

WELWYN HATFIELD COUNCIL

BUILT FACILITIES STUDY AND STRATEGY 2018 - 2032

STRATEGY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

JANUARY 2020

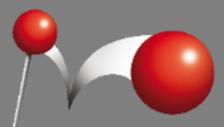


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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

TERMS	EXPLANATION
ASSESSING NEEDS AN OPPORTUNITIES GUIDANCE (ANOG))	The Sport England guidance on preparing and developing needs assessments for built sports facilities, which provides the evidence to support a Local Plan.
COMMUNITY USE	A facility has community use if it is open for use by sports clubs/community groups.
COMMUNITY ACCESSIBLE PAY AND PLAY USE	A facility has community accessible pay and play use if it is open for use by individuals in the community.
COMMUNITY USE AGREEMENT (CUA)	A CUA is a formal agreement between an education facility and a local authority (and sometimes also Sport England) for community use of a sports facility on an education site out of school hours
FACILITY PLANNING MODEL (FPM)	The FPM is a facility modelling toolkit, developed by Sport England to inform the current and future need for provision of sports halls, swimming pools and all-weather pitches.
NATIONAL PLANNING POLICY FRAMEWORK (NPPF)	The NPPF sets out the Government's planning policies and how they are expected to be applied. It covers both plan making and development management.
SPORTS FACILITY CALCULATOR (SFC)	The SFC is a facility modelling toolkit, developed by Sport England to calculate the future need for provision of sports halls, swimming pools and indoor bowls, based on a specified population increase in an identified location.
STRATEGIC SIZE	Strategic size refers to either a sports hall of minimum 3 badminton courts, or a pool of a minimum 160 sq. m. These dimensions are those used in the Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) and reflect a scale of provision suitable for community use.

1. STAGE C - SUMMARY FACILITY CONCLUSIONS

- 1.1. Stage C of ANOG brings together all the data detailed in Stage B i.e. sections 1- 4 of the Evidence base; based on the analysis undertaken, the summary conclusion for current and future provision of each facility type assessed in the Borough is set out below. This analysis also takes into account the Facility Planning Model (FPM) data provided by Sport England; this data is checked and challenged through the analysis process, based on local knowledge and research. A summary of the FPM analysis reflected in the analysis is set out below.

NEIGHBOURING LOCAL AUTHORITIES

- 1.2. In determining the nature, level and location of sports facility provision required for the future in Welwyn Hatfield, it is also important to be aware of how neighbouring local authorities are planning for the future. Given that communities use sports facilities in areas other than where they live, the development of new or improved provision can impact significantly on both participation levels and capacity cross-boundary. Consultation with neighbouring local authorities is summarised in Appendix 3.
- 1.3. Neighbouring local authorities provide sport and leisure facilities, and, given the geography of the local area in and around Welwyn Hatfield, it is important to recognise that facilities outside the Borough may be easily accessible to Borough residents. The fact that there is exported demand¹ to neighbouring local authorities for use of pools (30.50%) and sports halls (16.6%) would appear to underpin this position. .

SUMMARY CONCLUSIONS - FACILITY TYPES

SPORTS HALLS

CONSULTATION

SCHOOLS

- 1.4. A survey was sent to all schools in Welwyn Hatfield to identify existing on-site sports facilities and the extent of community access/use provided. Despite chasing several times, there was a very poor response to this survey (11 schools responded as set out in Table 1.1).
- 1.5. Therefore, additional research and site visits were undertaken to identify the information needed to inform this study. Appendix 7 details all school facilities in the Borough and the availability of community use. Most schools with sports facilities provide for use by clubs and groups, as opposed to community pay and play. Bishops Hatfield School for Girls advised that they would like to open for community use, both of their sports hall, and also for use of their MUGAs, but these would need to floodlit to do so.
- 1.6. A summary of secondary schools with sports facilities available for community i.e. clubs and groups is set out in Table 1.1. Of the 12 schools (mostly primary schools) identified with a small activity hall seven schools provide for community use (clubs and groups). Five activity halls are for private use only.

¹ Source: Sport England FPM reports August 2017

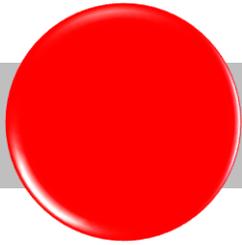
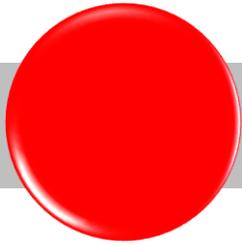


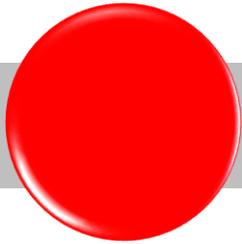
Table 1.1: Summary of Schools Consultation Responses on Sport Facilities

SCHOOL	FACILITY TYPE	SECURED COMMUNITY USE?	IS THERE ORGANISED USE WITHOUT A WRITTEN AGREEMENT?	DAY AND TIME OF SCHOOL USE	WOULD THE SITE ALLOW COMMUNITY ACCESS, IF NOT CURRENTLY APPARENT, AND WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS? (E.G. VANDALISM, FACILITIES ARE OVER -USED, ALREADY LOTS OF SCHOOL USE / AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS ETC)	ARE THERE ANY CURRENT PLANS TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL/ COLLEGE SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE FUTURE AND WHAT ARE THE DETAILS OF THIS IF YES, PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN.
ST PHILIP HOWARD PRIMARY SCHOOL	Sports Hall	N/A	N/A	Fri 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Mon 9am-5pm	N/A	
CHANCELLORS SCHOOL	School has confirmed there is currently no indoor sports provision.					There is a planning resolution to grant subject to s106 for a Sports Hall and classroom block This will consist of Sports hall with 4 badminton courts size. Potential for fitness suite to be added on when finance available. Changing rooms and a storage area also available. Cost of build is undisclosed at present. We have two gymnasiums one of which is hired out to Potters Bar Gym club and another zumba/fitness user.
SHERRARDSWOOD	Sport Hall (3 badminton courts)	No	No			
SPRINGMEAD PRIMARY SCHOOL	Sport Hall	No	No	Mon 9am-5pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm	N/A	
APPLECROFT	Sports Hall (1 badminton court)	Yes	No	Mon 9am-5pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Tues 5-9pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm	N/A	
BISHOP HATFIELD GIRLS SCHOOL	Sports Hall (4 badminton courts)	No	No	Sports hall: Mon 9am-5pm, Mon 5-9pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Tues 5-9pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Wed 5-9pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Thurs 5-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Fri 5-9pm	N/A	
	Dance Studios (1)	No	No	Dance Studios: Mon 9am-5pm, Mon 5-9pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Wed 5-9pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Thurs 5-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Fri 5-9pm, Sat 9am-5pm, Sat 5-9pm, Sun 9am-5pm, Sun 5-9pm, Tues 5-9pm		There should be a community use agreement in place as it is a planning condition with which the school needs to comply.
HOLWELL PRIMARY SCHOOL	School has confirmed there is currently no indoor sports provision.					



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SCHOOL	FACILITY TYPE	SECURED COMMUNITY USE?	IS THERE ORGANISED USE WITHOUT A WRITTEN AGREEMENT?	DAY AND TIME OF SCHOOL USE	WOULD THE SITE ALLOW COMMUNITY ACCESS, IF NOT CURRENTLY APPARENT, AND WHAT IS THE MAIN REASON FOR THIS? (E.G. VANDALISM, FACILITIES ARE OVER -USED, ALREADY LOTS OF SCHOOL USE / AFTER SCHOOLS CLUBS ETC)	ARE THERE ANY CURRENT PLANS TO IMPROVE THE SCHOOL/ COLLEGE SPORTS FACILITIES IN THE FUTURE AND WHAT ARE THE DETAILS OF THIS IF YES, PLEASE BRIEFLY EXPLAIN.
SWALLOW DELL PRIMARY AND NURSERY SCHOOL	Sports Hall (2 badminton courts)	No	No	Mon 9am-5pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm	We have experienced vandalism and inappropriate use of school equipment.	N/A
THE RYDE SCHOOL	Sports Hall	No	No	Our hall is quite small. Not big enough for badminton courts. It is used for a karate club and Tai Chi club at present 3 nights per week term time. Mon 9am-5pm, Mon 5-9pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Wed 5-9pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Thurs 5-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm £15 per hour	N/A	
QUEENSWOOD SCHOOL	Sports Hall (8 badminton courts)	Yes	No	Sports halls Mon 9am-5pm, Mon 5-9pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Tues 5-9pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Wed 5-9pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Thurs 5-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Fri 5-9pm, Sat 9am-5pm	N/A	
	Swimming Pool (1)	No	No	Swimming Pools Mon 9am-5pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Tues 5-9pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Wed 5-9pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm		
	Dance Studios (1)	No	No	Dance Studios Mon 9am-5pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Fri 9am-5pm		
	Fitness Suite (10 stations)	No	No	Fitness Suites Mon 9am-5pm, Mon 5-9pm, Tues 9am-5pm, Tues 5-9pm, Wed 9am-5pm, Thurs 9am-5pm, Thurs 5-9pm, Fri 9am-5pm, Sat 9am-5pm		



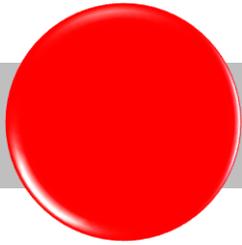
NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES (NGB’S)

1.7. Consultation was undertaken with National Governing Bodies (NGB’s), to identify their views on the need for sports hall provision in Welwyn Hatfield. The views of NGBs who responded are included below.

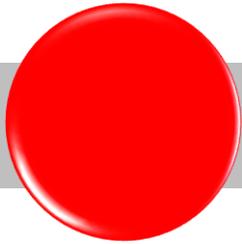
N.B. All NGBs were contacted several times and asked for their input to this strategy.

Table 1.2: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation – Sports Hall Sports

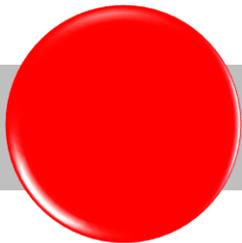
NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	CURRENT FOCUS/PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS/PRIORITIES
BADMINTON ENGLAND	<p>Badminton England is developing Hubs which bring together routes to badminton through schools, clubs and pay and play in geographic areas. Welwyn Hatfield is one of the first hubs and a priority.</p> <p>The Badminton Network will have a development plan which will be the sustainability model at the end of each hub project. Badminton England will provide support as required to help the network with their development plan.</p>	<p>As the hub develops issues identified are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facility access <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clubs need more court time to be able to grow, finding it difficult to secure time ➤ Facilities with policies to leave percentage available for pay and play, means additional times cannot be secured, but appreciate need balance. ➤ Coaches unable to book facilities to coach individuals or small groups, centres stopping coaches booking pay and play courts. Needs a business model which works for both sides in terms of income generation. ➤ 2 clubs at 3 clubs at University, 3 clubs at Gosling Park, 1 club at Ridgeway School, and clubs playing out of Birchwood – all competing with each other for court time, court time being moved around rather than more time being accessed. ➤ Clubs are trying to have conversations with schools but to date have not been successful in securing bookings. • Gosling Park – quality of facilities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Clubs report cleanliness of changing rooms poor, as are the courts.



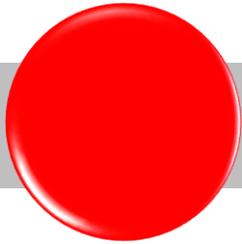
NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	CURRENT FOCUS/PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS/PRIORITIES
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Maintenance of floor a concern. New floor 2-3 years ago funding from Badminton England. Hall is also used for archery and there are now holes in the floor from the archery. ➤ Badminton England is pleased that GLL has reversed their decision to close the sports hall however the reduced opening hours have negatively impacted the badminton community. Court space at all venues was already saturated (especially at peak times) with clubs in particular finding it difficult to book additional courts. With the removal of day time availability at Gosling this issue has been compounded. One of the principle aims of the Welwyn Hatfield badminton hub has been to increase badminton provision in the area. While there is high demand for new sessions court availability has been a limiting factor and will continue to be in the future.
<p>BASKETBALL ENGLAND</p>	<p>Strategic Objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participation- Retain, stabilise, then grow participation • Talent - Develop talent and fulfil the sport’s potential • Social Impact - Positive social impact on local communities • Membership - Grow and serve our members • Brand and Reputation - Grow our brand awareness and favourability • Sustainability - Build a sustainable business model, generating revenues to sustain growth <p>In Welwyn and Hatfield participation is expected to grow in all age groups. The projected growth will be highest in the 11-16 years +26.4% and 17-18 years +14.5%.</p>	<p>2018: Improve & enhance - get better at improving what we do and working with our stakeholders to get better themselves</p> <p>2019: Impact becomes the norm - New participation and talent pathway and practices becoming the norm, signs of impact emerging</p> <p>2020: Culture of confidence - confidence in new system, governing body and partners that learns and improves with practitioners, players, members</p> <p>Local Profile Welwyn and Hatfield: Team generation rates project an additional 6 teams by 2027.</p>



NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	CURRENT FOCUS/PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS/PRIORITIES
	<p>There are two clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatfield Magic who play at Hatfield Leisure Centre – play in local leagues, senior men’s • University of Herts who play at the University Sports Village – Play in BUCs male and female teams. <p>There are 7 indoor courts and 5 outdoor courts in the Borough, the latter with a total of 8 goals.</p>	<p>Projection of a formal demand from 208 participants of which 51% will become club members.</p> <p>Projected informal demand of 814 participants.</p>
<p>ENGLAND CRICKET BOARD (ECB)</p>	<p>Cricket Unleashed - http://cricketunleashed.com/ - is cricket’s strategy for growth 2016-2021</p> <p>It is aimed at widening the market from the current 9.4 million cricket fans aged 16-64 (990k was the total annual match attendance) to include 19.2 million sporty families and up to 25 million sports followers aged 16-61 in England and Wales</p> <p>Around 850,000 currently play each year, and market research (Sparkler Research questioned 7000 for ECB Retain & Grow 2016) indicates that they are 11 times more likely to attend a match than non-players</p> <p>No indoor leagues in Welwyn Hatfield but good indoor leagues accessed by WH clubs in neighbouring areas.</p> <p>Three purpose built indoor cricket facilities in Herts: Redbourn, Sawbridgeworth, and Hertfordshire University Sports Village.</p> <p>The Hertfordshire University provision is 4 lanes with appropriate flooring and lighting.</p> <p>Additional cricket nets at The Ridgeway and Stanborough Schools. Onslow School has planning permission for development of a 4 court sports hall which will include 2 or 4 lanes for cricket.</p>	<p>The England Cricket Board’s future plans align to the national strategy for cricket; they are to ‘Inspire Fans’, promote ‘Great Teams’ and facilitate ‘More Play’. This will be achieved through the delivery of a number of programmes.</p> <p>The Welwyn Hatfield 2019 PPS suggests that there may be a need for additional indoor facilities to accommodate growth in demand (para 5.5.8); specific locations are The Ridgeway and Stanborough Schools. Onslow School has planning permission for development of a 4 court sports hall which will include 2 or 4 lanes for cricket.</p>



NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	CURRENT FOCUS/PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS/PRIORITIES
	Clubs are not highlighting the need for the development of indoor facilities. The bookings are managed year on year by each facility.	
ENGLAND NETBALL	<p>Welwyn Hatfield is one of the best areas in Herts for Netball – teams and venues.</p> <p>Use outside and indoor courts. Clubs tend to use schools as more affordable than leisure centres.</p> <p>University court hire expensive £45.00 per hour.</p> <p>Clubs have not highlighted any issues with facilities.</p>	No priorities for facility development. If clubs and leagues continue to grow the current facilities will have capacity.
TABLE TENNIS ENGLAND	<p>SWAW league includes a few teams from Welwyn. League has a very wide catchment as far as Enfield, where there is the only purpose-built TT centre in the region.</p> <p>Most teams playing in community centres, village halls -clubs tend to choose to pay as little for hire as they can rather than look to quality of the facility.</p> <p>Lots of clubs in leagues plus level of social table tennis taking place.</p> <p>Ideally to have but the challenge would be to encourage clubs to access better facilities. a sports centre with rooms/space for TT with reasonable lighting and flooring</p>	No facility development priorities.



NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	CURRENT FOCUS/PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS/PRIORITIES
VOLLEYBALL ENGLAND	<p>Currently undertaking a restructure; there are currently no regional officers dealing specifically with Welwyn Hatfield.</p> <p>Current initiatives – Volleyball Club culture, Higher Education Volleyball Officers Volleyball Future Insights</p> <p>Current schemes – Net systems (one large net across ¾ court badminton court sports hall to maximise space and time. This is used in club training and school time).</p> <p>Small sided volleyball (4 v 4) to help more people play the game on an informal basis.</p> <p>More training now taking place width ways across two badminton courts rather than taking up all the sports hall for one session.</p> <p>Typically, clubs will train twice per week, one will be a competitive fixture. Court time is difficult due to lack of sports hall availability.</p> <p>Our current records show that there are clubs in the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Red Eagles VC • Welwyn & Hatfield VC <p>Plus, the University of Hertfordshire VC</p>	<p>Currently do not have any regionalised staff to provide intelligence as to the localised activity in regional areas.</p>

- 1.8. Based on the above NGB feedback, it is clear there is a need to identify increased access to sports halls for local badminton clubs to enable them to grow, and to improve facilities at Gosling Sports Park. Participation growth in basketball means there will be more teams forming over the next 10 years, so demand for indoor courts will increase.

SUMMARY OF SPORTS HALL SPORTS CLUB VIEWS

- 1.9. A questionnaire was sent to all indoor sports clubs in the Borough; this was supplemented with follow up telephone consultations wherever possible, to ensure a representative response was received. 22 clubs responded, reflecting 16 different sports. A full summary of the Sports Club Survey is included at Appendix 3. All additional feedback is summarised in the relevant sports section of this Section 5.

Table 1.3: Summary of Sports Club Consultation – Sports Hall Sports

CLUB	KEY ISSUE FOR CLUB
KNEBORTH BADMINTON CLUB	<p>The badminton club plays at the Gosling Sports Park.</p> <p>Talk to users, before imposing decisions that have a major impact. Listen to users. Respect users. Be more proactive.</p> <p>The facilities need cleaning and toilets upgrading.</p> <p>Better management of the centre. It's always been bad but change of management hasn't really affected poor performance as existing management are still in place.</p> <p>We would move centres if there were more available. They can dictate what they want as there are not enough facilities where we could move to. Please develop more facilities.</p>

- 1.10. Based on the above, it is clear that for the one badminton club which responded to the survey the main issues for them relate to affordability of parking, and improved facility quality, plus being able to access appropriate facilities at affordable prices and reasonable times.

SPORT ENGLAND FACILITY PLANNING MODEL (FPM)

Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run (June 2018 report, based on March 2018 National Run data) for sports hall provision in Welwyn Hatfield. The FPM analysis and the overall supply and demand analysis are based on the same number of existing sports hall facilities i.e. 11 main sports halls

SPORTS HALLS

The Sport England FPM report sets out an assessment of the current situation regarding sports hall supply, based on a 2017 population of 122,609 people. The full report and summary analysis can be accessed at Appendix 8. This includes all details of the FPM parameters and assumptions/exclusions.

It is important to caveat that the use of the global supply/demand balance figure referred to in this summary does not take account of the location, nature and quality of sports halls in relation to demand; how accessible facilities are to the resident population (by car and on foot); nor does it take account of facilities in adjoining boroughs.

The FPM modelling is based on the position in 2018.

The headline conclusions of the FPM assessment and findings, based on the modelling undertaken, and reflecting actual patterns of use and accessibility on the ground, is the extensive supply of sports halls in Welwyn Hatfield can meet the demand for sports halls in 2018. Clearly the change in the access at the Gosling Sports Park sports hall (only open now for limited access, and only for the next 5 years) impacts on ability to meet this demand.

In 2018, the resident population of Welwyn Hatfield generated a demand for 35.9 badminton courts in the weekly peak period. This compares to a supply of 50 badminton courts which are available for community use. So, supply exceeds demand for sports halls by 14.1 badminton courts. This figure excludes the sports hall at Bishop Hatfield Girls' School, which should have a Community Use Agreement (CUA), plus the new sports hall agreed for at Onslow St Audrey's. Bishops Hatfield Girls School has prepared a draft CUA but this has not been completed as WHC and Sport England raised concerns about its content.

If these sports halls are included (total 8 badminton courts), then there is an over-supply of 22.4 badminton courts in the Borough. This a theoretical over-supply, however, given that there are only three sports halls providing daytime use, and the facilities on education sites predominantly provide for sports clubs and organised groups and are open for limited hours i.e. evenings and weekends. The fact that all three of the sports halls available for daytime access are operating at well-over the Sport England comfort level of 80%, and two operate at over 100% capacity at peak time illustrate that there is high demand for pay and play access to sports halls.

Unmet demand is spread thinly across the urban areas of the Local Authority.

Unmet demand for sports halls in Welwyn Hatfield is around 482 Visits Per Week Per Person (VPWPP) which roughly equates to 6.1% of the total demand and approximately 2.3 courts (including a comfort factor). This can be accommodated within existing sports hall capacity.

Satisfied demand represents the proportion of total demand which is met by the capacity at the sports halls from residents who live within the driving, walking, or public transport catchment areas. The model calculates that 93.9% of the total demand for sports halls within Welwyn Hatfield is satisfied. This equates to around 7,365 VPWPP.

Within Welwyn Hatfield 78.3% of the satisfied demand is met by people who travel to the sports halls by car, 13.9% who travelled to the halls on foot and 7.8% who use public transport. The high level of car access helps to explain why a high proportion of demand is satisfied as Welwyn Hatfield residents who have access to a car are able to travel to Halls outside of Welwyn Hatfield which fall within the 20-minute drive catchment time.

The majority (83.4%) of the satisfied demand from residents within the Welwyn Hatfield area is met by sports halls within Welwyn Hatfield. This equates to 6,146 VPWPP. It is expected that a proportion of satisfied demand will be exported where facilities in other local authority areas are more accessible. This proportion seems low, especially when compared with the neighbouring authorities which export between 18.7 and 26%.

A smaller proportion (16.6%) of the satisfied demand is met by hall provision within the neighbouring authorities. This equates to 1,219 VPWPP. Satisfied demand equates to 93.90% of overall demand;

Birchwood Leisure Centre is currently operating at 100% capacity and Hatfield Leisure Centre sports hall is currently operating at 89% capacity which means they are operating at uncomfortable levels. In contrast there are also sports halls operating at low capacity levels such as Queenswood School (21%) and Stanborough School (35%). Stanborough School has a community use agreement for its sports hall; this is currently used by local netball clubs and teams as a Centre Of Excellence, but some community badminton is also accommodated. Queenswood School does not currently have a community use agreement.

The majority (83%) of people using the sports halls travel by either car or public transport and 11.7% of users travel to the halls on foot.

The evidence and analysis suggest there is no requirement for additional halls to meet current needs; peak time capacity could be better re-distributed across existing sports hall supply in the Borough. However, given the age of the existing sports halls, there may be a need to refurbish, maintain and improve the quality of current stock. This is important both to retain current levels of use and attract new users.

1.11. Table 1.4 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for sports halls in the Borough.

Table 1.4: Summary Analysis – Sports Hall Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
SPORTS HALLS	
QUANTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are 33 halls in the Borough, over 22 sites (sports halls and activity halls) • 9 of these are strategic sized sports halls i.e. 3 courts +; 3 offer community access, and 5 offer pay and play community access – all of the halls have at least some form of community access, • NGBs and local sports clubs do not raise any specific needs, other than highlighting the need for more access for badminton clubs and for better quality sports halls. • Schools with sports halls available for community use provide for groups/clubs, not pay and play access. • There is already some sport and physical activity being delivered in village and community halls across the Borough; there is opportunity to increase awareness of this and to extend it, particularly where there are halls available, but no pay and play community access • The supply of sports halls exceeds demand by 14.1 badminton courts. This figure excludes the sports hall at Bishop Hatfield Girls’ School, which should have a Community Use Agreement (CUA), plus the new planned/proposed sports hall at Onslow St Audrey’s. Bishops Hatfield Girls School has prepared a draft CUA but this has not been completed as WHC and Sport England raised concerns about its content. It is important to highlight that given the supply/demand balance none of the existing provision should be lost; it could be replaced/re-located, but not reduced, given that there are now only 2 community accessible sports halls (pay and play) in Welwyn Hatfield. The changed policy of the Gosling Sports Park and the consequent limited availability of the existing 4 badminton court sports hall has been taken into account in the above analysis. • Existing community access at education sites needs to be maintained as a minimum and secured wherever possible with a formal CUA. Chancellors School is seeking to build a new sports hall to address the needs of the growing school roll; the school is keen to make the sports hall available for community use.

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS										
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposals for the development of any new sports halls on education sites should be conditioned so that an agreement is submitted to the local planning authority for approval to demonstrate how community access to the sports facilities within the development and/or the wider school site will be managed. <p>FUTURE DEMAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) analysis undertaken does not identify future demand. The population of Welwyn Hatfield will increase by 18,170 by 2032, to 140,642. This figure has been used to assess future need. • Using the Sport England Facility Calculator (SFC), it is possible to estimate overall future demand for provision of sports halls based on this population increase i.e. 18,170. • Using the SFC provides a quantitative estimate of future need, but unlike the FPM the SFC model analysis does not identify specific locations for future provision. That needs to be informed by the nature and location of future housing development (where locations are known), local geography and accessibility, and critically the location of existing facilities. • This is because future demand may have the potential to be addressed through facility extension, or refurbishment, as well as new build. However, in the absence of any other future demand calculator, the SFC provides an indicator of the level of future provision needed. • Future demand will also need to reflect the current supply and demand analysis. Clearly, if there is under-supply of a specific facility type now, the level of undersupply is going to increase by 2032, given population growth and increased levels of participation. • The SFC for Welwyn Hatfield identifies the following future facility demand (Table 1.5), based on a population increase of 18,170 by 2032, i.e. total 1470,642. <p>Table 1.5: Future Demand for Sports Hall Provision</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="411 1413 1481 1570"> <thead> <tr> <th data-bbox="411 1413 628 1503">FACILITY TYPE</th> <th data-bbox="628 1413 895 1503">UNIT</th> <th data-bbox="895 1413 1142 1503">FACILITY</th> <th data-bbox="1142 1413 1481 1503">ADDITIONAL VISITS PER PERSON PER WEEK (VPWPP)</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td data-bbox="411 1503 628 1570">SPORTS HALLS</td> <td data-bbox="628 1503 895 1570">5.23 badminton courts</td> <td data-bbox="895 1503 1142 1570">1.31 4 badminton court sports halls</td> <td data-bbox="1142 1503 1481 1570">1,524</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Using the SFC, the future demand for sports halls generated by additional residents is 5.23 badminton courts, equivalent to 1.31 4 badminton court sports halls. • Based on the FPM analysis that there is current over supply of 14.1 badminton courts, the additional demand identified to 2032 (5.23 badminton courts) can be accommodated within existing sports hall capacity. This reduces over-supply to 8.87 badminton courts. • However, it is very important to be clear that this assessment is based on the existing supply of sports halls (plus those planned Bishop’s Hatfield School for Girls and Onslow St Audrey’s (to be constructed)) remaining the same; given the majority are on education sites, with no secured community access, it is possible that the facilities could be withdrawn at any time. If these two sports halls do not actually get developed then the slight over supply of 8.87 badminton courts is reduced to an over-supply of just under 1 badminton court. 			FACILITY TYPE	UNIT	FACILITY	ADDITIONAL VISITS PER PERSON PER WEEK (VPWPP)	SPORTS HALLS	5.23 badminton courts	1.31 4 badminton court sports halls	1,524
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SPORTS HALLS	5.23 badminton courts	1.31 4 badminton court sports halls	1,524								

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If the education sites with a strategic size hall i.e. 3 courts plus, but no formal CUA in place are excluded from the assessment, this reduces supply by 13 courts. (Sherradswood School is private use only, 3 courts) This illustrates that without these badminton courts and sports halls there is both a current and future deficit in supply of sports halls against demand.
QUALITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The average age of sports halls in Welwyn Hatfield is 25 years old. Quality varies across the facilities, but the majority are in good - excellent condition. The sports hall at Gosling Sports Park is identified as being of poor quality. Birchwood Leisure Centre sports hall is of average quality and requires significant investment. Hatfield Town Council who operate the facility is in the process of developing ambitious plans for the re-development of Birchwood Leisure Centre, linked to development of an all-weather and grass pitches and a stadia pitch for Hatfield Town Football Club. Welwyn Hatfield Council provides one sports hall at Hatfield Leisure Centre, built in 1988.
ACCESSIBILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Geographically, strategic size sports halls are well distributed across the Borough. There are no areas in the Borough which are outside a 20-minute drivetime catchment of a sports hall (Map 4.4). Clearly those residents without access to a private car would need to rely on public transport to access these facilities. Overall, there is low unmet demand across the Borough for sports halls (6.1%).
AVAILABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In Welwyn Hatfield there is a high level of sports hall and Activity Hall provision; there are 5.30 courts per 10,000 population compared to the south east average of 4.2 and the England-wide average of 4.3. The majority of the existing sports halls provide only for sports club/association use. (this includes the Gosling Sports Park sports hall, but this is now only available for limited access). The reality of the situation on the ground is that in spite of good overall provision levels, only 2 sports halls are accessible for daytime use, and 5 of the existing 9 sports halls (strategic size) offer pay and play access. There are two sports halls providing daytime and pay and play access The majority of the strategic size halls are on education sites with limited daytime access; there is one formal CUA in place (the Ridgeway Academy and one should be in place at Bishop's Hatfield School for Girls) as a consequence of the planning condition. The limited daytime access to sports hall provision highlights the importance of the community and activity halls which are available during the day, particularly for the older population, or those without private transport There are 22 Activity Halls, and 8 of these provide for community access (sports clubs/associations). 4 of the Activity Halls provide pay and play access. There are also a large number of informal community centres/halls which provide for a wide range of activities, including sport and physical activity, at local level.

SWIMMING POOLS

CONSULTATION

SCHOOLS' SURVEY

1.12. There were no issues raised by schools regarding swimming pool provision. Schools with pool provision tend not to offer this for pay and play community use e.g. Monks Walk School. Use tends to be pre-booked club or group usage or limited, pre-planned sessions.

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODIES (NGBS)

1.13. Consultation was undertaken with National Governing Bodies (NGB's), to identify their views on the need for swimming pool provision in Welwyn Hatfield. The views of Swim England are summarised in Table 1.6.

Table 1.6: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation – Aquatic Activities

NATIONAL GOVERNING BODY	CURRENT FOCUS/PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS/PRIORITIES
SWIM ENGLAND	<p>As a region we do not currently have any on-going projects and we are happy with the current provision.</p> <p>Our concerns would be the age of the Hatfield Swim Centre, if due to its age its future is in question then we do feel the area would require a replacement facility. There would be of course options to introduce multi use pools such as the diving facility in order to reduce the water space.</p> <p>The facility is key to a number of clubs both swimming and diving.</p> <p>Just to highlight really, that the deep water space at the Leisure pool in Hatfield is not only used for diving, but also synchronised swimming, and water polo, and with other nearby diving boards disappearing, it is important to consider the implications on the community and the sport if the Hatfield boards were also to go. A sub aqua group also uses the space, as does a non- affiliated disability group.</p> <p>The spectator space is good but because it is 36 2/3 yards, it cannot be used for competitions, as this does not fit with the ASA Technical rules of racing. If a facility were produced at a certifiable 25m, with good spectator provision (200 seats plus) then it would be used for multiple competitions and would be a highly sought after venue for the clubs, county, and region to use.</p>	<p>Hatfield Swim Centre is key for swimming and diving clubs</p>

SUMMARY OF AQUATIC SPORTS CLUB VIEWS

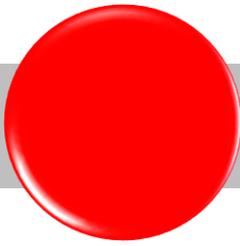
1.14. A number of aquatic clubs responded to the consultation opportunity. The majority of these were then followed up with a telephone call given the detailed feedback received.

Table 1.7: Summary of Sports Club Consultation – Aquatic Sports

CLUB	KEY ISSUE FOR CLUB
HATFIELD SWIM CLUB (INCLUDES WATER POLO)	<p>Hatfield Swim Club</p> <p>The club has increased membership from 190 to 245 in the last 2-3 years. whilst the club has no waiting lists, it is unable to accept 4-5 children per month; for the last two years the club has only been able to accept 7-9 year olds due to capacity in older age groups.</p> <p>The club now has a Synchro section (15 girls) – need a 25m pool with minimum 2m depth.</p> <p>The club utilises as much water space as they can access; –start on pre-competitive swimming, and link into competitive, plus social swimming.</p> <p>The club does not teach lessons. Priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tier 1 – Performance (3 squads) ● Tier 2 – Full Inclusion (3 squads) ● Tier 3 – Waterpolo, Synchro Swim – 50 swimmers <p>After stage 7/8 on Learn to Swim young people are assessed as to their ability to join the club.</p> <p>The club mostly uses Hatfield Swim Centre, but also train at the University (12 hours per week) and also use the strength and conditioning facilities there. The club also uses Borehamwood Leisure Centre and Queenswood School Pool</p> <p>Hatfield Swim Centre is a good training pool, but not properly aligned with competitive standards – pool is not standard length, there are no starting blocks or timing facilities; therefore, no registered competitions held there.</p> <p>The club has 5 swimmers in GB Squads; plus 1 Paralympic swimmer voted as the top junior and senior UK swimmer. For these swimmers the ideal provision would be a 50m pool with a boom, for long course training. The club currently accesses the 50m pool at Luton Inspire Sports Village on a Sunday for long course training.</p> <p>If a 50m pool could not be provided, ideal would be an 8 lane x 25m pool, plus a moveable floor.</p> <p>Hatfield Swim Centre is in a good location closer to the A1/A414; it would be preferable to retain this accessibility for any new provision.</p> <p>If there was to be a new pool the club could easily occupy an additional 10 hours or more/ as many hours as possible</p> <p>All clubs in the area are full and waiting lists; they would all use a 50m pool.</p> <p>Good operational programming needed re public swimming and club swimming to accommodate all needs in a 25m x 8 lane pool.</p> <p>Also, a warm down pool is needed - 15m -20m length, and a learner pool.</p>

CLUB	KEY ISSUE FOR CLUB
	<p>There is opportunity to develop a Performance Squad in the local area if a 50m pool is developed - some clubs would be supportive of this model (an example would be the one at Wycombe).</p>
<p>WELWYN GARDEN CITY SWIMMING CLUB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total member numbers: 195 • 150 swimming members • 40 coaches, committee, volunteers <p>Club priorities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Taking non-swimmers and teaching them to swim • Performance – some swimmers can reach regional championships but those swimmers tend to move to Hatfield Swim Club Levels. Some swimmers compete in the Peanuts League and Major League • Welwyn garden city swimming club is keen to have a competitive side moving forward <p>Training Venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatfield Swim Centre (37 yards x 8 lanes)– 1 session per week • Hitchin Swim Centre (25m x 6 lanes) – 1 session per week • Birch Green (10x5m) – 2 sessions per week <p>Closed pools in the area:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sir Frederick Osborn School, (now Ridgeway Academy) • Stanborough Pool <p>Club information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The club now has less time at Hatfield Swim Centre due to Hatfield Swimming Club's increased hours • The higher-level swimmers move to Hatfield club however some move the other way if the intensity of training is too much • High proportion of Welwyn Garden City Swimming Club members do other sports whereas Hatfield Swimming Club members are predominantly swimmers. • Welwyn Garden City Swimming Club allows anybody to swim including those with minor disabilities, new swimmers, elderly swimmers etc. • A lot of members join young and leave for university <p>Issues with venues:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatfield Swim Centre is an awkward length at 37 yards long. This causes issues and therefore all club championships are now at Hitchin pool including galas and time trials • Pool depth causes issues for competitions, but it is effective for swimming lessons • Lots of problems with the lane ropes due to the pool length – anti-wave ropes recently put in place • Steps to the pool cause issues on one side and swimmers drift into the diving area on the other side. There is the need for more ropes. • Starting blocks need to be updated • Recent improvements to changing facilities have helped the overall look of the pool • The cost of using the University pool is now unaffordable for the club.

CLUB	KEY ISSUE FOR CLUB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hatfield Swim Centre has not been very well looked after, general wear and tear of the building needs improving • Staff do not seem prepared for any events or training for the club e.g. starting blocks will not be set up, the lane ropes will not be correctly tied. <p>Other Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The cost of using the University of Hertfordshire pool is unaffordable for the club. The University gives priority to Hatfield Swim School and University students • There is the need for a new pool ideally a 25m x 8 lane. This would be an excellent event venue and have greater capacity for public swimming, clubs etc.
<p>BEAUMONT DIVING ACADEMY</p>	<p>Club Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amateur Club with a rich heritage of bringing elite divers into Commonwealth and Olympic Games • Est 1968 in Stevenage, the club was asked to move to Hatfield Swim Centre in 1978 • The club has sought numerous grants to improve the club over the last 20 years. It now has TVO instant replay software and a bubble machine • The diving academy is only a 5m venue. Ideally this would be a 10m venue however the diving pit is not deep enough, the roof is not high enough and there is not enough water space to host a 10m diving board. • The club use the boards almost every day, but there is currently no use on Saturdays. • 8 coaches at the club <p>Facility information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The club is lacking a dry land facility (80% of training time should be on trampolines, into soft pits etc rather than in water). This has meant the club is falling behind in terms of bringing athletes through. They currently only have one or two regional level divers partly due to this. • There had been discussion around building a separate dry side next to the pool (in 1995) however, these talks halted due to a lack of contract in place between to the two parties. • The club currently has one hour on Sunday evenings at nearby sports hall for a trampoline session. • The diving board on the far-left hand side is for club use only as technically it is a couple of inches too close to the side of the pool • The roof of the pool is listed (there could be issues knocking it down etc) <p>Relationship with Hatfield Swim Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Staff seem to be on shoe string, all zero-hour contracts and therefore there is high turnover of staff and lack of knowledge of the pool area • Bits of float, plasters etc subside in the dive pit and this is not cleaned thoroughly • There needs to be better disability access into the pool • Some of the divers, upon reaching a certain level receive free gym membership. This is a big help to those individuals • Boards are worn and some in need of repair • The concrete slabbing was renewed approximately 5 years ago (dual payment between facility management and dive club) <p>How many members do you have?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 50/55 members plus coaches – just inducted a further 14 into the club • Each participant has an eight-week temporary membership initially, then full membership if they choose to carry on.



CLUB	KEY ISSUE FOR CLUB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perfect club numbers: 75 however this would go up significantly if there was a dry side facility too. This facility could also incorporate soft play, bespoke gymnastics facility, trampolines etc <p>The future of the club</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More professionally run club – paid coaches • Move forward with dry side business case • A rigid set structure e.g. level 4 divers on these nights, level 5 on these nights • Divers have the option to do more than 3 sessions per week (currently max) • Get more divers into national age groups • Start divers younger e.g. 6-8 years old <p>Other clubs in the area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dacorum diving club (based in Hemel)– there is some movement between the two clubs, they are classed as a rival and the relationship between us is not great • They have a separate dive pit, 5m boards and access to dry land facilities • Luton Inspired Sports Village is the next closest facility <p>Wish list</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dry side facility as mentioned above • Hot pool for divers to wait in prior to and after diving • Showers for divers to wait in prior to and after diving • A hydrotherapy pool for the County would be great • Two new spring boards as the others are at the end of their lifespan • Pool area is drafty (hot pool or showers would improve this situation) • More time in the pool (Saturday am)
HERTS DIVE CLUB	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Juniors need water depth of 1m – training 1.8m. • Adults need – 2.5-4m – deeper than adult height. • Club growing – do open water and retain 25% of those who do open water course as members. • 50 members • Use Hatfield Swim Centre for training. • Also dive outdoors as well. • Use 1 hour in pool, use strength and conditioning facilities as well; could do with 1.5 hours in the pool at Hatfield Swim Centre.
TRIDENT SUB AQUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need deep water for your training- min 3m is ideal • Need storage for equipment • Nearest deep water – St Albans? • 42 members • Club wants more members • Water time – 9pm – 10pm 1 hour per week, plus need training room with white board • Also do tri dives in shallow water in main pool
MID HERTS SUB AQUA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 45 members- looking to grow membership. • Hatfield Swim Centre - sub aqua. • Use other venues for open water swimming and training. • Use 8.45-10pm, Wednesday - would like more time in the pool. • Issues are training people – not enough space; lack of training space; have an on-site container- need more flexible space for teaching • Need depth in diving pool to train. • Pool is dirty – club cleans it.

CLUB	KEY ISSUE FOR CLUB
PLATYPUS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The club is small and is really struggling for volunteers. The club gets use of the site for solo sessions and is also the disability swimming club, and as such provides a vital service to the community. They have just received £2,000 from WHC to work with GLL to install some steps to assist their swimmers
BARRACUDA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This club did not respond to the consultation opportunity.

SPORT ENGLAND FACILITY PLANNING MODEL

Strategic Leisure was provided with Sport England's Facilities Planning Model National Run (June 2018 report, based on March 2018 National Run data) for swimming pool provision in Welwyn Hatfield. The FPM analysis and the overall supply and demand analysis are based on 8 swimming pools on 5 sites. Monks Walk School pool is no longer available for any form of community use/access, so the Strategy analysis is based on 7 pools over 4 sites (pay and play accessible).

SWIMMING POOLS

The Sport England FPM report sets out an assessment of the current situation regarding swimming pool supply, based on a 2017 population of 122,609 people. The full report and summary analysis can be accessed at Appendix 8. This includes all details of the FPM parameters and assumptions/exclusions.

It is important to caveat that the use of the global supply/demand balance figure referred to in this summary does not take account of the location, nature and quality of swimming pools in relation to demand; how accessible facilities are to the resident population (by car and on foot); nor does it take account of facilities in adjoining boroughs.

The FPM modelling is based on the position in 2017.

The headline conclusion of the FPM assessment and findings is that there is a very low level of unmet demand for swimming in 2017.

Based on the FPM assessment and findings, the supply of swimming pools exceeds demand in 2017, if based solely on comparing the Welwyn Hatfield demand with the Welwyn Hatfield supply of pools.

The resident population of Welwyn Hatfield in 2017 generates a demand for 1,311 sq. m of water. This compares to the total supply of 1,730 sq. m of water which is available for community use in the weekly peak period. This means that in 2017 there was a positive balance of 419 sq. m of water.

However, the above analysis includes Monks Walk School (160 sq. m of water space); this pool, which is the only one in Welwyn Garden City (apart from the spa pool at Gosling, which is not a public swimming pool) is no longer available for any form of community access/use.

In addition, there is unmet demand for swimming in the Borough, which equates to 92 sq. m of water space.

Taking both these points into account, over-supply of swimming space reduces by 252 sq. m to 167 sq. m.

68.6% of visits come from Welwyn Hatfield residents which accounts to 5,105 visits per week in the peak period (vpwpp) and 31.4% of the total number of are imported from neighbouring authorities this is similar to the figures for East Hertfordshire (35.6%) and St Albans (28.4%) but greatly below the figure for Hertsmere (57.6%) However, the import of 2,337 VPWPP is tempered by the fact that 2,241 VPWPP are exported to pools in neighbouring authorities.

There are some significant used capacity variations across pool sites in the Borough. As a commercial facility, David Lloyd Club Hatfield, has a very low used capacity, which is to be expected. Despite the scale and facility mix at Hatfield Swim Centre (the only public pool in the Borough), the used capacity at this facility is low, but this is due to the age and attractiveness of the facility.

The proportion of total demand within Welwyn Hatfield that can be met by pools inside the local authority area and by pools in surrounding authorities, is referred to as Satisfied demand. The FPM model has calculated that almost 93% of the total demand for swimming pools is satisfied which equates to 7,346 visits per week. This is slightly lower than the percentage of satisfied demand within surrounding authorities and shows that the majority of the demand for swimming pools could be met by the existing pools within the Welwyn Hatfield's or neighbouring authority areas.

The percentage of satisfied demand being met in Welwyn Hatfield is lower than the comparative local authorities. That said, satisfied demand at 93% broadly shows that a high proportion of demand from Welwyn Hatfield's residents for swimming pools can be met by the existing supply of swimming pools both within and outside Welwyn Hatfield.

From this demand, 77.4% is satisfied by local residents who travel to the pool by car, 15.2% who walk and 7.4% who use public transport. This suggests that a high proportion of satisfied demand is met by driving to a pool given the high levels of residents with access to a car and their ability to travel further to access facilities both inside and outside the Welwyn Hatfield area.

69.5% of the satisfied demand from residents of Welwyn Hatfield is met by pool provision within the authority this is called 'Retained Demand'; this is comparable to Hertsmere (69%) but notably lower than East Hertfordshire, (83.3%) and St Albans, (77.5%).

The FPM model shows that 30.5% of Welwyn Hatfield's satisfied demand is met by pools in surrounding local authorities (Exported Demand). This is relatively high and shows that one third of the vpwpp from Borough residents being satisfied at pools outside of the Borough. This could be due to the fact that the pools within the Welwyn Hatfield area are situated to the west of the authority, therefore it might be more convenient for those within the eastern part of the authority to use the neighbouring authority pools as the residents may see them as being more accessible. This could also be more evident in the and centre of the Borough where Hatfield Swim centre is over 51 years old.

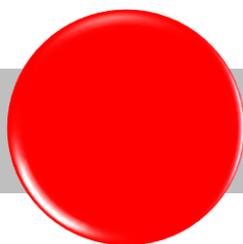
1.15. Table 1.8 summarises the overall supply and demand analysis for swimming pools in the Borough.

Table 1.8: Summary Analysis – Swimming Pool Supply and Demand

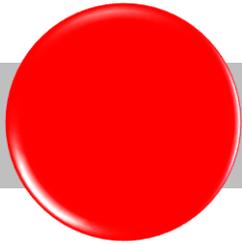
FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
SWIMMING POOLS	
QUANTITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are a total of 11 swimming pools in the Borough, over 7 sites (main pools, learner pools). Monks Walk School pool is no longer available for any form of community use/access, so the Strategy analysis is based on 7 pools over 4 sites (pay and play accessible).

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
SWIMMING POOLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 pools are strategic sized swimming pools i.e. 160 sq. m + • 7 pools (main/learner), provide some form of community pay and play access; 2 pools are on education sites, providing for club /community group access, and 3 are commercial facilities • There is an existing over-supply of swimming pool provision in the Borough (167 sq. m, equivalent to 3 lanes x 25m) reflecting both pool closures since the FPM was run, and the identified level of unmet demand. <p>DEMAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The FPM analysis highlights that currently there is slight (circa 2 lanes) unmet demand for water space in the Borough; this unmet demand (which is mostly a result of people living outside the catchment area of a pool) equates to 7% of the total demand in the Borough. This is significantly higher than in neighbouring local authorities of St Albans, (2.60%) Hertsmere (3.7%) and East Hertfordshire (3%). Population growth will further increase demand levels; this could mean that the existing Welwyn Hatfield pools become uncomfortably full. • The main settlement where there is no pay and play accessible pool provision is Welwyn Garden City. • There is a level of exported use to neighbouring pools (30% of satisfied demand is at pools outside the Borough e.g. in St Albans, Hertsmere, East Herts). This is largely because the quality of pay and play access pools is better at facilities outside the Borough, due to investment/new build. <p>FUTURE DEMAND</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sport England Facility Planning Model (FPM) analysis undertaken does not identify future demand. The population of Welwyn Hatfield will increase by 18,170 by 2032, to 140,642. This figure has been used to assess future need. • Using the Sport England Facility Calculator (SFC), it is possible to estimate overall future demand for provision of swimming pools, based on this population increase i.e. 18,170. • Using the SFC provides a quantitative estimate of future need, but unlike the FPM the SFC model analysis does not identify specific locations for future provision. That needs to be informed by the nature and location of future housing development (where locations are known), local geography and accessibility, and critically the location of existing facilities. This is because future demand may have the potential to be addressed through facility extension, or refurbishment, as well as new build. However, in the absence of any other future demand calculator, the SFC provides an indicator of the level of future provision needed. • Future demand will also need to reflect the current supply and demand analysis. Clearly, if there is under-supply of a specific facility type now, the level of undersupply is going to increase by 2032, given population growth and increased levels of participation. • The SFC for Welwyn Hatfield identifies the following future facility demand (Table 1.5), based on a population increase of 18,170 by 2032, i.e. total 140,642.

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS		
SWIMMING POOLS			
	Table 1.9: Future Demand for Swimming Pool Provision		
	FACILITY TYPE	UNIT	FACILITY
	SWIMMING POOLS	187.50 sq. m of water space	3.53 lanes of a 4-lane x 25m pool
	<p data-bbox="1251 490 1495 546">ADDITIONAL VPWPP</p> <p data-bbox="1251 546 1495 613">1,129</p> <ul data-bbox="400 645 1495 1473" style="list-style-type: none"> Using the SFC, the future demand for swimming pools generated by additional residents is 187.50 sq. m equivalent to 3.53 lanes of a 4-lane x 25m pool by 2032. Based on the FPM analysis, and the current slight over-supply of water space (167 sq. m) future demand results in an overall under supply of -89.68 sq. m of water space (over-supply in 2017 minus demand by 2032) by 2032, and therefore the additional demand identified to 2032 cannot be accommodated within existing swimming pool capacity. This equates to just under a 4 lane x 25m pool. It is very important to be clear that this means the existing pools offering pay and play access would be operating at higher capacities. This could mean that it becomes difficult to offer the full range of aquatic activity at these venues. It is really important to highlight that local research identifies that it is only Hatfield Swim Centre that offers a full range of aquatic activities and pay and play access. David Lloyd is a commercial facility requiring membership prior to access, Hertfordshire Sports Village and Queenswood School offer limited access for pay and play community use. There is no swimming pool in Welwyn Garden City; Monks Walk pool is closed for community use, and the spa pool at Gosling Sports Park is very small and only available to users of that facility. The conclusions about future under supply in Table 1.9 are based on the supply/demand balance FPM figures which have their limitations. While there is estimated to be an undersupply based on comparing Welwyn Hatfield supply with Welwyn Hatfield demand, a substantial proportion of the demand derived from Welwyn Hatfield residents is likely to be satisfied by facilities within and outside of the district although this would not be possible to quantify without bespoke local FPM runs. 		
QUALITY	<ul data-bbox="400 1485 1495 1653" style="list-style-type: none"> Welwyn Hatfield Council's swimming pool (Hatfield Swim Centre) is ageing and it is in need of investment. Its condition is average-good. Some of the other pool facilities are ageing facilities, with the average age being circa 30 years old. (Source: FPM report 2018) 		
ACCESSIBILITY	<ul data-bbox="400 1664 1495 2000" style="list-style-type: none"> The majority of the Borough has access to seven pay and play swimming pools (4 sites, including spa pool at Gosling) within a 20-minute drive time. The current unmet demand for the authority area is low and spread thinly across the urban areas, with some hot spots of demand within the most built up areas; the largest hotspot is within Welwyn Garden City. There is a level of exported use to neighbouring pools (30% of satisfied demand is at pools outside the Borough e.g. in St Albans, Hertsmere, East Herts). This is largely because the quality of pay and play access pools is better at facilities outside the Borough, due to investment/new build. 		



FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
SWIMMING POOLS	
AVAILABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 individual pool sites are accessible for at least some form of daytime use (Welwyn Hatfield Swim Centre, Hertfordshire Sports Village, Gosling Sports Park, Queenswood School (the latter three all have limited pay and play access)). Of the 7 pools, 1 full main pool plus 2 learner pools, and a diving pool in the Hatfield Swim Centre are community pay and play accessible facilities, during operating hours. • None of the existing pools are operating at capacity. This is a consequence of the age and average quality of Hatfield Swim Centre, and the fact that the other pools provide predominantly for groups/clubs, and/or specific user groups e.g. students, spa users. • Future unmet demand for swimming pools as a result of population growth cannot be accommodated in the existing swimming pool stock.



HEALTH AND FITNESS FACILITIES

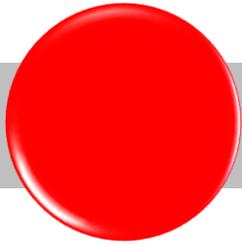
CONSULTATION

1.16. Consultation did not identify any specific issues or needs for future provision of health and fitness facilities from schools, sports clubs or NGBs. However, it is important to note that martial arts clubs, who may use studio space, responding to the survey identified a need for improved access, improved facilities and more members.

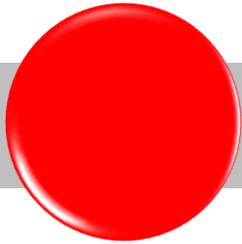
SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS

Table 1.10: Summary Analysis – Health and Fitness Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS																
HEALTH AND FITNESS (FITNESS SUITES AND STUDIOS)																	
QUANTITY	<p>There are 14 fitness suites in the Borough, with a total of 786 fitness stations. Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities provide 14.8% of all fitness stations in the Borough (this excludes Gosling Sports Park). There are 17 studios in the Borough, 7 of which are pay and play community accessible.</p> <p>SUPPLY AND DEMAND ANALYSIS</p> <p>The existing commercial sector fitness suite provision in the Borough is used by some residents. David Lloyd is a high end fitness company, but others have membership costs comparable with the Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities. On this basis, the assessment of the current and future need for fitness facilities reflects the fact that Borough residents are likely to use those facilities which offer provision and a membership rate comparable to public sector facilities. The assessment of need (See Appendix 8) therefore includes the following commercial facilities, as 'pay and play' on the basis of 'affordability', as well as the facilities at the Gosling Sports Park, Hatfield Swim Centre and Hatfield Leisure Centre:</p>																
	<table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>SITE NAME</th> <th>FITNESS STATIONS</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Anytime Fitness (Welwyn Garden City)</td> <td>26</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Birchwood Leisure Centre</td> <td>15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Energie Fitness</td> <td>50</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Fit4less (Hatfield)</td> <td>42</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hertfordshire Sports Village</td> <td>73</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Pump Gyms (Hatfield)</td> <td>150</td> </tr> <tr> <td>TOTAL</td> <td>356</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	SITE NAME	FITNESS STATIONS	Anytime Fitness (Welwyn Garden City)	26	Birchwood Leisure Centre	15	Energie Fitness	50	Fit4less (Hatfield)	42	Hertfordshire Sports Village	73	Pump Gyms (Hatfield)	150	TOTAL	356
SITE NAME	FITNESS STATIONS																
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Energie Fitness	50																
Fit4less (Hatfield)	42																
Hertfordshire Sports Village	73																
Pump Gyms (Hatfield)	150																
TOTAL	356																



FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
	<p data-bbox="412 421 763 443">CURRENT SUPPLY AND DEMAND</p> <p data-bbox="412 499 1339 647">Based on there being 573 pay and play community accessible and affordable fitness stations in Welwyn Hatfield (all Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities, and the six identified commercial affordable fitness facilities), there is a current over-supply of +138 stations, given demand is for 435 fitness stations (See Appendix 8).</p> <p data-bbox="412 668 1339 724">There is a need to retain pay and play community accessible and affordable fitness stations in the Borough, to facilitate existing levels of participation.</p> <p data-bbox="412 761 1339 847">Map 1.1 illustrates the latent demand analysis for fitness stations in the Borough. Latent demand is the demand that exists in an area for a specific facility, that is not currently met.</p> <p data-bbox="412 874 1339 1054">Although this map is predicated on slightly different assumptions to those used in Appendix 8 (this uses the 15+ population of the Borough, whereas this map uses the overall Borough population), essentially the same picture emerges i.e. there is some latent demand for fitness provision across the Borough, where there is dark orange on Map 1.1 e.g. in and around Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield.</p> <p data-bbox="412 1091 607 1114">FUTURE DEMAND</p> <p data-bbox="412 1141 1339 1197">Future demand for pay and play community accessible fitness stations is calculated at 481 fitness stations (See Appendix 8).</p> <p data-bbox="412 1224 1339 1310">Based on current provision of 573 pay and play community accessible and affordable fitness stations this means there would be an over-supply of +92 stations by 2032, assuming no new facilities are opened, and no facilities close.</p> <p data-bbox="412 1337 1339 1457">Given the identified latent demand, and the relatively low over-supply by 2032, and the fact that some of the affordable private sector provision may by then have closed, there is potential to look at additional fitness stations in a number of ways.</p> <div data-bbox="1368 443 2143 1449"> <p data-bbox="1406 448 2136 470">Map 1.1: Latent Demand for Fitness Stations in Welwyn Hatfield</p> <p data-bbox="1375 1390 1957 1426">Health and Fitness Suites latent demand in stations per output area in Welwyn Hatfield</p> </div> <p data-bbox="1406 1465 2136 1487">N.B. Sir Frederick Osbourne School is now Ridgeway Academy.</p>



FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
	<p>These could include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extension of existing fitness facilities • Development of new facilities • Providing fitness equipment (circa 5-6 stations) in a number of community centres/halls to provide more local participative opportunities i.e. community gyms. Users would need to undergo an induction, as with any fitness facilities, but could then use provision at a very local level.
QUALITY	<p>The quality of fitness suites is generally good with a number of facilities having been built recently. Generally, fitness suites are more modern than other elements in the existing facilities.</p> <p>Studios are also good quality.</p>
ACCESSIBILITY	<p>Fitness Suites are located across the Borough; most of the Borough has access to the five pay and play fitness suites (5 sites) within a 20-minute drive time. Areas outside the 20-minute catchment area include the far South of the Borough along the border with Hertsmere; residents may find it easier to access fitness facilities in these local authority areas. The catchment area of the Furzefield Leisure Centre extends into the Borough and residents of Welwyn Hatfield in this area have access to that facility within a 20 minute drivetime.</p>
AVAILABILITY	<p>75% of the existing fitness provision in the Borough is provided through the commercial sector (664 out of 886 stations).</p> <p>The fitness suites on education sites are available in the main for sports club/association use, and do not provide pay and play access.</p> <p>There is community pay and play access to fitness suites during the day, as well as evenings and weekends, at Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities, plus the Gosling Sports Park operated by GLL. Birchwood Leisure Centre offers registered membership and pay and play; it is operated by Hatfield Town Council. Hertfordshire Sports Village also operates on a registered membership basis. Both these facilities attract membership from the local community</p> <p>Of the 17 studios in the Borough 14 are accessible for community use, and 7 offer pay and play usage.</p> <p>17.6% of all studios are provided by commercial operators as part of an overall fitness offer; these providers are the same as those operating commercial fitness suites.</p>

SQUASH

CONSULTATION

SCHOOLS' CONSULTATION

- 1.17. Consultation undertaken with schools did not identify any specific needs for/comments on, squash court provision.

NGB CONSULTATION

Table 1.11: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation - England Squash and Racketball

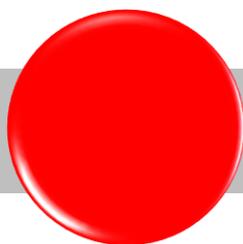
NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
ENGLAND SQUASH AND RACKETBALL	<p>Herts is pro-active as a County – Courts in neighbouring areas at St Albans, Berkhamstead, Bishop Stortford. Performance work takes place in Wycombe and Berkhamstead.</p> <p>Welwyn Hatfield 5 courts at GLL site Gosling Park (all 5 currently operational) – important that these are retained to deliver competition and training.</p> <p>No. of courts 14 for 115,000 population is within the recommended levels.</p>	Priority to retain courts at Gosling Park

SPORTS CLUB CONSULTATION

- 1.18. No squash clubs responded to the Club survey, nor raised any specific issues, needs or comments on current and future provision of squash courts in the Borough.

Table 1.12: Summary Analysis – Squash Courts Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
SQUASH COURTS	
QUANTITY	<p>There are 14 squash courts in the Borough, at 6 facilities. There are 8 glass-back courts.</p> <p>FUTURE DEMAND</p> <p>There is no specific methodology for assessing the current and future need for squash courts. Overall participation in squash is increasing at national level, and this is now being seen at local level.</p> <p>Competitive squash is predominantly now played in clubs, from a club facility.</p> <p>No demand has been identified for additional squash courts in the Borough, by clubs or the NGB. The NGB states that existing squash court provision is sufficient to meet current demand; England Squash is clear that the 5 courts at Gosling Sports Park should be retained.</p>
QUALITY	The quality of existing squash courts is generally of a reasonable to good standard; all courts were built pre--1975, but all have been refurbished since 2002, except those at Hatfield Leisure Centre. Some thought will need to be given to refurbishment of these courts in the longer term.
ACCESSIBILITY	All of the existing squash courts are located in the west of the Borough.



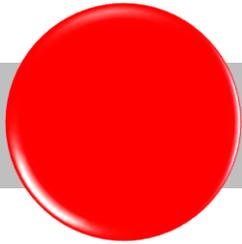
FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
AVAILABILITY	There are 12 pay and play community accessible squash courts in the Borough in Welwyn Hatfield Leisure Centre, 6 of which are glass-back courts.

INDOOR BOWLING

CONSULTATION

SCHOOLS' CONSULTATION

1.19. Consultation undertaken with schools did not identify any specific needs for/comments on, indoor bowling facilities.



NGB CONSULTATION

ENGLAND INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION (EIBA)

Table 1.13: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation – England Indoor Bowling Association

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES			
ENGLAND INDOOR BOWLING ASSOCIATION (EIBA)	Hatfield Bowling Club, and the EIBA believe there is scope to increase the participation numbers.	All of our Clubs are encouraged to undertake work which complements our Vision. The 2017-2021 EIBA Vision can be downloaded from website – www.eiba.co.uk/about/vision2017-2021.pdf The EIBA plan covers the following areas:			
	EIBA Clubs in LA area: Hatfield BC, 1 College Lane, Hatfield, Hertfordshire AL10 9PJ – 4 Rinks (Indoor/Outdoor) www.hatfieldbowls.com				
	“CLOCK LOCATION”	RINKS			TRAVEL TIME AND MILEAGE AL10 9PJ
	12.30 – Stevenage Arts & Leisure Centre SG1 1LZ	4	Indoor	Leisure	32 mins (15 miles)
	3 – Tye Green, Harlow CM18 6LY	9	Indoor		47 mins (20 miles)
	4 – Cheshunt EN8 8XG	6	Indoor/Outdoor		40 mins (16 miles)
	4.30 – Lawns (DLL Enfield) EN1 4LF	6	Indoor	Leisure	30 mins (12 miles)
	5 – Bramley Bowls Centre, Southgate N14 4AB (Not Affiliated – Green does not comply with Indoor Laws of the Sport)	2	Indoor	Sports	29 Mins (11 miles)
	7 (inner) Watford WD25 7HH	6	Indoor		25 Mins (8 Miles)
	7 (outer) Herts, Watford WD17 3BT	6	Indoor/Outdoor		33 mins (15 miles)
	10 (inner) Harpenden AL5 5SA	4	Indoor		24 mins (9 Miles)
10 (outer) South Beds/Dunstable Leisure Centre	CLOSED				
10.30 – Luton LU2 7NF	8	Indoor		41 mins (21 miles)	
11.30 – Riverain, Hitchin SG4 0AT	8	Indoor/Outdoor		31 mins (19 miles)	
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit and Retain 45+; Recruit and Retain 70+ - two different markets which requires us to find a way to grow both specific groups. The 45+ requiring new versions/formats – the 70+ wishing to keep the current formats. • Facilities – Build, Improve, Retain • Youth and the Family • Women – increased participation and retention • Disability • Competitions • Internationals • Promotion of our Sport • Commercial partnerships 	

SPORTS CLUB CONSULTATION

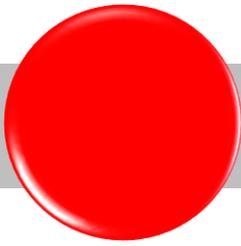
1.20. Hatfield Bowling Club as the only Indoor Bowls site in the area, responded to the consultation:

- **The club has highest number of hours of facility use at 70+ hours per week**
- **Current needs of the club are increasing membership numbers at the beginning of the playing season in April.**
- **Future needs of the club are maintaining the quality of our green and expanding membership, especially of younger players.**

Table 1.14: Summary Analysis – Indoor Bowling Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
INDOOR BOWLING FACILITIES QUANTITY	<p>There is one 4 rink indoor bowls centre in the Borough.</p> <p>The NGB and the club believe there is scope to increase participation; the EIBA suggests 2 more rinks are needed by 2026.</p> <p>However, the Sports Facilities Calculator (SFC) identifies that there will be a need to provide an additional 1.05 rinks for indoor bowling by 2032; this equates to use by an additional 164 people per week in the peak period.</p> <p>The additional need identified will need to be considered as part of future planning for provision, given that the growing population of older people in the Borough will need participation opportunities to keep active, and bowls provides this – both physical and social.</p> <p>The need for additional indoor bowls provision will need to be considered in the longer term, particularly given that some older people do not have access to private transport and therefore would be unable to travel to alternative indoor bowls facilities.</p>
QUALITY	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Indoor Bowls Centre, refurbished in 2017, is of a good quality, is well maintained and in addition to the bowls rink, offers a venue for a variety of medium size social events.</p>
ACCESSIBILITY	<p>The Indoor Bowls Centre is located on public transport routes. It is within a 20-minute drivetime of much of the Borough. Although a commercially operated club facility it is reasonably-priced, so is accessible. The facility is based in Hatfield.</p>
AVAILABILITY	<p>Membership is required to use the indoor bowls facility, but this can be social as well as participative. There is no casual pay and play usage.</p>

1.21. The demand for additional indoor rinks from the population increase is very low, so it is not considered a priority to provide additional facilities before 2032.



INDOOR TENNIS

CONSULTATION

SCHOOLS’ CONSULTATION

1.22. Consultation undertaken with schools did not identify any specific needs for/comments on, indoor tennis facilities.

NGB CONSULTATION

LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LTA)

Table 1.15: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation –Lawn Tennis Association

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
<p>LAWN TENNIS ASSOCIATION (LTA)</p>	<p>The LTA has a strategic priority to grow the number of indoor tennis courts in Great Britain to realise its ambition to Open Up tennis and provide all year round tennis. Part of this strategic plan is to protect and maintain all existing indoor tennis venues as well as increasing provision of indoor courts in areas of greatest need. In 2019 the LTA completed a comprehensive mapping report, this concluded that Welwyn & Hatfield is currently in an area that is served well for indoor provision via Gosling Sports Park (operated by GLL and under which the LTA have national partnership with) and Welwyn Tennis Club (seasonal bubble over two courts). The LTA priorities for the area are therefore to support both venues to remain sustainable and commercially viable to maintain and protect the current provision in meeting the demand for indoor tennis in the LA area and surrounding catchment.</p> <p>Gosling Sports Park is part of the LTAs CITC network of indoor centres and as such any changes to tennis provision at the site would be subject to LTA input and consultation.</p>	<p>Ongoing/future priorities The LTA’s vision is “Tennis Opened up” and the mission is to grow tennis by making it relevant, accessible, welcoming and enjoyable. Key elements connected to growing.</p> <p>Participation include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visibility – Broadening the relevance and increasing the visibility of tennis all year round to build engagement and participation with fans and players. • Innovation – Innovate in the delivery of tennis to widen its appeal. • Investment - Support community facilities and schools to increase the opportunities to play • Accessibility - Make the customer journey to playing tennis easier and more accessible for anyone • Engagement - Engage and collaborate with everyone involved in delivering tennis in Britain, particularly coaches and volunteers to attract and maintain more people in the game • Performance - Create a pathway for British champions that nurtures a diverse team of players, people and leaders • Leadership - Lead tennis in Britain to the highest standard so it is a safe, welcoming, well-run sport. <p>Specifically for indoor tennis the LTA’s future investment is based on detailed analysis of potential demand through the country and has identified 96 priority target areas in England, Scotland and Wales for the development of new indoor courts.</p>

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
		<p>To shape the new facilities and ensure they provide opportunities for people to get active through tennis in a way that is right for them, the LTA has also developed a model design and indicative costings for new community indoor tennis centres. The investment from the LTA for these will be provided in the form of an interest free strategic loan scheme. The new facilities being developed will add to the current total of more than 1,400 indoor courts at over 300 venues across the country, including the existing network of community indoor tennis centres (CITCs) supported by the LTA, commercial clubs and tennis club venues.</p>

SPORTS CLUB CONSULTATION

1.23. Two tennis clubs responded to the consultation.

Table 1.16: Summary of Club Consultation Responses

CLUB	VIEWS ON FACILITY NEEDS
<p>ORCHARD LAWN TENNIS CLUB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potentially floodlights to enable greater usage. • The owner (i.e. the Council) being more supportive with regard to maintaining the road to the club (which also provides access to local garages) and giving us greater rights to prevent unauthorised people parking on the land which we have rights over and are responsible for under the terms of our lease. • Our main current and near-term priorities are to increase the number of members and re-stabilise the coaching programme. • The club has run successfully for many years and will probably continue to do so. The main change which could help us would be investment in floodlighting. Positive support from the council on this topic would probably be needed also, with regard to both approval and providing a longer lease term.
<p>BROOKMAN'S PARK TENNIS CLUB</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replacement of court surfaces and Clubhouse furniture • Raising funds to resurface courts, renewing Clubhouse furniture, increasing members • Resurfacing the courts and renewing Clubhouse furniture.

N.B Gosling Tennis Club did not respond to the consultation.

Table 1.17: Summary Analysis – Indoor Tennis Supply and Demand (Outdoor tennis is covered in the PPS)

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
<p>INDOOR TENNIS FACILITIES</p>	
<p>QUANTITY</p>	<p>There are 6 indoor tennis facilities in the Borough across 3 sites – Gosling Sports Park, Welwyn Tennis Club and David Lloyd. Two are airhalls and three are traditional indoor centres, one is a framed fabric facility.</p>

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
	<p>There is a total of 19 indoor courts in a traditional build centre, and a further 10 in other build types. It is also possible to play indoor tennis at the Queenswood School sports hall; this facility is only available for group hire (as are the outside tennis courts).</p> <p>No clubs nor the LTA identify the need for additional tennis courts.</p>
QUALITY	<p>The existing indoor tennis facilities are all very good quality. Those in the traditional indoor tennis centres at David Lloyd and Gosling Sports Park are excellent.</p> <p>Clubs identify the need for improved outdoor courts (see PPS 2018).</p>
ACCESSIBILITY	<p>The indoor tennis courts are not accessible to all given both cost and location. The existing indoor tennis venues are in the north and west of the Borough.</p>
AVAILABILITY	<p>Community accessible pay and play indoor tennis courts in the Borough are available at Gosling Sports Park. Membership is required to use any of the other existing venues</p>

1.24. Whilst outdoor tennis is covered in the Welwyn Hatfield 2019 PPS, it is important to highlight that consultation with the LTA identifies:

‘a healthy balance between actual demand and capacity at the current time. Despite this, in order to convert latent demand into actual demand, WHC may have to look at how they are managing their park facilities. In order to cater for increasing demand, the existing park facilities may need to be expanded or improved to have a greater carrying capacity. This point may become more apparent when considering the loss of tennis provision available to the community at Ponsbourne Tennis Club.’

1.25. It is recommended that the loss of Ponsbourne tennis facilities is mitigated with the provision of equivalent facilities elsewhere in the borough:

GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING

1.26. There are four purpose-built gymnastics facility in the Borough. These are Mercury Gym Club (Welwyn Garden City), Valdez Gymnastics Club (Welwyn Garden City), Gosling Sports Park and Stars Academy (Welwyn Garden City). All facilities are operated by clubs apart from Gosling Sports Park.

1.27. Consultation with British Gymnastics and Trampolining is summarised in Table 1.18.

Table 1.18: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation - British Gymnastics and Trampolining

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
BRITISH GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING	<p>British Gymnastics Facility Development Priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) outlined are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support increased capacity within gymnastics through clubs, leisure providers and other delivery providers 	<p>British Gymnastics Strategies are outlined in the Strategic Framework (2017 - 2021)</p> <p>British Gymnastics Priorities (for the period 2017 - 2021) outlined are:</p>

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide funding investment through the United Kingdom from British Gymnastics, Home Country Sports Councils, Local Authorities and other potential funders • Maintain and improve the quality of facilities and equipment within existing delivery partners. • Develop insight, understanding and direction of how Facility Developments can contribute towards other BG Strategic Priorities <p>There is no geographic focus to the British Gymnastics Facility Strategy. Focus is based on need, suitability and partners' ability to support a project to successful completion.</p> <p>There is a large demand for more gymnastics opportunities and clubs all report large waiting lists. The total number of people estimated to be on waiting lists for gymnastics is 1.6 million (Freshminds Latent Demand Research, 2016).</p> <p>Welwyn and Hatfield</p> <p>Participation numbers are very low which would suggest clubs are either not registering or are struggling to develop due to access to facilities. As coach numbers are quite high this would point to under registration of members. Levitation is still looking at a dedicated project. Clubs are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mercury GC 35 members, dedicated site, not BG registered • Stars Academy 21 members, non-dedicated school site • Gosling GC 22 members, non-dedicated leisure centre • RUN DMT 18 members, non-dedicated leisure centre • Levitation 79 members, non-dedicated leisure centre • Tiger Roll GC 26 members, non-dedicated leisure centre and school • Flips GC 296 members, non-dedicated leisure centre 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diversify sources of revenue to develop and grow the provision of gymnastics • Build the capacity and grow the demand in gymnastics • Raise the profile and increase the appeal of gymnastics

1.28. There is a large participation base for gymnastics and trampolining in the Borough, but few clubs are registered with British Gymnastics.

1.29. No gymnastics clubs responded to the consultation. All have average membership numbers, except Flips GC.

Table 1.19: Summary Analysis –Gymnastics and Trampoline Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING FACILITIES	
QUANTITY	There are 4 purpose-built /dedicated gymnastics facilities in the Borough The NGB does not identify the need for additional gymnastics facilities.
QUALITY	The existing gymnastics facilities are all good quality
ACCESSIBILITY	The gymnastics centres/facilities are located in the north of the Borough. Gymnastics, like indoor tennis, bowls and athletics, is a more specialist sport and therefore there are fewer facilities, meaning participants have to travel to access them.
AVAILABILITY	Facilities are available for club use and individuals booking onto coaching courses, lessons etc. The Gosling Sports Park gymnastics facilities are now offered in the main building.

CONCLUSIONS

There is no need for additional pay and play gymnastics facilities; clubs already have their own facilities which they will wish to expand as their membership numbers grow,

ATHLETICS (COVERED IN DETAIL IN THE WELWYN HATFIELD 2018/19 PPS)

1.30. There is one athletics track in the Borough; this is at Gosling Sports Park (6 lane, synthetic).

1.31. Consultation with England Athletics is summarised in Table 1.20.

Table 1.20: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation - British Gymnastics and Trampoline

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
ENGLAND ATHLETICS	<p>There are three clubs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Herts Phoenix – Track and Field, 400-500 members • Garden City Runners – Running, 400 members • Run Together group – women’s, social but expanding club <p>Park Runs at Hatfield University, Welwyn Garden City and Stevenage</p> <p>Herts Phoenix use Gosling and Wodson Park Sports centres for indoor winter training.</p> <p>There are dedicated indoor athletic facilities at Lee Valley, Uxbridge Brunel University, Chelmsford and Bedford. Bedford is the nearest with 3-4 lanes.</p> <p>An additional indoor facility would help with all year-round training.</p>	<p>The England Athletics facilities strategy covers the period 2018-2025.</p> <p>The vision is for athletics to be the most popular, inclusive sport in England.</p> <p>The vision for facility provision is</p> <p><i>“To create an innovative and inspiring network of sustainable athletics facilities, with the capacity to meet both current and future demand across England”</i></p>

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
	<p>There is scope for a club house/hub for the running clubs at either Welwyn Garden City or Hatfield.</p>	<p>The key facility priorities are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that the allocation of resources to new and existing track and field facilities is prioritised to those that have the greatest potential to impact positively on general participation, club membership growth and retention, and improved personal performance. • Actively encourage athletics and running facilities to be used to their fullest possible extent by the sport and by all sections of the community in order to maximise viability. • Encourage innovative approaches to the location and design of facilities for individual components of the sport in order to increase reach and improve sustainability. <p>Run Together will be developed as an online app to upload routes and will incorporate the existing 3,2,1 routes.</p> <p>National focus: expand capacity of volunteers and workforce, sustain participation levels, influence participation in the wider market.</p>

1.32. There is a large participation base for athletics in the Borough.

1.33. Garden City Runners and Herts Phoenix Athletics Club responded to the consultation as follows (their views):

Table 1.21: Summary of Club Consultation Response

CLUB	IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES
GARDEN CITY RUNNERS	<p>Increasing members Improving race performance Benefitting the community. Leadership volunteers</p>
HERTS PHOENIX ATHLETICS CLUB	<p>What is your view on the track at Gosling Sports Park? The track has its limitations as it is only 6 lanes with a velodrome around it, this limits the number of athletes we can have, and competitions we can hold there. We currently have waiting lists for all junior groups. The track gets very congested on training nights with the number of athletes already.</p>

CLUB	IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES
	<p>How often do you use the track? How many members do you have? The club uses the track twice a week, on a Tuesday and Thursday evening. We use a sports hall once a week, on Tuesdays. We have 450-500 members, around 300 of those are athletes. However, they are across 2 sites, Gosling and Wodson. Our senior groups train more than twice a week, but travel to other sites because Gosling is in use by other sports</p> <p>We have a significant waiting lists. 50 kids and 20 adults awaiting entry to the club. The waiting list is now closed and we are not accepting any more athletes as both sites are too congested</p> <p>All events take part at both tracks however the elite 400m squad are based at Gosling, other senior elite squads at based at Wodson. This is dependent on the coaches' location.</p> <p>The club hosts a couple of regional competitions across both sites however junior leagues needs eight lanes making it impossible to hose as many as we would like</p> <p>What levels are members competing at? We are proud to have athletes from grass roots to professional, age 9 to veterans. We compete in all aspects of athletics; T&F, Cross Country, Road Running, Sports Hall. We have athletes at the top of the sport who have competed for Great Britain at International level, even the Olympics in 2016! The vast majority of our athletes however compete at County to National level, we are fundamentally a grass roots club.</p> <p>Club members travel from all over Hertfordshire – Stanstead, St Albans etc.</p> <p>We are primarily a grassroots club. All elite athletes have come to us as juniors and stayed linked to us. These athletes may also go to Birchfield Harriers, Enfield club.</p> <p>Are there any issues with the existing facilities e.g. is it accessible, is it in the right place? The facility is accessible, has ample car parking and the geographical location of WGC suits our athletes. Also having the track next to a sports complex means the sports hall athletes can train at the same site. The facility is run down as a whole, the stand, officiating hut and track do need a lot of work. The general feedback is that it is poorly maintained.</p> <p>The facility is lacking two lanes, this is an issue for training and competitions.</p> <p>There is no area to warm up.</p> <p>The facility is shared with both cycling and football. Football training starts at 7:30 therefore footballs and players end up on the track during the training slots</p> <p>Do you think there is a lack of any specific facilities, and if so, why? We struggle with the fact we don't have a club house, or 8 lanes. However, Gosling wouldn't be able to have either of those if it wanted to because of the lack of space.</p> <p>Ideal situation for the future: Join the clubs together at one (new) track with a clubhouse and sports hall. Recognised barrier – finding the land to build a new track</p> <p>The closest track to us is Dacorum – they have relocated a track onto a school site in Hemel Hempstead with dual use.(Whilst the club has stated this, it is not actually true – the tracks in St Albans and Woodson are closer to Welwyn Hatfield.</p> <p>Additional comments:</p> <p>Wodson has been discussed as a potential football hub moving forward. There have been discussions surrounding this track closing to have more football on site.</p>

CLUB	IDENTIFIED PRIORITIES
	There have been conversations with GLL regarding the pole vault bed and long jump pit as both need improvements. The pole vault bed is close to being condemned.

Table 1.22: Summary Analysis – Athletics Track Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
ATHLETICS FACILITIES	
QUANTITY	<p>There is 1 existing athletics track in the Borough. Oaklands College is developing proposals to build a new athletics track on campus in St Albans as part of the overall future development of the College. The Collage will be dependent on external funding to develop the athletics track so at the moment here is no timescale for its construction. Initial interest in the new track and use of it has been expressed by Herts Phoenix Athletics Club.</p> <p>The NGB does not identify the need for additional athletics track. Clubs identify that an indoor facility would be ideal.</p> <p>Neighbouring Provision</p> <p>There are a number of athletics tracks in the surrounding local authority areas. These include:</p> <p>Dacorum, Hemel Hempstead Verulamium, St Albans (closest)</p>
QUALITY	The athletics track is good quality, it is however, two lanes short of regional competition standard and therefore it is limited to school events and club use. The track is floodlit. There is also a range of facilities to accommodate discuss, hammer, shot put and javelin throwing disciplines on site.
ACCESSIBILITY	The facility is located in the centre of the Borough; it is accessible to all residents who are able to travel/use public transport.
AVAILABILITY	The Gosling Sports Park track is available for community use, by clubs, and community pay and play, and by individuals. This facility is managed by GLL. The freehold of the site is owned by WHC but is under a long lease to GLL.

CONCLUSIONS

1.34. There is an opportunity for the existing athletics club to benefit from a brand new track to be developed at Oaklands College in Smallford outside the Borough, which would address the programming and usage challenges they face at the Gosling Sports Park. The new track facility would meet their training and competition needs.

CYCLING (COVERED IN DETAIL IN THE WELWYN HATFIELD 2018/19 PPS))

1.35. This section deals only with the Velodrome at Gosling Sports Park. A full analysis of cycling is included in the PPS 208/19.

1.36. Consultation with British Cycling is summarised in Table 1.23.

Table 1.23: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation - British Cycling

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
<p>BRITISH CYCLING</p>	<p>Gosling Park - Velo track is important regionally; people drive up to an hour to compete in track league and use track. e.g. from Bury St Edmunds. Next nearest outdoor velodrome is Reading.</p> <p>Welwyn Wheelers, 300-400 members use the track April - Sept. Other clubs want to use track e.g. St Albans) but finding time is difficult; clubs all want evenings.</p> <p>Participation has grown but scheduling of track use is limited by issues of crossing track for athletics and football. High demand but facility unable to meet all of it - could grow sport if had more access to track.</p> <p>British Cycling had a risk assessment undertaken and there needs to be work to perimeter fencing. BC did have capital to spend on this but GLL turned this down.</p> <p>There are reports of deterioration to the track. There was investment 15 years ago through SE Inspired Funding; track work as good as it could be at the time but technology has moved on and therefore it is not as good compared as it would be if work was undertaken in 2018.</p>	<p>British Cycling’s priority would be to upgrade the track and make fit for purpose.</p> <p>British Cycling has concerns about longer term access to the ancillary changing facilities provided in the sports hall given potential changes to the accessibility of the Gosling sports hall block.</p>

1.37. There is a large participation base for cycling in the Borough, although not all of this is related to track cycling.

Table 1.24: Welwyn Wheelers responded to the consultation.

CYCLING
<p>Welwyn Wheelers View</p> <p>The Welwyn Wheelers Cycling Club is principal user of the track and limited ancillary BMX facilities; this is the home club to multiple Olympic gold medallist Laura Trott. The track is in desperate need of a comprehensive refurbishment. The existing track has been defective since soon after it was laid with a significant grant from Sport England over a decade ago; resurfacing the facility is very likely to result in damage to the athletics track due to the heavy specialist plant and machinery required to undertake this resurfacing works.</p> <p>Club Information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Est 1947 – based at Gosling Sports Park before the overall park was built • Last 10-20 years – lots of activities prioritising the youth side of the club Broad base of club activities including track, road racing, MTB, Cyclo-cross a lot of which takes place at GSP or nearby. • Junior academy identifying top level talent – take them into top-level cycling with British Cycling. • Juniors try all different aspects of the club before specifying in one discipline to give them a broad range of cycling. • 300/350 total members including participants, coaches, volunteers • All coaches are volunteers, always the need for more although we do bring young members through a coaching system

CYCLING

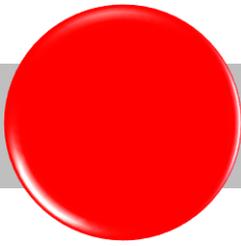
Track use

- Friday night session and 3 hours Saturday
- Specific indoor training session – special deal with GLL – Turbo session on Thursday
- The track is used 3 to 4 times a week by the club overall including recreational use
- 300/350 member of which two thirds are active – 90% of these use the track
- 100 adult members, 150/200 junior members
- Active senior members – extend this into a racing team, women’s team,
- Lose members at 18 years old due to university and other commitments.
- Members have an accreditation to the indoor league at Stratford, then outdoor membership at GSP in the summer. Participants need indoor coaching to go on the indoor track, this happens at Gosling which allows for an easier transition to indoor cycling.
- Events – open meetings each year including track omniums based at Gosling Sports Park.

The Welwyn Wheelers Cycling Club is principal user of the track and limited ancillary BMX facilities; this is the home club to multiple Olympic gold medallist Laura Trott. The track is in desperate need of a comprehensive refurbishment. The existing track has been defective since soon after it was laid with a significant grant from Sport England over a decade ago; resurfacing the facility is very likely to result in damage to the athletics track due to the heavy specialist plant and machinery required to undertake this resurfacing works.

Table 1.25: Summary Analysis –Velodrome Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
VELODROME FACILITIES	
QUANTITY	There is one outdoor velodrome in the Borough; this is at Gosling Sports Park. The cycling track is located around the outside of the athletics track. The track is an important regional facility and is the original home of Olympic cycling medallist Laura Trott. The NGB does not identify the need for additional velodrome facilities; the existing velodrome attracts cyclists from up to an hour away and is used for track league competitions.
QUALITY	The velodrome track needs significant investment; the last investment was 15 years ago and the track has deteriorated. British Cycling undertook an assessment of the track and supports the need for investment in the surface, which becomes very slippery, and at times unusable, when wet. In addition, the perimeter fencing needs improvement. The track surface has now been replaced (August 2019)
ACCESSIBILITY	The velodrome is located in the centre of the Borough at Gosling Sports Park. The location of the track means it is accessible to all residents who are able to travel/use public transport.
AVAILABILITY	The Gosling Sports Park velodrome is available for community use, by clubs, and community pay and play, by individuals. Welwyn Wheelers, 300-400 members use the track April - Sept. Other clubs want to use track e.g. St Albans) but finding time is difficult; clubs all want evenings. Participation has grown but scheduling of track use is limited by issues of crossing track for athletics and football. There is high demand but the facility is unable to meet all of it - could grow sport of track cycling if the clubs more access to track.



CONCLUSIONS

1.38. Based on the research and consultation undertaken, it is clear that:

- **The existing cycling facilities need to be retained but improved;**
- **Ancillary facilities will also need to be improved, and replaced once the sports hall and linked facilities fully close in 5 years’ time; and**
- **Re-location of athletics (to the new track at Oaklands College) could provide the opportunity to address the programming challenges which are currently impacting on both athletics and cycling at the existing Gosling Sports Park facilities.**

SKIING

1.39. The ski facility is one of four outdoor ski slopes in the East of England region. The others are in Brentwood, Ipswich and Norwich.

1.40. The catchment for Gosling ski slope has got bigger and it now serves all of Hertfordshire, North and West London due to closures of other outdoor slopes.

1.41. Consultation with Snowsport England is summarised in Table 1.26.

Table 1.26: Summary of National Governing Body Consultation - Snowsports England

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
	<p>Objectives include – providing open access to everyone wanting to take part in skiing and snowboarding on both dry and snow-based sites</p> <p>Other snow facilities near Gosling are: Hemel, Milton Keynes, Brentwood, Basingbourn Barracks – however these facilities are overly popular, expensive and access can be difficult.</p> <p>Gosling Sports Park ski facility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poor condition – partially due to change of management. It is in need of renovation • Competitions – regional races take place however the slope is too short to host national events • The events (regional races and schools’ events) could not be hosted at indoor centres as the cost to run events is too high and the facility management do not want to close the slopes for events in the same way that is possible at the Gosling facilities. • The facility is limited but does have a role in grassroots skiing moving forward • There is enough provision in the area however the overall London population does not have enough access to skiing facilities and if Gosling closed there would be further problems 	<p>The facility has a purpose moving forward.</p>

NGB	CURRENT FOCUS / PRIORITIES	FUTURE FOCUS / PRIORITIES
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relocating the site would be an option providing there is a suitable hill and enough funding to do so Bassingbourne has now been closed for over 4 years now and there is no guarantee it will ever open again. There is no timeline for this to happen and based on progress so far the changes are very slim. From an NGB point of view loss of both Welwyn and Bassingbourn would be a huge blow to Snowsports both regionally and locally. 	

1.42. Welwyn Garden City Ski Race Club (WGCSRC) provided the following usage information on the ski slopes 2018-2019:

Table 1.27: Usage Year Sept 2018 - Aug 2019

SKIING	Jan 19	Feb 19	Mar 19	Apr 19	May 19	Jun 19	Jul 19	Aug 19	Sept 18	Oct 18	Nov 18	Dec 18
USERS	920	1085	590	860	710	530	530	240	790	885	970	840
FUN RINGS												
USERS	280	240	310	130	178	178	76	59	64	142	140	142

1.43. GLL provided usage figures for the ski slope for the last three years as follows; these reflect usage since GLL took on the operational management of the Gosling Sports Park but is different to that provided through Welwyn Garden Ski Race club.:

Table 1.27: Gosling Sports Park - Ski Slope Usage (data provided by GLL during research phase of study)

	2016	2017	2018
JANUARY		1,002	979
FEBRUARY		615	864
MARCH		354	
APRIL		345	
MAY		164	
JUNE		153	
JULY		117	
AUGUST	194	242	
SEPTEMBER	338	290	
OCTOBER	338	605	
NOVEMBER	435	613	
DECEMBER	504	302	
TOTAL	1809	4,802	1843

- 1.44. It is clear from the above that usage increased in 2017; this is partly due to the temporary relocation of Bassingbourn Ski Club to Gosling. This is due to end in 2019/2020 when the club will return to the re-developed Bassingbourn facility.
- 1.45. The above also illustrates that usage fluctuates and in the early part of 2018 has been both lower and higher than the same months in 2017. The figures also highlight that usage increases before and during the ski season and falls away in the summer months.

NEIGHBOURING PROVISION

- 1.46. There are other skiing facilities in neighbouring local authority areas; these are indoor facilities. The closest is at Hemel Hempstead but there are also indoor skiing facilities at Milton Keynes, and outdoor dry ski slopes at Brentwood and Bassingbourne Barracks (temporarily closed).
- **Bassingbourne Ski Club Views on Gosling Sports park outdoor ski facility**
 - There are no toilets or changing facilities at the ski facility at the Gosling Sports Park - this is a barrier for people taking part especially females.
 - General maintenance on the slope is needed
 - Existing slope and equipment – there is a need for continuous maintenance of skiing facilities; undertaken correctly, matting will last 30 years. Unfortunately, the facility has not been properly maintained due to change of management; members of the Welwyn Garden Ski Race Club maintain the slopes.
 - Usage of the existing ski facility is variable. It was closed on Monday evenings until Bassingbourn Ski Club requested they open it. The only other known user group is the junior club and race team at Welwyn Garden City on a Saturday morning.
 - The opening of MK and Hemel meant the loss of a lot of skiing members, these have continued to dwindle.

Table 1.28: Summary Analysis – Skiing Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
SKIING FACILITIES	
QUANTITY	There is one outdoor ski facility in the borough, offering two slopes. It is operated as part of the Gosling Sports Park by GLL. The NGB does not identify the need for additional snow sport facilities but does recognise its grassroots role moving forward.
QUALITY	The ski facility is in average condition and is in need of investment. This applies both to plant and to the skiing surface, which has been patched in several places.
ACCESSIBILITY	The facility is located in the north of the Borough. The location of the ski slope means it is accessible to all residents who are able to travel. There is on-site car parking available for users. The site is also on public transport routes.
AVAILABILITY	<p>The ski slopes are available for pay and play usage; they also provide for use by schools, groups and organisations.</p> <p>The key club using the facility is Welwyn Garden City Ski Race Club (WGCRSC), with 50 members and a weekly training session. Bassingbourn Ski Club is another key user. The club has 30 active members and a 'friends' social members section. Club numbers have reduced since leaving Bassingbourn.</p> <p>The Club focusses on qualifying level one instructors.</p>

CONCLUSIONS

1.47. The existing facility needs significant investment to improve both quality and condition; user numbers remain extensive at the slope. WGCRSC has plans to increase schools’ use of the slopes.

BOXING

1.48. The main boxing club in the Borough is the Welwyn Boxing Club, based at Hyde Sports and Social Club, Welwyn Garden City. The Club provides purpose-built rings facilities for training and competition. The Club caters for juniors and seniors and is growing fast.

1.49. The NGB did not respond to the consultation.

Table 1.29: Summary Analysis –Boxing Supply and Demand

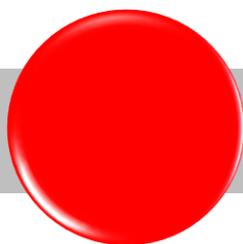
FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
BOXING FACILITIES	
QUANTITY	There is 1 purpose-built boxing facility in the Borough. No need has been identified for additional boxing facilities.
QUALITY	The Club provides purpose-built rings facilities for training and competition. These facilities are good quality.
ACCESSIBILITY	The existing boxing club facilities are based in Welwyn Garden City in the centre of the Borough. The location of the facilities mean they are accessible to all residents who are able to travel/use public transport, or who live close enough to walk.
AVAILABILITY	The boxing facilities are only available for club member use, and for organised training sessions.

GOLF

1.50. There are 7 golf courses/driving ranges in the Borough. Of these 5 venues are commercially owned and operated; these require membership prior to use This section focusses on the covered driving range at Gosling Sports Park. (this was requested as part of the study scope because of the need to consider future need for provision at the Gosling Sports Park).

Table 1.30: Summary Analysis –Golf Supply and Demand

FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
GOLF DRIVING RANGE FACILITIES	
QUANTITY	There are four driving ranges in the Borough, of varying scales. There is one small driving range at Gosling Sports Park with 12 bays. No need has been identified for additional driving range facilities.
QUALITY	The driving range is average to good quality, offering 12 bays for hitting practices. It is the second smallest driving range in the Borough.
ACCESSIBILITY	The facility is located in the north of the Borough at Gosling Sports Park. The location of the driving range means it is accessible to all residents who are able to travel. There is on-site car parking available for users. The site is also on public transport routes.



FACILITY TYPE	ASSESSMENT FINDINGS
AVAILABILITY	The golf driving range at the Gosling Sports Park is open to everyone on a pay and play basis. Golf lessons are also available (adult/junior), from the Golf Professional, as well as courses, and group lessons.

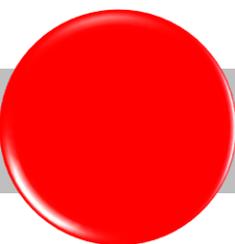
NEIGHBOURING PROVISION

- 1.51. There are several very good quality golf courses in neighbouring local authorities e.g. Batchwood, Verulam, Harpenden (St Albans), Knebworth (Stevenage), Abbey View Golf Club, Wheathampstead Golf Club, Redbourn Golf Club etc; the majority of these are member clubs, owned and operated commercially. There are also other driving ranges in neighbouring local authorities, which are accessible from Welwyn Hatfield.
- 1.52. There is no formal method of assessing need for golf driving ranges, and therefore it is difficult to say there is an actual need for any such facility. However, in terms of golf participation they provide an important environment in terms of learn to play and subsequent practice. For those who already play golf ,they provide a facility for practice and lessons. Commercially, golf driving ranges are an important revenue generator, which can support a larger golf facility , or ensure a driving range is sustainable as a stand-alone operation.
- 1.53. Increasingly, driving ranges are offering a high class offer, with a significant number of bays, floodlights for evening use, high tech feedback on technique, virtual coaching, social and retail facilities, food and beverage etc. They are becoming sports facility destinations in their own right.

2. PENULTIMATE STAGE - APPLYING THE ASSESSMENT ANALYSIS

FACILITY SPECIFIC ANALYSIS

- 2.1. The demographic profile of Welwyn Hatfield, and the population growth for the Borough, summarised in the Evidence Base report provides an important context for future provision of built sports facilities in the Borough, as does the research, consultation, and supply and demand analysis, undertaken to inform this Built Facility Strategy.
- 2.2. Highlighted below are the key factors and issues (bold headings) taken into account in planning for future facility provision.
- **Population Growth** - Clearly, increased population will result in increased demand for sports facilities; in Welwyn Hatfield, there will be a need for increased provision of swimming pools. Increased demand for indoor bowls will also need to be carefully considered. Accessibility to sports halls will remain a key issue despite the fact there is a current over-supply (14.1) of badminton courts which reduces to 8.87 badminton courts by 2032 (just less than 3 x 4 badminton court sports halls). The main challenge in relation to sports halls is accessibility given the majority are on education sites; this is why new sports halls at Bishops Hatfield Girls' School (built), Onslow St Audrey's (planned) and Chancellors School (proposed) could be so important in increasing opportunities for community access, through formal CUAs. The other key issue in relation to sports halls is quality; many are ageing facilities.
 - **Housing Development**- one of the principal justifications for additional community sports facilities is because additional residents increase demand for sports facilities. The population of Welwyn Hatfield is set to grow significantly by 2032, and there will be a need to ensure good quality community sport and leisure facilities are available to meet existing and future demand. The potential for investment in additional provision of formal sports facilities and community halls, secured through developer contributions should be explored, given the housing growth planned to 2032. However, it must also be remembered that some of this has already been, or is in the process of being, delivered. Linked to housing development is the potential for other infrastructure development e.g. schools, health facilities, which could also link into future provision of sports facilities;
 - **Reduction in Health Inequalities** – more active lifestyles will continue to benefit both individual and community health; although the health of Welwyn Hatfield's communities is generally better than that of the region and England as a whole, there are some very specific factors to which the provision of quality, affordable and accessible sports facilities can contribute:
 - **Maintenance of active lifestyles;**
 - **Assisting older people to maintain their health;**
 - **Reduced levels of smoking; and**
 - **Further reductions in level of obesity.**
 - **Maintaining and growing participation levels** in sport and physical activity to contribute to more active lifestyles; facilitating more regular activity for the most inactive 19.4% of the Welwyn Hatfield community (Active Lives March 2017) is a priority;
 - **Addressing the existing under-supply of swimming pool provision** – there is a current over-supply of swimming pool provision to meet the needs of the existing Welwyn Hatfield population, but unmet demand in Welwyn Garden City, where there is now no community accessible pool. Demand for swimming pool provision increases by 2032 as a result of population growth and could be impacted if any existing facilities close. The increase in demand means that by 2032 there will be an under-supply of circa 2 lanes of a 25m x 4 lane pool. The quality of Hatfield Swim Centre is also an issue to consider in addressing the future needs for water space in the Borough.



- **Planning to replace ageing facilities** – Older facilities are not as operationally efficient, and also tend to be poorer quality. Evidence shows people are more likely to participate in modern, fit for purpose provision. Older sports halls on education sites, will need to be replaced, or as a minimum be extensively refurbished, in the future. It is also a priority to consider the replacement/refurbishment of Hatfield Swim Centre, Hatfield Leisure Centre (Welwyn Hatfield Council), Birchwood Leisure Centre (Hatfield Town Council), given their age and condition. The sports hall at Gosling Sports Park is now only open on a limited basis and may close in five years. Consideration also needs to be given to the future of other facilities on the Gosling Sports Park i.e. the athletics track, velodrome, ski slope, driving range, by GLL and its partners.
- **The need to retain and grow participation in physical activity for community health benefits;**
- **The need to invest in active environments, where physical activity is the norm;**
- **The need to improve accessibility to provision at local level, particularly for the 17% of the population without access to private transport;**
- **There is already some sport and physical activity being delivered in community centres/halls across the Borough; there is opportunity to increase awareness of this and to extend it, particularly where there are halls available with pay and play access. This could help to address the balance in provision of indoor hall space; and**
- **The opportunity for investment in ‘active’ infrastructure to facilitate increased provision of cycling, jogging and walking routes in the Borough, connecting new and existing settlements, education and leisure sites.**

2.3. Analysis of the specific factors relating to current provision of each facility type is summarised in Table 2.1. The key issues and impacts identified are the priorities to address, and inform the detailed actions to be taken, partnerships and stakeholders to be developed/worked with; these are detailed in the investment priorities and the subsequent Action Plan.

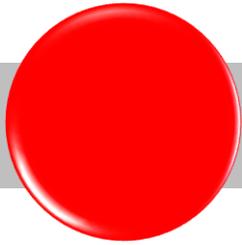
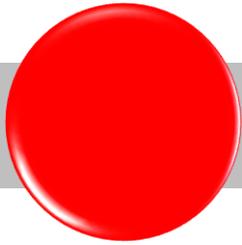
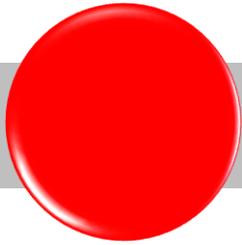


Table 2.1: Key Issues, Impacts and Implications by Facility Type

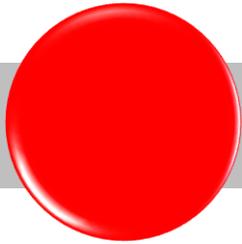
FACILITY TYPE	KEY ISSUE	IMPACT/IMPLICATIONS
SPORTS HALLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are four sports halls (Gosling Sports Centre, and Hatfield Leisure Centre (total 12 courts managed by GLL), Ridgeway Academy (4 courts managed by the school) and Hertfordshire Sports Village (12 courts managed by the University)) providing for pay and play access i.e. 18 badminton courts. Birchwood Sports Centre also provides some pay and play access. • Of these 4 facilities, two provide for daytime pay and play access Hatfield Leisure Centre operated by GLL, and Birchwood Sports Centre, managed by Hatfield Town Council, also provides some pay and play access daytime access alongside members' use. • The sports hall at Gosling Sports Park is now only open on a limited basis for identified clubs and may close in five years. • In addition, the sports hall at the Royal Veterinary College, Brookman's Park is available for community use when not being used by students. • The activity halls at Digswell Playing Fields and Newgate Village Hall are the only ones providing daytime access to the community. • A related issue is that the majority of sports halls are on education sites; no weekday daytime access; secured community use agreements (CUAs), so access for sports clubs/associations could be withdrawn at any time. (1 has a formal Community Use Agreement (CUA) – Ridgeway Academy) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to retain existing levels of pay and play community accessible sports hall provision in the Borough • Need to ensure other informal halls provide daytime opportunities for sport and physical activity, to meet needs of e.g. older people not in work, women looking after young children not in work, shift workers • Potential for sports halls to be taken out of use at any time; need to secure community access arrangements wherever possible, and definitely on new sports halls on education sites, to ensure protection of community access. • Where possible, ability to offer pay and play access should be designed into new sports halls.



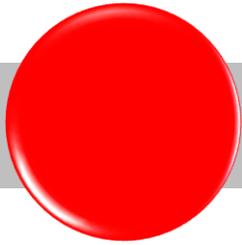
FACILITY TYPE	KEY ISSUE	IMPACT/IMPLICATIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Several ageing facilities- average age of a sports hall in Welwyn Hatfield is 25 years old; Very low current unmet demand for sports hall provision across the Borough (6.1%). Supply and demand analysis identifies that there is no need to build new sports halls now, as existing supply can meet demand. In fact, there is an over-supply of 14.1 badminton courts. However, by 2032, there would be less of an under-supply of sports halls, based on retaining current levels of provision, because demand has increased. By 2032 over-supply has reduced to 8.87 badminton courts to accommodate future demand, assuming all other facilities are retained. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> CUAs should be considered for all new sports halls, with a specific emphasis on pay and play accessibility Consider developing CUAs with schools identifying a desire to provide community access i.e. Bishops Hatfield Girls’ School, Onslow St Audrey’s, Chancellors School Longer term need for investment and/or replacement; this is particularly relevant to Hatfield Leisure Centre which is one of two sports halls where full daytime pay and play access is available. Birchwood Leisure Centre also requires investment. Many ageing facilities are on education sites Whilst this means there is a current over-supply of sports halls, as the population grows, demand increases. Need to maintain existing levels of community access Need to prioritise pay and play use at the Welwyn Hatfield Council sports halls and multi-purpose halls, (particularly given the potential closure of the sports hall at Gosling Sports Park) Need to optimise use of existing informal community hall/centres for physical activity
<p>SWIMMING POOLS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welwyn Hatfield Council swimming facility providing community pay and play access (a main pool, 2 learner pools, and a diving pool at Hatfield Swim Centre. Welwyn Hatfield Council pools provide the only day time access to swimming pools in the Borough, given all other pools are on education sites/commercially operated. None of the existing pools are operating at capacity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is existing unmet demand for swimming in the Borough – circa 2 lanes mostly due to people living outside the 20 minute drivetime catchment area of a community accessible pool. The highest level of unmet demand for swimming is in Welwyn Garden City, where the population is also older. Demand for pay and play access increases as the population grows.



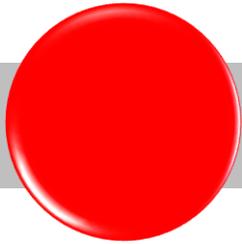
FACILITY TYPE	KEY ISSUE	IMPACT/IMPLICATIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is a consequence of the age and average quality of Hatfield Swim Centre, and the fact that the other pools provide predominantly for groups/clubs, and/or specific user groups e.g. students, spa users. Based on the FPM and other analysis there is current unmet demand for water space (-1.75 lanes) There is therefore the opportunity to consider additional swimming pool provision in the Borough. There is also the opportunity to consider re-provision of swimming facilities to better meet modern day user needs, which are not addressed through the existing pools at Hatfield Swim Centre i.e. a main pool 33 yds x 17 yards which cannot host galas as it is not a standard pool size, plus two very small learner pools. In addition, the diving pool is the only one in the Borough and it provides for a catchment area wider than the Borough itself. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There is a level of exported use to neighbouring pools (30% of satisfied demand is at pools outside the Borough e.g. in St Albans, Hertsmere, East Herts). This is largely because the quality of pay and play access pools is better at facilities outside the Borough, due to investment/new build. There is a current over-supply of swimming pool provision (167 sq. m, equivalent to 3 lanes x 25m) taking into account both unmet demand and pool closures. This reduces by -89.68 sq. m by 2032 as the population grows, predominantly as a result of new housing development. Therefore, the total under-supply by 2032 is -89.68 sq. m, circa 2 lanes of a 25m x 4 lane pool. Meeting unmet/latent demand for swimming will increase revenue generation The overall identified future demand for additional swimming pool provision reflects the growth in the population from housing development across the Local Plan period. Therefore, provision of additional swimming provision could start to be considered during the Local Plan period. Demand in the future equates to just under a 4 lane x 25m pool. The conclusions about future under supply in Table 1.9 are based on the supply/demand balance FPM figures which have their limitations. While there is estimated to be an undersupply based on comparing Welwyn Hatfield supply with Welwyn Hatfield demand, a substantial proportion of the demand derived from Welwyn Hatfield residents is likely to be satisfied by facilities within and outside of the district although this would not be possible to quantify without bespoke local FPM runs.
HEALTH AND FITNESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities provide (through their leisure contract with GLL) 14.8 % of the current fitness suite offer in the Borough 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Facilities provided by Welwyn Hatfield Council provide pay and play access; however, there is also other affordable and accessible health and fitness provision in the Borough. There is an over-supply of fitness stations in 2017 (+138), but by 2032 this will reduce to +64 fitness stations.



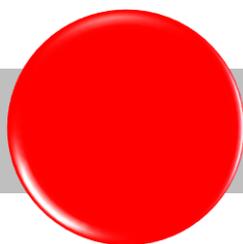
FACILITY TYPE	KEY ISSUE	IMPACT/IMPLICATIONS
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commercial fitness suites range from top end to mid and low end of the market; some compete directly with Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities • Welwyn Hatfield Council provides pay and play accessible studio provision at Hatfield Leisure Centre and Swim Centre through the operational contract with GLL. • Over supply of pay and play fitness stations in 2017 = +154 • Over supply of pay and play accessible fitness stations by 2032 = +92 • Latent demand for fitness stations is apparent across the Borough (see Map 1.1, Supply and Demand analysis, dark orange areas), including in and around Welwyn Garden City and Hatfield. Levels of latent demand suggest there is potential to provide more pay and play fitness stations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welwyn Hatfield Council fitness offer needs to compete with this and offer a USP • Opportunity for really innovative programming to attract participants • This level of over supply is likely to be more as some Welwyn Hatfield residents will be using the budget and other commercial fitness offers. • The level of over - supply by 2032 suggests there maybe scope to look at increasing Welwyn Hatfield Council fitness provision, given that some other commercial provision may well have closed by then. The Council's existing operator would support this approach. • The rationale for this is that if any of the budget gyms were to close, without others opening, there could be an under-supply of affordable pay and play access facilities. The other reason is that the existing fitness suites in Welwyn Hatfield Council leisure centres will need continual updating to remain competitive with the mid-range commercial offer, and the existing operator is keen to extend fitness provision where possible to increase both participation opportunities and revenue generation. • Potential to increase Welwyn Hatfield Council fitness provision • Opportunities could include extending the existing fitness suite at Hatfield Leisure Centre and Hatfield Swim Centre as part of any redeveloped facility.



FACILITY TYPE	KEY ISSUE	IMPACT/IMPLICATIONS
SQUASH COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All squash courts in Welwyn Hatfield are provided through the public sector, except the two at David Lloyd, which require membership prior to use. There are 7 community accessible pay and play courts in the Borough Welwyn Hatfield Council provides 5 community accessible squash courts. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need for additional provision Need to retain existing level of courts, (both Welwyn Hatfield Council and club-based provision). All squash courts except those at Hatfield Leisure Centre have been refurbished since 2002. Given the potential closure of the 5 courts at Gosling in the next 5 years, there is a need to consider provision of replacement courts and replace ageing facilities in the long term. The co-location of the 5 Gosling courts facilitated both competitive and social use. No need for additional provision.
INDOOR BOWLS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One indoor bowls facility in the Borough, club-operated 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Need to consider increased future demand for this type of provision, based on population growth, and the fact that people are living longer. Future demand to 2032 equates to demand for 2 additional rinks. This demand needs to be considered in the context of need in neighbouring boroughs.
INDOOR TENNIS COURTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient existing provision. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need for additional provision.
GYMNASTICS AND TRAMPOLINING	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1 pay and play purpose-built facility at the Gosling Sports Park. 4 club facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One club may be interested in developing facilities. No need for additional provision.
ATHLETICS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quality of existing track is poor and needs investment. Co-location with the velodrome prevents the full capacity of the track being realised given programming challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need for additional provision. Addressing quality and access to existing facility are the real issues.
CYCLING - VELODROME	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The surface of the existing velodrome track has been improved – August 2019. Co-location with the athletics track prevents the full capacity of the track being realised given programming challenges. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No need for additional provision. Addressing quality and access to existing facility are the real issues.



FACILITY TYPE	KEY ISSUE	IMPACT/IMPLICATIONS
SKIING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ski slopes need investment and are poor quality. Usage is declining.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No need for additional provision.• Need to consider future need for facilities; the existing ski slope is a sub-regional facility.
BOXING	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 1 club-operated facility; good quality.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No need for additional provision.
DRIVING RANGE	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The driving range at Gosling Sports Park is the second smallest driving range in the Borough. Average condition and needs investment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No need for additional provision.• Need for existing facility needs to be considered, given there are three other driving ranges in the Borough. There is a need for the type of lessons and instruction offered at the driving range.
COMMUNITY HALLS/FACILITIES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Important role for informal halls in providing for day time access to sport and physical activity opportunities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Need to optimise use of existing informal community hall/centres for physical activity



2.4. Based on the supply and demand analysis summarised in Table 2.1, there is clearly a need for:

- **Re-provision of ageing swimming facilities and possibly additional swimming pool provision in the long-term;**
- **Investing to improve the quality of ageing facilities; priorities are Hatfield Swim Centre, Hatfield Leisure Centre, Birchwood Leisure Centre and some facilities at Gosling Sports Park i.e. the sports hall building and its facilities, the athletics track, velodrome, ski slope and driving range;**
- **Retaining existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports halls, health and fitness, squash courts and swimming pools, as a minimum;**
- **Increased provision of indoor bowls facilities;**
- **Investment into the existing athletics track, velodrome, ski slopes and driving range or adoption of an approach which maintains community access to these specialist facilities, without necessarily providing them all directly on the same site given issues of shared use and**
- **Securing additional CUAs for sports halls on education sites.**

2.5. Retaining and improving the quality of provision is important in Welwyn Hatfield to ensure that participation levels are retained and wherever possible increased. Active Lives highlights that 19.4% of the Welwyn Hatfield community is inactive enough to have any health benefit.

2.6. The provision of good quality, local community facilities, accessible and affordable to meet identified need, is key to facilitating participation growth, and contributing to a reduction in the health inequalities in the Borough. This reflects Public Health and Welwyn Hatfield Council’s health and well-being priorities, to facilitate sustained behaviour change to reduce obesity, improve health, contribute to addressing address mental health issues and increase participation.

2.7. Based on the quality audits and assessments, and the supply and demand analysis, the priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 2.2: Summary of Facility Priorities

FACILITY TYPE	PRIORITY FOR FUTURE PROVISION	LOCATION
SPORTS HALLS	Long term replacement / refurbishment of ageing facilities	Hatfield Leisure Centre Birchwood Leisure Centre Sports hall building, Gosling Sports Park Boroughwide – education facilities
	Securing additional CUAs for sports halls on education sites	Consider developing CUAs with schools identifying a desire to provide community access i.e. Bishops Hatfield Girls’ School, Onslow St Audrey’s, Chancellors School
	Retention of existing levels of sports hall provision as a minimum	Boroughwide

FACILITY TYPE	PRIORITY FOR FUTURE PROVISION	LOCATION
	Ensuring any new sports halls will offer appropriate provision for badminton and indoor cricket in the short/medium term, and in the longer term for both these sports , and futsal.	Potential new 4 court sports halls (with a CUA) at Onslow St Audrey School and Chancellors School and the proposed Birchall Garden Village site to the east of WGC.
SWIMMING POOLS	Increased pay and play accessible water space, equivalent to 89.68 sq. by 2032 (circa 2 lanes of a 4 lane x 25m pool) during the period of the Local Plan 2036.	Boroughwide However, the longer-term opportunity to replace / refurbish Hatfield Swim Centre could provide the opportunity to address the identified long-term need for an increased level of water space, standard-size pools, and address unmet demand in Welwyn Garden City.
	Replacement / refurbishment of ageing facilities	Hatfield Swim Centre
	Retention of existing levels of swimming pool provision as a minimum	Boroughwide
HEALTH AND FITNESS	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness facilities as a minimum	Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities and those at the Gosling Sports Park
	Potentially, increase number of fitness stations at Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities e.g. Hatfield Swim Centre or any replacement facility	
INDOOR BOWLS	Potential opportunity to consider long term additional club-led provision of indoor bowls facilities (increased demand for additional 2 rinks by 2032)	At existing indoor bowls facility.
ATHLETICS	Need to address quality of facility and access issues to realise its operating potential.	Gosling Sports Park
CYCLING - VELODROME	Need to address quality of facility and access issues to realise its operating potential.	Gosling Sports Park
SKIING	Consider long term need given condition, changes in types of artificial ski facilities and neighbouring provision.	Gosling Sports Park
DRIVING RANGE	Consider long term need given existing levels of provision in the Borough.	Gosling Sports Park

- 2.8. Other future facility provision, linked particularly to long term population growth and housing development, is the development of new and improved walking, jogging and cycling routes/connectivity, to encourage active travel, and provide an environment in which physical activity can be easily integrated into daily life.

SPORTS HALLS

- 2.9. Although there is sufficient provision of sports halls both now and into the future, the supply/demand balance is finely balanced by 2032. If any of the current supply changes, this balance could become an under supply.
- 2.10. There are a significant number of sports halls on education sites providing for clubs and groups. Whilst this is very positive, it does mean that pay and play access is limited to two main sites, and one other offering some pay and play access. Development of any new education sites is a real opportunity to develop additional pay and play access in the Borough, but this would need to be thought about up front, to ensure the facility design is appropriate for community use out of school hours e.g. some form of reception, appropriate changing rooms, disability provision etc. It will be important to ensure any new sports halls will offer appropriate provision for badminton and indoor cricket in the short/medium term, and in the longer term for both these sports, and futsal. There is also a need to consider halls being designed to accommodate specific sports for which there is a community need in terms of flooring, lighting, storage etc.
- 2.11. Replacement of Hatfield Leisure Centre, the Hatfield Swim Centre Hall, the sports hall building at Gosling Sports Park (due to condition and need for investment), and Birchwood Leisure Centre are also identified needs in the medium to longer term.
- 2.12. If Hatfield Swim Centre was replaced by a new facility, it would make strategic sense to co-locate the existing and separate Welwyn Hatfield Council leisure facilities into one new building. This would provide the opportunity to develop a modern, purpose-built facility comprising pools, a sports hall, fitness suite, studios, squash courts as a minimum. This approach would also be most efficient in terms of capital investment, and the long term and sustainable operation of the facility.

SWIMMING POOLS

- 2.13. The current challenge for the Borough in relation to swimming is Hatfield Swim Centre. This facility is ageing, in poor condition and the main pool is not a standard size at 33 yards x 17 yards. This means it cannot host registered galas. This means that all local clubs have to travel to compete, they cannot train in the same size pool in which they compete, and there is no opportunity to generate income from aquatic events.
- 2.14. The main pool is not an ideal size for swimming club training, and the learner pools are very small.
- 2.15. The diving pool provides for diving, synchro, water polo and sub aqua use by clubs, all of whom need deep water for their activities (minimum 2m, ideally 3m). Provision of swimming for those with a disability is also important to maintain.
- 2.16. Hatfield Swim Centre operates at less than capacity, even at peak times, largely due to the fact it is not in average to good condition and does not provide an attractive environment in which to swim. Added to this, the fitness facilities would benefit by being larger and including studio space. Changing rooms also need improvement to ensure safeguarding guidance can be met.

- 2.17. Hatfield Swim Centre also requires investment in plant and infrastructure; this would not change the swimming experience itself, and therefore is unlikely to result in increased usage, but is needed to ensure the facility remains operational.
- 2.18. The FPM analysis identifies a **current** over-supply of swimming pool provision in the Borough, but there is unmet demand principally in Welwyn Garden City. Swim England identifies that 'Hatfield Swim Centre' is key to a number of clubs both swimming and diving', but that it cannot be used for competitions. Swim England is also concerned about the age and quality of the pools. Swim England has identified the need for a replacement facility if the existing centre was too close. A replacement facility should be a minimum of eight lane x 25 m with 200 spectator seats. The aquatic clubs identify the need for land training fitness facilities and a minimum eight lane x 25 m pool.
- 2.19. In the longer term the under supply of swimming pools (circa a 4 lane x 25m pool) by 2032 also needs to be addressed.
- 2.20. The existing Hatfield Leisure Centre is ageing and will need to be replaced in the longer term; this could provide the opportunity to re-think the current scale of provision at this site to address demand as a result of population growth in the Borough.
- 2.21. The existing level of water space at Hatfield Swim Centre equates to 900 sq. m. This could be provided through a replacement pool much more effectively as an 8 lane x 25 pool, plus a 20m x 10 m learner pool with a moveable floor and a separate diving pool. Alternatively, a moveable floor in either pool could be used to provide the minimum depth suitable for aquatic activities requiring deep water. A large multi-purpose pool and larger learner pool could equate to circa 700 sq. m plus of water space.
- 2.22. Provision of a minimum 4 lane x 25m pool on a re-developed Gosling Sports Park would address unmet demand in Welwyn Garden City, meaning older people would no longer have to travel to Hatfield to swim.
- 2.23. Operationally, there would not be significant additional cost under this scenario for any operator, as there is an existing GLL operational management structure at Gosling Sports Park, and two separate operational management structures (under one operator) at Hatfield Swim Centre and Hatfield Leisure Centre. Co-locating provision would result in two multi-purpose leisure facilities, one in each main town in the Borough.
- 2.24. Overall, the priorities are replacement of existing ageing pools, and the development of additional provision to meet future increased demand due to population growth as a result of new housing development.

FITNESS FACILITIES

- 2.25. Given the opportunity for provision of additional fitness facilities, new secondary schools provided with a fitness suite and one/two studios could assist in meeting increased demand for participation in fitness activities.

GOSLING SPORTS PARK

- 2.26. Gosling Sports Park is the major site (50 ha) for indoor and outdoor sports provision in Welwyn Garden City. The site comprises a wide range of facilities which have been developed on an ad hoc basis over several years. The facilities currently provided on site are summarised in Table 2.3.

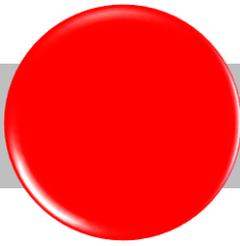


Table 2.3: Gosling Sports Park Facilities

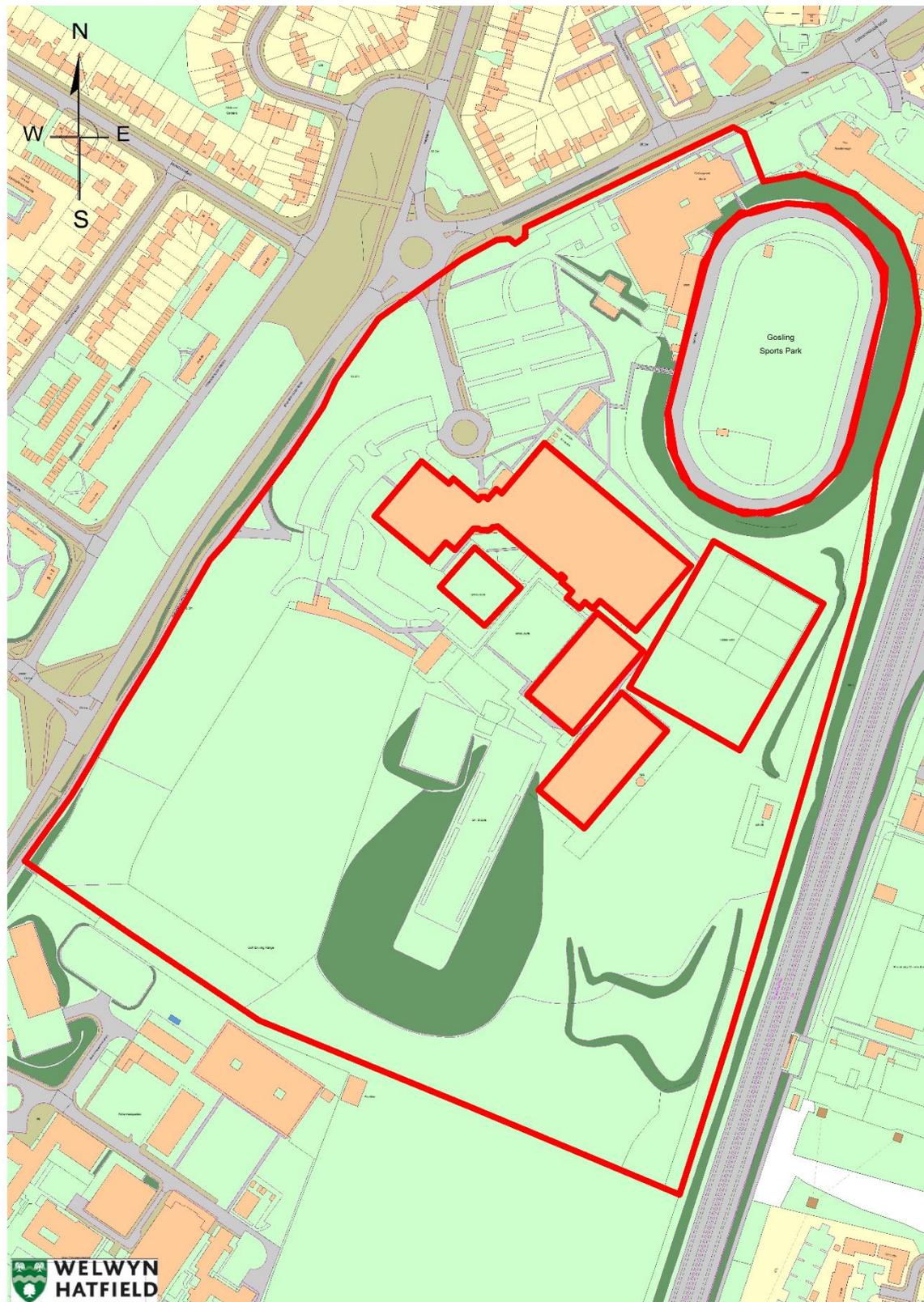
FACILITY	DESCRIPTION OF FACILITY
GOSLING SPORTS PARK	Trampoline Park Studio x3 Jungle Mania Soft play Sports Hall (now only open for limited times and will close in 5 years) Athletics Track Outdoor Tennis Courts Indoor Tennis Courts Spa Facilities Outdoor Velodrome Dry Ski Slope Golf Driving Range Squash Courts x5 Café Bar and function room

2.27. Maps 2.1 and 2.2 illustrate the current location and layout of the Gosling Sports Park.

Map 2.1: Overview of Gosling Sports Park



Map 2.2: Gosling Sports Park Illustrating Site Boundaries



2.28. Gosling Sports Park is operated by GLL. The full assignment of the 116 year lease for the site, was taken over by GLL in 2016.

OPERATIONAL FACTORS

CYCLING TRACK

2.29. As set out in the Evidence Base to the BFS, the cycling track surface was renovated in August 2019.

2.30. Other feedback from the club includes:

- **A lack of maintenance;**
- **In wet weather the track is too slippery to use a track bike.**

2.31. Ideal facility moving forward

- **250m track indoor;**
- **A covered area;**
- **The track is a unique facility as the shape is wider in places;**
- **Indoor facility is much more preferable – outdoor track is not pleasant to ride on at the moment;**
- **There is also the need for an area to meet and greet – e.g. club house; and**
- **Need for larger storage facility on-site.**

2.32. The velodrome cannot be used to its optimal capacity due to the athletics track and its operation.

ATHLETICS TRACK

2.33. The operational challenges with the athletics track include:

- **The track is too small to host anything other than club training, and schools' competitions;**
- **The track infrastructure i.e. toilets, storage, spectator stand is poor, and maintenance is lacking;**
- **There is no clubhouse or social/meeting space; and**
- **There is a benefit in having a track and sports hall adjacent in terms of organising training.**

2.34. Ideal facility moving forward

- **8 lanes;**
- **More viable for competitions;**
- **A more usable stand;**
- **New toilets;**
- **Club house;**
- **Officiating hut; and**
- **New changing rooms.**

2.35. The athletics track is a well-used facility (circa 600 athlete training visits per week minimum, plus casual and other use), although usage predominantly relates to club members. However, these range in age from 9 years to 70+ and are all from within the local area (approximate 30-45 minute drivetime). Based on 48 weeks per year operation, there are nearly 30,000 visit per year to the athletics track.

2.36. The Active People survey highlights that athletics is one of the top four participation sports in the Borough. Others include swimming, cycling and fitness.

2.37. The athletics track capacity is impacted by the use of the cycling track and also the infield area, for football. It is these other uses of the athletics track and immediate area, as well as the lack of appropriate infrastructure, that limits the further growth of Herts Phoenix Athletics Club, and means the athletics track cannot be used to its optimal capacity.

2.38. Investment is needed both in the track infrastructure and ancillary provision if the facility is to remain operational even as a club training venue and be viable long term. (The track surface was replaced in August 2019). Significant investment i.e. extension of the track is required if the track is ever to become a facility that can be used for anything other than training and schools' competitions.

2.39. Ideally, the main athletics user club would also like indoor facilities.

2.40. The NGB is supportive of the existing facility but recognises that investment is needed both to retain it as a training facility (indoor facilities are highlighted as a specific need), and/or to develop it as a regional facility (additional two lanes, ancillary provision etc). Development of the athletics track for anything other than its current use (level and nature) would effectively prevent the provision of the cycling track.

2.41. Similarly, the cycling track needs extensive investment in its surface; if undertaken, this is likely to cause significant damage to the athletics track.

2.42. Whilst used extensively, the cycling track has capacity limitations due to use of the athletics track and the football pitch; these three sports uses are not very complementary.

2.43. Like the athletics users, cyclists recognise the benefits of an indoor facility in terms of training, safety, access etc.

- 2.44. There are proposals to develop a new athletics track at Oaklands College, close to the University of Hertfordshire's sports grounds. The College plan to develop an 8 lane synthetic, floodlit athletics facility; their aim is to develop a partnership with a local club who will be based at the new facility, and in return, offer developmental pathways for Oaklands students. The Club would pay to use the facility but would have no responsibilities for maintenance.
- 2.45. The rationale for this investment is that the College is growing and will attract more students; existing College athletes have to travel to Lee Valley athletics centre on a nightly basis to train, which, given the congestion on the M25 is not sustainable in the long term.
- 2.46. The College has already approached local athletics clubs in the area in respect of a long term partnership and use of the new facilities, which have full planning permission. It is understood that the Verulamium Athletics Club (St Albans) has elected to remain at the Verulamium track; Herts Phoenix Athletics Club has indicated interest in the new facility and partnership offer from Oaklands College.

KEY FACTORS AFFECTING FUTURE PROVISION OF THE ATHLETICS TRACK AT GOSLING SPORTS PARK

- 2.47. The existing track and ancillary provision is well-used, but predominantly by one club
- 2.48. The existing track cannot be used for competitions above school level, so is essentially a training facility
- 2.49. To develop the kind of athletics track and regional facilities the NGB and Club would like would effectively mean that the cycling track could not be provided; the same is true in relation to the cycling track vis a vis the athletics facility.
- 2.50. Ongoing maintenance of the athletics track would need to be budgeted for, to ensure regular maintenance of the facility
- 2.51. An indoor facility is ideally required alongside an athletics track to facilitate training
- 2.52. The level of investment needed in the athletics track infrastructure is high, given it is only a training track; to become a regional athletics facility and justify the investment, the usage would need to increase and be from a broader base, including events. The impact on Lee Valley athletics facilities would need to be considered in this respect.
- 2.53. Although some walking clubs use the track, it is unlikely to have a significant impact on those who are inactive, unless there is a significant investment in its daytime use and programming
- 2.54. There is an opportunity for a purpose-built facility to be developed within 2 miles of the Gosling Sports Park, at Oaklands College's Smallford Campus, which would be 8 lane, and is likely to attract club interest for both training and competition. Although just outside Welwyn Hatfield borough, this new track will be as accessible to existing club members, and those (very few) individuals who use the track at the Gosling Sports Park. Oaklands College already has an impressive track record in the development, delivery and operation of facilities for extended community use.
- 2.55. Neither the athletics track, nor the cycling track is able to reach its potential as a facility at the current time, due to facility scale, condition, other uses, lack of infrastructure; there is potential to achieve a higher standard facility for one of the sports but not both, given the available space.

- 2.56. The athletics facility is needed for clubs and school athletics competitions, and is well, and regularly used; although some capacity could be found in tracks at e.g. St Albans, this would not provide the total usage capacity needed by Herts Phoenix.
- 2.57. There is a need for an athletics track in Welwyn Hatfield given its use by schools, local clubs and groups; however, this need could equally be met by a new track in a different location, or at Gosling Sports Park. The issue is whether the track at Gosling will be sustainable when the new track at Oaklands opens, particularly if Herts Phoenix re-locate.
- 2.58. The future of the athletics track is key to the future MasterPlan for the Gosling Sports Park, given that it, plus the cycling, golf and ski slope occupy significant parcels of land within the overall site.
- 2.59. If the athletics track is retained, there needs to be a decision as to whether it is retained as is, or extended, in which case there could be no cycling track. If the decision is simply to retain participation opportunities for athletics in the Borough, then a new track could be developed on an alternative site, thus retaining facility provision and a high-profile club in, or very close to, the Borough. This approach then results in significant opportunity to re-develop the on-site cycling provision (potentially to regional standard). It also means that community access to an athletics track is retained, but the operational costs and risks of the facility are no longer the responsibility of the Gosling Sports Park operator.

GOLF

- 2.60. There are eight 18 hole courses and one 9 hole course in the Borough and four driving ranges (20, 12, 10, 50 bays respectively).

Table 2.4: Golf Courses within Welwyn Hatfield

SITE NAME	POST CODE	NUMBER OF HOLES / BAYS	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP TYPE	MANAGEMENT TYPE	YEAR BUILT	YEAR REFURBISHED
BROCKETT HALL GOLF CLUB	AL8 7XG	18	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1992	Not known
BROCKETT HALL GOLF CLUB	AL8 7XG	18	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1992	Not known
BROCKETT HALL GOLF CLUB	AL8 7XG	20 Bays	Driving Range - Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial	1992	Not known
BROOKMANS PARK GOLF CLUB	AL9 7AT	18	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1930	No
ESSENDON COUNTRY CLUB	AL9 6HN	18	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1976	Yes
ESSENDON COUNTRY CLUB	AL9 6HN	18	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1992	Yes

SITE NAME	POST CODE	NUMBER OF HOLES / BAYS	ACCESS	OWNERSHIP TYPE	MANAGEMENT TYPE	YEAR BUILT	YEAR REFURBISHED
ESSENDON COUNTRY CLUB	AL9 6HN	10 Bays	Driving Range - Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial	2013	Not known
GOSLING SPORTS PARK	AL8 6XE	12 Bays	Driving Range - Pay and Play		Trust (GLL is a social enterprise; they have long leasehold and own the buildings)	1994	Not known
MILL GREEN GOLF CLUB	AL7 4TY	9	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1993	Not known
MILL GREEN GOLF CLUB	AL7 4TY	18	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1993	Not known
MILL GREEN GOLF CLUB	AL7 4TY	50 Bays	Driving Range - Pay and Play	Commercial	Commercial	n/a	Yes
PANSHANGER GOLF COMPLEX	AL7 2ED	18	Pay and Play	Local Authority	Trust (Managed by GLL (social enterprise) as part of contract with WHC)	1975	No
WELWYN GARDEN CITY GOLF CLUB	AL8 7BP	18	Sports Club	Commercial	Commercial	1923	Yes

2.61. Also available (adult/junior), are lessons/tuition from the Golf Professional, as well as courses, and group lessons.

NEIGHBOURING PROVISION

2.62. There are several very good quality golf courses in neighbouring local authorities e.g. Batchwood, Veralum, Harpenden (St Albans), Knebworth (Stevenage), etc; the majority of these are Member clubs, owned and operated commercially. There are also other driving ranges in neighbouring local authorities, which are accessible from Welwyn Hatfield.

OPERATIONAL FACTORS

2.63. There has been recent investment into the golf driving range to improve the offer; usage numbers have increased however; it is a competitive market locally and there are other larger and more modern golf driving ranges relatively close by.

ANALYSIS

- 2.64. Overall, there is a significant amount of golf provision in and around the local area. This includes provision of pay and play access, which is key for facilitating experience of golf, and encouraging new participants into the game. There is also significant provision of golf driving ranges in the local area; the provision at the Gosling Sports Park is not the only local facility, and users could access similar facilities close by.
- 2.65. There is no formal method of assessing need for golf driving ranges but given there are three other facilities in the Borough, it is difficult to say there is an actual need for the one at Gosling Sports Park. If it was the only such facility in the Borough that would be different.

SKIING

CURRENT USAGE: CLUB OVERVIEW

- 2.66. The key user of the ski slopes is the Welwyn Garden City Ski Race Club. The WGC Ski Race Club is based at the slope; the club has 50+ members and weekly users. Race training is every Friday 7-9pm.
- 2.67. Another club using the facility is Bassingbourn Ski Club. The club has 30 active members and a 'friends' social members section. Club numbers have reduced since leaving Bassingbourn. The Club focusses on qualifying level one instructors.
- 2.68. Since the temporary closure of Bassingbourn Barracks the club has used Welwyn every Monday for eight weeks prior to Christmas and eight weeks after Christmas. Bassingbourn Barracks is due to reopen in 2019 at which point the club will move back to this site full time and will no longer use GSP (the re-opening is, however, more likely to be in be 2020/21). No specific date has yet been confirmed.
- 2.69. Instructors and members have moved to the existing ski facilities at Hemel, Brentwood, Milton Keynes and Ipswich since the closure of Bassingbourn Barracks and numbers are reducing throughout the club.
- 2.70. The following courses have been run. More recently we have been unable to run courses because a 6 person limitation has been implemented by the centre which makes it impossible to run a course.

04/08/2018	Gosling	L2 Training	5
11/05/2018	Gosling	UKCP Alpine Level 1	7
05/10/2018	Gosling	UKCP Alpine Level 1	12
25/11/2018	Gosling	UKSS Level 1 Assessment	4

- 2.71. The club mainly runs recreational sessions at Gosling Sports Park for the time being. There is also a senior session on a Thursday morning at the site.
- 2.72. Bassingbourn Ski Club used to run ski sessions for schools in the evening at Welwyn Garden City. These now make bookings directly through Gosling Sports Park rather than through Bassingbourn Ski Club.
- 2.73. GLL report overall that usage is falling. This is not the view of the Welwyn Hatfield Ski Race Club.

OPERATIONAL FACTORS

- 2.74. The ski facilities require investment to be viable in the future and attract increased usage.
- 2.75. Usage is variable based on GLL figures; clearly these are likely to reduce once Bassingbourn Ski Club returns to the Barracks site.
- 2.76. The potential to host more events is limited given the slopes are too short to host national events.
- 2.77. There is a lack of infrastructure to support use of the ski facility e.g. no changing rooms, toilets
- 2.78. GLL advises that the operational cost of the facility is not offset by the income generated. There are significant periods of time where the facility is not used at all.
- 2.79. The ski slope is one of four in the East of England and clearly provides a facility which is still used, although usage is variable.
- 2.80. It is a lower cost participation option for skiing than neighbouring indoor facilities.
- 2.81. The main club user reports participation numbers are dwindling and there has been a loss of coaches/instructors and indeed users to the nearby indoor facilities.
- 2.82. Significant investment is needed to improve the ski facility and its operational efficiency. Loss of this facility would mean the Welwyn Hatfield Ski Race Club would have no home base and would be likely to fold. Equally as a venue for a number of regional and school competitions, loss of the existing slopes would mean re-location of these events.
- 2.83. Snowsport England identify the ski facility as important for the wider London population, as well as its local catchment area; however, they also recognise investment is needed. The NGB highlights the need to retain the ski facility but recognise that it could be provided from an alternative site if a suitable location could be found, and there is funding to support its re-development.
- 2.84. The existing ski slope is in effect a regional facility, but this is now owned and provided by GLL; there is a decision to be made as to whether GLL wishes to continue to provide and resource the facility; the need for investment against reducing usage is central to this discussion, as well as the fact that there are other newer indoor facilities in close proximity.
- 2.85. The existing ski slope does provide for some local use, and it enables training for young skiers, plus regional competitions are hosted there. All existing usage could, however, be accommodated in nearby indoor facilities; the issue is whether participants would/could travel to these. Based on Bassingbourn Ski Club's feedback, individuals who are developing/talented skiers/instructors would appear to have already moved to one of the indoor facilities. The Club itself will return to its home base when the barracks are re-opened.
- 2.86. Bassingbourn Ski Club has 30 members; assuming all these members ski once a week, four times a month, this equates to 120 uses per month. On top of this there is the usage by the junior club and race team, which could equate to a further 120 uses per month. Assuming 240 club uses, the 2018 records show there is clearly casual use in addition to this of around 600-700 people per month.
- 2.87. The usage information does not show where these users are coming from, nor whether they access the facility by car. Clearly if the ski slope was to be closed there is a need to ensure that this level of

casual use could access other provision in the area.

- 2.88. There is no definitive method for assessing need for outdoor or indoor ski facilities. The challenge for the facility at the Gosling Sports Park is that it needs investment, and although clearly used, its usage is not high enough to offset operational costs. GLL is providing and resourcing a regional facility and yet usage does not reflect the fact that it has a regional catchment. Existing usage levels will decrease once Bassingourn Ski Club re-locates again. There is no clear latent demand for skiing in the area and the potential to increase usage is unclear. Operational costs outweigh income.
- 2.89. The NGB supports the retention of the ski facility, but this is based on the needs of the London population. Re-location of the facility is an option, but there are no identified resources to effect this, nor drive investment into the facility. The capital costs of re-development, or refurbishment of the existing facility may be hard to justify against the level of use of the facility.
- 2.90. Although the only outdoor ski facility in the East Region, this in itself is not a justification for retaining the facility. The balance between investment and participation needs to be considered; the ski facility occupies significant space and yet is not multi-purpose, so can only be used for skiing. Its poor condition may be affecting levels of use, but the actual demand and level of use for it is unclear, and therefore investment is a risk. The only known existing use is circa 240 visits per month, based on club members and juniors, any of whom may choose to move to indoor facilities at any time.
- 2.91. There is no clear 'need' for the facility; it is used because it is there; if it was not, committed skiers i.e. club members and developing junior skiers would in all likelihood use alternative facilities. Casual users would do the same if they could access provision elsewhere.
- 2.92. Given the complexities and challenges of the Gosling Sports Park site, there is a need for a more detailed study into the future of the site, and which leisure facilities are provided on site. This study would also need to explore further the partnership opportunities for both Gosling Sports Park, and the adjacent land at the Police HQ, and Stanborough School (regional netball centre), as well as GLL's vision for the site, and the potential for residential development
- 2.93. It is clear the site is important in the Borough for sport, but not all existing on-site facilities are either needed, or need to be on the Gosling Sports Park. The site has developed on an ad hoc basis and could provide leisure facilities much more efficiently, if the available space was better planned and laid out. There is significant opportunity for the site as a sports hub, providing a range of facilities, developed in partnership with Welwyn Hatfield Council, education, the Police, Public Health, and GLL; to achieve this, and maximise the site's potential, there is a need to rationalise some facilities to provide a mix of provision which is sustainable in the long term.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTION PLAN

OVERVIEW

- 3.1. Welwyn Hatfield is predicted to grow by at least 18,170 over the coming years to 2032, so there is a particular need to ensure sufficient provision of accessible, quality and affordable facilities – formal and informal, and multi-purpose spaces to meet local need.
- 3.2. Equally, given that 57.4% of the population achieves the Chief Medical Officer's target of 150 minutes of physical activity per week², it is clear there is work to do to increase levels of regular participation amongst the remaining 42.6%, 28.7% of whom are inactive. Many of the inactive/less active people will be living in the more deprived areas of the Borough.
- 3.3. In Welwyn Hatfield, this means ensuring geographical distribution of facilities and physical activity opportunities across the Borough to enable more people to access facilities in the urban area by walking, and/or cycling. It also means better use of existing community places and spaces for sport and physical activity i.e. more use of community centres/halls for badminton, fitness classes etc.
- 3.4. More, and better, access to physical activity at local level is important for residents, particularly those who are currently inactive, and those without access to private transport, to participate, and become physically active. Linking facility provision, informal and formal, to opportunities for active travel, and informal places will help to facilitate more active lifestyles for more people.
- 3.5. This is very important given the need to retain and continue to grow existing levels of physical activity in the Borough, and address the high level of adult obesity, plus the health inequalities across the Borough.
- 3.6. Overall, Welwyn Hatfield has a good range of existing sport and leisure facilities across the area; however, some existing facilities on education sites are now ageing, some are of a poorer quality than others, and some will require replacement /refurbishment long term. This is particularly true of education sports halls and in the longer term, Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities at Hatfield Leisure Centre and Hatfield Swim Centre, and facilities at the Gosling Sports Park (sports hall building, (this facility has time limited availability) athletics track, velodrome, ski slopes, driving range).
- 3.7. In Welwyn Hatfield, there is insufficient pay and play accessible swimming pool provision to meet future demand by 2032. The priority is to invest in replacement swimming facilities in Hatfield, but there is also a need to consider swimming needs in Welwyn Garden City. There is also a need to retain existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness facilities into the future.
- 3.8. Although increased demand for sports halls to 2032 can be met within the existing supply, this is volatile, given 6 of the 11 strategic sized sports halls are on education sites which provide for sports clubs, not pay and play use and there is only 1 CUA in place securing community access.
- 3.9. It is therefore very important that the potential to utilise community centres/halls, and other informal places and spaces better for sports hall activities, which could provide at a more local level, and therefore facilitate participation by those who are elderly, do not have access to a car, have young children, or have a disability, is fully explored, developed and implemented.

² Source: Welwyn Hatfield Public Health Report – 2015

VISION

- 3.10. As a minimum, it should be an aim to facilitate provision of accessible community sport and leisure facilities, places and spaces for swimming, fitness and sports hall sports/activities available for all residents. This includes both formal and informal spaces e.g. community halls in which to play sport and be physically active.
- 3.11. Facilitating opportunities to be more physically active, more often is also important, to contribute to a reduction in the health inequalities in and across Welwyn Hatfield, to help people to live and age better.
- 3.12. The provision of high quality and accessible facilities, and where appropriate the opening up of other informal places, and spaces, as well as the development of new provision, will contribute to the future overall priority for the development of healthier lifestyles in Welwyn Hatfield, across all age groups.
- 3.13. The suggested Vision for future provision of sport and leisure in Welwyn Hatfield is:

‘to ensure through partnership working there is access to an appropriate supply of good quality facilities to accommodate a range of sports / physical activities in order to meet current and future levels of demand and facilitate the provision of even more opportunities to increase the number of people participating in sport and physical activity’.

- 3.14. Sustainable, high quality, and critically, accessible facility provision is key to maintaining these opportunities; Welwyn Hatfield Council needs to plan for the investment requirements of its existing facilities, and work in partnership with other providers and stakeholders to address the other priorities identified through this Strategy.

AIMS

- 3.15. The aim of providing sufficient high quality, fit for purpose and accessible provision, places and spaces is to:

- **Maintain and grow the regular amount of physical activity undertaken by individuals, and particularly by those who are currently inactive**
- **Develop additional facility provision where need is evidenced e.g. as a result of population growth**
- **Design in flexibility; future facility provision may need to be more multi-purpose in nature, reflecting changing participation trends and opportunities**
- **Encourage new participants to start taking part in physical activity**
- **Enable opportunities for participation to be provided in a wider range of places and spaces, and particularly at a very local level, using e.g. community centres/halls,**
- **Facilitate the continued development of healthier lifestyles across Welwyn Hatfield’s communities**
- **Contribute to a reduction in health inequalities, and specifically obesity, reduced inactivity, across Welwyn Hatfield**

- Create active environments where the opportunity to be more physically active is an integral part of everyday life
- Support and provide opportunities for local community groups

PRINCIPLES FOR FUTURE PROVISION

3.16. The principles that should guide all future sport and leisure facility development in Welwyn Hatfield are:

- Ensure residents in all areas of Welwyn Hatfield have pay and play access to good quality, local, accessible and affordable provision, whether it is a formal sports hall or a community hall, or other informal provision
- Aim to ensure that any new, sports facilities on education sites provide a balance of opportunities (through a formal agreement) for community access – both pay and play and club use
- Replace / refurbish ageing facilities where new provision is needed; all new and refurbished provision should be designed and developed based on Sport England and (National Governing Body) NGB guidance, and be fully inclusive
- Rationalise existing provision where new fit for purpose facilities can replace/improve existing buildings (but existing levels of provision need to be maintained as a minimum, given the levels of existing facility under-supply)
- Invest in existing formal and informal provision to improve quality
- Invest strategically to ensure economic viability and sustainability of provision

PRIORITY INVESTMENT NEEDS

3.17. Although Welwyn Hatfield has good sports facilities there are some ageing facilities, which will require replacement / refurbishment in the medium-long term. Hatfield Swim Centre (managed by GLL) is ageing and in poor condition and does not operate to capacity; there will be a small shortfall in swimming pool provision to meet future demand; additional water space is needed by 2032. In the short term it is the quality of provision that needs to be addressed.

3.18. There is also a need to consider future need for the provision of indoor bowls, fitness facilities, an athletics track, velodrome, ski slope and the Gosling Sports Park driving range.

3.19. The identified priorities for future investment in facility provision are:

Table 3.1: Summary of Facility Investment Priorities

FACILITY TYPE	PRIORITY FOR FUTURE PROVISION	LOCATION
SPORTS HALLS	Long term replacement / refurbishment of ageing facilities	Hatfield Leisure Centre Hatfield Swim Centre Sports hall Birchwood Leisure Centre Sports hall building (medium-term), Gosling Sports Park Boroughwide – education facilities

FACILITY TYPE	PRIORITY FOR FUTURE PROVISION	LOCATION
	Securing additional CUAs for sports halls on education sites	Consider developing CUAs with schools identifying a desire to provide community access i.e. Bishops Hatfield Girls' School, Onslow St Audrey's, Chancellors School
	Retention of existing levels of sports hall provision as a minimum.	Boroughwide
SWIMMING POOLS	Increased pay and play accessible water space, equivalent to 89.68 sq. by 2032 (circa 2 lanes of a 4 lane x 25m pool) during the period of the Local Plan 2036.	Boroughwide However, the longer-term opportunity to replace / refurbish Hatfield Swim Centre could provide the opportunity to address the identified long-term need for an increased level of water space, standard-size pools, and address unmet demand in Welwyn Garden City.
	Replacement / refurbishment of ageing facilities.	Hatfield Swim Centre.
	Retention of existing levels of swimming pool provision as a minimum.	Boroughwide.
HEALTH AND FITNESS	Retain provision of existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness facilities as a minimum.	Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities.
	Potentially, increase number of fitness stations at Welwyn Hatfield Council facilities.	
INDOOR BOWLS	Potential opportunity to consider long term additional club-led provision of indoor bowls facilities (increased demand for additional 2 rinks by 2032).	At existing indoor bowls facility.
ATHLETICS	Need to address quality of facility and access issues to realise its operating potential. Could facilitate access to a new track provided at Oaklands College, just outside the Borough boundary.	Gosling Sports Park.
CYCLING - VELODROME	Need to address quality of facility and access issues to realise its operating potential.	Gosling Sports Park.
SKIING	Consider long term need given condition, changes in types of artificial ski facilities and usage.	Gosling Sports Park.
DRIVING RANGE	Consider long term need given existing levels of provision in the Borough.	Gosling Sports Park.

OTHER PRIORITIES AND NEEDS

CAPITAL INVESTMENT

- 3.20. It is clear from the strategy analysis that there is a need for some capital investment in sports facilities, to address future needs. Whilst some of this investment may relate to additional facility provision, there is also a need to start planning for the replacement/refurbishment of ageing stock; increased participation is more likely to be achieved if the environment in which people take part is good quality and fit for purpose.
- 3.21. It is also clear that delivery of the levels of investment required will only result from a local partnership approach. The development of improved sports facilities, and physical activity environments, will facilitate increased participation, which in turn will benefit individual and community health. The challenge is that the greatest health benefit will be gained by encouraging the inactive, to become active.

CONTINUED LOCAL PARTNERSHIP WORKING WITH EDUCATION SITES

- 3.22. In order to deliver the identified Strategy needs, and the key outcome of increased participation to address health inequalities, plus meet demands from increased population, there is an opportunity for some changes in approach to delivery. The development of new/replacement facilities and increasing and optimising the available capacity in existing education facilities, provides a mechanism to deliver these outcomes.
- 3.23. The key issue to address initially is that of future partnership with education sites, to retain community access for clubs and groups as a minimum, and where possible CUAs which provide balanced access for the community on a pay and play basis. Increasing capacity to offer and deliver increased participative opportunities, particularly for those who are currently inactive, could contribute significantly to improved health in the Borough.
- 3.24. Three schools identify their potential to offer community use through a CUA- Bishops' Hatfield Girls' School, Onslow St Audrey's, and Chancellors School.

PLANNING POLICY, SECURING DEVELOPER CONTRIBUTIONS, PLANNING OBLIGATIONS, S106 OBLIGATIONS AND THE COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY – AN OVERVIEW

- 3.25. In order to implement the Strategy recommendations and address identified needs for improved and additional facility provision, Welwyn Hatfield Council will need to identify and secure capital funding from a range of sources. Developer contributions through CIL/S106 have the potential to form part of this funding moving forward.
- 3.26. The facility investment needs identified in the Strategy and set out in Table 3.1 provide the definitive investment priorities and locations for this investment to 2032. This should inform Local Plan policy, and specifically the priorities against which to secure developer contributions moving forward.
- 3.27. In some cases, new residential developments will not generate the need for a new sports facility. However, where developments are located in areas where additional pressure will be placed on existing sports facilities by the development, Welwyn Hatfield Council should seek contributions, for the enhancement and extension of existing sports in the vicinity of the development.

- 3.28. If larger developments generate a need for and/or are located adjacent to suitable community provision i.e. a new or improved community hall, then these will be considered on a site by site basis having regard to the development proposal, the characteristics of the site and the capacity and condition of existing infrastructure. Off-site contributions may be sought to support nearby existing or new sites, and/or for identified, more strategic sites (such as larger, high quality, leisure facilities serving more than the local need).
- 3.29. It is also important to highlight that the National planning guidance allows for cross boundary and pooled Developers' Contributions. New CIL regulations have removed restrictions on pooled contributions. See here for further details:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/691182/Developer_Contributions_Consultation.pdf

RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION 1 (R1)

The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present.

Welwyn Hatfield Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis.

(PROTECT)

RECOMMENDATION 2 (R2)

Consideration of investment into additional swimming pool provision in Welwyn Hatfield, in the long term is considered, based on identified future need. Investment should be through partnership given the health benefits of such a facility and the ageing demographics of Welwyn Garden City and surrounding villages.

(PROVIDE)

RECOMMENDATION 2A (R2A)

Welwyn Hatfield Council considers the opportunity to develop a replacement leisure centre in Hatfield, co-locating Hatfield Leisure Centre and Hatfield Swim Centre; the current and potential role of Birchwood Leisure Centre (operated by Hatfield Town Council) should also be taken into account when developing any new provision in Hatfield.

(PROVIDE)

RECOMMENDATION 3 (R3)

A more detailed feasibility study and masterplan study into the provision options on the Gosling Sports Park, in the context of the built facility needs assessment and the PPS is undertaken. This should consider the options for addressing identified need for additional swimming provision in the Borough.

(ENHANCE AND PROVIDE)

RECOMMENDATION 3A (R3A)

Review the future of the Birchwood Leisure Centre especially as this is one of only two community sports halls that has daytime access and will need refurbishment/replacement.

(ENHANCE AND PROVIDE)

RECOMMENDATION 4 (R4)

Existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness suite provision in the Borough should be retained as a minimum, and where appropriate, opportunities for investment in additional health and fitness provision where there is an identified need/business case justification should be considered by all providers.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

RECOMMENDATION 5 (R5)

Working in partnership, Welwyn Hatfield Council seek to ensure that any new education provision involving new or enhanced sports facilities has a CUA as part of the planning consent so as to secure pay and play opportunities for clubs and groups, or as an alternative to securing a CUA on new school sites, an alternative particularly for new secondary schools in major residential developments, that should be at least be explored, is for a community managed sports hall/fitness facility to be provided adjoining the school site which could be hired by the school during the day and managed by a community body for community use at other times.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

RECOMMENDATION 6 (R6)

Consider the opportunity for increased community access to existing education sports facilities where community access is currently provided, and where it is not; where possible, seek enhanced provision through a CUA.

(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

RECOMMENDATION 7 (R7)

Public and voluntary sector partners facilitate, where possible, increased access to pay and play community centres/halls to maintain and grow participation in physical activity.

(PROTECT AND ENHANCE)

RECOMMENDATION 8 (R8)

The opportunity provided by a new athletics track at Oaklands College should be considered in relation to the existing club use at the Gosling Sports Park, given that an improved velodrome could be provided if the athletics track was on an alternative site.

(PROVIDE)

RECOMMENDATION 9 (R9)

Consider the opportunity to develop an improved velodrome on the Gosling Park site in the context of Recommendation 8, and the support of British Cycling for the facility.

(PROTECT AND ENHANCE)

RECOMMENDATION 10 (R10)

Consideration should be given to closure of the driving range at the Gosling Sports Park with provision of a relocated driving range be explored at Panshanger Golf Centre as this is controlled by WHC, may generate an income for the golf centre and there would be more long term security over entry level golf tuition on this site.

(ENHANCE) AND RE-PROVIDE

RECOMMENDATION 11 (R11)

Consideration should be given to whether long term provision of the existing regional ski slopes which require significant investment, and no longer attract the regular level of use they once did, is needed if the operational cost of the ski facility outweighs its income.

RECOMMENDATION 12 (R12)

Where appropriate, Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners seek to develop an approach to secure developer contributions that contribute towards the development and delivery of formal physical activity and sports facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.

(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)

RECOMMENDATION 13 (R13)

Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation better community cohesion.

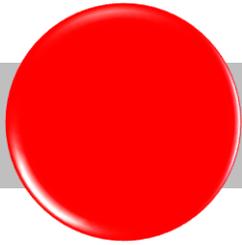
(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)

RECOMMENDATION 14 (R14)

There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.

(PROTECT)

N.B. It is recognised that any new schools could be Academies and therefore outside the direct control of Hertfordshire County Council. This should not, however, prevent local partnerships for community access.

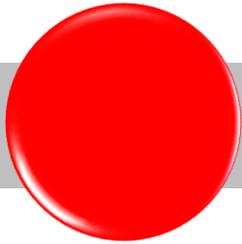


ACTION PLAN

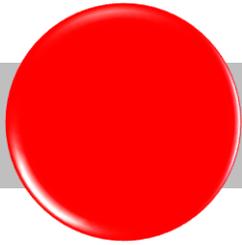
3.30. In order to realise the above Vision and Aims for sport and leisure facility provision in Welwyn Hatfield there are key priorities that need to be addressed and implemented. These are set out below in the Action Plan, based on the recommendations for future provision. The investment costs quoted are based on a combination of our knowledge of new build schemes, industry norms, and Sport England cost guidelines. These are based on sq. m construction costs.

Table 3.2: Strategy Action Plan

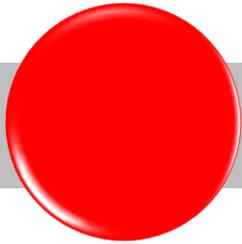
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
RECOMMENDATION 1 (R1) The existing levels of community accessible (including pay and play) sports hall, swimming pool and fitness provision in the Borough are retained as a minimum, but these need not necessarily be the same facilities as at present. Welwyn Hatfield Council and all its partners identify the level of capital funding required to address the identified investment needs for sports facilities, and investigate all available sources for capital funding, on a partnership basis. (PROTECT)	Ensure the need for existing levels of pay and play sports hall, swimming pools and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan.	Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers	Short Term		Officer time
	Ensure identified facility needs are reflected in the funding requirements for the Borough.	Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers	Medium – Long Term		External funding organisation; Developer Contributions



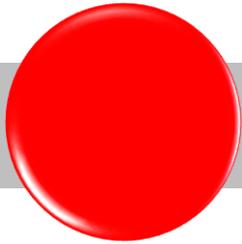
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 2 (R2)</p> <p>Consideration of investment into additional swimming pool provision in Welwyn Garden City, based on identified future need. Investment should be through partnership given the health benefits of such a facility and the ageing demographics of Welwyn Garden City.</p> <p>(PROVIDE)</p>	<p>Ensure the need for additional pay and play swimming pool provision is reflected in the Local Plan and beyond the Local Plan period with a view to providing additional water space as part of the longer-term replacement of Hatfield Swim Centre, providing an 8 lane x 25m pool and a learner pool with a moveable floor.</p>	<p>Welwyn Council; Hatfield operator partner; Active Partnership, local aquatic clubs</p>	<p>Long Term</p>		<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Officer time; External funding organisations; Developer Contributions e.g. Welbourne development contributions towards off site facility development.</p> <p>Capital costs for a replacement leisure centre comprising a larger pool are likely to be in the region of £15m-£20m based on 2018 costs.</p> <p>If the existing swimming pool is simply extended capital costs will be significantly lower, but a refurbishment would not necessarily be the most effective way to provide a larger pool in the longer term. Extending pool tanks bring specific challenges.</p> <p>A refurbishment of the existing leisure centre is still likely to be in the region of several million pounds, depending on its extent.</p> <p>Separate feasibility and costing studies will be required at the appropriate time (indicative feasibility study cost £12k)</p>



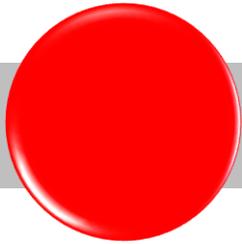
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
RECOMMENDATION 2A (R2A) Consideration of the opportunity to develop one new leisure centre in Hatfield, co-locating Hatfield Leisure Centre, Hatfield Swim Centre and potentially other public sector leisure facilities on one site. (PROVIDE)	Approve the concept of developing one new leisure centre for Hatfield, purpose-built, as part of the town centre regeneration. Explore impact on contract with GLL.	Welwyn Hatfield Council	Short –Term		Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers
RECOMMENDATION 3 (R3) A more detailed feasibility study and masterplan study into the provision options on the Gosling Sports Park, in the context of the built facility needs assessment and the PPS is undertaken. This should consider the options for addressing identified need for additional swimming provision in the Borough. (ENHANCE AND PROVIDE)	Undertake more detailed feasibility study on the Gosling Sports Park, and specifically explore the operational impact of providing a community swimming pool as part of re-developed sports facilities.	GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council; Sport England (Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance)	Short – Medium Term		GLL, External funders; S106; Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers
	Explore potential funding opportunities with Sport England, GLL and others.	GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council; Sport England (Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance)	Short –Medium Term		GLL, External funders; S106; Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers



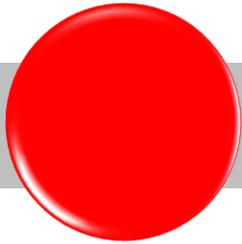
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
Recommendation 3A (R3A) Review the future of the Birchwood Leisure Centre especially as this is one of only two community sports halls that has daytime access and will need refurbishment / replacement. (ENHANCE AND PROVIDE)	Undertake more detailed feasibility study on Birchwood Leisure centre and specifically explore the potential for including its facilities and those of WHC facilities in Hatfield on one site, in re-developed sports facilities.	GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council; Sport England (Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance)	Short –Medium Term		GLL, External funders; S106; Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers
	Explore potential funding opportunities with Sport England, GLL, Hatfield Town Council and others.	Hatfield Town Council, GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council; Sport England (Strategic Outcomes Planning Guidance)	Short –Medium Term		Hatfield Town Council, GLL, External funders; S106; Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers



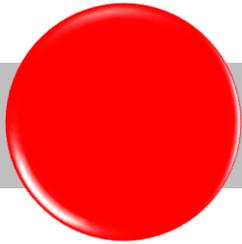
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)		TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
				SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
				MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
				LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
RECOMMENDATION 4(R4) Existing levels of community accessible and affordable fitness suite provision in the Borough should be retained as a minimum, and where appropriate, opportunities for investment in additional health and fitness provision where there is an identified need/business case justification should be considered by all providers. (PROVIDE AND PROTECT)	Ensure the need for additional pay and play health and fitness provision is reflected in the Local Plan.	Welwyn Council	Hatfield	Short Term		Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers
	Ensure identified facility needs are reflected in the funding requirements for the Borough.	Welwyn Council	Hatfield	Long Term		Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers; external funding organisations; Developer Contributions.
	Consult with existing providers to determine how best to meet identified demand for additional fitness facilities where there is an identified need and a business case. Preferably additional provision provided as part of longer- term facility replacement.	Welwyn Council	Hatfield	Long Term		Welwyn Hatfield Council Officers; Local Providers; External funding organisations. Capital costs for a replacement leisure centre including larger fitness facilities are likely to be in the region of £15m-£20m based on 2018 costs. Separate feasibility and costing studies will be required at the appropriate time (indicative feasibility study cost £6k)



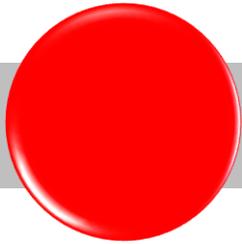
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 5 (R5)</p> <p>Working in partnership, Welwyn Hatfield Council seek to ensure that any new education provision involving new or enhanced sports facilities has a CUA as part of the planning consent so as to secure pay and play opportunities for clubs and groups, or as an alternative to securing a CUA on new school sites, an alternative particularly for new secondary schools in major residential developments, that should be at least be explored, is for a community managed sports hall/fitness facility to be provided adjoining the school site which could be hired by the school during the day and managed by a community body for community use at other times.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners work with local schools, and Sport England to develop formal community use agreements in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Any new/expanded schools as part of Planning Conditions. <p>The aim should be to develop Community Use Agreements and to find ways of increasing usage capacity, to enable provision of better balanced accessibility and to include community pay and play use.</p> <p>As an alternative, explore the potential for a community managed sports hall/fitness facility to be provided adjoining the school site which could be hired by the school during the day and managed by a community body for community use at other times.</p>	<p>Welwyn Council</p> <p>Hatfield</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers; Sport England, Herts Sports Partnership (HSP)</p> <p>Time costs for developing Community Use Agreements/exploring alternative provision and operational arrangements.</p>	



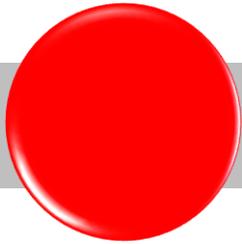
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 6 (R6)</p> <p>Consider the opportunity for increased community access to existing education sports facilities where community access is currently provided, and where it is not; where possible, seek enhanced provision through a CUA.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners work with relevant educational organisations to review, revise and or implement Community Use Agreements, which provide a better balance of pay and play and club use.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and existing relevant education establishments, Sport England.</p>	<p>Short Term</p>		<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers; Sport England, HSP</p> <p>Time costs for developing Community Use Agreements.</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 7 (R7)</p> <p>Public and voluntary sector partners facilitate, where possible, increased access to pay and play community centres/halls to maintain and grow participation in physical activity.</p> <p>(PROTECT AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Ensure identified facility needs are reflected in the funding requirements which would help to facilitate increased pay and play in community centres/halls in the Borough.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council; the voluntary sector</p>	<p>Short Term- Longer term</p>		<p>Officer Time – Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers</p>



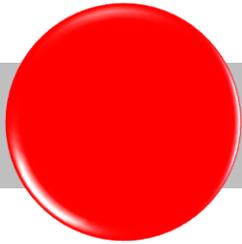
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 8 (R8)</p> <p>The opportunity provided by a new athletics track at Oaklands College should be considered in relation to the existing club use at the Gosling Sports Park, given that an improved velodrome could be provided if the athletics track was on an alternative site subject to an athletic feasibility study).</p>	<p>Use the strategy evidence base to inform investment opportunities.</p>	<p>GLL, Sport England, Athletics Club, Oaklands College, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Short – Long Term</p>		<p>GLL, Sport England, Athletics Club, Oaklands College, Welwyn Hatfield Council Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officers</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 9 (R9)</p> <p>Consider the opportunity to develop an improved velodrome on the Gosling Park site in the context of Recommendation 8, and the support of British Cycling for the facility.</p> <p>(PROTECT AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Undertake more detailed feasibility study on the Gosling Sports Park, and specifically explore the operational impact of only providing the velodrome.</p> <p>Greater use of the site would be possible with investment into lighting for the velodrome as cycling currently remains dependent on light fall from neighbouring floodlit pitches.</p>	<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>		<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p>
	<p>Support for an extended lease being negotiated with GLL for velodrome + ancillary facilities.</p>		<p>GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Short Term</p>	



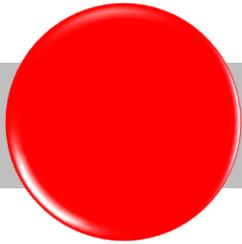
RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
	Invest in poor ancillary facilities which are at risk should the sports hall / indoor facilities strategy not account for cycling usage.	GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council	Short –Medium Term		GLL, British Cycling, Sport England, Cycling Club, Club, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time
RECOMMENDATION 10 (R10) Consideration should be given to closure of the driving range at the Gosling Sports Park with provision of a relocated driving range be explored at Panshanger Golf Centre as this is controlled by WHC, may generate an income for the golf centre and there would be more long term security over entry level golf tuition on this site. (ENHANCE and RE-PROVIDE)	Approve closure of driving range, and transfer memberships and all teaching to an existing Welwyn Hatfield Council driving range in the Borough.	GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council	Short –Term		GLL, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer rime



RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
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			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 11 (R11)</p> <p>Recommendation 11 (R11) Consideration should be given to whether long term provision of the existing regional ski slopes which require significant investment, and no longer attract the regular level of use they once did, is needed if the operational cost of the ski facility outweighs its income.</p>	<p>Undertake more detailed feasibility study on the Gosling Sports Park. Consult further with partners on the options to re-locate/close.</p>	<p>GLL, Sport England, Welwyn Hatfield Council</p>	<p>Short –Term</p>		<p>GLL, Sport England, Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time</p>
<p>RECOMMENDATION 12 (R12)</p> <p>Where appropriate, Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners seek to develop an approach to secure developer contributions that contribute towards the development and delivery of formal physical activity and sports facilities, additional and safe walking, running and cycling routes, and where possible to open up other informal, multipurpose places and spaces where people can be active.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND PROTECT)</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers to identify potential levels of capital funding from residential development.</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure and Planning Officers.</p>	<p>Short – Medium Term</p>		<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Planning and Leisure Officer time; Developers</p>

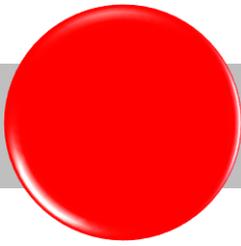


RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 13 (R13)</p> <p>Welwyn Hatfield Council and its partners prioritise investment in the development of high quality community sports facilities/spaces, with local partners. Increasing available capacity and therefore opportunities to take part in regular physical activity, in the local community, will contribute to reduced health inequalities, increased participation better community cohesion.</p> <p>(PROVIDE AND ENHANCE)</p>	<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council to work with its local partner providers and relevant identified community partners to ensure provision of, and access to, appropriate community sports facilities and opportunities to provide physical activity in the local community.</p>	<p>Welwyn Council Officers; Hatfield Leisure and Local Providers and Community Partners</p>	<p>Short – Long Term</p>		<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure Officer time; Welwyn Hatfield Council Community Partners; Public Health and Welwyn Hatfield Council Partner providers.</p>



RECOMMENDATION	ACTION	PARTNER(S)	TIMESCALE		RESOURCES
			SHORT	= 1 – 5 YEARS	
			MEDIUM	= 5 – 10 YEARS	
			LONG TERM	= 10+ YEARS	
<p>RECOMMENDATION 14 (R14)</p> <p>There should be on-going monitoring of this Strategy through its implementation, but as a minimum, progress should be reviewed and refreshed every five years. On-going monitoring should include partnership working with neighbouring local authorities to keep aware of facility changes and developments.</p> <p>(PROTECT)</p>	<p>Ensure a monitoring process is in place to refresh the strategy and action plan every 5 years.</p> <p>Ensure ongoing dialogue with neighbouring authorities to be aware of facility changes and developments that may impact on Welwyn Hatfield residents and facility plans for the future.</p> <p>Establish a steering group made up of key stakeholders to take forward the actions in the action plan. This could be the same as the steering group recommended for implementing the PPS.</p>	<p>Welwyn Council and Hatfield all partners</p>	Ongoing		<p>Welwyn Hatfield Council Leisure Officer time; partner time; external consultants</p>

N.B. It is recognised that any new schools (Recommendations 5, and 6) could be Academies and therefore outside the direct control of Hertfordshire County Council. This should not, however, prevent local partnerships for community access.



DISCLAIMER

Forecasts and recommendation in any proposal, report or letter are made in good faith and on the basis of the information before the Company at the time. Their achievement must depend, among other things, on effective co-operation of the Client and the Client's staff. In any consequence, no statement in any proposal, report or letter is to be deemed to be in any circumstances a representation, undertaking, warranty or contractual condition.

