

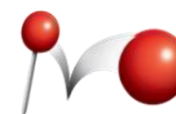
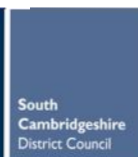


Greater Cambridge

Indoor Sports Facility Strategy

A report by Strategic Leisure Limited

June 2026



Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

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1. Executive Summary

- 1.1. Together, Cambridge City (the ‘City’) and South Cambridgeshire District (SCD) form the Greater Cambridge planning authority (See Map 1 which shows the planning authority area in the context of the wider sub-region). The planning authority is now working on a new shared Local Plan to 2041. This will replace the existing Local Plans for each of the City and SCD which were adopted in 2018 and run to 2031.
- 1.2. The aim of the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is to ensure sustainable development. Sustainable development has three strands - social, economic and environmental. It means meeting the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To properly reflect the three strands of sustainable development, there is a need to plan for homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure (transport, utilities, services and facilities) in the right places, alongside protecting and enhancing the environment. In order to achieve this, there is a need to balance many competing priorities and issues.¹
- 1.3. The Vision for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is:

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Vision:

We want Greater Cambridge to be a place where impacts on our climate and environment are significantly reduced, balanced with the continued flourishing of our internationally significant innovation economy, and an increase in the quality of everyday life for all our communities. New development must minimise carbon emissions and reliance on the private car, create thriving neighbourhoods with the variety of jobs and homes and supporting infrastructure we need, increase our network of nature, wildlife and multi-functional green spaces, and safeguard our unique, locally distinctive heritage and landscapes. ²

¹ Source: Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2021

² Source: Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2025

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The Growth Context

- 1.4. This Indoor Sports Facility Strategy (ISFS) responds to the planned growth in Greater Cambridge to 2031, and then through from 2032 - 2045 in the strategic growth areas in respect of indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The planned growth across Greater Cambridge is focussed around a number of strategic sites comprising large residential developments/urban extensions/new settlements in the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district.
- 1.5. The strategic growth sites will generate the majority of demand for new community infrastructure, including indoor and outdoor sport, leisure and physical activity facilities.
- 1.6. The key demographic factors impacting future provision of sport and physical activity facilities across Greater Cambridge include very significant population growth, as summarised in Table 1.

Population Growth to 2045 (including post 2045 build out)

	2021 (Census 2021)	2031	2045 (including post 2045 build out)
Cambridge City Council	145,700	150,000	176,734
South Cambridgeshire District Council	162,000	204,483	289,210
Greater Cambridge	307,700	354, 483	465,944
			Post-2045 build out
Population growth resulting from full-build out of residential developments post-2045	227,033		534,733

- Specific housing developments planned for the north-east and east of the city
- Key pockets of deprivation particularly towards the north of the city
- Issues of rural deprivation and isolation outside the city
- Growing levels of adult and child obesity

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- 16.2% of the population in the City of Cambridge and 19.2% of the population in South Cambridgeshire district are active for less than 30 minutes per week; without the appropriate levels of accessible community provision inactivity levels will worsen further given the increase in population to 2045
- 1.7. Given the scale of planned housing growth to 2031, and then again to 2045 it is clear there will be increased demand for a wide range of community infrastructure, including sport and leisure facilities. All strategic housing sites will be collecting developer contributions towards the provision of both new and improved infrastructure; these are key developments which will need new indoor and outdoor sports facilities, as well as improvements in the scale and quality of existing provision.
- 1.8. This approach is supported by the strategic and policy documents for Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District Councils summarised in Appendices 1 and 2.
- 1.9. A significant under-supply of community leisure provision was identified in 2016; further population growth, largely through the Strategic growth sites simply exacerbates increased demand and an under-supply of provision. By 2045 this situation is acute in relation to swimming pools in particular.
- 1.10. This updated needs analysis to support the growth to 2045, has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the revised National Planning Policy Framework 12 December 2024 (replacing the previous September 2023 version), Planning Policy Guidance (Open space, sports and recreation facilities) March 2014 July 2021 (formerly covered under PPG17), Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance 2014 (ANOG) and Sport England's 2013 Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology.

Facility Planning Model – Bespoke Assessment for Greater Cambridgeshire (November 2024) ³

- 1.11. A forward planning exercise using a bespoke Facility Planning Model (FPM) assessment has been undertaken for Greater Cambridge to further test the need for new swimming pools identified in each of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire. Given the significant population increase there is no means of meeting the increase in demand for swimming provision other than to develop new swimming pool facilities. The proposals for new pools have been developed based on identification of the areas where there will be most increased demand.

³ N.B Since the FPM runs were modelled, population projections have been updated and demand assessed to 2045.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

1.12. The new swimming pools proposed are:

By 2031

- New swimming pools at Genome Campus (providing predominantly for employees and onsite residents) and Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield),
- The development of these two new facilities would increase provision from the existing 10 swimming pools with community access to 12 swimming pools with community access.

2031-2045

- New swimming pools at Northstowe, and Waterbeach
- A new swimming pool at West Cambridge
- A new Regional Pool (10 lanes x 50m) Cambridge East

1.13. The development of these four new facilities would increase provision from the proposed 14 swimming pools (10 existing plus four new) with community access to 16 swimming pools (excluding Abbey) with community access.

1.14. In addition to contributions to the identified new pools (Table 23), there will also be a requirement for contributions to the modernisation of:

- Impington Village College and Sports Centre
- Parkside Pools and Gym
- Sawston Swimming Pool

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Sports Halls

- 1.15. The scale of increased demand for sports halls 2021-2045 is such that this can only be met in full through the development of new sports halls. These will be:
- North-East Cambridge – 4 badminton court sports hall
 - Cambridge East - 4 badminton court sports hall
 - South of the City – 4 badminton court sports hall
 - Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) – 4 badminton courts
 - Waterbeach - 4 badminton courts
 - plus increasing capacity in identified sites.

Summary Assessment of Need – Minimum Need for Indoor Sports Facilities by 2045 (ISFS 24-25)

Swimming Pools

By 2031

- 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members)
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

By 2045

- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach
- A new swimming pool at West Cambridge
- Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink

*The Genome Campus is going to deliver a 4-lane 20-25m pool as part of a David Lloyd (DL) sports centre. It was modelled as 200 sq. m. The DL pool will require an expensive membership fee to access and therefore is unlikely to make much of a contribution towards meeting the area's need for additional publicly accessible pool provision.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

The provision of a 6-lane 25m pool at Sawston was modelled to test if there would be sufficient demand for one which would not undermine the David Lloyd sports centre. A new 6 lane x 25m pool at Sawston would not undermine the planned provision at the Genome Campus.

**Any pool at West Cambridge would be a University-run/owned/managed pool and would provide only limited public access. This is not reflected in this updated study, and it should not be relied on to meet the publicly accessible need. It was modelled to simply test if there is more than enough demand for one 6-lane 25m pool at Cambourne and one 6-lane 25m pool at West Cambridge which there is. If the UoC delivered a pool at West Cambridge, it would not undermine the viability of one at Cambourne.

Health and Fitness Facilities

- Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe (although recognising that a community gym opened at Northstowe Community College in January 2026), Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites

Sports Halls

- 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

Squash Courts

- 6 Squash Courts - across Strategic Growth sites

Indoor Tennis Courts

- 13 indoor tennis courts- across Strategic Growth sites in the short term and a further 16 courts by 2041 in South Cambridgeshire

Padel Courts

41 Padel courts - across Greater Cambridge by 2041

Indoor Bowling Rinks

- +5 indoor bowling rinks - Extension of existing facilities Cambridge and County Bowls Club which has 2 rinks and the Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club which has 8 rinks, or as part of other new provision

Gymnastics

- Support local gymnastics clubs in identifying sites for expansion/development of purpose-built facilities - across Strategic Growth sites

Handball & Volleyball

- Drive from local clubs for purpose-built sports hall with additional court size – in the City

Futsal

- Court provision for indoor game arena

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- 1.16. Other future facility provision, linked particularly to long term population growth and housing development, is the development of new and improved walking, jogging and cycling routes/connectivity, to encourage active travel, and provide an environment in which physical activity can be easily integrated into daily life.

Capital Investment

- 1.17. It is clear from the strategy analysis that there is a need for significant capital investment in Greater Cambridge, to address future needs. It is expected that significant capital will be derived from new s106 agreements, but Cambridge City Council is also looking to invest existing s106 monies in existing provision. The City's leisure management contract 2026-2041 will also seek capital investment and management opportunities across Greater Cambridge facilities.

Partnership Working with Education Sites

- 1.18. Partnership working with existing education sites which offer community access to sports facilities will be supported, and interested schools will be offered the opportunity to be part of the Greater Cambridge leisure management contract which has the potential to realise capital investment, and improved operational consistency across education sites which will benefit community use.

Recommendations

Sports Halls, Swimming Pools and Fitness Facilities

Recommendation 1 (R1)

The identified level of new swimming pool, sports hall and health and fitness provision is progressed:

Swimming Pools

By 2031

- 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members)
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

By 2045

- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach
- A new swimming pool at West Cambridge
- Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink

Sports Halls

- 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

Health and Fitness Facilities

- Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe (although recognising that a community gym opened at Northstowe Community College in January 2026), Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - across Strategic Growth sites

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 2 (R2)

The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in Greater Cambridge are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present.

(PROTECT)

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Recommendation 3 (R3)

Accessibility to be considered and factored in to ensure all facilities are as inclusive as possible.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 4 (R4)

All new housing developments and where possible, employment sites, should contribute to the cost of providing new sport and physical activity facilities and infrastructure.

(PROVIDE)

Sports Halls

Recommendation 5 (R5)

The identified level of new sports hall provision is progressed:

Sports Halls

- 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

(PROVIDE)

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Recommendation 6 (R6)

Greater Cambridge Planning Authority (through Planning policy) seek to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e. Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls. Any planning applications for new sports halls on education sites should be considered by Greater Cambridge Planning Authority for formal Community Use Agreements (CUA).

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 7 (R7)

Open dialogue with all education sites where there is access for clubs/groups but not the wider community on a pay and play basis to try and increase access to physical activity facilities.

(PROTECT AND PROVIDE)

Recommendation 8 (R8)

Work with local handball, volleyball and futsal clubs and the relevant NGBs to explore how a large sports hall as part of regional provision could be designed to provide for these three sports alongside other sports hall sports.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Swimming Pools

Recommendation 9 (R9)

The identified level of new swimming pool provision is progressed:

Swimming Pools

By 2031

- 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members)
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

By 2045

- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach
- A new swimming pool at West Cambridge
- Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 10 (R10)

Prioritise investment into Parkside Pool to improve its quality as the facility ages and Jesus Green Lido to improve its quality and accessibility as an outdoor 100-year-old pool.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Recommendation 11 (R11)

Continue to invest in/refurbish the swimming pools at Abbey to retain its quality as the facility continues to age.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 12 (R12)

Provision of a new swimming pool at the Genome Campus is progressed through the commercial sector.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Other Physical Activity and Sports Facilities

Recommendation 13 (R13)

The identified level of new fitness provision is progressed:

Health and Fitness Facilities

- Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - across Strategic Growth sites

(PROVIDE)

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Recommendation 14 (R14)

Work with the LTA and other partners to develop an additional 29 indoor tennis courts (13 in the short term and a further 16 in South Cambridgeshire) and 41 Padel courts across Greater Cambridge by 2041

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 15 (R15)

Dialogue is established with England Gymnastics and local gymnastics clubs to further explore the potential of facilitating club-led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 16 (R16)

Indoor Bowls - Dialogue is established with England Indoor Bowls Association and local clubs to monitor the need for increased provision of indoor bowling rinks across Greater Cambridgeshire.

Outdoor Bowls - Dialogue with Local Clubs to explore the potential for co-location and reduction/closure of existing rinks for shared sites if participant numbers decline further.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Recommendation 17 (R17)

Dialogue is established with England Squash over the identified need for additional squash courts in Greater Cambridge, and the funding required through developer contributions.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 18 (R18)

Where appropriate, Greater Cambridge Planning Authority and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running, and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

Recommendation 19 (R19)

Greater Cambridge Planning Authority, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Council, their successor administrative body and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Living Sport as the lead for Place -based working (Cambridgeshire Sports Partnership).

(PROVIDE)

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Recommendation 20 (R20)

Greater Cambridge Planning Authority, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Council, their successor administrative body and their partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation and better community cohesion.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 21 (R21)

Ensure adequate spaces are reserved at outline planning stages or concept stages to allow enough space for all identified future facility need to be delivered on “earmarked” land parcels allowing for space for supported parking and carbon reducing energy generation and floodlighting of facilities that will not be detrimental to the landscape, environment, bio diversity or nearby residential properties.

Recommendation 22 (R22)

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.

(PROTECT)

Action Plan

1.19. In order to realise the above Vision and Aims for sport and leisure facility provision in Greater Cambridge there are key priorities that need to be addressed and implemented. These are set out in the Action Plan below, based on the recommendations for future provision and the funding mechanism identified in Section 6.

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Recommendation 1 (R1) The identified level of new swimming pool, sports hall and health and fitness provision is progressed: Swimming Pools By 2031 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members) 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) By 2045 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach - A new swimming pool at West Cambridge - Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink Sports Halls 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) Health and Fitness Facilities - Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - across Strategic Growth sites (PROVIDE)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play sports hall, swimming pools and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 2 (R2)	Ensure existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of

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Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in Greater Cambridge are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present. (PROTECT)	sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in Greater Cambridge are retained as a minimum, although the number and nature of facility provision may look different as new provision is developed.	Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers (including planners) and representatives from Living Sport			Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers (leisure and planners).
Recommendation 3 (R3) Accessibility to be considered and factored in to ensure all facilities are as inclusive as possible. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District, and other partners to ensure inclusive access is provided in all new sport and physical activity facilities.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District and relevant education establishments.
Recommendation 4 (R4) All new housing developments and where possible, employment sites, should contribute to the cost of providing new sport and physical activity facilities and infrastructure. (PROVIDE)	Ensure s106 agreements are negotiated for all new housing developments and where possible, employment sites, to contribute to the cost of providing new sport and physical activity facilities and infrastructure on site and off site.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 5 (R5) The identified level of new sports hall provision is progressed: Sports Halls 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) (PROVIDE)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play sports hall provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 6 (R6) Greater Cambridge Planning Authority (through Planning policy) seek to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e. Community Use	Planning applications for new sports halls on education sites should be considered by Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire	Short-Medium Term (and ongoing thereafter)		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls. Any planning applications for new sports halls on education sites should be considered by Greater Cambridge Planning Authority for formal Community Use Agreements (CUA). (PROVIDE)	South Cambridgeshire District's Planning Services for formal Community Use Agreements (CUA)	District Officers (including planners)			Leisure and Planning Officers time. Principal/ Head of local Academies and / or Executive Head Teachers of schools.
Recommendation 7 (R7) Open dialogue with all education sites where there is access for clubs/groups but not the wider community on a pay and play basis to try and increase access to physical activity facilities. (PROTECT AND PROVIDE)	Seek to establish dialogue with all relevant education sites about opening up increased access for pay and play use.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers (including planners)	Short-Medium Term (and ongoing thereafter)		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers time. Principal/ Head of local Academies and / or Executive Head Teachers of schools.
Recommendation 8 (R8) Work with local handball, volleyball and futsal clubs and the relevant NGBs to explore how a large sports hall as part of regional provision could be designed to provide for these three sports alongside other sports hall sports. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Establish a working group with local handball, volleyball and futsal clubs to develop an approach to use of a large sports hall for all three sports to help inform future consideration of a regional scale sports hall.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 9 (R9) The identified level of new swimming pool provision is progressed: Swimming Pools By 2031 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members) 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) By 2045 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach - A new swimming pool at West Cambridge - Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), East Cambridge, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play swimming pool provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.

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Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)					
Recommendation 10 (R10) Prioritise investment into Parkside Pool to improve its quality as the facility ages and Jesus Green Lido to improve its quality and accessibility as an outdoor 100-year-old pool. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Prioritise investment into Parkside Pools to improve its quality – existing s106 monies and potentially through the new Leisure Management contract.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time
Recommendation 11 (R11) Continue to invest in/refurbish the swimming pools at Abbey to retain its quality as the facility continues to age. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Prioritise investment into Abbey Pools to improve its quality – existing s106 monies and potentially through the new Leisure Management contract.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time
Recommendation 12 (R12) Provision of a new swimming pool at the Genome Campus is progressed through the commercial sector. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Secure agreement with David Lloyd to provide a new pool at the Genome Campus development.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officers	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time
Recommendation 13 (R13) The identified level of new fitness provision is progressed: Health and Fitness Facilities Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites (PROVIDE)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play health and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 14 (R14) Work with the LTA and other partners to develop an additional 29 indoor tennis courts (13 in the short term and a further 16 in South Cambridgeshire) and 41 Padel courts across Greater Cambridge by 2041 (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Work with the LTA and local clubs to develop additional indoor tennis courts and Padel court provision across Greater Cambridge, responding to the needs of existing and new communities.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District)	Short – medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time; LTA resources
Recommendation 15 (R15) Dialogue is established with England Gymnastics and local gymnastics clubs to further explore the potential of facilitating club-led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision.	Explore further club-led provision/ partnership for specialist gymnastics provision given high level of members/participation.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District

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Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)		District Leisure and Planning Officers.			Planning and Leisure Officer time; NGB and club resources
Recommendation 16 (R16) Indoor Bowls - Dialogue is established with England Indoor Bowls Association and local clubs to monitor the need for increased provision of indoor bowling rinks across Greater Cambridgeshire. Outdoor Bowls - Dialogue with Local Clubs to explore the potential for co-location and reduction/closure of existing rinks for shared sites if participant numbers decline further. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Explore further club-led provision/partnership for specialist indoor bowls provision	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure	Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; New Milton Indoor Bowls and the NGB – English Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA)
Recommendation 17 (R17) Dialogue is established with England Squash over the identified need for additional squash courts in Greater Cambridge, and the funding required through developer contributions. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Work with England Squash to develop identified additional provision needed and ensure this is based where optimum community access can be achieved.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officers	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District, and England Squash NGB representative.
Recommendation 18 (R18) Where appropriate, Greater Cambridge Planning Authority and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running, and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District implement the detailed approach to securing developer contributions to support the emerging local plan e.g. through a Planning Obligations SPD, as set out in Section 6 of this assessment.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning officers. Sport England.	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers
Recommendation 19 (R19) Greater Cambridge Planning Authority, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Council, their successor administrative body and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers to identify potential levels of capital funding from	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers.	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time;

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Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
this process, it is recommended to involve Living Sport as the lead for Place -based working (Cambridgeshire Sports Partnership). (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	residential development, and any other funding sources. Involve Living Sport in this process	Sport England, local partners			Developers Relevant local partners
Recommendation 20 (R20) Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/ spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation and better community cohesion. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District to work with its local partner providers and relevant health and community partners to ensure provision of, and access to, appropriate community sports facilities and opportunities to provide physical activity in the local community.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officers; Public Health and Local Providers and Community Partners	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officer time; Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Community Partners; Public Health and Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Partner providers.
Recommendation 21 (R21) Ensure adequate spaces are reserved at outline planning stages or concept stages to allow enough space for all identified future facility need to be delivered on “earmarked” land parcels allowing for space for supported parking and carbon reducing energy generation and floodlighting of facilities that will not be detrimental to the landscape, environment, bio diversity or nearby residential properties.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District planners to ensure adequate spaces are reserved at outline planning/concept stages to provide for future facility need.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District and all partners	Short – Medium Term and then Ongoing thereafter		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers and relevant local partners
Recommendation 22 (R22) There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments. (PROTECT)	Ensure a monitoring process is in place to refresh the strategy and action plan every 5 years. Ensure ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities to be aware of facility changes and developments that may impact on Greater	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District and all partners	Short – Medium Term and then Ongoing thereafter		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers and relevant local partners

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
	Cambridge residents and facility plans for the future. Establish a steering group made up of key stakeholders to take forward the actions in the action plan. This could be the same as the steering group recommended for implementing the PPS but excluding the outdoor playing pitch NGBs.				

N.B. It is recognised that any new schools are currently outside the direct control of the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. This should not, however, prevent local partnerships for community access.

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2. Introduction and the Growth Context

- 2.1. Cambridge City Council (CCC) commissioned an Indoor Sports Facility Strategy (ISFS), a Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and an Outdoor Courts and Rinks Study on behalf of itself and South Cambridgeshire District Council (SCD) with support from Sport England (SE) in May 2021.
- 2.2. This report is the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy (ISFS).
- 2.3. Together, Cambridge City (the 'City') and South Cambridgeshire District form the Greater Cambridge planning authority (See Map 1 which shows the planning authority area in the context of the wider sub-region). The planning authority is now working on a new shared Local Plan to 2045. This will replace the existing Local Plans for each of the City and SCD which were adopted in 2018 and run to 2031.
- 2.4. The aim of the Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan is to ensure sustainable development. Sustainable development has three strands - social, economic and environmental. It means meeting the needs of the present population without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. To properly reflect the three strands of sustainable development, there is a need to plan for homes, jobs and supporting infrastructure (transport, utilities, services and facilities) in the right places, alongside protecting and enhancing the environment. In order to achieve this, there is a need to balance many competing priorities and issues.⁴

Map 1: Greater Cambridge (darker green area comprising the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district) in the context of the wider sub-region



⁴ Source: Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2025

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2.5. The Vision for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan is:

Greater Cambridge Local Plan Vision:

We want Greater Cambridge to be a place where impacts on our climate and environment are significantly reduced, balanced with the continued flourishing of our internationally significant innovation economy, and an increase in the quality of everyday life for all our communities. New development must minimise carbon emissions and reliance on the private car, create thriving neighbourhoods with the variety of jobs and homes and supporting infrastructure we need, increase our network of nature, wildlife and multi-functional green spaces, and safeguard our unique, locally distinctive heritage and landscapes.⁵

2.6. The strategic priorities for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan are:

- **Climate change:** Help Greater Cambridge transition to net zero carbon by 2050 (2030 for the City), by ensuring that development is sited in places that help to limit carbon emissions, is designed to the highest achievable standards for energy and water use to reduce environmental impacts, adapts to and mitigates against climate change, and is resilient to current and future climate risks, including flooding.
- **Biodiversity and green spaces:** Increase and improve our network of habitats for wildlife, and green spaces for people, ensuring that development leaves the natural environment better than it was before.
- **Wellbeing and social inclusion:** Help improve equality of access and opportunities for people in Greater Cambridge to lead healthier and happier lives, ensuring that everyone benefits from the development of new homes and jobs.
- **Great places:** Sustain the unique character of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire, and complement it with beautiful and distinctive development, creating a place where people want to live, work, visit and play.

⁵ Source: Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2025

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- **Jobs:** Encourage a flourishing and mixed economy in Greater Cambridge which includes a wide range of jobs, while maintaining our area's global reputation for education, research and innovation.

2.7. These aims expand on the themes for the Greater Cambridge Local Plan, and inform decisions regarding the spatial strategy, and future policies. These aims are aligned with the principles in the National Planning Policy Framework, and the Greater Cambridge Local Plan Sustainability Appraisal objectives. ⁶

The 'Wellbeing and Social Inclusion' aim is the driver for this needs analysis report for indoor leisure facilities, playing pitches, outdoor courts and rinks.

Place and space have a significant impact on health and wellbeing. The ability of individuals to lead healthy lifestyles is deeply influenced by the environment in which they live. Cambridge City Council identifies improving health outcomes for people on low incomes as an element in addressing poverty and inequality in the city. ⁷

Good physical and mental health is related to good quality housing and developments, well designed street scenes, well laid out neighbourhoods, quality and efficiency in transport systems, opportunities to experience community, leisure and cultural services activities and access to green and open space.

National planning policy requires the development of strong, vibrant and healthy communities by providing a range of accessible services that reflect current and future needs and promote healthy and safe communities. ⁸

2.8. This document provides a clear strategic framework which outlines how built sport, physical activity and leisure provision can meet the needs of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire District residents reflecting the principles of the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG 2014), and the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF December 2024).

⁶ Source: Draft Greater Cambridge Local Plan 2025

⁷ Source: Cambridge Anti-Poverty Strategy 2020-2023

⁸ Source: Greater Cambridge Topic Paper 2021 Health and Wellbeing

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2.9. The revised NPPF (12 December 2024) requires Local Planning Authorities to base their planning policies on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Paragraph 103 of the NPPF states that *“Information gained from the assessment should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”*.

2.10. The revised NPPF (12 December 2024), also at paragraph 103, requires that:

“Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessment for the needs for sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision”.

2.11. This Built Sport and Leisure Facilities Strategy (BSLFS) provides robust and up-to-date evidence to support the policies in the emerging Greater Cambridge Local Plan (to 2045) and underpins future priorities for provision. Recommendations from the BSLFS will inform the vision, objectives, and policy approach to sport and recreation facilities and Neighbourhood/site allocations of the first formal review of the Sheffield Local Plan.

2.12. The BSLFS will also inform the Council's strategic approach to developing physical activity, sport and recreation infrastructure, ensuring the continued provision of the appropriate level of built leisure assets to meet the needs of the population now and over the Local Plan period 2025-2039.

2.13. The purpose of this BSLFS is to:

- Identify current and future built leisure provision required to meet the needs of Sheffield's residents. The BSLFS will be used as part of the first formal check and balance Local Plan review, and throughout the lifecycle of the new Local Plan up to 2039.
- Review the current and future supply and demand for built sport and recreation facilities in Greater Cambridge.
- Model demand to assess current and projected over/under supply of facilities using a recognised modelling technique that satisfies the requirements of Sport England e.g. Facilities Planning Model (FPM).

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- Inform strategic planning, funding, development and delivery of built sports facilities across Sheffield. The BSLFS focusses on facility provision in the context of the health and wellbeing of local communities considering Sheffield City Council Strategy and Policy (Appendix 2).
- Provide conclusions and recommendations on policy and proposal development.

The Growth Context

- 2.14. This ISFS responds to the planned growth in Greater Cambridge to 2031, and then through from 2032 -2045 in the strategic growth areas in respect of indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The planned growth across Greater Cambridge is focussed around a number of strategic sites comprising large residential developments/urban extensions/new settlements in the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district.
- 2.15. The strategic growth sites will generate the majority of demand for new community infrastructure, including indoor and outdoor sport, leisure and physical activity facilities.
- 2.16. The key demographic factors impacting future provision of sport and physical activity facilities across Greater Cambridge include very significant population growth, as summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Population Growth to 2045 (including post 2045 build out)

	2021 (Census 2021)	2031	2045 (including post 2045 build out)
The City of Cambridge	145,700	150,000	176,734
South Cambridge District	162,000	204,483	289,210
Greater Cambridge	307,700	354, 483	465,944
			Post-2045 build out
Population growth resulting from full-build out of residential developments post-2045	227,033		534,733

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- Specific housing developments planned for the north-east and east of the city
 - Key pockets of deprivation particularly towards the north of the city
 - Issues of rural deprivation and isolation outside the city
 - Growing levels of adult and child obesity
 - 16.2% of the population in the City of Cambridge and 19.2% of the population in South Cambridgeshire district are active for less than 30 minutes per week; without the appropriate levels of accessible community provision inactivity levels will worsen further given the increase in population to 2045
- 2.17. Given the scale of planned housing growth to 2031, and then again to 2045 it is clear there will be increased demand for a wide range of community infrastructure, including sport and leisure facilities. All strategic housing sites will be collecting developer contributions towards the provision of both new and improved infrastructure; these are key developments which will need new indoor and outdoor sports facilities, as well as improvements in the scale and quality of existing provision. In addition, given the limited capacity of existing sports and leisure facilities, it is both reasonable and essential that all large employment proposals which will inevitably generate additional demand for these types of facilities contribute to these public facilities, in the absence of on-site provision for their employees. Many people now link their commute or workday with exercise, as part of a healthy lifestyle. Large employment developments should not put additional pressure on stretched local services without some form of suitable mitigation.
- 2.18. On this basis it is expected that the community leisure infrastructure will be funded by a combination of on and off-site contributions from the strategic growth sites.

Greater Cambridge - Planned Growth to 2045 (and full buildout post 2045 for large developments/new settlements)

- 2.19. In terms of major planned growth in the City of Cambridge there is a long-term proposal for a high-density urban extension at North-East Cambridge (NEC) for approximately 7,925 dwellings. There is also another urban extension of 10,591 dwellings at Cambridge East where the Cambridge East airport is currently located.
- 2.20. In South Cambridgeshire three new settlements are planned at [Northstowe \(Phase 1 already built and Phase 2 under construction\)](#), [Waterbeach⁹](#) and [Bourn Airfield](#) each comprising of approximately 10,000, 11,000 and 3,500 dwellings, respectively. There is also an urban extension of up to 2,606 dwellings at [Cambourne](#) West). Cambourne is located a short distance west of Bourn Airfield. There is already a significant under-supply in swimming provision for Camborne that has been built out.

⁹ Source: <http://turnstoneestates.com/project/cambridge-waterbeach-new-settlement/>

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2.21. A summary of the Planned Strategic Growth Areas is set out in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of Planned Strategic Growth Areas

Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024-Full Build Out
Cambridge urban area - allocations	-	3,247
North West Cambridge (Eddington)	3,872	4,709
Darwin Green	2,573	6,053
Cambridge East	2,591	5,856
North of Worts Causeway	200	540
South of Worts Causeway	230	621
Bell School	42	113
Northstowe	10,186	24,812
Waterbeach New Town	11,000	31,279
Bourn Airfield New Village	3,500	9,975
Cambourne West	2,606	5,843
Rural area - allocations	-	1,430
Cambridge urban area - windfalls	-	9,055
Rural area - windfalls (excluding Wellcome Genome Campus)	-	14,729
Wellcome Genome Campus	1,500	4,275
North East Cambridge	7,925	16,246
North West Cambridge (Eddington densification) (2,000 student rooms included)	2,500	4,500
Cambridge East (airport)	8,000	21,600

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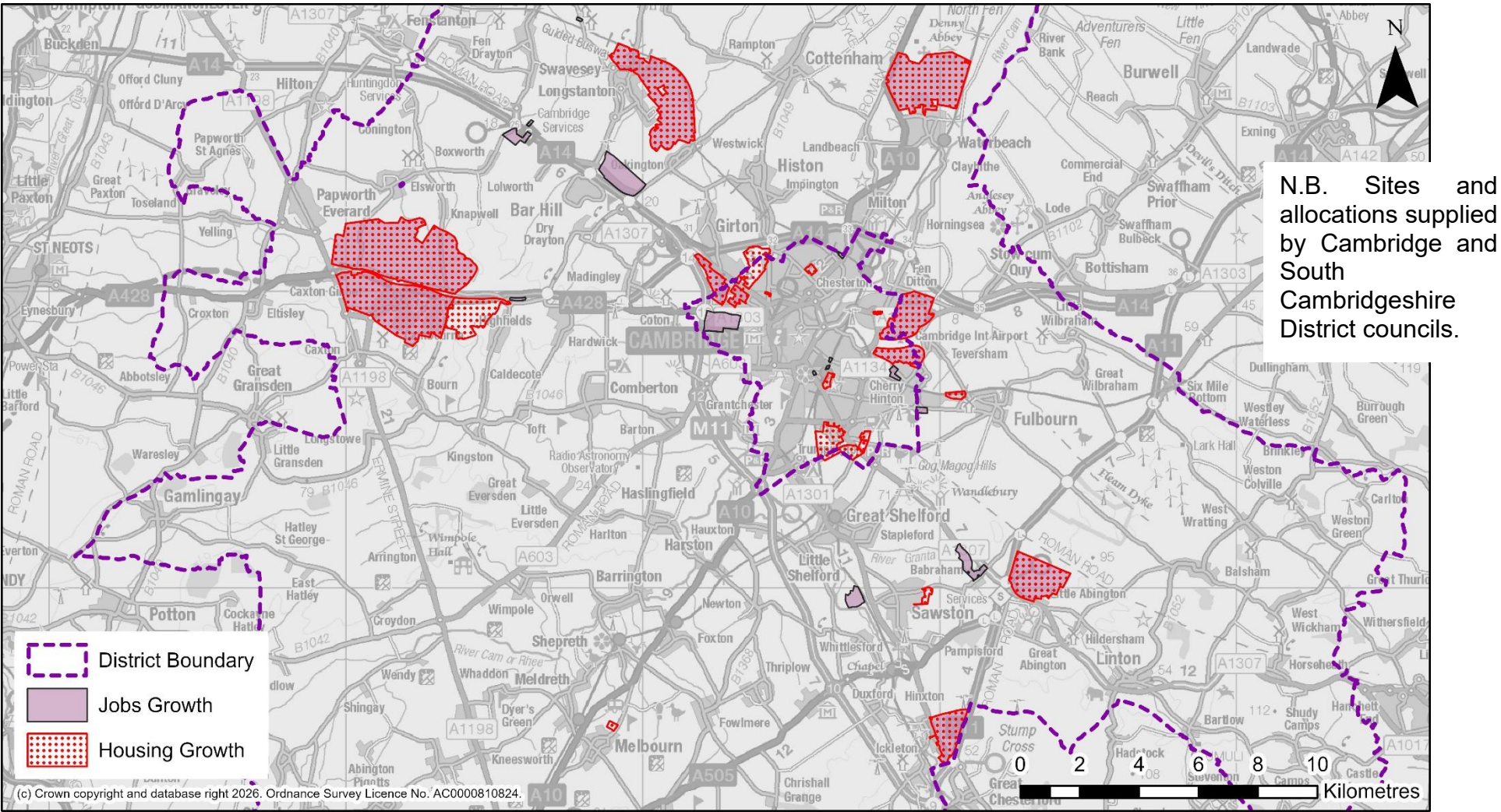
Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024-Full Build Out
Cambourne (expansion)	15,000	42,750
Garages between 20 St. Matthews Street and Blue Moon Public House, Cambridge	12	29
Land between Hinton Way and Mingle Lane, Great Shelford	125	325
Land at Maarnford Farm, Hunts Road, Duxford	60	156
The Moor, Moor Lane, Melbourn	20	52
Land at Highfields (phase 2) , Caldecote	64	166
Land to the west of Cambridge Road, Melbourn	120	312
Grange Farm New Settlement	6,000	17,100
Cambridge Biomedical Campus	700	1,260
		227,033

2.22. Map 2 illustrates the areas of housing growth in Greater Cambridge to 2045.

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Map 2: Indicative Planned and Proposed Growth in Greater Cambridgeshire to 2045 ¹⁰



¹⁰ Source: The City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District

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- 2.23. As part of the planned growth across Greater Cambridge there will be the creation of new employment sites. These are summarised in Appendix 7.

Response to the growth across Greater Cambridgeshire

- 2.24. In order to understand the future needs of Greater Cambridge in relation to indoor sports facilities, as a result of the very significant population growth, there is a need to first understand the existing position.
- 2.25. The existing City of Cambridge Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) and Indoor Sports Facility Strategies (ISFS) (both developed 2016) only take into account planned growth to 2031. These documents have the purpose of identifying strategic sports facilities such as full-size artificial grass pitches, swimming pools and sports halls.
- 2.26. The ISFS 2016 highlights that:

‘across the City and South Cambridgeshire District there is insufficient provision of sports halls, swimming pools and fitness stations to meet current and critically future demand (as a result of population growth), never mind accommodating any increased participation from existing residents. There is therefore a need to increase the capacity for swimming, and to a lesser extent that of sports halls, to meet overall demand, not just that shown in terms of the demand generated by the overall population’.

- 2.27. There is a need to:
- Replace and/or refurbish ageing facilities
 - Optimise and increase the capacity for community use of sports facilities on education sites
 - Develop new sports halls, swimming pools, and health and fitness facilities
 - Develop cycling provision, and that for walking and running
 - Improve informal recreational activities
- 2.28. Table 3 summarises the identified needs to 2031 taken from the ISFS 2016:

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Table 3: Summary of identified Facility Needs in Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District to 2031(ISFS 2016):

Facility Type - Sports Halls

- Provision of at least 2 badminton courts, but more likely 9 badminton courts (just over 2 sports halls - 4 badminton court size) by 2031. This assessment already takes into account new provision at Trumpington Community College and in Northstowe Phase 2.
- Reliance on existing education site-based sports halls e.g. Netherhall Sports Centre, Chesterton and Swavesey Village College
- Ageing facilities will require replacement /investment in the medium to long term, so planning for this needs to be considered now e.g. – Kelsey Kerridge, Melbourn and Impington Sports Centres.
- Extension of an existing facility e.g. North Cambridge Academy's 3 court sports hall could also provide an option to increase availability of courts at a centre with existing community access
- Consideration of future needs for sports halls within new settlements and as a result of growth included in Local Plans

Facility Type - Swimming Pools

- Develop additional swimming facilities in South Cambridgeshire as part of future facility strategy updates on needs generated by new communities at Northstowe, Cambourne and Waterbeach
- Whilst provision of a swimming pool located at University of Cambridge Sports Centre in West Cambridge (this would have limited public access) would help to address the undersupply of swimming provision, it would not be the total solution, given the scale of demand identified.
- There is a need to consider planning now for future investment in extensions, refurbishment or replacement of Abbey Leisure Complex, and Parkside Pools by 2031, (equating to 51% of the swimming pool stock in the City)
- Investment and improved facilities at Jesus Green Lido to provide year-round access
- Investment in the Frank Lee Centre (medium term), to make the facility suitable for community use

Facility Type Health and Fitness

- Increased supply of community accessible and affordable Gym fitness stations; current deficit of -18 indoor fitness stations, with a future deficit of –78 indoor fitness stations in Cambridge
- Increased supply of community accessible and affordable Gym fitness stations; current deficit of -203 indoor fitness stations, with a future deficit of –326 indoor fitness stations in South Cambridgeshire District

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Facility Type Indoor Tennis Facilities

- Additional courts to meet club demand; potential for partnership with the LTA. This could be partially addressed by a new facility at the University of Cambridge. (Reference paragraphs 5.342-5.441)

Facility Type Gymnastics Facilities

- Increased access to sports hall facilities for club use, and continued development of club-led specialist gymnastics facilities (Reference paragraphs 5.335-5.341)

Facility Type Cycling Facilities

- A 1.6km off road closed circuit; potential for a club operated BMX track

Facility Type Informal Facilities

- Safe cycling, running and walking routes

- 2.29. It is clear from Table 3 that a significant under-supply of community leisure provision was identified in 2016; further population growth, largely through the Strategic growth sites simply exacerbates increased demand and an under-supply of provision. By 2045 this situation is acute in relation to swimming pools in particular.
- 2.30. This updated needs analysis to support the growth to 2045, has been undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the revised National Planning Policy Framework 12 December 2024 (replacing the previous September 2023 version), Planning Policy Guidance (Open space, sports and recreation facilities) March 2014 July 2021 (formerly covered under PPG17), Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance 2014 (ANOG) and Sport England's 2013 Playing Pitch Strategy Methodology.
- 2.31. An Outdoor Courts & Rinks Strategy (O CRS) has also been prepared to guide future provision and management of hard courts, grass courts, bowls rinks, multi-use games areas and other types used to play a variety of sports including bowls, tennis, netball and basketball.

How will the Demand for additional Community Leisure Facilities be Delivered?

- 2.32. Given the scale of planned housing growth to 2045 it is clear there will be increased demand for a wide range of community infrastructure, including sport and leisure facilities. All strategic housing sites, and large employment sites, should be collecting developer contributions towards the provision of both new and improved infrastructure; these are key developments which will need improved and new indoor and outdoor sports facilities. There is therefore a need to develop new swimming pools, sports halls, fitness facilities and a range of other leisure facilities.
- 2.33. The increase in demand is of such a scale that developing new facilities is the only way to ensure that identified needs can be met.
- 2.34. All new Strategic Growth Sites and Large Employment Sites across Greater Cambridge will need to contribute towards the development of new community leisure facilities, and in particular swimming pools and sports halls.
- 2.35. The new facilities will be funded through both off and on-site s106 contributions. However, it is also likely that other funding will be needed given the increasing cost of infrastructure, as s106 monies can only be used to fund additional demand generated by development.
- 2.36. This is because the future need generated by the strategic growth sites can best be met for some areas of the City e.g. North-East Cambridge, Cambridge East through regional scale development.
- 2.37. Other Strategic Growth Sites will contribute towards a number of identified developments, both on and off-site.

3. National Strategic Policy and Context

Introduction

National Planning Policy Guidance (NPPG) Open space, sports and recreation facilities, public rights of way and local green space

- 3.1 The NPPG guides authorities and developers to refer to [Sport England's guidance](#) on how to assess the need for sports and recreation facilities (Paragraph: 002 Reference ID: 37-002-20140306, Revision date: 06 03 2014).
- 3.2 The BFS aligns with and contributes to the delivery of relevant planning, sport, and strategic policy priorities at the local level. To ensure the assessment is fully informed by wider policy context, a comprehensive review of national, regional, and local strategies, policies, and plans was undertaken.

National Strategy

- 3.3 The following strategies provide national level strategic guidance and direction in relation to the development of sport, physical activity, and health and wellbeing measures. These strategies are detailed in Appendix 1. The improvement of the existing sport and leisure facilities in Sheffield are informed by, and will contribute towards, a number of national policy objectives as summarised below:

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) (updated 19 December 2024)

- 3.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the government's planning policies for England. A revised version was published on 19 December 2024. The NPPF sets out government's planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied. It sets out the government's vision for achieving healthy, inclusive and safe places.
- 3.5 Paragraph 23 of the NPPF states that strategic policies should provide a clear strategy for bringing sufficient land forward, at a sufficient rate, to address objectively assessed needs over the plan period. This should include planning for and allocating sufficient sites to deliver strategic priorities of the area.

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3.6 The NPPF requires that Local Planning Authorities (LPA) ensure that their Local Plans are based on up-to-date and relevant evidence. This should be adequate and proportionate, focused tightly on supporting and justifying the policies concerned, and consider relevant market signals (NPPF, Para. 31).

3.7 Paragraph 92 seeks policies which:

‘...promote social interaction, including providing opportunities for meeting between people who might not otherwise come into contact with each other...’.

3.8 The NPPF puts importance of planning policies and decisions aiming to achieve healthy, inclusive, and safe places (para. 96a-c). These provide guidance on planning positively for provision and use of community facilities (including sports facilities and venues) and the development of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural wellbeing for all sections of the community.

3.9 Paragraph 98, of the NPPF, emphasises the need for Local Plans to deliver the social, recreational and cultural facilities and services a community needs. In doing so, policies should:

- a. Plan positively for the provision and use of shared spaces, community facilities (such as local shops, meeting places, sports venues, open space, cultural buildings, public houses and places of worship) and other local services to enhance the sustainability of communities and residential environments;
- b. Take into account and support the delivery of local strategies to improve health, social and cultural well-being for all sections of the community;
- c. Guard against the unnecessary loss of valued facilities and services, particularly where this would reduce the community’s ability to meet its day-to-day needs;
- d. Ensure that established shops, facilities and services are able to develop and modernise, and are retained for the benefit of the community; and
- e. Ensure an integrated approach to considering the location of housing, economic uses and community facilities and services.

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3.10 Paragraphs 103 and 104 outline the planning policies for the provision and protection of sport and recreation facilities:

“Access to a network of high-quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and physical activity is important for the health and well-being of communities and can deliver wider benefits for nature and support efforts to address climate change. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the need for open space, sport and recreation facilities (including quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses) and opportunities for new provision. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate”.

3.11 Paragraph 104 of the NPPF specifies that:

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

- a)** an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
- b)** the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or
- c)** the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the benefits of which clearly outweigh the loss of the current or former use.

3.12 This aligns well with Sport England’s Playing Field Policy to ensure that recognised playing field sites are provided, protected and enhanced.

Get Active: A strategy for the future of sport and physical activity. Department for Culture Media and Sport August 2023

Our vision is to make sport and physical activity accessible, resilient, fun, and fair, for now and the years to come – for the benefit of individuals and the country.

- 3.13 The government wants to help build a healthier nation by tackling high levels of inactivity, and by making sure that the sport and physical activity sector thrives for future generations.
- 3.14 The 3 core priorities of this strategy, and what it means for the country, are:
- 1. Being unapologetically ambitious in making the nation more active, whether in government or in the sport sector:**
 - Ensuring everyone is focused on increasing physical activity, meaning fewer inactive children, and narrowing the gap on inactivity where groups are not being reached, with visible progress across the country by 2030.
 - Focusing on evidence, data, and metrics
 - Setting the future direction for facilities and spaces where people can be active.
 - 2. Making sport and physical activity more inclusive and welcoming for all so that everyone can have confidence that there is a place for them in sport.**
 - Helping the sector to be welcoming to all.
 - Improving how issues and concerns are dealt with in the sector.
 - 3. Moving towards a more sustainable sector that is more financially resilient and robust.**
 - Supporting the sector to access additional, alternative forms of investment.
 - Working towards a more environmentally sustainable sector.

Sport England – ‘Uniting the Movement’ (UtM) 2021

- 3.15 Sport England’s vision is that everyone in England feels able to take part in sport or physical activity, regardless of age, background, or ability. Sport England has three key objectives in their existing 10-year strategy:
1. Advocating for Movement, Sport and Physical Activity.
 2. Joining Forces on Five Big Issues.
 3. Creating the Catalysts for Change
- 3.16 The ‘**Five Big Issues**’ are defined as:
1. **Recover and Reinvent**
 - Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
 2. **Connecting Communities**
 - Focusing on sport and physical activity’s ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
 3. **Positive Experiences for Children and Young People**
 - An unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
 4. **Connecting with Health and Wellbeing**
 - Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
 5. **Active Environments**
 - Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.
- 3.17 It is important to highlight that Sport England is currently reviewing UtM with a view to updating it following the initial 5 years of its lifespan. It is understood that the existing priorities are unlikely to change, and that a focus on place-based working will continue.

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- 3.18 National Governing Bodies (NGBs) also have their own strategy documents that set out their sport's national strategic priorities. An overview of these is provided in Appendix 17 of this report.

Everybody Active, Every Day Public Health England (PHE) ¹¹

- 3.19 This framework sets out a national, evidence-based approach to support all sectors to embed physical activity into the fabric of daily life and make it an easy, cost-effective and 'normal' choice in every community in England.
- 3.20 Public Health England wants to drive a step change in the public's health. Tackling physical inactivity is a key part of making this step change to reduce the burden of preventable death, disease and disability, and support people and their communities to achieve their potential.
- 3.21 To deliver this vision requires action across four areas at national and local level:
- Active society: creating a social movement
 - Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise
 - Active lives: creating the right environments
 - Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active
- 3.22 The 2018 and 2021 reviews of Everybody Active, Every Day (2014) recognised these specific challenges:
1. Tacking inequalities; this is important in Sheffield where those living in more deprived areas are more likely to experience a range of inequalities, including health.
 2. Creating an active society; it is a priority to create the conditions and opportunities where people can be more active as part of everyday life.
 3. Creating an active environment. The growth areas of Sheffield provide an opportunity to create active environments facilitating everyday physical activity and linking existing and new communities.

¹¹ (An evidence-based approach to physical activity (2014), reviewed 2020 (Due to be updated again in 2023))

Chief Medical Officer (CMO) UK Physical Activity Guidelines (2011; updated 2016, and again in 2019)

Department for Health and Social Care

- 3.23 Physical activity includes all forms of activity, such as everyday walking or cycling to get from A to B, active play, work-related activity, active recreation (such as working out in a gym), dancing, gardening or playing active games, as well as organised and competitive sport. The Chief Medical Officer (CMO) provides physical activity guidance for five different age groups within the population.
- **Moderate activity**
 - Causes participant to get warmer and breathe harder and their hearts to beat faster, but they should still be able to carry on a conversation.
 - **Vigorous activity**
 - Causes participant to get warmer and breathe much harder and their hearts to beat rapidly, making it more difficult to carry on a conversation
 - **Strengthening activity**
 - Physical activities that strengthen muscle and bone involve using body weight or working against a resistance
 - **Shorter sessions of activity**
 - The evidence shows that the benefits of physical activity can be achieved through sessions of 10 minutes or more of moderate to vigorous intensity activity. This duration is sufficient to improve cardiovascular fitness and lessen some risk factors for heart disease and type 2 diabetes. Although more research is required, there is also some evidence that sessions of vigorous intensity activity less than 10 minutes may be beneficial to health.
 - Shorter sessions of physical activity offer an easier starting point for people who have been in active for some time, and for those who have busy lives and find it hard to prioritise activity.

4. ISFS Methodology

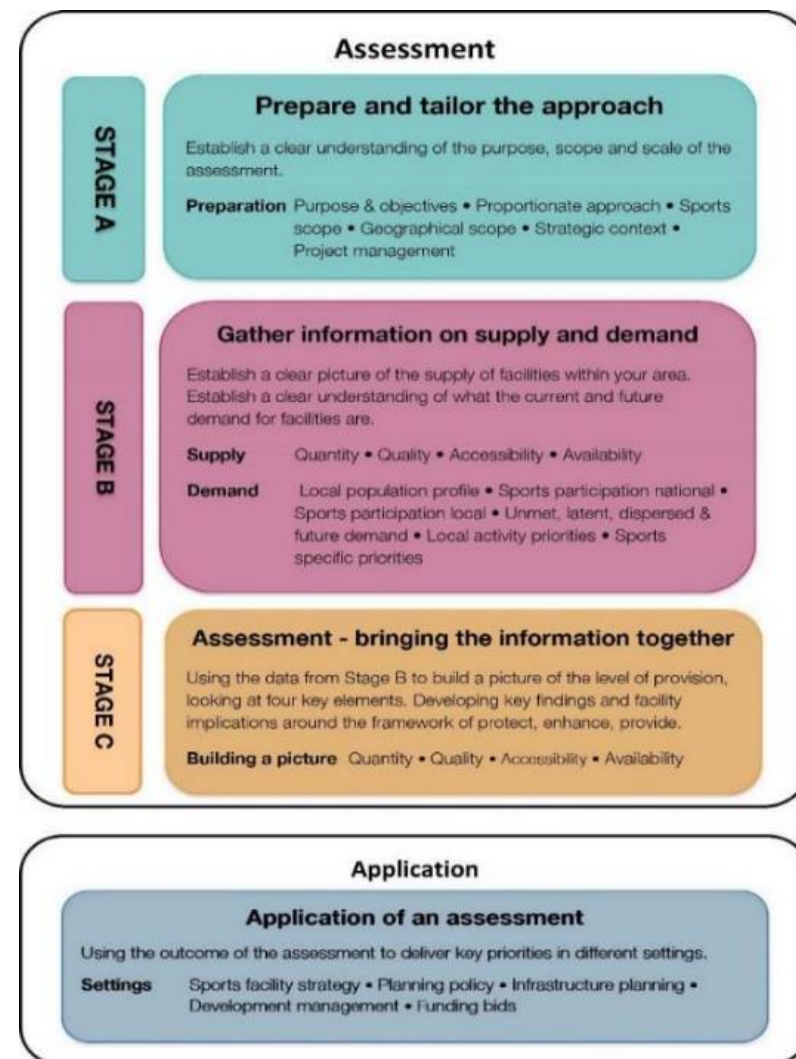
Scope of ISFS Needs Assessment

- 4.1 The existing Cambridge City Council and South Cambridgeshire District Council Playing Pitch Strategies (PPS) and Indoor Sports Facility Strategies (ISFS) (both developed 2016-17) take into account planned growth to 2031. These will be updated to support the proposed growth to 2041 anticipated in the new Joint Local Plan for Greater Cambridge. These documents have the purpose of identifying strategic sports facilities such as swimming pools, full-size artificial grass pitches and sports halls. An Outdoor Courts & Rinks Strategy (OCRS) is also being prepared to guide future provision and management of hard courts, grass courts, bowls rinks, multi-use games areas and other types used to play a variety of sports including bowls, tennis, netball and basketball.

Sports and Geographical Scope

- 4.2 For planning purposes, Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire district form the Greater Cambridge planning area. For each local authority area, the following reports have been developed:
- Indoor Sports Facility Strategy (ISFS),
 - Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS),
 - Outdoor Courts and Rinks Study (OCRS) As part of the PPS, courts and rinks (outdoor) have also been assessed
- 4.3 The ISFS follows the advice set out in paragraph A12 of the ANOG (see Figure 1). It states that it is for the local authority to decide what facilities to include in an assessment. However, given their importance, any assessment must include swimming pools and sports halls.

Figure 1: Summary of ANOG approach



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- 4.4 The ISFS includes a quantitative, qualitative, accessibility and availability analysis of the following facilities which are owned by the public (including education), private and third sectors:
- Swimming pools – indoor and outdoor;
 - Sports Halls;
 - Health and fitness facilities (including dance/aerobic studios);
 - Gymnastics
 - Indoor Tennis courts
 - Indoor Bowls rinks
 - Squash Courts;
 - Ice Rinks;
- 4.5 The ISFS includes a Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) assessment for both swimming pool and sports hall provision, to look at existing and future facility needs, nature, and location, as well as more detailed spatial analysis.
- 4.6 In line with ANOG, the methodology used to develop the ISFS assessment (for each of the City and South Cambridgeshire district) includes:
- Review of local strategic planning and policy context (Appendix 1)
 - Review of the borough's demographic profile and population growth to understand the significance and impact of this in specific areas
 - Facility audit (Appendices 4 and 5) taken directly from Active Places and used as the baseline data checked and challenged through the site visits),
 - Site visits to quality audit all identified indoor sites (access was not possible at some sites as documented in Appendices 10 and 11)
 - Stakeholder consultation (face to face/online meetings)
 - Online surveys to schools (Appendices 13 and 14), parish councils (Appendix 17
 - South Cambridgeshire only) and sports clubs (Appendices 15 and 16);
 - Consultation with National Governing Bodies (NGBs) (Appendix 17)
 - Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) – this is only used for sports halls of 3 court size and above and swimming pools larger than 160 sq. m. (strategic size facilities)
 - Assessment of built leisure facility supply and demand

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- Identification of spatial requirements
- Analysis of bespoke Facility Planning Model (FPM) runs covering current and future provision (sports halls and swimming pools) (Appendices 8 and 9)
- Feedback from stakeholder consultation
- Assessment of all findings and identification of need - current and future built leisure facility provision (what, where)
- Options for addressing and delivering need – spatial analysis, partnerships etc

Catchment Areas

- 4.7 Catchment areas for different types of facilities provide a means of identifying areas currently not served by existing built leisure facilities. It is recognised that catchment areas vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour, and are also very different in rural and urban areas. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment', defined as the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users. The maps in this assessment reflect the catchment areas for facility provision in each of Cambridge City and South Cambridgeshire district. The study uses a 20-minute travel time catchment area and a 10-minute walk time as a catchment area for sports facilities (these catchment areas are within guidance parameters suggested by Sport England).

Community Pay and Play Access

- 4.8 It is important to highlight that community use, and specifically pay and play access is the focus of the built leisure needs assessment. Community use applies to clubs, the public and community associations / groups; pay and play community access refers to the public.
- 4.9 The latter is really important because those who are inactive are highly unlikely to join a club to use a facility; therefore, it is only by ensuring there is sufficient pay and play community access to formal and informal facilities, that participation is likely to increase, here is also a link between good quality places and spaces in which to be physically active and levels of participation.
- 4.10 Community use provided for clubs is also very important, given that club members are also part of the overall community, but these individuals are more likely to be active already.

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Public Transport

- 4.11 The 2021 Census shows that in the City of Cambridge, 34.4% of residents do not own a car; this is higher than the England average (23.3%). Levels of car ownership in the City of Cambridge reflect the fact that a significant number of people cycle or use public transport. In South Cambridgeshire, only 10.9% of residents do not own a car which reflects a more rural area where residents travel to access services and facilities in the surrounding market towns and larger villages, as well as the City of Cambridge. Car ownership in the City of Cambridge is below the national average with 32.2% of residents owning one car compared with nearly 44% in England. 66.4% of households have a car compared to 77% nationally; the City of Cambridge is 323rd out of 348 local authorities in terms of car ownership levels.¹²
- 4.12 The City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire Transport Strategy aims for more journeys to be made by bus, train, bike and on foot. In Cambridge the aim is to promote bus routes that connect key economic hubs and link to the Cambridge North Railway Station, encourage car sharing, and prioritise pedestrian, cycle and bus trips across the city that make these methods more convenient than using a car.
- 4.13 In South Cambridgeshire the plan is seeking to improve public transport routes into the city, linking villages with public transport along busy routes, ensuring that cycle routes are more joined up, encouraging car share, and supporting locally led transport solutions in remote areas where conventional buses are not viable.
- 4.14 Establishing or improving links with existing or proposed public transport networks should therefore be a key consideration in development of new sports facilities in the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District. Appropriate provision is being made in new communities e.g., Northstowe, Waterbeach, and Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), to reduce the need to travel. However, it is recognised that in more rural areas, this can present more of a challenge than in more urban communities.
- 4.15 This approach is supported in Local Plan policy for both local authorities, which positively supports the development of additional opportunities for Active Travel (within existing communities and those that will be developed). This support is both on an informal basis by connecting to existing networks, and as a means of accessing community facilities, thereby reducing the number of car journeys, and contributing to the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District's health and wellbeing agenda.

¹² Source: RAC statistics car ownership

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Consultation

- 4.16 The Assessing Needs and Opportunities guide (ANOG) methodology requires consultation with clubs, schools, neighbouring local authorities, National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and key stakeholders. Schools were consulted via an online survey. Clubs' needs are also identified via consultation with NGBs.
- 4.17 Neighbouring Districts were contacted by email and information collected through this medium and combined with SLL's own knowledge from recent work in relevant areas. NGBs were all contacted by email and asked a series of questions to identify the information required. The consultation responses are set out in detail in Appendix 19.

Neighbouring Local Authorities

- 4.18 In determining the nature, level and location of sports facility provision required for the future in Greater Cambridge, it is also important to be aware of how neighbouring local authorities are planning for the future. Given that communities use sports facilities in areas other than where they live, the development of new or improved provision can impact significantly on both participation levels and capacity cross-boundary.
- 4.19 The City of Cambridge is surrounded by South Cambridgeshire District, so it is only this neighbouring authority (and parts of East Cambridgeshire) that has a direct impact on provision and use of sports facilities in the City. The relationship between the City and South Cambridgeshire is very different to that of most local authority areas because of the geography between the two areas. This is the rationale for developing a joint planning approach.
- 4.20 South Cambridgeshire residents tend to migrate into the City of Cambridge and neighbouring authorities such as Central Bedfordshire, Huntingdonshire, Uttlesford, East Cambridgeshire, West Suffolk and North Hertfordshire to use sports facility provision. This is particularly the case for residents living close to these district boundaries.
- 4.21 Under local government re-organisation, the outline proposals would see the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire come together as a minimum for a new administrative area. This has yet to be confirmed, but re-organisation is likely to take effect from 2027/28.
- 4.22 Table 4 summarises the feedback from adjacent local authorities who replied to the consultation in relation to current and future sports facility provision, which impacts on both the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 4: Neighbouring Local Authority Current and Future Facility Provision

East Cambridgeshire DC Current and Future Facility Provision

- The Hive LC built following a Leisure Facility Audit completed in 2015. This is the main leisure Centre for the district and the only one owned by the Council. Operated by Greenwich Leisure Ltd and includes a 25m x 8 lane county standard swimming pool and teaching pool
- The district has 8 leisure centres in total with 5 operated by trusts.
- There is very little exported demand from the City of Cambridge into East Cambridge, however, there is exported demand the other way, depending on the sport e.g., Diving.
- There is exported demand from South Cambridgeshire into East Cambridgeshire.

Fenland DC Current and Future Facility Provision

- Leisure facilities in Fenland are dated; there has been no capital or section 106/CIL money to invest
- Fenland Dc is now considering some investment in the three existing leisure centres, with a new 25m pool proposed for Chatteris Leisure Centre
- People from Fenland would not use public transport or drive to greater Cambridge to use traditional leisure facilities
- Nothing new in Greater Cambridge would compete or conflict with provision in Fenland

Central Bedfordshire Current and Future Facility Provision

- Central Bedfordshire BFS adopted July 2021
- Providing a new replacement leisure centre in Hatton Regis – long way from Cambridge – funding through Levelling Up. Identified an area on current school site – to be built and then current sports centre will be demolished. Use a capital delivery partner, in house Concertus
- Current management contract is with SLM
- Planning application is in now
- Also replacing a centre at Leighton Buzzard, funded by the council and section 106 money
- Small extension in Sandy – medium sized gym and 2 studios
- No impact on each other's facilities as too far away and travelling east to west is difficult. People in Central Bedfordshire are more likely to travel south and towards Bedford
- 4 new facilities overall as 2 others have been refurbished e.g. Dunstable
- Centres have community and social day care and there will be a Health Hub in the new centre. In house physical activity team – GP referrals, work well with health

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

North Herts DC Current and Future Facility Provision

- New swimming pool planned

Schools

- 4.23 All schools including Special Educational Needs (SEN) and Independent schools in the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district were contacted and asked to complete a survey about their existing sports facilities, their plans/aspirations for future provision, and the extent and nature of community use of the facilities. A total of 7 schools in the City of Cambridge and 11 schools from South Cambridgeshire district responded to the survey; a summary of the total responses is included in Appendices 13 and 14. Schools with community assets that did not respond to the survey were contacted by telephone and/or visited as part of the facility quality audits.
- 4.24 Schools were contacted to inform the analysis (extent of provision, access, and use), and were offered a meeting as part of the qualitative site visit. All site visits therefore involved on-site consultation with a member of staff. It is important to note that the feedback provided by the schools accords with the findings of the supply and demand analysis and the Facility Planning Model (FPM). There are varying levels of community access across school site in both the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district with some schools only hiring out to local sports clubs and organisations outside of school hours, whilst others also offer pay and play community access daytime/evening for some or all of their facilities. This is particularly the case in South Cambridgeshire district, which is more rural in nature and where the Council does not directly provide its own community sports facilities.
- 4.25 Of the 7 schools in the City of Cambridge that responded to the survey, only one school referred to a desire to look at opportunities to extend community use as a result of planned developments to refurbish and extend their existing sports facilities. One school would not consider introducing community use of its sports facilities because those facilities were already used by the pupils in the school and for wrap around provision.
- 4.26 Of the 11 schools in South Cambridgeshire district which responded to the survey, 3 of the schools that currently do not offer community use of their sports facilities indicated that they would consider this in the future. One of these schools said that this was subject to receiving funding to improve their swimming pool changing facilities. Only one of the schools has plans to improve their sports facilities and this is to allow sports hall use every day after school.

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Clubs

- 4.27 24 clubs across the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district responded to the survey; responses include clubs in a wide variety of sports including: trampolining, table tennis, swimming, squash, martial arts, badminton, athletics, handball, water polo, and volleyball.
- 4.28 The following summarises the survey findings and the detailed results are in Appendices 15 and 16.
- Over 50% of the clubs who responded have 5 coaches or more
 - Almost all of the clubs have more than 5 volunteers
 - Over the last 5 years, 50% of respondents said membership numbers had increased, 32% said numbers had stayed the same, 18% said numbers had decreased. 55% expected numbers to increase over the next 5 years
 - There are a variety of reasons for the increase/decrease in numbers including COVID which was considered positive and negative, and increasing population in Greater Cambridge
 - 63% of respondents said that membership is not at full capacity, 37% said that membership was full
 - 33% of clubs have over 61 junior members (under 18), 33% have 1-9 junior members
 - 67% of the respondents felt that the facility used suits the clubs needs all or most of the time
 - 95% are satisfied or very satisfied with the relationship with the facility owner/management, 5% are somewhat satisfied
 - The majority of clubs' priorities are to increase members, access to better facilities, getting back to competitive play post Covid, and to improve financial sustainability
- 4.29 Some of the key additional comments are:
- Cambridge Squash Club - there is a need for more public squash courts in Cambridge as there are no dedicated Squash Clubs – there is no single home for all of our members and hence they are spread across many venues in the Cambridgeshire area.
 - Swimming clubs – identified a need for a 50 metre 8 lane pool, with a floor that can be lowered for water polo. Swimming is a critical activity for disabled children and GLL is very proactive in this area
 - Volleyball, requires more sports halls which have sprung wooden floors
 - The University of Cambridge sports hall is the only venue which has a full-size handball court suitable for competition; there is a need for larger sports hall spaces which can provide for sports such as handball and volleyball

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- Several clubs identified that the University facilities are expensive
- Facilities that are suitable for competitive sport are difficult to find in Cambridge which is hindering promotion of clubs to higher leagues
- Martial arts clubs are largely reliant on village halls and other community facilities
- Covid has had a negative effect on clubs and getting back to competitive sport

Parish Councils

- 4.30 The City of Cambridge does not have Parish Councils.
- 4.31 73 Parish Councils from South Cambridgeshire District responded to the survey sent to them; 26 of these said they do not have any indoor sports facilities. The detailed results of the survey are in Appendix 17.
- 4.32 Most of the Parish Councils who have indoor sports facilities have an activity hall but there are other facilities such as fitness, squash, and swimming. The majority of these Parish Council facilities are classed as good or satisfactory although many do not have any changing facilities.
- 4.33 Many of the Parishes who responded indicated they would like to refurbish their current facilities or would like a new facility. Whilst the majority of aspirations relate to improvements to outdoor facilities and changing rooms, some parishes are developing new outdoor pitches and courts (detailed in the PPS). In terms of indoor facilities, the re-opening of the Gamlingay gym is highlighted as is the new swimming provision planned for Cambourne/Bourn Airfield.

Demand for Indoor sports facilities

- 4.34 The demand (current and future) for facilities other than sports halls and swimming pools is assessed using National Governing Body (NGB) standards if they are available, plus a combination of local factors for example, how many existing facilities there are, what is the identified demand from schools, clubs, the community etc, what is available immediately outside the authority boundaries to which people may find it easier to travel.

Overview of the Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

- 4.35 **The Facilities Planning Model (FPM)** is a computer-based supply/demand model, which has been developed by Edinburgh University in conjunction with Sport Scotland and Sport England since the 1980's. The model is a tool to help to assess the strategic provision of community sports facilities in an area. It is currently applicable for use in assessing the provision of sports halls, swimming pools, indoor bowls centres and artificial grass pitches.
- 4.36 There are two main tools used to inform the assessment of supply and demand, as well as the facility audit (Appendix 9 taken directly from Active Places and used as the baseline data to be checked and challenged through the site visits), quality site visits (Appendix 2 (2a – 2d)), and the demand information gathered through the consultation. These tools are:
- 4.37 **The Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM)** – this is only used for sports halls of **3 court size and above** and **swimming pools larger than 160 m²**.

Use of Facility Planning Model (FPM)

Sport England uses the Facility Planning Model as one of its principal tools in helping to assess the strategic need for certain community sports facilities.

The Facility Planning Model has been developed as a means of:

1. assessing requirements for different types of community sports facilities on a local, regional or national scale;
2. helping local authorities to determine an adequate level of sports facility provision to meet their local needs;
3. helping to identify strategic gaps in the provision of sports facilities; and
4. comparing alternative options for planned provision, taking account of changes in demand and supply. This includes testing the impact of opening, relocating and closing facilities, and the likely impact of population changes on the needs for sports facilities.

Its current use is limited to those sports' facility types for which Sport England holds substantial demand data, i.e. swimming pools, sports halls, indoor bowls and artificial grass pitches.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

The FPM report sets out the findings under seven headings and includes data tables and maps. The headings are defined at the start and include total supply; total demand; supply and demand balance; satisfied/met demand; unmet demand; used capacity (how full the pools are); and local share of pools. Each heading is followed by a commentary on the findings.

The purpose of the report is to provide the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Councils with an updated evidence base for sports halls and swimming pools, which the Council can use to inform its strategic planning for the future provision of these facility types. The full Facility Planning Model reports and appendices are set out in Appendices 15 and 16.

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facility Calculator (SFC) provides a quantitative estimate of future demand, but unlike the FPM the SFC model analysis does not identify specific locations for future provision. That needs to be informed by the nature and location of future housing development (where locations are known), local geography and accessibility, and, critically, the location of existing facilities. This is because future demand may have the potential to be addressed through facility extension, or refurbishment, as well as new locations. However, in the absence of any other future demand calculator, the SFC provides an indicator of the level of future provision needed. The SFC can be applied to the same facilities as those modelled in the FPM, but it is important to highlight that the SFC does not identify need, which can only be established by applying the information regarding demand from new housing to the findings and recommendations of the evidence in the ISFS.

- 4.38 The demand (current and future) for facilities other than sports halls and swimming pools is assessed using National Governing Body (NGB) standards if they are available, plus a combination of local factors e.g. how many existing facilities there are, what is the identified demand from schools, clubs, the community etc, what is available immediately outside the authority boundaries to which people may find it easier to travel.

5. Stage B Existing Indoor Sports Facility Provision

- 5.1. It is important to highlight from the outset that this assessment and strategy is not just about formal sports facility provision but also looks at opportunities for increased use of informal places and spaces. Community halls can be used for sport and physical activity even if they are not purpose designed nor marked for such use and can often provide an introductory experience of sport and physical activity, or a more accessible option for those who are older, have no access to private transport, or who have commitments which make it hard for them to travel to formal facilities.
- 5.2. Increased use of the outdoors, open spaces, parks, recreation grounds, and community halls also has significant potential to contribute to increasing levels of participation in physical activity at a very local level, and to addressing rising levels of obesity and other health inequalities. Outdoor facilities are covered in the 2025 Greater Cambridge Playing Pitch Strategy i.e. grass pitches, outdoor tennis/netball courts, bowls greens.

Indoor Sports Facilities Assessments (ISFS)

- 5.3. Indoor Sports Facility assessments have been developed for both the local authority areas (City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District) comprising Greater Cambridge. This report takes the individual assessments and combines them to provide a needs assessment for the Greater Cambridge area.
- 5.4. Table 5 summarises the existing indoor sports facilities across Greater Cambridge.

Table 5: All Indoor sports facilities – Greater Cambridge

Facilities	City of Cambridge (See Appendix 4 for the full list of facilities by name and address) (includes University College facilities which are not necessarily community accessible)	South Cambridgeshire District (See Appendix 5 for the full list of facilities by name and address)
Sports Hall (3+ Courts)	16	13
Swimming Pools (Main pools)	8	8
Health and Fitness Suites	32	19

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facilities	City of Cambridge (See Appendix 4 for the full list of facilities by name and address) (includes University College facilities which are not necessarily community accessible)	South Cambridgeshire District (See Appendix 5 for the full list of facilities by name and address)
Studios	23	12
Squash Courts	29	11
Indoor Tennis Courts	11	0
Indoor Bowls halls	2	0
Ice Rink		1

N.B. Some facility types do not currently exist in one or other local authority area.

- 5.5. Each of the individual Indoor Sports Facility assessments has been developed based on:
- Quality site audits
 - Analysis of accessibility and availability
 - Consultation
 - Catchment area Mapping
 - Assessment of supply and demand of facilities- current and future populations
 - Full details of the above are set out in each assessment, as required by Sport England's Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance (ANOG).
- 5.6. The assessment for each facility type also follows this structure for ease of reference.
- 5.7. Following the individual assessments by facility type there is the 'Applying the Needs Assessment' Section 6. This section interprets the implications of the needs assessment and then relates this back to the specific context of Greater Cambridge.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.8. In addition to the facility types in Table 5, reference is also made to the various community halls in the area (although these halls did not form part of the brief for the Indoor Sports Facility Strategy), which provide informal space for a wide range of physical activity and recreational activities.
- 5.9. It is important to highlight that community use and specifically pay and play access is the focus of the facility assessment. Community use applies to clubs, the public and community associations / groups; pay and play community access refers to the public.
- 5.10. The latter is really important because those who are inactive are highly unlikely to join a club to use a facility; therefore, it is only by ensuring there is sufficient pay and play community access to formal and informal facilities, that participation is likely to increase, and particularly amongst those who are currently inactive. Community use provided for clubs is also very important, given that club members are also part of the overall community, but these individuals are more likely to be active already.

Operational Management of the City of Cambridge Council Leisure Facilities

- 5.11. The following Cambridge facilities are operated on behalf of The City of Cambridge Council by Greenwich Leisure Limited (GLL):
- Jesus Green Lido
 - Abbey Leisure Complex
 - Kings Hedges Learner Pool
 - Parkside Pools
 - Cherry Hinton Village Leisure Centre
- 5.12. The contract with GLL commenced in October 2013 and ends autumn 2026. The procurement of a new Leisure Management contract to start from October 2026 is in progress; this new contract will include existing City of Cambridge facilities, plus the option to bring in new and existing facilities to be developed in South Cambridgeshire district and the City to meet the demand generated by new residential development. The new Contract also includes an option for Educational establishments and Trusts of existing and any new community accessible sports facilities yet to be built on education sites in the City and South Cambs to be managed by the procured Leisure Contractor.
- 5.13. Bringing education facilities into this contract will necessitate a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA) being in place between the Council and the relevant Academy.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.14. Ensuring that formal CUAs are in place will secure community access to education facilities, which will address the current situation in the City where each education site has a different arrangement about public access- times, prices, etc. Brining education facilities into the leisure management contract will also result in a consistent offer for residents.
- 5.15. The City of Cambridge Council recognises that a number of the facilities within the Council's portfolio are reaching the end of their planned lifespan and are likely to require significant investment, or replacement over the coming years. Rather than planning for this succession in isolation as a District, developing a long-term vision and outcomes with partners in the Greater Cambridge footprint could help to develop a joint long-term vision and deliver shared outcomes which are more achievable within a climate of much more constrained public sector finances. This review will form part of the Council's Our Cambridge Programme.
- 5.16. All other leisure facilities in the City of Cambridge with community access are located on education sites; those sites with secured formal Community Use Agreements in place are:

Table 6: Existing Facilities in the City of Cambridge with secured Community Use

Facility Name	Sports Facilities available for Community Use (indoor and outdoor)	Available Hours of Use
City of Cambridge		
Chesterton Community College Sports Centre	All Weather Pitch Sports Hall Fitness Suite Swimming Pool Studios	Community access is available 6.30am – 9pm Monday – Friday and 8am – 5pm at the weekends.
Hills Road Sports & Tennis Centre	Sports Hall	Pay & play facilities are available for community use for up to 2 hours per day, Monday to Thursday from 7pm. Community club usage is available for 1 hour per day from 7pm.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Name	Sports Facilities available for Community Use (indoor and outdoor)	Available Hours of Use
Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall Trust	Climbing Wall 8 Court Sports Hall Gym & Studios Projectile Hall X3 Squash courts	Open for pay and play use 7 days a week 9am – 11pm. On Bank Holidays, the facility is open 9am – 8pm.
Long Road Sixth Form College	All Weather Pitch	Pay & play and community club usage during term time, Monday to Friday from 5.30pm to 9.30pm and from 9am to 6pm at the weekend.
Meadows Community Centre	Activity Hall	9am – 5pm Monday – Saturday Closed Sundays
Netherhall School	All Weather Pitch Dance Studio Sports Hall x4 courts Small Gym & Studio Cricket Nets and Artificial Wicket	Local clubs can book the facilities during term time from 5pm and during the holidays from 9am. Local clubs can book the facilities Monday to Friday from 5pm to 10pm and from 9am to 5pm at the weekend.
North Cambridge Academy	Sports Hall All-Weather Pitch Outdoor Tennis x3	Pay & play facilities area available for community use for up to 6 hours weekly, Monday to Friday from 6pm to 10pm and during the weekend for up to 4 hours a day from 9am to 9pm. Community Club use is available for 4 hours weekly, Monday to Friday from 8pm to 10pm and for 2 hours per day at the weekend from 9am to 9pm.
St Bedes Inter Church School	Sports Hall	Pay & play facilities are available for community use for up to 6 hours weekly, Monday to Thursdays from 5pm to 8pm. Community club usage during the week is for up to 3 hours weekly from 8pm to 10pm. During the weekend pay & play or community club use is for up to 4 hours between 9am to 9pm.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Name	Sports Facilities available for Community Use (indoor and outdoor)	Available Hours of Use
University of Cambridge	Sports Centre (sports hall, squash courts, fitness suite, studios)	Public access is available Monday to Friday from 6.30am to 10pm and at the weekend from 8am to 8pm (subject to memberships). Community club usage is available out of term time from 5pm to 10pm. Community club usage during the week is for up to 3 hours weekly from 8pm to 10pm. During the weekend pay & play or community club use facilities for up to 2 hours between 9am to 9pm.
South Cambridgeshire District		
Cambourne Fitness And Sports Centre	Sports Hall Fitness Suite	6am – 9pm weekdays 8am – 4pm weekends
Cambourne Village College	3G pitch Sports Hall Dance Studio Gym Outdoor courts	For details of facilities and opening hours, see https://www.cambournevc.org/community/bookable-facilities/ Managed in-house; there is a Community Access Arrangement
Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre	Sports Hall Fitness Suite Studio 2 squash courts	7am – 10pm weekdays 8am – 4pm weekends
Comberton Village College	Sports Hall Climbing wall 3G all-weather football pitch; 4 x court sports lit netball facility Activity Hall	7am – 9.45pm weekdays 8am – 4.45pm weekends

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Name	Sports Facilities available for Community Use (indoor and outdoor)	Available Hours of Use
	Fitness Suite Studio 2 squash courts Lido	The lido operates on a separate basis to the rest of the sports facilities at Comberton Village College. Sessions are managed by Comberton Swimming Club, and open to members at the following times: From middle of May until the middle of September : Sat & Sun 3.00 – 5.00 pm Mon 6.00 – 8.30 pm Tues 7.30 – 9.0 pm (Adults only) Weds 6.00 – 8.30 pm Fri 6.00 – 8.30 pm Tues & Thurs 2.30 – 4.30 pm (summer hols only)
Cottenham and District Sports Centre	Sports Hall Activity Hall Fitness Suite Studio 3G pitch (opened 2025) Tennis courts	4.30pm – 10pm Mon-Sat inc. Weekends 8.00am – 10.00pm Bank Holidays: 08:00 - 22:00 Adult groups can only book from 5pm.
Cottenham Primary School	Activity Hall Lido (exclusively for school use)	No specific hours available
Impington Sports Centre	Sports Hall Activity Hall Swimming Pool Fitness Suite Studio	6.30am – pm weekdays 8.30am – 5.00pm Saturday 9.00am – 5pm Sunday

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Name	Sports Facilities available for Community Use (indoor and outdoor)	Available Hours of Use
Johnson Hall	Activity Hall	The hall is available for hire; it is open 7 days a week and appears to have regular bookings from 8.30am or 10am on weekdays. Current bookings end at 8pm.
Linton Village College	Sports Hall Activity Hall Fitness Suite Studio 3G Pitch Tennis/netball courts	3pm – 10pm Monday – Thursday 3pm – 9pm Friday 8.30am – 5pm Saturday 9.00am – 4pm Sunday
Litlington Recreation Centre	Activity Hall	9am – 5pm weekdays Closed weekends
Melbourn Sports Centre	Sports Hall Activity Hall Swimming Pool Fitness Suite Studio	10.00am - 9.30pm weekdays 8.00am - 1.00pm weekends Closed Bank Holidays
Milton Recreation Ground	Activity Hall	Three separate facilities: Coles Road Recreation Ground – activity hall, bowls green (Milton Bowls Club), football pitches, 5-a-side and netball courts (Milton Tennis club) The Sycamore Recreation Ground – football and cricket pitches North Lodge Recreation Ground – football pitches and cricket pitch

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Name	Sports Facilities available for Community Use (indoor and outdoor)	Available Hours of Use
Northstowe Secondary College	3G Football Pitch Hockey Pitch Floodlit Multi Use Playground Sports Hall Dance Studio Activity Studio Main Field and Fitness Suite	For details of facilities and opening hours, see Managed by P and E Sports Northstowe College; there is a Community Access Arrangement 6.00am – 10.00 pm Weekdays 8.00am – 8.00pm Weekends
Over Community Centre	Activity Hall	9am – 11.00pm except Sunday which is 9am – 10.30pm
Sawston Village College Sports Centre	Sports Hall Activity Hall Swimming Pool Fitness Suite Squash court	Monday 7 am–10 pm Tuesday 7 am–1 pm, 3–10 pm Wednesday 7 am–10 pm Thursday 7 am–1 pm, 3–10 pm Friday 7 am–9 pm Saturday 8 am–5 pm Sunday 9 am–4 pm
Swavesey Village College Sports Centre	Sports Hall Activity Hall Fitness Suite Squash court	5.30pm-9.30pm + Sat & Sun mornings: 09.30am-12.30pm

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Operational Management of South Cambridgeshire District Council Leisure Facilities

- 5.17. South Cambridgeshire District Council does not in general own nor operate community sports facilities, the only exception being the Western Park Sports Pavilion and Pitches at Northstowe. This is operated by Elite Sports UK on behalf of the district council.
- 5.18. The provision of sports facilities in the district is largely supported through a number of Community Use Agreements (CUAs) and small, single-facility trusts. In addition, Cambourne Town Council owns the Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre, which is managed by Everyone Active on behalf of the town council.

Quality Audits

- 5.19. The quality audits comprise an independent visual assessment of the quality and condition of the facilities; results are recorded on the Assessing needs and opportunities guide assessment sheet, developed by Sport England, and scored, based on the Sport England system set out in Table 7. Details of the individual audits undertaken across Greater Cambridge (City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District) are included in Appendix 6.
- 5.20. The audit scores are based on a numerical value, detailed on each assessment sheet, as follows:

Table 7: Quality Audit Scoring System

Key	Rating
>80%	Excellent
60% - 80%	Good
40% - 59%	Average
20%-39%	Poor
<20%	Very Poor

- 5.21. A facility scoring highly in terms of visual quality and condition (good – excellent) is likely to require less investment than one which in a poorer visual condition (average – very poor). The combination of the scores, results in the facility rating, and identification of investment need (significant, moderate etc.).

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.22. It is important to highlight that in undertaking the quality assessments, each element of the facility e.g. sports hall, pool etc is given a qualitative assessment, and the overall facility is also given an overall qualitative mark. Therefore, a sports hall can be of poor quality, but the overall facility score could be good.

Summary of Individual Facility Assessments

City of Cambridge

- 5.23. Based on the Active Places database, the Sport England Facility Planning Model, the local sports profile data (Sport England), and the audit undertaken to inform this strategy, the maps used in the following facility assessments show the extent of existing built sport and leisure facility provision in The City of Cambridge.
- 5.24. Users of sport and recreation facilities do not necessarily recognise administrative boundaries and will use facilities that are convenient and/or provide a quality/value for money experience. Ownership and management are, in this context, a minor consideration for most users.
- 5.25. The availability of facilities in neighbouring districts can and does influence sports facility usage patterns, as does access to private transport and availability of public transport. Good public transport means that accessing facilities is easier than in other districts.

Swimming Pools

- 5.26. There are 18 pools in the City of Cambridge at 14 sites. There are 9 main pools (lane swimming), 2 teaching pools, 1 diving pool, 1 leisure pool, and 5 lidos. 4 of the 8 main pools are available for pay and play access, and one with limited pay and play access (Perse School) with the other 3 pools commercially or privately operated. 2 of the lidos are available for public use. The main site for swimming in the city is at Parkside Pools and Gym where there is a main pool (8 lanes x 25m), a teaching pool, and a diving pool.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 8: Swimming Pools in the City of Cambridge (strategic size i.e. 160sq m + shown in bold)

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Abbey Leisure Complex	CB5 8NT	Main/ General	Lanes	5	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1991	2009
Abbey Leisure Complex	CB5 8NT	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	Lanes	0	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1991	2009
Chesterton Sports Centre	CB4 3NY	Main/ General	Lanes	3	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2004	2017
David Lloyd Club (Cambridge)	CB1 3LH	Main/ General	Lanes	4	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2004	n/a
David Lloyd Club (Cambridge)	CB1 3LH	Lido	Lanes	4	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2004	n/a
Everlast Fitness Club (Cambridge)	CB1 3ER	Main/ General	Lanes	4	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2008	n/a
Frank Lee Centre	CB2 0SN	Main/ General	Lanes	3	Pay and Play	Other	Trust	1973	n/a
Grove Primary School	CB4 2NB	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	Lanes	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2015	n/a
Jesus Green Lido	CB4 3BD	Lido	Lanes	3	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1923	2013

Greater Cambridge

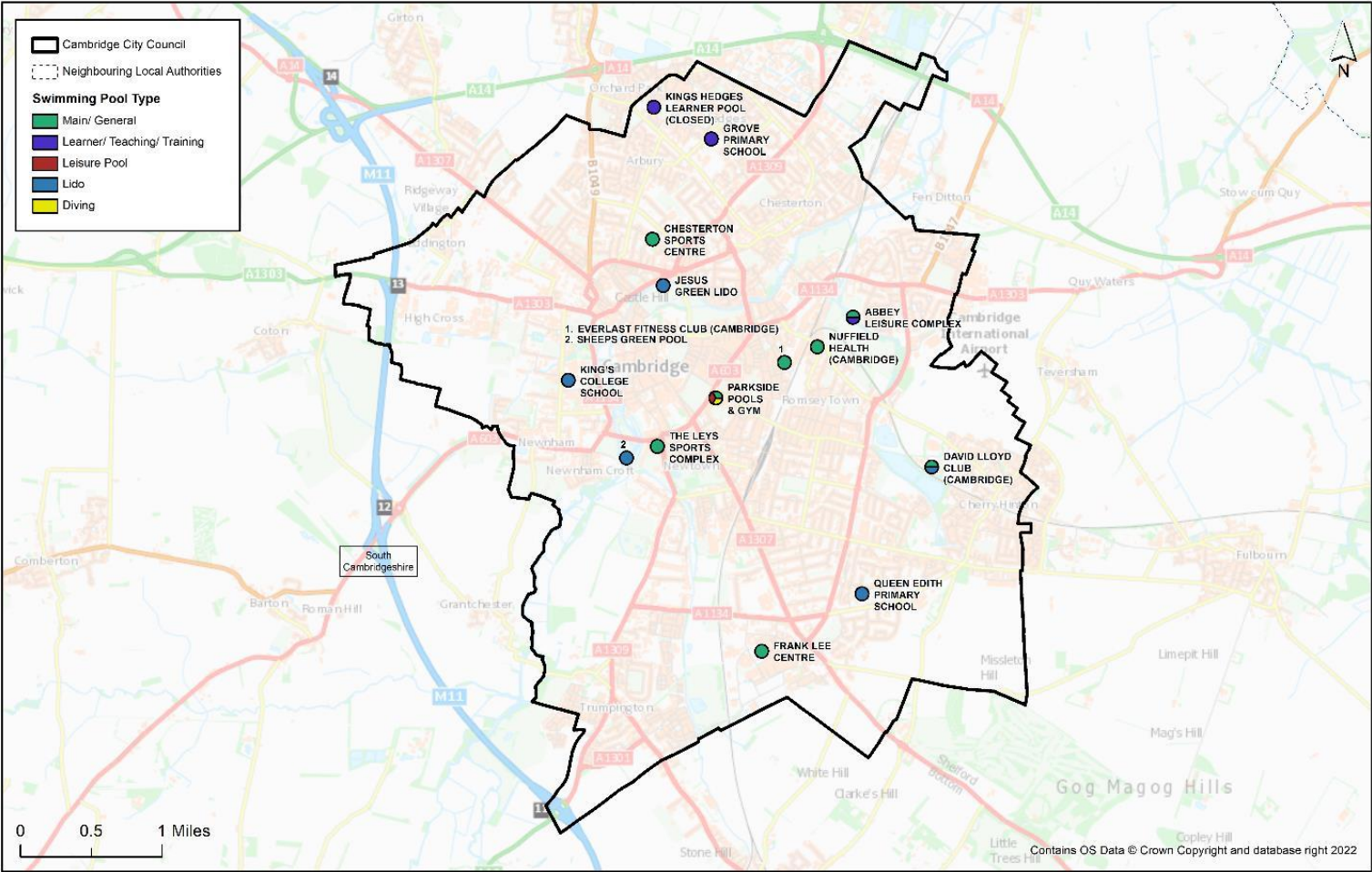
Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
King's College School	CB3 9DN	Lido	Lanes	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	1990	n/a
Kings Hedges Learner Pool	CB4 2XF	Learner	Lanes	0	Pay and Play - free	Local Authority	Trust	2006	n/a
Nuffield Health (Cambridge)	CB1 3BA	Main/General	Lanes	4	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1999	n/a
Parkside Pools & Gym	CB1 1LY	Main/General	Lanes	8	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1999	n/a
Parkside Pools & Gym	CB1 1LY	Leisure Pool	Lanes	0	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1999	n/a
Parkside Pools & Gym	CB1 1LY	Diving	Lanes	0	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1999	n/a
Perse School	CB2 8PP	Main/General	Lanes	6	Limited Pay and Play	Independent School	School in-house	2024	n/a
Queen Edith Primary School	CB1 8QP	Lido	Lanes	0	Private Use	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2015	n/a
Sheeps Green Pool	CB2 7EB	Lido	Lanes	0	Free Public Access	Local Authority	Trust	1975	n/a
The Leys Sports Complex	CB2 7AD	Main/General	Lanes	4	Pay and Play	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	1995	n/a

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 3: Swimming Pools by Type in the City of Cambridge



Swimming pools by type in Cambridge

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

5.27. Table 9 sets out the summary analysis of swimming pool supply in the City of Cambridge.

Table 9: Summary Analysis – Swimming Pool Supply and Demand City of Cambridge

Facility Type	Swimming Pools
Quantity	There are 17 pools in the City of Cambridge at 13 sites. There are 8 main pools (lane swimming) of strategic size, 2 teaching pools, 1 diving pool, 1 leisure pool, and 5 lidos. 4 of the 8 main pools are available for pay and play with the other 3 pools commercially or privately operated. 2 of the lidos are available for public use. The main site for swimming in the city is at Parkside Pools and gym where there is a main pool (8 lanes), a teaching pool, and a diving pool. King Hedges Learner Pool is now closed. The FPM (November 2024) outlines that demand for swimming pools increases by 14% between 2021 and 2031, and by 31% between 2031 and 2041. There is further increase to 2045. The scale of the increase has an impact on all key findings and interventions. Fortunately, the increase in demand is matched by a very substantial increase in the water space available for community use. Six new swimming pool sites and one closure are included in the assessment. Four are in the growth areas where demand is highest. Whilst the majority of new pools are needed to meet demand from strategic growth areas in South Cambridgeshire district, a new Regional pool in Cambridge East would address new demand from new residential development in the east and north of the City. A new pool at the Genome Campus would provide predominantly for member use.
Quality	The City of Cambridge Council's swimming pools are of good quality and all of the pools in the City of Cambridge are categorised average to excellent apart from Sheep's Green pool which is poor. Abbey is an ageing facility. There is a plan to modernise/refurbish Parkside Pools. A new 25m swimming pool is open in the City Centre at the Perse School. There is limited community access to this pool all outside of school use (curriculum and extra-curricular).

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Type	Swimming Pools
Accessibility	Parkside Pools provides the main focus for swimming currently and is located centrally in the city centre. Nearly all of the City has a drive time to a pool within the City boundary of 0-10 minutes, with only a small proportion of the City in the southeast with a drive time of 10-15 mins. Residents in the very centre of Cambridge have access to the most swimming pools, with four sites within a 20-minute walk. However, not all residents in these areas will walk to a swimming pool and some will travel further. All the swimming pool sites are within a five-minute walk of a bus stop, with the exception of Northstowe Pool, although Waterbeach Pool, Cambourne Pool and Cambridge Regional Competition Pool are on the edge of these areas. Travel to all swimming pools by bus should be possible.
Availability	Of the 17 pools, 4 are commercially operated. 4 of the 8 main pools are available for pay and play with the other 3 pools commercially or privately operated. 4 of the pools are located on education sites and therefore accessibility at these sites is limited in terms of hours available during the day for school sites. Parkside Pools offers a full programme of swimming activities. 11 of the 17 pools offer pay and play access. The FPM assessment supports the provision of all the new swimming pools at the scale and locations modelled. The interaction of supply and demand means a very high level of the demand is met, with a very high level retained in Greater Cambridge. Unmet demand is quite low, and most is demand located too far from a facility.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

South Cambridgeshire District

5.28. There is an overall total of 20 swimming pools across 19 sites in South Cambridgeshire district.

Table 10: Swimming Pools in South Cambridgeshire (strategic size i.e. 160sq m + shown in bold)

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Bassingbourn Community Primary School	SG8 5NP	Lido	Lanes	0	Private Use	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1963	n/a
Bourn C Of E Primary Academy	CB23 2SP	Lido	Lanes	0	Private Use	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1958	n/a
Bourn Golf And Country Club	CB23 2TT	Main/ General	Lanes	0	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1995	2006
Comberton Village College	CB23 7DU	Lido	Lanes	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	1960	n/a
Cottenham Primary School	CB24 8TA	Lido	Lanes	4	Private Use	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	1984	n/a
Girton College	CB3 0JG	Main/ General	Lanes	0	Private Use	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/ University (in house)	1960	2013
Girton Glebe Primary School	CB3 0PN	Lido	Lanes	0	Private Use	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1970	n/a
Granta Park	CB21 6GP	Main/ General	Lanes	4	Private Use	Commercial	Industry Sports Club	2018	n/a

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Imagine Health And Spa (Cambridge)	CB25 9AF	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	Lanes	0	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2003	n/a
Impington Sports Centre	CB24 9LX	Main/ General	Lanes	4	Pay and Play	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1995	n/a
Linton Heights Junior School	CB21 4XB	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	Lanes	0	Private Use	Playing for Success	School/College/ University (in house)	1974	2018
Melbourn Sports Centre	SG8 6EF	Main/ General	Lanes	4	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	Commercial Management	1991	2003
Sawston Village College Sports Centre	CB22 3BP	Main/ General	Lanes	4	Pay and Play	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	1955	n/a
Spirit Health Club (Cambridge)	CB24 9PH	Main/ General	Lanes	1	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1984	2011
Stapleford Community Primary School	CB22 5BJ	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	Lanes	0	Private Use	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1965	2014
Steeple Morden C Of E Primary School	SG8 0PD	Lido	Lanes	0	Private Use	Voluntary Controlled School	School/College/ University (in house)	1960	2009
The Cambridge Belfry	CB23 6BW	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	Lanes	0	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2004	n/a
The Petersfield Ce Primary School	SG8 5QG	Lido	Lanes	0	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/ University (in house)	1980	n/a

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

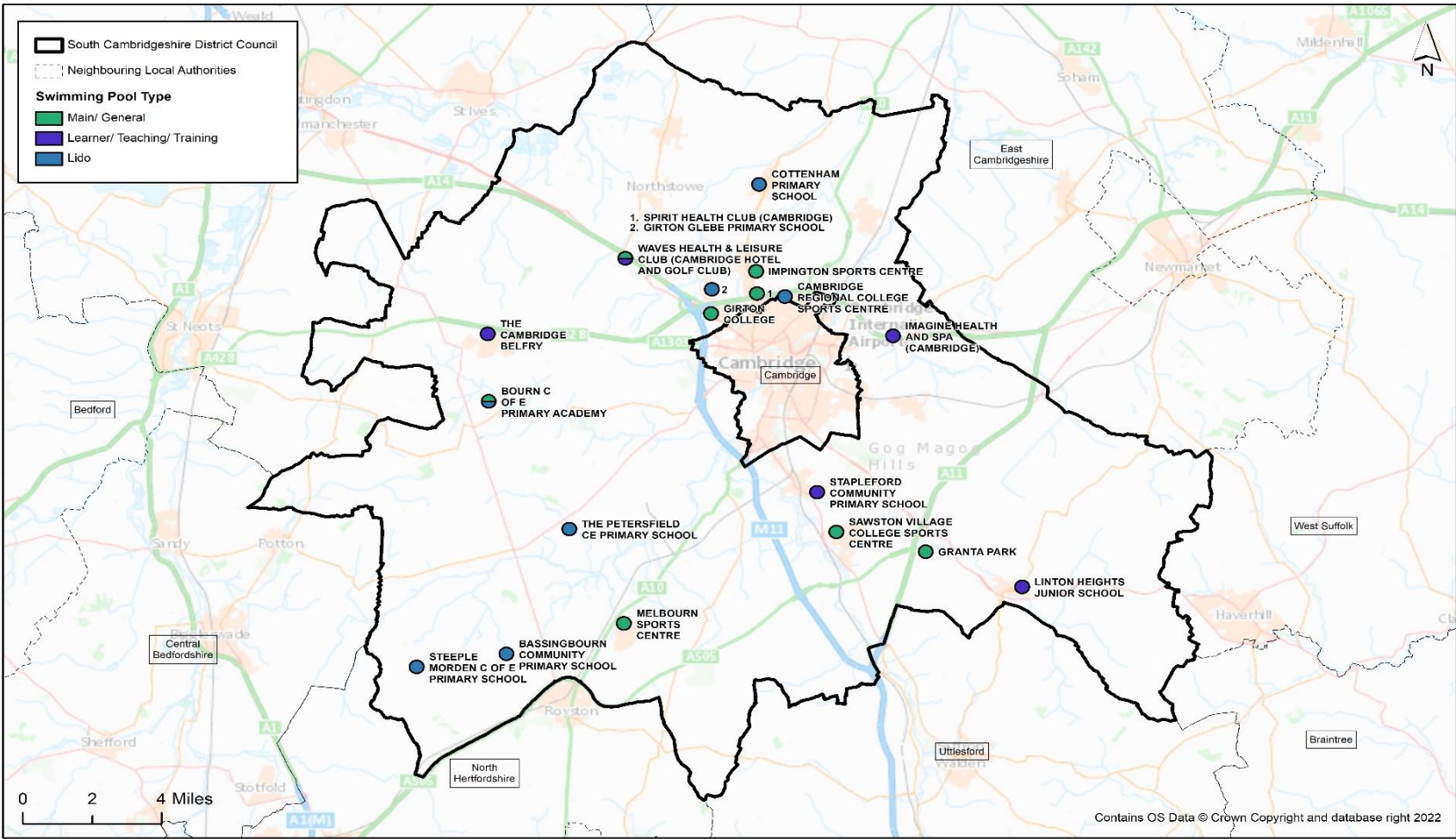
Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Waves Health & Leisure Club (Cambridge Hotel And Golf Club)	CB23 8EU	Main/ General	Lanes	0	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1974	2006
Waves Health & Leisure Club (Cambridge Hotel And Golf Club)	CB23 8EU	Learner/ Teaching/ Training	Lanes	0	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1974	2006

- 5.29. There are 4 strategic size indoor pools in South Cambridgeshire district. There are also two strategic size outdoor lidos located at Bourn C of E school and Comberton Village College. The lido at Bourn C of E School is for private use only and the lido at Comberton Village College operates on an unusual basis whereby families in the catchment of the village can apply to the 'club' and pay for a subscription to use the pool, which is open from May to September. The remaining 4 indoor strategic size pools are located at Granta Park (private), Impington Sports Centre, Melbourn Sports Centre and Sawston Village Collage Sports Centre.
- 5.30. There is a total of 3 community pay and play swimming pools in South Cambridgeshire:
- Impington Sports Centre (main pool 10m x 25m, 4 lane)
 - Melbourn Sports Centre (main pool 8m x 20m, 4 lane) and
 - Sawston Village College Sports Centre (main pool 7.5m x 15m, 4 lane)
- 5.31. All the above facilities are managed by different organisations and have varying levels of community access, with Impington and Melbourn sports centres offering a full and varied community swim programme weekday daytime/evenings and weekends whereas Sawston Village College Sports Centre offers a more limited programme as set out in Table 6.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 4: Swimming pools by type in South Cambridgeshire



Swimming pools by type in South Cambridgeshire

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

5.32. Table 11 sets out the summary analysis of swimming pool provision in South Cambridgeshire district.

Table 11: Summary Analysis – Swimming Pool Supply and Demand South Cambridgeshire District

Quantity

There is a total of 20 pools in South Cambridgeshire across 19 sites; only 6 of the pools are of strategic size i.e. minimum of 160 sq m.

There is a total of 3 community pay and play swimming pools in South Cambridgeshire; two of these are strategic size i.e. 160 sq m.:

- Impington Sports Centre (main pool 10m x 25m, 4 lane)
- Melbourn Sports Centre (main pool 8m x 20m, 4 lane) and
- Sawston Village College Sports Centre (main pool 7.5m x 15m, 4 lane)

A total of 10 pools (50%) in South Cambridgeshire are for private use only i.e. not pay and play swimming; 9 of these are located on education sites - 6 of these pools are located outdoors. Another 6 pools are for registered membership use only, mainly located on sites attached to hotels or golf clubs.

Quality

The FPM (November 2024) models provision of proposals for five new swimming pools between 2021 and 2045 in Greater Cambridge. Three of these facilities will be located in South Cambridgeshire district in growth areas where demand is highest: Northstowe, Waterbeach, and Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield). The FPM assessment (November 2024) supports the provision of all the new swimming pools at the scale and locations modelled.

The 3 pay and play community accessible swimming pools are all reaching the end of their useful life and consideration should be given to their refurbishment/replacement in the medium term. The oldest pool at Sawston Village College is 67 years old, Impington Sports Centre pool is 27 years old and Melbourne Sports Centre pool is now 31 years old. The quality of the swimming offer moving forward will be critical, given that none of the community provision is made directly by South Cambridgeshire District Council.

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There are also a number of private outdoor lidos on school sites in South Cambridgeshire that are in average or poor condition. A number of these fell into disrepair during the Covid pandemic and the schools do not have the funding available to refurbish and bring back into use.

Accessibility

Nearly all of South Cambridgeshire district is within a 10 – 15-minute drive catchment of a community pay and play pool when including the catchment areas of pay and play pools in neighbouring authorities. However, within the far north of the district there are areas within the wards of Swavesey, Willingham and Over, and Cottenham where there is no access either within a 0 – 10 minute or 10 – 15-minute drive time. This would be addressed through the provision of a new pool at Northstowe. It is also worth noting that there is only one community accessible pay and play swimming pool in South Cambridge which is a minimum 25m in length (Impington Sports Centre). None of the existing pools conform to the Sport England recommended guidelines for width. The dimensions of the existing pools are likely to have some impact on the range of activities available and the capacity of provision as a whole.

The existing community accessible facilities are not under the control of the local authority; this means that security of access for South Cambridgeshire residents cannot be guaranteed and does highlight a risk in terms of ongoing access.

Residents to the east and west of the district are outside the catchment area of community accessible swimming pools within South Cambridgeshire and are therefore reliant on using pools in neighbouring authorities including the City of Cambridge, Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, St Edmundsbury and North Hertfordshire. The proposed 5 new swimming pools in Greater Cambridge will address this, as long as community use arrangements are secured for those pools located on educational sites

Availability

There are 20 pools across South Cambridgeshire district. There are 3 pay and play community accessible swimming pools, however, two of these pools (Impington Sports Centre and Sawston Village College) are only available for public use outside of school hours. Both pools are also in average condition. Only one of the pools (Impington Sports Centre) is 25m in length; this is likely to limit the range of activities and capacity of these pools.

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Four of the new Growth Areas planned for South Cambridgeshire at Northstowe, Waterbeach, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), and Marleigh include provision for a new swimming pool and would contribute towards meeting demand for swimming for new and existing communities in South Cambridgeshire.

Facility Planning Model – Bespoke Assessment for Greater Cambridgeshire (November 2024) ¹³

- 5.33. A forward planning exercise using a bespoke Facility Planning Model (FPM) assessment has been undertaken for Greater Cambridge to further test the need for new swimming pools identified in each of the City and South Cambridge.
- 5.34. Given the significant population increase there is no means of meeting the increase in demand for swimming provision other than to develop new swimming pool facilities. The proposals for new pools have been developed based on identification of the areas where there will be most increased demand.
- 5.35. The new swimming pools proposed are:

By 2031

- New swimming pools at Genome Campus (providing predominantly for employees and onsite residents) and Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield),

The development of these two new facilities would increase provision from the existing 10 swimming pools with community access to 12 swimming pools with community access.

2031-2045

- New swimming pools at Northstowe, and Waterbeach
- A new swimming pool at West Cambridge
- A new Regional Pool (50m) Cambridge East

¹³ N.B Since the FPM runs were modelled, population projections have been updated and demand assessed to 2045.

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The development of these four new facilities would increase provision from the proposed 14 swimming pools (10 existing plus four new) with community access to 16 swimming pools (excluding Abbey) with community access.

5.36. The FPM modelling runs provide:

- **Run 1** – a baseline assessment of provision in 2021
- **Run 2** – a forward assessment of demand for swimming pools and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population between 2021 and 2031
- **Run 3** – a forward assessment of the impact of the addition of Perse School Pool, Genome Campus and Cambourne Pool have in meeting the demand for swimming pools and its distribution up to 2031
- **Run 4** – a forward assessment of the impact of the modelled option of the addition of West Cambridge Pool has in meeting demand for swimming pools and its distribution up to 2031
- **Run 5** – a forward assessment of demand for swimming pools and its distribution, based on the projected changes in population between 2031 and 2041 and the impact of the addition of Northstowe Pool and Waterbeach Pool and the modelled option of the addition of Sawston Pool
- **Run 6** – a forward assessment of the impact of the modelled option of the exclusion of Abbey Leisure Complex and the addition of Regional Pool in meeting demand for swimming pools and its distribution up to 2041

5.37. The swimming pool proposals for future provision modelled in the bespoke Greater Cambridge FPM (November 2024) by run are:

- **Runs 1 and 2** – 9 existing swimming pool sites available for community use
- **Run 3** – 12 sites (new swimming pool facilities developed at Perse School, Cambourne Pool and Genome Campus)
- **Run 4** – 13 sites (new swimming pool developed at West Cambridge Pool)
- **Run 5** – 16 sites (new swimming pools developed at Northstowe Pool, Sawston Pool and Waterbeach Pool)
- **Run 6** – 16 sites (this Run relates to 2041 and excludes Abbey Pool but includes a new Regional Pool)

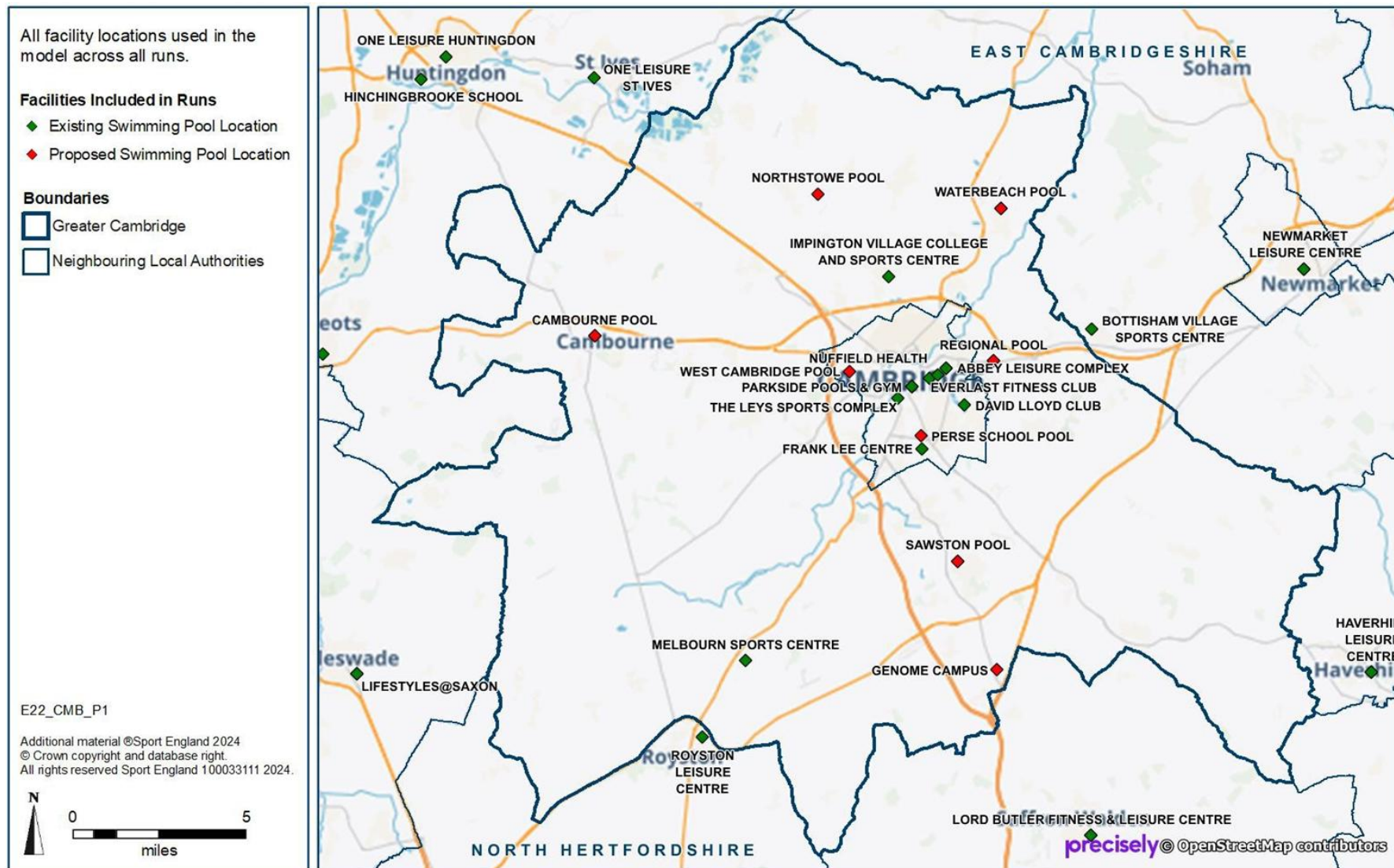
5.38. The purpose of Runs 3 and 4 is to assess the impact of changes in the swimming pool supply on meeting the demand for swimming pools in 2031. Runs 5 and 6 assess the impact of further swimming pool changes on meeting the demand in 2041.

5.39. Map 5 illustrates the locations of all pools across Greater Cambridge in the above runs. Those marked with a blue square are existing pools; the proposed new pools are marked with a red square.

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Map 5: Locations of all pools (existing and planned) across Greater Cambridge in the FPM runs (November 2024)



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5.40. The key findings that underpin the FPM analysis are:

- The water space available for community use increases progressively over the six runs from 2,584 sq.m of water in Runs 1 and 2 to 5,900 sq.m of water in Run 6.
- An extensive amount of the available future water space for community use will be at two public sites:
 - Parkside Pools and Gym accounts for 25% of Greater Cambridge's available water space in Runs 1 and 2, and 13% in Run 5
 - A proposed new Regional Pool (50m) accounts for 25% of Greater Cambridge's available water space in Run 6
- The proportion of demand met is high, with little change arising from the increase in demand for swimming pools. Satisfied demand is lowest in Run 2 at 85%, and highest in Runs 5 and 6 at 94%.5.
- Greater Cambridge meets a very high level of its demand within its area. The new swimming pools are contributing to small increases in the proportion of retained demand, which ranges from 90% of satisfied demand in Runs 1 and 2, to 97% in Runs and 6. The pools are accessible and attractive to Greater Cambridge residents.
- Comparing Run 1 with Run 6, there is a decrease in the number of visits unmet in the weekly peak period, with 2,509 visits unmet in Run 1 and 1,744 visits unmet in Run 6.
- As a proportion of demand, unmet demand is 12% in Run 1 and 6% in Run 6.
- Across all runs, between 82% and 98% of all unmet demand is located too far from a facility. Unmet demand from lack of swimming pool capacity is very small and is:
 - Highest in Run 2, at 99 sq.m of water from a total of 553 sq.m of water
 - Lowest in Run 6, at 6 sq.m of water from a total of 287 sq.m of water
- In Run 6 the location that can meet the most unmet demand is Orchard Park, north Cambridge at Junction 32 of the A14 (the intersection with the B1049). However, unmet demand of 62 sq.m of water is an insufficient total to consider building a new swimming pool at this location.
- The overall estimated used capacity of Greater Cambridge's swimming pools in the weekly peak period is highest in Run 2 at 81%, and lowest in Run 6 at 64%.

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- All the new pool sites are uncomfortably full (more than 70% of capacity used at peak times). Of the new sites, three are 100% utilised in Run 3, four sites in Run 4, five sites in Run 5 and two sites in Run 6.

5.41. The above findings and their implications for future provision of swimming pools across greater Cambridge are set out from paragraph 4.123.

Sports Halls

City of Cambridge

5.42. The City of Cambridge has a total of 16 sports halls (strategic size 3+ courts) (refer to Map 6). The sports halls are provided across 16 sites and there are two 8 court sports halls.

Table 12: Sports and Activity Halls in the City of Cambridge (strategic size i.e. 3 badminton courts + facilities in bold) ¹⁴

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number of Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Castle School	CB4 2EE	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Community Special School	School/College/ University (in house)	2006	n/a
Cherry Hinton Village Leisure Centre	CB1 9EJ	Main	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust	1989	2007
Chesterton Sports Centre	CB4 3NY	Main	4	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2004	2008

¹⁴ Contains Active Places Data © Sport England

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number of Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Chesterton Sports Centre	CB4 3NY	Activity Hall	1	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2004	n/a
Coleridge Community College	CB1 3RJ	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1934	1985
Coleridge Community College	CB1 3RJ	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	2016	n/a
David Lloyd Club (Cambridge)	CB1 3LH	Main	4	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2004	n/a
Fawcett Primary School	CB2 9FS	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1990	n/a
Frank Lee Centre	CB2 0SN	Activity Hall	1	Registered Membership use	Other	Trust	1975	2009
Hills Road Sports & Tennis Centre	CB2 8PF	Main	4	Sports Club /Community Association	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	1996	n/a
Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre	CB1 1NA	Main	8	Sports Club /Community Association	Commercial	Commercial Management	1978	n/a
King's College School	CB3 9DN	Main	4	Sports Club /Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	2018	n/a

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number of Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Long Road Sixth Form College	CB2 8PX	Main	4	Sports Club /Community Association	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	2005	n/a
Meadows Community Centre	CB4 3XJ	Activity Hall	1	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1997	2015
NCI Sports And Social Club	CB4 3DL	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1885	n/a
Netherhall Sports Centre	CB1 8NN	Main	4	Sports Club /Community Association	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1990	2009
Netherhall Sports Centre	CB1 8NN	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1990	n/a
Netherhall Sports Centre	CB1 8NN	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1990	n/a
Netherhall Sports Centre	CB1 8NN	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1990	n/a
North Cambridge Academy	CB4 2JF	Main	3	Sports Club /Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	2006	n/a
Parkside Community College	CB1 1EH	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1913	2004

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number of Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
St Bedes Inter Church School	CB1 3TD	Main	4	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/ University (in house)	2006	n/a
St Bedes Inter Church School		Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/ University (in house)	1985	n/a
St Faiths School	CB2 8AG	Main	6	Sports Club /Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	2011	n/a
St Georges Club	CB4 1LN	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1939	n/a
St Marys School	CB2 1LY	Activity Hall	2	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	1958	n/a
Stephen Perse Foundation	CB2 1HF	Main	4	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	2018	n/a
The Leys Sports Complex	CB2 7AD	Main	5	Sports Club /Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	1995	n/a
The Perse Preparatory School	CB2 8EX	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	2000	n/a
The Perse Upper School	CB2 8QF	Main	6	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	2000	n/a

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number of Badminton Courts	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Trinity College Old Fields	CB3 9AA	Activity Hall	1	Private Use	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/University (in house)	2004	n/a
Trumpington Community College	CB2 9FD	Main	4	Pay and Play	Academies	Trust	2016	n/a
University Of Cambridge Sports Centre (West Site)	CB3 0AS	Main	8	University and community access	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/University (in house)	2013	n/a
TOTAL			95					

5.43. There are:

- A total of 16 (all strategic size i.e., 3 courts+) sports halls across 16 sites
- 76 badminton courts across the 16 available sports halls
- 6 further badminton courts available in activity halls at the strategic sites = total of 82 courts

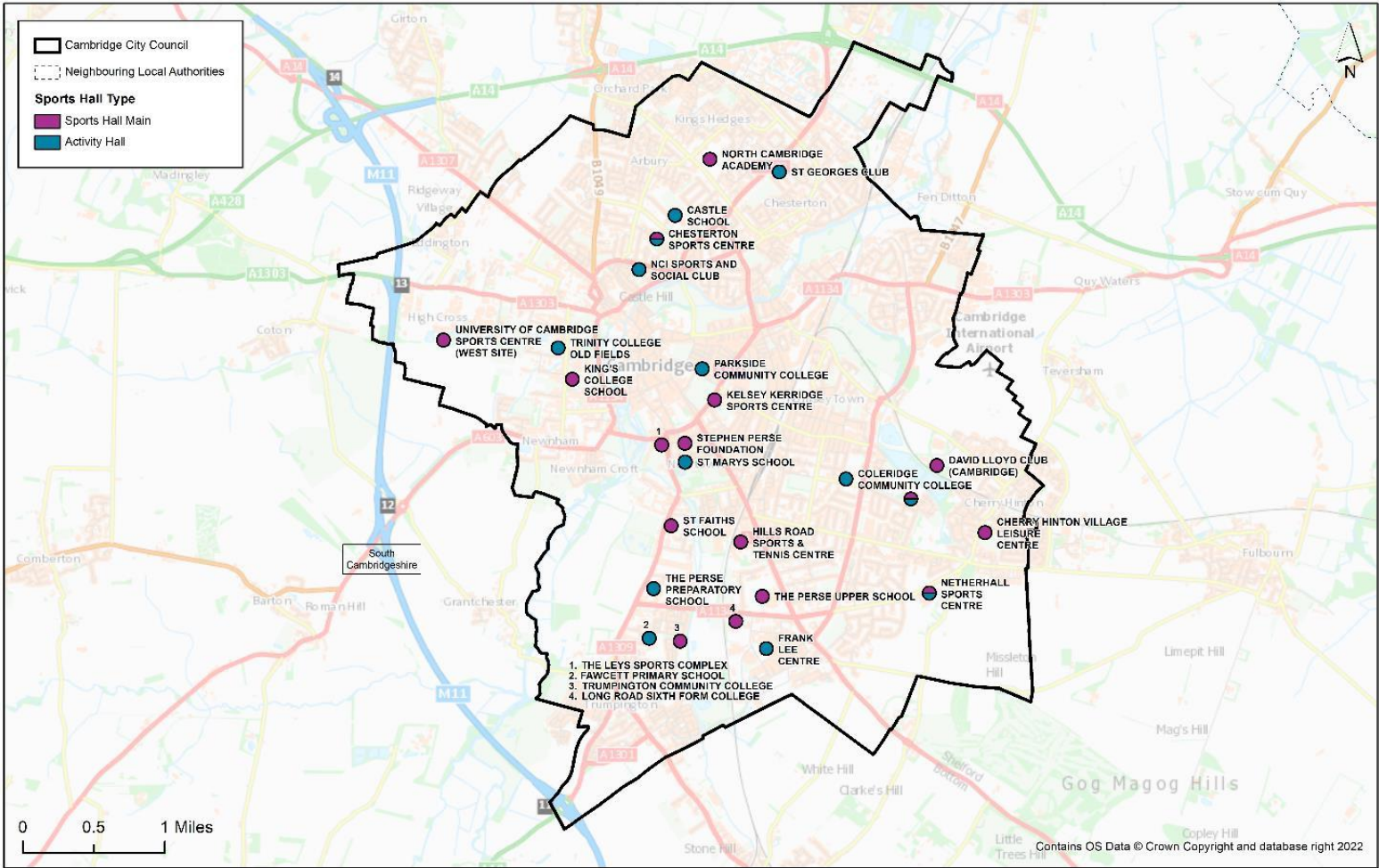
5.44. The sports halls are operated and managed by a mix of schools/colleges/Trust/private operator. The dominant sports hall provider is the educational sector.

5.45. 12 of the strategic sports halls are on education sites and 3 sites are available for pay and play; however, most of the sports hall on school sites offer community bookings. There are 2 sports halls with 8 badminton courts, one at the University of Cambridge and the other at Kelsey Kerridge. The oldest sports hall facility is at Kelsey Kerridge which was built in 1978.

Map 6: Sports Hall/Activity Hall sites in the City of Cambridge

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities



Sports halls by type in Cambridge

5.46. The sports halls across the City of Cambridge are a mix of average/good/excellent condition. 6 of the sports halls are in excellent condition. Of the 3 pay and play sports halls, 2 are in average condition and 1 (Trumpington College) is in excellent condition. Kelsey Kerridge is the

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oldest sports hall, built in 1978. Perse Schools Swimming Pool and Sports Centre are the newest sports facilities opened in Sept 2024.

- 5.47. Netherhall Sports Centre provides the key venue for netball as the sports hall is of the correct scale to allow for the required run-offs for the indoor game. Courts have recently been resurfaced at the Centre.
- 5.48. There is only one sports hall in the City, at the University, which is large enough for competitive handball. The Cambridge Handball Club, which also runs the University Handball teams, has men’s and women’s teams playing in the Handball Premier League. The club lacks training space in sports halls that are large enough for the sport of handball.
- 5.49. Other sports requiring a large sports hall include volleyball and futsal. There are several volleyball clubs in the City, including:
- Rhinos Volleyball Club playing at North Cambridge Academy
 - Cambridge Volleyball club playing at Anglian Ruskin University
 - St Philips Volleyball club playing at Netherhall Sports Hall
 - University of Cambridge Volleyball club, playing at the University of Cambridge Sports Centre
- 5.50. Cambridge Futsal Club is based at the University of Cambridge Sports Centre and use the sports hall there for training and matches. The club offers futsal teams for men and women plus an academy pathway for developing players.
- 5.51. Ideally, futsal requires a dedicated indoor hall space and futsal court, but sports halls are used in the absence of this.

Table 13: Summary Analysis – Sports Hall and Activity Hall Supply and Demand - the City of Cambridge

Facility Type	Sports Halls
Quantity	There are: • A total of 16 (all strategic size i.e., 3 courts+) sports halls across 16 sites • 76 badminton courts across the 16 available sports halls • 7 further badminton courts available in activity halls at the strategic sites = total of 83 courts Although there is a very good supply of sports halls, the majority are on educational sites (12) there is also only one sports hall site in the growth areas (Northstowe).

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Type	Sports Halls
	There is a large increase in the demand for sports halls between 2021 and 2031 and an even larger increase between 2031 and 2041 and again to 2045. The supply of sports halls remains unchanged between 2021 and 2041. The supply and demand interaction creates a very large increase in the number of sports halls which are uncomfortably full at peak times, constituting most sites by 2041. There is a sizeable supply which is currently unavailable for community use. However, the supply which is available results in a very high level of demand being met with most satisfied demand being within Greater Cambridge. Unmet demand is low but increases by 2041. Given the need for additional sports halls by 2025 the opportunity to consider the development of an 8 court + facility should be considered as part of a new regional facility, potentially located adjacent to the Cambridge Ice Arena. As well as providing for communities in the north, north east and east of the city, such a facility could also address the needs of sports such as handball and volleyball. Although not a dedicated futsal hall, a sports hall of 8 courts+ scale would provide an environment in which futsal could be played.
Quality	The sports halls across the City of Cambridge are a mix of average/good/excellent condition. 6 of the sports halls are in excellent condition. Of the 3 pay and play sports halls, 2 are in average condition and 1 (Trumpington College) is in excellent condition. Kelsey Kerridge is the oldest sports hall, built in 1978. Perse Schools Swimming Pool and Sports Centre are the newest sports facilities opened in September 2024. The average age span of a public sports facility is 35 – 40 years, and although some facilities are around this age e.g., Netherhall Sports Centre, the need for investment in the overall facilities of this age is classed as moderate. However, by 2031 and 2045 the facilities will be in need of significant modernisation/refurbishment.
Accessibility	All of the pay and play and community use strategic sports halls are within 10 minutes' drive time catchment area and therefore all areas of the City of Cambridge are serviced by an accessible sports hall. In the Cambridge City

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Type	Sports Halls
	more visits to sports halls are by public transport, walking, or cycling due to the low car ownership compared to the national average and therefore a network of locally accessible sports halls is important for residents who either walk or use public transport to travel to a sports hall. There is a lack of larger sports halls in the city, i.e. 8 courts plus, to accommodate sports such as volleyball and handball, both of which are popular sports in Cambridge, given the large student populations and the diverse city population. There is also no existing dedicated futsal court in the city.
Availability	In the Cambridge City there is a very good level of sports hall and activity hall provision. However, the majority of sports halls are on education sites (12 out of 16), providing mainly for sports clubs/association use, not pay and play access. The limited daytime access to sports hall provision highlights the importance of the community centres which are available during the day for clubs and pay and play use, particularly for the older population, or those without private transport.

South Cambridgeshire District

- 5.52. South Cambridgeshire district has a total of 12 sports halls (strategic size 3+ courts) (refer to Map 7). The sports halls are provided across 11 sites with Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre having 2 x 4 court sports halls. Appendix 5 details the sports hall supply in South Cambridgeshire taken from Active Places (Sport England) and additional research.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 14: Sports and Activity Halls in South Cambridgeshire (strategic size i.e. 3 badminton courts + facilities in bold) ¹⁵

Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Bassingbourn Sports Centre	SG8 5NJ	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	2008	n/a
Cambourne Fitness And Sports Centre	CB23 6FY	Main	4	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	2011	n/a
Cambourne Village College	CB23 6FR	Activity Hall	0	Private Use with some community access	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	2016	n/a
Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre	CB4 2QT	Main	4	Pay and Play	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	1993	2005
Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre	CB4 2QT	Main	4	Pay and Play	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	2009	n/a
Comberton Village College	CB23 7DU	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	2011	n/a
Comberton Village College	CB23 7DU	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	1980	2005
Cottenham & District Sports Centre	CB24 8UA	Main	3	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1980	n/a

¹⁵ Contains Active Places Data © Sport England including ownership type

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Cottenham & District Sports Centre	CB24 8UA	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1970	n/a
Cottenham Primary School	CB24 8TA	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	Local Authority (in house)	1960	2015
Fowlmere Recreation Ground	SG8 7RT	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Community Organisation	1984	n/a
Fulbourn Recreation Ground	CB21 5BS	Activity Hall	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	2014	n/a
Hardwick And Cambourne Community Primary School (Hardwick Campus)	CB23 7RE	Activity Hall	0	Private Use	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	1980	n/a
Hunts Road Recreation Ground	CB22 4RE	Activity Hall	0	Free Public Access	Local Authority	Trust	2020	n/a
Ickleton Village Hall Ground	CB10 1SH	Activity Hall	1	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Community Organisation	1999	n/a
Impington Sports Centre	CB24 9LX	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1995	n/a

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Impington Sports Centre	CB24 9LX	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1995	2006
Johnson Hall	CB22 5BQ	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1950	n/a
Linton Village College	CB21 4JB	Main	3	Pay and Play	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	1992	2014
Linton Village College	CB21 4JB	Activity Hall	2	Pay and Play	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	2009	n/a
Litlington Recreation Centre	SG8 0QR	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1999	n/a
Lynton Way Recreation Ground	CB22 3EA	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	1960	n/a
Melbourn Sports Centre	SG8 6EF	Main	3	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Organisation	Commercial Management	1991	n/a
Milton C Of E Primary School	CB24 6DL	Activity Hall	0	Private Use	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2000	n/a
Milton C Of E Primary School	CB24 6DL	Activity Hall	0	Private Use	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2000	n/a
Milton Recreation Ground	CB24 6BL	Activity Hall	2	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	Community Organisation	1989	n/a

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Site Name	Post Code	Facility Sub Type	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Northstowe Secondary College	CB24 1DJ	Main	4	Private Use with some community use	Academy Free Schools	School/College/ University (in house)	2019	n/a
Over Community Centre	CB24 5NW	Activity Hall	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority	Community Organisation	1995	2008
Sawston Village College Sports Centre	CB22 3BP	Main	3	Pay and Play	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	1970	2004
Sawston Village College Sports Centre	CB22 3BP	Activity Hall	2	Pay and Play	Foundation School	School/College/ University (in house)	1970	2004
Stow-Cum-Quy Village Hall	CB25 9AB	Activity Hall	0	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial	Community Organisation	1890	1974
Swavesey Village College Sports Centre	CB24 4RS	Main	2	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	1975	n/a
Swavesey Village College Sports Centre	CB24 4RS	Main	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies	School/College/ University (in house)	2015	n/a
TOTAL			66					

N.B. A foundation school is a type of state-funded school in the UK that is run by its own governing body, which is responsible for admissions, staff, and day-to-day operations. Unlike community schools, foundation schools' land and buildings are owned by the governing body or a charitable foundation, and they have more freedom in how they are run, though they are still funded by the local authority.

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Foundation schools (also known as voluntary schools) have more freedom than community schools with the way they operate. Academies, are independent schools that are funded by the government. Like free schools, Academies do not have to follow the national curriculum.

5.53. There are:

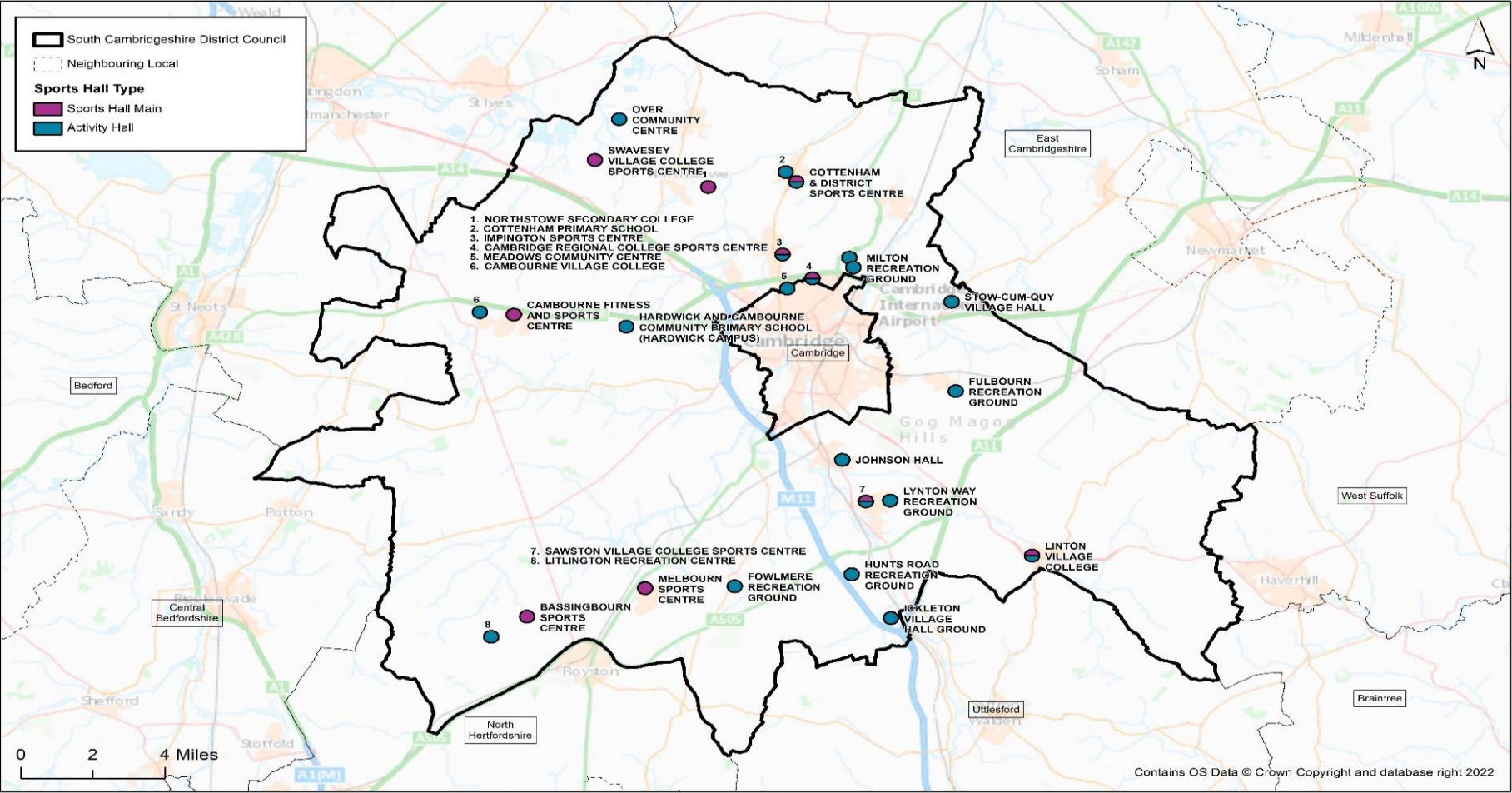
- A total of 12 (all strategic size i.e. 3 courts +) sports halls across 11 sites
- 44 badminton courts across the 12 available sports halls
- A further 7 badminton courts are available in activity halls at the strategic sites, giving a total of 51 courts
- 5 pay and play accessible sports halls

5.54. The sports halls are operated and managed by a mix of schools, colleges, academies, commercial managed and local authority. 11 of the strategic sports halls are on education sites and 5 of the sports halls are available for community pay and play use, although one of the sites, Linton Village College, is only available for public use after 4pm weekdays. The majority of the sports halls on school sites offer community bookings. There are no sports hall sites without community access. The oldest sports hall facility is at Sawston Village College Sports Centre and built in 1970.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 7: Sports Hall/Activity Hall sites in South Cambridgeshire District



Sports halls by type in South Cambridgeshire

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 15: Summary Analysis – Sports Hall Supply and Demand – South Cambridgeshire District

Quantity

There are:

- A total of 12 (all strategic size i.e. 3 courts +) sports halls across 11 sites
- 44 badminton courts across the 12 available sports halls
- A further 7 badminton courts are available in activity halls at the strategic sites, giving a total of 51 courts
- 5 pay and play accessible sports halls

Although there is a good supply of sports halls, the majority are on educational sites (11). Whilst there is some potential to increase the capacity of existing sports halls to cater for increased demand to 2031, with an additional sports hall built in Northstowe, by 2045 there will be a need across Greater Cambridge for an additional 31.2 courts i.e. equivalent to 7.8 4 badminton court sports halls. These will be developed at Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

Quality

The existing sports halls across South Cambridgeshire are a mix of average, good and excellent condition. Cottenham Village College sports hall is in a poor condition and is not currently open to the public.

3 of the 12 sports halls are in excellent condition. Of the 5 pay and play sports halls, one is in excellent condition (Cambourne Fitness and Sports Centre) and the remaining 4 are in good condition. Sawston Village College Sports Centre is the oldest facility, built in 1970 (refurbished in 2014) and the newest facility is at Northstowe Secondary College built in 2019. The average lifespan of a public sports facility is 35 – 40 years and although 5 facilities are around this age, the need for investment in the overall facilities of this age is classed as moderate, with 2 of the sports halls having been refurbished since 2000.

The FPM identifies the need to modernise or replace the ageing educational sports halls e.g. Sawston Village College. The report suggests that this may occur alongside the need for new secondary schools in the housing growth areas.

Accessibility

All areas of South Cambridgeshire are within a 20-minute drive catchment of a pay and play and community use strategic size sports hall, including sports halls outside the local authority boundary area.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

However, of the 12 community accessible sports halls, only 4 are available daytime, evenings and weekends for pay and play public use. The remainder offer community access to groups and clubs but not on a pay and play basis.

The FPM identifies opportunities to extend the hours available for community use across some educational establishments. In South Cambridgeshire, levels of public community access during a weekly peak period could be improved at Bassingbourn Sports Centre, Melbourn Sports Centre, and Northstowe Secondary College.

As the supply of sports halls is not due to increase, there will be a very large increase in the number of sports halls that are uncomfortably full at peak times, constituting most sites by 2041.

In 2021 and 2031, 95% of the met demand is retained within Greater Cambridge; in 2041 this is 94%. The sports halls are accessible and attractive to residents and have suitable capacity.

In South Cambridgeshire, more visits to sports halls are by car due to the rural nature of the district and the high level of car ownership (89%). It is therefore important to ensure that, as part of the Council's zero carbon strategy and aims to reduce carbon emissions by 2030, walking, cycling and affordable public transport, become the preferred modes of travel to and from leisure facilities in South Cambridgeshire. Since over half of the sports halls in the district are only available for use in the evenings and weekends, it is important to ensure that there is affordable public transport available at those times to meet the needs of facility users. It is important that those facilities that do provide good access are open for long hours and are affordable to optimise opportunities for participation in sport and physical activity.

Availability

In South Cambridgeshire there are good levels of sports hall and activity hall provision. However, the majority of sports halls are on education sites (11 out of 12 sites), Although there are Community Use Agreements in place at these sites, the majority (7) cater for sports club/association use, not pay and play access.

The limited daytime access to sports hall provision highlights the importance of the village halls/community centres which are available during the day for clubs and pay and play use, particularly for the older population, or those without private transport.

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Health and Fitness

City of Cambridge

- 5.55. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment; health and fitness centres with over 20 stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and pay and play users.
- 5.56. The 2024 state of the UK Fitness Industry report reveals that the membership penetration rate is 15.9%, so just under one in every 20 people over the age of 15 in the UK is a member of a gym. This is the membership penetration rate that has been used for the Cambridge City analysis, since although the population in the district is ageing, the significant level of new housing development proposed will attract new families to the area.
- 5.57. The supply analysis identifies that overall, there are 32 health and fitness suites in Cambridge City. In total, the fitness suites provide 1,795 fitness stations. All fitness suite facilities require some form of payment/membership payment before use, and an induction is required, although there is some pay and play available at the local authority owned facilities (5).

Table 16: Fitness Suites in the City of Cambridge ¹⁶

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Abbey Leisure Complex	CB5 8NT	Stations	68	Registered Membership use	Local Authority	Trust	1991	2014
Blue Fitness	CB2 1RU	Stations	24	Registered Membership use	Higher Education Institutions	Commercial Management	2010	n/a
Cass Centre	CB2 8BY	Stations	20	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial	Commercial Management	1999	2011

¹⁶ Contains Active Places Data © Sport England

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Castle School	CB4 2EE	Stations	6	Sports Club / Community Association	Community Special School	School/College/ University (in house)	2006	n/a
Cherry Hinton Village Leisure Centre	CB1 9EJ	Stations	5	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Local Authority (in house)	2017	n/a
Chesterton Sports Centre	CB4 3NY	Stations	38	Pay and Play	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2004	2018
Churchill College	CB3 0DS	Stations	9	Private Use	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/ University (in house)	2008	2009
Corpus Christi College Sports Ground	CB3 9BL	Stations	10	Private Use	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/ University (in house)	2008	n/a
David Lloyd Club (Cambridge)	CB1 3LH	Stations	130	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2004	2010
Everlast Fitness Club (Cambridge)	CB1 3ER	Stations	140	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2008	2016
Fitzwilliam College	CB3 0DG	Stations	9	Private Use	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/ University (in house)	2004	n/a
Frank Lee Centre	CB2 0SN	Stations	54	Registered Membership use	Other	Trust	1984	2011
Hills Road Sports & Tennis Centre	CB2 8PF	Stations	23	Registered Membership use	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	1996	2004

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Homerton College	CB2 8PH	Stations	50	Registered Membership use	Higher Education Institutions	Commercial Management	2000	2013
Jesus College	CB5 8BL	Stations	18	Private Use	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	2018	n/a
Kelsey Kerridge Sports Centre	CB1 1NA	Stations	100	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1978	2009
Long Road Sixth Form College	CB2 8PX	Stations	16	Sports Club / Community Association	Further Education	School/College/ University (in house)	2005	n/a
Netherhall Sports Centre	CB1 8NN	Stations	26	Sports Club / Community Association	Community school	School/College/ University (in house)	2001	n/a
Newnham College Sports Ground	CB3 9DF	Stations	20	Sports Club / Community Association	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/ University (in house)	2018	n/a
Nuffield Health (Cambridge)	CB1 3BA	Stations	128	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1999	2018
Parkside Pools & Gym	CB1 1LY	Stations	100	Registered Membership use	Local Authority	Trust	2014	n/a
Pure Gym (Cambridge Grafton Centre)	CB1 1PS	Stations	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2018	n/a

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Pure Gym (Cambridge Leisure Park)	CB1 7DY	Stations	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2004	2014
St Bedes Inter Church School	CB1 3TD	Stations	12	Private Use	Voluntary Aided School	School/College/ University (in house)	2009	n/a
Stephen Perse Foundation	CB2 1HF	Stations	5	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	2001	n/a
The Glassworks Health Club	CB5 8AQ	Stations	50	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2000	n/a
The Gym (Cambridge)	CB5 8JL	Stations	100	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2020	n/a
The Leys Sports Complex	CB2 7AD	Stations	22	Registered Membership use	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	1995	2014
The Perse Upper School	CB2 8QF	Stations	16	Private Use	Other Independent School	School/College/ University (in house)	2000	2005
Trinity College Old Fields	CB3 9AA	Stations	10	Private Use	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/ University (in house)	2004	n/a
Trumpington Community College	CB2 9FD	Stations	50	Pay and Play	Academies	Trust	2016	n/a
University Of Cambridge	CB3 0AS	Stations	100	Registered Membership use	Higher Education Institutions	School/College/ University (in house)	2013	n/a

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Sports Centre (West Site)								
YMCA (Cambridge)	CB1 1ND	Stations	20	Registered Membership use	Other	Community Organisation	1985	2007
TOTAL			1819					

- 5.58. There is a very good amount of fitness suite provision in Cambridge City. There are 9 private use fitness facilities, 5 fitness suites for sports clubs, 13 require private registered membership, and 5 fitness suites are pay and play. 9 of the fitness suites have over 100 stations (2 of these with more than 150 stations) with 17 fitness suites having 29 stations or less.

Table 17: Overview Analysis of overall Fitness Suite Provision in Cambridge City

Overview Analysis of overall Fitness Suite Provision in Cambridge City	
Total Fitness Suites	32
Total Fitness Stations	1795
Pay and Play Fitness Suites	5
Pay and Play / No. of Fitness Stations	261
Registered Membership Fitness Suites	13
Registered Membership no. of Fitness Stations	1357
Private use Fitness Suites	9
Private use no. of Fitness Stations	89
Sports Club Fitness Suites	5
Sports Club no. of Fitness Stations	88

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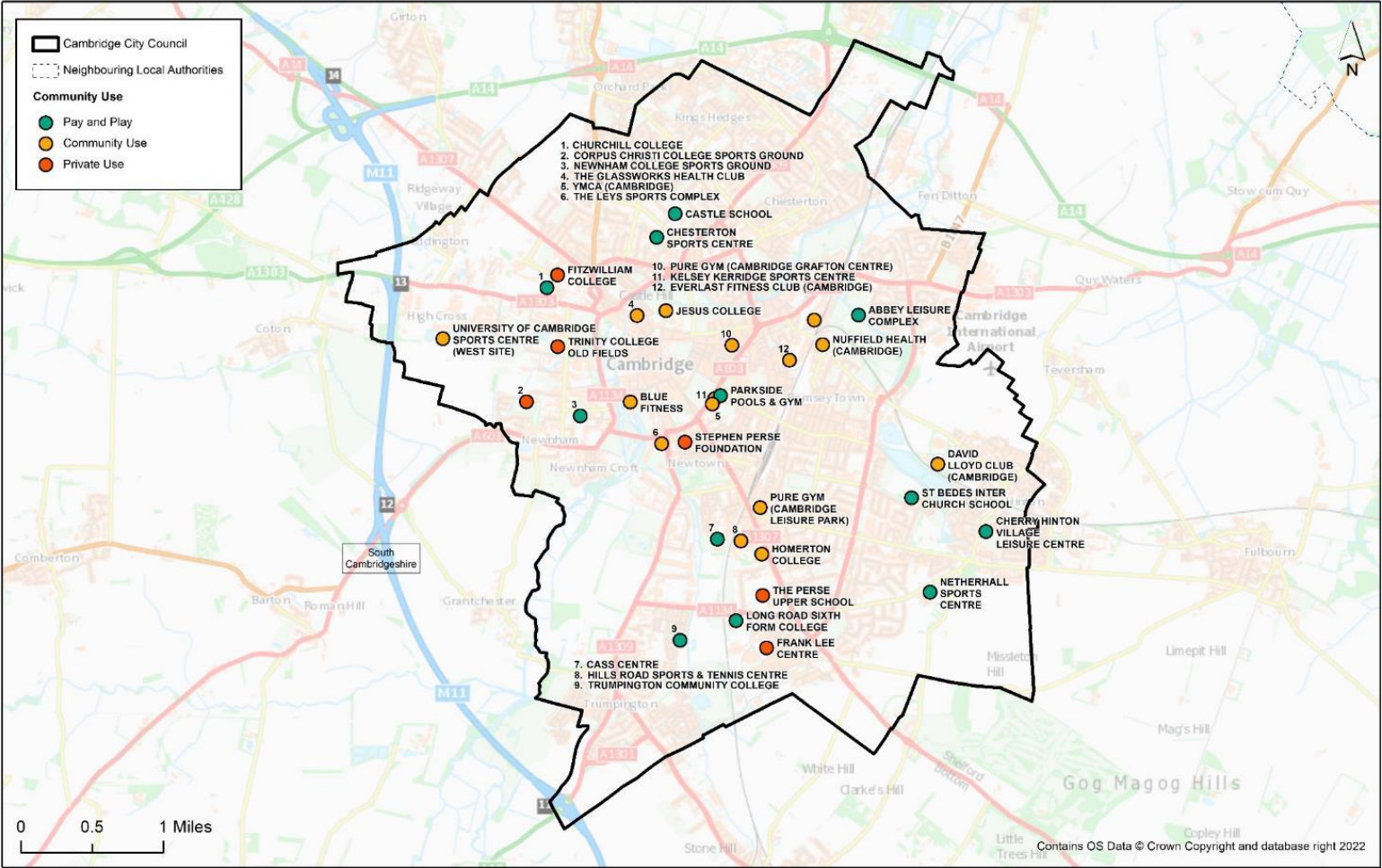
Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.59. The quality of the community access health and fitness facilities in the City of Cambridge ranges from average to excellent, with the majority good or excellent standard. Accessibility across the City of Cambridge to existing community access fitness suites is good.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 8: Health and Fitness Suites pay and play/community use/private in the City of Cambridge



Health and fitness suites by community use in Cambridge

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 18: Summary Analysis – City of Cambridge Health and Fitness Supply and Demand

Facility Type	Health and Fitness (Fitness Suites and Studios)
Quantity	All fitness suite facilities require some form of payment/membership payment before use, and an induction is required, although there is some pay and play available at the local authority owned facilities (5). Supply and Demand Analysis The existing commercial sector fitness suite provision in Cambridge City is used by residents, commuters, and those from neighbouring authorities. The commercial fitness suites vary in type, and some are considered high end fitness companies. Membership costs are often comparable with community facilities, except David Lloyd which is likely to be significantly higher. The assessment of need (See Appendix 21) includes the commercial facilities, as ‘community access’ on the basis of ‘affordability’ and includes all audited fitness facilities. The current supply is 1512 and if we apply that to population figures for 2031 (over the age of 15), there is a calculated demand for 578 fitness stations, therefore there is an over-supply of +936 stations. By 2045 there is demand for 645 fitness stations against a supply of 1512, which results in an over-supply of +867 fitness stations. Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites. Many users of these facilities do not live in Cambridge City but work there or commute from neighbouring authorities to use the facilities. It is also important to retain community access and affordable fitness stations.
Quality	The health and fitness offer ranges in quality across the City; the high-end commercial facilities are of excellent or very good quality. The majority of the health and fitness offer is of good to very good quality.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Facility Type	Health and Fitness (Fitness Suites and Studios)
Accessibility	The range of health and fitness provision is predominantly based on membership access but pay and play is also available at several fitness facilities and studios.
Availability	The existing health and fitness facilities are open for varying times; studios tend to be programmed for a range of classes throughout the week whereas a fitness gym is accessible at all times it is open.

South Cambridgeshire District

- 5.60. The supply analysis identifies that overall there are 19 fitness suites (19 sites) and 12 studios (12 sites) in South Cambridgeshire district. In total, there are 732 fitness stations available for public use in South Cambridgeshire. There are 14 fitness suites (680 stations) in the district that each provide 20 or more fitness stations available for public use. All fitness suite facilities require some form of payment/membership payment before use, and an induction is required. In general, studios are on the same sites as fitness suites, with the exception being Bassingbourn Sports Centre which has a studio but no gym. In south Cambridgeshire, there is only one studio per site.
- 5.61. There are commercial health and fitness operators within the South Cambridgeshire district. However, these tend to be small scale independent gym operators rather than national gym operators such as Pure Gym, David Lloyd etc.

Table 19: Fitness Suites in South Cambridgeshire ¹⁷

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Bourn Golf And Country Club	CB23 2TT	Stations	28	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1995	2012
Cambourne Fitness And Sports Centre	CB23 6FY	Stations	70	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Commercial Management	2011	n/a

¹⁷ Contains Active Places Data © Sport England

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre	CB4 2QT	Stations	23	Pay and Play	Further Education	School/College/University (in house)	1993	2006
Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre	CB4 2QT	Stations	18	Pay and Play	Further Education	School/College/University (in house)	2009	n/a
Comberton Village College	CB23 7DU	Stations	22	Sports Club / Community Association	Foundation School	School/College/University (in house)	2003	n/a
Cottenham & District Sports Centre	CB24 8UA	Stations	22	Pay and Play	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1991	2011
Gamlingay Gym	SG19 3HD	Stations	18	Registered Membership use	Foundation School	Commercial Management	1995	n/a
Granta Park	CB21 6GP	Stations	16	Private Use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2007	n/a
Imagine Health And Spa (Cambridge)	CB25 9AF	Stations	24	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2003	n/a
Impington Sports Centre	CB24 9LX	Stations	47	Registered Membership use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	2010	n/a
Linton Village College	CB21 4JB	Stations	32	Registered Membership use	Foundation School	School/College/University (in house)	1992	2011
Melbourn Sports Centre	SG8 6EF	Stations	32	Registered Membership use	Community Organisation	Commercial Management	2006	n/a

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Site Name	Post Code	Unit	Number	Access Type	Ownership Type	Management Type	Year Built	Year Refurbished
Prime Time Fitness	CB3 0QH	Stations	75	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2000	2004
Revolution Health And Fitness Club	CB4 0FN	Stations	33	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2000	2017
Sawston Village College Sports Centre	CB22 3BP	Stations	38	Registered Membership use	Foundation School	School/College/University (in house)	2004	n/a
Spirit Health Club (Cambridge)	CB24 9PH	Stations	26	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1984	2014
Swavesey Village College Sports Centre	CB24 4RS	Stations	16	Registered Membership use	Academies	School/College/University (in house)	1993	n/a
The Cambridge Belfry	CB23 6BW	Stations	21	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	2004	2009
Waves Health & Leisure Club (Cambridge Hotel And Golf Club)	CB23 8EU	Stations	25	Registered Membership use	Commercial	Commercial Management	1974	2015

- 5.62. Appendix 21 presents a supply and demand analysis of fitness suites in South Cambridgeshire and shows a current under supply of -219 fitness stations. Appendix 21 also presents a supply and demand analysis of fitness suites in South Cambridgeshire based on the projected population in 2041 (end year for Greater Cambridge new Local Plan). This shows an under supply of -562 fitness stations.
- 5.63. It should be noted that the largest gym in South Cambridgeshire is the Nuffield Health facility at Granta Park. This 110 station gym is private and predominantly available for use only by employees of the business park, although there are a limited number of memberships available for residents of neighbouring Great and Little Abington. It should be noted that the analysis also takes account of the recent

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refurbishment of the Bourn Golf and Country Club in 2021, which now offers an 80-station gym on a registered membership basis.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 20: Analysis of overall Fitness Suite Provision in South Cambridgeshire

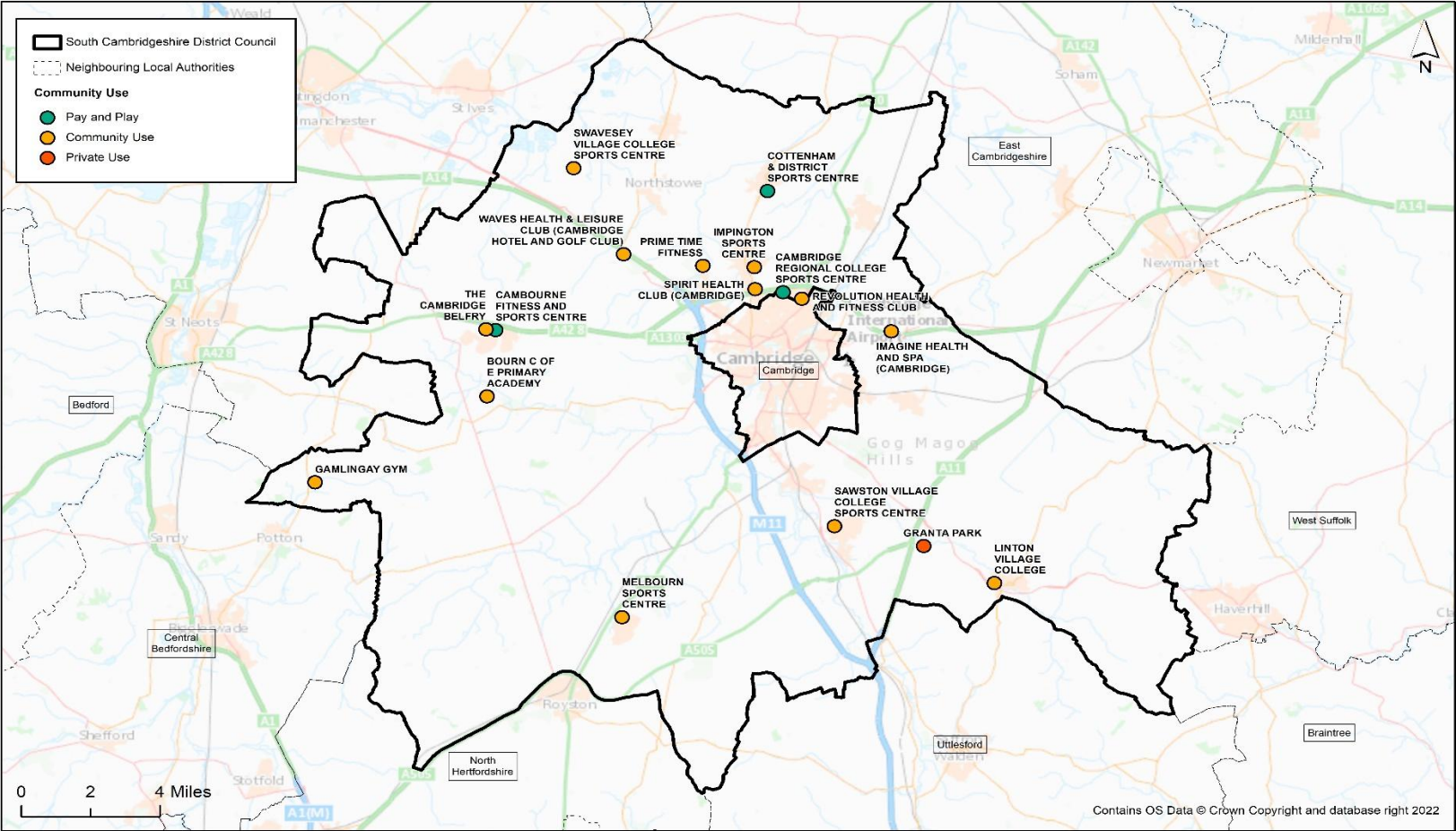
Analysis of overall Fitness Suite Provision in South Cambridgeshire	
Total Fitness Suites	19
Total Fitness Stations	732
Pay and Play Fitness Suites	4
Pay and Play / No. of Fitness Stations	133
Registered Membership Fitness Suites	13
Registered Membership no. of Fitness Stations	467
Private use Fitness Suites	1
Private use no. of Fitness Stations	110
Sports club Fitness Suites	1
Sports Club no. of Fitness Stations	22

- 5.64. The quality of the community access health and fitness facilities in South Cambridgeshire district ranges from average to excellent, with the majority assessed as average. Of the two health and fitness suites that are classed as excellent, one is a new private gym which forms part of a new wellness centre on Granta Business Park (operated by Nuffield Health), built for employees in 2018, but also available to residents of Abington Village on a membership basis. The other is owned by Cambourne Parish Council, built in 2011 and operated by Everyone Active.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 9: Health and Fitness Suites pay and play/community use/private in in South Cambridgeshire District



Health and fitness suites by community use in South Cambridgeshire

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

5.66. It is clear from Map 9 that there are very few community accessible pay and play health and fitness suites within South Cambridgeshire District and they are located to the north and northwest of the district. Those living to the south and far north of the district rely on using health and fitness suites outside of the South Cambridgeshire district boundary including those within the City of Cambridge, Huntingdonshire, North Hertfordshire, Central Bedfordshire and Uttlesford.

Table 21: Summary Analysis – Health and Fitness Supply and Demand

Quantity

Supply and Demand Analysis

The assessment of need (Appendix 21) includes the commercial facilities, as ‘community access’ on the basis of affordability and includes all audited facilities with the exception of Bourne Country Club. The current supply is 527 and if we apply that to population figures for 2031 (over the age of 15), there is demand for 746 fitness stations, which results in an under-supply of -219 fitness stations. By 2045, there is demand for 1055 fitness stations, against a supply of 527, which results in an under-supply of -528 fitness stations. The existing commercial sector fitness suite provision in South Cambridgeshire is used by residents, commuters and those from neighbouring authorities. The commercial fitness suites vary in type, and some are considered high end fitness companies. Membership costs are often comparable with community facilities, except Bourne Country Club, which is likely to be significantly higher. There are noticeably no national commercial gym operators within South Cambridgeshire e.g. David Lloyd, Pure Gym etc. These tend to be located in the City of Cambridge. Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites.

Quality

The health and fitness offer ranges in quality across the City; the majority of the health and fitness offer is of average to good quality.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Accessibility

The range of health and fitness provision is predominantly based on membership access but pay and play is also available at several fitness facilities and studios.

Availability

The existing health and fitness facilities are open for varying times; studios tend to be programmed for a range of classes throughout the week whereas a fitness gym is accessible at all times it is open.

Gymnastics Facilities – purpose built

- 5.67. Existing purpose-built facilities are at capacity. Provision of purpose-built gymnastics facilities should be club-led but there is a need to work with and support the clubs to develop their own facilities. Cambridge Gymnastics Club is a key partner moving forward.
- 5.68. There are 10 British Gymnastics affiliated clubs in Greater Cambridge:
- Cambridge Gymnastics Academy
 - Cambridge Gymnastic and Trampoline Club
 - Cambridge Cangeroos
 - Cambridge University Trampoline Club
 - Cambridge University Gymnastics Club
 - Netherhall Gymnastics Club
 - Trumpington Rhythmic Gymnastics
 - Cottenham Gymnastics Club
 - Comberton Gymnastics Club
 - Cambourne Comets Trampoline Club
- 5.69. There are 2 dedicated facilities in the district, Cambridge Cangeroos and Cambridge Gymnastics Academy. Although the NGB does not have any clubs registered on a facility project list, the NGB is aware that Cambridge Gymnastics Academy has a waiting list of 1000+ and has a long-term facility expansion plan. The NGB would be keen to support clubs in the area to try and access more space especially as there are few dedicated facilities to facilitate an increase in participation.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.70. Whilst there is no need for the City of Cambridge, nor South Cambridgeshire district to provide additional gymnastics facilities, it is a priority to support local gymnastics clubs in identifying sites for expansion/development of purpose-built facilities, particularly in, or in close proximity to major new housing sites, where there is likely to be the highest growth in demand for participation.

Indoor Tennis and Padel

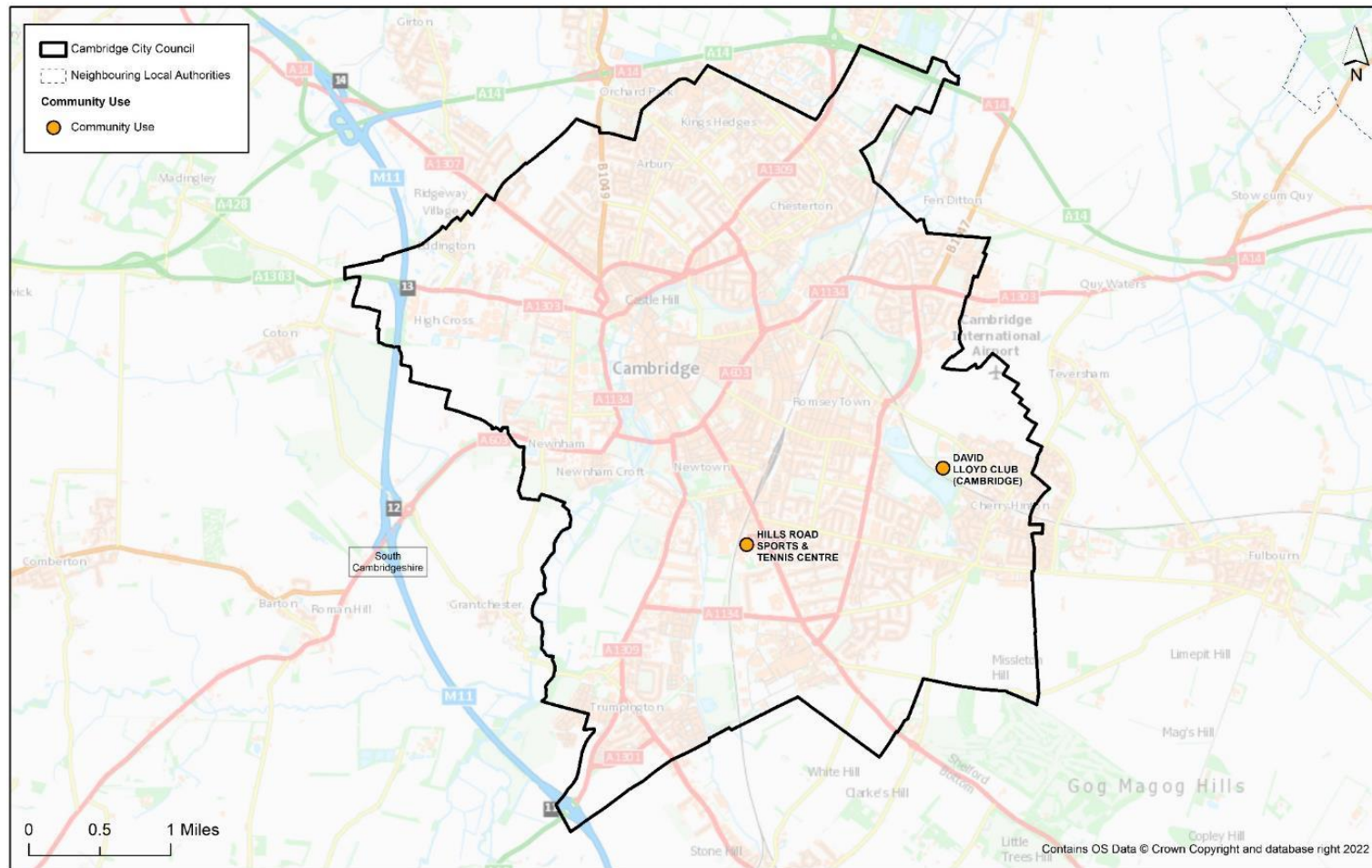
City of Cambridge

- 5.71. Indoor tennis courts are considered because they are a completely different facility from outdoor tennis courts, which, unless they are club courts, tend to be used for recreational tennis. Indoor courts are significantly more expensive to use and therefore tend to provide for those who are already tennis participants, or who wish to learn to play tennis and can afford private or group coaching. The Greater Cambridge Outdoor Courts & Rinks Strategy (O CRS) includes outdoor tennis courts.
- 5.72. It is a requirement of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities guide methodology that indoor tennis courts are covered by an Indoor Sports Facility Strategy to complement the findings of any assessment needs for outdoor courts.
- 5.73. There are currently 2 indoor tennis court sites which host 15 indoor courts in Cambridge City; 11 of these are at the David Lloyd Club (Cambridge). All these courts are for registered members.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 10: Community Use Indoor Tennis Courts in the City of Cambridge



Indoor tennis centres by community use in Cambridge

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.74. Based on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court and the 2021 ONS census population figure for Cambridge City of 145,700, there is a need for 12 indoor courts, and therefore there is an oversupply of 3 courts. Any indoor tennis court provision should be led by the LTA and Tennis Clubs
- 5.75. There is sufficient existing provision, to meet current needs in quantitative terms. The issue is accessibility; most existing courts (in the city) are for members only (11 of the 15 courts).
- 5.76. There is therefore a need for additional indoor community accessible courts.

Table 22: Summary Analysis – Indoor Tennis Supply and Demand

Quantity

There are currently 2 indoor tennis court sites which host 15 indoor courts in Cambridge City, 11 of these are at the David Lloyd Club (Cambridge). All these courts are for registered members.
The population in 2041 is estimated at 183,529 and therefore the number of courts required would be 15, which is met by the current supply.

Quality

The 3 indoor tennis courts are in excellent condition as 11 of these are part of a high-quality health and fitness offer.

Accessibility

The indoor courts are only accessible to those with a membership.

Availability

The indoor courts are only accessible to those with a membership.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Padel

- 5.77. Padel is growing rapidly in the UK, with almost 900 courts, the majority of which have been constructed in the last 2 years. Courts are located within existing tennis clubs (member and community offer), local authority venues (parks and leisure centres), standalone padel venues and other sports clubs.
- 5.78. Interest in the sport is growing with many sectors expressing an interest in developing courts, including continued growth within the club sector (tennis, rugby, cricket, football, squash); parks and leisure centres, education (secondary and HE) and continued growth delivered by the private sector.
- 5.79. The LTA's mission is to grow the visibility of Padel and increase the annual number of players from 129,000 to 400,000 with 1,000 courts in the UK by 2026. At the moment, there are only 9 padel courts in Cambridge city across 4 main venues, and the area is behind other comparable cities in terms of number of courts.
- 5.80. The existing Padel courts are at:
- PDL Padel United (Orchard Park) – 4 outdoor courts, open to the public
 - David Lloyd, Cambridge – 3 outdoor courts, members' use only
 - University of Cambridge Sports Centre, Phillipa Fawcett Drive – 2 outdoor courts, open to the public
- 5.81. The LTA suggests that although 20% of the total population indicate interest in participating in padel, only 8% of this interested demand is converted into participants. In the case of Cambridge, LTA calculations suggest 2,331 potential participants now and 2,828 total participants by 2041.
- 5.82. If each Padel court can accommodate 200 players, this suggests that there is a current demand for 11 courts, rising to 14 by 2039.
- 5.83. Given 9 courts exist, there is a need for an additional 5 Padel courts in the city.

South Cambridgeshire District

- 5.84. There is no existing indoor tennis provision in South Cambridgeshire. Clearly an increase in population to 2045 will increase demand for

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such provision.

- 5.85. Based on the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) figure of 12,500 population for 1 indoor court and the 2021 ONS census population figure for South Cambridge District of 162,000, there is a need for 12.96 indoor courts.
- 5.86. The population in 2041 is estimated at 204,483 and therefore the number of courts required would be 16.36. There is clearly current and future under-supply of indoor tennis courts in South Cambridgeshire district.

Padel

- 5.87. There are no existing Padel courts in South Cambridgeshire, although there are courts in the nearby districts of East Cambridgeshire (Ely) and Huntingdonshire (St Ives).
- 5.88. The LTA suggests that although 20% of the total population indicate interest in participating in padel, only 8% of this demand is converted into participants. In the case of South Cambridgeshire, LTA calculations suggest 2,592 potential participants now and a total of 4,627 participants by 2041. This equates to 36 courts by 2041.
- 5.89. Taking Greater Cambridge as a whole there is a need for 41 courts across the area by 2041.
- 5.90. All existing Padel courts are outdoor so the priority should be on the development of indoor, publicly accessible Padel courts to facilitate year-round use.

Indoor Bowls

City of Cambridge

- 5.91. An indoor bowls facility comprises a number of indoor rinks (usually a minimum of 3 rinks). Indoor Bowls is a more specialist sport and tends to be participated in by bowlers who play outside in the summer, to practice and compete during the winter months. Indoor bowls is attractive to the older population and those with disabilities (Wheelchair and Visually Impaired).
- 5.92. There are 2 indoor bowls facilities in Cambridge City which are the Cambridge and County Bowls Club which has 2 rinks and the Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club which has 8 rinks; both clubs are affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA).

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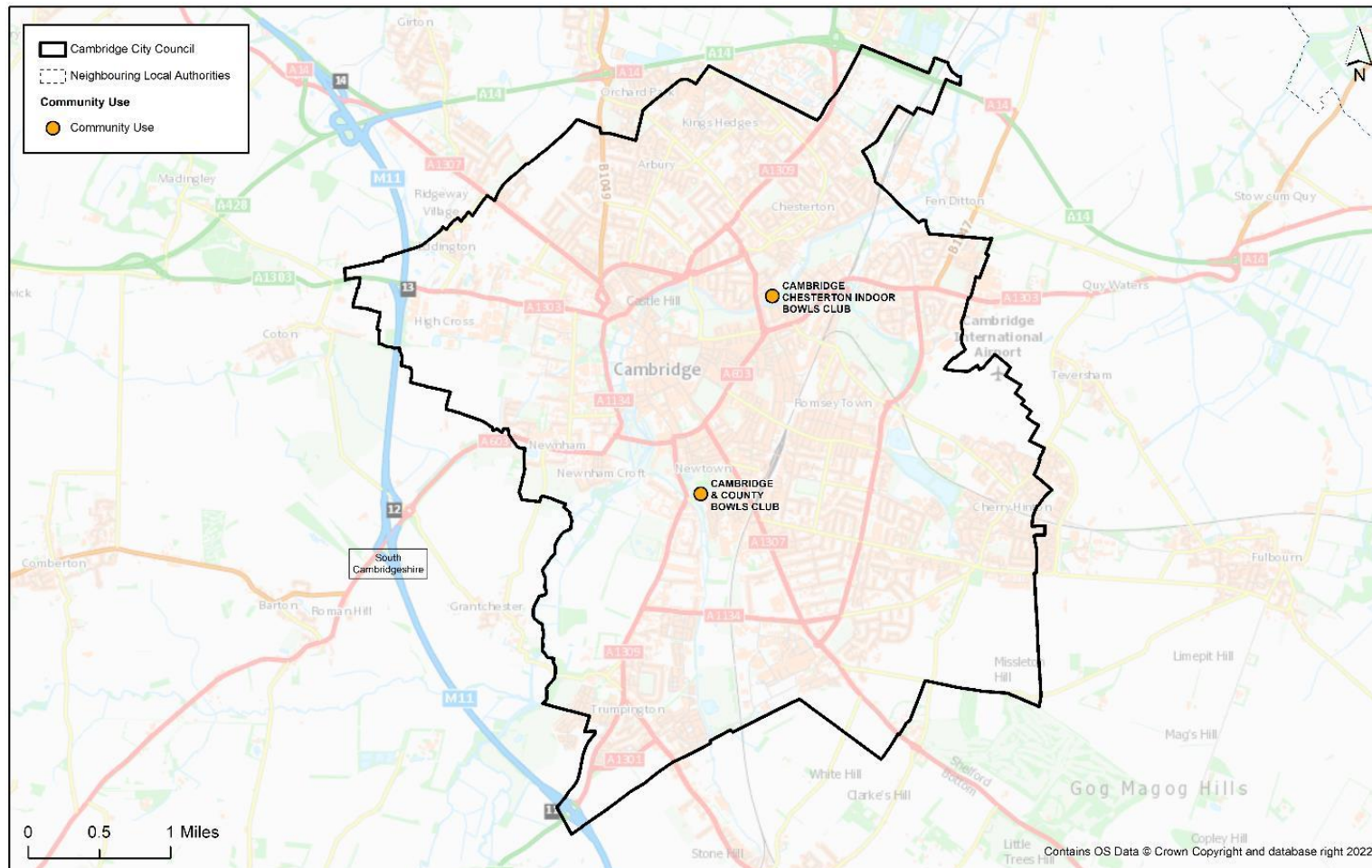
Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.93. There are 10 indoor bowling rinks in the city and currently, no indoor bowls provision in South Cambridgeshire. Based on one rink providing for 14,000-17,000 people (England Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) guidance, the 2045 population of the City (176,734) would demand 10.4 indoor rinks i.e. an additional 0.4 of a rink. The 2045 population of Greater Cambridge (534,733) would demand 31.45 rinks in total, the equivalent of 7.8 (4 rink) indoor bowls centres (based on one rink providing for 14,000-17,000 people (England Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) guidance).
- 5.94. There are already 10 existing indoor bowling rinks in Greater Cambridge; the additional demand for new housing developments to 2045 means there is in theory, a need for 21.45 additional rinks i.e. 5.3 indoor bowls centres of 4 rinks each across Greater Cambridge.

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 11: Indoor Bowls Centres Community Use in the City of Cambridge



Indoor bowls by community use in Cambridge

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.95. There are already 10 rinks in the city; based on the EIBA Guidance, the need by 2045 is for an additional 3.71 indoor rinks. However, it is known that memberships at the existing two indoor bowling rinks are falling and that this is creating an over-supply of provision in the city.
- 5.96. Existing indoor bowls centres are located in the central and northeast areas of the city. To provide for new populations there is a need to consider provision of additional indoor bowls facilities to the north, west and east of the city. Extending existing provision (8 rinks) at Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls could be a realistic strategic consideration; this facility already has infrastructure to support participation and could provide for the new populations to the east of the city. Consolidating indoor bowling provision on one site could also prove to be more sustainable given the reducing membership at the two existing sites.

Table 23: Summary Analysis – Indoor Bowling Supply and Demand

Quantity

There are 2 indoor bowls facilities in the City of Cambridge which are the Cambridge and County Bowls Club (2 rinks) and the Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls which has 8 rinks and approximately 800 members. Both clubs are affiliated to the England Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA).

Quality

Cambridge and County Bowls Club was built in 1932 and refurbished in 2012. The quality assessment score is 86% and ‘excellent’. Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls was built in 1973, and the quality assessment score was 79% and ‘good’. This centre was refurbished in 2021/2022 with new blue carpet on rinks 1-6 and LED lighting.

Accessibility

The centres have very good access and excellent parking facilities. The 2 centres are accessible by those who live in the City of Cambridge within a 15-minute drive time (mostly this is 0-10 mins).

Availability

Pay and play is available at Cambridge and County Bowls Club and costs £3.50 for 2hrs and 15 mins.

Future Demand

Scenario population increase to 534,733 (post 2045 build-out)
Future demand for additional Indoor Bowls Rink By 2045 10-13 rink bowling area (current supply in 2025 is 10 rinks)

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

With the potential for the older population in the City of Cambridge to increase and the current supply of bowling of 10 rinks, these should be maintained.

Analysis of future demand using an estimated population of 183,529 by 2045, suggests an additional 3 indoor rinks will be required. However, it is known that existing membership levels of the two existing indoor bowling rinks are reducing; therefore, instead of investing in additional provision, it may be a better strategic and sustainable option to consolidate provision on one site.

- 5.97. There above information relates to indoor bowls rinks. Outdoor bowls is covered in detail in the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS and Outdoor Courts and Rinks Strategy).
- 5.98. There is a need to consolidate and reduce the number and provision of outdoor Bowling Greens as popularity and memberships decline

Squash

City of Cambridge

- 5.99. There are 29 squash courts in total across 12 sites. There is only 1 public pay and play accessible squash court at Hills Road Sports and Tennis Centre, 11 courts are for private use, 9 are available for access to sports clubs and community organisations and 8 are available for registered members. These are shown on Map 12.

Table 24: Overview Analysis of overall Squash Supply – Cambridge City

Total squash courts	29
No of total glass backed courts	8
No of sites	12
Pay and Play Community Access Squash courts	1

Greater Cambridge

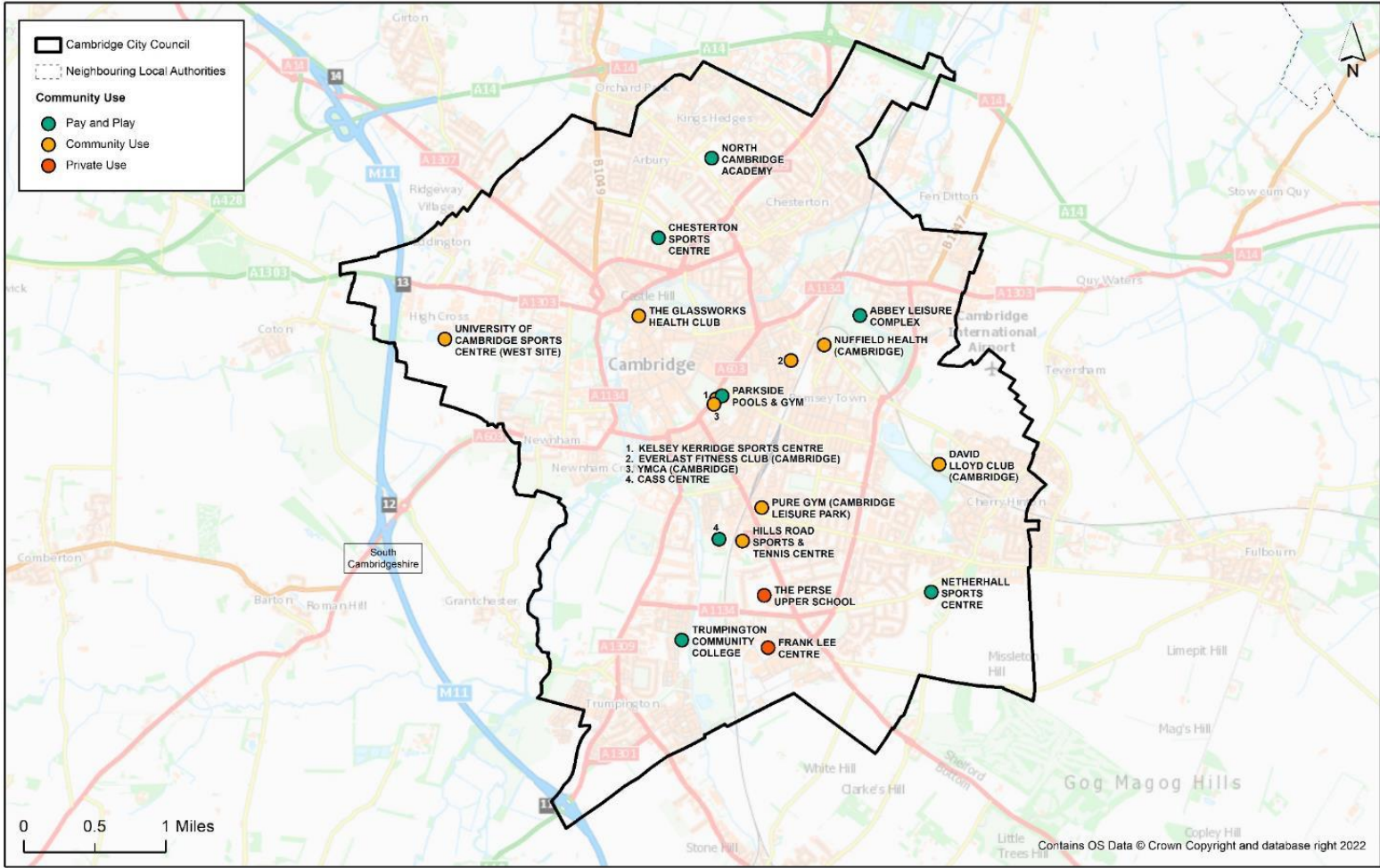
Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Total squash courts	29
Private Sector Squash Courts	11
Registered membership use	8
Sports Club/Community Organisation access	9

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 12: Location map of Community Use Squash Courts in Cambridge City

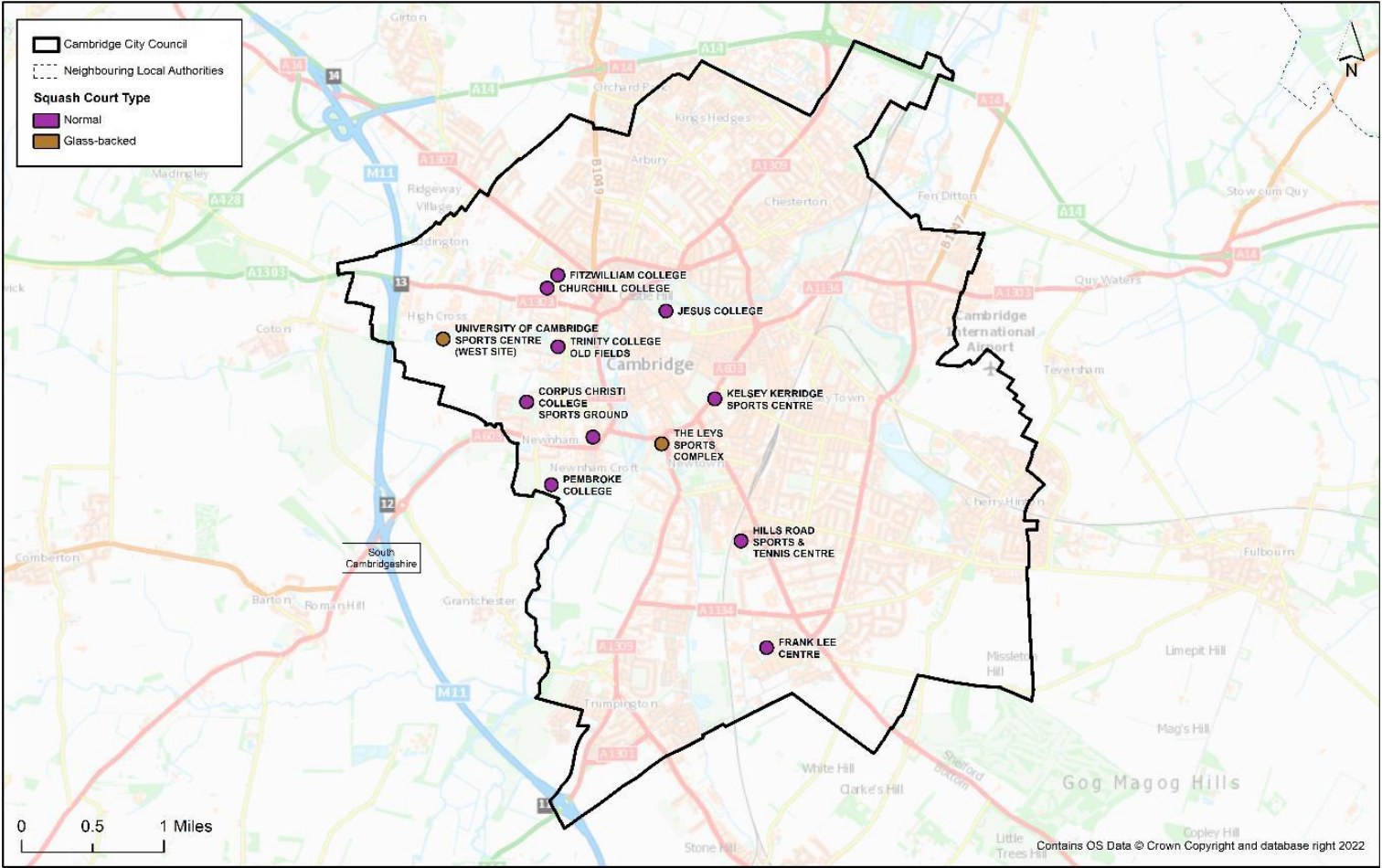


Squash courts by community use in Cambridge

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 13: Location map of Squash Courts by Type in the City of Cambridge



Squash courts by type in Cambridge

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

South Cambridgeshire District

- 5.100. There are a total of 12 squash courts in South Cambridgeshire across 6 sites. There are only 3 pay and play community accessible squash courts at Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre and Sawston Village College Sports Centre. There are 8 courts available for access to sports clubs and community organisations, and 1 court for private use only. These are shown on Map 14.
- 5.101. The squash courts in South Cambridgeshire are either in average or good condition.

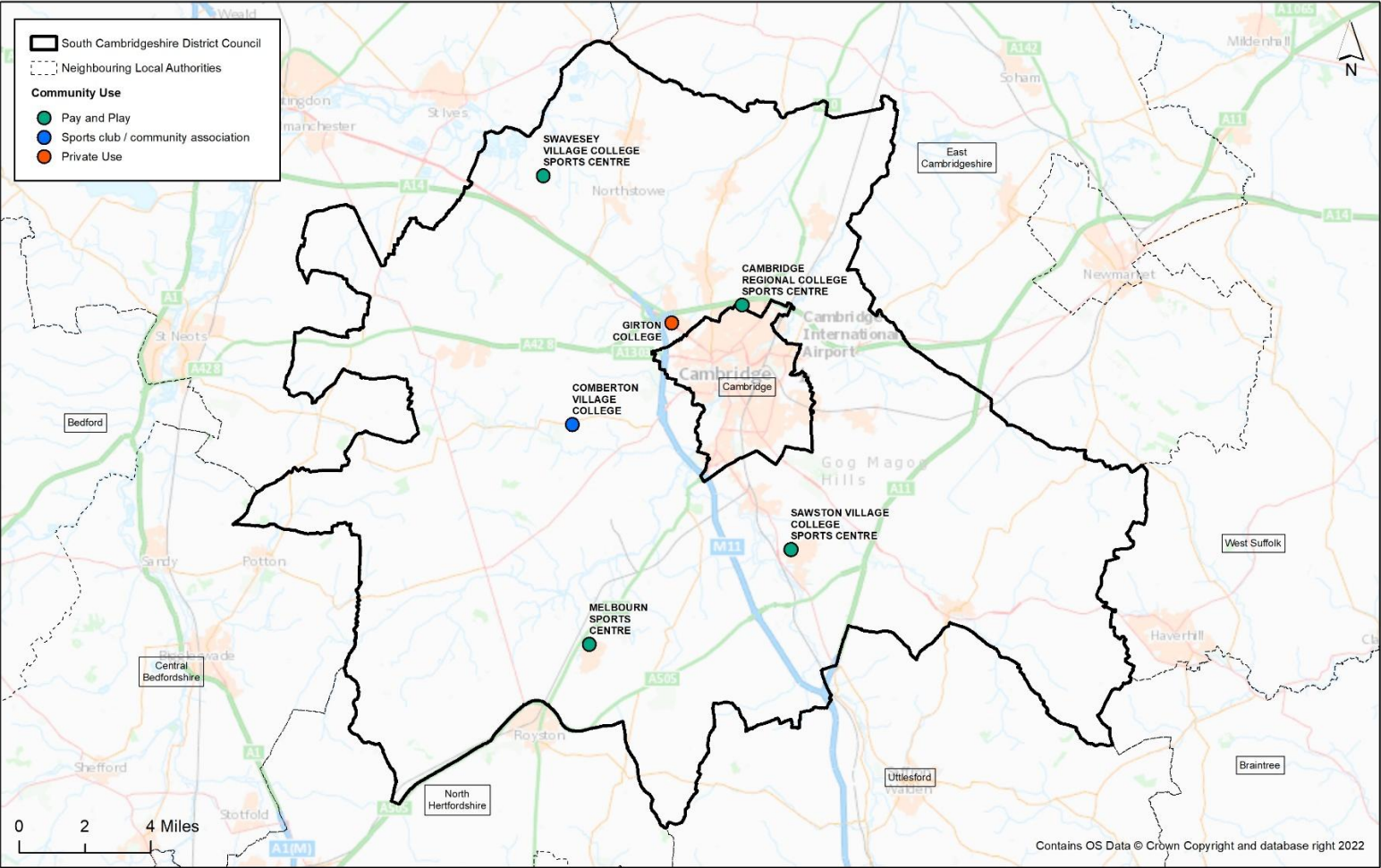
Table 25: Squash Court Provision South Cambridgeshire

Total squash courts	12
No of total glass backed courts	4
No of sites	6
Pay and Play Community Access Squash courts	3
Private Sector Squash Courts	1
Sports Club/Community Organisation access	8

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 14: Location map of Community Use Squash Courts in South Cambridgeshire District

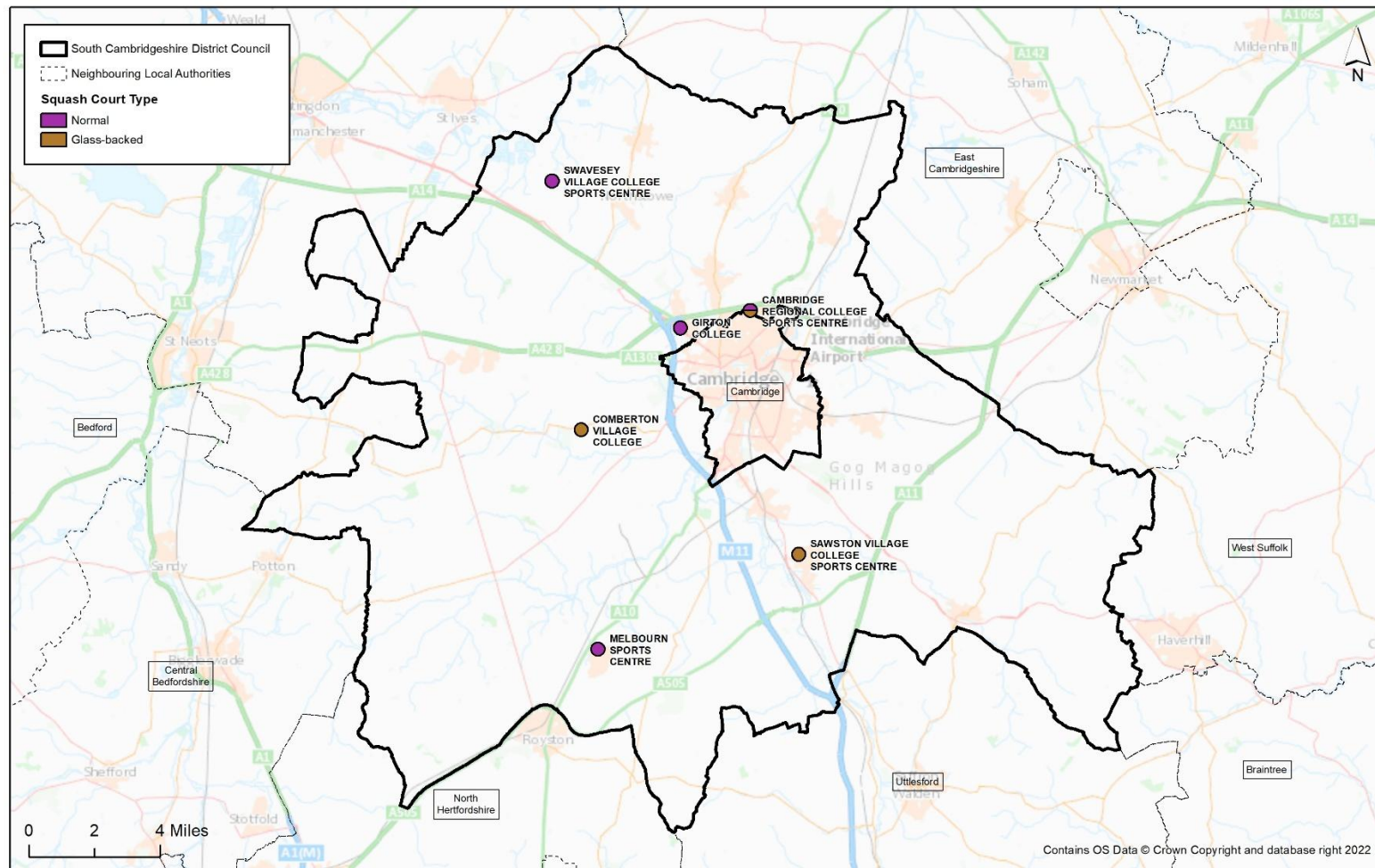


Squash courts by access type in South Cambridgeshire

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 15: Squash Courts by Type in South Cambridgeshire



Squash courts by type in South Cambridgeshire

Table 26: Assessment Findings for Squash Courts

Assessment Findings – City of Cambridge

There is a total of 29 courts in the City of Cambridge with 8 of these glass-backed squash courts.

Future Demand

There is no specific methodology for assessing the current and future need for squash courts. The NGB guideline is 1 court per 10,000 population and therefore there is a current oversupply. Current population ONS 2021 is 145,700 and therefore 15 courts, however a lot of the current provision is in the education sector and caters for an influx of students and there is further demand from commuters and those living in neighbouring authority areas.

By 2041 the population is estimated at 183,529 which equates to a demand of 18 courts and therefore even with current provision there is an oversupply. However, participation in squash is increasing at national level, and this is now being seen at a local level.

Competitive squash across the country is predominantly now played in clubs, within a club facility and this is replicated in the City of Cambridge; demand for community access squash courts has reduced in recent years. Participation is still growing however, but through the club base where juniors can be supported and coached from an early age. It would be useful for the council to engage with Squash Club regarding future provision.

Assessment Findings –South Cambridgeshire District

There is a total of 12 squash courts in South Cambridgeshire, including 3 pay and play squash courts and 4 glass-backed courts.

Future Demand

There is no specific methodology for assessing the current and future need for squash courts. The NGB guideline is 1 court per 10,000 population. The current population ONS 2021 for South Cambridgeshire is 162,000 which equates to demand for 16 squash courts.

There is therefore a current undersupply of 4 courts in the district. By 2040 there will be an under supply of 8 courts based on population growth to 204, 483. Participation in squash is increasing at national level, and this is now being seen at a local level.

Competitive squash across the country is predominantly now played in clubs, within a club facility and this is replicated in South Cambridgeshire; demand for community access squash courts has reduced in recent years.

Participation is still growing however, but through the club base where juniors can be supported and coached from an early age.

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Assessment Findings – City of Cambridge

Quality - The quality of existing squash courts is of a very good standard.

Accessibility - All of the squash courts in The City of Cambridge are located within a 10–15-minute drive time of the majority of the city's population. However, Cambridge Squash club has identified the lack of available public facilities to cater for their members in 1 facility.

Availability - There are 29 squash courts in total across 12 sites (8 glass backed). There is only 1 public pay and play accessible squash court at Hills Road Sports and Tennis Centre, 11 courts are for private use, 9 are available for access to sports clubs and community organisations and 8 are available for registered members.

Assessment Findings –South Cambridgeshire District

Quality - The quality of existing squash courts is average or good.

Accessibility - All geographical areas of South Cambridgeshire are within a 10 – 15-minute drive time catchment of a squash court, when provision in neighbouring authorities is included. However, there is a lack of available public facilities in the City of Cambridge forcing clubs such as Cambridge Squash Club, to use facilities in neighbouring South Cambridgeshire which will impact on the capacity to accommodate.

Availability - There is a total of 12 squash courts in South Cambridgeshire across 6 sites. There are only 3 pay and play community accessible squash courts at Cambridge Regional College Sports Centre and Sawston Village College Sports Centre. There are 3 courts available for access to sports clubs and community organisations, and 1 court for private use only.

- 5.102. There are 42 existing squash courts across Greater Cambridge; existing squash courts are well-located across the area. Of the existing courts, 4 are accessible for pay and play use. All courts in the City are average to good quality, with the University of Cambridge sports centre (West site) courts being excellent.

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.103. Squash is now predominantly played through clubs; 25 existing squash courts are accessible for club members/registered members of a facility. Given the large student populations in Greater Cambridge and particularly the city, there is higher demand for participation in squash which is reflected in provision of courts at some Colleges in the City of Cambridge.

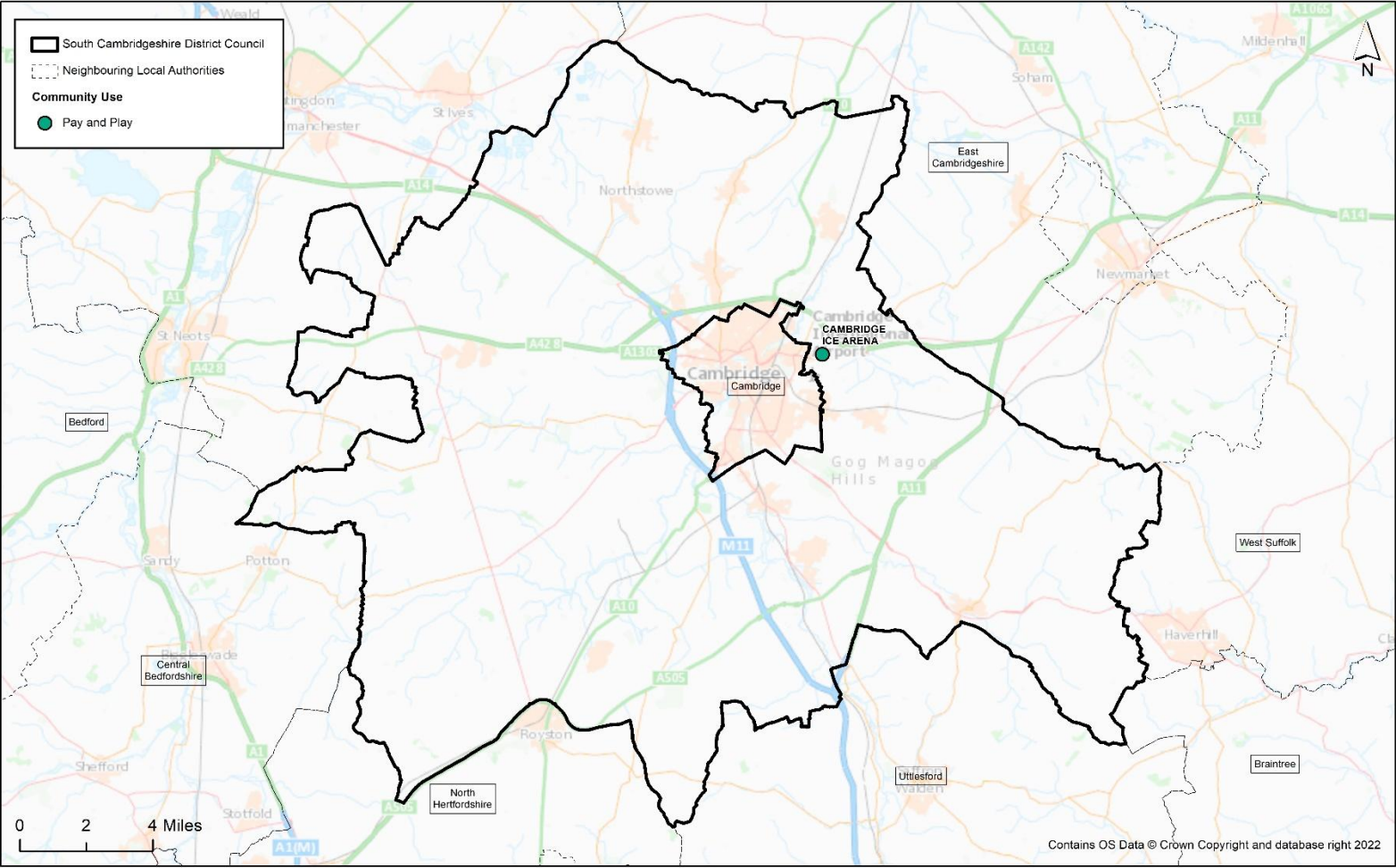
Ice skating

- 5.104. There is one ice skating rink in South Cambridgeshire: Cambridge Ice Arena, located in Teversham, near Cambridge International Airport. See Map 16 below. Cambridge Ice Arena is a full size, year-round, state-of-the-art ice rink.
- 5.105. A temporary festive ice pad is provided on an annual basis in the heart of Cambridge City on Parker's Piece.
- 5.106. Cambridge Ice Arena was opened in 2019 and is located on land that was leased to Cambridge Leisure and Ice Centre (CLIC) by landowners Marshall. A loan for the build was provided to CLIC by South Cambridgeshire District Council and sizeable donations from Cambridge University's alumni. The facility is operated by Greenwich Leisure Ltd (GLL) in partnership with The University of Cambridge under a 26-year lease arrangement. The site is used by Cambridge University ice hockey teams.
- 5.107. The ice-skating rink is very good quality and is well-used by the community and local clubs, including those based at the University of Cambridge. It is accessible to all on a pay and play basis. There is also a good programme available including lessons, open skating sessions, family sessions, Patch training, SEND ice skating, curling and birthday parties.

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Map 16: Location of Ice Skating Rink – South Cambridgeshire



Ice rinks by community use in South Cambridgeshire

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 5.108. The ice rink is a regional facility; it offers pay and play access, as well as a wide-ranging programme including public skating, ice hockey, curling, figure skating and learn to skate. This stand-alone facility includes a rink, spectator seating for 300 people, café and skate shop.
- 5.109. The ice rink is one of only a couple of affiliated curling facilities outside of Scotland.
- 5.110. Although located just outside Cambridge City, there are good public transport links to the site for residents living in both the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district.

Table 27: Summary Assessment of Need – Minimum Need for Indoor Sports Facilities by 2045 (ISFS 24-25)

Swimming Pools

- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach
- 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members)
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)
- Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink

*The Genome Campus is going to deliver a 4-lane 20-25m pool as part of a David Lloyd (DL) sports centre. It was modelled as 200 sq. m. The DL pool will require an expensive membership fee to access and therefore is unlikely to make much of a contribution towards meeting the area's need for additional publicly accessible pool provision. The provision of a 6-lane 25m pool at Sawston was modelled to test if there would be sufficient demand for one which would not undermine the David Lloyd sports centre. A new 6 lane x 25m pool at Sawston would not undermine the planned provision at the Genome Campus.

**Any pool at West Cambridge would be a University-run/owned/managed pool and would provide only limited public access. This is not reflected in this updated study and it should not be relied on it to meet the publicly accessible need. It was modelled to simply test if there is more than enough demand for one 6-lane 25m pool at Cambourne and one 6-lane 25m pool at West Cambridge which there is. If the UoC delivered a pool at West Cambridge, it would not undermine the viability of one at Cambourne.

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Health and Fitness Facilities

- Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites

Sports Halls

- 7.8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31.2 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

Squash Courts

- 6 Squash Courts - across Strategic Growth sites

Indoor Tennis Courts

- 16.36 indoor tennis courts - across Strategic Growth sites

Padel Courts

- 5 Padel courts - across Greater Cambridge

Indoor Bowling Rinks

- +5 indoor bowling rinks - Extension of existing facilities Cambridge and County Bowls Club which has 2 rinks and the Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club which has 8 rinks, or as part of other new provision

Gymnastics

- Support local gymnastics clubs in identifying sites for expansion/development of purpose-built facilities - across Strategic Growth sites

Handball & Volleyball

- Drive from local clubs for purpose- built sports hall with additional court size in the City.

Futsal

- Court provision for indoor game arena

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

6. Stage C Applying the Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities across Greater Cambridge

- 6.1. This assessment responds to the planned growth in Greater Cambridge to 2031, and then through from 2032 -2045 in the strategic growth areas in respect of indoor and outdoor sports facilities. The planned growth across Greater Cambridge is focussed around a number of strategic sites comprising large residential developments/urban extensions/new settlements in the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire district.
- 6.2. The strategic growth sites will generate the majority of demand for new community infrastructure, including indoor and outdoor sport, leisure and physical activity facilities.
- 6.3. The key demographic factors impacting future provision of sport and physical activity facilities across Greater Cambridge include very significant population growth, as summarised in Table 28.

Table 28: Population Growth to 2045 (including post 2045 build out)

	2021 (Census 2021)	2031	2045 (including post 2045 build out)
The City of Cambridge	145,700	150,000	176,734
South Cambridge District	162,000	204,483	289,210
Greater Cambridge	307,700	354, 483	465,944
			Post-2045 build out
Population growth resulting from full-build out of residential developments post-2045	227,033		534,733

- Specific housing developments planned for the north-east and east of the city
- Key pockets of deprivation particularly towards the north of the city
- Issues of rural deprivation and isolation outside the city
- Growing levels of adult and child obesity

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 16.2% of the population in the City of Cambridge and 19.2% of the population in South Cambridgeshire district are active for less than 30 minutes per week; without the appropriate levels of accessible community provision inactivity levels will worsen further given the increase in population to 2045
- 6.4. Given the scale of planned housing growth to 2031, and then again to 2045 it is clear there will be increased demand for a wide range of community infrastructure, including sport and leisure facilities. All strategic housing sites will be collecting developer contributions towards the provision of both new and improved infrastructure; these are key developments which will need new indoor and outdoor sports facilities, as well as improvements in the scale and quality of existing provision. In addition, given the limited capacity of existing sports and leisure facilities, it is both reasonable and essential that all large employment proposals which will inevitably generate additional demand for these types of facilities contribute to these public facilities, in the absence of on-site provision for their employees. Many people now link their commute or workday with exercise, as part of a healthy lifestyle. Large employment developments should not put additional pressure on stretched local services without some form of suitable mitigation.
- 6.5. On this basis it is expected that the community leisure infrastructure will be funded by a combination of on and off-site contributions from the strategic growth sites.
- 6.6. All Strategic Growth Sites (large residential development/urban extension/new settlement/infill) and Large Employment Sites will require developer contributions towards the provision of both new and improved infrastructure; these are key developments which will need improved and new indoor and outdoor sports facilities.
- 6.7. Contributions, based on facility type and geographical area are set out in Table 29.

Swimming Pools

- 6.8. The scale of increased demand for swimming pools 2021-2045 is such that this can only be met through the development of new pools.
- 6.9. Strategic Growth Sites and Large Employment Sites will be required to contribute to the development of new swimming pools as set out in Table 29.

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 29: Developer Contributions required for new Swimming Pools

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Pools (sq. m /lanes)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution	Pools (sq. m /lanes)
SCDC	S/BA: Bourn Airfield New Village	3,500	9,975	107.11	£2.02	2,239,996		1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool
SCDC	S/CB: Cambourne West	2,606	7,427	81.82	£1,820,318	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool		
SCDC	S/CBN: Cambourne North	13,000	37,050	408.16	£9,080,758	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool		
City	S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus	1,000	1,800	19.04	£423,701			1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool
City	S/CE: Cambridge East (Marleigh & Springstead Village)	2,591	6,996	74.02	£1,646,784			Regional Pool 50m x 12 lane
City	S/CE: Cambridge East (airport)	8,000	21,600	228.53	£5,084,410			Regional Pool 50m x 12 lane

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Pools (sq. m /lanes)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution	Pools (sq. m /lanes)
City	Cambridge urban area – allocations	1,916	4,598	48.65	£1,082,320			1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool
City	Cambridge urban area – windfalls	3,124	7,498	79.33	£1,764,949			1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool
City	S/HHR: Darwin Green	2,573	6,947	73.5	£1,635,250			
SCDC	S:GF: Grange Farm New Settlement	6,000	17,100	183.62	3.46	3,839,993	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool	
City	S/EOC/NOW/SW O: Land N&S of Worts' Causeway	430	1,161	12.28	£273,287			1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool
City	S/NEC: North East Cambridge (Brookgate)	425	871	9.22	£205,024			Regional Pool 50m x 12 lane
City	S/NEC: North East Cambridge	7,925	16,246	171.89	£3,824,135			Regional Pool 50m x 12 lane

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Pools (sq. m /lanes)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution	Pools (sq. m /lanes)
SCDC	<u>S/NS: Northstowe</u>	10,186	29,030	319.81	£7,115,099	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool		
City	S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington)	3,872	6,970	73.74	£1,640,664	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool		
City	S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington densification)	2,500	4,500	47.61	£1,059,252	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool		
SCDC	Rural area - allocations	1,916	5,012	55.21	£1,228,415			1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool
SCDC	Rural area - windfalls	3,979	10,345	113.97	£2,535,505			1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool
SCDC	S/WNT: Waterbeach New Town	11,000	31,350	345.37	£7,683,718	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool		

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Pools (sq. m /lanes)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution	Pools (sq. m /lanes)
						plus learner pool		
SCDC	S/WGC: Wellcome Genome Campus	1,500	4,275	47.1	£1,047,780	1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool		
	TOTALS	88,043	230,751	2,499.98	£51,171,372.46			

N.B. A total of 2,500 sq. m of water space is needed. A 6-lane x 25m pool = 312.50 sq. m. Therefore, the amount of water space needed could be configured as a number of different options e.g.:

- 12.5 4-lane x 25m pools or
- 8 6-lane x 25m pools or
- 6.25 8-lane x 25m pools

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 6.10. In addition to contributions to the identified new pools (Table 23), there will also be a requirement for contributions to the modernisation of:
- Impington Village College and Sports Centre
 - Parkside Pools and Gym – Private school facility subject to point 8 below
 - Sawston Swimming Pool
- 6.11. Contributions will be required from Darwin 1,2,3 for upgrading Impington Village College or contributing to a new pool at Northstowe, Wort's Causeway and other city centre developments for Parkside and The Leys.
- 6.12. City swimming pool contributions will be determined by the City Council's Sports & Leisure dept for distribution towards existing investment projects including Jesus Green outdoor pool lido, Parkside Pools and Abbey leisure pool, and the proposed new 50m Regional Pool in Cambridge East. Any contributions towards private facilities such as The Leys Sports Complex or for a (potential) pool provided by the University of Cambridge would be made on condition that community/public access hours are provided at these sites.
- 6.13. swimming pool contributions will be distributed towards existing investment projects including Jesus Green outdoor pool lido, Parkside Pools and Abbey leisure pool, as determined by the City Council's Sports & Leisure dept. Any contributions towards private facilities such as The Leys Sports Complex or for a (potential) pool provided by the University of Cambridge would be made on condition that some community/public access hours were provided at these sites.

Sports Halls

- 6.14. The scale of increased demand for sports halls 2021-2045 is such that this can only be met in full through the development of new sports halls. These will be:
- North-East Cambridge – 4 badminton court sports hall
 - Cambridge East - 4 badminton court sports hall
 - South of the City – 4 badminton court sports hall
 - Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) – 4 badminton courts
 - Waterbeach - 4 badminton courts
 - plus increasing capacity in identified sites.

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

- 6.15. Strategic Growth Sites and Large Employment Sites will be required to contribute to the development of new sports halls as set out in Table 30:

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Table 30: Developer Contributions required for new Sports Halls by 2045

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Sports Halls (courts)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution
SCDC	S/BA: Bourn Airfield New Village	3,500	9,975	2.54	£1,848,022		4-badminton court sports hall
SCDC	S/CB: Cambourne West	2,606	7,427	1.8	£1,395,851	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
SCDC	S/CBN: Cambourne North	13,000	37,050	9	£6,963,280	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
City	S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus	1,000	1,800	0.49	£380,702		4-badminton court sports hall
City	S/CE: Cambridge East (Marleigh & Springstead Village)	2,591	6,996	1.91	£1,479,663	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
City	S/CE: Cambridge East (airport)	8,000	21,600	5.9	£4,568,426	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
City	Cambridge urban area – allocations	1,916	4,598	1.26	£972,483		4-badminton court sports hall
City	Cambridge urban area – windfalls	3,124	7,498	2.05	£1,585,836		4-badminton court sports hall
City	S/HHR: Darwin Green	2,573	6,947	1.9	£1,469,299		4-badminton court sports hall

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Sports Halls (courts)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution
SCDC	S:GF: Grange Farm New Settlement	6,000	17,100	4.15	£3,213,822		4-badminton court sports hall
City	S/EOC/NOW/SWO: Land N&S of Worts' Causeway	430	1,161	0.32	£245,553		4-badminton court sports hall
City	S/NEC: North East Cambridge (Brookgate)	425	871	0.24	£184,218	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
City	S/NEC: North East Cambridge	7,925	16,246	4.44	£3,436,049	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
SCDC	<u>S/NS: Northstowe</u>	10,186	29,030	7.05	£5,455,979	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
City	S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington)	3,872	6,970	1.91	£1,474,163	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
City	S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington densification)	2,500	4,500	1.23	£951,755	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
SCDC	Rural area - allocations	1,916	5,012	1.22	£941,969		4-badminton court sports hall

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Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Sports Halls (courts)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution
SCDC	Rural area - windfalls	3,979	10,345	2.51	£1,944,268		4-badminton court sports hall
SCDC	S/WNT: Waterbeach New Town	11,000	31,350	7.61	£5,892,006	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
SCDC	S/WGC: Wellcome Genome Campus	1,500	4,275	1.04	£803,455	4-badminton court sports hall on-site	
	TOTALS	88,043	230,751	58.57	£45,206,799		

N.B. 59 courts is equivalent to 15 sports halls with 4 badminton courts.

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Fitness Facilities

- 6.16. Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus.

Indoor Bowls Rinks

- 6.17. The scale of increased demand for indoor bowls 2021-2045 is such that this can only be met in full through the development of 5.3 new indoor bowls rinks.
- 6.18. Strategic Growth Sites and Large Employment Sites will be required to contribute to the development of new indoor bowls rinks as set out in Table 31:

Table 31: Developer Contributions required for new Indoor Bowling Rinks by 2045

Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Indoor Bowls (rinks)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution
SCDC	S/BA: Bourn Airfield New Village	3,500	9,975	0.18	£83,468		Y
SCDC	S/CB: Cambourne West	2,606	7,427	0.13	£62,147		Y
SCDC	S/CBN: Cambourne North	13,000	37,050				Y
City	S/CBC: Cambridge Biomedical Campus	1,000	1,800	0.66	£310,024		Y
City	S/CE: Cambridge East (Marleigh & Springstead Village)	2,591	6,996	0.09	£40,597		Y
City	S/CE: Cambridge East (airport)	8,000	21,600	0.27	£125,342		Y

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Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Indoor Bowls (rinks)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution
City	Cambridge urban area – allocations	1,916	4,598	0.06	£26,681		Y
City	Cambridge urban area – windfalls	3,124	7,498	0.09	£43,510		Y
City	S/HHR: Darwin Green	2,573	6,947	0.09	£40,312		Y
SCDC	S:GF: Grange Farm New Settlement	6,000	17,100	0.31	£143,088		Y
City	S/EOC/NOW/SWO: Land N&S of Worts' Causeway	430	1,161	12.28	£273,287		Y
City	S/NEC: North East Cambridge (Brookgate)	425	871	0.01	£5,054		Y
City	S/NEC: North East Cambridge	7,925	16,246	0.2	£94,273		Y
SCDC	<u>S/NS: Northstowe</u>	10,186	29,030	0.52	£242,915		Y
City	S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington)	3,872	6,970	0.09	£40,446		Y
City	S/NWC: North West Cambridge (Eddington densification)	2,500	4,500	0.06	£26,113		Y
SCDC	Rural area – allocations	1,916	5,012	0.09	£41,939		Y
SCDC	Rural area – windfalls	3,979	10,345	0.18	£86,564		Y

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Study Area	Site	Number of Dwellings	Population 2024 - Full Build Out	Indoor Bowls (rinks)	SFC – identified cost-contribution £000s	On Site Contribution	Off Site Contribution
SCDC	S/WNT: Waterbeach New Town	11,000	31,350	0.56	£262,328		Y
SCDC	S/WGC: Wellcome Genome Campus	1,500	4,275	0.08	£35,772		Y
	TOTALS	88,043	230,751	15.95	£1,983,860		Y

Other Indoor Sports Facilities

6.19. Developers' contributions should also be collected by 2045 towards the provision of

- 6 additional squash courts
- 13 indoor tennis courts
- Padel courts
- Handball & volleyball court
- Futsal Arena
- Support for local gymnastics clubs in identifying sites for expansion/ development of purpose-built facilities

7. Recommendations and Action Plan

- 7.1 The population of Greater Cambridge is set to double by 2045 so there is a particular need to ensure sufficient provision of accessible, quality and affordable facilities – formal and informal, and multi-purpose spaces to meet the needs of both existing and new communities.
- 7.2 More, and better, access to physical activity at local level is important for residents, particularly those who are currently inactive, and those without access to private transport, to participate, and become physically active. Ensuring those who lead challenging lives are able to be more active for health benefits is critical. Linking facility provision, informal and formal, to opportunities for active travel, and informal places will help to facilitate more active lifestyles for more people.
- 7.3 The need for additional community swimming pool and sports hall provision was identified in 2016, but limited investment in this has been seen to date. There is therefore a need to progress the development of new facilities to 2045 to address the needs of both existing and new communities.

Vision

- 7.4 As a minimum, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Councils wish to have good quality, fit for purpose facilities that are considered to be attractive to users, well maintained and sustainable. This includes community sport and leisure facilities, places and spaces for swimming, fitness and sports hall sports/activities available for all residents. This includes both formal and informal multi-purpose spaces e.g. community halls in which to play sport and be physically active.
- 7.5 Facilitating opportunities to be more physically active, more often is also important, to contribute to a reduction in health inequalities in Greater Cambridge, to help people to live and age better. The relevant local strategies and policies highlighting the importance of this and to which this strategy aligns are set out in Appendix 2.
- 7.6 The provision of high quality and accessible facilities, and where appropriate the opening up of other informal places, and spaces, as well as the development of new provision, will contribute to the future overall priority for the development of healthier lifestyles in Greater Cambridge, across all age groups.

Aims

7.7 The aim of providing sufficient high quality, fit for purpose and accessible provision, places and spaces is to:

- Increase the proportion of the population that is physically active; the level of activity undertaken will support efforts to further reduce health inequalities;
- Develop additional facility provision where need is evidenced e.g. as a result of population growth;
- Design in flexibility; future facility provision may need to be more multi-purpose in nature, reflecting changing participation trends and opportunities;
- Encourage new participants to start taking part in physical activity;
- Enable opportunities for participation to be provided in a wider range of places and spaces, and particularly at a very local level, using e.g. community centres/halls;
- Facilitate the continued development of healthier lifestyles across Greater Cambridge's communities;
- Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities, and specifically obesity, reduced inactivity, across Greater Cambridge; and
- Create active environments where the opportunity to be more physically active is an integral part of everyday life.

Principles for Future Provision

7.8 The principles that should guide all future sport and leisure facility development in Greater Cambridge are:

- Ensure residents in all areas of Greater Cambridge have pay and play access to good quality, local, accessible and affordable provision, whether it is a formal sports hall or a community hall, or other informal provision;
- Aim to ensure that any new, sports facilities on education sites provide a balance of opportunities (through a formal agreement) for community access – both pay and play and club use;
- Replace / refurbish ageing facilities where new provision is needed; all new and refurbished provision should be designed and developed based on Sport England and (National Governing Body) NGB guidance, and guidance be fully inclusive;
- Rationalise existing provision where new fit for purpose facilities can replace/improve existing buildings (but existing levels of provision need to be maintained as a minimum, given some existing facility under-supply going forward);
- Invest in existing formal and informal provision to improve quality; and
- Invest strategically to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision.

Facility Specific Analysis

7.9 Highlighted below are the key factors and issues that need to be taken into account in planning for future facility provision.

- **Population Growth** - Clearly, increased population will result in increased demand for sports facilities;
- **Housing Development**- one of the principal justifications for provision of additional community sports facilities is because additional residents increase demand for sports facilities. There will be a need to ensure good quality community sport and leisure facilities are available to meet existing and future demand. Investment in additional provision of formal sports facilities and community halls, secured through developer contributions is crucial, given the housing growth planned to 2045. However, linked to housing development is the potential for other infrastructure development e.g. schools, health facilities, which could also link into future provision of sports facilities;
- **Reduction in Health Inequalities** – more active lifestyles will continue to benefit both individual and community health and are increasingly significant post pandemic, given the high levels of deaths recorded, particularly amongst the older population; there are some very specific factors to which the provision of quality, affordable and accessible sports facilities can contribute:
 - Maintenance of active lifestyles;
 - Improved mental health;
 - Reduced levels of cardiovascular disease; and
 - Reductions in levels of obesity
- **Maintaining and growing participation levels** in sport and physical activity to contribute to more active lifestyles. Although participation rates in adults (16+) are higher than the national average (63.7%) in the City of Cambridge (77%) and South Cambridgeshire District (69.5%) (Source: Active Lives November 2023-2024), and therefore inactivity rates are lower across Greater Cambridge, 19.7% of the South Cambridgeshire District population and 13.7% of the City of Cambridge population remain inactive i.e. they do less than 30 minutes of physical activity per week.
- Addressing the future supply of sports halls, swimming pools, and particularly the need for investment in new facilities to meet the need of the growing population
- The need to retain and grow participation in physical activity for community health benefits;

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- The need to invest in active environments, where physical activity is the norm;
 - The need to improve accessibility to provision at local level, particularly for those without access to private transport;
 - There is already some sport and physical activity being delivered in community centres/halls across the borough; there is opportunity to increase awareness of this and to extend it, particularly where there are halls available with pay and play access. This could complement the provision of indoor hall space; and
 - The opportunity for investment in ‘active’ infrastructure to facilitate increased provision of cycling, jogging and walking routes in the borough, connecting new and existing settlements, education and leisure sites, for example cycling. Active travel should be a consideration in all housing developments across the borough where appropriate.
- 7.10 Retaining and improving the quality of existing provision is important in Greater Cambridge to ensure that participation levels are retained and wherever possible increased. Active Lives 2023-24 highlights that 33.4% of the Greater Cambridge community is inactive enough to have any health benefit.
- 7.11 The provision of good quality, local community facilities, accessible and affordable to meet identified need, is key to facilitating participation growth, and contributing to a reduction in the health inequalities that do exist in specific areas of Greater Cambridge. This reflects Public Health, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District District’s health and well-being priorities, to facilitate sustained behaviour change to reduce obesity, improve health, contribute to addressing mental health issues and increase participation. Based on the quality audits and assessments, and the supply and demand analysis, the priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 32: Summary Assessment of Need – Minimum Need for Indoor Sports Facilities by 2045 (ISFS 24-25)

Swimming Pools
• 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe • 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach • 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members) • 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) • Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink

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*The Genome Campus is going to deliver a 4-lane 20-25m pool as part of a David Lloyd (DL) sports centre. It was modelled as 200 sq. m. The DL pool will require an expensive membership fee to access and therefore is unlikely to make much of a contribution towards meeting the area's need for additional publicly accessible pool provision. The provision of a 6-lane 25m pool at Sawston was modelled to test if there would be sufficient demand for one which would not undermine the David Lloyd sports centre. A new 6 lane x 25m pool at Sawston would not undermine the planned provision at the Genome Campus.

**Any pool at West Cambridge would be a University-run/owned/managed pool and would provide only limited public access. This is not reflected in this updated study, and it should not be relied on it to meet the publicly accessible need. It was modelled to simply test if there is more than enough demand for one 6-lane 25m pool at Cambourne and one 6-lane 25m pool at West Cambridge which there is. If the UoC delivered a pool at West Cambridge, it would not undermine the viability of one at Cambourne.

Health and Fitness Facilities

- Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites

Sports Halls

- 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

Indoor Tennis Courts

- 13 indoor tennis courts- across Strategic Growth sites in the short term and a further 16 courts by 2041 in South Cambridgeshire

Indoor Bowling Rinks

- +5 indoor bowling rinks - Extension of existing facilities Cambridge and County Bowls Club which has 2 rinks and the Cambridge Chesterton Indoor Bowls Club which has 8 rinks, or as part of other new provision

Squash Courts

- 6 Squash Courts - across Strategic Growth sites

Padel Courts

- 41 Padel courts - across Greater Cambridge by 2041

Gymnastics

- Support local gymnastics clubs in identifying sites for expansion/development of purpose-built facilities - across Strategic Growth sites

Handball & Volleyball

- Drive from local clubs for purpose-built sports hall with additional court size – in the City

Futsal

- Court provision for indoor game arena

7.12 Other future facility provision, linked particularly to long term population growth and housing development, is the development of new and improved walking, jogging and cycling routes/connectivity, to encourage active travel, and provide an environment in which physical activity can be easily integrated into daily life.

Capital Investment

7.13 It is clear from the strategy analysis that there is a need for significant capital investment in Greater Cambridge, to address future needs. It is expected that significant capital will be derived from new s106 agreements, but Cambridge City Council is also looking to invest existing s106 monies in existing provision. The new leisure management contract will also seek capital investment across Greater Cambridge facilities.

Partnership Working with Education Sites

7.14 Partnership working with existing education sites which offer community access to sports facilities will be supported, and interested schools will be offered the opportunity to be part of the Greater Cambridge leisure management contract which has the potential to realise capital investment, and improved operational consistency across education sites which will benefit community use.

Recommendations and Action Plan

Recommendations

Sports Halls, Swimming Pools and Fitness Facilities

Recommendation 1 (R1)

The identified level of new swimming pool, sports hall and health and fitness provision is progressed:

Swimming Pools

By 2031

- 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members)
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

By 2045

- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach
- A new swimming pool at West Cambridge
- Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink

Sports Halls

- 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

Health and Fitness Facilities

- Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 2 (R2)

The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in Greater Cambridge are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present.

(PROTECT)

Recommendation 3 (R3)

Accessibility to be considered and factored in to ensure all facilities are as inclusive as possible.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 4 (R4)

All new housing developments and where possible, employment sites, should contribute to the cost of providing new sport and physical activity facilities and infrastructure.

(PROVIDE)

Sports Halls

Recommendation 5 (R5)

The identified level of new sports hall provision is progressed:

Sports Halls

- 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 6 (R6)

Greater Cambridge Planning Authority (through Planning policy) seek to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e. Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls. Any planning applications for new sports halls on education sites should be considered by Greater Cambridge Planning Authority for formal Community Use Agreements (CUA).

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 7 (R7)

Open dialogue with all education sites where there is access for clubs/groups but not the wider community on a pay and play basis to try and increase access to physical activity facilities.

(PROTECT AND PROVIDE)

Recommendation 8 (R8)

Work with local handball, volleyball and futsal clubs and the relevant NGBs to explore how a large sports hall as part of regional provision could be designed to provide for these three sports alongside other sports hall sports.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Swimming Pools

Recommendation 9 (R9)

The identified level of new swimming pool provision is progressed:

Swimming Pools

By 2031

- 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members)
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield)

By 2045

- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe
- 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach
- A new swimming pool at West Cambridge
- Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 10 (R10)

Prioritise investment into Parkside Pool to improve its quality as the facility ages and Jesus Green Lido to improve its quality and accessibility as an outdoor 100-year-old pool.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 11 (R11)

Continue to invest in/refurbish the swimming pools at Abbey to retain its quality as the facility continues to age.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 12 (R12)

Provision of a new swimming pool at the Genome Campus is progressed through the commercial sector.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Other Physical Activity and Sports Facilities

Recommendation 13 (R13)

The identified level of new fitness provision is progressed:

Health and Fitness Facilities

- Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - across Strategic Growth sites

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 14 (R14)

Work with the LTA and other partners to develop an additional 29 indoor tennis courts (13 in the short term and a further 16 in South Cambridgeshire) and 41 Padel courts across Greater Cambridge by 2041

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 15 (R15)

Dialogue is established with England Gymnastics and local gymnastics clubs to further explore the potential of facilitating club-led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

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Recommendation 16 (R16)

Indoor Bowls - Dialogue is established with England Indoor Bowls Association and local clubs to monitor the need for increased provision of indoor bowling rinks across Greater Cambridgeshire.

Outdoor Bowls - Dialogue with Local Clubs to explore the potential for co-location and reduction/closure of existing rinks for shared sites if participant numbers decline further.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 17 (R17)

Dialogue is established with England Squash over the identified need for additional squash courts in Greater Cambridge, and the funding required through developer contributions.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 18 (R18)

Where appropriate, Greater Cambridge Planning Authority and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running, and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

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Recommendation 19 (R19)

Greater Cambridge Planning Authority, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Council, their successor administrative body and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Living Sport as the lead for Place -based working (Cambridgeshire Sports Partnership).

(PROVIDE)

Recommendation 20 (R20)

Greater Cambridge Planning Authority, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Council, their successor administrative body and their partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation and better community cohesion.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

Recommendation 21 (R21)

Ensure adequate spaces are reserved at outline planning stages or concept stages to allow enough space for all identified future facility need to be delivered on “earmarked” land parcels allowing for space for supported parking and carbon reducing energy generation and floodlighting of facilities that will not be detrimental to the landscape, environment, bio diversity or nearby residential properties.

Recommendation 22 (R22)

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.

(PROTECT)

Action Plan

- 7.15 In order to realise the above Vision and Aims for sport and leisure facility provision in Greater Cambridge there are key priorities that need to be addressed and implemented. These are set out below in the Action Plan, based on the recommendations for future provision and the funding mechanism identified in Section 6.

Table 33: Strategy Action Plan

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Recommendation 1 (R1) The identified level of new swimming pool, sports hall and health and fitness provision is progressed: Swimming Pools By 2031 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members) 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) By 2045 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach - A new swimming pool at West Cambridge - Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), Cambridge East, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink Sports Halls 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) Health and Fitness Facilities - Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites (PROVIDE)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play sports hall, swimming pools and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 2 (R2) The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in Greater Cambridge are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present. (PROTECT)	Ensure existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in Greater Cambridge are retained as a minimum, although the number and nature of facility provision may look different as new provision is developed.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers (including planners) and representatives from Living Sport	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers (leisure and planners).

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Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Recommendation 3 (R3) Accessibility to be considered and factored in to ensure all facilities are as inclusive as possible. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District, and other partners to ensure inclusive access is provided in all new sport and physical activity facilities.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District and relevant education establishments.
Recommendation 4 (R4) All new housing developments and where possible, employment sites, should contribute to the cost of providing new sport and physical activity facilities and infrastructure. (PROVIDE)	Ensure s106 agreements are negotiated for all new housing developments and where possible, employment sites, to contribute to the cost of providing new sport and physical activity facilities and infrastructure on site and off site.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 5 (R5) The identified level of new sports hall provision is progressed: Sports Halls 8 sports halls (4-badminton courts); 31 badminton courts - Cambridge NE, Waterbeach, South of the City, West Cambridge, Cambridge East Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) (PROVIDE)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play sports hall provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 6 (R6) Greater Cambridge Planning Authority (through Planning policy) seek to develop appropriate formal access arrangements i.e. Community Use Arrangements (CUA) with any new education sports halls. Any planning applications for new sports halls on education sites should be considered by Greater Cambridge Planning Authority for formal Community Use Agreements (CUA). (PROVIDE)	Planning applications for new sports halls on education sites should be considered by Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District’s Planning Services for formal Community Use Agreements (CUA)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers (including planners)	Short-Medium Term (and ongoing thereafter)		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers time. Principal/ Head of local Academies and / or Executive Head Teachers of schools.
Recommendation 7 (R7) Open dialogue with all education sites where there is access for clubs/groups but not the wider community on a pay and play basis to try and increase access to physical activity facilities. (PROTECT AND PROVIDE)	Seek to establish dialogue with all relevant education sites about opening up increased access for pay and play use.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers (including planners)	Short-Medium Term (and ongoing thereafter)		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers time. Principal/ Head of local Academies and / or Executive Head Teachers of schools.

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Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Recommendation 8 (R8) Work with local handball, volleyball and futsal clubs and the relevant NGBs to explore how a large sports hall as part of regional provision could be designed to provide for these three sports alongside other sports hall sports. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Establish a working group with local handball, volleyball and futsal clubs to develop an approach to use of a large sports hall for all three sports to help inform future consideration of a regional scale sports hall.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 9 (R9) The identified level of new swimming pool provision is progressed: Swimming Pools By 2031 1 no x 4 lane x 25m pool, Genome Campus (majority of use will be for members) 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield) By 2045 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool with a moveable floor, Northstowe 1 no. 6 lane x 25m pool plus learner pool, Waterbeach - A new swimming pool at West Cambridge - Regional Pool (50m x 10 lanes), East Cambridge, Co-location with existing Cambridge Ice Rink (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play swimming pool provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 10 (R10) Prioritise investment into Parkside Pool to improve its quality as the facility ages and Jesus Green Lido to improve its quality and accessibility as an outdoor 100-year-old pool. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Prioritise investment into Parkside Pools to improve its quality – existing s106 monies and potentially through the new Leisure Management contract.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time
Recommendation 11 (R11) Continue to invest in/refurbish the swimming pools at Abbey to retain its quality as the facility continues to age. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Prioritise investment into Abbey Pools to improve its quality – existing s106 monies and potentially through the new Leisure Management contract.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time

Greater Cambridge

Assessment of Need for Indoor Sports Facilities

Recommendation	Action	Responsibility	Timescale		Resources / Partners
			Short	= 1 – 5 Years	
			Medium	= 5 – 10 Years	
			Long Term	= 10+ Years	
Recommendation 12 (R12) Provision of a new swimming pool at the Genome Campus is progressed through the commercial sector. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Secure agreement with David Lloyd to provide a new pool at the Genome Campus development.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officers	Short Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time
Recommendation 13 (R13) The identified level of new fitness provision is progressed: Health and Fitness Facilities Additional community accessible fitness stations and studios should be included in new facilities alongside pools at Waterbeach, Northstowe, Cambourne (Cambourne West and Bourn Airfield), West Cambridge, the Cambridge Regional Pool and Genome Campus - - across Strategic Growth sites (PROVIDE)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play health and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan and there is an identified mechanism for securing s106 contributions to fund the required new infrastructure.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Officers	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time.
Recommendation 14 (R14) Work with the LTA and other partners to develop an additional 29 indoor tennis courts (13 in the short term and a further 16 in South Cambridgeshire) and 41 Padel courts across Greater Cambridge by 2041 (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Work with the LTA and local clubs to develop additional indoor tennis courts and Padel court provision across Greater Cambridge, responding to the needs of existing and new communities.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District)	Short – medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District officer time; LTA resources
Recommendation 15 (R15) Dialogue is established with England Gymnastics and local gymnastics clubs to further explore the potential of facilitating club-led development of additional gymnastics facilities i.e. new additional provision. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Explore further club-led provision/partnership for specialist gymnastics provision given high level of members/participation.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers.	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; NGB and club resources
Recommendation 16 (R16) Indoor Bowls - Dialogue is established with England Indoor Bowls Association and local clubs to monitor the need for increased provision of indoor bowling rinks across Greater Cambridgeshire. Outdoor Bowls - Dialogue with Local Clubs to explore the potential for co-location and reduction/closure of existing rinks for shared sites if participant numbers decline further. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Explore further club-led provision/partnership for specialist indoor bowls provision	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure	Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; New Milton Indoor Bowls and the NGB – English Indoor Bowls Association (EIBA)

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Recommendation 17 (R17) Dialogue is established with England Squash over the identified need for additional squash courts in Greater Cambridge, and the funding required through developer contributions. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Work with England Squash to develop identified additional provision needed and ensure this is based where optimum community access can be achieved.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officers	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District, and England Squash NGB representative.
Recommendation 18 (R18) Where appropriate, Greater Cambridge Planning Authority and its partners seek to secure developer contributions from strategic developments that could contribute towards the development/refurbishment of strategic facilities, additional and safe walking, running, and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District implement the detailed approach to securing developer contributions to support the emerging local plan e.g. through a Planning Obligations SPD, as set out in Section 6 of this assessment.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning officers. Sport England.	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers
Recommendation 19 (R19) Greater Cambridge Planning Authority, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Council, their successor administrative body and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. To support this process, it is recommended to involve Living Sport as the lead for Place -based working (Cambridgeshire Sports Partnership). (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers to identify potential levels of capital funding from residential development, and any other funding sources. Involve Living Sport in this process	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure and Planning Officers. Sport England, local partners	Short – Medium Term		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers Relevant local partners
Recommendation 20 (R20) Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high-quality community sports facilities/ spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to improved health and wellbeing, increased participation and better community cohesion. (PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District to work with its local partner providers and relevant health and community partners to ensure provision of, and access to, appropriate community sports facilities and opportunities to provide physical activity in the local community.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officers; Public Health and Local Providers and Community Partners	Ongoing		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Leisure Officer time; Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Community Partners; Public Health and Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Partner providers.
Recommendation 21 (R21) Ensure adequate spaces are reserved at outline planning stages or concept stages to allow enough space for all identified future facility	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District planners to ensure adequate	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South	Short – Medium Term and then Ongoing thereafter		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District

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need to be delivered on “earmarked” land parcels allowing for space for supported parking and carbon reducing energy generation and floodlighting of facilities that will not be detrimental to the landscape, environment, bio diversity or nearby residential properties.	spaces are reserved at outline planning/concept stages to provide for future facility need.	Cambridgeshire District and all partners			Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers and relevant local partners
Recommendation 22 (R22) There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments. (PROTECT)	Ensure a monitoring process is in place to refresh the strategy and action plan every 5 years. Ensure ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities to be aware of facility changes and developments that may impact on Greater Cambridge residents and facility plans for the future. Establish a steering group made up of key stakeholders to take forward the actions in the action plan. This could be the same as the steering group recommended for implementing the PPS but excluding the outdoor playing pitch NGBs.	Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District and all partners	Short – Medium Term and then Ongoing thereafter		Greater Cambridge planners, the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers and relevant local partners

N.B. It is recognised that any new schools are currently outside the direct control of the City of Cambridge and South Cambridgeshire District Councils. This should not, however, prevent local partnerships for community access.

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