is shown at the same level as the regional average (0.1%), by far the majority of participants is under 16 and the comparative level is again high;

- Badminton (3%) is higher than for the south east (2.6%); and

- Tennis participation at 5.6% is more than double the average for the south east (2.7%).

Generally, participation levels are higher in Winchester District for a range of indoor sports, as is membership to sports clubs and numbers subscribing to tuition, compared to the regional average and nationally. Additionally, the number of volunteers (6.6% of the population over 18) is significantly higher than the south east average 94.7%.

The above statistics present a picture where there is a propensity to participate in a range of sporting activities, more so than on average in the south east, and the need and demand to access quality built sports facilities is stronger than in many similar districts.

## **5.0 PROPOSED LOCAL STANDARDS/LEVELS OF PROVISION**

### **5.1 Our approach and rationale**

Our approach towards identification of local standards for built sports facilities for Winchester District has been to:

- 1) consider a 'base' standard and level of provision relevant to and benchmarked against rural authorities in discussion with Sport England;
- 2) provide local 'overlays' linked to quantitative, qualitative and accessibility (distance threshold) analyses, geo-demographic assessments including potential impacts of new housing development, and consideration of local issues and priorities; and
- 3) propose suggested levels of provision per 1000 population for identified sub areas where practicable, or alternative standards where more appropriate.

The suggested levels of provision for the Winchester District have been developed with reference to:

- compliance with PPG 17 for Open Space, Sport and Recreation;
- existing spread and make-up of population across the district and neighbouring authority conurbations. This is based upon the 2001 Census with reference as appropriate to the gender, age, socio-economic and employment circumstance, and car ownership (data as set out within the wider Inspace Study);
- reference to Sport England's Active Places Power and Active People diagnostic reports for the particular geographical areas identified, including particular reference to the Demand and Supply tool for facilities per 1000 population, and the Personal Share tool for swimming pools and sports halls;
- reference to average distance thresholds for accessibility to different types of facility;
- benchmark comparison and analysis of defined standards adopted or referenced within similar rural authorities which underpins the 'overlay' of local issues and priorities.

We have drawn from this range of methodologies in order to provide a robust process and calculations, supported by Sport England, which have then been refined and adjusted to meet the specific circumstances of each geographical area within the Winchester District, including:

- proposed and possible new housing development in terms of population growth, geographical location and potential impact on needs and demand for community and district wide built sports facilities;

- impacts on facilities and cross-migration of use between neighbouring authorities;

- the Community Halls Survey, Parish Council consultations and other research and reports undertaken by Inspace Planning Ltd as part of the wider Open Space and Built Facilities Study;

- the Built Facilities Audit, visits and consultations with officers of the council and DC Leisure (leisure management contractor), and stakeholders, undertaken by RQA and Inspace Planning Ltd;

- information on size and location of the built facilities and their component activity areas, levels and types of use, the quality of provision and their value as an amenity to the community; and

- Condition Surveys of the larger sports and leisure centres, as commissioned by Winchester City Council, and our own view on their suitability ('fit for purpose') to meet customer expectations over the next 10 years.

## **5.2 Benchmarking with other similar and neighbouring authorities**

It is our experience that many local authorities have not established clear local standards for their built sports facilities and that local value judgements are applied were appropriate as the main consideration. Our approach draws from Sport England's advice, models and examples used where appropriate by other authorities (Horsham District Council, Mid Suffolk District Council, Chichester District Council for example). Discussions were held with all neighbouring local authorities within Hampshire and West Sussex concerning their approaches to the development of local standards. Indicative figures for similar local authorities are shown where appropriate.

## **5.3 QUANTITATIVE STANDARDS**

### ***Sport England Active Places Power model***

Active Places Power (APP) is an online Geographical Information System covering a range of sports facility provision which can be used to benchmark existing facility coverage, identify gaps in provision and help plan for future provision. The system also allows for comparisons to be made between different types of provision across selected geographical and administrative areas. The full reports are provided at Appendix D.

Whilst the APP toolkit provides extremely useful information it is a starting point for the more detailed analysis undertaken at a local level. We have built in local knowledge including qualitative assessments, sports development objectives and cross boundary issues.

This profile does not include all the data held by APP for the Winchester District. However, through the use of four of the key strategic planning tools on APP it does seek to present key data which is deemed to be most relevant to this Built Facility Study.

Where appropriate the figures provided for the Winchester District are shown alongside the relevant figures for the Council's nearest neighbour authorities as designated by the Office of National Statistics as well as figures for the South East Region and England (see Appendix D).

### **5.3.1 'Base' or Average Standard for Provision per 1000 population**

Existing standards or levels of provision for similar rural districts are identified through Sport England and the CCPR (Central Council for Physical Recreation) representing governing bodies of sport.

The size of a sports hall is frequently measured in terms of its equivalent number of badminton courts. A four court sports hall would be a minimum of 33m x 18m (594m<sup>2</sup>).

A rectangular swimming pool is normally 25m in length for competition and club use and may be 4, 6, or 8 lanes in width. This will depend upon the anticipated levels of use by the general public for casual swimming and for instruction, and by its potential use for competition. A 4 or 6 lane pool is normally required for clubs to compete in regional leagues/competitions. The width of a smaller community competition pool of 4 lanes is commonly 8m or 8.5m.

#### ***(i) Sport England APP Facilities per 1000 population tool (indicative)***

This tool compares the population of Winchester District with the level of provision in that area to provide an estimated 'unit per 1000 population'. Information summarised in the table below and at Appendix D show the square meters of Swimming Pool and Sports Hall space per 1000 population (for all provision) along with Health and Fitness Suites by looking at the number of stations.

It is acknowledged that many of the facilities may offer restricted or no community access and therefore more detailed local analysis has been undertaken to establish more realistic existing levels and recommended standards of provision.

**(ii) Sport England APP Supply and Demand Balance tool (indicative)**

Building on the supply information provided by the Facilities per 1000 population tool the Supply & Demand tool adds in an assessment of demand. The total capacity of a facility type (based on number of visits per week during the peak period) within Winchester District is compared with the total demand generated for that facility by the population within the area. The total demand is calculated based on usage parameters developed from the National Halls and Pools Survey and user data from Sport England's Benchmarking Service. This data, available for Swimming Pools and Sports Halls only at present, is consistent with that used in the Active Places Power Plus modelling (formerly the Facilities Planning Model) and Sports Facility Calculator.

The results of this tool are expressed as a percentage figure which provides an indication as to whether there is a potential undersupply or oversupply of provision against demand within the Winchester District. As well as providing an overall figure for all provision, the percentages shown within the charts at Appendix D show different types of ownership and use of the facilities.

Where supply equals demand the percentage figure will equal 100%. However, it is appropriate to build in a comfort factor of approximately 30% because at 100% space will be at a premium. Therefore, when looking at the below figures it is useful to assume that 130% represents a figure where demand is comfortably met by supply. Any figure below 130% would suggest that supply does not at present meet identified demand.

The total figures provided by this tool have no inbuilt allowance for accessibility and cross boundary supply and demand issues. For swimming provision the tool compares the level of this supply and demand balance provided by commercial and non-commercial provision. For sports hall provision the figures separate out local authority owned provision which excludes school provision which is within the 'other provision' category (Appendix D).

Source: Sport England data sets per 1000 population - All provision

Built Facility	Existing level of provision per 1000 population	Demand and Supply balance (see notes above)
<p><b>Sports Halls</b>  <u>Indicators of all sports hall provision</u> within the District and comparison with other authorities. The supply and demand indicator shows the high level of provision outside WCC's control (unless a community use agreement is in force).</p>	<p><b>Winchester: 122.7m<sup>2</sup> (0.2 of a 4 ct. sports hall) is well in excess of the 77.5m<sup>2</sup> (0.13) average for the south east</b>, and in excess of neighbouring and similar authorities (except Rutland)  <i>E.Hants: 90.9m<sup>2</sup> Waverley: 67.7m<sup>2</sup> Guildford: 74.3m<sup>2</sup> Salisbury: 67.7m<sup>2</sup> Rutland: 138.7m<sup>2</sup></i>  <b>There is an under supply of community accessible sports halls in Winchester District.</b></p>	<p>The supply indicator for sports halls in local authority ownership for Winchester District is 33.4 (163.1 in other ownership including secondary schools), well below the 130 comfortable supply indicator.                      This compares to an average of 33.9 (109.8 other) for the south east.  <i>E Hants: 41.1 (138.8 other) Guildford: 39.7 (80.5 other) Waverley: 41.1 (134.9 other)</i></p>
<p><b>Swimming pools</b>  <u>Indicators of all provision of swimming pools.</u>                      Includes public sector local authority pools.</p>	<p><b>Winchester: 21.9m<sup>2</sup> is close to the average for the south east of 21.6m<sup>2</sup></b> but below neighbouring and similar authorities  <i>E Hants: 23.3m<sup>2</sup> Waverley: 37.5m<sup>2</sup> Guildford: 29.5m<sup>2</sup> Salisbury: 15.4m<sup>2</sup> Rutland: 26.6m<sup>2</sup></i>  <b>There is under supply of community accessible swimming pools in Winchester District.</b></p>	<p>The balance indicator for non commercial provision is 100.4 for Winchester District, well below the average of 132.6 for the south east, and neighbouring and similar authorities (<i>E.Hants 179.6, Waverley 296.4, Rutland 199.8</i>). <i>Guildford</i> and <i>Salisbury</i> are also well below the comfortable balance indicator of 130.</p>
<p><b>Fitness Gyms</b>  <u>Figures represent access to public and commercial sector provision.</u></p>	<p><b>Winchester: 3.7 stations is less than the 5.1 average for the south east</b> and compared to neighbouring and similar authorities  <i>E. Hants: 3.9 Waverley: 5.4 Guildford: 4.5 Salisbury: 4.7 Rutland: 4.1</i>  <b>There is an under supply of fitness stations in Winchester District.</b></p>	<p><i>There is no Sport England supply and demand balance guidance available.</i> The average level of provision for the whole of England is 5.3 stations per 1000 population                      A base standard level of provision is 5 stations (or 20m<sup>2</sup>) per 1,000 population.</p>



### **Sports halls**

A further comparison can be made with ‘family’ authorities, based on the number of people per 4 court community accessible pay and play sports hall.

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>No of facilities</b>	<b>Pop per facility</b>
Winchester City	107,303	8	13,413
Salisbury	114,600	7	16,371
Guildford	129,741	4	32,435
Waverley	115,592	4	38,530

*Source - Inspace Planning Ltd research 2007*

The population of the Winchester District is projected to increase from c. 113,000 in 2006 to c. 125,000 in 2016 to c. 132,000 in 2026 (*Source: Hampshire County Council - see paragraph 5.7*).

Excluding one and two badminton court halls, we have identified 8 sports halls currently offering available community use (34 badminton courts within 2 leisure centres and 6 colleges and schools), an equivalent of 1 x 4 court sports hall per 12,600 population in 2006. **This represents an existing level of community accessible sports halls of 47.6m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population.**

There are a further four colleges and schools which could potentially offer community use (or substantial additional community use) of their sport halls (Henry Beaufort School, Peter Symonds College, Princes Mead School, Westgate Secondary School). This would then increase the number of community accessible sports halls to 12 (50 badminton courts) serving a population of 9,040 per equivalent 4 court sports hall, although only restricted community use of school sports halls would apply.

Catchment mapping of sport halls in the Winchester District (see Appendix D - *Inspace Planning Ltd Sports halls Catchment Map*) shows a 15 minute drive time ‘access gap’ to a 4 court sports hall in the central/south rural area of the District.

### **Swimming pools**

For swimming pools a ‘family’ authority comparison of 22 metre plus, 4-lane indoor pools is shown below.

<b>LA</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>No of facilities</b>	<b>Pop per facility</b>
Waverley	115,592	5	23,118
Winchester City	107,303	3	35,767
Salisbury	114,600	2	57,300
Guildford	129,741	2	64,870

*Source - Inspace Planning Ltd research - 2007*

While this comparison suggests that the local authority fares comparatively well in terms of general levels of provision, we have identified through Sport England’s APP Personal Share tool (see below) that residents in certain geographical areas are unable to access these pools within a 15 minute drive

time. Demand within the 'access gap' to a pool provided in Winchester District to the south of the District (see Appendix D - *Inspace Planning Ltd Swimming Pools catchment map*) is in the main met by 25m swimming pools in Havant and Waterlooville.

Approximately 22m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population is identified by the Sport England APP model as the current level of (all) provision within the District. However, we have identified 3 x swimming pools (17 lanes) offering 'pay and play' community access (excluding private membership pools and primary schools), equating to 1 swimming pool per 37,700 population or 1 x lane per 6,650 population in 2006. This equates to **an existing level of community accessible swimming pools (on a 'pay and play' basis) of 6.7m<sup>2</sup> (or .15 lanes) per 1000 population.** (This excludes private/commercial sector provision accessible only through private club membership schemes). Excluded from these figures are St. Swithin's School (offering private swimming lessons), and Ridgemed Primary School (20m pool) which offers restricted community access.

### ***Fitness Gymnasia***

Information has been compiled from public and private sectors, schools and colleges, and from neighbouring districts where possible to compare with Sport England reports. **The average provision in Winchester District currently within public and private sectors (all provision 418 stations) is 3.7 stations per 1000 population,** below the 5 stations per 1000 population average for the south east.

Sport England's assessments show that the shortfall (all provision, commercial and non-commercial) is c.1.3 stations per 1000 population. This excludes cross boundary migration of use to neighbouring authority fitness gym facilities.

Use of fitness gyms is most commonly on a membership basis whether in the public or private sector and therefore it is relevant to include all provision within the local standard calculations. Public and private sector price differentiation and location of the gyms determine how the market will respond to provision. In addition, whilst the market is experiencing saturation in many areas, we consider that there is the capacity to expand provision towards the 'average' for the south east within the Winchester District.

### ***Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)***

There is no fixed base standard for STP provision as they are becoming increasingly popular including for hockey training and competition and for football training. Many schools view an STP as a requirement (land permitting) for delivery of the National Curriculum, and will offer community use as a condition of funding and/or as an income stream.

There are 4 existing full size floodlit and community accessible STPs in Winchester District. School facilities have limited community access (out of school hours) and may not be floodlit. Proposals for a 90% full size floodlit STP was recently given planning approval for Henry Beaufort School.

A comparison with other 'family' authorities is shown below (based on 2001 Census population):

<b>Local Authority</b>	<b>Population</b>	<b>No of facilities</b>	<b>Pop per facility</b>
Waverley DC	115,592	5	23,118
<b>Winchester CC</b>	<b>107,303</b>	<b>4*</b>	<b>26,825</b>
Guildford	129,741	3	43,247
Salisbury	114,600	2	57,300

*Source - Inspace Planning Ltd research*

2007

\*increasing to five as one at Henry Beaufort School now has planning approval.

With the population of Winchester at c.113,000 in 2006 **the existing level of community accessible full size STPs is 283m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population** or one community accessible STP per 22,500 population.

### **5.3.2 The Sport England APP Personal Share Tool (indicative)**

*Facility and catchment mapping developed by Inspace Planning Ltd and by Sport England is contained within Appendices D and F.*

The 'Personal Share of Facilities' looks at the following (*Source: Sport England personal Share Tool - Appendix D*)

- the total demand generated by the population of a selected geographical area (ward or super output area), and
- the total space of a selected provision type available to that population (total share).

By dividing the total space/share by the total demand an output figure is produced which can be used to provide an indication of the level of access one population has to a facility type relative to another (their 'personal share').

The demand is calculated in the same way as the Local Supply and Demand Balance Tool. The total share or space available to the population within the selected geographical area is however different to that expressed in the 'Local Supply and Demand Balance' tool. The personal share tool builds in the accessibility factor as it looks across local authority boundaries to calculate the provision available to the population within designated distance thresholds (15-20 minutes drive time in rural areas and 20 minutes walk time in areas classified as urban) and so may include provision in a different authority to the population. This approach therefore more accurately reflects behavioural patterns rather than looking at a local authority area in isolation.

The total share (of space) is divided by the total demand to produce a 'personal share' figure which provides an indication as to the level of access residents have to the facility type.

Where personal share matches demand the personal share figure will be 1. In line with the Local Supply and Demand Balance tool it is ideal to build in a comfort factor of approximately 30% therefore assuming areas with figures of, or in excess of, 1.3 have access to an adequate level of provision within the above thresholds to meet their demand. At Appendix D the charts show both total figures and how much of this personal share figure is a result of non commercial and commercial provision at ward level.

### ***Sports halls***

On the basis of the Personal Share tool there are no wards within Winchester below the threshold of adequate access to 4 court sport halls available to the general public (includes sports halls and school halls out of school hours).

### ***Swimming Pools***

Sub areas with reduced or less than adequate access to swimming pools available to the general public, based on quantity and accessibility, are:

Sub Area 1	None
Sub Area 2	Kings Worthy, Wonston and Micheldever
Sub Area 3	Itchen Valley
Sub Area 4	Bishops Waltham, Droxford, Swanmore
Sub Area 5	Colden Common, Owslebury
Sub Area 6	Shedfield, Wickham
Sub Area 7	Whiteley
Sub Area 8	Boarhunt, Southwick and Widley, Denmead

### **5.3.3 Sport England Single Facility Catchment profiles**

Contained at Appendix D are Sport England's Single Facility Catchment reports providing and analysing population data within a 10 minute drive time catchment of selected sports facilities. These are provided for River Park Leisure Centre and Meadowside Leisure Centre.

## **5.4 TRAVEL THRESHOLDS**

The time and distance thresholds used for accessibility of facilities have been derived from (i) Sport England's Active Places Power Survey national data, (ii) calculations for the effective catchment areas for sports halls and swimming pools from the Inspace Community Consultation Surveys locally, and (ii) from our own assessments and previous studies.

The table below shows approximate times and distances people will walk or drive to the type of facility indicated. We have not included cycling times/distances which relate in the main to young people making local short journeys to community facilities.

Facility	Walking	Driving catchment
Sports halls	20 minutes	15 minutes
Swimming pools	20 minutes	15 - 20 minutes
Fitness Gyms	10 minutes	10 - 15 minutes
STPs Pitches and MUGAs	20 - 30 mins.	20 - 30 minutes
Indoor Bowls	15-20 minutes	15 - 20 minutes
Indoor tennis	20 minutes	15 - 20 minutes
Community Halls	20 minutes	10 - 15 minutes

This is not of course an exact science, but the above walking and driving times translate approximately, subject to precise local conditions not evaluated within this Study, as:

- 20 minute walking time represents 1,500 metres distance
- 10-15 minute walking time represents 1,000 metres distance
- 15 minute drive time represents 5 km catchment distance
- 10 minute drive time represents 3 km catchment distance.

Catchment mapping of 15 minute drive time travel thresholds for swimming pools, sports halls, health and fitness gyms, synthetic turf pitches and synthetic athletic tracks is provided by Inspace Planning Ltd at Appendix D.

### **5.5 Rationale for establishing local standards/levels of provision for Winchester District**

Using the appropriate 'base' or average existing local levels of provision identified for rural districts, we have then applied key issues by geographical area or related to specific built facilities (based upon quantitative, qualitative and accessibility criteria) as identified within this study. This enables the appropriate hierarchy of provision to be established for the District and Sub Areas, identifying gaps and to meet the needs and demand identified over the next ten years.

The local area 'overlay' has included consideration of:

- local community expressed priorities for sport and recreation provision as identified by Inspace Planning Ltd through their Community Surveys and discussions with Parish and Town Councils, through Officer and stakeholder consultations and local knowledge;

-our approach linked to quality, quantity and accessibility assessment as outlined above, where there may be a different weighting given in establishing the local standard (eg subject to location, condition, age of the facility etc);

-geographical area and potential impacts of housing development (such as the potential future development of Winchester City (North), North Whiteley or the West of Waterlooville MDA (impacting upon the study area);

-corporate priorities as identified within the Councils' strategy documents and Local Development Framework; and

-sporting priorities identified through Regional Governing Bodies of Sport facility development plans, Sport Hampshire and Isle of Wight, emerging Sport and Physical Activity Alliances, local sports councils and clubs.

### **5.5.1 Approach to the provision of a Hierarchy of Facilities**

Based upon comparisons of sports facility provision and the areas they serve within similar local authorities, we can identify a hierarchy of built facility provision as follows:

**-Local provision** Serving a small area accessible within 10 minutes walk

*Such as a village hall, equipped play area, primary school hall.*

**-Neighbourhood provision** Serving a village, or neighbourhood within one of the larger settlements, still a short walk away

*Such as a skate park, community hall, multi-use games area, secondary school sports hall.*

**-Sub-district provision** Serving part of the District, or group of neighbourhoods, which may be accessed on foot or by wheeled.

*Such as a sports or leisure centre, private health club and fitness gym, artificial turf pitches.*

**-District provision** Serving all residents in the District (and residents outside the district, maybe with a County function) and mainly accessible by wheeled transport.

*Such as a dedicated Gymnastics Centre, indoor climbing wall, district football/ rugby/hockey/cricket/ club, indoor bowls hall, indoor tennis courts, athletics track.*

**-Sub Regional provision** Serving all residents within the sub region, providing specialist sports facilities for use for training and competition at a high level of performance (and elite athletes) and also for

dedicated regional sports programmes and training squads (and perhaps community use at a local level)

*Examples would include the 50m swimming pool at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth (opening in 2009), the 8 lane athletics track in Winchester (opening in 2008), a dedicated Regional Gymnastics Centre, the Badminton Centre at Westgate School, the substantial Climbing Wall at Alton Sports Centre.*

The above hierarchy and local issues have identified where existing and potential gaps in local community built sports facility provision lead to recommendations for levels of provision for adoption within the Strategies and Action Plans for each Sub Area as outlined contained in Sections 6 and 7.

### **5.5.2 Population growth and housing development**

The number of dwellings and population growth for the Winchester District is forecast by Hampshire County Council to 2026 based upon the required housing provision contained within the South East Plan, the Regional Spatial Strategy for the South East and HCC's Structure Plan Review (Policy H2). Population growth to 2026 is anticipated as follow:

<b>Winchester</b>	<b>2006</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2026</b>
Dwellings	47,146	54,155	59,582
Population	113,048	125,153	132,279

[www.hants.gov.uk/planning/factsandfigures](http://www.hants.gov.uk/planning/factsandfigures)

The population of the District is projected to change during the Local Development Framework period to 2026 - the total population being some 132,000 of which approximately 79,000 will be of working age and 30,000 over 65.

#### ***The focus of housing development***

Winchester District needs to provide for an additional 12,240 dwellings within its Local Development Framework. Consultation on the Core Strategy's Issues and Options Paper is taking place in early 2008 on the strategic options and broad locations where these dwellings might be accommodated.

The District divides into three distinct areas, each of which has different considerations when proposing a growth strategy:

- Availability of local employment opportunities
- Public transport services to neighbouring settlements and further afield
- Range of services and facilities including shops, education and health provision
- Opportunities for growth/change and relationship with neighbouring settlements.

The southern part of the District is part of urban South Hampshire, and development in the main settlements there will be influenced by the two Strategic Development Areas (SDAs) proposed on the southern edge of the District (North of Hedge End and North of Fareham). Winchester is the dominant centre in the central and more rural part of the District, and further growth is one of the options being considered. Within the rural area, the balance of any development needs is likely to be focused on the main market towns.

In developing local standards of built facility provision and associated action plans account has been taken of the possible location and extent of new dwellings and population growth over the next ten years and beyond.

### ***Developer contributions***

We recognise within this process that the Local Development Framework, through developer contributions, must make adequate provision for community facilities linked to housing development (or other types of development), including for indoor, outdoor, sport and recreation and informal open space. This may be achieved in a number of ways:

- by additional provision within or outside the development site
- by the improvement of existing facilities which relate to the site at local, district or sub-regional level
- consideration of unique circumstances or special cases such as redevelopment on MOD land, and ensuring
- robust analysis following the guidelines of PPG17.

Sport England has provided indicative methods of calculating developer contributions towards sports halls and swimming pools.

### **5.5.3 Quality issues**

It is recognised that residents, clubs and schools will pay no attention to administrative boundaries when selecting their preferred venues for their activities, other than where residents are more likely to use their own local village or community hall than that of a neighbouring settlement. Decisions on where to take part in sport and recreation activities will relate to, in no order of priority:

- the size, quality and nature of the facility required
- its capability of meeting your specific requirements
- its accessibility by your preferred means of travel both in terms of time, security, and convenience
- the quality of programme organisation
- the quality of instructors if relevant (venues, sports clubs)
- overall ambience and enjoyment of visit
- ability to park, and
- overall value for money.



Many residents of the Winchester District will participate at venues within neighbouring authorities if the venue is better able to satisfy the particular priorities for the individual amongst the above list of criteria. Our discussions with neighbouring authorities, summarised in Appendix E, indicates where inward and outward migration of use is occurring. As outlined above, issues of quantity and type, quality ('fit for purpose') and accessibility will all come into play in establishing and tailoring the type, level and quality of local facility provision.

**Key notes:**

- A very high proportion of the facilities in the Winchester District are in Sub Area 1 (population 43,300).
- There is a lack of indoor provision in the south and east of the District. Options should be explored to develop 'multi- hub' large village/community halls.
- There may be an advantage for the Council to 'buy into' neighbouring new provision such as the possible redevelopment of the Havant Leisure Centre.

**5.6 Recommendations for local standards/levels of provision**

The proposed average standards/levels of provision for the Winchester District take account of the above comparisons and particular local circumstances, including migration of use outside the District boundary.

***Sports Halls***

**A target of 1 x 4 court community accessible sports halls per 11,000 population is suggested representing 11.3 equivalent 4 court halls in Winchester District by 2016 and 12 equivalent sports halls by 2026 (currently 9 equivalent).** One additional hall is included compared to the Inspace Source. With a 4 court sports hall measuring 33m x 18m (say 600m<sup>2</sup>), this would represent **a local standard/level of provision of 54.5m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population.**

While this is less than the average for the south east (based upon the Sport England APP model for all sports halls), there is the potential to increase the level of community access to college and school facilities through partnership working and community use agreements. Proposals to increase access to existing sports halls and potential locations for new facilities are contained in Sections 6 and 7.

***Swimming Pools***

**A target of 1 x 6 lane 25m community accessible swimming pools per 25,000 population is suggested representing 5 equivalent swimming pools (or 30 lanes) in Winchester District by 2016 and 5.3 (32 lanes) by 2026,** subject to population growth following new housing development as identified. With a 25m x 6 lane community pool swimming measuring 25m x 13m (325m<sup>2</sup>), this would represent **a local standard/level of provision of 13m<sup>2</sup> (or .04 of a 6 lane swimming pool) per 1000 population.**

**Fitness Gyms**

A target provision of 4 stations per 1000 population or 16m<sup>2</sup> of gym space per 1000 population is suggested, subject to commercial considerations and review of this market potentially reaching saturation in some areas. This represents 500 stations by 2016 and 528 stations by 2026 compared to the current provision of 418 stations in Winchester District.

**Synthetic turf pitches**

A target of 1 x community accessible full size floodlit STP per 20,000 population is suggested, representing 6.25 pitches by 2016 and 6.6 by 2026. With a full size STP between 6,400m<sup>2</sup> and 6,600m<sup>2</sup>, this would represent a local standard/level of provision of 330m<sup>2</sup> per 1,000 population (370m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population for 7 pitches).

The table below translates the recommended standard per 1000 population into the number of facilities required commensurate with projected population growth to 2016 and 2026.

**Recommended standards/levels of provision**

Sports Facility	Proposed standard per 1000 pop	Proposed facility per no. population	Current provision per 1000 pop	Current shortfall per 1000 pop	Quantity required -shortfall by 2016	Quantity required -shortfall by 2026
<b>Sports halls</b> <i>with community access</i>	54.5m <sup>2</sup> (0.1 hall)	1 per 11,000	47.6m <sup>2</sup> (9 halls included)	<b>6.9m<sup>2</sup> (1.3 halls)</b>	11.3 (2.3)	12 (3)
<b>Swimming pools</b> <i>with community access</i>	13m <sup>2</sup> (.04 pool)	1 per 25,000	8.6m <sup>2</sup> (3 pools included)	<b>4.4m<sup>2</sup> (1.53 Pools)</b>	5 (2)	5.3 (2.3)
<b>Fitness Gyms</b> <i>All provision</i>	4 stations -16m <sup>2</sup> gym space	1 station per 250	3.7 stations (418 total)	<b>.3 stns (34 in total)</b>	500 stations in total	528 stations in total
<b>Synthetic turf pitches</b> <i>All provision</i>	330m <sup>2</sup> (.05 pitch)	1 per 20,000	283m <sup>2</sup> (0.04) (5 pitches)	<b>47m<sup>2</sup> (0.8 pitches)</b>	6.3 (1.3)	6.6 (1.6)
<b>O/D Tennis Courts</b> <i>all courts</i>	0.8 courts	2 per 2,500	0.6 court (74 courts included)	<b>0.2 (23 courts)</b>	100 (28 courts)	106 (34 courts)
<b>Indoor Bowls Rinks</b>	05 rink	1 rink per 20,000	1 x 6 rink centre per 120,000 population	<b>No shortfall</b>	6 rink indoor centre	6 rink indoor centre

### **Outdoor Tennis Courts**

Based upon the open space minimum standards of 1.5 ha per 1000 population, 0.75 ha should be designated for outdoor sport including tennis court provision.

The proposed levels of provision, quality and access to public and private tennis courts varies considerably across the Winchester District according to local interest and the relative pro-activity of parishes councils and tennis clubs. The Lawn Tennis Association Regional Tennis Operations Manager and Sport England acknowledge that public and private sector provision in a given area are interdependent, with need and demand responding to policies with regard to access and community programmes, maintenance and floodlighting.

As a general guide, the LTA recommend the following standards for funding assistance based upon membership levels:

- one court per 40 members,
- one floodlit court per 60 members, and
- one indoor court per 200 members.

In developing a local standards approach for outdoor tennis court provision it is recommended by the LTA that the following could be considered.

*'Courts should be of a good quality playing surface with ancillary facilities where appropriate, including changing, parking and facilities for a range of age groups. The maintenance and management of courts should be undertaken ensuring safe and effective usage and, where appropriate, access to coaching should be made available.'*

The Study has identified 74 courts (mix of tarmac, synthetic and grass) provided by clubs, town and parish councils, some with restricted community access, and paragraph 5.7 indicates where shortfalls in public and/or private outdoor tennis courts may need to be addressed.

The Community Tennis Foundation has recently been established by the LTA which is exploring ways of working with local authorities. This could include the establishment of clusters of outdoor courts (local authorities working together) with a contracted external tennis coach, part funded through the LTA.

**A targeted minimum provision of 2 community accessible tennis courts per 2,500 population is suggested (inclusive of public sector and voluntary sector, or club, provision). This equates to a local standard of 0.8 tennis courts per 1,000 population.** Meeting this standard would provide 100 courts by 2016 and 106 by 2026. Indoor tennis courts should be considered where management and additional facilities are already in place. An example of this is the Winchester Tennis and Squash Club which has recently been granted planning approval for four indoor tennis courts.

### **Indoor Bowls**

With reference to Sport England's sports and area profiles for Winchester contained in the Appendices, our study concludes that there is no shortfall of current provision of indoor bowls centres compared to similar and family authorities. The need and demand would appear to be satisfied by the 6 rink Indoor Bowls Centre adjacent to River Park Leisure Centre. There are also accessible 6 rink indoor bowls centres in neighbouring boroughs and districts (Chawton Park Indoor Bowls Centre in Alton and at Havant Leisure Centre). **A targeted provision of 1 rink per 20,000 population (one 6 rink indoor bowls centre per 120,000 population) would appear to accommodate demand.** This requirement would remain as 1 x 6 rinks centre in 2016 and in 2026 for the Winchester District.

### **Community halls**

We concur with Inspace Planning Ltd's findings that there is no definitive local standard for the provision of local community halls in terms of scope and provision for sporting activities. The larger the local population the more multi-use community hall accommodation will be required. There is a diverse level of provision across the Winchester District and through visits and community consultation Inspace Planning Ltd was able to assess quantity, quality and accessibility issues for the different size settlements and sub areas.

The size of a community hall should be determined by the nature of the activities that it is designed to accommodate, the size of the population that it will serve and its accessibility (15 minute walk) to that population. A floor area of 400m<sup>2</sup> is suggested as a guide for the minimum size to provide a main hall that can be used for dances, performances, reception, meetings, and sports activities such as badminton, carpet bowls and table tennis, a small meeting/committee room and ancillary facilities. Community halls of this size are complementary to smaller village halls.

A target provision of one such facility per 2,500 to 5,000 population, giving a notional local standard of between 80m<sup>2</sup> and 160m<sup>2</sup> per 1000 population, subject to local circumstances relating to local need and demand, proximity to larger sports facilities, and accessibility. The Study identifies the specific settlements where improvements or new provision of a community hall to this standard might be recommended.

## **5.7 Future provision**

Suggested locations and opportunities for further examination are:

### **Sports halls (4 badminton court size)**

- North Whiteley, associated with the possible new housing development (would be accessible to Sub Areas 4, 6, 7, 8)
- increased community access to secondary school and college sports halls
- north of Winchester, associated with possible new housing development

**Swimming pools (25m x 6 lane)**

- North Whiteley, associated with possible new housing development (would be accessible to Sub Areas 4, 6, 7, 8)
- north of Winchester, as a possible replacement to the River Park Leisure Centre swimming pool in the future (would be accessible to Sub Areas 1, 2, 3, 5).

**Fitness Stations**

- subject to future and ongoing assessment of supply and demand.

**Synthetic Turf Pitches (STPs)**

- new STP provision at Bar End, University of Winchester and the Henry Beaufort School (planning permission recently approved) (Sub Area 1)

**Multi-Use Games Areas (MUGAs)**

- Bishop Waltham has an identified the need for a MUGA (Sub Area 4)
- the need for a MUGA is identified for Sub Area 6
- the need for a MUGA is identified for Denmead (Sub Area 7)

**Outdoor Tennis Courts (Source: Inspace Planning Ltd)**

- tennis courts needed in Micheldever (Sub Area 2)
- public tennis courts needed in Itchen Valley and improvements to courts and clubhouse proposed at Arlebury Park (Sub Area 3)
- Bishop Waltham Tennis Club needs additional courts and clubhouse (Sub Area 4)
- public tennis courts needed in Otterbourne and additional courts and floodlights needed at Compton and Shawford LTC (Sub Area 5)
- additional public tennis courts needed in Sub Area 6
- demand at Denmead LTC requires expansion of their facilities
- indoor courts are planned for Winchester Tennis and Squash Club

**Indoor Bowls**

- no further provision is proposed within the Winchester District in addition to the existing 6 rink indoor bowling centre adjacent to River Park Leisure Centre. Benchmark comparison has identified a similar level of provision in similar districts.

**Sports pavilions**

- there is an identified need for either new provision or refurbishment linked to playing pitch provision as addressed within the Inspace Planning Ltd Open Space Study.

**Village/Community halls**

The following notes refer to the Inspace Planning Ltd Study findings and will require more detailed feasibility and potential usage analysis to define specific locations and specifications. Guidance on specifications and multi activity use is provided within *Sport England's Design and Guidance: Village and Community Halls*.

Sub Area 1

-no specific requirements are identified.

Sub Area 2

-there is a need for a multi activity community hall in South Wonston. There are community halls in Wonston (needing improvement), Micheldever, Crawley, Sparsholt (Sub Area 2)  
-Princes Mead School - community access to the sports hall is being sought by the school.

Sub Area 3

-Itchen Abbas Village Hall needs improvement.

Sub Area 4

-Droxford does not have access to a Village Hall  
-Bishops Waltham has an identified need to access gym/sports hall facilities and the tennis club needs additional courts and clubhouse  
-Swanmore College - community use agreement is in place for access to its sports hall, gym and STP.

Sub Area 5

-all parishes have access to village halls except Twyford  
-there is a need for accessible indoor sports/community centre provision for Hursley, Colden Common and Otterbourne. Otterbourne needs public tennis courts.

Sub Area 6

-no specific requirements were identified.

Sub Area 7

-improved community hall provision for sports activities is needed.

Sub Area 8

-no community hall shortfall in provision was identified.

## **5.8 Strategy and Action Plans**

Having identified suggested local standards or levels of provision per 1000 population (or as relevant to the facility type) and having assessed particular implications of quantity, quality and accessibility by geographical area following the above rationale and processes, we have identified Action Plans (see Section 7) which include examination where appropriate of preferred locations and specifications for projected shortfalls in provision.

The suggested Action Plans include realistic proposals which identify, where practical, implications of time, priority, resources and funding.

## **6.0 KEY ISSUES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

A number of key issues have emerged during completion of the audit of facilities and from discussions with neighbouring authorities and with NGB officer representatives. These are summarised below in no order of priority:

### **New housing development**

- **Identify new community, sport and recreation built facility requirements linked to major housing development**

Development at West of Waterlooville, and potential development at Winchester City (North) and possibly North Whiteley will require the provision of new community halls and sports facilities.

### **Hierarchy of provision**

- **Adoption by the Council of an agreed hierarchy of provision for Winchester District (Quantity)**

Based upon the outcomes of this Study and agreed levels of geographically based hierarchies of provision.

- **The role of the public, education, private and voluntary sectors and neighbouring authorities in contributing to this hierarchy of built facility provision (Accessibility)**

There is a need to establish formal Community Use agreements with secondary schools which play an important role for community sport and recreation.

### **Community halls**

- **The role and quality of village halls/community centres and identification of 'hub' centres in contributing to the hierarchy of provision at a local parish level particularly in the rural areas (Quantity, Quality, Accessibility)**

More detailed assessments of quality, quantity, and accessibility will contribute towards establishing a Community Halls Strategy for the District. Advice is available from Action with Communities in Rural England and their Corporate Report (2007-2010) and there is a village halls advisor for Hampshire.

### **Community Transport**

- **The need to develop sustainable community transport commensurate with accessibility to built community and specialist sports facilities**

In view of the difficulties of logistics and cost of leisure focused community transport extending into rural areas, there is a need, addressed though this Study, to provide accessible community/village halls of sufficient size and quality to accommodate a range of

recreational sporting activities within key settlements. This need not preclude the development of a possible community/leisure bus within the District that could operate and be costed in association with planned sport specific programmes and events, as well as provision of safe cycle paths and footpaths.

### **Existing local authority stock**

- **Ageing Stock – River Park Leisure Centre**

River Park Leisure Centre has been redeveloped and upgraded including resources being provided by the leisure contractors DC Leisure. A recent condition survey indicates that ongoing works will be required in order to maintain the building to an acceptable standard. An appraisal of future options for the Centre is needed including scope for a capital receipt being generated from the site.

- **Limitations of Meadowside Leisure Centre**

The Centre was originally provided for use as a community centre and has been adapted for use as a leisure centre - there are a number of limitations which restrict use. Consideration is being given to provision of a pool at North Whiteley as part of new housing development and the opportunity to provide dryside facilities could be explored which would provide purpose built/appropriate provision for this part of the District.

In the interim there is scope to provide funding to improve and expand the venue particularly to strengthen the floor to enable other activities to take place and increase income. The Parish Council use the venue and specifically the meeting rooms for Council meetings and it is understood that alternative arrangements could be considered in the future.

There is a potential opportunity to link the proposal for a new swimming pool with the Amateur Swimming Association's Draft Regional Strategy for Swimming.

### **Education sites**

- **Differing range and quality of facilities at Education sites**

The quality of provision provided at school and other education sites in the District varies considerably and those schools without adequate provision are all considering opportunities to improve provision – Henry Beaufort, Westgate and Sparsholt College are perhaps those in the greatest need to improve provision particularly for pupils and students. Sparsholt College are considering options for development including provision of indoor recreation space following confirmation of capital funding for improvement of facilities onsite.



The issue of school swimming pools has recently been reviewed by Hampshire County Council and a decision has been made to close a significant number – one of the pools located in the Winchester District will stay open – Ridgemedede Junior School which will benefit with the other 13 sites that are staying open from funding of £700k for improvements.

- **Potential conflict issue at Westgate between the school and the Badminton Centre**

There is a potential conflict/issue between the Badminton Centre and Westgate School over the arrangements for usage and management/maintenance of the Centre. In addition the Centre is looking to increase the number of courts and this will not be achieved without the support of the School and Winchester City Council.

The School is exploring opportunities for development of outdoor provision and upgrading of indoor provision, some of which is in a poor state of repair.

- **Establishment of BSF Stakeholder Group**

Advice on Building Schools for the Future is that one of the first steps is to establish a local stakeholder group linking with the relevant Community Sports Partnership and with the local SPAA.

### **Synthetic turf pitches**

- **Proposals for STP developments**

A number of facilities are exploring the development of Synthetic Turf Pitches – the main development is proposed at Henry Beaufort School– the proposal is for an STP (90 % of the full size). Planning permission has recently been granted. In addition, Winchester Rugby Club and Winchester Football Club are both considering STP developments. There is scope to consider a joint development which both clubs and others could use. Consideration needs to be given to the requirements of potential users and the best location.

### **Ministry of Defence**

- **Access to Army sites for community use**

The two army sites in the District are used by local clubs, although most of the use is at the Sir John Moore Barracks. There are operational issues, particularly over security; however, the changes proposed for usage of the camps - in particular that Sir John Moore Barracks - is for the training of junior soldiers. This provides an opportunity to develop links with other facility providers such as Sparsholt College and local clubs. Good links have already been established between the Army and Winchester Rugby Club with regard to Army apprentices making use of the club for sports activity.

## **Winchester District SPAA (Sport and Physical Activity Alliance)**

- **Scope for joint working between facility providers and clubs**  
There is perhaps an opportunity to encourage/develop co-operation and joint working between facility providers in the District – perhaps under the auspices of the SPAA and also the establishment of a facilities forum or sub group to share information and co-operate on projects and initiatives.
- **Opportunity to develop a strategy under the auspices of the Winchester SPAA**  
The development of a Strategy for Sports Facilities could be undertaken by the SPAA working with other key partners. This would enable ownership across a range of partners and perhaps would provide enhanced opportunities for co-operation and joint-working.

### **Joint working**

- **Sub regional working – joint planning, procurement and future management**  
The work being undertaken by both authorities could also link into projects being undertaken or being considered on a countywide basis by Hants and IOW CLOA (Culture and Leisure Officers Association). This could include joint planning of facilities, particularly specialist provision, joint procurement of contracts which could result in cost savings and development/buy in to common management systems and processes including client monitoring and management of sports facilities.

### **Governing Bodies of Sport**

- **Consultee on Regional Strategies and Plans**  
The Regional ASA and the Hampshire FA are currently drafting new or revised regional strategies and there is scope to input into these documents as a consultee.

### **Benchmarking**

- **More formalised benchmarking**  
More formalised benchmarking against similar built facilities with neighbouring authorities and/or with the council's 'family' of authorities could be introduced. The Council could consider undertaking the National Benchmarking Survey and service provided by Sport England (ref. Test Valley) at a cost in the order of £1,500 to £4,000 per centre subject to whether surveys are conducted by internal or external personnel.

An alternative might be to benchmark across Hampshire through CLOA, the Culture and Leisure Officers Association or through the District's leisure management contractor (DC Leisure).

## **7.0 DRAFT ACTION PLAN**

As required by the brief, this Section provides a suggested three to five year Action Plan, that we proposed is reviewed, once approved, during Year 3, the Plan then being extended to 2018.

### **Strategic objectives**

The suggested Action Plans relate to specific strategic objectives adopted by the Council as identified in Section 2.

### **KEY**

#### ***Timescale/Years***

The following table suggests Action Plans ordered according to the different Sub Areas, suggested priority (A -Years 1-2, B - Years 3-5, and C - Years 6 and beyond). Where appropriate and possible the table identifies partner agencies and resources required.

#### ***Partner Agencies***

WCC - Winchester City Council  
EBC - Eastleigh Borough Council  
BDBC - Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council  
EHDC - East Hampshire District Council  
TVBC - Test Valley Borough Council  
HDC - Havant District Council  
PCC - Portsmouth City Council  
SCC - Southampton City Council  
HCC - Hampshire County Council  
EP - English Partnerships  
PUSH - Partnership for South Hampshire  
DCL - DC Leisure  
UoW - University of Winchester  
SC - Sparsholt College  
JMB - Sir John Moore Barracks  
WRC - Winchester Rugby Club  
WCFC - Winchester City Football Club  
SE - Sport England  
WACA - Winchester Area Community Action

**DRAFT ACTION PLAN**

	<b>ACTION</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Partner agencies (lead in bold)</b>	<b>WCC/Other Resources</b>	<b>Comments/Strategic objectives</b>
	<b>Local Development Framework</b>					
<b>1</b>	Council Officers to progress agreed formats for Sub Area levels of built facility provision for sport and recreation for adoption by the Council. Link with Core Strategy consultation process. Adoption of hierarchy of provision by the Council.	A	1	<b>WCC</b>	WCC Officers	Core Strategy consultation document produced in December 2007.
<b>2</b>	Community halls - Develop a Community Halls Strategy for built community recreational/sports facilities, linked to key hub and local hub settlements (p/o the wider hierarchy of provision being developed by the Council)	A	1-2	<b>WCC</b>	WCC Officers	Greenspace and Built Facility Strategies are likely to be developed as Supplementary Planning Documents and are likely to support a Core Strategy policy related to the improvement of facilities.
	<b>Joint working initiatives</b>					
<b>1</b>	Council Officers to progress joint working initiatives between neighbouring authorities linked to built facility provision for common catchment areas	A	1-5	<b>WCC, EHDC, HDC, PCC, TVBC, SCC, EBC, BDBC</b>	Internal and external/Officers	Community/parish consultation will be required

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2	Community Transport - Develop schemes for improved community transport, and local as well as cross boundary access to built facilities.	A-B	1-5	<b>WCC</b> , HCC Neighbouring authorities	HCC and WCC Officers, WACA	Community/parish consultation will be required
3	Building Schools for the Future - meetings with HCC Schools Organisation Dept. to progress HCC's BSF Strategy - sports facility elements. Meetings with Heads of Schools/Colleges as appropriate. Establish stakeholder forum.	A  A	1  1	<b>HCC, WCC</b>  <b>WCC</b> , HCC and schools/colleges <b>HCC, WCC</b>	HCC and WDC Officers	To include Sparsholt College, Peter Symonds College, Henry Beaufort, Kings, Perins, Swanmore and Westgate Schools.  Community consultation
	<b>Sub-area 1: Winchester area</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Partner agencies</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	River Park Leisure Centre Strategy - Develop long term strategy taking account of (i) condition, and (ii) spatial provision requirements linked to the possible future development north of Winchester.	A/B/C	2-5+	<b>WCC</b> , DCL	WCC Officers  External consultants  DC Leisure	Need for Feasibility Study to identify detailed facility requirements and business plan for future facility provision, linked to possible future development north of Winchester
2	Commence renegotiation/tender process for the management of River Park Centre. Link to future strategy for the centre.	A	2	<b>WCC</b> EHDC, WDC	WCC Officers EHDC and WDC Officers  DCL Legal advice	Consider joint leisure management contract or Leisure Trust in partnership with neighbouring authorities. Tender process required. Consider if capital injection sought from the operator.

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<b>3</b>	Schools - Develop Community Use Agreements with Henry Beaufort School and Westgate School in view of improved facility proposals.	A	2-5	<b>WCC, HCC, Schools</b>		Possible involvement of Sport England if Sport Lottery funding applied for.
<b>4</b>	University - Progress discussions with University of Winchester re a formal Community Use Agreement linked to Bar End Athletics track and any further sports facility developments.	A	1-3	<b>WCC, UoW</b>	WCC Officers	
<b>5</b>	Winchester Rugby Club - conclude discussions re possibility of acquiring two further pitches. Consider Club's STP proposal in the light of the wider STP rationale including sharing with Football Club.	A	1	<b>WCC, WRC</b>	WCC Officers Club reps. (rugby and football)	
<b>6</b>	Winchester City Football Club - consider proposal to relocate clubhouse. Consider wider District rational for STP provision, including sharing with Rugby Club.	A	1-2	<b>WCC, WCFC</b>	WCC Officers Club reps. (football and rugby)	Approach to Football Foundation for grant aid.
<b>7</b>	Commercial Football Centre - Investigate suitable site and commercial operator interest. Need to ascertain as part of STP rationale. (Interest at Westgate).	A	2	<b>WCC</b>	WCC Officers	Could benefit football and rugby clubs for training. Companies such as Powerleague or Goals could be approached.

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	<b>Sub Area 2: Kings Worthy area</b>	<b>Priority</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Partner agencies</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Comments</b>
<b>1</b>	Sparsholt College - Develop a Community Use Agreement based upon future built facility improvements sought.	A/B	2-4	<b>WCC</b> , HCC, SC	WCC Officers	Goodwill exists to work together and develop community access to facilities.
<b>2</b>	Princes Mead School - Support the school in its change of use application to help secure community use of its sports facilities and halls. Negotiate a Community use Agreement.	A	1-2	<b>HCC. WCC</b>	HCC and WCC Officers	Goodwill exists to work together for the benefit of community access.
<b>3</b>	Sir John Moore Barracks - Progress discussions between Army and clubs to extend community access.	A	1-3	<b>WCC</b> , Clubs JMB	WCC Officers Club reps.	Caution - potential for reduced community access due increased Army operations.
	<b>Sub Area 4: Swanmore area</b>					
<b>1</b>	Swanmore College - support bid for a replacement STP facility as part of the STP rationale for the District	A	2	<b>ST</b>	WCC Officers	
<b>2</b>	Ridgemedede School - progress discussion of community access to its community pool and other facilities	A	1-2	<b>WCC, HCC</b>	WCC Officers	One of 14 only schools allowed by HCC to retain their swimming pools. Caution - consider what commitment to future maintenance costs.

<b>Sub Area 7: Whiteley area</b>						
1	Meadowside Leisure Centre - Establish the feasibility of its replacement as 'hub' sports and leisure centre if the North Whiteley area is proposed for development in the Core Strategy. Consider the feasibility of a new 25m competition (6 lane) or community (4lane) swimming pool as part of this replacement facility.	A	2-3	<b>WCC</b>	WCC Officers  External feasibility advice	Need for a wider feasibility study of the level of community provision linked to any proposed development and the wider catchment area.
<b>Cross-cutting Actions</b>		<b>Priority</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Partnerships</b>	<b>Resources</b>	<b>Comments</b>
1	Community Use Agreements.	A/B	1-3		WCC Officers External advisers including legal advice.	May need external assistance in co-ordinating Community Use Agreements across the District facilities and to seek to minimise potential annual cost.
2	Winchester SPAA - Joint working in support of developing, improving and securing Community Use of sport and recreation facilities as part for the WCC Sports Facilities Strategy, the Community Strategy and NGB strategies.	A	1-2 +	<b>SPAA</b> Clubs, School and Colleges, WCC, HCC	Reps and officers as appropriate.	



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<b>3</b>	National Governing Bodies of Sport - Joint working in support of the development of specialist sports facilities accessible to all in Winchester District. Priority sports include facilities for Swimming, Gymnastics, Indoor Bowls, Tennis, Football and Rugby.	A-C	1-5+	<b>WCC, Clubs, NGBs</b>			
<b>4</b>	Synthetic Turf Pitches and Multi-Use Games Areas - Confirm the Council's rationale for developing/supporting its own and educational establishment provision across the District (taking account of neighbouring authority provision. (in terms of size, specification, location, community use, costs of repair and eventual replacement).	A	1-2	<b>WCC</b>	WCC Officers	Any joint contributions would need to consider a Sinking Funds for eventual replacement of the playing surface after 5-7 years.	
<b>5</b>	Progress discussions with the LTA (Tennis Foundation) and neighbouring authorities to identify clusters of public tennis courts potentially to develop coaching programmes and court management schemes.	A	2-3	<b>WCC, LTA Neighbouring authorities</b>	WCC Officers Parish councils	Potential enhancement of programmes and facilities.	
<b>6</b>	Benchmarking - Investigate benchmarking methodologies to compare use.	B	3	<b>WCC</b>	WCC Officers	To provide comparison for local analysis.	