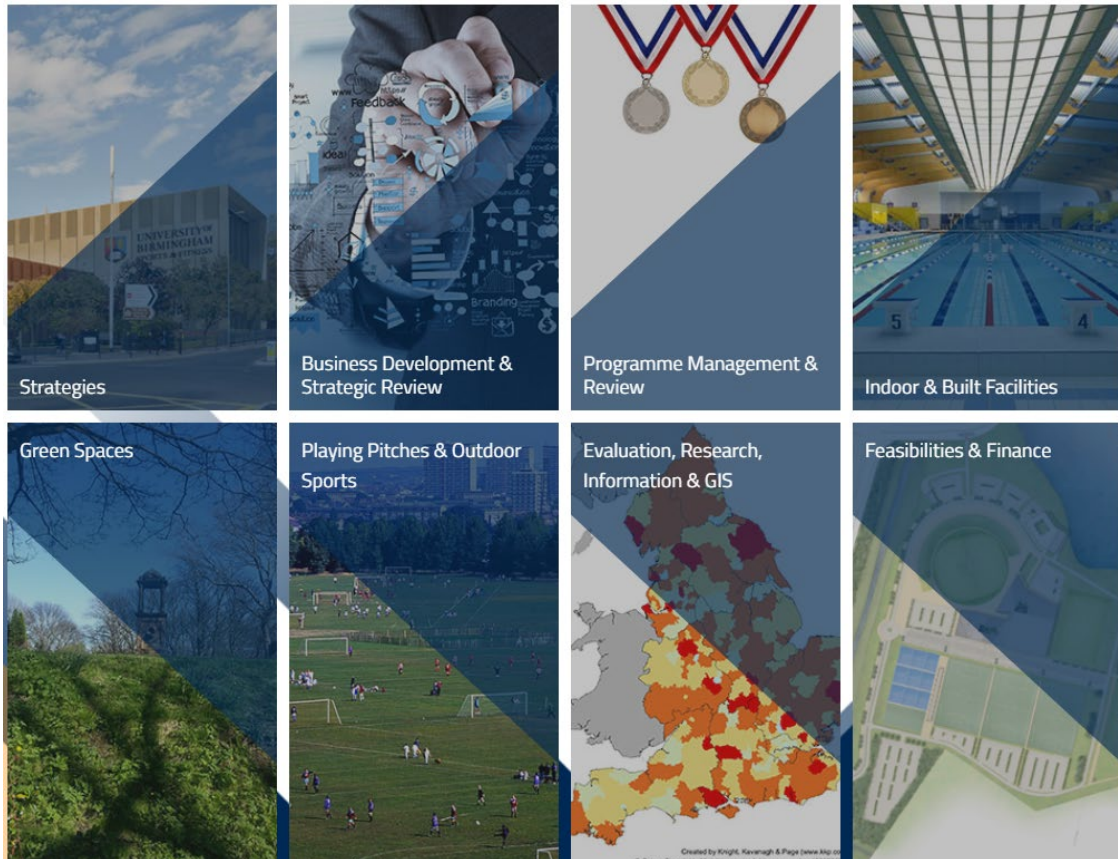


HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL INDOOR AND BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES



NEEDS ASSESSMENT: NOVEMBER 2022

QUALITY, INTEGRITY, PROFESSIONALISM

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE DISTRICT COUNCIL

INDOOR & BUILT SPORTS FACILITIES NEEDS ASSESSMENT

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Knight, Kavanagh & Page Ltd (KKP) was appointed by Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) to produce its Playing Pitch Strategy (PPS) and Built Facility Strategy (BFS) 2022-2043. This is the BFS; its stated objectives are to:

- ◀ Compile a robust, up to date audit of built facilities across Huntingdonshire and assess the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of provision.
- ◀ Evaluate required levels of built facilities now and up to 2043 based on the principles of 'Protect, Enhance and Provide' taking account of the bespoke needs of Huntingdonshire's communities.
- ◀ Provide the Council with a comprehensive evidence base to highlight current facility shortfalls and identify where future investment is required.
- ◀ Due to the significant housing growth planned in the Authority, this Strategy will support HDC to secure developer contributions and ensure that Sport England's Built Facility Calculator and bespoke calculator/standards where necessary - are informed by local evidence.

This report is a detailed assessment of current provision of indoor and built sports facilities located within Huntingdonshire, identifying needs (demand) and gaps (deficiencies in provision). The BFS thus:

- ◀ Incorporates a robust up to date needs assessment which supports the Council and meets the requirements of the amended National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF).
- ◀ Reflects and addresses the needs and demands of the local population that will grow in line with the changes defined by the emerging Plan.
- ◀ Should underpin action by HDC and key stakeholders with regard to potential joint investment in sport and physical activity facilities.

1.1: Scope of the project

This report provides a facility breakdown of what exists in the Authority, its condition, location, availability and overall quality. It considers demand for facilities based on population distribution, planned growth and takes into consideration health and economic deprivation. The facilities/ sports covered include, sports halls (and associated indoor sports), swimming pools, health and fitness, squash, gymnastics, indoor tennis, indoor bowls and community centres. In delivering this report KKP has:

- ◀ Individually audited identified sports halls (conventional i.e., 3+ court halls) swimming pools (minimum size 160m²), health and fitness facilities (including, within reason, dance studios) and the wider range of facilities identified above.
- ◀ Analysed supply and demand to identify gaps and opportunities to improve provision.
- ◀ Sought to identify the extent to which delivery of leisure facilities is undertaken with full reference to the corporate strategies of the Council and other relevant strategic influences.
- ◀ Identified areas of good practice and opportunities to drive up participation levels.

The audit was conducted in February 2022.

Specific deficiencies and surpluses are identified to inform the provision required. The specific objectives of the audit and assessment are to:

- ◀ Review relevant HDC strategies, plans, reports and corporate objectives.
- ◀ Review the local, regional and national strategic context.

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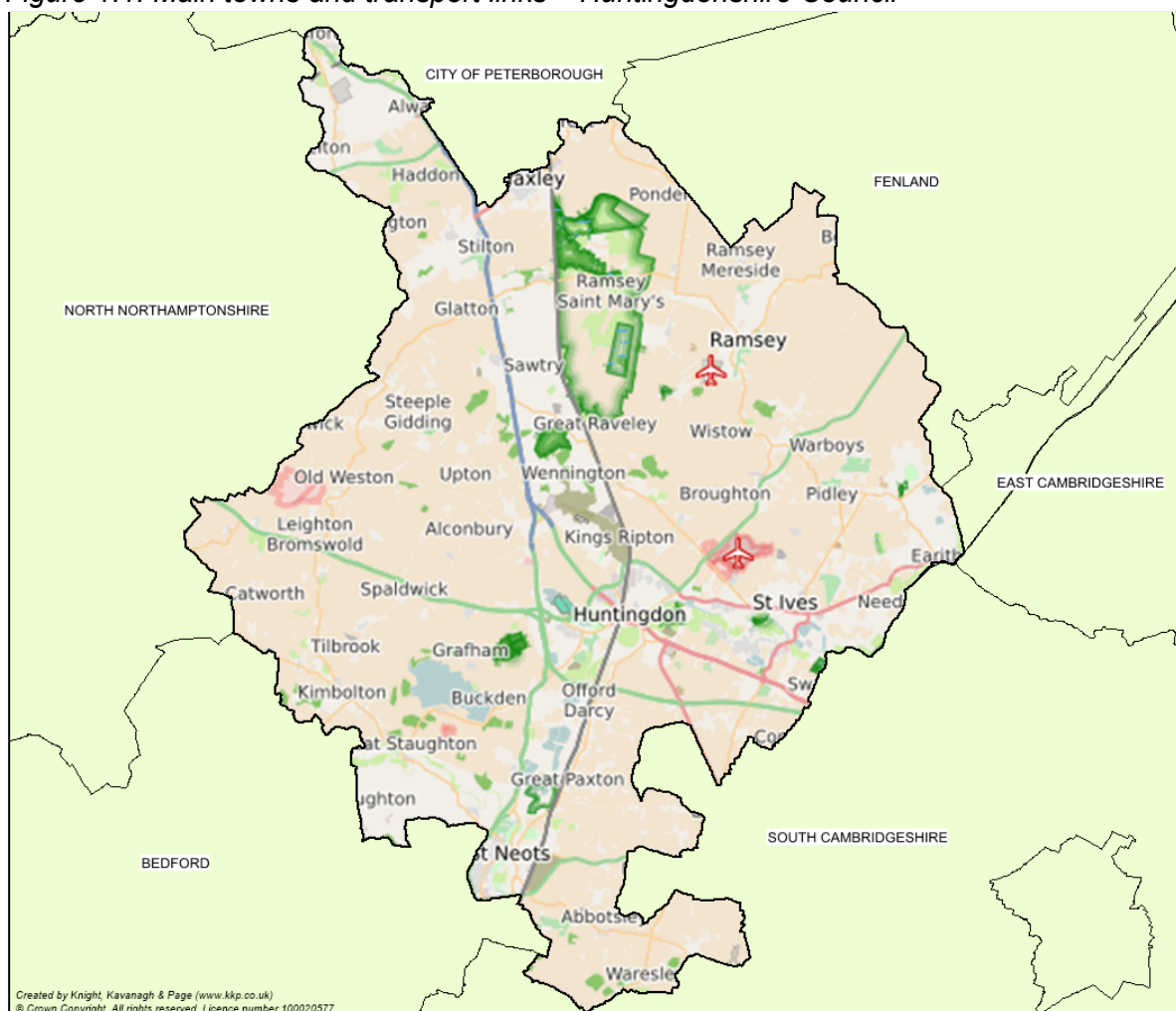
- ◆ Present the scale of known local housing growth.
- ◆ Analyse the demographics of the local population at present and in the future (up to 2043).
- ◆ Audit indoor facilities provided by public, private, voluntary and education sectors.
- ◆ Consider potential participation rates and model likely demand.
- ◆ Analyse the balance between supply of, and demand for, sports facilities plus identification of potential under and over-provision – now and in the future.
- ◆ Identify key issues to address in the future provision of indoor sports facilities.

This process applied reflects Sport England’s Guide; Assessing Needs and Opportunities for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities (ANOG) methodology and accords with the most up-to-date version of the NPPF and Planning Practice Guidance (PPG).

1.2: Background

Huntingdonshire is situated approximately 100km (62 miles) north of London. It has strong relationships with Cambridge to the east, Peterborough to the north and Bedford to the south-west. These provide employment, shopping, leisure and health services to complement those available within the District.

Figure 1.1: Main towns and transport links – Huntingdonshire Council



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Huntingdonshire benefits from excellent strategic transport links. The East Coast mainline railway bisects the District with stations in Huntingdon and St Neots. Highway linkages are also good. East-west linkages are provided by the A428 and the A14 which facilitates access west, to the Midlands and east, to Europe via the East Coast ports. The A1 provides north-south links southwards to London and north to towns across the East Midlands.

Huntingdonshire's main settlements are located in the Ouse Valley corridor which runs through the central area of the of the District. These include, Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives. There are three key settlements in the north of the Authority; Yaxley, Sawtry and Ramsey.

1.3: Report structure

The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) in a report entitled '*Strategic Planning: Effective Co-operation for Planning Across Boundaries (2015)*' puts the case for strategic planning based on six general principles:

- ◀ Have focus.
- ◀ Be genuinely strategic.
- ◀ Be spatial.
- ◀ Be collaborative.
- ◀ Have strong leadership and
- ◀ Be accountable to local electorates.

In the preparation of this report, KKP has paid due regard to these strategic principles and it is, as a consequence, structured as follows:

- ◀ Section 2 - background policy, population profile and demographic characteristics.
- ◀ Section 3 - description of methodology employed to assess indoor provision.
- ◀ Section 4 - assessment of sports hall provision.
- ◀ Section 5 - assessment of swimming pool provision.
- ◀ Section 6 - assessment of health and fitness provision.
- ◀ Section 7 - assessment of squash.
- ◀ Section 8 - assessment of gymnastics.
- ◀ Section 9- assessment of indoor bowls,
- ◀ Section 10 - assessment of indoor tennis.
- ◀ Section 11- assessment of village halls/community centres.
- ◀ Section 12 – strategic recommendations

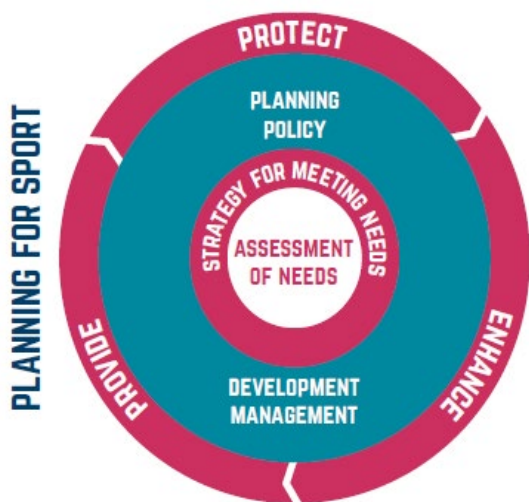
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SECTION 2: BACKGROUND

2.1: National context

Sport England aims to ensure positive planning for sport, enabling the right facilities to be provided in the right places, based on up-to-date assessment of needs for all levels of sport and all sectors of the community. This assessment report has been produced for Huntingdonshire District Council applying the principles and tools identified in Sport England’s ANOG guidance.

Figure 2.1: The Sport England Planning for Sport Model



Assessment of need is core to planning for sporting provision. It is underpinned by 12 planning-for-sport principles which help the planning system to contribute to sustainable development by fulfilling the key role of the NPPF in creating strong, vibrant and healthy communities. Applying them ensures that the planning system plans positively to enable and support healthy lifestyles, delivers community and cultural facilities and services to meet local needs, and provides opportunity for all to experience the benefits that taking part in sport and physical activity brings. They apply to all areas of the planning system and to planning at local authority and neighbourhood levels. As such they are of relevance to all

involved in, or looking to engage with, the planning system.

Figure 2.2: Sport England’s 12 planning principles



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Sport England: Uniting the Movement 2021

Sport and physical activity have a big role to play in improving the physical and mental health of the nation, supporting the economy, reconnecting communities and rebuilding a stronger society for all following the global pandemic. Reflecting this, Sport England's most recent strategy, Uniting the Movement is its 10-year vision to transform lives and communities through sport and physical activity.

It sets out its aims to tackle the inequalities that it states are long seen in sport and physical activity making the point that 'providing opportunities to people and communities that have traditionally been left behind, and helping to remove the barriers to activity, has never been more important'. The three key Strategy objectives are:



As well as being an advocate for sport and physical activity, through the building of evidence and partnership development, the Strategy identifies five 'big issues' upon which people and communities need to address by working together. They are described as the major challenges to England being an active nation over the next decade as well as being the greatest opportunities to make a lasting difference. Each is designated as a building block that, on its own, would make a difference, but together, could change things profoundly. The issues are:

- ◀ ***Recover and reinvent:*** Recovering from the biggest crisis in a generation and reinventing as a vibrant, relevant and sustainable network of organisations providing sport and physical activity opportunities that meet the needs of different people.
- ◀ ***Connecting communities:*** Focusing on sport and physical activity's ability to make better places to live and bring people together.
- ◀ ***Positive experiences for children and young people:*** Unrelenting focus on positive experiences for all children and young people as the foundations for a long and healthy life.
- ◀ ***Connecting with health and wellbeing:*** Strengthening the connections between sport, physical activity, health and wellbeing, so more people can feel the benefits of, and advocate for, an active life.
- ◀ ***Active environments:*** Creating and protecting the places and spaces that make it easier for people to be active.

To address these, the right conditions for change need to be created: across people, organisations and partnerships to help convert plans and ideas. This will include a range of actions, including development of effective investment models and applying innovation and digital technology to ensure sport and physical activity are more accessible.

The specific impact of the Strategy will be captured via funded programmes, interventions made, and partnerships forged. For each specific area of action, key performance indicators will be developed to help evidence the overall progress being made by all those involved in supporting sport and physical activity.

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Sport England - Understanding the impact of Covid-19 (January 2021)

Sport England's analysis shows the effects of the Pandemic on physical activity levels. Activity levels for adults had been increasing until coronavirus restrictions were introduced in March 2020. This led to unprecedented drops in activity during the first few weeks of full lockdown between mid-March and mid-May 2020. The proportion of the population classed as active dropped by 7.1% (meaning that there were just over 3 million fewer active adults).

Some audiences found it harder to be active before Covid-19 and are still re-establishing their activity habits. Inequalities between different groups have persisted over the period of the Pandemic. Those who have found it hardest to stay active included:

- ◀ People with long-term health conditions/disabilities.
- ◀ People from lower socio-economic groups.
- ◀ Women aged 16–34-year-olds and 55 years and above.
- ◀ Black adults, Asian adults and adults from other ethnic groups

The proportion of children and young people reporting that they were active during mid-May to late July 2021 (the summer term) fell by 2.3%, with just over 100,000 fewer children meeting the recommended level of activity compared to the same period 12 months earlier. The impact was greater for some groups than others. Whilst all groups have been impacted in terms of activity levels, girls fared far better than boys, whilst those from black and mixed backgrounds saw noticeable drops in activity levels.

Sporting activities saw large decreases with over a million fewer children and young people (16.3%) reporting they took part in swimming and team sports in the last week* compared to the same period 12 months earlier. Walking, cycling and fitness all saw large increases in the numbers reporting they took part in the last week compared to the same period 12 months earlier. 1.6 million more children and young people went for a walk (22.0%) or did fitness activities (22.1%), whilst 1.4 million more cycled for fun or fitness (+18.4%).

In addition, lack of disposable income may lead to a reduction in sports sector spend and can have an impact upon the take-up of activities which cater for children and young people as well as adults. Uncertain employment and financial circumstances mean that greater numbers of people will be looking for affordable and flexible opportunities to stay active. Fewer people will be in a position to make an ongoing financial commitment to participate.

Social and economic value of community sport and physical activity in England 2020

Sport England has brought together evidence on the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the five outcomes identified in the Government's strategy Sporting Future. These are physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, individual development, social and community development, and economic development.

Its aim was to assess the evidence base with a view to demonstrating the contribution of community sport and physical activity to the outcomes. Building on this foundation and other previous work, Sport England quantified the social and economic impact of community sport and physical activity. There are two complementary parts to the research. Part one measures the social impact (including physical and mental health) of sport and physical activity while part two measures the economic importance.

The findings reveal that community sport and physical activity brings an annual contribution of £85.5 billion to the country (in 2018 prices) through social and economic benefits.

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Its social value – including physical and mental health, wellbeing, individual and community development – is more than £72 billion, provided via routes such as a healthier population, consumer expenditure, greater work productivity, improved education attainment, reduced crime and stronger communities. It also generates more than £13bn in economic value. The economic value includes more than 285,000 jobs within the community sport and physical activity sector.

Together, both parts enable Sport England to demonstrate the contribution of sport and physical activity to the five government outcomes. The research revealed that the combined social and economic value of taking part (participating and volunteering) in community sport and physical activity in England in 2017/18 was £85.5bn. When measured against the £21.85 billion costs of engagement and providing sport and physical activity opportunities, for every £1 spent on community sport and physical activity, a return on investment (ROI) of £3.91 was created for individuals and society in 2017/18.

Chief Medical Officer Physical Activity Guidelines 2019

This report updated the 2011 physical activity guidelines issued by the four Chief Medical Officers (CMOs) of England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. The UK CMOs drew upon global evidence to present guidelines for different age groups, covering the volume, duration, frequency and type of physical activity required across the life course to achieve health benefits.

Since 2011, the evidence to support the health benefits of regular physical activity for all groups has become more compelling. In children and young people, regular physical activity is associated with improved learning and attainment, better mental health and cardiovascular fitness, also contributing to healthy weight status. In adults, there is strong evidence to demonstrate the protective effect on physical activity on a range of many chronic conditions including coronary heart disease, obesity and type 2 diabetes, mental health problems and social isolation. Regular physical activity can deliver cost savings for the health and care system and has wider social benefits for individuals and communities.

The key factors for each age group are as follows:

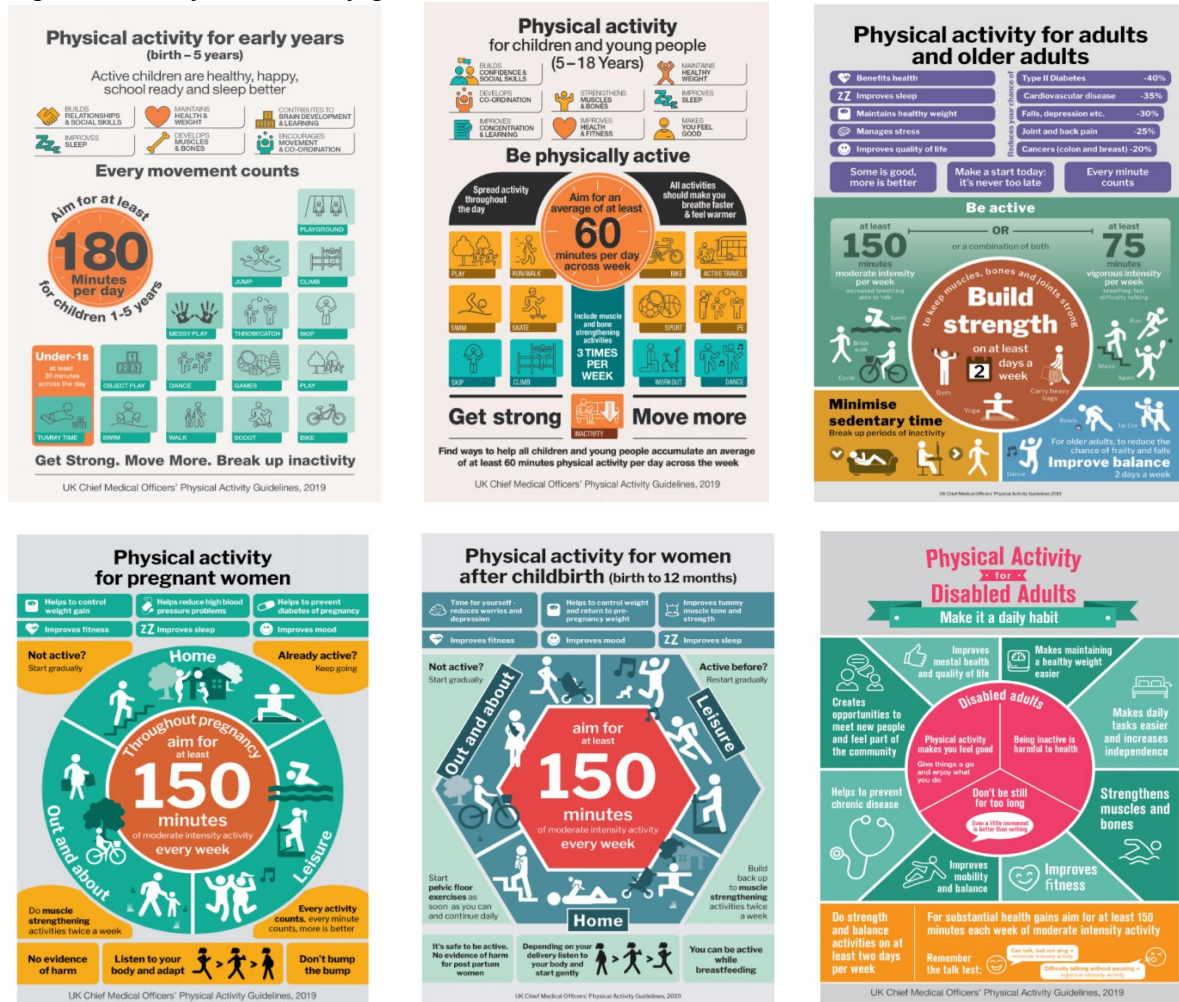
- ◀ *Under-5s*: This is broken down into infants, toddlers and pre-schoolers. Pre-schoolers and toddlers should spend at least 180 minutes (3 hours) per day in a variety of different exercises, whereas infants should be physically active several times every day in a variety of ways, including interactive floor-based activities.
- ◀ *Children and young people (5-18 years)*: Children and young people should engage in moderate-to-vigorous intensity physical activity for an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week.
- ◀ *Adults (19-64 years)*: For good physical and mental health, adults should aim to be physically active every day. This could be 150 minutes of moderate exercise, 75 minutes of vigorous exercise or even shorter durations of very vigorous intensity activity, or a combination of moderate, vigorous and very vigorous intensity activity.
- ◀ *Older adults (65+)*: Older adults should participate in daily physical activity to gain health benefits, including maintenance of good physical and mental health, wellbeing, and social functioning. Each week older adults should aim to accumulate 150 minutes (two and a half hours) of moderate intensity aerobic activity.

It notes the emerging evidence base for the health benefits of performing very vigorous intensity activity performed in short bouts interspersed with periods of rest or recovery (high

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intensity interval exercise, HIIT). This interval exercise has clinically meaningful effects on fitness, body weight and insulin resistance and is incorporated in recommendations for adults.

Figure 2.3: Physical activity guidelines



It, thus, emphasises the importance of regular activity for people of all ages. It presents additional guidance on being active during pregnancy, after giving birth, and for disabled adults. The new guidelines are consistent with previous ones, introducing some new elements and allowing flexibility in achieving recommended physical activity levels for each age group.

Investment in school sport

The School Sport and Activity Action Plan (July 2019) sets out the Government's commitment to ensuring that children and young people have access to at least 60 minutes of sport and physical activity per day, with a recommendation of 30 minutes of this delivered during the school day (in line with the Chief Medical Officers guidelines which recommend an average of at least 60 minutes per day across the week). It has three overarching ambitions - that:

- All children and young people take part in at least 60 minutes of physical activity every day.

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- Children and young people have the opportunity to realise developmental, character-building experiences through sport, competition and active pursuits.
- All sport/physical activity provision for children and young people is designed around the principles of physical literacy, focuses on fun and enjoyment and aims to reach the least active.

The PE and sport premium can help primary schools to achieve this aim, providing primary schools with £320m of government funding to make additional and sustainable improvements to the quality of the PE, physical activity and sport offered through their core budgets. It is allocated directly to schools, so they have the flexibility to use it in the way that they think works best for their pupils.

In 2021 the Department for Education announced a £10.1 million funding package to help more schools open their facilities to the public once the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic is over. The funding, which will be administered by Sport England and distributed via the Active Partnership Network will help schools deliver extra-curricular activities and open their facilities outside of the school day during evenings, weekends and school holidays.

Revised National Planning Policy Framework 2021

The NPPF sets out planning policies for England. It details how these changes are expected to be applied to the planning system. It also provides a framework for local people and their councils to produce distinct local and neighbourhood plans, reflecting the needs and priorities of local communities. It states that the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. It identifies the need to focus on three themes of economic, social, environmentally sustainable development:

A presumption in favour of sustainable development is a key aspect for any plan-making and decision-taking processes. In relation to plan-making, the NPPF states that local plans should meet objectively assessed needs. It is clear about sport's role delivering sustainable communities through promoting health and well-being. Sport England, working within the provisions of the NPPF, wishes to see local planning policy protect, enhance and provide for sports facilities based on robust and up-to-date assessments of need, as well as helping to realise the wider benefits that participation in sport can bring.

The *promoting healthy and safe communities* theme identifies that planning policies should be based on robust, up-to-date assessment of need for open space, sports and recreation facilities and opportunities for new provision. Specific needs, quantitative/qualitative deficiencies and surpluses should be identified and used to inform provision requirements in an area.

Cost pressures affecting the leisure industry

Insight produced by the [Local Government Association](#) suggests that Councils continue to face substantial inflationary, COVID-19 related, and demand led pressures which are affecting their ability to efficiently operate leisure provision. This comes alongside the steep increase of living costs to households.

Whilst during 2022, the leisure sector recovery following Covid -19 restrictions has gained momentum, rising utility costs and the recent cost of living pressures on households is likely to adversely impact consumer confidence, throughput, and participation rates. Councils and leisure operators are therefore being required to address and review existing management arrangements and options to ensure the viability of the sector.

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Leisure providers (both inhouse and externally commissioned) are being adversely and disproportionately affected because leisure centres have high energy demands, especially for those facilities with swimming pools. Energy costs are typically a leisure operator's second highest cost after staffing costs. This is further exacerbated because the leisure estate is ageing and energy inefficient, with research showing two-thirds of public swimming pools and sports halls are in need of replacing or refurbishment, and ageing assets are contributing up to 40 per cent of some councils' direct carbon emissions.

LGA suggest that, in tackling the challenges presented by the current energy crisis, Councils should aim to pursue a partnership focused approach and consider solutions which may contribute to wider public health, decarbonisation, and levelling up and economic outcomes. This could include the following measures:

- ◀ Regular monthly meetings with leisure operator to review and monitor utility costs.
- ◀ Encourage leisure operators to be open and transparent about the true cost of utilities.
- ◀ Explore potential for flexibility in contractual arrangements and operating parameters: i.e. pool temperature / building temperature / reviewing pricing
- ◀ Review non-viable/low priority contractual requirements
- ◀ Consider using any management fee to stabilise utilities and stabilise providers to ensure service continuity.
- ◀ Consider renegotiating the repayment terms of loans to enable providers to defer COVID repayments to later years when they are more stable.
- ◀ Work with the operator to include leisure projects as part of decarbonisation projects and/or council investment in energy saving projects.

Environmental Sustainability

UK Government produced its net zero strategy 'Build Back Greener' in October 2021. This sets out how it intends the UK to meet its target for decarbonisation by 2050. It focuses on interventions such as:

- A fully decarbonised power system by 2035 with all electricity coming from 'low carbon sources'
- Improved efficiency of heating for homes and buildings, aiming for all new heating appliances to be based on low carbon technologies, such as electric heat pumps or hydrogen boilers.
- Low carbon fuel supply – by scaling up the production of low carbon alternatives including hydrogen and biofuels.

HDC's net zero carbon commitment is set out in its Climate Strategy and Action Plan. It aims to make the Council a net-zero carbon authority by 2040.

[Sport England](#) report that ¹climate change and the increased occurrence of extreme weather that it brings are already affecting sports facilities, meaning that the sector needs to build greater resilience to this very real threat.

They propose that a wide range of issues should be considered when approaching project development to and the resultant environmental impact of, say a new swimming pool

¹ <https://sportengland-production-files.s3.eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/s3fs-public/2021-01/Environmental%20Sustainability%20check%20list.pdf?VersionId=7XfZPDhHKoKHpfKqk165MMWdxwCmYsPO>

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development. Applying determine whether to refurbish an existing building with its carbon already embodied or to build anew². Establishing a sustainability strategy early on Sport England suggest some key principles as part of a 'pathway to sustainability' and net zero carbon in respect of building design and operation.

- ◀ **Reduce energy consumption** as the first measure to reduce carbon emissions and energy costs.
- ◀ **Change behaviour**, eliminate energy waste and operate energy control systems more effectively at no extra cost.
- ◀ **Passive design** - Building orientation and placement on site is critical to achieving net zero targets Harness a site's natural resources to benefit cross ventilation, natural lighting, solar gain, shelter or shading.
- ◀ **Fabric efficiency** Maximise the building fabric and glazing performance.
- ◀ **Minimise initial energy demand** to reduce demand on plant and technologies incorporated.
- ◀ **Efficient systems** Invest in appropriate energy-efficient products including heating, ventilation, fittings, controls, sensors, heat pumps and recovery systems
- ◀ **On-site renewables** Incorporate low and zero carbon (LZC) technologies to produce energy on site.
- ◀ **Off-site renewables** Only use energy providers who use renewable energy .

Summary of national context

Multiple challenges are currently impacting on the national policy context for physical activity and sport in the UK. Activity habits are continuing to be affected by rates of recovery from the Pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis, meanwhile rising utilities costs are imposing serious financial constraints on the operation of leisure facilities.

Local Authorities need to consider how sport and physical activity can be better positioned as a key driver in influencing wider corporate outcomes such as the reduction of health inequalities. This can be achieved through working more effectively with 'whole system' partners such as those in the NHS at neighbourhood level, whilst employing the skills within the physical activity sector to better connect people with opportunities to participate.

Ensuring an adequate supply of sustainable facilities to support this is also key and may require a radical re-shaping of facility stock in some areas given the age and low energy efficiency of certain facilities, particularly swimming pools. The evidence base provided within this report is intended to help HDC in making such decisions on an informed basis.

2.2: Local context

Huntingdonshire's Local Plan to 2036

The Spatial Vision set out in the Local Plan is to ensure, that by 2036, "*Huntingdonshire's physical environment will support the health and wellbeing of all its residents by:*

- ◀ Supporting a diverse, thriving economy
- ◀ Providing sufficient infrastructure to support healthy communities
- ◀ Meeting the needs of a changing population

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- ◀ Working with our climate, landscape and heritage

One of the Local Plan's objectives is to provide for adequate infrastructure to meet the needs of new growth and facilitate active, cohesive communities and sustainable lifestyles complemented by another which seeks to ensure inclusive and accessible provision for community needs including sports, play and open space. The Plan also acknowledges the need to provide adequate leisure provision to rural communities, ensuring facilities are in keeping with the character of the population they will serve.

Huntingdonshire Sustainable Community Strategy 2008 – 2028

Huntingdonshire's Sustainable Community Strategy shows how the Council will build a better future for Huntingdonshire. It combines; key district, regional and sub-regional strategies, specifically the Local Development Framework. The long-term vision is to ensure current and future generations can:

- ◀ Make the most of opportunities that come from living in a growing and developing District;
- ◀ Enjoy the benefits of continued economic success;
- ◀ Access suitable homes, jobs, services, shops, culture and leisure opportunities;
- ◀ Maintain the special character of our market towns, villages and countryside; and
- ◀ Live in an environment that is safe and protected from the effects of climate change and where valuable natural resources are used wisely.

To ensure that residents can access leisure opportunities, the Authority is committed to providing sufficient quality and quantity of indoor and outdoor sporting infrastructure which supports all residents. This includes supporting emerging communities, such as the one at Alconbury Wield.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-24

The Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough covers the following authorities: City of Peterborough, Huntingdonshire, East Cambridgeshire, South Cambridgeshire and the City of Cambridge. Its four key priorities are;

- ◀ Priority 1: Develop places that support health and wellbeing
- ◀ Priority 2: Help children achieve the best start in life
- ◀ Priority 3: Staying healthy throughout life
- ◀ Priority 4: Provide quality health and social care

To ensure there are places that support health and wellbeing, Board members will work with the Authority's One Leisure team to ensure that Huntingdonshire's leisure and community centres are maintained to the highest of standards and activity programmes and health referral programmes are accessible to all.

Living Sport

Living Sport is one of the 43 Active Partnerships in England. It covers the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough area. Its vision is to improve health and wellbeing by supporting people to get active. This will be achieved through its latest strategy themes, for the period 2020-2025:

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- ◀ Advocating and influencing local strategic agendas for sport and physical activity.
- ◀ Using insight and market research to improve the promotion of activity to engage a wider audience.
- ◀ Supporting organisations delivering activity to operate effectively, with a focus on developing their workforce.
- ◀ Achieving sustainable funding with partners to address our identified needs.

Over the past 12 months, Living Sport has been proactive in getting sports clubs back up and running following the Pandemic. Consequently, through the Communities Emergency Fund it has been responsible for distributing over £400,000 to local clubs. This funding was aimed at facility improvements and to support workforce development.

Strategic leisure centres in the Authority

HDC manages the majority of key leisure centres in the Authority via its in-house operator; One Leisure. However, landownership which sites are located on, varies.

Table 2.1: Breakdown of land and facility ownership per site

Site	Land ownership	Facility ownership	Usage
One Leisure Ramsey	Abbey College/Abbey Foundation	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure Huntingdon (Wetside)	Cam Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	None
One Leisure Huntingdon (Dryside)	Huntingdonshire DC	Huntingdonshire DC	None
One Leisure St Neots	Astrea Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure St Ives Indoor	Astrea Academy Trust	Huntingdonshire DC	Man. agreement
One Leisure St Ives Outdoor	Cambridgeshire County Council/HDC	Huntingdonshire DC	None

Academy trusts own the land upon which four centres are located. Three of the four have management agreements in place enabling the school to access facilities. Only One Leisure Ramsey and One Leisure St Ives are used by the adjacent school during the day. Ernulf Academy has its own sports hall and does not use One Leisure St Neots' indoor facilities.

Summary of local policy

The Authority is committed to ensuring that current and future populations have good physical activity opportunities, reside within strong communities, and are supported by a successful and sustainable economy. To ensure residents have good physical activity opportunities the Authority has pledged to provide high quality sport and leisure facilities.

2.3: Demographic profile

Population and distribution (*Data source: 2020 Mid-Year Estimate, ONS*): The total population of Huntingdonshire is 178,985 (males:89,158 and females: 89,827). Population density is focused around the south and central areas of the Authority, particularly in the towns of Huntingdon and St Neots. In the north, population density is greatest in the settlements of St Ives, Sawtry and in Ramsey. The rest of the Authority is predominantly rural.

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Figure 2.4: Huntingdonshire population density: 2020 MYE, ONS

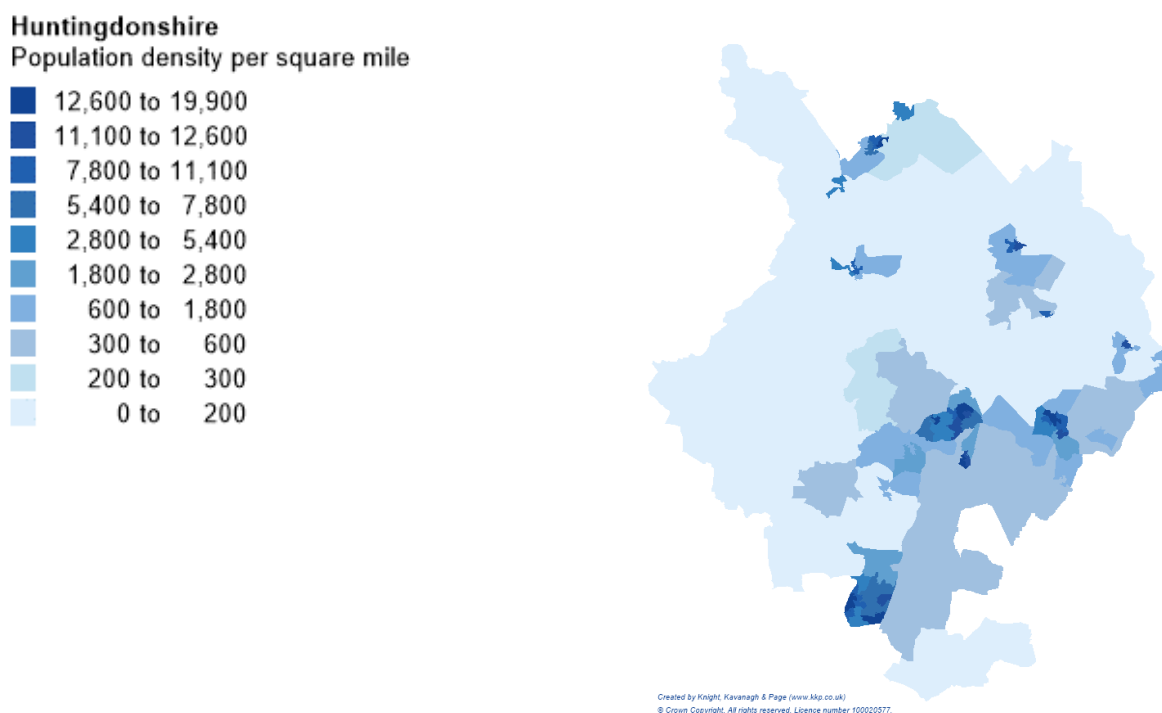


Figure 2.5: Comparative age/sex pyramid and Huntingdonshire population density: 2020 MYE, ONS

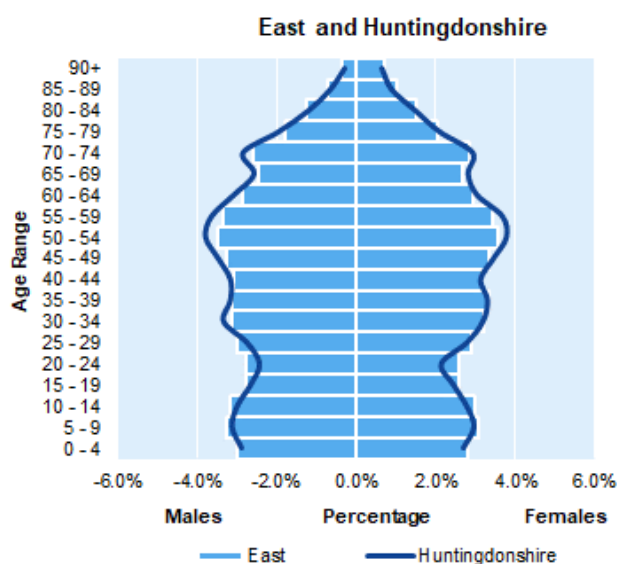


Figure 2.5 illustrates the population’s age and gender composition whilst comparing it to the region.

There is a lower proportion of 15-29 year olds in the Authority when comparing it to the region (Huntingdonshire - 15.2%, East -16.6%). There are, however, more in the age groups from 45-64 (Huntingdonshire - 27.8%, East - 26.2%).

Ethnicity: (Data source: 2011 census of population, ONS): Huntingdonshire’s ethnicity differs compared to England as a whole. According to the 2011 Census of population, the largest proportion (94.8%) 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 2.5% this is lower than the national equivalent (7.8%).

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Income and dependency (Data source: NOMIS (2019): The median figure for full-time earnings (2021) in Huntingdonshire is £30,638; the comparative rate for the East is £32,687 (+6.7%) and for Great Britain is £31,881 (+4.1%). In March 2022 there were 2,545 people in Huntingdonshire claiming out of work benefits ; this represents an increase of 55.2% when compared to March 2020 (1,640).

Deprivation (Data source: 2020 indices of deprivation, DCLG): Huntingdonshire experiences very low levels of deprivation. 4.7% of the Authority's population live in areas covered by the country's three most deprived cohorts (national average: c.30%). Conversely, 52.5% live in the three least deprived groupings. This compares to a 'norm' of c.30%. Areas of high deprivation are focused, generally, in the north east (Ramsey) and the town of Huntingdon.

Figure 2.6: Index of multiple deprivation

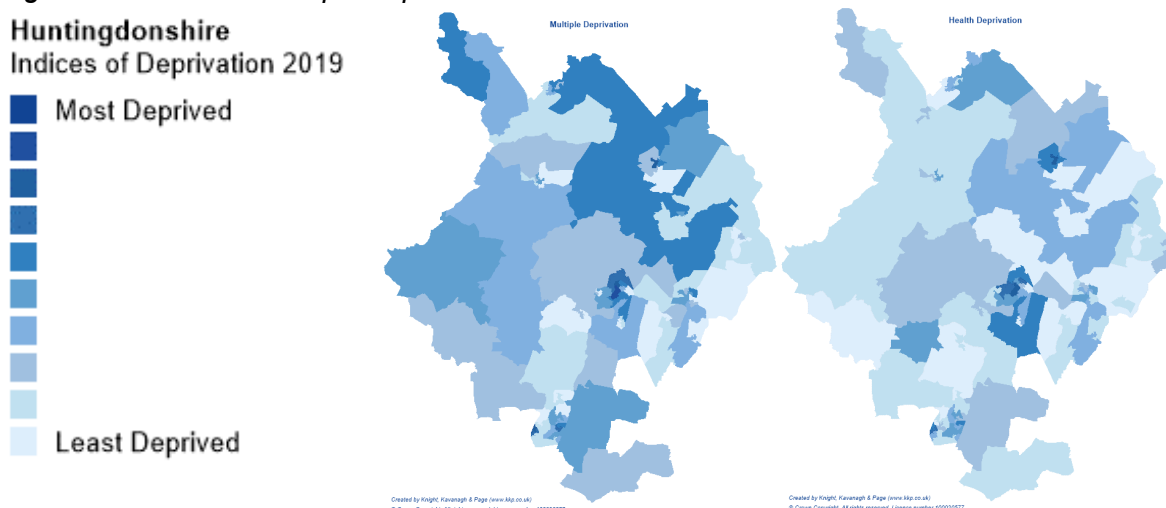


Table 2.2: Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and health deprivation in Huntingdonshire

IMD cumulative norm	Multiple deprivation				Health deprivation		
	Population in band	Percent of population	Percent of population	Population in band	Percent of population	Percent of population	
Most deprived	10.0	0	0.0%	0.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	20.0	3,456	2.0%	2.0%	0	0.0%	0.0%
	30.0	4,781	2.7%	4.7%	5,115	2.9%	2.9%
	40.0	6,420	3.7%	8.4%	6,165	3.5%	6.5%
	50.0	24,764	14.2%	22.6%	9,767	5.6%	12.1%
	60.0	24,155	13.9%	36.5%	18,984	10.9%	23.0%
Least deprived	70.0	19,238	11.0%	47.5%	30,108	17.3%	40.3%
	80.0	26,883	15.4%	63.0%	29,123	16.7%	57.0%
	90.0	36,713	21.1%	84.1%	45,583	26.2%	83.2%
	100.0	27,780	15.9%	100.0%	29,345	16.8%	100.0%

A similar pattern, to that seen for multiple deprivation, is seen in relation to health; 2.9% falls within the areas covered by the three most deprived cohorts (national average; c.30%). Conversely, 59.7% live in the three least deprived groupings compared to a 'norm' of c.30%.

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Car ownership- (Data source: 2011 Census): According to the 2011 census, 86.4% of households have at least one car or van and 45.6% have two or more vehicles. This is above the England national average which is that 70.9% of households have at least one vehicle.

Health data (Data sources: ONS births and deaths, NCMP³ and NOO⁴): In keeping with patterns seen alongside lower levels of health deprivation, life expectancy in Huntingdonshire is higher than the national figure; the male rate is currently 81.4 compared to 79.6 for England, and the female equivalent is 84.4 compared to 83.2 nationally.

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 obesity 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. Adult rates of being either overweight or obese in Huntingdonshire are slightly below national but above regional rates. However, child rates are below both national and regional rates.

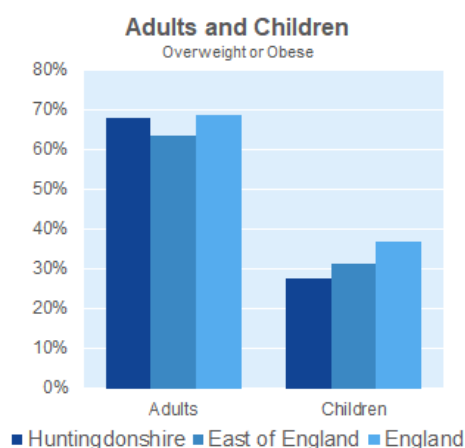
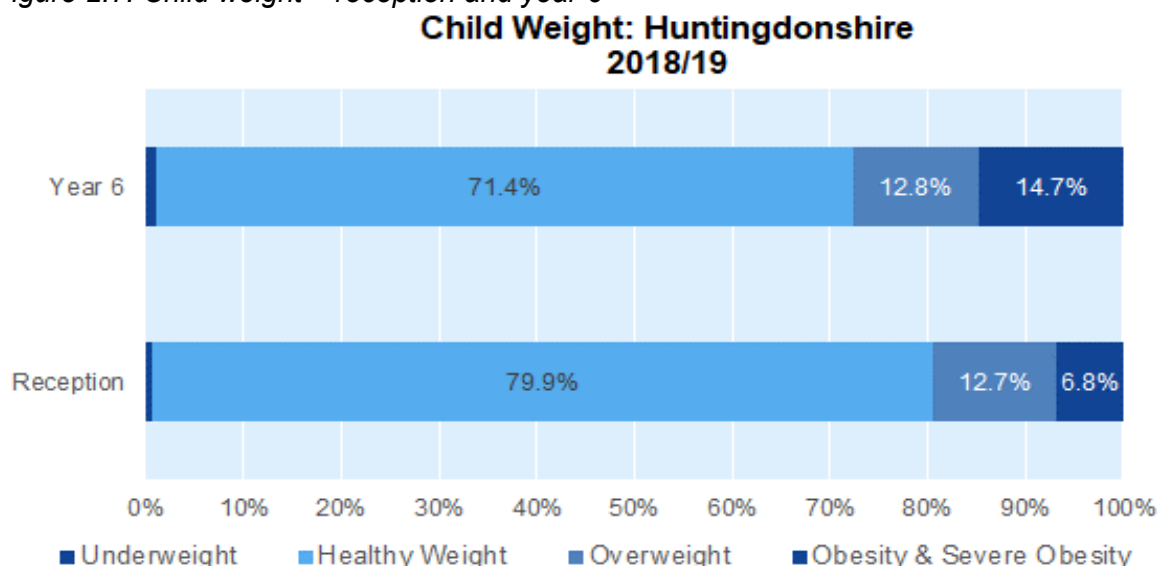


Figure 2.7: Child weight – reception and year 6



In common with many other areas, child obesity rates increase significantly between the ages of 4 and 11. 6.8% of children in Huntingdonshire are obese in their reception year at school and 12.7% are overweight; by Year 6 these figures rise to 14.7% obese and 12.8% overweight. In total, by Year 6, more than one quarter (27.5%) are either overweight or obese.

³ National Child Measurement Program
⁴ National Obesity Observatory

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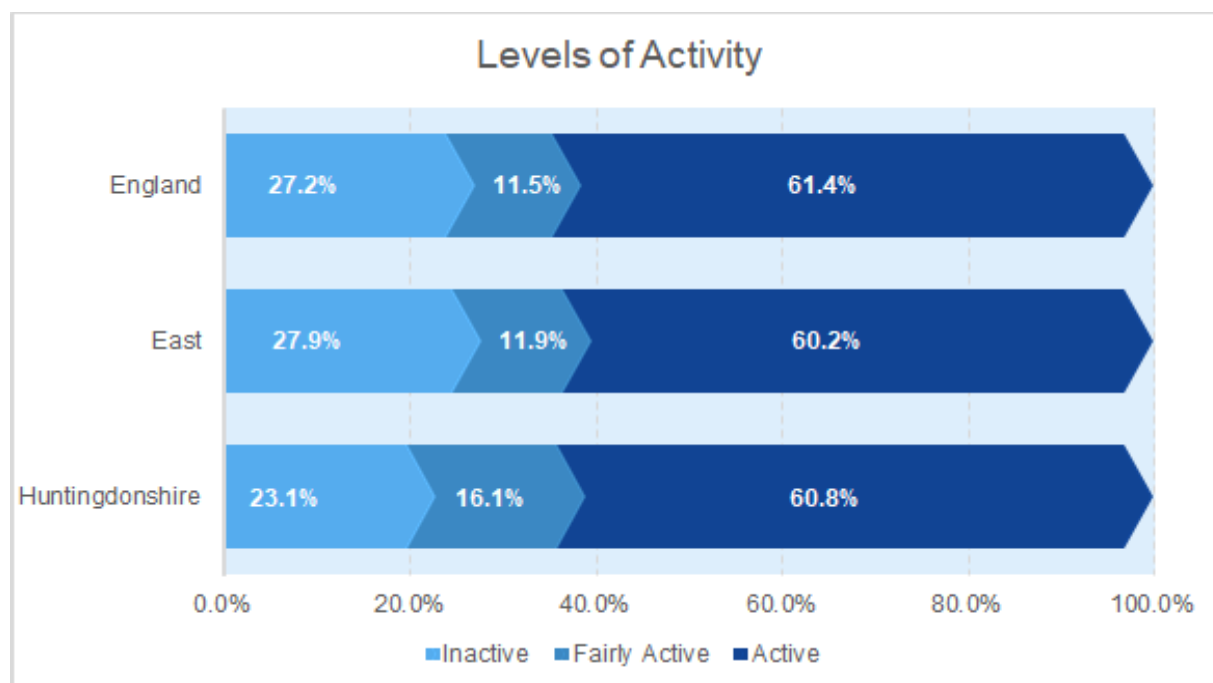
Huntingdonshire falls within the boundaries of one Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG): NHS Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG (Cambridge, City of Peterborough, East Cambridgeshire, East Northamptonshire, Fenland, Huntingdonshire, North Hertfordshire, South Cambridgeshire) which includes all of Huntingdonshire's population. The total annual cost to the NHS of physical inactivity for the CCGs that Huntingdonshire falls within is estimated at £7,129,249.

When compared to regional and national costs per 100,000, the total costs for the CCGs (£807,050) are 0.1% above the national average (£806,244) and 02.4% below the regional average (£827,050). 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.

Sport England: Active Lives Survey (ALS) 2019/2020

This is based on 16+ year olds taking part in walking, cycling, fitness, dance and other sporting activity (excluding gardening). Huntingdonshire has similar activity levels to both the whole of England and to the region. 60.8% of the population is active which slightly lower than the national average (61.4%), however, is slightly higher than the regional average (60.2%).

Figure 2.8: levels of activity and most popular sports and physical activities

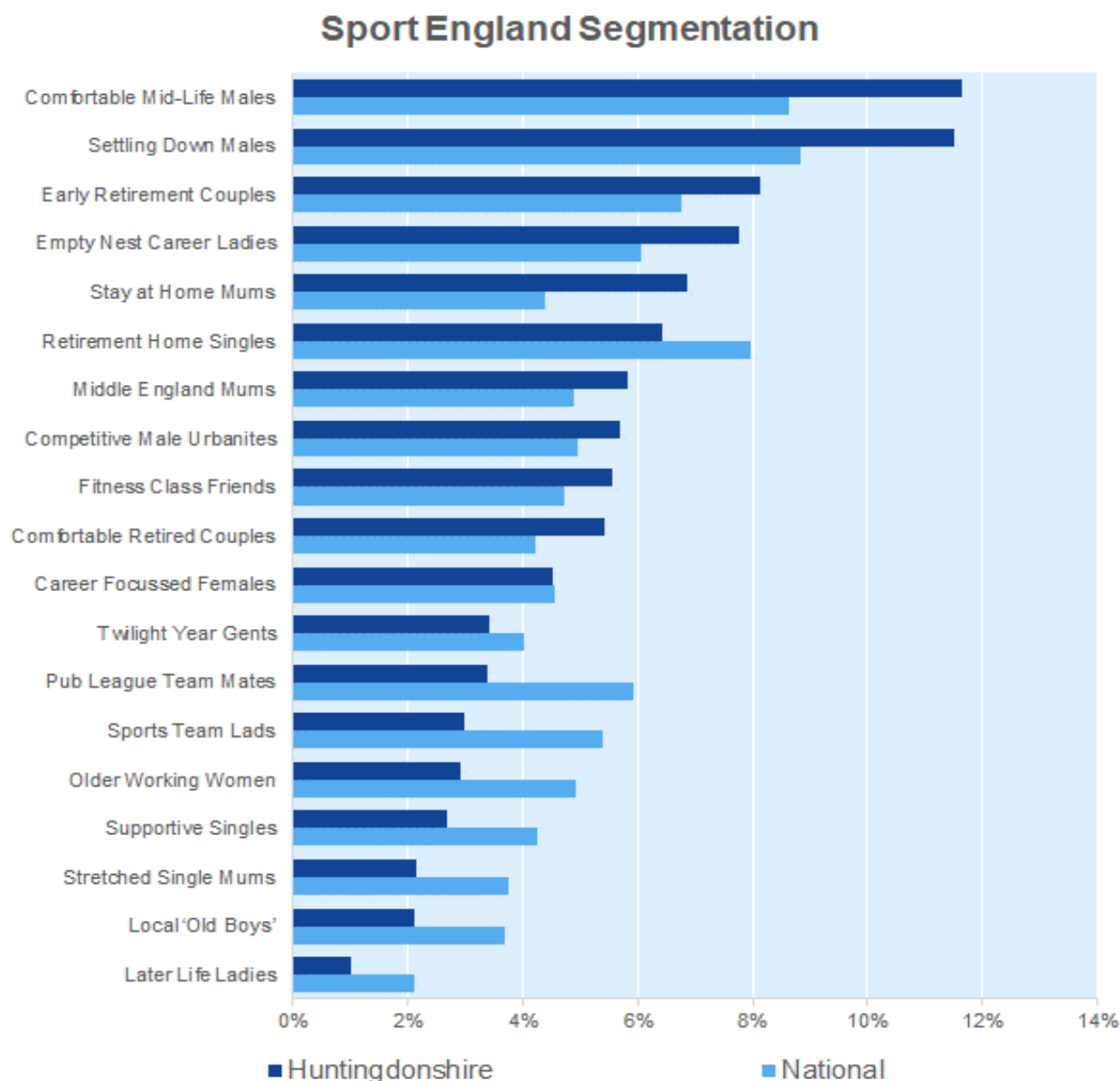


Sporting segmentation (Data source: Market segmentation, Sport England)

Sport England classifies the adult population in 19 market segments to provide insight into the sporting behaviours. Huntingdonshire profile has 'Comfortable Mid-Life Males' as the largest segment of the adult population at 11.63% (15,375) compared to a national average of 8.65%. This is closely followed by 'Settling Down Males' (11.50%) and 'Early Retirement Couples' (8.15%).

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Figure 2.9: SE segmentation – Huntingdonshire compared to England



The most popular sports and physical activities:

The Active Lives Survey also makes it possible to identify the top five participation sports within Huntingdonshire. As with many other areas, fitness and cycling are among the most popular activities and are known to cut across age groups and gender; in Huntingdonshire just under a third of adults take part in fitness activities, on average, at least twice a month. The next most popular activity is cycling which 27.6% of adults do on a relatively regular basis.



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Mosaic (Data source: 2020 Mosaic analysis, Experian)

This is a similar consumer segmentation product. The prevalence of the top five classifications is evident in as much as they represent over two thirds (69.7%) of the population compared to a national equivalent rate of 4 in 10 (40.6%). The largest segment is Rural Reality which has more than double the national rate.

Table 2.3: Mosaic – main population segments in Huntingdonshire

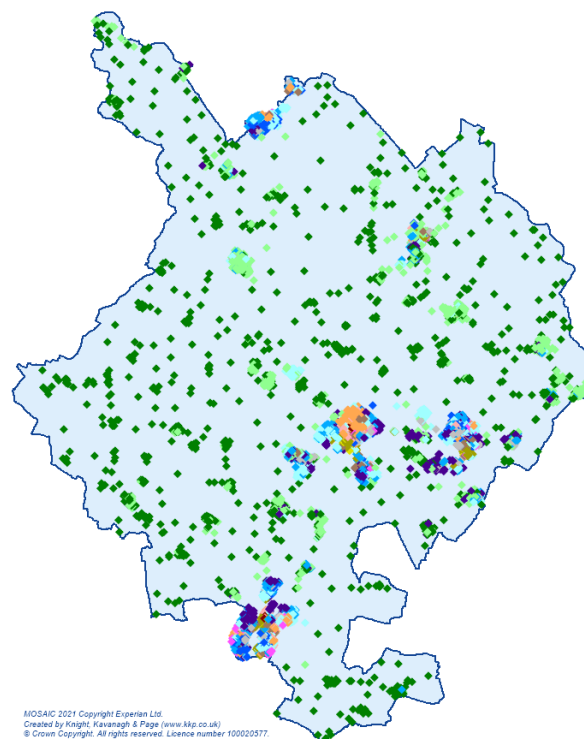
Mosaic group description	Huntingdonshire		National %
	#	%	
1 - Rural Reality	35,319	19.3%	6.9%
2 - Aspiring Homemakers	32,119	17.6%	10.4%
3 - Country Living	25,218	13.8%	7.2%
4 - Domestic Success	20,177	11.0%	9.0%
5 - Prestige Positions	14,567	8.0%	7.1%

Figure 2.10: Mosaic segments in Huntingdonshire

Huntingdonshire Mosaic groups 2021

- ◆ City Prosperity
- ◆ Prestige Positions
- ◆ Country Living
- ◆ Rural Reality
- ◆ Senior Security
- ◆ Suburban Stability
- ◆ Domestic Success
- ◆ Aspiring Homemakers
- ◆ Family Basics
- ◆ Transient Renters
- ◆ Municipal Tenants
- ◆ Vintage Value
- ◆ Modest Traditions
- ◆ Urban Cohesion
- ◆ Rental Hubs

Table 2.3:
Dominant Mosaic
profiles in
Huntingdonshire



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Rural Reality	People who live in rural communities and generally own their relatively low cost homes. Their moderate incomes come mostly from employment with local firms or from running their own small business.
Aspiring Homemakers	Younger households who have, often, only recently set up home. They usually own their homes in private suburbs, which they have chosen to fit their budget.
Country Living	Well-off homeowners who live in the countryside often beyond easy commuting reach of towns and cities. Some are landowners or farmers, others run small businesses from home, some are retired and others commute to professional jobs.

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Population projections

The most recent ONS projections indicate a rise of 7.8% in Huntingdonshire's population (+71,626) over the 25 years from 2018 to 2043. Several key points are outlined below

- ◆ The number of 0-15 year olds, falls by -1,888 (-5.8%) over the first half of the projection (to 2030).
- ◆ The number of 16-24 year olds will rise by +1.5% in the first period (+224) followed by a decline of -8.3% (-1,298) in the second period.
- ◆ There is a continuous increase in the numbers of persons aged 65+ and a need to consider varying sports offers for this age group.

Table 2.4: Huntingdonshire - ONS projected population (2018 to 2043)

Age (years)	Number			Age structure %			Change 2018 – 2043		
	2018	2030	2043	2018	2030	2043	2018	2030	2043
0-15	32,686	30,798	30,878	18.4%	16.7%	16.2%	100.0%	94.2%	94.5%
16-24	15,420	15,644	14,346	8.7%	8.5%	7.5%	100.0%	101.5%	93.0%
25-34	21,993	20,457	22,826	12.4%	11.1%	11.9%	100.0%	93.0%	103.8%
35-44	22,442	23,965	22,299	12.7%	13.0%	11.7%	100.0%	106.8%	99.4%
45-54	26,759	24,146	24,814	15.1%	13.1%	13.0%	100.0%	90.2%	92.7%
55-64	22,843	25,317	24,903	12.9%	13.7%	13.0%	100.0%	110.8%	109.0%
65+	35,209	44,372	51,106	19.9%	24.0%	26.7%	100.0%	126.0%	145.1%
Total	177,352	184,699	191,170	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	104.1%	107.8%

Huntingdonshire housing growth

As presented above, Huntingdonshire's population is set to increase by 7.8%. To support this increase, several key housing growth sites are planned. This will be developed through a wide mix of housing types and sizes, with a strong need for smaller homes due to the high proportion of single person households. The growth areas are as follows:

Alconbury Wield- A former RAF site located to the north of Huntingdon has been handed over by the government for development. It is proposed that the site will accommodate 5,000 new houses which should be completed by 2040, mainly focusing on family style properties. Work has already commenced, with a target of 200-250 houses being built per annum. In addition, the site will have a new secondary school which will have a community available 4-court sports hall. It is anticipated that the school (Alconbury Educational Hub) will open September 2023. A new community centre plus a health and fitness facility is also proposed as part of the development.

St Neots Eastern Expansion- Land to the east of St Neots has been given planning permission for c.4,000 new dwellings. Figure 2.11 illustrates the proposed area with the development split in to two areas. The southern area, Wintringham Park, has already started and will consist of 2,800 new dwellings. The northern area, known as Loves Farm 2, will consist of 1,000 new dwellings. There are no additional sports facilities proposed as part of this development.

Ermine Street Development- it is proposed to develop 1,400 new homes to the north of Huntingdon alongside the A141, however, this is still subject to planning approval due to traffic concerns on the A141 and connection challenges into Huntingdon.

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Figure 2.11: Location of the St Neots Eastern Expansion



Summary of the demographic profile and population projections

Huntingdonshire's population is estimated to increase by 7.8% until 2043 largely driven by large areas of housing growth, as identified above.

It is therefore important to ensure there is a suite of leisure facilities to complement the growing population along with the appropriate programming. For example, swimming pools and sports halls will need to be able to meet the needs of the growing population, underpinned by appropriate programming and elements such as sufficient swimming lesson capacity. In addition, facilities will also need to be able to support other demographic cohorts, such as the 65+ age group with appropriate daytime activities.

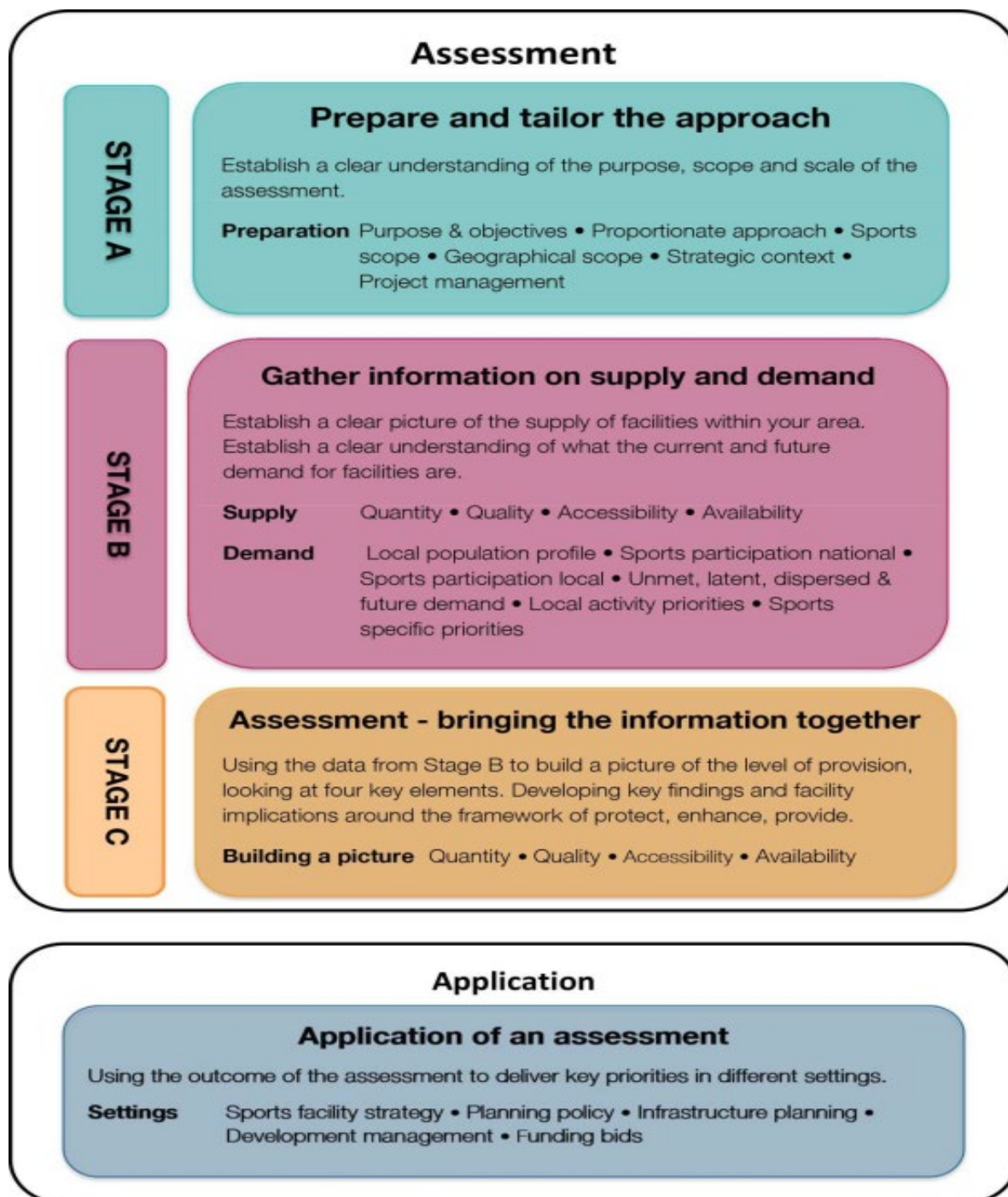
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SECTION 3: INDOOR SPORTS FACILITIES ASSESSMENT

3.1: Methodology

The assessment of provision is based on Sport England’s ANOG for Indoor and Outdoor Sports Facilities.

Figure 3.1: Recommended approach



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This is the recommended approach to undertaking a robust assessment of need for indoor and outdoor sports facilities. It has produced to help (local authorities) meet the requirements of the Government's NPPF, 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. Information gained from the assessments should be used to determine what open space, sport and recreational provision is needed, which plans should then seek to accommodate.' (NPPF, Paragraph 96).

Provision assessment involves analysis of quality, quantity, accessibility and availability for the identified facility types (e.g., sports halls and swimming pools). Each venue is considered on a 'like for like' basis within its own facility type, to enable it to be assessed for adequacy.

Demand background, data and consultation is variable, depending upon levels of consultation garnered. In some instances, national data is available whilst in others, it is possible to drill down and get some very detailed local information. This is evident within the demand section. The report considers the distribution of and interrelationship between facility types in the Authority and provides a clear indication of areas of high demand. It 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.

3.2: Site visits

Active Places Power (APP) is used to provide baseline data to identify facilities in the study area. Site visits to key indoor facilities, those operated by other partners and the voluntary sector were undertaken February 2022. Where a physical visit was not possible a telephone consultation with the facility/site manager was undertaken. Via the audit and informal interviews with facility managers this report identifies 'relevance' and 'condition' describing (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.

The assessment captures quantity and quality data on a site-by-site basis and feeds directly into the main database allowing information to be stored and analysed. Quality assessments ratings are based on non-technical visual assessments. These consider facility age and condition. Surfaces, tiles and walls, line markings and safety equipment are considered and problem areas such as mould, damage, leaks etc., are noted. The condition of fixtures, fittings and equipment is recorded.

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Maintenance and facility 'wear and tear' is considered as is compliant with the Equality Act, although this is not studied in detail for the purposes of this report. When all data is collated, key facility elements are rated according to the following categories.

Table 3.1: Quality ratings of indoor sports facilities using ANOG

Quality rating	Description
Good	Facility is new (less than 10 years old) or recently invested in, up to date, clean, well maintained and presented. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces are new or relatively new with little if any wear and tear. They are well-lit with a modern feel. Ancillary facilities are new or well maintained, fit for purpose, modern and attractive.
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 may show 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/poor quality. Fixtures, fittings, equipment and sports surfaces show signs of wear and tear. It 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/or 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 low quality and unattractive to use.

Energy efficiency

In order to assist Councils in understanding required steps to improve the energy efficiency of key leisure assets, KKP undertakes a 'health check' of main Council operated or contracted stock. As per the wider ANOG quality assessment, it provides an overall 'traffic light' rating in respect of the following criteria:

- ◀ Current age of facilities.
- ◀ Level of recent investment in swimming pool plant.
- ◀ Current pool heating method (i.e. Gas boiler or alternative).
- ◀ Level of planned investment in energy efficiency measures.

Assessment ratings are taken into consideration in the accompanying facility strategy which will detail measures which will contribute towards the Councils net zero commitments.

Catchment areas

Applying catchments areas for different provision types enables identification of areas currently not served. These vary from person to person, day to day, hour to hour. This problem is overcome by accepting the concept of 'effective catchment'; the distance travelled by around 75-80% of users (used in the Sport England Facilities Planning Model - FPM). Sport England data indicates that most people will travel up to 20 minutes to access sports facilities. This, coupled with KKP's experience of working in/with leisure facilities and use of local data enables identification of catchment areas for sports facilities as follows.

Table 3.2: Facility catchment areas

Facility type	Identified catchment area by urban/rural
Sport halls	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive

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Facility type	Identified catchment area by urban/rural
Swimming pools	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Health and fitness	20-minute walk/ 20 minutes' drive
Squash courts	20 minutes' drive
Indoor bowls centre	30-minute drive
Dedicated gymnastics centre	30 minutes' drive
Indoor tennis centre	30-minute drive
Village halls/community centres	800m -10 minute walk

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SECTION 4: SPORTS HALLS

Indoor multi-purpose sports halls are prime sports facilities for community sport. They provide venues which accommodate a range of sport and recreational activities. The standard method for measuring sports halls is the number of badminton courts contained within the floor area.

Sports halls are generally considered to be of greatest value if they are of at least three badminton court size with sufficient height to allow games such as badminton to be played. It should be noted, however, that a 4-court sports hall provides greater flexibility as it can accommodate major indoor team sports such as football (5-a-side and training), basketball and netball. It also has sufficient length to accommodate indoor cricket nets and indoor athletics; as such they tend to offer greater sports development flexibility than the 3-court counterpart.

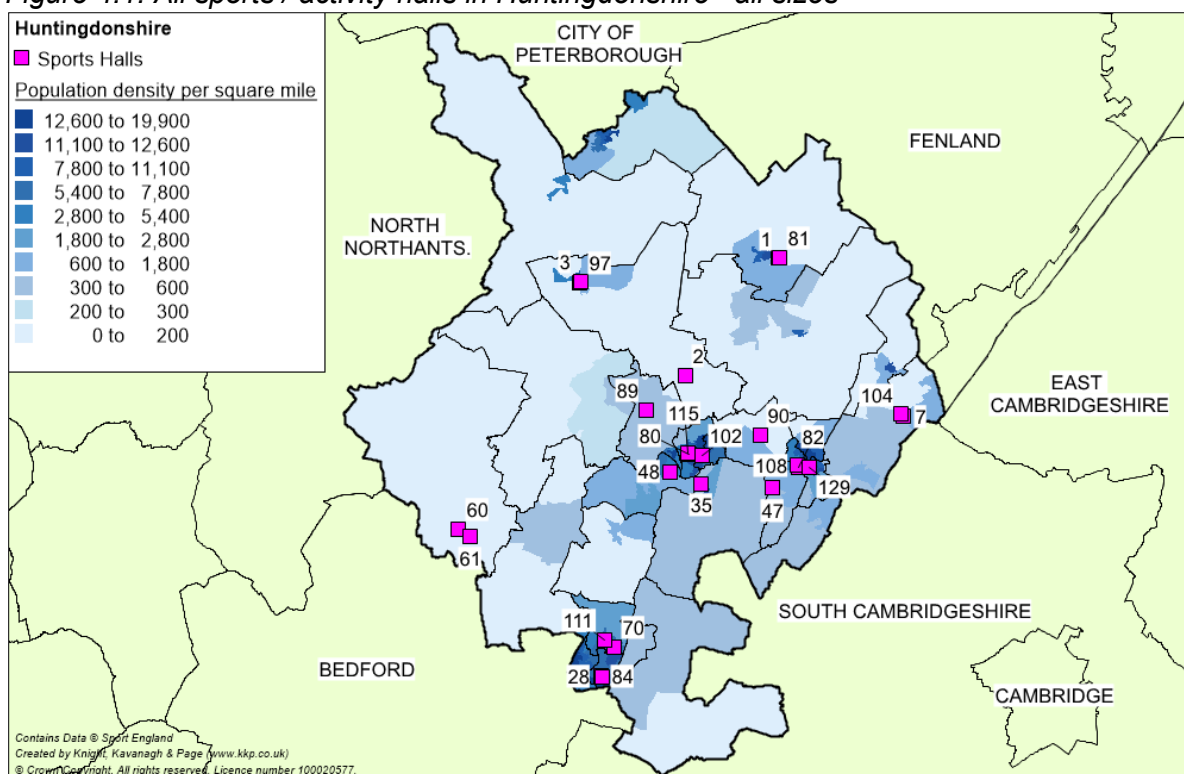
Larger halls, for example those with six or eight courts, can accommodate higher level training and/or competition and meet day to day need. They also provide an option for more than one pitch/court increasing flexibility for both training and competition and hosting of indoor central venue leagues for sports such as netball. This assessment covers all 3+ court facilities in Huntingdonshire. Halls that function as specialist venues (e.g., dance studios) are excluded.

4.1: Supply

Quantity

There are 30 sports halls of **all sizes** listed on Active Places. These accommodate 60 badminton courts. They are generally located the District's key settlements, with the majority located in the town of Huntingdon. Some venues have more than one activity/sports hall.

Figure 4.1: All sports / activity halls in Huntingdonshire– all sizes



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Table 4.1: All sports halls in Huntingdonshire

Map ID	Site name	Crts	Map ID	Site name	Crts
1	Abbey College	1	70	Longsands Academy	4
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	1	80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	81	One Leisure Ramsey	3
7	Bluntisham Village Hall &	1	82	One Leisure St Ives	6
28	Ernulf Academy	4	82	One Leisure St Ives	1
28	Ernulf Academy	1	84	One Leisure St Neots	4
35	Godmanchester Comm. Academy	0	89	RAF Alconbury	2
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0	90	RAF Wyton	6
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0	97	Sawtry Village Academy	0
48	Hinchingbrooke School	1	102	Spring Common Academy	1
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	104	St Helen'S Primary School	1
60	Kimbolton Prep School	1	108	St Ivo Academy	1
61	Kimbolton School	5	111	St Neots Regional Table Tennis Centre	0
70	Longsands Academy	1	115	St Peters School	3
70	Longsands Academy	1	115	St Peters School	1

(0 court halls identified in Active Places but not considered large enough to accommodate 1 badminton court)

Table 4.1 indicates that 18 sites have two or fewer badminton courts. While often appropriate for mat sports, exercise to music and similar provision, small halls limit the range of recreational and sporting activity that larger halls can enable. Some venues have more than one activity/ sports hall on site. Table 4.2 identifies those (from the APP list) excluded from the audit and assessment due to size (i.e., they have fewer than three marked badminton courts).

Table 4.2: Sports halls with fewer than 3 badminton courts (excluded from supply due to size)

ID	Site name	Cts	ID	Site name	Cts
No marked courts					
35	Godmanchester Community	0	9	Sawtry Village Academy	0
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0	1	St Neots Regional Table Tennis	0
47	Hemingford Pavilion	0			
One marked court					
1	Abbey College	1	7	Longsands Academy	1
2	Abbots Ripton Cricket Club	1	7	Longsands Academy	1
7	Bluntisham Village Hall & Recreation	1	8	Spring Common Academy	1
28	Ernulf Academy	1	1	St Helen'S Primary School	1
48	Hinchingbrooke School	1	1	St Ivo Academy	1
60	Kimbolton Prep School	1			
Two marked court					
89	RAF Alconbury	2			

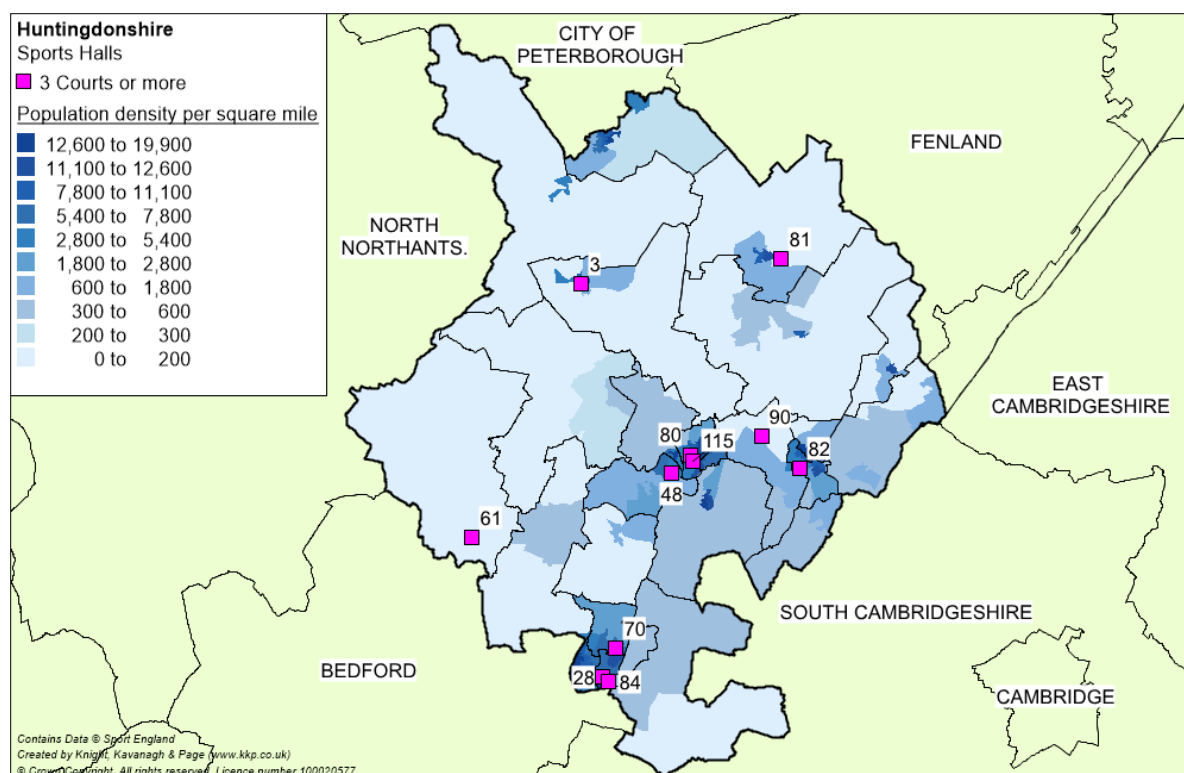
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The remaining 11 have three or more marked badminton courts. As with the overall distribution of halls, the majority are located within the main five settlements of the Authority.

Table 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ badminton courts

ID	Site	Cts	ID	Site	Cts
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	70	Longsands Academy	4
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	84	One Leisure St Neots	5
81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	61	Kimbolton School	5
115	St Peters School	3	82	One Leisure St Ives	6
28	Ernulf Academy	4	90	RAF Wyton	6
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	Total		46

Figure 4.2: Sports halls with 3+ courts in Huntingdonshire



The largest sites are at One Leisure St Ives and RAF Wyton (both have six courts). The sports hall at Kimbolton School has five. The remainder have four courts. The breakdown of all the sites are as follows:

- ◀ Four 3-court hall
- ◀ Four 4-court halls
- ◀ One 5-court hall
- ◀ Two 6 -court hall

Facility quality

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All but one of the 3+ court sports halls were subject to a non-technical quality assessment. No access was obtained at RAF Wyton This is an MoD site and for security reasons, access was not permitted.

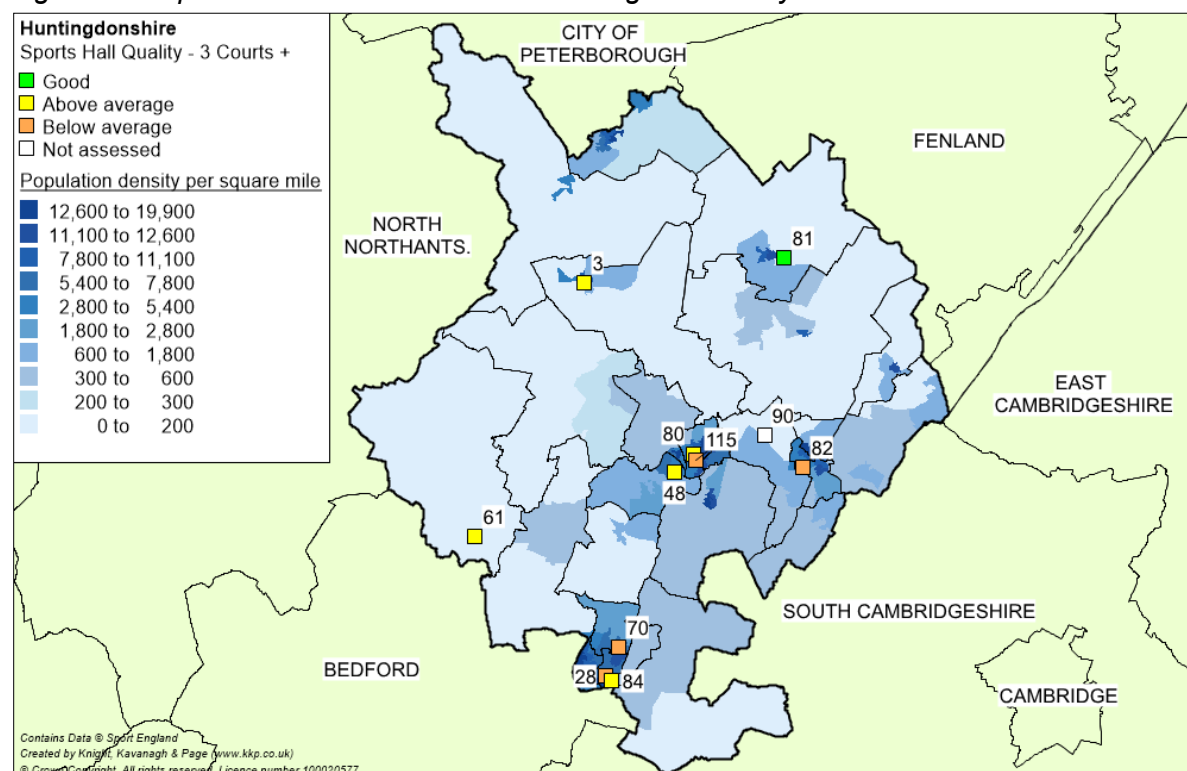
Table 4.4: listing of 3+ court sports halls with quality assessment – Huntingdonshire

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Assessment condition	
			Court	Changing
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	Above average	Above average
28	Ernulf Academy	4	Below average	Below average
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	Above average	Above average
61	Kimbolton School	5	Above average	Above average
70	Longsands Academy	4	Below average	Below average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	Above average	Above average
81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	Good	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	6	Below average	Above average
84	One Leisure St Neots	4	Above average	Above average
90	RAF Wyton	6	Not assessed	Not assessed
115	St Peters School	3	Below average	Below average

Table 4.5: Summary of non-technical assessments

Good	Above average	Below average	Poor	Not assessed
1	5	4	0	1

Figure 4.3: Sports halls with 3+ courts in Huntingdonshire by condition



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There is one good quality sports hall (3 courts), five are above average (15 courts in total), four are below average (17 courts in total) and one (6-court) hall was not assessed.

Consultation indicated that facility age aligned to lack of investment is the primary reason where facilities were rated as below average. For example, St Peters School was built in 1990, has accommodated heavy usage and not benefitted from any investment since it was built. This has, unsurprisingly, led to deterioration. The scenario for Ernulf Academy is comparable. It was built in 1996 and has received no significant investment since.

Table 4.6: Year of construction and refurbishment of sports halls

Map ID	Site name	Crts	Year opened	Year of refurb	Years since open/refurb
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	1985	-	37
28	Ernulf Academy	4	1986	-	36
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4	2015	-	7
61	Kimbolton School	5	1952	2013	9
70	Longsands Academy	4	1961	1995	27
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	1992	2003	20
81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	1990	2022	0
82	One Leisure St Ives	6	1974	2004	19
84	One Leisure St Neots	4	1990	N/A	36
90	RAF Wyton	6	N/A	N/A	
115	St Peters	3	1990	N/A	32

Accessibility

Sports hall accessibility is influenced by how far people are willing and able to travel to/from them. Walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine facility accessibility to different communities for sites which are available to hire. The normal (industry) standard is a 20-minute walk time (one-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minute drive time for a rural area. As Huntingdonshire is typically considered to be a rural area, both a 20-minute walk and 20-minute drive time are assessed.

The following sites have been removed from the analysis for the following reasons:

- ◀ Kimbolton School is a private boarding school. It does allow community use, however, this is on a limited basis, when students are not on campus, and has, thus, been removed from this analysis.
- ◀ RAF Wyton is a MOD site and site access is restricted to military personnel only.

Analysis of 20-minute walk time data reveals the following.

- ◀ 73,084 of residents live within one mile of a sports hall (40% of the total population).
- ◀ 8,237 people (4.7 % of the population) live in areas of higher deprivation.
- ◀ Of these, most (6,715; 81.9%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a sports hall.

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Figure 4.4: All community available sports halls with 3+ courts relative to IMD

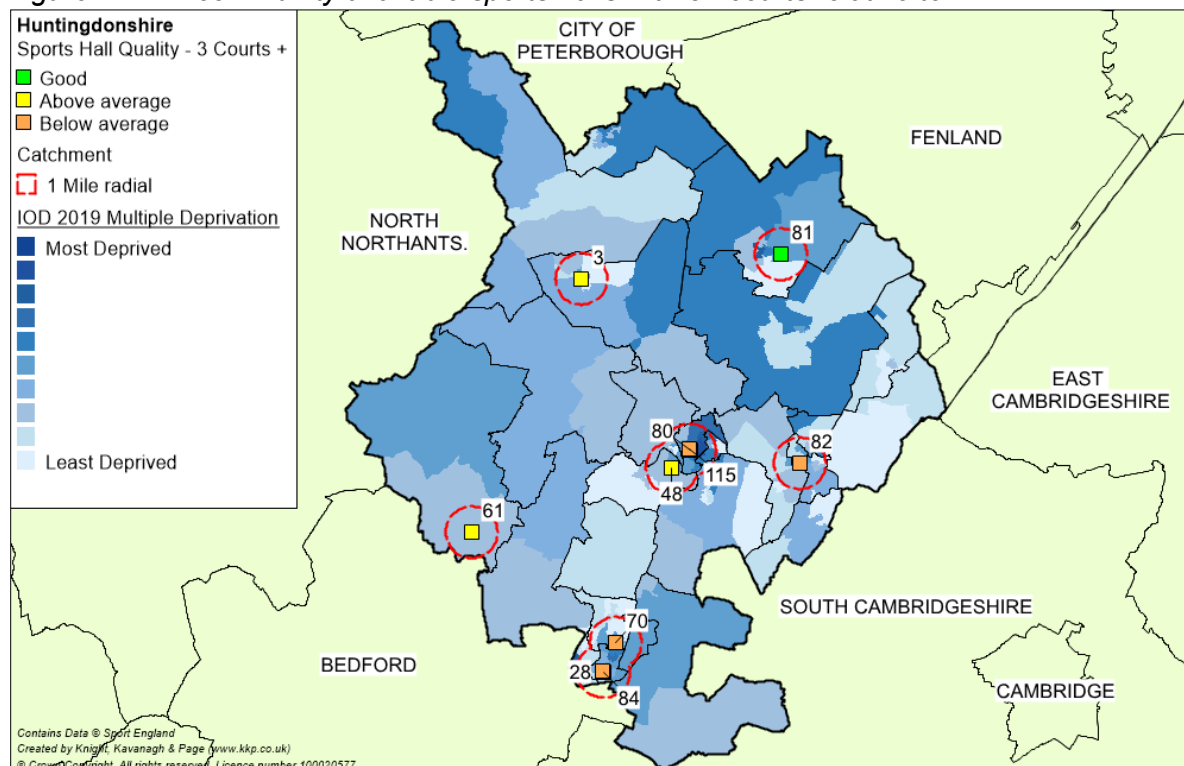


Table 4.7: Accessibility of sports halls with 3+ courts

IMD 10% bands	Huntingdonshire Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	3,456	2.0%	3,456	2.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	4,781	2.7%	3,259	1.9%	1,522	0.9%
30.1 - 40	6,420	3.7%	3,835	2.2%	2,585	1.5%
40.1 - 50	24,764	14.2%	8,499	4.9%	16,265	9.3%
50.1 - 60	24,155	13.9%	15,770	9.1%	8,385	4.8%
60.1 - 70	19,238	11.0%	6,862	3.9%	12,376	7.1%
70.1 - 80	26,883	15.4%	8,647	5.0%	18,236	10.5%
80.1 - 90	36,713	21.1%	12,648	7.3%	24,065	13.8%
90.1 - 100	27,780	16.0%	6,681	3.8%	21,099	12.1%
Total	174,190	100.0%	69,657	40.0%	104,533	60.0%

Residents living in more deprived localities are statistically less likely to participate in sport than those from more affluent areas. Reasons for this include cost and access. Although Huntingdonshire has low levels of IMD (4.7%) most residents of these areas (81.5%) live within a mile of a community accessible sports hall, which would suggest that sports halls are well placed to serve them.

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As fewer than half of residents reside with a mile of a community accessible sports hall and the Authority is predominantly rural by nature, it is also worth considering those who live away from the major urban areas by applying a 20-minute drive catchment from community available sports halls. As displayed below, over 98% of Huntingdonshire’s population resides within a 20-minute drive of a publicly accessible sports hall with 3+ badminton courts (or a hall of equivalent dimensions) within the District boundary. As the Authority has a high level of car ownership, access from those living in rural areas wishing to access sports halls is considered to be good, as the majority fall within the 20-minute drive time catchment.

Availability

The majority of halls in Huntingdonshire are community available, bar the two listed above. Levels of access, however, vary considerably.. Five sites offer pay and play access but only two offer daytime plus evening use. These are the two One Leisure sites (Huntingdon and St Neots). The sports halls at Academy Leisure Sawtry, St Ives and Ramsey all offer pay and play access, however, is only available during evenings/weekends as these are dual use facilities with the adjacent schools. The remainder, all on educational establishments, are accessible solely via advance block bookings.

Facility management

The Authority owns five of the key leisure sites, and manages four, under its One Leisure branding. These are located at the four key settlements sites; Huntingdon, Ramsey, St Neots and St Ives. Academy Leisure Sawtry is managed by Meridian Trust, which also manages the adjoining school. School and college sports halls are owned and managed by several academy trusts. A full list is shown in the table below.

Table 4.8: Management and ownership of sports hall facilities

Site	Management	Ownership
Academy Leisure Sawtry	In house	Meridian Trust
Ernulf Academy	In house	Astrea Academy Trust
Hinchingbrooke School	In House	Hinchingbrooke Foundation
Longsands Academy	In house	Astrea Academy Trust
One Leisure Huntingdon	HDC	HDC
One Leisure Ramsey	HDC	HDC
One Leisure St Ives	HDC	HDC
One Leisure St Neots	HDC	HDC
St Peters School	In house	Cam Academy Trust

Daytime availability and used capacity

As described above, daytime availability is limited to the two One Leisure sites. The remainder solely offer evening and weekend bookings. Table 4.9 details levels of community use available at each venue. Figures are calculated based either upon booking sheets from the respective sites or on consultation. Data collected relates to current utilisation at all sites in February 2022.

All sites support mainstream sports, such as netball, indoor football and badminton. The majority (particularly school sites) also have outdoor artificial grass pitches (3G or sand dressed). Some clubs hire whole school sites to accommodate training demand, with

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younger age groups using the sports hall and older players playing outdoors. For example, at Hinchingsbrooke School, St Ivo FC hires the sand dressed pitch for its older age groups and the sports hall for younger players.

Consultation indicates that the majority of bookings have returned to normal following the Pandemic, with most sites reporting high levels of utilisation. To demonstrate this, the audit calculated the used capacity of each sports hall. This is the percentage of available community use hours used. For example, the 100 hours available at One Leisure Huntingdon are used for 80 hours (80%) of the time whereas Longsands Academy is available for 25 hours per week and is operating at 50% of used capacity (12.5 hours used).

Table 4.9: Opening hours and activities in sports halls Huntingdonshire

Comm use hours	KKP Ref	Site	Total courts	Main sports played	Used capacity
25.0	70	Longsands Academy	6 1	Basketball, netball, indoor cricket, model flying club, martial arts	50%
36.0	115	St Peters School*	4	Martial arts	40%
48.0	81	One Leisure Ramsey	3	Indoor football, badminton, Walking netball, martial arts	80%
58	3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	3	Indoor cricket, netball, badminton.	60%
52.0	48	Hinchingsbrooke School	4 1	Badminton, indoor football, netball, basketball.	100%
100	80	One Leisure Huntingdon	3	Badminton, indoor cricket, martial arts, twirling, basketball, table tennis.	80%
54	82	One Leisure St Ives	6 1	Badminton, martial arts, indoor football, roller skating	80%
106.25	84	One Leisure St Neots	4	Indoor roller skating, Badminton, racquet ball	80%

(*St Peters School re-opened for community use as of February 2022).

There is significant demand for sports halls in Huntingdonshire. Five sites report having limited or no spare capacity. These include Hinchingsbrooke School and the leisure centres in Ramsey, Huntingdon, St Ives and St Neots. At the time of the audit, St Peters School had just re-opened to the community. It reported significantly lower utilisation levels. It is hoped that pre-Pandemic block bookings will return as, before lockdown, its sports hall was popular, operating at capacity. Longsands Academy does not open at weekends. Subsequently, it only has 25 hours of availability. It reports staffing issues to be the cause of this.

Ernulf Academy was not available for community use at the time of the audit, however, the School's stance on this has since changed, and is now open to block bookings. The School is not included in the table above, as KKP has not been able to ascertain current usage data for the site.

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Table 4.10: Used capacity of sports halls (peak hours only)

Used capacity	Site
40-60%	St Peters School
40-60%	Longsands Academy
40-60%	Academy Leisure Sawtry
*80%-100%	One Leisure St Neots

*80%-100%-Sport England's guidance threshold - this is considered to be a "comfortably full" sports hall)

Future changes and developments

As mentioned earlier, there is a new secondary school planned as part of the Alconbury Weald development, which will have a 4-court sports hall on site. It is anticipated that this will be community available.

Huntingdon Town Council has expressed a desire to build a new indoor facility in the Town Centre. It currently has £1 million from developer contributions to invest and is currently looking at potential sites. Ideally it would like to develop an indoor netball facility, as there are no such dedicated facility in the Authority with clubs currently traveling to Cambridge to access an indoor hall.

Neighbouring facilities

Accessibility is influenced by facilities located outside Huntingdonshire. A total of nine (minimum 3+ court) sports halls are located within two miles (indicative of how far people may travel) of Huntingdonshire's boundary, with over half located to the north of the District, in the Authority of Peterborough. There are two in Fenland, one in south Cambridgeshire and one in North Northants. The largest, located in Peterborough, is Bushfield Leisure Centre, which has an 8-court hall. Cromwell Community College has two halls on one site, with a total of seven courts.

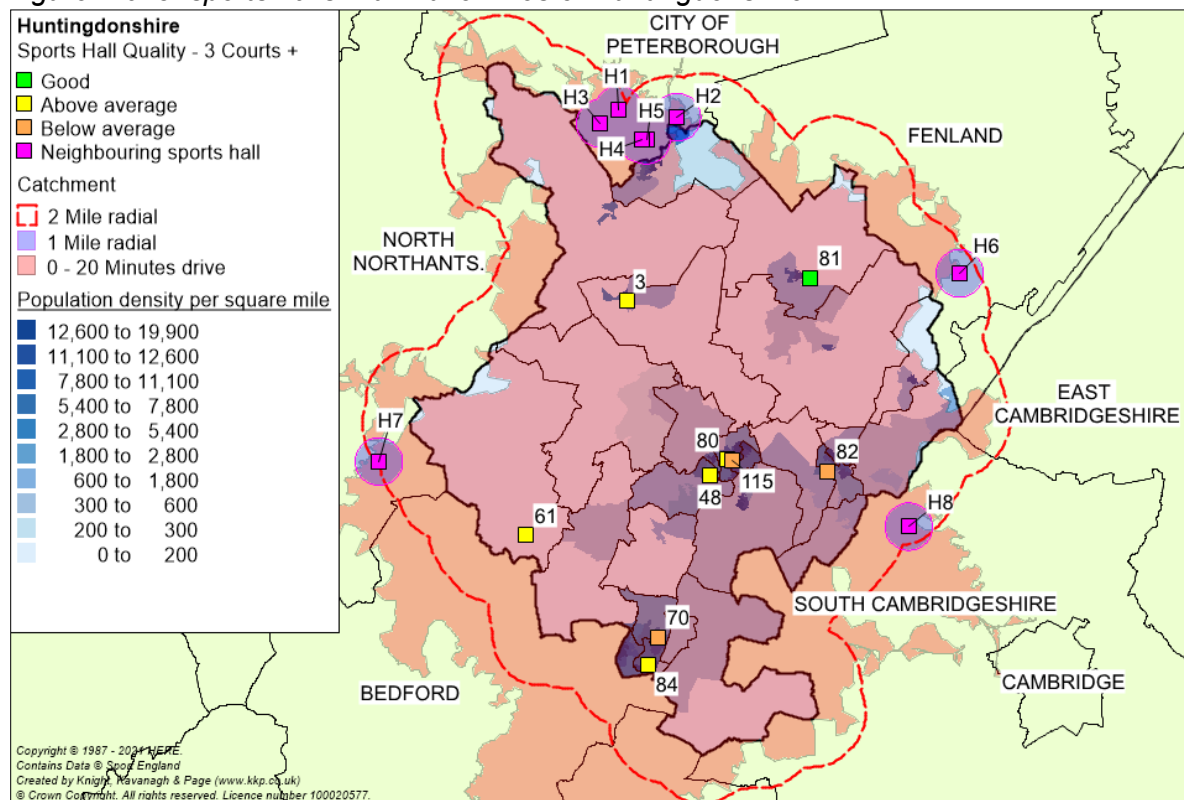
Table 4.12: Neighbouring 3+ court sports halls (excluding private use)

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local Authority
H1	Nene Park Academy	4	Sports Club / CA	Peterborough
H2	Stanground Sports Centre	2 x 4	Pay and Play	Peterborough
H3	Bushfield Leisure Centre	8	Pay and Play	Peterborough
H4	Hampton Leisure Centre	3	Pay and Play	Peterborough
H5	Hampton Gardens School	4	Sports Club / CA	Peterborough
H6	Cromwell Community College	3	Sports Club / CA	Fenland
H6	Cromwell Community College	4	Sports Club / CA	Fenland
H7	Manor Sport & Leisure Ltd	4	Sports Club / CA	North Northants.
H8	Swavesey Village College Sports	4	Sports Club / CA	South Cambridgeshire

NB: Sports Club / CA = Sports Club / Community Association use

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Figure 4.6: 3+ sports halls within two miles of Huntingdonshire



4.2: Demand

Facilities planning model (FPM)

A national run (2022) FPM report for Huntingdonshire sports halls has been provided by Sport England to support this assessment. Its headline findings are summarised below:

Supply.

- ◀ In terms of the overall supply and demand balance in Huntingdonshire, the resident population generates demand for a minimum of 50.2 courts compared with a current available supply of 42.4 courts, giving a negative supply/demand balance of 7.8 courts. This is roughly equivalent of two 4-court sports halls.
- ◀ Huntingdonshire has an ageing stock of sports halls. The average age of venues is 36 years. The oldest venue is Longsands Academy. One Leisure St Ives, which opened in 1974 and was modernised in 2004, is the oldest public leisure centre.

Table 4.13: Demand findings from the FPM

Element	FPM 2022
Total demand	50.2 courts
Satisfied demand (%)	89.4%
Satisfied demand retained within Huntingdonshire	80.8%
Satisfied demand exported	19.2%
Levels of unmet demand	5.3%

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% of unmet demand (residents living outside hall catchment; as opposed to no capacity).	76.9%
Used capacity	95.3%

Demand

- Table 4.13 indicates that 89.4% of demand is satisfied. This indicates that the sports halls are in the right places for the majority of residents.
- Average used capacity is calculated across all sites to be 95.3%. The FPM considers 80% of used capacity for sports halls to be the point where the facility starts to become uncomfortably busy.
- FPM modelled findings are that only two sites were below the 80% threshold of used capacity. These were Academy Leisure Sawtry and Kimbolton School. The remainder (seven sites) operate at 100% capacity. This slightly differs from the KKP audit, however, the FPM does not account for facilities re-opening following the Pandemic.
- 11% of the demand from Huntingdonshire residents is not met. This is the equivalent of five courts. Unmet demand is highest in Huntingdon, St Neots and St Ives. Certain educational sites, such as Longsands Academy, are only available for 25 hrs a week, if this is opened at weekends, it could alleviate some of this unmet demand.

Consultation

National Governing Bodies (NGBs) and active clubs have been consulted to ascertain and understand current use, participation trends and needs and challenges of sports hall facilities in the area.

Badminton England

Badminton England (BE) is the NGB for badminton. Its latest strategy, Discover Badminton 2017-2025 presents a vision for the sport to become one of the nation's most popular and to consistently win medals at world, Olympic and Paralympic levels. To achieve this, it has identified three key objectives:

- Grow grassroots participation.
- Create a system that identifies and develops player potential to deliver consistent world class performers.
- Built financial resilience to become a well governed organisation and demonstrate compliance with the UK governance code.

It applies a specific strategy model to assess court quality and sufficiency by local authority.

Overall statistics

Badminton participation statistics

- 1.21% of adults (68.61%; male and 31.39%; female) have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days⁵. This equates to **1,700 regular adult players**.
- 6.00%⁶ of juniors^{Error! Bookmark not defined.} have played badminton at least twice in the last 28 days. This equates to **587 regular junior players**.

⁵ ALS states that people that have participated at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes, it is assumed that they participate every week

⁶ ALS states that 6.0% of juniors nationally (14-15 year olds) have played at least twice in the last 28 days. For modelling purposes this has been extended to include 11-13 year olds.

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- It is estimated that 9.54% of adults have played badminton at least once in the last 12 months. This equates to **11,900 occasional adult players**⁷ (8.33% latent demand).

Demand

- The presumption is that **regular adult players** play once per week for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **567 court hours** (current demand).
- The presumption is that **regular junior players** play once per week for 45 minutes and that their average need is for 4 players per court. This equates to a weekly requirement for **111 court hours** (current demand).
- The presumption is that **occasional adult players** play four times per annum for one hour and that their average need is for 3 adults per court. This requires **306 court hours** (latent demand).
- To service all badminton demand there is a need for **984 court hours** per week.
- Projected increase in regular demand in 2030 is **64 court hours**.

Supply

- There are 11 (3+court) sports halls containing 47 courts in Huntingdonshire.
- Two hall(s) are for private use only; thus 36 courts are available for badminton.
- The total number of court hours per week (3+ court sports halls) available in Huntingdonshire during stated peak time is **1,286**⁸
- 44.44%⁹ of badminton courts in Huntingdonshire meet the Badminton England quality threshold (above average/good) which equates to **645 court hours**¹⁰.
- There is a need for **152.56%** of the **645** good quality peak time court hours, available each week, to service current and latent badminton demand.
- Additional court hours required per week in 2030 are **64**.

KKP's needs assessment differs from the findings of the BE model. While BE assumes that there are nine available halls, KKP's assessment identifies eight. This is because the KKP audit does not include the hall at Kimbolton School. This would further reduce the number of hours available for badminton within the Authority.

Lower than average badminton participation rates are thus set against higher levels of general participation. Three affiliated clubs with over 100 members suggests a decent badminton infrastructure. Fewer than half of the facilities meet the BE quality threshold. Improvements to infrastructure is required to help drive badminton participation.

The three affiliated badminton clubs in Huntingdonshire are:

- St Ives Badminton Club
- St Neots Badminton Club
- Sawtry Badminton Club

Club consultation

St Ives Badminton club – has 20 members and runs one session per week at St Ives Leisure Centre. Members are affiliated to BE enabling it to compete in leagues within

⁷ Occasional players equates to all players minus regular players

⁸ Peak time hours are defined as; Monday – Friday 17:00-22:00, Saturday 09:30-17:00, Sunday 09:00-14:30 & 17:00-19:30

⁹ National figure: 75.0%

¹⁰ Assumes that all courts of all standards available during all peak hours.

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Huntingdonshire and Peterborough. Its key challenge is to recruit more coaches so it can deliver sessions for juniors, as it solely focuses on seniors currently.

St Neots Badminton Club - currently has 17 members and hires two courts at St Neots Leisure Centre every Saturday to deliver its club session. It is currently rebuilding membership numbers following the Pandemic and hopes to double this over the next six months. It would like to see more competitive leagues in Cambridgeshire. Currently there is only one league, which does not suit all members, in terms of match times and venues. This is an action for the county board. It reports having a good relationship with One Leisure.

Sawtry Badminton Club - is a popular social/competitive badminton club based at Academy Leisure Sawtry. It trains twice a week, and it currently has 40 members. It competes in the Hunts and Peterborough Badminton League, in which it has men's, women's, mixed and junior representation. The key challenge for the club is to increase both membership and the number of coaches.

There are also several social clubs within the Authority, including Hemingford and Huntingdon badminton clubs. Both mainly cater for members aged over 60 who play mainly for fun. Neither affiliates to Badminton England and they use smaller village halls/community buildings.

Netball

England Netball's latest strategy, *Your Game, Your Way*, aims to establish it as a top performing, financially sustainable NGB that promotes 'Netball for Life' and develops more world class athletes. The four key stated priorities are:

- ◆ Grow participation in the game by an average of 10,000 participants per annum.
- ◆ Deliver a 1st class member and participant experience.
- ◆ Establish England as the number one team in the World
- ◆ Lead an effective and progressive infrastructure enabling all involved in the netball experience to collaborate as one team aligned behind one dream.

England Netball reports that netball is growing fast nationally with a recent YouGov report it commissioned reporting that the 2019 World Cup inspired 160,000 adult women to take up the sport and a 1000% increase in visits to its online netball session finder at the end of the World Cup, compared to the two weeks prior. In addition, 71% of clubs reported more people had shown an interest in playing netball than before the tournament started.

Most netball in Huntingdonshire is played at an outdoor venue location, St Ivo School which has six floodlit outdoor courts. The site accommodates training demand for three clubs and England Netball also delivers both Back to Netball and Walking Netball sessions at the site. The three clubs which use the site are Icons, Hawks and Warboys. Icons also uses St Ives Sports hall for winter training one night a week during the winter months.

Consultation indicated that all three clubs would like to see a central venue league with an indoor facility being created in the Authority. They feel that should something be built, there would be an increase in demand for the sport within the Authority. Currently, clubs have to travel to Netherhall School in Cambridge to compete. Cambridgeshire County Premier League is hosted at the Netherhall site.

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4.3: Future demand and Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC)

The SFC helps local authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It is used to estimate facility needs for whole area populations but is not used to assess strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and 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 new hall included with the new school at Alconbury Weald will help accommodate current and future demand.

Table 4.13: Sport England Sports Facility Calculator

	Population 2018 ONS	Population estimate (2043)
ONS population projections	177,352	191,170
Population increase	-	13,818
Facilities to meet additional demand	-	+3.88 courts or 0.97 sports halls
Estimated cost	-	£2,435,716

Calculations assume that the current sports hall stock remains available for community use and the quality remains the same. A projected increase in population will lead to an increase in demand for sports hall space in Huntingdonshire. The SFC indicates a requirement for an additional hall (one 4-court hall) up to 2043 (estimated cost: £2,435,716).

4.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	Huntingdonshire has 30 sports halls of all sizes (60 courts) Of eleven 3+ court sports halls, nine are community available (totalling 37 courts). A new sports 4-court hall is to be built as part the Alconbury Wield development.	The FPM indicates a current shortfall for five badminton courts, based on current supply/demand. Population growth will also generate additional demand for a further four courts (by 2043).
Quality	Of Huntingdonshire's 3+ court halls, one is rated good, three above average, and four below average. One was unassessed.	Investment in the below average/ poor sports halls to ensure that they meet modern user expectations - and to increase supply.
Accessibility	42% of the population lives within one mile (20 minutes' walk) of a sports hall. 81.5% of residents in high IMD areas live within one mile of a sports hall. Nine (4+ court) sports halls are located within two miles of Huntingdonshire. Main settlements all have sports halls.	Although car ownership is good, residents in rural areas without access to their own transport may struggle to access certain facilities. It is important to ensure there is good public transport links to key leisure facilities from these communities in rural areas.

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Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
	98% of the population lives within a 20-minute drive of a 3+ court hall.	
Availability (Management and usage)	All but two halls are available for community use. Of the nine community-available five are operating at capacity and only three have any significant spare capacity – and, of these, St Peters will probably reach capacity once all its bookings return. Data at Ernulf Academy was not available as part of the audit.	Sports hall utilisation is high. Community use at key schools needs to increase. The new school at Alconbury Wield will help alleviate capacity issues.

Summary

- ◀ HDC has a good spread of sports halls, which serve key settlements. The four 3+ court halls rated above average/good include Huntington, St Neots and Ramsey.
- ◀ The FPM calculates current unmet demand of five badminton courts.
- ◀ Most education sites are below average.
- ◀ Sports hall accessibility is good. 98% of residents live within a 20-minute drive.
- ◀ Utilisation is high, with several sites operating above the 80% capacity threshold.
- ◀ Options to address this could be to increase availability at key school sites.

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SECTION 5: SWIMMING POOLS

A swimming pool is 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 will not necessarily need to strictly follow the NGB recommendations. It is, however, generally recommended that standard dimensions are used to allow appropriate levels of competition and training and to help meet safety standards. Relatively few pools need to be designed to full competition standards or include spectator facilities.

Training for competition, low-level synchronised swimming, and water polo can all take place in a 25m pool. With modest spectator seating, pools can also 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 pool.

The NGB responsible for administering diving, swimming, synchronised swimming and water polo in England is Swim England.

The 2019 State of the UK Swimming Industry Report reveals that the UK swimming industry has not changed significantly in the previous 12 months although. 26 swimming pool sites have opened and 27 have closed. Nuffield and GLL remain the UK’s leading private and public operators (by number of sites with a pool). GLL operates 146 swimming centres, while Nuffield has 111 clubs with a pool. The 2019 report shows that 84% of the UK population live within two miles of one of the 3,170 swimming pool sites. As mentioned previously the Covid-19 Pandemic has had a big nationwide impact on swimming pool provision, with many sites being closed due to social distancing restrictions for a significant portion of 2020.

5.1: Supply

This assessment is mostly concerned with larger pools available for community use (no membership base criteria restricting access). Those less than 160m² (e.g., 20m x 4 lanes) water space and/or located at private member clubs are deemed to offer limited value in relation to community use and delivery of outcomes related to health and deprivation. It is recognised that smaller pools do offer learning/teaching sessions, but they are, for modelling/needs assessment purposes, deemed unable to offer a full swim programme and, thus, eliminated from the supply evaluation, when considering accessibility and availability later in this section.

Quantity

The audit including all pools irrespective of size and access identifies 13 swimming pools at 13 sites. None has an additional learner/trainer pool. All key areas of population are served by a pool; the largest facility is located at Kimbolton School, which has a 5 x 25m pool.

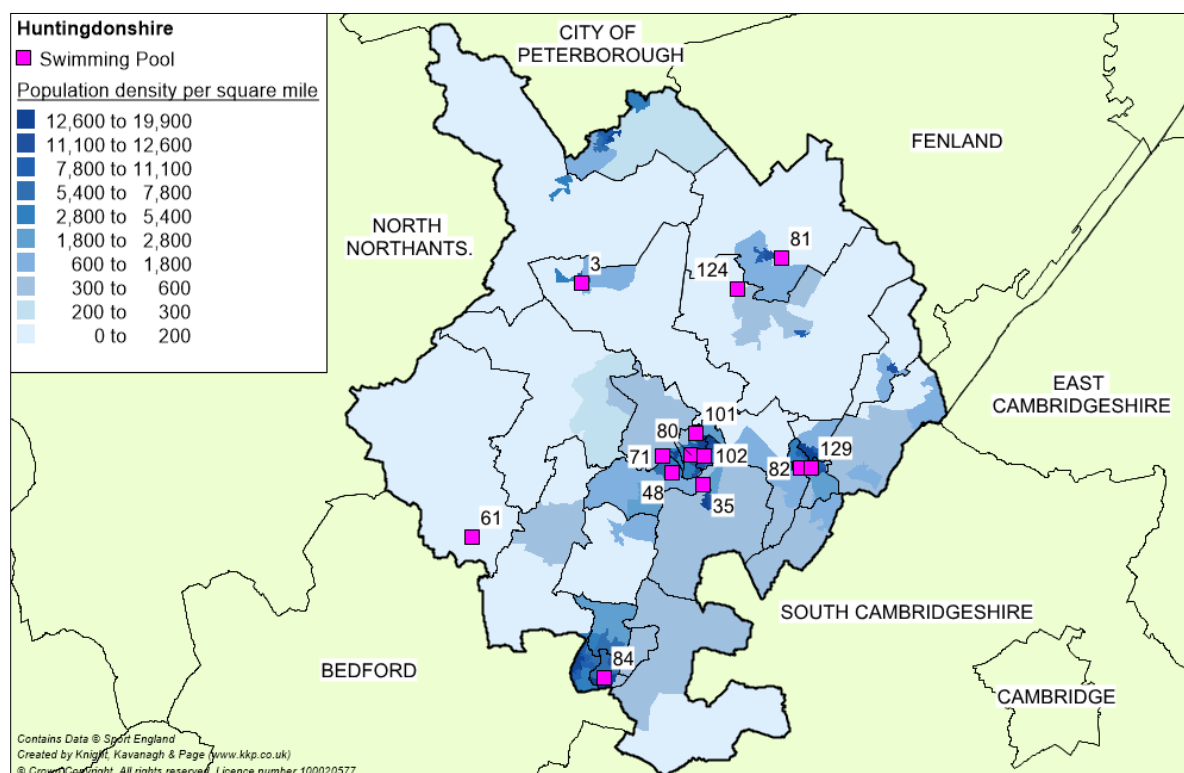
Table 5.1: All swimming pools in Huntingdonshire.

Map	Site name	Facility type	Lanes/length	Area (m ²)
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	Main/General	4 x 20m	160
35	Godmanchester Community Academy	Main/General	4 x 16m	142

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48	Hinchingbrooke School	Main/General	4 x 25m	200
61	Kimbolton School	Main/General	5 x 25m	250
71	Marriott Leisure Club	Main/General	0 x 15m	113
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	Main/General	4 x 25m	250
81	One Leisure Ramsey	Main/General	4 x 20m	200
82	One Leisure St Ives	Main/General	4 x 25m	225
84	One Leisure St Neots	Main/General	4 x 25m	225
101	Sports Direct Fitness	Main/General	0 x 15m	101
102	Spring Common Academy	Leisure Pool	0 x 8m	40
124	Upwood Primary Academy	Learner/Teaching	0 x 12m	72
129	Westfield Junior School	Lido	0 x 13m	104

Figure 5.1: All swimming pools in Huntingdonshire



Quality

KKP completed non-technical visual assessments at main swimming pools. This encompasses assessment of changing provision as this also significant in influencing and attracting users.

Table 5.2: Quality of swimming pools (more than 160m² in size) in Huntingdonshire

30 years old	Site name	Lanes/Length	Area (m ²)	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	4 x 20m	160	Above average	Above average
48	Hinchingbrooke School	4 x 25m	200	Below average	Above average
61	Kimbolton School*	5 x 25m	250	Above average	Above average

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30 years old	Site name	Lanes/Length	Area (m ²)	Condition	
				Pool	Changing
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	4 x 25m	250	Below average	Good
81	One Leisure Ramsey	4 x 20m	200	Below average	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	4 x 25m	225	Below average	Good
84	One Leisure St Neots	4 x 25m	225	Above average	Above average

Swimming pools in Huntingdonshire are of variable quality. Three of the four One Leisure sites were rated below average with only the pool at St Neots rated above average. Quality ratings generally reflect facilities age. All are 30+ years old, with St Ives being the oldest, built in 1974. All have had some form of investment since particularly focusing on the changing provision, however, the original pool tanks are still in situ. The most recent upgrade was the changing provision at St Ives, in 2021.

The remaining sites are rated as above average. It must be noted, however, that a site visit was not gained at Kimbolton School, and a quality rating was provided by the school facilities manager via virtual meeting.

Swimming facilities at Academy Leisure (Sawtry) are at imminent risk of closure (by the end of 2022). HDC are at the time of writing in discussion with the Meridian academy Trust who operate the facility regarding the facilities' future, with the recent energy cost increase being cited as a key contributing factor.

Energy efficiency of pools

Of the main leisure sites in Huntingdonshire, four of the five (Huntingdon, St Neots, Sawtry, St Ives) have 'average' ratings in respect of energy efficiency. This reflects that whilst these are older, and contain standard gas fired boiler they nevertheless have energy efficiency plans in place, with funding to deliver projects supported through SALIX funding (interest-free Government funding to the public sector to improve energy efficiency, reduce carbon emissions and lower energy bills). This has delivered solar roof panels, improved boilers and pumps, LED lights, and cavity wall insulation. Each of these sites also have decarbonisation reports which identify future potential energy efficiency measures including an assessment of the potential for ground source heat pumps.

Ramsey leisure centre has, in addition to the above measures undergone a full decarbonisation programme including installation of an air source heat pump, which is reflected in its 'good' energy efficiency rating.

Table 5.3: Energy rating score

Site	Energy efficiency rating
Huntingdon Leisure centre	Average
St Neots Leisure Centre	Average
Sawtry Leisure Centre	Average
Ramsey Leisure Centre	Good
St Ives Leisure Centre	Average

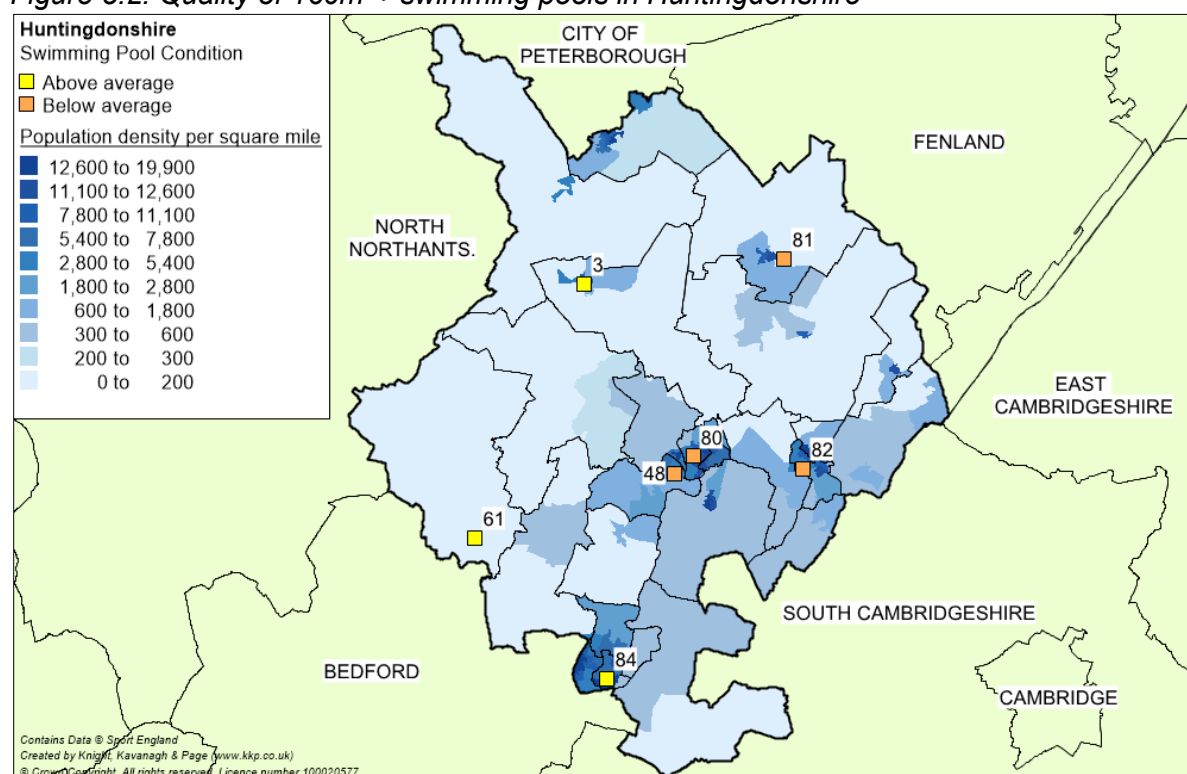
Table 5.4: Age of swimming pools and refurbishment dates (where applicable)

Site	Year opened	Refurbishment	Age (years) since refurbishment
Academy Leisure Sawtry	1994	n/a	28
Hinchingbrooke School	1975	2012	10

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Site	Year opened	Refurbishment	Age (years) since refurbishment
Kimbolton School	2000	n/a	22
One Leisure Huntingdon	1981	2018	4
One Leisure Ramsey	1990	2019	3
One Leisure St Ives	1974	2021	1
One Leisure St Neots	1986	2020	2

Figure 5.2: Quality of 160m²+ swimming pools in Huntingdonshire



Availability of swimming pools

Swimming pool availability differs dependent upon ownership and/or management. The majority offer some form of community access.

Five, including all four One Leisure sites, offer pay and play sites during peak periods (early mornings/lunchtimes/evenings). Hinchingsbrooke School is available on a block booked basis after 16.00 and at weekends. These slots are taken up by a number of swim schools.

Kimbolton School has very limited number of slots available for external users, and allows five hours a week for club use/swim school hire. St Neots S wans uses the pool twice a week. During summer periods, when the School's boarding pupils are not on campus, it does offer pay and play swimming, however, this is not regular.

Table 5.5: Access policy of swimming pools

Site	Access policy
Academy Leisure Sawtry	Pay and play
Hinchingsbrooke School	Block bookings

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Site	Access policy
Kimbolton School	Block bookings
One Leisure Huntingdon	Pay and play
One Leisure Ramsey	Pay and play
One Leisure St Ives	Pay and play
One Leisure St Neots	Pay and play

Accessibility

Swimming pool accessibility is influenced by physical (i.e., built environment). Appropriate walk and drive-time catchments are applied to determine accessibility to communities. Normal acceptable standard is 20-minutes' walk time (1-mile radial catchment) for an urban area and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. This enables analysis of the adequacy of coverage and helps identify areas currently not serviced by existing provision. Both standards are applied in this report.

Figure 5.3 and Table 5.5 illustrate the walk-time based accessibility of all swimming pools (over 160m² which offer some form of public use) in Huntingdonshire. Just over one third (34.9%) of the population lives within one mile of a swimming pool in the Authority. Of the 8,237 people living in areas of higher deprivation in Huntingdonshire (i.e., those in the 30% most deprived areas nationally), 6,711 (81.4%) live within a one-mile radial catchment of a swimming pool.

In terms of accessibility to pay and play sites, the number of people who live within a mile of such a facility is 32.8%. This proportion rises to 81.5% when considering residents living in areas of higher deprivation; this indicates a good level of accessibility to this portion of the population. Areas not served are predominantly non-residential, these include the areas along the Peterborough border.

Although just under half of the overall population is located within a one-mile radial catchment of a pay and play pool, drive time catchment modelling suggests that 98% of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 20-minute drive of these five pay and play sites. With the Authority having above average levels of car ownership, the audit assumes that the majority of people from rural areas do have good access to swimming pools.

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Figure 5.3: Pools of 160m²+ by quality on IMD with 1-mile catchment and a 20 minute drive.

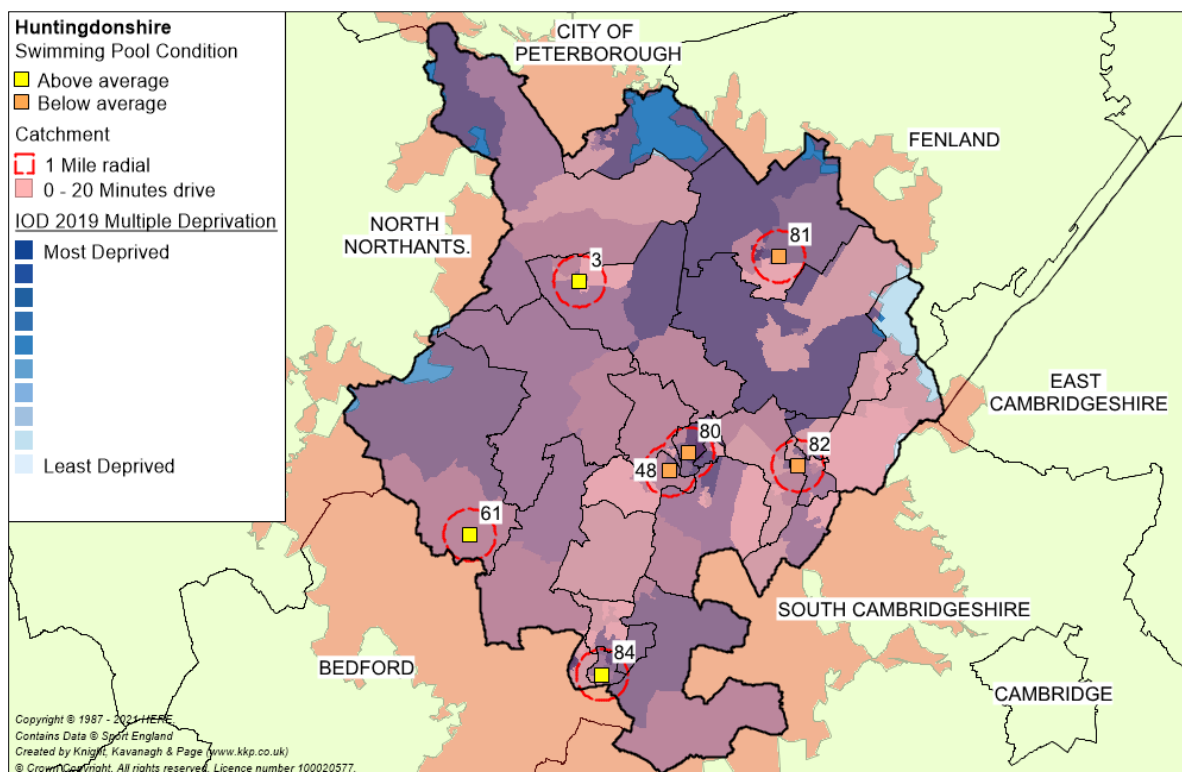


Table 5.6: Accessibility of swimming pools in Huntingdonshire

IMD 10% bands	Huntingdonshire Persons	Population %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	3,456	2.0%	3,456	2.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	4,781	2.7%	3,255	1.9%	1,526	0.9%
30.1 - 40	6,420	3.7%	3,497	2.0%	2,923	1.7%
40.1 - 50	24,764	14.2%	8,019	4.6%	16,745	9.6%
50.1 - 60	24,155	13.9%	12,411	7.1%	11,744	6.7%
60.1 - 70	19,238	11.0%	5,515	3.2%	13,723	7.9%
70.1 - 80	26,883	15.4%	8,629	5.0%	18,254	10.5%
80.1 - 90	36,713	21.1%	11,264	6.5%	25,449	14.6%
90.1 - 100	27,780	16.0%	4,796	2.8%	22,984	13.2%
Total	174,190	100.0%	60,842	34.9%	113,348	65.1%

Facilities in neighbouring authorities

It is also important to know what facilities are within easy reach of the Authority; these can influence resident's choice in terms of access and convenience. Six pools are located within two miles of the border, four of which offer pay and play availability. The other two require users to be a member of a sports club, or to be a registered member to use these facilities.

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Five of these are located in the Peterborough authority. These include the largest which is the Regional Pool & Athletics Arena and the Peterborough Lido which is an 8-lane x 50m pool, however, this is seasonal and only open during the summer months.

Figure 5.5: Swimming pools located within two miles of Huntingdonshire authority

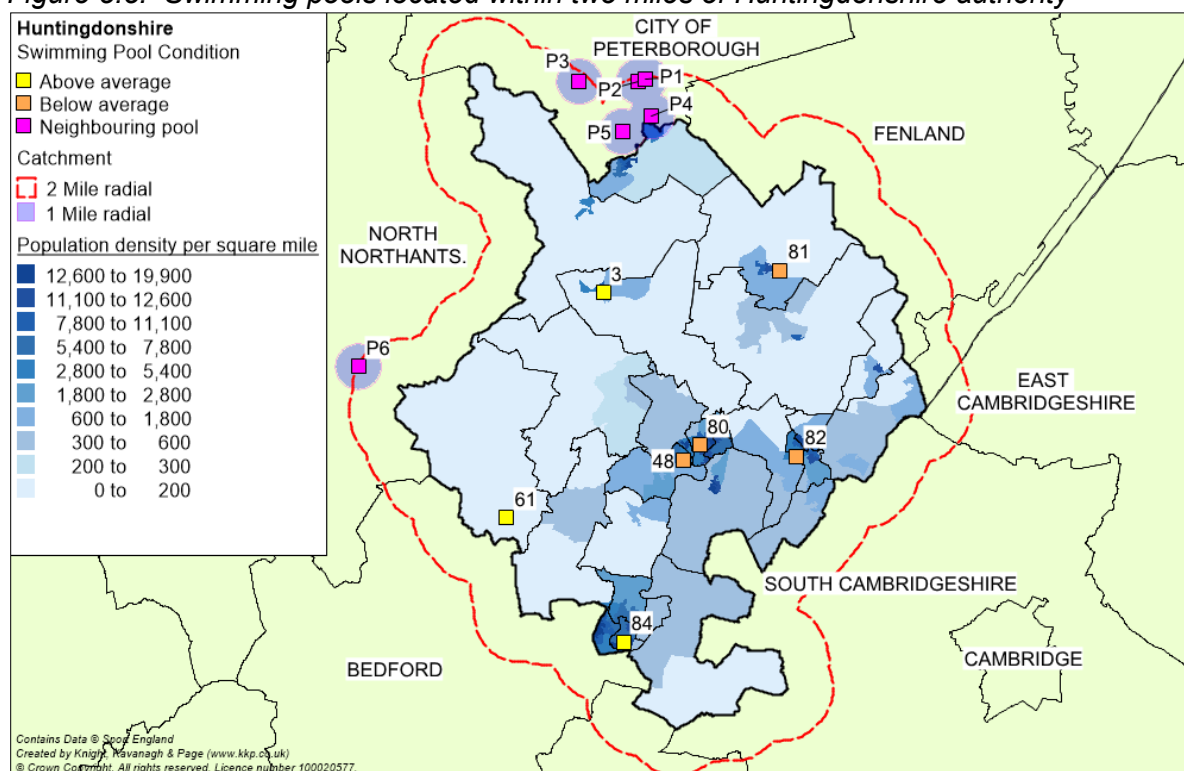


Table 5.7: Neighbouring community available pools within 2-miles of Huntingdonshire

ID	Active Places site name	Pool type	Lanes / length	Access type	Authority
P1	Regional Pool	Main/general	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Peterborough
P2	Peterborough Lido	Lido	8 x 50m	Pay and play	Peterborough
P3	David Lloyd	Main/general	5 x 25m	Reg. membership	Peterborough
P4	Stanground Sports Centre	Main/general	6 x 25m	Pay and play	Peterborough
P5	Vivacity Premier Fitness	Main/general	6 x 25m	Reg. membership	Peterborough
P6	The Nene Centre	Main/general	5 x 25m	Pay and play	N. Northants

Source: Active Places Power 12/03/2022

Sport England Facilities Planning Model (FPM)

This provides an overview of current levels of provision of swimming pools in Huntingdonshire ; based on data from the Facility Planning National Run; June 2022. Its findings are:

Supply

- ◀ 1,108m² of water space is available for community use in the weekly peak period..

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- Average pool age is 36 years although there is a good track record of modernisation. Five have been modernised in the last 15 years, including four of the One Leisure sites.

Demand

- The resident population of Huntingdonshire in 2022 generates demand for 1,923m² of water. This compares to the available supply of 1,108m² and results in a negative supply demand balance of 815m².
- Although there is a negative supply demand balance, Huntingdonshire's demand can be met by the supply accessible to its residents. Satisfied demand is very high, with most demand being retained within the District.
- Unmet demand is quite low (13.5%) and is dispersed across the District. However, pools are estimated to be very full at peak times - considerably above the Sport England comfort level of usage (70%) in the weekly peak period.

Table 5.8: FPM demand findings

Element	FPM 2022
Total demand	1,923m ²
Satisfied demand	86.5%
Satisfied demand retained within Huntingdonshire	80.5%
Satisfied demand exported	19.5%
Levels of unmet demand	13.5%
% of unmet demand due to residents outside pool catchment (as opposed to no capacity)	60.8%
Used capacity	89.1%

5.2: Demand

Swim England's latest strategic plan (May 2020), which supersedes *Towards a Nation Swimming: a Strategic Plan for Swimming in England 2017-21*, aims to create a happier, healthier and more successful nation through swimming. To achieve this, several strategic objectives are set - to:

- Provide strong leadership and be the recognised authority for swimming.
- Substantially increase the number of people able to swim.
- Significantly grow the number and diversity of people enjoying and benefitting from regular swimming.
- Create a world leading talent system for all disciplines.
- Deliver a high quality, diverse and motivated workforce within swimming.
- Strengthening organisational sustainability for future generations.

The following Swim England affiliated clubs are based in the Authority:

- Piranhas Swimming Club- Huntingdon.
- St Neots Swans.
- St Ives Swimming Club.

Swim England states that there is a significant deficit of water provision, equating to 701 m². This is equivalent to c. 13 lanes in a 25m pool. For comparison, a 6 lane x 25m pool would equate to 325m². Unmet demand is largely located in the south and southeast of the District. The NGB also notes that some stock is aged, and therefore provision for refurbishments and replacement is required in the short term. It must be noted that Swim

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England uses a different water calculation model but both data sets identify a shortage of water supply in the Authority.

Club consultation

Huntingdon Swimming Club (Piranhas Swim Club) – is based at the One Leisure Pool in the town. It uses the pool everyday between 06.00-07.00 and 20.00-21.00 during the week. It currently has 130 members providing opportunity for junior and masters swimming. It states that the pool is tired in quality and that air handling unit is inadequate. Should it be replaced, it would like to see a 6 x 25m pool with integrated dry room, so the Club can also focus on land training.

St Ives Swimming Club - has over 160 members along with a waiting list of 80. It focuses on junior swimming and uses the One Leisure pool at St Ives everyday apart from Tuesday. It reports having a good relationship with the leisure operator. It would like to have a good quality competition pool in the Authority. It has to travel to either Corby, or Luton in order to access a strategic 50m competition pool. Ideally, it would like to see a competition pool (6-8 lane 25m) being built within the Authority, which has adequate competition seating.

St Neots Swans- is based mainly at the One Leisure site at St Neots, however, it also has training time at both Kimbolton School and Trinity Leisure in Bedford Authority. Whilst it is grateful to have access to a variety of different pools, it would like to focus its activity at one site, ideally at the pool at St Neots. In order for this to happen, the pool needs to be increased in capacity due to the current high level of demand.

Leisure operators – consultation was undertaken with One Leisure which manages the four strategic sites. It reports that swimming lessons are very popular with each site currently operating between 85-90%. Since the end of Pandemic restrictions, there has been a sizable increase in demand for lessons, with lessons at St Neots seeing the largest rise. Moving forward, the key challenge will be to ensure demand is matched with supply, particularly as the population continues to grow in the key growth areas (Huntingdon and St Neots).

It must also be noted that the pool at Hinchingsbrooke School is also well used during evenings/weekends. It accommodates a number of swim schools which use the pool, and the School reports that there is limited spare capacity for additional bookings.

5.3: Sport England's Facilities Calculator (SFC)

This assists local planning authorities to quantify additional demand for community sports facilities generated by new growth populations, development and regeneration areas. It can be used to estimate facility needs for whole area (Authority) populations but should not be applied for strategic gap analysis as it has no spatial dimension and 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.

Table 5.9: Sport England Sports facilities calculator – swimming pools

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Factor	Population 2018	Population estimate 2043
ONS population projections	177,352	191,170
Population increase	-	13,818
Facilities to meet change in demand	-	0.70 swimming pools
Cost		£2,674,489

The SFC calculates that projected population increases in the Authority will create an increase in required pool capacity of 0.7 (4 lane x 25m) swimming pools at a cost of £2,674,489. This is the equivalent of three lanes in a 25m pool.

Calculations indicate an increased demand for water space to accommodate future population growth. This anticipated growth, coupled with the current shortfall and high levels of demand, will result in additional capacity being required.

5.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	<p>There 13 operational pools on 13 sites available in Huntingdonshire. Seven are equal or greater than 160m² in size.</p> <p>The swimming pool at Sawtry is at risk of closure, with HDC being in negotiation with the academy trust regarding its future.</p>	<p>Pool used capacity at certain sites, based on current swimming lesson availability, club consultation and FPM figures, is high. As the population grows there will be a need for additional pool capacity.</p> <p>SFC calculations confirm need for an additional 0.7 pools based on population growth to 2043.</p> <p>Should Sawtry close, this would put increased pressure on the existing sites. Particularly Huntingdon and Ramsey.</p>
Quality	<p>More than half of all pools are rated as below average including the One Leisure sites at Huntingdon, Ramsey and St Ives</p>	<p>The age and condition of these facilities means that there is a need to either extensively upgrade or replace them in the relatively near future.</p>
Accessibility	<p>34.1% of the population lives within one-mile of the six pay and play access sites.</p> <p>81.4% of those living in areas of higher deprivation live within a one-mile catchment of a pool.</p> <p>98% of residents live within a 20 minute drive of a pay and play pool.</p>	<p>Although levels of car ownership are high, residents in rural areas without access to their own vehicle may struggle to access certain facilities and ensuring there are improved public transport links to key leisure facilities may be required.</p>
Availability (Management and usage)	<p>Five pools offer pay and play serving key settlements in Huntingdonshire.</p> <p>Two school pools are also available on a block bookings basis.</p>	<p>Consultation and the FPM indicate that pools across Huntingdonshire are operating at near to capacity. With the anticipated population growth through the key housing developments, there is a need to identify possible options to increase capacity either through expansion of current facilities or the creation of a new facility.</p>

Summary

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- ◀ There are seven pools equal or greater than 160m² in size, which serve the major settlements in Huntingdonshire. Four of the seven are rated below average, including three of the one leisure pools.
- ◀ Despite the majority of key sites being rated below average, pool capacity is currently high, with the majority of sites operating above the Sport England comfort level of usage (70%). To address the quality and capacity issues, along with the anticipated population growth, there is a strategic need to increase pool capacity. Options include increasing the number of lanes or adding a learner/training pool at certain sites. This will ensure clubs can continue to grow and one leisure can deliver a successful learn to swim programme.
- ◀ Sawtry Swimming Pool is currently at risk of closing (by the end of the 2022 calendar year). Should this facility close, it will put additional pressure on Huntingdon and Ramsey, which are currently busy.

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SECTION 6: HEALTH AND FITNESS SUITES

For the purposes of assessment, health and fitness suites are normally defined as venues with 20 stations or more. A station is a piece of static fitness equipment; larger health and fitness centres with more stations are generally able to make a more attractive offer to both members and casual users. They provide a valuable way to assist people of all ages, ethnicities and abilities to introduce physical exercise into their daily lives with the obvious concomitant benefits to health, fitness and wellbeing.

The current state of the UK fitness industry is complex with a variety of providers. Key providers are; private sector operators (ranging from low-cost operators to the high-end market) and the operators of public sector facilities. The publicly owned facilities can be managed by companies and/or Trusts (such as GLL and Everyone Active, for example) on behalf of the local authority or are managed inhouse, by the local authority itself. Other providers include schools, trusts and/or charities.

Prior to the pandemic, the UK health and fitness industry was enjoying a strong period of growth. It had more gyms, more members and a greater market value than ever before. Data up to the 12-month period ending March 2019, demonstrated an estimated increase of 4.7% in the number of members, 2.9% in the number of facilities and 4.2% in market value. Pure Gym and GLL remained the UK's leading operators (by number of gyms and members).

According to the State of the UK Fitness Industry Report (2019) there were 7,239 fitness facilities in the UK, up from 7,038 in 2018. Total industry membership was up 5.0% to 10.4 million which means that one in seven people in the UK is a member of a gym. The total market value is estimated at £5.1 billion, up 4.1% on 2018. The UK penetration rate is at 15.6%, which is an increase of 0.7% from the previous year.

During 2020, and in the midst of social distancing restrictions (following an average 4-5 month period of enforced closure), many health and fitness providers were achieving a maximum figure of 40-50% of normal attendance. In the case of local authority contracted facilities, remobilisation following the relaxation of restrictions is likely to require a negotiated package of financial support from the local authority.

The impact of the pandemic on the sector continued well into 2021 in terms of enforced facility closure and residual social distancing restrictions. Many providers have responded by designing a variety of online classes as a means of retaining member loyalty and engagement.

The State of the Fitness Industry Report UK for 2022 found the market to be in remarkably good shape considering the disruptions of the previous two years, with overall results showing some key metrics to be running at the same levels as 2018 and some at 2019 levels, when the industry was having a 'golden moment', with record results in all areas.

Memberships decreased by 4.7 per cent from 10.4 million in 2019 to 9.9m (9,890,985) in 2022 and market value was down by 4.3 per cent from £5.1 billion in 2019. The industry's present status takes it back to around 2018 value levels.

The penetration rate dropped back one percentage point to 14.6 per cent after passing the 15 per cent barrier for the first time back in 2019.

The research does not count consumer health club activity using aggregators, such as Classpass and Hussle and it's not clear how much consumer activity in the market has

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migrated to these services since the last report was published in 2019 or how much this might have impacted results had it been counted.

Since the previous 2019 report, 631 clubs have closed, however, 455 new facilities have opened, meaning the overall number of sites has only dropped 2.43 per cent from 7,239 in 2019 to 7,063 in 2022, a difference of 176.

Half of the closed businesses failed in the first year of the pandemic, meaning the rate of losses slowed considerably after these early casualties, although the timing of the research means that post-rent moratorium closures will not have been counted.

6.1: Supply

Quantity

As is illustrated in Figure 6.1 and listed in Table 6.1, there are 20 health and fitness suites in Huntingdonshire with a total of 1,172 stations. All key areas of populations are served by a health and fitness provision with the majority located in and around the Huntingdon area.

Figure 6.1: All health and fitness facilities in Huntingdonshire on population density

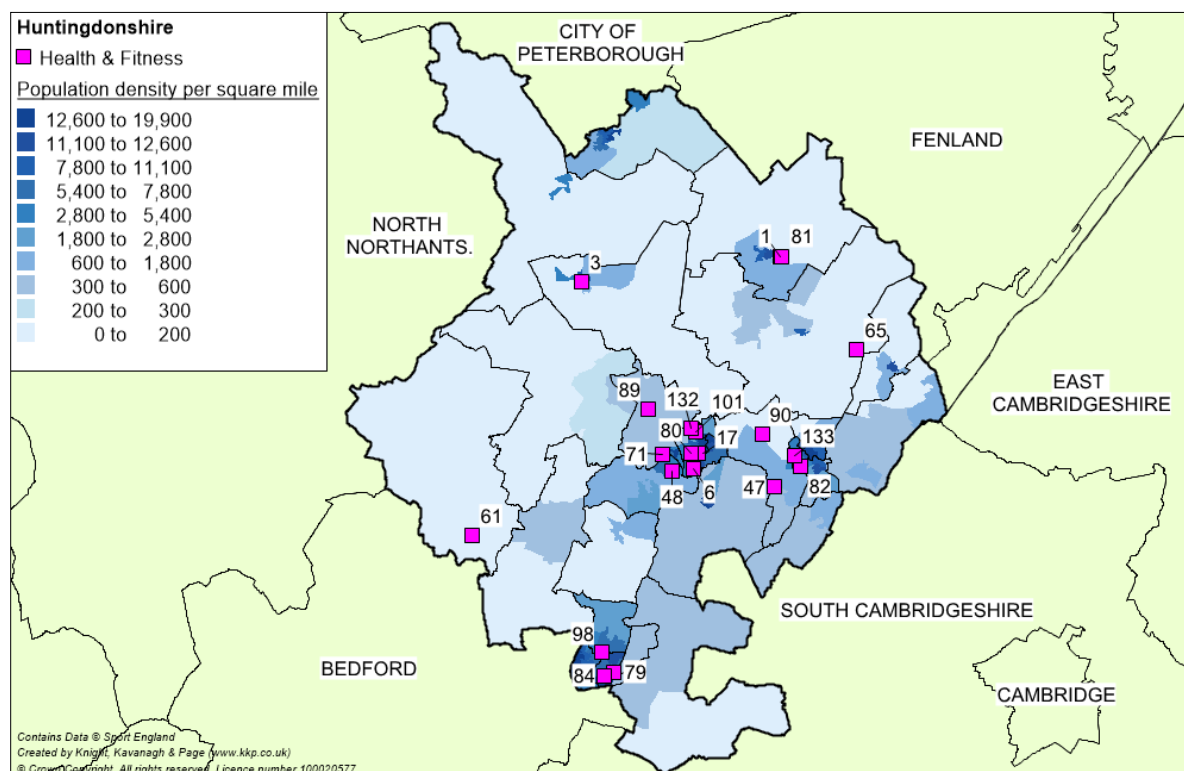


Table 6.1: All health and fitness gyms in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Stns	ID	Site name	Stns
1	Abbey College	15	80	One Leisure Huntingdon	85
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	20	81	One Leisure Ramsey	40
6	Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	200	82	One Leisure St Ives	120
17	Cambridge Regional College	22	84	One Leisure St Neots	120
47	Hemingford Pavilion	15	89	RAF Alconbury	100

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ID	Site name	Stns	ID	Site name	Stns
48	Hinchingbrooke School	30	90	RAF Wyton	72
61	Kimbolton School	10	98	Snap Fitness (St Neots)	66
65	Lakeside Lodge Country Club	35	101	Sports Direct Fitness (60
71	Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	30	132	The Gym Group	50
79	Old School Strength & Conditioning	40	133	St Ives Training Shed	50
Total					1172

Fitness facilities with fewer than 20+ stations are typically not assessed/considered although they can play a role in servicing small sections of the community.

Quality

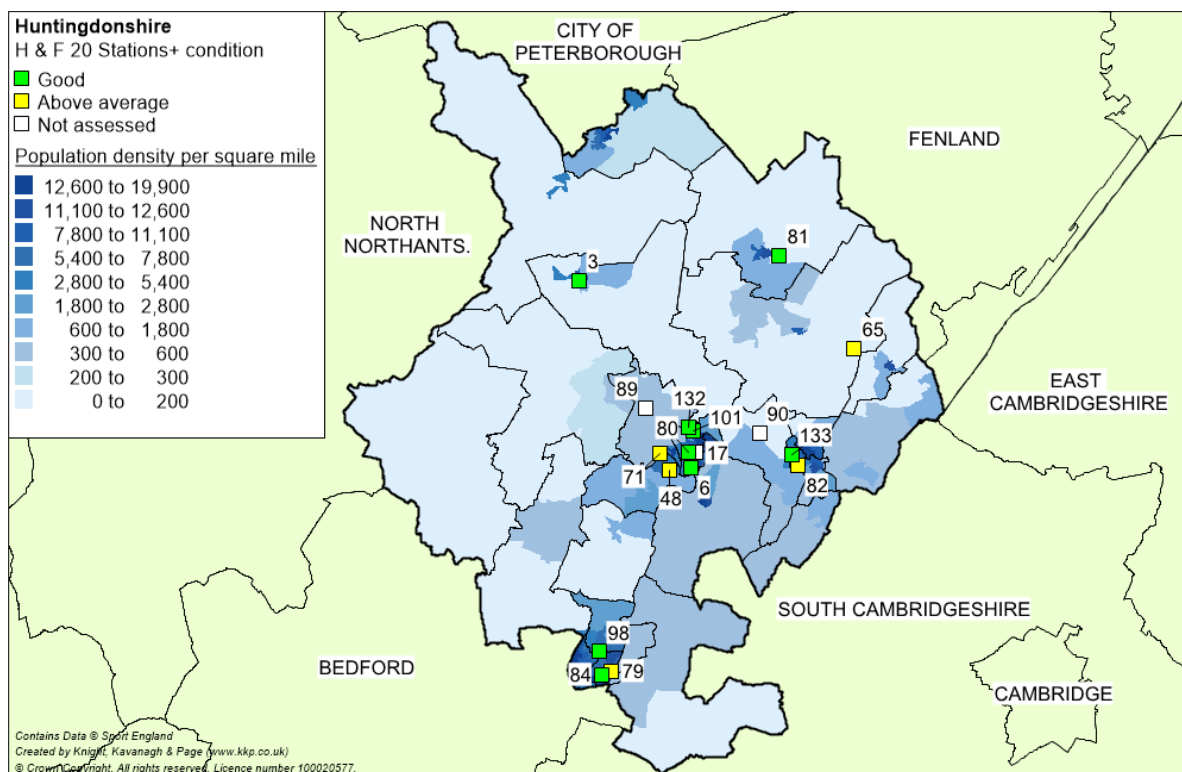
All health and fitness sites received a non-technical quality assessment. All sites are rated either good or above average, with no sites rated either below average or poor.

Table 6.2: Health & fitness suites with 20+ stations on population density by condition

ID	Site name	Stations	Condition
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	20	Good
6	Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	200	Good
48	Hinchingbrooke School	30	Above average
65	Lakeside Lodge Golf & Country Club	35	Above average
71	Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	30	Above average
79	Old School Strength & Conditioning	40	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	65	Good
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	20	Good
81	One Leisure Ramsey	40	Good
82	One Leisure St Ives	120	Good
84	One Leisure St Neots	120	Good
98	Snap Fitness (St Neots)	66	Good
101	Sports Direct Fitness (Huntingdon)	60	Good
132	The Gym Group	50	Good
133	St Ives Training Shed	50	Good
Total		946	

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Figure 6.2: Health and fitness suites with 20+ stations on population density by condition



Accessibility

The Sport England classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as being publicly available. For health and fitness suites, this generally means payment of a monthly membership fee which can vary considerably. Private operators do not have a contractual obligation to, for example, offer exercise referral nor do they necessarily actively target hard to reach groups. It is also acknowledged that some memberships are expensive while others are cheaper than those offered by public sector venues. There is little doubt that the various private operators can take pressure off the more available public facilities.

As with pools and sports halls, appropriate walk and drive-time accessibility standards are applied to health and fitness suites to determine provision deficiencies or surpluses. The normal acceptable standard for an urban area is a one-mile radial (20-minute walk) and a 20-minutes' drive time for a rural area. 44.5% of Huntingdonshire's population lives within one-mile of a health and fitness facility with 20+ stations. Of those which reside in areas of high deprivation (4.1%), 86.1% live within a mile of a fitness facility which would suggest that these facilities are well placed.

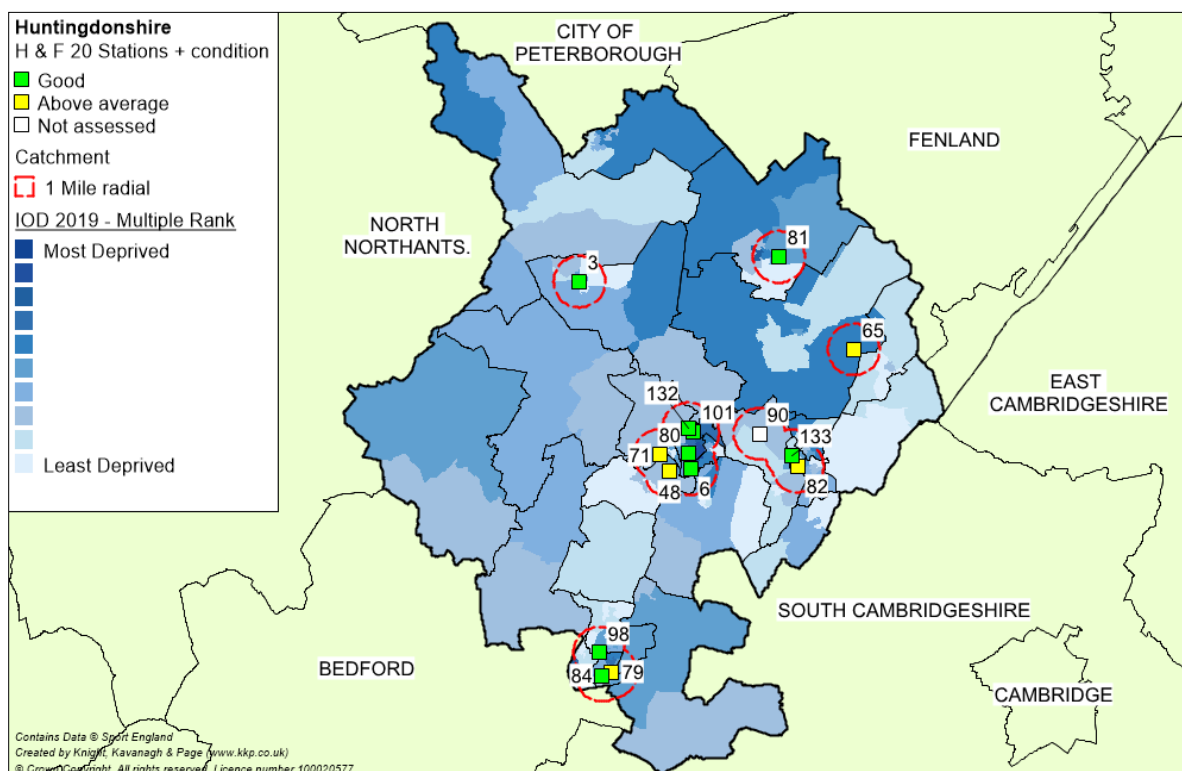
Drive time catchment modelling suggests that over 98% of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a health and fitness facility, as displayed in Figure 6.4. There are small provisional gaps in the north, however, the majority of these residents will have access to facilities in the Authority of Peterborough.

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Table 6.3: IMD (2019 populations): health and fitness 20+ stations; one mile radial catchment

IMD 10% bands	Huntingdonshire Persons	Pop %	Persons inside catchment	Population inside (%)	Persons outside catchment	Population outside (%)
0 - 10	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
10.1 - 20	3,456	2.0%	3,456	2.0%	0	0.0%
20.1 - 30	4,781	2.7%	3,637	2.1%	1,144	0.7%
30.1 - 40	6,420	3.7%	5,247	3.0%	1,173	0.7%
40.1 - 50	24,764	14.2%	10,431	6.0%	14,333	8.2%
50.1 - 60	24,155	13.9%	15,721	9.0%	8,434	4.8%
60.1 - 70	19,238	11.0%	6,840	3.9%	12,398	7.1%
70.1 - 80	26,883	15.4%	9,409	5.4%	17,474	10.0%
80.1 - 90	36,713	21.1%	14,941	8.6%	21,772	12.5%
90.1 - 100	27,780	16.0%	7,787	4.5%	19,993	11.5%
Total	174,190	100.0%	77,469	44.5%	96,721	55.5%

Figure 6.3: Health and fitness suites with a one-mile radial catchment on IMD



Facilities in neighbouring areas

As with swimming and sports halls, users of health and fitness facilities do not just use facilities within their own authority, consequently, those with two miles of the border are considered within the analysis.

There are 17 health and fitness facilities located close to the Huntingdonshire boundary, with the majority (12) located to the north of the Authority in Peterborough. These include

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the two largest facilities; Anytime Fitness (200 stations) and Vivacity Premier Fitness (150 stations). There is one in Fenland, two in East Northants, one in South Cambs and one in Bedford.

The majority of sites require a registered membership to enter, however, five are accessible on a pay and play basis, including three in the Authority of Peterborough.

Figure 6.4: All health and fitness suites including those within a one-mile radial catchment of the Huntingdonshire boundary. (Includes 20-minute drive catchment for residents in the Authority)

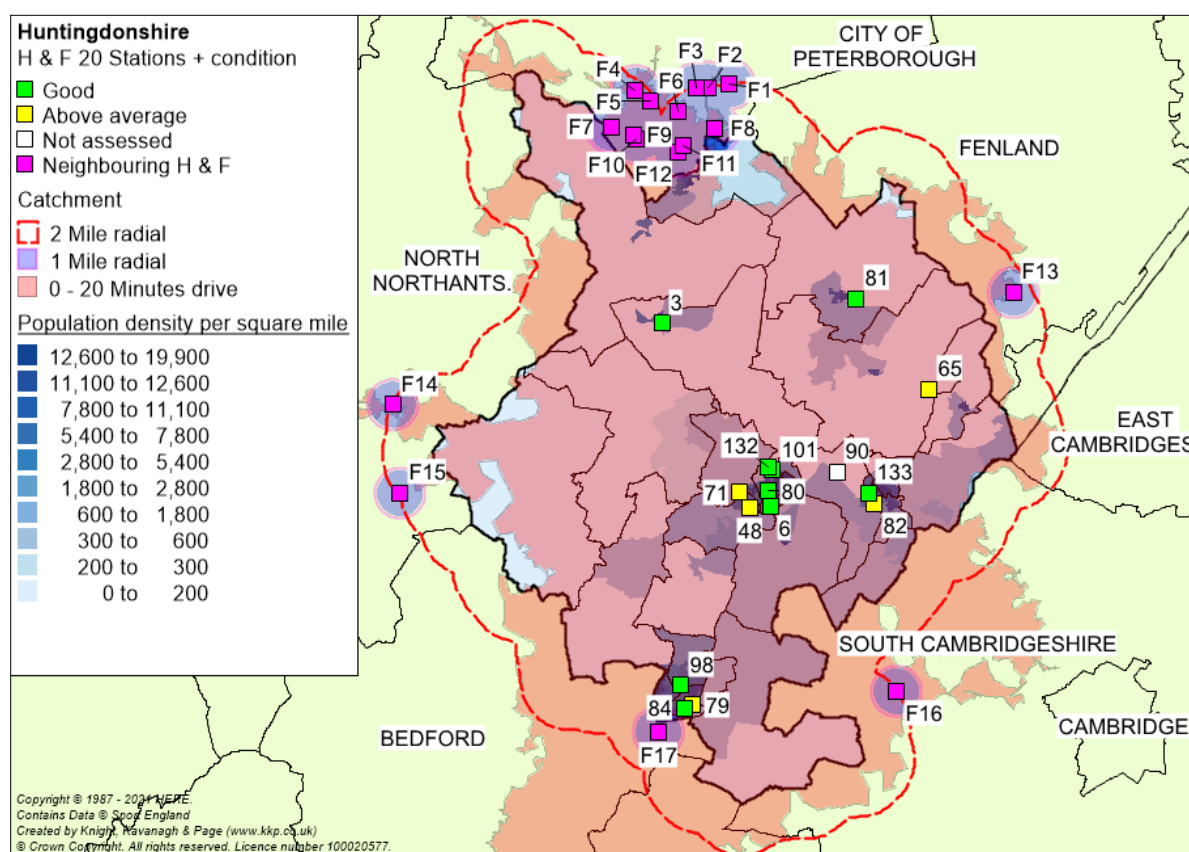


Table 6.4: Community available health and fitness (20+ stations) within 2 miles of boundary

ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Authority
F1	Fengate Gym	90	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F2	Regional Pool & Athletics Arena	85	Pay and play	Peterborough
F3	The Fitness Zone For Women	33	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F4	David Lloyd	120	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F5	Club Motivation	30	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F6	Definition Gym	80	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F7	Marriott Leisure Club	23	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F8	Stanground Sports Centre	27	Pay and play	Peterborough
F9	Bushfield Leisure Centre	50	Pay and play	Peterborough
F10	Anytime Fitness	200	Reg. membership	Peterborough

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ID	Active Places site name	Stations	Access type	Authority
F11	Vivacity Premier Fitness	150	Reg. membership	Peterborough
F12	Hampton Leisure Centre	50	Pay and play	Peterborough
F13	Chatteris Leisure Centre	50	Reg. membership	Fenland
F14	The Nene Centre	69	Pay and play	East Northants.
F15	Manor Sport And Leisure Ltd	25	Reg. membership	East Northants.
F16	The Cambridge Belfry	21	Reg. membership	South Cambs.
F17	Wyboston Lakes Health & Leisure Club	69	Reg. membership	Bedford

Source: Active Places Power 25/03/2022

Availability and programming

Sport England's classification of access type defines registered membership use facilities as publicly available. This generally means a monthly membership fee, the cost of which can vary considerably. It is acknowledged that memberships which might be considered expensive offer access to different market segments and can ease pressure on more available facilities (i.e., those with cheaper membership options).

In the Authority, six health and fitness facilities offer pay and play availability with the remainder requiring a membership. All areas of major population have access to a pay and play facility.

Table 6.5: Health and fitness gyms (20+ stations) access policy

ID	Site name	Stations	Access type
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	20	Pay and play
6	Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	200	Registered membership
48	Hinchingsbrooke School	30	Registered membership
65	Lakeside Lodge Golf & Country Club	35	Registered membership
71	Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	30	Registered membership
79	Old School Strength & Conditioning	40	Pay and play
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	85	Pay and play
81	One Leisure Ramsey	40	Pay and play
82	One Leisure St Ives	120	Pay and play
84	One Leisure St Neots	120	Pay and play
98	Snap Fitness (St Neots)	66	Registered membership
101	Sports Direct Fitness (Huntingdon)	60	Registered membership
132	The Gym Group	50	Registered membership
133	One Leisure St Ives Training Shed	50	Pay and play

Seven health and fitness venues in Huntingdonshire offer pay and play access including all One Leisure managed venues, along with Old School Strength and Conditioning. Cost to access the pay and play facilities at the One Leisure sites are £7.20 per session (or £5.20 at Ramsey Leisure Centre). Annual price memberships vary significantly, with the most expensive facility being the Academy Leisure Sawtry (based on 12-month direct debit price).

The Council provides an exercise referral scheme across all its One Leisure sites. This offers any resident of Huntingdonshire, over 16 years old, who is referred by a health

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professional, a discounted leisure membership to help in rehabilitation and prevention of certain medical conditions, such as heart issues or cancer recurrence. The scheme is run by HDC's Active Lifestyles Team.

Table 6.6: Pricing structure of health and fitness facilities in Huntingdonshire

Venue	Pay & play	Annual	12-month DD (pcm)	Activities membership price includes
Academy Leisure Sawtry	£8.00	£360	£36.00	Gym only
Anytime Fitness (Huntingdon)	-	£269.50	£26.95	Free Fitness Consultation Partner Discounts
Hinchingbrooke School	-	£250.00	£25.00	
Lakeside Lodge Golf & Country Club	-	-	£25.00	-
Marriott Leisure Club (Huntingdon)	-	-	£51.00	Access to the pool and spa facilities
Old School Strength & Conditioning	£5.40	-	£33.00	Small group sessions (Bootcamp style)
One Leisure Huntingdon*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure Ramsey*	£5.20	£299.00	£28.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure St Ives*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure St Neots*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
One Leisure St Ives Training Shed*	£7.20	£349.00	£33.99	Only includes gym access
Snap Fitness (St Neots)	-	-	£29.50	
Sports Direct Fitness (Huntingdon)	-	£239.88	£19.99	Access to gym & swim & access to all clubs
The Gym Group			£21.98	Includes free classes

(*facility also offers GP referral scheme)

6.2: Demand

Health and fitness via exercising in a gym or class environment is a highly popular form of exercise, appealing to men and women across a range of age groups. To identify the adequacy of provision quantity a demand calculation based upon the assumption that 'UK penetration rates' will increase slightly in the future is applied. Population increases are also factored in to enable a calculation of whether current supply will meet future demand.

Based upon UK penetration rates current need is for 1,241 stations in Huntingdonshire. This will grow to 1,422 by 2043, taking account of a comfort factor (particularly at peak times).

Table 6.7: UK penetration rates; health/fitness in Huntingdonshire (ONS Data)

	Current (2018)	Future (2043)
Adult population (16+ years)	177,352	191,170
UK penetration rate	16%	17%
Number of potential members	28,376	32,499
Number of visits per week (1.75/member)	49,659	56,873
% of visits in peak time	65	65

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No. of visits in peak time (equated to no. of stations required i.e., no. of visits/39 weeks*65%)	828	948
Number of stations (with comfort factor applied)	1241	1422

(Model applies 1.75 visits/week by members and 65% usage for 39 weeks of the year. (Figures rounded up/down))

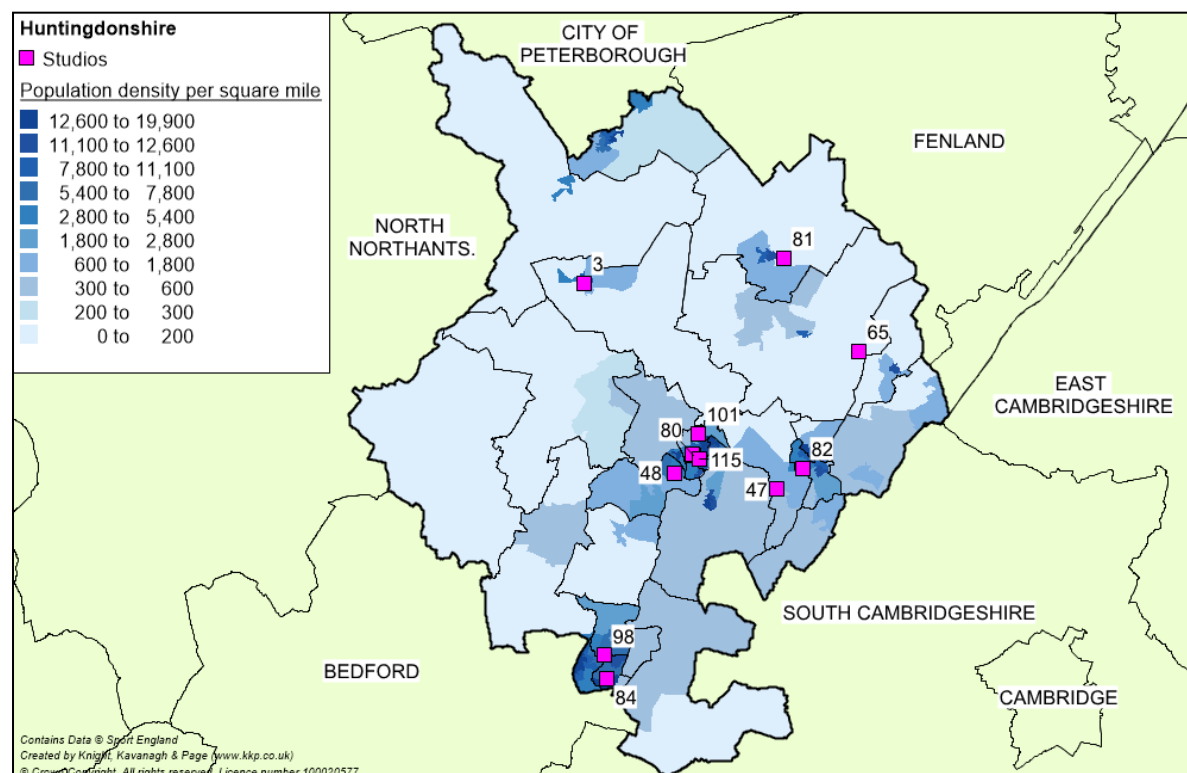
When comparing community available stations currently available (940) and accounting for the comfort factor, there is a current shortfall of c. 300 stations. This is generally alleviated, particularly for residents living in the north, via facilities located in Peterborough. There will, however, need to be an increase in provision to match both current and future demand, particularly in relation to the proposed population increase in housing growth. The projected future shortfall is calculated to be c.500 stations.

6.3: Dance studios

Dance studios are an important element of the wider health, fitness and conditioning market. There has been an increase in the number of people accessing fitness classes as identified in increased UK penetration rates. Activity types offered also vary from low impact classes such as Pilates and yoga to dance, step, boxercise and Zumba. It is worth noting that dance classes/clubs are key users of studio spaces throughout the country.

The audit identified 17 studios in Huntingdonshire. All are either rated good or above average, with only the two studio rooms at St Peters School rated below average. Nine are available for pay and play activities, three via membership of a sports club/association, and the remainder require a membership to access.

Figure 6.5: Dance studios in Huntingdonshire



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Table 6.8: Table of studios in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Access	Condition
3	Academy Leisure Sawtry	Pay and Play	Above average
47	Hemingford Pavilion	Pay and Play	Above average
48	Hinchingbrooke School	Sports Club / CA	Above average
65	Lakeside Lodge Golf And Country Club	Pay and Play	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	Pay and Play	Above average
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	Pay and Play	Good
81	One Leisure Ramsey	Pay and Play	Good
82	One Leisure St Ives	Pay and Play	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	Pay and Play	Above average
82	One Leisure St Ives	Pay and Play	Above average
84	One Leisure St Neots	Pay and Play	Above average
84	One Leisure St Neots	Pay and Play	Above average
98	Snap Fitness	Registered Membership	Good
98	Snap Fitness	Registered Membership	Good
101	Sports Direct Fitness	Registered Membership	Above average
101	Sports Direct Fitness	Registered Membership	Above average
115	St Peters School	Sports Club / CA	Below average
115	St Peters School	Sports Club / CA	Below average

6.4: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 20 health and fitness sites in Huntingdonshire, 15 with 20+ stations. These provide a total of 946 stations. There are 17 studios. Of the 17 gyms in neighbouring areas, five offer pay and play access.	There is a current and future deficit in provision. The current shortfall is c.300 which will rise through population growth to c.500 by 2043.
Quality	All facilities are rated either good or above average.	There is a need to maintain the quality of gyms rated good/above average.
Accessibility	All main population areas have health and fitness facilities; 44% of the population lives within one-mile of a gym. 86.1% of those which live in higher deprivation reside within one mile of a gym. 98% of residents live within a 20 minute drive of a facility.	Accessibility to health and fitness provision is good; there is a need to ensure that people living in rural communities without vehicle ownership are supported.
Availability (Management and usage)	There are six publicly accessible pay and play health and fitness facilities with 20+ stations in Huntingdonshire. The remainder require some form of membership to access.	A key need is to ensure that gyms cater for the full range of market segments and that residents from hard-to-reach groups can afford them

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Summary

- ◀ Fitness and dance studio facilities offer potential to increase physical activity in the wider population. The challenge for the authority is to address the current and future shortfall. This could be done, at least in part, via the replacement and/or redevelopment of existing council facilities.
- ◀ Provision quality is generally good, and it can be assumed that facilities are well placed, as nearly all of the population (98%) live within a 20 minute drive of a facility.

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SECTION 7: SQUASH

England Squash is the NGB responsible for the sport. Its latest Strategy (2021 – 2025) *Squash in a Changing World* aims to grow the game in England from 2021 onwards through a thriving, diverse and growing community. To achieve this, it has identified a number of objectives:

- ◀ Create a world-class workforce- Inspire and train a community of world-class coaches, referees and volunteers at every level - to drive up participation and increase engagement in the game.
- ◀ Sustain world-leading pathways and programmes- Sustain world-leading talent pathways and programmes for high-performing players who achieve success on the global stage and inspire others to realise their potential.
- ◀ Enhance the visibility and appeal of squash- Spearhead new and creative ways to enhance the visibility and appeal of squash at local, national and international levels, including the pursuit of Olympic inclusion.
- ◀ Provide leadership for the game- Provide leadership for the game nationally and internationally, including addressing the climate and ecological crisis.

The ratio of courts per population in Huntingdonshire is 1:19,705 which is below the England Squash target of 1:10,000 thus, in its view there is a shortfall in provision. It must be noted that this figure does not include the courts at Kimbolton School or the RAF bases.

7.1 Supply

There are 17 squash courts in Huntingdonshire at seven sites: with Hemingford Pavilion offering the most courts (four). Three sites are not accessible. Kimbolton School does not hire its courts to the public, and the four courts at both RAF bases are for military personnel only.

Of the community available sites, two offer pay and play access; One Leisure Huntingdon and St Neots. The remaining two squash venues are accessible via a sports club membership. Hemingford Pavilion is a private sports club where an annual membership is required to access the site. The court at Norwood Playing Field is owned by the Parish Council, and players have to pay a small annual subscription to Somersham Sports Association to play there. St Ives Outdoor Centre did have four courts but closed in 2019 to become a functional training facility.

Quality

The courts at the One Leisure sites at Huntingdon and St Neots are rated good. Hemingford Pavilion is also rated good. Norwood Playing Field's court was inaccessible as part of the audit.

Table 7.2: Quality of squash courts in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Courts	Condition	Access type
47	Hemingford Pavilion	4	Good	Sports Club / CA
61	Kimbolton School	2	Above average	Private use
76	Norwood Playing Field*	1	Not assessed	Sports Club / CA
80	One Leisure Huntingdon	2	Good	Pay and Play
84	One Leisure St Neots	2	Good	Pay and Play
89	RAF Alconbury	1	Not assessed	Private use

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ID	Site name	Courts	Condition	Access type
90	RAF Wyton	3	Not assessed	Private use
Total		17		

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2022)

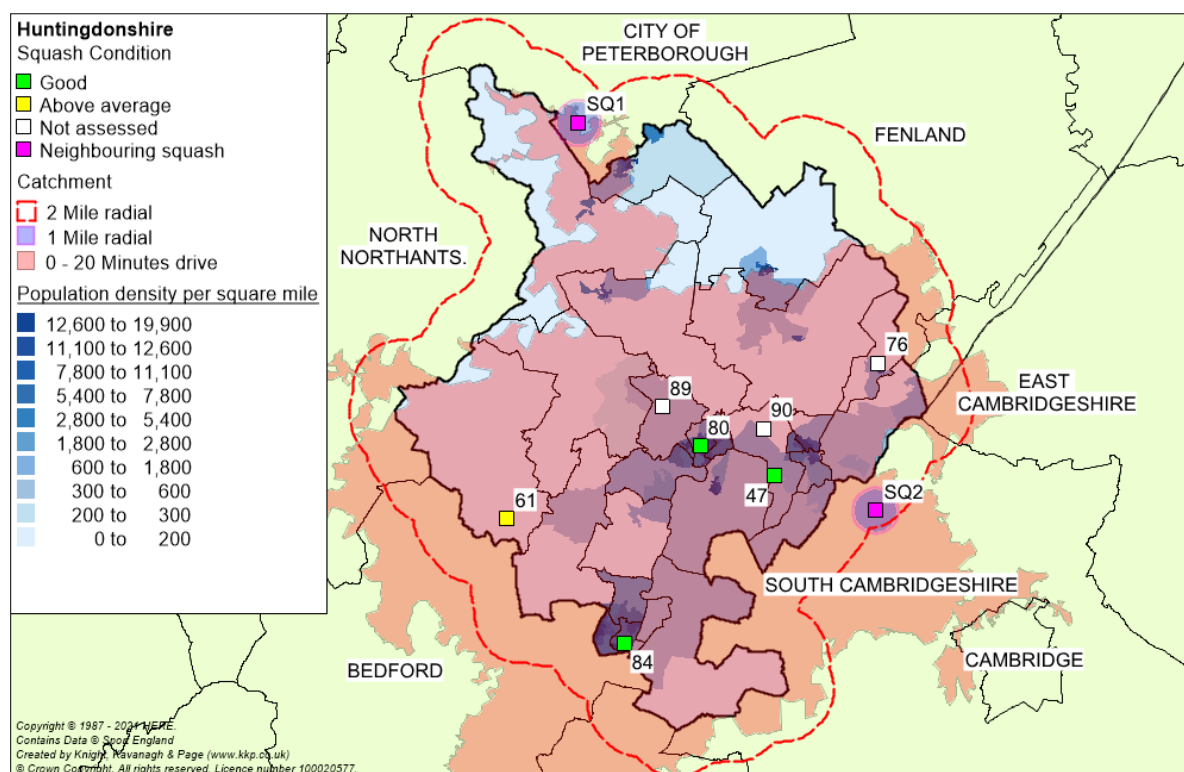
Drive time catchment modelling calculates that the majority (92.56%) of the Huntingdonshire population resides within a 20-minute drive of a community available squash court. There are provisional gaps in the north, however, residents in these gaps will be able to access Bushfield Leisure Centre (Peterborough Authority), which has two pay and play accessible courts.

Table 7.2: Squash facilities within 2 miles of Huntingdonshire boundary

Map ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Authority
SQ1	Bushfield Leisure Centre	2	Pay and Play	Peterborough
SQ2	Swavesey Village College	3	Sports Club / CA	South

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2022)

Figure 7.1: Squash courts in Huntingdonshire plus those within 2 miles of the boundary. Map also includes a 20min drive time catchment for residents within the Authority



7.2: Demand

There are two affiliated England Squash clubs in Huntingdonshire. St Ivo Racquets Club is based at Huntingdon Leisure Centre and Hunts County Squash Club is located at Hemingford Pavilion. Consultation was undertaken with both clubs.

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St Ivo Racquets Club - is located at Huntingdon Leisure Centre in the site's newly refurbished courts. It currently has 30 members, with all members affiliated to England Squash. It was formerly based at the St Ives Outdoor Centre (which had four courts) before they closed. Ideally, it would like to return to St Ives, however, it currently has a good relationship with One Leisure and is happy at the current site.

Hunts County Squash Club - is one of the sports clubs under the Hemingford Pavilion umbrella. It has four courts, two of which are glass backed and two standard. One of the glass-backed is a 'show court' with seating and can host competitions. Consequently, it recently hosted the U23 England champs.

The Club has 200 members, with the majority playing in the Cambs Squash League. Its main challenge is to retain and grow membership, as it is located in a rural part of the Authority.

One Leisure - Consultation with One Leisure states that demand for squash is moderate currently, and there has been a bookings decline since centres re-opened following the Pandemic. Demand for squash, across both sites, is generally between 17.00 - 20.00 (midweek) and Saturday & Sunday mornings, however, there is still spare capacity at both during peak periods. Huntingdon is more popular than St Neots, mainly due to St Ivo Racquets Club being located at the site.

7.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are four community available facilities in Huntingdonshire, offering nine courts in total.	England Squash calculates that there is shortfall of c.8 courts based on its ratio target of 1 court per 10,000 population.
Quality	All community available sites, which were assessed, are rated as good. Access to Norwood Playing Field's court was not granted at the time of the assessment.	There is a need to maintain the quality of the community available facilities.
Accessibility	Drive time catchment modelling calculates that the majority of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 20-minute drive of a community available squash court within the Authority. There are two facilities within two miles of the Authority boundary.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Two facilities offer pay and play access; Huntingdon and St Neots. Both have two courts.	

Summary

- ◀ There are nine community available squash courts at four sites, all rated above average quality.
- ◀ Two sites offer pay and play access.
- ◀ Although England Squash states that there is a shortfall of provision, consultation suggests that there is currently spare capacity at both pay and play sites. One option to

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address the shortfall could be to work with Kimbolton School to persuade it to open its courts to one of the clubs and/or the community.

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SECTION 8: GYMNASTICS

British Gymnastics (BG) is currently producing its latest development framework. The previous Framework 2017-2021 identifies three key priorities, to:

- ◀ Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics.
- ◀ Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics.
- ◀ Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics.

Its facility development priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) are to:

- ◀ Support increased capacity within gymnastics through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers.
- ◀ Guide funding investment through the United Kingdom from BG, home country sports councils, local authorities, and other potential funders.
- ◀ Maintain/improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners.
- ◀ Develop insight, understanding and direction of how facility developments can contribute towards other BG strategic priorities.

Participation in gymnastics is reportedly increasing rapidly. BG membership increased at c. 12% per year between 2013-17. The emphasis for this strategy period is on using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5- to 11-year-olds. Across the country, BG reports extensive demand for more gymnastics opportunity and many clubs report having long waiting lists.

One million people are estimated to be on waiting lists for gymnastics (Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2017). This research also suggests that a further 1.9 million would like to participate but are not currently on a waiting list. A key part of BG's strategy to increase participation is to support clubs moving into their own dedicated facility, offering more time and space for classes. There is a definite trend for gymnastics clubs to do this.

Eligible British Gymnastics clubs are able to apply for Club Capital, a social investment impact loan. The £10m Club Capital fund offers unsecured loans of between £25,000 to £250,000 (and upwards in exceptional circumstances) to enable clubs to move into new, or expand or safeguard existing, dedicated gymnastics facilities.

There are also initiatives for older people funded by Sport England, such as, Love to Move focused on dementia patients.

8.1: Supply

There are four dedicated gymnastics venue in Huntingdonshire. Huntingdon Gymnastics Club gym hall is the oldest, built in 1982, with an extension added in 2013. The main gym hall is owned by the Council but the Club has a 90-year lease. The extension is owned and managed by the Club itself. The other three are all located in industrial units. Rotations Trampoline Club and Twisters Gymnastics Club serve the south of the Authority, whereas Meridian Gymnastics Club serves the north.

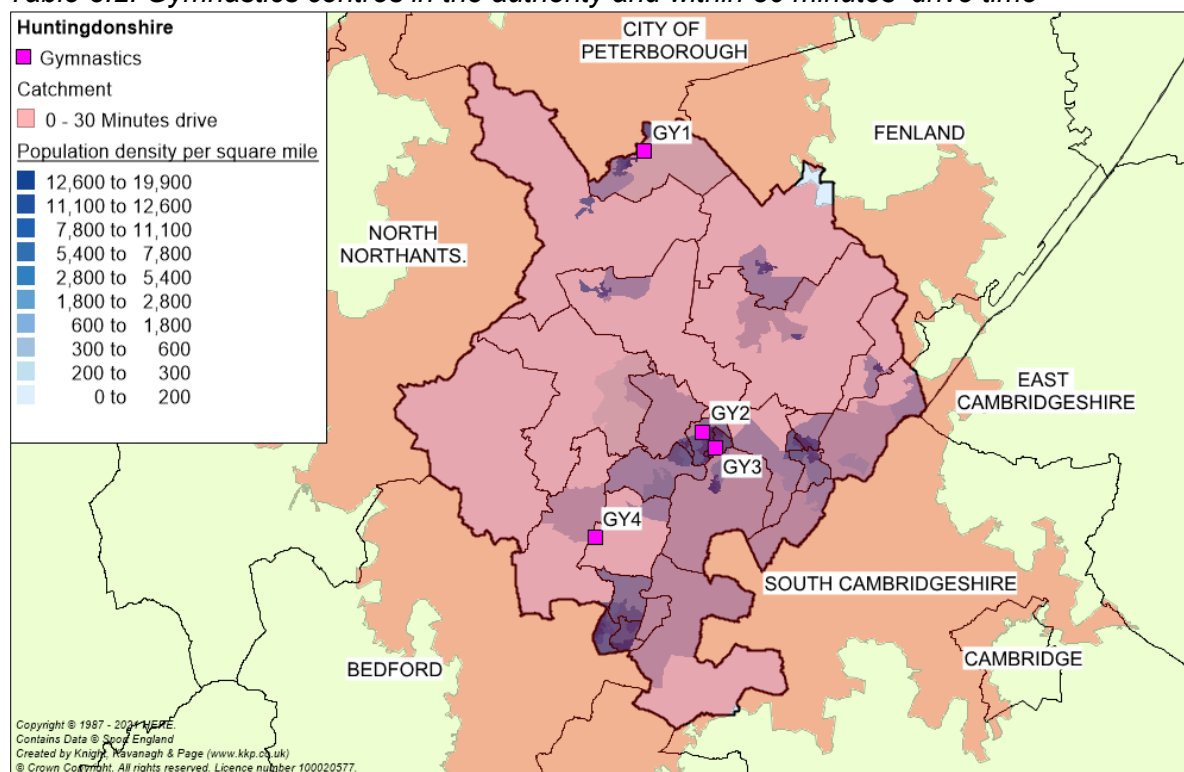
Site assessments were undertaken at Huntingdon Gymnastics Club and Rotations Trampoline Club. Due to the age of the building, Huntingdon Gymnastics Club was rated as below average, and Rotations Trampoline Club was rated as above average.

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Table 8.1: Dedicated gymnastics centres in Huntingdonshire

Map ID	Site name
GY1	Meridian Gymnastics Club
GY2	Rotations Trampoline Club
GY3	Huntingdon Gymnastics Club
GY4	Twisters Gymnastics Club

Table 8.2: Gymnastics centres in the authority and within 30 minutes' drive time



8.2: Demand

BG reports that participation in gymnastics in the Southeast region rose from 11,000 to 32,000 between 2014 and 2020. The emphasis for 2017 – 2021 was on using gymnastics as a foundation sport for 5–11-year-olds but BG’s new development framework, when published, will presents its plans for the next five years.

BG states that there is substantial demand for more gymnastics opportunities; with clubs reporting having waiting lists which restrict access to gymnastic activities due to lack of time within dedicated and non-dedicated facilities. A key component of BG’s strategy is to increase participation to support clubs, leisure providers and other partners moving into their own dedicated facilities, offering more time and space for classes.

BG provides products, programmes and expert assistance to support local delivery; gymnastic activities which are successfully driving membership growth and retention across the country.

There are five BG affiliated clubs in the Authority:

- ◀ Huntingdon Gymnastics Club

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- ◀ Twisters Gymnastics Club
- ◀ Rotations Trampoline Club
- ◀ Amy's Acro
- ◀ Meridian Gymnastics Club

Four of the five operate out of designated facilities, with only Amy's Acro the anomaly. It delivers sessions out of three local primary schools. BG reports that both Meridian Gymnastics Club and Huntingdon Gymnastics Club are registered in the NGB's facility project list.

Meridian Gymnastics Club operates from a dedicated facility in Yaxley and are looking to expand to a larger new build in the same area. It may apply for a Club Capital grant for project finance. Huntingdon Gymnastics Club has a plan to expand their current site in 2022/2023 after a period of consolidation post covid.

Three of the five clubs responded to a request for consultation. Meriden and Twisters did not.

Huntingdon Gymnastics Club - has 1,400 members along with a waiting list of 400 currently. It has produced several Olympic gymnasts including Louis Smith who won a medal in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. Its key challenge is to upgrade the main gymnastics hall. This section of the building is over 40 years old, and the Club is currently applying for grants to assist with the upgrade. As highlighted above, it also has a long-term ambition to expand its facility, and is currently in discussions with BG about layout and funding for a potential expansion.

Rotations Trampoline Club - currently has 250 members along with a small waiting list. It is currently located in an industrial unit in Huntingdon for which it has a long-term lease (12 years remaining). It requires new equipment and is currently raising funds for this. It is also recruiting additional coaches and volunteers as certain staff have recently left.

Amy's Acro - is a small locally based club offering beginner gymnastics sessions to children aged 3-11. It currently has c.300 members, and it delivers sessions at three primary schools; Thorndown Primary School, Brampton Village Primary School and St Anne's Primary School (Godmanchester). It would like its own dedicated facility, which will allow it to expand and offer more variety. It struggles with equipment storage, which is very limited at its current venues. It also reports a waiting list at two of the three venues.

8.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are four dedicated gymnastics facility in the Authority (one is specific to trampolining).	Huntingdon Gymnastics Club is looking at expanding its current facility and Meridian Gymnastics Club is currently seeking a larger premises.
Quality	Huntingdon Gymnastics Club is rated below average, and Rotations Gymnastics Club above average. No site visit was gained at Twisters or Meridian Gymnastics Club.	The first phase of the building (at Huntingdon Gymnastics) is over 40 years old and need s improvement to maintain the quality.
Accessibility	All residents in Huntingdonshire reside within a 30 minute drive of a dedicated gymnastics facility.	

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Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Availability (Management & usage)	Consultation indicated that all three clubs are at capacity.	As well as increasing club facility capacity there is a need to increase the coaching and volunteer workforce to assist clubs to reduce current waiting lists.

Summary

- ◀ There are four dedicated gymnastics facilities in Huntingdonshire.
- ◀ Demand for all clubs is high, with limited spare capacity for new members.
- ◀ Huntingdon and Meridian are on BG's facility project list. Huntingdon wishes to upgrade its facility and Meridian wishes to move to larger premises.

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SECTION 9: INDOOR BOWLS

The five forms of bowls that are played indoors (flat/level green, crown green, long mat, short mat and carpet mat) each require a different venue and each format of the game has a different technical specification for their indoor facility.

Indoor flat / level green bowls is played on a purpose-built indoor green which complies with the Laws of the sport of Bowls. The NGB is EIBA (English Indoor Bowling Association). It requires a standard bowling green; a flat area 31-40 metres long divided into playing areas called rinks. The number of these varies, depending on the width of the green.

Crown Green bowls requires a standard crown green, artificial grass (carpeted) area of approximately 38m square which is crowned i.e. higher in the centre than round the perimeter. Indoor crown greens are relatively rare – substantially less common than those provided for flat green bowls. The NGB is the British Crown Green Bowling Association.

Carpet bowls is played on a rectangular carpet (13.7 x 1.8m) that is rolled out. It can be accommodated in any indoor space large enough to accommodate the mats which come in different lengths. It tends to be played at a recreational level. The NGB is the English Carpet Bowls Association.

Short mat bowls is typically played in sports halls, parish council rooms, outdoor bowls club pavilions; on indoor flat green bowls club greens. The NGB is the English Short Mat Bowling Association. Long mat bowls is played on a rolled carpet typically laid on a sports hall floor. There are no ditches in this game. It is typically found in areas of low flat-green supply and/or where Crown Green bowls is played outdoors. There is no NGB for this version of the game.

An indoor bowling centre typically comprises a single flat green with a number of rinks and ancillary accommodation such as changing rooms, lounge/bar, viewing area, kitchen, office/ meeting rooms and stores plus designated car parking. The size of ancillary accommodation varies according to the number of rinks available. A successful indoor bowls centre requires a combination of the right location, design, and financial and general management. Sport England¹¹ guidelines on catchment for indoor bowls centres are set out to be interpreted in the light of local circumstances:

- ◀ Assume the majority of users live locally and not travel more than 30 minutes.
- ◀ Assume that 90% of users will travel by car, with the remainder by foot.
- ◀ As a guide, calculate demand on the basis of one rink per 14,000-17,000 total population.
- ◀ The number of rinks required can be related to the estimated number of members, assume 80-100 members per rink.

The stated priorities of EIBA are:

- ◀ Recruitment of participants.
- ◀ Retention of participants.
- ◀ Clubs obtaining “Clubmark Accreditation”.
- ◀ Retention and improvement of facilities.
- ◀ New indoor facilities in areas of low-supply and high-demand.

¹¹ Sport England Design Guidance Note Indoor Bowls 2005

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EIBA Outline Plan 2022-2025

The EIBA plan is focused on: *recruit and retain 45+* and *recruit and retain 70+*. Both markets require growth. The idea is that people aged 45+ need new versions/formats of the game to play and the 70+ will wish to continue with current formats. Its focus areas are:

- ◀ Focus on getting core bowlers back playing following COVID lockdowns
- ◀ 45 to 59 year old participants
- ◀ Volunteers
- ◀ Health and Wellbeing
- ◀ Inclusivity – Women, Ethnic Communities
- ◀ Facilities: build, improve, retain.
- ◀ Youth and the family.
- ◀ Disability.
- ◀ Competitions.
- ◀ Internationals.
- ◀ Promotion.
- ◀ Commercial partnerships.

The “Recruit and Retain Strategy” is to concentrate on encouraging and supporting clubs to increase participation and improve the experience of all participants. Its objectives include:

- ◀ Growing participation across the adult population in local communities. Targeted work to increase female participation.
- ◀ Growing participation in the 12-18 age range as part of the EIBA Development Pathway.
- ◀ The provision of an excellent sporting experience for new and existing participants.
- ◀ A growth in Indoor Bowls participation by people who have disabilities.

Running alongside this is the Sport England funded development work provided jointly by the Indoor NGB (EIBA); Outdoor NGB (Bowls England) and the “Bowls Development Alliance” (BDA). Each NGB has two directors on the Board of BDA.

The Sport England funding for the 2022-2025 period, focuses on the delivery of:

- ◀ **Club hubs:** ensure that all clubs remain sustainably positioned at the heart of the communities, and there are good pathways to increase membership.
- ◀ **Communities:** Develop healthy bowling communities, with good quality competitions, options to increase coaches and volunteers and healthy relationships between clubs.
- ◀ **Health and wellbeing:** support clubs promote health and wellbeing of members with a range of programmes and activities.
- ◀ **Inclusion:** ensure clubs are as inclusive as possible, promoting the sport to all including; females and people from diverse communities.

Alongside these core objectives the BDA works with key partners on:

- ◀ **Safeguarding:** ensuring the sport is safe for everyone to play by working across all five National Governing Bodies (NGBs) [BE, EIBA, British Crown Green BA, English Short Mat BA and English Bowling Federation] to have policies and processes in place. Training is also available to support the network of Club Safeguarding Officers.
- ◀ **Disability:** the BDA works in partnership with Disability Bowls England, Activity Alliance, BE and the EIBA to ensure everyone regardless of disability can access the sport of bowls.

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- ◀ **Women Can:** the BDA are driving a campaign alongside BE and the EIBA to encourage more women to play bowls, coach bowls and volunteer in bowls.
- ◀ **Equality & Diversity:** the BDA, BE and the EIBA are all striving to ensure the sport of bowls is as diverse as it can be.

9.1: Supply

There are two indoor facilities in Huntingdonshire, Huntingdon and St Neots Indoor Bowls Club. Both clubs are located in old facilities which requires investment to bring them up to current standards. Consequently, both are rated below average.

There are two others facilities, not in the Authority, which fall within a 30 minute drive time catchment for residents. These are Bedford Borough Indoor Bowling Club and Kempston Park Indoor Bowls Club, both located in the Bedford authority.

Figure 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities within 30 minutes' drive time of Huntingdonshire

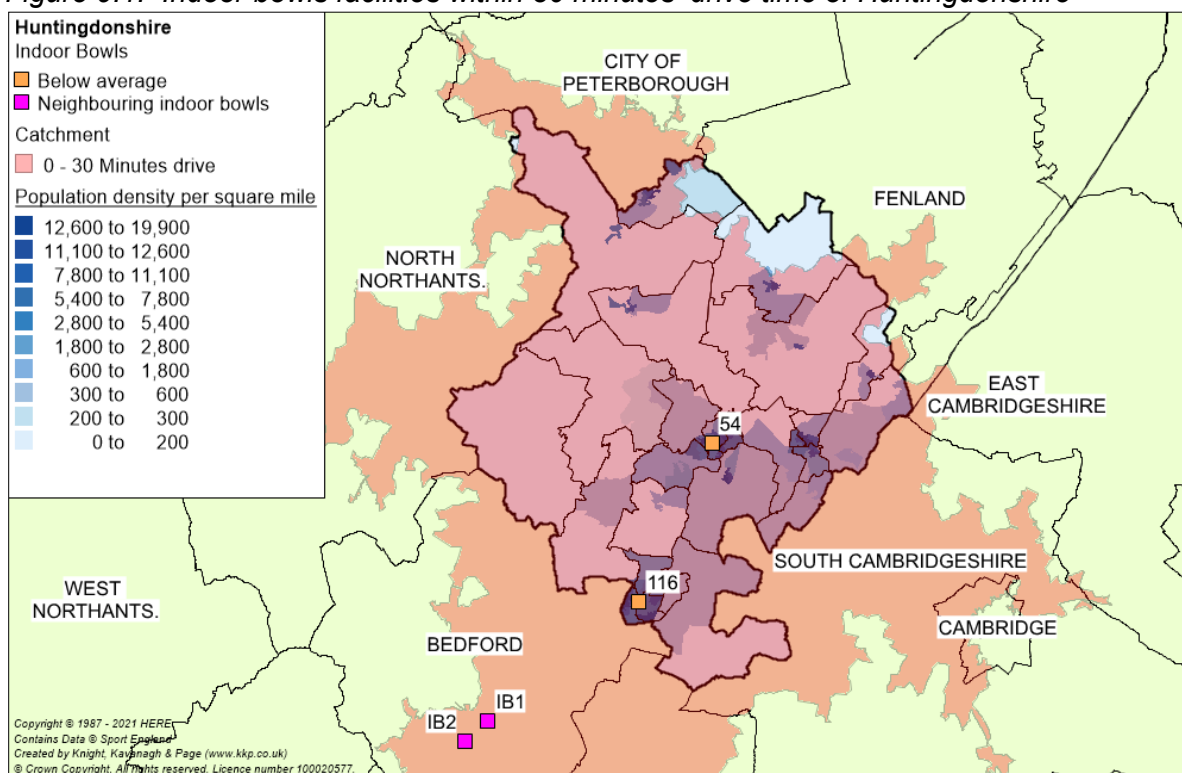


Table 9.1: Indoor bowls facilities in Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Condition
54	Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club	6	Sports Club / CA	Below average
116	St. Neots & District Indoor Bowls	8	Sports Club / CA	Below average

Table 9.2: Indoor bowls facilities outside a 30 minute drive of Huntingdonshire

ID	Site name	Rinks	Access type	Authority
IB1	Bedford Borough Indoor	6	Sports Club / CA	Bedford
IB2	Kempston Park Indoor Bowls	8	Sports Club / CA	Bedford

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Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that the majority (98%) of Huntingdonshire's population lives within a 30-minutes' drive of the two facilities.

Availability

Both facilities are members-based clubs, with a committee and trustees. Individuals have to pay an annual subscription to access the facility. Neither site offers pay and play access.

9.2: Demand

The EIBA states that the number of rinks required per facility can be related to the estimated number of 80-100 members per rink. Based on 2021 members, both Huntingdonshire clubs operate on a 58 members/rink ratio so both have spare capacity at their respective sites. EIBA notes that both were adversely affected by the Pandemic, with membership numbers falling. For example, St Neots, in 2019 operated on a ratio of 70/1 compared to its current ratio.

Huntingdon Indoor Bowls Club - is located in a dedicated facility which has six rinks. The building is owned by the Council, with the Club having five years left on a 25-year lease. The building is over 35 years old and is beginning to show its age. It requires investment to bring it up to the required standard and the Club is currently raising funds to upgrade it. A second challenge is to increase the membership base. It currently has 350 members, however, this figure was 600 before the Pandemic. It is currently delivering promotional sessions aid this recovery.

St Neots Indoor Bowls Club - currently has c.450 members, 100 fewer than 2018. It was built in 1975, with a small refurbishment in 2000. Although functional, it will need to be upgraded in the short term, however, no plans or funding are in place. A key challenge is bringing membership numbers back pre-pandemic levels. It is currently running promotional activity to seek to do this. It has a strong youth section which it is also keen to increase.

9.3: Summary

Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are two indoor bowls facility in Huntingdonshire.	Both Clubs have spare capacity.
Quality	Both facilities are rated below average in quality.	Work with them to source funds to upgrade their facilities.
Accessibility	The majority of residents live within 30 minutes' drive of an indoor bowls facility. Two facilities in neighbouring authorities are within a 30-minute drive-time of the Authority.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Both facilities are club run and require a membership to access. There is no pay and play opportunity in the Authority.	There is a need to consider how to enable pay and play opportunity at the two clubs.

Summary

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- ◀ Both venues are rated below average quality and need investment in the long term.
- ◀ The majority of residents live within a 30-minute drive of a facility.
- ◀ Both clubs have spare capacity, and the focus should be on increasing membership and improving the quality of each venue.

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SECTION 10: INDOOR TENNIS

The Lawn Tennis Association (LTA) is the NGB for all tennis provision within the UK. It administers the sport at national and regional level. One of its key objectives is to get more people playing tennis more often. To achieve this, through its most recent Investment Framework (Vision 2019 – 2023), prioritises will be given to the following sites:

- ◀ New and existing indoor tennis centres
- ◀ Park tennis
- ◀ Tennis clubs
- ◀ Schools and other educational establishments

This will be supported through the following key funding objectives:

- ◀ Funding through interest free loans.
- ◀ Investing in venues that have a proven record of increasing participation.
- ◀ Investing where there is thorough community engagement.
- ◀ Support venues that encourage participation growth.
- ◀ Target investment that is demand led.
- ◀ Invest in venues that are financially sustainable.
- ◀ Support venues that have successfully sourced partnership funding.

Central to any investment will be the provision of a sustainable business case.

This section considers indoor tennis facilities provision in the Huntingdonshire and the surrounding authorities. 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.

The LTA has identified 72 target locations for new community indoor tennis venues in England. The nearest locations to Huntingdonshire will be a new dedicated site in West Cambridge.

10.1: Supply

The one indoor facility in the Authority is Huntingdon Tennis Club. It has four outdoor courts and three indoor; supported by an air dome. Indoor courts are acrylic and rated as above average.

Table 10.1: Indoor tennis facilities within Huntingdon Tennis Centre

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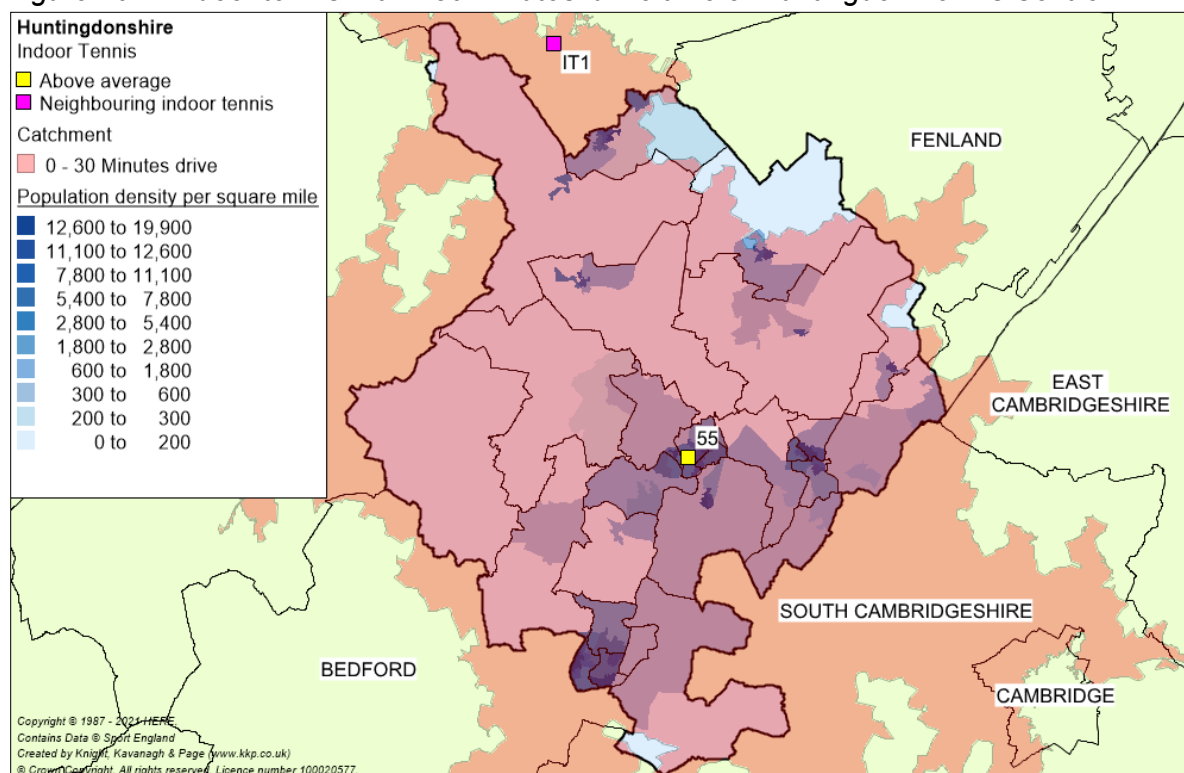
ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Condition
55	Huntingdon Tennis Centre	3	Pay & Play	Above average

Table 10.2: Indoor tennis centres within 30 minutes drive-time of the Huntingdon facility

ID	Site name	Courts	Access type	Local authority
IT1	David Lloyd (Peterborough)	4	Registered	Peterborough

(Source: Active Places Power 26/05/2021)

Figure 10.1: Indoor tennis within 30 minutes' drive time of Huntingdon Tennis Centre



Accessibility

Drive time catchment modelling suggests that almost 98% of Huntingdonshire's population is within a 30-minute drive of the indoor tennis courts at the Huntingdon Tennis Centre. There are small provisional gaps in the north, however, residents in the north will be able to access the indoor facility in Peterborough (David Lloyd Centre).

Availability

Huntingdon Tennis Club is available through registered membership (currently £240 for a year). It does not offer pay and play opportunity.

10.2: Demand

The LTA recently set out its revised strategic approach to target key national focus areas, ultimately to grow participation. Future investment in facilities will be based on detailed analysis of potential demand throughout the UK. It has identified 96 priority target areas for development of new indoor courts in the UK of which Huntingdonshire is *not* one.

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Demand for indoor tennis in Huntingdonshire is currently catered for through the listed tennis club. There are no current plans to develop a pay and play centre in the Authority, however, the current draft PPS will calculate future demand for outdoor tennis and should future demand exceed supply, there may be potential for an indoor facility in the future.

Huntingdon Tennis Club - owns and manages its site. It currently has 300 members and reports having no maintenance issues. The key challenge is to increase membership, which took a fall during Covid. Its target is c.500 which would bring it back up to 2019 levels.

10.3: Summary of key facts and issues

Facility type	Indoor tennis	
Elements	Assessment findings	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There is one indoor centre in the Authority, Huntingdon Tennis Club, and one facility in Peterborough.	
Quality	The quality of the Huntingdon Tennis Club is above average. The quality of facilities in neighbouring authorities was not assessed.	
Accessibility	The majority of residents live within a 30 minutes' drive time of Huntingdon Tennis Centre.	
Availability (Management & usage)	The availability of Huntingdon Tennis Club is via a registered membership- there are no pay and play opportunities at the site nor within a 30 minute drive of the Huntingdon Tennis Club.	

Summary

- ◀ The one indoor tennis facility in the authority is accessible via registered membership.
- ◀ There are no pay and play facilities in or near the Authority.
- ◀ It is important to ensure that membership prices at Huntingdon Tennis Club are accessible to all.

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SECTION 11: VILLAGE/COMMUNITY HALLS

11.1: Introduction

Village halls and community centres are important recreational facilities, especially in rural areas that, in some instances, may lack access to purpose-built sports facilities. They are usually multi-functional, providing places for meetings, socialising and for sports and recreational clubs and activities. In some parishes, a church hall or a sports pavilion can also serve a range of functions depending on its size.

4.1: Supply of village/community halls

The audit identified a total of 68 village/community halls in the Authority. There appears to be a good spread from north to south serving all population centres. A cross selection of halls were visited as part of the audit, which ascertained ownership, management details as well as activity type at the sites. A total of eight was audited.

Table 11.1: All village/community buildings in Huntingdonshire

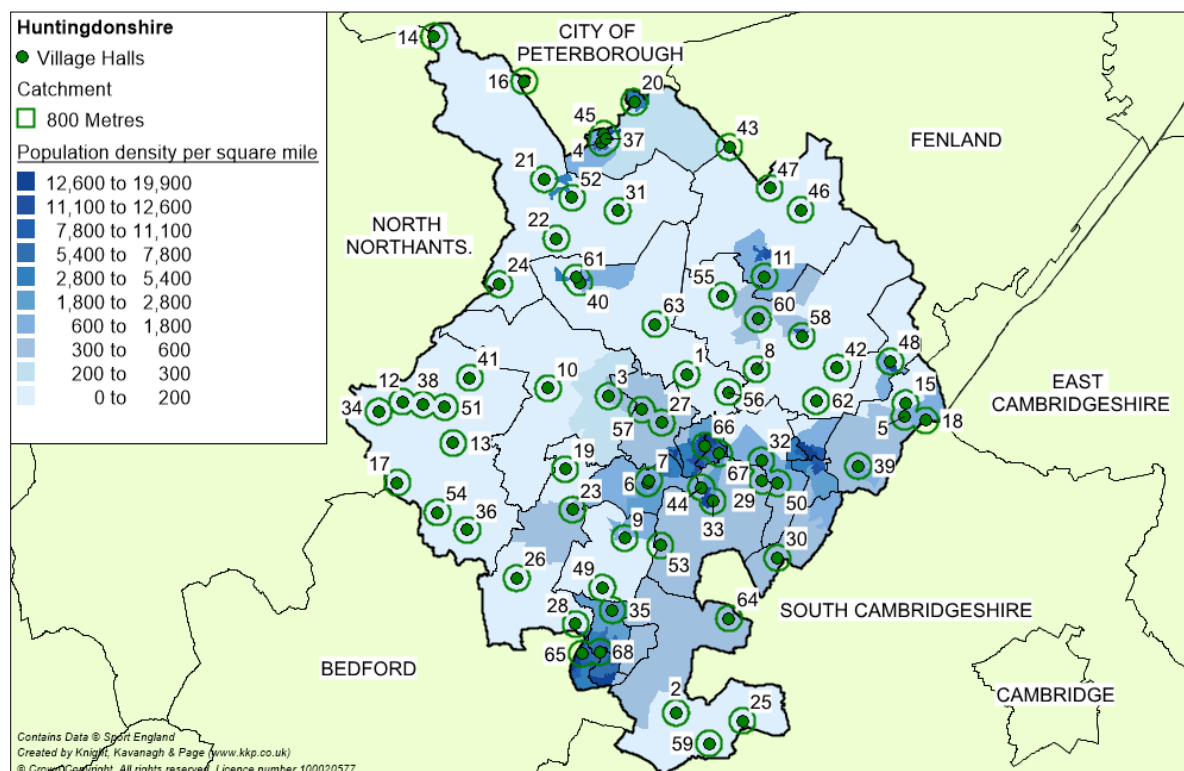
ID	Village hall	ID	Village hall
1	Abbots Ripton Village Hall	35	Little Paxton Village Hall
2	Abbotsley Village Hall	36	Mandeville Hall
3	Alconbury Hall	37	Middleons Road Pavilion
4	Austin Hall	38	Molesworth Village Hall
5	Bluntisham Village Hall	39	Needingworth Village Hall
6	Brampton Community Centre	40	Old School Hall
7	Brampton Memorial Centre	41	Old Weston Village Hall
8	Broughton Village Hall	42	Pidley Community Centre
9	Buckden Village Hall (Millennium Community Centre)	43	Pondersbridge Village Hall
10	Buckworth Cricket Clubhouse	44	Queen Elizabeth School
11	Bury Village Hall	45	Queen's Park Pavilion
12	Bythorn Village Hall	46	Ramsey Forty-Foot Village Hall
13	Catworth Village Hall	47	Ramsey Mereside Village Hall
14	Christie Hall	48	Somersham Victory Hall
15	Colne Village Hall	49	Southoe Village Hall
16	Colonel Dane Memorial Hall	50	St James' Parish Centre
17	Covington Village Hall	51	St Leonards Hall
18	Earith Village Hall	52	Stilton Pavilion
19	Ellington Village Hall	53	The Offords Village Hall
20	Farcet Village Hall	54	Tilbrook Village Hall
21	Folksworth Village Hall	55	Upwood & the Raveleys Hall
22	Glatton Village Hall	56	Kings Ripton Village Hall
23	Grafham Village Hall	57	Little Stukeley Village Hall
24	Great Gidding Village Hall	58	Warboys Parish Centre
25	Great Gransden Reading Rooms	59	Waresley Village Hall
26	Great Staughton Village Hall	60	Wistow Village Hall

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ID	Village hall	ID	Village hall
27	Great Stukeley Village Hall	61	Womens Institute Hall
28	Hail Weston Village Hall	62	Woodhurst Village Hall
29	Hemingford Abbots Village Hall	63	Woodwalton Village Hall
30	Hilton Village Hall	64	Yelling Village Hall
31	Holme Village Hall	65	Eaton Community Centre
32	Houghton and Wyton Memorial Hall	66	The Coneygear Centre
33	Judith's Field Pavilion	67	Hartford Village Hall
34	Keyston Village Hall	68	The Priory Centre

Radial catchment modelling estimates that just under a third of Huntingdonshire's population (28.49%) lives within 800 metres walk of a village hall. These facilities have potential to offer different types of physical activity which are relevant to the local communities which they serve. Drive time catchment modelling confirms that essentially the whole (99.7%) of the population lives within a 10-minute drive time of a village/community hall.

Figure 11.1: Village/community halls in Huntingdonshire with 800m radial catchment



Availability

Day to day management of facilities vary. Some are managed by someone in a paid role, generally a parish clerk, however, the majority are managed by community volunteers. Many buildings offer facilities to the local community at the key times when they are needed i.e., daytime and evening. Activities tend to reflect the needs of the local community.

11.2 Demand

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As mentioned earlier, a cross section of sites were visited as part of the audit. A management/ ownership breakdown of those sites, along with the type of activities delivered at each venue.

Table 11.2: Site visit consultation summary

Village hall	Ownership	Management	Activities
Offord Village	Church	Parish Council	Line dancing, boxercise, Pilates, t-dance sessions, short mat bowls.
Great Stoughton	Parish Council	Parish Council	Carpet bowls, badminton, yoga, Pilates.
Yaxley (Public Hall)	Parish Council	Parish Council	Zumba, yoga, keep fit and karate
Buckden Village Hall	Parish Council	Local Trust	Pilates, Zumba and yoga.
Needingworth	Parish Council	Parish Council	Pilates. tai chi, yoga, line dancing
Abbots Ripton	Parish Council	Parish Council	Badminton, table tennis, Yoga, tai chi.
Great Stukeley	Parish Council	Parish Council	Martial arts, badminton, jazzercise, craft club
Coneygear Centre	Town Council	Town Council	Martial arts, yoga, dancing, coffee mornings.

Audit research suggests that demand for village halls and community centre space is returning following the Pandemic. All sites were badly affected, however, since summer 2021, groups/ organisations have returned, and most sites are operating at pre-Pandemic utilisation rates.

The majority audited reported some spare capacity, partially during the day and at weekends, however, there was limited capacity during the evenings. Great Stukeley Village Hall, for example, has at least one booking per night, with spare capacity on a Friday and at weekends.

Most sites have one large hall with some having an extra room for community meetings/smaller activity classes. Activities delivered are highly dependent upon the size and the number of rooms on offer. All sites generally offer mat sports, with the larger sites offering badminton/ dance sessions.

11.3 Summary of key facts and issues

Elements	Assessment finding	Specific facility needs
Quantity	There are 68 village/community halls in Huntingdonshire generally located near key settlements. All key settlements are served by a community facility.	Consider potential requirement for village halls/multi-purpose facilities in new housing developments, consider how these facilities fit within the wider recreational/sporting mix.
Quality	No quality rating was undertaken for the sites visited, however, the majority were well maintained with limited maintenance issues reported.	
Accessibility	28.4% of the population lives within 800m and 99.7% within a 10-minute drive of a community centre/village hall.	
Availability (Management and usage)	Management varies between different sites, but broadly speaking the majority	Support the work of hall management to secure external funding, improve volunteer skills and enhance the quality and effectiveness of facility

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Elements	Assessment finding	Specific facility needs
	<p>are owned and managed by parish/town councils.</p> <p>Activities range between halls but are considered to broadly reflect local need.</p> <p>The Pandemic affected all sites, however, most have returned to pre pandemic utilisation.</p>	<p>management, promotion, programming, and finance.</p>

Summary

- ◀ There are 68 village/community halls in Huntingdonshire accessible to the majority of the population (within a 10-minute drive). Most sites report no quality issues and offered a range of activities.
- ◀ Venue utilisation is returning to pre pandemic levels. Most sites still have some mid-week and weekend availability, however, as the Authority continues to move out of the pandemic, it is hoped that these will be taken up.
- ◀ Consider potential additional demand produced from new housing developments and whether this demand can be accommodated at existing facilities or new provision is required.

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SECTION 12: STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

- ◀ The principal challenge for HDC is to ensure it has sufficient leisure provision to accommodate the growth in population anticipated by 2043. Key growth areas are Alconbury Wield and St Neots Eastern Expansion. Based on this, the following key strategic recommendations will be developed further in the strategy which will follow this Draft Needs Assessment. Key specific points to consider.
- ◀ Sawtry Swimming Pool is currently at risk of closure, with increased energy costs being cited as a key contributory factor. HDC should continue to work with Meridian academy trust to identify a potential solution, given the facilities key role in meeting swimming lesson demand in the Authority.
- ◀ HDC and partners should consider how to increase sports hall capacity across the District. Short term options include working with sites which offer limited community availability or are currently closed to the community. Medium term, the new secondary school at Alconbury Wield, will also increase capacity. In the longer term an option could be to consider developing a sports hub on land owned by St Peters School (to the rear of Huntingdon Leisure Centre) in line with Huntingdon Town Councils ambition to develop an indoor facility to support netball.
- ◀ HDC and partners need to consider how address providing addition swimming pool capacity over the period of the strategy. In line with the proposed housing growth areas, options could include the expansion of either Huntingdon, St Neots or St Ives swimming pools. This could, for example involve adding teaching pools at one or more sites. The expansion of Huntingdon could link in with the suggested upgrade of the St Peters site, as mentioned above.
- ◀ Two gymnastics clubs are either looking at upgrading their current facilities or moving to a new larger site. Both Huntingdon GC and Meridian are on the NGB's facility project list. HDC needs to work with BG and the respective clubs to ensure that their future facility requirements are met.
- ◀ Both indoor bowls facilities are rated below average. Although the sites are still functional, they will require long term investment to enable them to support their respective local communities. HDC needs to work with both the EIBA and the respective clubs to identify potential funding sources to support future facility upgrades.
- ◀ Community Centres/village halls play a key role in supporting their respective local communities with a range of activities. HDC should undertake a full audit of such facilities and then work with respective parish/town councils to identify required support for potential upgrades/maintenance issues. HDC should also develop a community volunteer training program to ensure that the operation of these facilities continue to fully support their local communities.