

Appendix A

Waveney District Built Sports and Recreational Facilities Assessment and Strategy

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1: Introduction & Context

- 1.1 In February 2016 Waveney District Council and Sentinel Leisure Trust commissioned naa to work with them to produce a built sports and recreational facilities assessment and strategy for Waveney District. The overall objective is to assess the need for indoor sports and recreational facilities and set out the strategic direction for provision up to 2026 and beyond.
- 1.2 The strategy is based on an audit and assessment, which has gathered and developed the evidence base. This has applied the Sport England methodology of Assessing Needs and Opportunities (ANOG) guidance, which is the industry-wide accepted methodology for developing an evidence base for indoor and built sports and leisure facilities. This is described in section three of the strategy.
- 1.3 This evidence data has been combined with consultations to obtain views on what is important (and why) to organisations in the district. This has involved organisations who have a role and interest in the provision and management of facilities, or views on future development of indoor sports facilities. The scope for this consultation included public sports facilities, schools, commercial organisations sports clubs' national governing bodies of sport and Town and Parish Councils.
- 1.4 Site visits and meetings with over twenty organisations involved in the operation of the facilities in the district were also undertaken. The purpose of these was to understand how things work on the ground, for example the programming and use of the facilities, issues in operation and views on future needs. These all form part of the assessment which is summarised in section four of the strategy and set out in full in appendix three, and should be read as a precursor to this strategy.
- 1.5 Assessing the current and future need for sports and leisure facilities and ensuring this is based on requirements up to 2026 is only part of the story - facilities are the means to the end. The ultimate objective is to increase participation in sport and physical activity and create an active and healthy lifestyle for residents across Waveney District.
- 1.6 Consequently, it is important to understand who across the District participates in sport and physical activity. So which sports/activities do people participate in and how often? How far do people travel to participate and what are the motivations and barriers to increasing or starting some participation in both sport and physical activity?
- 1.7 To gain this understanding the strategy work has involved the review of data for Waveney District based on Sport England evidence and findings on participation and non-participation in sport and physical activity, as well as a review of headline data on the health and well-being of Waveney residents. This forms the people profile as context for the sports facility assessment. The findings from this profile are set out in appendix two of the strategy.
- 1.8 Also as context for the facilities strategy, it is important to understand the objectives of the District Council, its vision for sports and leisure facilities across the District and the key drivers for change which will impact on the delivery of the strategy. These findings are set out in appendix one and summarised in section two of the strategy.
- 1.9 At an early stage in the project some key features of Waveney District emerged. This relates to firstly the projected changes in population across the District over the period of the strategy and secondly the settlement pattern of the district. These findings are described also in section two of the strategy.

1.10 Finally, as overall context, the Sport England Strategy "Towards an Active Nation" 2016 – 2021 was published in May 2016 and mid-way through the Waveney Strategy project work. The direction being set by the new Sport England strategy is considered and how it may impact on Waveney District. The detail regarding the new focus on increasing physical activity, and getting people to be active and in a wider range of activity than just sport, the programmes of work and the investment strategy to deliver it are emerging and the new direction has been incorporated into the strategy.

Sentinel Leisure Trust

1.11 Sentinel Leisure Trust (SLT) are the study project managers on behalf of Waveney District Council. The background to SLT is that the Council reviewed its strategic direction for leisure services in 2006, was followed by an assessment with regard to its own stock and a view of the wider leisure facilities available for community use within the district and catchment area. This approach was in line with Sport England guidelines.

1.12 The Council also undertook an options appraisal to determine which management model would best deliver the objectives of the Council and which services would be retained within this model. This work was completed between 2007 and 2009.

1.13 The Council then began a process of tendering and forming a leisure trust as phase 1 of its procurement strategy, followed by phase 2 which was to tender for a strategic leisure development partner, to support the Council for a period of 20 years and refurbish (or replace its leisure stock) in line with community needs, wider Council objectives and Sport England guidelines.

1.14 The Council successfully procured Sentinel Leisure Trust, a model that improved the Council's net subsidy by 40% on set up and continues to re-invest all profits in the local community whilst reducing the subsidy further where possible on an annual basis.

1.15 The re-branding of Sports Development was undertaken in 2016 under the Sentinel community banner, which is an 'outreach' service and now a sub-regional model, it was evident that a distinction was needed within the Sentinel group and company profile

1.16 The sports facility types included in the project brief are:

- sports halls,
- swimming pools,
- health and fitness centres and gyms,
- studios,
- indoor courts – bowling and tennis,
- gymnastics, and
- village halls.

1.17 The assessment includes all providers of these facilities, the District Council and venues operated by Sentinel Leisure Trust, state and independent schools, sports clubs, Town and Parish Councils and commercial operators.

1.18 The audit includes all the facility types in the district. However, to be included in the supply and demand assessment, there has to be public/community use of the venue

based on the amount of time and type of access there is for use by the public, clubs and the local community.

1.19 The sequence of the strategy document therefore is:

- Section 2: Strategy Objectives and Key Features of Waveney District
- Section 3: Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor Sports Facilities – the methodology
- Section 4: Sports Facilities – Key Findings, for each facility Type#
- Section 5: Strategy Recommendations and Framework for Delivery
- Section 6: Implementation, Funding and Planning Guidance
- Section 7: Monitoring and Review

1.20 The appendices are as set out in the contents page.

2: Strategy Objectives and Key Features of Waveney District

2.1 Waveney District Council and Sentinel Leisure Trust set some key objectives and drivers for the strategy. These are set out below together with the source in brackets;

- to promote increased access to quality leisure and cultural facilities and activities (WDC Business Plan 2012 – 2022 priority under the Economic Development Tourism section);
- to protect and promote the health and well-being of all our communities to ensure they remain safe from harm, and able to live healthy lifestyles (WDC Business Plan 2012 – 2022 priority under the Community Health section);
- whilst it is a strategy for the District Council to focus work it is also an important document for the district as a whole (WDC project brief);
- to increase the proportion of those who are physically active in Suffolk with the specific focus on the priorities agreed by the Suffolk Health and Well-Being Board HWB: active ageing, a physical activity habit for life, walking, cycling and increasing activity amongst those with disability (Suffolk Health and Well Being Board A Prevention Strategy for Suffolk to reduce demand in the health and care sector by improving health 2016 – 2021); and
- to develop an evidence base and assessment report which can inform the development of the Waveney District Local Plan in terms of developing a supply, demand and access assessment of need and setting out the future sports facility provision needs in terms of: protect; enhance; and provide (WDC Project Brief).

2.2 Within the remit of the project brief the key objectives and requirements are;

- to develop a quantity, quality and accessibility audit of existing provision of the indoor sports and leisure facilities included in the project scope - across the District and to include all providers;
- to develop a strategy for the future provision of indoor sports facilities identified in the needs assessment and to set this out for each sports facility type, under the headings of protect; enhance; and provide;
- the assessment and strategy to be based on the projected population change across Waveney District between 2016 – 202, applying the Waveney District bespoke population projections for this period. (Note: the future assessment of need has been undertaken up to 2021 and then to 2026 based on the projected changes in population across Waveney District. Sport England guidance is to develop sports facilities strategies on the basis of a 10 year horizon. Sport England considers hard evidence of change beyond 10 years is difficult to predict)
- the need for an evidence base to aid decision making regarding priorities for the District Council and for its partners; and
- to outline potential sources of funding and investment for the sports facilities identified in the strategy.

2.3 As context for the development of the evidence base assessment and the strategy, it is important to set out some very important features of Waveney District. Some of these are givens and cannot be changed but they are influential in setting the direction for the strategy and its delivery. Others are some major findings from the work itself and again influence the strategy direction but can be changed.

- 2.4 The key features relate to population change and the settlement pattern of Waveney District.

Population Change and the Sporting Population

- 2.5 In determining the future demand for sports facilities the changes in population are integral to that assessment. It is important to consider the age structure of the population now and how this is projected to change up to 2026 across Waveney District.
- 2.6 It could be that although there is a projected increase in absolute population numbers up to 2026, the age structure of the population means there is a lower total number of people in the main age bands for sports and physical activity participation in 2026 than in 2016 (the base date used for the study), or vice versa.
- 2.7 The key findings of population change are set out as context for the assessment for each sports facility type.

Waveney District population projections

- 2.8 The Waveney District population projections are supplied by the District Council and are the Council's projections for what is termed the offshore economic scenario. They are the projections in 2016 and have yet to be formally adopted by the District Council. More detailed information is set out in Appendix 2 accompanying this strategy and should be referred to for sources of data etc.
- 2.9 There are differences in population for 2016 - 2026 applying the Council's bespoke population projections and the Office for National Statistics (ONS) trend based population projections. The projections of housing need across Waveney will be based on the Council's bespoke population projections. It is important therefore to use these projections in assessing the impact of population change as the source for the demand for indoor sports facilities. At the stage of developing this strategy the population projections are subject to refinement through the Waveney District Local Plan preparation process. As such the figures could change slightly.

Waveney District population 2016

- 2.10 In 2016 the total population of Waveney District is estimated at 117, 623, of which 56,975 (48.5%) are male and 60,648 (51.5%) are female. The headlines on the overall population structure for Waveney District compared with East Region and England national averages (Source: Sport England Local Sports Profile) are:
- Slightly higher proportion of females in Waveney than in East Region and England wide, due to an aged population in the district
 - Slightly lower percentage (5.2%) of the adult population in the 15-19 age group than in East Region (5.7%) and England wide (5.8%)
 - Lower percentage in the 20-24 age group (5%) of the adult population whilst in East Region it is 7.2% and for England wide 8.2%;
 - Significantly lower percentage of people in the 25-34 age group at 10.1%, compared with 15.6% in East Region and 17% England wide
 - Lower percentage of people in the 35-49 age group with 17% of the adult population, compared with 25.2% in East Region and 25% England wide;

- Slightly higher percentage of people in the 50-64 age group with 24.9% of the adult population, compared with 21.6% in East Region and 22.1% England wide;
- Higher percentage of people in the 65 – 85+ age group at 26.3% than in the East Region at 20.1% and for England wide at 21.4%.
- The age group with the highest adult population in Waveney District in terms of five year age bands is 70 – 74 for both males (4,047) and females (4,246), comprising some 7% of the total adult population

2.11 There is a smaller proportion of non-white residents, at just over 1% of the total adult Waveney District population, compared with 7.6% in the East Region population and 12.8% in England.

2.12 There is a larger proportion of registered disabled people across Waveney District at 16% (2012 data) when compared with East Region at 12% and England wide 11% (both figures 2015) This could be a reflection of the predominance of older age groups of 65+ in Waveney.

Waveney District future population

2.13 The total population across Waveney District is projected to rise by 2,954 people, from an estimated 117, 623 in 2016 to 120,577 in 2021, a 2.5% increase, and to 123,621 by 2026, a 5% increase over the 2016 figure. The proportion of females to males will remain higher. Over the two periods, the population is estimated to change as follows:

- By 2021, increases in the 5-14, 30-39, 50-64 age groups, with the biggest increase in the 70 – 84 age range of 13.7%, and decreases in the 15-29 and 40-49 age bands
- By 2026, compared with 2016, increases in the 5 – 14, 30 - 39, 50 – 64 and 70 – 84 age bands, with the biggest increase in 75+ of 14%. Decreases in the 15 – 29 and 40 – 49 age bands.

Implications of population change for sports participation

2.14 If these changes are analysed in accordance with the different age groups that have the highest participation and frequency of participation in sports and physical activity, the situation is expected to be as follows (percentages rounded):

Table 2.1: Population change by age band 2016 – 2021 and 2016 - 2026 for Waveney District

Age group	Change 2016-2021	Change 2016-2026
Total population	+2.5%	+5%
Active population (5-54)	-1.2%	-1.9%
Less active population (55 – 64)	+ 9.6%	+ 5.7%
Inactive population (0-4 and 75 - 85)	+11.6%	+26%
Junior sport (10-19)	+3.1%	+6.1%

2.15 The key findings from this assessment are:

- The total population is estimated to rise by 2.5% over 2016 – 2021 and 5% over the 2016 – 2026 period. However, for the purposes of participation in sport and physical activity, the active population (i.e. those aged between 5 and 54 who

are more likely to take part in sport) is projected to fall by 1.2% and 1.9% over the same 2016 – 2021 and 2016 – 2026 periods.

- There is a category of less active population in the 55 – 64 age group and this is projected to increase by 9.6% from 2016 to 2021 and by 5.7% over the 2016 – 2026 period. This age band does participate, albeit it has a lower rate of participation than in the younger age bands of the active population, hence the term 'less active population'. This less active population does have a sizeable increase over the 2016 – 2026 period and will offset the decline in the more active population. (5 – 54). Indoor sports/activities which this less active age band participates most in are swimming, low impact exercise classes and indoor bowls. Motivations for participation are for a health benefit and as a social and recreational activity. Outdoor activities are however more popular than indoor, especially walking, and for men golf, fishing and cycling.
- The inactive population (0 -4 and 75 – 85+) meantime rises by 11.6% from 2016 to 2021 and over the overall 2016 to 2026 period by 26%. The Waveney District total population in this age range is 14,600 in 2016 (12.3% of the total population) and increases to 26,300 by 2026. This then comprises 20% of the total Waveney District 2026 population. The 0 -4 age band is projected to be virtually static at 6,300 in 2016 and 6,200 by 2026 and so the large increase is in the 75 – 85+ part of the inactive population.
- It is important to distinguish the active from the inactive population in terms of age bands because the active population (5 – 54) forms the vast majority of the demand assessment. As a proportion of the total population, the active population in total numbers is 65,000 in 2016, 64,300 in 2021 and then 63,700 by 2026, so there is a decrease in total numbers of 1,300 people from 2016 to 2026. The implications from the population change for the main indoor sports facilities in the strategy are that demand for sports facilities is likely to remain static over the plan period. Of course demand changes from sports development initiatives and increases in the current rate of participation for particular sports or activities and these will influence demand. The trends in past participation levels for Waveney District over the 2006 – 2015 period and based on the Sport England Active People survey are set out in Appendix 2.
- Within the active population 5 – 54, whilst there is an overall decrease in total numbers of people, there is an increase in the 10 - 19 age range. The indoor activities that people of this age participate in are swimming, gymnastics, some indoor halls sports such as five a side football and activities such as dance and gym. The main participation is however outdoor in pitch and court sports - football, rugby, netball and tennis for example.

Summary of population change

- 2.16 To summarise therefore, the Waveney District population projections show over the period of the strategy, from 2016 – 2026, a small decline in the total population in the most active population age band for sports and physical activity of 5 – 54 years of age of about 2%. This compares with a projected 5% increase in the Waveney District total population over the strategy period.
- 2.17 The slight decrease in the active population is offset somewhat by a 6% increase in the less active population aged from 55 – 64. There will also be an increase in population in the junior sport age range of 10 – 19 years of age of around 6% over the strategy period.

- 2.18 In terms of overall demand for the facilities that are being considered in this study, population change is unlikely to be a driver of overall increases in demand for the facility types. However, these projected population changes should also be considered alongside targets and development initiatives put in place by Waveney District Council Sentinel Trust, Suffolk Sport, National Governing Bodies of Sport and individual sports and clubs to increase overall participation rates in particular sports.
- 2.19 Whilst the demographic changes are not likely to be a driver for increased participation, there will be shifts in demand for different types of activities from the aging of the population, for physical activity programmes and exercise classes by older people. A trend noticed by Badminton England is the need for public leisure centres to schedule more sports hall time for recreational badminton in the afternoons because of increasing demand from an older population. This population has free daytime hours for activities and prefers to participate in the day rather than evenings. School sports facilities are not accessible during term times and so the focus is on public leisure centres to provide for an emerging peak period.
- 2.20 Given all these findings it is reasonable to say there will be a shift in demand for more recreational activity from an ageing population. Moreover, activity which has a health and well-being focus for all age groups will become more prominent.

Settlement Pattern of Waveney District

- 2.21 The estimated District population in 2016 is 117,623 people. Lowestoft, situated in the north east of the District is the largest town accommodating approximately half of the District's population with a population of 56,932 people. The rural part of the District gains its identity from the four historic market towns of Beccles/Worlingham, population 14,000, Bungay population 5,100, Halesworth population 4,700 and Southwold and Reydon population 3,680. The larger villages and their parishes include Kessingland 4,300, Corton 1,000 and Barnby and North Cove along with Wrentham each having a population of 1,000. (All 2016 figures and supplied by WDC Planning Department).
- 2.22 In short, Waveney District has a concentrated population in the area of Lowestoft town with some 48% of the District total. There is a dispersed settlement pattern in the next four largest settlements having a total population across the four settlements of 23,580, some 20% of the district total population. The balance of the population is dispersed in smaller settlements.
- 2.23 Map 2.1 overleaf sets out the settlement pattern of the district with the grey area showing the main settlements. The size of the grey areas is proportionate to the total population.
- 2.24 This settlement pattern poses challenges in determining the provision for indoor sports facilities, in short, creating enough critical mass of population and then participation to be able to support provision of facilities. The study has assessed the current supply of facilities based on their location, catchment area and programmes of use. It has then identified the demand for facilities and the scale. This process allows the assessment to identify if there is sufficient provision to meet the demand now and in the future, or if there are gaps/shortfalls in provision the scale and location and the options to address these needs.

Map 2.1: Settlement pattern for Waveney District 2016

Waveney context



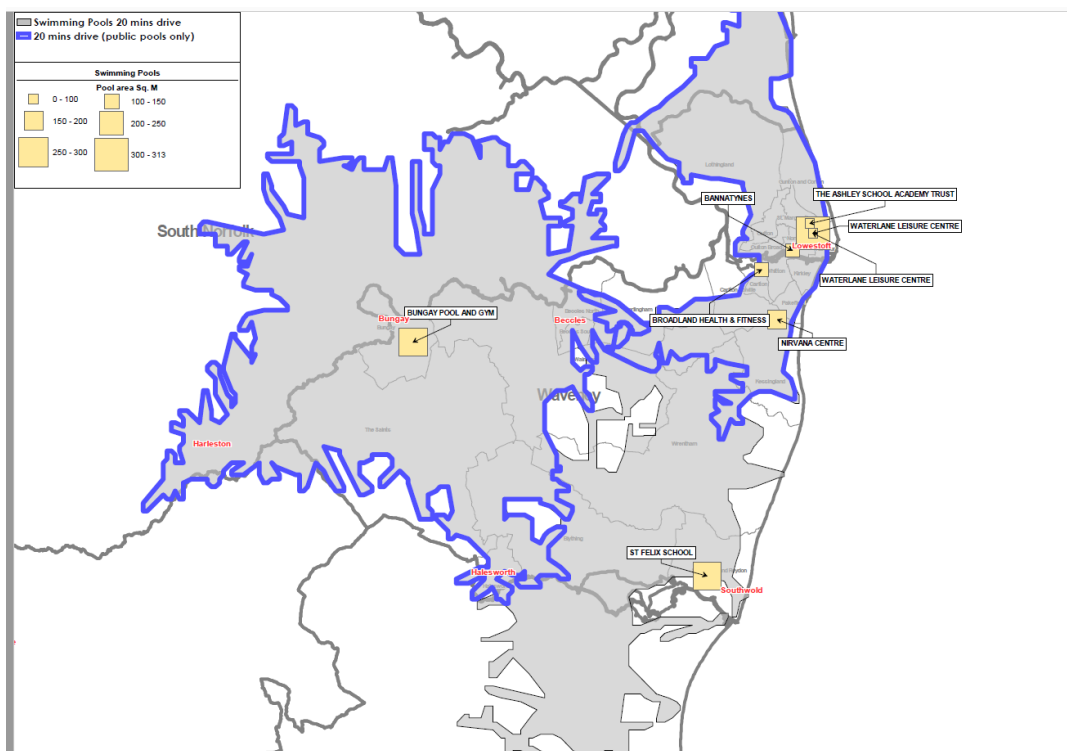
(Source Waveney District Council Local Plan: Options for the new Local Plan Introduction)

- 2.25 To try and gain a perspective on how this settlement pattern relates to provision of facilities, the catchment area of the swimming pools provision and sports halls provision across the district has been mapped and these are set out in Maps 2.2 – 2.3 overleaf.
- 2.26 The swimming pool map includes the indoor swimming pools which are available as either public swimming pools pay and play venues, and those that operate and are accessed by a membership system.
- 2.27 The swimming pool map does distinguish between the different types of provision/access and the area inside the blue line represents the catchment area for the two public leisure centres of Waterlane and Bungay Leisure Centre. Whilst the catchment area represented by the provision of all the swimming pools is the total grey area. The map is based on the 20 minute drive time catchment area of the swimming pool locations (the map excludes Broadland Health and Fitness Pool which was only brought into full community use at a recent date)
- 2.28 The 20-minute drive time catchment area is used because it is the accepted catchment area (based on Sport England research) for the majority of users to travel to

participate on a regular basis. The Sport England research identifies that 77% of all visits to Waterlane Leisure Centre and 96% of all visits to Bungay Leisure Centre are by car.

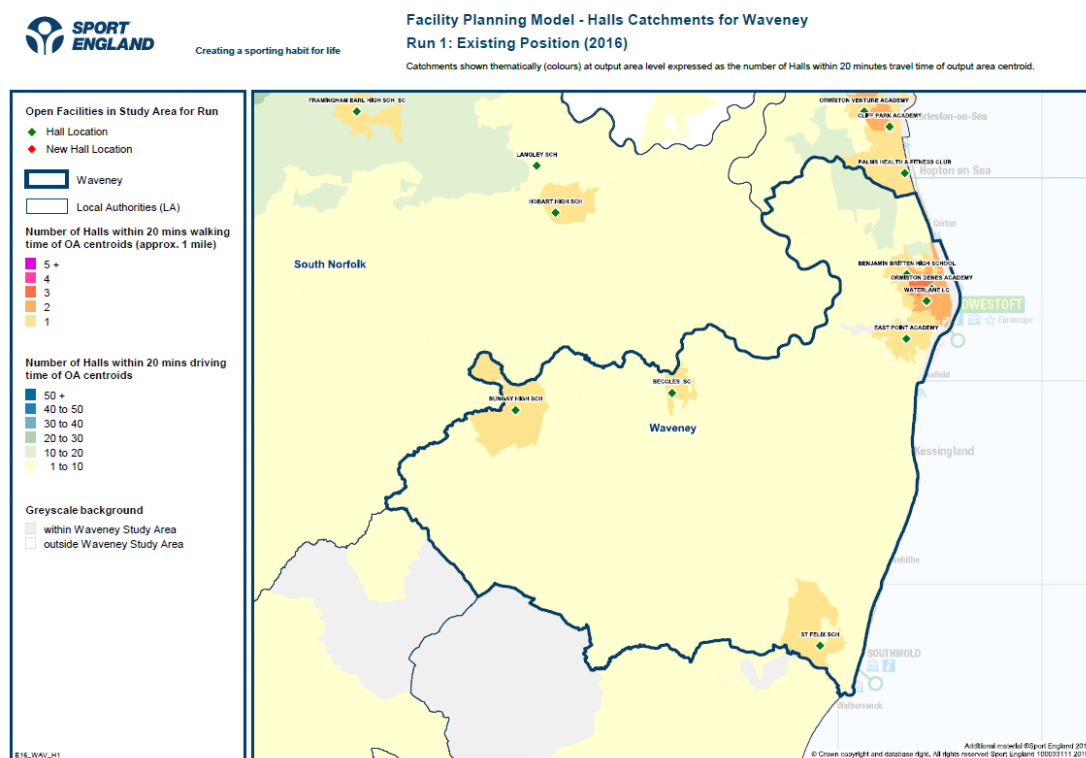
- 2.29 The pool map illustrates the extent of the geographical coverage of the drive time catchment area for the public swimming pool (area inside the blue line) and the catchment area for all the swimming pools (total grey area). The total population living outside the drive time catchment area of the public swimming pool in 2016 is 14,000 residents.
- 2.30 Put another way some 88% of the Waveney population live within the 20 minute drive time catchment area of a Waveney District public swimming pool and 12% live outside.

Map 2.2: Swimming pool supply, catchment area and accessibility Waveney District 2016



- 2.31 In terms of sports halls, the study undertook bespoke mapping work for the project with Sport England because the provision of sports halls is more extensive than pools and there are more issues around sports halls provision. Map 2.3 overleaf illustrates the number of sports halls which are accessible to the District's residents based on the drive time and walking catchment area (20 minutes or 1 mile) of the sports hall locations. The colour coded key is on the left side of the map.
- 2.32 Over 90% of the land area of the District is yellow and in these areas residents have access to between 1 – 10 sports halls based on the location of the sports halls location and catchment area of the sports halls (It is acknowledged that 1 – 10 is a wide range).
- 2.33 The access to sports halls based on the walking catchment is in light and dark orange, with residents in the light orange areas having access to 1 sports hall and 2 in the darker orange area. The Sport England research sets out that an estimated 81% of visits to Waveney sports halls are by car and 12% by walking, the balance being by cycling or public transport.

Map 2.3: Sports halls supply and access by car and walking Waveney District 2016



2.34 There are challenges set by these map illustrations for the strategy. In particular, the challenge is how to meet the needs of residents now and in the future for these and other facility types, given the high level of access for the majority of the population but with a dispersed population / settlements across Waveney, which means there are some residents and locations outside the catchment area of indoor sports facilities. There are three choices:

- residents travel further to use the facilities – but the Sport England research shows that to maintain and increase participation on a regular basis local accessibility is important. The time and cost of travel plus the competing demands on time to do other activities which fit into the lifestyle of individuals and families can discourage participation;
- provide more facilities than may be needed in recognition of the settlement pattern of the District. This however has a cost in providing and maintaining more facilities than may be needed. Moreover, there may not be a core business case to justify provision and provide a viable facility without extensive financial support. Provision is driven by the settlement patterns and lack of access, not the supply and demand and capacity of the existing facilities to meet the demand across the district. For example, the Sport England assessment of the annual

throughout for a 4 lane x 25 metre swimming pool based on a for a 50 week year is 95,000 visits; and

- make more use of what already exists, by increasing access to facilities that exist but which are not readily accessible to the public or for clubs to use who are located furthest from facilities. This applies especially to facilities on school sites, both state and independent schools. In effect, it extends the supply base and catchment area. By doing so it addresses the settlement pattern and is trying to increase access to venues across a wider area and to more residents.

2.35 These factors of population change and settlement pattern are key features of Waveney District and hence the reason for setting them out as context for the strategy. The findings are developed as part of the audit and assessment report that forms the evidence base. This is then developed in the strategy and its recommendations.

3: Assessing Needs & Opportunities for Indoor Sports Facilities - The Methodology

3.1 This section summarises the methodology that has been used in the development of the needs assessment and strategy. The assessment has been produced to follow the guidance from Sport England in its Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for indoor and built sports facilities.

3.2 There are eight sports facility types included in the strategy. These are:

- sports halls;
- swimming pools;
- health and fitness centres with gyms; studios;
- squash courts;
- indoor courts to include indoor bowling and tennis;
- gymnastics centres;
- and village halls.

The description of each facility type is included within the assessment of the findings.

3.3 The needs assessment has focused on assessing needs based on quantity, quality, accessibility and availability, which are the components of the Sport England ANOG, methodology and are headings readily recognised and adopted in the planning system and process. The Sport England ANOG guidance advises to set out the findings from the needs assessment in the strategy in terms of three main outcomes;

- **Protect:** - an evidence base which can inform policy formulation and seek to protect existing facilities where there is an identified current and future need for use by the community;
- **Enhance:** - an evidence base which can inform policy and seek to enhance the provision of existing facilities where there is an identified current and future need and the most effective way to meet this need is by improvement to what already exists. This could be by enhanced facility provision but it could also mean changes in the access and availability of existing facilities to make the existing supply deliver more use for the community; and
- **Provide:** - an evidence base which can inform policy and lead to provision of new facilities where there is an identified need now and in the future, and where the most cost and sports effective way to meet this need is by provision of new facilities. This could also include re-provision of an existing sports facility which has reached the end of its working life but where there is a continuing need and the most cost and sports effective approach is to re-provide the same or similar scale of facility at the same or nearby location.

Figure 3.1: Sport England Approach to Assessing Needs



3.4 The stages of the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) approach are set out below and this is followed by a description of how the ANOG has been applied in Waveney District:

A *Undertaking the Assessment:*

- Stage 1 – Prepare and tailor your assessment
- Stage 2 – Gather information on supply and demand
- Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together

B *Application of the Assessment*

Undertaking the Assessment

Stage 1: Prepare and tailor the assessment

3.5 A scoping meeting of the Waveney Project Steering Group and key stakeholders was convened in March 2016 to set out the aims of the study, understand in more detail the key objectives for the strategy, the key drivers for change across Waveney District and to establish everyone's views on the collective needs and priorities for the study. The outcome of this preparation was to refine the scope of the project brief and study sequence but not to make changes to the project brief.

3.6 A review of the Waveney District Council key corporate, strategic development, planning and sports documents identified in the project brief was then completed. This allowed naa to become familiar with the key Council documents and understand the relationship between the strategy and the wider Council objectives.

3.7 Key external national and county stakeholders and neighbouring local authorities who needed to be consulted were identified. The focus of the consultations was for naa to understand the views of these organisations and individuals on what they considered the study assessment should focus on, what each organisation considered is important in Waveney and most importantly what they could contribute.

3.8 The project management and reporting lines were established. Sentinel Leisure Trust as the project managers are represented on the project group and provided the day to day management of the project with naa.

Stage 2: Gathering information on supply and demand and consultations

- 3.9 For all the facility types an evidence base of the supply, demand, access and availability of each sports type and each venue has been compiled. This is an extensive evidence base and is developed from the Sport England Active Places Power website, with more detailed assessments for swimming pools and sports halls based on Sport England's facility planning model data.
- 3.10 Given the initial findings for sports halls, a bespoke facility planning model assessment for sports halls was undertaken for Waveney District and the surrounding authorities to provide more detailed data on the interaction of supply, demand and access to venues,
- 3.11 In addition, a bespoke questionnaire was developed for collecting core information on village halls as there is no existing data. This is a four page questionnaire collecting core information on the details of each village hall, the activities which are undertaken and the frequency. The scope to increase activity and the barriers/constraints in doing so.
- 3.12 To check and challenge the hard evidence data findings, site assessment visits were made to over twenty main sports facility providers and operators of the facilities in the project scope. This included all types of providers and types of operation from pay and play, to club access at school venues, as well as the commercial membership providers.
- 3.13 At the site visits meetings were held with the business and/or facility manager and in the case of schools many of the physical education staff. Discussion focused on the type of operation, the objectives, hours and types of use, changes and challenges in operation of the venue for community use from the provider and the customer. Discussion also followed on the core business case and the business model applied. Where possible data was collected on the operational business plan but this was not always requested, as it is commercially sensitive information.
- 3.14 Two public consultation meetings were held one each in Lowestoft and Beccles, the purpose being to listen to and understand the views of sports and community organisations about what is important for their sport and activity in Waveney both now and in the future. The invitation to these meetings, together with a short flyer about the purpose of the project/meeting, contact details and requesting details of attendees was sent out to all Town and Parish Councils clerks, schools both state and independent, indoor sports clubs, community groups, national governing bodies at regional or county level and the managers of public leisure centres. The initial response on attendance was low and so further e mails were sent and phone calls made to ensure there was as wide as possible awareness of the consultation meeting and the opportunity to contribute.
- 3.15 The site visits and consultations allowed for a cross check on what the evidence data was saying about the facility provision but more importantly what is happening on the ground. In particular, it was important in highlighting the community access to the venues and the scope/barriers to increasing participation. Information where available was also collected on customer surveys, membership details, user group forums or engagement with clubs to provide details of casual and club user information.
- 3.16 As set out a gap in information in Waveney is for village halls and this is a potentially important facility type in Waveney, given there are 44 parishes and the dispersed settlement pattern of the district, already described. Often this is the only type of provision that is accessible for villages and which can provide for physical activity, less so for playing of sports.

- 3.17 Consequently, it became important to gather data on village halls on, the type of provision, what they are used for, the quality of village halls, plans for modernisation and the scope to increase access and the programme of activity.
- 3.18 naa has designed a bespoke village halls survey questionnaire which follows the ANOG methodology and has been approved by Sport England for this type of work. The questionnaire was e mailed to Town and Parish Councils, and supplemented by web and other research. This has resulted in information on all known village and community halls in the district, and also identified those parishes and villages currently without such a facility. Given the light touch nature of this part of the study, broad strategic directions of travel have been recommended in this strategy document.
- 3.19 An early and recurring theme from the site visits and consultations was that there is quite a high level of sports facility provision in the district and it is across several different providers. However, it operates sometimes in discrete pockets of activity, so the collective effect and critical mass from all this provision is not readily known.
- 3.20 In preparing a strategy setting out the way forward on the need for sports facilities across the district, it is important to consider all providers and all ways of operation. Very often it is possible to make more effective use of what already exists by working differently and in partnerships than trying to provide new facilities based on existing ways of working and thinking.
- 3.21 A key objective of the District Council is to work more in partnership in the future. The scope to do this is very evident in Waveney District to derive more sports and cost effective outcomes from what already exists. This is set out in the strategy directions and recommendations section.

Stage 3 – Assessment, bring the information together

- 3.22 The final part of this stage is to bring all the findings together into the actual assessment of the current and future demand for each of the facility types.
- 3.23 The assessment is set out in full in appendices to this strategy document. The Appendices as reported are;
- Appendix 1: Waveney District key documents review
 - Appendix 2: Waveney District profile of participation and non-participation in sport and physical activity
 - Appendix 3: Audit and assessment report for each of the sports facility types included in the project scope
 - Appendix 4: Description of findings from the site visits and consultations.

Stage 4 Application of the Assessment

- 3.24 The application of the assessment is set out in the next section with the key findings for each sports facility type. This is a summary of the full assessment. This is followed by the application of the assessment in the section on strategy direction recommendations, set out under the headings of: Protect; Enhance; and Provide.
- 3.25 Generic recommendations with a rationale for action and what specific action is required are followed by similar recommendations for each of the facility types.

4: Sports Facilities – Key Findings for each facility type

- 4.1 This section sets out the key findings from the assessment report for each of the facility types. It summarises the findings that arise from the full audit and assessment.
- 4.2 This may seem like repetition but it is considered the strategy does have to contain this summary of the assessment as context for the strategy direction and recommendations. It is important to consider the full assessment report to get the complete assessment for each of the facility type, and this section should therefore be read closely with the assessment (all the raw data is set out in the appendix)
- 4.3 Sports halls and swimming pools are the most important facility types at local and national level in terms of participation, the range of activities that take place, the costs of provision and operation and the focus for comment at the consultation stage. The findings for these facility types are therefore set out in more detail than for the other facility types.

Sports Halls Summary

Supply and demand

- 4.4 Waveney has a supply of 12 sports halls on 7 sites. These halls provide a total of 43 badminton courts based on the standard badminton court size. The provision in the district equates to 36 courts available for community use in the weekly peak period, the parameter used in the planning tools. (This is below the total supply because of the variable hours for community use on school sites).
- 4.5 Six of the total seven sports hall venues with a main hall of four badminton courts are on education sites – probably the most important finding in the sports hall assessment. Working with schools to maintain and increase access of this supply for community use is critical, although the difficulties of achieving this are not inconsiderable
- 4.6 The demand for sports halls equates to 30 courts again based on the same measure as supply in the weekly peak period. This results in an indicative surplus of over 5 courts when looking at crudely comparing the Waveney demand with the supply in Waveney.
- 4.7 When assessing the Waveney supply and demand based on the catchment area of facilities inside and outside of the district and Waveney residents using the nearest sports hall to where they live (so across local authority boundaries), then 90% of the Waveney demand can be satisfied (met). This is a figure slightly lower than national and regional averages, but in line with the range of all 4 neighbouring local authority areas.
- 4.8 Some 96% of the satisfied demand is met by facilities within Waveney, with the remaining 4% exported to facilities in neighbouring districts. So the location and catchment area of the Waveney sports halls are well placed in relation to where the Waveney demand is located.
- 4.9 Some 12% of visits to halls within Waveney are from people who live outside the district. There is therefore a significant net import of demand from outside Waveney. The main import being from South Norfolk and Suffolk Coastal – at the same time there is some export to Great Yarmouth.
- 4.10 Unmet demand is calculated at about 10% of total demand generated from Waveney residents. This unmet demand equates to a total of about 3 standard badminton courts and is very similar to the unmet demand in neighbouring local authorities.

- 4.11 Most importantly (and which reflects the comments in section two of the strategy on the settlement pattern), this unmet demand is relatively evenly spread across the district, with slightly higher levels in the far west of Waveney, though in no area is unmet demand more than the equivalent of 1 badminton court.

Access to sports halls and levels of use

- 4.12 Again reflecting the settlement pattern of the district, 97% of the unmet demand is from residents who live outside the catchment of a facility as opposed to a lack of capacity at those facilities (3%).
- 4.13 In terms of how full the sports halls are estimated to be, the average for the District is 67% of the capacity is used in the peak period for community use (again based on the variable access for community use at education venues).

Site visits and consultations

- 4.14 The site visits and consultations, largely confirmed the findings about levels and types of use, especially at the public venue of Waterlane. The consultations with schools identified that all schools had a commitment to community use and this is predominated by club use. The policy towards community use is positive with schools very much considering themselves part of the local community.
- 4.15 The management approach to community use does vary; some schools very actively promote club use and seek long term bookings over the autumn and winter periods and within a well-defined business case. Other schools are more responsive to clubs taking regular lets and with established patterns of use over a long time. All schools had virtually no use of the sports halls during the summer term with the hall being used for exam purposes over a 5-6 week period.
- 4.16 The consultation meetings identified a need for more community use and access to school venues for sports such as roller skating and taekwondo, in particular. Clubs expressed strong views at not being able to gain regular lets because of the popularity of some school venues, notably in Lowestoft and being priced out. Lack of storage space at school venues for clubs to store equipment results in loss of session times for activities.
- 4.17 A key finding was the absence of any coordinated approach to increase access for community use at schools. Reviewing with all schools their policy and access arrangements and trying to balance all the sports requirements across venues is a key factor. Discussion with schools to get a certain level of access for community use would at least give clubs opportunities to gain more access.
- 4.18 The key finding on the site visits was the age and quality of the education venue sports halls. The age and dates of any modernisation of all these sports halls with a minimum of 3 badminton courts is set out in table 4.1 below. The average age of the education venues is 38 years with no state school sports hall constructed after 1985. Three of the venues have been modernised.
- 4.19 The features of the sports halls are a solid floor surface which whilst suitable for most sports, especially indoor cricket, is not a sprung timber floor which is now the usual floor surface for most indoor hall sports. The lighting systems do not appear to have been upgraded and provide adequate lighting, but for higher levels of play the lighting could be a detriment to improving performance, especially for sports like badminton.
- 4.20 The sizes of the sports halls are based on education standards and the dimensions have changed considerably. The Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport guideline for future provision of sports halls is 34.5m x 20m dimensions, although it is

acknowledged that nothing can be done about the main hall sizes at this stage. The changing accommodation has in many cases been modernised but overall the changing accommodation is dated and does of course have to accommodate education as well as club and community use. The quality of the changing accommodation can be a barrier to participation.

4.21 The education provision is important because as the table reiterates six of the seven sports hall sites are on education sites.

Table 4.1: Date of opening and modernisation of sports halls Waveney District 2016

Name of facility	Type	SITE YEAR BUILT	SITE YEAR REFURB
BECCLES SPORTS CENTRE	Main	1971	2008
BECCLES SPORTS CENTRE	Activity Hall		
BENJAMIN BRITTEN HIGH SCHOOL	Main	1980	
BENJAMIN BRITTEN HIGH SCHOOL	Activity Hall		
BUNGAY HIGH SCHOOL	Main	1985	2007
EAST POINT ACADEMY	Main	1960	2005
EAST POINT ACADEMY	Activity Hall		
ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY	Main	1970	
ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY	Activity Hall		
ST FELIX SCHOOL	Main	2001	
WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE	Main	1980	2012
WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE	Activity Hall		

Key Findings

4.22 The key findings are:

- The collective benefit of the sports halls is somewhat dissipated because of the predominance of education venues with separate ownership, management and access arrangements for community use across all sites. This means it is challenging to be able to say how the full stock could be managed and programmed to create more benefit/use, to make more effective use of what already exists. Better co-ordination of programming across venues could result in spreading the demand around venues and increasing access. A common message from clubs was that some sports/activities are priced out of some venues because of schools being able to achieve higher income from other activities
- The existing stock of sports halls and locations needs to be retained to meet the Waveney district demand for sports halls. It is unlikely that additional sports halls can be justified anywhere in the district for the reasons set out in the summary and in the full audit and assessment report. Most unmet demand is caused by residents living outside the reasonable catchment of existing halls across the district, and not by a lack of capacity at these halls
- Furthermore, halls in Waveney operate at average levels of utilised capacity (67%) (i.e. they are 2/3 full) and significantly lower than the Sport England guideline of 80%, in the weekly peak period and which is outside of school hours
- Waveney imports more demand (which is part of the used capacity of its sports halls) than it exports to its neighbouring authorities. This is not a big issue because virtually all of the satisfied demand from residents in Waveney is met by facilities within the district

- The quality of the education sports halls is a major finding and there is a need for modernisation of many of the floor surfaces, lighting and changing accommodation. However, it is acknowledged that little if anything can be done about the size of the main hall
- Modernisation of venues in return for a committed programme of community use is an option, so as to ensure continuity of access to the venues and with higher levels of community use.

Swimming Pools Summary

Supply and demand

- 4.23 The audit applying the Active Places Power database and reviewed as part of the site visits has identified there is a supply of 10 indoor pools with some community use on 9 sites in the district. These comprise 33 lanes (where lanes are set out) and a water area of just over 1750m². 38% of the total indoor water space (672m²) is available on a pay and play basis, 36% to registered members at commercial clubs (640m²) and the remainder (445m², 25%) to clubs and others on school sites, although the figures might differ slightly based on actual programming and usage.
- 4.24 Total swimming pool provision in Waveney equates to 12.5m² of water space per 1,000 population. This is similar to the national, regional and county averages, but far higher than most neighbouring authorities with Mid Suffolk as low as 6.2 m².
- 4.25 If an allowance (50%) is made for pools not in fully secured community use (i.e. commercial facilities for members, school pools and other pools available for bookings only), there is around 1215m² available to the community, the equivalent of nearly five pools each of 25m x 4 lanes. Details of the pool supply with the pools excluded from the assessment in italics are set out in Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Swimming pool supply Waveney District 2016

Site name	Ward	Facility Type	Sub	No of lanes marked	Size	Area m ²	Access	Ownership/ management	Year built/refurb
WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE	Normanston	Main/General		5/6	25 x 12.5m	312.5	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	2012
WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE	Normanston	Learner/Teaching/Training		3	12 x 7m	84	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	2012
BUNGAY POOL AND GYM	Bungay	Main/General		5	25 x 11m	275	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	1991
ST FELIX SCHOOL	Southwold and Reydon	Main/General		5	25 x 10m	250	Sports Club / Community Association	Other Independent School/in house	1998
GUNTON HALL RESORT	Gunton and Corton	Main/General		0	22 x 10m	220	Registered Membership use	Commercial	1995
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (LOWESTOFT)	Normanston	Main/General		4	20 x 6m	120	Registered Membership use	Commercial	2002
NIRVANA FITNESS LTD	Kessingland	Main/General		4	20 x 10m	200	Registered Membership use	Commercial	2006
THE ASHLEY SCHOOL ACADEMY TRUST	Normanston	Main/General		3	17.5 x 5m	87.5	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies/in house	1965/2001
BROADLAND HEALTH AND FITNESS	Whitton	Main/General		4	16.6 x 6m	99.6	Registered Membership use, but with some pay and play	Commercial	1995/2004

Site name	Ward	Facility Type	Sub	No of lanes marked	Size	Area m ²	Access	Ownership/ management	Year built/refurb
OAKLANDS LEISURE POOL	Bungay	Learner/Teaching/Training		n/a	12 x 9m	108	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial	2010
DELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	Whitton	Learner/Teaching/Training		n/a	11 x 5m	55	Private Use	Community school/in house	1985/2010
PONTINS PAKEFIELD HOLIDAY CENTRE	Kessingland	Main/General		4	25 x 8.5m	212.5	Private Use	Commercial	1957/1997
BECCLES LIDO	Beccles North	Lido		8	30 x 15m	450	Pay and Play	Community Organisation	1959/2010
KESSINGLAND BEACH HOLIDAY PARK (temp closed)	Kessingland	Lido		0	25 x 7.5m	187.5	Pay and Play	Commercial	1998
KESSINGLAND BEACH HOLIDAY PARK (temp closed)	Kessingland	Main/General		6	25 x 12.5m	312.5	Pay and Play	Commercial	1998

- 4.26 In general, the facilities in Waveney are ageing as shown in table 4.2 above. The Waterlane facility had a major refurbishment in 2012, which has had a significant impact on its attractiveness and usage for community swimming. The two sites of Waterlane and Bungay Leisure Centre are owned by WDC and operated on their behalf by Sentinel Leisure Trust. They provide about 50% of all the visits identified by modelling to pools in the district, showing a reliance on the two pools to deliver the community swimming offer in the district. 39% of the total supply is provided by the commercial and other pools, but this is only accessible through direct membership, which may not be within the reach of large numbers of Waveney residents.
- 4.27 Comparing demand for 7,100 visits with current supply of 11,350 visits suggests supply exceeds demand by 4,250 visits. In other words, the demand for 1,180m² of water space is less than the supply of 1,310m² – and a positive balance of 130m² of water space (a 25m 6 lane pool capable of meeting community need is 312.5m²). However, there is the same qualification as for sports halls - this is a crude comparison between supply and demand within Waveney. The location and catchment area of the pools (across boundaries) and the location of the Waveney demand and how this can access pools provides the rounded assessment.
- 4.28 In comparison to the Waveney supply and demand balance, all neighbouring local authorities have varying degrees of under supply, ranging from 280m² in Suffolk Coastal to 422m² in Mid Suffolk. These figures are relatively high and are likely to have an impact on the use of Waveney based facilities through imported activity.

[Access and availability of swimming pools](#)

- 4.29 Satisfied demand from Waveney residents that is being met by the available supply within and outside district boundaries equates to 6,150 visits in the peak period, or 87% of total demand generated. Despite the good supply of pools satisfied, demand is somewhat low because of the more limited accessibility in the rural areas of the district.
- 4.30 Although all of the neighbouring authorities had significant levels of undersupply, only Mid Suffolk has a satisfied demand figure lower than Waveney. This indicates that these authorities rely on neighbouring authority facilities to assist in meeting some of their pool based demand.
- 4.31 Of the demand that is met, 83% of the visits are made by people travelling by car (higher than the national average but lower than the regional and county). Whilst this

is positive it means that only 11% of visits are from those who are walking and 6% from those who cycle. If the aim is to get the community more active, more facilities need to be within walk and cycle catchments with appropriate networks to support safe access.

- 4.32 A key finding is that almost all the Waveney satisfied demand is met by pools within Waveney (only 99 visits are made to pools outside Waveney). This shows the reliance residents have on the provision being in place within the district. If any of the facilities were to be lost from community access, this may mean participation rates drop, as opposed to users finding alternative sites to attend. In contrast South Norfolk pools only meet 51% of SN demand and Suffolk Coastal 73%.
- 4.33 Unmet demand is around 13% of total demand generated from Waveney residents. This unmet demand equates to a total of 158m² of water space (with a comfort factor added), or just short of 3 lanes of a 25m pool. This measure shows that even though an area may in theory enjoy a level of provision that is more than demanded by its resident population, a mixture of quality, management, hours of availability and most importantly location of the pool can impact on whether the supply can adequately meet demand.
- 4.34 An aggregation of where the unmet demand exists identifies there is no major hotspot of unmet demand. Unmet demand is spread across the district. Beccles has the highest levels of unmet demand at 55m² but this is just over 1 lane of a 25m pool. Bungay is 32m², Halesworth 25m², Southwold 18m² and Lowestoft 45m².
- 4.35 Of critical importance of the total unmet demand is that 89% is as a result of residents living outside the catchment area of an existing facility and just 11% as a result of lack of capacity at existing sites. This means that the only way the needs of residents can be met is by the provision of additional water space in alternative locations. However, as indicated above there is no key hotspot where there is enough demand to justify a new pool and not one which is likely to be financially sustainable.
- 4.36 It must also be noted that by providing a new pool, it would likely see a migration of participation from existing Waveney based sites, in effect, providing more choice of pools for the same level of demand. It is acknowledged that a new pool would increase participation, but most likely for a 2-3 year period and then participation would resume longer term levels and trends.
- 4.37 In terms of how much pool capacity is used for community use at peak times, the estimate is that pools in Waveney operate on average at 63% of capacity used. This is below the national (66%) and county average (66%) and lower than the Sport England "pools full comfort level" of 70% of capacity used at peak times.
- 4.38 It must be noted that this is an average across the pool sites in the District and the used capacity will vary at individual sites (this is set out in more detail in the appendix). The two public leisure centre sites provide for the full range of swimming activities of: learn to swim; lane and fitness swimming; public recreational pay and swim; and swimming development through clubs. They also have extensive opening hours and are available for all the public to use. So they will have the highest levels of used capacity of pools
- 4.39 Commercial sites have restrictions based on the willingness and ability of residents to pay a membership, and the use is mainly recreational use by the membership. These pools have lower levels of used capacity, reflecting the extent to which the membership uses the pools.
- 4.40 The education pools will make choices on the extent to which they wish to provide for community use and this will be for learn to swim and club use. Few if any schools provide for public use, if the operation of the pool is under their management and

operation. Moreover, the school will decide on the hours of community use. So again there are limitations on the levels of used capacity actual and the full potential. It is known that St Felix School in Southwold has very limited access for community use of the pool and this is a school policy.

- 4.41 The used capacity (i.e. how full the pools are) can vary year by year depending on the hours of community use at each site. The data set out is based on the annual survey of swimming pools which includes pool programming and operation by Sport England. The key finding is that across the district the used capacity of the pools, as a district average is 63% of pool capacity used at peak times, which means that there is some headroom of 7% of pool capacity at peak times before the Sport England pool full comfort level of 70% used at peak times is reached. It is most likely more capacity exists in the education and commercial pools and very little in the two public leisure centre pools

Site visits and consultations

- 4.42 The site visits and consultations bore out a lot of the evidence data findings. The public leisure centre pools are challenged to provide enough pool time to cater for all the swimming activities and programmes. The pools data does indicate the levels of used capacity at peak times is in line with the pools being very full. Also membership of the facilities operated by Sentinel Leisure Trust on behalf of WDC does include the Waterlane and Bungay Leisure Centre and more recently Broadland Health and Fitness Centre. Members can use and access any of the facilities operated by Sentinel and this includes pools in Great Yarmouth.
- 4.43 This has encouraged greater encouragement by Great Yarmouth members to use Waterlane, not as the most frequently visited pool but some increased usage. So membership packages can encourage cross boundary usage. The evidence data suggests low imported demand for swimming from Great Yarmouth but the promotion of access to all facilities for the membership suggests the evidence data is an under estimate of demand across local authority boundaries.
- 4.44 The site visits and consultations did establish that St Felix School pool does not provide for community use, except as membership of the school club. However, the fact that a modern and very well maintained pool does exist means there is scope/potential to make more use of the St Felix School pool for community use, should the school policy change, albeit that the practical difficulties of achieving this are considerable.
- 4.45 This will further increase access to pools in the rural parts of the district, which as the evidence data sets out is the area of most demand located outside the catchment area of a pool. Whilst achieving this increased access is under the control of the school it is a more cost and swimming effective use of resources than trying to provide further pools to serve this part of the District.
- 4.46 The Ashley School pool in Lowestoft is located within the special school and is a small pool of 17.5m x 5 m. It is a very important pool site and not only provides for the school pupils but also for developing learn to swim and swimming competence for the local primary schools in the area. It is acknowledged that the pool is not the dimensions to develop a full learn to swim programme.
- 4.47 The school has invested in upgrading the changing accommodation to a very good standard and made improvements to the pool hall. The used capacity for this site does not reflect the type and levels of use because it is not in the peak hours and it is only for one type of activity of learn to swim and developing competence. The evidence data therefore has to be considered alongside what is happening on the ground.

- 4.48 It is an invaluable site because of the school location and more importantly the school management philosophy of encouraging wider use of its pool within a special school. This allows the primary schools to walk to the pool and keep the time and cost of the learn to swim programme down. This is an opportunity which may not be available to these primary schools, if they have to compete for pool time at the other Lowestoft venues, and would involve additional time and cost of travel to these venues.
- 4.49 The site visits and consultations with all the commercial venues did confirm the commercial pools do provide for the specific needs of their membership mainly for recreational and fitness swimming. None were asked to share programming and operational information about levels of pool usage and membership trends. In the evidence analysis, the supply (capacity) of the commercial pools is reduced to reflect the lack of access for community use, with use by the membership and their willingness and ability to pay a monthly membership.
- 4.50 It is fair to say one of the public consultation meetings set out the views of local swimming clubs and the wider community in the Beccles area for provision of a swimming pool. This is a reasoned case and based on location and extensive travel times to the nearest pools which is a barrier to participation. It was also claimed that provision of a local pool would stimulate demand increase participation and provide for even more extensive swimming development.
- 4.51 The views have been supported by the production of a report on behalf of the Beccles sports club setting out its views and evidence. This also references the case for facility types other than pools. The report has been considered in the development of the assessment report and strategy in respect of the topics that are within the scope of the brief. The report content also refers to work and responsibilities outside the brief and the remit of Waveney District Council and the Council has responded. Sentinel Community has offered to work with the Beccles representatives as a specific project that will become part of the action plan arising from the report.

Key Findings

- 4.52 This supply, demand and accessibility relationship is the key finding in relation to swimming pools and as articulated at the consultation meeting.
- 4.53 Accessing swimming pools does involve increased travel time in the rural areas of the district because of the location of the pools and the settlement pattern of the district. So residents do have to travel further to use the facilities. Sport England research shows that to maintain and increase participation on a regular basis, then local accessibility is important. The time and cost of travel, plus the competing demands on time to do other activities which fit into the lifestyle of individuals and families can discourage participation.
- 4.54 So should there be increased provision of pools because of these access issues? This solution could provide more facilities than may be needed. Also there may not be a core business case to justify provision and provide a viable facility without extensive financial support. Provision is driven by the settlement patterns and lack of access, not the supply and demand and capacity of all the existing facilities to meet the demand across the district. If demand does not increase then, in effect, it is providing more pools and creating more choice of pools for residents to use, for the same level of demand. This will challenge the long term viability of pools
- 4.55 The balancing option is to make more use of what already exists, by increasing access to facilities that are not readily accessible to the public or for clubs to use. This applies especially to facilities on school sites. In effect, it does mean some residents travelling further to access pools. It does increase the supply however and possibly by sharing

some of the public use at these education pools, it can increase the viability of these pools.

Health and Fitness Centres

Supply and demand

- 4.56 There are 12 health and fitness venues providing a total of 486 health and fitness stations across Waveney District. Of these five are available on a pay and play basis, five are for registered members and two are for private use only. There is also a current proposal for an additional gym in Halesworth of between 50 -60 stations.
- 4.57 One centre has closed recently, Better Body Gym in Lowestoft, which had 102 stations and operated predominantly as a body building centres. There are other body building gyms in Lowestoft and other parts of the district including Pro Fitness and the Gun Club, but these are excluded from consideration in view of their specialised activity. One further centre has been identified in Southwold (Gem Fitness) though no further information is available.
- 4.58 In terms of availability for the wider community, 258 stations are there for pay and play use (53%) on local authority, school and commercial sites, 186 are for registered members (38%) on commercial and local authority sites and 42 (9%) are privately used. If members clubs and others where full community access is constrained in some way are weighted down 50%, and private centres excluded, the effective number of 'public' stations in the district is 351.
- 4.59 Of the centres currently available for community use (for which information is available), the majority were built after 2000, and all but one of the rest have been refurbished since that date. It can be judged therefore that health and fitness facilities are generally in good condition, according to age.
- 4.60 The current provision is set out in Table 4.3 below the venues in italics that do not provide for community access.

Table 4.3: Health and fitness centres Waveney 2016

Site Name	Ward Name	Stations	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb
WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE	Normanston	90	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	1976/2014
NIRVANA FITNESS LTD	Kessingland	90	Pay and Play	Commercial	2006
BECCLES SPORTS CENTRE	Beccles North	20	Pay and Play	Academies /in house	1986/2007
EAST POINT ACADEMY	Kirkley	50	Pay and Play	Academies/ other	1997/2014
ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY	Normanston	8	Pay and Play	Academies/in house	2005
BUNGAY POOL AND GYM	Bungay	50	Registered Membership use	Local Authority/Trust	2005/2013
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (LOWESTOFT)	Normanston	75	Registered Membership use	Commercial	2002/2007
BROADLAND HEALTH AND FITNESS	Whitton	22	Registered Membership use	Commercial	1995/2001
GUNTON HALL RESORT	Gunton and Corton	19	Registered Membership use	Commercial	2003

ST FELIX SCHOOL	Southwold and Reydon	20	Registered Membership use	Other Independent School	2004
BENJAMIN BRITTEN HIGH SCHOOL	St Margaret's	30	Private Use	Community school/in house	2006/2008
BUNGAY HIGH SCHOOL	Bungay	12	Private Use	Academies/ in house	n/a

- 4.61 There is not extensive data available on calculating demand for gyms. The Fitness Industry Association has devised a model that provides guidance on the supply of stations against the current anticipated demand. This is set out in full in the audit and assessment report. In summary it identifies a total a total of 734 stations required during the peak time period to accommodate anticipated current levels of demand. According to Active Places, the current supply is so represents a considerable shortfall of between 250-400 stations depending on whether or not only those widely available to the community are considered.
- 4.62 Waveney Council through Sentinel Leisure Trust has undertaken assessments of demand through the Leisure Database Company in connection with its own health and fitness facilities, and for a the new centre in Halesworth. This study identifies there is significant potential latent demand for 'public' health and fitness facilities and a justification for an additional centre in Halesworth for a current proposal of a 50-60 station gym.

Key Findings

- 4.63 In summary there is a good distribution of gyms across the whole district, with all the main towns (except currently Halesworth) served by centres. There is a good mix of gyms of various sizes – five have 50 stations or more, while there are a number of smaller centres. The centres are a combination of commercial, school based and local authority venues. The majority (53%) are available on a pay and play basis (albeit that membership is probably available in all)
- 4.64 Relative provision for health and fitness in the district is lower than most other local authority areas, the county in general, and only 65% of the national and regional average. This does support the FIA methodology of a shortfall in provision. The quality of facilities is generally good
- 4.65 Accessibility by car and based on a 20 minute drive time is within accepted standards. There is good access in the main towns on foot based on the 20 minute/1 mile walk to catchment.
- 4.66 There is an estimated demand for an additional 250-400 stations, based on local participation rates and calculations based on Fitness Industry Association guidance. This is supported by the Council's own study identifying a need for a 50 60 station facility in Halesworth. However overall based on the study work this does appear to be an over estimated and if there was commercial case for more provision then this would most likely have occurred.

Studios

Supply and demand

- 4.67 Data on studio is not extensive and it is only in the past year that data has started to be compiled. There are 12 studios identified and currently available in Waveney in 7 locations (one in private use), mainly at health clubs and gyms and on school sites.

4.68 In addition, there may be studios at commercial venues which are small scale such as spinning studios but these have not been identified. The list of known supply is set out in Table 4.4 with the studio without community use in italics

Table 4.4: Studios in Waveney 2016

Site Name	Ward Name	No	Access Type	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb
BUNGAY POOL AND GYM	Bungay	1	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	2005
EAST POINT ACADEMY	Kirkley	1	Pay and Play	Academies/other	2002
NIRVANA FITNESS LTD	Kessingland	2	Pay and Play	Commercial	2006
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (LOWESTOFT)	Normanston	3	Registered Membership use	Commercial	2002
ORMISTON DENES ACADEMY	Normanston	1	Sports Club / Community Association	Academies/in house	2011
WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE	Normanston	3	Sports Club / Community Association	Local Authority/sports club	n/a
<i>BENJAMIN BRITTEN HIGH SCHOOL</i>	<i>St Margaret's</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>Private Use</i>	<i>Community school/in house</i>	<i>1998</i>

4.69 Assessing demand for studio use applying the Active People data on participation only measures participation by type of activity not the facility type. For example, there is data on aerobic and dance exercise and separate data on pilates and yoga participation, both of which can and do take place in studios. However, this data is not available below, at best, regional level over any period of time. This is because at the more local level it is not possible to generate a sufficient response rate in the Active People survey to be able to determine a reliable and robust participation rate.

4.70 As part of the site visits and consultations with studio owners, managers and operators, it was identified that studios are fully occupied early weekday evenings and with fewer sessions week day mornings and weekend days. There were no issues of lack of capacity and little or no expressed unmet demand.

4.71 Accessibility mapping is not available from the Active Places database but the distribution of studios within Waveney has been plotted against the main settlements. This suggests a very low proportion of local residents at 22,000 or about 22% of the population live outside a 20-minute drive time of a studio. Provision is however very much within Lowestoft.

4.72 Availability of the studios at the local authority and commercial gym centres are for both pay and play sessions, or for use by registered members for courses, lessons and general fitness sessions. Based on the site visits and consultations there are no apparent constraints in terms of availability. There are some limitations in numbers of people that can be accommodated in particular classes and in part due to the popularity of particular instructors or particular classes. These however are programming capacity issues and are not long term indicators of lack of capacity for studios. Site managers

indicated that they are short term and resolved by changes in the programme, or introducing more classes if needed.

Squash

Supply and demand

- 4.73 There are a total of 5 courts on three sites in Waveney District. Three courts are conventional courts, and two glass backed. All courts are available on a pay and play basis, on local authority and school sites. They are available to the wider community, and club membership is also available. Table 4.5 below sets out the squash court provision

Table 4.5: Squash courts Waveney District 2016

Site Name	Ward Name	Facility Sub Type	Courts	Access	Ownership/ management	Year Built/ refurb
WATERLANE LEISURE CENTRE	Normanston	Glass-backed	2	Pay and Play	Local Authority/Trust	1985/2012
BECCLES SPORTS CENTRE	Beccles North	Normal	1	Pay and Play	Academies/in house	1971
ST FELIX SCHOOL	Southwold and Reydon	Normal	2	Pay and Play	Other Independent School/in house	1985

- 4.74 An assessment of the supply of squash courts in Waveney compared with pro-rata provision in the neighbouring local authorities and other areas (the totals include all facilities on the database that are currently in operation with some degree of community use), identifies that provision in Waveney is low by comparison. The findings are set out in Table 4.6 below.

Table 4.6: Provision of squash courts Waveney District and neighbouring local authorities and other areas 2016

	Population 2015	No of courts	Courts/1000 population
Waveney	116,176	5	0.04
Suffolk Coastal	125,167	19	0.15
Mid Suffolk	99,121	5	0.05
Gt Yarmouth	98,914	7	0.07
South Norfolk	130,619	10	0.08
Suffolk	742,765	70	0.09
East region	6,051,427	491	0.08
England	54,669,203	3826	0.07

- 4.75 The database suggests the Waveney courts were built in the period from 1971-85 although the two courts at Waterlane Lane Leisure Centre have been refurbished in the last 5 years. Basic quality assessments were undertaken during site visits to assess their quality and future fitness for purpose. The court at Beccles Sports Centre does need modernising and work was underway at the two courts at St Felix School.
- 4.76 The Active People data on squash and which includes racketball participation is only available for all survey years at the England and East region levels. Key findings are that participation overall has declined both in regular and less regular participation over the period of the Active People surveys, 2006 – 2015. This is reflected in both male and

female activity rates, although there has been a slight increase in the most recent survey results for APS 9 2014 – 15. The latest detailed figures for October 2015 reveal 224,000 adults are playing squash at least once per week in England, an increase of more than 27,000 compared to the previous year.

- 4.77 England Squash data shows that organised squash represents about 27% of all participation, club membership 18% and organised competitive squash about 13%, and that coaching and tuition have increased over time. The balance is in pay and play. Participation in the East Region has generally been higher than the national average, but is currently slightly lower.
- 4.78 Applying the national data on squash and racketball participation as a proxy for Waveney suggests a participation rate of about 0.47%, which applied to the adult population in 2016 would mean about 450 adults playing weekly in the area. This is however an approximate measure.
- 4.79 Waveney Squash League comprises four clubs at present, with one in the district – Beccles Squash Club playing at Beccles Sports Centre. Waterlane Squash and Racketball Club are based at Waterlane Leisure Centre. It currently operates 8 leagues of 6 players (plus racketball), and there is coaching available. Membership is available through the centre.

[Site visits and consultations](#)

- 4.80 Southwold St Felix School courts are available through the school and accommodate play outside of school hours – the Reydon parish website suggests availability early morning, evenings and on Saturdays, though there is no evidence of actual usage and no club is based there
- 4.81 As set out in the first table under the squash heading all venues provide for pay and play. The provision at Beccles Sports Centre was reduced to one court with the conversion of one court to increase the size of the gym at and install a dance studio/general purpose room. With squash provision now of one court it became more difficult to book a court. It appears many players have transferred to Waterlane. The number of people in the League at Beccles has gone down from about 30 to 10.

[Key Findings](#)

- 4.82 Overall the assessment is that there are sufficient squash courts to meet current and future demand, although this should be monitored as part of the ongoing strategy implementation. There is complete justification in retaining the existing courts, and resisting any further closure, particularly if this leaves no venue with less than 2 courts. Casual and pay and play squash predominates, but there are league and club competitions in at least two venues.

Indoor bowling

[Supply and demand](#)

- 4.83 There are four indoor bowls facilities within Waveney providing 16 rinks – three of these are club based and the other centre is located within Gunton Hall holiday resort. The details of the centres are set out in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7: Indoor bowls halls Waveney 2016

Site Name	Ward Name	Rinks	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb
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BECCLES INDOOR BOWLS CLUB	Beccles North	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	1973/2005
CALTON ROAD BOWLS AND SOCIAL CLUB	Kirkley	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	1986/2009
GUNTON HALL RESORT	Gunton and Corton	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Commercial	1994/2007
SOLE BAY BOWLS CLUB	Southwold and Reydon	4	Sports Club / Community Association	Sports Club	1971/2001

4.84 Indoor bowls provision in Waveney is very much higher than the national average, and even the regional average which itself is very high. There is also much better local provision than in the bordering authorities, except for Gt Yarmouth, which has the best provision in the region. Indoor bowls has a long tradition in the region and local area, and is well catered for. The findings are set out in Table 4.8 below.

Table 4.8: Relative provision of indoor bowls centres, rinks per 1,000 population 2016

	Population 2015	Indoor bowls centres	Rinks	Rinks/1000 population
Waveney	117,623	4	16	0.13
Suffolk Coastal	125,167	1	4	0.03
Mid Suffolk	99,121	2	10	0.10
Gt Yarmouth	98,914	3	25	0.25
South Norfolk	130,619	4	16	0.12
Suffolk	742,765	13	54	0.07
East region	6,051,427	74	388	0.06
England	54,669,203	327	1702	0.03

4.85 The existing bowls centres were all built in the 1970 – 90s, although each has been refurbished since 2000. Quality is considered variable, and at least two clubs have problems with roofs and requiring major repairs or renewal. Centres have at regular intervals replaced the rink carpet and upgraded the rink lighting to lower cost lighting systems. It is evident however that more major renewals and major modernisation such as roof renewal do pose challenging problems for clubs to finance. The centres are generally fit for purpose, but there may be a need to bring some centres up to more modern standards. The quality has been confirmed by site visits.

4.86 Data for bowls from the Active People survey is only available at the England, East Region level and Suffolk County level for indoor (flat green) bowls. Regional participation for indoor bowls is higher than the national average, currently by about 0.3 percentage points (or about 50% in real terms). At the Suffolk County level, the data confirms that county participation levels are almost double the national average and appreciably above regional levels.

4.87 Applying the county rates to the Waveney population demographics, suggests demand for bowls in Waveney is likely to be at least equal the county participation rate, and remain relatively buoyant. On this basis, it is estimated that about 1% of adults in Waveney play indoor bowls regularly, representing about 1000 indoor bowls players in Waveney from these rates.

Site visits and consultations

- 4.88 Site visits and consultations with three of the clubs suggests total club membership at the three members' club venues is about 900, although there may also be a few players at clubs and centres outside the district. However, the evidence suggests that membership is in a steady long-term decline, which will only be arrested if clubs, with the assistance of the NGB, are able to prepare and implement sports development plans.
- 4.89 All clubs are trying to recruit a younger profile of bowlers from recent and early retirees. This is meeting limited success and the evidence from indoor bowling clubs across the country is one of at best static membership. A venue of 4 rinks should be able to accommodate a membership of 400 - 450 bowlers per centre. So the clubs do have capacity to increase membership.
- 4.90 The recognised drive time catchment area of an indoor bowling centre is 20 minutes, although recent studies in Central Bedfordshire has identified evidence that across ten centres the catchment area for regular participation is much smaller, at around 10 minutes travel time. Also the peak period has shifted from weekday evenings to week days 10 – 4pm. In large part both are a reflection of an ageing bowling population with participant's preference for a more local venue and day time playing. If this is occurring in Waveney it may mean a smaller catchment area to draw upon for regular members.

Key Findings

- 4.91 Existing levels of indoor bowling provision should be maintained, in particular to meet the potential increase in demand up to 2021 and 2026, and the four centres retained. Given the levels of membership vacancies at the three main clubs, however, additional indoor bowls centres are unlikely to be justified over the strategy period.

Indoor tennis centres

Supply and demand

- 4.92 There are no indoor tennis centres in Waveney District and only one within a reasonable (30 minute drive) travel catchment as set out in Table 4.9 below.

Table 4.9: Indoor tennis centres in neighbouring areas

Site Name	LA	Facility Sub Type	Courts	Surface type	Access	Ownership/management	Year Built/refurb	Range
BANNATYNES HEALTH CLUB (NORWICH)	Broadland	Traditional	2	Acrylic	Registered Membership use	Commercial	1999/2011	25-30 mins

- 4.93 However, there are a further 2 centres outside the 30 minute drive but within 30 miles - Easton Sports and Conference Centre (8 courts) and Virgin Active Classic (6 courts), both in the Norwich area.
- 4.94 Based on a comparison of courts per 1,000 population in the neighbouring authorities and wider areas it shows that Indoor tennis provision in the region is well above the national average, and Suffolk provision is also high. To bring Waveney up to the county, regional and national average would require the provision of 3-4 indoor courts

Table 4.10: Relative provision of indoor tennis centres and courts per 1,000 population 2016.

	Population 2015	No of centres	No of courts	Courts/1000
Waveney	117,623	0	0	0
Suffolk Coastal	125,167	0	0	0
Mid Suffolk	99,121	1	3	0.030
Gt Yarmouth	98,914	0	0	0
South Norfolk	130,619	2	8	0.061
Suffolk	742,765	7	24	0.032
East region	6,051,427	54	198	0.033
England	54,669,203	347	1328	0.024

- 4.95 Demand or more precisely participation in tennis (both indoor and outdoor) has fluctuated at national and regional level over the period of Active People surveys and participation in tennis is now about 1% of adults.
- 4.96 Suffolk data is only available until Active People 8 2013 – 14 and data for Waveney is not available at all because of an insufficient sample to be able to generate a reliable participation rate. At the County level participation has fluctuated over the AP survey period, and now stands at about 0.91%, about the national average. Based on the trend over the last 9 years, it is estimated that the adult participation rate in the county is about 1.1%, and this is used in the absence of more local data for Waveney. The above rates suggest that there are potentially about 1,050 tennis players, both indoor and outdoor.

Key Findings

- 4.97 Based on LTA criteria, and demographic and participation data, there is a strategic gap for some indoor/covered tennis provision in Waveney (up to 5 courts), but this would be subject to club and governing body support. There is little support for indoor/covered courts at present within the LTA, which is currently concentrating on improving usage of outdoor courts
- 4.98 At present, there is little justification for considering the provision of indoor/covered provision for tennis, but this situation should be monitored over the duration of the strategy to ensure that any future demand can be accommodated

Gymnastics,

Supply and demand

- 4.99 There are two dedicated gymnastics centres in Waveney. The Beccles Royales gymnastics Club has recently occupied and converted an industrial unit at Ellough Business Park, with fully equipped gymnastics hall (except pits) together with admin/kitchen/toilet areas, and limited parking.
- 4.100 Hours of use were initially Wednesdays – Thursdays 5.30pm – 8.30pm and Saturdays 9am 1 pm. These are the only hours of use allowed under planning permission, as there is some concern from planners about traffic generation and conflict with other employment in the area. However, the club has successfully operated at the centre and the planning permission has been relaxed to allow for more extended hours of use.
- 4.101 Membership is currently about 140, with a limited waiting list of about 20. The club has no firm views on the future capacity of club and venue. There are level 5 and 2

coaches already in place, plus a number of parent helpers (level 0). There is scope to deliver PE for schools as part of their PE curriculum.

- 4.102 The constraint on the club developing is the cost and time of training and getting coach accreditation. The club's current plans are to extend activities, by expanding the centre with more coaches and equip the centre better (parallel bars for boys). The club is progressing a small grants application from Sport England to purchase additional equipment
- 4.103 The second gymnastics club is Waveney Gym Club and the club occupies a purpose built gymnastics club with range of fixed equipment, pits. The club is located on the periphery of the East Point Academy site, but with separate access. The club was formed in 1976, and the current centre established in 2002, with the benefit of a Lottery grant.
- 4.104 The club membership is currently around 1000 users, with a waiting list of 250. The main age range of members is 3-14 years old, 60/40 girls. Club members also include elite gymnasts. The constraint on development of the club and increasing access is the lack of qualified coaches. The club has 4 fully qualified coaches but for someone to become a level 1 coach is a cost of £1,200 plus extensive travel to venues for training and accreditation of performance. If the centre could fund and find people with time to become qualified then the club waiting list would be removed and membership expanded to 1,500, which is the capacity of the centre.
- 4.105 The club has identified a need for a satellite centre within Lowestoft. This would be a smaller scale centre including a similar range of facilities, but on a smaller scale, mainly for recreational gymnasts.

Key Findings

- 4.106 Overall there is good provision of dedicated gymnastics centres in Waveney. Clubs are operating successfully and accommodating an increase in young peoples' participation in gymnastics but also from adults, possibly looking for alternative participation to health and fitness and exercise classes.
- 4.107 Both clubs require support in developing more coaches and there is need to better equip the Beccles Centre. If both were to happen then the constraints on increasing participation at both centres could be removed and participation increased. Waveney Gym Club is also looking to develop a second centre within Lowestoft.

Village Halls

Approach

- 4.108 The brief required consideration to be given to other sports facilities outside the main facility types, namely village and community halls. Village halls do not fit with the ANOG methodology and require a more bespoke assessment approach. They are an important local recreational resource. In rural areas that lack immediate access to purpose built facilities, they are the indoor centre for activity.
- 4.109 It was accepted by the clients that because of constraints on budget and time, this would be a 'light touch' assessment resulting in broad strategic directions, rather than detailed policies. That said the work undertaken information gathered and findings presented are extensive.
- 4.110 The methodology associated with this assessment involved contacting Parish and Town Councils by questionnaire and asking for details of existing village halls and other small halls, their usage by local groups, any shortfalls in current provision and any plans

that local councils have to develop and improve village facilities. This was supplemented by web and other research.

- 4.111 44 parish organisations were consulted, comprising 32 Parish Councils, 7 Parish Meetings and 5 Town Councils. The responses received identified 13 village halls for which detailed information was supplied, 15 other village halls where basic data is available, 6 halls in the main Town Council areas, and 9 parishes without a village hall (the disparity in totals is explained by the sharing of some facilities by adjoining parishes).
- 4.112 **Scope** - it is apparent that there is a large range and variety of community and village halls in Waveney, in terms of size, quality, age and range of activities possible. Some are good examples of large, attractive modern community halls used at all times of the day for a whole host of village activities including sport and recreation. Some have received recent grant aid from funders such as Sport England or the Lottery. Other halls were built to meet the needs of a different age, and are now too small or otherwise inadequate to meet contemporary demands. Sizes of hall are likely to range from 50m² to purpose built facilities of up to 200m² gross floor space.
- 4.113 **Quality** - information on the quality of village halls suggest that there is a variety in their condition and fitness for purpose, mainly in accordance with their age and type of construction. However, some responses suggested that there are improvements to heating, lighting, access, parking and other features that are required in some cases, which will enhance the usage of village halls in many locations.
- 4.114 **Supply** - from the research undertaken, it is estimated that there are about 34 village halls and community centres in Waveney (these exclude church halls, scout huts and the like which are not entirely in the 'public' domain, and are outside the scope of this study). These comprise 28 halls in villages, and a small number of community halls in the main market towns. There are 9 parish council/meeting areas identified without a hall. It is broadly estimated that all of the area's population lives within 10 minutes travel time of such a hall.
- 4.115 **Availability** -Village halls tend to be available to the community on a wide basis, usually by booking through the hall owners/managers (often Parish Councils themselves or village hall management committees), and it is unlikely that availability is an issue when considering their use by local residents and groups.
- 4.116 **Use for sport** – in general there is very little activity taking place in village halls that relates to sport, even at a recreational level, but the main reason for this is to do with lack of volunteers and demand rather than the intrinsic suitability of the hall for this type of activity
- 4.117 **Demand** - There is little guidance on the appropriate levels of provision of village halls to meet local demand. Most rural communities ideally require convenient and safe access to a good standard building, though this might be provided on a shared use basis. South Somerset DC (a rural area similar to Waveney) has adopted a standard of one small hall for every 250 people, whilst South Cambridgeshire DC (a regional example) in a study in 2010 adopted a guideline of 111m² per 1000 people.
- 4.118 In Central Bedfordshire, a more recent study in 2012 adopted a standard of provision in accordance with current supply of 180m² per 1000 people. This is considerably higher than in other studies, but takes into account all 'community' halls, not just those defined as village halls, and is based on an average size of hall in excess of those found elsewhere. The former Eastern Council for Sport and Recreation recommended that smaller villages should have the use of a community hall (including a main space of about 150m²) within 5-10 minutes travel time. Sport England more recently has suggested a small one-court sports hall to be provided in developments of 500 houses.

Strategic direction and options

4.119 The strategic direction for village halls is as follows, though this needs to be considered in more detail owing to the resource constraints on this current study:

- Consider additional hall provision in villages and parishes with inadequate supply of halls to meet average provision of 1 hall per xx population, subject to further feasibility and identification of further need
- Consider village hall provision in villages and parishes with no current provision (subject to local need):
- Development of future levels of provision based on quantity, quality and accessibility
- Consider the provision of a village and community hall in conjunction with large new housing developments, in accordance with recommended standard of provision.

Options for sport

- Identify in more detail all halls with current plans to accommodate additional sport and other usage and implement proposals
- Consider hall enhancements/improvement/repair in accordance with local aspirations
- Consider the development of any strategically important village halls for sport which will supplement the findings of the main leisure facilities strategy
- Encourage more sports use of halls in villages in conjunction with NGB, LA/Sentinel and sports club sports development initiatives
- Encourage small scale provision of sports equipment in village halls which will encourage the development of local clubs and groups

5: Strategy Recommendations & Framework for Delivery

- 5.1 This section sets out the recommendations for each sports facility type based on the findings, issues and options for each facility type. This starts with generic recommendations which relate to the overall strategic approach to the provision of indoor sports facilities across Waveney District. These are recommendations about setting the strategic direction and working in partnership. It is then followed by recommendations relating to each facility type.
- 5.2 The recommendations are categorized under the headings of 'Protect', 'Enhance' and 'Provide', as recommended by Sport England in the ANOG guidance. These categories are not mutually exclusive and some options will sit comfortably both within 'Enhance' and 'Provide' for example.
- 5.3 Also some recommendations are not self-contained to one facility type or location and so there is a read across between some of the options. Between them, they encompass the approach to underpin the development of a sustainable framework for the future provision of indoor facilities across Waveney District
- 5.4 The focus in this section of the strategy is more about;
- protection of what already exists – because there is an identified need and demand;
 - enhancement and making more effective use of the existing sports facilities. This is by strategic management and intervention to work with all providers in partnership. Do this so as to ensure that opportunities to work collaboratively are taken and the opportunities for community use are maximised; and
 - new provision of facilities is much less of a focus, in large part because of the needs assessment finding that there is not a considerable amount of new provision identified. There could be a need to re-provide based on the existing facility has reached the end of its working life. So then it is more sports and cost effective to re-provide. Also there is need to fully consider the reality of local authority finances. Whilst it is not for the Council to find development in isolation and the strategy is one for the District, the availability of local authority funds to finance development is very limited and it is much more about making more effective use of existing resources.
- 5.5 There is one further important point on the strategy direction to set out.
- 5.6 The needs assessment has been very careful to assess supply and demand based on the known rates and frequencies of sports participation using Sport England, National Governing Bodies and local data where this is possible. The projection of future supply and demand is based on the projected population changes and assuming the current rates and frequencies of sports participation. Should the rate and or frequency of participation increase then there is the need to review the assessment on the quantity of provision. The strategy findings are within a tolerance of up to 5% changes in participation for the major facilities of sports halls and swimming pools and it is very unlikely that participation levels will move outside this range in the ten year strategy period.

5.7 A description of each heading is;

Protect

- To maintain the overall balance of facilities where the needs assessment has identified a continuing need for community use.

Enhance

- To upgrade and enhance existing sports facilities for community use so as to ensure that sports facility needs are met by the provision of appropriate, high quality facilities in the future
- To manage and programme facilities effectively and sustainably across sites and promote partnership working to enable greater use of existing sports facilities and the sharing of skills, expertise, resources and facilities
- To improve accessibility to sports facilities, in order to encourage greater participation by all sectors of the community
- In order to increase participation for a healthy and active lifestyle benefit, it is considered enhanced facilities at existing sites (which are already known to the local community) are a more effective way to encourage and develop more participation across a wider population.

Provide

- To provide facilities for sport and active recreation where, based on the needs assessment, there is a gap in the existing supply and/or a demand which exists now and which is projected to be sustained and possibly increase. This recognises there could be re – provision of existing facilities
- To provide updated information on sports participation and the demand for facilities based on the needs assessment reports.

5.8 The suggested recommendations for delivery of the strategy and what could be done under each of these headings are set out in Table 5.1 overleaf. Firstly, there are generic recommendations that apply across the district and these are set out as G recommendations. Each G recommendation is described followed by the rationale/ justification and recommendation. This is followed in the same way for each facility type: SH Sports Halls; SP Swimming Pools; H&F Health and Fitness; S Studios; SQ Squash; IB Indoor Bowls; IT Indoor Tennis; GYM Gymnastics and VH Village Halls.

5.9 The first column of the recommendations are colour coded, with green for protect, yellow for enhance and red for provide.

Table 5.1: Strategy recommendations rationale and action required

GENERIC (G) Rationale and Recommendation	
PROVIDE	<p>G1 Develop the role of Active Waveney as the delivery and implementation organisation for the strategy. Build on the existing role of Active Waveney and extend its role to undertake this work.</p> <p>There are many providers of indoor sports and recreational facilities across Waveney District. During the course of the study it was evident that there is much activity going on but often in pockets, without an overall awareness across all the providers. Moreover, consultation identified views about the roles of different providers and issues of being able to access venues.</p> <p>Active Waveney is the community sports network and provides the forum for sports development across the District. Formed in 2007, it is a sports development forum and has worked extensively across the District. It is one of the few community sports networks to continue for such a long period, demonstrating the commitment to community engagement in the development and delivery of sport and recreational opportunities. Active Waveney is the organisation to extend its remit and provide a cohesive delivery and implementation group for the strategy. To now engage all the providers and operators of sports facilities, public, club, school, commercial and community groups. It is acknowledged and understood there are discrete and different rationales for each provider. There is though scope for all providers to work collaboratively to ensure there is the most access for all residents to participate. In short, it is essential to make the development and delivery of sports and recreational opportunities more cohesive. There are discrete recommendations that follow that provide examples of the remit for the group.</p> <p>Recommendation – Active Waveney to be the organisation for the delivery and implementation of the strategy. Active Waveney to build on its existing remit and extend it to provide the single point for strategy delivery. A key focus will to understand the role and remit of each provider, establish scope to work collaboratively and develop more use of the existing venues.</p>
ENHANCE	<p>G2 Review the differing approaches on access to education based sports facilities for community use, in order to develop a more cohesive approach and maximize the opportunities for community use (relates to G1)</p> <p>There is a mixed economy of providers and access to school based sports facilities for community use. Individual schools, public and independent schools are determining their policy, access and programme of community use under their own direction and assessment of need and business case. The collective impact is that the actual and potential scope to maximise the use of education sports facilities is not being realised.</p> <p>The audit and assessment report sets out in detail the findings and evidence base on the current arrangements. This is most relevant to sports halls, as six of the seven sports hall sites in Waveney District are on education sites – it is the predominant provision with over</p>

90% of the sports hall space on education sites.

Suffolk County Council introduced a programme in 2014 called "Making it Work for You", the purpose being to initiate and support 9 secondary schools across the County to develop community use of their sports facilities. The project offered guidance, technical support and management advice to define the core business case and then manage the programme with individual schools.

To participate schools had to take the lead and commit to community use. The take-up across the county was limited and the target of nine schools has not been achieved. SCC is reviewing the continuation of the programme.

The need for this programme remains and should be progressed in Waveney District. The reasons are:

- the near total provision of sports halls on education sites (and for other facility types, squash and swimming pools);
- to overcome clubs competing for access at the schools which do offer extensive community use;
- to overcome the current situation of clubs competing/being priced out by other groups (not necessarily sports clubs);
- to increase and create more access for new clubs to venues, especially in the rural areas.

The site visits and consultations identified the need for modernisation of the school venues, especially the sports halls with requirements for upgraded floor surfaces, new lighting systems and modernisation of changing rooms all required. These findings were consistent at nearly all school venues. Developing partnerships for community use is the key for external grant aid, Sport England are reviewing their community capital sports facilities programme. In short there are potential benefits for all players in further developing community use of school based sports facilities. Committed programmes of community use with a core business case that supports the programme are required.

Based on the audit and assessment report the schools that provide the most benefit could be: Benjamin Britten High School, Bungay High School, Sir John Leman High School (Beccles Sports Centre).

Recommendation - to revisit the Making it Work for You programme with local schools leadership and in partnership with the District Council and local sports organisations. To establish the collective need and benefit, the core business case, investment required and funding. This recommendation could be part also be part of the work of Active Waveney as the development and delivery group set out as G1.

A

G3 Development of a sports hub in Beccles and progressed with Active Waveney in its delivery role of the strategy.

The audit and assessment, site visits and consultations have identified a very active sporting set up in Beccles. There are different providers, schools, and individual clubs both indoor and outdoor with high levels of participation and extensive development work being undertaken by clubs. The collective benefit in Beccles is known, but the collective benefit outside may not be realised because of the independent operation by each provider.

Furthermore, the continued operation of some of these facilities by individual owners or operators could change. One particular provider may decide there is not a continuing need, or, the cost of providing the facility outweighs the benefit, or there is decision to provide alternative facilities at the same venue.

PROVIDE

There is the need to protect, enhance/improve the existing stock of indoor sports facilities and possibly provide new facilities in Beccles. It is important to engage the Beccles sports organisations fully in that process. The recommendation is the development of a Beccles sports hub, to develop the opportunities with the clubs, local schools and with Active Waveney, so as to further develop the indoor sports facilities and to do this together.

The assessment, site visits and consultations has identified the following needs:

- try and re-provide the squash court lost;
- the indoor bowling club wants to promote new membership and broaden its range of activities;
- the Beccles sports centre does need modernisation with upgrading of the sports hall, the changing rooms, lighting systems and most importantly increase its programme of community use;
- there is a need for increased health and fitness provision;
- Beccles does not have any studio provision and this was identified by consultees as a clear need;
- the assessment has identified the long-term potential for an indoor tennis centre in the District – maybe in terms of location Beccles is not the first choice but in view of the central location of the town, a case might be made?
- Overall, this is the potential scope for the Beccles sports hub and maybe there is more.

Most importantly, there is a range of activity in the town and Sport England's new strategy is looking for projects which focus on increasing activity especially getting people who do nothing to do something. It is looking for innovative ways to do this and work with a new range of partners in different partnerships. A Beccles sports hub, building on the clubs working cooperatively, with Active Waveney and schools, could develop projects based on the strategy assessment. The focus would be on developing activity and in new and innovative ways in terms of partnerships, projects and wider than providing for just formal sports.

Recommendation - to work collaboratively with the Beccles sports clubs, Active Waveney and the schools to develop the Beccles sports hub concept into tangible projects for investment. Projects to be consistent with the strategy assessment and with the engagement of all current owners and operators of the sports facilities. In developing this work be mindful of the Sport England Lottery new investment programmes, scheduled to be announced in October- November 2016.

SPORTS HALLS
Rationale and Recommendation

SH 1. Protect and enhance the existing supply of sports halls to meet the needs of community sport up to 2026 and beyond

The existing supply of sports halls is required to meet the demand for community sport, pay and play and club use up to 2026 and beyond. To reiterate, six of the seven main sports hall venues are on education sites. Continuation of this supply is vulnerable because of the absence of formal community use agreements at most of the sports hall on education sites. The education venues have separate ownership, management and access arrangements for community use and so they determine the supply base but independently of each other.

The collective impact of one or two sites changing their policy and access is not known therefore. The supply position could change very quickly, reducing the number and location of sports hall venues and leaving clubs competing with each other and other activities for less space and further to travel to access venues. The audit and assessment report has identified that based on a simple comparison within Waveney, supply exceeds demand by 5 badminton courts. So slight changes in supply/access to education venues could reduce the favourable supply and demand balance.

The requirements are for:

PROTECT

- Formal community use agreements at the education sites to protect the supply for community use, this then allows moving from protection to enhancement.
- Enhancement through an investment package that benefits both the school for curriculum use and provides a modernised venue for both uses
- Investment in modernisation of changing rooms, upgrading of sports hall flooring to provide sprung timber floors (at some not all venues), upgrading of lighting systems
- The schools identified as potential investment projects – on the basis of the needs assessment – are Bungay High School, Beecles Sports Centre (already cited under G3) Benjamin Britten High School and Ormiston Denes Academy and (subject to feasibility study of precise needs at each venue)
- Co-ordinated programming of venues so that maximum use is made of each site and not individual sites competing for the same type of community/club use. This benefits clubs with a choice of venues but does not maximize community use overall. Possibly consider the development of a common booking system across venues. Better co-ordination of programming across venues would result in a much better awareness of the actual and potential demand and increase the overall level of access and use across venues.

PROTECT & ENHANCE	<p>The requirements are extensive and require the engagement of the schools and their commitment to community use. Development of projects to enhance the facilities for curriculum and community use does require investment, from schools, Waveney District Council through possibly Sec 106 agreements (described under section 6) and possibly Sport England through its new investment programmes.</p> <p>Recommendation – to progress the development of community use agreements between Waveney District and education sites to protect the supply and access to sports halls for community use. Investigation through feasibility studies with the schools identified of a core business case for investment in modernisation of the sports halls and ancillary facilities as an integral part of the community use agreement.</p>
PROVIDE	<p>SH 2 Consider the provision of multi-purpose indoor space that could be used for a variety of activities, not just formal sports</p> <p>The audit and assessment report has identified that there is sufficient provision of studios to meet demand. However, the site visits and consultations identified aspirations and the increasing need for more flexible multi-purpose spaces such as larger studios that could be sub divided. This was from schools especially but also reflected changing patterns and types of use with increasing day time demand for exercise and fitness classes at public venues. The Waveney demographics support an increasing demand for individual exercise and fitness activity motivated by a personal health benefit.</p> <p>In short, there is maybe a gap in provision <u>for larger-scale</u> more flexible multi-purpose indoor spaces not constrained by formal dimensions which are needed for sports halls. The activities to cater for are pliates, yoga, dance exercise classes (and the changing popularity/types), martial arts/kick boxing. NOT all these activities are compatible with one space and data on participation trends is not available. The evidence base is from: the now established trend for individual type activity and facilities which are about fitness, fun and exercise; that requires little organisation or development of skills by the participant; that fits into an active lifestyle of working age participants; provides for low impact exercise classes for an increasing older demographic of recently retired and active people. All these features are reflected in the assessment of the Waveney demographic and participation profile. The trend is to provide studios of double size to accommodate this range of activities, and through a core business case.</p> <p>An alternative to modernisation of school sports hall (SH 1) could be provision of a large scale flexible space, with the fit out of a studio. The possible venues are: Benjamin Britten High School based on the high population in Lowestoft and possible Bungay High School or Beebles Sports Centre (Ormiston Denes Academy already has a studio) In making the sporting and business case for increased community access, the initial provision of a multi-purpose indoor space for exercise and dance for curriculum and community use would strengthen the business case and meet this increasing demand for individual type activity.</p> <p>Recommendation – to investigate the feasibility and business case for a large scale multi-purpose flexible space as part of the core business case for developing community use of education venues. Could be pursued with recommendation G2.</p>

SWIMMING POOLS
Rationale and Recommendation

PROTECT

SP 1. Protect the existing supply of swimming pools to meet demand for community use up to 2026 and beyond, and promote more access to the St Felix School pool

The assessment has identified that across the District the supply of swimming pools is sufficient to meet current demand now and up to 2026 and beyond. However, the assessment site visits and consultations have identified a tension between supply, demand and access to pools.

There is a need to protect the swimming pool supply to meet demand. Fortunately, the two main swimming pools at Bungay and Waterlane are owned by the District Council and managed by Sentinel Leisure Trust on behalf of the Council for public and club use. They will continue to be provided. To this supply has been added Broadland Sports and Leisure Centre which is now managed by Sentinel Sports and Leisure Trust and which provides access for the membership of the facilities operated by the Trust.

On quantitative and qualitative grounds there is not an evidence base case for new or additional swimming pool provision. On accessibility grounds there are 22,000 of the District's 2016 population that are outside the 20 minute drive time catchment area of the two public pools. This is an accessibility issue and the time, cost of travel and competing demands for other uses of time is most likely limiting the level of participation by residents in these areas, notably in Beccles and Southwold/Reydon. However, the 22,000 population outside the drive time catchment area of a pool is not of sufficient scale to consider additional swimming pool provision.

Retention and increased access to the St Felix School pool in Reydon for community use would greatly increase access for the residents in the areas. However, this is most likely for club use and not for recreational swimming use. Scope to develop a partnership between the school and Waveney District Council to develop wider community use is an option to pursue.

Recommendation - to protect the existing supply of public swimming pools to ensure there is balanced provision and location of pools to meet the projected demand for all swimming activities up to 2026 and beyond. Address the accessibility issue by testing the feasibility of increasing access for wider community use of the St Felix School pool.

**PROTECT &
ENHANCE**

SP2 Protect Ashley School pool and undertake a feasibility study on upgrading the building.

There is a need to protect and enhance the swimming pool at Ashley School in Lowestoft. This is a special school and it provides for the school's pupils. It also provides for learn to swim and developing swimming competence for pupils of the primary schools in this area of Lowestoft. The dimensions of the pool, 17.5m x 8m limit its wider community wider use. So whilst it is not a public or club use pool, it is an essential pool for Ashley School and the local primary schools in helping them to meet the National Curriculum requirement for pupils up to level 2 to be able to learn to swim and develop swimming competence. Furthermore, the location of the pool allows the local primary schools to walk to the pool and so reduces the time and cost of travel. These are essential requirements to maintain this programme of use.

The school through its own funds has made improvement to the pool hall area, upgraded and extensively modernised the changing accommodation and recently installed new pool covers. The outstanding requirement is the need to renew the pool hall roof. There is no condition survey on the building to identify the works or costs required.

It is essential to retain this pool for the range of uses it provides. If the building condition should reach the stage where the cost of renewal cannot be met, then it is very unlikely a replacement pool would be provided. So it is important to invest in the modernisation of the existing pool and then develop a more extensive learn to swim programmes with other providers, notably with Sentinel Leisure Trust.

Recommendation – to undertake a feasibility study including a condition survey on the works required to modernise the pool building and ensuring it remains fit for purpose. To develop the business cases to expand the programme for community use, predominantly learn to swim programmes and working with other providers. This should be a partnership project with the school, Waveney District Council and Suffolk County Council.

HEALTH AND FITNESS Rationale and Recommendation

ENHANCE

HF 1. Maintain the existing supply of health and fitness venues (gyms) in the District and support small scale provision as part of school/community use partnerships.

There are ten gyms in the district which have community use. These range from five venues with 50 stations or more, to four venues with less than 20 stations. The total number of exercise stations is 740. Centres are a combination of commercial, school and local authority venues. The majority (53%) are available on a pay and play basis (albeit that membership is probably available in all)

The quality of facilities is generally good, given the competitive nature of this type of provision. Most venues opened post 2000. There are various methodologies for assessing the demand for gyms but assessments are very sensitive to changes in:

- consumer demand;
- levels of disposable income; membership and non-membership marketing and pricing;
- the organisation of the gym providers with different types of provision for different markets;
- and consumers changing interest in different activities.

Based on the Fitness Industry Association methodology applied in this study, there is a potential future demand for a further 250 stations. This is supported by the Council's own study identifying a need for a 50 - 60 station facility in Halesworth. This is however considered on the high side of future demand

There is no identified need for major new health and fitness provision in both Lowestoft and Bungay, as they are well served by gym provision, less so in Beccles. Existing providers will continue to adapt and react to changes in demand and based on their assessment of the competition in their market and in their area of operation. The recent upgrading of the gym at East Point Academy now let to a commercial operator for a local market being a case in point.

The potential gap in provision is for small scale health and fitness centres (20 - 30 stations) in smaller towns to meet a local need and most likely developed as part of a sports club or small health club project.

Also as already set out in recommendation G2 for school based projects, the gym provision is an integral part of the business case.

Recommendation – in effect to maintain a watching brief on health and fitness provision over the period of the strategy. Also to support the provision of small scale gyms (up to 30 stations) as part of the business case for development of school/ community use projects.

STUDIOS

Rationale and Recommendation

ENHANCE

S 1. Maintain and enhance the existing supply of studios

There are 12 studios identified and currently available across Waveney District in 7 locations (one in private use), mainly at health clubs and local authority leisure centres. Most of the studios have been provided post 2000. Data on demand for studios is not really assessed by the facility type but more so by the type of activity, for example data on aerobic exercise. However this data is not available below, at best, regional level over any period of time.

The distribution of studios within Waveney suggests a low proportion of local residents, at around 26,000 of the total population, live outside a 20-minute drive time of a studio. Most provision is however within Lowestoft.

Availability of the studios at the local authority and commercial gym centres are for both pay and play sessions, or for use by registered members for courses and fitness sessions. Based on the site visits and consultations there are no apparent constraints in terms of availability. There are some limitations in numbers of people that can be accommodated in particular classes and in part due to the popularity of particular classes. These however are programming capacity issues and are not long term indicators of lack of capacity for studios. Site managers indicated that they are short term and resolved by changes in the programme, or, introducing more classes if needed.

Recommendation - overall there do not appear to be any major issues in the provision of studios and the existing supply is meeting demand. There is capacity to cater for any upturn in demand and participation. The findings should however be read alongside recommendation SH 2 and the scope to develop a large flexible multi purpose indoor hall as part of creating the school/community partnership and investing in schools for wider community use.

SQUASH

Rationale and Recommendation

SQ 1: Protect the existing supply of courts and consider scope to re-provide one court

There is a total of 5 courts on three sites in Waveney District. Three courts are conventional courts, and two glass backed. All courts are available on a pay and play basis, on local authority and at school sites.

Waveney Squash League comprises four clubs at present, with one in the district – Beccles Squash Club playing at Beccles Sports Centre. Waterlane Squash and Racketball Club are based at Waterlane Leisure Centre. It currently operates 8 leagues of 6 players (plus racketball), and there is coaching available. Membership is available through the centre. The St Felix School courts are available through the school and accommodate play outside of school hours but no club is based at the school

The provision at Beccles Sports Centre was reduced to one court, with the conversion of one court to increase the size of the gym and install a dance studio/general purpose room. With squash provision now of one court it has become more difficult to book a court. It appears many players have transferred to Waterlane. The number of people in the league at Beccles has gone down from about 30 to 10. No doubt a direct consequence of the removal of one court.

The Active People data on squash and which includes racketball participation is only available for all survey years at the England and East region levels. Key findings are that participation overall has declined both in regular and less regular participation, over the period of the Active People surveys, 2006 – 2015. This is reflected in both male and female activity rates. Although there has been a slight increase in the most recent survey results for APS 9 2014 – 15, with 224,000 adults playing squash at least once per week in England, an increase of more than 27,000 compared to the previous year.

England Squash data shows that organised squash represents about 27% of all participation, club membership 18% and organised competitive squash about 13%, and that coaching and tuition have increased over time. The balance is in pay and play. Participation in the East Region has generally been higher than the national average. Applying the national data on squash and racketball participation as a proxy for Waveney, suggests a participation rate of about 0.47%, which applied to the adult population in 2016 would mean about 450 adults playing weekly in the area. This is however an approximate measure.

Recommendation - there are sufficient squash courts across the District to meet current and future demand, although this should be monitored as part of the ongoing strategy implementation. There is complete justification in retaining the existing courts, and resisting any further closure, particularly if this leaves any venue with less than 2 courts. Casual and pay and play squash predominates, but there are league and club competitions in at least two venues. For this to develop there needs to be security and retention of at least the current supply and ideally reinstatement of the second court in Beccles.

PROTECT

INDOOR BOWLS
Rationale and Recommendation

PROTECT

IB1. Protect the existing stock of indoor bowling centres, as there is a need to retain the existing quantity of supply across the district to meet demand up to 2026 and beyond.

There are three purpose-built indoor bowling facilities in the District which are owned and managed by indoor bowling clubs, and a further bowling centre as part of the Gunton Hall Holiday Centre. All centres are four rinks in size. There is no requirement for increased provision of indoor bowling centres.

The demographics and sporting participation profile of the district does support the need for and provision of indoor bowling centres. There is an anticipated increase in the total population in the 60 – 75 age range and for both genders. This is the main age range for indoor bowling participation with over 80% of bowls participation.

Paradoxically, as the demographics support increased participation, membership of the clubs is at best static and there is spare capacity at each centre. So the action is to retain each of the three bowling club centres and assist the clubs in developing the membership – because there is a potentially a much bigger indoor bowling market. Increasing membership will provide each club with a more viable base to meet the costs of operation and provide funding for major renewals. There is a national initiative by the England Indoor Bowling Association to promote the sport. Increasingly indoor bowling is also being promoted as part of a healthy and active lifestyle and as part of weight management programmes for individuals, initiated through public health and sports partnerships. This does provide a realistic way of increasing the membership of clubs.

Recommendation – to retain all existing indoor bowls centres in the district. For the three clubs to work collaboratively with the English Indoor Bowling Association and Waveney District Council to promote the sport and increase the membership of the clubs. Indoor bowling is a key sport/facility type for the District.

INDOOR TENNIS
Rationale and Recommendation

IT 1 Consider the scope and opportunity to develop an indoor tennis centre in the district.

PROVIDE

Waveney District does not have any indoor tennis courts. There are three centres and 16 courts within 30 miles of the District in Greater Norwich but only one centre within a 30-minute drive, which is a 2 court centre at Bannatynes Health and Fitness Centre in Norwich. The other two centres are at Easton College and at the Virgin Active also in Greater Norwich. Indoor tennis players in Waveney District do not therefore have an opportunity to play regularly.

Demand for tennis outdoors is provided in Lowestoft and local clubs exist in the market towns and smaller villages. The demographic trend favours development for sports like indoor tennis.

Based on the audit and assessment report and considering the location and scale of the existing provision across Suffolk and Norfolk, there does appear to be a strategic gap for some indoor/covered tennis provision in Waveney District of 3- 4 courts. This would however be subject to the Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) governing body support. This would need to be established and the LTA, is currently concentrating on improving usage of outdoor courts

Recommendation – the lack of provision and the Waveney District demographics are supportive of indoor tennis provision but there has been no identified support for an actual project, and NGB emphasis is on outdoor provision. This situation should be monitored over the duration of the strategy with local clubs and the LTA to ensure that any future demand can be accommodated. The position of the LTA should be kept under review in case there is development of new programmes by the Governing Body to provide for indoor tennis centres.

GYMNASTICS Rationale and Recommendation

GYM 1: Support the development of the dedicated gymnastics clubs in Waveney District

There are two dedicated gymnastics centres in Waveney District, the Beccles Royales Gymnastics Club located at Ellough Business Park, and Waveney Gym Club located adjacent to East Point Academy in Lowestoft.

The Beccles Club leases its site and is becoming very well established. They recently increased their hours of use through a change in their planning consent. Membership is currently around 140 with a waiting list of around 20. Waveney Gym Club has a purpose built gymnastics club. The club was formed in 1976, and the current centre established in 2002, with the benefit of a Sport England Lottery award and with capital grant aid support from Waveney District Council and with club funds. Club membership is currently around 1,000 users, with a waiting list of 250. The main age range of members is 3-14 years old. Club members also include elite gymnasts.

Gymnastics is increasing in popularity as a participant sport as evidenced by the clubs waiting lists. Both clubs rely on dedicated club members to manage and develop the centres and the sport. It is a very big commitment. The constraint on the clubs is the cost and time of developing individuals to become coaches at all levels and gain coach accreditation. The Beccles club also needs to extend its fixed equipment. Coach development rather than constraint on the facilities is the limiting factor in increasing participation and improving the performance of gymnasts. Although the Waveney club has also identified the need for a smaller scale centre including a similar range of facilities and mainly for recreational gymnasts.

Recommendation – to support the clubs in the development of their coaching personnel at levels appropriate to each club. Also assist them in their longer term development of facilities so as to ensure each club can increase participation on a long term sustained basis.

ENHANCE

VILLAGE HALLS
Rationale and Recommendation

VH 1: To review the strategic direction for village halls and consider in partnership the future role of village halls in providing for physical activity.

In summary, this study has provided a strategic and sites overview of findings on village hall provision, types of use and the barriers (mainly people based rather than the actual building) for increased physical activity participation. There is an extensive stock of village halls across the District with some gaps in provision, but relatively little use of halls for sport to supplement existing purpose built sports provision mainly in the larger centres. With additional research, it is possible to highlight the future role that village halls can play in meeting local and small-scale provision for sport. The data compiled from the village hall survey is extensive and set out in the assessment appendix.

ENHANCE

Recommendation - consider the findings on the role of village halls in providing for physical activity based on the project work and findings, in particular the scope for village halls to provide for physical activity. The Council may then wish to develop a more detailed village hall study to identify standards of provision and how to work with village hall organisations to develop further use for physical activity.

6: Implementation, Funding and Planning Guidance

- 6.1 This part of the strategy sets out views on the implementation and delivery of the main strategy recommendations.
- 6.2 It should be reiterated that while Waveney District Council (as the client for the study) is the key organisation in putting into place the main strategy recommendations, it is a plan for the district as a whole. The role of other organisations in implementation is crucial, hence the recommendation to set up a delivery and implementation group for the strategy and with recommendations that the group could focus on.
- 6.3 The Action Plan overleaf has been devised to set out the strategy's main recommendations the generic and then by sports facility type. It includes relative priorities and timescales. By way of explanation the priority categories recommendations as high/medium/low to reflect local consultation and other factors, the timescale refers to short term (up to 2018), medium term (up to 2021) and longer term (up to 2026).

Strategy Action Plan

Recommendation	Priority	Timescale	Projects and studies (lead organisation in brackets)	Main partners
GENERIC (G)				
G1 Develop the role of Active Waveney (AW) as the delivery and implementation organisation for the strategy. Build on the existing role of Active Waveney and extend its role to undertake this work.	High	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership and co-ordination in delivery of the strategy with all organisations (AW) • Leadership of specific feasibility studies identified in the strategy (AW) • Review of Sport England investment programmes when announced. Alignment of specific projects identified in the strategy to the new funding programmes, especially investment in activity programmes and investment with schools (AW) 	AW, SLT. leisure operators, schools, sports clubs, Suffolk Sport and Sport England
G2 Review the differing approaches on access to education based sports facilities for community use, so as to develop a more cohesive approach and maximize the opportunities for community use (relates to G1)	High	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop with the schools community use agreements and based on Sport England framework (AW to lead with each school. Links directly to the schools identified as part of recommendation SH1) 	AW, Suffolk County Council, SLT, Sport England and individual secondary schools

<p>G3 Development of a sports hub in Beccles and progressed with Active Waveney in its delivery role of the strategy.</p>	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re - provision of the squash court at Beccles sports centre (AW with Beccles Sports Centre) • Develop and broaden participation at Beccles Indoor Bowling Club (Bowls Club, EIBA) • Modernisation of Beccles Sports Centre and consider upgrading the sports hall flooring, and lighting and modernisation of the changing rooms, (AW and Beccles Sports Centre/Sir John Leman School. Links to recommendation SH 1) • Investigate scope for small scale health and fitness (20 - 30 stations) as part of a multi-sport club project (Beccles sports clubs) • Investigate provision of a studio, possibly at Beccles Sport Centre or as part of a multi sports club project. (AW and Sir John Leman School) • Consider in the long-term the viability for an indoor tennis centre in the District and Beccles as a possible location (AW and SLT) 	<p>AW, SLT, Beccles Sports Clubs, Beccles Schools English Indoor Bowling Association. England Lawn Tennis Association</p>
SPORTS HALLS				
<p>SH1 Protect and enhance the existing supply of sports halls to meet the needs of community sport up to 2026 and beyond.</p>	High	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To revisit the Suffolk County "Making it Work for You" programme and establish local schools commitment (AW to lead) • Establish the collective need and benefit, the core business case, investment required and funding based on the Making it Work criteria and support (Individual schools to lead with SCC and AW support) • Potential projects for modernisation of school sports halls and changing areas at Beccles Sports Centre/Sir John Leman School. Benjamin Britten School, Bungay High School and Ormiston Denes Academy (Individual schools to lead) , 	<p>WDC, SLT Suffolk County Council. all secondary schools</p>

SH2 Consider the provision of multi-purpose indoor space that could be used for a variety of activities, not just formal sports	Low	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Project to investigate the feasibility and business case for a large scale multi-purpose flexible space as part of the core business case for developing community use of education venues. (Could be pursued with recommendation SH1 and same potential locations) (AW and SLT). 	SLT and individual schools identified as potential partners
SWIMMING POOLS				
SP1 Protect the existing supply of swimming pools to meet demand for community use up to 2026 and beyond. Plus, promote more access to the St Felix School pool	High	Short	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In effect a watching brief for WDC and SLT to protect the existing supply of public swimming pools. To review the programme of swimming activities and to increase access for clubs use at Waterlane and Bungay pools (SLT with swimming clubs) To investigate with St Felix School scope to increase access for club use of the pool and possibly wider community use as part of a joint project with SLT (SLT and St Felix School). 	SLT, swimming clubs and St Felix School
SP2 Protect Ashley School pool and undertake a feasibility study on upgrading the building.	High	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a feasibility study including a condition survey on the works required to modernise the pool building and ensuring it remains fit for purpose. Develop a business cases to expand the programme for community use, predominantly learn to swim programmes and working with other providers. (SLT with Ashley School and SCC) 	SLT, Ashley School and SCC
HEALTH AND FITNESS				

HF1. Maintain the existing supply of health and fitness venues (gyms) in the District and support small scale provision as part of school/community use partnerships.	Medium	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In effect to maintain a watching brief on health and fitness provision over the period of the strategy. (AW) Consider the scope as part of other projects (G3 and SH1) the provision of small scale gyms (up to 30 stations) as part of the business case for development of school/ community use projects. 	AW, SLT, Beccles sports clubs and individual schools
STUDIOS				
S1. Maintain and enhance the existing supply of studios	Low	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain a watching brief by AW and encourage individual providers to maintain the quality of the studio provision 	AW and studio providers
SQUASH				
SQ 1: Protect the existing supply of courts and consider scope to increase provision of courts	Medium	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protect the existing supply of public squash courts at Waterlane (SLT) Encourage St Felix School to develop more community use of its courts (AW, St Felix School and squash clubs) 	SLT, AW St Felix school WE All squash venues/operators
INDOOR BOWLS				
IB1: Protect the existing stock of indoor bowling centres, as there is a need to retain the existing quantity of supply across the district to meet demand up to 2026 and beyond.	Medium	Long	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the three indoor bowls clubs (not including Gunton Hall resort) in the District and encourage the clubs to work collaboratively with the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) and AW to promote the sport and increase the membership of the clubs. (AW, Calton Road Bowls and Social Club, Beccles Indoor Bowls Club and Sole Bay Indoor Bowls Club and the EIBA)) 	AW, the indoor bowls clubs and EIBA
INDOOR TENNIS				

IT 1: Consider the scope and opportunity to develop an indoor tennis centre in the district.	Low	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long term, consider undertaking a feasibility study on the provision of one centre of three courts to meet District wide needs. The Waveney District demographics are supportive of indoor tennis provision but there has been no identified support for an actual project. The NGB focus is on outdoor provision. So monitor over the duration of the strategy with local clubs and the LTA to ensure that any future demand can be accommodated. Keep the position of the LTA under review, in case there is development of new programmes by them to provide for indoor tennis centres. (SLT and AW with the LTA) 	SLT and AW with the Lawn Tennis Association
GYMNASTICS				
GYM1: Support the development of the dedicated gymnastics clubs in Waveney District	Medium	Medium	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To support Beccles Royales Gymnastics Club, and Waveney Gym Club in the development of their coaching personnel at levels appropriate to each club. Also assist them in their longer term development of facilities so as to ensure each club can increase participation on a long term sustained basis. (AW to lead on the coaching development side. SLT to lead on development of facilities). 	AW, Beccles Royales Gymnastics Club, and Waveney Gym Club, SLT
VILLAGE HALLS				
VH1: To review the strategy findings and consider in partnership the future role of village halls in providing for physical activity.	Low	Ongoing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the findings and data on village halls provision and their role in providing for physical activity(AW) Based on that review consider if there is a need to develop standards of provision and/or apply the study methodology set out. (AW). 	AW (initially) then Town and Parish Councils.

Funding and Finance

- 6.4 Using assets innovatively will be a key feature of the next few years, as will working in partnership on a multi-agency approach.
- 6.5 The strategy has deliberately focused on; applying the findings from the audit and assessment to try and make more effective use of what already exists and doing this by greater partnership working across all providers. This is a very valid direction given the assessment findings and hence the focus on protection and enhancement in the strategy recommendations.
- 6.6 The delivery of the few 'Provide/re-provide' recommendations will, to a large extent, be dependent on the ability to first secure capital funding, whilst acknowledging delivery is much wider than just about capital funding. The capital funding picture for public leisure facilities is always changing. Local authority finances are under even more pressure and previous major national funding programmes, which supported indoor sports facilities, are no longer available.

Developer Contributions and CIL

- 6.7 For many years, local authorities have sought and secured developer contributions for local physical and social infrastructure through Section 106 (and other provisions) of the various Planning Acts. Strict regulations have controlled these contributions in order that they are reasonable and proportionate to the development, and in principle are necessary for the development to be acceptable in planning terms.
- 6.8 From April 2015 the legislation covering Section 106 developer contributions changed. Local authorities are no longer able to pool more than 5 secured S106 contributions to fund infrastructure projects. Projects which currently rely on funding from a wide number of tariff-based Planning Obligation contributions will instead need to be secured via the new Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL). CIL is a new levy that local authorities can charge on developments in their area. The monies collected are used towards the delivery of infrastructure and services required as a result of growth - for example, school places, health facilities and provision of public open space.
- 6.9 CIL largely replaces the current system of securing contributions from developers via Section 106 agreements. However, Section 106 agreements can continue to be used to secure local site-related infrastructure such as open space, habitat protection and affordable housing. CIL can therefore operate in tandem with a scaled-back system of Section 106 agreements.
- 6.10 CIL provides Councils and local communities greater flexibility to help deliver infrastructure, as it is not ring-fenced and can be spent on any identified local or strategic infrastructure need. Residential development is a major contributor to CIL to meet the costs of infrastructure associated with its direct development and community wide infrastructure, for example increased demand for sports and recreational facilities.
- 6.11 The Council has recently completed (April – June 2016) public consultations on three scales (scenarios) of housing development which could be included in the Local Plan <http://consult.waveney.gov.uk/consult.ti/optionsforanewlocalplan2016/consultationHome>. The scenarios set out four different strategic options for future residential development in different settlements in the District. The Council will need to decide which one of these options is the housing strategy to progress and once decided adopt in the Local Plan.

- 6.12 The strategy has set out the future requirements for each of the facility types included. CIL is one source of funding for the financing of these recommendations. However, to repeat there are very many calls on CIL to fund all types of community infrastructure.
- 6.13 To provide some indication of costs and scale of development generated by population change through residential development Sport England has developed the Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC). The SFC helps local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities (swimming pools, sports halls and artificial grass pitches), is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas.
- 6.14 The SFC helps with quantifying the demand side of the facility provision equation. It helps to answer questions such as, "How much additional demand for sports halls will the population of a new development area generate?" Also "What would the cost be to meet this new demand at today's values?" The SFC looks only at demand for facilities and does not take into account any existing supply of facilities, neither is it a spatial assessment.
- 6.15 The audit and assessment has set out the findings for supply, demand and accessibility for all facility types and the interaction of all three, in order to set out what are the future requirements. It is useful and informative however to set out what the scale and costs of development would be based on the SFC demand assessment.
- 6.16 This has been applied to the Council's consultation scenario one for the possible development of up to 7,700 dwellings. This correlates with a projected population of 16,170 based on an assumed occupancy per dwelling of 2.1 people over the plan period 2018 – 2036. This is only one example of the scale of development put forward by the Council in the recent consultation
- 6.17 The findings applied in the SFC are set out in Table 6.1 overleaf. As the table shows, based on this population growth there would be a demand generated for 4.2 badminton courts (Waveney District has a current supply of 43 badminton courts for community use). The cost of this provision £2.2m at April 2016 prices.

Table 6.1: Sports Facility Calculator for sports halls applied to population growth Waveney District



Sport Facility Calculator

The SFC results presented below are based on the following criteria:

Area of Interest:	Waveney	Population:	16,100
Population Profile:	Waveney	Date generated:	12/08/2016
Build Costs:	Q2 2016	BCIS:	April 2016
Population:	2011 Census data, modified by 2012-based subnational population projections for 2016. London Boroughs modified by © GLA 2014 Round Demographic Projections - SHLAA-based short term migration, ward projections, 2015.		

Facility Requirements:

Sports Halls	
Demand adjusted by	0%
Courts	4.21
Halls	1.05
visits	920
Cost	£2,263,509

- 6.18 To repeat the SFC health warning, it calculates the demand side of the equation and provides the estimate of demand generated by new residential development and the capital cost. It does not compare this with supply, or the spatial distribution of demand. The audit and assessment has identified that over the strategy period the supply of sports halls can meet demand. The need is for modernisation of the sports halls and possibly re-provision of some existing halls because this is more cost and sports effective. CIL could be a source of funding for this requirement.
- 6.19 The reason for setting this out this example is because population growth is often seen as a driver for new provision of facilities. This SFC example shows the scale of the demand generated in Waveney is quite modest.
- 6.20 Another reason is the context that CIL is for all community infrastructure and the calls on CIL are usually more than can be met and so priorities and choices have to be made.
- 6.21 Indoor sports and recreational facilities may not be a high priority because of the need to fund education, highways and other types of community infrastructure.

Capital Grant funding

- 6.22 Sport England new strategy '*Towards an Active Nation*' strategy has a change of emphasis. This is focusing more money and resources on tackling inactivity because this is where the gains for the individual and for society are greatest Also Investing more in children and young people from the age of five to build positive attitudes to sport and activity as the foundations of an active life
- 6.23 Sport England is looking to work with a wider range of partners, and with a focus on increasing activity by people who do nothing to do something and those who do nothing to do something.
- 6.24 The Sport England capital budget for sports facilities at all levels is projected to be 18% of their funding programmes. The precise details of the capital grant aid programmes are being reviewed this year. It is likely that Sport England will look to work with partners that can increase activities and this could mean funding more informal facilities such as street games and indoor thrill and adventure centres with climbing walls and rope courses. It could also be about increasing access to what already exists and broadening activity. The Beccles sports hub concept, plus the proposal to increase access to education venues by a common booking and letting arrangement whereby clubs and individual can be offered a choice of venues, are both examples in the strategy that are in line with the Sport England new strategy.
- 6.25 In delivering the strategy it will be important to align projects to what is needed in Waveney, the Sport England new strategy and its capital grant aid programmes.

Education Sector

- 6.26 The previous sources of funding (including the Building Schools for the Future and Primary Schools Programme) have changed and the scale of the education capital programmes has been reduced. However, the provision of sports facilities as new or improved projects on school sites is still a possible key funding stream. The Department of Education does have a Schools Improvement Programme. This funding programme is heavily subscribed to. Future funding rounds maybe themed. Provision for science and languages have been past themes and it maybe that sports provision is a future theme. This could provide substantial capital funding

6.27 A traditional source for maintaining and modernising the schools provision has been the Suffolk County Council Capital Works Programme and the planned preventive maintenance works programme. However, this also no longer exists and the capital works funding from the County Council budget is now focused on ensuring buildings are fit for purpose in meeting statutory health and safety requirements. There is little if any funding for improvements or modernisation of buildings.

Investment Strategy

6.28 In part, recognition of the limited financing opportunities means the strategy has placed greater focus on making more effective use of the extensive range of existing facilities by new partnership working across all providers. To do this so as to maximize the scope for greater community use of what already exists. This is the first priority and the assessment does reflect it as being first.

6.29 The strategy action plan sets out the projects that need to be developed to deliver the strategy over the period up to 2026. It sets out a timescale and the key partners in delivering the strategy recommendations.

6.30 An investment strategy looks to deliver these projects and requires criteria to determine the priorities. This is for the District Council and its partners to determine. For guidance, and based on the assessment of need and strategy recommendations, some suggested criteria to apply and the recommendations which follow from each one are set out below:

- investment in projects which deliver sustained increase in participation and contribute to the wider objectives in Waveney District to improve the health and wellbeing of residents;
- investment that secures more cost effective provision and savings from changing the way facilities are currently provided and operated - in effect making better and more use of the existing stock. This could result in savings from current management and operation to be reinvested in enhancement of the facilities;
- investment in facilities where there is an identified need and which are consistent with delivering the objectives of Sport England capital grant aid programmes; and
- investment that does not require money and can form some "quick wins". This applies to getting a more cohesive approach to overall management of the facility stock. This investment requires time, not money but could result in savings by more shared use of facilities across the different providers.

6.31 So an investment strategy is linked to first defining the criteria for investment and outcomes required, then reviewing the criteria to determine which strategy recommendations this applies to. The actual investment strategy will be determined by the District Council and its partners in taking the strategy and action plan into delivery.

7: Monitoring and Review

- 7.1 The strategy is a series of recommendations for the District Council to consider and then decide how it wishes to consult, adopt and deliver the strategy. Given the current status then the monitoring and review section focuses on the key evidence base requirements that need to be reviewed and updated.
- 7.2 Monitoring and review of the indoor strategy is as important as the creation of the initial strategy. Monitoring is essential if the strategy is to successfully deliver improved provision of indoor sports and recreational facilities over the longer term. Monitoring and review represents the final stage in the Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guidance produced by Sport England.
- 7.3 The needs assessment reports that underpin the strategy are from data compiled and analysed in 2014/15. This does provide a robust evidence basis on which to evaluate current and future supply, demand, access and availability of the sports and recreational facility stock. It is however essential to keep this under review and to monitor changes, and the implications of these changes.
- 7.4 Priorities will change over time as the strategy is delivered and new issues and challenges emerge. Furthermore, it is essential to evaluate the implications of actions taken and the knock-on effect on the overall strategy and its associated priorities.
- 7.5 Monitoring and review of this strategy should be undertaken as follows;

- **Ongoing monitoring of changes to the database.** This is usually regarded as an onerous and tedious task. However, for all but gymnastics and village halls, all the other facility types included in the strategy Sport England updates the database regularly and this is available on line to the District Council through Active Places Power. In effect therefore it is not about reviewing and updating data but much more about ensuring that an officer in the Council is: aware of the APP database, has access to it (which is organised through Sport England and set out in the APP section of their web site); understands how the database works and can interrogate the data

In effect, it is an electronically updated source of data which can be accessed and manipulated for any particular purpose from now on. Should the District Council wish to undertake a refresh of any findings for any facility type then it will be important to use the latest database but also do a bespoke review of the data at that time. This is not onerous.

- **Assessing the impact of demographic changes.** The needs assessment and strategy is based on Waveney District's bespoke population projections to 2026 and beyond. The Council will review and update these projections and should the population projections change significantly – a very unlikely occurrence - then the assumptions about demand changes from assumptions about the active population would need to be reviewed. The rate and frequency of participation rates applied in the strategy do hold good for a 5% change in participation.
- **Reviewing participation/frequency of participation rates.** The needs assessment is based on Sport England and National Governing Bodies of Sport participation and frequency of participation rates. It is possible to monitor participation trends for specific sports and for specific facility types for each local authority area through the Sport England Active People Survey. It is also possible to monitor

changes by age and gender across all sports for 14 +, also at each local authority area level. So changes in participation can be reviewed and can be compared in trend terms to participation rates since October 2006. It is acknowledged and as reported in the strategy that participation data at the Waveney District level is only available for a few facility types and for age and gender participation. So the Waveney rates do have to be extrapolated from rates at larger geographic levels. This is set out in the audit and assessment report.

- **Monitoring the delivery of the recommendations and identifying any changes that are required to the priority afforded to each action.** This is the most important part of monitoring and, in effect, it is monitoring the delivery of the strategy. It is assumed that Waveney District will take the responsibility for doing this. It should be an annual review, set against the generic and facility specific recommendations. The life span of the strategy is to 2026 and the projects reflect that timescale. That does not mean that it is a ten year work programme to work through - as given - but the needs and projects are not for just the next 1-2 years either. An annual review against progress and delivery of projects, set alongside changes, which have arisen, is the suggested approach. A refresh of the major findings, delivery and directions set in the strategy could be undertaken in 5 years' time, or, in line with any local planning reviews and the need to update local planning policies.
- **Analysis of funding sources and new funding opportunities for the provision/improvement of sports facilities.** The needs assessment reports do provide a profile of adult participation in sport and physical activity. This can be used as the evidence base to support grant aid applications – as much as the facility needs assessments. Both are adaptable reports and which can be used to support not only local authority bids but also to support individual schools and clubs for grant aid.