

Action Plans Norwich Indoor Tennis Centres

Action Plan/Indoor Tennis Centres		Action Required
<p>PROTECT</p>	<p>IT 1 No priority as no provision</p> <p>Norwich does not have any indoor tennis centre provision and so there are no centres to protect or retain in accordance with the City Council development management policy DM8 which sets out that 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.</p> <p>The needs assessment for indoor tennis in 2014 has identified a demand for 6 courts. Across Greater Norwich there is deficit for 2 indoor courts, based on both Broadland and South Norfolk Districts having a surplus of 2 courts each. By 2026 the assessment is that the Norwich deficit has increased to 7 courts. In Broadland and South Norfolk the surplus is projected to decrease to 1 court each, so the Greater Norwich deficit is assessed as 5 courts by 2026.</p> <p>The implications of the Greater Norwich assessment and what it could mean for Norwich City are set out under the provide heading.</p>	
	<p>IT 1: Maintain a watching brief and support project proposals for initial provision of an indoor tennis centre in Norwich</p> <p>As set out the 2014 assessment for indoor tennis has identified a demand for 6 courts in Norwich and there is no supply in the city. By 2026 the assessment is that the Norwich deficit has increased to 7 courts. In Broadland and South Norfolk their surplus is projected to decrease to 1</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a watching brief and support projects from the commercial sector or the Lawn Tennis Association to provide an indoor tennis centre in Norwich.

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<p>PROVIDE court each, so the Greater Norwich deficit is assessed as 5 courts by 2026.</p> <p>The Lawn tennis Association (LTA) considers the catchment area of an indoor tennis centre to be a 20 minute drive time for the majority of regular casual pay and play and club members. On that basis a large part of the Norwich population who have access to cars can access the 3 sites in Broadland (8 courts) and the 2 sites in South Norfolk (also 8 courts). This does reduce/impact on the Norwich deficit of no court provision.</p> <p>However as also set out in the 2014 needs assessment report some 32% of the Norwich population do not have access to a car and therefore very limited public transport access to these alternative venues – participation will not happen. Furthermore as the needs assessment report also sets out, consistently across all the Sport England Active People surveys the findings are that there is high latent demand for playing of tennis (both outdoor and indoor) and this can often exceed the rate of actual participation. Lack of facilities (indoor and outdoor) is a barrier to creating actual participation.</p> <p>Finally the LTA view Norwich as a priority area and it is understood they are working with the City Council to improve the quality of the existing public park based outdoor courts. This could lead to an increased demand for indoor courts.</p> <p>For all the reasons set out, there is a need to provide an indoor tennis centre to serve the Norwich population up to 2026 and beyond. The scale of the provision should be a minimum 4 courts so as to part meet the Norwich deficit.</p>	

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Also on the basis that the catchment area of the centres in the other authorities and the small surplus in these authorities could meet some of the Norwich demand.

The preference is for a new centre to be a pay and play centre so as to encourage and develop participation and allow the latent demand for people who would like to play to be met. However it is recognised that a commercial centre based on club membership is the more likely option.