

## Action Plans South Norfolk Sports Halls

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<p><b>PROTECT</b></p>	<p><b>SH1 South Norfolk District to protect the existing supply of sports halls on local authority and school sites for community use and review community use hours so as to protect the level of community use required.</b></p> <p>The needs assessment for sports halls has identified that across the authority based on the population growth, location of new housing and aging of the core resident population the existing supply of sports halls can meet current and projected demand for sports halls up to 2026. Except in one strategic gap in provision.</p> <p>However this finding has to be very much tempered by the findings on the DISTRIBUTION of demand across the District. This is estimated to be creating uneven patterns of use/how full individual sport halls sites are. This leads to high and lows in terms of the sports hall provision to EFFECTIVELY balance supply and demand across the District.</p> <p>The reasons for this strategic assessment are: (1) the scale of demand in different parts of the district/related to the catchment area of the sports halls, leaving some areas of the district with a good supply that can meet demand and vice versa in other areas. The settlement pattern and distribution of population across a rural district compounds this problem, (2) variable hours of use/access across individual sports halls and sites. The District Council owned/managed centres have full public access at all times for club/pay and play use. Whilst Individual schools determine the hours, amount</p>	<p>The emerging South Norfolk Development Management Policies Document includes policy DM3.17 'Improving the level of community facilities'. The policy aims to resist the loss of local facilities, including indoor sports provision. The policy supports the provision of new facilities in accessible locations, particularly within defined Development Boundaries, but gives the flexibility to locate sites outside of those Boundaries where this would serve the local community. The needs assessment for sports halls supports and endorses this policy. This is for the reasons set out that the location/catchment area of the sports halls and the settlement pattern of the district means the existing provision is required to maintain accessibility as well as meet demand.</p> <p>The South Norfolk District Local Plan saved subject policy LE18 is concerned principally with the protection of existing open space, however in principle this would also be applicable to indoor provision. Again the needs assessment for sports halls supports this saved policy. Any revision to this saved policy should apply the needs assessment in its revision – with retention of the policy.</p> <p>The District Council undertook a survey of community use of public sector schools in the district to establish the type, level and school policies on community use and access. The findings from the survey should be developed further along with the needs assessment to establish if the variable pattern of community use across venues can be more evenly spread, so as to reduce the</p>

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<p>and type of public use on school sites and this could be constraining demand, if demand is high in these areas but there is limited access. (3) Areas of the district which do not have a purpose built sports hall leading to unmet demand.</p> <p>The interactions of all three factors is leading to the needs assessment finding that in 2014 Long Stratton Leisure Centre, Wymondham Leisure Centre and to a lesser extent YMCA Trowse are at or close to the maximum use and capacity at weekly peak times (weekday evenings and weekend days).</p> <p>Whilst the assessment is that there is potential to make more use/increased access at Framlingham Earl High School, which does have extensive hours of club use but is assessed as having more demand in the area. Ormiston Academy which has some community use and has been restricted to develop further by building works now completed at the school. Hethersett High which also has high levels of demand in the catchment area of the school sports hall and the independent Langley School.</p> <p>Whilst the needs assessment has identified a strategic gap in sports hall provision in the Diss area. There is no purpose built sports hall and the nearest are located at Hartismere School (in Eye 5 miles) and at Long Stratton Leisure Centre, (10 miles). There is the Heywood Sports &amp; Leisure club in Diss but this does not have a purpose built sports hall. In effect Diss is outwith the catchment area of an existing sports hall venue.</p> <p>So whilst there is enough capacity <u>across the district</u> to</p>	<p>high levels of use at the three venues identified. This will be subject to the sports halls for potential increased community use being in the same catchment area.</p> <p>Work with all existing schools which have community use to ensure there is an up to date community use agreement in place to protect the existing level of community use outside of school hours.</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). This is based on and reflects that the catchment area of individual sports halls extends across the Greater Norwich individual authority boundaries. Plus the variable pattern of access across all school based venues, especially in Broadland, is not making the best use of what already exists.</p> <p>Support the retention of the YMCA Trowse sports hall on the basis of existing and emerging planning policy. If the site is developed then there is a need to provide compensatory provision of a sports hall of an equivalent quantity. Preferably of a better quality as the quality of the existing venue is restricting use and there is very high demand for sports halls in this area. Any compensatory provision to be in a location which is accessible to the population in the catchment area of the existing centre.</p> <p>The projected capital costs of a 4 badminton court sports hall (33m x 18m) based on Sport England cost guidance is £2.7m, as of October 2013 and with a projected 1.8%</p>

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<p>meet demand the location of the sports halls, their drive to catchment area, plus the nearest public centre is estimated to be full - are all combining to create a demand for sports hall in Diss which cannot be met by the location and catchment area of existing sports halls.</p> <p>Diss has no <u>effective</u> sports hall provision. (Further developed under the provision heading.</p> <p>The possible redevelopment of the YMCA Trowse sports hall site and potential loss of the sports hall venue should be resisted, in line with emerging South Norfolk Development Management Policies Document policy DM3.17. The demand for sports halls in this area is very high and there is limited access to alternative venues, in an accessible location for the catchment area of the Trowse centre and which have capacity to absorb more demand.</p> <p>If there is development of the site than an alternative provision of at least a 4 badminton court size sports hall should be provided in a location which is accessible to the main users of the existing venue.</p>	<p>annual increase thereafter.</p>
<p><b>SH2 – Support improvements 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>The sports hall stock across South Norfolk is a combination of venues provided in the 1970's - 1990's and which have been modernised plus 2 centres at Framlingham Earl High School and Hobart High School which have been provided in the 2000 decade. So it is a</p>	<p>Review community use agreements/access and to schools which already provide community use. Establish scope to co-ordinate management, bookings and access for type of use and manage community use across venues. Intention to create a more balanced programme of community use across venues.</p> <p>Consider with the other Councils' the development of a professional leisure management use, bookings and</p>

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<b>ENHANCE</b>	<p>reasonably modernized/modern stock but which will continue to need to be maintained and modernised.</p> <p>The needs assessment has not identified any hot spots or areas of unmet demand for sports halls (other than for Diss as set out already). The schools are responsive to local needs and managed community use. The assessment is that there is scope to make more effective use of the total school sports hall supply with coordinated management and access, as set out under the strategic and generic priorities for the strategy and under the protection heading for the existing community use.</p> <p>So the action is to make more effective use of what already exists by management change. This alongside improvements to maintain and modernise the existing stock at the existing venues so they are fit for purpose/improved and can accommodate increase demand from population increase.</p> <p>The priority locations based on the needs assessment are Heathersett High School (Academy), Easton College, Wymondham and Long Stratton Leisure Centre.</p> <p>Easton College has a high level of community use but which is dominated by gymnastics and will be eased if the proposed gymnastics centre at the College is progressed. This will "re-provide" a sports hall for community use at peak public times. The centre is however 16 years old and has not been modernised and will require refurbishment.</p> <p>Enhancement of Wymondham Leisure Centre is required</p>	<p>lettings system, which is co-coordinated across all school sports hall sites (also applies to swimming pools). This is based on and reflects that the catchment area of individual sports halls extends across the Greater Norwich individual authority boundaries.</p> <p>Investigate scope with individual schools scope to modernize the sports hall. Including potential to increase the size of the actual hall and or improve playing areas and ancillary facilities. Focus is on the priority areas/.school listed. However if there are projects proposed by other schools then consider these as well, with the focus of how increases in the quality/capacity of the building can assist in re-distributing demand across venues.</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 in areas of new housing growth and which are within the catchment area of existing school and local authority based centres.</p> <p>Feasibility on the scope to increase the scale of sports hall provision on the site of the Wymondham Leisure Centre. It is considered there is additional demand up to 2026 and beyond for another 2 - 3 badminton courts. However this is not a sensible scale of provision in terms of size for the majority of indoor hall sports. Therefore if provision is of this scale then there needs to be changes to the sports hall programming so that the smaller space provides for fitness classes, table tennis and badminton whilst the larger sports hall provide for space intensive sports such as basketball. There will also be a need to</p>

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<p>as the assessment is that the used capacity of the sports hall for community use is very high. The assessment is that there will be increasing demand up to 2026 and the need to increase the sports hall provision at this site. In addition increasing demand for sports hall space will create additional demand for changing accommodation Any increase in provision should be able to provide for schools and community use at different times in the programme.</p> <p>The requirement at Long Stratton Leisure Centre is focused on improvements to quality and the changing accommodation. In effect to provide better quality changing to met the fit for purpose sports hall provision. Again this should assess need across both school and community use. Ideally with upgraded provision or additional provision which can integrate both the school and community use. If this not possible though programming then dedicated provision maybe required.</p> <p>Overall schools, colleges (and local authorities) do not have access to capital funds of a scale to make substantial improvements or extensions to the existing venues. Hence the requirement to establish the CIL Modernisation Fund (as set out under the strategic and generic priorities for the Strategy) so as to fund improvements to existing venues.</p> <p>If the growth areas/locations do not in themselves generate enough demand to warrant provision of new sports halls there is still the assessment that demand for sports halls will increase from population growth, of the scale set out in the needs assessment. This will increase demand by new residents to access existing venues.</p>	<p>provide additional changing accommodation which can accommodate both school and community use in the overall programme but at different times of the day/evening.</p>

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<p>Hence the application of the CIL Modernisation Fund to modernise the existing venues.</p> <p>It is therefore a more prudent, cost effective and a reasoned assessment, based on projected demand increases from population growth/new residents, to make more effective use of the existing supply of sports halls. This linked to management change to increase/access and capacity of the school based venues.</p>	
<p><b>PROVIDE</b></p> <p><b>SH3 – Provision of a new community level of provision sports halls located in Diss and possible RE-PROVISION of some existing venues based on age and condition.</b></p> <p>The needs assessment has identified that Diss does not have an effective sports hall and is outwith the 20 minute drive time catchment area of existing sports halls venue to allow regular participation. Diss Academy has two separate school gymnasiums each of 18m x 10m and which were part of the original school building opened in the 1960's.</p> <p>Both the 2014 and 2026 needs assessment on the supply, demand and access/travel patterns to sports halls have identified that the southern area of South Norfolk (and into Mid Suffolk and Breckland) is the area of highest unmet demand for sports halls in both years and this equates to an unmet demand of between 3 – 4 badminton courts by 2026.</p> <p>Diss is the evident location to develop a new sports hall to meet this strategic gap in provision and unmet demand. Acknowledging there is sufficient supply of</p>	<p>To develop the core business case for the initial provision of a sports hall and gym provision (see also swimming pool assessment) located in Diss. The project to be located at Diss Academy to meet the demands in Diss and the surrounding areas for community use and integrated with the needs of Diss Academy and other schools for curriculum use.</p> <p>The sports hall provision to be of 4 badminton court size and to be specified/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>The projected capital costs of a 4 badminton court sports hall (33m x 18m) based on Sport England cost guidance is £2.7m, as of October 2013 and with a projected 1.8% annual increase thereafter. For a larger 4 badminton court size sports hall of 34.5m x 20m the projected capital cost is 2.8m</p>

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<p>sports halls across South Norfolk to meet demand BUT it is the location of Diss combined with the location/catchment area of existing sports halls being outwith the drive time catchment area to effectively meet the demand in and around Diss. (Note see also comments on swimming pools as part of an integrated project).</p> <p>The most cost/sports effective provision is a new sports hall located/integrated into the Diss Academy site and developed jointly as a core business case, and operational business plan between the School and South Norfolk Council.</p> <p>With a full joint use agreement in place to allow for school priority use to meet curriculum use in day term times and community use at all other times. The scale of provision required is a 4 badminton court size sports hall to the Sport England/National Governing Bodies of sports 2011 specification. It is a school/community based scale of provision.</p> <p>The core business case will wish to investigate provision of health and fitness. The needs assessment has identified in 2014 based on the Fitness Industry Association methodology a surplus of 60 stations in South Norfolk. This is however based on a combined assessment of both commercial membership and public pay and play/membership assessment and does not take into account the needs for education/curriculum use. Also the nature of health and fitness provision is very dynamic and the core business case will wish to establish if and the scale of health and fitness provision in the local</p>	<p>The sports hall to be procured and meet the project specification in Sport England guidance for affordable sports halls. The sports hall to be planned and delivered as an integral part of any school re- development as there will be an increasing demand for a sports hall over the 2014 – 2026 period and beyond.</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 other/ all secondary school sites in South Norfolk.</p> <p>The District Council in conjunction with Norfolk County Council to keep a watching brief on the age and condition of the existing sports hall stock and to have a measured assessment of the requirements/timescales to replace sports halls.</p> <p>This is required because there is need to retain the existing supply and locations to meet demand up to 2026 and beyond.</p>

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<p>market.</p> <p>The needs assessment has not identified the need for any other <u>new provision</u> to meet demand up to 2026. The needs assessment has reviewed the age of sports halls and any modernisation; there is no condition survey data for all venues.</p> <p>It is acknowledged however that there are still areas of South Norfolk where the quality of existing provision is not really fit for purpose in providing for indoor hall sports and physical activity in venues which are of the size or quality to meet the requirements of customers – public, school and clubs. The assessment is a quantified assessment and therefore those areas with the greatest need become the top priorities.</p> <p>There are however areas where the current provision is not fit for purpose but the SCALE of need for new provision – or re –provision is not as high as other areas. The Harleston area and Archbishop Sancroft High School where the provision is a single court sports hall and use of the school assembly hall for PE activities is an example. The school provision is not for purpose and scope to increase the scale of the existing venues is an option. However this is making do and it straddles enhancement or re-provision.</p> <p>It is difficult to assess the stage at which RE-PROVISION of EXISTING sports halls is required based on age, condition and the costs/ benefits of modernisation and extension of the existing buildings, set alongside re-provision.</p> <p>If there were opportunities to fund re-provision and</p>	



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<p>provide a fit for purpose sports hall in Harleston it would be a priority but after the quantified assessment of the greater need for provision elsewhere.</p> <p>Finally there is the need to protect/retain the other existing stock and locations to meet demand up to 2026 and beyond. The oldest sports hall stock with limited modernisation is located at: the independent Langley School 1946 (33m x 17m sports hall); Hethersett Old Hall School 1955 (33m x 17m main hall and 18m x 10m school gymnasium); Ormiston Victory Academy 1960 (27m x 17m main hall and 2 school gymnasiums of 18m x 10m).</p>	