

## Norwich Action Plan Sports Halls

	Action Plan/Sports Halls	Action Required
<p><b>PROTECT</b></p>	<p><b>SH1 Protect the existing supply of sports halls for community use to protect the level of community use required up to 2026.</b></p> <p>The needs assessment for sports halls has identified that across Norwich based on the population growth, location of new housing and aging of the core resident population the existing supply of sports halls will meet current and projected demand up to 2026. However the estimate is that across Norwich the existing centres will be 69% full by 2026.</p> <p>In large part this is because the location/catchment area/scale of the Norwich venue UEA Sportspark, considered to the location of the demand all three authorities means there is "draw effect" to the Sportspark venue. The needs assessment has identified that the Norwich demand for sports halls can be met by the Norwich supply overall.</p> <p>However at three sites the estimated used capacity of the sports halls is over 80% of the capacity available in 2026. These sites are Norwich High School for Girls, Recreation Road Sports Centre and the UEA Sportspark. None of these venues are owned or managed by the City Council.</p> <p>The scope to achieve a more balanced programme of community use across sites appears limited because</p>	<p>The City Council development management policy DM8 identifies sites for sports uses through the site allocation plan and to protect existing (pitches) and built sports facilities from development for other uses unless this would lead to an improvement in overall sports provision. The needs assessment endorses this policy. Any subsequent review of planning policy based on the needs assessment should retain this policy.</p> <p>Work with all public sector schools to ensure there is an up to date community use agreement in place to protect and retain the existing level of community use outside of school hours.</p> <p>As part of the CUA review establish with individual schools the actual hours of community use to see if more use could be made of the existing capacity. Schools which appear to offer more potential are Notre Dame High School (although see comments under enhance and provide about limitations on the building size/scope), City Academy, City of Norwich School and Wensum Lodge Sports Centre (if retained).</p> <p>Actively promote alternative provision for any loss of the Wensum Lodge Sports Centre. This should be of an equivalent size and same area to retain access to sports halls by users who walk or use public transport (rationale set out under enhance and provide headings).</p>

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<p>the school sites which appear to have lower levels of community use are mainly private schools, Hence the need to retain the level of public asses by management and negotiation at the other public sites.</p> <p>Any reduction in the current facility supply will cause the used capacity of ALL the remaining venues to quickly reach the Sport England sports hall full used capacity level of 80% of total capacity at peak times. So there is a need to protect the current facility supply to ensure some headroom of sports hall capacity, albeit it is unevenly distributed across sites.</p> <p>A direct example of the impact of change is the potential closure/loss of the Wensum Lodge sports centre (4 badminton court size). If this happens the positive overall supply and demand balance will move to neutral in the 2014 and 2026 needs assessment.</p>	<p>Consider with the other Councils' the development of a professional leisure management use, bookings and lettings system, which is co-coordinated across all school sports hall sites (also applies to swimming pools).</p>
<p><b>SH2 – Support quality improvements/upgrades at existing sports hall sites where this would lead to: increased capacity; improve the quality of the venues and potentially offer greater flexibility of use; and improve viability for community use.</b></p> <p>Detailed feasibility studies are required to determine what possible options there are to either increase the size of the existing venues or replace with enhanced provision depending on age and condition and site opportunities. Important sites are set out.</p> <p>The Notre Dame School sports hall opened in 1984 and</p>	<p>Investigate the feasibility of modernising the playing area and ancillary facilities at Notre Dame High School sports hall and City of Norwich School sports hall. In the case of Notre Dame to also investigate the cost benefit option of a new build project on adjacent site to the school Objective at both venues is to increase the playing capacity and develop a committed CUA.</p> <p>Funding for capital works to be considered as integral part of the outlined CIL Capital Modernisation Fund for provision or improvements to school based community sports facilities.</p>

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<p><b>ENHANCE</b></p>	<p>was modernised in 2004.It is an adoption of a former bus garage and whilst it is a 33m x 17m 4 badminton court size sports hall, the roof structure creates height restrictions and effectively the hall is a 2 badminton court hall for ball sports requiring height clearances to play. The building does require further improvement and modernisation to the playing area, changing rooms and lighting but it is most likely more cost effective to – re-provide as a new build sports hall, which is an aspiration of the school on an adjacent site.</p> <p>The Notre Dame location is very important in terms of addressing a particular issue in Norwich that 32% of the Norwich population in 2014 do not have access to a car. So city centre sports hall sites are very important for people who access venues by walking or public transport.</p> <p>City of Norwich School sports hall is a combination of an aging facility (4 badminton court size sports hall opened in 1970) and based on the needs assessment potential to increase the hours for community use. Modernisation of this centre with a committed CUA in place to increase the hours of community use, further increase supply by making more use of what already exists.</p>	<p>The capital cost of a 4 badminton court sports hall (33m x 18m) is £2,7m. For a 6 badminton court size sports hall (34.5m x 27m) it is £3.2m and for an 8 badminton court size sports hall (40m x 34.5m) it is £3.7m. All costs at October 2013 prices and based on a projected annual increase of 1.8% thereafter.</p>
	<p><b>SH3 – Consider and support/assist in the development of new sports halls where there is need to RE-PROVIDE some of the existing stock. Or provide new sports halls to replace some of the existing stock</b></p> <p>The needs assessment has not identified a quantitative</p>	<p>Assist and support the project opportunities for re-provision of existing sports halls, based on the potential closure of some venues such as Wensum Lodge. This includes the possible re-provision of a new sports hall at Notre Dame College and a new sports hall project at Jane Austin College of at least 4 badminton court size.</p>

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<p><b>PROVIDE</b></p> <p>shortfall in provision of sports halls across Norwich up to 2026 – based on the current supply being retained. The key findings are: the fragile supply and demand balance; the uneven distribution of demand across venues; the age and condition of some sports halls which is restricting their use (and capacity).</p> <p>Overcoming and addressing these issues may lead to RE-PROVISION of some of the existing supply as the most effective way forward. The priority area and sites for any re-provision of existing supply are the City Centre on the basis of the need to retain access to venues for the 32% of the Norwich adult population without access to a car and the importance therefore of venues based on public transport access.</p> <p>This leads to the second option for the Notre Dame site as a new sports centre option as a 4 badminton court size sports hall.</p> <p>There is also the possibility of a new project at the Jane Austin College (site of the former Arriva building in the city centre). This project is at the early stages of development but the college does wish to provide a 4 badminton court size sports hall with integrated college and community use.</p> <p>This project would provide a net gain in supply hall supply overall and create further capacity and thereby reduce the used capacity at existing venues. A fall back position would be if the Wensun Lodge Sports Centre should close then the location of the Jane</p>	<p>Any new/replacement sports hall to be designed in accordance with the project specification for sport halls set out by Sport England and the National Governing Bodies for Sport in guidance produced in 2011.</p> <p>Any replacement/new sports hall be designed, procured and meet the project specification in Sport England guidance for affordable sports halls.</p> <p>A joint use agreement setting out the type of use and a full programme of community use should be committed to as an integral part of the project development and progressed through the planning process. Ideally this should be integrated with the proposed co-coordinated management of community use across all school sites.</p> <p>A Greater Norwich review of community use across all venues, public and education sites. The objective to endure there is effective programming of all centres for all types of community use through programming and management maximize the use of all centres.</p>

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Austin College meets the access need and retains the overall supply and demand balance across Norwich. So the changes in provision in terms of quantity are neutral but there is a quality improvement and accessibility is neutral.

Finally the needs assessment has identified that the UEA Sportspark has very high levels of used capacity, confirmed by the centre. Should UEA decide to expand its sports hall provision this will benefit Norwich (and Broadland and South Norfolk) in community use of sports halls for pay and play. This would be favourable development. However it reinforces the need for a collective review of community use across all venues so as to effectively manage programmes of community use – club and pay and play and maximise the use of all centres.