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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.