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Consulting Ltd.**



Uttlesford District Council
Sports Development Strategy

DRAFT

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The aims of the strategy

- 1) The purpose of the strategy is to:
 - To contribute to the Council's wider aims and objectives for improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
 - To relate facility needs to sports development programmes and patterns of participation.
 - To develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies; provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
 - To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

What the strategy covers

- 2) The strategy covers the following built facilities in Uttlesford:
 - Sports halls.
 - Swimming pools.
 - Athletics facilities.
 - Indoor bowls halls.
 - Outdoor bowls greens.
 - Indoor tennis facilities.
 - Outdoor tennis courts.
 - Health and fitness facilities.
 - Squash courts.
 - Golf courses.
 - Village and community halls.
 - Grass pitches.
 - Synthetic turf pitches.

About Uttlesford

- 3) **Population** - The current population of Uttlesford is 79,443. The district has an age structure that is relatively close to the national average, although the proportion of people in the 16 to 49 year age range that is traditionally most active in sports participation is 42.3% locally, compared with 46.2% nationally.
- 4) **Growth** - The Office for National Statistics projections for Uttlesford forecast that the population of the district will be 102,000 by 2031, an increase of more than 22,500 people, or 28.4% growth.
- 5) **Health** - Local health indices are generally better than the national norms, underlining the importance of ensuring access to sports and recreation facilities, as part of a wider strategy to ensure that the local population remains physically active and increases its participation.

- 6) **Deprivation** - Whilst the deprivation indices for the district as a whole are relatively low, the lack of access to services in rural areas emphasises the need for local facilities provision.

Meeting local priorities

- 7) **Sustainable Communities Strategy and Corporate Plan** - High-level policy, as contained in the sustainable communities strategy and corporate plan, is supportive of the role and value of sports facilities in providing opportunities to improve health and well-being.
- 8) **Local Plan** - Planning policy offers strong protection for the retention of sports and recreation facilities.
- 9) **Neighbouring districts** - The sports facilities strategies in neighbouring local authorities suggest that some assessed shortfalls close to the Uttlesford district border might impact on supply and demand within the district, particularly for youth football and mini-soccer pitches.

Meeting wider priorities

- 10) **Central Government** - National planning policy is supportive of undertaking local assessments of need and the protection of built facilities, which provides helpful context for local planning policies in Uttlesford.
- 11) **Sport England** - The target to increase participation rates will drive up demand for built facilities if it is achieved. The emphasis on developing and funding school-community club links will increase the scope for improving the dual use of education facilities. Its planning policies also provide a useful framework to inform the development of local planning policy.
- 12) **Governing bodies of sport** - A number of governing bodies of sport have identified facilities objectives that could impact upon provision in Uttlesford.

Local demand

- 13) **Participation rates** - Based on the *'Active People'* survey, overall sports participation rates in Uttlesford have increased since 2005/6 and at 42.9% are currently well above the regional (35.3%) and national (35.5%) averages, suggesting that local demand for sports facilities will be commensurately higher.
- 14) **Club membership** - Local rates of volunteering, sports club membership and participation in formal competitive activity are also well above the national and regional averages.
- 15) **Market Segmentation** - The dominant segments in Uttlesford are likely to inflate local demand for swimming, cycling, playing pitches, golf and health and fitness facilities.
- 16) **Club-based participation** - The survey of local sports clubs conducted as part of this study identified an increase in membership over the past three years, averaging 28% growth across all age groups. The largest increases by age group are for female participant. In total an additional 2,825 members joined the 18 responding clubs over the past three years.
- 17) **Facility availability** - 90% of clubs responding to the survey believe that existing facility provision locally is inadequate to meet their needs.

Local supply

- 18) **Quantity** - Per capita levels of provision of sports halls, indoor and outdoor bowls are amongst the best for Uttlesford's geographic neighbours and the most demographically similar local authorities. Levels of provision of swimming pools, outdoor tennis courts, health and fitness and squash courts are around the mean levels of provision of the benchmarked local authorities, with athletics tracks, indoor tennis and golf courses below the comparator levels.
- 19) **Sub-area analysis** - Per capita levels of facility provision in the three sub-areas of Uttlesford show a number of consistent themes. Provision of most types of facility in the Saffron Walden sub-area are better than the other areas. A number of facility types are absent from the Stansted sub-area, in particular swimming pools, indoor bowls, squash courts and artificial turf pitches, although this is mitigated in part by provision in Bishop's Stortford nearby.
- 20) **Quality** - Based on the site visits and visual inspections from the 2012 study, the quality of most playing areas and changing facilities is generally rated at least 'average' for all facility types. Less highly rated is disabled access.
- 21) **Access** - For most facility types, the whole population of Uttlesford is within all the respective stipulated drive time catchments. In several instances involving the larger, more specialist facilities provision in neighbouring areas serves catchments which include Uttlesford residents.

The current balance between supply and demand

- 22) On the basis of the analysis of the current balance between supply and demand of built facilities in Uttlesford, the following needs have been identified:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Sports halls	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but several facilities are operating at close to 'comfortable capacity'.	All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as at least 'above average' quality	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest sports hall.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pools operating at close to 'comfortable capacity'. • The FPM calculates a deficit equivalent to two 25m lanes. 	All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as at least 'average' quality	The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest pool, if provision in Bishop's Stortford is taken into account.
Synthetic athletics tracks	There is a deficit in the north of the district of a Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility.	No qualitative deficiency	The whole of the Saffron Walden sub-area is outside the 20 minute drivetime catchment of the nearest track.
Indoor bowls	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	All aspects of the current facility are currently rated as at least 'above average' quality	Apart from two small areas of the district, the entire population of the district is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest facility.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Outdoor bowls greens	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Disabled access improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clavering BC • Great Chesterford BC • Radwinter BC • Stansted BC • Stebbing BC • Thaxted BC General access improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clavering BC • Radwinter BC • Stansted BC 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest bowls green.
Indoor tennis courts	Despite the absence of an indoor centre, provision in neighbouring areas meets existing needs.	No qualitative deficiency	The population in the east of the district is outside the catchment of the nearest indoor tennis court.
Outdoor tennis courts	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Fencing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Hill TC Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Hill TC • Debden Recreation Ground • Dunmow TC • Henham TC • Stansted TC General access improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clavering TC • Henham TC • Newport Village TC • Stansted TC • Thaxted TC 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest tennis court.
Health and fitness facilities	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	General access improvements needed at Wilbur's Gym.	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest health and fitness facility.
Squash courts	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest squash court.
Golf courses	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Clubhouse refurbishment needed at Saffron Walden GC	The whole population is within 30 minutes drive of the nearest golf course.
Village and community halls	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Improvements needed at most halls to accommodate additional sports usage.	The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of the nearest village/community hall.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Adult football pitches	Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but 4 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity.	Pitch quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatfield Broad Oak SC • Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcott Playing Field • Calves Pasture • Felsted Playing Field • Hatfield Broad Oak Social Club • Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering • Takeley Recreation Ground 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest adult football pitch.
Youth football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collective weekly deficit of 9.0 match equivalents • 7 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. 	Pitch quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laundry Lane Playing Field • Takeley Recreation Ground Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laundry Lane Playing Field • Takeley Recreation Ground 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest youth football pitch.
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A weekly deficit of 3.5 match equivalents • 2 sites are used to beyond capacity. 	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest mini-soccer pitch.
Cricket pitches	Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but 7 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-American Playing Field. • Audley End House • Clogham's Green Cricket Club • Dunmow Cricket Club • Elmdon Cricket Club • Elsenham Cricket Club. • Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club • Hatfield Heath Cricket Club • Langley Cricket Club • Little Bardfield Cricket Club • Molehill Green Cricket Club • Thaxted Cricket Club • Wenden's Ambo Playing Field. 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest cricket pitch.
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collective weekly deficit of 2.5 match equivalents • Both sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. 	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest rugby pitch.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but the Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport pitch is used to full capacity.	Pitch resurfacing needed at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport.	The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest synthetic turf pitch for hockey.
'3G' football turf pitches	A collective deficit equivalent to 2.78 pitches. Essex FA advocates provision in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow.	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is beyond a 20 minutes drive of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch.

The future balance between supply and demand

23) The Office for National Statistics published '2012-based Sub-national Population Projections for Local Authorities in England' (2014), which contains figures on projected population change in the district to 2031. The ONS projections for Uttlesford forecast that the population of the district will be 102,000 by 2031, an increase of 22,500 people.

24) **Future sports facilities needs** - Projected future needs are calculated below, based upon locally devised standards of provision:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current facilities</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Extra Population by 2031</i>	<i>Extra facilities needed by 2031</i>
Sports halls	6	1: 14,000	22,700	1.62
Swimming pools	4	1: 25,000	22,700	0.91
Athletics tracks	0	1: 80,000	22,700	0.28
Indoor bowls	1	1: 80,000	22,700	0.28 (2 rinks)
Outdoor bowls	11	1: 7,500	22,700	3.02
Indoor tennis	0	-	22,700	0
Outdoor tennis	35	1: 2,250	22,700	10.1
Health and fitness	11	1: 7,000	22,700	3.24
Squash	7	1: 12,000	22,700	1.89
Golf courses	2	1: 25,000	22,700	0.91
Village/community halls	53	1: 1,500	22,700	15.1

25) **Future playing pitch needs** - Projected future needs are calculated below, based upon 'Team Generation Rates' (TGRs), which identify how many people in a specified age group in the study area are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected increases in population to identify the likely number of additional teams and their related pitch needs in the future.

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Population 2031</i>	<i>Teams 2031</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>	<i>Extra pitches</i>
Adult male football	17-45	14,200	56	1: 254	15,500	61	+5	2.5
Adult female football	17-45	14,200	1	1: 14,200	15,500	1	-	0
Boys youth football	10-16	3,500	62	1: 56	4,700	83	+21	10.5
Girls youth football	10-16	3,500	1	1: 3,500	4,700	1	-	0
Mini-soccer (mixed)	6-9	4,000	39	1: 103	4,800	47	+8	4

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Population 2031</i>	<i>Teams 2031</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>	<i>Extra pitches</i>
Adult male cricket	16-55	21,000	73	1: 288	23,100	80	+7	3.5
Adult female cricket	16-55	21,000	2	1: 10,500	23,100	2	-	0
Boys junior cricket	10-15	3,000	44	1: 68	4,100	60	+16	8
Girls junior cricket	10-15	3,000	3	1: 1,000	4,100	4	+1	0.5
Adult male rugby	19-45	13,200	4	1: 3,300	14,300	4	-	0
Adult female rugby	19-45	13,200	1	1: 13,200	14,300	1	-	0
Boys junior rugby	13-18	3,000	7	1: 429	3,800	9	+2	1.0
Girls junior rugby	13-18	3,000	1	1: 3,000	3,800	1	-	0
Mini-rugby (mixed)	7-12	6,000	13	1: 462	7,800	17	+4	2.0
Adult male hockey	18-45	13,700	8	1: 1,714	14,900	9	+1	0.1
Adult female hockey	18-45	13,700	7	1: 1,957	14,900	8	+1	0.1
Boys junior hockey	8-17	5,000	9	1: 556	5,900	11	+2	0.2
Girls junior hockey	8-17	5,000	9	1: 556	5,900	11	+2	0.2

Dealing with deficiencies

- 26) **New provision** - New facilities can be provided, with funding from developer contributions and other external funding sources.
- 27) **Upgrading and refurbishment** - Improving the quality of facilities will increase their capacity for use.
- 28) **Enhanced access** - Enhanced access to facilities on school sites with limited or no existing community use is a cost effective option for increasing the effective supply of provision.
- 29) **Reinstating former facilities** - Facilities where use has recently been discontinued can be reinstated in response to changes in demand.

Delivery partners

- 30) **Uttlesford District Council:** The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.
- 31) **Management contractor:** The contractor appointed by the Council to run the main leisure centres in the district may be prepared to invest capital funds to improve the facilities it is managing, on the basis that improved capacity and usage will enable it to generate a commercial return on its investment.
- 32) **Parish councils:** Parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining facilities in the rural parts of the district.
- 33) **Schools:** Many schools in Uttlesford already provide sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities both to provide additional facilities on school sites to extend and formalise community access to a range of existing provision.

- 34) **Sports clubs:** Local sports clubs are significant providers of built facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may wish to take on delegated management responsibilities for built facilities maintenance from the local authority.
- 35) **Developers:** The Council will seek funding that could assist with the provision of built facilities that will meet the needs of the inhabitants of new developments in the district.
- 36) **Partnership arrangements:** Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

Action plan to meet existing needs

- 37) The action plan identifies the ways in which current deficiencies might be met and the partners who will have a role in providing and funding new and improved provision.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but several facilities are operating at close to full capacity. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to two 25m lanes. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Investigate the feasibility of making additional pool provision.
Athletics tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a deficit in the north of the district of a Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the potential for community access to the proposed 400m track at Carver Barracks • If adequate access cannot be negotiated at Carver Barracks, identify the feasibility of providing a Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility in Saffron Walden.
Indoor bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Outdoor bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Disabled access improvements needed at 6 sites. • General access improvements needed at 3 sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for disabled improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clavering Bowls Club - Great Chesterford Bowls Club - Radwinter Bowls Club - Stansted Bowls Club - Stebbing Bowls Club - Thaxted Bowls Club • Seek funding for access improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clavering Bowls Club - Radwinter Bowls Club - Stansted Bowls Club

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Indoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Outdoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Fencing improvements needed at one site. • Changing improvements needed at five sites. • General access improvements needed at five sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for fencing improvements at Castle Hill Tennis Club. • Seek funding for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Castle Hill Tennis Club. - Debden Recreation Ground - Dunmow Tennis Club - Henham Tennis Club - Stansted Tennis Club • Seek funding for general access improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clavering Tennis Club - Henham Tennis Club - Newport Village Tennis Club - Stansted Tennis Club - Thaxted Tennis Club
Health and fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • General access improvements needed at one site. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Seek funding for general access improvements at Wilbur's Gym.
Squash courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Clubhouse refurbishment needed at one site. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Seek funding for clubhouse refurbishments at Saffron Walden Golf Club.
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No qualitative deficiency. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Pitch quality improvements needed at two sites. • Changing improvements needed at seven sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for pitch quality improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club - Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering • Seek funding s for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcott Playing Field - Calves Pasture - Felsted Playing Field - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club - Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering - Takeley Recreation Ground
Youth football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 4.5 pitches. • Pitch quality improvements needed at two sites. • Changing improvements needed at two sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert five adult football pitches with spare capacity to youth pitches. • Seek funding for pitch quality improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laundry Lane Playing Field - Takeley Recreation Ground • Seek funding applications for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laundry Lane Playing Field - Takeley Recreation Ground
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 2.0 pitches. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Convert one adult football pitch with spare capacity to two mini-soccer pitches.
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Changing improvements needed at 13 sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anglo-American Playing Field - Audley End House - Clogham's Green Cricket Club - Dunmow Cricket Club - Elmdon Cricket Club - Elsenham Cricket Club - Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club - Hatfield Heath Cricket Club - Langley Cricket Club - Little Bardfield Cricket Club - Molehill Green Cricket Club - Thaxted Cricket Club - Wenden's Ambo Playing Field
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 1.0 pitch. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of relocating Saffron Walden Rugby Club to a site in the town with additional pitch capacity. • Seek funding for the development if the feasibility is proven.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity issues at the Joyce Frankland Academy pitch. • Pitch re-surfacing needed at the Joyce Frankland Academy. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of developing a second pitch at the Joyce Frankland Academy. • Seek funding for re-surfacing the existing pitch at the Joyce Frankland Academy and for a second pitch if the feasibility is proven.
'3G' football turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 2.78 pitches. • No quality improvements needed. • The whole population is beyond a 20 minutes drive of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of developing '3G' pitches in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow. • Seek funding for the developments if the feasibility is proven.

Action plan to meet future needs

38) The action plan identifies the ways in which future deficiencies might be met and the partners who will have a role in providing and funding new and improved provision. The deficiencies arising from the projected growth in population of 22,500 people are expressed in terms of 'facility equivalents' and based upon the planning standards for each type of facility.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Sports halls	Additional demand equivalent to 1.62 sports halls (6-badminton courts).	Secure the provision of an additional 6-badminton court-sized sports hall funded by developer contributions.
Swimming pools	Additional demand equivalent to 0.91 6-lane swimming pools.	Secure the provision of an additional 6-lane swimming pool, funded by developer contributions.
Athletics tracks	Additional demand equivalent to 0.28 Compact Athletics Facilities.	Secure the provision of additional facility capacity either at the Carver Barracks track or at the proposed Compact Athletics Facility in Saffron Walden.
Indoor bowls	Additional demand equivalent to 0.28 indoor facilities (2 rinks).	Secure a financial contribution from developers to fund the provision of two additional rinks at the existing facility.
Outdoor bowls	Additional demand equivalent to 3.02 bowls greens.	Secure the provision of three additional bowls greens, funded by developer contributions.
Indoor tennis	No additional provision required.	No action required
Outdoor tennis	Additional demand equivalent to 10.1 tennis courts	Secure the provision of 10 additional tennis courts, funded by developer contributions.
Health and fitness	Additional demand equivalent to 3.24 health and fitness facilities.	Secure the provision of three additional health and fitness facilities, funded by developer contributions.
Squash	Additional demand equivalent to 1.89 squash courts.	Secure the provision of 2 additional squash courts, funded by developer contributions.
Golf courses	Additional demand equivalent to 0.91 golf courses.	Secure the provision of one additional golf course, funded by developer contributions.
Village/community halls	Additional demand equivalent to 15.1 village/community halls.	Secure the provision of 15 additional village halls, funded by developer contributions.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Adult football pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 2 pitches.	Accommodate additional demand by using existing spare adult football pitch capacity.
Youth football pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 5.5 pitches.	Secure the provision of six additional pitches, funded by developer contributions.
Mini-soccer pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 2 pitches.	Secure the provision of two additional pitches, funded by developer contributions.
Cricket pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 3 pitches.	Accommodate additional demand by using existing spare adult cricket pitch capacity.
Rugby pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 1.5 pitches.	Secure the provision of two additional pitches, funded by developer contributions.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	Additional demand equivalent to 0.6 pitches.	Secure the provision of one additional pitch, funded by developer contributions.
'3G' football turf pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 0.73 pitches.	Secure the provision of one additional pitch, funded by developer contributions.

Provision for reviews

39) Because sport and physical activity is a rapidly changing environment, to ensure that the proposals in the strategy continue to address local needs and strategic priorities, the situation will be reviewed regularly. Assumptions about population growth will be tested regularly and projected requirements refined accordingly. There will therefore be annual reviews of progress towards action plan targets and a three-yearly review of the overall strategic approach.

1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Ploszajski Lynch Consulting Ltd. (PLC) was appointed by Uttlesford District Council (UDC) to undertake a Sports Development Strategy for the district.

1.2 Background

In 2012, Uttlesford District Council undertook a comprehensive assessment of open space, sport and recreation needs in the district, which evaluated the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of provision. The *'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy'* document is one of the background documents that forms part of the evidence base for the council's draft Local Plan and focuses primarily on how many facilities of each type are required both currently and in the future.

What the Strategy does not contain, however, is a detailed action plan for prioritising and delivering projects that will best meet local demand and need and in particular specific local variations between the three main sub-areas of the district (Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted).

The recent publication of Sport England's *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide'* (2014) has provided new guidance on relating sports development needs to sports facilities provision. The Council therefore believes that it is timely to produce a Sports Development Strategy that links a detailed appraisal of local sports needs with the previous facilities assessment.

1.3 The purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to:

- To contribute to the Council's wider aims and objectives for improving health and well-being and increasing participation in sport.
- To relate facility needs to sports development programmes and patterns of participation.
- To develop a priority list of deliverable projects which will help to meet any current deficiencies; provide for future demands and feed into wider infrastructure planning work.
- To provide evidence to help secure internal and external funding.

1.4 The scope of the study

The scope of the strategy is as follows:

- It covers the whole district but also include provision in neighbouring areas with catchments that include Uttlesford residents.
- It includes a sub-area analysis of the Saffron Walden, Great Dunmow and Stansted areas.

- It covers the time period to 2031.
- It includes all the types of sports facilities and playing pitches assessed in the 2012 study, namely:
 - Sports halls.
 - Swimming pools.
 - Athletics facilities.
 - Indoor bowls halls.
 - Outdoor bowls greens.
 - Indoor tennis facilities.
 - Outdoor tennis courts.
 - Health and fitness facilities.
 - Squash courts.
 - Golf courses.
 - Village and community halls.
 - Grass pitches.
 - Synthetic turf pitches.

1.5 Exclusions

The study focuses on formal specialist sports facilities and the activities that use them, but as a result it takes no account of the non-specialist provision that sustains many forms of informal sport and physical activity. The exclusions include:

- Roads and the public rights of way network, used for walking, running, cycling and horse riding.
- Parks and open spaces used for informal games and fitness training.
- Provision for children and young people, such as play areas, multi-use games areas and skateparks.

These types of provision sustain an increasingly significant proportion of sport and physical activity, but by dint of their multi-functional nature and informal patterns of use it is difficult to plan for their provision in the same way as more formal facilities. For this reason they have been excluded from the strategy, but this does not imply any lack of appreciation for the valuable role that they play in providing for sport and physical activity.

1.6 Project tasks

The tasks undertaken to produce the strategy were as follows:

1.6.1 Needs analysis

The identification of current and future sports needs in the district was based upon an analysis of:

- The local population profile.
- Sports participation data (using national and local sources of information).
- Unmet, latent, displaced and future demand.
- Local activity priorities.
- Sports specific priorities.

1.6.2 Consultation

To inform the needs analysis, consultation was initiated with:

- Sport England.
- The governing bodies of sport.
- Active Essex.
- Active Uttlesford.
- Saffron Walden Organisation for Sport
- Local sports groups in the Great Dunmow and Stansted areas.
- Local sports clubs and schools.

1.6.3 Assessment

The outputs from the needs analysis and consultation were related to the findings '*Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy*' (2012) to assess:

- The extent to which the findings in the earlier study still represent an accurate picture of local needs.
- Any local variations in demand, need and aspirations.
- The impact of unmet, latent, displaced and future demand.

- Priority developments based upon the evidence base.
- Opportunities to maximise usage of existing facilities e.g. schools.

1.6.4 Action plan

The project produced an evidence-based action plan.

2 THE UTTLESFORD DISTRICT CONTEXT

2.1 Introduction

This section examines the context within which sports facilities provision is made in Uttlesford district. It includes consideration of the following material, much of which has been updated since the original *'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy'* document was produced in 2012:

- Background.
- Population.
- The local economy.
- Deprivation indices.
- Health indices.
- Sports participation data.
- Implications for sports facilities provision.

2.2 Background

Uttlesford District occupies the north-eastern part of Essex, abutting Hertfordshire to the west, Cambridgeshire to the north, and the rest of Essex to the east and south. It has an area of 247.56 sq. miles (641.18 sq km).

According to the 2011 Census, the district's population is 79,443. Approximately 40% of residents live in one of the three main centres of population in Great Dunmow (8,830), Saffron Walden (15,500), and Stansted Mountfitchet (6,460). The remainder live in the numerous villages and hamlets within the district.

There are a large number of listed buildings and significant areas of attractive rural landscape and ancient woodland including Hatfield Forest. In the south of the district is Britain's third largest airport, Stansted.

Close to both London and Cambridge, Uttlesford is well served by major road, rail and air links. The M11 runs through the district as does the London to Cambridge mainline rail link. However, due to its rural nature there are accessibility issues for some without private transport, especially in outlying villages. The district has a population density of just 1.1 per hectare which is not conducive to the provision of frequent public transport.

2.3 Population

The key demographic indices for Uttlesford are as follows:

2.3.1 Age structure

The age structure based on the 2011 Census data is set out below, with comparative figures for England as a whole. The figures show that the district has an age structure that is relatively close to the national average, although the proportion of people in the 16 to 49 year age range that is traditionally most active in sports participation is 42.3% locally, compared with 46.2% nationally.

Age	Uttlesford	Uttlesford %	England %
0-15	16,044	20.2%	18.0%
16-24	7,524	9.5%	11.7%
25-49	26,028	32.8%	34.5%
50-64	16,272	20.5%	16.9%
65+	13,575	17.1%	19.8%
Total	79,443	100%	100%

Source: '2011 Census: Quick Statistics for Local Authorities' (ONS, 2013)

2.3.2 Ethnicity

Uttlesford district has a predominantly white population with 96.7% classing themselves as white, which is well above the average and England as a whole (85.4%).

Group	Uttlesford %	East of England %	England %
White	96.7%	90.8%	85.4%
Mixed	1.2%	1.9%	2.3%
Asian	1.5%	4.8%	7.7%
Black	0.5%	2.0%	3.5%
Other ethnic	0.2%	0.5%	1.0%

Source: '2011 Census: Ethnic Group, Local Authorities in the United Kingdom' (ONS, 2013)

2.3.3 Sub-areas

For the purposes of this study and to enable more localised variations in provision to be identified, the following sub-areas are proposed, based upon the three main settlements in Uttlesford and the surrounding catchments that they serve:

Sub-area	Wards	Population
Saffron Walden and district	Ashdon Clavering Littlebury Newport Saffron Walden Audley Saffron Walden Castle	Saffron Walden Shire The Chesterfords The Sampfords Wenden Lofts Wimbish and Debden
Great Dunmow and district	Barnston and High Easter Felsted Great Dunmow North Great Dunmow South Stebbing	Takeley and the Canfields Thaxted The Eastons The Rodings
Stansted and district	Birchanger Broad Oak and the Hallingburys Elsenham and Henham	Hatfield Heath Stansted North Stansted South Stort Valley

Source: Mid-2011 Ward Level Population Estimates (ONS, 2012)

2.4 Health indices

Public Health England's *Health Profile for Uttlesford* (2014) contains the following details on health indices in the district:

- The health of people in the district is generally better than the England average. Deprivation is lower than average, however about 1,245 children (8.3%) live in poverty. Life expectancy for both men (81.8 years) and women (85.1 years) is well above the respective national averages (79.2 years and 83.0 years).
- Local health inequalities are low. Life expectancy is only 1.6 years lower for men and 2.5 years higher for women in the most deprived areas of Uttlesford compared with the least deprived areas.
- 16.1% of children aged 10 - 11 are classified as overweight or obese compared with 18.9% nationally.
- The estimated percentage of the local adult population classified as obese is 18.2%, which is significantly better than the England average of 23.0%.

2.5 Deprivation indices

None of the 28 wards in Uttlesford district are categorized amongst the most 20% deprived in the country, based upon the Government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD). Overall, the district is ranked as the 294th most deprived district out of 335 districts in the country. This places it in the lowest quintile for overall deprivation levels.

However, based upon some individual components of the IMD, several rural areas are classed as being in the top 20% most deprived within England in terms of barriers to housing and services. The Rodings in the south of the district and Wenden Lofts in the north-west of the district are the most deprived small areas within Uttlesford. The high level of deprivation is due to significant geographical barriers which are measured by road distance to a post office, a primary school, a general store and GP premises.

2.6 The implications for sport and recreation facilities provision in Uttlesford

The implications for sport and recreation facilities provision in the district are as follows:

- The relatively low proportion of the population aged between 16 and 49 will reduce overall demand for sport and physical activity, because participation rates decrease with age. However, demand for activities such as swimming and bowls, which appeal to older people, are likely to attract disproportionate demand.
- Local health indices are generally better than the national norms, underlining the importance of ensuring access to sports and recreation facilities, as part of a wider strategy to ensure that the local population remains physically active and increases its participation.
- Whilst the deprivation indices for the district as a whole are relatively low, the lack of access to services in rural areas emphasises the need for local facilities provision.

3 LOCAL STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

3.1 Introduction

This section identifies the policy context for the provision of sports and recreation facilities in Uttlesford district. Several of the documents were produced after the Uttlesford *'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy'* in 2012.

3.2 The Sustainable Communities Strategy

'A Sustainable Community Strategy: A Vision for the Future 2018' (2008) is document produced by Uttlesford Futures, the Local Strategic Partnership, to provide overall policy direction for organisations in the area. The main content relevant to sport and recreation is set out below.

3.2.1 Vision

The strategic vision for Uttlesford is *'to sustain a high quality of life in which the benefits of the unique character of the district are available to all residents, workers or visitors'*.

3.2.2 Strategic themes

The themes are:

- Children and young people matter.
- Staying healthy.
- Developing business.
- Feeling safe.
- Protecting the environment.
- Getting around.

3.2.3 Strategic priorities

The strategic priorities relevant to sport and recreation are as follows:

- To promote healthy lifestyles amongst young people.
- To reduce rural deprivation by increasing access to services.
- To provide support to reduce adult obesity.
- To increase participation in sport, culture and volunteering.

3.2.4 Implications for sport and recreation

The Strategy illustrates how sport and physical activity, can play a core role in delivering some of the key local priorities.

3.3 The Corporate Plan

Uttlesford District Council's 'Corporate Plan 2014 - 2019' (2014) is produced by Uttlesford District Council to guide the council's priorities over the next few years.

3.3.1 Aims

- To remain a low tax council.
- To continue to listen and respond to our communities so we stay focused on the delivery of high quality key services that matter.
- We will have shared the benefits of growth with our communities in a responsible way that protects and enhances our environment.
- To have improved prosperity.

3.3.2 Implications for sport and recreation

The main actions relevant to sport and recreation are as follows:

- Creating a single point of access to services provided by the public and voluntary sectors.
- Developing sustainable communities by protecting and encouraging local facilities.

3.4 The Local Plan

'The Uttlesford Local Plan' (2005) provides a frame of reference for development control in the district. The main policies of relevance to sport and recreation are set out below.

3.4.1 Policy objectives

The policies on leisure and cultural provision have the following objectives:

- To safeguard existing open space within towns and villages for either formal or informal recreation.
- To enable the provision of community facilities in villages, which would accommodate activities central to village life, even where development would not normally be permitted.
- To develop sport and leisure facilities at key sites and enable outdoor recreation in the countryside whilst protecting its character and amenities.

- To improve access to leisure and cultural facilities and to ensure that all leisure and cultural provision is accessible for the benefit of the whole community to ensure social inclusion.

3.4.2 Loss of sport and recreation facilities

Policy LC1 - Loss of sports fields and recreational facilities states that ‘Development will not be permitted if it would involve the loss of sports fields or other open space for recreation. Exceptions may be permitted if either of the following applies:

- Replacement facilities will be provided that better meet local recreational needs.
- The need for the facility no longer exists’.

As there is already a deficiency in the number of playing pitches, policy LC1 is concerned with total or partial loss of playing fields. It applies whether the facilities are still in active use or whether through ownership, for example, this is now prevented. It also applies to development that would prejudice the use of land as playing fields. It is not intended to prevent the provision of facilities such as changing rooms, pavilions and club houses.

- If replacement facilities are proposed they must be at least as good as those lost in terms of location, quantity, quality, and management arrangements.
- Replacement facilities must be made available before development of the existing site begins.
- An assessment of current and future needs will need to be submitted demonstrating that there is an excess of playing fields in a locality and the catchment of the facility, or that the site has no special significance to sport or recreation, if planning permission is to be granted for development.
- The Council intends to work with town and parish councils to provide and/ or improve facilities in the District.
- Extensions or additional facilities at existing sports and leisure centres or school sites with potential for dual school and community use will be permitted outside as well as within settlements.

3.4.3 Access to leisure and cultural facilities

Policy LC2 - Access to Leisure and Cultural Facilities states that ‘All development proposals for leisure and cultural purposes, whether new build, conversion or extension need to be accessible to all, to ensure social inclusion’.

3.4.4 Community facilities

Policy LC3 - Community Facilities states that ‘Community facilities will be permitted on a site outside settlements if all the following criteria are met:

- The need for the facility can be demonstrated.

- The need cannot be met on a site within the boundaries.
- The site is well related to a settlement’.

3.4.5 Outdoor sport and recreation facilities

Policy LC4 - Provision of Outdoor Sport and Recreational Facilities beyond development limits states that ‘The following developments will be permitted:

- Outdoor sports and recreational facilities, including associated buildings such as changing rooms and club-houses.
- Suitable recreational after use of mineral workings’.

3.4.6 Land west of Little Warden Road, Saffron Walden

Policy LC6 - Land West of Little Walden Road Saffron Walden states that ‘A site west of Little Walden Road, Saffron Walden has been identified to provide a community centre and playing fields as part of a mixed development scheme’.

‘Saffron Walden is the focal point for the northern half of the district yet it is deficient in a number of leisure and cultural amenities. It has a longstanding problem of inadequate provision of playing fields and does not meet the National Playing Fields Association standards. A site west of Little Walden Road has been identified to provide a mixed development consisting of a community centre, playing fields and associated car parking. A Master Plan will be prepared in consultation with the Town Council, residents, and local sports clubs to identify the juxtaposition of uses and the type of playing fields needed’.

3.4.7 Implications for sport and recreation

The Local Plan comprises planning policies that are robust in their defence of sport and recreation facilities.

3.5 Sports Facilities Strategies in neighbouring areas

Of the neighbouring local authorities, South Cambridgeshire District Council, North Hertfordshire District Council, Braintree District Council, Chelmsford City Council, Epping Forest District Council and East Hertfordshire District Council have no current sports facilities strategy. However, the following councils do have current assessments and the key findings are as follows:

3.5.1 North Hertfordshire District Council

The council’s ‘*Facilities Strategy for North Hertfordshire 2010 - 2031: Planning for Sport and Active Recreation*’ (2010) contains the following findings of relevance to Uttlesford district:

- **Sports halls** - Levels of provision of sports halls are adequate to meet existing needs, but depending on a range of population variables, an additional 3.5 halls will be needed by 2031.

- **Swimming pools** - There is sufficient spare capacity in existing swimming pool provision to meet all existing and future needs.
- **Health and fitness** - Levels of provision of health and fitness facilities are adequate to meet existing needs, but an additional one to five new facilities will be needed by 2031.
- **Indoor bowls** - Current facilities are operating at full capacity and a further 1.5 to two facilities will be needed by 2031.
- **Indoor tennis** - An additional three courts are required to meet existing needs, plus a further six to nine courts by 2031.
- **Synthetic turf pitches** - Levels of provision of synthetic turf pitches are adequate to meet existing needs, but between none and two new pitches will be needed by 2031.
- **Synthetic athletics tracks** - Current needs are met by the track in Stevenage, although a specialist athletics training facility in Royston, where accessibility is poorest, might be justified. An additional 400m track will be needed in the district by 2031.

3.5.2 Braintree District Council

The *'Braintree Green Spaces Strategy'* (2008) includes an analysis of playing pitch and outdoor sports facilities needs in the district. On the basis of a generic outdoor sports facilities spatial standard of 2.0ha per 1,000 people, there is a geographical shortfall in provision in the western wards of the district neighbouring Uttlesford.

3.5.3 Chelmsford City Council

Chelmsford City Council is currently producing an open space, sport and recreation strategy, but there are no emerging findings available at present.

3.5.4 Epping Forest District Council

The council's *'Open Space, Sport and Recreation Assessment'* (2012) contains the following findings of relevance to Uttlesford district:

- Levels of provision of all forms of indoor and outdoor sports facilities are adequate to meet current needs, but an additional sports hall, 0.7 swimming pools, one synthetic turf pitch, one bowls green, one indoor and seven outdoor tennis courts, two squash courts and two health and fitness facilities will be required by 2033.
- There is a current surplus of adult football and rugby pitches, sufficient to meet all additional needs by 2033. However, there is a current shortfall of nine youth football pitches, ten mini-soccer pitches and four cricket pitches. These deficits will increase by five youth football, three mini-soccer and five cricket pitches by 2033.

3.5.5 East Hertfordshire District Council

The council's *'Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Strategy'* (2010) contains the following findings of relevance to Uttlesford district:

- **Football pitches** - There is deficit of youth football and mini-soccer pitches in the district.
- **Cricket pitches** - There is surplus of cricket pitches.
- **Rugby pitches** - There is deficit of junior and mini-rugby pitches in the areas bordering Uttlesford district.
- **Synthetic turf pitches** - Provision in the district is adequate to meet all current and future needs.
- **Bowling greens** - Provision in the district is adequate to meet current and future needs.
- **Golf courses** - Provision in the district is adequate to meet current and future needs.
- **Tennis courts** - There is some latent demand for additional tennis courts in the district.
- **Athletics tracks** - All athletics track needs are met by the facility in Ware, both currently and in the future.

The council's *'Assessment of Indoor Sports Facilities'* (2011) contains the following findings of relevance to Uttlesford district:

- **Sports halls** - There is a current shortfall of one sports hall in the Hertford area and an additional 2.5 halls will be needed by 2021.
- **Swimming pools** - There is sufficient spare capacity in existing swimming pool provision to meet all existing and future needs.
- **Health and fitness** - Levels of provision of health and fitness facilities are adequate to meet existing needs, but an additional two new facilities will be needed by 2021.
- **Indoor bowls** - There is no current provision in the district and a current need for five to eight rinks, with a further three rinks needed by 2021.
- **Indoor tennis** - Current provision meets existing needs, although a further court may be needed by 2021.
- **Village and community halls** - Current provision meets existing needs, although a further four to seven halls will be needed by 2021.

3.5.6 South Cambridgeshire District Council

South Cambridgeshire District Council is currently producing an open space, sport and recreation strategy jointly with Cambridge City Council, but there are no emerging findings available at present.

3.6 The implications of the local strategic context

High-level policy, as contained in the sustainable communities strategy and corporate plan, is supportive of the role and value of sports facilities in providing opportunities to improve health and well-being.

Planning policy offers strong protection for the retention of sports and recreation facilities.

The sports facilities strategies in neighbouring local authorities suggest that some assessed shortfalls close to the Uttlesford district border might impact on supply and demand within the district, particularly for youth football and mini-soccer pitches.

4 WIDER STRATEGIC INFLUENCES

4.1 Introduction

This section examines the influence of national strategic policies and priorities on sport and recreation facilities provision in Uttlesford district, all of which have been produced since the ‘*Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy*’ document in 2012.

4.2 Central Government

In March 2012, the Government published the ‘*National Planning Policy Framework*’ (2012), setting out its economic, environmental and social planning policies for England. Taken together, these policies articulate the Government’s vision of sustainable development, which should be interpreted and applied locally to meet local aspirations. The policies of greatest relevance to sports facilities provision and retention are as follows:

- **Sustainable development** - ‘The purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. Sustainable development means development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs’.
- **Health and well-being** - ‘Local planning authorities should work with public health leads and health organisations to understand and take account of the health status and needs of the local population, including expected future changes, and any information about relevant barriers to improving health and well-being’.
- **Open space, sports and recreational facilities** - ‘Access to good quality opportunities for sport and recreation can make an important contribution to the health and well-being of communities. The planning system has a role in helping to create an environment where activities are made easier and public health can be improved. Planning policies should identify specific needs and quantitative or qualitative deficits or surpluses of sports and recreational facilities in the local area. The information gained from this assessment of needs and opportunities should be used to set locally derived standards for the provision of sports and recreational facilities’.
- ‘Existing open space, sports and recreational buildings and land should not be built on unless:
 - An assessment has been undertaken which has clearly shown the open space, buildings or land to be surplus to requirements; or
 - The need for and benefits of the development clearly outweigh the loss’.

In March 2014, the Government produced further *National Planning Practice Guidance (NPPG)* to guide local authorities in the plan making and decision-taking process. The guidance provides further advice on health and wellbeing matters and open space provision.

It notes that open space should be taken into account in planning for new development and considering proposals that may affect existing open space (see NPPF paragraphs 73-74). Open space, which includes all open space of public value, can take many forms, from formal sports pitches to open areas within a development, linear corridors and country parks. It can provide health and recreation benefits to people living and working nearby; have an ecological value and contribute to green infrastructure (see NPPF paragraph 114), as well as being an important part of the landscape and setting of built development, and an important component in the achievement of sustainable development (see NPPF paragraphs 6-10). It is for local planning authorities to assess the need for open space and opportunities for new provision in their areas. In carrying out this work, they should have regard to the duty to cooperate where open space serves a wider area.

The guidance refers to Sport England advice on how to carry out assessments and also sets out the circumstances when Sport England should be consulted on development proposals.

4.3 Sport England

4.3.1 Overall policy

The *'Sport England Strategy 2012 - 2017'* (2012) sets out national sports policy objectives for the next five years.

- **Overall aims** - In 2017, five years after the Olympic Games, sport in England will be transformed, so that sport becomes a habit for life for more people and a regular choice for the majority. The strategy will:
 - See more people taking on and keeping a sporting habit for life.
 - Create more opportunities for young people.
 - Nurture and develop talent.
 - Provide the right facilities in the right places.
 - Support local authorities and unlock local funding.
 - Ensure real opportunities for communities.
- Sport England is seeking a year-on-year increase in the proportion of people who play sport once a week for at least 30 minutes. In particular it hopes to raise the percentage of 14-25 year olds playing sport once a week and reduce the proportion dropping out of sport.
- **Anticipated outcomes** - The outcomes with the greatest potential impact on sports facilities use and provision will be as follows:
 - Every one of the 4,000 secondary schools in England, will be offered a community sport club on its site with a direct link to one or more governing body of sport, depending on the local clubs in its area.
 - County sports partnerships will be given new resources to create effective links locally between schools and sport in the community.

- All secondary schools who wish to do so will be supported to open up, or keep open, their sports facilities for local community use and at least a third of these will receive additional funding to make this happen.
- Building on the early success of Places People Play, a further £100m will be invested in facilities for the most popular sports.

4.3.2 Planning policy

Sport England's national policies in relation to planning policies are contained in '*Spatial Planning for Sports and Active Recreation: Development Control Guidance Note*' (2009). Its planning policy objectives are as follows:

- **A planned approach** - To ensure that a planned approach to the provision of facilities and opportunities for sport and recreation is taken by planning authorities in order to meet the needs of the local community. The level of provision should be determined locally, based on local assessments of need and take account of wider than local requirements for strategic or specialist facilities.
- **Protecting existing places for sport** - To prevent the loss of facilities or access to natural resources which are important in terms of sports development. Should redevelopment be unavoidable, an equivalent (or better) replacement facility should be provided in a suitable location.
- **Significant Areas for Sport (SASPs)** - To prevent the loss or partial loss of any identified SASP to other uses unless an equivalent or improved replacement in terms of quantity, quality and accessibility to the original facility or resource is provided.
- **Planning new places for sport** - To support the development of new facilities, the enhancement of existing facilities and the provision and/or improvement of access to the natural environment which will secure opportunities to take part in sport and which can be achieved in a way which meets sustainable development objectives.
- **Providing for sport through new development** - To promote the use of planning obligations as a way of securing the provision of new or enhanced places for sport and a contribution towards their future maintenance, to meet the needs arising from new development.
- **Shared use sites** - To promote the wider use of existing and new sports facilities to serve more than one group of users. Sport England will encourage potential providers to consider opportunities for joint provision and dual use of facilities in appropriate locations.
- **The Urban Fringe** - To promote the urban fringe as an important resource in providing opportunities for sport, and support proposals for improved access for sport, for the development of extensive facilities such as golf courses and pitches, and for built facilities which can be developed in a way which meets sustainable development objectives and which helps to maintain and improve the identity of this resource.

- **The Green Belt** - To promote the development of outdoor sports facilities in the Green Belt including essential ancillary built facilities. In exceptional circumstances Sport England will support the development of indoor or other built facilities associated with outdoor sports, where there is an identified need and no suitable site is available elsewhere in the locality.
- **Floodlighting** - To support the installation of floodlighting of sports facilities where this will lead to a significant increase in opportunities for sport.
- **Golf** - To support the development in appropriate locations of additional facilities for golf which meet an identified need and in particular encourage the provision of ‘pay and play’ facilities.

4.4 Governing bodies of sport

The governing bodies of sport funded by Sport England each produce a ‘*Whole Sport Plan*’ containing their sports development and related facilities priorities for the period 2013 to 2017. The facilities elements of the Whole Sport Plans using facility types included in this assessment are summarised below, to assess their implications for provision in Cotswold district:

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Facilities priorities 2013 - 2017</i>	<i>Implications for Uttlesford</i>
Athletics	<p>A hierarchy of facilities is proposed in UK Athletics ‘<i>Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2019</i>’ (2014) with district and local levels of provision comprising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Club Training Venue - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club with 100+ track and field members. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage. • Compact Athletics Facility - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues. They are designed to fit available spaces and budgets and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the fundamental athletics movement skills. 	Facility provision of this scale offers an attractive means of meeting athletics needs in the district.
Badminton	<p>Badminton England’s ‘<i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i>’ (2012) includes provision for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investing in facilities to underpin the operations of county badminton associations, performance centres and community badminton networks. • Investing in leisure facilities to underpin the ‘<i>Play Badminton</i>’ programme. 	Potential for funding to upgrade sports halls to accommodate additional badminton activity.
Basketball	England Basketball’s ‘ <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> ’ (2012) contains no facilities priorities, but priority areas for club development are focused on major urban areas.	No immediate local opportunities.

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Facilities priorities 2013 - 2017</i>	<i>Implications for Uttlesford</i>
Bowls	The Bowls Development Alliance <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) confirms that efforts will focus on support packages promoting participation amongst the over 55's and disabled participants aged 16+, using the existing clubs network. No capital funding is involved.	Opportunities for clubs to expand their memberships with support packages.
Cricket	The ECB's <i>National Club Strategy</i> (2012) sets out the priorities for developing cricket at club level. This includes an objective to develop accessible, high quality and innovative facilities.	Opportunities for local clubs to improve facilities provision in line with development programmes.
Cycling	British Cycling's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) identifies that funding is available for 32 traffic-free cycle sport facilities and/or off-road cycling facilities in strategically identified areas.	Potential to develop off-road cycling subject to local demand.
Football	The FA's <i>National Facilities Strategy 2013 - 2015</i> contains the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural turf pitch improvement and maintenance. • Development of new '3G' football turf pitches. • Refurbishment of existing synthetic turf pitches. • Provision of suitable changing and toilet facilities. 	Opportunities for local clubs to improve facilities provision in line with development programmes.
Golf	England Golf's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but County Golf Partnerships will promote participation at existing golf courses.	Opportunities for clubs to expand their memberships.
Gymnastics	British Gymnastics' <i>Facility Strategy 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) includes provision for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Locally accessible facilities - Increasing access to facilities and new spaces resulting from local authority and business austerity measures. • Dedicated Facilities - Funding for dedicated gymnastics centres. • Freestyle Equipment - Funding for freestyle gymnastics equipment packs for clubs and other delivery partners. • Trampoline Equipment - Funding for trampolines in clubs or leisure centres. 	Opportunities to create or enhance local gymnastics provision.
Hockey	England Hockey's <i>The Right Pitches in the Right Places</i> (2011) sets out its facilities priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that hockey can achieve adequate access to pitches where it is not the dominant user. • Making sure that pitch resurfacing issues are addressed for older facilities. 	Potential to secure hockey usage at key sites.
Netball	England Netball's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but capital funding is available to develop facilities to support the work of Netball Development Community Coaches, based in areas of high population.	No immediate local opportunities.

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Facilities priorities 2013 - 2017</i>	<i>Implications for Uttlesford</i>
Rugby	The Rugby Football Union's <i>National Facilities Strategy for Rugby Union in England 2013 - 2017</i> (2013) contains the following priorities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the provision of integrated changing facilities that are child friendly and can sustain concurrent male and female activity at the club. • Improve the quality and quantity of natural turf pitches. • Increase the number of Artificial Turf Pitches. • Improve social, community and catering facilities, which can support diversification and the generation of additional revenues. • Invest in facility upgrades which result in an increase in energy-efficiency, in order to reduce the running costs of clubs. 	Opportunities for local clubs to improve facilities provision in line with development programmes.
Squash	England Squash and Racketball's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but capital funding is available to develop facilities in 'Hub and Spoke' areas, which do not include Cotswold district.	No immediate local opportunities.
Swimming	The Amateur Swimming Association's <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2012) has no facilities priorities, but proposals to establish 'Local Aquatic Networks' comprising a 'local area partnership bringing together relevant partners to maximise the amount of usable water space in an area based by producing an 'Aquatic Improvement Plan'.	There is potential to optimise and rationalise the use of local pools through co-ordinated programming.
Table tennis	No facilities priorities, but small grants are available to provide an equipment package to allow community organisations to deliver non-traditional participation opportunities.	Equipment packages may enhance local participation opportunities.
Tennis	Facilities investment will support the delivery of the tennis programmes, largely focused in priority areas to address gaps or improve provision where critical to park or community programmes	No immediate local opportunities.

4.5 Essex Sports Facilities Strategy

The *Essex Sports Facilities Strategy 2007 - 2020* (2008) was produced by Active Essex, the County Sports Partnership and identifies sports facilities needs in the county:

4.5.1 Purpose

The Strategy should be 'used by local authorities and key partners to help inform the level and nature of provision that is required. Critically, it should also assist in planning for provision cross boundary'.

4.5.2 Facilities hierarchy

A hierarchy of provision is proposed:

- **Sub-regional facilities** - Facilities that serve the whole county.
- **District facilities** - Facilities that serve a whole district, but whose catchment may also cover part of another district.
- **Local/neighbourhood facilities** - Facilities that serve the rural areas and specific urban areas. As a minimum, all villages should have access to an indoor facility within the village that can cater for recreational activities in which different age groups can participate. All persons living in rural areas should be no further than 20 minutes drive time from a larger leisure facility and swimming pool open to the community. In urban areas, all persons should be within 20 minutes walking time of a larger leisure centre and a swimming pool open to the community.

4.5.3 Community access

Sport England's Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) estimates that the supply of sports halls, swimming pools and health and fitness facilities exceeds demand in the county, although around half of the facilities have limited access for community 'pay and play' usage.

4.5.4 Deficiencies in Uttlesford

Consultation with the governing bodies of sport identified the following facilities needs in Uttlesford and/or north Essex:

<i>Governing body</i>	<i>Identified deficiency</i>
UK Athletics	A need for athletics facilities in Uttlesford, possibly a 150m 'J' track, rather than a full 400m facility.
Badminton England	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• A permanent training/competition venue in north Essex.• All new community centres/village halls should include 1-2 badminton courts with correct hall height, lighting and court dimensions.
Amateur Rowing Association	Rowing facilities are required in the Uttlesford to Thurrock corridor.

4.6 Summary of the implications for facilities in Uttlesford

Central Government planning policy is supportive of undertaking local assessments of need and the protection of sport and recreation facilities, which provides helpful context for local planning policies in Uttlesford.

Sport England's target to increase participation rates year-on-year will drive up demand for facilities if it is achieved. The emphasis on developing and funding school-community club links will increase the scope for improving the dual use of education sports facilities. Its planning policies also provide a useful framework to inform the development of local planning policy.

A number of governing bodies of sport have identified facilities objectives that could impact upon provision in Uttlesford

5 LOCAL SPORTS FACILITIES DEMAND

5.1 Introduction

This section analyses the demand for sport and recreation facilities in Uttlesford, based upon a review of material from the 2012 strategy, updated where new data has since emerged.

5.2 Local sports participation trends

5.2.1 The 'Active People' Survey

The 'Active People' survey was commissioned by Sport England. The survey is the largest study of patterns of adult (people aged 16 and over) involvement in sport and physical activity ever undertaken and involved telephone interviews with a representative sample of between 500 and 1,000 residents of each local authority district in the country. Eight surveys have been undertaken to date, which has enabled trends to be tracked over a nine year period. The following Key Performance Indicators (KPI's) are measured and the results for each are tabulated below:

- **Overall participation** - This is defined as 'taking part on at least one day a week in moderate intensity sport and active recreation (at least four days in the last four weeks) for at least 30 minutes continuously in any one session'.
- **Volunteering** - This is defined as 'volunteering to support sport for at least one hour a week'.
- **Club membership** - This is defined as 'being a member of a club particularly so that you can participate in sport or recreational activity in the last four weeks'.
- **Receiving tuition** - This is defined as 'having received tuition from an instructor or coach to improve your performance in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'.
- **Organised Competition** - This is defined as 'having taken part in any organised competition in any sport or recreational activity in the last twelve months'.
- **Organised sport** - This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who have done at least one of receiving tuition in the last twelve months and/or taken part in organised competition in the last twelve months and/or been a member of a club to play sport'.
- **Satisfaction** - This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who are very or fairly satisfied with sports provision in their local area'.
- **Participation in individual sports** - This is defined as 'the percentage of adults who have participated at least once in a sport in the preceding four weeks'.

5.2.2 Overall participation

Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity (at least one session of 30 minutes of moderate intensity exercise per week) show that participation rates in Uttlesford have been consistently well above the regional and national averages over the assessment period:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>
Uttlesford	39.3%	39.8%	42.8%	36.7%	39.2%	38.9%	43.7%	42.9%
East	34.8%	36.5%	35.6%	34.9%	34.7%	36.0%	35.1%	35.3%
England	34.2%	35.8%	35.7%	35.3%	34.8%	36.0%	35.7%	35.5%

5.2.3 Volunteering

Rates of volunteer support for sport in Uttlesford have fluctuated during the survey period but have generally been well above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Uttlesford	8.3%	6.8%	5.6%	5.5%	8.5%	10.8%
East	4.9%	5.4%	4.8%	8.0%	7.4%	6.8%
England	5.4%	4.9%	4.7%	4.5%	7.2%	6.0%

5.2.4 Sports club membership

Rates of sports club membership in Uttlesford have fluctuated during the survey period and are currently well above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Uttlesford	28.4%	30.4%	31.4%	27.5%	23.7%	23.5%	28.1%
East	26.2%	25.4%	25.5%	24.3%	23.6%	23.7%	22.2%
England	25.1%	24.7%	24.1%	23.9%	23.3%	22.8%	21.0%

5.2.5 Sports coaching/tuition

The proportion of adults in Uttlesford who received sports coaching or tuition in the previous 12 months has decreased during the survey period, in line with national, but not regional trends, but still remains well above the national average:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Uttlesford	24.4%	22.7%	24.9%	22.8%	23.9%	18.4%	22.1%
East	19.0%	19.1%	18.3%	18.3%	23.6%	23.7%	22.2%
England	18.0%	18.1%	17.5%	17.5%	16.2%	16.8%	15.8%

5.2.6 Organised competition

The proportion of adults in Uttlesford who took part in organised sports competitions in the previous 12 months has fluctuated during the survey period but is currently substantially higher than the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Uttlesford	19.4%	17.6%	22.3%	15.5%	14.6%	16.4%	19.1%
East	16.0%	15.5%	14.7%	15.3%	14.5%	15.1%	13.6%
England	16.0%	15.7%	14.7%	14.4%	14.3%	14.4%	11.2%

5.2.7 Satisfaction

In line with national and regional trends, the proportion of adults in Uttlesford who are satisfied with local sports provision has fallen during the survey periods when this element was included, but currently stands above the regional and national averages:

<i>Area</i>	<i>2005/6</i>	<i>2007/8</i>	<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2012/13</i>
Uttlesford	68.8%	69.1%	73.0%	68.6%	64.7%
East	71.0%	68.2%	69.7%	70.2%	62.5%
England	69.5%	66.6%	68.4%	69.0%	60.3%

5.2.8 Participation in individual sports

The top five sports in which survey respondents from Uttlesford participated in the four weeks prior to the 2012/13 survey are listed below, along with the respective regional and national figures:

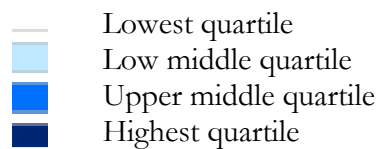
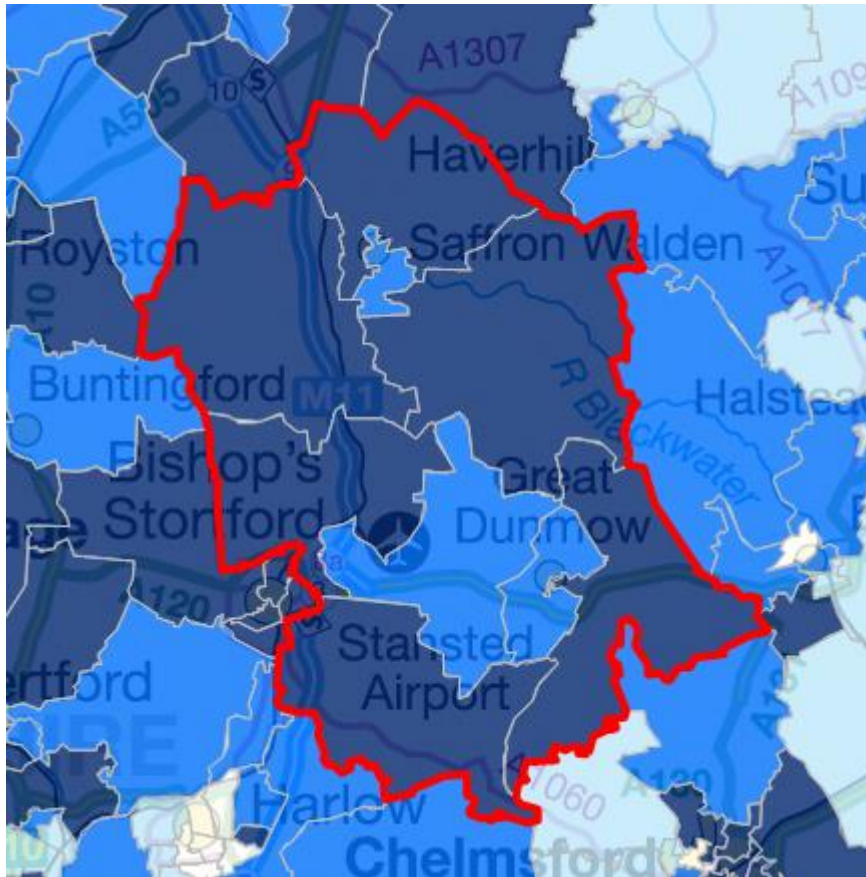
<i>Sport</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>England</i>
Health and fitness	12.5%	10.1%	10.9%
Cycling	11.9%	8.4%	8.1%
Swimming	10.7%	11.1%	11.5%
Running	8.2%	6.2%	6.5%
Football	5.8%	5.8%	6.3%

5.2.9 Participation by Middle Super Output Area

Sport England's 'Active People Interactive' tool enables local participation data to be mapped, to give a more detailed picture of participation rates at Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) level (equating to populations between 5,000 and 7,200 people).

The map below shows the MSOAs covering Uttlesford and its surrounds and it reveals that whilst participation rates within the main towns are in the upper middle quartiles nationally, the surrounding rural catchments that they serve have localised participation rates that are in the highest quartile.

Given that the rates for the district as a whole are well into the upper quartile in national terms, this highlights the localised variations that emerge as a result of demographic differences.



5.3 Market segmentation data

5.3.1 Introduction

Sport England has undertaken an analysis of 19 adult sporting market segments, to better understand more specific motivations for sports participation and barriers to doing more sport and physical activity. This data provides a useful way of anticipating demand for individual types of activity, based upon the extent to which each segment is over or under represented in the local population.

5.3.2 Market segmentation in Uttlesford

The proportion of the population of Uttlesford in each market segment is tabulated below, with the South-west and national figures for comparison:

<i>Market segment</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>England</i>
Competitive male urbanites	7.6%	5.3%	4.9%
Sports team drinkers	1.7%	4.0%	5.4%
Fitness class friends	8.9%	5.3%	4.7%

<i>Market segment</i>	<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>East</i>	<i>England</i>
Supportive singles	1.4%	3.2%	4.3%
Career focused females	7.2%	5.0%	4.5%
Settling down males	15.0%	10.5%	8.8%
Stay at home mums	6.9%	5.4%	4.4%
Middle England mums	3.1%	4.8%	4.9%
Pub league team mates	1.2%	4.1%	5.9%
Stretched single mums	0.9%	2.9%	3.7%
Comfortable mid-life males	10.9%	9.6%	8.6%
Empty nest career ladies	8.9%	6.8%	6.1%
Early retirement couples	6.8%	8.2%	6.8%
Older working women	1.1%	3.2%	4.9%
Local 'old boys'	1.1%	2.9%	3.7%
Later life ladies	0.7%	1.6%	2.1%
Comfortable retired couples	9.4%	5.1%	4.2%
Twilight years gents	2.3%	4.3%	4.0%
Retirement home singles	4.8%	7.9%	8.0%

5.3.3 'Dominant' market segments

Sport England classifies all market segments with more than 7% of the adult population as 'dominant' and their sporting preferences therefore have particular significance for facilities demand in the area. In Uttlesford, the following market segments are dominant and their characteristics and sports preferences are tabulated below:

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Competitive male urbanites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18-25 • Single • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No children • Social class ABC1 • 40% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 19% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rugby • Cricket • Squash • Climbing • Windsurfing • Gym • Tennis • Football
Fitness class friends	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 18-35 • Single • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No children • Social class ABC1 • 28% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 34% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Body combat • Netball • Swimming • Pilates • Gym • Running • Tennis • Aqua aerobics

<i>Segment name</i>	<i>Characteristics</i>	<i>Sports that appeal</i>
Settling down males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 26-45 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 32% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 27% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canoeing • Skiing • Cricket • Golf • Cycling • Squash • Football
Comfortable mid-life males	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 36-65 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • 50% have children • Social class ABC1 • 26% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 39% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sailing • Gym • Football • Jogging • Badminton • Golf • Cycling • Cricket
Empty nest career ladies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 46-55 • Married • Owner-occupied • Employed full-time • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 25% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 44% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swimming • Yoga • Walking • Horse riding • Aqua aerobics • Pilates • Step machine • Gym
Comfortable retired couples	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Age 65+ • Married • Owner occupied • Retired • No dependent children • Social class ABC1 • 14% do 3x30 minutes exercise per week • 70% do no exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bowls • Snooker • Golf • Walking • Tennis • Fishing • Table tennis • Swimming

5.3.4 The impact on demand

The dominant segments in Uttlesford are likely to inflate local demand for swimming, cycling, playing pitches, golf and health and fitness facilities.

5.4 Past surveys

An extensive programme of research into sport and physical activity needs for sport and recreation facilities was undertaken as part of the 'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy' document in 2012:

- **Citizens' panel** - A 2010 citizens' panel survey on open spaces (including indoor and outdoor sports facilities) was reviewed.

- **Local sports clubs** - A 2010 survey of local sports clubs for all indoor and outdoor sports was reviewed.
- **Governing bodies of sport** - A 2011 e-mail survey of governing bodies of sport was undertaken as part of the study.
- **Local pitch sports clubs** - A 2011 e-mail survey of local pitch sports clubs was undertaken as part of the study.
- **Local schools** - A 2011 e-mail survey of local schools was undertaken as part of the study.
- **Local leisure centre users** - A 2011 questionnaire survey of leisure centre users was undertaken as part of the study.

5.5 Key findings from past surveys

The key findings in relation to local sport and recreation facilities provision were as follows:

- The Citizen's Panel survey revealed that a significant proportion of the respondents feel that there are too few of several types of sports facility locally, in particular swimming pools, indoor and outdoor tennis courts, synthetic turf pitches and grass pitches.
- The Council's 2010 survey of local sports clubs revealed high levels of satisfaction with local sports facilities, with 71.4% of respondents saying that their needs are fully met. Conversely, 50% of respondents believe that there are too few synthetic turf pitches locally.
- Most of the governing bodies of sport have no policies or strategic priorities relating to facility provision in the Uttlesford area, although swimming and football have identified some deficiencies.
- Respondents to the pitch sports clubs survey were generally critical of the quality of pitch provision in Uttlesford.
- Schools are already major providers of sports facilities with community use in Uttlesford and several who do not currently offer external access to their facilities would consider doing so in the future.
- The leisure centre users survey showed patterns of very regular (weekly or more frequently) by facility users. As with some other local surveys, local levels of provision for swimming and tennis courts were judged to be insufficient.

5.6 Current surveys

Additional surveys were conducted in conjunction with the current Strategy, with the assistance of Active Uttlesford and the Saffron Walden Organisation for Sport:

- **Local sports clubs** - An electronic survey of all known local sports club contacts.
- **Local schools** - An electronic survey of all local schools.

5.6.1 Sports clubs survey

18 responses were received, involving clubs covering athletics, canoeing, cricket, golf, fitness training, football, hockey, martial arts, netball, rugby, swimming and triathlon. The key findings were as follows:

- **Membership trends** - 83.33% of responding clubs reported an increase in membership over the past three years, averaging 28% growth across all age groups. The largest increases by age group are for female participants, up by 80% for mini-age group girls in those clubs that provide for them, up 32% for junior women, up 28% for adult women and up 7% for veteran women. In total an additional 2,825 members joined the 18 responding clubs over the past three years.
- **Sports development** - 50% of respondents have a written development plan and a further 20% are currently in the process of producing one. 70% of respondents have the quality assured Club Mark accreditation.
- **Problem issues** - The following issues were identified as current problems for clubs:

<i>Problem</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Lack of appropriate local facilities	90.0%
Lack of external funding (grants etc.)	77.8%
Access difficulties for members (e.g. lack of public transport)	66.7%
Lack of information about local facilities/services	50.0%
Shortage of volunteer help	33.3%
Membership recruitment/retention	22.2%
Lack of internal funding (subs etc.)	22.2%
Limited links/co-operation with other local clubs	11.1%

- **Future plans** - The following were identified as future plans:

<i>Development</i>	<i>Percentage</i>
Expand the range of facilities provided	87.5%
Sharing facilities with another club	87.5%
Increase the number of members	77.8%
Relocation to different premises	50.0%
Refurbish existing facilities	38.5%
None	0.0%

- **Opinions on local levels of facility provision** - These were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Too many (%)</i>	<i>About right (%)</i>	<i>Too few (%)</i>	<i>No opinion (%)</i>
Sports halls	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%	0.0%
Swimming pools	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%	0.0%
Athletics tracks	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
Health and fitness	14.3%	71.4%	14.3%	0.0%
Indoor tennis	0.0%	0.0%	50.0%	50.0%
Outdoor tennis	0.0%	42.9%	21.4%	35.7%

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Too many (%)</i>	<i>About right (%)</i>	<i>Too few (%)</i>	<i>No opinion (%)</i>
Indoor bowls	0.0%	21.4%	7.1%	71.4%
Outdoor bowls	0.0%	28.6%	0.0%	71.4%
Squash courts	0.0%	50.0%	21.4%	28.6%
Netball courts	0.0%	21.4%	35.7%	42.9%
Village/community halls	0.0%	71.4%	7.1%	21.4%
Grass pitches	0.0%	21.4%	64.3%	14.3%
Synthetic turf pitches	0.0%	14.3%	64.3%	21.4%

5.6.2 Schools survey

9 schools responded to the electronic survey. The key findings were as follows:

- **Sports facilities needs** - 66.7% of responding schools reported that their existing facilities meet all their curricular and extra-curricular sports needs, whilst a further 4.7% are able to access appropriate off-site sports facilities (principally swimming pools).
- **Unmet sports facilities needs** - 28.6% of respondents are unable to meet all their current sports facilities needs by on-site or off-site provision at present. The needs principally relate to larger halls and all-weather pitch provision.
- **Current community use** - 85.7% of respondents currently make their sports facilities available for community use. This primarily involves use of a hall and/or grass pitches. In 14.8% of cases, usage is regulated by a formal Community Use Agreement, in 28.1% of cases by an annual booking arrangement, 57.1% by a termly booking arrangement.
- **Future community use** - 85.7% of respondents would be prepared to increase community usage in the future. For those that would not, the reasons cited included a lack of local demand, an absence of staff to supervise the arrangement, access difficulties and cost recovery issues.

5.7 Key findings from current surveys

The key findings in relation to local sport and recreation facilities provision were as follows:

- Local sports clubs are very successful at attracting new members, with 28% overall growth amongst responding clubs over the past three years. Female membership has grown most rapidly of all.
- A shortage of local facilities is identified as problematic by 90% of clubs. As a result, 87.5% of respondents have active plans for additional facility provision. All respondents to the clubs survey believe that there are too few athletics facilities locally.
- More than one quarter of schools are unable to meet all their curricular and extra-curricular sports needs at present, due to a shortage of local facilities.
- Most schools make their sports facilities available for community use, but in the majority of cases, such usage is not regulated by a formal Community Use Agreement and therefore in practice it could be rescinded at any time.

5.8 Local sports clubs

A summary of club-based sport and recreation activity in Uttlesford is set out below:

5.8.1 Athletics

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Striders Uttlesford Harriers	Lord Butler Leisure Centre
Great Dunmow	Grange Farm & Dunmow Runners (Dunmow) Grange Farm & Dunmow Runners (Felsted)	The Causeway, Great Dunmow Felsted Fitness
Stansted	None	None

5.8.2 Badminton

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Abbey Lane and Newport Badminton Club Bad Girls Badminton Club Court One Badminton Club Newport Badminton Club Sampfords Badminton Club	Abbey Lane Church Hall Lord Butler Leisure Centre Lord Butler Leisure Centre Lord Butler Leisure Centre Lord Butler Leisure Centre
<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Great Dunmow	Dunmow Badminton Club Maltings Badminton Club Thaxted Badminton Club	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre Great Dunmow Leisure Centre Bolford Street Hall, Thaxted
Stansted	Mountfitchet Badminton Club	Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre

5.8.3 Basketball

The only club in the district is Saffron Walden Basketball Club, based at the Lord Butler Leisure Centre.

5.8.4 Bowls

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Clavering Bowls Club Great Chesterford Bowls Club Quendon Bowls Club Radwinter Bowls Club Saffron Walden Town Bowls Club	Clavering Bowls Club Great Chesterford Bowls Club Quendon Bowls Club Radwinter Bowls Club Saffron Walden Town Bowls Club
Great Dunmow	Dunmow Bowls Club Stebbing Bowls Club Thaxted Bowls Club	Dunmow Bowls Club Stebbing Bowls Club Thaxted Bowls Club
Stansted	Birchanger Bowls Club Elsenham Bowls Club Stansted Bowls Club	Birchanger Bowls Club Elsenham Bowls Club Stansted Bowls Club

5.8.5 Cricket

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Ashdon CC (2 adult teams) Audley End & Littlebury CC (2 adult teams) Chesterfords CC (2 adult teams) Clavering CC (1 adult team) Elmdon CC (3 adult teams) Langley CC (1 adult team) Newport CC (3 adult/1 junior teams) Radwinter CC (1 adult team) Rickling Ramblers CC (2 adult teams) Saffron Walden CC (6 adult/19 junior teams) Sampfords CC (1 adult team) Wenden CC (1 adult team)	Walton's Park, Ashdon Audley End House Great Chesterford Recreation Ground Hill Green, Clavering Pilgrim's Hill, Elmdon Langley Upper Green Newport Recreation Ground Radwinter Recreation Ground Rickling Green Anglo-American Playing Field County High Sports Centre Friends School Wenden's Ambo Playing Field High Street, Great Sampford Wenden's Ambo Playing Field
Great Dunmow	Aythorpe Roding CC (5 adult/2 junior teams) Clogham's Green CC (2 adult teams) Dunmow CC (4 adult/5 junior teams) Eastons CC (1 adult team) High Easter CC (1 adult team) High Roding CC (4 adult/5 junior teams) Lindsell CC (1 adult team) Little Bardfield Village CC (2 adult teams) Molehill Green CC (2 adult teams) Stebbing CC (1 adult team) Thaxted CC (4 adult/3 junior teams) White Roding CC (2 adult teams)	Roundbush Green Clogham's Green, Leaden Roding St. Edmunds Lane, Dunmow Little Easton Recreation Ground The Street, High Easter Rands Road, High Roding Gallows Green, Lindsell Churchend, Little Bardfield School Lane, Molehill Green Stebbing Recreation Ground Bardfield End Green, Thaxted White Roding Sports Club
Stansted	Birchanger CC (2 adult teams) Hatfield Broad Oak CC (1 adult team) Hatfield Heath CC (2 adult teams) Hockerill CC (7 adult/3 junior teams) Little Hallingbury CC (2 adult teams) Stansted CC (3 adult/2 junior teams) Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC (4 adult/6 junior) Takeley CC (1 adult/junior teams)	Birchanger Social Club Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club The Heath, Hatfield Heath Beldham's Lane, Hockerill Gaston Green, Little Hallingbury Hargrave Park, Stansted Henham Road, Elsenham Stansted House Parsonage Road, Takeley

5.8.6 Cycling

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Newdales Cycles RT Walden Junior Cycling Club Walden Velo Club	Various
Great Dunmow	GS Vecchi	Various
Stansted	Eagle Road Club Victoria Cycling Club	Various

5.8.7 Football

Information on local football activity was provided by the Essex FA in its *'Football Participation Report for Uttlesford 2013/14'* (2013) which contains the following material of note:

- **Football conversion rates** - The FA calculated the following Football Conversion Rates, to compare the number of people playing football with the local population in each age group, to produce a percentage of each age group that plays football.

<i>Age group</i>	<i>Uttlesford (%)</i>	<i>East (%)</i>	<i>England (%)</i>
Adult male (ages 17 - 44)	6.4%	6.4%	4.7%
Adult female (ages 17 - 44)	0.1%	0.3%	0.3%
Youth male (ages 10 - 16)	23.2%	22.8%	18.7%
Youth female (ages 10 - 16)	0.3%	2.0%	1.8%
Mini-soccer (ages 5 - 9)	10.7%	12.8%	10.1%
TOTAL	6.0%	6.0%	4.9%

The overall football participation rate in Uttlesford is the same as the regional, but well above the national, average. Of the 45 clubs in Uttlesford, 13 (28.9%) have achieved the FA's quality assured Charter Standard (compared with 27.0% nationally). 87.7% of youth and mini-soccer teams are part of a Charter Standard club, compared with a national average of 81.1%.

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Ashdon Villa FC (1 adult team) Debden FC (1 adult team) Great Chesterford Youth FC (1 mini team) Newport FC (3 adult teams) Plantation Youth FC (8 youth/9 mini teams) Radwinter FC (1 adult team) Saffron Crocus FC (2 adult teams) Saffron Dynamos FC (1 adult team) Saffron Hawks Youth FC (1 adult team) Saffron Rangers FC (1 adult team) Saffron Walden Town FC (3 adult teams) Saffron Walden Town YFC (6 youth/2 mini) Sharp One FC (1 adult) Spartak 78 FC (1 adult) Spartak 78 Youth FC (10 youth/6 mini teams) Walden Ladies FC (1 adult team) Walden Wanderers Youth FC (1 youth team)	Bartlow Road, Ashdon Debden Recreation Ground Chesterford Recreation Ground Newport Recreation Ground Herbert Farm Playing Fields Radwinter Recreation Ground <i>Ickleton Village Hall Ground</i> Carver Barracks Saffron Walden Common <i>Linton Village College</i> Caton's Lane Quendon Recreation Ground Caton's Lane Dame Bradbury School Jubilee Field, Clavering Herbert Farm Playing Field Herbert Farm Playing Field Caton's Lane Wimbish Recreation Ground Wimbish Recreation Ground

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Great Dunmow	Barnston FC (3 adult/1 youth teams) Beaumont Wanderers FC (1 adult team) Dunmow Rhodes FC (2 adult teams) Dunmow Rhodes YFC (9 youth/10 mini teams) Dunmow United YFC (5 youth/6 mini teams) Dunmow Vets FC (1 adult team) Felsted Rovers FC (2 adult teams) Fritch United FC (2 adult teams) Fritch Youth FC (3 youth teams) Roundbush Green FC (2 adult teams) Thaxted Rangers Youth FC (2 adult/5 youth/2 mini) White Roding Sports FC (4 adult teams)	High Easter Road, Barnston High Easter Playing Field Dunmow Recreation Ground Dunmow Recreation Ground Laundry Lane, Little Easton Dunmow Recreation Ground Felsted Playing Field Alcott Playing Field Alcott Playing Field Roundbush Green Recreation Ground Thaxted Recreation Ground White Roding Sports Club
Stansted	Abacus Athletic FC (1 adult team) Bentfields FC (1 adult team) Birchanger Social Club (2 adult teams) Brewer FC (1 adult team) Elsenham Youth FC (6 youth/2 mini teams) Hatfield Broad Oak FC (2 veterans teams) Hatfield Heath FC (3 adult teams) Littlebury FC (1 adult team) Lower Street FC (1 adult/1 youth team) Manuden Junior FC (5 youth/1 mini teams) Manuden United FC (2 adult teams) Stansted FC (2 adult teams) Takeley FC (2 adult teams) Takeley Youth FC (3 youth teams)	<i>Grange Paddocks</i> Bentfield Green Playing Field Birchanger Social Club Mill Road, Takeley Elsenham Playing Fields Hatfield Broad Oak Social Club Calves Pasture Littlebury Recreation Ground The Old Mill Playing Field Manuden Playing Field Manuden Playing Field Hargrave Park Station Road, Takeley Station Road, Takeley

5.8.8 Golf

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Golf Club	Saffron Walden Golf Club
Great Dunmow	None	None
Stansted	Elsenham Golf and Leisure Centre	Elsenham Golf and Leisure Centre

5.8.9 Gymnastics

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Dynamics Gymnastics Club	Lord Butler Leisure Centre
Great Dunmow	Fit 4 Fun Gymnastics Club	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre
Stansted	None	None

5.8.10 Hockey

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Hockey Club (8 men's teams/7 women's teams/9 junior teams).	Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport
Great Dunmow	Blue Hornets Felsted Hockey Club (9 junior teams)	Felsted School
Stansted	None	None

5.8.11 Judo

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Judo Club	Dame Bradbury School
Great Dunmow	West Essex Judo Club	Stebbing Village Hall
Stansted	None	None

5.8.12 Karate

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Shotokan Karate Club	County High School
Great Dunmow	Dunmow Kyoushinkai Karate Club Dunmow Shotokan Karate Club	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre Great Dunmow Leisure Centre
Stansted	Shotokan Karate Ryu	Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre

5.8.13 Netball

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Netball Club Saffron Hawks Netball Club	Dame Bradbury School Lord Butler Leisure Centre
Great Dunmow	Dunmow Crests Netball Club Dunmow Junior Netball Club Great Dunmow Netball Club Thaxted Netball Club	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre Great Dunmow Leisure Centre Great Dunmow Leisure Centre Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport
Stansted	Stansted Corkers Netball Club Stansted Sparks Netball Club	Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre <i>Leventhorpe Leisure Centre</i>

5.8.14 Rugby

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Rugby Club (3 adult men's /1 adult women's/8 junior/6 mini teams) Wenden's Ambo Rugby Club (1 adult men's/7 mini teams)	Springate, Henham Carver Barracks
Great Dunmow	None	None
Stansted	None	None

5.8.15 Skateboarding and related sports

The Saffron Walden Skate Group is based at the One Minet Skatepark site, adjacent to the Lord Butler Leisure Centre. It accommodates skateboarding, blading, BMX, scootering and Parkour and currently has 838 members of all ages.

5.8.16 Squash and Racketball

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Squash Club	Lord Butler Leisure Centre
Great Dunmow	None	None
Stansted	None	None

5.8.17 Sub-aqua

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Walden Sub-aqua Club	Lord Butler Leisure Centre Friends School Pool
Great Dunmow	None	None
Stansted	None	None

5.8.18 Swimming

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Saffron Seals Swimming Club	Friends School Pool
Great Dunmow	Dunmow Atlantis Swimming Club Dolphin Senior Swim Club	Great Dunmow Leisure Centre Felsted School Pool Great Dunmow Leisure Centre
Stansted	None	None

5.8.19 Table tennis

No formal club activity

5.8.20 Tennis

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Castle Hill Tennis Club Clavering Jubilee Tennis Club Debden Tennis Club Grove (Saffron Walden) Tennis Club Newport Village Tennis Club The Sampfords Tennis Club	Castle Hill Tennis Club Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering Debden recreation Ground Grove (Saffron Walden) Tennis Club Newport Village Tennis Club Baptist Church Field, Great Sampford
Great Dunmow	Dunmow Tennis Club Stebbing Tennis Club Thaxted Tennis Club	Dunmow Tennis Club Stebbing Tennis Club Thaxted Tennis Club
Stansted	Elsenham Tennis Club Henham Tennis Club Stansted Tennis Club	Elsenham Tennis Club Henham Tennis Club Stansted Tennis Club

5.8.21 Triathlon

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Local clubs</i>	<i>Facilities used</i>
Saffron Walden	Walden Tri	Various
Great Dunmow	Dunmow Triathlon Club	Various
Stansted	None	None

5.8.22 Volleyball

No formal club activity

5.9 Summary of sports facilities demand in Uttlesford

The main features of sports facilities demand in Uttlesford are as follows:

- **Participation rates** - Overall rates of regular adult participation in sport and physical activity measured by the 'Active People' survey show that participation rates in Uttlesford are substantially above the regional and national averages.
- **Club membership** - Local rates of volunteering, sports club membership and participation in formal competitive activity are also well above the national and regional averages, as measured by the 'Active People' survey.
- **Market segmentation** - The dominant segments in Uttlesford are likely to inflate local demand for swimming, cycling, playing pitches, golf and health and fitness facilities.
- **Club-based participation** - The survey of local sports clubs conducted as part of this study identified an increase in membership over the past three years, averaging 28% growth across all age groups. The largest increases by age group are for female participant. In total an additional 2,825 members joined the 18 responding clubs over the past three years.
- **Facility availability** - 90% of clubs responding to the survey believe that existing facility provision locally is inadequate to meet their needs.

6 LOCAL SPORTS FACILITIES SUPPLY

6.1 Introduction

This section analyses the supply of sports facilities in Uttlesford. It is based upon the material in the 'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy' document, with updates to reflect changes in provision since 2012.

6.2 Sports halls

6.2.1 Quantity

Sports halls are defined as community accessible indoor halls with multi-sport markings and minimum dimensions equivalent to three badminton courts. The following facilities are the same as those noted in the 2012 strategy.

<i>Sports hall</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
County High Sports Centre	Audley End Road, Saffron Walden CB11 4UH	33m x 18m
Friends School	Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EB	33m x 18m
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EG	33m x 18m
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Parsonage Downs, Dunmow CM6 2AT	33m x 18m
Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	Forest Hall Road, Stansted CM24 8TZ	33m x 18m
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport	Cambridge Road, Newport CB11 3TR	33m x 18m

6.2.2 Sub-area analysis

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Sports halls</i>	<i>Sports halls per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	4	1: 7,893
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	1	1: 29,326
Stansted and district	18,645	1	1: 18,645
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1: 13,241</i>

6.2.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Sports Halls</i>	<i>Sports halls per capita</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1: 13,241</i>	<i>1: 3,310</i>
North Hertfordshire	9	1: 13,856	1: 3,370
East Hertfordshire	7	1: 19,586	1: 3,917
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>1: 21,654</i>	<i>1: 4,967</i>
Braintree	6	1: 23,783	1: 4,921
Chelmsford	7	1: 23,971	1: 5,413
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 36,125	1: 9,031

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Sports Halls</i>	<i>Sports halls per capita</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Mid-Sussex	15	1: 8,773	1: 1,755
Cotswold	9	1: 9,277	1: 2,141
South Oxfordshire	14	1: 9,329	1: 2,252
East Hampshire	11	1: 10,173	1: 2,238
Winchester	11	1: 10,300	1: 2,312
Test Valley	11	1: 10,309	1: 2,181
West Oxfordshire	9	1: 11,389	1: 2,847
Vale of White Horse	10	1: 11,870	1: 2,580
Harborough	7	1: 11,914	1: 2,780
Sevenoaks	9	1: 12,578	1: 2,695
Uttlesford	6	1: 13,241	1: 3,310
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>8.8</i>	<i>1: 13,897</i>	<i>1: 3,198</i>
Horsham	9	1: 14,422	1: 3,090
Stratford-on-Avon	8	1: 14,863	1: 3,303
Hambleton	5	1: 17,460	1: 3,968
Maldon	3	1: 20,967	1: 4,838
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 36,125	1: 9,031

6.2.4 Quality

The quality of sports hall provision was assessed in the ‘Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy’ (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’, 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The scores for sports halls were as follows:

<i>Sports hall</i>	<i>Playing area</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled access</i>	<i>Maintenance /Cleanliness</i>	<i>Parking/ access</i>
County High Sports Centre	5	5	5	5	4
Friends School	5	4	5	5	5
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	5
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	4	4	5	4	5
Mountfitchet Romeera LC	5	5	5	5	4
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport	5	4	4	5	4

6.2.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of sports halls in Uttlesford in relation to 15 minute drive time catchments indicates that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest sports hall, with the exception of the southern and north-easternmost fringes of the area, which are served by facilities in Bishop’s Stortford and Haverhill.

6.2.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are six community accessible sports halls in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 13,241 people. Per capita levels of provision vary widely between sub-areas, with Saffron Walden having around four times better provision per capita than the Dunmow sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of sports hall provision in Uttlesford are the best of its geographical neighbours and above the mean for the demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest sports hall.

6.3 Swimming pools

6.3.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, indoor swimming pools are defined as main pools with minimum length of 20 metres, although smaller teaching and diving pools are included in the assessment where they are integral to a facility with a main pool. The following facilities are the same as those noted in the 2012 strategy.

<i>Swimming pool</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Dimensions</i>
Friends School	Mount Pleasant Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EB	20m x 10m
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Parsonage Downs, Dunmow CM6 2AT	25m x 13m
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EG	25m x 10.5m 12m x 10m

6.3.2 Sub-area analysis

The distribution of both swimming pools and the overall water space they contain in each sub-area is detailed below:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pools</i>	<i>Pools per capita</i>	<i>Sq.m water space</i>	<i>Sq.m per 1,000</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	2	1: 10,524	582.5 Sq.m	18.45 Sq.m
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	1	1: 29,326	325.0 Sq.m	11.08 Sq.m
Stansted and district	18,645	0	-	-	-
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>1: 26,481</i>	<i>907.5 Sq.m</i>	<i>11.42 Sq.m</i>

6.3.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Pools</i>	<i>Pools per capita</i>	<i>Water space</i>	<i>Sq.m. per 1,000 people</i>
North Hertfordshire	5	1: 24,940	1,989sq.m.	15.95sq.m.
Braintree	3	1: 47,567	1,149sq.m.	12.42sq.m.
Uttlesford	3	1: 26,481	907.5 Sq.m	11.42 Sq.m
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>3.8</i>	<i>1: 33,927</i>	<i>1,274.75sq.m.</i>	<i>10.80sq.m.</i>
East Hertfordshire	5	1: 27,420	1,603.5sq.m.	11.70sq.m.
Chelmsford	3	1: 55,933	1,141.5sq.m.	6.80sq.m.
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 22,500	858sq.m.	5.94sq.m.

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Pools</i>	<i>Pools per capita</i>	<i>Water space</i>	<i>Sq.m. per 1,000 people</i>
Sevenoaks	5	1: 22,640	1,813.5sqm.	16.02sq.m.
West Oxfordshire	4	1: 25,625	1,377.5sq.m.	13.44sq.m.
Mid-Sussex	5	1: 26,320	1,725.5sq.m.	13.32sq.m.
Winchester	5	1: 22,660	1,502sq.m.	13.26sq.m.
Stratford-on-Avon	5	1: 23,780	1,548sq.m.	13.02sq.m.
Cotswold	4	1: 20,875	1,027.5sq.m.	12.30sq.m.
Uttlesford	3	1: 26,481	907.5 Sq.m	11.42 Sq.m
Hambleton	4	1: 21,825	1,012.5sq.m.	11.60sq.m.
Harborough	3	1: 27,800	932.5sq.m.	11.18sq.m.
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1: 26,243</i>	<i>1,089.8sq.m.</i>	<i>10.09sq.m.</i>
Vale of White Horse	4	1: 29,675	1,185sq.m.	9.98sq.m.
Horsham	3	1: 43,267	1,009sq.m.	7.77sq.m.
South Oxfordshire	4	1: 32,650	972.5sq.m.	7.75sq.m.
East Hampshire	3	1: 37,300	853sq.m.	7.62sq.m.
Test Valley	3	1: 37,800	712.5sq.m.	6.28sq.m.
South Cambridgeshire	4	1: 22,500	858sq.m.	5.94sq.m.
Maldon	1	1: 62,900	250sq.m.	3.97sq.m.

6.3.4 Quality

The quality of swimming pool provision was assessed in the 'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy' (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores for pools were as follows:

<i>Swimming pool</i>	<i>Pool</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled access</i>	<i>Maintenance/Cleanliness</i>	<i>Parking/access</i>
Friends School	5	4	5	5	5
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	5	4	4	4	5
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	5

6.3.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of swimming pools in Uttlesford in relation to 15 minute drive time catchments indicates that the entire population of the district is within 15 minutes drive of their nearest pool, with the exception of the south-easternmost fringes of the area, which are served by facilities in Bishop's Stortford.

6.3.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are 3 community accessible swimming pools in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 26,481 people. Per capita levels of provision vary widely between sub-areas, with no provision at all in the Stansted sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of swimming pool provision in Uttlesford are above the mean for its geographical neighbours and around the mean for its demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good, with all aspects of all facilities rated as at least 'above average' standard.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest swimming pool, if provision in Bishop's Stortford is taken into account.

6.4 Synthetic athletics tracks

6.4.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, synthetic athletics tracks are defined as 400m tracks with full field events provision. There are no such facilities in Uttlesford at present.

6.4.2 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Tracks</i>	<i>Tracks per capita</i>
East Hertfordshire	1	1: 137,100
Braintree	1	1: 142,700
Chelmsford	1	1: 167,800
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1: 149,200</i>
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>-</i>
North Hertfordshire	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Tracks</i>	<i>Tracks per capita</i>
Sevenoaks	1	1: 113,200
Winchester	1	1: 113,300
Test Valley	1	1: 113,400
Vale of White Horse	1	1: 118,700
Stratford-on-Avon	1	1: 118,900
Horsham	1	1: 129,800
South Oxfordshire	1	1: 130,600
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>0.4</i>	<i>1: 119,700</i>
Maldon	0	-
Uttlesford	0	-
Cotswold	0	-
Harborough	0	-
Hambleton	0	-
West Oxfordshire	0	-
East Hampshire	0	-
Mid-Sussex	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-

6.4.3 Quality

In the absence of a local track, no quality assessment was possible.

6.4.4 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of athletics tracks in neighbouring areas (Braintree, Harlow, Ware and Cambridge) together with the 20 minute drive time catchments shows that a large area in the north of the district is beyond the catchment of the nearest track.

6.4.5 Summary

- **Quantity** - There is no synthetic athletics track in Uttlesford.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Around half the geographic neighbours and demographic comparator areas have no track provision either.
- **Access** - A large area in the north of the district is beyond the catchment of the nearest track.

6.5 Indoor bowls

6.5.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, indoor bowls halls are defined specialist indoor facilities with appropriate playing surface and rink dimensions for bowls. Facility provision is unchanged from the 2012 strategy and comprises the following:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Address</i>	<i>Rinks</i>
Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club	Peaslands Road, Saffron Walden CB11 3EG	6

6.5.2 Sub-area analysis

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	1	1: 31,572
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	0	-
Stansted and district	18,645	0	-
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1: 79,443</i>

6.5.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Rinks</i>	<i>Rinks per capita</i>
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1: 79,443</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1: 13,241</i>
North Hertfordshire	1	1: 124,700	8	1: 15,588
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1: 122,700</i>	<i>3.7</i>	<i>1: 16,388</i>
Chelmsford	1	1: 167,800	8	1: 20,975
East Hertfordshire	0	-	0	-
Braintree	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-

- Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Rinks</i>	<i>Rinks per capita</i>
Sevenoaks	2	1: 56,600	16	1: 7,075
Maldon	1	1: 62,900	7	1: 8,986
Stratford-on-Avon	2	1: 118,900	12	1: 9,908
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>1: 75,600</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>1: 12,600</i>
Harborough	1	1: 83,400	6	1: 13,900
Test Valley	1	1: 113,400	8	1: 14,175
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>0.9</i>	<i>1: 95,618</i>	<i>7.5</i>	<i>1: 16,249</i>
Horsham	1	1: 129,800	8	1: 16,225
West Oxfordshire	2	1: 102,500	6	1: 17,083
East Hampshire	1	1: 111,900	6	1: 18,650
Winchester	1	1: 113,300	6	1: 18,883
Cotswold	1	1: 83,500	2	1: 41,250
Hambleton	0	-	0	-
Vale of White Horse	0	-	0	-
South Oxfordshire	0	-	0	-
Mid-Sussex	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-

6.5.4 Quality

The quality of indoor bowls provision was assessed in the 'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy' (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Green</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Access</i>	<i>Other</i>
Turpin's Indoor Bowls Club	5	4	5	5

6.5.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the indoor bowls facilities in Uttlesford and neighbouring areas in relation to a 20 minute drive time catchment indicates that with the exception of a small part of the central-southern and eastern rural areas, the entire population of the district is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest facility.

6.5.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There is one community accessible indoor bowls facility in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 79,443 people. The facility is located in the Saffron Walden sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of indoor bowls provision in Uttlesford are the best for its geographical neighbours and well above the mean for its demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good, with all aspects of the facility rated as at least 'above average' standard.
- **Access** - With the exception of a small part of the central-southern and eastern rural areas, the entire population of the district is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest facility.

6.6 Outdoor bowls

6.6.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, outdoor bowls greens are defined as effectively flat, fine turf grassed areas, 40 yards x 40 yards, with regulation banks and ditches around the perimeter and ancillary facilities for changing and equipment storage.

There are 11 bowling greens in Uttlesford, equivalent to one facility per 7,222 people:

<i>Site</i>
Birchanger Bowls Club
Clavering Bowls Club
Dunmow Bowls Club
Elsenham Bowls Club
Great Chesterford Bowls Club
Quendon Bowls Club
Radwinter Bowls Club
Saffron Walden Town Bowls Club
Stansted Bowls Club
Stebbing Bowls Club
Thaxted Bowls Club

6.6.2 Sub-area analysis

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>Greens per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	5	1: 6,314
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	3	1: 9,775
Stansted and district	18,645	3	1: 6,215
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1: 7,222</i>

6.6.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from the county governing bodies of bowls websites:

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>District</i>	<i>Greens</i>	<i>Greens per capita</i>
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1: 7,222</i>
South Cambridgeshire	14	1: 10,321
North Hertfordshire	11	1: 11,336
<i>Mean figures</i>	<i>10.3</i>	<i>1: 12,565</i>
East Hertfordshire	10	1: 13,710
Chelmsford	12	1: 13,983
Braintree	4	1: 19,167

- **Demographic comparators** - No data was available for demographic comparators.

6.6.4 Quality

The quality of outdoor bowls provision was assessed in the 'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy' (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Playing surface</i>	<i>Pavilion/ changing</i>	<i>Disabled access</i>	<i>Parking/ access</i>
Birchanger Bowls Club	3	4	3	3
Clavering Bowls Club	4	3	2	2
Dunmow Bowls Club	5	5	4	4
Elsenham Bowls Club	4	5	3	3
Great Chesterford Bowls Club	5	3	2	3
Quendon Bowls Club	5	4	3	3
Radwinter Bowls Club	5	4	2	2
Saffron Walden Town Bowls Club	5	5	4	4
Stansted Bowls Club	4	3	2	2
Stebbing Bowls Club	5	3	2	3
Thaxted Bowls Club	4	4	2	3

6.6.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the outdoor bowls facilities in Uttlesford in relation to a 20 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest outdoor bowls green.

6.6.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are 11 community accessible outdoor bowls green in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 7,222 people. Per capita levels of provision are poorest in the Great Dunmow sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of outdoor bowls provision Uttlesford are by far the best of its geographical neighbours.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision of greens and changing facilities is generally 'average' or above, but disabled and general access are more problematic at six and three sites respectively.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest bowls green.

6.7 Indoor tennis

6.7.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, indoor tennis halls are defined as specialist indoor facilities with appropriate playing surface and court dimensions for tennis. There are currently no such facilities in Uttlesford.

6.7.2 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
East Hertfordshire	1	1: 137,100	4	1: 34,275
North Hertfordshire	1	1: 124,700	3	1: 41,567
Braintree	1	1: 142,700	3	1: 47,567
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>0.5</i>	<i>1: 134,833</i>	<i>3.3</i>	<i>1: 41,136</i>
Uttlesford	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-
Chelmsford	0	-	0	-

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Maldon	1	1: 62,900	4	1: 15,725
East Hampshire	2	1: 55,950	6	1: 18,650
Vale of White Horse	1	1: 118,700	6	1: 19,783
Harborough	1	1: 83,400	3	1: 27,800
Winchester	1	1: 113,300	4	1: 28,325
Sevenoaks	1	1: 113,200	3	1: 37,733
Mid-Sussex	1	1: 131,600	2	1: 65,800
South Oxfordshire	1	1: 130,600	1	1: 130,600
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>0.6</i>	<i>1: 101,206</i>	<i>3.6</i>	<i>1: 43,052</i>
Uttlesford	0	-	0	-
Cotswold	0	-	0	-
Hambleton	0	-	0	-
West Oxfordshire	0	-	0	-
Test Valley	0	-	0	-
Stratford-on-Avon	0	-	0	-
Horsham	0	-	0	-
South Cambridgeshire	0	-	0	-

6.7.3 Quality

In the absence of any indoor tennis facilities in Uttlesford, no quality assessment was undertaken.

6.7.4 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the indoor tennis facilities in neighbouring areas to Uttlesford in relation to a 30 minute drive time catchment indicates that the population in the east of the district is outside the catchment of the nearest indoor tennis court.

6.7.5 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are no indoor tennis centres in Uttlesford.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Around half the geographical neighbours and demographic comparator authorities do not have indoor tennis centres.

- **Quality** - No quality assessment was possible.
- **Access** - The population in the east of the district is outside the catchment of the nearest indoor tennis court.

6.8 Outdoor tennis

6.8.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, outdoor tennis courts are defined as specialist outdoor facilities with appropriate playing surface and line markings for tennis:

There are 35 tennis courts in Uttlesford, equivalent to one court per 2,270 people.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Castle Hill Tennis Club	3
Clavering Tennis Club	2
Debden Recreation Ground	2
Dunmow Tennis Club	2
Elsenham Tennis Club	2
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	2
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	4
Grove (Saffron Walden) Tennis Club	5
Henham Tennis Club	2
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	2
Newport Village Tennis Club	2
Stansted Tennis Club	2
Stebbing Tennis Club	2
Thaxted Tennis Club	2
The Sampfords Tennis Club	1

6.8.2 Sub-area analysis

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	19	1: 1,662
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	10	1: 2,933
Stansted and district	18,645	6	1: 3,108
Uttlesford	79,443	35	1: 2,270

6.8.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's *'Active Places Power'*.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
South Cambridgeshire	65	1: 2,025
East Hertfordshire	61	1: 2,248
Uttlesford	35	1: 2,270
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>48.2</i>	<i>1: 2,800</i>
North Hertfordshire	42	1: 2,969
Chelmsford	53	1: 3,166
Braintree	33	1: 4,324

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Mid-Sussex	61	1: 1,475
Vale of White Horse	66	1: 1,798
Winchester	59	1: 1,920
South Cambridgeshire	65	1: 2,025
South Oxfordshire	64	1: 2,041
Hambleton	42	1: 2,079
Sevenoaks	52	1: 2,177
Uttlesford	35	1: 2,270
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>42.9</i>	<i>1: 3,005</i>
Maldon	20	1: 3,145
Horsham	50	1: 2,596
West Oxfordshire	35	1: 3,011
East Hampshire	35	1: 3,197
Test Valley	31	1: 3,658
Cotswold	20	1: 4,175
Stratford-on-Avon	39	1: 6,097
Harborough	13	1: 6,415

6.8.4 Quality

The quality of outdoor bowls provision was assessed in the ‘Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy’ (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’, 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The scores were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Lights</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Access</i>
Castle Hill Tennis Club	5	-	2	2	3
Clavering Tennis Club	4	-	4	-	2
Debden Recreation Ground	4	-	4	2	3
Dunmow Tennis Club	5	5	5	2	4
Elsenham Tennis Club	5	5	5	5	5
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	4	4	4	5	4

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Lights</i>	<i>Fencing</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Access</i>
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5	4
Grove (Saffron Walden) TC	5	4	5	5	4
Henham Tennis Club	4	-	4	2	2
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	5	5	5	4	5
Newport Village Tennis Club	3	-	3	-	2
Stansted Tennis Club	5	5	5	2	2
Stebbing Tennis Club	5	5	5	5	3
Thaxted Tennis Club	4	5	4	4	2
The Sampfords Tennis Club	4	-	4	-	3

6.8.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the outdoor tennis facilities in Uttlesford in relation to a 15 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest court.

6.8.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are 35 community accessible outdoor tennis courts in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 2,270 people. Per capita levels of provision are best in the Saffron Walden sub-area and poorest in the Stansted sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of outdoor tennis provision in Uttlesford are just above the mean for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of all court surfaces is rated as at least 'above average' standard, but five changing facilities areas are rated as below 'average' as are the access arrangements at five sites.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest tennis courts.

6.9 Health and fitness

6.9.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, health and fitness facilities are defined as dedicated community accessible facilities with a range of exercise equipment (stations).

There are 11 health and fitness facilities in Uttlesford, providing a collective total of 399 stations.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Stations</i>
Wilbur's Fitness Gym	45
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	72
County High Sports Centre	27
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre	15
Felsted School	35
Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	37

<i>Site</i>	<i>Stations</i>
Livingwell Health Club (Stansted)	19
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre*	55
Pace Health Club (Stansted)	32
Get Up N Go	33
Just Gym	29

6.9.2 Sub-area analysis

The distribution of both health and fitness facilities and the number of equipment stations they contain in each sub-area is detailed below:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Stations</i>	<i>Stations per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	5	1: 6,314	206	1: 153
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	2	1: 14,663	90	1: 326
Stansted and district	18,645	4	1: 4,661	103	1: 181
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1: 7,222</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>1: 199</i>

6.9.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Stations</i>	<i>Stations per capita</i>
East Hertfordshire	14	1: 9,793	849	1: 161
North Hertfordshire	17	1: 7,335	697	1: 179
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1: 7,222</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>1: 199</i>
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>13.2</i>	<i>1: 8,875</i>	<i>638</i>	<i>1: 215</i>
Chelmsford	17	1: 9,871	836	1: 201
South Cambridgeshire	17	1: 8,500	493	1: 293
Braintree	14	1: 10,193	611	1: 236

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Stations</i>	<i>Stations per capita</i>
Cotswold	13	1: 6,423	435	1: 192
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>1: 7,222</i>	<i>399</i>	<i>1: 199</i>
South Oxfordshire	16	1: 8,163	650	1: 201
Mid-Sussex	16	1: 8,265	633	1: 208
Horsham	14	1: 9,271	618	1: 210
Stratford-on-Avon	17	1: 6,994	554	1: 214
Vale of White Horse	13	1: 9,131	531	1: 224
East Hampshire	13	1: 8,608	462	1: 242

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Facilities</i>	<i>Facilities per capita</i>	<i>Stations</i>	<i>Stations per capita</i>
<i>Mean values</i>	12	1: 9,494	427.5	1: 280
Test Valley	9	1: 12,600	447	1: 254
West Oxfordshire	11	1: 9,354	398	1: 258
Winchester	15	1: 7,553	422	1: 268
South Cambridgeshire	17	1: 8,500	493	1: 293
Hambleton	8	1: 10,913	229	1: 381
Maldon	6	1: 10,516	193	1: 392
Sevenoaks	8	1: 14,150	269	1: 421
Harborough	6	1: 13,900	165	1: 505

6.9.4 Quality

The quality of health and fitness provision was assessed in the 'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy' (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Equipment</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>
Wilbur's Fitness Gym	4	4	3	1
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	5	5	3	5
County High Sports Centre	4	4	3	4
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre	4	4	3	4
Felsted School	5	4	4	3
Mountfitchet Romeera Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5
Livingwell Health Club	5	5	5	5
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5	5	5	5
Pace Health Club	5	5	4	4
Get Up N Go	5	4	4	4
Just Gym	4	4	4	4

6.9.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the health and fitness facilities in Uttlesford in relation to a 20 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest facility.

6.9.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are 11 community accessible health and fitness facilities in Uttlesford, or one per 7,222 people. Levels of provision are poorest in the Great Dunmow sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of health and fitness provision in Uttlesford are well above the mean for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest facility.

6.10 Squash courts

6.10.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, squash courts are defined as specialist courts for squash and racketball, complying with regulation dimensions, with community access.

There are seven courts at three locations in Uttlesford, equivalent to one court per 11,349 people.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Courts</i>
Felsted School	2
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	2
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	3

6.10.2 Sub-area analysis

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	3	1: 10,524
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	4	1: 7,332
Stansted and district	18,645	0	-
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1: 11,349</i>

6.10.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
East Hertfordshire	17	1: 8,065
Chelmsford	19	1: 8,825
North Hertfordshire	12	1: 10,392
South Cambridgeshire	13	1: 11,115
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1: 11,349</i>
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>12.5</i>	<i>1: 11,689</i>
Braintree	7	1: 20,386

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Mid-Sussex	30	1: 3,000
South Oxfordshire	29	1: 4,503
Winchester	24	1: 4,721
Vale of White Horse	25	1: 4,748
Sevenoaks	20	1: 5,660
Hambleton	13	1: 6,715

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>Courts</i>	<i>Courts per capita</i>
Horsham	18	1: 7,211
Cotswold	10	1: 8,350
East Hampshire	13	1: 8,608
Test Valley	13	1: 8,723
Maldon	7	1: 8,986
<i>Mean values</i>	<i>15.9</i>	<i>1: 9,018</i>
West Oxfordshire	11	1: 9,582
South Cambridgeshire	13	1: 11,115
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>1: 11,349</i>
Stratford-on-Avon	18	1: 13,211
Harborough	3	1: 27,800

6.10.4 Quality

The quality of squash court provision was assessed in the ‘*Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy*’ (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’, 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The scores were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Score</i>
Felsted School	5
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	5
Lord Butler Leisure Centre	3

6.10.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the squash courts in Uttlesford in relation to a 20 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest court.

6.10.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are 7 community accessible squash courts in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 11,349 people. Sub-area provision varies widely, with no courts at all in the Stansted sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of squash court provision in Uttlesford are the above the mean for its geographical neighbours but below the mean for its demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is above ‘average’.
- **Access** - The whole district population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest squash court.

6.11 Golf courses

6.11.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, golf courses are defined as dedicated community accessible facilities comprising nine or eighteen holes.

There are two golf courses in Uttlesford, collectively comprising 27 holes, equating to one course per 39,772 people, or one hole per 2,942 people:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Holes</i>
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre	9
Saffron Walden Golf Club	18

6.11.2 Sub-area analysis

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Courses</i>	<i>Courses per capita</i>	<i>Holes</i>	<i>Holes per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	1	1: 31,572	18	1: 1,754
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	0	-	-	-
Stansted and district	18,645	1	1: 18,645	9	1: 2,072
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1: 39,722</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>1: 2,942</i>

6.11.3 Benchmarked provision

To benchmark levels of provision in Uttlesford, per capita provision in the geographical neighbouring local authorities and also the demographically most similar areas is ranked as follows. The data is drawn from Sport England's 'Active Places Power'.

- **Geographical neighbours**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. courses</i>	<i>Courses per capita</i>	<i>No. holes</i>	<i>Holes per capita</i>
South Cambridgeshire	12	1: 12,042	216	1: 669
North Hertfordshire	7	1: 17,814	126	1: 990
East Hertfordshire	8	1: 18,280	135	1: 1,016
<i>Median values</i>	<i>6.5</i>	<i>1: 26,586</i>	<i>118.5</i>	<i>1: 1,477</i>
Braintree	8	1: 19,027	135	1: 1,057
Chelmsford	4	1: 41,950	72	1: 2,331
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1: 39,722</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>1: 2,942</i>

- **Demographic comparators**

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. courses</i>	<i>Courses per capita</i>	<i>No. holes</i>	<i>Holes per capita</i>
Sevenoaks	17	1: 6,861	297	1: 381
Maldon	9	1: 6,989	162	1: 388
Winchester	12	1: 9,442	216	1: 525
Test Valley	11	1: 10,309	198	1: 573
Vale of White Horse	12	1: 10,322	207	1: 574

<i>Local authority</i>	<i>No. courses</i>	<i>Courses per capita</i>	<i>No. holes</i>	<i>Holes per capita</i>
Cotswold	8	1: 10,438	144	1: 580
South Oxfordshire	12	1: 11,357	207	1: 631
South Cambridgeshire	12	1: 12,042	216	1: 669
Horsham	11	1: 12,362	189	1: 687
Stratford-on-Avon	10	1: 12,516	171	1: 695
<i>Median values</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>1: 14,841</i>	<i>162</i>	<i>1: 825</i>
East Hampshire	8	1: 14,920	135	1: 829
Hambleton	6	1: 15,873	99	1: 882
Mid-Sussex	8	1: 16,450	144	1: 914
Harborough	5	1: 16,680	90	1: 927
West Oxfordshire	5	1: 20,500	90	1: 1,139
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>2</i>	<i>1: 39,722</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>1: 2,942</i>

6.11.4 Quality

The quality of golf course provision was assessed in the ‘*Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy*’ (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to ‘very good’, 4 to ‘good’, 3 to ‘average’, 2 to ‘poor’ and 1 to ‘very poor’. The scores were as follows:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Course</i>	<i>Clubhouse</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>
Elsenham Golf & Leisure Centre	5	4	3	4
Saffron Walden Golf Club	5	3	4	4

6.11.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the golf courses in Uttlesford in relation to a 30 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 30 minutes drive of the nearest course.

6.11.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are 2 community accessible golf courses in Uttlesford, collectively comprising 27 nine-hole units, equivalent to one per 38,772 people. There is no provision in the Great Dunmow sub-area.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of golf course in Uttlesford are the poorest for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good, with all aspects of all facilities rated as at least ‘average’ standard.
- **Access** - The whole district population is within 30 minutes driving time of their nearest golf course.

6.12 Village and community halls

6.12.1 Quantity

For the purposes of the assessment, village and community halls are defined as multi-purpose indoor facilities that are capable of accommodating a range of sports activities, such as carpet bowls, yoga and aerobics, mostly at a recreational level.

There are 53 village and community halls in Uttlesford, equivalent to one hall per 1,499 people:

- Arkesden Village Hall
- Aythorpe Roding Village Hall
- Berden Village Hall
- Bolford Street Hall
- Chishill Village Hall
- Debden Memorial Hall
- ET Foakes Memorial Hall, Gt. Dunmow
- Elsenham Village Hall
- Felsted Memorial Hall
- Golden Acre Comm. Centre, Saffron Walden
- Great Chesterford Community Centre
- Great Hallingbury Parish Hall
- Hadstock Village Hall
- Hatfield Heath Village Hall
- Henham Sports and Community Centre
- Langley Community Centre
- Lindsell Village Hall
- Little Chesterford Village Hall
- Little Hallingbury Village Hall
- Littlebury Village Hall
- Mole Hill Green Village Hall
- Quendon and Rickling Village Hall
- St. John's Ch. Hall, Stansted Mountfitchet
- Stebbing Village Hall
- Ugley Village Hall
- Widdrington Village Hall
- Women's Institute Hall, High Roding
- Ashdon Village Hall
- Barnston Village Hall
- Birchanger Church Hall
- Broxted Village Hall
- Clavering Village Hall
- Duddenhoe End Village Hall
- Elmdon Village Hall
- Farnham Village Hall
- Flitch Green Community Hall
- Great Canfield Village Hall
- Great Easton Parish Hall
- Great Sampford Village Hall
- Hatfield Broad Oak Village Hall
- Hempstead Village Hall
- High Easter Village Hall
- Leaden Roding Village Hall
- Little Canfield Village Hall
- Little Easton Memorial Hall
- Little Walden Village Hall
- Manuden Village Hall
- Newport Village Hall
- Radwinter Village Hall
- Swards End Village Hall
- Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall
- Wendens Ambo Parish Hall
- Wimbish Village Hall

6.12.2 Sub-area analysis

The distribution of village and community halls in each sub-area is detailed below:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Halls</i>	<i>Halls per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	23	1: 1,373
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	15	1: 1,955
Stansted and district	18,645	15	1: 1,243
Uttlesford	79,443	53	1: 1,499

6.12.3 Benchmarked provision

No comparator data was available against which to benchmark the Uttlesford figures.

6.12.4 Quality

The quality of village and community halls was assessed in the *'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy'* (2012) document. There have been no significant changes in the period since:

The facilities were rated on a five point scale, where 5 equates to 'very good', 4 to 'good', 3 to 'average', 2 to 'poor' and 1 to 'very poor'. The scores were as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Span</i>	<i>Light</i>	<i>Changing</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>
Arkesden Village Hall	3	3	3	1	3	3
Ashdon Village Hall	3	1	3	1	4	3
Aythorpe Roding Village Hall	3	2	2	1	3	3
Barnston Village Hall	3	2	2	1	3	3
Berden Village Hall	4	2	4	1	5	4
Birchanger Village Hall	3	2	3	1	3	3
Bolford Street Hall	4	3	4	2	3	3
Broxted Village Hall	2	2	2	1	4	4
Chrishall Village Hall	3	2	3	3	4	3
Clavering Village Hall	4	3	3	1	2	3
Debden Memorial Hall	4	3	3	1	2	3
Duddenhoe End Village Hall	2	1	3	1	4	3
ET Foakes Memorial Hall	4	5	3	3	3	3
Elmdon Village Hall	3	2	2	1	2	2
Elsenham Village Hall	5	5	5	3	3	3
Farnham Village Hall	3	2	2	1	3	3
Felsted Memorial Hall	3	2	2	1	3	3
Fritch Green Community Centre	5	5	5	4	4	4
Golden Acre Community Centre	2	2	3	1	4	4
Great Canfield Village Hall	3	3	2	1	3	2
Great Chesterford Community Centre	5	5	5	5	5	5
Great Easton Parish Hall	3	2	3	1	4	2
Great Hallingbury Parish Hall	3	2	2	1	4	3
Great Sampford Village Hall	3	2	3	1	4	4
Hadstock Village Hall	4	2	3	1	3	2
Hatfield Broad Oak Village Hall	3	2	2	1	2	3
Hatfield Heath Village Hall	4	2	3	3	2	3
Hempstead Village Hall	3	2	3	1	3	3
Henham Sports and Comm. Centre	5	5	5	4	4	4
High Easter Village Hall	3	3	3	3	4	3
Langley Community Centre	3	3	2	1	3	3
Leaden Roding Village Hall	3	2	2	1	2	3
Lindsell Village Hall	2	2	1	1	3	2
Little Canfield Village Hall	3	2	2	1	3	4
Little Chesterford Village Hall	2	1	1	1	3	2

<i>Site</i>	<i>Surface</i>	<i>Span</i>	<i>Light</i>	<i>Change</i>	<i>Disabled</i>	<i>Access</i>
Little Easton Memorial Hall	3	2	2	1	3	3
Little Hallingbury Village Hall	3	3	3	1	3	3
Little Walden Village Hall	2	2	2	1	2	2
Littlebury Village Hall	2	2	2	1	2	2
Manuden Village Hall	3	3	2	1	3	2
Mole Hill Green Village Hall	3	2	2	1	4	3
Newport Village Hall	4	3	3	1	4	3
Quendon and Rickling Village Hall	3	2	2	1	2	3
Radwinter Village Hall	3	4	3	1	2	2
St. John's Church Hall	4	4	3	1	4	4
Sewards End Village Hall	3	2	3	2	4	3
Stebbing Village Hall	4	4	3	1	2	3
Takeley Silver Jubilee Hall	3	2	2	1	3	3
Ugley Village Hall	2	2	2	1	3	3
Wendens Ambo Parish Hall	3	1	3	1	4	3
Widdington Village Hall	5	4	4	1	5	5
Wimbish Village Hall	3	2	2	1	3	3
Women's Institute Hall	2	2	2	1	2	3

6.12.5 Accessibility

Analysis of the location of the village and community halls in Uttlesford in relation to a 10 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 10 minutes drive of the nearest hall.

6.12.6 Summary

- **Quantity** - There are 53 community accessible village and community halls in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 1,499 people. Per capita levels of provision are relatively consistent between sub-areas.
- **Benchmarked provision** - In the absence of comparator figures, it was not possible to benchmark levels of provision
- **Quality** - The lack of changing provision limits the sport and recreational use of many village and community halls.
- **Access** - The whole district population is within 10 minutes driving time of their nearest village and community hall.

6.13 Playing pitches

6.13.1 Definition

The pitches included in the analysis are defined as natural or artificial turf areas permanently laid out with regulation markings, with the following dimensions for club-level play as specified in Sport England's 'Comparative Sizes of Sports Pitches and Courts' (2011) and the FA's 'Guide to Pitch Dimensions' (2013), have community access and are used for competitive play.

<i>Pitch Type</i>	<i>Pitch length</i>	<i>Pitch width</i>	<i>Size including run-offs</i>
Adult football	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U17-U18)	100m	64m	106m x 70m
Youth football (U15-U16)	91m	55m	97m x 61m
Youth football (U13-U14)	82m	50m	88m x 56m
Youth football (9v9)	73m	46m	79m x 52m
Mini-soccer (7v7)	55m	37m	61m x 43m
Mini-soccer (5v5)	37m	27m	43m x 33m
Adult cricket	20.12m	Max. 36.6m/Min. 3.05m	111.56m x 106.69m
Junior cricket	19.2m	Max. 27.45m/Min. 3.05m	92.36m x 88.41m
Adult rugby	Max. 144m	Max. 70m	Max. 154m x 80m
Junior rugby	Max. 70m	Max. 43m/Min. 30m	Max. 80m x 53m
Artificial Grass Pitch for Hockey	91.4m	55m	101.4m x 63m
'3G' Football Turf Pitch	100m	64m	106m x 70m

6.13.2 Quantity

The number of pitches of each type with community access in Uttlesford are as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Junior football</i>	<i>Mini-soccer</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>	<i>AGP</i>
Alcott Playing Field	1	-	-	-	-	-
Anglo-American Playing Field	-	-	-	1	-	-
Audley End House	-	-	-	1	-	-
Ashdon Villa Football Club	1	-	-	-	-	-
Barnston Football Club	1	1	-	-	-	-
Birchanger Social Club	1	-	-	1	-	-
Calves Pasture	1	-	-	-	-	-
Carver Barracks	2	-	-	-	1	-
Causeway Recreation Ground	2	1	2	-	-	-
Clavering Village Green	-	-	-	1	-	-
Clogham's Green Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
County High Sports Centre	-	-	-	1	-	1
Dame Bradbury's School	-	1	3	-	-	-
Debden Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-
Dunmow Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Elmdon Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Elsenham Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Elsenham Playing Fields	1	1	1	-	-	-
Felsted Playing Field	1	-	-	-	-	-
Felsted School	-	-	-	-	-	1
Friends School	-	-	-	2	-	-
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	-	-	1	1	-	-
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	1	-	-	-	-	1
Hargrave Park	1	-	-	1	-	-
Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club	1	-	-	-	-	-
Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Herbert Farm Playing Fields	1	2	2	-	-	-

<i>Site</i>	<i>Adult football</i>	<i>Junior football</i>	<i>Mini-soccer</i>	<i>Cricket</i>	<i>Rugby</i>	<i>AGP</i>
High Easter Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
High Roding Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Hockerill Cricket Club	-	-	-	2	-	-
Ickleton Village Hall Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-
Jubilee Field, Clavering	1	-	-	-	-	-
Langley Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Laundry Lane Playing Field	-	1	2	-	-	-
Lindsell Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Bardfield Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Easton Recreation Ground	-	-	-	1	-	-
Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Littlebury Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-
Manuden Playing Fields Association	1	1	-	-	-	-
Molehill Green Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Mountfitchet High School	3	-	-	-	-	-
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport	-	-	-	-	-	1
Newport Recreation Ground	2	-	-	1	-	-
Quendon Recreation Ground	1	-	-	-	-	-
Radwinter Recreation Ground	1	-	-	1	-	-
Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Roundbush Green	1	-	-	1	-	-
Saffron Walden Rugby Club	-	-	-	-	3	-
Saffron Walden Town FC	1	-	-	-	-	-
Sampfords Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Stansted Hall Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Stebbing Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Takeley Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Takeley Football Club	1	-	-	-	-	-
Takeley Recreation Ground	1	2	-	-	-	-
Thaxted Cricket Club	-	-	-	1	-	-
Thaxted Recreation Ground	1	1	1	-	-	-
Walton's Park	-	-	-	1	-	-
Wenden's Ambo Playing Field	-	-	-	1	-	-
White Roding Sports Club	1	-	-	1	-	-
Wimbish Recreation Ground	2	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	36	14	15	37	4	4

6.13.3 Sub-area analysis

- **Adult football**

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	14	1: 2,255
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	12	1: 2,444
Stansted and district	18,645	10	1: 1,865
Uttlesford	79,443	36	1: 2,207

- Youth football

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	7	1: 4,510
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	4	1: 7,732
Stansted and district	18,645	3	1: 6,215
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>1: 5,675</i>

- Mini-soccer

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	9	1: 3,508
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	5	1: 4,888
Stansted and district	18,645	1	1: 18,645
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1: 5,296</i>

- Cricket

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	14	1: 2,255
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	12	1: 2,444
Stansted and district	18,645	11	1: 1,695
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>37</i>	<i>1: 2,147</i>

- Rugby

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	4	1: 7,893
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	0	-
Stansted and district	18,645	0	-
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1: 19,861</i>

- Artificial Grass Pitches

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Pitches per capita</i>
Saffron Walden and district	31,572	2	1: 15,786
Great Dunmow and district	29,326	2	1: 14,663
Stansted and district	18,645	0	-
<i>Uttlesford</i>	<i>79,443</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>1: 19,861</i>

6.13.4 Benchmarked provision

No comparator data was available against which to benchmark the Uttlesford figures.

6.13.5 Quality

The quality of playing pitches was assessed in the 'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy' (2012) document. Any significant changes in the period since have been noted in the table below:

The pitches and changing facilities were rated as 'good', 'standard' or 'poor'. The scores were as follows:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Alcott Playing Field	Good	Poor
Anglo-American Playing Field	Good	Poor
Audley End House	Good	Poor
Ashdon Villa Football Club	Standard	Standard
Barnston Football Club	Standard	Standard
Birchanger Social Club	Good	Good
Calves Pasture	Standard	Poor
Carver Barracks	Good	Good
Causeway Recreation Ground	Standard	Good
Clavering Village Green	Standard	Standard
Clogham's Green Cricket Club	Good	Poor
County High Sports Centre	Good	Good
Dame Bradbury's School	Good	Good
Debden Recreation Ground	Good	Standard
Dunmow Cricket Club	Standard	Poor
Elmdon Cricket Club	Standard	Poor
Elsenham Cricket Club	Good	Poor
Elsenham Playing Fields	Standard	Good
Felsted Playing Field	Standard	Poor
Friends School	Good	Good
Great Chesterford Recreation Ground	Standard	Good
Great Chishill Recreation Ground	Poor	Standard
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	Standard	Good
Hargrave Park	Good	Standard
Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club	Standard	Poor
Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club	Poor	Poor
Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	Good	Poor
Herbert Farm Playing Fields	Standard	Good
High Easter Cricket Club	Good	Standard
High Roding Cricket Club	Standard	Poor
Hockerill Cricket Club	Good	Good
Ickleton Village Hall Ground	Good	-
Jubilee Field, Clavering	Poor	Poor
Katherine Semar School	Good	Good
Langley Cricket Club	Good	Poor
Laundry Lane Playing Field	Good	Poor
Lindsell Cricket Club	Standard	Standard
Little Bardfield Cricket Club	Good	Poor
Little Easton Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard
Little Hallingbury Cricket Club	Good	Standard
Littlebury Recreation Ground	Good	-
Manuden Playing Fields Assoc.	Good	Standard
Molehill Green Cricket Club	Standard	Poor

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Changing</i>
Mountfitchet High School	Good	Good
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport	Poor	Good
Newport Recreation Ground	Standard	Good
Quendon Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard
Radwinter Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard
Rickling Ramblers Cricket Club	Good	Good
Roundbush Green	Good	Standard
Saffron Walden Rugby Club	Good	Good
Saffron Walden Town FC	Good	Good
Sampfords Cricket Club	Standard	Standard
Stansted Hall Cricket Club	Standard	Poor
Stebbing Cricket Club	Standard	Good
Takeley Cricket Club	Good	Good
Takeley Football Club	Good	Good
Takeley Recreation Ground	Good	Poor
Thaxted Cricket Club	Good	Poor
Thaxted Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard
Walton's Park	Good	Standard
Wenden's Ambo Playing Field	Standard	Poor
White Roding Sports Club	Good	Standard
Wimbish Recreation Ground	Standard	Standard

6.13.6 Accessibility

Accessibility to the different pitch types was assessed as follows:

- **Adult football** - Analysis of the location of adult football pitches in Uttlesford in relation to a 15 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest pitch.
- **Youth football** - Analysis of the location of youth football pitches in Uttlesford in relation to a 15 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest pitch.
- **Mini-soccer** - Analysis of the location of mini-soccer pitches in Uttlesford in relation to a 15 minute drive time catchment indicates that with the exception of a small area in the south-west corner of the district, where needs are met by pitches in Bishop's Stortford, the entire population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest pitch.
- **Cricket** - Analysis of the location of cricket pitches in Uttlesford in relation to a 15 minute drive time catchment indicates that the entire population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest pitch.
- **Rugby** - Analysis of the location of rugby pitches in Uttlesford in relation to a 20 minute drive time catchment indicates that with the exception of a small area in the north and south of the district, the entire population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest pitch.

- **Artificial grass pitches** - Analysis of the location of artificial grass pitches in Uttlesford in relation to a 15 minute drive time catchment indicates that with the exception of a small area in the north-east and south-west of the district, the entire population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest pitch.
- **'3G' football turf pitches** - There is no provision in Uttlesford at present, although pitches at Birchwood High School in Bishops Stortford and Braintree Leisure Centre meet some needs from within the district.

6.14 Summary of sports facilities supply in Uttlesford

6.14.1 Quantity of provision

Per capita levels of provision of sports halls, indoor and outdoor bowls are amongst the best for Uttlesford's geographic neighbours and the most demographically similar local authorities.

Levels of provision of swimming pools, outdoor tennis courts, health and fitness and squash courts are around the mean levels of provision of the benchmarked local authorities, with athletics tracks, indoor tennis and golf courses below the comparator levels.

6.14.2 Sub-area analysis

Per capita levels of facility provision in the three sub-areas of Uttlesford show a number of consistent themes, in particular:

- Per capita levels of provision of most facilities types in the Saffron Walden sub-area are almost all better than the other areas.
- A number of facility types are absent from the Stansted sub-area, in particular swimming pools, indoor bowls, squash courts and artificial turf pitches, although this is mitigated in part by provision in Bishop's Stortford nearby.

6.14.3 Quality of provision

The quality of most playing areas and changing facilities is generally rated at least 'average' for all facility types. Less highly rated is disabled access.

6.14.4 Accessibility of provision

For most facility types, the whole population of Uttlesford is within all the respective stipulated drive time catchments. In several instances involving the larger, more specialist facilities provision in neighbouring areas serves catchments which include Uttlesford residents.

7 CURRENT BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND

7.1 Introduction

This section analyses the current balance between the supply of and demand for each type of sports facility in Uttlesford.

7.1.1 Sports facilities assessment methodology

The methodology applied to assess the supply-demand balance for sports facilities involves the approach advocated in Sport England's *'Assessing Needs and Opportunities Guide'* (2014), namely:

- Layering information on the quantity, quality, accessibility and availability of facilities provision to build up the assessment.
- Utilising planning tools such as the Facilities Planning Model to support the assessment.
- Considering consultation findings to support the assessment.
- Identifying the key facility issues and priorities.

7.1.2 Playing pitch assessment methodology

The methodology applied to assess the supply-demand balance for pitches is based upon Sport England's recommended methodology, advocated in *'Playing Pitch Strategy Guidance'* (2013). To assess whether the current supply of pitches is adequate to meet existing demand an understanding of the situation at all sites available to the community needs to be developed. This is achieved by providing a brief overview for each site, which comprises:

- A comparison between the carrying capacity of a site with how much demand currently takes place there. The carrying capacity of a site is defined as the amount of play it can regularly accommodate over an appropriate period of time without adversely affecting its quality and use. Demand is defined in terms of the number of 'match equivalent' sessions at each site.
- An indication of the extent to which natural grass pitches are being used during their respective peak periods.
- The key issues with and views on the provision at a site and its use.

The site overviews identify the extent to which pitches are

- **Being overplayed** - where use exceeds the carrying capacity.
- **Being played to the level the site can sustain** - where use matches the carrying capacity.
- **Potentially able to accommodate some additional play** - where use falls below the carrying capacity.

The situation at individual sites can then be aggregated to identify the position at a sub-area level, to identify the potential for excess demand at some sites to be accommodated by excess supply at others in the locality. Other factors can also be assessed such as:

- The extent of any demand being accommodated on sites with unsecured community access.
- The impact of latent or displaced demand.
- The situation at priority sites.

This analysis then enables an assessment to be made of the adequacy of existing pitch provision.

7.2 Sports halls

7.2.1 Facilities Planning Model assessment

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) comprises a spatial assessment of sports hall provision based on the nature of sports participation (demand) within an area and the available supply, taking into account issues such as capacity (expressed in terms of badminton court units to take account of the different dimensions of sports halls) and accessibility. The key findings for sports halls in Uttlesford for a 'run' of the FPM in 2010 (the findings of which Sport England believes still to be current) were as follows:

- **Supply** - Because the FPM takes account of smaller halls, it calculates that there is the equivalent of 32 badminton courts of sports hall space in Uttlesford (scaled to 25 courts to take account of hours available for community use), providing a total capacity of 5,000 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp).
- **Demand** - Demand for sports halls from the local population is 3,350 vpwpp. This is equivalent to demand for 21 badminton courts in the peak period.
- **Supply demand balance** - On the basis of the above assessment, there is a notional surplus equivalent to four badminton courts (equivalent to one sports hall) in the district.
- **Satisfied demand** - The FPM calculates that 95% of the demand for sports hall provision in Uttlesford is satisfied, which equates to about 3,150 visits per week. This figure is higher than the national (91%), regional (93%) or Essex (94%) averages.
- **Imported/exported demand** - Not all of the satisfied demand from residents of Uttlesford is met by provision within the district. Approximately 75% of the district's satisfied demand is retained (2,350 visits), while 25% (800 visits) is exported to adjacent districts, mainly to facilities in Bishops Stortford and Braintree.
- **Unmet demand** - Unmet demand for sports halls in the district is for less than 200 visits per week, or about 5% of total demand. This is lower than the national (9%), regional (7%) or Essex (6%) average and comparable with neighbouring authorities. In total, unmet

demand represents the equivalent of only about one badminton court and this is spread thinly across the whole district.

- **Used capacity** - 'Used capacity' is a measure of usage and throughput at sports halls and estimates the extent to which facilities are well used. The FPM is designed to include a 'comfort factor', which in the case of halls assumes that usage over 80% of capacity is busy and the hall is operating at an uncomfortable level.
 - The total number of visits to halls in Uttlesford is 2,750 (compared with total capacity of 5,000 and demand of 3,350). This equates to 55% of total capacity well below the 'comfort level'. The national average is 65%, the regional 63% and Essex 63%, so local throughputs are low.
 - The sports halls at the three main leisure centres (Great Dunmow 79%, Lord Butler 72% and Mountfitchet Romeera 77%) are the best utilised, being the most attractive to the community, better located in the main towns and offer the most convenient pay and play access.
- **Personal/relative share** - 'Personal/relative share' is a measure of which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision. It takes into account the size and availability of facilities as well as travel modes. It helps to establish whether Uttlesford has less or more share of sports hall provision than other areas when compared against a national average figure which is set at 100. Uttlesford has a relative share of 126, which means that residents of the district have 26% better provision than the national average. This is a reflection of relatively high provision, relatively low demand, good accessibility to other halls within a reasonable catchment and lack of competition from the residents of adjacent local authority areas.

7.2.2 Consultation and audit findings

- **Quantity** - There are six community accessible sports halls in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 14,241 people. Per capita levels of provision are relatively even between the sub-areas.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of sports hall provision in Uttlesford are the best of its geographical neighbours, but only just above the mean for its demographic comparators. Based upon Sport England's Personal/Relative Share model, provision in the area is well above the national benchmark figure.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest sports hall.

7.2.3 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of sports halls in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs. However:

- Several are operating at close to 'comfortable capacity'.

- Sport England's 'Active People' survey data shows that adult participation rates in Uttlesford have consistently been well above the regional and national averages and currently stand at 42.9%, compared with a national figure of 35.5%.
- There is evidence from the clubs' consultation that not all can obtain as much access to sports halls as they need.

7.3 Swimming pools

7.3.1 Facilities Planning Model assessment

The key findings for swimming pools in Uttlesford for a 'run' of the FPM in 2015 were as follows:

- **Supply** - The FPM recognises four swimming pool sites (with five pools) in Uttlesford, because it has included the provision at Felsted School which has limited public access. The total water area of 1,091.5m² has been scaled to 784.71m² to take account of hours available for community use and a capacity of 6,801 visits per week in the peak period. This equates to 13.10m² water space per 1,000 people, slightly above the average for Essex, the East and England.
- **Demand** - Demand for swimming pools from the resident population is 5,330 vpwpp. This is equivalent to demand for 878.54m² in the peak period (with the inclusion of a 'comfort factor' that assumes that a pool is effectively 'full' when it reaches 70% of its theoretical capacity).
- **Supply demand balance** - On the basis of the above, there is a deficit equivalent to 93.83m² in the peak period, with the 'comfort factor' included. This represents about half of a 25m four lane pool with a comfort factor included.
- **Satisfied demand** - Taking into account the walking or driving time catchments for the existing facilities and the ability of residents to reach them (based upon local car ownership rates) 93.9% of demand for swimming pools in the district is currently met. This compares with a national average of 90.5%.
- **Imported/exported demand** - Not all of the satisfied demand from residents of Uttlesford is met by provision within the district. About two thirds of the district's satisfied demand is retained, whilst one third is exported to pools in Bishops Stortford and Braintree.
- **Unmet demand** - Unmet demand for pools in the district is for 329 visits per week, or 7.9% of total demand, which is lower than the average. In total unmet demand represents the equivalent of 53.5m² of additional water (including a comfort factor) and this is spread evenly across the whole district.
- **Used capacity** - The total number of weekly visits to pools in the peak period in Uttlesford is 3,636. This equates to 53.5% of total capacity well below the 'comfort level' and the national average of 64.9%. Uttlesford retains 3,212 visits per week from local residents in its own pools (88.3% of the used capacity) and imports 424 visits from outside. This compares with 1,789 visits exported to neighbouring areas, so Uttlesford is a major net exporter of demand 1,365 visits per week.

- **Personal/relative share** - 'Personal/relative share' is a measure of which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision. It takes into account the size and availability of facilities as well as travel modes. It helps to establish whether have less or more share of swimming pool provision than other areas when compared against a national average figure which is set at 100. Uttlesford has a relative share of 123.7, which means that residents of the district have 23.7% better access to pools than the national average. This is a reflection of relatively good provision, relatively low demand and good accessibility to other pools within a reasonable catchment in neighbouring areas where there is spare capacity (East Hertfordshire in particular).

7.3.2 Consultation and audit findings

- **Quantity** - There are 3 community accessible swimming pools in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 26,481 people. Per capita levels of provision vary widely between sub-areas, with no provision at all in the Stansted sub-area. Sport England's Facilities Planning Model calculates that there is a current deficit equivalent to two lanes of a 25m pool.
- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of swimming pool provision in Uttlesford are just above the mean for its geographical neighbours and around the mean for its demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good, with all aspects of all facilities rated as at least 'average' standard.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest swimming pool, if provision in Bishop's Stortford is taken into account.

7.3.3 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of swimming pools in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs. However:

- Sport England's Facilities Planning Model calculates that there is a current deficit equivalent to two lanes of a 25m pool.
- Uttlesford is a large net exporter of swimming demand to neighbouring areas, which implies that access to local facilities is not meeting all needs.
- Sport England's 'Active People' survey data shows that adult participation rates in Uttlesford have consistently been well above the regional and national averages and currently stand at 42.9%, compared with a national figure of 35.5%.
- Sport England's Market Segmentation data for Uttlesford indicates that swimming is one of the activities favoured by several of the dominant market segments in the district.
- There is evidence from the clubs' consultation that there is a shortage of pool space for competitive swimmers in the district.

7.4 Synthetic athletics tracks

7.4.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - There are four local running clubs, although there is no club in the Stansted sub-area. According to the most recent *'Active People'* survey, 8.2% of the adult population of Uttlesford runs at least once a week, compared with the national average of 6.5%.
- **Supply** - There is no track within Uttlesford, with some local needs served by tracks in Harlow and Braintree.
- **Access** - A large area in the north of the district is beyond the 20 minute drivetime catchment of the nearest track.

7.4.2 Assessment of current provision

- There is a shortfall in provision in the northern part of the district. The UK Athletics *'Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2019'* (2014) defines a hierarchy of athletics facilities provision, which includes the following elements at a district level:
 - **Club Training Venues** - Track and field facilities (indoor and outdoor) that have a strong anchor club(s) with 100+ track and field members and a focus on athletes at the Event Group stage of the Athlete Development Model, promoting appropriate training and competition opportunities. To support site sustainability, Club Venues should have excellent social and ancillary provision and facilities that actively encourage multi-sport usage. Club venues are suitable for low level competitions only.
 - **Compact Athletics Facilities** - A new generation of affordable and sustainable indoor and outdoor athletics satellite facilities that provide a stepping stone into Club Venues. Compact Athletics Facilities are designed to fit available spaces and budgets, and provide functional, inspiring, facilities at which people of all ages and abilities can improve their fitness and confidence and develop the fundamental athletics movement skills of run, jump and throw.
- The provision of either a Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility in Saffron Walden, in conjunction with other multi-sport facility developments in the town, would be appropriate to meet districtwide needs.

7.5 Indoor bowls

7.5.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - Turpin's Indoor Bowling Club is the only club in the district but has spare capacity to accommodate additional members.
- **Supply** - There is one community accessible indoor bowls facility in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 79,443 people. The facility is located in the Saffron Walden sub-area.

- **Benchmarked provision** - Per capita levels of indoor bowls provision in Uttlesford are the best for its geographical neighbours and well above the mean for its demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good, with all aspects of the facility rated as at least 'above average' standard.
- **Access** - With the exception of a small part of the central-southern and eastern rural areas, the entire population of the district is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest facility.

7.5.2 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of indoor bowls facilities in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs from within the district.

7.6 Outdoor bowls

7.6.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - There are 11 bowls clubs in Uttlesford. All have some capacity to accommodate additional members.
- **Quantity** - There are 11 outdoor bowls green in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 7,222 people. Per capita levels of provision are poorest in the Great Dunmow sub-area.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision of greens and changing facilities is generally 'average' or above, but disabled and general access are more problematic at six and three sites respectively.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest bowls green.

7.6.2 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of outdoor bowls facilities in Uttlesford appear to be adequate to meet existing needs from within the district. This position is supported by the response to the sports clubs survey.

7.7 Indoor tennis

7.7.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - There is no evidence of demand for indoor tennis facilities in Uttlesford and the Lawn Tennis Association has not identified a need for an indoor centre in the district.
- **Supply** - There are no indoor tennis centres in Uttlesford. The southern part of the district is served by a facility in Harlow and the northern part by a facility in Cambridge, but a large proportion of the Great Dunmow sub-area is beyond the catchment of an indoor court.

- **Benchmarked provision** - Around half the geographical neighbours and demographic comparator authorities do not have indoor tennis centres.
- **Access** - The population in the east of the district is outside the catchment of the nearest indoor tennis court.

7.7.2 Assessment of current provision

Despite the absence of an indoor tennis centre in Uttlesford, provision in neighbouring areas seems adequate to meet existing needs from within the district.

7.8 Outdoor tennis

7.8.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - There are 12 tennis clubs in Uttlesford, which provide competitive and coaching opportunities for local tennis players. In addition, there is a significant amount of casual, recreational play, utilising public courts in parks and schools.
- **Supply** - Per capita levels of outdoor tennis provision in Uttlesford are just above the mean for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of all court surfaces is rated as at least 'above average' standard, but five changing facilities area rated as below 'average' as are the access arrangements at five sites.
- **Access** - The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest tennis court.

7.8.2 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of outdoor tennis courts in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs from within the district. However, quality deficiencies in changing facilities and access at selected sites should be addressed.

7.9 Health and fitness

7.9.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - The Market Segmentation data indicates that the demographic profile of Uttlesford is such that demand for health and fitness facilities is likely to be higher than the national average.
- **Supply** - There are 11 community accessible health and fitness facilities in Uttlesford, or one per 7,222 people. Levels of provision are poorest in the Great Dunmow sub-area. Per capita levels of health and fitness provision in Uttlesford are well above the mean for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good.

- **Access** - The whole population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest facility.

7.9.2 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of health and fitness facilities in Uttlesford are above the norm for the comparator local authorities. All evidence suggests that they are adequate to meet existing needs from within the district.

7.10 Squash courts

7.10.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - There is only one squash club in Uttlesford, although there is some casual play in addition.
- **Supply** - There are 7 community accessible squash courts in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 11,349 people. Sub-area provision varies widely, with no courts at all in the Stansted sub-area. Per capita levels of squash court provision in Uttlesford are the above the mean for its geographical neighbours but below the mean for its demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is above ‘average’.
- **Access** - The whole district population is within 20 minutes driving time of their nearest squash court.

7.10.2 Assessment of current provision

Current levels of provision of squash courts in Uttlesford are adequate to meet existing needs from within the district.

7.11 Golf courses

7.11.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - There are two golf clubs in Uttlesford, both of which offer ‘pay and play’ access to non-members. The Market Segmentation data indicates that the demographic profile of Uttlesford is such that demand for golf is likely to be higher than the national average. The English Golf Union has concluded that in the country as a whole, ‘supply of golf courses currently exceeds demand, with membership vacancies existing in the majority of golf clubs’. Both golf clubs in Uttlesford have membership vacancies, indicating some spare capacity.
- **Supply** - There are two community accessible golf courses in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 38,772 people. There is no provision in the Great Dunmow sub-area. Per capita levels of golf course in Uttlesford are the poorest for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators.
- **Quality** - The quality of provision is generally good, with all aspects of all facilities rated as at least ‘average’ standard, although the clubhouse at Saffron Walden GC is in need of refurbishment.

- **Access** - The whole district population is within 30 minutes driving time of their nearest golf course.

7.11.2 Assessment of current provision

There is a case for the provision of an additional golf course in Uttlesford, in the Great Dunmow sub-area, to meet existing needs from within the district.

7.12 Village and community halls

7.12.1 Consultation and audit findings

- **Demand** - Patterns of demand for sports use of village and community halls are complex, in particular because of the large variations in the size and layout of the activity spaces they contain and the consequent impact on the range and capacity of different sports that can be accommodated. However, most can accommodate activities such as carpet bowls, keep fit and aerobics, whilst some of the larger facilities include a regulation sized badminton court.
- **Quantity** - There are 53 community accessible village and community halls in Uttlesford, equivalent to one per 1,499 people. Per capita levels of provision are relatively consistent between sub-areas.
- **Benchmarked provision** - In the absence of comparator figures, it was not possible to benchmark levels of provision
- **Quality** - The lack of changing provision limits the sport and recreational use of many village and community halls.
- **Access** - The whole district population is within 10 minutes driving time of their nearest village and community hall.

7.12.2 Assessment of current provision

There is no evidence that existing provision of village and communities halls is inadequate to supplement the more specialist indoor sports facilities provision in Uttlesford.

7.13 Adult football pitches

7.13.1 Site-specific assessment

The site specific analysis for adult football pitches in Uttlesford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as ‘match equivalent’ sessions.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Alcott Pl. Field	1	2.0	Fritch United FC	2.0	Balanced	
Ashdon Villa Football Club	1	2.0	Ashdon Villa FC	1.0	+1.0	
Barnston Football Club	1	2.0	Barnston FC	2.0	Balanced	

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Birchanger Social Club	1	2.0	Birchanger Social Club FC	2.0	Balanced	
Calves Pasture	1	2.0	Hatfield Heath FC	3.0	-1.0	
Carver Barracks	2	2.0*	Saffron Dynamos FC	0.5	+1.5	* Capacity reduced by MoD usage
Causeway Recn. Ground	2	4.0	Dunmow Rhodes FC Dunmow Vets FC	2.5	+1.5	
Debden Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Debden FC	1.0	+1.0	
Elsenham Playing Fields	1	2.0	Lower Street FC	1.0	+1.0	
Felsted Playing Field	1	2.0	Felsted Rovers FC	2.0	Balanced	
Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club	1	1.0*	Hatfield Broad Oak FC	2.0	-1.0	* Capacity reduced by poor quality pitch
Herbert Farm Playing Fields	1	2.0	Spartak '78 FC	2.0	Balanced	
High Easter Playing Field	1	2.0	Beaumont Wanderers FC	1.0	+1.0	
Ickleton Village Hall Ground	1	2.0	Saffron Crocus FC	2.0	Balanced	
Jubilee Field, Clavering	1	1.0*	Sharp One FC	1.0	+1.0	* Capacity reduced by poor quality pitch
Littlebury Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Littlebury FC	1.0	+1.0	
Manuden PF Association	1	2.0	Manuden United FC	2.0	Balanced	
Newport Recn. Ground	2	4.0	Newport FC	3.0	+1.0	
Quendon Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Saffron Walden Town FC	1.0	+1.0	
Radwinter Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Radwinter FC	1.0	+1.0	
Roundbush Green	1	2.0	Roundbush FC	2.0	Balanced	
Saffron Walden Town FC	1	2.0	Saffron Walden Town FC Walden Ladies FC Saffron Walden YFC*	3.0	-1.0	* Includes use of adult pitch by youth teams
Stansted Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Stansted FC	2.0	Balanced	
Takeley Football Club	1	2.0	Takeley FC	2.0	Balanced	
Takeley Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Brewer FC	1.0	+1.0	
Thaxted Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Thaxted Rangers FC	2.0	Balanced	
White Roding Sports Club	1	2.0	White Roding Sports FC	3.0	-1.0	
Wimbish Recn. Ground	2	4.0	Walden Ladies FC Walden Wanderers YFC*	2.0*	+2.0	* Includes use of adult pitch by youth teams

7.13.2 Sub-area assessment

The supply-demand balance of adult football pitches at a sub-area level is as follows. The weekly balance figure represents the number of match equivalents. Spare capacity is indicated with a 'plus' sign and a deficit with a 'minus' sign:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>
Saffron Walden and district	14	25.0	17.5	+7.5
Great Dunmow and district	10	20.0	17.5	+2.5
Stansted and district	8	15.0	15.0	Balanced

7.13.3 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve adult football pitches are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

- Alcott Playing Field.
- Calves Pasture.
- Felsted Playing Field.
- Hatfield Broad Oak Social Club.
- Jubilee Field, Clavering
- Takeley Recreation Ground

7.13.4 Summary

The key findings on adult football pitches are as follows:

- Four sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At ten sites, usage is balanced
- 13 sites have some spare usage capacity.
- There is spare capacity in two sub-areas.

7.14 Youth football pitches

7.14.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for youth football pitches in Uttlesford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Barnston Football Club	1	2.0	Barnston FC	1.0	+1.0	
Causeway Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Dunmow Rhodes YFC	4.5	-2.5	
Dame Bradbury's Sch.	1	1.0*	Saffron Walden YFC	2.0	-1.0	* Capacity reduced by schools usage
Elsenham Playing Fields	1	2.0	Elsenham Youth FC Lower Street FC	3.5	-1.5	
Herbert's Farm Playing Field	2	4.0	Plantation Youth FC Spartak '78 Youth FC	7.0	-3.0	
Laundry Lane Playing Field	1	1.0*	Dunmow United YFC	2.5	-1.5	* Capacity reduced by poor quality pitch
Manuden Playing Field	1	2.0	Manuden Junior FC	2.5	-0.5	
Takeley Recn. Ground	2	2.0*	Takeley Youth FC	1.5	+0.5	* Capacity reduced by poor quality pitch
Thaxted Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Thaxted Rangers YFC	2.5	-0.5	

7.14.2 Sub-area assessment

The supply-demand balance of youth football pitches at a sub-area level is as follows. The weekly balance figure represents the number of match equivalents. Spare capacity is indicated with a 'plus' sign and a deficit with a 'minus' sign:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>
Saffron Walden and district	4	7.0	9.0	-2.0
Great Dunmow and district	3	5.0	10.5	-5.5
Stansted and district	4	6.0	7.5	-1.5

7.14.3 Qualitative analysis

The following changing facilities that serve youth football pitches are rated as below 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

- Laundry Lane Playing Field
- Takeley Recreation Ground.

7.14.4 Summary

The key findings for youth football pitches are as follows:

- Seven sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- Two sites have some spare usage capacity.
- There is a deficit in all sub-areas, with the greatest shortfall in Great Dunmow and district.

7.15 Mini-soccer pitches

7.15.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for mini-soccer pitches in Uttlesford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance at peak times are expressed as ‘match equivalent’ sessions.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>		<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Causeway Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Dunmow Rhodes YFC	5.0	-3.0	
Dame Bradbury's Sch.	3	3.0*	Saffron Walden Town YFC	2.0	+1.0	* Capacity reduced by schools usage
Elsenham Playing Fields	1	2.0	Elsenham YFC	2.0	Balanced	
Gt. Chesterford Recn Ground	1	2.0	Great Chesterford YFC	1.0	+1.0	
Herbert's Farm Playing Field	2	4.0	Plantation YFC Spartak YFC	7.5	-3.5	
Laundry Lane Playing Field	2	4.0	Dunmow United YFC	3.0	+1.0	
Thaxted Recn. Ground	1	2.0	Thaxted Rangers YFC	2.0	Balanced	

7.15.2 Sub-area assessment

The supply-demand balance of mini-soccer pitches at a sub-area level is as follows. The weekly balance figure represents the number of match equivalents. Spare capacity is indicated with a ‘plus’ sign and a deficit with a ‘minus’ sign:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>
Saffron Walden and district	6	9.0	10.5	-1.5
Great Dunmow and district	4	8.0	10.0	-2.0
Stansted and district	1	2.0	2.0	Balanced

7.15.3 Qualitative analysis

No mini-soccer pitches or the changing facilities that serve them are rated as ‘poor’.

7.15.4 Summary

The key findings for mini-soccer pitches are as follows:

- Two sites are currently used to just beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At two sites usage is balanced
- Three sites have some spare usage capacity.
- There is a collective deficit in two sub-areas.

7.16 Cricket pitches

7.16.1 Site specific assessment

The site specific analysis for cricket pitches in Uttlesford is set out below. As per Sport England guidance, capacity is expressed as match equivalents per **season**, as opposed to per **week** for all other pitch types.

- In line with ECB guidance it has been assumed that a ‘good’ quality wicket will accommodate 5 matches per season, a ‘standard’ quality wicket will accommodate 4 matches per season and a ‘poor’ quality wicket will accommodate 3 matches per season.
- Artificial turf wickets are shown in brackets in the table below and will accommodate 20 matches per season.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Anglo-American Playing Field	18	90.0	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	90.0	Balanced	
Audley End House	9	45.0	Audley End & Littlebury CC	20.0	+25.0	
Birchanger Social Club	8	40.0	Birchanger Cricket Club	20.0	+20.0	
Clavering Village Green	4	16.0	Clavering Cricket Club	10.0	+6.0	
Clogham's Green CC	10	50.0	Clogham's Green CC	20.0	+30.0	
County High Sports Centre	9(1)	65.0	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	65.0	Balanced	
Dunmow Cricket Club	12	48.0	Dunmow Cricket Club	90.0	-52.0	
Elmdon Cricket Club	10	40.0	Elmdon Cricket Club	30.0	+10.0	
Elsenham Cricket Club	12	60.0	Stansted Cricket Club Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	30.0	+30.0	
Friends School	12	60.0	Saffron Walden Cricket Club	60.0	Balanced	
Gt. Chesterford Recn. Ground	10	40.0	Chesterfords Cricket Club	20.0	+20.0	
Hargrave Park	10	50.0	Stansted Cricket Club	40.0	+10.0	
Hatfield Broad Oak CC	4	16.0	Hatfield Broad Oak CC	10.0	+6.0	
Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	8	40.0	Hatfield Heath Cricket Club	20.0	+20.0	
High Easter Cricket Club	4	20.0	High Easter Cricket Club	10.0	+10.0	
High Roding Cricket Club	12	48.0	High Roding Cricket Club	90.0	-42.0	
Hockerill Cricket Club	8	40.0	Hockerill Cricket Club	20.0	+20.0	
Langley Cricket Club	10	50.0	Langley Cricket Club	10.0	+40.0	

<i>Site</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Seasonal capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Seasonal demand</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Lindsell Cricket Club	4(1)	36.0	Lindsell Cricket Club	10.0	+26.0	
Little Bardfield Cricket Club	8(1)	60.0	Little Bardfield Cricket Club	20.0	+40.0	
Little Easton Recn. Ground	6	30.0	Eastons Cricket Club	10.0	+20.0	
Little Hallingbury CC	8	40.0	Little Hallingbury CC	20.0	+20.0	
Molehill Green Cricket Club	5	20.0	Molehill Green CC	20.0	Balanced	
Newport Recn. Ground	8	32.0	Newport Cricket Club	40.0	-8.0	
Radwinter Recn. Ground	2	8.0	Radwinter Cricket Club	10.0	-2.0	
Rickling Ramblers CC	10	50.0	Rickling Ramblers CC	20.0	+30.0	
Roundbush Green	10	50.0	Aythorpe Roding CC	70.0	-20.0	
Sampfords Cricket Club	8	32.0	Sampfords Cricket Club	10.0	+22.0	
Stansted Hall	8	32.0	Stansted Hall & Elsenham CC	30.0	+2.0	
Stebbing Cricket Club	6	24.0	Stebbing Cricket Club	10.0	+14.0	
Takeley Cricket Club	8	40.0	Takeley Cricket Club	10.0	+30.0	
Thaxted Cricket Club	8	40.0	Thaxted Cricket Club	70.0	-30.0	
Walton's Park	6	30.0	Ashdon Cricket Club	20.0	+10.0	
Wenden's Ambo Playing Field	8	40.0	Saffron Walden Cricket Club Wenden Cricket Club	45.0	-5.0	
White Roding Sports Club	6	30.0	White Roding Cricket Club	20.0	+10.0	

7.16.2 Sub-area analysis

The supply-demand balance of cricket pitches at a sub-area level is as follows. The seasonal balance figure represents the number of match equivalents. Spare capacity is indicated with a 'plus' sign and a deficit with a 'minus' sign:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Wickets</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Seasonal balance</i>
Saffron Walden and district	124(1)	598.0	440.0	+158.0
Great Dunmow and district	91(2)	456.0	440.0	+16.0
Stansted and district	62	298.0	200.0	+98.0

7.16.3 Qualitative analysis

The following aspects of cricket changing facilities are rated as 'poor' quality on the basis of the site audits, which adversely affects the overall quality of the playing experience:

- Anglo-American Playing Field.

- Audley End House.
- Clogham's Green Cricket Club
- Dunmow Cricket Club.
- Elmdon Cricket Club
- Elsenham Cricket Club.
- Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club.
- Hatfield Heath Cricket Club.
- Langley Cricket Club.
- Little Bardfield Cricket Club.
- Molehill Green Cricket Club.
- Thaxted Cricket Club
- Wenden's Ambo Playing Field.

7.16.4 Summary

The key findings for cricket pitches are as follows:

- Seven sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity.
- At four sites, usage is balanced
- 23 sites have some spare usage capacity.
- There is some spare capacity in all sub-areas.
- Poor quality pavilions are an issue at 13 cricket pitch sites.

7.17 **Rugby pitches**

7.17.1 Site-specific analysis

The site specific analysis for rugby pitches in Uttlesford is set out below. Capacity, demand and the resultant balance are expressed as 'match equivalent' sessions at peak times.

<i>Site</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
Carver Barracks	1	2.0	Wenden's Ambo Rugby Club	2.5	-0.5	
Saffron Walden Rugby Club	3	6.0	Saffron Walden Rugby Club	7.5	-1.5	

7.17.2 Sub-area assessment

The supply-demand balance of adult rugby pitches at a sub-area level is as follows. The weekly balance figure represents the number of match equivalents. Spare capacity is indicated with a 'plus' sign and a deficit with a 'minus' sign:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>
Saffron Walden and district	4	8.0	10.0	-2.5
Great Dunmow and district	0	0.0	0.0	Balanced
Stansted and district	0	0.0	1.0	Balanced

7.17.3 Qualitative analysis

All aspects of the quality of the rugby pitches and related changing facilities in the district are at least 'standard' quality.

7.17.4 Summary

Both sites are currently used to beyond their sustainable capacity. There is no provision in two of the sub-areas.

7.18 Synthetic Turf Pitches for Hockey

7.18.1 Site-specific analysis

The site specific analysis for synthetic turf pitches for hockey in Uttlesford (sand-dressed and sand-filled surfaces) is set out below:

<i>Site</i>	<i>Weekly capacity</i>	<i>Users</i>	<i>Weekly demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>	<i>Comments</i>
County High Sports Centre	30.0*	Football training and casual hire	22.0	+8.0	* Capacity reduced by schools use
Felsted School	15.0*	Blue Hornets Felsted HC	13.5	+1.5	* Capacity reduced by schools use
Great Dunmow Leisure Centre	48.0*	Football training and casual hire	30.0	+18.0	* Capacity reduced by schools use
Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport	34.0*	Saffron Walden HC	34.0	Balanced	* Capacity reduced by schools use

7.18.2 Sub-area assessment

The supply-demand balance of synthetic turf pitches for hockey at a sub-area level is as follows. The weekly balance figure represents the number of hours of availability. Spare capacity is indicated with a 'plus' sign and a deficit with a 'minus' sign:

<i>Sub-area</i>	<i>Pitches</i>	<i>Capacity</i>	<i>Demand</i>	<i>Weekly balance</i>
Saffron Walden and district	2	64.0	56.0	+8.0
Great Dunmow and district	2	63.0	43.5	+19.5
Stansted and district	0	0.0	0.0	Balanced

7.18.3 Qualitative analysis

The pitch at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport was built in 1995 and the surface is now poor quality. Pitch resurfacing requirements at other sites also need to be kept under review.

7.18.4 Facilities Planning Model assessment

Sport England's Facilities Planning Model (FPM) assesses synthetic turf pitch provision by comparing demand in an area with supply, taking into account issues such as capacity and access. The findings for synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford for a 'run' of the FPM in 2015 are as follows:

- **Supply** - Because the FPM takes account of hours available for community use, it calculates that pitch supply in Uttlesford is effectively equivalent to 2.34 pitches, providing a total capacity of 1,733 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp).
- **Demand** - Demand for synthetic turf pitches from the local population is 1,749 vpwpp. This is equivalent to demand for 2.36 pitches in the peak period.
- **Supply demand balance** - On the basis of the above assessment, there supply and demand in the district are almost exactly balanced.
- **Satisfied demand** - The FPM calculates that 95.8% of the demand for synthetic turf pitches in Uttlesford is satisfied, which equates to about 1,675 visits per week. This figure is higher than the national (81.3%), regional (82.7%) or Essex (89.5%) averages.
- **Imported/exported demand** - Not all of the satisfied demand from residents of Uttlesford is met by provision within the district. Only 56.8% of the district's satisfied demand is retained), whilst 43.2% is exported to adjacent districts, mainly to facilities in Bishops Stortford and Braintree.
- **Unmet demand** - Unmet demand for synthetic turf pitches in the district is for less than 74 visits per week, or 4.2% of total demand. This is lower than the regional (17.3%) or Essex (17.5%) averages. Unmet demand is spread thinly across the whole district.
- **Personal/relative share** - 'Personal/relative share' is a measure of which areas have a better or worse share of facility provision. It helps to establish whether Uttlesford has less or more share of sports hall provision than other areas when compared against a national average figure which is set at 100. Uttlesford has a relative share of 151.1, which means that residents of the district have 51.1% better access to provision than the national average.

7.18.5 Summary

Whilst there is some limited spare capacity at some pitches, Saffron Walden Hockey Club makes full use of the available pitch time at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport and thus has no capacity to expand further. The FPM assessment concurs that overall supply and demand are balance and that therefore there is no spare capacity for additional use.

7.19 '3G' Football Turf Pitches

There are currently no '3G' football turf pitches (rubber crumb-filled surfaces) in Uttlesford.

The Football Association (FA) has devised an internal mapping exercise to establish an estimated baseline figure for the number of '3G' football turf pitches needed to serve the current number of affiliated teams in a local authority. The estimate involves the following assumptions:

- Every football team in a locality will require one training 'slot' per week on a '3G' pitch, defined as one-third of the area of a full-sized pitch for one hour.
- Based upon Sport England national research on synthetic turf pitch usage, an average of 55 training 'slots' per week will be available at a full-sized '3G' pitch.
- Smaller and/or commercially provided '3G' pitches are assumed to be capable of accommodating an average of 10 training 'slots' per week.

According to data provided by the Essex FA, the football clubs based in Uttlesford have a total of 153 teams, which creates a requirement for an additional 2.78 '3G' football turf pitches.

The Essex FA believes that these should be located at key hub sites for football and has identified its favoured locations as:

- Herbert's Farm, Saffron Walden.
- Great Dunmow, either at the Recreation Ground or at a new multi-pitch site in the town.

7.20 Summary of current needs

On the basis of the analysis of the current balance between supply and demand of sports facilities in Uttlesford, the following needs have been identified:

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Sports halls	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but several facilities are operating at close to 'comfortable capacity'.	All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as at least 'above average' quality	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest sports hall.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All pools operating at close to 'comfortable capacity'. • The FPM calculates a deficit equivalent to two 25m lanes. 	All aspects of all facilities are currently rated as at least 'average' quality	The whole population is within 15 minutes driving time of their nearest pool, if provision in Bishop's Stortford is taken into account.
Synthetic athletics tracks	There is a deficit in the north of the district of a Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility.	No qualitative deficiency	The whole of the Saffron Walden sub-area is outside the 20 minute drivetime catchment of the nearest track.

Facility type	Quantity	Quality	Accessibility
Indoor bowls	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	All aspects of the current facility are currently rated as at least 'above average' quality	Apart from two small areas of the district, the entire population of the district is within 20 minutes drive of their nearest facility.
Outdoor bowls greens	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Disabled access improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clavering BC • Great Chesterford BC • Radwinter BC • Stansted BC • Stebbing BC • Thaxted BC General access improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clavering BC • Radwinter BC • Stansted BC 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest bowls green.
Indoor tennis courts	Despite the absence of an indoor centre, provision in neighbouring areas meets existing needs.	No qualitative deficiency	The population in the east of the district is outside the catchment of the nearest indoor tennis court.
Outdoor tennis courts	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Fencing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Hill TC Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Castle Hill TC • Debden Recreation Ground • Dunmow TC • Henham TC • Stansted TC General access improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clavering TC • Henham TC • Newport Village TC • Stansted TC • Thaxted TC 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest tennis court.
Health and fitness facilities	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	General access improvements needed at Wilbur's Gym.	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest health and fitness facility.
Squash courts	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest squash court.
Golf courses	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Clubhouse refurbishment needed at Saffron Walden GC	The whole population is within 30 minutes drive of the nearest golf course.
Village and community halls	Levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs.	Improvements needed at most halls to accommodate additional sports usage.	The whole population is within 10 minutes drive of the nearest village/community hall.

<i>Pitch type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Adult football pitches	Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but 4 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity.	Pitch quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatfield Broad Oak SC • Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcott Playing Field • Calves Pasture • Felsted Playing Field • Hatfield Broad Oak Social Club • Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering • Takeley Recreation Ground 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest adult football pitch.
Youth football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collective weekly deficit of 9.0 match equivalents • 7 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. 	Pitch quality improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laundry Lane Playing Field • Takeley Recreation Ground Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laundry Lane Playing Field • Takeley Recreation Ground 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest youth football pitch.
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A weekly deficit of 3.5 match equivalents • 2 sites are used to beyond capacity. 	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest mini-soccer pitch.
Cricket pitches	Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but 7 sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity.	Changing improvements needed at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anglo-American Playing Field. • Audley End House • Clogham's Green Cricket Club • Dunmow Cricket Club • Elmdon Cricket Club • Elsenham Cricket Club. • Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club • Hatfield Heath Cricket Club • Langley Cricket Club • Little Bardfield Cricket Club • Molehill Green Cricket Club • Thaxted Cricket Club • Wenden's Ambo Playing Field. 	The whole population is within 15 minutes drive of the nearest cricket pitch.
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A collective weekly deficit of 2.5 match equivalents • Both sites are used to beyond their sustainable capacity. 	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest rugby pitch.

<i>Facility type</i>	<i>Quantity</i>	<i>Quality</i>	<i>Accessibility</i>
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	Overall levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but the Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport pitch is used to full capacity.	Pitch resurfacing needed at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport.	The whole population is within 20 minutes drive of the nearest synthetic turf pitch for hockey.
'3G' football turf pitches	A collective deficit equivalent to 2.78 pitches. Essex FA advocates provision in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow.	No qualitative deficiency	The whole population is beyond a 20 minutes drive of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch.

8 FUTURE BALANCE BETWEEN SUPPLY AND DEMAND

8.1 Introduction

This section analyses the future balance between the supply of and demand for sports facilities and pitches in Uttlesford, in the period to 2031 (the period of the draft Local Plan).

8.2 Sports facilities methodology

The application of the locally-derived, evidence-based standards of provision is the most appropriate way to assess the need for future provision of sports facilities, taking account of:

- Projected population change.
- Participation trends.
- Any particular clubs or sites where demand is likely to increase in the future.
- Any forthcoming changes to facility supply.

8.3 Playing pitch methodology

To identify whether the supply of pitches is adequate to meet future demand, the following assessment was undertaken:

- The extent to which population change in the study area will affect the demand for provision.
- How participation aims, current trends and predicted changes in the way that pitch sports are played and pitches used may affect the demand for provision.
- Any particular sports clubs or sites where demand is likely to increase in the future.
- Any forthcoming changes in the supply of provision and how will this affect the adequacy of provision to meet demand.

Changes in demand have been modelled using ‘Team Generation Rates’, which identify how many people in a specified age group in the study area are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected increases in population to identify the likely number of additional teams and their related pitch needs in the future, taking account of participation aims and trends.

8.4 Projected population change to 2031

The Office for National Statistics published ‘2012-based Sub-national Population Projections for Local Authorities in England’ (2014). Long-term sub-national population projections are an indication of the future trends in population by age and sex over the next 25 years. They are trend-based projections, which means assumptions for future levels of births, deaths and migration are based on observed levels mainly over the previous five years. They show what the population will be if recent trends continue.

The figures on projected population change in Uttlesford to 2031 and are tabulated below in five year age bands:

Age Group	Population 2015	Population 2031	% Change
0-4	5,000	5,000	-
5-9	5,000	6,000	+20.0%
10-14	5,000	7,000	+40.0%
15-19	5,000	6,000	+20.0%
20-24	4,000	4,000	-
25-29	4,000	4,000	-
30-34	4,000	5,000	+25.0%
35-39	5,000	6,000	+20.0%
40-44	7,000	7,000	-
45-49	7,000	7,000	-
50-54	6,000	7,000	+16.7%
55-59	5,000	7,000	+40.0%
60-64	5,000	7,000	+40.0%
65-69	5,000	7,000	+40.0%
70-74	3,000	6,000	+100.0%
75-79	3,000	4,000	+33.3%
80-84	2,000	4,000	+100.0%
85-89	1,000	3,000	+300.0%
90+	1,000	2,000	+200.0%
TOTAL	81,000	102,000	+25.9%

Source: '2012-based Sub-national Population Projections for Local Authorities in England' (ONS, 2014)

The above projects match the current proposals for housing supply in Uttlesford in the Local Plan period to 2031 as follows:

- **Housing need** - Housing need has been confirmed as 545 dwelling per annum in the 17 year plan period, making a total of 9,265 new properties.
- **Household size** - The national average household size is currently 2.45 people.
- **Projected population** - Based upon the above figures, there will be 22,699 more residents in Uttlesford by 2031, taking the total population to 102,142. This will amount to an increase of 28.6% in the district population.

For the purposes of this strategy, the rounded figure of 102,000 has been taken as the assumed population of the district by 2031.

8.5 Participation aims and trends

The implications of participation aims, current trends and predicted changes in the way that sports are played and facilities are used is examined below:

8.5.1 Participation aims

The participation aims and targets for each of the main sports funded by Sport England are included in the governing bodies of sports' *Whole Sport Plans*' and are summarised below:

Sport	Participation aims	Implications for Uttlesford
Athletics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The key aim is to get 500,000 more people involved in informal running, primarily through the 'Run England' activation programme where trained running leaders, recreational running groups and marked routes and trails. Initiatives to promote track and field athletics will primarily be focused on 11 priority cities. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main emphasis is on recreational running, using non-specialist facilities such as roads, paths, parks and open spaces to promote participation. If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 750 runners in Uttlesford by 2017.
Badminton	Proposed initiatives to get an extra 30,000 participants nationally by 2017 include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 'Community Badminton Networks' which will bring together schools, clubs and local authorities to develop participation. 'Smash Up' Badminton for 14-16 year olds. 'Play Badminton' to increase casual players. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 50 badminton players in Uttlesford by 2017.
Basketball	A focus on 'Satellite Clubs' in targeted locations to get more young people playing more regularly. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	Uttlesford is not a targeted location.
Bowls	The 'Play Bowls' initiative will provide a package of support to clubs in designated 'Hot Spots' (which include Essex) to attract 10,400 new bowlers nationally. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 15 bowlers in Uttlesford by 2017.
Cricket	The focus is to 'retain existing regular players by providing more bespoke playing programmes'. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	Maintain current team numbers of 76 adult teams and 49 junior teams.
Cycling	The aim is to attract an extra 125,000 cyclists nationally through the 'Go Ride' participation programme of led rides and competitions. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The main emphasis is on using non-specialist facilities such as roads, paths, parks and open spaces to promote participation. If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 180 cyclists in Uttlesford by 2017.
Football	The aim is to attract an extra 200,000 footballers nationally through the 'Just Play' and 'Football Mash Up' participation programmes. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 300 footballers in Uttlesford by 2017.
Golf	'County Golf Partnerships' will be formed, to attract an extra 60,000 golfers nationally, through the 'Get into Golf' and 'Golf Roots' initiatives. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 90 golfers in Uttlesford by 2017.
Gymnastics	The aim is to attract an extra 10,000 gymnasts nationally by establishing 'Gymnastics Networks' including 'Satellite Venues' to help expand capacity in clubs. Source: <i>Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017</i> (2013)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There may be scope to develop 'Satellite Venues' in non-specialist facilities like village and community halls. If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 20 gymnasts in Uttlesford by 2017.

Sport	Participation aims	Implications for Uttlesford
Hockey	The aim is to attract an extra 17,000 hockey players nationally by establishing the 'Rush Hockey' and 'Back to Hockey' initiatives. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it would mean an extra 25 hockey players in Uttlesford by 2017.
Judo	The aim is to develop 'Club Clusters' in targeted locations, to promote 'Recreational Judo' and 'Judo Fit'. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	Uttlesford is not a targeted location.
Netball	The aim is to attract an extra 27,000 netballers nationally by establishing the 'Back to Netball' initiative. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 40 netballers in Uttlesford by 2017.
Rugby	The aim is to attract an extra 32,000 rugby players nationally, building on the publicity surrounding the Rugby World Cup. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 50 rugby players in Uttlesford by 2017.
Squash	The aim is to attract an extra 23,000 squash players nationally, but in geographical target 'Hub and Spoke' areas only. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	Uttlesford is not a targeted location.
Swimming	The aim is to attract an extra 100,000 swimmers nationally, involving: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The establishment of 'Local Aquatic Networks' to maximise available pool space. • Initiatives including 'Learn2Swim', 'Swimfit', 'Swim Britain' and 'Active Workplaces'. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	If the national target is achieved locally, it will mean an extra 150 swimmers in Uttlesford by 2017.
Table Tennis	The aim is to develop 'Ping!' programme in targeted locations, to attract an extra 24,000 participants nationally by 2017. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	Uttlesford is not a targeted location.
Tennis	The focus in the LTA's 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013) is to increase regular participation in tennis by 20,000 people nationally, but in geographical target areas. Source: 'Whole Sport Plan 2013 - 2017' (2013)	Uttlesford is not a targeted location.
Triathlon	Triathlon England has no specific participation targets, but aims to grow the sport by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 'Simply Tri' low cost events based on the 'Park Run' concept. • Mass participation events in iconic locations. 	The main emphasis is on using non-specialist facilities such as roads, paths, parks and open water to promote participation events.

8.5.2 Participation trends

Adult (16+) national monthly participation rates in most of the sports included in the strategy have been recorded in the past five 'Active People' surveys and the results are tabulated below, together with the percentage change in the six year period between 2009 and 2014:

Sport	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	% Change
Athletics	4.45%	4.47%	4.72%	4.65%	4.96%	+0.51%
Badminton	1.24%	1.20%	1.26%	1.16%	1.13%	-0.09%

<i>Sport</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>	<i>2012/13</i>	<i>2013/14</i>	<i>% Change</i>
Basketball	0.36%	0.36%	0.35%	0.36%	0.31%	-0.05%
Bowls	2.02%	1.54%	1.57%	1.73%	1.53%	-0.68%
Cricket	0.41%	0.51%	0.43%	0.34%	0.37%	-0.11%
Cycling	4.43%	4.15%	4.45%	4.62%	4.75%	+0.32%
Football	4.96%	4.98%	4.94%	4.25%	4.39%	-0.58%
Golf	2.04%	1.96%	1.97%	1.73%	1.67%	-0.37%
Gymnastics	0.12%	0.11%	0.12%	0.11%	0.09%	-0.03%
Hockey	0.21%	0.19%	0.25%	0.20%	0.20%	-0.03%
Judo	0.06%	0.03%	0.06%	0.04%	0.05%	-0.01%
Netball	0.34%	0.31%	0.37%	0.28%	0.35%	+0.01%
Rugby	0.46%	0.42%	0.42%	0.37%	0.43%	-0.03%
Squash	0.69%	0.67%	0.61%	0.55%	0.45%	-0.24%
Swimming	7.50%	6.62%	6.81%	6.77%	6.16%	-0.89%
Table Tennis	0.30%	0.32%	0.23%	0.25%	0.22%	-0.08%
Tennis	1.04%	0.88%	1.03%	0.94%	0.97%	-0.15%

The implications for future demand for sports facilities in Uttlesford are as follows:

- The governing bodies of sport have some ambitious targets to increase participation, but when translated into an Uttlesford context, the numbers over the current four year period are comparatively modest.
- Examination of national participation data over the period 2009 to 2014 puts the ambition of many of the national targets into context, with only three of the sports experiencing an increase in adult participation over that period.
- Many of the sports development initiatives involve innovative ways of promoting the sports concerned, often in non-traditional settings, so demand for formal facilities may be relatively unaffected.

8.6 The effects of changes in supply

The principal impact of known potential changes in the supply of sports facilities in Uttlesford are as follows:

8.6.1 Swimming facilities

Some feasibility work has been undertaken to establish the case for additional swimming provision in Saffron Walden, although this is very much at a preliminary stage.

8.6.2 Athletics facilities

There are two current proposals that would improve athletics facility provision in the district:

- **Carver Barracks** - The MoD has firm proposals to install an 8-lane 400m synthetic athletics track at the Carver Barracks in Wimbish. There is some community use of existing facilities at the site, so it should be possible to secure some access to the track for civilian needs.

- **Compact Athletics Facility/Club Training Venue** - Saffron Striders are currently investigating the feasibility of developing either a Compact Athletics Facility or a Club Training Venue in Saffron Walden.

8.6.3 Synthetic Turf Pitches for Hockey

Saffron Walden Hockey Club currently uses the synthetic turf pitch at Joyce Frankland Academy, Newport, but the pitch needs resurfacing and the club has insufficient pitch time in relation to its demand. It would therefore like to develop a second pitch at the site.

8.7 Summary of the evaluation of future supply and demand

Analysis of the factors influencing the future supply and demand for sports facilities in Uttlesford to 2031, leads to the following conclusions:

- **Population change** - There will be an overall rise of almost 22,700 people (a 28.6% increase) in the district population by 2031. This will significantly increase demand for sports facilities, regardless of participation trends.
- **Participation trends** - According to Sport England's *'Active People'* survey, participation in most of the sports featured in the strategy has fallen in the period since 2009, in some cases by quite significant margins. This means that future increases in participation cannot be assumed based upon historic trends, although overall participation rates in Uttlesford are well above the national average at present.
- **Sports development initiatives** - Many of the development programmes proposed by the governing bodies of the respective sports include some ambitious national participation targets, although when these are applied pro rata to the Uttlesford population, the increase in numbers locally is relatively modest.
- **Changes in supply** - There are a number of active proposals to develop new and improved facilities in the district, which will help to accommodate some increases in participation.

8.8 Planning standards for built facilities

8.8.1 Introduction

The Uttlesford *'Open Space, Sports Facility and Playing Pitch Strategy'* included some proposed standards of provision for sports facilities, as a means of identifying existing and projected future needs. These standards have been reviewed in the light of the following and changes proposed where appropriate:

- **Changes in supply** - Where there has been an increase or decrease in facility provision in the district since 2012, this has been reflected.

- **Changes in demand** - Where surveys and consultation in connection with the current strategy has identified changes in demand, these have been reflected. Also, where updated participation data such as Sport England's 'Active People' survey has become available since 2012, this has been taken into account.
- **Governing bodies of sport** - Some governing bodies of sport have revised their own planning standards and strategic targets since 2012 and therefore where appropriate these have been reflected.
- **Facilities Planning Model** - The results of the 2015 FPM 'runs' for sports halls and swimming pools have been built in.

8.8.2 Sports halls

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One sports hall per 14,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existing levels of provision equate to one sports hall per 14,241 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). • Local levels of sports hall provision are around the mean for its demographic comparators. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). • The clubs survey identified that many are unable to obtain sufficient access to sports halls. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2015) • Based upon the balance of the above evidence, a standard broadly equivalent to current levels of provision is justified. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a sports hall and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest sports hall.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the total sports hall demand satisfied in Uttlesford, 85.5% travelled by car. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2015). • Based upon national data, the Facilities Planning Model calculates that 92% of sports hall users travel for up to 20 minutes to access their chosen facility. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2015).

8.8.3 Swimming pools

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One swimming pool per 25,000 people (or 12 Sq.m of pool space per 1,000 people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one swimming pool per 26,481 people, or 11.42 Sq.m of pool space per 1,000 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). The number of swimming pools per capita in Uttlesford is around the mean for the neighbouring local authorities and comparative areas. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Sport England's Facilities Planning Model identifies a current deficit equivalent to two lanes of a 25m pool - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2015). Uttlesford is a large net exporter of swimming demand to neighbouring areas, which implies that access to local facilities is not meeting all needs - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2015). There is evidence from the clubs' consultation that there is a shortage of pool space for competitive swimmers in the district - <i>Uttlesford Sports Clubs Survey</i> (2015). Based upon the balance of the above evidence, a standard just above current levels of provision is justified. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a swimming pool and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. – <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest swimming pool.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the total swimming pool demand satisfied in Uttlesford, 91.26% travelled by car. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2015). Based upon national data, the FPM calculates that 91% of swimming pool users travel for up to 20 minutes to access their chosen facility. - <i>Facilities Planning Model</i> (2015).

8.8.4 Synthetic athletics tracks

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility per 80,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is no current provision in Uttlesford, but some local needs are served by tracks in Harlow and Braintree - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). UK Athletics defines a hierarchy of athletics facilities provision, which includes Club Training Venues and Compact Athletics Facilities at a district level. - <i>Facilities Strategy 2014 - 2019'</i> (2014)
Qualitative	All aspects of an athletics facility should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2014).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest facility.	20 minutes driving time is the typical effective catchment for most types of sports facility in Uttlesford. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2014).

8.8.5 Indoor bowls facilities

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One indoor bowls facility per 80,000 people (or one rink per 13,250 people).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one indoor bowls hall per 79,443 people (or one rink per 13,241 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Per capita levels of indoor bowls provision in Uttlesford are above the mean for its geographical neighbours and its demographic comparators. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). There is some spare capacity at the existing facility in the district. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of an indoor bowls hall should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest facility.	'The majority of indoor facility users will live locally and travel not more than 20 minutes. 90% of users will travel by car'. - <i>Bowls Design Guidance</i> (2005).

8.8.6 Outdoor bowls greens

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One outdoor bowls green per 7,500 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor bowls green per 7,222 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). There is some spare capacity at all bowls facilities in the district. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a bowls green and its ancillary facilities should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes drive of the nearest facility.	'The majority of outdoor facility users will live locally and travel not more than 15 minutes. 90% of users will travel by car'. - <i>Bowls Design Guidance</i> (2005).

8.8.7 Indoor tennis courts

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	No standard set	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities in neighbouring areas can meet all Uttlesford's needs. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). The LTA has not identified a strategic need for indoor tennis provision in Uttlesford. - <i>LTA</i> (2015).
Qualitative	No standard set	No facility provision is envisaged.
Accessibility	The whole population within 30 minutes drive of the nearest indoor tennis courts.	Research commissioned by the Lawn Tennis Association revealed that indoor tennis centre users typically travel for up to 30 minutes to reach their chosen facility and more than 90% travel by car. - <i>LTA</i> (2002).

8.8.8 Outdoor tennis courts

Element	Standard	Justification
Quantitative	One outdoor tennis court per 2,250 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one outdoor court per 2,270 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Per capita levels of outdoor tennis provision in Uttlesford are just above the mean for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a facility should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes drive of the nearest court.	Research commissioned by the LTA reveals that outdoor tennis court users typically travel for up to 15 minutes to reach their chosen facility and more than 70% travel by car. - <i>LTA</i> (2002).

8.8.9 Health and fitness facilities

Element	Standard	Justification
Quantitative	One health and fitness facility per 7,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one health and fitness facility per 7,222 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Per capita levels of health and fitness provision in Uttlesford are just above the mean for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Market Segmentation data indicates that the demand for health and fitness facilities is likely to be higher than the national average. - <i>Market Segmentation data</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a facility should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 15 minutes drive of the nearest facility.	The majority of facility users travel not more than 15 minutes. Around 90% of users travel by car'. - <i>'Fitness Industry Association'</i> (2012).

8.8.10 Squash courts

Element	Standard	Justification
Quantitative	One squash court per 12,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one squash court per 11,349 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Per capita levels of squash court provision in Uttlesford are just below the mean for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators. Despite this, there is no evidence of any local shortfalls in supply. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a facility should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest court.	As a specialist sports facility, squash court users typically travel for up to 20 minutes to reach their chosen facility and over 90% travel by car. - <i>England Squash and Racketball</i> (2011).

8.8.11 Golf courses

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One 9-hole golf course unit per 25,000 people.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Existing levels of provision equate to one 9-hole golf course unit per 26,481 people - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). Per capita levels of golf course in Uttlesford are by far the poorest for its geographical neighbours and demographic comparators. - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015). The English Golf Union states that in the country as a whole, 'supply of golf courses currently exceeds demand, with membership vacancies existing in the majority of golf clubs' - <i>Golf Development Strategic Plan 2004-2014</i>' (EGU, 2004).
Qualitative	All aspects of a golf course should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 20 minutes drive of the nearest golf course.	Research commissioned by the English Golf Union revealed that golfers typically travel for up to 20 minutes to reach their chosen course and more than 90% travel by car. - <i>EGU</i> (2004).

8.8.12 Village and community halls

<i>Element</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Justification</i>
Quantitative	One hall per 1,500 people.	Existing levels of provision equate to one village/community hall per 1,499 people. Current provision supplements more formal, specialist sports facilities by meeting low-level recreational needs, particularly in rural areas - <i>Uttlesford Quantitative Audit</i> (2015).
Qualitative	All aspects of a village /community hall should rate 'average' or better.	All aspects of the quality of all sports facilities in Uttlesford should aspire to be of at least 'average' quality. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).
Accessibility	The whole population within 10 minutes drive of the nearest hall.	Village halls are essentially local facilities with a relatively limited catchment, so a maximum of 10 minutes travel time is an appropriate standard. - <i>Uttlesford Sports Development Strategy</i> (2015).

8.9 Projected future facilities needs

By applying the standards identified above, the following facilities needs have been identified:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current facilities</i>	<i>Standard</i>	<i>Extra Population by 2031</i>	<i>Extra facilities needed by 2031</i>
Sports halls	6	1: 14,000	22,700	1.62
Swimming pools	4	1: 25,000	22,700	0.91
Athletics tracks	0	1: 80,000	22,700	0.28
Indoor bowls	1	1: 80,000	22,700	0.28 (2 rinks)
Outdoor bowls	11	1: 7,500	22,700	3.02
Indoor tennis	0	-	22,700	0
Outdoor tennis	35	1: 2,250	22,700	10.1
Health and fitness	11	1: 7,000	22,700	3.24
Squash	7	1: 12,000	22,700	1.89
Golf courses	2	1: 25,000	22,700	0.91
Village/community halls	53	1: 1,500	22,700	15.1

8.10 Future playing pitch needs

To identify whether the supply of pitches is adequate to meet future demand, changes in demand have been modelled using ‘Team Generation Rates’, which identify how many people in a specified age group in the study area are required to generate one team. These are then applied to projected increases in population to identify the likely number of additional teams and their related pitch needs in the future.

<i>Sport</i>	<i>Age range</i>	<i>Current population</i>	<i>Current teams</i>	<i>TGR</i>	<i>Population 2031</i>	<i>Teams 2031</i>	<i>Extra teams</i>	<i>Extra pitches</i>
Adult male football	17-45	14,200	56	1: 254	15,500	61	+5	2.5
Adult female football	17-45	14,200	1	1: 14,200	15,500	1	-	0
Boys youth football	10-16	3,500	62	1: 56	4,700	83	+21	10.5
Girls youth football	10-16	3,500	1	1: 3,500	4,700	1	-	0
Mini-soccer (mixed)	6-9	4,000	39	1: 103	4,800	47	+8	4
Adult male cricket	16-55	21,000	73	1: 288	23,100	80	+7	3.5
Adult female cricket	16-55	21,000	2	1: 10,500	23,100	2	-	0
Boys junior cricket	10-15	3,000	44	1: 68	4,100	60	+16	8
Girls junior cricket	10-15	3,000	3	1: 1,000	4,100	4	+1	0.5
Adult male rugby	19-45	13,200	4	1: 3,300	14,300	4	-	0
Adult female rugby	19-45	13,200	1	1: 13,200	14,300	1	-	0
Boys junior rugby	13-18	3,000	7	1: 429	3,800	9	+2	1.0
Girls junior rugby	13-18	3,000	1	1: 3,000	3,800	1	-	0
Mini-rugby (mixed)	7-12	6,000	13	1: 462	7,800	17	+4	2.0
Adult male hockey	18-45	13,700	8	1: 1,714	14,900	9	+1	0.1
Adult female hockey	18-45	13,700	7	1: 1,957	14,900	8	+1	0.1
Boys junior hockey	8-17	5,000	9	1: 556	5,900	11	+2	0.2
Girls junior hockey	8-17	5,000	9	1: 556	5,900	11	+2	0.2

8.11 Summary of future needs

On the basis of an analysis of the future sports facilities requirements in Uttlesford, the following needs have been identified:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Facilities provided in 2015</i>	<i>Total facilities needed in 2015</i>	<i>Total facilities needed by 2031</i>
Sports halls	6	6	7.62
Swimming pools	4	4.5	5.41
Athletics facilities	0	1	1.28
Indoor bowls	1	1	1.28 (2 rinks)
Outdoor bowls	11	11	14.02
Indoor tennis	0	0	0
Outdoor tennis	35	35	45.1
Health and fitness	11	11	14.24
Squash	7	7	8.89
Golf courses	2	2	2.91
Village/community halls	53	53	68.1

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Facilities provided in 2015</i>	<i>Total facilities needed in 2015</i>	<i>Total facilities needed by 2031</i>
Adult football pitches	36	26	28
Youth football pitches	14	18.5	24
Mini-soccer pitches	15	17	19
Cricket pitches	37	32	35
Rugby pitches	4	6.5	8
Synthetic turf pitches	4	4	4.6
'3G' football turf pitches	0	2.78	3.51

9 ACTION PLAN

9.1 Introduction

This section comprises an action plan for meeting the deficiencies identified in this assessment. It examines the options for meeting the shortfalls, the delivery partners and an action plan that specifies what needs to be provided and where and proposes how best this might be achieved.

9.2 Dealing with deficiencies

9.2.1 New provision

Providing entirely new sports facilities may be the only means of securing additional provision in the right location. This can be achieved by:

- Identifying entirely new sites for provision in appropriate locations.
- Extending existing provision where feasible.
- Disposing of existing facilities to reinvest the capital receipt in new provision of at least equivalent quantity, quality and accessibility.
- Incorporating facilities into new community provision and housing developments.

9.2.2 Upgrading and refurbishing

Upgrading and refurbishing existing sports facilities would help to meet some of the qualitative deficiencies identified:

- The provision of floodlights for some outdoor sports facilities would extend the period in which they can be used.
- Changing facilities are poor or absent at some facility sites in the Uttlesford and improvements would significantly enhance the experience of users.

9.2.3 Enhanced access

Developing new access to sports facilities on education and MoD sites and securing community use at sites where access is only informal at present would significantly improve the availability of provision. Securing improved access through the development of formal agreements serves to safeguard community use of school sports facilities may provide sufficient security of tenure to allow external funding applications to be sought, to provide further enhancements.

9.2.4 Reinstating former facilities

Reinstating sports facilities where usage has, for a variety of reasons, been discontinued in recent times, affords a straightforward response to increased local demand.

9.3 Delivery partners

A wide range of organisations will have a role in implementing the Uttlesford Sports Facilities Strategy. The type of roles are summarised below.

9.3.1 Uttlesford District Council

The council is likely to play the lead role in co-ordinating the development of the larger, more strategic sports facility sites, in conjunction with other partners where appropriate.

9.3.2 Town and Parish Councils

Parish councils will continue to play a valuable role in providing and maintaining sports facilities, especially in the rural parts of the district.

9.3.3 Schools

Many schools in Uttlesford already provide sports facilities from which local communities benefit and there will be further opportunities both to provide additional facilities on school sites to extend and formalise community access to a range of existing provision.

9.3.4 Ministry of Defence

The MoD site at Carver Barracks offers major opportunities to develop further the existing community use at the site as proposed new athletics facilities are provided.

9.3.5 Sports clubs

Local sports clubs are significant providers of sports facilities and will continue to do so. Some clubs may be interested in taking on delegated management responsibilities for facilities management and maintenance from Uttlesford District Council or parish councils.

9.3.6 Leisure management contractor

‘One Life’, the contractor appointed by the Council to run the main leisure centres in the district, may be prepared to invest capital funds to improve the facilities it is managing, on the basis that improved capacity and usage will enable it to generate a commercial return on its investment.

9.3.7 Developers

The developers of new housing and commercial projects in Uttlesford can be required either to provide new sports facilities as part of an individual development, or to make a financial contribution towards the costs of such provision on site or elsewhere in the vicinity. The key principle is that the provision must meet the needs of the residents of the new homes, as opposed to rectifying any pre-existing deficiencies.

9.3.8 Partnership arrangements

Partnership arrangements involving combinations of any of the above providers will help to share the costs of provision, management and maintenance of additional provision.

9.4 Action plan for meeting existing needs

The action plan identifies the ways in which current deficiencies might be met and the partners who will have a role in providing, funding and managing new and improved provision.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Sports halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs, but several facilities are operating at close to full capacity. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Swimming pools	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to two 25m lanes. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Investigate the feasibility of making additional pool provision.
Athletics tracks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is a deficit in the north of the district of a Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the potential for community access to the proposed 400m track at Carver Barracks. • If adequate access cannot be negotiated at Carver Barracks, identify the feasibility of providing a Club Training Venue or Compact Athletics Facility in Saffron Walden.
Indoor bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Outdoor bowls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Disabled access improvements needed at 6 sites. • General access improvements needed at 3 sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for disabled access improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clavering Bowls Club - Great Chesterford Bowls Club - Radwinter Bowls Club - Stansted Bowls Club - Stebbing Bowls Club - Thaxted Bowls Club • Seek funding for general access improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clavering Bowls Club - Radwinter Bowls Club - Stansted Bowls Club
Indoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Outdoor tennis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Fencing improvements needed at one site. • Changing improvements needed at five sites. • General access improvements needed at five sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for fencing improvements at Castle Hill Tennis Club. • Seek funding for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Castle Hill Tennis Club. - Debden Recreation Ground - Dunmow Tennis Club - Henham Tennis Club - Stansted Tennis Club • Seek funding for general access improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Clavering Tennis Club - Henham Tennis Club - Newport Village Tennis Club - Stansted Tennis Club - Thaxted Tennis Club
Health and fitness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • General access improvements needed at one site. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Seek funding for general access improvements at Wilbur's Gym.
Squash courts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Golf courses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Clubhouse refurbishment needed at one site. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Seek funding for clubhouse refurbishments at Saffron Walden Golf Club.
Village and community halls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • No qualitative deficiency. • No accessibility deficiency. 	No action required.
Adult football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Pitch quality improvements needed at two sites. • Changing improvements needed at seven sites. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for pitch quality improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club - Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering • Seek funding for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alcott Playing Field - Calves Pasture - Felsted Playing Field - Hatfield Broad Oak Sports Club - Jubilee Playing Field, Clavering - Takeley Recreation Ground

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Current assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Youth football pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 4.5 pitches. • Pitch quality improvements needed at two sites. • Changing improvements needed at two sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convert five adult football pitches with spare capacity to youth pitches. • Seek funding for pitch quality improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laundry Lane Playing Field - Takeley Recreation Ground • Seek funding for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Laundry Lane Playing Field - Takeley Recreation Ground
Mini-soccer pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 2.0 pitches. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	Convert one adult football pitch with spare capacity to two mini-soccer pitches.
Cricket pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current levels of provision are adequate to meet existing needs. • Changing improvements needed at 13 sites. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek funding for changing improvements at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Anglo-American Playing Field - Audley End House - Clogham's Green Cricket Club - Dunmow Cricket Club - Elmdon Cricket Club - Elsenham Cricket Club - Hatfield Broad Oak Cricket Club - Hatfield Heath Cricket Club - Langley Cricket Club - Little Bardfield Cricket Club - Molehill Green Cricket Club - Thaxted Cricket Club - Wenden's Ambo Playing Field
Rugby pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 1.0 pitch. • No quality improvements needed. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of relocating Saffron Walden Rugby Club to a site in the town with additional pitch capacity. • Seek funding for the development if the feasibility is proven.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity issues at the Joyce Frankland Academy pitch. • Pitch re-surfacing needed at the Joyce Frankland Academy. • No accessibility deficiency. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of developing a second pitch at the Joyce Frankland Academy. • Seek funding for re-surfacing the existing pitch at the Joyce Frankland Academy and for a second pitch if the feasibility is proven.
'3G' football turf pitches	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current deficit equivalent to 2.78 pitches. • No quality improvements needed. • The whole population is beyond a 20 minutes drive of the nearest '3G' football turf pitch. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigate the feasibility of developing '3G' pitches in Saffron Walden and Great Dunmow. • Seek funding for the developments if the feasibility is proven.

9.5 Action plan for meeting future needs

The action plan identifies the ways in which future deficiencies to 2031 might be met:

<i>Facility</i>	<i>Future assessed deficiency</i>	<i>Action plan for meeting deficiency</i>
Sports halls	Additional demand equivalent to 1.62 sports halls (6-badminton courts).	Secure the provision of an additional 6-badminton court-sized sports hall funded by developer contributions.
Swimming pools	Additional demand equivalent to 0.91 6-lane swimming pools.	Secure the provision of an additional 6-lane swimming pool, funded by developer contributions.
Athletics tracks	Additional demand equivalent to 0.28 Compact Athletics Facilities.	Secure the provision of additional facility capacity either at the Carver Barracks track or at the proposed Compact Athletics Facility in Saffron Walden.
Indoor bowls	Additional demand equivalent to 0.28 indoor facilities (2 rinks).	Secure a financial contribution from developers to fund the provision of two additional rinks at the existing facility.
Outdoor bowls	Additional demand equivalent to 3.02 bowls greens.	Secure the provision of three additional bowls greens, funded by developer contributions.
Indoor tennis	No additional provision required.	No action required
Outdoor tennis	Additional demand equivalent to 10.1 tennis courts	Secure the provision of 10 additional tennis courts, funded by developer contributions.
Health and fitness	Additional demand equivalent to 3.24 health and fitness facilities.	Secure the provision of three additional health and fitness facilities, funded by developer contributions.
Squash	Additional demand equivalent to 1.89 squash courts.	Secure the provision of 2 additional squash courts, funded by developer contributions.
Golf courses	Additional demand equivalent to 0.91 golf courses.	Secure the provision of one additional golf course, funded by developer contributions.
Village/ community halls	Additional demand equivalent to 15.1 village/community halls.	Secure the provision of 15 additional village halls, funded by developer contributions.
Adult football pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 2 pitches.	Accommodate additional demand by using existing spare adult football pitch capacity.
Youth football pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 5.5 pitches.	Secure the provision of six additional pitches, funded by developer contributions.
Mini-soccer pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 2 pitches.	Secure the provision of two additional pitches, funded by developer contributions.
Cricket pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 3 pitches.	Accommodate additional demand by using existing spare adult cricket pitch capacity.
Rugby pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 1.5 pitches.	Secure the provision of two additional pitches, funded by developer contributions.
Synthetic turf pitches for hockey	Additional demand equivalent to 0.6 pitches.	Secure the provision of one additional pitch, funded by developer contributions.
'3G' football turf pitches	Additional demand equivalent to 0.73 pitches.	Secure the provision of one additional pitch, funded by developer contributions.

9.6 Provision for reviews

Because sport and physical activity is a rapidly changing environment, to ensure that the proposals in the strategy continue to address local needs and strategic priorities, the situation will be reviewed regularly. Assumptions about population growth will be tested regularly and projected requirements refined accordingly. There will therefore be annual reviews of progress towards action plan targets and a three-yearly review of the overall strategic approach.