



NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

ASSESSMENT REPORT

FEBRUARY 2016

Integrity, Innovation, Inspiration

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SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

This Assessment Report has been prepared by Knight, Kavanagh & Page (KKP) as the first part of an Indoor Sports Facilities Study for North Hertfordshire District Council (NHDC). It focuses on reporting the findings of the research, consultation, site assessments, data analysis and mapping that underpins the study and uses this evidence to inform future development. The study will be used:

- ◀ As the basis for emerging planning policies;
- ◀ To inform the assessment of development proposals that may affect sport and recreational land and buildings;
- ◀ To contribute to the Infrastructure Delivery Plan (IDP) and the implementation of S106 planning obligations or the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL);
- ◀ To inform the long-term use, amount, type and location of facilities;
- ◀ To inform on-going provision and management of facilities.

1.1 Background

KKP was appointed by NHDC to undertake an assessment of the formal indoor sports facility needs in the District and based on the findings, prepare a built leisure facility strategy. The aim of the study is to provide a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities, identifying the needs and gaps in provision.

Project outputs will be a comprehensive Assessment Report (this document) and a Strategy and Action Plan. The Assessment Report details facility needs relating to existing and potential future demand and the requirements of National Governing Bodies (NGBs) comprising:

- ◀ A comprehensive audit of indoor sports facilities.
- ◀ Maps detailing the distribution of facilities and their relevant catchments.
- ◀ An assessment of the District in terms of demography and influencing social factors such as deprivation, crime, health etc.
- ◀ An assessment of the customer base identifying 'push' and 'pull' factors on facilities in neighbouring authorities.
- ◀ A risk register of the existing key facility stock.
- ◀ An assessment of the operational management and community value of the existing facility stock.
- ◀ Analysis of participation levels.

In delivering this element of the assignment, we follow the Sport England: *Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities* (ANOG) methodology to ensure that the process is compliant with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). This assessment study will provide NHDC with an evidence base upon which local policies can be developed and decisions made to protect and enhance existing provision or provide new facilities.

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1.2 Scope of the project

The Assessment Report provides the detail as to what exists in the District, its condition, distribution and overall quality. It also considers the demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth and also takes account of other factors such as health and economic deprivation. The assessment will provide direction on the future provision of accessible, high quality, financially sustainable facilities for sport and leisure in North Hertfordshire.

The indoor sports facility assessment incorporates sports halls, swimming pools, health and fitness centres, squash courts, indoor bowls rinks and indoor tennis centres. In delivering this report KKP has:

- ◀ Individually audited indoor and built facilities in the District.
- ◀ Analysed the supply and demand of facilities (including specialist sports facilities) to identify gaps in provision and opportunities for improved provision.
- ◀ Clarify the role of providers of leisure facility provision
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice, gaps in provision and opportunities for improved service in order to drive up participation levels.

This factual report provides a quantitative and qualitative audit based assessment of indoor sports facilities. It provides a robust and up-to-date assessment of the needs for indoor sports facilities and opportunities for new and rationalised provision. Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform what provision is required. The specific objectives of this audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Identify local needs and quantify levels of demand
- ◀ Audit existing local indoor sports provision

The specific tasks to be addressed as part of this strategy include:

- ◀ Review of relevant Council strategies, plans, reports, corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review of the local, regional and national strategic context.
- ◀ Supply and demand analysis.
- ◀ Analysis of the demographics of the local population:
 - ◀ Consideration of potential participation rates and modelling of likely demand for leisure facilities.
 - ◀ Detailed audit of indoor leisure facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
 - ◀ Analysis of the balance between supply of and demand for leisure facilities and identification of potential under and over provision.
 - ◀ Recommendations in respect of the size type and location of leisure provision required in the District over the life of the Strategy and beyond.

1.3 Report structure

Section 2 reviews the background policy documentation at national, regional and local levels and profile the population and socio-demographic characteristics of the District.

The Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) methodology is explained in Section 3. This is the national methodology used to review indoor and built provision.

Sections 4 – 9 of this report then consider supply and demand issues for indoor and built leisure facilities in North Hertfordshire. Each section contains specific data relevant to a range of types of indoor sports facilities. The report as a whole covers the predominant issues for each type of built facility:

Strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats are then identified and Strategy recommendations are made in a separate document.

1.4 Associated strategies

The study sits alongside the Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) for North Hertfordshire also undertaken by KKP. The PPS is in accordance with the methodology provided in Sport England's Guidance 'Developing a Playing Pitch Strategy' for assessing demand and supply for outdoor sports facilities.

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SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

It is important to be aware of relevant local and national documents to be taken into consideration during this assessment. The following section outlines a synopsis of national, regional and local policies appertaining to the study, which are of significance in the development of the Strategy. Further detail can be found in Appendix A.

2.1 National context



As illustrated, Sport England regards an assessment of need as core to the planning for sporting provision. This assessment report reviews indoor and built sporting facility needs in North Hertfordshire and provides a basis for future strategic planning.

Table 2.1: Strategic documents relevant to indoor sports facilities

Strategy	Key features and aims
Sport England Strategy (2011/2012–2014/2015)	<p>The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maximise value from current NGB investment. Places, People, Play. Strategic direction and market intelligence. Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment. Market development.
Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)	<p>In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transform sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life. Create more opportunities for young people. Nurture and develop talent. Provide the right facilities in the right places. Support local authorities and unlock local funding. Ensure real opportunities for communities. <p>Launched in January 2012, it sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment is to be used to create</p>

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Strategy	Key features and aims
	<p>a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. Two key areas for this strategy are identified as:</p> <p>£292m is allocated for local investment. This will include investment in sport in further education colleges; a new community sport activation fund to promote sports participation in local communities; Door Step Clubs and Get on Track programmes in disadvantaged communities and; pilot work on health related sports programmes and commercial market development to drive participation growth.</p> <p>Facilities still play a key role in the Strategy with £249m set aside to provide new or upgraded facilities in line with current Places People Play facility investment and a new mid-range (£50,000-£500,000) funding programme.</p>
<p>National Planning Policy Framework</p>	<p>The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the government's planning policy, recognises the clear link between sport and health. Improving health, social and cultural wellbeing is one of its twelve core principles. Paragraph 171 places health considerations and by extension participation in sport, as a key consideration in the planning process, it states:</p> <p><i>'Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population (such as for sports, recreation and places of worship), including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being.'</i></p> <p>The Local Authority however remains at the centre of the local facility network as the sport and planning authority. From a local authority perspective the need to work with partners across the public, private, education and voluntary sector to plan sports facility provision is central to the NPPF.</p>
<p>Public Health England</p>	<p>In October 2014 Public Health England (PHE) produced their plan to tackle low activity levels across the country. Along with making the case for physical activity, the plan identifies four areas where measures need to be taken at a national and local level:</p> <p>Active society: creating a social movement, shifting social norms so that physical activity becomes a routine part of daily life.</p> <p>Moving professionals: activating networks of expertise. Making every contact with the health sector count to push the 'active' message and to deliver the message through other sectors including education, sports and leisure, transport and planning.</p> <p>Active environments: creating the right spaces. Making available and accessible appropriate environments that encourage people to be active every day.</p> <p>Moving at scale: scaling up interventions that make us active.</p> <p>Maximising existing assets that enable communities to be active.</p>

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Summary of national context

Engaging all residents in physical activity is a high priority for national and local government. For many residents sport and recreational activities have a key role to play in facilitating physical activity. Ensuring that there is an adequate supply of suitable facilities to meet local need is a requirement of the planning system. In line with national policy recommendations this report makes an assessment of indoor facility provision and need across North Hertfordshire.

2.2 North Hertfordshire context

The following table identifies the key strategies which this Study needs to take account of:

Table 2.2: Local relevant documents

Strategy	Key features and aims
<p>North Hertfordshire Sports Facilities Strategy 2010 to 2031 & Action Plan</p>	<p>Includes the following objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop an option appraisal for the replacement, rebuild or refurbishment of the North Herts Leisure Centre Assist within financial resources the owners/managers to secure funding for the resurfacing of the Synthetic Turf Pitches in the District Develop plans to address the over provision of water space within North Herts To act as a facilitator/advisor for local sports clubs to maintain high quality/appropriate facilities to meet identified local demand Ensure that future sports/leisure facilities built in North Herts incorporate appropriate design standards specific to meet the communities sporting needs Review Fearnhill Sports Centre management arrangements to establish if they provide good Value of Money Maximise capacity of leisure facilities in North Herts To work with schools and other facility providers to ensure any new facilities to be built in line with the strategy Establish and adopt facility provision standards for leisure facility planning team to formally adopt this strategy and to enable new sporting provision to be developed within planning guidelines To ensure the type of surfacing of Synthetic Turf Pitches is adequate to meet the local sporting need.
<p>North Hertfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options</p>	<p>The North Hertfordshire Local Plan Preferred Options has recently been out for consultation and results are being analysed. The Plan includes the potential development of 14,200 additional homes in the area, which includes an allowance of 2,100 dwellings towards the unmet need for housing from Luton.</p> <p>This study will assist the Council in identifying the additional need for facilities in light of this housing and population growth.</p>

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Strategy	Key features and aims
<p>North Hertfordshire District Council Corporate Plan 2016-2021</p>	<p>Includes the vision for the district 'Making North Hertfordshire a vibrant place to live, work and prosper.' To achieve this are three objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ to work with our partners to provide an attractive and safe environment for our residents, where diversity is welcomed and the disadvantaged are supported; ◀ to promote sustainable growth within our district to ensure economic and social opportunities exist for our communities, whilst remaining mindful of our cultural and physical heritage; ◀ and to ensure that the Council delivers cost effective and necessary services to our residents that are responsive to developing need and financial constraints ◀ http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/northherts-cms/files/Corporate%20Plan%202016.pdf
<p>North Hertfordshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Aspirations for the district</p>	<p>The LSP's aspirations build on the district's vision and includes the theme of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◀ We will support 'civic engagement' - Encouraging communities and individuals to have a greater voice and participate in local activities and community groups ◀ We will support individuals and businesses to develop and grow by provision of training and skills

2.3 Major school investment

Priority Schools Building Programme

To date, the Highfield School is the only school in North Hertfordshire, included in the Priority Schools Building Programme. Plans were approved by North Hertfordshire District Council in January 2015. Only the seven year old sports hall will remain, the rest of the buildings will be knocked down and rebuilt.

2.4 Demographic profile

The following information presents a brief summary of the demographic profile of the local authority. This is based on data taken from nationally recognised sources such as the Office for National Statistics, NOMIS, Sport England and Experian. The full demographic profile can be found in Appendix B.

Population and distribution

- ◀ The total population, from the 2013 Mid-Year Estimates, in North Hertfordshire was 129,318 (males = 63,530 and females = 65,788). It has been agreed with North Hertfordshire District Council that the Office for National Statistics (ONS) figures would be used for the purposes of this study.
- ◀ The most densely populated areas include Letchworth, Baldock, Hitchin and Royston.
- ◀ The District age profile differs from the East of England profile as there is a lower proportion of 15-29 year olds (North Hertfordshire 15.9%, East of England 18%). There are, however, more in the age groups from 30-54 (North Hertfordshire = 36.5%, East = 33.9%).

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Ethnicity

- ◀ 89.5% of the population classify their ethnicity as white; this is higher than the England rate (85.4%).
- ◀ 5.4% of the population classify their ethnicity as Asian, compared to a national average of 7.8%.
- ◀ 2.0% of the population classify their ethnicity as Black, compared to a national average of 3.48%.

Economic activity and inactivity

- ◀ 8 in 10 (81.9%) of North Hertfordshire's 16-64 year olds are economically active (in or seeking employment – March 2014) compared to a national figure of 77.4%.
- ◀ The unemployment rate¹ in North Hertfordshire is 5.5%; this is below the East of England figure (5.8%) and below the national rate (7.2%).
- ◀ Approximately 1 in 5 (18.1%) of NHDC's 16-64 year olds are economically inactive. Around 1 in 3 are students.

Income and benefits dependency

The median figure for full-time earnings (2013) in North Hertfordshire is £33,415; the comparative rate for the East of England is £28,220 (-15.6%) and for Great Britain is £26,941 (-19.3%).

In August 2014 there were 1,158 people in North Hertfordshire claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA); this represents a decrease of 3% compared to August 2006 (1,194). However, people claiming JSA only represent 20.3% of benefits claimants in North Hertfordshire, a further 41.6% are claiming ESA2 and incapacity benefits while 11.5% are carers.

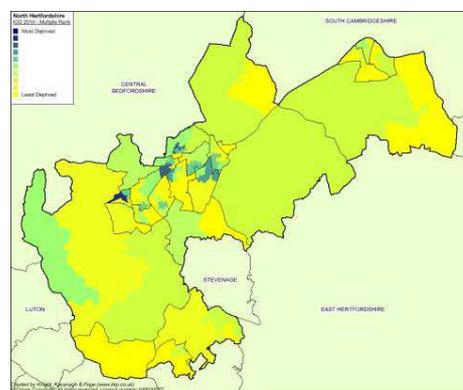
Deprivation

It should be noted that the 2010 IMD has been used for this study given that the 2015 updated deprivation indices were published following the completion of the initial draft and subsequent comments from the Council.

Figure 2.1: IMD in North Hertfordshire³

None of NHDC's population lives in areas within the bottom 10% of SOA's nationally, i.e. in the most deprived parts of the country. Furthermore, a further 3.8% are in the next two cohorts; this compares to a national average of 29.8% in the 'lowest' three bands.

15.7% of the population do not have access to a car. This is much lower than the national figure (24.9%) and slightly lower than regionally (17.7%).



¹ Note the unemployment rate is modelled by the Office for National Statistics

² Employment and Support Allowance is directly targeted to support those who are ill or disabled.

³ Found in larger scale in Appendix B

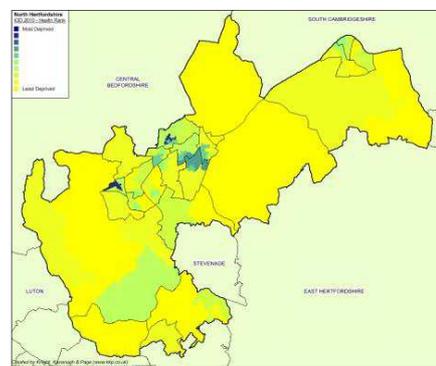
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Health

Figure 2.2: Health deprivation in North Hertfordshire

Life expectancy in North Hertfordshire is similar to the national figure; the male rate is currently 79.9 compared to 79.2 for England, and the female equivalent is 82.8 compared to 83.0 nationally.⁴

Adult and child obesity rates in North Hertfordshire are below the national and regional averages. 19.1% v 23.0% for adults and 15.5% v 18.9% for children; however, these figures still present a key challenge for the area.



Active People Survey

Sport England's Active People Survey 8 (April 2014 to March 2015), produced the following key findings for North Hertfordshire.

- Participation – 4 in 10 (38.9%) of adults participated in at least 1 x 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week. This was above the national average (35.8%) and the regional average (35.2%). It was above all but one of its 'nearest neighbours' which ranged from 34.2% to 41.8%.
- Sports club membership - around 3 in 10 (29.4%) are members of a sports club, based on the four weeks prior to the AP survey. This is above the national average (21.6%) and the regional rate (22.2%) and is above all of its 'nearest neighbours'.
- Sports tuition - just under 3 in 10 (28.0%) received sports tuition during the 12 months prior to the AP survey. This was above the regional and national averages. It is also above all of its 'nearest neighbours'.
- Competitive sport – just over 1 in 5 (17.6%) adults had taken part in competitive sport in the previous 12 months, this was above two of North Hertfordshire's 'nearest neighbours and also higher than the national (13.3%) and regional (14.0%) averages.

Sport England Market Segmentation

The Market Segmentation data shows that the following are the most dominant profiles in North Hertfordshire:

⁴ Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2013.

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Table 2.4: Dominant Sport England Market segments in North Hertfordshire

	Segment	Description	North Hertfordshire		East	England
1	Tim	Settling Down Males	11,622	11.97%	10.47%	8.83%
2	Philip	Comfortable Mid-Life Males	9,403	9.68%	9.62%	8.65%
3	Elaine	Empty Nest Career Ladies	6,920	7.13%	6.83%	6.07%
4	Elsie & Arnold	Retirement Home Singles	6,840	7.04%	7.94%	7.97%
5	Roger & Joy	Early Retirement Couples	6,619	6.82%	8.19%	6.77%

A complete overview of all 19 segments can be found on Appendix C.

The most popular sports in North Hertfordshire

Gym and swimming are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in North Hertfordshire around 1 in 8 adults go to the gym, on average, at least once a month. The next most popular activity is swimming, 10.8% of adults go swimming on a relatively regular basis.

Projected population change

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 24.6% in North Hertfordshire's population (+31,573) over the 25 years from 2012 to 2037. A shorter timeframe, to 2024, projects that the overall number of people in North Hertfordshire will rise by +13,969 (+10.7%). However, significant age specific variations will have implications for different markets as well as economic and health challenges. For example, there will be:

- ◀ +3,347 (+13.1%) more 0-15 year olds; and
- ◀ -547 (-2.8%) fewer 45-54 year olds; and
- ◀ +3,956 (+26.7%) more 55-64 year olds; and
- ◀ +5,635 (+23.6%) more people aged 65+.

Summary

This data suggests that North Hertfordshire has a more employed and less deprived population than national averages. This suggests that cost is not a critical factor as residents have more of an ability to pay for services. Car ownership is higher which suggests that it is less important for facilities to be very local. High quality facilities will be an important factor for participants in the area.

However it must be highlighted that there are some wards in the area that are more deprived, probably with a lower rate of employment and car ownership. It is important that community facilities are local to these groups to encourage participation and improve health and life expectancy.

Residents are likely to be more active and be less obese than national counterparts; with life expectancy in line with national averages. They are more likely to volunteer in sport, be a member of a club or have received tuition over the past 12 months. Swimming and using the gym are popular activities in North Hertfordshire. This suggests a healthier population

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with a higher propensity to participate in sporting or physical activity. There may be a higher demand for swimming pools and health and fitness suites than in other areas of the country. The provision of improved quality sports facilities will enable this level of participation to continue.

North Hertfordshire has an aging population which is expected to increase by almost a quarter by 2037. The variation in age bands suggests that different provision will be required for different age groups. For example, the 65+ age group often requires daytime options and activities and 0-5 year olds often follow similar time patterns. Conversely, activities for 5-15 year olds may need to be focused more closely on after school and weekend facility slots. With the over 55 age group projected to increase significantly, it will be necessary to ensure that facilities are appealing, accessible, have the requisite amenities and programming and are of sufficient quality to meet the needs for this aging population.

SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT APPROACH

3.1 Methodology

The assessment of provision is based on the Sport England Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide (ANOG) for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

This provides a recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. It has primarily been produced to help (local authorities) meet the requirements of the Government's National Planning Policy Framework, which states that:

'Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision is required.' (NPPF, Paragraph 73).

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

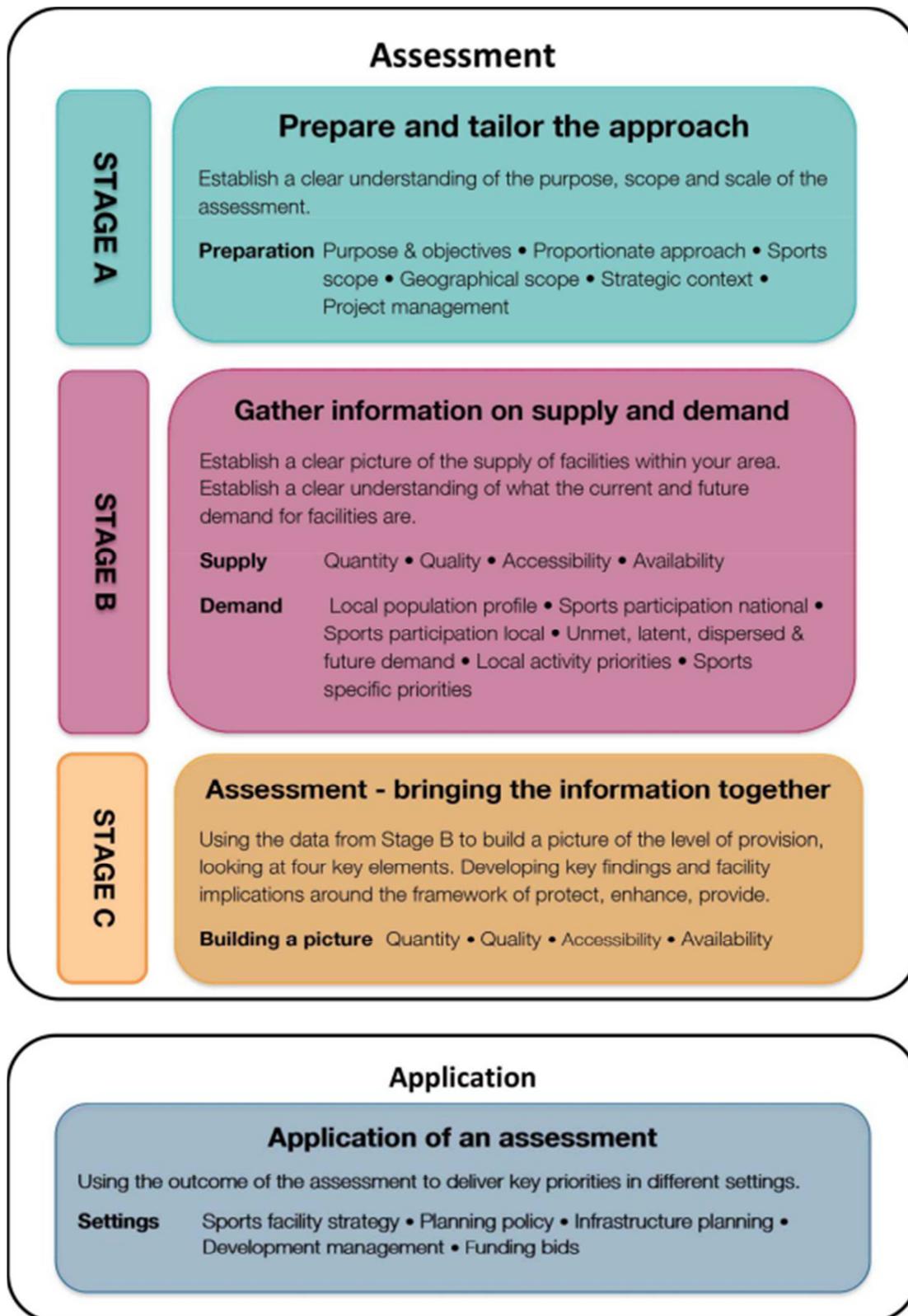
- ◀ *an assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or*
- ◀ *the loss resulting from the proposed development would be replaced by equivalent or better provision in terms of quantity and quality in a suitable location; or*
- ◀ *the development is for alternative sports and recreational provision, the needs for which clearly outweigh the loss.* (NPPF, Paragraph 74)

The assessment of provision is presented by analysis of the quality, quantity, accessibility and availability for the identified facility types (i.e., sports halls and swimming pools). Each facility is considered on a 'like for like' basis within its own facility type, in order that it can be assessed for adequacy.

The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between all facility types in study area and evaluates demand. It gives a clear indication of areas of high demand. The report will identify where there is potential to provide improved and/or additional facilities to meet this demand and to, where appropriate, protect or rationalise the current stock.

The following diagram is taken from the ANOG to demonstrate the whole process.

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach to ANOG



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3.2 Site visits

Initially Active Places Power is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Where possible, assessments have been undertaken in the presence of facility staff. Even if only partially achievable it is of considerable value. It not only enables access to be gained to all aspects of facilities, but also allows more detailed *in-situ* discussion of issues such as customer perspectives, quality, maintenance etc. This is essential as the audit is a 'snapshot' visit in time and there is a risk, dependent upon the time of day/year, that it may not wholly reflect general user experience.

Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector are undertaken. Through the audit and via informal interviews with facility managers, a 'relevance' and 'condition' register is built which describes (e.g.):

- ◀ Facility and scale.
- ◀ Usage/local market.
- ◀ Ownership, management and access arrangements (plus, where available, facility owner aspirations).
- ◀ Management, programming, catchments, user groups, gaps.
- ◀ Location (urban/rural), access and accessibility.
- ◀ Condition, maintenance, existing improvement plans, facility 'investment status' (lifespan in the short, medium and long term).
- ◀ Existing/ planned adjacent facilities.

An assessment form captures quantity and quality data on a site by site basis and which also feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments undertaken are rated in the following categories. These ratings are applied throughout the report, regardless of facility type.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

	Quality rating
Good	Facility is assessed as being good quality, up to date, well maintained, clean and well presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in a good condition. The facility is well lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are good quality, modern and attractive to use.
Above average	Facility is in reasonable condition and is well maintained and presented. May be older but it is fit for purpose and safe. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are in an acceptable condition but with some signs of wear and tear. Ancillary facilities are good quality, but potentially showing signs of age and some wear and tear.
Below average	Facility is older and showing signs of age and poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are showing signs of wear and tear. The facility is usable but quality could be improved. The facility is not as attractive to customers and does not meet current expectations. Ancillary facilities are deteriorating, reasonable quality, but usable.
Poor	The facility is old and outdated. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are aged, worn and damaged. The facility is barely usable and at times may have to be taken out of commission. The facility is unattractive to customers and does not meet basic expectations. Ancillary facilities are poor quality and unattractive to use.

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Ratings are based on an independent non-technical visual assessment carried out by a KKP assessor. Assessments take into account the age of the facility and condition of surfaces, tiles and walls. Line markings and safety equipment are rated, any problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc. are noted. Condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment are recorded. Adequate safety margins are important. Changing rooms are assessed. Maintenance and wear of the facility is taken into account. Disability Discrimination Act compliance is also noted, although not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all this data has been collated, an overall quality rating is awarded to each facility at a site.

Site visits are conducted at all sites with main sports facilities, such as a three court or larger sports hall, or a main swimming pool. A small number of facilities were not able to engage in the study or accommodate site visits. These include St Christopher School, Princess Helena College, Ickleford Sport & Recreation Club and Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club. In these circumstances, information was taken from a range of online sources and telephone conversations with reception staff where possible.

3.3 Quest

Quest is the UK Quality Scheme for Sport and Leisure. Quest is a tool for continuous improvement, designed primarily for the management of leisure facilities and leisure development. Quest defines industry standards and good practice and encourages their ongoing development and delivery within a customer focused management framework.

Royston Leisure Centre and North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre in Letchworth have both received a score of excellent in the most recent Quest assessment, Hitchin Swimming Centre has been assessed as good.

3.4 Council facilities

North Hertfordshire District Council has three main leisure facilities of varying degrees of quality and recent investment.

Royston Leisure Centre, as the newest facility (opened in 2005) is the best quality and as one would expect has had the least investment over recent years. However, it has received some investment in a part refurbishment of the wet change area in 2014 to keep them up to modern day expectations. This reinforces the Council's commitment to invest in its leisure facilities in an attempt to keep them up to date.

North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre is 34 years old and investment has been made in a new plant room in 2009. The health and fitness area received £1 million investment in 2006 and in 2014 a new rehab studio was developed. A technical feasibility assessment of the swimming pool provision was undertaken and the key recommendation was to invest in a new teaching pool rather than reconfigure the main pool area (i.e. this was the most cost effective solution). The Council has recently received planning permission to develop this and to expand its car park provision on the site (in partnership with the neighbouring Rugby club). The Council is planning future investment to replace the sports hall floor at the centre as well as reconfiguring the reception area (in line with the new teaching pool development).

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Hitchin Swimming Centre and Fitness @ Archers is a mix of recently refurbished activity areas and others which still require investment. The Archers health and fitness suite received a £1 million refurbishment in 2014 alongside £650,000 investment in improving the quality and layout of the swimming pool changing rooms. The Council has also recently undertaken £20,000 of essential maintenance to the lido to rectify bulging sides. The Council recognises the need to continue with its investment plans and it is looking to replace the poolside seating on the main pool.

The above summary recognises the Council's approach to maintaining its core sports facilities and the continued investment in order to enable them to meet customer expectations. However, it is evident as you go through both North Hertfordshire LC and Hitchin Swimming Centre that there is a mix of refurbished and non-refurbished areas. This not only relates to the activity areas but also the ancillary facilities and corridors where there is a clear difference in presentation and attractiveness of facilities due to features such as floor coverings and lighting.

SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

Indoor multi-sport sports halls are one of the prime sports facilities for community sport because they are able to provide a venue for many different activities. The standard methodology for measuring sports halls is by the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area. According to this definition they are at least 10m x 18m (i.e., the size of one badminton court including surrounding safety area) and include specifically designed sports halls, such as leisure centres and school sports halls. Additionally it also includes halls where activities can take place, such as school assembly halls, community buildings and village halls. Specialist centres, e.g. dance centres, are not included.

It is recognised that there is extensive use of sports halls by a wide range of sports including basketball, netball, volleyball, handball, cricket nets; indoor (carpet) bowls etc. Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least 3+ badminton court size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. A 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility; it can accommodate indoor team sports such as basketball, netball and football (5-a-side and training). It also provides sufficient run-up space to accommodate indoor cricket nets and to undertake indoor athletics. Many 4 court sports halls also have a dividing net which enable them to be subdivided into separate areas for use, for example, for circuit training, table tennis or martial arts activities.

As such, a 4-court sports hall has greater sports development value and flexibility than its 3-court counterpart. A spread of 4 court halls is often the most effective way of achieving the greatest accessibility for general community use. However, the space required for certain indoor team games exceeds the space provided by a standard 4 court hall and in general terms the higher the standard of play the larger the space required.

At higher levels of performance the playing area is usually the same size but increased safety margins and clear height may be required, as well as additional space requirements for spectators, teams and officials during competitions. Larger halls i.e. 6 plus courts are therefore able to accommodate higher level training and/or competition as well as meeting day to day needs. They may also provide the option for more than one pitch/court which increases flexibility for both training and competition.

This assessment considers all sports hall facilities in North Hertfordshire that comprise at least one badminton court (and measure at least 10 x 18: an area of 180m²). For consideration as a *main hall* (as defined by Sport England) it must be at least a three badminton court sports hall and provide a reasonable sized area to be multi-functional. Such facilities are commonplace in secondary schools across North Hertfordshire. NGBs that administer the more common sports hall dependent sports include Badminton England, Basketball England, England Netball and Volleyball England.

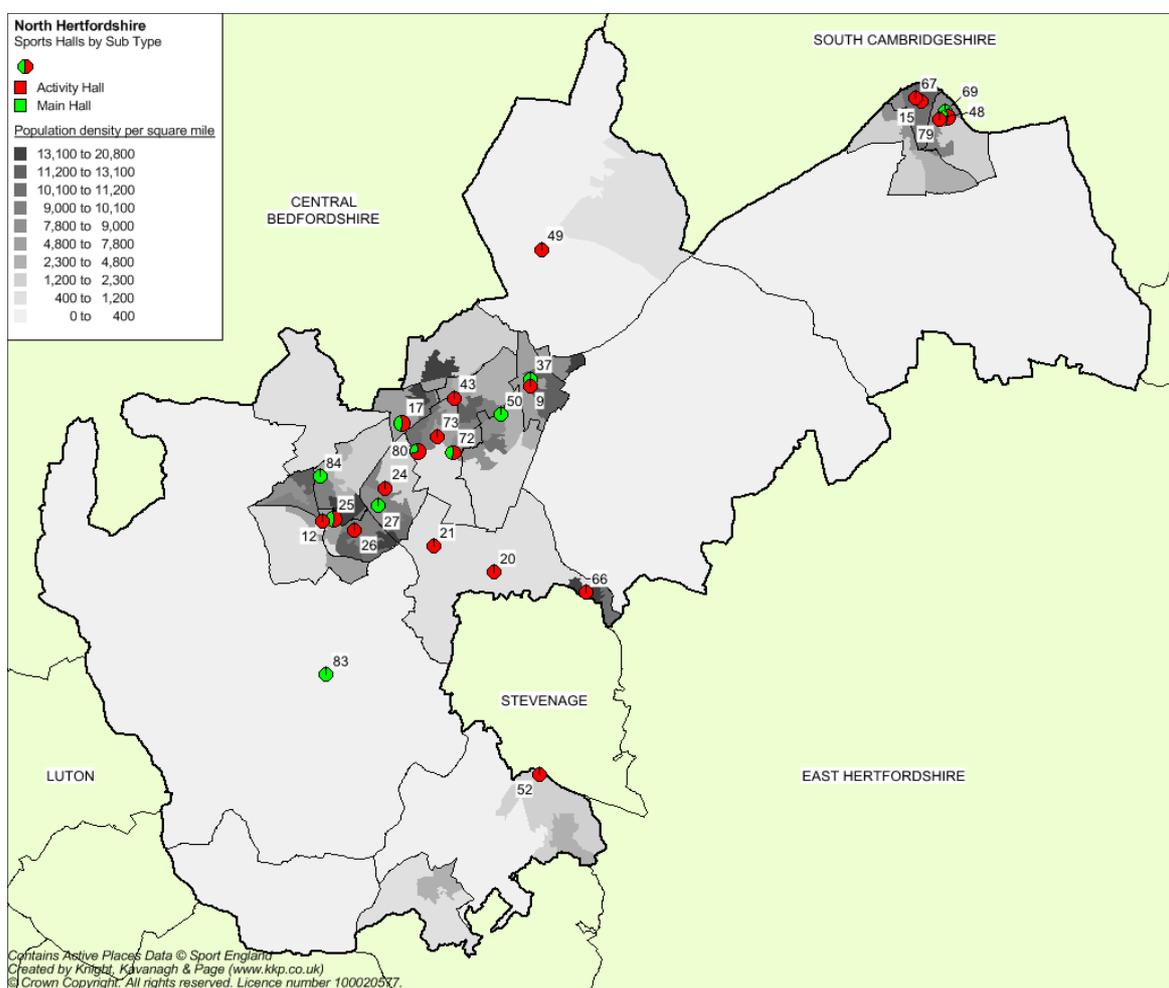
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4.1 Supply

Quantity

There are 31 sports halls identified within North Hertfordshire. 22 of these have at least one badminton court marked. Of these, eleven have three badminton courts or more. The largest facility is at Fearnhill Sports Centre, Letchworth this has a five court sports hall. A list of all the sports halls can be found in Table 4.1.

Figure 4.1: Sports halls in North Hertfordshire over population density - 3 courts or more and those with less than 3 courts



As Figure 4.1 above illustrates, the majority of sports halls are located in the more densely populated areas. There is a wider spread of activity halls, although main halls do cover the main populated areas. In addition there is a single main sports hall in the less populated area to the west at Princess Helena College (83) in Preston.

The Royston area is serviced by one main sports hall, Royston Leisure Centre (69) and a number of activity halls.

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Future developments

Etonbury Academy, just over the border in Central Bedfordshire, is currently building a dual use 4 court sports hall. This is a facility that could have an impact on local demand in the Letchworth area given its proximity for local residents.

North Hertfordshire DC is investing in a replacement sports hall floor at North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre. However, it is clear that the current layout of the sports hall (i.e. with a barrier along the full length of the sports hall to facilitate viewing) limits the venue's ability to host certain types of sports events. The Council will need to consider the cost benefit analysis of replacing like for like or re-configuring the hall to enable it to accommodate a higher level of sporting competition (in line with NGB requirements). As an example alongside reconfiguring the court markings it will also need to realign the facility's fixtures and fittings.

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Table 4.1: Sports halls with at least one marked badminton court in North Hertfordshire⁵ - main halls highlighted grey.

Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
9	6016809	Brandles School, Baldock	2083955	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1993		1	180	Yes	Below average	Below average
<p>Brandles School is a local authority special school with c.45 pupils. There is potential that, if new houses are built close by, then the school will be knocked down to extend Knights Templar School and rebuild Brandles approximately one mile away. Community use of activity hall is regular block bookings (Including Baldock Shotokan Karate) and key code access is used. There is site manager or caretaker to open and close for community bookings. School commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.</p>													
12	1044144	Christchurch Methodist & United Reformed Church, Hitchin	4111669	Activity Hall	Pay and Play	Yes			0			Not assessed - undersized	
<p>An activity hall based at a church. Generally used for church activities.</p>													
15	1044056	Coombes Community Centre, Royston	4111476	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes			1	180	Yes	Not assessed-undersized	
<p>Located in North Royston, NHDC facility run by the Royston Community Association. The activity hall is currently used for majorettes, badminton, playgroup, short mat bowls, table tennis, short tennis, karate, youth club, community church, mother and baby groups, gardening club, language groups, NCT classes and choir. The Centre is also used by Royston BMX Club which has a recently upgraded (Olympic standard) BMX track behind the centre. The track accommodates general access with, club nights each week and regular competitions.</p> <p>The hall has acoustic tiles to improve sound quality for parties and the high ceiling is ideal for indoor bouncy castle parties and is marked out with court lines for badminton, tennis and basketball.</p>													
17	1003801	Fearnhill Sports	2003070	Main	Pay and Play	Yes	1979		5	810	Yes	Below	Below

⁵ Source: Active Places / KKP Field Research

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
		Centre, Letchworth										average	average
			2040024	Activity Hall	Yes	1979		0					Below average
<p>Fearnhill Sports Centre is a dual use site with Fearnhill School. The school is run by Hertfordshire County Council, indoor sports facilities are managed on evenings and weekends by SLL. No community use of outdoor facilities as this is not in SLL contract. Revenue from community use paid to SLL, school pays for refurbishment and breakages of facilities. Sports hall floor varnished and new lighting installed in 2012. Cricket nets are available. A new floor is required but at high cost. The facility is tired looking and needs investment. The activity hall has a concrete floor and is used mainly for martial arts and gymnastics.</p> <p>The hall is operated on a block booking basis for clubs and organisations; there is no casual use. Main users of the facility include eight badminton clubs (including Highbury, Redhoods, Academy BC and Shuttles Junior badminton clubs), plus a football inclusion project. Dual use agreement in place.</p>													
20	1043491	Graveley Village Hall, Hitchin	4110612	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes			0			Not assessed-undersized	
The Parish Council owned hall has a stage at one end and is currently used by a table tennis club, preschool group and dog training club.													
21	1043511	Great Wymondley Village Hall, Hitchin	4110853	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes			0			Not assessed-undersized	
Privately owned, currently hired out for Morris dancing and to a table tennis club.													
24	1039193	Highover Junior Middle Infant School, Hitchin	2084733	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1950	2007	1	180	Yes	Not assessed-undersized	
HCC owned, School activity hall is available weekday evenings for community use.													
25	1003806	Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre, Hitchin	2003079	Main	Pay and Play	Yes	1999		4	594	Yes	Above average	Below average
			4126817	Activity	Sports Club/Community	Yes	1998		1	180	Yes	Below	Below

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
				Hall	Association use							average	average
<p>School became an academy in January 2013 and is now run by a Trust. Community use of sports hall operated evenings and weekends by the sports centre. Centre of excellence for badminton and its clubs (including Broadway, Feathers Templar, Hitchin Town Hitchin Town Junior, Icarus, and Purwell badminton clubs) and table tennis, used increasingly for gymnastics and trampolining. School is looking to refurbish the Centre in the near future. Only male changing facilities available. Sports hall has cricket nets and has potential for new lights to be installed in the near future. School commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.</p>													
26	1204291	Hitchin Girls' School, Hitchin	4100516	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use		1975		1	180		Below average	Below average
<p>In 2011, Hitchin Girls' School became an Academy. The school has c.1080 pupils and the school building is a 1970's build. Parking is a real issue during the school day. The activity hall is located on the first floor and changing provision is on the ground floor. There is no lift access. Available and used by the community four evenings per week. Not available Friday-Sunday. Planning permission has been granted for a 4 court sports hall with associated changing rooms.</p>													
27	1003816	Hitchin Sports Centre, Hitchin	2003092	Main	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1975	2006	4	594	Yes	Below average	Poor
<p>The facility is located on the campus of North Hertfordshire College and branded as The Edge Centre. It is well used by students and community organisations alike. There are a large proportion of block bookings in the evenings and weekends, when it is available for community use. Students use it for an enrichment programme between 5-7pm on week days. Badminton, netball and indoor football dominant sports hall bookings, although other sports which also use the facility include roller derby, bubble football, ultimate Frisbee and kids parties. College commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.</p>													
37	1008095	Knights Templar Sports Centre, Baldock	2006988	Main	Pay and Play	Yes	2001	2007	4	594	Yes	Above average	Below average

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
<p>The Knights Templar School and Knights Templar Sports Centre is a dual use facility, operated by SLL in the evenings and weekends. This is operated under a contract separate to the one with NHDC. The sports centre was a Sport England funded project. School pay £50,000 management fee to SLL each year and SLL receive revenue from community use. 25% of profit is paid back to school. Academy is in the process of rebuilding but this is in its infancy. Dual use agreement in place.</p> <p>Sports hall has large run off areas. Cricket nets are available and there is potential for new lights to be installed in the near future. There are multiple changing rooms but these are dated. Bookings consist of a mix of gymnastics, basketball (including North Herts Knights), badminton (including Academy JBC Improvers and Baldock Junior badminton clubs), cricket, football, taekwondo, roller hockey and fitness classes. When there are no bookings the sports hall is made available for casual badminton, which is booked up.</p>													
43	1043495	Letchworth Settlement, Letchworth	4110614	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes			0			Not assessed-undersized	
<p>Independent adult education centre. The hall is used by a variety of special interest groups including dance, social, gardening, guitar, wine appreciation society, history, poetry, music, embroidery. Weekend opening is by special arrangement.</p>													
48	1204376	Meridian School, Royston	2214115	Activity Hall	Pay and Play	Yes	1974		1	180	Yes	Above average	Below average
			2214116	Main			1974		3	486	Yes	Not available during visit	Below average
<p>Meridian School is part of Royston Area School Partnership (RASP) with Greneway and Roysia schools. Meridian currently has c.500 pupils but has capacity for 900, intake is increasing rapidly. All pupils receive 3 hours of PE per week. School employs a football development officer. School facilities are available for community use but demand is limited due to neighbouring Royston Leisure Centre- the school also use these. Activity hall recently had new roof and double glazing.</p> <p>There is a basketball central venue league that runs from the facility on a monthly basis. School commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.</p>													
49	1043513	Newnham Village Hall, Baldock	4110852	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes			0			Not assessed-undersized	

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
Parish owned hall, used by a number of local groups including the table tennis club.													
50	1003828	North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, Letchworth	2003100	Main	Pay and Play	Yes	1982	2011	4	594	Yes	Below average	Above average
<p>Local authority facility, operated by SLL since 2005. Sports hall has viewing and storage areas as well as cricket nets. Sports hall floor requires replacement (which is due imminently). Lighting also in need of replacement and is not currently in line with badminton courts. Sports hall barrier reduces 'run off' from courts. The Council should consider the need to retain the barrier and the potential cost to realign fixtures and fittings.</p> <p>The operator has a contractual obligation to ensure that 50% of space is available for casual use. Well used for badminton (including Cam Gears Badminton Club), gymnastics, trampolining (Richards Trampoline Club), roller hockey (Letchworth Roller Hockey Club), football, basketball, netball. Bowls group now operates from a local community centre.</p> <p>The Centre runs casual sessions and courses for trampolining and gymnastics. Roller hockey in particular is a group keen to expand but unable to gain additional sports hall space. The operator restricts five a side football to late evening booking slots. The Centre also tries to avoid block bookings during the peak period.</p>													
52	1000919	Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth), Stevenage	2026833	Activity Hall	Registered Membership use	Yes	1983	2002	2	324	Yes	Not assessed-undersized	
Commercial operator offering Registered Membership use to all facilities. Used mainly for exercise classes.													
66	1037980	Round Diamond Primary School, Stevenage	2080296	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	2002		0			Not assessed-undersized	
A mixed community primary school.													
67	6016010	Roysia Middle School, Royston	2081208	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1975		1	180		Not assessed-undersized	

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
A middle school which is a feeder to Meridian School. Part of the Royston Area School Partnership (RASP)													
69	1003829	Royston Leisure Centre, Royston	2003101	Main	Pay and Play	Yes	2005		4	594	Yes	Good	Good
<p>Local authority facility, operated by SLL since 2005. Cricket nets available. The operator has a contractual obligation to ensure that 50% of space is available for casual use. Well used facility so limited availability during evenings. Mainly used for badminton. Also used by cricket, netball (Royston NC) and basketball (Corvus Cornix Basketball Club) clubs, martial arts (including Melbourn Judo Club, KSTSK Karate Club, Royston Shotokan Karate Club, Zen Kempo Ju Jitsu, Choi Kwan Do and GMax Academy), tennis. Many badminton clubs play matches here but train in South Cambridgeshire due to price difference. Facility delivers No Strings badminton (Badminton England participation initiative). All organisations would like additional hall space, especially tennis. Lockers in the fitness changing rooms were replaced in 2015. The floor is sanded and resealed every two years.</p> <p>Neighbouring Meridian School is the predominant user between 9-5 on week days. This is not used between April-September so much quieter in the summer term. SLL is currently developing its Sport England funded 'Make your move' programme targeted at those aged 50+. This should see an increase in demand of this particular age group for facilities. The leisure centre also has equipment for indoor bowls in the sports halls.</p>													
72	1003834	St Christopher School, Letchworth	2003103	Main	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1999	2008	3	264	Yes	Not assessed. School not available for consultation or site visit	
			2071618	Activity Hall			1999	2008	0	60			
An independent school for children from 3-18 years. It is understood that the school shows commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.													
73	1203910	St Francis College, Letchworth	2212087	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1970		1	180	Yes	Below average	Below average
A day and boarding school for girls age 3-18, run by a Trust. The hall is available and used by the community and is currently operating at near capacity during the week. There is a site manager/live in caretaker operating bookings.													
79	6017045	The Greneway School, Royston	2080930	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1954	2005	1	180	Yes	Not assessed-undersized	

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
A middle school which is a feeder to Meridian School, with approx. 430 pupils. Part of the Royston Area School Partnership (RASP). Used by Corvus Cornix Basketball Club for training.													
80	1203908	The Highfield School, Letchworth	2078924	Activity Hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1975		1	288		Not assessed- not available during visit	Good
			2083933	Main			2009		4	594	Yes	Good	Good
			2212080	Activity Hall			1975		2	324	Yes	Not assessed- not available during visit	Good
Local authority school. Due for a rebuild under the Priority School Building Programme – existing sports hall will be retained. Available for community use on week day evenings only. Access via caretaker. Cricket nets available. Well used by Hitchin Kings Basketball Club and North Herts Knights Basketball Club. Activity halls will be demolished in new build but the sports hall will remain. School commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.													
83	1204540	The Princess Helena College, Hitchin	2214919	Main	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1976		4	561	Yes	Not assessed- School not available for consultation or site visit	
				Activity	Private use								
Independent day and boarding school for girls age 11-18. Unable to gain access to the site for assessment. The Activity hall is not available for community use; however the main sports hall is reported to be available. It is understood that the school shows commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.													
84	1010213	The Priory School, Hitchin	2008330	Main	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1991		4	480	Yes	Below average	Below average
			2071699	Activity Hall			1960		0	75		Below average	Below average

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb date	No. courts	Area (m ²)	Badminton clearance	Condition	
												Hall	Changing
<p>Local authority school currently with c.1050 pupils, although rapidly expanding. All facilities available for community use evenings and weekends. Community access via site team and sports hall manager. Focus of community use is locals rather than commercial organisations. The facility is adjacent to the Westmill Council Estate. Cricket nets available in the sports hall. There is potential for new lights in the near future.</p> <p>A climbing wall is planned to be built by the end of 2015 as no community accessible wall in the area. Changing facilities will be refurbished in summer 2015, funded by the school. Used by Hitchin Kings Basketball Club and Smash Badminton Club. School commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.</p>													
	KKP9	The John Clements Sports and Community Centre	KKP11	Activity hall	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	2015		1		Yes	Good	Good
<p>In August 2015, Codicote Parish Council agreed a licence to build a new Sports and Community Centre with the local charity, The John Clements Sports and Community Trust. This has also received funding from the Sport England Inspired Facilities programme and has resulted in the development of a one court sports hall. A very welcome facility in the area, however, the size of the hall means the new provision will not contribute to facilities for basketball, netball, volleyball or cricket. This development, however, provide an important contribution for badminton and multi-sport activities.</p>													

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Facilities Planning Model

Sport England uses the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to calculate supply and demand for sports hall accommodation. The analysis is based on data contained in the Sport England Strategic Assessment of need for Sports Hall Provision in North Hertfordshire, FPM National Run 2014 Profile Report. The model is relatively sophisticated and takes account of factors including opening hours, quality and management to estimate the relationship between supply and demand. The FPM includes sports halls of 3 courts or more and also includes smaller sports halls based on the same sites as main sports halls. The FPM takes into account all facilities that fit the parameters of the model, regardless of those that participated in the study.

Table 4.2: Facilities Planning Model- supply of sports halls in North Hertfordshire

	North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
				Dacorum	East Herts
Number of halls	14	625	5,584	14	16
Number of hall sites	10	422	3,985	10	10
Supply of total hall space in courts	48.60	2,363.50	21,321.60	58.60	62.80
Supply of publicly available hall space in courts (scaled with hours available in peak period)	35.29	1,862.49	16,317.16	45.06	46.42
Supply of total hall space in VPWPP*	7,146	377,154	3,304,225	9,125	9,401
Courts per 10,000	3.71	3.91	3.91	3.96	4.43

*Visits Per Week in the Peak Period

The difference between the number of sports halls identified in the initial KKP findings in this report (11) and the number of sports halls in the FPM (14) differs as the FPM includes the three ancillary halls on sites with main halls- Meridian, Highfield and Priory schools. In addition, the FPM has excluded the main sports hall at St Christopher School as it is too small.

All halls are on public sites. In total these halls are equivalent to 49 badminton courts, reduced to 35 courts when availability/accessibility is taken into account. This capacity is able to provide for 7,146 visits per week in the peak period (VPWPP).

In terms of benchmarking, sports hall provision can be compared by looking at courts per 1,000 population with comparator authorities – North Hertfordshire supply appears to be lower, at 3.7 courts per 1,000, than all comparators which range from 4.4 (East Hertfordshire) to 3.9 per 1,000 (National, Regional).

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Quality

Age, refurbishment and investment of facilities

The age of the sports hall stock varies widely in North Hertfordshire; however, it is noticeable that many of the facilities are old with an apparent lack of refurbishment. The most recent investment is in the sports hall at North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, Letchworth, which was refurbished in 2011. The oldest three court+ sports halls without any noted investment were built in the 1970's over 35 years ago- Fearnhill Sports Centre, Meridian School, and Princess Helena College.

Quality assessments

The limited level of investment at sites would, prior to inspection have led to an expectation that the quality of facilities would be low. However, non-technical site assessments have shown that there are no main sports halls rated as poor.

The facilities that were not assessed as part of this study are mainly too small to qualify as a main sports hall, i.e. less than three badminton courts in size. Assessors were not able to gain access to St Christopher School and the Princess Helena College.

Assessments that were completed showed that the majority of main sports halls were assessed as below average, both for the facility and changing facilities. The sports halls that are rated as good are at:

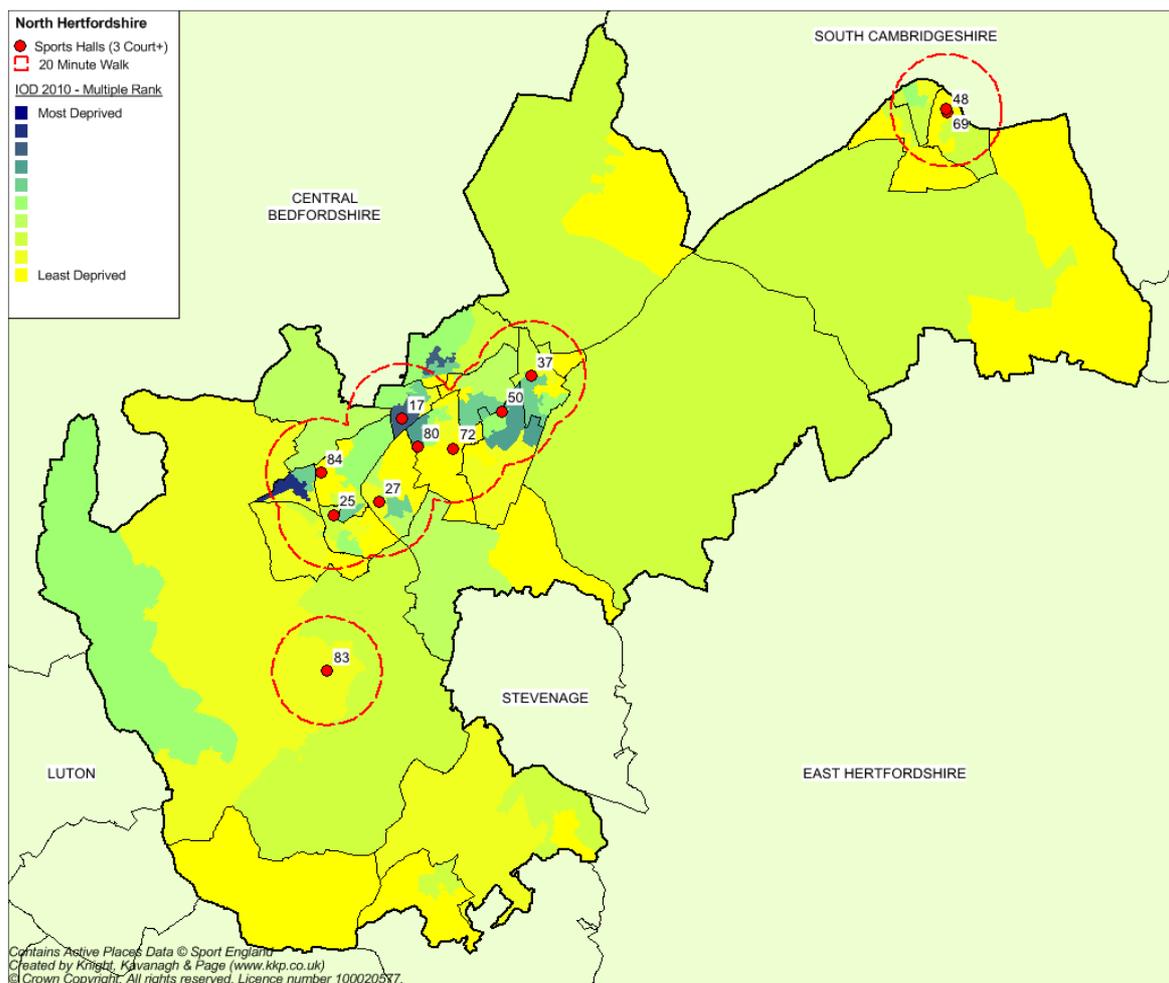
- ◀ Royston Leisure Centre
- ◀ The Highfield School, Letchworth

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Accessibility

Figure 4.3 below shows the current stock of main sports halls (regardless of ownership and access arrangements) with an amalgamated 20 minute walk-time catchment area.

Figure 4.3: Main sports halls (3 courts+) in North Hertfordshire, with a 20 minute walk time catchment, over IMD



It illustrates that the majority of the area's more deprived residential areas are served by sports halls of three courts or larger. Data in Table 4.3 shows that this is 81,198 residents, or 64.5% of the population that live within this catchment, meaning 35.5%, or 44,600 residents live outside of this catchment.

Of the residents of North Hertfordshire that live outside of the 20 minute walk time catchment of a main sports hall of 3 courts or more, over three quarters (78.1%) live within the 30% of least deprived wards in the country; therefore access may not be a significant challenge for these residents.

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Table 4.3: North Hertfordshire Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 populations within/outside 3 court+ sports halls with a 20 minute walk time catchment

IMD Rank Percent		Within		Outside	
		Population in band (mid-2010)	% Population in Band	Population in band (mid-2010)	% Popn. in Band
Most deprived	0-10	0	0%	0	0%
	10.1-20	1,491	1.8%	0	0%
	20.1-30	1,482	1.8%	1,754	3.9%
	30.1-40	3,917	4.8%	0	0%
Least deprived	40.1-50	10,843	13.4%	1,526	3.4%
	50.1-60	9,659	11.9%	2,897	6.5%
	60.1-70	5,369	6.6%	3,596	8.1%
	70.1-80	10,610	13.1%	12,293	27.6%
	80.1-90	13,734	16.9%	5,222	11.7%
	90.1-100	24,093	29.7%	17,323	38.8%
TOTAL		81198	100%	44611	100%

Health deprivation⁶

In terms of health deprivation specifically, just 7.9% of residents that fall outside of the catchment of a main sports hall, fall into the 50% most deprived wards in England. Or, 86.1% of residents outside the catchment live in the 30% least health deprived areas of the country. Nationally, inequalities in health remain large, even at older ages; in the least deprived areas people aged 80 to 84 reported better rates of health than those 20 years their junior in the most deprived areas.

⁶ ONS, February 2014, Detailed Analysis of Health Deprivation Divide Using The 2011 Census

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

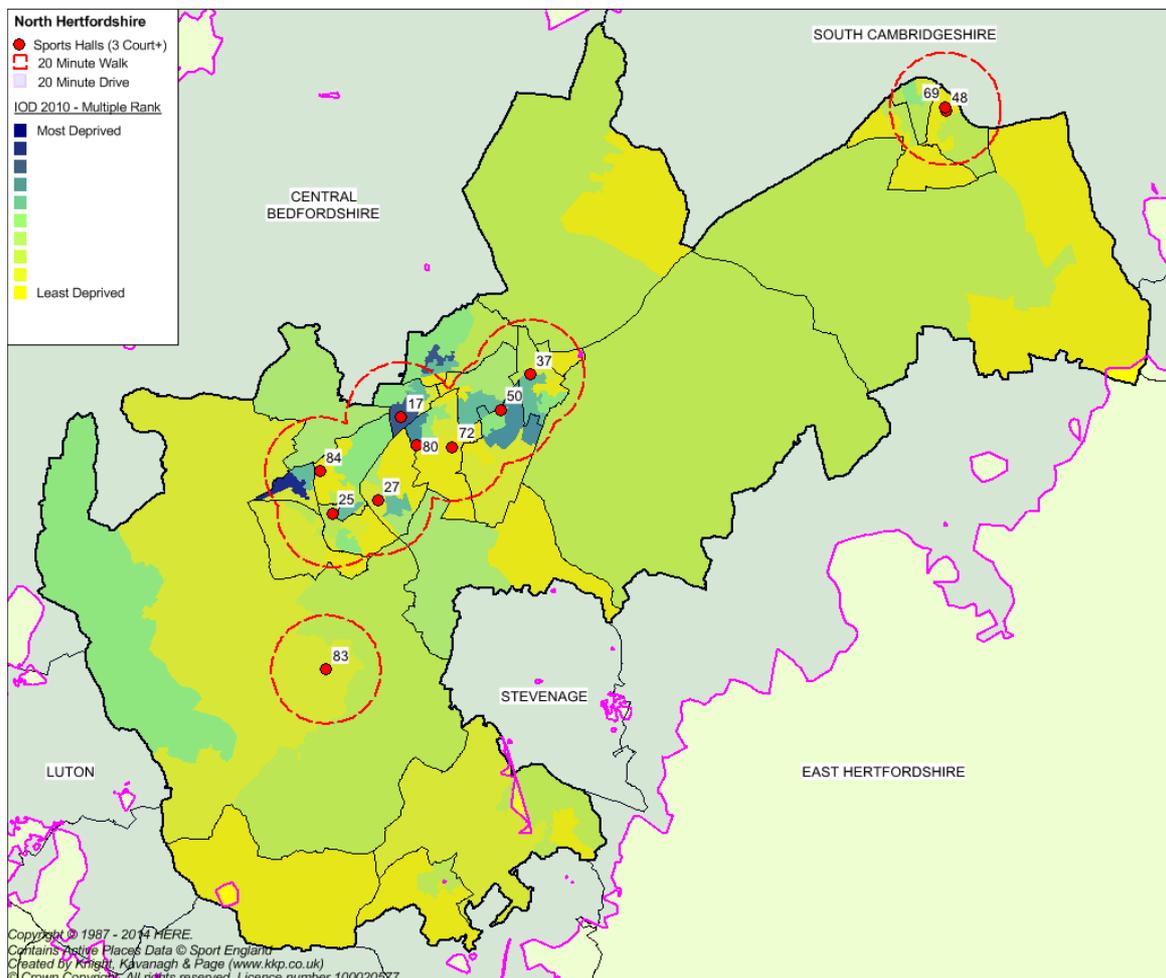
Table 4.4: North Hertfordshire Indices of Deprivation (Health) 2010 populations within/outside 3 court+ sports halls with a 20 minute walk time catchment

IMD Health Rank Percent		Within		Outside	
		Population in band (mid-2010)	% Population in Band	Population in band (mid-2010)	% Popn. in Band
Most deprived	0-10	0	0%	0	0%
	10.1-20	1,491	1.8%	1,754	3.9%
	20.1-30	0	0%	0	0%
	30.1-40	4,214	5.2%	0	0%
Least deprived	40.1-50	5,949	7.3%	1,526	3.4%
	50.1-60	10,865	13.4%	0	0%
	60.1-70	4,157	5.1%	2,936	6.6%
	70.1-80	19,756	24.3%	4,900	11%
	80.1-90	18,871	23.2%	10,513	23.6%
	90.1-100	15,895	19.6%	22,982	51.5%
TOTAL		81198	100%	44611	100%

Figure 4.4 below shows the current stock of sports halls (regardless of ownership and access arrangements) with an amalgamated 20 minute walk and 20 minute drive time catchment area.

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Figure 4.4: Main sports halls (3 courts+) in North Hertfordshire, with a 20 minute walk and 20 minute drive time catchment, over IMD



North Hertfordshire areas outside of the 3 court+ sports halls 20 minute drive catchment are highly rural in nature; they are sparsely populated and as might be expected for such areas a large majority of the land is given over to fields and woodland. The nationally approved source of data used to produce population estimates is based on groups of around 650 households (LSOAs⁷). Inevitably in rural areas this requires a large and widespread area of land for each LSOA. Consequently while some of the physical area for an LSOA will fall outside the 20 minute drive time it is very likely that the majority of houses will fall within the catchment, as such close to 100% of North Hertfordshire's population will fall within such a travel time.

⁷ Population estimates contained in the study use nationally recognised / Office for National Statistics data which is only released for Lower Super Output Areas. On average, each LSOA is comprised of around 650 households and in rural areas is inevitably spread across a large area. When producing statistics from the data they have been apportioned by the proportion of the LSOA falling within the drive time, although a large physical area may fall outside it is just as likely that all of the population will fall within the area.

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

Table 4.5: North Hertfordshire Indices of Deprivation (Health) 2010 populations within/outside 3 court+ sports halls with a 20 minute walk and 20 minute drive time catchment

IMD Rank Percent		North Hertfordshire		North Hertfordshire sports halls catchment populations by IMD			
		#	%	Population within		Population outside	
				#	%	#	%
Most deprived	0-10	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	10.1-20	1491	1.19%	1491	1.19%	0	0.00%
	20.1-30	3236	2.57%	3236	2.57%	0	0.00%
	30.1-40	3917	3.11%	3917	3.11%	0	0.00%
	40.1-50	12369	9.83%	12369	9.83%	0	0.00%
	50.1-60	12556	9.98%	12556	9.98%	0	0.00%
	60.1-70	8965	7.13%	8965	7.13%	0	0.00%
	70.1-80	22903	18.20%	22900	18.20%	3	0.00%
	80.1-90	18956	15.07%	18956	15.07%	0	0.00%
Least deprived	90.1-100	41416	32.92%	41344	32.86%	72	0.06%
TOTAL		125809	100.00%	125734	99.94%	75	0.06%

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Figure 4.5: Main sports halls (3 courts+) plus smaller sports halls in North Hertfordshire, with a 20 minute walk time catchment, over IMD

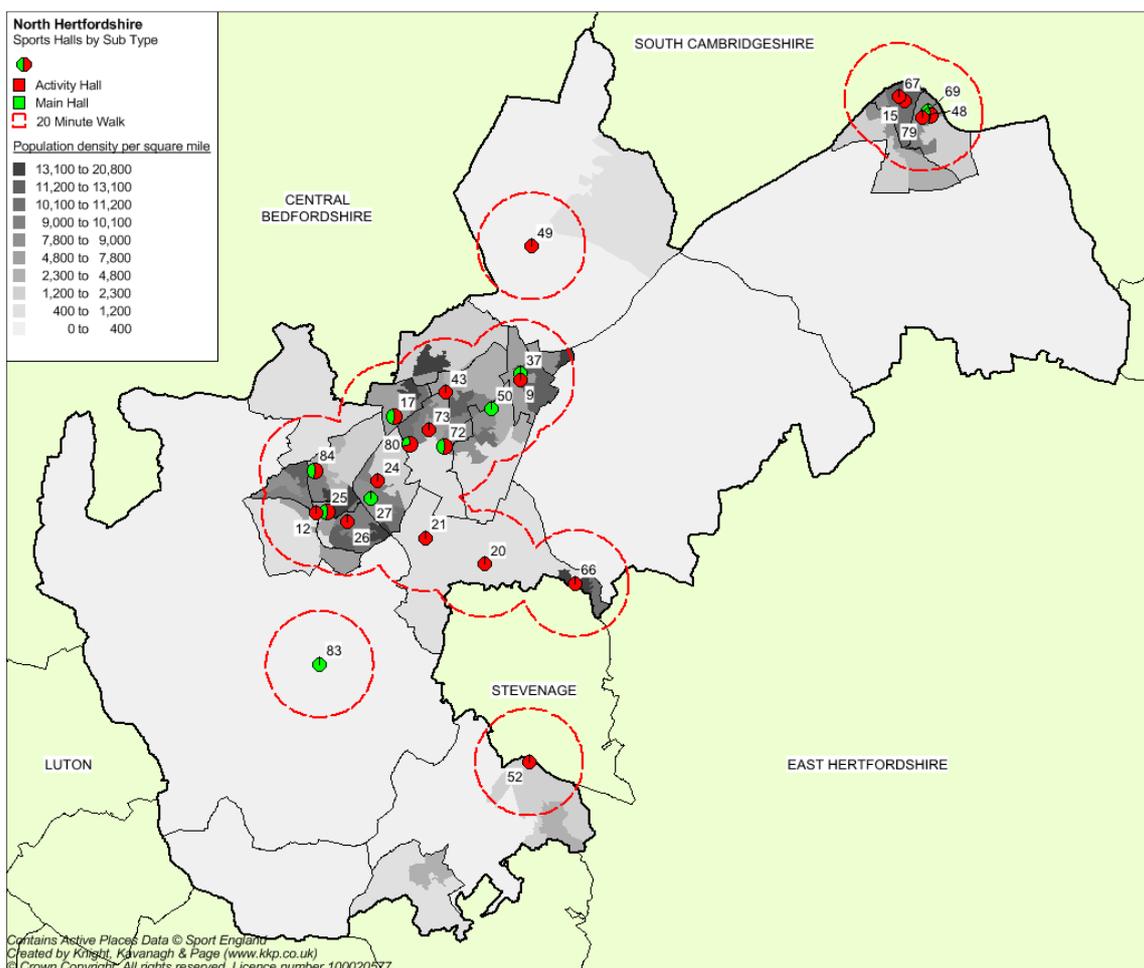


Figure 4.5 shows that the sports halls smaller than three courts in size, also provide a valuable contribution to the smaller communities in North Hertfordshire. These can provide facilities for badminton and multi-sport activities, as well as physical activities.

Facilities Planning Model

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by sports halls from residents who live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment of a hall (within or outside North Hertfordshire). The FPM calculates that 84.3% travel to a sports hall in North Hertfordshire by car, 10.8% travel by foot and 4.9% by public transport. The higher level of car ownership will explain why satisfied demand by car drivers is higher than the national figure. The location of sports halls within main urban areas also facilitates access on foot with nearly 11% of users expected to walk to sports halls.

The majority (75%) of the satisfied demand from North Hertfordshire residents is met by sports hall provision within the authority (retained demand). The remaining demand (25%) is met by visits being exported to neighbouring local authority halls and amounts to almost 1,388 visits per week in the peak period.

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Unmet demand is demand for sports halls that cannot be met because there is too much demand for any particular hall within its catchment area (insufficient capacity) or the demand is located outside the catchment area of any sports hall (poor accessibility). The FPM indicates that of the unmet demand in North Hertfordshire (5.5% or 322 visits per week in the peak period), is almost entirely (91%) caused by poor accessibility (only 9% of unmet demand is caused by lack of capacity). Of that 91% of visits that are unmet, 10% are residents have access to a car and 82.5% do not. The majority of unmet demand is therefore caused by sports halls being outside of the walk catchments of residents reliant on walking to access the halls.

Availability

Management and ownership

Of the eleven main sports halls, nine are located on educational sites. Whilst these currently offer public access it is not sure if any of this is protected / guaranteed through community use agreements. As such this potentially places the long term guaranteed access by the community at risk; especially in light of increasing numbers of schools (throughout the country) transferring to academy status.

The other two main sports halls are at Royston Leisure Centre and North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, both local authority owned sites, operated by Stevenage Leisure Ltd (SLL).

Accessibility type

All sports halls are recorded as offering either Pay and Play or Sports Club/ Community Association use. The sports halls located on school sites have challenges in providing access for the community during the school day. This is understandable in most instances and is predominantly a safeguarding issue.

Local availability issues

North Hertfordshire District Council stipulates in its contract with Stevenage Leisure Limited that 50% of the sports hall provision must be available for pay and play during the peak period. SLL programmes sports halls to ensure that it has a balanced programme with 50% of the whole time available for casual bookings, alongside block bookings and centre programmes.

Fearnhill School/ Fearnhill Sports Centre and Knights Templar School/ Knights Templar Sports Centre are both dual use facilities which are managed by Stevenage Leisure Limited outside of school hours, providing facilities for community use.

Other schools with main sports halls show commitment to providing community access to facilities; however there are no community use agreements in place. St Christopher School and Princess Helena College do have community groups using the facilities; however the information is limited as neither school engaged with this study. Most schools that responded did report a high level of demand for the facilities, the only facility that did not was the Meridian School which explained that the low levels of demand are due to the neighbouring Royston Leisure Centre.

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Summary of supply

There are 22 sports halls with at least one badminton court in North Hertfordshire; of these 11 have three courts or more. All eleven main halls are available for community use; however this is limited on the nine sites that are located at educational establishments due to curriculum and extracurricular demand from the schools. This also has limitations at local authority sites, which has a policy to ensure that half the badminton courts are available for pay and play access.

The FPM identifies 3 activity halls located on sites with main sports halls.

The majority of sports halls with three courts or more are located in the more densely populated areas. The age of the sports hall stock varies, however it is noticeable that many of the facilities are old with an apparent lack of refurbishment. The limited level of investment at sites would, prior to inspection have led to an expectation that the quality of facilities would be low. However non-technical site assessments have shown that there are no main sports halls rated as poor and just two rated as good.

64.5% of residents are within a 20 minute walk of a sports hall and of those living outside of the catchment; over three quarters live in the top 30% of least deprived wards in the country.

Sport England's FPM confirms that there are 3.71 courts per 10,000 population in North Hertfordshire. This is lower than regional and national figures (3.91 and 3.91) and also lower than comparative local authorities- Dacorum (3.96) and East Hertfordshire (4.43).

4.2 Demand

The adult (14+) participation rate in sport, of at least once per week, in North Hertfordshire is 40.3% (Active People Survey 7- 2012/13). This is higher than the regional (35.1%) and national (35.7%) rate. Based upon this measure at least, it would suggest that residents of North Hertfordshire are more active than their regional and national counterparts.

Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies 2,305 people currently participating in badminton in North Hertfordshire, 597 in basketball, 447 in netball and 439 in volleyball.

A number of club hirers at facilities such as Royston and North Hertfordshire leisure centres require additional time to meet demand and increase participation within the clubs.

Future demand

Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies a further 1,947 that state that they would like to begin participating in badminton in the future, 383 in basketball, 393 in netball and 110 in volleyball; indicating a potential future growth in demand.

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Projected population changes to 2024 show that there will be:

- ◀ +3,347 (+13.1%) more 0-15 year olds; and
- ◀ -547 (-2.8%) fewer 45-54 year olds; and
- ◀ +3,956 (+26.7%) more 55-64 year olds; and
- ◀ +5,635 (+23.6%) more people aged 65+.

The two age groups with the largest increase are 55-64 year olds and the 65+ age group. The Sport England market segments that fit this age profile do not point to a major interest in sports hall sports. However, the younger age group increase (0 – 15 year olds) will increase demand for sports halls from both an education and community use perspective.

Facilities Planning Model

The FPM is based on the calculated demand as outlined below; data is taken from the Strategic Assessment of need for Sports Hall Provision in North Hertfordshire 2014.

Table 4.5: Facilities Planning Model- demand for sports halls in North Hertfordshire

	North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
				Dacorum	East Herts
Population	131,061	6,039,771	54,472,081	147,948	141,772
Visits demanded- visits per week in the peak period	5,823	269,947	2,483,519	6,586	6,310
Equivalent in courts – with comfort factor included	35.94	1,666.34	15,330.36	40.65	38.95
% of population without access to a car	15.7	17.7	24.9	15.6	11.9

The demand generated for sports hall provision from the resident population of North Hertfordshire (>131,000 people) is around 5,823 visits per week in the peak period, the equivalent of about 36 courts (this includes the application of a comfort factor.)

Demand is also influenced by accessibility and the mobility of local residents. Car ownership or accessibility by local residents to a car is relatively high in North Hertfordshire with only around 16% of the population not having access to a car. This is lower than the national, regional and county averages. The population is therefore relatively mobile (although in a rural area access to a car is more important) which will increase the choice of sports halls that residents are able to access – based on the 20 minute drive time catchment area.

It should be noted that the FPM makes a number of assumptions about the hours of available for community use in the peak period. The assessment and site visits highlight that the availability of the local authority sports halls is not typical in terms of accessibility types, due to the 50% availability for casual use. Therefore, the FPM data is slightly skewed and does not account for the limited availability for the hirer to utilise the whole hall space at all times. Any assumptions made from this data need to be considered in this context.

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Utilised capacity

Used capacity estimates the throughput at sports halls and indicates how well used/how full facilities are and where users are likely to come from. The FPM is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which a sports hall is too full. The FPM assumes that usage over 80% of capacity is busy and the hall is operating at an uncomfortable level.

The total number of visits to sports halls in North Hertfordshire is 5,361 visits per week in the peak period (VPWPP) (compared with 7,146 vpwpp total capacity) and this equates to around 75% of the total capacity of the North Hertfordshire sports halls being used which is just below the 'comfort level' of 80%. This indicates relatively good overall usage of facilities.

However the 75% usage level is an average and does mask some variation between facilities. The table below shows that there are two sports halls that appear to be particularly underutilised; Meridian School and Princess Helena College. Both are older facilities (built 1970s) and do not appear to have been recently refurbished therefore the model also assumes they are less attractive.

Table 4.6: Facilities Planning Model- Utilised capacity in sports halls in North Hertfordshire

Facility	% Capacity Used	Facility Capacity Used (VPWPP)
Fearnhill Sports Centre	92%	676
Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre	77%	490
Hitchin Sports Centre	87%	663
Knights Templar Sports Centre	100%	690
Meridian School	36%	297
North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre	100%	760
Royston Leisure Centre	100%	760
The Highfield School	64%	518
The Princess Helena College	19%	106
The Priory School	66%	401

Three sports halls are projected to be operating at 100% at peak times (Knights Templar, North Hertfordshire and Royston Leisure Centres), i.e. totally full and are turning demand away due to lack of capacity (in particular the model assumes that Knights Templar Sports Centre turns some 250 vpwpp away). Fearnhill and Hitchin Sports Centres and Priory School also operate above the comfort factor of 80%. Therefore, with the exception of the older (less attractive) sports halls, the stock appears to be relatively busy with perhaps a case for upgrading/replacing older sports halls to spread the load more evenly and reduce overuse at some halls that appear too busy.

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Imported and exported demand

In terms of who uses the North Hertfordshire halls the FPM data indicates that some 77% of users are North Hertfordshire residents and that around 1,248 vpwpp are from people who live outside the District (23% of visits are imported). This, alongside the Satisfied Demand data, indicates that there are cross boundary movements both in and out of North Hertfordshire but North Hertfordshire is a net exporter of demand (1,248 vpwpp imported v 1,388 vpwpp exported).

The Luton Council Indoor Facilities Needs Assessment (2015) highlights that both Central Bedfordshire and Luton have unmet demand for sports halls and the development of any new facilities should involve engagement with these partners to ensure maximum sporting benefit and impact.

A similar recent study in Stevenage (Open Space Strategy 2015) has also shown a deficiency in sports hall provision, which, due to the functional nature of the relationship between the towns in the two authorities, may have implications for facilities in North Hertfordshire.

4.3 Consultation

Consultation was undertaken with a number of key NGBs plus other relevant partners across the District to inform this report. A summary of the main consultees relevant to sports halls is listed below.

The Football Association

The FA currently employs a full time futsal development officer and North Hertfordshire is a priority area for this. Futsal is a small sided version of football, played inside. There are currently no facilities available to hire for additional futsal activity. Clubs regularly enquire about availability of facilities as they look to extend sessions and there is frustration at the lack of available space in North Hertfordshire.

There is a large growth of futsal in the surrounding areas of both youth/adult participation and leagues. The potential for growth of the sport in North Hertfordshire is significant and there is funding in place for strategic growth of the game. Ideally an additional 20 hours of hall space in North Hertfordshire for futsal would support this growth. The FA identified that Letchworth Garden City Eagles is a large club locally with the potential to create a number of teams.

England Netball

There is very limited access to good quality sports halls appropriate for netball in North Hertfordshire by virtue of the heavy use for badminton and football. Therefore, clubs tend to use outdoor facilities or move to facilities in other areas like Stevenage. There is a high demand for additional sports hall space for training and competition, and England Netball is keen to further develop participation programmes in the District including Back to Netball alongside Pay & Play sessions. Current access is expensive for the quality of the facility and netball is not a prioritised sport at any venue. Clubs have both junior and senior waiting lists as they cannot currently accommodate the demand due to lack of quality indoor training facilities.

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The County is home to a Super League franchise - Hertfordshire Mavericks, which play home fixtures at Hertfordshire Sports Village in the neighbouring borough of Welwyn Hatfield.

There are a number of different leagues around the North Hertfordshire area. Teams from the District travel to play in competitions. Central venue leagues include those in Bedford (Bedford and District Netball League), Stevenage (Herts Indoor Netball League, Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre), East Hertfordshire (Hertford District League, Ware and Bishops Stortford District Netball League) and St Albans (St Albans Indoor Netball League, Marlborough School). There is no central venue league in North Hertfordshire.

Badminton England

The Badminton England National Strategy has a particular focus on Community Sport Networks, Smash Up sites and Play Badminton sites. Smash Up is Badminton England's youth participation initiative.

No Strings Badminton is pay and play activity for 16+ age. In North Hertfordshire No Strings is offered at Hitchin Sports Centre and Royston Leisure Centre. There isn't any recorded Smash Up Badminton in the area yet. Although take up of the NGB initiatives is lower than other areas, the provision of pay and play or casual badminton is offered in many sports halls and demand is high.

Badminton England recognises the good work done by clubs in the area and supports them; however, there is a relatively low take up of NGB initiatives in the area. Badminton England recognise the work and good relationship with SLL and would like to see SLL take a more proactive approach to developing initiatives such as 'No Strings Badminton' but appreciates that the availability of courts has an impact on this.

The leagues generally operate on a home and away basis for fixtures, so a club will replace training nights with matches to ensure the consistent weekly booking of a sports hall. Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre is well used by a number of badminton clubs, this could be due to the badminton focus of the facility, and sprung wood floor and halogen lighting, it meets top national standards for badminton.

There is a general need for more/improved badminton facilities in North Hertfordshire. For example, Fearnhill Sports Centre needs its floors upgrading to meet Badminton England specifications, Royston Sports Centre would require repainting to be complaint, and general standard of North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre does not meet requirements in numerous ways (e.g. safety margins are inadequate and the flooring is too hard). A portion of badminton activity is held at Letchworth Sports and Tennis Centre due to lack of (adequate) facilities elsewhere.

Basketball England

The main focus of basketball in Hertfordshire is currently Hertfordshire Warriors Basketball Club, where Basketball England has recently invested £400,000 in their facility. Hertfordshire Warriors BC are based in Hertsmere Borough. In comparison North Hertfordshire is not an area where basketball is strong, there are no sports halls with 5 or even 8-10 courts, which is what basketball would require ideally and as the governing body has limited resources, for this reason is not a priority area.

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Volleyball England

Areas in the locality that are active for volleyball are St Albans and Watford. St Albans is home to the 2012 London Olympics beach volleyball court, which was moved to the Club as part of the Olympic Legacy. North Hertfordshire is not an authority area where volleyball is active, so it is currently not a focus for Volleyball England. Should there be any demand created for the sport in the area then the NGB would be very supportive of this.

England and Wales Cricket Board

The ECB suggest that for adult cricket in North Hertfordshire there are three main offerings; Saturday, Sunday and midweek cricket. The youth league structure tends to be largely club based matches which are played mid-week.

Access to cricket nets is important, particularly for pre-season/winter training. Four clubs in North Hertfordshire report a demand for additional training facilities on site, all of which state a need for improved or new practice nets and/or a mobile net. The majority of clubs accessing pitches without practice nets tend to use school sports halls for training. This can be expensive and difficult to organise as sports halls can be booked up. The ECB would be keen to work with the education sector and implement practice nets where possible at sites such as Knight Templar Sports Centre, Fearnhill Sports Centre, and Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre.

Summary of demand

Active People Survey data suggests that participation rates in North Hertfordshire are slightly higher than regional and national averages, which may place additional demand on sports facility usage. The predicted increase in population, once broken down by age group, is unlikely to have a major impact on sports hall sports.

The Sport England FPM suggests a demand for an equivalent of 36 badminton courts of sports halls in the peak period. However, as consultation will demonstrate, local clubs would like additional sports hall time to expand sessions and increase participation in various sports. Access to sports hall space is limited as some are located on education sites, which are used during the week day by schools and the college.

The FA report a demand for sports hall space that cannot be accommodated by current sports halls in the area. Futsal is a current major growth area that is currently limited by facilities available in the area. Badminton England also reports a lack of adequate facilities suitable and available for badminton activity in the area, investment is necessary to bring some facilities up to standard. There is unmet demand for training facilities for a number of netball clubs in the area, which is limiting growth of clubs. The ECB would welcome the development of accessible cricket nets in sports halls, particularly on educational sites, to satisfy demand from clubs locally.

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4.4 Supply and demand analysis⁸

Table 4.8: Supply and demand balance in North Hertfordshire, taken from the FPM

	North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
				Dacorum	East Herts
Supply: sports halls (courts) scaled to take account of hours available for community use	35.29	1,862.49	16,317.16	45.06	46.42
Demand- Sports hall provision (courts) taking into account a 'comfort' factor	35.94	1,666.34	15,330.36	40.65	38.95
Supply / Demand balance	-0.65	196.15	986.80	4.41	7.47

When looking at a very crude picture of the overall supply and demand across North Hertfordshire the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of about 36 courts. This compares to a current available supply of about 35 courts. This leaves an apparent shortfall of one court.

The data therefore indicates in a very simplistic way that North Hertfordshire appears to have 1 less court than is required to meet its own needs. However, it is important to note that the supply and demand balance section of the report only provides a 'global' view of provision – it compares demand generated within North Hertfordshire with the supply of sports halls in North Hertfordshire. It does not account of the catchment areas of sports halls in neighbouring authorities extending into North Hertfordshire, which will be important when assessing the 20 minute drive to catchment. Most importantly it does not take into account the propensity/reasons for residents using facilities outside their own District. The reason for presenting the supply and demand balance is because some local authorities like to see how their total supply of sports halls compares with their total demand for hall usage.

As previously mentioned, some neighbouring local authority area studies suggest that they do not have sufficient supply to meet demand in their area. This can have an impact on North Hertfordshire facilities. If neighbouring sports halls are full then neighbouring residents will look outside of their local authority area to access facilities, potentially increasing demand on North Hertfordshire sports halls.

⁸ Strategic Assessment of need for Sports Hall Provision in North Hertfordshire 2014

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Table 4.9: Satisfied demand- demand from North Hertfordshire residents currently being met by supply

		North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
					Dacorum	East Herts
Total number of visits which are met		5,501	248,602	2,263,744	6,254	5,959
% of total demand satisfied		94.5	92.1	91.2	95	94.4
% of demand satisfied who travelled by	car	84.3	83.5	77	83.6	88.1
	foot	10.8	11.2	15.4	11.2	8.3
	public transport	4.9	5.3	7.6	5.2	3.6
Demand retained		4,113	243,403	2,262,834	5,260	4,751
Demand retained -as a % of satisfied demand		74.8	97.9	100	84.1	79.7
Demand exported		1,388	5,199	910	994	1,208
Demand exported -as a % of satisfied demand		25.2	2.1	0	15.9	20.3

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by halls from residents who live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment of a hall (within or outside North Hertfordshire). The FPM calculates that 94.5% of the total demand for sports halls in North Hertfordshire is satisfied, which equates to around 5,500 visits per week in the peak period. This level of satisfied demand is similar to local comparator authorities but higher than the national (91.2%) and regional (92.1%) figure.

Unmet demand is demand for sports halls that cannot be met because there is too much demand for any particular hall within its catchment area (insufficient capacity) or the demand is located outside the catchment area of any sports hall (poor accessibility).

The modelling results indicate that unmet demand is 5.5% (322 visits per week in the peak period) and almost entirely (91%) caused by poor accessibility (only 9% of unmet demand is caused by lack of capacity). Of that 91% of visits that are unmet, 10% are residents who have access to a car and 82.5% do not. The majority of unmet demand is therefore caused by sports halls being outside of the walk catchments of residents reliant on walking to access the halls.

However, consultation with local service providers and NGBs has indicated that programmes and initiatives cannot be accommodated due to capacity issues and high levels of demand for facilities, i.e. facilities are already full. This is reflected in a population with a high propensity to participate in physical activity.

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Sports Facilities Calculator

The Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) has been created by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities, is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas.

Whilst the SFC can be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations, such as for the whole of North Hertfordshire District Council, there are dangers in how these figures are subsequently used. The SFC should not be used for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension. It is important to note that the SFC does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand
- ◀ Travel networks and topography
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities

The following table indicates the results from the predicted ONS estimates for the District up to 2037.

Table 4.7: Sports Facilities Calculator- estimated future demand on sports halls with ONS population predications

	North Hertfordshire increase in population estimates 2037	SFC demand estimate
ONS predicted population increase	31,573	9.63 courts

Should there be increases in population in line with ONS projections there will be a resultant increase in demand for sports facilities, including sports halls. The Sports Facilities Calculator predicts that the predicted future population will result in a demand for 9.63 additional courts worth of sports hall space.

The SFC does not take into account a number of factors, as previously outlined; therefore this conclusion should be treated with caution. The SFC is just one tool to build a picture and consultation suggests that this is not in fact the case. There are a number of sports halls that will not be available during the day time due to school or college access. In addition, three courts- Fearnhill Sports Centre, Meridian School, and Princess Helena College, were built over 35 years ago, with no notable investment since, which would suggest the quality is not as good as other sports halls in the area, which affects the calculations.

4.5 Summary

A number of different tools have been used to determine that North Hertfordshire appears to have an undersupply of quality and available sports halls in terms of numbers, capacity and distribution. Some stock, in particular changing rooms, is generally old and would benefit from investment. A number of clubs would like to access additional sports hall time in order to increase capacity and participation in various sports. National governing bodies identify a lack of access to sports halls as restricting participation initiatives and potential development of new teams (futsal and netball in particular). Currently clubs and participation initiatives are both restricted from further development by lack of sports hall space. This is reported by the FA, England Netball and Badminton England. Users also report demand for additional sports hall space.

FPM data suggests, in simplistic terms, that North Hertfordshire currently has one less court worth of sports hall space than it requires to meet population demands. The Sports Facility Calculator in Table 4.7 suggests that future population increase will result in an increased demand for an additional 9.63 badminton courts worth of sports hall space. Sport England Market Segmentation data suggests that the population is more active than the national average and there is additional demand for sports hall sports currently, and this is set to increase with population. This would result in an increased demand on sports halls.

Satisfied demand is high at 94.5% and unmet demand is correspondingly low, thinly spread across the local authority area and mainly due to poor access for those unable to walk to a sports hall due to catchment distance. Surrounding areas also highlight a large amount of unmet demand for sports halls, i.e. in Luton and Stevenage, which could have implications for supply in North Hertfordshire.

In addition, some sports halls are operating well above the recommended comfortable level of usage – i.e. in reality some sports halls will be too busy at peak times to absorb demand.

Taking on board the fact that there appears to be an under supply of sports halls, and clubs have identified demand for more space; it would appear that there is a need for additional community provision. North Hertfordshire does have a large number of parishes, many of who provide smaller indoor activity halls. Although these facilities are too small to be considered as main sports hall provision, it is important to recognise their value for community activity.

This need for additional provision could be achieved by ensuring access to existing facilities that are currently unavailable prior to considering the provision of additional facilities. In particular, Highfield School has relatively limited community hours and increasing the availability of this facility would help relieve pressure in this part of the district. SLL has already pushed 5-a-side football to the fringes of the programme; therefore, this approach could be adopted at other sports hall sites to enable the development of participation initiatives.

SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

A swimming pool can be defined as an “enclosed area of water, specifically maintained for all forms of water based sport and recreation”. It includes indoor and outdoor pools, freeform leisure pools and specific diving tanks used for general swimming, teaching, training and diving.

Many small pools are used solely for recreational swimming and, as a consequence, competition design standards/requirements are not relevant. It is generally recommended that standard dimensions should be used to allow appropriate levels of competition and training and to help meet safety standards. However, relatively few pools need to be designed to full competition standards or include spectator facilities.

Single community pools should have a minimum shallow water depth of 0.9 m (if there is no learner pool) and a deep end of 1.8 m or 2.0 m. Where a learner/teaching/training pool is provided, the shallow water depth of the main pool should be increased to 1.0 m in order to better cope with tumble turns.

Training for competition, low-level synchronised swimming, and water polo can all take place in a 25 m pool, and with modest spectator seating, the pool will also be able to accommodate competitive events in these activities. Diving from boards, advanced synchronised swimming and more advanced sub-aqua training require deeper water. These can all be accommodated in one pool tank, which ideally should be in addition to the main swimming pool. A dedicated tank for deep-water use may be an essential requirement for some activities at certain levels of competition.

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo is the Amateur Swimming Association.

5.1 Supply

Quantity

Operational facilities

There are 13 swimming pools identified in North Hertfordshire. Six of these are classified as main swimming pools. There are also five classified as lidos. The largest main pool is at Hitchin Swimming Centre & Fitness @ Archers Hitchin. A list of all swimming pools can be found in Table 5.1.

Facilities not in operation

There is a pool at the Meridian School, which closed in 2011 due to high running costs. In addition, Royston Leisure Centre was opened close by. The school has applied to demolish the building and redevelop as a multipurpose space. The school is currently waiting on a decision from the Education Funding Agency. Therefore, this pool has not been included in any of the following analysis.

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Table 5.1: Swimming pools in North Hertfordshire⁹ - main pools highlighted grey.

Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb	No of Lanes	Width (m)	Length (m)	Area (m ²)	Min depth (m)	Max depth (m)	Condition	
															Pool	Changing
28	1003817	Hitchin Swimming Centre & Fitness @ Archers Hitchin, Hitchin	2011733	Main/General	Pay and Play	Yes	1990		8	17	25	425	0.9	2	Above average	Good
			2011734	Lido			1938	2008	8	19	50	950	0.9	2.75	Below average	Below average
			2021933	Learner/Teaching / Training			1990		0	7.5	12.5	93.75	0.5	0.8	Above average	Good
			2040168	Lido			1938	2008	0	9	19	171	0.5	0.7	Below average	Below average

Local authority facility, managed by SLL. Parking is pay and display and limited, members receive a parking permit. As the facility is adjacent to a football club, parking becomes a particular issue on match days; however members are able to use the Club car park at other times. The centre has approximately 3000 members over all, hence parking issue.

The indoor pool area is becoming tired looking. Poolside seating is scheduled to be replaced in 2016. The integrity of the poolside tiling appears to be good with no signs of patch replacements. The pool hall would benefit from improved lighting as this would 'lift' the hall and create a better environment.

Wet changing is good quality following significant recent investment. Hitchin Swimming Club is based at this facility. The Club would like additional pool time to expand capacity of the club and the newly developed water polo section. The local triathlon club also hires the pool. The facility runs swimming lessons for approx. 30 schools and also delivers Top Up swimming. SLL has a waiting list community swimming lessons.

The lido is open May- September and is highly valued by the local community. The Council has recently invested £20,000 to rectify the bulging sides of the pool. There is high demand for the pool when the weather is good, but this is very weather dependent. Hitchin SC and the tri club sometimes move sessions outside when the lido is available; it is also used for school galas. The outside changing is old fashioned and does not represent a high quality offering. There are areas of deterioration of the pool surrounding due to wear and tear; paving is uneven and cracked in places and there are signs of further investment requirements (e.g. brick work, rusting, etc.). However, the lido is well cared for and does provide a different offer for residents throughout the summer months.

⁹ Source: Active Places / KKP Field Research

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb	No of Lanes	Width (m)	Length (m)	Area (m ²)	Min depth (m)	Max depth (m)	Condition	
															Pool	Changing
39	1008146	Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre, Letchworth	2014132	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Yes	2003	2012	3	8	20	160	1.2	1.2	Good	Good
A Nuffield Health wellbeing facility, offering various membership packages starting from £56 per month. Parking available for members.																
42	1003824	Letchworth Outdoor Pool, Letchworth	2011743	Lido	Pay and Play	Yes	1935	2008	9	18.5	50	925	0.6	2.75	Above average	Above average
			2011744	Lido		Yes	1935	2008	0	7	18	126	0.2	0.6	Above average	Above average
Local authority owned and SLL operated, open May- September. When open the demand is high, particularly in good weather. 2013 saw over 33,000 visits. Predominantly for casual swimming, season tickets are available. There is a maximum pricing policy in operation to ensure tickets do not exceed a certain amount. As long as the lido does not incur any major repair costs then its future is secure in the short term. Schools use extensively for lessons in June/July and Letchworth Amateur Swimming Club relocate some sessions from the adjacent North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre. The lido is used for a number of events including the Club swimming Championships and duathlon/triathlon competitions. Consultation suggests that SLL is maximising the use of the lido.																
50	1003828	North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, Letchworth	2011747	Leisure Pool	Pay and Play	Yes	1982		6	25	33	825	0	1.8	Above average	Below average
<p>The centre is 34 years old and investment has been made in a new plant room in 2009. The pool has been operated by SLL since 2005. Although it is a leisure pool (with a beach end and wave machine) it also has a 6 lane 25m main tank within it. The flume goes into its own plunge pool and is only used during weekends and school holidays. The pool does not have a clear area for teaching swimming where the instructor can teach from poolside.</p> <p>Up to four schools use the pool for school swimming lessons; a local special needs school use the pool daily. The facility delivers Top Up swimming lessons. The contractor has an obligation to ensure that 50% of the pool must be available for casual use; however, Letchworth Amateur Swimming Club is based at the pool and has exclusive use for 2.5 hours per week. There are four other clubs based at the pool, namely: Pisces Swim Club, Baldock Canoe Club, Freedom Tri Club and the water polo club.</p> <p>A technical feasibility assessment of the swimming pool was undertaken and the key recommendation was to invest in a new teaching pool rather than reconfigure the main pool area (i.e. this was the most cost effective solution). The Council has recently received planning permission to develop this and to expand its car park provision on the site (in partnership with the neighbouring Rugby club). However, it should also be recognised that the main pool hall is dated and the provision of the new small</p>																

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Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb	No of Lanes	Width (m)	Length (m)	Area (m ²)	Min depth (m)	Max depth (m)	Condition	
															Pool	Changing
pool will only accentuate the need for further investment to improve the quality of the facility.																
52	1000919	Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth), Stevenage	2010280	Main/General	Registered Membership use	Yes	1983	2002	0	12	25	300	1.2	1.2	Not assessed-not available for consultation or site visit	
Originally The Kodak Sports and Social Club, this site has changed hands and named until purchased by Odyssey in 2000 and received a £1 million investment. Now a members club, there are a number of membership options. The Club run aqua classes, swimming lessons and an in house swimming club.																
69	1003829	Royston Leisure Centre, Royston	2011748	Main/General	Pay and Play	Yes	2005		6	13	25	325	1	1.8	Good	Good
Local authority facility, operated by SLL since opening in 2005. SLL is contractually obliged to provide 50% of pool space at all times for casual swimmers. This causes an issue for the main hirer of the pool - Royston Swimming Club, as this limits pool time available which means the Club is currently operating at capacity, whilst in theory the other half of the pool could remain empty. SLL and the Club both offer swimming lessons, which competes for business. Used well by schools during the week. Neighbouring Greneway school use for 8 hours per week and five other schools hire for an hour a week. The pool temperature is 28.6c but some users would like it warmer. SLL currently surveying users. AHU and plant equipment is of good quality and serviced. The wet changing facilities are good quality and were partly refurbished in 2014. They include two group changing areas, male, female and disabled changing. Complete locker refurbishment is planned for 2015. In addition it is planned to install LED lights in the pool area. A learner pool would provide a considerable resource to the facility and make a large impact on swimming lesson waiting lists. SLL is currently developing its Sport England funded 'Make your move' programme targeted at those aged 50+. This should see an increase in use by this particular age group at the facility.																
72	1003834	St Christopher School, Letchworth	2011752	Main/General	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1999		4	9	25	225	1	1.8	Not assessed- school not available for consultation or site visit	
An independent school for children from 3-18 years. School runs a swim school open to members of the public. This includes swimming lessons. Pool is also used by Hitchin Swimming Club for eight sessions per week. It is understood that the school shows commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.																

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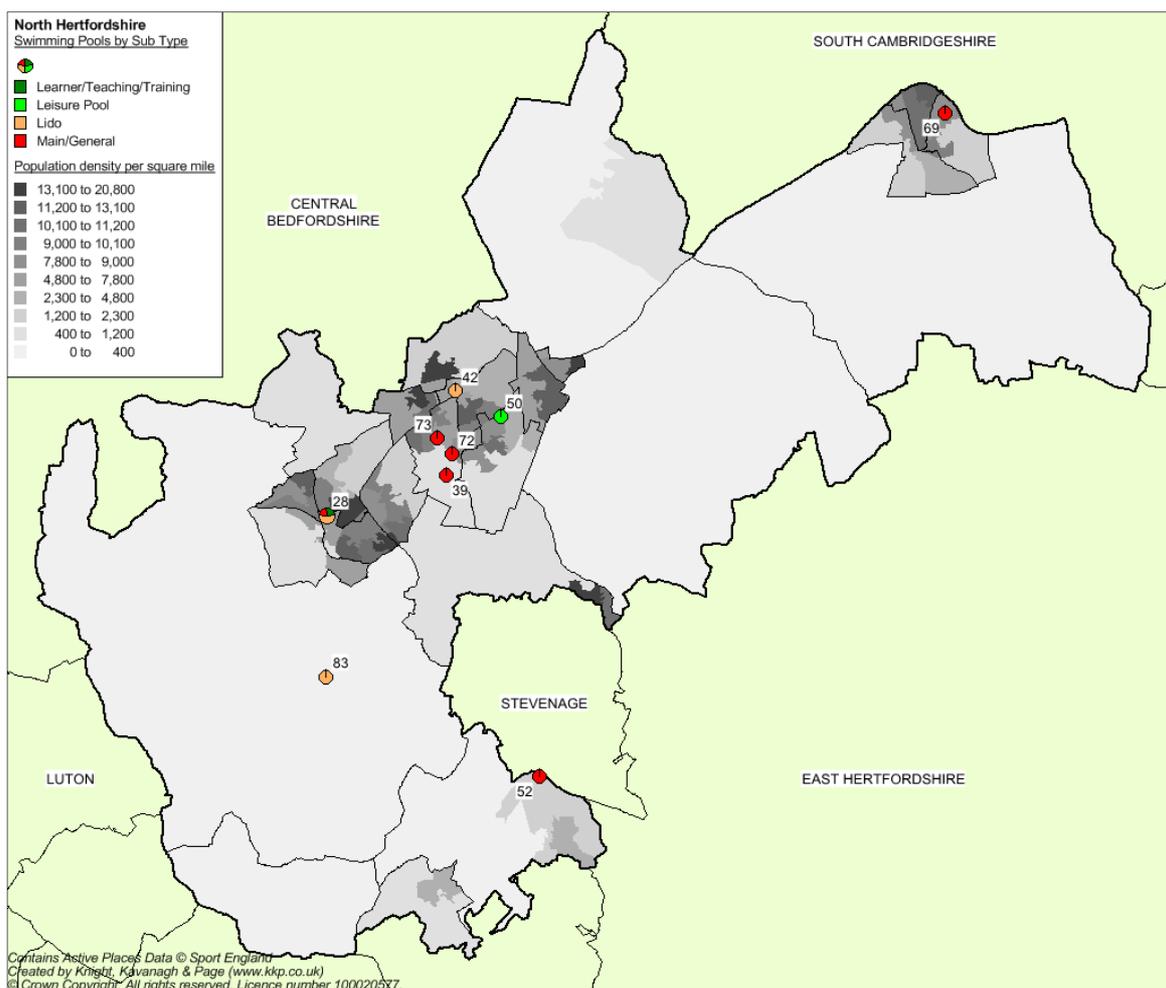
Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Year Built	Refurb	No of Lanes	Width (m)	Length (m)	Area (m ²)	Min depth (m)	Max depth (m)	Condition	
															Pool	Changing
73	1203910	St Francis College, Letchworth	2212088	Main/General	Sports Club /Community Association use	Yes	1970	2007	4	5	20	100	0.9		Good	Below average
<p>A day and boarding school for girls age 3-18, run by a Trust. The pool is used extensively for curriculum and extra- curricular activity, including four local primary schools. Swimming lessons are also offered. There is some daytime use available when the school is not using the facility. There is a current waiting list for community use. School maintenance team completes all maintenance and water testing. School is aiming to fund the refurbishment of the wet changing facilities in the near future. School commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.</p>																
83	1204540	The Princess Helena College, Hitchin	2214921	Lido	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	1976		3	7	30	210	1	2	Not assessed- school not available for consultation	
<p>This is an independent boarding and day school for girls age 11-18. An outdoor heated swimming pool. It is understood that the school shows commitment to community use, but no formal community use agreement in place.</p>																

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As Figure 5.1 below illustrates, the more highly populated areas are serviced by a main swimming pool; with Royston Leisure Centre (69) in the east and Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth) (52) in the south.

There are three main pools in the Letchworth area- Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre (39), St Christopher School (72) and St Francis College (73).

Figure 5.1: Swimming pools in North Hertfordshire- differentiated by pool type, over population density



Neighbouring facilities

There are two significant public swimming pools outside of North Hertfordshire District Council's area which are in close proximity to the district and are likely to be used by residents due to their location and accessibility. These are the Inspire Luton Sports Village in Stopsley (Luton) which has a 50m x 21m main pool and a 20m x 10m learner pool and the Stevenage Swimming Centre (Stevenage) which has a 33m x 12m main pool and a 12mx7m learner pool. Both of these are local authority owned facilities.

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Potential developments

The Council is investing in North Herts Leisure Centre to ensure the facility is fit for purpose for the next 20 years. The improvement work will include a new learner pool, new café, refurbished wet changing rooms, refurbished corridors, new sports hall floor and lighting and a new multi-functional room. Work will start in 2016 and be completed by 2017. Following a technical feasibility assessment, this was identified as the most cost effective way of accommodating the Learn to Swim programme at the venue. In order to accommodate the additional use of the site, the Council will also be entering into an agreement with Letchworth Rugby Club to develop a combined car park facility for both venues.

The longer term quality of the main swimming pool at NHLC will need to be considered. The development of a new small pool will accentuate the need to undertake investment in the main pool hall. Although it is above average quality it will soon appear dated against a new small pool. This will be a costly investment for the Centre.

Facilities Planning Model

Sport England uses the Facilities Planning Model (FPM) to calculate supply and demand for swimming pool accommodation. The analysis is based on data contained in the Sport England Strategic Assessment of need for Swimming Pool Provision in North Hertfordshire, FPM National Run 2014 Profile Report. The model is relatively sophisticated and takes account of factors including opening hours, quality and management to estimate the relationship between supply and demand.

Table 5.2: Facilities Planning Model- supply of swimming pools in North Hertfordshire

	North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
				Dacorum	East Herts
Number of pools	8	341	3,086	14	17
Number of pool sites	7	242	2,187	10	13
Supply of total water space in m ²	2,453.8	75,674.4	688,869.8	2,625	3,521.3
Supply of publicly available water space in m ² (scaled with hours available in pp)	2,348.22	62,934.66	571,371.75	1,945.5	2,478.63
Supply of total water space in VPWPP*	20,351	545,434	4,951,889	16,861	21,482
Water space per 1,000 (m ²)	18.72	12.53	12.65	17.74	24.84

**Visits Per Week in the Peak Period*

The difference between the number of swimming pools identified in the initial KKP findings in this report (13) and the number of swimming pools in the FPM (8) differs as the

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FPM has excluded the lidos at Hitchin Swimming Centre (2 pools), Letchworth Outdoor Pool (2 pools) and Princess Helena College (Preston) and the closed pool at the Meridian School (Royston).

The total amount of water space from the North Hertfordshire pools is 2,454m² of water but this is scaled down to 2,348m², to take account of hours actually available to the public. This water space is sufficient to accommodate around 20,350 visits per week in the peak period.

Water space per 1000 people is 18.72m² which is significantly above the national (12.65m²) and regional (12.53m²) averages but comparable to Dacorum (17.74m²) and less than East Hertfordshire (24.84m²).

Quality

Age, refurbishment and investment of facilities

The age and investment of the swimming pool stock varies, from North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre with no recorded investment since its build in 1982, to investment in Letchworth Garden City Fitness and Well Being Centre in 2012.

North Hertfordshire District Council has invested in the pool stock, with Royston Leisure Centre built in 2005 and Hitchin Swimming Centre changing facilities receiving significant investment in 2014. Further investment is planned at Hitchin Swimming Centre to replace the spectator seating. The pool hall would benefit from further investment to replace the lighting as this does not 'lift' the area. The exposed brick work of 1980/90s facilities is renowned for absorbing the light which can often have a negative impact on pool presentation compared to modern pools.

North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre is the most dated of NHDC stock, having no significant investment in the pool since it was built in 1982. Again, the pool hall could do with some investment although given its size and current presentation, this will be a major investment for the Council. This is reflected by the FPM weighting.

Pools are weighted in the FPM to reflect their attractiveness for use in terms of their age, whether they have been refurbished, type of use, management and the hours they are available for public use. Hitchin Swimming Centre has a 76% weighting, North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre a 58% weighting and Royston Leisure Centre a 97% weighting. The relatively low weighting of North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre is due to the age of the facility and the length of time since the last major refurbishment.

Quality assessments

Non-technical site assessments have been carried out and St Francis College, Royston Leisure Centre and Letchworth Garden City Fitness and Wellbeing Centre are all rated as good. Hitchin Swimming Centre and North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre are both rated as above average

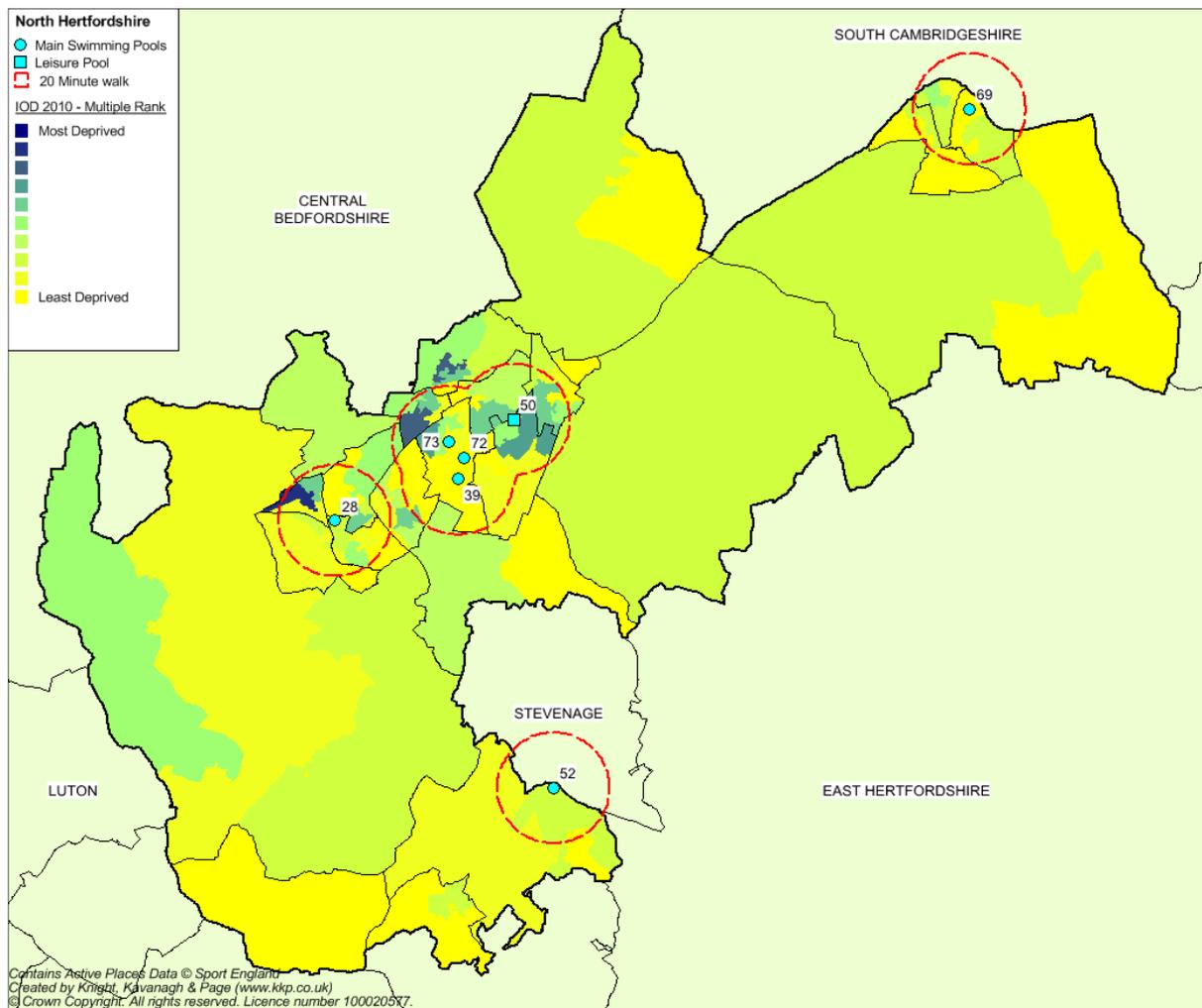
Both Letchworth Outdoor Pool and Hitchin Swimming Centre lidos have a secure short term future whilst neither requires significant investment. The future is more uncertain should major finance be required. Both are heavily used during the summer season and

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Accessibility

Figure 5.3 below shows the current stock of swimming pools (regardless of ownership and access arrangements) with an amalgamated 20 minute walk-time catchment area.

Figure 5.3: Main swimming pools in North Hertfordshire, with a 20 minute walk time catchment, over IMD



Although there is a high proportion of the most deprived areas within a 20 minute walk from a main pool, there is also a large area that is not within the catchment. Table 5.3 shows that 68,770 residents (or 55%) fall outside the catchment of a main swimming pool. However just 6% of the population outside the catchment live within the 50% of the most deprived areas. Therefore, it can be assumed that accessibility issues are not a major challenge to the majority of residents outside of this area.

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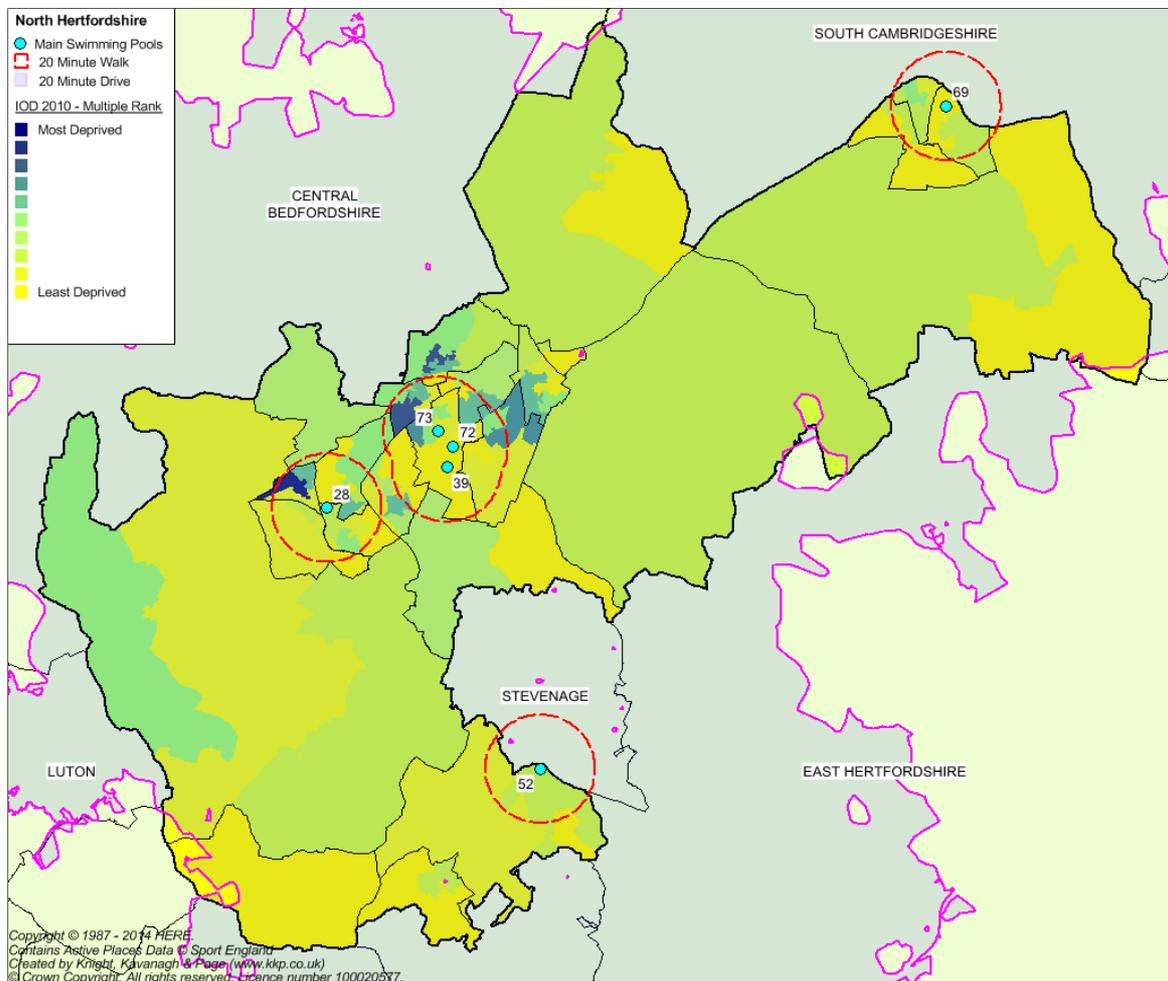
Table 5.3: North Hertfordshire Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 populations within/outside main swimming pools with a 20 minute walk time catchment

Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 10% bands	North Hertfordshire		North Hertfordshire			
	Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside %	Persons outside catchment	Population outside %
00 - 10%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
10 - 20%	1491	1.19%	1,491	1.19%	0	0.00%
20 - 30%	3236	2.57%	1,482	1.18%	1,754	1.39%
30 - 40%	3917	3.11%	2,556	2.03%	1,361	1.08%
40 - 50%	12369	9.83%	7,934	6.31%	4,435	3.53%
50 - 60%	12556	9.98%	5,747	4.57%	6,809	5.41%
60 - 70%	8965	7.13%	0	0.00%	8,965	7.13%
70 - 80%	22903	18.20%	10,661	8.47%	12,242	9.73%
80 - 90%	18956	15.07%	12,110	9.63%	6,846	5.44%
90 - 100%	41416	32.92%	15,058	11.97%	26,358	20.95%
Total	125809	100.00%	57039	45.34%	68770	54.66%

Figure 5.4 overleaf shows the current stock of swimming pools (regardless of ownership and access arrangements) with an amalgamated 20 minute walk and 20 minute drive time catchment area.

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Figure 5.4: Main swimming pools in North Hertfordshire, with a 20 minute walk time and 20 minute drive time catchment, over IMD



As with sports halls, North Hertfordshire areas outside of a 20 minute drive catchment of a main pool are highly rural in nature. Satellite imagery indicates fields and woodland. As the populations outside the catchment are calculated on an LSOA pro-rata basis, it is therefore highly likely that these 'outside' populations are over-estimated, and that, in reality, approaching 100% of North Hertfordshire's population resides within a 20 minute drive of a pool.

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Table 5.5: North Hertfordshire Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 populations within/outside main swimming pools with a 20 minute walk time and 20 minute drive time catchment

IMD Rank Percent		North Hertfordshire		North Hertfordshire pools catchment populations by IMD			
		Population		Population inside		Population outside	
		#	%	#	%	#	%
Most deprived	0-10	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	10.1-20	1491	1.19%	1491	1.19%	0	0.00%
	20.1-30	3236	2.57%	3236	2.57%	0	0.00%
	30.1-40	3917	3.11%	3917	3.11%	0	0.00%
	40.1-50	12369	9.83%	12369	9.83%	0	0.00%
Least deprived	50.1-60	12556	9.98%	12556	9.98%	0	0.00%
	60.1-70	8965	7.13%	8965	7.13%	0	0.00%
	70.1-80	22903	18.20%	22860	18.17%	43	0.03%
	80.1-90	18956	15.07%	18933	15.05%	23	0.02%
	90.1-100	41416	32.92%	41181	32.73%	235	0.19%
TOTAL		125809	100.00%	125508	99.76%	301	0.24%

Facilities Planning Model

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand that is met by the capacity at the swimming pools from residents who live within the driving, walking or public transport catchment of a pool (within or outside North Hertfordshire). The FPM calculates that 83.5% of travel to a swimming pool hall in North Hertfordshire is by car, 10% travel by foot and 6% by public transport. The level of access to a car helps explain why a high proportion of demand is being satisfied as North Hertfordshire residents who have access to a car are able to travel to pools outside North Hertfordshire that are within a 20 minute drive time as well as the pools within the district.

The majority (79%) of the satisfied demand from residents of North Hertfordshire is met by pool provision within the authority which is comparable to the figures for Dacorum (77%) and East Herts (82%). The remaining satisfied demand (21%) is met by facilities in other local authorities. It is common for such a proportion of satisfied demand to be exported where facilities in other local authorities are accessible by car to residents.

Unmet demand is demand for swimming pools which cannot be met because (1) there is too much demand for any particular pool within its catchment area or (2) the demand is located outside the catchment area of any pool and is then classified as unmet demand.

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The FPM indicates that of the unmet demand in North Hertfordshire (4.8% or 403 visits per week in the peak period). Almost 100% of the total unmet demand is due to residents being located outside the catchment area of any pool. Of the unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a pool, some 81% is people who do not have access to a car. The majority of unmet demand is therefore caused by swimming pools being outside of the walk catchments of residents reliant on walking to access the pools.

Availability

Management and ownership

Of the eight pools (6 main, one leisure and one learner/ teaching/training pool), four are local authority owned, managed on behalf of NHDC by SLL:

Hitchin Swimming Centre- one main pool and one learner/teaching/training pool.

North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre- one leisure pool

Royston Leisure Centre- one main pool

There are two school pools at St Francis College and St Christopher School (both Letchworth). While these are recorded as offering community use, access to the sites and staff was not permitted for the purposes of this report and so it is unclear whether community use is protected / guaranteed through community use agreements.

The two remaining swimming pools are commercial pools at Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre and Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth).

Accessibility type

The two commercial pools- Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre and Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth), offer Registered Membership Use only. All other pools offer Pay and Play or Sports Club/ Community Association use. The swimming pools located on school sites will have limited community use during the school day. This is due to priority for school use and school concerns over safeguarding while students are on site.

Letchworth Outdoor Pool and Hitchin Swimming Centre lidos are both available May-September. Both are open for a wide range of community use.

Local availability issues

North Hertfordshire District Council stipulates in the contract with Stevenage Leisure Limited that 50% of the water space must be available for casual swimmers. This limits community group bookings to half a swimming pool for the majority of the time and implications include a limited membership and long waiting lists however it ensures the public can access the pool as and when they wish.

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The three independent schools in North Hertfordshire- St Christopher, Princess Helena College and St Francis College are the only educational establishments with swimming facilities. Although there are no formal community use agreements in place, it is reported that St Christopher School and Princess Helena College show commitment to allowing community access to facilities. St Francis College shows significant commitment to community use, using the pool extensively for both curriculum and extra- curricular activities, including four local primary schools, swimming lessons are also offered and there is a waiting list for community groups. There is some daytime use available when the school is not using the facility.

Summary of supply

There are 13 swimming pools in North Hertfordshire; six of these are classed as main pools and five are lidos, available on a seasonal basis. One is a learner pool and one is a leisure pool. All pools offer community access to a varied degree; two pools are run on a commercial basis and offer Registered Membership Use and two pools are located on educational sites with limited access.

The age of the pools vary, however it is noticeable that two of the local authority facilities- North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre and Hitchin Swimming Centre have benefitted from investment and good maintenance, both scoring an above average rating.

The main pools are located within the more populated areas of the District. 55% of residents live outside the catchment of a main swimming pool, 11% of these live within the 50% of most deprived wards in the country.

5.2 Demand

The adult (14+) participation rate in sport, of at least once per week, in North Hertfordshire is 40.3% (Active People Survey 7- 2012/13). This is higher than the regional (35.1%) and national (35.7%) rate. Based upon this measure at least, it would suggest that residents of North Hertfordshire are more active than their regional and national counterparts.

Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies 14,259 people currently participating in swimming in North Hertfordshire.

Although not classed as main pools, two lidos in particular- Letchworth Outdoor Pool and Hitchin Swimming Centre supply water space that is in high demand May-September. Letchworth Outdoor Pool for example, recorded over 33,000 visits in 2013 and provided a venue for lessons, competitions and casual swimming and duathlon/triathlon activity.

Royston Leisure Centre and North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre are both home to swimming clubs that require additional pool time to expand the capacity, thus increase participation at the clubs.

All pools report waiting lists for swimming lessons. In order to make a meaningful impact on swimming lesson waiting lists there will be a need to review the programming policies at pools to enable the operator to meet demand.

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Future demand

Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies that 13,478 North Hertfordshire residents would like to begin participating in swimming the future, indicating a potential future growth in demand.

Projected population changes to 2024 show that there will be:

- ◀ +3,347 (+13.1%) more 0-15 year olds; and
- ◀ -547 (-2.8%) fewer 45-54 year olds; and
- ◀ +3,956 (+26.7%) more 55-64 year olds; and
- ◀ +5,635 (+23.6%) more people aged 65+.

The two age groups with the largest increase are 55-64 year olds and the 65+ age group. The Sport England market segmentation segments that fit this age profile suggest a high participation in swimming and therefore an increased demand for swimming pools in North Hertfordshire.

The numbers in each age group suggest that the 26.7% increase in residents age 55-64 and the 23.6% increase in residents aged 65+ will far outweigh the decrease in 2.8% reduction in 45-54 year olds, so overall swimming demand will increase.

Facilities Planning Model

The FPM is based on the calculated demand as outlined below; data is taken from the Strategic Assessment of need for Swimming Pool Provision in North Hertfordshire 2014.

Table 5.6: Facilities Planning Model- demand for swimming pools in North Hertfordshire

	North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
				Dacorum	East Herts
Population	131,061	6,039,771	54,472,081	147,948	141,772
Swims demanded – visits per week in the peak period	8,404	385,925	3,515,618	9,520	9,168
Equivalent in water space – with comfort factor included.	1,385.3	63,613.97	579,497.43	1,569.24	1,511.23
% of population without access to a car	15.7	17.7	24.9	15.6	11.9

The demand generated for swimming pool provision from the resident population of North Hertfordshire of 131,000 people is around 8,400 visits per week in the peak period (visits per week in the peak period), the equivalent of about 1,385m² of water space; this includes the application of a comfort factor.

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Demand is also influenced by accessibility and the mobility of local residents. Car ownership or accessibility by local residents to a car is relatively high in North Hertfordshire at around 16% of the population not having access to a car compared to the national average of 25%. This may increase the choice of swimming pool provision residents are able to access – based on the 20 minute drive time catchment where residents may choose to use pools such as Luton Sports Village.

It should be noted that the FPM makes a number of assumptions about the hours available for community use in the peak period. The assessment and site visits highlight that the availability of the local authority swimming pools is not typical in terms of accessibility types, due to the 50% availability for casual swimming. Therefore, the FPM data is slightly skewed and does not account for the limited availability for the hirer to utilise the whole water space. Any assumptions made from this data need to be considered in this context.

Utilised capacity

Used capacity is a measure of usage and throughput at swimming pools and estimates how well used/how full facilities are. The FPM is designed to include a 'comfort factor', beyond which, in the case of swimming pools, the pools are too full. The FPM assumes that usage over 70% of capacity is busy and the pool is operating at an uncomfortable level.

The total number of visits to pools in North Hertfordshire is 10,377 visits (compared with total capacity of 20,351 visits) and this equates to around 51% of the total capacity of North Hertfordshire pools being used which is well below the pools full 'comfort level' of 70%. The following table shows used capacity at individual pool sites within North Hertfordshire and selected pools outside the district. The authority wide average of 51% does mask the variation in used capacity between the North Herts Leisure Centre (40%) and the Royston Leisure Centre (66%). However, all of the public, school and commercial pools in the North Hertfordshire area are operating below comfortable levels. Stevenage Swimming Centre is the only facility just outside of North Hertfordshire that is operating above comfortable levels (81%).

Table 5.7: FPM - Utilised capacity of swimming pools in and near North Hertfordshire

Facility	% capacity used	Facility Capacity (VPWPP)
Hitchin Swimming Centre (Hitchin)	54%	4,496
North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, Letchworth	40%	7,150
Royston Leisure Centre, Royston	66%	2,817
Odyssey Health & Fitness Club, Knebworth	53%	2,550
Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre	51%	1,387
St Christopher School, Letchworth	59%	1,294
St Francis College, Letchworth	60%	658
Inspire Luton Sports Village, Luton (Main Pool)	65%	10,833
Stevenage Swimming Centre, Stevenage	81%	3,933

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Imported and exported demand

A high proportion of visits are imported from outside of North Hertfordshire with 39.1% of utilised capacity being imported which is higher than comparator local authorities. The area is a significant net importer of visits with imports (4,056 visits) being much greater than exports (1,681 visits)

The recent Open Space Study (2015) in Stevenage has identified that Stevenage Swimming Centre is operating at above comfortable levels and a large proportion of demand from residents being met outside the district. This could have implications for pools within North Hertfordshire.

Summary of demand

Active People Survey data suggests that participation rates in North Hertfordshire are slightly higher than regional and national averages, which may place additional demand on sports facility usage. The predicted change in population profile of age bands is likely to have an effect and increase the demand on swimming provision in North Hertfordshire.

The Sport England FPM suggests a demand for an equivalent of 1,385m² of water space in the peak period.

Swimming clubs would generally like to increase the capacity of the clubs if more water time were available. The lidos see a high level of demand when in operation for a variety of activity.

5.3 Consultation

Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL) and North Hertfordshire District Council

The three local authority facilities- Hitchin Swimming Centre, North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre and Royston Leisure Centre are all operated by SLL. All three have swimming clubs based at the facility (Hitchin Swimming Club, Letchworth Amateur Swimming Club and Royston Swimming Club respectively) and all would like additional water space to expand the clubs.

At North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre and Royston Leisure Centre, swimming lessons are provided by both SLL and the club based at the venue. The Amateur Swimming Association (ASA) would not regard this competition for swimming lessons as good practice and it has a key focus that in general operators should teach while clubs should coach. This provides a clear differentiation between the club and operator and is clearer for parents. The pool at North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre is classed as a leisure pool, but does have a 6 lane x 25m tank so can be used for a number of activities as a main pool.

There has been considerable investment in local authority sites in the past ten years, which is reflected in the improved quality of the changing areas in particular. North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre still has a pool which is rated as above average. All local authority pools are used for school swimming. SLL are currently planning the delivery of the 'Make your move' programme across all centres, which is targeted at people age 50+. This will include some sessions in the swimming pools.

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Parking is an issue at Hitchin Swimming Centre, due to a high number of members (c.3000) and limited parking bays (90). Although the car park is a pay and display, members do receive a parking permit. The car park of the adjacent football club is available to use on non-match days by centre users.

Poolside seating at Hitchin was replaced in 2015 and the wet changing facilities are good quality following significant recent investment.

North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre pool is a leisure pool with walk in access and the deep end has a wave machine. The flume is used during weekends and school holidays only. AHU and plant is in good condition and serviced.

Letchworth Amateur Swimming Club is based here and can use the whole pool for 2.5 hours per week, without the 50% availability for casual swimmers. In addition the Club use St Francis College Pool. Pisces Swim Club and Baldock Canoe Club are also based at this pool. Letchworth Amateur Swimming Club and SLL both run swimming lessons on the site. The water polo club and Freedom Tri Triathlon Club also hire the pool once a week. Up to four schools use the pool for school swimming and a local special needs school uses the pool daily. The facility delivers Top Up swimming.

Royston Leisure Centre swimming pool is currently being discussed regarding the temperature of the water. The pool temperature is 28.6c but some users would like it warmer. SLL is currently surveying users. AHU and plant equipment is of good quality and serviced. The wet changing facilities are good quality and were partly refurbished in 2014. They include two group changing areas, male, female and disabled changing. Complete locker refurbishment is planned for 2015. In addition it is planned to install LED lights in the pool area. A learner pool would provide a considerable resource to the facility, enabling the operator to reduce the swimming lesson waiting lists.

In addition to the indoor pools, there are two 50m lidos, one at Hitchin Swimming Centre and the other is Letchworth Outdoor Pool, both, open from May- September annually. This accommodates a high increase in seasonal demand (33,000+ at one site in 2013), plus some activity, including club sessions, from the indoor pools. The short term future of the lidos is safe while they do not require extensive- and expensive- repair work. The Hitchin Swimming Centre lido is dated. When open the demand is high, particularly in good weather. There is also a toddler pool, but this is very small. Hitchin Swimming Club and the tri club sometimes move sessions outside when the lido is open if this is appropriate. The lido is also used for school galas. The outside changing is old fashioned and there are no plans to refurbish it.

St Francis School pool is used extensively for curriculum and extra- curricular activity, including four local primary schools. Swimming lessons are also offered. There is some daytime use available when the school is not using the facility. There is a current waiting list for community use. The school is aiming to fund the refurbishment of the wet changing facilities in the near future.

St Christopher School is available for community use and is used heavily by Hitchin Swimming Club. The pool also offers swimming lessons as well as use by local schools.

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Amateur Swimming Association (ASA)

The main issue for swimming clubs in North Hertfordshire is the lack of affordable pool time in a suitable pool space. For example Hitchin Swimming Club use St Christopher School, however this is expensive. The club have attempted to access additional time at St Francis College and North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, however are unable to secure regular block bookings. The water polo section in particular has grown vastly but development and expansion of sessions is limited due to access to facilities.

Letchworth Amateur Swimming Club is predominantly a learn to swim club, so the main issue is the Club's relationship with SLL, hiring facilities and then competing for business offering swimming lessons.

The ASA work closely with Stevenage Leisure Ltd as part of the Partnership Provider Programme to support an increase in participation in SLL facilities.

Community use of school pools with a more affordable pricing policy would assist hugely in the development of swimming in the area. Hitchin Swimming Club is currently unable to grow due to lack of water space. A cross-district approach to programming, particularly across the local authority sites, rather than a blanket 50% available for casual swims approach may alleviate pressures both from a club perspective but also for the incumbent operator whilst still allowing consistent public access.

For example, more early morning usage for the swimming club would allow the club to expand and the centre to offer casual swimming later in the day. Similarly, restrictions could be relaxed during off peak hours or at times where public throughput is shown to be lower. The challenge is to create a flexible and balanced programme to accommodate all user groups.

5.4 Supply and demand analysis

Table 5.8: Supply and demand balance in North Hertfordshire, taken from the FPM

	North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
				Dacorum	East Herts
Supply - Swimming pool provision (m ²) scaled to take account of hours available for community use	2,348.22	62,934.66	571,371.75	1,945.5	2,478.63
Demand - Swimming pool provision (m ²) taking into account a 'comfort' factor	1,385.3	63,613.97	579,497.43	1,569.24	1,511.23
Provision available compared to the minimum required to meet demand	962.92	-679.31	-8,125.68	376.26	967.40

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When looking at a very simplistic picture of the overall supply and demand across North Hertfordshire the resident population is estimated to generate a demand for a minimum of about 1,385.3m² of water space. This compares to a current available supply of about 2,348.22m² of water space.

This suggests that if all of North Hertfordshire swimming demand was to be met within the authority, there is a surplus of 963 m² of water space. To provide a context for this figure a 25m x 4 lane swimming pool is 212m² of water space so the surplus is equivalent to over 4 pools of this type of pool. There is not therefore an even balance between supply and demand when it is assessed on this basis as the demand from North Hertfordshire residents is lower than the supply available but the use of this comparison has to be used with significant caution.

The majority (79%) of the satisfied demand from residents of North Hertfordshire is met by pool provision within the authority which is comparable to the figures for Dacorum (77%) and East Hertfordshire (82%).

However, it is important to note that the supply and demand balance section of the report only provides a 'global' view of provision – it compares demand generated **within North Hertfordshire with the supply of pools within North Hertfordshire** and therefore represents an assumption that ALL the demand for swimming in North Hertfordshire is met by ALL the supply of swimming pools in North Hertfordshire. In short, this assumes that supply and demand balance is NOT based on where the pools are located and their catchment area extension into other authorities. It also does not account for the catchment areas of pools in neighbouring authorities extending into North Hertfordshire, which will be important when assessing the 20 minute drive to catchment. Most importantly, supply and demand balance does not take into account the propensity/reasons for residents using facilities outside their own District.

Table 5.9: Satisfied demand- demand from North Hertfordshire residents currently being met by supply

		North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
					Dacorum	East Herts
Total number of visits which are met		8,002	347,441	3,212,349	9,219	8,893
% of total demand satisfied		95.2	90	91.4	96.8	97
% of demand satisfied who travelled by	car	83.50	83.56	75.74	80.02	84.28
	foot	10.17	10.17	14.97	14.33	11.49
	public transport	6.33	6.27	9.29	5.65	4.24
Demand retained		6,321	337,083	3,210,450	7,113	7,295
Demand retained -as a % of satisfied demand		79	97	99.9	77.20	82

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	North Hertfordshire	East region	England	Neighbouring authorities	
				Dacorum	East Herts
Demand exported	1,681	10,358	1,899	2,105	1,598
Demand exported -as a % of satisfied demand	21	3	0.1	22.8	18

A smaller proportion of the satisfied demand is met outside of the local authority area as 21% of satisfied demand is met by facilities in other local authorities. It is common for such a proportion of satisfied demand to be exported where facilities in other local authorities are accessible by car to residents.

Unmet demand is demand for swimming which cannot be met because (1) there is too much demand for any particular pool within its catchment area or (2) the demand is located outside the catchment area of any pool and is then classified as unmet demand

Unmet demand for pools in North Hertfordshire is for around 403 visits per week, or 4.8% of total demand. In total, unmet demand represents the equivalent of about 66m² of additional water (including a comfort factor) and this is spread across the whole district.

The proportion of unmet demand in North Hertfordshire is significantly lower than the national (8.6%) and regional (10%) averages but slightly higher than the figures for Dacorum and East Hertfordshire. Almost 100% of the total unmet demand in North Hertfordshire is due to residents being located outside the catchment area of any pool. Of the unmet demand located outside the catchment area of a pool, some 81% is people who do not have access to a car.

North Hertfordshire is a significant net importer of visits to pools as 39% of visits are from users who reside outside of the district. This may be explained by the geographical relationship of pools in the district to residents outside of the district i.e. pools in North Hertfordshire being closer for residents than pools in their own district e.g. the towns in Central Bedfordshire to the north of Hitchin and Letchworth. It may also be explained by capacity issues in adjoining authorities especially Stevenage which is a significant exporter of visits and which has its main facility (Stevenage Swimming Centre) operating at above comfortable levels of utilised capacity. If additional water space is built in adjoining local authorities this may have implications for the sustainability of pools in North Herts therefore.

Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

The Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) has been created by Sport England to help local planning authorities quantify how much additional demand for the key community sports facilities, is generated by populations of new growth, development and regeneration areas.

Whilst the SFC can be used to estimate the facility needs for whole area populations, such as for the whole of North Hertfordshire District Council, there are dangers in how these figures are subsequently used. The SFC should not be used for strategic gap

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analysis as it has no spatial dimension. It is important to note that the SFC does not take account of:

- ◀ Facility location compared to demand
- ◀ Capacity and availability of facilities – opening hours.
- ◀ Cross boundary movement of demand
- ◀ Travel networks and topography
- ◀ Attractiveness of facilities

The following table indicates the results from the predicted ONS estimates for the District up to 2037. Should there be increases in population in line with ONS projections there will be a resultant increase in demand for sports facilities, including water space.

Table 5.10 Sports Facilities Calculator- comparator of different populations on the demand for swimming in North Hertfordshire

	North Hertfordshire increase in population estimates 2037	SFC demand estimate	
ONS predicted population increase	31,573	332.57m ²	6.26 lanes

The Sports Facilities Calculator predicts that the future population will result in a demand for 332.57m² of additional water space. To provide a context for this figure a 25m x 4 lane swimming pool is 212m² of water so this is equivalent to just over 6 lanes of additional water space.

The SFC is just one tool to build a picture of the likely impact of the increased population in the area. It is anticipated that in light of the significant increase in population the Council will need to consider increasing its swimming pool stock in future years.

5.5 Summary

North Hertfordshire appears to have a good supply of swimming pools in terms of numbers, capacity and distribution. However, some stock is aging and would benefit from investment. Demand for water space is high. Swimming clubs have identified the need for additional water space in order to grow their membership. The operator also has a waiting list for swimming lessons. Lidos provide a useful source of supply for a high demand of recreational swimming during operational months for a variety of activities.

Both, St Christopher School and St Francis College swimming pools are well used by the community; however one is reported to be expensive, relative to community pools. Schools manage to balance school and community use to ensure the community access is not limited to out of school hours. St Francis School in particular does allow community access during the school day if the facility is not being utilised by the school.

FPM data, in a very simplistic way, suggests that North Hertfordshire has a surplus of 963 m² of water space to meet population demands. Despite this, swimming clubs report limitations on the available pool time, which could suggest an issue with programming and not the amount of water space that exists.

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ASA consultation suggests that the main issue for swimming clubs is the lack of affordable pool time available in a suitable pool space, which is affecting the growth of clubs. In addition, clubs providing learn to swim programmes are currently competing for business with SLL, causing a conflict of interest that needs to be addressed.

Sport England Market Segmentation data suggests that the population has a high propensity to participate and that swimming is the most popular activity in the area. The projected increase in population will specifically see an increase in age profiles that have high swimming participation levels; therefore, this will increase demand for swimming in future years.

Demand at present does not appear to suggest a need to provide additional swimming pool capacity; however this will change as the population of the area increases. The SFC suggests that this is approximately a full six lane pool across the District. However, there is a need to ensure that demand is spread relative to where the population is increasing.

A key challenge identified particularly with regards the operation of the Council's swimming pools is the programming requirements imposed by the Council on the operator. The need to make 50% of all pool time available for casual swimmers limits the operator's ability to programme the pools for maximum use and efficiency. This not only limits the capacity of swimming clubs to accommodate increased numbers, it also contributes to the swimming lesson waiting lists at facilities. However, the 50% policy ensures members of the public are able to use the facilities when it is convenient for them.

SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

Health & fitness facilities are normally defined by a minimum of 20 stations. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment and a larger health and fitness centre with more stations offer a more attractive package to both members and casual users. Fitness suites can provide a valuable way for people of all ages, ethnicities and abilities to introduce physical exercise into their daily lives with the obvious benefits in health, fitness and wellbeing.

6.1 Supply

Quantity

As outlined in Figure 6.1, the assessment identifies 16 health and fitness suites located across 16 sites with a total of 711 stations. Just one of these facilities has less than 20 stations- the health and fitness suite at Letchworth Garden City RUFC. The other venues have more than 20 stations each, the largest being three facilities with 80 stations- these are Hitchin Swimming Centre & Fitness @ Archers Hitchin, Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth) and Xchange Fitness.

The following map shows the more densely populated areas within North Hertfordshire to be well catered for in terms of the fitness provision available. Areas with sparser populations also have facilities nearby that can accommodate demand.

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Table 6.1: Health and fitness suites in North Hertfordshire¹⁰

Map Ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Access Policy	Disability Access	Changing Facilities	Year Built	Refurb date	No of stations	Condition	
										H&F suite	Changing
11	1101479	Chesfield Downs Golf and Country Club, Hitchin	2083942	Registered Membership use	Yes	Yes	2007		37	Not assessed- not available for consultation or site visit	
A health and fitness suite located at a members golf club. Parking available. Open seven days a week											
17	1052223	Fitness Hub UK, Letchworth	4127694	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	2014	2015	24	Good	Good
An independent health and fitness suite, owned privately. It offers gym facilities as well as group sessions, fitness instruction and a range of memberships. Open seven days a week. Parking available for members											
22	1036549	Heath Sports Centre, Royston	2073945	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	1995	2013	23	Below average	Below average
27	1003816	Hitchin Sports Centre, Hitchin	2072103	Sports Club/ Community Association use	Yes	Yes	2006		20	Below average	Poor
Health and fitness suite based at North Hertfordshire College, available to the general public in evenings and weekends. Pay as you go gym offers cheapest access available at £2 per visit. The health and fitness suite has a range of equipment; cardio vascular, machine weights and free weights. It has recently been restructured and additional machines introduced to the gym. Primarily used for the academic students, the facility is accessed by two football academies, sports courses and enrichment activities within the College.											
28	1003817	Hitchin Swimming Centre & Fitness @ Archers Hitchin	2017530	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	2000	2005	80	Good	Good
Local authority facility, managed by SLL. Parking is pay and display and limited, members receive a parking permit. As the facility is adjacent to a football club, parking becomes a particular issue on match days; however members are able to use the Club car park at other times. Approximately 3000 members in total. The health and fitness suite has had significant investment and is located on three levels; with no disabled access to the higher level. There are two possible entrances to the health and fitness suite which can result in the operator missing opportunities for cross selling. The recent investment in the functional training area is											

¹⁰ Source: Active Places / KKP Field Research

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Map Ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Access Policy	Disability Access	Changing Facilities	Year Built	Refurb date	No of stations	Condition	
										H&F suite	Changing
excellent, but its limited availability somewhat detracts from the new development.											
37	1008095	Knights Templar Sports Centre, Baldock	2019604	Registered Membership use	Yes	Yes	2001	2013	41	Good	Below average
The Knights Templar School and Knights Templar Sports Centre is a dual use facility, operated by SLL evenings and weekends. The sports centre was a Sport England funded project. School pay £50,000 management fee to SLL each year and SLL receive revenue from community use. 25% of profit is paid back to school. Academy is in the process of rebuilding but this is in its infancy.											
The health and fitness suite has good lighting; TV's and is air conditioned. It has c.800 direct debit members and is open to members throughout the school day.											
39	1008146	Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre, Letchworth	2019639	Registered Membership use	Yes	Yes	2003	2008	60	Good	Good
A Nuffield Health wellbeing facility, offering various membership packages starting from £56 per month. Parking available for members.											
40	1206938	Letchworth Garden City RUFC, Letchworth	2085982	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	Yes	2008		12	Not assessed-undersized	
A small health and fitness suite, designed for the use of members of the rugby club.											
44	1036025	Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club, Letchworth	2071792	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	2006		50	Not assessed-undersized	
Available for both members and non-members. Personal training and group classes available. A variety of memberships on offer for different age bands.											
50	1003828	North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, Letchworth	2017535	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	1982	2006	70	Good	Above average
Local authority facility, operated by SLL since 2005. New Technogym equipment was installed in May 2014. This area was extended in 2006. The main body of the fitness suite suffers slightly from a lack of natural light; however, this is not a major concern.											
52	1000919	Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth), Stevenage	2015622	Registered Membership use	Yes	Yes	1983	2008	80	Not assessed- not available for consultation or site visit	
Originally The Kodak Sports and Social Club, this site has changed hands and named until purchased by Odyssey in 2000 and received a £1 million investment. Now a members club, there are a number of membership options. As well as a health and fitness suite, group fitness classes and personal training are also offered											

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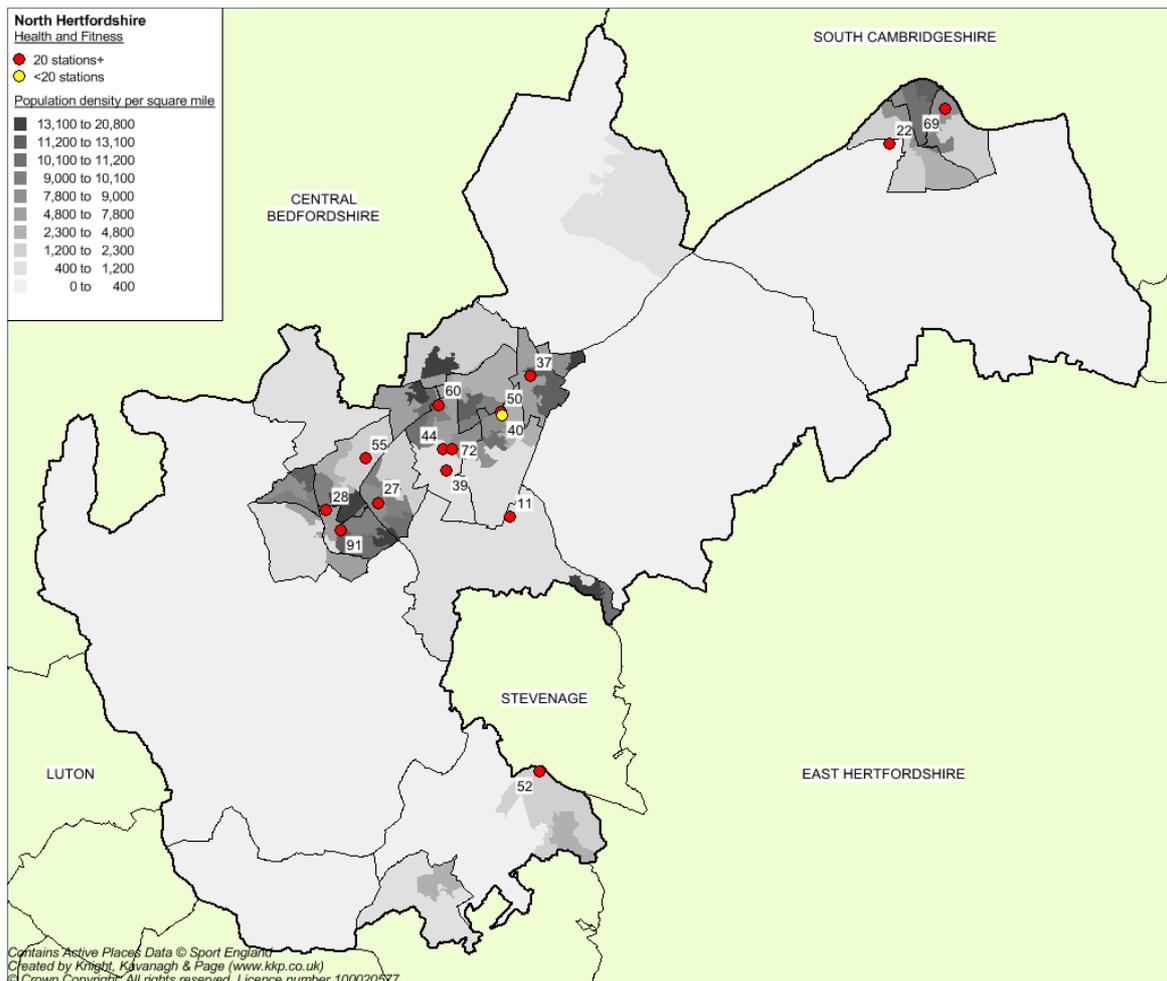
Map Ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Access Policy	Disability Access	Changing Facilities	Year Built	Refurb date	No of stations	Condition	
										H&F suite	Changing
to members.											
55	1052123	Peak Physique and Fitness Ltd, Hitchin	4127459	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	2014		30	Not assessed- not available for consultation or site visit	
Offers both membership and pay and play options, starting from £5 per session. Provides free weights, cardio machines and a small combat room with punch bags and equipment. There is parking available.											
60	1008167	Pride Fitness, Letchworth	2019656	Registered Membership Use	Yes	Yes	1995	2005	44	Not assessed- not available for consultation or site visit	
Offers health and fitness suite with cardiovascular equipment, resistance machines and free weights, plus group exercise classes. Opens seven days a week and offers membership packages from £28 per month.											
69	1003829	Royston Leisure Centre, Royston	2017536	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	2005	2012	40	Good	Good
Local authority facility, operated by SLL since 2005. New Technogym equipment was installed in 2011. This will be refurbished once in the terms of the five year contract. The room is a little cramped and more space is required. Changing for these facilities is good and includes showers and toilets. There is potential that new lockers will be installed imminently. The facility is operating at capacity. Due to its location, an estimated third of customers are from bordering South Cambridgeshire. SLL is currently developing its Sport England funded 'Make your move' programme targeted at those aged 50+. This should see an increase in demand from this particular age group for facilities.											
72	1003834	St Christopher School, Letchworth	2017537	Sports Club/Community Association use	Yes	Yes	1999		20	Not assessed- school not available for consultation or site visit	
A 20 station health and fitness suite, used primarily by the staff and students of the independent school											
91	1007876	Xchange Fitness, Hitchin	2019477	Registered Membership Use	Yes	Yes	2002		80	Not assessed- not available for consultation or site	

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Map Ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Access Policy	Disability Access	Changing Facilities	Year Built	Refurb date	No of stations	Condition	
										H&F suite	Changing
										visit	
Open seven days a week and offering cardiovascular equipment, free weights and resistance machines.											

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Figure 6.1: Health and fitness suites with 20+ stations in North Hertfordshire over population density



Quality

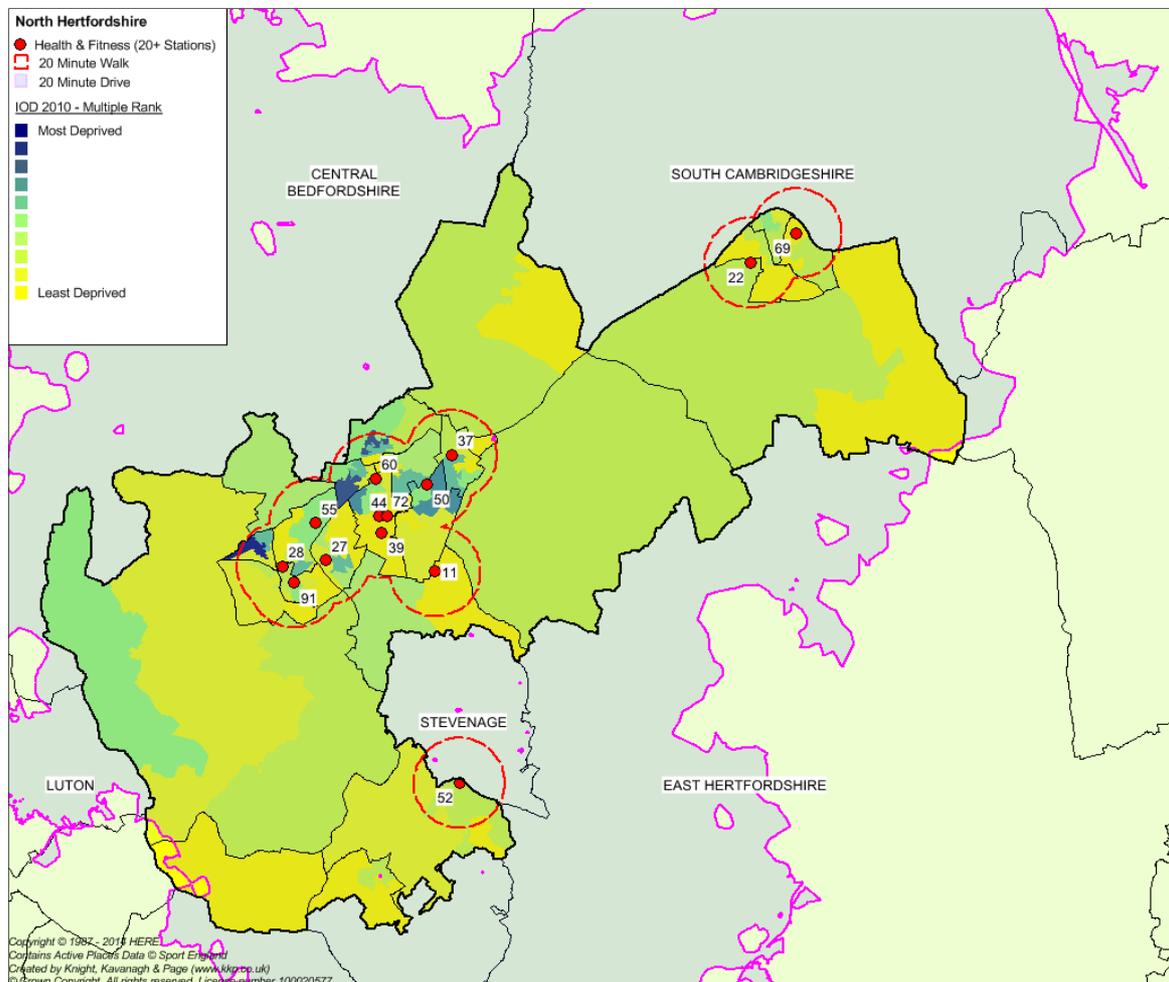
Age, refurbishment, investment and assessment of facilities

The general age of health and fitness facilities in North Hertfordshire is fairly young. The oldest facilities are St Christopher School (1999) and Xchange Fitness (2002) with no recorded refurbishment since. All other facilities have been built or refurbished in the past ten years, since 2005. This would suggest a good quality of facility in the authority.

Hitchin Swimming Centre & Fitness @ Archers Hitchin has recently developed a functional training area as part of its fitness offer. This is an excellent quality facility; however, it is located outside of the main fitness suite area and the separate entrances means that it could be missed by a proportion of customers. The facility is programmed for group fitness sessions only and the potential exists to open this up as an accessible part of the general fitness offer; in line with other health and fitness organisations.

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Figure 6.3: Main health and fitness suites (20+ stations) in North Hertfordshire, with a 20 minute walk time and 20 minute drive time catchment, over IMD



North Hertfordshire areas outside of a 20 minute drive catchment of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations are highly rural in nature, and sparsely populated. Satellite imagery indicates fields and woodland. As the populations outside the catchment are calculated on a Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) pro-rata basis, it is therefore highly likely that these ‘outside’ populations are over-estimated, and that, in reality, approaching 100% of North Hertfordshire’s population resides within a 20 minute drive of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations. (See Table 6.2 for further details)

Table 6.3 shows that the number of people that fall outside the catchment of a health and fitness suite is 9209 (7.3%), none of which live in the 50% of most deprived areas.

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Table 6.2: North Hertfordshire Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010 populations within/outside main health and fitness suites (20+stations) with a 20 minute drive time catchment

IMD Rank Percent		Within		Outside	
		Population in band (mid-2010)	% Population in Band	Population in band (mid-2010)	% Population in Band
Most deprived	0-10	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
	10.1-20	1491	1.19%	0	0.00%
	20.1-30	3236	2.57%	0	0.00%
	30.1-40	3917	3.11%	0	0.00%
Least deprived	40.1-50	12369	9.83%	0	0.00%
	50.1-60	12556	9.98%	0	0.00%
	60.1-70	8965	7.13%	0	0.00%
	70.1-80	22860	18.17%	43	0.03%
	80.1-90	18933	15.05%	23	0.02%
	90.1-100	41181	32.73%	235	0.19%
TOTAL		125508	99.76%	301	0.24%

Health deprivation¹¹

In terms of health deprivation specifically, 100% of the population that live outside of the catchment area of a health and fitness suite live in the 20% of least health deprived wards in the country.

Disabling health problems are much less common among the least health deprived areas, especially for those aged 60-64. Residents in this age group are far more likely to be fit and able to enjoy retirement if they live in the least deprived areas, and counterparts in the most deprived areas are far more likely to report disabling health problems.

¹¹ ONS, February 2014, Detailed Analysis of Health Deprivation Divide Using The 2011 Census

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Table 6.3: North Hertfordshire Indices of Deprivation (Health) 2010 populations within/outside main health and fitness suites (20+stations) with a 20 minute drive time catchment

IMD Rank Percent		Within		Outside	
		Population in band (mid-2010)	% Population in Band	Population in band (mid-2010)	% Population in Band
Most deprived	0-10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	10.1-20	3,245	2.8%	0	0.0%
	20.1-30	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	30.1-40	4,214	3.6%	0	0.0%
	40.1-50	7,475	6.4%	0	0.0%
Least deprived	50.1-60	10,865	9.3%	0	0.0%
	60.1-70	7,093	6.1%	0	0.0%
	70.1-80	24,656	21.1%	0	0.0%
	80.1-90	25,334	21.7%	4,050	44.0%
	90.1-100	33,718	28.9%	5,159	56.0%
TOTAL		116,600	100%	9209	100%

Availability

Management and ownership

Eight of the 15 health and fitness suites (20+ stations) are commercially owned. Four are located on educational sites and the remaining three are local authority facilities, operated by SLL. The one facility with less than 20 stations is at Letchworth Garden City RUFC and is generally used for team and club member training.

Accessibility types

North Hertfordshire residents have a relatively wide choice of facilities that facilitate both casual use and membership use. Three health and fitness suites are recorded as available for Registered Membership Use only. This leaves 13 facilities that are available for either Sports Club/Community Association use or Pay and Play access.

6.2 Demand

Health and fitness via exercising in a gym or class environment is a highly popular form of exercise across North Hertfordshire, appealing to men and women across a wide range of age groups. Health and fitness suites are operating near or at capacity in local authority facilities.

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Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies 17,745 people currently participating in 'keep fit and gym (including aerobics, yoga, classes)', which at 14% of the North Hertfordshire population is comparable to 'UK penetration rates' of 12% (% of the overall population that regularly access a gym facility). A further 6,998 state that they would like to begin participating in the future, indicating a potential future growth in demand.

To identify the adequacy of the quantity of provision a demand calculation based on an assumption that 'UK penetration rates' will increase slightly in the future is applied. Although not a Sport England model, this calculation uses trends within the market place and the increase in health and fitness provision across the country. Population increases are also factored in to enable a calculation of whether current supply will meet future demand.

Displaced demand

The relationship between North Hertfordshire and Stevenage and Luton will have an impact on the displaced demand for health and fitness facilities in the area, due to the functional relationship between the local communities. Strategic facilities close to the boundary, such as Inspire Luton Sports Village and Stevenage Leisure Centre will be attractive facilities to users, who will travel further to access these. This will have an impact on demand in North Hertfordshire as users are travelling outside of the authority to access such facilities.

Table 6.4: UK penetration rates for health and fitness suites in North Hertfordshire

	Current (2012)	Future (2024)	Future (2037)
Adult population	128,428	144,838	160,001
UK penetration rate	12%	13%	14%
Number of potential members	15,411	18,829	22,400
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	26,970	32,951	39,200
% of visits in peak time	65	65	65
No. of visits in peak time (equivalent to no. of stations required i.e. no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	449	549	653

According to UK penetration rates there is a current need for 449 stations across North Hertfordshire. With the predicted population growth in the area, this demand is expected to increase 549 stations by 2024 and 653 stations by 2037. The above does not include a comfort buffer to accommodate high demand at peak times; which can be as much as 50% of the supply.

6.3 Supply and demand analysis

Health and fitness facilities have been a very successful addition to sports centres over the past three decades and the income derived from them helps to offset the cost/underpin the viability of other aspects of leisure provision, for example swimming.

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North Hertfordshire currently has a total of 711 fitness stations across 16 sites that are accessible at some level for community use. National penetration levels would suggest a requirement for 449 stations; but if we include a 50% comfort factor (i.e. to ensure there is access to sufficient available equipment at peak times) this identified the potential for 674 stations. This is relatively close to the current supply based on national penetration rates. Given that North Hertfordshire has a population with a high propensity to participate in sport and physical activity, and taking into account SLL's comment that facilities are operating at capacity, it can be identified that there is the potential for growth in demand.

6.4 Summary

The following summary on health and fitness facilities can be identified:

- ◀ There are 16 health and fitness suites in North Hertfordshire, providing 711 stations; the largest three have 80 stations each. Generally the quality is a good standard.
- ◀ These facilities are all located in the more densely populated areas of the authority; just 7% of the population live outside a 20 minute drive catchment of a facility, which is likely to be even lower in reality.
- ◀ Eight of the facilities are commercially owned, all are available for community use, either pay and play, with sports club use or with a membership.
- ◀ UK penetration rates suggest that there are enough stations to cater for the population; however, local authority facilities are operating at or near to capacity. This is coupled with the fact that residents in North Hertfordshire have a higher propensity to participate in sport and physical activity.
- ◀ This information suggests that there is the potential for growth in demand for health and fitness facilities and consideration needs to be given to increasing supply to meet this. The recent investment in local authority sites has gone some way to address this, but further expansion is potentially required.
- ◀ The provision of health and fitness facilities is key to underpinning the business case for multi facility venues and this should not be overlooked where there is an indication that there is sufficient supply within the local area.

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SECTION 7: SQUASH COURTS

A squash court is a rectangular box with four vertical walls of varying height; being the front wall, side walls and back wall. It has a level floor and a clear height above the court area.

A squash court may be constructed from a number of materials providing they have suitable ball rebound characteristics and are safe for play; however, the World Squash Federation publishes a Squash Court Specification which contains recommended standards. The standards must be met for competitive play as required by the appropriate National Governing Body of Squash.

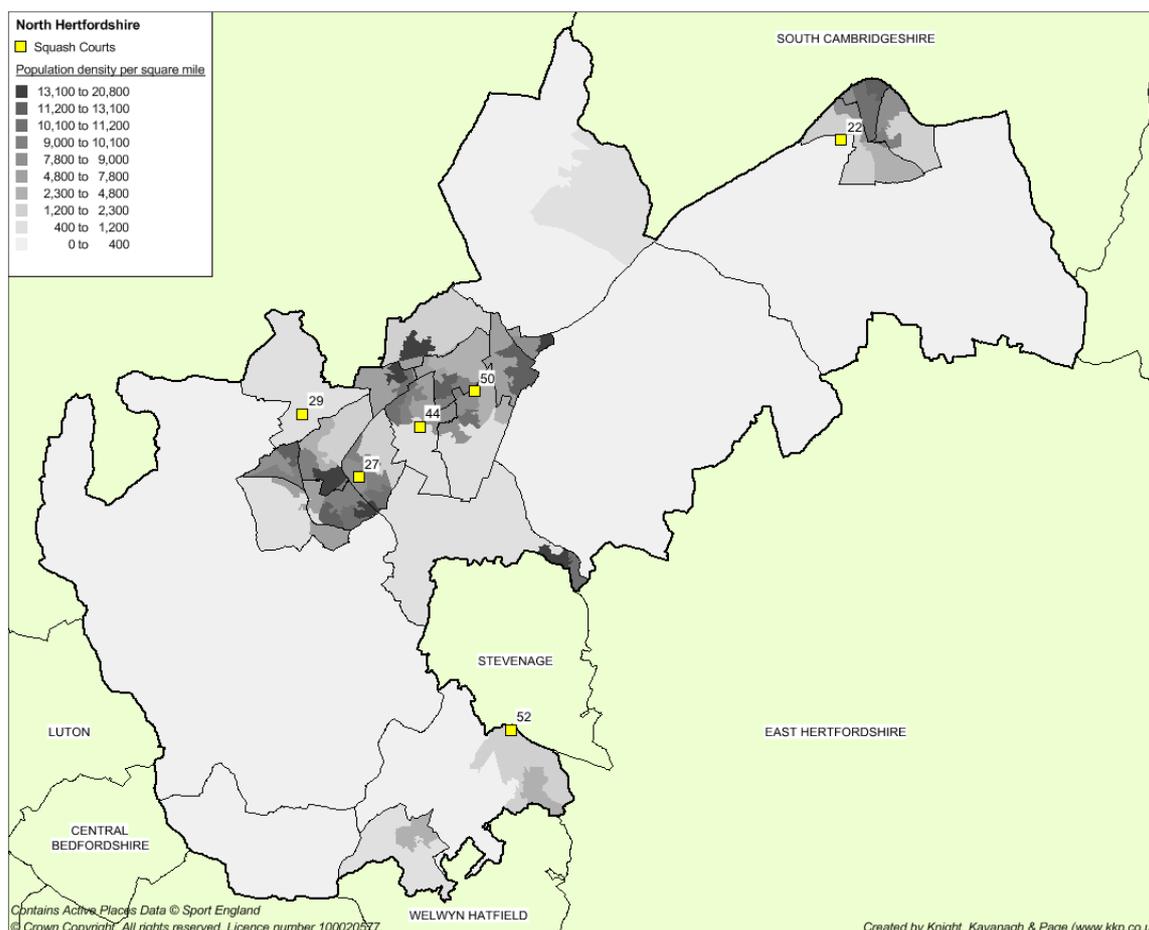
7.1 Supply

Quantity

There are a total of 12 squash courts located across six sites in North Hertfordshire. Four courts are located at North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre, Letchworth of which two are glass backed. The other squash courts in the authority area are all normal courts.

The courts are all located in areas of higher population; this is illustrated in Figure 7.1.

Figure 7.1: All squash courts in North Hertfordshire, over population density



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Table 7.1: Squash courts in North Hertfordshire

Map ref	Active Places ref	Site Name	Facility ID	Sub Type	Access Policy	Disability Access	Changing Facilities	Year Built	Refurb date	No of courts	Condition	
											Squash courts	Changing
22	1036549	Heath Sports Centre, Royston	4073947	Normal	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	1985	2013	1	Not assessed- - not available for consultation	
27	1003816	Hitchin Sports Centre, Hitchin	4036891	Normal	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	1975	2006	1	Below average	Poor
29	6017414	Ickleford Sport & Recreation Club, Hitchin	4085149	Normal	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	1975	2010	2	Not assessed- not available for consultation	
44	1036025	Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club	4071795	Normal	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	2005	2008	2	Not assessed- not available for consultation	
50	1003828	North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre	4036893	Normal	Pay and Play	Yes	Yes	1982		2	Above average	Good
			4070942	Glass-backed		Yes	Yes	2006		2	Above average	Good
Local authority facility, operated by SLL since 2005. Courts have recently been sanded and new lined painted. The courts are booked Monday-Friday 6-9pm and are generally empty during week days.												
52	1000919	Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth)	4036517	Normal	Registered Membership use	Yes	Yes	1983	2002	2	Not assessed- not available for consultation	

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Quality

Age, refurbishment, investment and assessment of facilities

The squash courts at North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre were built in 1982, with the floor, lines and walls being refurbished in the past four years. Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth) were refurbished in 2002. The other courts in North Hertfordshire have all been refurbished since 2006.

The four courts located at North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre are all assessed as above average, while the one court located at Hitchin Sports Centre is assessed as below average. Although all remaining courts were not assessed, it is expected that all are above average condition (or better) having been refurbished within the last six years or, in the case of the two courts located at Odyssey Health & Fitness Club, must be of a quality to cater for the commercial sector membership market.

Accessibility and availability

Six courts are located at local authority or education sites. Four courts are based at sports club venues. These all offer Pay and Play activity. The two remaining courts are at the commercially operated Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth), offering Registered Membership Use.

7.2 Demand

The adult (14+) participation rate in sport, of at least once per week, in North Hertfordshire is 40.3% (Active People Survey 7- 2012/13). This is higher than the regional (35.1%) and national (35.7%) rate. Based upon this measure at least, it would suggest that residents of North Hertfordshire are more active than their regional and national counterparts.

Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies 1,253 people currently participating in squash and racketball in North Hertfordshire. A further 774 state that they would like to begin participating in the future, indicating a potential future growth in demand.

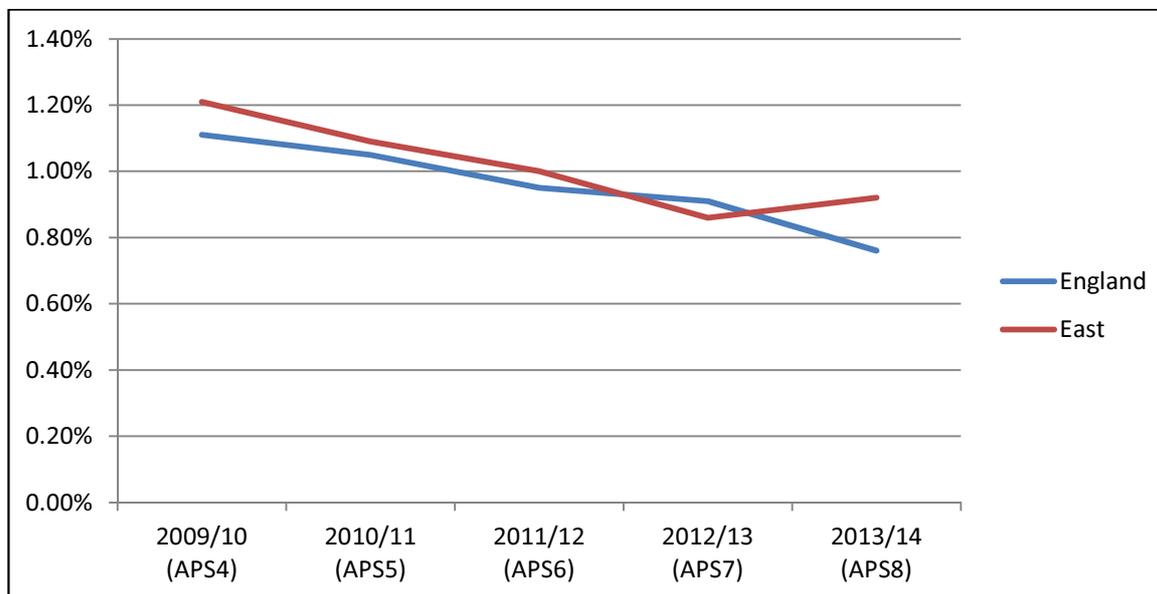
7.3 Key issues and challenges

The East Regional team for England Squash and Racketball (ESR) is responsible for the management and organisation of squash and racketball in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire, Essex, Hertfordshire, Norfolk and Suffolk. The priorities are to ensure that participation in squash and racketball is increased and sustained.

Consultation with England Squash & Racketball (ESR) suggests that Hertfordshire is a key area for the sport. Nevertheless, the latest APS figures show a continuous decline in participation nationally, despite unparalleled success at the elite level. As a result, Sport England confirmed in January 2014 a 20% reduction (£355,000) in funding for ESR, funding which would have been used to fund participation programmes across the country, including Hertfordshire.

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Figure 7.2: APS4-APS8 data showing participation in squash in the East Region and England



Following the 2014 funding cut from Sport England, ESR began a process of restructuring and has since been awarded a reallocation of funds from Sport England. ESR is currently in the process as assessing national participation and is expected to outline priority areas by May 2015. Although not confirmed, Hertfordshire is likely to be given tier 1 status given current population, participation and the spread of facilities across the County. Indeed, as indicated in Figure 7.2, there has been a slight increase in participation within the East region over the past year, despite a further decline in participation nationally.

The NGB has identified the main priority for North Hertfordshire is the protection of all courts and, as such, ESR would strongly oppose the closure of any courts. In addition, ESR also identify a number of challenges for North Hertfordshire including the ongoing maintenance of courts to retain quality, promotion of squash at recreational level and ensuring courts remain available for both competition and casual use. At present, ESR suggests there are a sufficient number of courts within North Hertfordshire to meet current and future demand.

As Hertfordshire is likely to be given tier 1 priority status for the development of squash, ESR has indicated that there may be limited capital funding available directly from ESR to assist in the refurbishment of current facilities. Alternatively, ESR would also support any Sport England Inspired Facility application.

Although ESR identifies no key clubs within North Hertfordshire, all facilities are considered key facilities to enable participation at recreational level. ESR released its new participation strategy in May 2015 and the Hertfordshire Squash Pilot Scheme started in April 2015. The scheme aims to increase participation and is working with six facilities across North Hertfordshire. To date (August 2015) 12 new advocates have been trained to deliver squash and initial indications show that the programme is a success, although no official data is yet available. Should data prove the success of the programme, the aim is for a nationwide rollout.

7.4 Summary

The following summary on squash court facilities can be identified:

- ◀ There are 10 normal courts and two glass backed courts in North Hertfordshire, two facilities are educational sites, one is local authority, one commercial and two sports clubs.
- ◀ Courts are generally located in areas of higher population; the majority are in and around Letchworth Garden City.
- ◀ Demand for courts is high at local authority sites on weekday evenings, although courts stand empty during week days.
- ◀ North Hertfordshire is a key area for the NGB and although participation has declined nationally, it is increasing in the East region.
- ◀ The potential classification as a Tier 1 priority status county would be likely to involve initiatives increasing the demand for facilities in the area and wider.
- ◀ Protection of courts is a primary focus to the NGB, currently supply is adequate.

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SECTION 8: INDOOR BOWLS

Indoor bowls requires a standard bowling green, which is a flat area 34-40 m long. It is divided into a number of playing areas called rinks. The number of these varies, depending on the width of the green.

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single green with a number of rinks, and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/meeting rooms and stores. In addition it will usually have designated car parking spaces. The size of the ancillary accommodation will normally vary depending on the number of rinks. Many Indoor Bowling Centres were built or converted in the 1980s and 1990s, with comparatively few built before 1970. The majority are purpose-built, particularly the more modern ones, with the remainder usually found on industrial estates in converted units.

8.1 Supply

There is one indoor bowls centre in North Hertfordshire. Riverain in Hitchin comprises a small, private limited company with two operating members, Riverain Indoor Bowls Club and Riverain Outdoor Bowls Club. Despite numerous attempts to contact the Club, KKP was unable to visit the facility or speak with the Club. In these circumstances, information was taken from a range of online sources, and, in addition, consultation with the English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) confirms that the facility, which is leased from NHDC, is good quality and sufficient to meet the needs of both the Club and the local community.

Table 8.1: Indoor bowls facilities in North Hertfordshire

Map reference	65
Active Places reference	1011081
Site name	Riverain Bowls Club Ltd
Facility ID	2008979
Sub Type	Indoor Bowls
Access Policy	Pay and Play
Disability Access	Yes
Changing Facilities	Yes
Year Built	1987
Refurbished	2008
Facility status	Operational
Number of Rinks	8
Width	36
Length	36
Area	1296
Rink quality	Good
Changing quality	Good

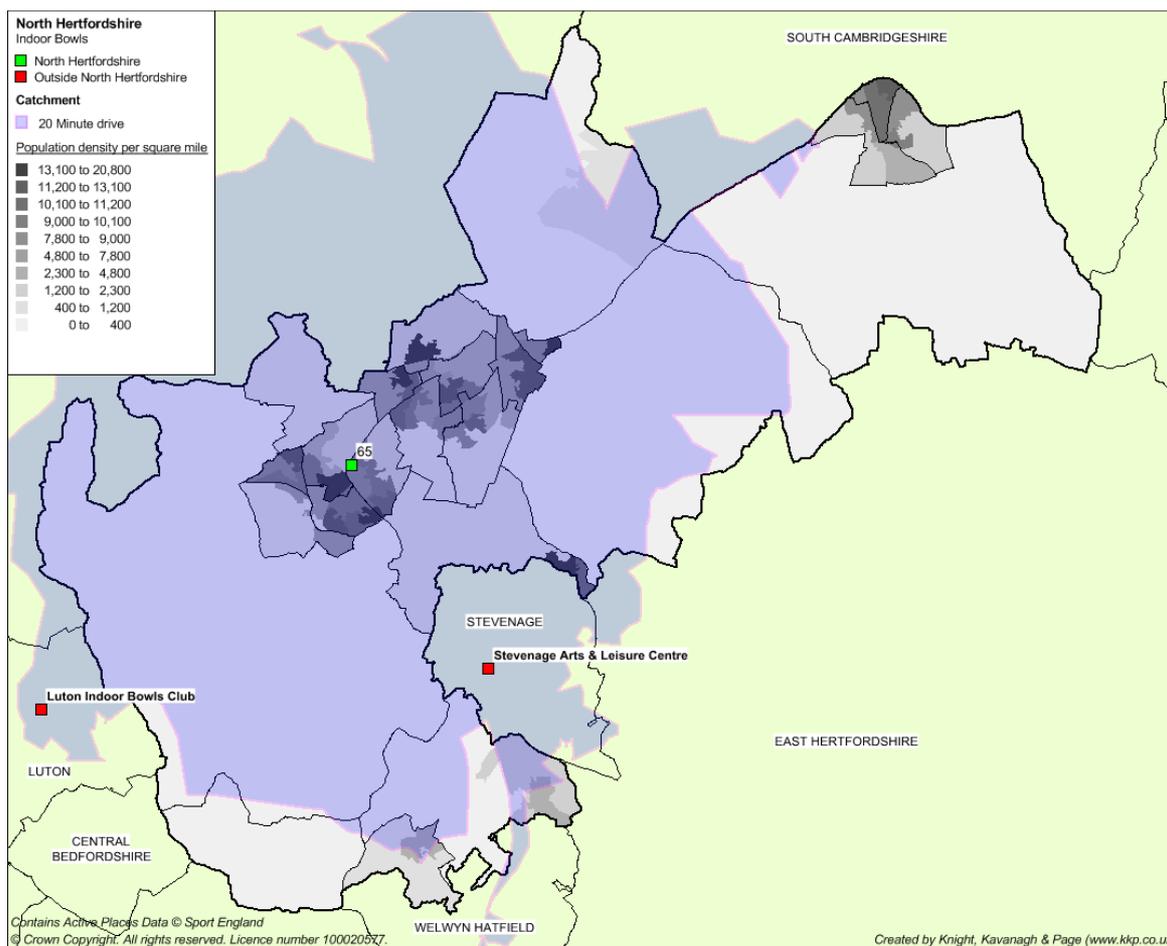
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The indoor facilities consist of an international standard 8-rink indoor green which was refurbished in 2008. The facility has spacious changing rooms, a lounge area and bar with catering facilities. Riverain also has a 6 rink outdoor green with brick built pavilion.

The indoor facility is open throughout the year (09:00 to 22:30) although opening hours are reduced from May to August (09:00 to 17:00). The Club runs 16 leagues including a Sunday night beginner’s league. Leagues are run morning, afternoon and evening with the Club encouraging entry into National, County and Club competitions. The Club has had success at senior and junior level at the World Indoor Bowls Championships.

The map indicates that 79.2% of residents within North Hertfordshire are served by the 20 minute drive catchment which includes residents from high areas of deprivation. Consultation with EIBA suggests that there is sufficient supply of indoor bowls facilities within North Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas to meet both current and future demand.

Figure 8.1: Riverain Bowls Club in North Hertfordshire, with a 20 minute drive time catchment, over population density



Royston Leisure Centre and a number of village halls, have equipment to deliver indoor bowls within its sports hall; however there is no demand for this identified. This is potentially as a result of the specialist facility.

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Table 8.2: Indoor bowls facilities close to North Hertfordshire

Active Places ref	Site name	Facility ID	Number of rinks	Access policy
1010992	Luton Indoor Bowls Club	2008893	8	Sports Club / Community Association
1003837	Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre	2008774	6	Pay and Play

Stevenage Arts and Leisure Centre, which is south of North Hertfordshire in Stevenage, and Luton Indoor Bowls Centre, west of North Hertfordshire in Luton, are both specialist facilities that are located within a 20 minute drive of the Riverain facility. These are both available for community use. There are no other facilities located within the 20 minute drive time catchment of Riverain.

The Luton Indoor Bowls Centre in the centre of Luton is currently under threat as the land may potentially be used for a housing development; the site has been identified by Luton Council as a potential housing allocation in its emerging Local Plan. The National Governing Body (EIBA) has indicated that Luton Indoor Bowls Centre is strategically significant. Its membership is in the upper quartile when compared to similar facilities across the Country.

A successful indoor bowls centre requires a combination of the right location, design, financial and general management. The following Sport England¹² guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres must be interpreted in the light of local circumstances but it assumes that:

- ◀ The majority of users will live locally and not travel more than 20 minutes.
- ◀ 90% of users will travel by car, with the remainder by foot.
- ◀ As a guide, demand is calculated as one rink per 14,000-17,000 of total population.
- ◀ A six-rink green, therefore, is required for a population of 85,000-100,000. This will be dependent upon the population profile of the area.
- ◀ The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members, assume 80-100 members per rink.

8.2 Demand

The adult (14+) participation rate in sport, of at least once per week, in North Hertfordshire is 40.3% (Active People Survey 7- 2012/13). This is higher than the regional (35.1%) and national (35.7%) rate and indicates that the local population has a higher propensity to participate in sport and physical activity.

Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies 969 people currently participating in bowls in North Hertfordshire. This would include all forms of the sport and are not specific to indoor bowls. A further 214 state that they would like to begin participating in the future, again this includes all forms of bowls. Given the increase in population and the age profile of these it is anticipated that there will be additional demand for this type of activity.

¹² Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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Luton Indoor Bowls Centre has a current membership of approximately 500. If the facility closes, the demand for the Riverain Bowls may well increase as a result of this.

8.3 Consultation and key issues

The 'Bowls Family' consists of:

- ◀ British Crown Green Bowling Association (BCGBA)
- ◀ English Short Mat Bowling Association (ESMBA)
- ◀ English Indoor Bowling Association Ltd (formerly EIBA and EWIBA)
- ◀ Bowls England (BE)

All the NGBs wish to develop grassroots opportunities and increase participation over the coming years. The main aims are to develop bowls and increase participation in the sport, in all its forms, across the country through joint recruitment and retention projects designed for Over 65's. The English Indoor Bowling Association (EIBA) is the NGB for indoor bowls. Its stated objectives are:

- ◀ A growth in participation across the adult population in local Communities. Targeted work to increase female participation.
- ◀ A growth in participation in the 14-25 age range, plus working with primary schools (Year 3 & 4 – age 7 to 9).
- ◀ The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants.
- ◀ A growth in Indoor Bowls participation by people who have disabilities.

Key issues

- ◀ The indoor bowls facility at Riverain Bowls Club in Hitchin is thriving.
- ◀ The projected population growth (up to 2037) of 65+ is expected to outstrip other age groups growth in North Hertfordshire. This age group is projected to increase from 17.6% of the population to 25.0% by 2037.
- ◀ The Club appears to operate in isolation from other sport and physical activity opportunities in the District.
- ◀ Riverain Bowls Club plays throughout the year and does not have a summer break.
- ◀ The NGB is not in a position to be able to support the Club financially for capital projects so any investment will need to come from other sources such as Sport England's Inspired Facilities fund. There may, however, be some modest revenue funding available from the NGB to support recruit initiatives aimed at increasing participation and membership.
- ◀ The potential closure of Luton Indoor Bowls Centre could well have an impact on demand for bowls facilities in the area.
- ◀ In addition, the projected population growth (up to 2021) of 55-64 year olds in Luton is expected to outstrip other age groups growth in Luton. This age group is projected to increase by 21% during this time frame.

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8.4 Summary

In summary, the above consultation and analysis indicates the following with regard to indoor bowls provision:

- ◀ Riverain Bowls Club Ltd is the only indoor bowls facility in North Hertfordshire. The facility consists of an international standard 8-rink indoor green which was refurbished in 2008.
- ◀ Being the sole facility makes it important to protect the facility to ensure a continued provision for indoor bowls in the District.
- ◀ The potential closure of Luton Indoor Bowls Club increases the importance of this sole facility further, with c500 members without a facility.
- ◀ 79.2% of residents within North Hertfordshire are served by the 20 minute drive catchment which includes residents from high areas of deprivation.
- ◀ Consultation with EIBA suggests that there is sufficient supply of indoor bowls facilities within North Hertfordshire and the surrounding areas to meet both current and future demand.
- ◀ Bowls is a particularly popular sport amongst older age groups, although the Club is committed to increase junior participation.
- ◀ The projected population growth (up to 2037) of 65+ is expected to outstrip other age groups growth in North Hertfordshire and is likely to increase demand for this type of facility.
- ◀ EIBA is targeting increasing participation across the adult population in local communities, in particular those over 50 years of age, younger people (14-25), women and girls and people with disabilities as part of its Whole Sport Plan strategy.
- ◀ Additional demand may be accommodated at Royston Leisure Centre which already has equipment to deliver short mat bowls in the sports hall, should the facility be available.

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SECTION 9: INDOOR TENNIS COURTS

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the NGB for all tennis provision within the UK and administers the sport at national and regional level. It uses two terms to describe indoor building types:

Traditional

A permanent structure made of traditional materials using traditional construction techniques. This commonly takes the form of steel or timber portal frame spanning the full length of the court (including run backs) clad in a material to suit local conditions e.g. metal cladding, brickwork or timber boarding.

Non traditional

A permanent or non-permanent structure made of non-traditional materials using non-traditional construction techniques. Three types of structure fall into this category:

Air supported structures (air halls)

Framed fabric structures

Tensile structures

Outdoor tennis courts will be referenced and assessed in the accompanying Playing Pitch Strategy. Please refer to this document for further information.

9.1 Supply

There is one facility in North Hertfordshire with indoor tennis provision. This is at Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club which has three indoor courts and eight outdoor courts. The Club is a multi-sport site offering a range of racket sports, gym, studio, bar and shop to approximately 1,000 members. Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club was built in 2005 and additional investment was made in 2006. It is a limited company run by members and runs with a membership model and also offers Pay and Play access to non-members. There are no other commercial operators of indoor tennis facilities in the authority area. There is an additional facility, Stevenage and North Herts Tennis Centre, located just across the border in Stevenage, which is also accessed by North Hertfordshire residents.

Table 9.1: Indoor tennis courts in North Hertfordshire¹³

Active Places reference	1036025
Site Name	Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club
Facility ID	2071794
Sub Type	Traditional
Access Policy	Pay and Play
Disability Access	Yes
Changing Facilities	Yes

¹³ Source: Active Places / KKP Field Research

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9.2 Demand

The adult (14+) participation rate in sport, of at least once per week, in North Hertfordshire is 40.3% (Active People Survey 7- 2012/13). This is higher than the regional (35.1%) and national (35.7%) rate indicates that the local population has a higher propensity to participate in sport and physical activity.

Sport England Market Segmentation data identifies 2,358 people currently participating in all forms of tennis, including indoor tennis in North Hertfordshire. A further 2,495 state that they would like to begin participating in the future, indicating a potential future growth in demand.

Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club is the only club with indoor provision. The Club has a membership of approximately 1000. There is an extensive programme of opportunities to participate, social sessions and match play for all ages and abilities. Tots tennis, mini tennis, junior tennis, adult tennis, cardio tennis, schools tennis, tennis camps, girls programmes, plus league, camps and pay and play opportunities are all on offer at the facility.

Stevenage and N Herts Tennis centre is located in Stevenage, near the boundary of North Hertfordshire. The Club has an air dome with two indoor courts as well as outdoor provision for tennis. The facility is very accessible for North Hertfordshire residents although most members are Stevenage residents. The Club is subject to relocation proposals which could see an increase in demand for indoor tennis courts from any North Hertfordshire residents who may be forced to travel further should the proposal come to fruition.

9.3 Consultation

While North Herts is not currently an LTA focus area, the club is one that the NGB does work closely with; supporting them to run various programmes e.g. Davis Club Legacy project. In addition the LTA is working closely with the Club as a partner venue for GBTW in August 2015. The LTA has a tiered approach to local authorities to prioritise investment, loans, park courts and the community hub programme. North Hertfordshire is currently not prioritised in this programme. Closest neighbours involved are Oxford, Reading, Southend and West Norfolk. Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club is currently a 'Focus club' due to its desire and commitment to grow membership and programme numbers and to expand its community links, including a community focussed tennis programme on the local authority owned tennis courts at Norton Common. The LTA is likely to invest in the club in the future to improve its facilities (additional indoor and outdoor courts).

North Hertfordshire has a very limited relationship with the LTA. There are no other private facilities and no plans in the area for a private facility such as a David Lloyd Centre.

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9.4 Summary

In summary, the above consultation and analysis indicates the following with regard to indoor tennis provision:

- ◀ There is one facility with indoor tennis provision in North Hertfordshire, Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club, that offers eight outdoor courts and three indoor courts.
- ◀ Being the sole facility makes it important to protect the facility to ensure a continued provision for indoor tennis in the District.
- ◀ It is a members club, also offers pay and play access and is central to North Hertfordshire. The Club offers a wide range of tennis programmes for all age ranges and abilities.
- ◀ There are no commercial operators in the area or no known plans to develop any.
- ◀ The possibility of relocation of Lister Tennis Club in Stevenage could see an increased demand for indoor courts in North Hertfordshire if the site is relocated further away from North Hertfordshire for any local residents.
- ◀ The LTA is supportive of the Club who in 2016 were added to the regional network of focus clubs, resulting in regular meetings with the NGB aimed at supporting the club to grow tennis participation.

SECTION 10: STUDY CONCLUSIONS

The following key conclusions can be derived from the assessment report:

- ◀ North Hertfordshire has an active population in comparison to other parts of the country and as such its residents have a high propensity to participate in a wide range of sport and physical activities.
- ◀ The area is relatively affluent with 4% of the population living in the 30% most deprived communities in the country and 66% living in the 30% least deprived.
- ◀ The Council's six main sports facilities are managed by Stevenage Leisure Limited (SLL); under a management contract.
- ◀ North Hertfordshire appears to have an under supply of sports halls in terms of numbers, capacity and distribution; this equates to approximately one badminton court worth of additional provision according to the FPM. However the FPM is based on parameters that may not be in line with actual availability in North Hertfordshire so this along with consultation suggests this figure may be higher.
- ◀ The impact of population growth in the area will see the need for an additional 9.63 badminton courts worth of sports hall space.
- ◀ A number of clubs would like to access additional sports hall time in order to increase capacity and participation in various sports.
- ◀ The sports hall stock is generally old and would also benefit from investment. As an example, Fearnhill Sports Centre is a well-used dual use facility that is below average standard. Similarly, the FPM assumes that both Meridian School and Princess Helena College are less attractive given their age and lack of refurbishment.
- ◀ Although many school sports halls are available for community use, the easiest way to have a positive impact on supply is to ensure access to existing facilities is achieved. In particular, Highfield School has relatively limited community hours and increasing the availability of this facility would help relieve pressure in this part of the District.
- ◀ SLL has already pushed 5-a-side football to the fringes of its sports hall programmes; therefore, this approach could be adopted at other sports hall sites to enable the development of non-football participation initiatives.
- ◀ North Hertfordshire appears to have a good supply of swimming pools in terms of numbers, capacity and distribution. However, stock is generally aging and would benefit from investment.
- ◀ Hitchin Swimming Centre in particular, is a well-used facility that has seen some investment, however further investment would improve the facility further, specifically in the pool area.
- ◀ North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre requires investment in the sports hall and wet changing facilities. The Council is currently running a project to make investment into this facility, which would include these areas.
- ◀ Swimming clubs report demand for more water space that cannot be met by operators. Lidos provide a useful additional source of supply; however this does not necessarily relate to the peak usage times for indoor pools.
- ◀ There does not appear to be a strong need to provide additional swimming pool capacity but there is a need to ensure that demand is spread evenly across pools. This could be achieved by replacing/refurbishing some of the older swimming pools to improve quality and attractiveness to users.

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- ◀ A challenge identified, mainly relative to swimming pools, is the need to make 50% of all pool time available for casual swimmers. This has an impact on the programming of pools across the area; it limits the capacity of swimming clubs to accommodate swimmers and also appears to contribute to the swimming lesson waiting lists at facilities. However, the flip side of this is that it ensures that the public can access the pool when they wish.
- ◀ There are 16 health and fitness facilities in North Hertfordshire, which generally offer good quality facilities.
- ◀ There is a broad mix of commercial and publicly accessible health and fitness facilities throughout the area.
- ◀ UK penetration rates suggest that there are enough fitness stations to cater for the population; however, local authority facilities are operating at or near to capacity.
- ◀ This information suggests that there is the potential for growth in demand for health and fitness facilities and consideration needs to be given to increasing supply to meet this. The recent investment in local authority sites has gone some way to address this, but further expansion is potentially required.
- ◀ North Hertfordshire has sufficient squash courts, indoor tennis and indoor bowls facilities to meet the needs of residents. There are plans to develop key participation drives in squash and indoor bowls within the area.
- ◀ It is important to protect the Riverain Bowls Club, Hitchin and Letchworth Sports and Tennis Club facilities. As the only sports specific facilities in the area, both will be required to meet both current and future demands.
- ◀ Community Use Agreements are not in place across school sports facilities; this should be considered to secure the use of facilities for local community groups.

The following should be considered in the development of the overarching indoor sports facilities strategy for North Hertfordshire:

- ◀ The Council should consider how it will accommodate future increases in demand for sports facilities in the longer term, especially swimming pools.
- ◀ The Council should continue with its plan to refurbish the swimming pool changing facilities at North Herts Leisure Centre in 2016.
- ◀ The Council should aim to work with local schools to ensure that their sports facilities are available for community use throughout the full week.
- ◀ The Council and its partners should seek to develop a programming policy across all school and community sports facilities which maximises sports development outcomes for priority sports.
- ◀ Where new secondary school provision is developed, consideration should be given to ensuring there is sufficient sports hall space not only for the school, but to address any small deficiency in the supply of sports halls.
- ◀ The Council should ensure it develops a funding strategy to continually address the quality of swimming pool provision across the area.
- ◀ The Council and SLL should consider how they might expand the health and fitness offer at core leisure centre sites in order to accommodate more members and have a positive impact on the revenue cost of facilities.
- ◀ The Council should make a decision on the long term future of its outdoor swimming pool (lido) stock.
- ◀ The Council should work in partnership with specialist facility operators to ensure that ongoing relationships and sports development initiatives with NGBs are maximised.

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APPENDIX A: POLICY REVIEW OF NATIONAL, REGIONAL AND LOCAL STRATEGIES APPERTAINING TO NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

National Strategies

Sport England Strategy (2011/2012–2014/2015)

The vision is for England to be a world leading sporting nation where many more people choose to play sport. There are five strategic themes including:

- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment.
- ◀ Places, People, Play.
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence.
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment.
- ◀ Market development.

Sport England: A Sporting Habit for Life (2012-2017)

In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, Sport England aspires to transform sport in England so that it is a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:

- ◀ See more people starting and keeping a sporting habit for life.
- ◀ Create more opportunities for young people.
- ◀ Nurture and develop talent.
- ◀ Provide the right facilities in the right places.
- ◀ Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
- ◀ Ensure real opportunities for communities.

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- ◀ Maximise value from current NGB investment.
- ◀ Places, People, Play.
- ◀ Strategic direction and market intelligence.
- ◀ Set criteria and support system for NGB 2013-17 investment.
- ◀ Market development.

Launched in January 2012, this Strategy sets out how Sport England will invest over one billion pounds of National Lottery and Exchequer funding during the five year plan period. The investment is to be used to create a lasting community sport legacy by growing sports participation at the grassroots level following the 2012 London Olympics. Two key areas for this strategy are identified as:

£292m is allocated for local investment. This will include investment in sport in further education colleges ; a new community sport activation fund to promote sports participation in local communities; door step clubs and get on track programmes in disadvantaged communities and; pilot work on health related sports programmes and commercial market development to drive participation growth.

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Facilities still play a key role in the Strategy with £249m set aside to provide new or upgraded facilities in line with current Places People Play facility investment and a new mid-range (£50,000-£500,000) funding programme.

National Planning Policy Framework

The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), the government's planning policy, recognises the clear link between sport and health. It is a key part of the government's reforms to make the planning system less complex and more accessible. The framework acts as guidance for local planning authorities, both in drawing up plans and making decisions about planning applications. Improving health, social and cultural wellbeing is one of its twelve core principles. Paragraph 171 places health considerations and by extension participation in sport, as a key consideration in the planning process, it states:

'Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population (such as for sports, recreation and places of worship), including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being.'

Meeting the needs of local communities through the provision of accessible, high quality facilities which provide opportunities to participate in sport is therefore a critical part of good planning. The efficient and effective delivery of sports facilities depends on understanding the nature of current provision and assessing what will be required in the future by taking account of demographic and sports participation changes and trends. The NPPF makes this clear in paragraph 73, which states:

"Access to high quality open spaces and opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. Planning policies should be based on robust and up-to-date assessments of the needs for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. The assessments should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of open space, sports and recreational facilities in the local area. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sports and recreational provision are required."

It further emphasizes that: *"Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land, including playing fields, should not be built on unless:*

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

Sport England therefore aims to ensure *'positive planning for sport to increase participation and maximise the health benefits, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on robust and up-to date assessments of need for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community.'*

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From a local authority perspective the need to work with partners across the public, private, education and voluntary sector to plan sports facility provision is central to the NPPF.

Investment in school sport

In March 2013 the Government announced its funding for school sport (Sport Premium) which sees £150 million per annum invested over the next two years. This will be made up of funding from various Government departments including Department for Education (£80m), the Department of Health (£60m) and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (£10m). The Government's strategy will see funds go directly into the hands of primary school head teachers for them to spend on sport.

Schools will be measured by Ofsted on how well they use their Sport Premium to improve the quality and breadth of PE and sporting provision, including increasing participation in PE and sport so that all pupils develop healthy lifestyles and reach the performances levels they are capable of.

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Local Strategies

North Herts Sports Facility Strategy 2010-2031

The Indoor Sports Facilities Study takes account of the longer term North Herts Sports Facility Strategy 2010-2031 and considers these objectives and action plans within the Strategy document.

Table A1: North Herts Sports Facility Draft Initial Action Plan

No	Strategic Objective	Objective	Key Milestones and Tasks	Target date	Traffic light
1	Sustainable Value for Money	Develop an option appraisal for the replacement, rebuild or refurbishment of the North Herts Leisure Centre to determine what action is taken when it reaches the end of its economic life.	An option appraisal for the replacement, rebuild or refurbishment of the North Herts Leisure Centre is completed	Apr-12	Green
2	Sustainable Value for Money	Assist within financial resources the owners/managers to secure funding for the resurfacing of the Synthetic Turf Pitches of the district	Assist Hitchin Boys School to support them in their efforts to secure funding for resurfacing of the Synthetic Turf Pitches	As per owners plans	Green
			Assist Letchworth Corner Sports Club to support them in their efforts to secure funding for the resurfacing of the Synthetic Turf Pitches	As per owners plans	Green
3	Sustainable Value for Money	Develop plans to address the over provision of water space within North Herts	Investigate over provision of swimming pools through the District	Apr-11	Green
			Work in partnership to develop a programme of actions to reduce the over capacity that exists in line with local needs whilst improving VFM	Apr-12	Green
4	Sustainable Value for Money	To act as a facilitator/advisor for local sports clubs to maintain high quality/appropriate facilities to meet identified local demand	Provide support in securing external funding as and when required: - Examples of this could include Indoor Tennis and Indoor Bowls provision	As per owners plans	Green
5	Sustainable Value for Money	Ensure that future sports/leisure facilities built in North Herts incorporate appropriate design standards specific to meet the communities sporting needs	Advice is given via the planning process to ensure that they reflect best practise design and incorporate these needs	As required	Green
			Future facilities built by North Herts District	As required	Green

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No	Strategic Objective	Objective	Key Milestones and Tasks	Target date	Traffic light
			Council are built to an acceptable standard to meet the needs of the community		
6	Sustainable Value for Money	Review Fearnhill Sports Centre management arrangements to establish if they provide good Value of Money	Review management arrangements and establish if proposals for alternatives are required	Apr-12	Green
7	Sustainable Value for Money	Maximise capacity of leisure facilities in North Herts	To encourage our leisure contractors, sport clubs and schools to regularly review their programming to ensure its maximises usage for community benefit	As required	Green
8	Sustainable Value for Money	To work with schools and other facility providers to ensure any new facilities to be built in line with the strategy	Supply information to those managing BSF or other similar programmes that will enable new facilities to be built in line with the strategic need identified and to maximise public benefit	As required	Green
9	Sustainable	Establish and adopt facility provision standards for leisure facility planning team to formally adopt this strategy and to enable new sporting provision to be developed within planning guidelines	Work with NHDC's planning team to formally adopt this strategy and to enable sporting provision standards to be adopted within the planning framework	Dec-10	Green
			Ensure standards are used in securing section 106 funding	As required	Green
10	Sustainable	To ensure the type of surfacing of Synthetic Turf Pitches is adequate to meet the local sporting need	Encourage providers of new or refurbished pitches to consider addressing the shortage of hockey suitable pitches that exists or other sporting needs as they arise	As the opportunity arises	Green

NB. All actions that require financial funding will be reviewed as and when there is a need and will be dependent upon the Council's financial position

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A Green Space Management Strategy for North Hertfordshire 2014 – 2019¹⁴

The strategy has the following aims:

- ◀ To highlight the value and role of parks and green spaces in meeting corporate and community needs.
- ◀ To provide the justification and evidence base to maximise external investment opportunities and secure funding through planning obligations to provide continued investment for green space at reduced cost to the Council.
- ◀ To provide a framework to work in partnership with key stakeholders such as Groundwork Hertfordshire and the Countryside Management Service along with volunteers to deliver improvements and external funding opportunities to green space.
- ◀ To provide clear policies that prioritise essential green space investment requirements for the next five years.
- ◀ Based on sound policies develop a sustainable five year investment programme for green space that reduces the Council's revenue and capital spend whilst still providing essential short term enhancements for green space.

In particular the Strategy has a section specifically focussing on outdoor sports facilities.

9.0 Summary investment programme

Full details of the green space investment programme for 2014-2019 is detailed in the individual action plans that accompany this strategy. Listed below is a summary of the investment programme contained within the action plans for the next five years.

It is envisaged that new facilities and enhancements to existing will be driven by user groups encompassing outsourced funding. 'Pump-primer' allowances contributing to the full cost of the works will be available over the course of the 5-year programme.

Table A2: Outdoor sports facilities action plan¹⁵

Location Site	Site	Investment	Year	Value
Baldock	Bakers Close	Improve changing rooms	2014/15	£50,000
Baldock	Development belt	New wheeled sports facility	2015/16	£100,000
Hitchin	KGV	Enhancements to wheeled sports provision	2014/15	£20,000
Hitchin	Walsworth	New changing rooms	2016/17	£50,000
Hitchin	Walsworth	Pitch improvements	2016/17	£20,000
Hitchin	Walsworth	Enhancements to wheeled sports provision	2016/17	£20,000
Hitchin	KGV	New pavilion complex	2017/18	£50,000
Letchworth	Norton	Enhancements to wheeled	2015/16	£20,000

¹⁴ This document is subject to review to ensure its affordability and ability to deliver long term

¹⁵ This is subject to review of the Green Space and Strategy /Capital programme.

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Location Site	Site	Investment	Year	Value
	Common	sports provision		
Letchworth	Baldock Road	Enhancements to wheeled sports provision	2018/19	£20,000
Letchworth	Norton Common	Improve pavilion	2018/19	£50,000
Royston	Newmarket Road	Enhancements to wheeled sports provision	2017/18	£20,000
			Total	£420,000

North Hertfordshire District Council Corporate Plan 2016-2021

Includes the vision for the district 'Making North Hertfordshire a vibrant place to live, work and prosper.' To achieve this are three objectives:

- ◀ to work with our partners to provide an attractive and safe environment for our residents, where diversity is welcomed and the disadvantaged are supported;
- ◀ to promote sustainable growth within our district to ensure economic and social opportunities exist for our communities, whilst remaining mindful of our cultural and physical heritage;
- ◀ and to ensure that the Council delivers cost effective and necessary services to our residents that are responsive to developing need and financial constraints
- ◀

<http://www.north-herts.gov.uk/sites/northherts-cms/files/Corporate%20Plan%202016.pdf>

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The Strategy highlights ten themes which are outlined below, along with any sub themes relevant to this study.

Protecting and enhancing the environment

Improving the life chances of children and young people

- ◀ Improving the health and welfare of young people
- ◀ Tackle obesity
- ◀ Providing good quality affordable youth facilities

Strengthening communities and involving people

Improving health and wellbeing

- ◀ Help people live longer, healthier lives and tackle health inequalities
- ◀ Increase participation levels from all sections of the community
- ◀ Improving and developing the infrastructure for sport and leisure
- ◀ Ensure access to culture, sport and leisure
- ◀ Promote 'Sport for All'
- ◀ Supporting excellence

Enriching the lives of our elders

- ◀ Respond to the different needs of 'older' people' recognising the wide range of ages, abilities and interests this term encompasses

Increase economic prosperity and employment

Promoting lifelong learning, training and skill development

Providing decent and affordable housing

Improving travel and transport

A safe community

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APPENDIX B: DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE

Located in the East of England in the County of Hertfordshire, the area is dissected by a series of A roads, the main north/south link being the A1(M) and the A10, while in an west/east direction there are a few including the A505 and A602. The district has boundaries with nine other district council areas - Stevenage, East Hertfordshire, St. Albans and Welwyn Hatfield within Hertfordshire but also Luton, Central Bedfordshire, South Cambridgeshire and Uttlesford.

Figure B1: North Hertfordshire with main roads



The data used to describe the area is taken from a range of nationally recognised sources such as the Office for National Statistics, NOMIS, Sport England and Experian.

Wherever possible it represents the most up to date information available at the time of the report's preparation. New data is, however, published regularly and at different intervals. Unemployment data is, for example, released every month while population projections and deprivation data tend to be produced every three to four years and the census of population is conducted once every decade. Within this context, it should be noted that the 2010 IMD has been used for this study given that the 2015 updated deprivation indices were published following the completion of the initial draft of the study.

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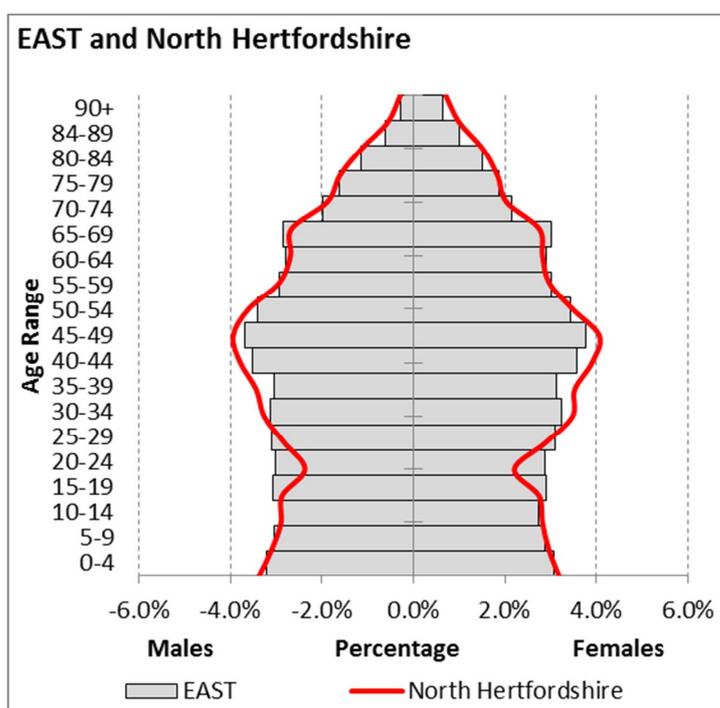
Population

Age and gender profile

The total population, from the 2013 Mid Year Estimates, in North Hertfordshire was 129,318 (males = 63,530 and females = 65,788).

The following chart illustrates the population's age and gender composition while, overlaying the red line for North Hertfordshire on top of the grey bars for the region it is easy to see where one dataset is higher or lower than the other.

Figure B2: Comparative age/sex pyramid for North Hertfordshire and the East



There is a lower proportion of 15-29 year olds (North Hertfordshire = 15.9%, East = 18.0%); this may suggest a lower level of demand from what are generally regarded as the main sports participation groups and also from young families. There are, however, more in the age groups from 30-54 (North Hertfordshire = 36.5%, East = 33.9%); these groups are likely to have higher disposable income and may also still be physically active. As a combination of factors it suggests careful consideration should be given to the pitching of sports and physical activity offers within the area – Sport England's segmentation model may be interpreted in relation to this age structure (see later).

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*Ethnicity*¹⁶

According to the 2011 Census of population, the largest proportion (89.5%) of the local population classified their ethnicity as White, this is higher than the comparative England rate of 85.4%. The next largest population group (by self-classification) is Asian, at 5.4% this lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

Table B1: Ethnic composition – North Hertfordshire and England

Ethnicity	North Hertfordshire		England	
	Number	Percentage	Number	Percentage
White	113,755	89.5%	45,281,142	85.42%
Mixed	3,376	2.7%	1,192,879	2.25%
Asian	6,821	5.4%	4,143,403	7.80%
Black	2,491	2.0%	1,846,614	3.48%
Other	671	0.5%	548,418	1.03%
Total	127,114	100.0%	53,012,456	100.00%

Economic indicators

Economic activity and inactivity¹⁷

8 in 10 (81.9%) of NHDC's 16-64 year olds are economically active (in or seeking employment – March 2014) compared to a national figure of 77.4%. The unemployment rate¹⁸ in North Hertfordshire is 5.5%; this is below the East of England figure (5.8%) and below the national rate (7.2%).

Approximately 1 in 5 (18.1%) of NHDC's 16-64 year olds are economically inactive. Around 1 in 3 are students

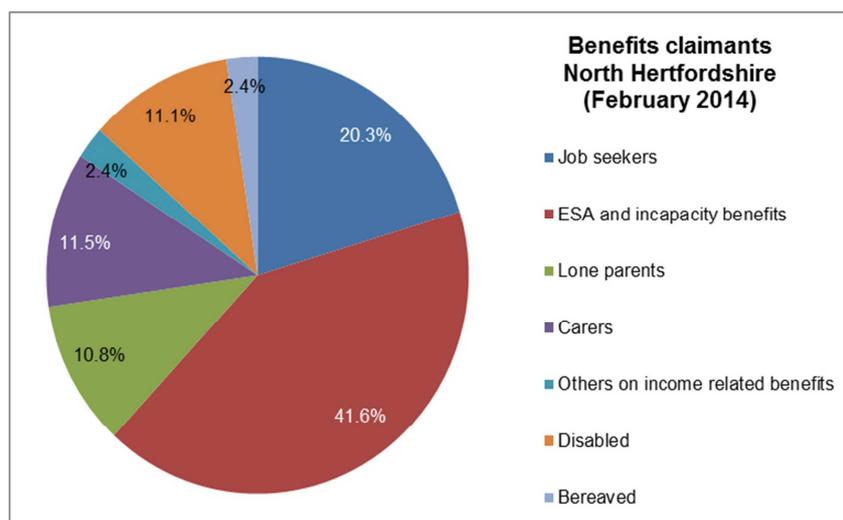
¹⁶ Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS

¹⁷ Data source: NOMIS 2014

¹⁸ Note the unemployment rate is modelled by the Office for National Statistics

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Figure B3: Benefits by type of claimant



Income and benefits dependency

The median figure for full-time earnings (2013) in North Hertfordshire is £33,415; the comparative rate for the East of England is £28,220 (-15.6%) and for Great Britain is £26,941 (-19.3%).

In August 2014 there were 1,158 people in North Hertfordshire claiming Job Seekers Allowance (JSA); this represents a decrease of 3.02% compared to August 2006 (1,194). However, people claiming JSA only represent 20.3% of benefits claimants in North Hertfordshire, a further 41.6% are claiming ESA¹⁹ and incapacity benefits while 11.5% are carers.

Health data²⁰

In 2013 there were 1,597 live births in North Hertfordshire; there were also 1,224 deaths; consequently there were 373 more births than deaths in 2013. Population change combines these factors alongside internal and international migration statistics.

In keeping with patterns seen alongside higher levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in North Hertfordshire is similar to the national figure; the male rate is currently 79.9 compared to 79.2 for England, and the female equivalent is 82.8 compared to 83.0 nationally.²¹

¹⁹ Employment and Support Allowance is directly targeted to support those who are ill or disabled.

²⁰ Data sources: ONS births and deaths, NCMP and NOO

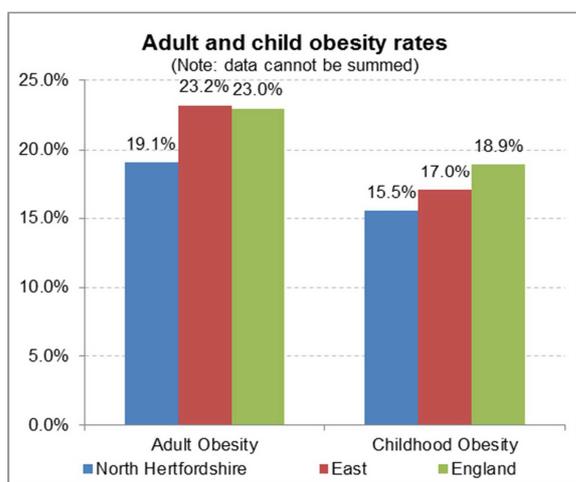
²¹ Office of National Statistics: Life Expectancy at Birth by local areas in the United Kingdom, 2013.

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Weight and obesity

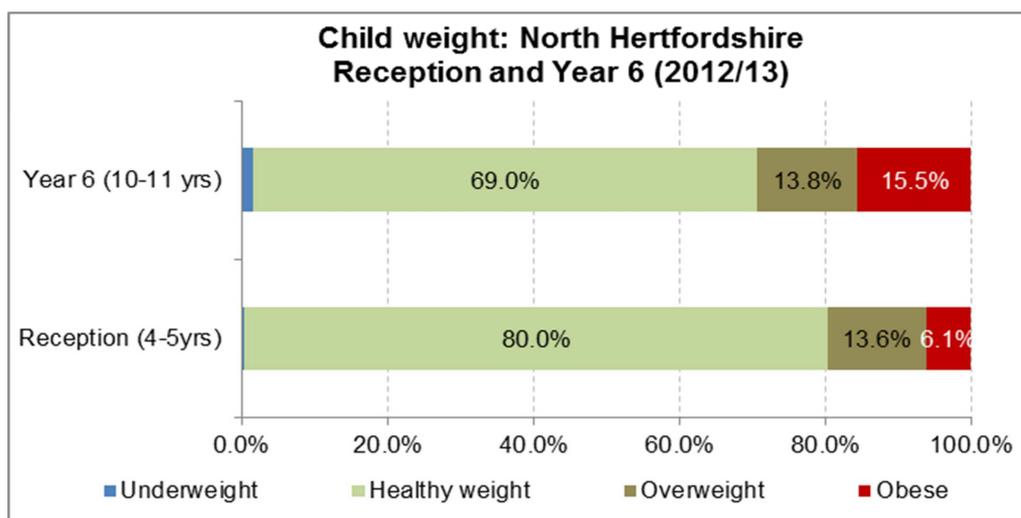
Obesity is widely recognised to be associated with health problems such as type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease and cancer. At a national level, the resulting NHS costs attributable to overweight and obesity²² are projected to reach £9.7 billion by 2050, with wider costs to society estimated to reach £49.9 billion per year. These factors combine to make the prevention of obesity a major public health challenge.

Figure B4: Adult and child obesity rates



Adult obesity rates in North Hertfordshire are below the national and regional averages. Furthermore child rates for obesity are also lower.

Figure B5: Child weight – Reception and Year 6



²² In adults, obesity is commonly defined as a body mass index (BMI) of 30 or more. For children in the UK, the British 1990 growth reference charts are used to define weight status.

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Furthermore, as with many other areas, obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 and 10. Under 1 in 16 (6.1%) of children in North Hertfordshire are obese in their Reception Year at school and 13.6% are overweight; by Year 6 these figures have risen to under 1 in 6 (15.5%) being obese and 13.8% being overweight. In total, by Year 6, 3 in 10 (29.3%) are either overweight or obese.

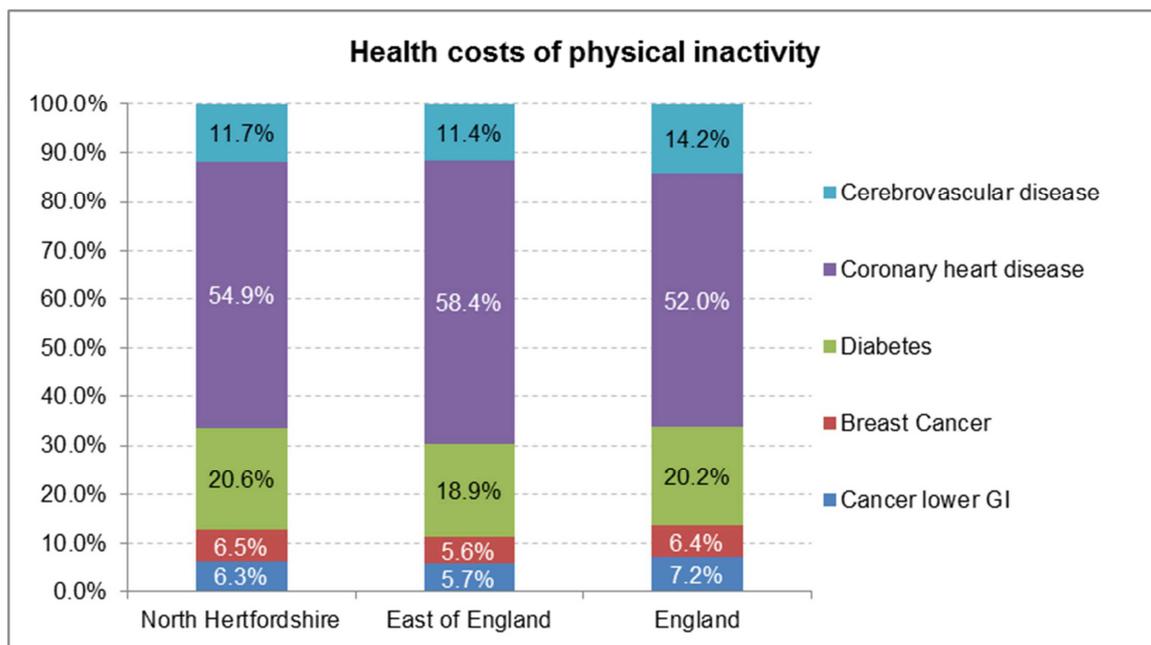
Health costs of physical inactivity

The British Heart Foundation (BHF) Promotion Research Group has reviewed the costs of avoidable ill health that it considers are attributable to physical inactivity. Initially produced for the Department for Health (DoH) report Be Active Be Healthy (2009) the data has subsequently been reworked for Sport England.

Illnesses that the BHF research relates to include cancers such as bowel cancer, breast cancer, type 2 diabetes, coronary heart disease and cerebrovascular disease e.g.: stroke. The data indicates a similar breakdown between these illnesses regionally and nationally.

The annual cost to the NHS of physical inactivity in North Hertfordshire is estimated at £1,826,077.

Figure B6: Health costs of physical inactivity



When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000 North Hertfordshire (£1,457,383) is 19.8% below the national average (£1,817,285) and 18.4% below the regional average (£1,785,966).

It should also be noted that in addition to the NHS costs there are also significant costs to industry in terms of days of productivity lost due to back pain etc. These have also been costed in CBI reports and are of similar magnitude to NHS costs.

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Crime²³

During the 12 months to March 2014 the rate for recorded crimes per 1,000 persons in North Hertfordshire was 39.7; this is markedly lower than the equivalent rate for England and Wales as a whole which was 60.7. In both instances the crime rate has fallen since 2011, by around 20.4% for North Hertfordshire and 15.5% for England & Wales.

Table B2: Comparative crime rates – North Hertfordshire and England & Wales

Authority	Recorded crime (Feb '13 – Mar '14)	Population 2013 MYE	Recorded crime per 1,000 population
North Hertfordshire	5,127	103,456	31.7
England & Wales	3,454,527	56,948,229	60.7

Population density²⁴

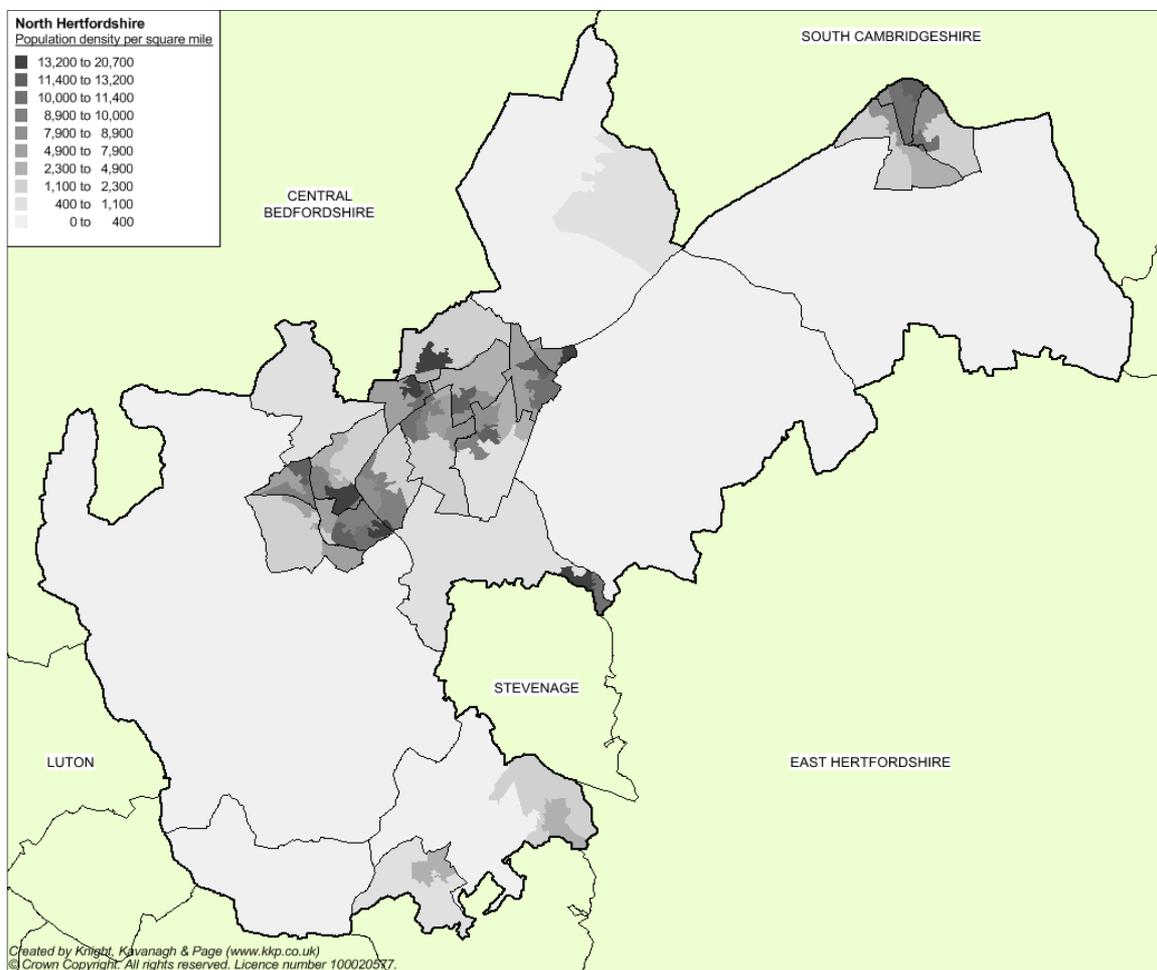
The population density map is based on super output areas (SOA) from ONS' most recent Census of population. It covers all parts of the country irrespective of whether the SOA is in an area of high density housing and flats or it covers farms and rural villages. The map's shading, however, allows concentrations of population to be easily identified, for example, major urban areas such as flats, terraced houses and estates tend to show up as the darkest shading while rural areas, housing adjoining parks and other non-residential land uses tend to be the lightest shades.

²³ Data source: 2014 Recorded Crime, Home Office

²⁴ Data source: 2013 Mid Year Estimate, ONS

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Figure B7: Population density 2012 MYE: North Hertfordshire super output areas (SOAs)



Population projections

Strategic planning: Change over 25 years (2012 to 2037²⁵)

At strategic and operational levels plans to increase levels of physical activity must not be set in stone, they should be flexible and respond to predictable changes in age structure, gender and ethnic composition. The ONS 2012-based population projections (data released May 2014) indicate a rise of 24.6% in North Hertfordshire's population (+31,573) over the 25 years from 2012 to 2037.

Over this extended timeframe fluctuations are seen in rise and fall at different points across the majority of age groups with population change acting more like a wave than a straight line (see Figure B8). For example the number of 16-24 year olds falls by c.10% between 2012 and 2019 before rising again to 9.6% more than its 2012 baseline by 2037.

²⁵ Office for National Statistics 2012-based population projections (data released May 2014)

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Figure B8: Projected population change (2012 -2037)

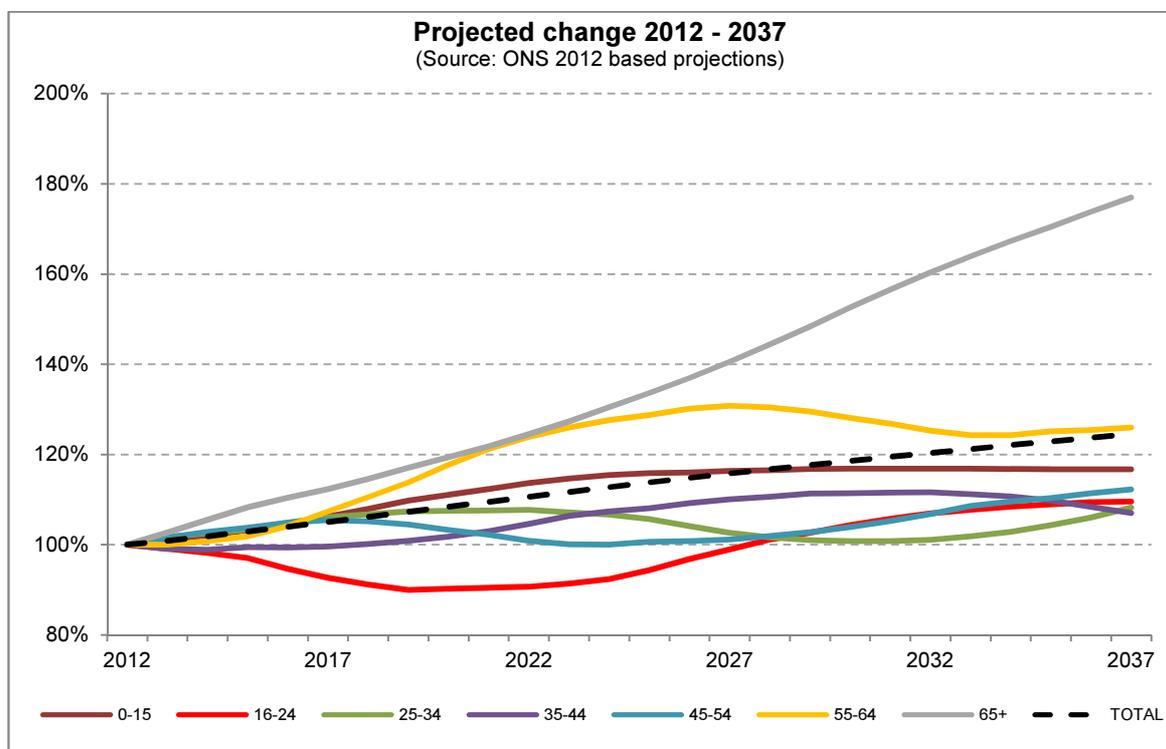


Table B3: North Hertfordshire - ONS Projected population (2012 to 2037)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2012 - 2037	
	2012	2024	2037	2012	2024	2037	2024	2037
0-15	25,056	28,926	29,254	19.5%	20.0%	18.3%	115.4%	116.8%
16-24	11,768	10,868	12,893	9.2%	7.5%	8.1%	92.4%	109.6%
25-34	16,041	17,114	17,362	12.5%	11.8%	10.9%	106.7%	108.2%
35-44	19,023	20,424	20,358	14.8%	14.1%	12.7%	107.4%	107.0%
45-54	19,189	19,196	21,539	14.9%	13.3%	13.5%	100.0%	112.2%
55-64	14,718	18,787	18,545	11.5%	13.0%	11.6%	127.6%	126.0%
65+	22,633	29,523	40,051	17.6%	20.4%	25.0%	130.4%	177.0%
Total	128,428	144,838	160,001	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	112.8%	124.6%

Population projections are based on straightforward process which models observed trends in fertility and mortality rates plus migration factors. Nevertheless they can illustrate a relatively complex picture of change. Several key points are outlined overleaf:

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One of the most notable points is the progressive rise in the number of 0-15 year olds, rising by +3,870 (+15.4%) over the first half of the projection (to 2024). This will place pressure on differing types of sporting, educational and cultural provision (facility and services) by age, gender and sub-groups of the cohort.

In contrast, there is predicted to be decline in the number of 16-24 year olds, -7.6% in the first period (-900) followed by growth back to +9.6% (+1,125) in the second period. Consequently Sport England's target of 'increasing the number of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week' may prove difficult during the first period in which numerical stasis would represent a marginal increase in participation rates.

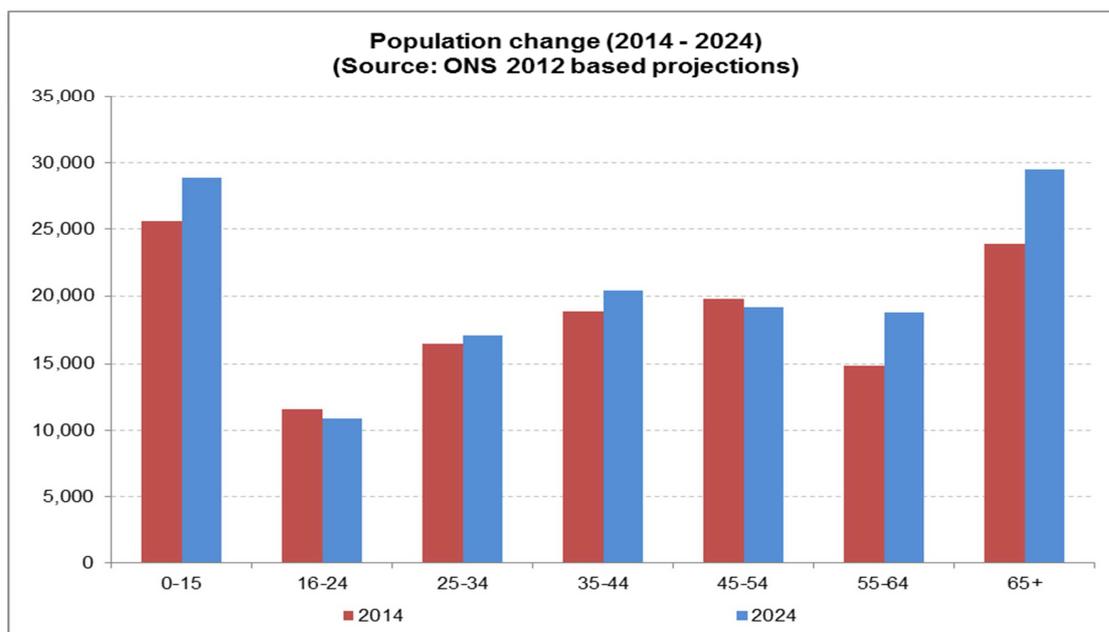
There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ and a need to consider varying sports offers for this age group. This represents an increase of +30.4% (+6,890) in the first period continuing to rise to +77.0% (+17,418) between 2012 and 2037. While the age group represented 17.6% of North Hertfordshire's population in 2012 it is projected to be 25.0% of the total by 2037 - this is a quarter of the population.

Service planning: Change over the coming decade (2014 – 2024)

While strategic planning needs to consider change over 20 to 25 years, service planning is often more closely aligned to a much shorter time horizon, typically 5 to 10 years. Over the decade to 2024 it is projected that the overall number of people in North Hertfordshire will rise by +13,969 (+10.7%). However, significant age specific variations will have implications for different markets, economic and health issues, for example, there will be:

- ▶ +3,347 (+13.1%) more 0-15 year olds; and
- ▶ -547 (-2.8%) fewer 45-54 year olds; and
- ▶ +3,956 (+26.7%) more 55-64 year olds; and
- ▶ +5,635 (+23.6%) more people aged 65+.

Figure B9: Projected population change (2014 -2024)



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Facilities planning for increases in the 65+ and 0-15 age groups may lead the Council to determine that these opposing age groups require very different provision at key times of the day and week from other users. However, just as the 65+ age group often requires activities during the day activities for 0-5 year olds often follow similar time patterns. Conversely, activities for 5-15 year olds are focused more closely on after school and weekend activities.

Local intelligence

The North Hertfordshire Local Plan 2011-2031 Preferred Options has recently been out for consultation and results are being analysed. The Plan includes the potential development of 14,200 additional homes in the area, which includes an allowance of 2,100 dwellings towards the unmet need for housing from Luton. These developments would require the development of new school sites or extensions to existing school provision.

This study will assist the Council in identifying the additional need for facilities in light of housing and population growth.

Deprivation²⁶

The following deprivation maps illustrate the ranking of super output areas (SOAs) in North Hertfordshire based on the Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG) *'Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010'* (IMD 2010). The IMD ranks 32,482 SOAs throughout England²⁷, with a rank position of one indicating the most deprived SOA in the Country.

The IMD 2010 is a valuable source of information about spatial patterns of deprivation in England and can be used to help focus policy and interventions on deprived areas and particular types of deprivation. It comprises 37 different indicators which are grouped into seven separate 'domains' of deprivation, these cover income, employment, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training, barriers to housing and services, living environment deprivation and crime. The seven main 'domains' may also be combined to make an overall 'multiple rank' of deprivation; this is the most frequently used measure.

Table B4 shows North Hertfordshire's population in relation to 10 bands of relative deprivation. It indicates that 0.0% of NHBC's population live in areas within the bottom 10% of SOA's nationally, i.e. in the most deprived parts of the country. Furthermore, a further 3.8% are in the next two cohorts; consequently, 3.8% of North Hertfordshire's population is in the 'lowest' three bands compared to a national average of 29.8%.

²⁶ Data source: 2010 indices of deprivation, DCLG)

²⁷ SOAs relate to the geography used for the 2001 Census.

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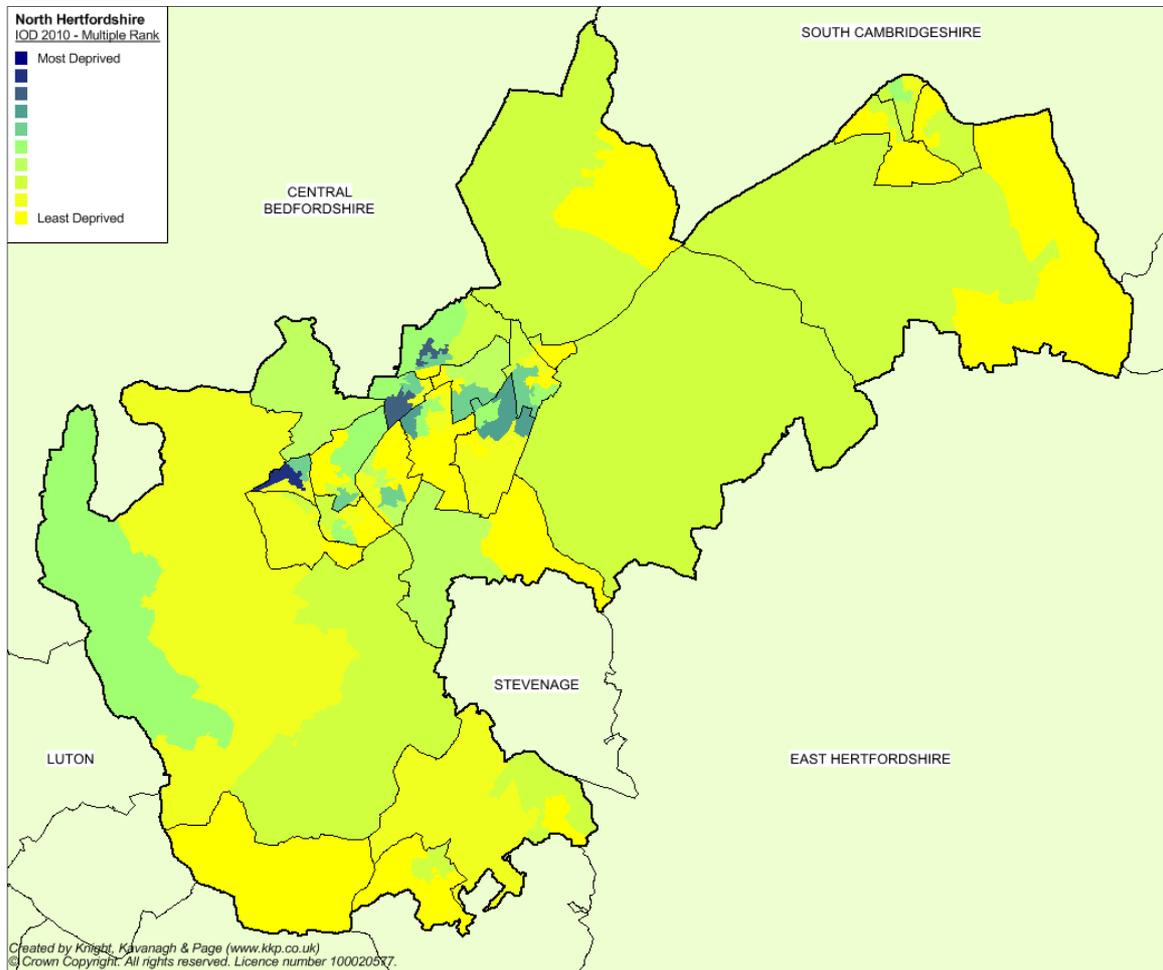
Table B4: IMD cohorts – North Hertfordshire

IMD cumulative norm	Multiple deprivation			Health deprivation			
	Population in band	Percent of population		Population in band	Percent of population		
Most deprived	10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	20.0	1,491	1.2%	1.2%	3,245	2.6%	2.6%
	30.0	3,236	2.6%	3.8%	0	0.0%	2.6%
	40.0	3,917	3.1%	6.9%	4,214	3.3%	5.9%
	50.0	12,369	9.8%	16.7%	7,475	5.9%	11.8%
	60.0	12,556	10.0%	26.7%	10,865	8.6%	20.4%
	70.0	8,965	7.1%	33.8%	7,093	5.6%	26.0%
Least deprived	80.0	22,903	18.2%	52.0%	24,656	19.6%	35.6%
	90.0	18,956	15.1%	67.1%	29,384	23.4%	59.0%
	100.0	41,416	32.9%	100%	38,877	30.9%	99.9%

Conversely, despite a generally similar pattern, comparison of Figures B10 and B11 highlights a lower of health deprivation than that of multiple (causes of) deprivation. This is borne out by the comparative rates which show 66.2% of North Hertfordshire's population to be in the three bands with the lowest levels of multiple deprivation while 73.9% are in the equivalent three bands for health deprivation (see Table B4 and Figure B12).

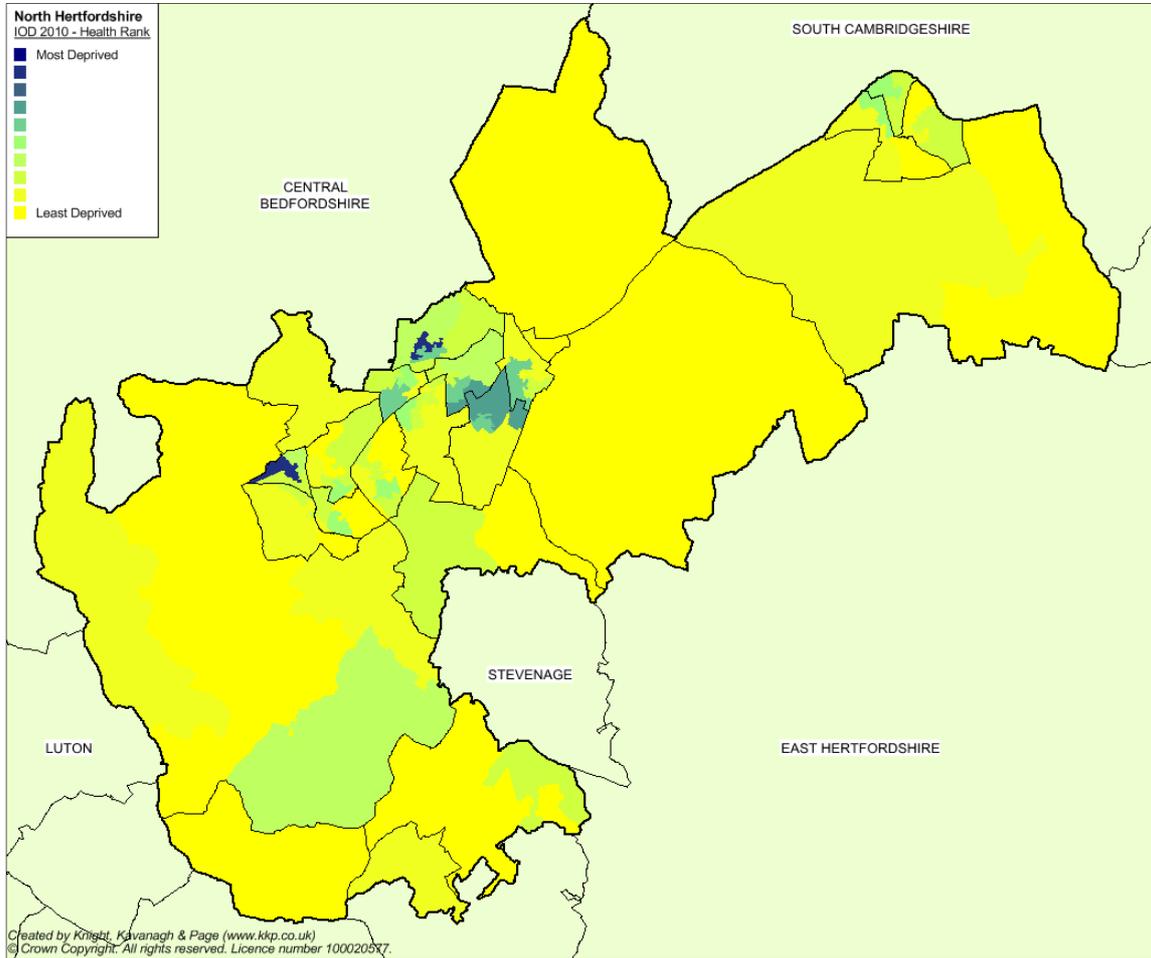
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Figure B10: Index of multiple deprivation



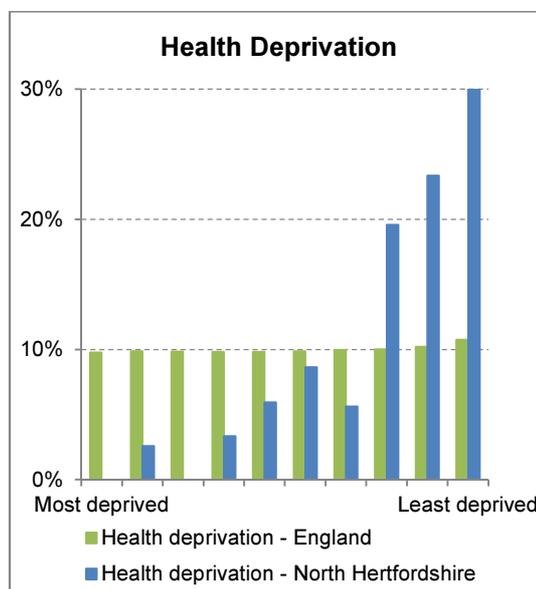
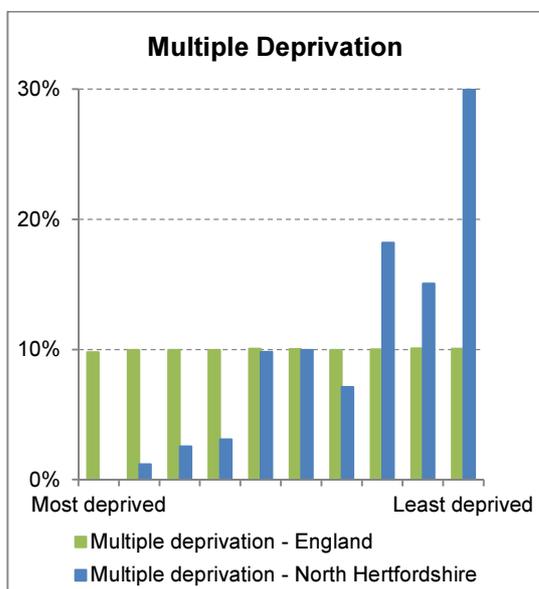
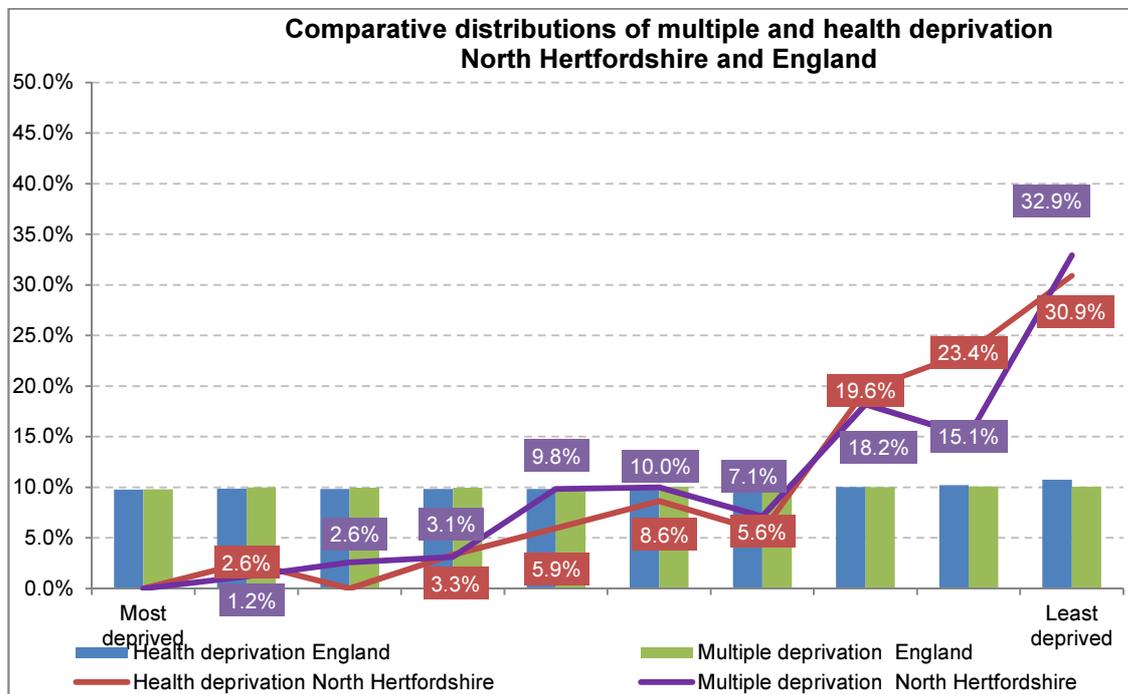
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Figure B11: Index of multiple deprivation- health domain



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Figure B12: IMD and Health domain comparisons – North Hertfordshire and England.



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Consumer profiling

Sport England Active People Survey

Active People is the largest survey of sport and active recreation in Europe and is in its eighth year (APS8 October 2013 – 2014). It collects data on the type, duration, frequency and intensity of adult participation by type of sport, recreation and cultural activity. The survey also covers volunteering, club membership, tuition as an instructor or coach, participation in competitive sport and overall satisfaction with local sports provision.

Table B5: Active People Survey for all adults – North Hertfordshire and nearest neighbours

KPI	National %	East %	North Hertfordshire %	Nearest neighbours			
				Dacorum %	Braintree %	Maidstone %	Epping Forest %
1x30 Indicator - Participation in 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week.							
2013/14	35.8	35.2	38.9%	41.8%	32.6%	31.9%	38.8%
KPI 2 - At least 1 hour per week volunteering to support sport.							
2013/14	12.5	12.3	*	*	*	*	*
KPI 3 - Club membership in the last 4 weeks							
2013/14	21.6	22.0	32.9%	23.6%	19.3%	24.4%	29.0%
KPI 4 - Received tuition / coaching in last 12 months.							
2013/14	16.4	17.1	28.0%	19.4%	19.1%	14.4%	20.0%
KPI 5 - Taken part in organised competitive sport in last 12 months.							
2013/14	13.3	14.0	17.6%	16.1%	*	18.2%	17.9%

* Sample size too small or question not asked

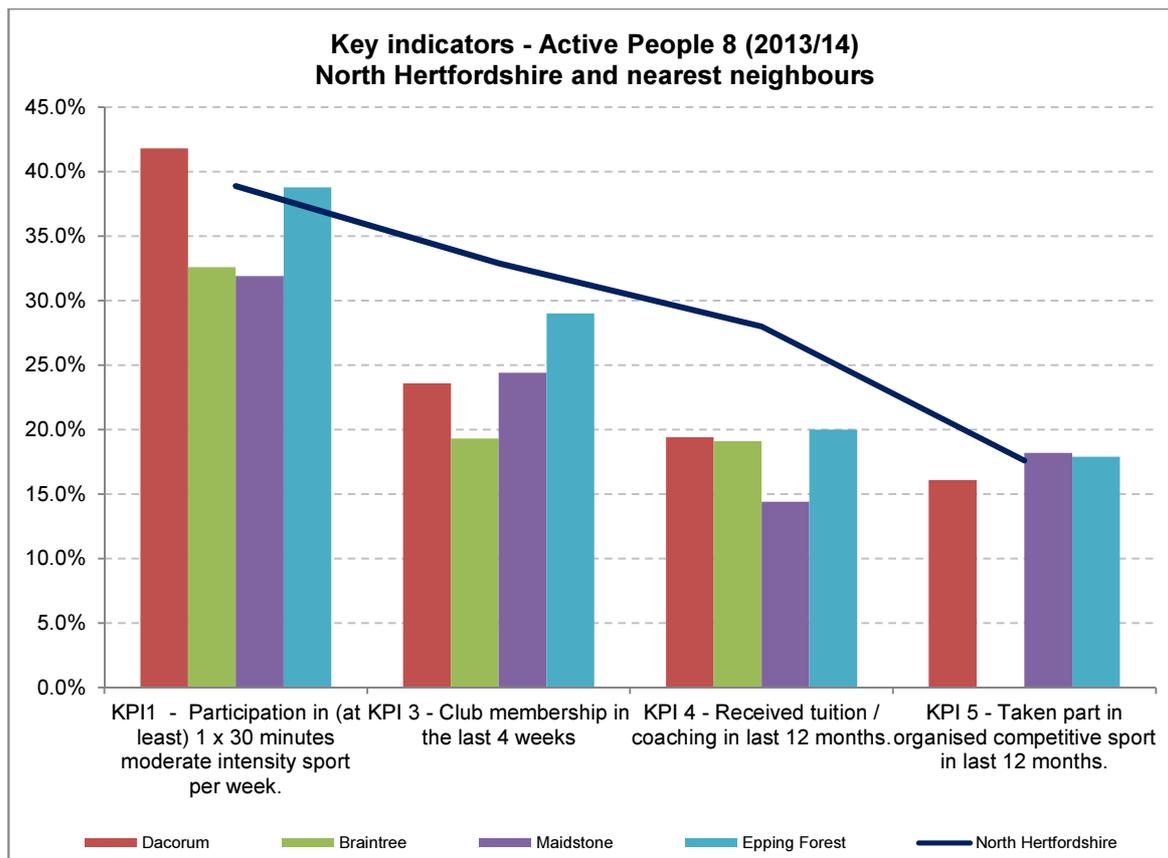
Table B5 shows key indicators from APS 8 for North Hertfordshire and compares these to the corresponding rates for the East, England and statistical 'nearest neighbours' based on a CIPFA (the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy) model. This type of comparison has been developed to aid local authorities to compare and benchmark. The model applies a range of socio-economic indicators, including population, unemployment rates, tax base per head of population, council tax bands and mortality ratios upon which the specific family group (nearest neighbours) is calculated. Key findings include:

- ◆ Participation – Just under 4 in 10 (38.9%) of adults participated in at least 1 x 30 minutes moderate intensity sport per week. This was above both the national average (35.8%) and the regional average (35.2%). It was above all but one of its 'nearest neighbours' which ranged from 31.9% to 41.8%.
- ◆ Sports club membership – over 3 in 10 (32.9%) are members of a sports club, based on the four weeks prior to the AP survey. This is above both the national average (21.6%) and the regional rate (22.0%) and is above all but one of its 'nearest neighbours'.

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- Sports tuition – just under 3 in 10 (28.0%) received sports tuition during the 12 months prior to the AP survey. This was above the regional and national averages. It is also above all of its ‘nearest neighbours’.
- Competitive sport – over 1 in 5 (17.6%) adults had taken part in competitive sport in the previous 12 months, this was above all but two of North Hertfordshire’s ‘nearest neighbours and also higher than the national (13.3%) and regional (14.0%) averages.

Figure B13: Key AP indicators, North Hertfordshire and nearest neighbours (2013/14)



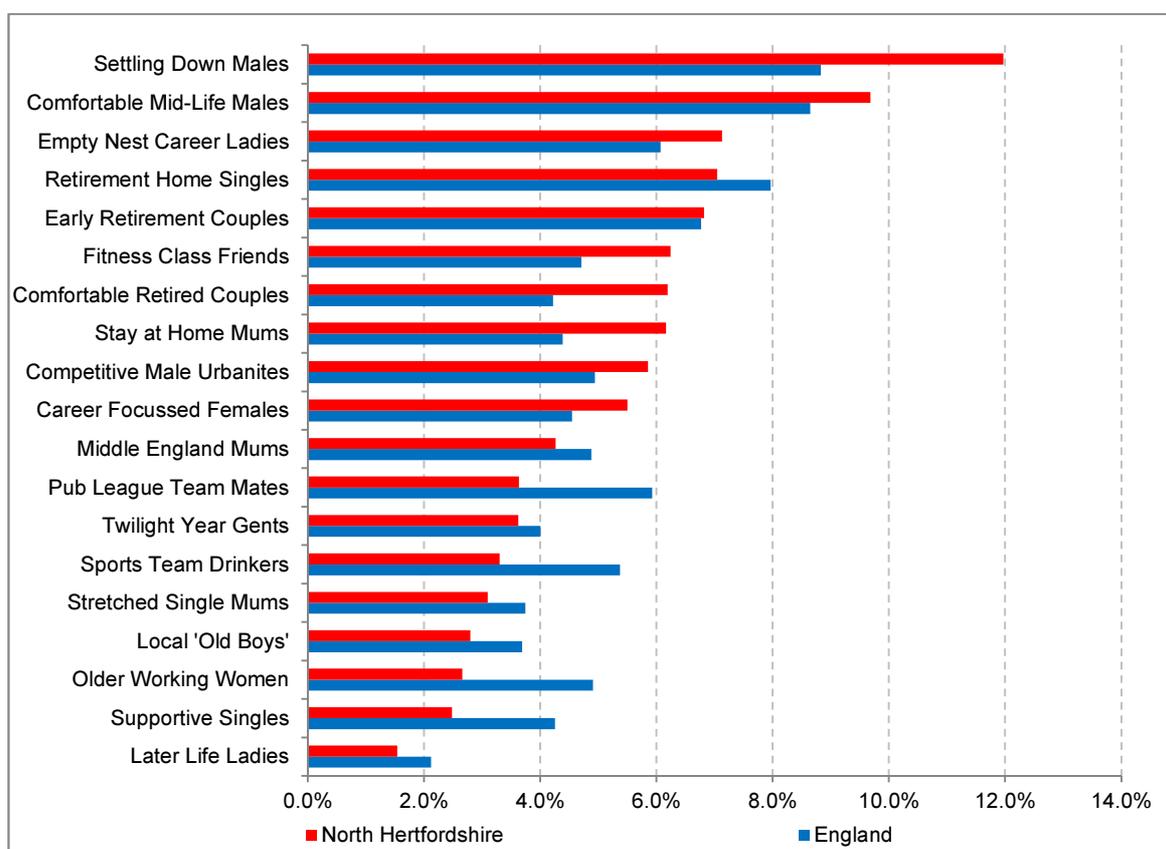
KPI 2 (Volunteering) is not shown on this chart due to suppressed data.

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Sport England Market Segmentation²⁸

Sport England has classified the adult population via a series of 19 market segments which provide an insight into the sporting behaviours of individuals throughout the country. The profiles cover a wide range of characteristics, from gender and age to the sports that people take part in, other interests, the newspapers that they read etc. The segmentation profile for North Hertfordshire indicates ‘Settling Down Males’ to be the largest segment of the adult population at 11.97% (11,622) compared to a national average of 8.83%.

Figure B14: Sport England Market Segmentation – North Hertfordshire compared to England



Knowing which segments are most dominant in the local population is important as it can help direct provision and programming. Whilst the needs of smaller segments should not be ignored, it is important for North Hertfordshire to understand which sports are enjoyed by the largest proportion(s) of the population. Segmentation also enables partners to make tailored interventions, communicate effectively with target market(s) and better understand participation in the context of life stage and lifecycles.

The following data indicates that Tim, Philip and Elaine are the three dominant groups, representing 28.8% (27,945) of the adult population, compared to 23.5% nationally.

²⁸ Data source: Market segmentation, Sport England

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Table B6: Sport England Market Segmentation summaries

Segment, description and its top three sports nationally				
Settling Down Males	Tim		11,622	North
Sporty male professionals (aged 26-45), buying a house and settling down with partner.			11.97%	Hertfordshire
			10.47%	East
Cycling (21%)	Keep fit/gym (20%)	Swimming (15%)	8.83%	England
Comfortable Mid-Life Males	Philip		9,403	North
Mid-life professional (aged 46-55), sporty males with older children and more time for themselves.			9.68%	Hertfordshire
			9.62%	East
Cycling (16%)	Keep fit/gym (15%)	Swimming (12%)	8.65%	England
Empty Nest Career Ladies	Elaine		6,920	North
Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home (aged 46-55).			7.13%	Hertfordshire
			6.83%	East
Keep fit/gym (21%)	Swimming (18%)	Cycling (7%)	6.07%	England
Retirement Home Singles	Elsie & Arnold		6,840	North
Retired singles or widowers (aged 66+), predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation.			7.04%	Hertfordshire
			7.94%	East
Keep fit/gym (10%)	Swimming (7%)	Bowls (3%)	7.97%	England
Early Retirement Couples	Roger & Joy		6,619	North
Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers (aged 56-65).			6.82%	Hertfordshire
			8.19%	East
Keep fit/gym (13%)	Swimming (13%)	Cycling (8%)	6.77%	England
Fitness Class Friends	Chloe		6,061	North
Young (aged 18-25) image-conscious females keeping fit and trim.			6.24%	Hertfordshire
			5.29%	East
Keep fit/gym (28%)	Swimming (24%)	Athletics (14%)	4.71%	England
Comfortable Retired Couples	Ralph & Phyllis		6,012	North
Retired couples (aged 66+), enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles.			6.19%	Hertfordshire
			5.05%	East
Keep fit/gym (10%)	Swimming (9%)	Golf (7%)	4.22%	England
Stay at Home Mums	Alison		5,984	North
Mums with a comfortable, but busy, lifestyle (aged 36-45).			6.16%	Hertfordshire
			5.38%	East
Keep fit/gym (27%)	Swimming (25%)	Cycling (12%)	4.39%	England
Competitive Male Urbanites	Ben		5,688	North
Male (aged 18-25), recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude. Most sporty of 19 segments.			5.86%	Hertfordshire
			5.30%	East
Football (33%)	Keep fit/gym (24%)	Cycling (18%)	4.94%	England
Career Focussed Females	Helena		5,339	North
Single professional women, enjoying life in the fast lane (aged 26-45).			5.50%	Hertfordshire
			4.99%	East
Keep fit/gym (26%)	Swimming (23%)	Cycling (11%)	4.55%	England

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Segment, description and its top three sports nationally				
Middle England Mums	Jackie		4,140	North Hertfordshire
Mums (aged 36-45) juggling work, family and finance.			4.26%	East
Keep fit/gym (27%)	Swimming (20%)	Cycling (9%)	4.88%	England
Pub League Team Mates	Kev		3,531	North Hertfordshire
Blokes (aged 36-45) who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport.			3.64%	East
Keep fit/gym (14%)	Football (12%)	Cycling (11%)	5.93%	England
Twilight Year Gents	Frank		3,519	North Hertfordshire
Retired men (aged 66+) with some pension provision and limited sporting opportunities.			3.62%	East
Golf (7%)	Keep fit/gym (6%)	Bowls (6%)	4.01%	England
Sports Team Drinkers	Jamie		3,206	North Hertfordshire
Young blokes (aged 18-25) enjoying football, pints and pool.			3.30%	East
Football (28%)	Keep fit/gym (22%)	Athletics (12%)	5.37%	England
Stretched Single Mums	Paula		3,009	North Hertfordshire
Single mum (aged 26-45) with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure.			3.10%	East
Keep fit/gym (18%)	Swimming (17%)	Cycling (5%)	3.74%	England
Local 'Old Boys'	Terry		2,716	North Hertfordshire
Generally inactive older men (aged 56-65), low income and little provision for retirement.			2.80%	East
Keep fit/gym (8%)	Swimming (6%)	Cycling (5%)	3.69%	England
Older Working Women	Brenda		2,585	North Hertfordshire
Middle aged ladies (aged 46-65), working to make ends meet.			2.66%	East
Keep fit/gym (15%)	Swimming (13%)	Cycling (4%)	4.91%	England
Supportive Singles	Leanne		2,408	North Hertfordshire
Young (aged 18-25) busy mums and their supportive college mates. Least active segment of her age group.			2.48%	East
Keep fit/gym (23%)	Swimming (18%)	Athletics (9%)	4.25%	England
Later Life Ladies	Norma		1,495	North Hertfordshire
Older ladies (aged 56-65), recently retired, with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles.			1.54%	East
Keep fit/gym (12%)	Swimming (10%)	Cycling (2%)	2.12%	England

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The most popular sports in North Hertfordshire

A further aspect of the Active People Survey and Sport England Market Segmentation is that it makes it possible to identify the top five sports within North Hertfordshire. As with many other areas, gym and swimming are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in North Hertfordshire around 1 in 8 adults go to the gym, on average, at least once a month. The next most popular activity is swimming, 10.8% of adults go swimming on a relatively regular basis.

Table B7: Most popular sports in North Hertfordshire²⁹

Sport	North Hertfordshire		East		England	
	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate	No. (000s)	Rate
Gym	12.6	12.6%	10.2	10.1%	4,622.7	10.9%
Swimming	10.8	10.8%	11.1	11.1%	4,896.9	11.5%
Cycling	10.2	10.2%	8.4	8.4%	3,458.9	8.1%
Athletics	7.6	7.6%	6.2	6.2%	2,778.8	6.5%
Fitness & Conditioning	7.2	7.2%	6.6	6.6%	2,854.7	6.7%

Mosaic³⁰

Mosaic 2013 is a similar consumer segmentation product and classifies all 26 million households into 15 groups, 67 household types and 155 segments. This data can be used to paint a picture of UK consumers in terms of their social-demographics, lifestyles, culture and behaviour and tends to be used to draw out population characteristics for the backdrop to library usage and other non-sporting activities. The following table shows the top five mosaic classifications in North Hertfordshire compared to the country as a whole. The dominance of these five segments can be seen inasmuch as they represent over 3 in 5 (62.3%) of the adult population compared to a national equivalent rate of less than half (40.7%).

Table B8: Mosaic – Main population segments in North Hertfordshire

Mosaic group description	North Hertfordshire		National %
	#	%	
1 - Professional Rewards	16,204	16.3%	9.1%
2 - Careers and Kids	13,707	13.8%	5.6%
3 - Suburban Mindsets	11,912	12.0%	12.3%
4 - Ex-Council Community	11,277	11.3%	9.4%
5 - New Homemakers	8,853	8.9%	4.3%

²⁹ Source: Sport England Area Profiles

³⁰ 2013 Mosaic analysis, Experian

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Figure B16: Mosaic profiles – North Hertfordshire compared to England

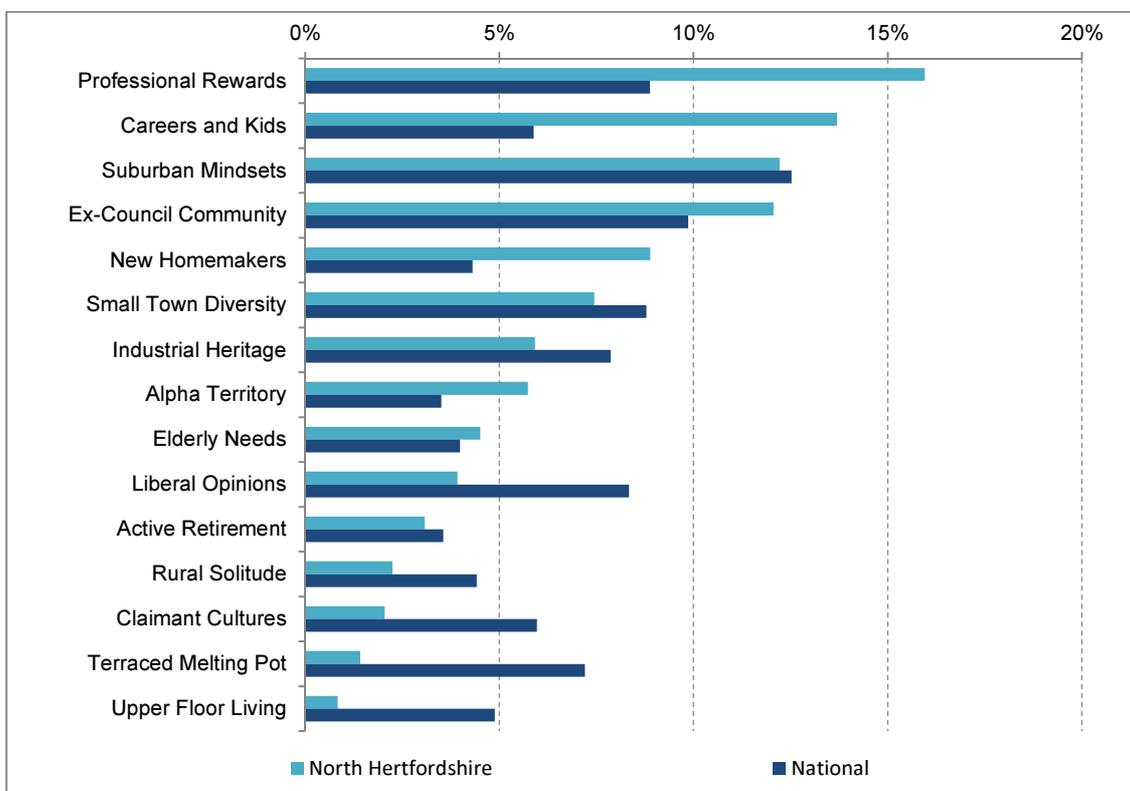


Table B9: Dominant Mosaic profiles in North Hertfordshire

Professional Rewards

This group is defined as the executive and managerial classes, some of whom may own small or medium sized business whilst others will have risen to senior positions in large multinational organisations. They are often in their 40's to 60's, are married and live in spacious family homes with children. Their properties are well maintained and equipped and their tastes conservative. These neighbourhoods are found in residential areas in the outer suburbs of large cities or in semi-rural villages.

Careers and Kids

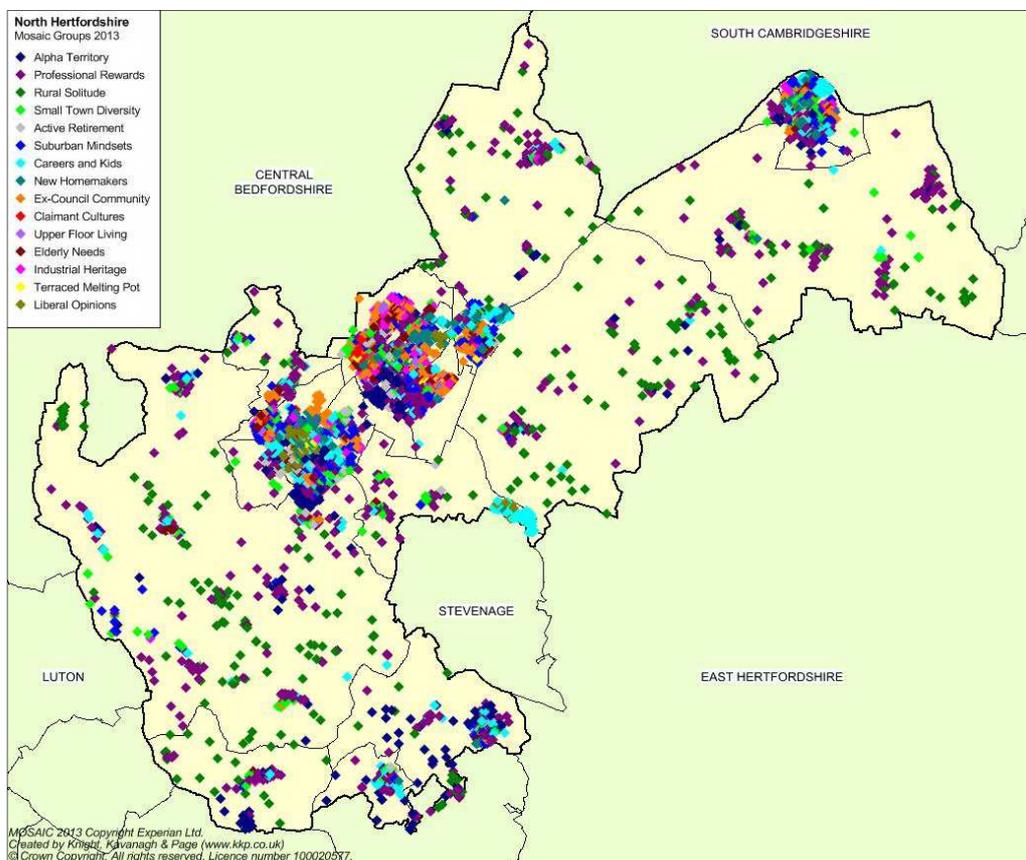
This group is defined as young couples whose lives are focused on the needs of their growing children and the creation of a comfortable family home. They are well educated and established in careers benefiting from the prospect of future career development. These neighbourhoods consist of new purpose-built family housing, which is not spacious but are well equipped, located on the outer edge of large cities/towns.

Suburban Mindsets

This group is defined as people who are predominantly middle class or skilled working class people who are married and living with their children in well maintained family houses. Some commute to City office jobs, whilst others earn good wages in manufacturing jobs. These people are industrious and value their independence, but do not necessarily get involved with their local community.

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Figure B17: Distribution of Mosaic segments in North Hertfordshire



Active Places³¹

The Active Places database contains information on c.60,000 facilities; the sports halls and swimming pools in North Hertfordshire are listed below and shown on the maps that follow.

Table B9: Active Places data on North Hertfordshire

Site Ref	Site name	Facilities		
1	Brandles School	Hall		
2	Christchurch Methodist & United Reformed Church	Hall		
3	Coombes Community Centre	Hall		
4	Fearnhill Sports Centre	Hall		
5	Graveley Village Hall	Hall		
6	Great Wymondley Village Hall	Hall		
7	Highover Junior Middle Infant School	Hall		
8	Hitchin Boys School Sports Centre	Hall		AGP
9	Hitchin Girls' School	Hall		
10	Hitchin Sports Centre	Hall		AGP
11	Hitchin Swimming Centre & Fitness @ Archers Hitchin		Pool	

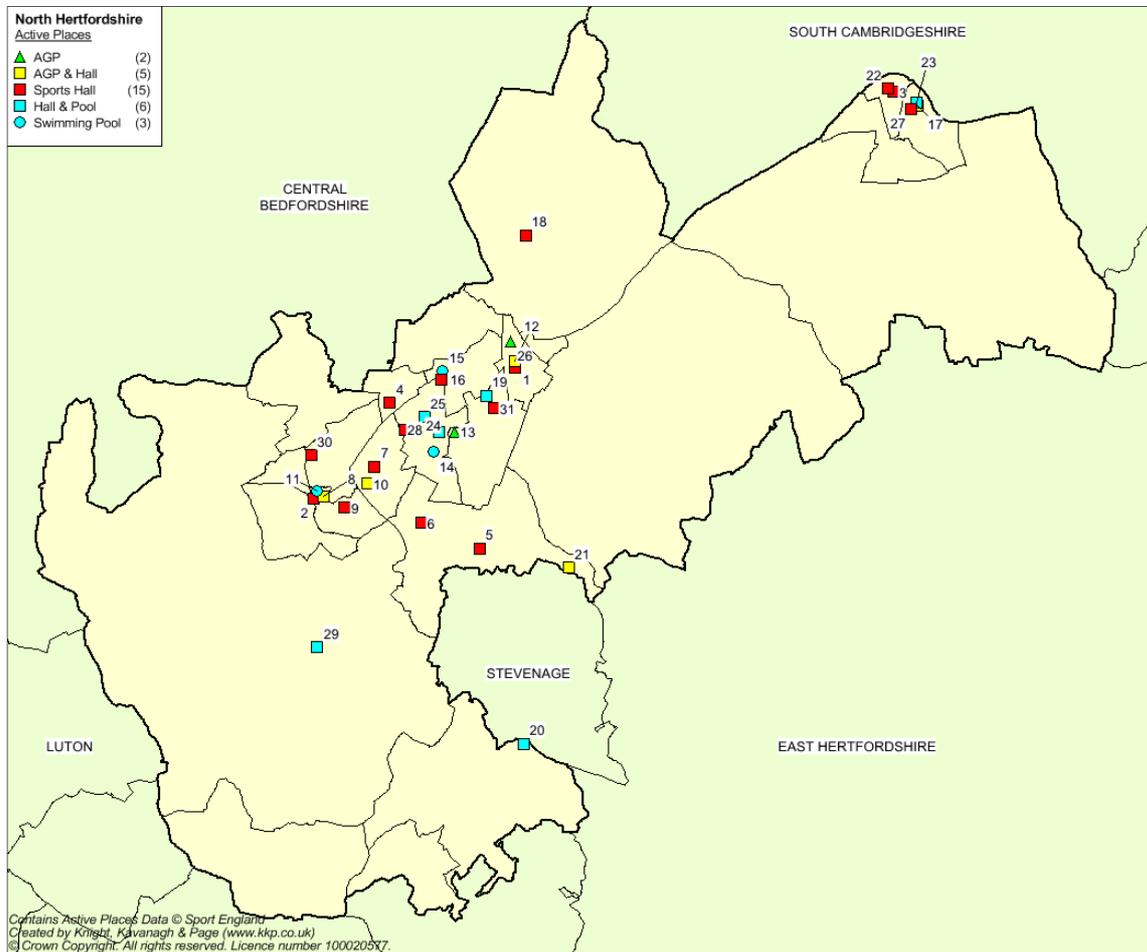
³¹ Data source: Active Places Power, Sport England

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Site Ref	Site name	Facilities		
12	Knights Templar Sports Centre	Hall		AGP
13	Letchworth Corner Sports Club			AGP
14	Letchworth Garden City Fitness & Wellbeing Centre		Pool	
15	Letchworth Outdoor Pool		Pool	
16	Letchworth Settlement	Hall		
17	Meridian School	Hall		AGP
18	Newnham Village Hall	Hall		
19	North Hertfordshire Leisure Centre	Hall	Pool	
20	Odyssey Health & Fitness Club (Knebworth)	Hall	Pool	
21	Round Diamond Primary School	Hall		AGP
22	Roysia Middle School	Hall		
23	Royston Leisure Centre	Hall	Pool	
24	St Christopher School	Hall	Pool	
25	St Francis College	Hall	Pool	
26	The Arena			AGP
27	The Greneway School	Hall		
28	The Highfield School	Hall		
29	The Princess Helena College	Hall	Pool	
30	The Priory School	Hall		
31	Woolgrove School Special Needs Academy	Hall		

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Figure B18: Active Places in North Hertfordshire



Many of the artificial grass pitches (AGP), sports halls and swimming pools shown are either small and/or not available for community access.

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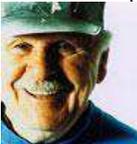
APPENDIX C: SPORT ENGLAND MARKET SEGMENTATION SEGMENTS

	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30	% Eng-popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
					3x30				
	Ben Competitive Male Urbanites Also known as Josh, Luke, Adam, Matesuz, Kamil	Male, recent graduates, with a 'work-hard, play-hard' attitude. <i>Graduate professional, single.</i>	18-25	ABC1	69%	4.9%	Ben is a heavy internet user, using it for sports news, personal emails, social networking and buying films, games and tickets. He is highly responsive to internet advertising.		Ben is a very active type and takes part in sport on a regular basis. He is the sportiest of the 19 segments. Ben's top sports are football (33%), keep fit/ gym (24%), cycling (18%), athletics including running (15%) and swimming (13%).
				39%					
	Jamie Sports Team Lads Also known as Ryan, Nathan, Ashley, Adeel, Pawel	Young blokes enjoying football, pints and pool. <i>Vocational student, single.</i>	18-25	C2DE	59%	5.4%	Jamie is a prolific mobile phone user and as uses this as a primary source of information. He likes to text rather than talk, and uses 3G for sports results and SMS text information services.		Jamie is a very active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Jamie's top sports are football (28%), keep fit and gym (22%), athletics including running (12%), cycling (12%) and swimming (10%).
				31%					
	Chloe Fitness Class Friends Also known as Nisha, Sophie, Lauren, Charlotte, Lucy	Young image-conscious females keeping fit and trim. <i>Graduate professional, single.</i>	18-25	ABC1	56%	4.7%	Chloe is a heavy internet and mobile phone user. She uses her mobile to keep in contact with friends and family, preferring this to her landline. Chloe has a new 3G phone which provides internet access but is still likely to use text as her first source of information.		Chloe is an active type that takes part in sport on a regular basis. Chloe's top sports are keep fit/ gym (28%), swimming (24%), athletics including running (14%), cycling (11%) and equestrian (5%).
				23%					
	Leanne Supportive Singles Also known as Hayley, Kerry, Danielle, Nisha, Saima	Young busy mums and their supportive college mates. <i>Student or PT vocational, Likely to have children.</i>	18-25	C2DE	42%	4.3%	Leanne is a light internet user and a heavy mobile phone user, using this instead of a landline to contact friends. She uses SMS text services and also entertainment features on her mobile. Leanne's mobile is likely to be pay-as-you-go and she responds to text adverts.		Leanne is the least active segment of her age group. Leanne's top sports are keep fit/ gym (23%), swimming (18%), athletics including running (9%), cycling (6%) and football (4%).
				17%					

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30	% Eng-popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
					3x30				
	Kev Pub League Team Mates Also known as Lee, Craig, Steven, Tariq, Dariusz.	Blokes who enjoy pub league games and watching live sport. <i>Vocational job, may have children, married or single.</i>	36-45	DE	43%	5.9%	Kev is a heavy TV viewer, likely to have a digital or cable package for extra sports coverage. He is a heavy radio listener and is likely to favour local commercial stations. Kev uses his mobile phone for social reasons but will not respond to text advert.		Kev has above average levels of participation in sport. Kev's top sports are keep fit/ gym (14%), football (12%), cycling (11%), swimming (10%) and athletics including running (6%).
				17%					
	Paula Stretched Single Mums Also known as Donna, Gemma, Shelley, Tina, Tammy	Single mums with financial pressures, childcare issues and little time for pleasure. <i>Job seeker or part time low skilled worker, children, single.</i>	26-45	DE	36%	3.7%	Paula is a heavy TV viewer, enjoying quiz and chat shows, reality TV and soaps. She is likely to have a digital or cable package. Paula does not have internet access at home, and is a heavy mobile phone user, although this is likely to be pay-as-you-go.		Paula is not a very active type and her participation is lower than that of the general adult population. Paula's top sports are keep fit/ gym (18%), swimming (17%), cycling (5%), athletics including running (4%) and football (3%).
				13%					
	Philip Comfortable Mid Life Male Also known as Graham, Colin, Keith, Stuart, Clive	Mid-life professional, sporty males with older children and more time for themselves. <i>Full time job and owner occupied, children, married.</i>	46-55	ABC1	51%	8.7%	Philip is a medium TV viewer, likely to have digital and use interactive services for sports and business news. He is a heavy radio listener. Philip is comfortable purchasing over the phone and internet, but is unlikely to respond to SMS text alerts.		Philip's sporting activity levels are above the national average. Philip's top sports are cycling (16%), keep fit/ gym (15%), swimming (12%), football (9%), and golf (8%).
				20%					
	Elaine Empty Nest Career Ladies Also known as Carole, Sandra, Penelope, Julie, Jacqueline	Mid-life professionals who have more time for themselves since their children left home. <i>Full time job and owner occupied, married.</i>	46-55	ABC1	43%	6.1%	Elaine is a light TV viewer, loyal to mainstream terrestrial channels. Elaine is a medium radio listener, likely to prefer BBC Radio 2 or 4 and Classic FM. A moderate internet user, she browses news and lifestyle sites. Elaine reads broadsheets, such as the Daily Telegraph, and women's lifestyle magazines. She would not respond to sms text alerts, nor to cold-calling.		Elaine's sporting activity levels are similar to the national average. Elaine's top sports are keep fit/ gym (21%), swimming (18%), cycling (7%), athletics including running (3%) and tennis (2%).
				12%					

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30	% Eng-popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
					3x30				
	Roger & Joy Early Retirement Couples Also known as Melvyn, Barry, Geoffrey, Linda, Susan, Patricia	Free-time couples nearing the end of their careers. <i>Full-time job or retired, married.</i>	56-65	ABC1	38%	6.8%	Roger and Joy are medium TV viewers and heavy radio listeners. They regularly read the Times of Daily Telegraph, and a local paper. They have increased their use of the internet and may now have access to it at home.		Roger and Joy are slightly less active than the general population. Roger and Joy's top sports are keep fit/ gym (13%), swimming (13%), cycling (8%), golf (6%), and angling (2%).
				10%					
	Brenda Older Working Women Also known as Shirley, June, Maureen, Janet, Diane	Middle aged ladies, working to make ends meet. <i>Part-time job, married.</i>	46-65	C2DE	29%	4.9%	Brenda is a heavy TV viewer and is likely to respond to TV advertising. She is a medium radio listener, preferring local commercial stations. Brenda rarely has access to the internet, and is an infrequent mobile user. She enjoys reading the Mirror or the Sun.		Brenda is generally less active than the average adult. Brenda's top sports are keep fit/ gym (15%), swimming (13%), cycling (4%), athletics including running (2%) and badminton (1%).
				8%					
	Terry Local 'Old Boys' Also known as Derek, Brian, Malcolm, Raymond, Michael	Generally inactive older men, low income, little provision for retirement. <i>Job Seeker, married or single.</i>	56-65	DE	26%	3.7%	Terry is a high TV viewer, both at home and in the pub, particularly enjoying live sports coverage. He reads the tabloids on a daily basis. Terry does not use the internet, and does not feel he is missing out. He is unlikely to have a mobile phone.		Terry is generally less active than the average adult. Terry's top sports are keep fit/ gym (8%), swimming (6%), cycling (6%), angling (4%), and golf (4%).
				9%					
	Norma Late Life Ladies Also known as Pauline, Angela, Irene, Denise, Jean	Older ladies, recently retired with a basic income to enjoy their lifestyles. <i>Job seeker or retired, single.</i>	56-65	DE	23%	2.1%	Norma is a high TV viewer, enjoying quiz shows, chat shows, soaps and religious programmes. Most new technology has passed her by, having no internet access or mobile phone, but she uses her landline to call her family.		Norma is generally less active than the average adult. Norma's top sports are keep fit/ gym (12%), swimming (10%), cycling (2%), bowls (1%) and martial arts/ combat (1%).
				6%					

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

	Segment name and description	Segment characteristics	Main age band	Socio eco group	1x30	% Eng-popn	Media and Communications	Key brands	Top sports (played at least once a month) and sporting behaviour
	Ralph & Phyllis Comfortable Retired Couples Also known as Lionel, Arthur, Reginald, Beryl, Peggy, Marjorie	Retired couples, enjoying active and comfortable lifestyles. <i>Retired, married or single.</i>	66+	ABC1	28%	4.2%	Ralph and Phyllis are medium to light TV viewers, preferring to be out and about instead. They are unlikely to have access to the internet, although it is something they are considering. They read the newspaper daily: either the Daily Telegraph or Times.		Ralph and Phyllis are less active than the average adult, but sportier than other segments of the same age group. Ralph and Phyllis' top sports are keep fit/ gym (10%), swimming (9%), golf (7%), bowls (4%), and cycling (4%).
				9%					
	Frank Twilight Years Gent Also known as Roy, Harold, Stanley, Alfred, Percy	Retired men with some pension provision and limited exercise opportunities. <i>Retired, married or single</i>	66+	C1C2 D	21%	4.0%	Frank is a heavy TV viewer and enjoys watching live sport and notices TV advertising, which he is influenced by. He does not use the internet and is nervous of computers. Frank reads a newspaper most days, either the Daily Mail or Express. He does not have a mobile phone.		Frank is generally much less active than the average adult. Frank's top sports are golf (7%), keep fit/ gym (6%), bowls (6%), swimming (6%) and cycling (4%).
				9%					
	Elsie & Arnold Retirement Home Singles Also known as Doris, Ethel, Gladys, Stanley, Walter, Harold	Retired singles or widowers, predominantly female, living in sheltered accommodation. <i>Retired, widowed.</i>	66+	DE	17%	8.0%	Elsie and Arnold are heavy TV viewers, enjoying quiz shows, religious programmes and old films. They generally do not have access to the internet or use a mobile phone, and only use their landline to call family		Elsie and Arnold are much less active than the average adult. Their top sports are keep fit/ gym (10%), swimming (7%), bowls (3%), golf (1%) and cycling (1%).
				5%					

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

APPENDIX D: CONSULTEES

Name	Position	Organisation
Nick Ross	General Manager	Royston Leisure Centre
Lee Medlock	Contract Manager	Letchworth & Baldock Leisure
James Bliss	General Manager	Hitchin Leisure Centre
Louise Symes	Strategic Planning & Projects Manager	North Hertfordshire District Council
Ian Fullstone	Head of Development & Building Control	North Hertfordshire District Council
Richard Kelly	Principal Planning Officer	North Hertfordshire District Council
Richard Allen	Divisional Operations Manager	Stevenage Leisure Limited
Steve Crowley	Contracts & Project Manager	Leisure Services North Hertfordshire DC
John O'Callaghan	Club, Coach & Sports Development Manager	Herts Sports Partnership
Karl Lingham	County Development Manager	Herts FA
Rohan West	Participation Director	Volleyball England
Rebecca Gray	Netball Development Officer	England Netball
Dave Barlett	Development Coordinator	Badminton England
Mark Williams	Regional Network Manager	England Squash
Ben Wallis	Cricket Development Manager	Hertfordshire Cricket Board
Mark Burgess	Regional Manager	Amateur Swimming Association
Stephen Rodwell	Development Manager	English Indoor Bowling Association
Mr Vickery	Head Teacher	Brandles School
Tony Hankin	Business Manger	Hitchin Girls School
Miche Bloch	Head of PE	St Francis College
Michael Firth	Head Teacher	The Meridian School
Jed Whelan	Head Teacher	Fearnhill School
John Swift	Business Manager	Knights Templar
Deborah Ivory-Webb	School Business Manager	Hitchin Boys School
Ben Bentley	Director of Sport and PE	Kingshott School
Geraint Edwards	Head Teacher	The Priory School
Gerry Parker	School Business Manager	The Highfield School

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

APPENDIX E: NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR FACILITIES ASSESSMENT FORM

Active Places reference:		
Facility name:		
Facility also known as:		
Address:		
Town:		
Postcode:		
Telephone number:		
Date Visited:		Assessor:
Is there a public transport link within 500m of the entrance:		
Ownership type:		

Academy Converters, Academy Free Schools, Academy Specials, Academy Sponsor Led, City Technology College, Commercial, Commercial Organisation, Community School, Community Special School, EY Setting, Foundation School, Foundation Special School, Further Education, Government, Health Authority, Higher Education Institutions, Independent School approved for SEN pupils, Industry (for employees), LEA Nursery School, Local Authority, Miscellaneous Education, MOD, Non-Maintained Special School, NOT KNOWN, Other, Other Independent School, Other Independent Special School, Playing for Success, Pupil Referral Unit, Secure Unit, Sixth Form Centres, Special College, Sports Club, Voluntary Aided School, Voluntary Controlled School

Management/ Operator type:	
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Commercial Management, Community Organisation, CSSC, Health Authority, Industry Sports Club, Local Authority (in house), MOD, NOT KNOWN, Other, Private Contractor (PPP/PFI), School/College/University (in house), Sport Club, Trust

Car parking:		Yes	No	number of
		spaces		
DDA Access to facility:				
DDA compliance	Indicate ✓if Yes	DDA compliance	Indicate ✓if Yes	
Parking:		Activity areas:		
Finding and reaching the entrance:		Toilets:		
Reception area:		Social areas:		
Doorways:		Spectator areas:		
Changing facilities		Emergency exits:		

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

SPORTS HALL: 1

TYPE:		Main	Activity Hall		
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
No of badminton courts		Width (m)			
Badminton clearance (6.7m)		Length (m)			
Area estimation?		Area (sqm)			
Hours/ week used for football					

SPORTS HALL: 2

TYPE:		Main	Activity Hall		
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Number of badminton courts		Width (m)			
Badminton clearance (6.7m)		Length (m)			
Area estimation?		Area (sqm)			
Hours/ week used for football					

SPORTS HALL: 3

TYPE:		Main	Activity Hall		
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Number of badminton courts		Width (m)			
Badminton clearance (6.7m)		Length (m)			
Area estimation?		Area (sqm)			
Hours/ week used for football					

SWIMMING POOL: 1

TYPE:		Main/General	Learner/Teaching/Training	Leisure Pool	Diving	Lido
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	
Number of lanes		Minimum depth (m)				
Width (m)		Maximum depth (m)				
Length (m)		Diving boards?				
Area (sqm)		Movable floor?				

SWIMMING POOL: 2

TYPE:		Main/General	Learner/Teaching/Training	Leisure Pool	Diving	Lido
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	
Number of lanes		Minimum depth (m)				
Width (m)		Maximum depth (m)				
Length (m)		Diving boards?				
Area (sqm)		Movable floor?				

SWIMMING POOL: 3

TYPE:		Main/General	Learner/Teaching/Training	Leisure Pool	Diving	Lido
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	
Number of lanes		Minimum depth (m)				
Width (m)		Maximum depth (m)				
Length (m)		Diving boards?				
Area (sqm)		Movable floor?				

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

DANCE STUDIO / MULTI PURPOSE ROOM 1

TYPE:		Dance studio	Multi-purpose room	Studio	
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Length (m)			

DANCE STUDIO / MULTI PURPOSE ROOM 2

TYPE:		Dance studio	Multi-purpose room	Studio	
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Length (m)			

DANCE STUDIO / MULTI PURPOSE ROOM 3

TYPE:		Dance studio	Multi-purpose room	Studio	
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Length (m)			

MEETING ROOMS

Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Length (m)			

HEALTH & FITNESS SUITE (normally over 20 stations)

Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Number of stations					

INDOOR BOWLS

Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Number of rinks		Width (m)			
Area (sqm)		Length (m)			

INDOOR TENNIS

TYPE:		Airhall	Airhall (seasonal)	Framed fabric	Traditional
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Number of courts					
Type of surface		Acrylic	Macadam	Textile	

PERMANENT MAT AREA

Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Length (m)			

SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES: 1

TYPE:		Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Sand Filled	Water based	
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Number of pitches			
Length (m)		Floodlit			
Area (sqm)					

SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES: 2

TYPE:		Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Sand Filled	Water based	
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Number of pitches			
Length (m)		Floodlit			
Area (sqm)					

SYNTHETIC TURF PITCHES: 3

TYPE:		Rubber crumb pile (3G)	Sand Filled	Water based	
Condition		Good	Above average	Below average	Poor
Width (m)		Number of pitches			
Length (m)		Floodlit			

NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

Area (sqm)	
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SQUASH COURTS: 1

Condition	
Number of courts	
No. of glassed backed courts	

Good Above average Below average Poor

SQUASH COURTS: 2

Condition	
Number of courts	
No. of glassed backed courts	

Good Above average Below average Poor

SQUASH COURTS: 3

Condition	
Number of courts	
No. of glassed backed courts	

Good Above average Below average Poor

OTHER SPORTS FACILITIES

TYPE:	
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Condition	
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Good Above average Below average Poor

Length / Width / Specifics	
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TYPE:	
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Condition	
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Good Above average Below average Poor

Length / Width / Specifics	
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TYPE:	
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Condition	
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Good Above average Below average Poor

Length / Width / Specifics	
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CHANGING FACILITIES

Wet	
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Yes

Condition	
-----------	--

Good Above average Below average Poor

Dry	
-----	--

Yes

Condition	
-----------	--

Good Above average Below average Poor

Disabled	
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Yes

Condition	
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Good Above average Below average Poor

OVERALL RANKING OF THE QUALITY / CONDITION OF THE WHOLE FACILITY

Quality / Condition	
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Good Above average Below average Poor

Additional comments	
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NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES STUDY

COMMUNITY USE

Does the facility have Community Use		Yes only	No	Term-time
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TYPE OF FACILITY - indicate one only

Standalone community sports facility		School with community access	
Dual use sports facility		University sports facility	

LEVEL OF COMMUNITY USE - indicate one only

100% programmed activity, pay and play and block bookings		Limited to block bookings only	
Mixture of block bookings and pay and play		Limited times at specific times of the year	

INVESTMENT PLANNING

Has the facility undergone any significant investment over the last 5 years (i.e. £100000 +)?	
If Yes, describe investment	

What key local issues need to be taken on board with respect to this facility?

User experience	
Local environment	
Key sports and why?	

Separate public access?		Yes	No	N/A
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